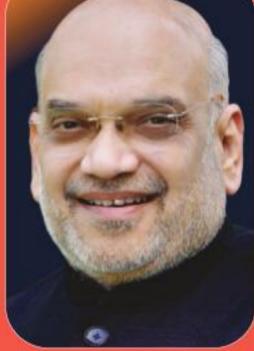
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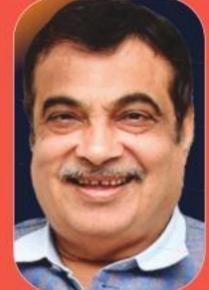
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

Amit Shah Minister of Home Affairs



Nitin Gadkari Minister of Road Transport & Highways



Dr S Jaishankar Minister of External Affairs



Smriti Zubin Irani Minister of Women & Child Development &

Minority Affairs

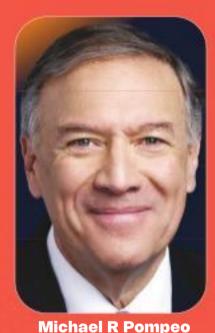


Ashwini Vaishnaw Minister of Railways, Communications,

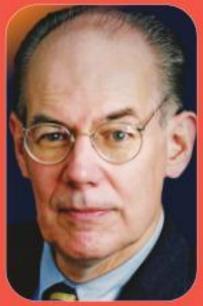
Electronics & IT



Anurag Thakur Minister of I&B, Youth Affairs & Sports



70th Secretary of State, USA



John Mearsheimer Political Scientist



Amitabh Kant

G20 Sherpa



Madhabi Puri Buch Chairperson, SEBI



Ameenah Gurib-Fakim Former President,

Mauritius



Erik Solheim Former Environment Minister, Norway



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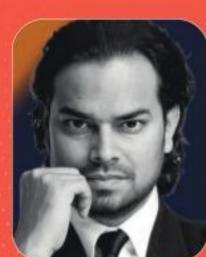
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Former Australian Cricketer



Shankar Mahadevan Singer & Composer



V Selvaganesh Percussionist



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Actor

MARCH 19-20, 2024

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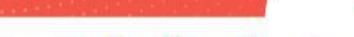
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THE WORLD

PEOPLE DANCING ON ROADS

CAMBODIA BANS MUSICAL HORNS IN TRUCKS

Phnom Penh: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Mane has ordered a ban on musical horns, after videos posted on social media showed people dancing on roads and roadsides as passing trucks blasted rhythmic little tunes. Hun Manet called on the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and police across the country to immediately take action against any vehicle whose normal horn has been replaced by a tune-playing one.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



President Ranil Wickremesinghe

SRI LANKA

Presidential polls will be held this year: Ranil

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has instructed his Cabinet to prepare for the presidential election to be held later this year, as the cashstarved nation strives to recover from its worst economic crisis. The next presidential election must be called by the elections commission by Sept. and must be held by mid-November. The parliament election is not due before August of 2025 but the President can hold it anytime now by dissolving the Assembly. Ending speculations, the President during a Cabinet meeting on Monday announced that the presidential election will be held first. PTI

SINGAPORE

Indian-origin Opp leader accused of lying to House

Singapore: Singapore's Indian-origin Leader of Opposition, Pritam Singh, was on Tuesday charged with lying under oath to a parliamentary committee. Singh, the Secretary-General of the Workers' Party (WP), is accused of falsely testifying at the Committee of Privileges hearings involving former Member of Parliament Raeesah Khan. Standing in the dock on Tuesday, the 47-year-old opposition politician, who was unrepresented, pleaded not guilty to the two charges under Section 31(q) of the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act and claimed trial. PTI

NORTH KOREA

Firing drills held with huge rocket launchers: Govt

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has overseen firing drills by artillery units in the western region involving "newly-equipped super-large" multiple rocket launchers, state media KCNA said on Tuesday. The drills came a day after South Korea and Japan reported North Korea's launch of several shortrange ballistic missiles into the sea, its first such missile test in about two months. Kim guided the drills on Monday that were aimed at testing the "real war capabilities" of 600 millimetre multiple rocket launchers and improving the combat morale and readiness pos-**REUTERS** ture, it said.

THE PHILIPPINES

US vows ironclad support in SCS clash with China

Manila: Secretary of State Antony Blinken underscored Washington's "ironclad commitment" Tuesday to help defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack against its forces after clashes between Chinese and Filipino coast guards in the disputed South China Sea recently turned more hostile. Blinken, the latest high-level official to visit the United States treaty ally, met his Philippine counterpart Enrique Manalo on Tuesday.

BLINKEN TO TRAVEL TO MIDDLE EAST; NO MENTION OF ISRAEL STOPOVER

No other way: Netanyahu spurns Biden plea to call off Rafah ground assault

Israel delegation in Qatar to resume talks with Hamas; both sides sceptical

REUTERS RAFAH, GAZA, CAIRO JERUSALEM, MARCH 19

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spurned a plea from Joe Biden to call off a planned ground assault of Rafah, the last refuge in Gaza for more than a million displaced people, where Israel believes Hamas militants are holed up.

Netanyahu told lawmakers Tuesday he had made it "supremely clear" to the US president "that we are determined to complete the elimination of these battalions in Rafah, and there's no way to do that except by going in on the ground".

The two leaders spoke by phone on Monday. White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Washington believed that storming Rafah would be a "mistake" and that Israel could achieve its military aims by other

US and Israeli officials will likely meet early next week in Washington to discuss Israel's military operation in Rafah, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-

Princess Kate

since surgery,

seen in 1st video

says UK tabloid

The Sun with screengrab of

Kate's video in its cover. AP

KATE, PRINCESS of Wales, has

been shown looking fit and

healthy in the first video taken of

her since she underwent surgery

two months ago in footage pub-

lished by the Sun newspaper on

hospital in January after having

what her office said was success-

ful, planned surgery for a non-

cancerous but unspecified con-

in public since appearing with

the other members of the royal

family on Christmas Day, and in

recent weeks social media has

been awash with speculation

about her health, generating

said was filmed on Saturday, a

smiling Kate is seen, casually

dressed, walking and carrying

shopping bags alongside her

husband, heir to the throne

Prince William, at a farm shop in

Windsor, near to their home.

In the video, which the Sun

global headlines and rumours.

Other than a couple of blurry pictures, she has not been seen

Kate, 42, spent two weeks in

its website on Monday.

REUTERS

LONDON, MARCH19



Gazans line up for food at Jabaliya refugee camp on Monday. AP

Pierre said on Tuesday, citing deep concern about reports of imminent famine in Gaza.

Jean-Pierre said Biden had asked Netanyahu to send a senior team of military, intelligence and humanitarian officials to Washington for comprehensive discussions in the coming days.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced a trip to the Middle East in which he would meet senior leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia to "discuss the right architecture for a lasting peace". Unusually, Blinken made no men-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG, MARCH 19

HONG KONG lawmakers unani-

mously approved a new national

security law Tuesday that grants

the government more power to

quash dissent, widely seen as the

latest step in a sweeping politi-

cal crackdown triggered by pro-

Safeguarding National Security

Bill during a special session. The

law will expand the authorities'

ability to prosecute citizens for

offenses including "colluding

with external forces" to commit

illegal acts as well as charge

them with treason, insurrection,

espionage, and disclosing state

security law Beijing imposed in

2020, which has already largely

silenced opposition voices in the

It comes on top of a similar

secrets, among others.

financial hub.

The legislature passed the

democracy protests in 2019.

tion of a stop in Israel itself, and the Israeli foreign ministry said it had received no notification to prepare for one. In Rafah, dazed survivors walked through the ruins of a home on Tuesday, one of several buildings hit in overnight Israeli air strikes that killed 14 people in

the city, where more than half of

Gaza's 2.3 million people have

been pushed up against the bor-

"There's U.S. support, European support and support of the whole world for Israel, they support them with weapons and

Bowing to Beijing, Hong Kong

passes new law to quash dissent

der fence with Egypt.

planes," said one mourner, Ibrahim Hasouna. "They mock us and send four or five airdrops (of aid) just to save their faces."

Ceasefire talks are resuming this week in Oatar after Israel rejected a Hamas proposal last week. An Israeli delegation headed by the country's spy chief travelled to Qatar on Monday, although an official said Israel believed any agreement would take at least two weeks. A Palestinian official said the talks are expected to be "very tough", accusing Israel of deliberately stalling.

manitarian aid for Gaza may amount to a starvation tactic that could be a war crime, the United Nations human rights chief said on Tuesday. "The extent of Israel's contin-

REUTERS

GENEVA. MARCH 19

ued restrictions on entry of aid into Gaza, together with the manner in which it continues to conduct hostilities, may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war, which is a war crime," said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk.

Israel's curbs on

aid may account

UN rights office

ISRAEL'S RESTRICTIONS on hu-

to war crime:

While aid agencies blame Israel for blockading Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu's government says it is facilitating aid and the UN and relief groups are at fault for any issues over the quantity and pace of delivery.

In response to Turk's statement, the Israeli diplomatic mission in Geneva said: "Israel is doing everything it can to flood Gaza with aid, including by land air and sea. The UN must also step up."

Pak court acquits Imran in 2 cases over vandalism in anti-govt march

Islamabad: In some relief to Imran Khan, a court in Pakistan on Tuesday acquitted the jailed former prime minister in two different cases related to the incidents of vandalism during his anti-government march in March 2022.

District and Sessions Court Judicial Magistrate Shaista Kundi accepted Khan's petitions and acquitted him in cases registered at Islamabad's Lohi Bhair and Sahala stations, Geo News reported.

Meanwhile, a Pakistan anticorruption court Tuesday acquitted the two sons of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in three cases of alleged corruption. Hassan and Hussain Nawaz were implicated in the Avenfield, Flagship, and Al-Azizia corruption cases in 2018 related to the Panama Papers. On Tuesday, the acquittal plea was heard by Judge Nasir Javed Rana and after hearing the case, he acquitted the two in all three cases. **PTI**

growing demographic headache

of a rapidly ageing society.

China's population fell for a second consecutive year in 2023 as the record-low birth rate and high deaths due to COVID-19 accelerated a downturn that officials fear will have profound long-term effects on the econ-

The most recent available data from China's National Health Commission showed the number of maternity hospitals dropped to 793 in 2021 from 807 in 2020.

PRESIDENTIAL INDUCTION AROUND MAY 7

Putin to visit Xi in May in 1st overseas trip after re-election

Officials say trip planned before Chinese leader's Europe tour

REUTERS

BEIJING/MOSCOW. MARCH 19

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin will travel to China in May for talks with Xi Jinping, in what could be the Kremlin chief's first overseas trip of his new presidential term, according to five sources familiar with the matter. Western governments on

Monday condemned Putin's reelection as unfair and undemocratic. But China, India and North Korea congratulated the veteran leader, highlighting geopolitical fault lines that have widened since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

"Putin will visit China," one of the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters. The details were independently confirmed by four other sources, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. Another of the sources said Putin's trip to China would probably take place in the second half of May.

Putin's formal presidential inauguration is due to take place around May 7. Two officials said the Putin visit would come before Xi's planned trip to Europe.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, when asked about the Reuters report, said information on Putin's visits would be released closer to the date. China's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Putin told reporters on Sunday



Vladimir Putin with Xi Jinping in Beijing in 2023. File



Close personal,

CHINA HAS bolstered trade and military ties with Russia in recent years as the US and its allies imposed sanctions on both countries, particularly Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine. The two leaders have often touted their close personal friendship and have met over 40 times, most recently in October when Putin was the guest of honour at China's Belt and Road summit in Beijing.

that Russia and China shared a similar global outlook and enjoyed resilient relations in part due to their good personal relations.

Xi visited Russia in his first post-pandemic overseas trip in March last year, shortly after commencing his precedent-breaking third term as Chinese president.

U.S. AID BILL STILL PENDING IN HOUSE

Ukraine's survival is in danger: Pentagon chief calls on allies, partners to rush aid

REUTERS RAMSTEIN AIR BASE,

GERMANY, MARCH 19

US DEFENSE Secretary Lloyd Austin Tuesday warned that Ukraine's survival was in danger and sought to convince allies that the United States was committed to Kyiv, even as Washington has essentially run out of money to continue arming Ukrainian forces.

Republican House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson has so far refused to call a vote on a Bill that would provide \$60 billion more for Ukraine and the White House has been scrambling to find ways to send assistance to Kyiv, which has been battling Russian forces for more than two years.

Austin is leading the monthly meeting known as the Ukraine defense contact group (UDCG), held at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, of about 50 allies that have been militarily supporting Ukraine. "Ukraine's survival is in danger," Austin said in a press conference after the meeting. "Our allies and partners con-

tinue to step up, the United



Lloyd Austin at a meeting in the US Air base in Germany, **Tuesday.** Reuters

RUSSIA TO SHIFT 9K KIDS FROM AREA UNDER STRIKE

Moscow: Russia plans to evacuate about 9.000 children from a border region because it is being shelled continuously from the Ukrainian side, an official said Tuesday. Kyiv's forces have increasingly been striking at targets behind the front line that in recent months has barely shifted after more than two years of war.

States must also," he added. Austin did not say how

Washington would support Ukraine without additional funding.

China hospitals pause obstetric services as birth rate falls ments, according to notices

Lawmakers at Hong Kong Legislative Council, Tuesday. Reuters

REUTERS HONG KONG, MARCH 19

MANY HOSPITALS in China have stopped offering newborn delivery services this year, statebacked news outlet Daily Economic News reported, with industry experts warning of an "obstetric winter" due to declining demand amid a record drop in new births. Hospitals in various provinces

including in eastern Zhejiang and southern Jiangxi have in the past



Hong Kong's Legislative

Council, packed with Beijing loy-

alists following an electoral over-

haul, rushed the law through to

approval. Since the bill was un-

veiled on March 8, a committee

held daily meetings for a week,

following an appeal by Hong

Kong leader John Lee to push the

law through "at full speed." After

China's population fell for the 2nd consecutive year in 2023

two months announced that they will close their obstetric depart-

viewed by Reuters. The Fifth People's Hospital of Ganzhou City in Jiangxi said on its official WeChat account that obstetric services would be suspended from March 11.

of Traditional Medicine announced on its WeChat page that its obstetrics business would stop from Feb.

> The closures come as Chinese policymakers grapple with how to boost young couples' desire to have children as authorities face a

Zhejiang's Jiangshan Hospital

the vote, Lee said that the law

"Today is a historic moment

Critics worry the new law

will further erode civil liberties

that Beijing promised to pre-

serve for 50 years when the for-

mer British colony returned to

would take effect Saturday.

for Hong Kong," he said.

Chinese rule in 1997.

omy's growth potential.

GOVT WISHES TO KEEP LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS, THEIR BUSINESSES IN CITY

Pouring billions into public housing, Paris tries to make room for all

THOMAS FULLER PARIS. MARCH 19

THE TWO-BEDROOM penthouse comes with sweeping views of the Eiffel Tower and just about every other monument across the Paris skyline. The rent, at 600 euros a month, is a steal.

Marine Vallery-Radot, 51, the apartment's tenant, said she cried when she got the call last summer that hers was among 253 lower-income families chosen for a spot in the l'Îlot Saint-Germain, a new public-housing complex a short walk from the Musée d'Orsay, the National

Assembly and Napoleon's tomb. Public housing can conjure images of bleak, boxy towers on

the outskirts of a city, but this logement social was built in the former offices of the French Defense Ministry, in the Seventh arrondissement, one of Paris's most chic neighbourhoods. It's part of an ambitious and aggressive effort to keep middle- and lowerincome residents and small-business owners in the heart of a city that would otherwise be unaffordable to them — and by extension, to preserve the ineffable character of a globally adored city. This summer, when the

French capital welcomes upward of 15 million visitors for the Olympic Games, it will showcase a city engineered by government policies to achieve mixité sociale residents from a broad crosssection of society. One quarter of



Logement social built in the former offices of the French Defense Ministry in one of Paris's stylish neighbourhoods. NYT

all Paris residents now live in public housing, up from 13 percent in the late 1990s. The mixité sociale policy, promoted most forcefully by left-wing political parties, notably the French Communist Party, targets the economic segregation seen in many world cities.

"Our guiding philosophy is that those who produce the riches of the city must have the right to live in it," said Ian Brossat, a communist senator who served for a decade as City Hall's head of housing. Teachers, sanitation workers, nurses, college students, bakers and butchers are among those

who benefit from the program. Making the philosophy a reality is increasingly hard — the wait list for public housing in Paris is more than six years long. "I won't say this is easy and that we have solved the problem," Brossat said.

Paris is being buffeted by the same market forces vexing other so-called superstar cities like London, San Francisco and New York — a sanctum for the world's richest to park their money and buy a piece of a living museum.

The Fondation Abbé Pierre, an influential charity, was unusually emphatic in its annual February report, calling France's affordability crisis a "social bomb," with rising homelessness and 2.4 million families waiting on public-housing applications, up from 2 million in 2017. Still, the measures that Paris has taken to keep lower-income residents in the city go far beyond the initiatives in most

other European cities, not to mention American ones. "We are in a constant battle,"

said Mr. Baudrier, who wields a

625 million euro annual budget The fight, he said, is against forces that make buying Parisian

real estate impossible for all but the well-to-do, including buyers who snap up apartments as pieds-à-terre and then leave them empty for most of the year The city has built or renovated

more than 82,000 apartments over the past three decades for families with children. Rents range from six to 13 euros per square metre, depending on household income, meaning a two-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot apartment might go for as little as 600 euros (\$650) a month. **NYT**

*The Indian EXPRESS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

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No stay on CAA Rules, SC tells Govt to respond to pleas

Apex court tells Centre to file reply by April 2, next hearing on April 9

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

WHILE IT refused to stay the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act Rules notified earlier this month, the Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre, asking it to respond to petitions challenging

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud also issued notices to the Centre on petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

"Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submits that four weeks time may be granted to file response to the applications for stay at this stage. The request of four weeks time is opposed on the ground that in the meantime, if citizenship were to be granted, that process would become irreversible. Bearing in mind all the facts and circumstances, we direct that the proceedings be listed on April 9," the bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said.

The bench asked the Centre to file its reply by April 2, after CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

17TH RAMNATH GOENKA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

On way to being economic power, our ideals, convictions also key in a democracy: Gadkari





play," he said, adding, "People are

not interested in who said what,

but in knowledge.'

Winners of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence In Journalism Awards for 2021 (left) and 2022 with Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways; Viveck Goenka, Chairman, The Indian Express Group; Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group; and Justice B N Srikrishna, jury member, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna FULL LIST, PAGE 9

On the ground in Assam, no clear answers yet: 'Will wait and watch'

SUKRITA BARUAH SILCHAR, MARCH 19

AJIT DAS'S ordeal began in 2014 when he first received a notice that his citizenship was under investigation. Over the last 10 years, his struggle to prove his Indian citizenship has included three months of detention, and culminated in an order by the Foreigners Tribunal in 2021 declaring him a foreigner.

Das says his father and grandfather fled from East Pakistan in 1956 and spent a few **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Desperate to clear my name, says Ajit Das, who runs a shop in Amraghat Bazaar, **30 km from Silchar.** Express

Politics to investigation, sports to economy, 44 felicitated for works of excellence across print, digital and broadcast during 2021 and 2022

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

UNION MINISTER for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said Tuesday that India is powering its way to become the third largest economy, but economic progress apart, convictions and principles are equally important to live by in a Economic progress is important "Only giving information is not

Presenting the 17th Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism for the years 2021 and 2022 at a well-attended ceremony in New Delhi, Gadkari said, "We are the fastest growing economy in the world and working towards becoming the third largest economy in the world.

of life. Those who have stayed with their conviction and ideals and worked for democracy since 1947, we will remember them when we complete 100 years of

independent India." He also said that people are no longer interested in who said what, but in gaining knowledge.

Gadkari recalled the days of **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** democracy. but it cannot be the ultimate end the ultimate goal in this fast- the Emergency and how that changing world," he said. "India phase impacted his life. "On June is trying to be world class in the 25, 1975, when the Emergency field of sports, culture, knowlwas imposed, many people from edge, agriculture and industry. my family were arrested under the MISA," he said. In this fast-changing world, the media has an important role to

"Those two years were a very painful phase. That's when I decided I will work against the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**





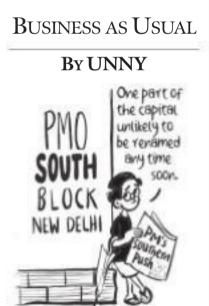












Soren's daughter-in-law joins BJP: 'Isolated by JMM, family members'

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, MARCH 19

JHARKHAND MUKTI Morcha MLA Sita Soren, daughter-in-law of JMM president Shibu Soren, resigned from the party on Tuesday and joined the BJP.

In her resignation letter addressed to Shibu Soren, the MLA from Jama said that ever since the death of her husband Durga Soren — the JMM's chief's son and elder brother of former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren she had been "isolated by the party and family members".

"Since the demise of my late husband, Durga Soren, who was a leading warrior of the Jharkhand movement and a great revolutionary, I and my family have been victims of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXCELLENCE

Co-presented by

adani

Sita Soren at the BJP office in **Delhi on Tuesday.** Tashi Tobgyal



Losing an insider

WITH HEMANT Soren's wife Kalpana Soren emerging as a new star in JMM, Sita Soren felt increasingly sidelined. However, having been an insider in the party's first family, Sita's switch to the BJP comes as a major blow to JMM.



MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, MARCH 19

IN AN incident which triggered tension in the area, two minor brothers, Ayush (13) and Honey (6), were killed by a local barber, Sajid (30), at their home in Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday night, police said.

About two hours after the incident, Sajid was gunned down in an alleged police encounter. **UP Director General of Police** (DGP) Prashant Kumar told The *Indian Express* that Sajid was shot dead when he opened fire on the

police team pursuing him. Inspector General of Police, Bareilly range, Rakesh Singh, said the motive behind the incident was yet to be determined.

According to police, Sajid's shop is located near the boys' home in Baba Colony, Civil Line police station area, in Badaun. The boys' father, Vinod Singh, is a contractor, while their mother, Sangeeta, has a beauty parlour.

Sajid went to Singh's house at about 7.45 pm on Tuesday, police said. At the time, Singh had reportedly gone to the market, while his wife was at her beauty parlour. The boys were at home with their paternal grandmother, police said.

According to police, when Singh's mother went to make **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INSIDE

DAY AFTER BIHAR **SNUB, PARAS QUITS MODI GOVT, LOOKS** FOR OPP LIFELINE

PATANJALI ADS: SUPREME COURT SUMMONS RAMDEV. **MD BALKRISHNA** PAGES 7 & 9

Ex-cop Pradeep Sharma gets life term in 2006 Mumbai fake encounter case

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, MARCH 19

PAGE 1

ANJALI MARAR

BENGALURU, MARCH 19

GROWING UP in Buk-Shado

hamlet of Ladakh's Hanle,

Rangdol Dorjey, 25, recalls

spending several nights under

the star-spangled astral skies in

the early 2000s. Living his dream

of becoming an astronomer,

Rangdol is now a local celebrity

SETTING ASIDE his acquittal by a sessions court, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday convicted and sentenced former Mumbai police officer Pradeep Sharma to life imprisonment in the 2006 fake en-



HC set aside Sharma's acquittal by a trial court in 2013

counter killing of Ramnaravan Gupta alias Lakhan Bhaiya, an al-

Indian Institute of Astrophysics

leged member of the Chhota Rajan gang.

The court directed Sharma, considered an "encounter specialist", to surrender within three weeks.

Allowing the state government's appeal against Sharma's acquittal in July 2013, a bench of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

In Ladakh, astronomy ambassadors are trained to offer a tour of the night sky journeys with his telescope. **ANCHOR** "As a child, I used to see the

Amateur astronomers view the star-filled skies during the refresher course at Hanle in Ladakh in October 2023.

who takes visitors on celestial

telescope (at the local observatory) and dream of becoming an astronomer. Now, I know the names of many constellations and I am proud to be an astronomy ambassador," Rangdol, a computer science engineer from Punjab Technical University, told *The Indian Express* recently.

In October 2022, 24 ambassadors from Hanle village, including 18 women, were hand CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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FROM PAGE ONE

FULLREPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Ideals, convictions also key in a democracy: Gadkari

Emergency," "Newspapers were censored at the time and Ramnath Goenka had to pay a price for his struggle against the Emergency. Goenka became a symbolic inspiration for all of us in the struggle against ing and regional languages. Emergency."

"For all of us, ethics versus convenience is an issue that confuses our personality, be it in any field, politics or journalism. But Goenka stayed with democracy for the sake of his principles despite having to pay a price," he said, adding, "I wouldn't have come in politics but for the Emergency period."

"When the river flows in one direction, all the dead fish and waste flows with it, but the fish that is alive tries to swim against the tide. That's what defines Ramnath Goenka," he said.

"Beyond economic progress, convictions and principles are also important to live by in a democracy," Gadkari said. "We are for modernisation, but there is a difference between modernisation and Westernisation.'

At the 17th edition of Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism, winners of 44 awards across print, broadcast and digital mediums were felicitated.

Instituted by the Ramnath Goenka Memorial Foundation, the awards acknowledged and

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Starting from 28 March by

Shri Alok Kr. Ranjan

honoured the best of journalism, showcasing outstanding contributions from print, digital and broadcast journalists across 13 categories including investigative journalism, sports, politics and government, books, feature writ-

Speaking at the event, Viveck Goenka, Chairman of The Indian Express Group, said, "Nothing renews journalism more powerfully than celebrating this each year. And more so as we head into the general elections. The pursuit of excellence becomes incumbent on us because it's our duty to ensure that the citizens' right to know is addressed in a manner that's fair and accurate."

"Nitin Gadkari has spelled out his governance vision: doing work for those who voted for you and also for those who didn't. This is democracy," he said, "because after elections are over, we can have matbhed but not manbhed."

"These words couldn't ring louder as we head into elections for they also define the attributes of the space that facilitates good journalism — going where the story takes you, not letting how you vote decide how you report," Goenka said.

Pointing out that as many as 1,313 applications were received this year, a record in the last 18 years of the award, *The Indian* Express Chief Editor Raj Kamal Jha said, "This gives us hope when everyday we hear intimations of journalism's mortality."

Referring to a political leader who asked a reporter who his "maalik" was, Jha flagged how some media owners had "gone down on bended knee", and their ease of doing business had trumped the "unease of doing journalism". "Journalism may not have the

tangible appeal of sadak, bijli and paani; it may be hard to identify the *labharthis* (beneficiaries) of journalism, but the stories this evening tell the *labh* of journalism," he said. Anant Goenka, Executive

Director of The Indian Express Group, presented a memento to

Those present at the event included political leaders across party lines – Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena, BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, JDU leader KCTyagi, Delhi Minister and AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, MP Danish Ali— besides diplomats and judges.

Those present included India Today Group's Aroon Purie and Kalli Purie, former AMU V-C and BJP MLC Tariq Mansoor, former Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Ahmad Zaidi, Google Head of News Partnerships in India Durga Raghunath, Newslaundry founder and journalist Madhu Trehan, Press Trust of India CEO Vijay Joshi, German embassy spokesperson Sebastian Fuchs, Israel embassy spokesperson Guy Nir, US embassy media advisor Raja Bhattacharya and diplomats from Russia.

The jury for the 17th edition of

the awards comprised Justice B N Srikrishna, jurist and former judge, Supreme Court of India; Prof. (Dr) C Raj Kumar, Founding Dean, Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) and Director, International **Institute for Higher Education** Research and Capacity Building (IIHEd); Dr S Y Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India; and K G Suresh, Vice Chancellor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal.

Past chief guests at the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards have included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, former Presidents Pratibha Patil, A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind and former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu among others.

Soren's daughter-in-law joins BJP

continuous neglect. We have been isolated by the party and family members, which has been extremely painful for me. I had hoped that the situation would improve with time, but unfortunately it didn't happen," she wrote.

Later on Tuesday, she joined the BIP in New Delhi in the presence of BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde and Jharkhand election in-charge Laxmikant Bajpai.

Sita Soren, who held the post of JMM general secretary, also said in her resignation letter that the JMM was no longer the "great party" that it was under her late husband's leadership. "I feel deeply saddened to see this. The party has now fallen into the hands of those whose vision and objectives do not match our values and ideals. Despite the tireless efforts of Shri Shibu Soren (Guruji Baba), who worked hard to keep us all together, unfortunately, his efforts also failed. I have recently come to know that there is a deep-rooted conspiracy against me and my family also. A conspiracy is being hatched. I am very sad. I have firmly decided that I will have to leave Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and this family."

Welcoming Sita Soren to the party, BJP state president and former chief minister Babulal Marandi said a decision on whether she will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections will be taken by the party's central election committee.

"The Congress and JMM legislators feel threatened by their own govern-

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ment," Marandi said, adding that Sita Soren's letter reflected "the pain and injustice she faced".

"She suffered jolts... Sita has come to Ram... She is welcome," he added.

However, IMM central committee spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said the party gave her due recognition and made her its general secretary, besides being elected thrice as MLA. Alleging that the BJP uses institutions like the CBI and ED to intimidate Opposition leaders, he said, "Not everyone is Hemant Soren, who can fearlessly face such forces."

Sita Soren's resignation comes two weeks after the Supreme Court on March 4 ruled that MPs and MLAs who take bribes to vote or speak in a certain manner in the House are not immune from prosecution, overturning its order in a 1998 case in which Shibu Soren was an accused. Sita Soren is facing trial in a similar case in which she is accused of accepting a bribe from an Independent candidate in the 2012 Rajya Sabha polls. A judgment in that case is expected soon.

Sita's brother-in-law Hemant Soren was arrested in an alleged money laundering case on January 31, hours after he resigned as Jharkhand chief minister.

While party loyalist Champai Soren (not related to Hemant) was elevated as the new chief minister, sources said Sita was unhappy that one of the probable candidates for the CM's post was Hemant's wife Kalpana Soren.

-WITH PTI INPUTS

No stay on CAA Rules, SC tells Govt to respond to pleas

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal,

which the petitioners would have to respond by April 8.

Appearing for the Centre, Mehta said there were 236 petitions challenging the Act, and 20 applications challenging the Rules. He urged the court to grant him time to reply.

Mehta also sought to clarify that the CAA "does not take away the citizenship of any person". "No new person is also being given (citizenship) and only those (who) entered before 2014 are being considered," he said.

Senior Advocate Indira Jaising, who appeared for a petitioner, urged the court to issue directions barring grant of citizenship until final adjudication of the matter, or to specify in the order that any citizenship granted under the Rules would be subject to the outcome of the petitions. "The point is citizenship once granted cannot be terminated under the law. Under orders of the court, it's a different matter," she said.

who appeared for the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), also a petitioner, echoed the request. "This notification has been issued after four years and three months. The Rules were not notified earlier. Under the law, notification has to be issued within six months. They have to go back to Parliament every three months. Since 2020, they have been going to Parliament every three months... Now, the problem is if any process for citizenship starts and somebody gets citizenship, it will be impossible to reverse it for several reasons. And these petitions will become infructuous. Therefore, that process should not start. If they have waited... till now, they can wait till the court hears it. Hear the matter... but why should the process start because, both under international law and otherwise, once you grant citizengency. "We have got several challenges that are pending in these petitions... there are serious issues of constitutional law," he said.

The court, however, declined to pass any order on their request. "They don't even have the infrastructure in place -- the district empowered committee, the central empowered committee, nothing is in place," the CJI said.

"But we can't go on that," said

Jaising, and repeated her plea.

Sibal, however, said they would approach the court again if there was any development. "Yes, we are there," the court responded. Senior Advocate Ranjit Kumar, representing the Balochistan Hindu Panchayat, said if citizenship was granted to a persecuted

body else's rights?" "They will get the right to vote. That's how it affects," countered

Jaising. Sibal, however, did not

Hindu from Balochistan who en-

tered India before December

2014, "how would it affect any-

seem to favour the argument.

Sticking to her stand, Jaising said the SG should make a statement that in the meantime, no cit izenship would be granted under the new Rules. Declining the request, Mehta said: "I'm not making any statement".

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, raised the issue of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and said the applications of non-Muslims excluded by the NRC would now be processed under the CAA. "That's

the prejudice caused," Pasha said. Mehta, however, sought to delink the two issues. "This attempt was made outside the court a few years back -- misleading people that this is NRC, you are going to be ousted etc. NRC is not an issue before your Lordships. Only grant of citizenship under CAA is, he asserted. The court said it would take a prima facie view only after hearing all sides.

• On the ground in Assam, no clear answers yet: 'Will wait and watch'

months in a refugee camp in Monacherra in Assam's Hailakandi district. Here, he was given a refugee certificate, the only document of his father's that Das possesses. This crucial document failed to convince the Foreigners Tribunal No. 6 in Silchar, which said there was no corresponding record with the government.

Das has heard that the process of registering for the Citizenship Amendment Act has begun, and is supposed to benefit families such as his. But the ever-smiling man, whose appeal against the Foreigners Tribunal is now in the Gauhati High Court, is tired. "I have two sons and I am desperate to clear my name, because if I don't, this burden will pass on to them," he said. After years of trying to prove that he is an Indian, trying to avail of the CAA would mean a new burden of proof on him — one that turns his previous effort on its head.

It was on March 11 that the Centre notified rules for the CAA, paving the way for the implementation of the law more than four years after it was passed by Parliament in December 2019. It will benefit thousands of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, and seek citizenship of India.

The applicant requires at least one document under Schedule 1A of the CAA rules to prove a person is a national of Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Pakistan. In Das's case, these include a passport, birth certificate, education certificate, identity document, land or tenancy records, or any other document from the government of Bangladesh to prove he is from the country. Alternatively, he can produce a document showing that either of his parents, grandparents or great-grandparents are or have been a citizen of Bangladesh.

ship, you cannot take it back," said

Sibal, adding that there was no ur-

But he is hard-pressed to find such a piece of paper: "I am not a foreigner. I was born here, have gone to school here, and I am confident of all my documents for Indian citizenship. Yes, my father did come from Bangladesh but I am not sure of what the process was. The only document I have of his is the refugee certificates and that has already been rejected by the Foreigner's Tribunal. Will it help me now?"

in Amraghat Bazaar, around 30 km from Silchar in the heart of Assam's Barak Valley, which has a largely Bengali population. While passage of the CAA witnessed intense protests across Assam in December 2019, especially in the primarily Assamese speaking Brahmaputra valley, the reception was different in Bengali-dominated districts of Cachar, Karimgani and Hailakandi in Barak Valley. This region, which shares more than a 125-km international border with Bangladesh, saw a large Bengali Hindu population migrate to it after Partition to escape persecution in what was then East Pakistan. Many believed that the CAA will bring relief to Bengali Hindus who were excluded from the NRC and are facing cases in Foreigners Tribunals.

But now that the CAA process has become clearer, even its biggest votaries find that it is not all that they had hoped for. "We did andolans, signature campaigns in support of the Act," said Basudeb Sharma, president of the All Assam Bengali Hindu Association, which had celebrated its passage and waited for the rules with deep anticipation.

He spoke to *The Indian Express* shortly before his and other such organisations convened a meeting last week to weigh how much the final rules actually help their cause. "Once we analysed the rules, one thing that became clear is that applicants will need a document from East Pakistan or Bangladesh and should be able to specify their date of entry. These are people who fled without any preparation and somehow reached India. We have sent a memorandum to the PM that the rules should be amended and that Das runs a small novelty shop a self-declaration from people without documents should suffice. Another thing is that while they apply, they have to say they are foreigners. It should be ensured that there should be protection to people who make such a declaration," said Sharma.

Kamal Chakraborty, an activist in the Barak Valley, said: "Two things that I had been advocating for were unconditional citizenship to Partition victims and citizenship by birth. Here, neither of these things are being granted. There are so many different citizenship exercises going on in Assam — 19 lakh people have been excluded from the NRC, which is yet to be notified; there are people marked as 'Doubtful Voters'; there are people whose cases are pending in Foreigners Tribunals. What does the CAA mean for all these people who have been trying so far to prove that they are Indian?"

A recent statement by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma — that the CAA would only benefit those non-Muslims who applied for the NRC and had been left out — only led to more questions. The final NRC list was released in August

2019 and excluded 19 lakh people, and at that time, Sarma had said about 5-6 lakh of those excluded were people "who have migrated from Bangladesh due to religious persecution before 1971".

Sishir Dey, an advocate based in Karimganj, said nobody stands to benefit from the CAA rules as they stand. "There are people waiting for the NRC to be finally notified. Many of them have been excluded simply because of errors Once the NRC is notified, they can enter the appeal process and get their names added to the NRC. On the other hand, those who have genuinely come from Bangladesh and people who will not be able to clear the process do not have the required documents (for CAA) If there was an affidavit or selfdeclaration system, it may have been helpful to them," he said.

Many Bengali Hindus stuck in the NRC limbo would rather take the process to its logical conclusion than opt for the CAA. For instance, Pinaki Das, who runs a printing press in Silchar city, suspects his wife was excluded because her PAN card carries her maiden surname while her name in the voter list carries his surname. "There's no question of us ever thinking of the CAA. My family has land documents from 1913 in Cachar, her grandfather was part of Assam Police. We will wait for the government to inform us of the reason so we can address the issue," he said.

In the meantime, Das said he will choose to "wait and watch" "I am not very clear on what the next step should be. The good thing is that I am not alone, there are lakhs of people. I will wait for some to apply under the CAA and

see what their experience is."

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• Ex-cop Pradeep Sharma gets life term in 2006 Mumbai fake encounter Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Pandurang Kokam, Ratnakar

Gauri V Godse in its 867-page judgement held that the trial court's finding was "perverse and unsustainable".

der and other charges, it observed that the prosecution proved that Lakhan Bhaiya "was killed by the police, by triggerhappy cops, and the same was made to look like a genuine encounter". The bench also upheld the conviction of 12 other policemen and a civilian, Hitesh Solanki, in the case. However, it acquitted six others — Manoj Mohan Raj, Shailendra Pandey, Sunil Solanki, Mohamed Shaikh, Akhil Khan and Suresh Shetty.

The convicted policemen are Dilip Palande, Nitin Sartape, Ganesh Harpude, Anand Patade, Prakash Kadam, Devidas Sakpal,

Kamble, Sandeep Sardar, Tanaji Desai, Pradeep Suryavanshi and Vinayak Shinde.

The bench observed that while Lakhan Bhaiya had 10 cases Convicting Sharma of muragainst him, that by itself would not give the accused the "license to kill" him. "Instead of upholding the rule of law, the police have misused their position and uniform, and have killed Ramnarayan in cold blood," it said. It emphasised that "death in

> police custody must be curbed with a heavy hand and must be viewed seriously" and there can be "no room for leniency as persons involved are the arm of state whose duty is to protect citizens and not to take law into their hands". The bench also said that since Janardan Bhange, a civilian, and police inspector Arvind

custody during pendency of the appeals, their appeals stood abated. It, however, observed that it was a "matter of shame" that the killers of a prime witness, Anil Bheda, who was murdered "in a gruesome manner" on March 13, 2011 — four days after the charges were framed were not booked and there was "absolutely no progress" in case by state CID for more than a decade. Bheda's burnt body was found and identified on the ba-

Sarvankar had died in judicial

"It is travesty of justice for his family," the bench said, adding that "the police have hardly taken any pains" to nab the perpetrators. The police should investigate the murder to "take the case to its logical end, lest people lose faith in the system", it said.

ties, the project aims to inspire

the next generation of as-

sis of a DNA sample, it said.

The bench held that the trial court acquitted Sharma despite observing the ballistic evidence being "weak" and "overlooked" that other accused were deputed to work under him and that Sharma was present at the crime spot. It said there was evidence of witnesses, including Bheda, stating that they were threatened by lawyers and family members of accused "to toe a particular line and to leave the city". The fake encounter of Lakhan

Bhaiya took place on November 11, 2006, near Nana Nani Park in Versova, hours after he was picked up along with a friend from Vashi. An FIR was registered in 2009 on the High Court's orders after a special investigation team found that a rival of Lakhan Bhaiya had paid the policemen to kill him.

2 boys hacked tea, Sajid went to the third floor

Piyush (8). He attacked the boys with a sharp-edged weapon, slitting the throats of the two victims, police said.

of the house, where the two boys

were playing with their brother,

Piyush, who sustained minor injuries, managed to escape and alerted the rest of the family. As the family raised an alarm, Sajid

fled from the area. At about 10 pm, Sajid was gunned down in Shekupur area about 7 kms from the victims house. Following the boys killings, protesters vandalised Sajid's shop and set it ablaze Two makeshift shops were also set on fire. Additional police personnel were deployed, and the situation was brought under

In Ladakh, astronomy ambassadors are trained to offer a tour of the night sky

-picked as astronomy ambassadors and trained in basic astronomy to boost India's first-ever astronomy tourism promotion in Ladakh. Each of the ambassa $dors\,has\,been\,equipped\,with\,an$ 8-inch telescope. Astronomy tourism is a joint initiative by the Ladakh union territory administration and Bengalurubased Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

Hanle offers one of the most pristine, breathtaking and darkest night skies in the country. In September 2022, a 22-km radius around Hanle was declared as India's — also South-East Asia's — first Dark Sky Reserve.

Designating an area as a Dark Sky Reserve or a Dark Sky Park — Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) was recently declared India's first Dark Sky Park — is driven by the need to shield the night sky. Since a Dark Sky Reserve limits light pollution, similar restrictions came into effect after the Hanle

tering HDSR, requesting local homes to use soft lights, and supplying homes in Hanle with thick window screens and cur-The IIA has been operating the Himalayan Chandra Telescope, a 2-metre optical-infrared telescope, named after

notified in December 2022. This

included all vehicle users dim-

ming their headlights upon en-

Indian-American Nobel laure-Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, at its Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) here since 2001. Operating from atop Mount

Saraswati, at an altitude of 4,500 metres above mean sea level, the observatory has helped kindle an interest in astronomy among the local youth. According to Annapurni Subramaniam, director, IIA, one

of the key components of HDSR's ongoing efforts is the educational outreach. She said, "Collaborating Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) was with local schools and universi-

tronomers, conservationists and eco-conscious tourists. Through workshops, stargazing events and interactive sessions with astronomers, students and visitors gain hands-on experience, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation for the cosmos and the importance of preserving dark skies." Efforts are underway to in-

troduce astronomy tourism in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Lakshadweep, IIA officials said. As part of the week-long

training course that astronomy ambassadors in Hanle undertook, they were first shown celestial objects on a screen and also introduced to telescopes, including lens types, and how to operate and change lenses to adjust and focus.

Astronomy ambassador Rangdol said, "First, we use the 10mm lens to locate the (celestial) object. Later, we use the

5mm lens to focus and for detailed observations, like the craters on the moon." Thereafter, they were taught how to view celestial objects in

the field. Since celestial objects are best identified by the shape, position, brightness and direction in the sky on the day of observation, astronomy ambassadors mostly use the North Star and Capella — two of the known brightest stars — as a reference.

Padma Ishey, 27, an astronomy ambassador who is based in Hanle's Punguk hamlet, said he had never touched a telescope before the training session. "During the session, we learnt about the Milky Way. We were also taught how to identify the Eagle Nebula and constellations by their shapes and positions in the sky. I was a bit scared to handle the telescope in the beginning, but I do it with ease now. Depending on the visibility, I can show visitors a variety of (celestial) objects on

a given night," he said.

Among objects that astronomy ambassadors show to visitors are galaxies (Milky Way and Andromeda), the Ring and Eagle Nebulae; the moon and its craters, and planets like Saturn, with its rings, and the brown-

shaded Jupiter.

Having spent a bulk of his career in the remote and hostile locale of Hanle, Dorje Angchuk, 50, from Spituk village in Leh, has been the IIA's engineer in-charge of the observatory since early 2001. "Visitors to Hanle would often seek permission to use the telescope for sky gazing but we would turn down such requests," said Dorje, who has been integral to the promotion of astro tourism here. Today, most of Hanle's homestays which increased to 30 from just four since the Covid-19 pandemic - offer star gazing sessions conducted by astronomy ambassadors for Rs 200 per tourist per hour. The best time to sky gaze in Hanle, locals said, is between mid-April and October.





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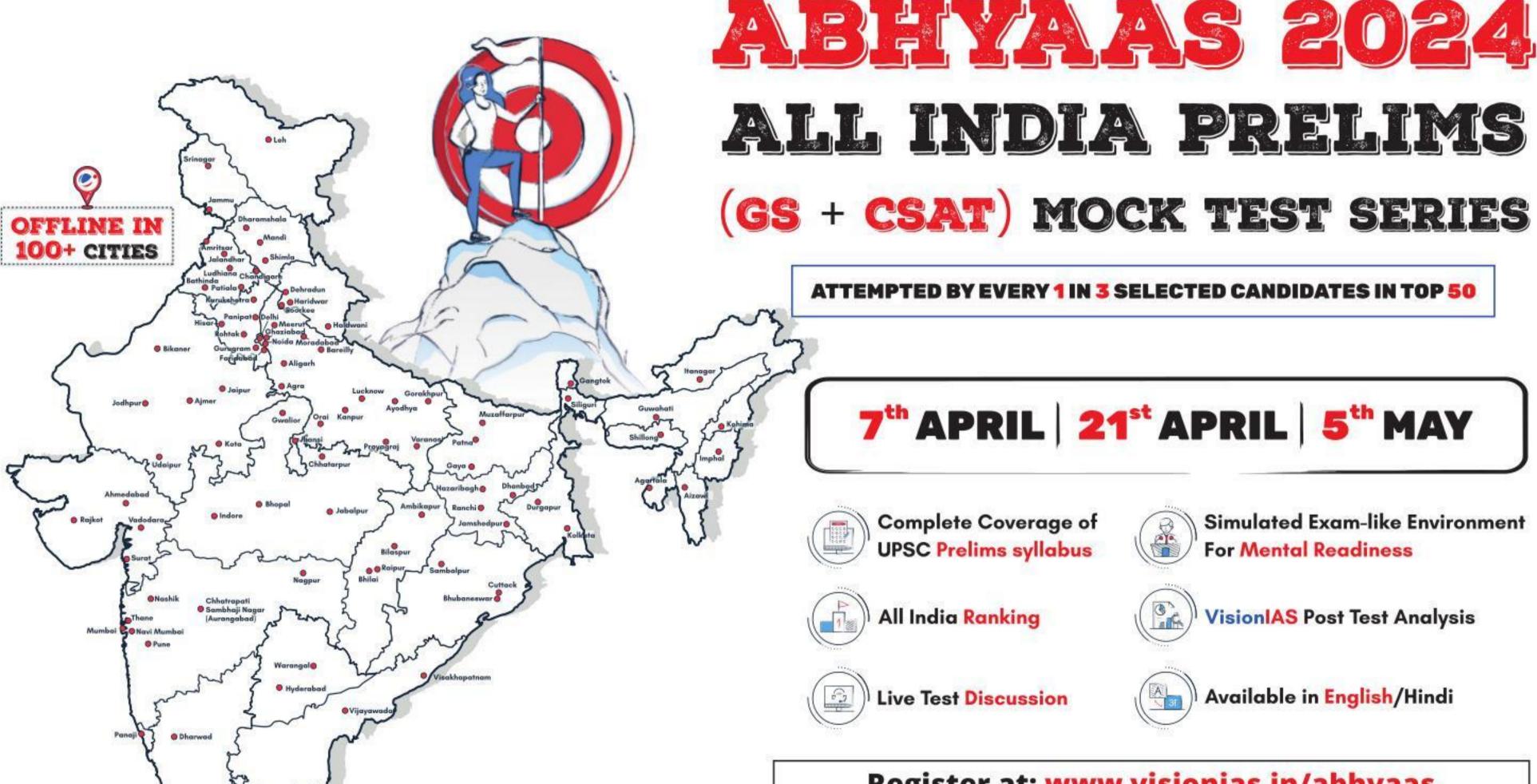
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IN PAST YEAR, 9 CASES UNEARTHED IN DELHI

Cancer, BP meds: Fake drug rackets on the rise

ANKITA UPADHYAY NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

MEDICINES TO treat cancer, tablets to control blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes and cholesterol: spurious drugs imitating those made by big pharma companies are at the heart of numerous fake drug rackets that have surfaced in Delhi over the last year.

The state health department's drug control authority has busted at least nine cases in the last 12 months where fake drugs sporting fake labels of the orig-

inal firm — were being manufactured and sold to patients by wholesalers and retailers. Just last week, one such fake anticancer drug racket was busted and seven people, including hospital employees, were arrested.

According to a health department official, such cases have been on the rise post the pandemic as there was a major lag in enforcement activities during Covid. "Samples were seized during routine inspections from wholesalers and based on leads received from suspected places," the official added.

Supplied in border areas, small cities

The fake medicines were being circulated in Delhi markets. especially the border areas, and in tier 3 and 4 cities in North India. "The spurious drugs were being sold in areas where there is no proper enforcement when it comes to billing of medicines like in tier 4 cities and villages, and areas on the outskirts of Delhi," said the official, adding, "Some of



Last week, one such fake anti-cancer drug racket was busted in Delhi and seven people were arrested. Express

these drugs were in transit — being moved in and out of Delhi when we busted the racket."

Samples collected have been tested and it was found that they are mostly innocuous substances such as starch.

The official said that next, a manufacture-level inquiry will be conducted where the seized samples will be chemically matched with those originally produced by the manufacturer; experts will then find the point of difference in chemical and physical parameters.

Another official from the health department said it appears there is a nexus between retailers and wholesalers across states. For instance, in one case, drugs that were seized from a wholesaler in Vikaspuri were purchased from another wholesaler in the same area who, in turn, had purchased the stock from a wholesaler in Jaipur. The drugs control department then carried out inquiries and it was found that the firm which originally sold the drugs had surrendered its licence.

The official said a case will be filed under relevant sections of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, while licences of these wholesalers have been canceled.

In such instances, police can't register FIRs, make arrests, prosecute or investigate cognizable offences under Chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which deals with manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs and cosmetics. Only drug inspectors are allowed to carry out the investigation. Police come into the picture when there is a case of copyright and other violations such as cheating.

But has the number of such cases increased over the years? An official said no data was compiled during the Covid years and it's only in the last year that enforcement increased. He said there was a shortage of enforcement staff due to which a lot of cases piled up. He pointed out that there is an urgent requirement for more enforcement at borders and remote areas in North India.

Medanta Hospital chief is latest victim of deepfake video; Gurgaon cops lodge FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GURGAON, MARCH 19

THE CHAIRMAN and managing director of Gurgaon's Medanta Hospital, Dr Naresh Trehan, appears to be the latest victim of a deepfake video. According to DCP (South) Sidhant Jain, the fake video shows a doctor supposedly prescribing medicine to reduce obesity, and an FIR was registered Monday.

The complainant in the case, Harish Aswani, assistant vicepresident of the hospital's marketing division, said a fabricated video featuring CMD Dr Trehan surfaced on social media con-



CMD Dr Naresh Trehan

taining misleading information about a medical treatment. "This video has the potential to create panic and confusion among the general public and patients who rely on accurate and trustworthy information for their well-being... (It) presents false claims about a

supposed medical breakthrough, which, if believed, could lead to misguided decisions by individuals seeking medical assistance. The deepfake video features our CMD, Dr Naresh Trehan, who can be seen endorsing this particular medication. Dr Trehan is one of the most trusted clinicians in the country, (and) this video damages the reputation of Dr Trehan and Medanta Hospitals," he said.

Dr Trehan said: "It is deeply disturbing that wrong medical information is being circulated with my image and likeness. This is dangerous for the unsuspecting public. I have taken the matter very seriously and submitted a police complaint."

The FIR has been registered against unknown persons under IPC sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) at the Cybercrime police station.

The DCP said, "This is a deepfake video as the said doctor hasn't prescribed any such medicine. The general public should be cautious while watching any digital content and check it twice minutely to ensure they don't fall prey to any sophisticated trap. The Gurgaon cyber police formed a special team to apprehend the accused; we have already got credible leads."

Metro station wall collapse: Caretaker asked to join probe

ARNABJIT SUR NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

A MONTH after a 53-year-old man was killed when a portion of a wall at the Gokulpuri Metro Station collapsed onto the road below, police have served a notice to the caretaker to join the probe to ascertain if there was any negligence that led to the incident.

Following the mishap in February, two DMRC officials a manager and a junior engineer of the civil department — were immediately suspended Inspection of the station had taken place roughly a month before the incident, sources had told The Indian Express.

Police had earlier served a notice to the Delhi Metro to give them the name of the contractor who carried out the construction and the engineers who oversaw the work. An officer said, "Delhi Metro has responded and given us the names of engineers who oversaw construction of the premises and carried out various inspections... role of the caretaker, who looks after the station also came to light; he has been served a notice under CrPC Section 160 to join the probe. He will be asked to provide details on whether the required security checks were carried out on time and if any inadequacies were found."

The officer added that after this, the DMRC engineers named in Metro's response will be summoned and further legal action will be taken against them.

The Metro also responded that its internal inquiry into the incident is ongoing and once completed, the report will be shared with police.

ALL CLEAR

Barricades put up in February in view of the farmers' protest march being removed from Ghazipur border, Tuesday. PTI

BRIEFLY

Man held for kidnapping boy, nearly drowning him

New Delhi: A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a 7year-old boy from his neighbourhood and trying to drown him in the Ganga, police said Tuesday. Police analysed CCTV visuals and used local leads to locate the boy — who went missing from his home in Dayalpur — in Rajghat village, Bulandshahr, from where he was rescued. Police said the accused, during questioning, said he kidnapped the child due to personal problems with the parents.

Radar-based systems set up to penalise traffic violators

New Delhi: In response to escalating concerns over road safety and the persistentissue of red light jumping in the Capital, the Delhi Traffic Police has announced intensified efforts to curb violations. Police installed 3D radar-based Red-Light Violation Detection System (RLVD) across major roads and junctions which will detect vehicles violating traffic rules at red lights and initiate e-challans without human contact. **ENS**

order that had rejected his

guardianship petition seeking

custody of his five-year-old son

born to a Ukrainian woman. The

HC said it was not inclined to in-

terfere with the family court's

decision, and the woman was

free to leave India with her son,

also a Ukrainian citizen by birth.

the man's guardianship petition

The family court dismissed

Cong to unveil 3 poll manifestos, one with INDIA partner AAP

SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

KEEPING ALL political realities in mind, the Congress will unveil three manifestos in the national capital — one by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), another by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) and a third manifesto, for which the Aam Aadmi Party and Delhi Congress will join forces — senior party sources said.

The AICC on February 6 had appointed different committees to plan for the Lok Sabha polls. As many as 62 members had been appointed to the manifesto committee, which was supposed to ideate a manifesto separate from the alliance. Senior party members then held meetings with farmers, RWAs and traders to discuss their problems and seek their suggestions.

Forceful acquisition of agricultural land by government agencies, demand for increase in circle rate, lack of facilities in unauthorised colonies, struggles faced by small and medium businesses were some of the issues highlighted in the meetings.

On February 28, Delhi **Congress Chief Arvinder Singh** Lovely had announced that the Congress manifesto for the na-



DPCC chief Arvinder Singh Lovely

anything that is in contrast to the central leadership's manifesto which is why it has been sent for a check... it might be discussed in the Congress Working Committee's manifesto today," party sources said.

"On receiving approval, we will announce the election promises that Delhi Congress is going to focus on... A separate manifesto will be released in collaboration with the AAP for which meetings will be organised soon," a senior Congress leader said.

The Delhi Congress also plans to point out the failures of the Delhi BJP in the next few days. On Monday, the Delhi BJP had announced a roadmap for the elections, with each of its seven candidates presenting developmental plans for the first 100days of their tenure, if elected.

Addressing the Tuesday, Lovely attacked the Delhi BJP saying, "Instead of telling what BJP MPs have done in the last 10 years, discussing what they will do in the next 100 days is an act of misleading the people of Delhi."

He also accused the BJP MPs of not contributing to the development of new schools, hospitals, Yamuna cleanliness, or other infrastructure projects in the past ten years.

ED spreading fake news of Rs-100 cr transaction in excise case: Bharadwaj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

SENIOR AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj Tuesday accused the BIP of using the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as a tool to arrest Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case to stop him from participating in campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a press conference Tuesday, he referred to a press release issued by the ED in which it claimed transactions amounting to approximately Rs 100 crore have taken place. "Until now, BJP was claiming it to be a scam of

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

HOW CAN the leakage issue in-

side the 1.3-km Pragati Maidan

tunnel be solved? This is the

mandate given to a five-member

expert committee set up by the

Public Works Department

three PWD officials including

Chief Engineer (Flyover), Mukesh

Kumar, Superintending Engineer

Rajan Mogha and Executive

Engineer Ravi Verma. The others

are Pradeep Garg, SE, CPWD and

and seepage in the tunnel, the

PWD had issued notices to con-

struction major Larsen and

Toubro (L&T) — which executed

Pointing out design flaws

Saurabh Sharma from DMRC.

The committee comprises

(PWD) to come up with ideas.

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

thousands of crores, but over time, the ED has revised its statement to confirm transactions of Rs 100 crore... Despite this, it has not presented any evidence of financial transactions in this matter," he said, accusing the ED of spreading fake news on the transaction.

The ED spokesperson had alleged Monday: "ED investigation revealed (BRS leader) Ms K Kavitha along with others conspired with top leaders of AAP including Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia for getting favours in the Delhi excise policy formulation and implementation. In exchange..., she was involved in paying Rs 100 crore to leaders of AAP."

Citing Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent electoral victory, Bharadwaj alleged, "... a similar situation is emerging in our country... Opposition leaders who pose a threat to the ruling BJP... are being arrested... then no one will be left to question the PM, and like Putin and (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Un, the BJP will also win the elections."

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said the way the entire AAP is creating a furore over Kejriwal's possible arrest based on a statement from yesterday, it is becoming evident that the CM is corrupt and his imprisonment is certain.

bench of Justices Suresh Kumar To resolve Pragati Maidan tunnel Kait and Manoj Jain. the summonses illegal and have seepage, PWD forms expert panel alleged that they are being sent at

the behest of BIP. AAP has also expressed the apprehension that the CM will be arrested in the case.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

leader moved the Delhi High

Court challenging the summons

issued to him by the probe agency.

monses to Kejriwal since

October last year. He is yet to ap-

pear for questioning. In its latest

summons, the agency asked him

to appear before it on March 21.

Kejriwal's plea is listed for hear-

ing on Wednesday before a

Kejriwal and AAP have called

The ED has issued nine sum-

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

Earlier, on Saturday, a Delhi

court had granted bail to Keiriwal on two complaints filed by the ED against him for skip-

ping summonses. A DAY after the Enforcement Two cases, one by CBI and Directorate alleged for the first one on alleged money launder time that Chief Minister Arvind ing being investigated by ED have been registered in relation Kejriwal was a conspirator in the Delhi excise policy case, the AAP to the excise policy.

Kejriwal moves HC over

summons issued by ED

Meanwhile, Special judge MK Nagpal who was hearing the Excise policy case at Rouse Avenue Court has been transferred to Tis Hazari Court as a District Judge for commercial cases. Delhi's former deputy CM Manish Sisodia, AAP MP Sanjay Singh and former AAP communications in charge Vijay Nair are among the main accused in the

case and are behind bars. District Judge (Commercial) Kaveri Baweja has been transferred to the Rouse Avenue court and will replace Nagpal to hear the cases involving MPs and MLAs, including the excise case.

The transfers were part of a larger exercise effected Tuesday.

against them, the students wrote

to the varsity on February 21 ap-

pealing against the decision

made by the University Student

Disciplinary Committee (USDC)

to suspend them until August 1

The students' appeal read

"We contend that the decision to

suspend us for an entire semester

was made by the USDC without

Two suspended Jindal varsity students move Punjab & Haryana HC

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

OVER A month after they were suspended for a semester and evicted from campus housing for allegedly putting up posters and engaging in a panel discussion regarding the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, two students of O P Jindal University have turned to the Punjab and Haryana High Court for justice. The matter is

In their petition filed against the varsity and its Vice-Chancellor Monday, the students sought that the show-cause and suspension notices they received in February be quashed on account of "the fact that (it) has been issued without following due process as prescribed in the policy book of the university and OP Jindal student

code of conduct..." The petition further stated to

direct the University "to remove/rectify any record on the file of petitioners (two students) with respect to the show-cause notice... and suspension notice".

following principles of natural justice, as a fair opportunity for a hearing was not provided to us...' Speaking to The Indian Express, one of the students said, "It has been almost a month since we've written our appeal... We have not heard anything back from them,

The Indian Express reached out to the Communications officer at the varsity but received no response on this matter. Varsity officials had earlier called their action "a serious violation of the student code of conduct".

which is why we decided to take

this matter up in court."

The public discussion was organised on February 7 by the Revolutionary Student League A poster read: "Ram Mandir: A

HC paves way for Ukrainian woman to leave India with son upkeep of the child", when he exon the ground that it lacked terin line with the Convention on the spondent no.1 and the minor "Therefore, the family court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE ritorial jurisdiction to entertain NEW DELHI, MARCH 19 THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea moved by a man against a family court's

rights in respect to the child.

ally and financially, it would not be in the best interest of the minor child to remain in India, separated from his mother and sister".

the plea; he then approached the high court. Previously, the mother had moved a habeas corpus plea in 2022, which was subsequently disposed of, granting the man liberty to approach the family court for interim custody or visitation A division bench of Justice

Rajiv Shakdher and Justice Amit Bansal observed, "both emotion-

The court said its view is also

Rights of the Child, adding that the "usual place of residence of the child is Vinnytsia, Ukraine" and that the child wants to remain in the company of his mother, who wishes to return to her country.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs filed an affidavit stating that there was an Air Strike in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, on September 1, 2023. It further stated that, as per the advisories issued by the Indian Embassy in Kyiv in October 2022, "Indian Nationals" had been asked to leave Ukraine. "However, these advisories would not be applicable to rechild as both of them are citizens of Ukraine," the bench said.

The bench said, "even on merits," it was not in the child's best interest to be separated from his mother and his elder sister. The high court noted that the family court had interacted with the minor child "who had expressed his desire to go back to Ukraine" with his mother while passing its judgment.

The bench further ruled that the father had violated the decision of the competent authority in Ukraine, removed the minor boy and brought him to India.

has correctly observed that the presence of the minor child in India was a result of an illegal act of the appellant. Merely because the minor child has been living...with his mother, pursuant to custody being handed over to her in the habeas corpus... it would not make the minor child an ordinary resident in terms of the Guardians and Wards Act. The appellant cannot be permitted to take advantage of his own

the project — to deposit Rs 500

crore for "serious technical and

design deficiencies". Officials

said L&T has submitted a

method statement and pro-

posal in the ITPO tunnel leakage

matter. "The expert group shall

examine the statement and

proposal... and examine the

wrong," the high court said. The bench said it also appeared the father does not have the "financial wherewithal for the

pressed his inability to deposit Rs 1,50,000 towards litigation costs. The parties got married in 2000, and had two children, including the son. Their marriage was dissolved in 2021 by Vinnytsia District Court, Ukraine,

following disputes between them.

original design and its work-

office memorandum. The com-

company against PWD, Delhi."

The tunnel has faced seepage issues since it opened in 2022

The man was granted visitation rights to meet his child. On February 24, 2022, war broke out between Ukraine and Russia. On March 23, 2022, the father took his son from Ukraine and reached India on March 28, 2022, which prompted the mother to move the habeas corpus plea in the HC.

mittee has been asked to submit its report in 30 days. An L&T spokesperson had earlier said "a counterclaim of Rs 500 crore has been made by the

listed for March 21.

Following the action taken

manship," said the PWD in an NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

farcical project of Brahmanical Hindutva Fascism".

tional capital will be announced within the first week of March, but the release of the 50-point manifesto has seen a delay as it has been sent to the central leadership for approval. "We do not want to introduce

WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT

Delhi tops the list world's most polluted capital city in 2023

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

DELHI WAS the most polluted capital city in the world last year, and the third most polluted city in India after Begusarai and Guwahati in terms of PM (Particulate Matter) 2.5 levels, according to the World Air Quality Report for 2023.

The report was prepared by IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company. It uses data from monitoring stations of government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profits across the world, the report said.

In 2023, Delhi's annual average PM 2.5 level was 92.7 μg/m3 placing the Indian national capital at the top of a list of 114 capital cities in the world. This was followed by Dhaka in Bangladesh, with a PM 2.5 level of $80.2 \mu g/m3$. Air quality guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) suggest that annual average PM 2.5 levels should not exceed 5 µg/m3.

But within the country, Begusarai in Bihar and Guwahati in Assam fared worse than Delhi in terms of annual average PM 2.5 levels. While Begusarai recorded an average of 118.9 µg/m3 in 2023, Guwahati recorded 105.4 µg/m3.

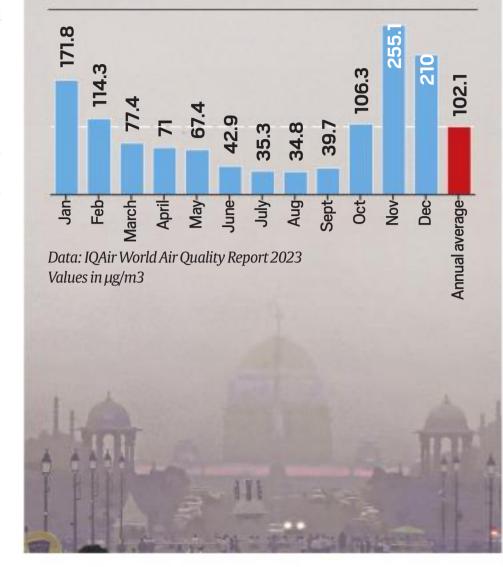
Run with bad air continues

Delhi's air quality also worsened in 2023 compared to 2022, the report shows. In 2022, the average annual PM 2.5 concentration was $92.6 \,\mu\text{g/m}$ 3, $10\% \,\text{lower}$ than the figure recorded in 2023.

The national capital's most polluted month in 2023 was November with a PM 2.5 level of 255.1 μ g/m3, followed by December with an average of 210 ug/m3. The city's cleanest month was August — with an average PM 2.5 concentration of 34.8 µg/m3.

एन एक एल NFL

DELHI'S PM 2.5 LEVELS IN 2023



According to the report, Delhi was the third most polluted city in India in terms of PM 2.5 levels. Archive

134 countries or regions that the report considered, India ranked third with an annual average PM 2.5 level of 54.4 μ g/m3, after Bangladesh and Pakistan, both of which had levels over 70 µg/m3.

"It is estimated that 1.36 billion people in India experience PM 2.5 concentrations exceeding the WHO... annual guideline level of 5 ug/m3; furthermore, 1.33 billion, or 96% of the population, experience PM 2.5 levels more than seven times the WHO annual PM 2.5 guideline. This is reflected in city-level data with over 66% of the country's cities reporting annual averages greater than 35

Meanwhile, out of a total of µg/m3," the report stated. It also shows that Delhi spent 56% of its annual hours in 2023 at a PM 2.5 level which exceeds WHO guidelines by over 10 times.

> Delhi topped the IQAir list of capital cities in terms of annual average PM 2.5 levels from 2018 to 2022. In 2023, when it marked Delhi and New Delhi separately, New Delhi was the world's second most polluted capital city.

> The report said: "Exposure to these particles (PM 2.5) has been directly linked to health problems including cardiovascular disease, neurological disease, and increased risk of death."

Woman constable dragged trying to foil snatching bid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A DELHI Police woman constable sustained injuries after being dragged for a few metres while trying to foil a snatching bid in Northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura, officers said.

NEW DELHI. MARCH 19

The constable, Ritika, 23, was returning to her home from Geeta Colony when the incident occurred on Yamuna Vihar road on March 16 at 4 pm.

Senior officers said that the accused in this case, the snatcher, first pushed Ritika and snatched the constable's handbag while trying to flee.

"When Ritika caught hold of the accused's scooter, she got dragged for a few metres while holding it and eventually let go of the vehicle," a senior police officer further said.

After she raised an alarm several passersby caught hold of the accused's vehicle. The man, who was identified as Hayat, 40, was later apprehended.

The handbag consisted of Ritika's ID card and mobile phone.

She has sustained injuries all over her body due to being dragged and is currently out of danger, added an officer.



PUBLIC NOTICE

For inviting objections regarding registration of the project namely "SOBHA Aranya Phase 1" under license no. 124 of 2019 located at sector 80, Gurugram being developed by M/s Sobha Limited.

It is for the information of the general public that M/s Sobha Limited has applied for grant of registration of the project admeasuring 14.81747 acres forming part of license no. 124 of 2019 granted by DTCP Haryana on 19.09.2019.

It is further informed that the Director, Town and Country Planning Department has allowed the migration of license from license no. 124 of 2019 to license no. 180 of 2023 for an area admeasuring 31.28125 acres and had also approved the building plan vide Memo No ZP-1919/PA(DK)/2024/8399 dated 07.03.2024 thereafter the promoter have approached the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram for the registration of the project namely "Sobha Aranya Phase-1".

The promoters has obtained migration of license without any requirement of consent of two-third of existing allottees as no third party rights have been created in respect of earlier license no. 124 of 2019 dated 19.09.2019. The promoter has submitted an affidavit to this effect.

If anyone concerned have any objection w.r.t revised zoning, details of license are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram which can be seen by any concerned on any working day during office hours i.e., 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. upto 29.03.2024 for filing of objections, if any.

Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.

Secretary For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Dated: 20.03.2024 Authority, Gurugram

PWD issues notice to contractor for construction of poor quality classrooms

New Delhi: After noticing cracks in the walls and structures of school classrooms within two years from completion of construction, the Public Works Department (PWD) has issued a

show-cause notice to the contractors asking why their firm should not be blacklisted from

participation in PWD tendering. The defects were found in Outer Delhi's Government Senior

Secondary School located in Shahbad Dairy. The PWD warned the contractors that they would be debarred from the tendering process if they fail to respond to the notice in 15 days. **ENS**

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भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest (EOI) for exploring possibility of setting up/operation of State of-the-Art Warehouses at various CONCOR terminals PCCORP---DL-MISI(MISC)/5/2024-CO Expression of Interest (EOI) No. Date of Publishing 20-03-2024, 15:00 Hrs Up to 10-04-2024 Last Date & Time of Submission

For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in or eprocure.gov.in. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. For complete details log on to www.concorindia.co.in.

Executive Director (SP, DL & Customs)

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Undertaking) Sibian Road, Bathinda-151003 (Pb.) Ph.0164-2270261, Fax No.0164-2270463 Dated: 20.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tenders through Gem Portal are invited from experienced and financially sound contractors in "Two Part Bid System" for the

work of "Internal Handling of Urea in Bagging Plant." Including Prequalification Cum Lining Up of Contract for the Year 2024-25 as per following

INT NO.	Fee (Non- Refundable)	LIVID	Cost of work	Submission/ Opening Date
NFB/ Prod/ Bagging/40 /2024-25	₹1000/- (₹One Thousands only)	₹100000/- (₹One lakh only)	₹677.99 lakhs Including GST as applicable	19.04.2024
Tender doo	uments can	be down	loaded from	our website

www.nationalfertilizers.com, www.gem.gov.in, CPP Portal. In that case, tender fee as stated above is to be submitted in the form of separate Demand Draft.

Deputy General Manager (Production & Project)

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल) ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार को उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवश्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड परियोजना इकाई-हल्द्वानी इकाई कार्यालय : रौतेला कॉलोनी, छोटी मुखानी, पो०ऑ० –बड़ी मुखानी, हल्द्वानी, नैनीताल – 263139 र्ड-निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

परियोजना कार्यालय के पत्रांक 439 / ब्रिडकूल / टेण्डर—90 / 2024 दिनांक 16.03.2024 के द्वारा जिला कारागार नैनीताल परिसर में पहुँच मार्ग, प्रतिक्षालय, मुख्य मार्ग से टाईप-4 भवनों तक मार्ग के निर्माण कार्य हेतु मदवार दरों पर टू-बिड सिस्टम के आधार पर आंमत्रित ई—निविदा, जोकि दैनिक समाचार पत्र हिन्दुस्तान हिन्दी के ''उत्तराखण्ड संस्करण'' तथा अंग्रेजी समाचार पत्र Indian Express के ''दिल्ली संस्करण'' में दिनांक 17.03.2024 को प्रकाशित की गयी थी, को अपरिर्हाय कारणो से निरस्त किया जाता है। परियोजना प्रबन्धक

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD) No. RS(POL)/58/0501/5/2024 New Delhi, dated 19/03/2024

E-TENDER NOTICE Executive Director, Railway Stores (RS), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender

as per details given hereunder:-1 E-Tender No. | 2024 460RR TC Name of Work: Gear Case Oil for application in HHP Locomotives, Servo Syngear 460 RR of M/s IOCL or Mobil SHC 634 of M/s Exxon Mobil

packed on 210//208 ltrs net in new, sound and non-returnable steel drums. Approx. Quantity in KLs | 270632 Litres **Earnest Money** Rs. 20 lacs Last date and time for submission of 09.04.2024 at 14.30 hrs Website for complete details of e-tendering and http://www.ireps.gov.in further corrigenda, if any in the tender

7 Allocation Head

DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (M) 3rd Floor, Room No. 363, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Grant 01

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POSSESSION NOTICE

(A Govt. of India Undertaking) CIRCLE SASTRA, ARA: Second Floor, Hotel Regal Complex, Near Ramna Maidan, Ara, Bhojpur, Bihar-802301 E-mail: cs8187@pnb.co.in

(For Immovable property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, Hotel regal, second Floor, Ara-802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 16.09.2023 calling upon the Borrower, M/S Satyam Rice Mill, Prop. Sh Prabhu Narayan Singh and the Legal Heirs Sh Uday Pratap Singh, Sh Vijay Narayan Singh, S/O Late Sudama Singh, R/O at VillI- Near Power Grid, Bhopatpur, Pusauli, Dist- Kaimur, Bihar- 821109 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,03,92,136.48 (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Ninety-Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six and Paise Forty-Eight only) and interest and charge there on from **16.09.2023** within 60 days from the date of notice/ date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 15th day of March 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs 1,11,51,519.48 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Fifty-One Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen and Paisa Forty-Eight Only) as on 29.02.2024 along with future interest and expenses from 01.03.2024 until payment in full.

The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable Property

(1) All the Part and Parcel of Immovable Properties Situated at- Mauza- Karigaon, Pargana- Chainpur, Thana No 558, Halka 10, Chak Khata No- 124, Survey Khata No-41, Plot No 486, Thana – Mohania, Dist- Kaimur, Bihar, Area-13 Decimal. Owner/Mortgagor Sudama Singh (Now Deceased). Deed No- 5291 Dated 24.05.2005. Boundary: North- Chhawar, South- Bind Singh Bagairah, East-Chhawar, West-Rest Plot 486.

Date: 15.03.2024 Place: Kaimur

Whereas,

Authorized Officer Punjab National Bank





· Do not make payments to

unknown persons

with anyone



Safe Payment



PRINCIPAL RIVALS UNWILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS

Left sees an opening with CAA in Kerala, but why is Congress, not BJP, its chief target?

CPI(M) is busy organising night marches, planning rallies in north Kerala; Congress caught in Hindu-Muslim vote dilemma

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

MARCH 19

THE OPERATIONALISATION of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was a promise that the BIPled Union government had been making since Parliament approved the law in December 2019. The notification of the rules, days before the declaration of the Lok Sabha election schedule, was expected to help the party consolidate its position among key refugee groups such as Matuas in West Bengal, which is a crucial state for the party as it aims to strengthen its position further in Indian politics.

But down south in Kerala, which has moved the Supreme Court to challenge the implementation of the law, the notification of the rules has had an unexpected effect, with the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) adopting it as a poll plank. Although Kerala does not have many eligible migrants likely to

come under the CAA's purview, the Left has mobilised on the issue, conducting night marches over the past week in protest against the law.

The CPI(M) has also planned a rally in Kozhikode on March 22 under the banner of the Constitution Protection Samithi. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will address the rally and similar public events will then be held in other parts of Muslim-dominated north Kerala in the coming weeks. Besides, the Left government announced last week its decision to withdraw all cases registered in connection with the CAA protests of 2019. Of the 835 cases registered, almost 500 were in the process of trial.

Interestingly, as it builds up a case against the CAA, it is the Congress and not the BIP that is in the Left's line of fire. Both parties are part of the national INDIA alliance and are involved in seatsharing talks in West Bengal. But in Kerala, they are each other's principal rivals and are unwilling



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, LDF candidate Pannyan Raveendran and CPI(M) leaders M V Govindan and M A Baby in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. PTI

to make any concessions.

The CPI(M) gambit appears to be that placing the CAA front and centre may help it deflect the Congress's attacks over governance against it, and counter antiincumbency.

dilemma as joining forces with number of voters from the mithe Left against the CAA runs the risk of denting its Hindu vote

bank in the state, something that will benefit the BJP, while not taking a strong stand like the Left will further tilt Muslim voters towards the CPI(M). There is also the matter of Rahul seeking re-election from Wayanad, the north Kerala The Congress is facing a constituency that has a sizeable nority community. In 2019, his

decision to contest from there

was attributed as one of the reasons for the Congress-led United Democratic Front's (UDF) near sweep in the Lok Sabha polls in the state. This is why, CPI(M) insiders say, the party has trained guns on the former Congress president right from the get-go this time. EXPLAINED

On Saturday, Vijayan kickstarted the LDF's campaign in Wayanad, where the CPI's Annie Raja is Rahul's main rival. Vijayan came down on

Rahul and the Congress, referring to the time when the citizenship amendment Bill was discussed in Parliament five years ago. "The loud voice of dissent from Kerala was that of the LDF member (AM Arif). The rest 19 (UDF members) were silent. Has Rahul said anything? Was he seen anywhere at that time? What is the difference between the stand of the Congress and BJP in this regard?"

Referring to the anti-CAA resolution that the Kerala Assembly passed weeks after the Bill received Parliament's approval, Vijayan said the Congress at the time governed states such as Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, but "they did not go for such a resolution against the CAA".

Before the Wayanad meeting, the CM also held back-to-back press conferences to allege that "the Congress was reluctant to react to the notification of CAA rules". He asked, "Why did the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra keep quiet about the CAA? Were it not the

Left parties that stood with the victims during the Delhi riots (of 2020, which started from the site of an anti-CAA protest)?"

Facing Vijayan's criticism, the Congress has rallied behind Rahul, with party MPs, including Shashi Tharoor, releasing details of their interventions during the Lok Sabha debate on the CAA. Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of the Congress said the party in its Kerala campaign will focus on the Left's "inept governance" along with national issues.

Meanwhile, state BJP president K Surendran on Monday accused the Congress of taking up the agenda set by Vijayan only to help shield lapses in governance and scandals involving the CPI(M). "Every day, the CPI(M) and Vijayan keep speaking on the CAA. It is only meant to divert attention from genuine issues. The Congress is backing it," he said.

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ODISHA A MIXED BAGIN 2019, WILL **BJD AND BJP AGAIN SHARE THE HONOURS THIS** TIME?

Cong, Left Front close in on Bengal LS deal, but some hurdles remain

The grand old party may get 12 seats

ATRIMITRA

KOLKATA, MARCH 19

FOLLOWING A week of negotiations, the Congress is close to finalising a seat-sharing pact with the Left Front and the Indian Secular Front (ISF) in West Bengal. But, some differences within the Left have not been ironed out vet.

CPI(M) state secretary Mohammad Salim on Tuesday left for Delhi, where he was expected to meet senior Congress leaders and finalise the agreement. The Left, Congress, and ISF had contested the Assembly polls together in 2021.

Sources in the CPI(M) said the Left Front — comprising the CPI, Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) - has agreed to cede to the Congress's demand of 12 of West Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats. It had been pushing the Congress to agree to 10.

The state Congress leadership expressed happiness about the development. "We are ready to leave Murshidabad for the CPI(M) provided they leave Purulia and Raniganj for us," said a senior Congress leader.

Meanwhile, the ISF has reportedly agreed to contest six constituencies. Party leader Naushad Siddiqui, the lone non-Trinamool Congress (TMC) and non-BIPMLA in the Assembly at the moment, is likely to go up against TMC number two and sitting MP Abhishek Banerjee.

The Left Front itself has yet to reach an understanding over the constituencies. A CPI(M) leader said the AIFB has reservations about parting with Purulia, where the party believes it has good footing. The party held the seat from 1977 to 2014 before losing it to the TMC. The BJP's Jyotirmoy Singh

Mahato is the incumbent MP. "The AIFB is adamant that it will field a candidate from Purulia where the Congress is likely to field veteran leader Nepal Mahato. We will support him there," said a CPI(M) functionary. AIFB leader Naren Chatterjee has said his party will not part with any of its three traditional seats - Purulia, Cooch Behar, and Barasat. "We have already conveyed in the meeting of the Left Front that we will not give any of the three seats to either the

Congress or the ISF," he said. Basirhat is another seat that is emerging as a bone of contention within the Left as the CPI is not keen on giving it up to the CPI(M) which, it is learnt, wants to field Nirapada Sardar who was arrested last month for protesting

against the Sandeshkhali incident

He played a

key role in

warming up

New Delhi's

Washington

condemning

ties with

Ex-Indian envoy to US Taranjit Singh joins BJP

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, MARCH 19



also former diplomats. Sandhuis a 1988-batch IFS officer and the grandson of former Congress leader and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee founder member Teja Singh Samundri.

He is the first person from his family since his grandfather, who was jailed by the British for his role in the Gurdwara Reform Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement, to join politics.

Born on January 23, 1963, Sandhu is a career diplomat who served in the US on three occasions. He was a junior diplomat in the 1990s during the Pokhran tests and later went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Mission and Ambassador. Sandhu is credited

with playing a significant role in warming up New Delhi's relations with Washington, DC which had soured after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear test. As First Secretary (political) in the Indian Embassy, he was a key figure

when the US Congress passed a

resolution

in September.

Pakistan's role in the Kargil war Sandhu is known for his net work in the US political and administrative set-up across party lines. He is said to have played a key role in organising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US in June last year and US President Joe Biden's India visit

Sandhu is one-half of a power couple. He is married to Reenat Sandhu who is India's Ambassador to The Netherlands at present. Reenat Sandhu was earlier the Indian envoy to Italy.

the PMK could help the BJP make

gains in Dindigul in the south and

Mayiladuthurai in the state's delta

region. Sources said the PMK may

press additionally for a seat in the

has tied up with the AMMK,

which also guarantees it the sup-

port of ousted AIADMK leader C

Panneerselvam; Puthiya Neethi

Katchi; Puthiya Tamilagam; G K

Vasan's Tamil Maanila Congress

TMMK; and Indhiya Jananayaga

Katchi in Tamil Nadu. The party is

Other than the PMK, the BJP

Chennai urban region.

Kalpana's rise or CBI probe: What prompted Sita Soren to exit JMM polls," said a [MM insider.

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, MARCH 19

AS THREE-TERM Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA Sita Murmu Soren, the 48-year-old daughterin-law of JMM chief Shibu Soren, quit the party and joined the BJP Tuesday, a JMM leader said, "The writing was on the wall. It was just a matter of when?"

Sita's husband late Durga Soren was considered a "natural successor" to Shibu. However, Durga's death in 2009 due to brain haemorrhage led to the elevation of his younger brother Hemant Soren as the next leader.

Hemant was forced to step down as the Chief Minister on January 31 this year after he was arrested by the ED in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

Its succession trouble has now returned to haunt the Soren family, with Sita now charging that she has been a victim of "continuous neglect" and had been "isolated by the party and family members". A JMM insider said Sita was "perturbed" by the growing popularity of her sisterin-law Kalpana Murmu Soren, Hemant's wife, who had emerged as one of the CM contenders ahead of Hemant's resignation. Sita had then vehemently opposed Kalpana's CM aspiration. Both Sita and Kalpana hail from Odisha's Mayurbhani district.

"As Kalpana's popularity is growing, so is her acceptance within the party ranks. And it is assumed as one of the reasons why Sita took such a call. In the party she would be a minister at best if the ruling JMM gets a renewed mandate in the coming Assembly

BALLOTIN —

Postal ballots

service workers

New Delhi: The Election

Commission on Tuesday

ment and other absentee

voters to cast their votes.

While the EC notified the

facility, the lists of the

services covered varied

from state to state. **ENS**

for essential

Sita had been at loggerheads with the Hemant dispensation. led coalition government had reloot of the land".

ularity of someone (Kalpana), but Sita ji was well-respected. We didn't understand the reason behind her resignation. I don't know what pressure she is under. There is a CBI case in which trial is undergoing, and it may be because of this she made the move."

Sabha elections in Jharkhand.

Significantly, it was Sita's plea for immunity from prosecution on

Iharkhand."



In August 2022, she had flagged "rising corruption" in the state, alleging that the then Hemantmained "ineffective in curbing JMM general secretary Vinod Pandey told *The Indian Express*:

Pandey was referring to the CBI case against Sita, in which she was accused of allegedly accepting bribe from an Independent candidate in the 2012 Rajya

which the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench recently pronounced a landmark judgment, overturning the SC's 1998 verdict - in the JMM bribery case involving Shibu Soren as one of the accused – to rule that MPs and MLAs who take bribes to vote or speak in a certain manner in the House are not immune from prosecution.



"One cannot undermine the pop-

While joining the BJP in Delhi, Sita said she was leaving the JMM family and joining PM Narendra Modi's family. "My father-in-law and late husband dreamt of a developed Jharkhand. Many people sacrificed for Jharkhand, but the tribals have remained marginalised... This is why I have joined Modi-ji's family. The lotus will bloom in all 14 Lok Sabha seats of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with NDA leaders at a public meeting in Salem, Tamil Nadu, Tuesday. PTI

DMK and Congress two sides of same coin: PM takes on ruling alliance in TN

LS 2019

Vote

share

3.62%

5.36%

2.17%

0.52%

Seat

contested

5

7

4

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, MARCH 19

IN A politically charged rally at Salem on Tuesday, Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fierce attack on the DMK and the Congress, labelling them as "embodiments of corruption and dynastic rule".

In his first public meeting in the state since the BJP finalised its alliance, key allies, including ousted AIADMK leader and V K Sasikala's nephew, TTV Dhinakaran, and PMK founder S Ramadoss, were on the stage with

In his speech, Modi paid an emotional tribute to 'Auditor'

Ramesh, a BIP member killed a decade ago, recalling his dedication and service to the party.

Addressing the rally, the PM said, "DMK and Congress are two sides of the same coin. DMK and Congress means 'big corruption and one-family rule'."

Reflecting on the treatment meted out to former CM Jayalalithaa, Modi said, "How the DMK behaved with the late Jayalalithaa is well known. This is the DMK's real face."

In his speech, Modi also targeted the INDIA bloc, asserting their alleged deliberate offence towards Hinduism. "INDI alliance people repeatedly deliberately insult Hindu faith; every statement made by them against it is well

thought out," the PM said, stressing that the coalition's critique is not just casual but a calculated affront to Hindu beliefs.

Expanding on the theme of "Shakti", or divine feminine power, Modi connected it to the broader cultural and religious fabric of Tamil Nadu. "In Hinduism, Shakthi means maatru shakti, naari shakti," he said. Criticising the Opposition's stance on 'Shakti', he said it suggests a "deep-rooted cultural insensitivity and disre-

spect". Recalling his memories of 'Auditor' Ramesh, the PM expressed a deep personal loss. "Unfortunately, today Ramesh is not among us. He worked hard for the party, day and night, and he

Assembly 2021

Seats

contested

20

23

60

165

38

Vote

share

2.62%

3.8%

0.43%

2.35%

0.08%

was a good orator. But he was killed. Today I pay my tributes to him," Modi said, referring to the 2013 murder of the BJP leader in Salem.

Modi also spoke of the development initiatives under his government and their impact on Tamil Nadu. "The NDA government is building two defence corridors in the country. One of these is being built in Tamil Nadu," Modi said.

He stressed that the next five years were crucial for Tamil Nadu's progress and anti-corruption efforts.

"On April 19th, Tamil Nadu must set a new record by ensuring victory for all BJP and NDA candidates," Modi said.

LOOKING SOUTH

BJP agrees to PMK terms to reel party in, gets foot in door in north TN

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, MARCH 19

notified essential services workers, media person-AFTER SEVERAL twists and turns. nel covering elections the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and other categories of of Tamil Nadu has finally decided to go with the BJP-led National absentee voters who would be extended postal Democratic Alliance (NDA) for ballots for the Lok Sabha the upcoming Lok Sabha elecand Assembly elections. The postal ballots would Before it finally made its call, the PMK had vacillated between be provided to metro, railway, electricity departy founder S Ramadoss, who preferred the AIADMK, and son partment, health depart-Anbumani Ramadoss, who ment, police, fire depart-

> the BIP some months ago. The indecision of the PMK, dragging out the alliance talks, had become a subject of much ridicule on social media. A top BJP

leaned towards the BJP. The

AIADMK ended its alliance with

leader told The Indian Express as recently as three days ago: "We are tired, let them come or go."

Sources said that the stumbling block for the AIADMK was the PMK's demand for 7 seats (out of the state's 39), seen as unrealistic. The PMK base is largely confined to the OBC Vanniyar community, concentrated in northern Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu remains small, reportedly clinched the deal offering the PMK 10 seats. Top PMK sources claimed they have also extracted a promise of a Cabinet post from the BJP, reportedly for Anbumani, who used to be Union health minister under the UPA, if he wins, most likely from the Dharmapuri constituency.

BJP & ALLIES POLL POSITION IN TN

Party

BJP

PMK

DMDK

AMMK

IJK

PT

TMC (Moopanar)

The BJP, whose footprint in

The combined offer ulti-

234 Total Assembly seats

mately overrode the objections of PMK cadres, many of whom were initially in favour of sticking to the AIADMK, given the uncertainty over the BIP's prospects in Tamil Nadu.

and Anbumani, who is the PMK president, shared the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Salem.

long-pending corruption case against him, being investigated by the CBI. He's accused of "illegally" allowing an Indore-based medical college to continue making admissions, despite the Medical Council of India and a committee appointed by the Supreme Court

A top RSS leader from Coimbatore said the BJP has also

On Tuesday, both Ramadoss

Incidentally, Anbumani has a recommending against it.

promised the PMK generous help with its resources. "Delhi was initially against the PMK's demands... But ultimately, the chance to have an ally in northern Tamil Nadu outweighed other concerns," the Sangh leader said, adding that the state BJP pushed for a tie-up. The BJP is a marginal presence

in northern Tamil Nadu, and hence it is easy for the party to spare 10 seats for the PMK. "We have influence in south and west Tamil Nadu, besides allies such as TTV Dhinakaran of the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) and John Pandian of the Tamil Nadu Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (TMMK). The northern region remained a question and we have a good partner there now," a senior BJP leader said.

Besides the northern seats,

also in talks with the DMDK of the late Vijayakanth.

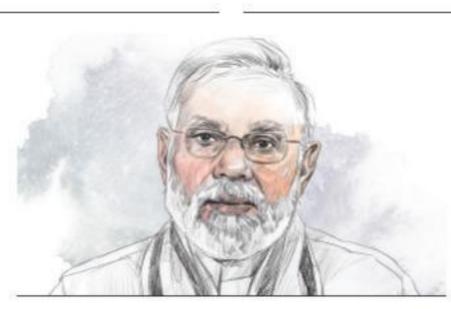
Meanwhile, there is growing buzz that a third Ramadoss family member might be about to enter the poll race: Dr Suganthan, the son of Ramadoss's elder daughter Gandhi.

36 0.09% Note: Tamil Maanila Congress (M)'s candidates contested on AIADMK symbol in 2021. Vote shares for IJK and PT negligible in 2019 Total Lok Sabha seats

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Polls, Products

AHEAD OF the Lok Sabha polls, a wide range of products, such as T-shirts, keychains, stickers, caps, magnets, and pens, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name printed on them is now available for sale on the NaMo app. The products also have popular slogans of the BJP printed on them, such as 'Modi Ki Guarantee', 'Modi Ka Parivaar', 'Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkaar', 'Ab Ki Baar 400 Paar', etc.

SOUTHERN PIQUE

AT A time when the BJP leadership is busy inducting Opposition leaders, former Kerala state BJP chief C K Padmanabhan has expressed his dismay publicly, saying "value-based politics is giving way to power-based politics" in the party. In an interview to a Malayalam channel, Padmanabhan also criticised the CAA, saying that "no community should be excluded while granting citizenship". He also lamented that while the BJP had decided to work for a 'Congress-mukt Bharat', people like him will now "have to campaign for a Congress-mukt BJP as fortune seekers from that party are knocking at our door".

HQ STAMP

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE

high-pitch digital and physical

campaign, expressing disappoint-

ment over the "unkept" promises

of his government. Come 2024

Lok Sabha polls, the MNS seems

Home Minister Amit Shah in

Delhi along with his son, after

which senior MNS leader Bala

Nandgaonkar said the talks be-

tween them on the Lok Sabha

While Raj, 55, has always been

polls had been "positive".

On Tuesday, Raj met Union

ready to bat for Modi again.

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

ON THE last day of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha Baithak of the RSS on Sunday, Dattatreya Hosabale, who was re-elected as the organisation's general secretary, expressed happiness that he was elected in a meeting in Nagpur, where the Sangh's headquarters is located. "Last time when I was elected as Sarkaryavah (general secretary), it happened in Bengaluru. It was the first time that a Sarkaryvah was elected outside of Nagpur. While I was conscious of my new duty, I also felt that this responsibility had not come through the Smriti Mandir compound (where the memorials of RSS founder KB Hedgewar and its second chief MS Golwalkar are located) of Nagpur. The ABPS could not be held in Nagpur because of Covid. People began jokingly conjecturing that the ceremony was shifted to Bengaluru because I am from there. But I do not have such powers," he said.

PM's Kerala roadshow runs into row over 'missing' candidate; he says wasn't invited

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday took out a roadshow in Kerala's Palakkad. This was the

PM's fifth visit to Kerala this year. Modi, who reached Palakkad via a chopper, took out a roadshow lasting half an hour along a barricaded stretch thronged by BJP workers. He was accompanied by party candidates CKrishnakumar (Palakkad), Niveditha Subramanian (Ponnani) and BJP state president K Surendran.

The roadshow, however, ran into a controversy with the ruling LDF accusing the BJP of "sidelining NDA's Muslim candidate" during the event.

Highlighting the absence of BJP's Malappuram candidate M Abdul Salam, CPI(M)'s central committee member A K Balan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ASSERTING THAT the country is

seeking a change, the Congress on

Tuesday said the party's Lok

Sabha election manifesto would

focus on ensuring justice to peo-

ple based on five "Nyay pillars"

and claimed the BJP's 'guarantees'

would meet the same fate as the

Committee (CWC), the party's top

decision-making body, discussed

the party's manifesto for over

three hours and decided to reach

out to every household with its

five "Nyay" guarantees for the

youth, women, workers, farmers

includes the promise of imple-

menting the old pension scheme

and a law to ensure independence

Sources said the manifesto also

and the marginalised sections.

The Congress Working

'India Shining' slogan of 2004.

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

PM Narendra Modi during a roadshow in Palakkad, Kerala, on Tuesday. PTI alleged that his name was dropped from the roadshow due to his "Muslim identity". Balan

claimed that it conveyed a

"wrong message", an allegation

which Salam refuted, saying

there was no discrimination.

With 5 'nyay', 25 guarantees,

Congress says fully prepared

of constitutional institutions and

stop "misuse" of agencies. "These

five guarantees are going to be a

game-changer in this election,"

is fully prepared for Lok Sabha

polls and will launch a massive

campaign "to take its guarantees

to every household across the

country in the next few days".

Venugopal said the Congress

party leader K C Venugopal said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Sonia Gandhi

and Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

"I went to Palakkad to meet Modi and invite him to campaign in Malappuram. I had a desire to be a part of the roadshow, but my name was not in the list of leaders for the event. The other two candidates are from

Palakkad district," he said. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh posted on X, reminding the PM that he had once compared Kerala to Somalia. "Will the

PM finally apologise... for his mis-

leading commentary...?" he asked.

Home Secys in six states, DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE ELECTION Commission on Tuesday appointed new Home Secretaries in six states and the Director General of Police of West Bengal, a day after removing the incumbents to ensure a level-playing field during the Lok

The EC appointed Pratyaya Amrit in Bihar, A K Rakesh in Gujarat, Deepak Kumar in Uttar Pradesh, Onkar Sharma in Himachal Pradesh, Vandana Dadel in Iharkhand, and Dilip Jawalkar in Uttarakhand, sources said. The poll panel also appointed Sanjay Mukherjee as West Bengal DGP, after removing Rajeev Kumar on Monday. Kumar had also been moved away from election-related duty when he was Kolkata Police commissioner during the 2016 Bengal Assembly polls.

The EC also ordered the reof Brihanmumbai moval Municipal Corporation Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal as he had been in the post for over three years, which is not allowed as per EC policy.

in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

"I want to inform you that I am resigning as Union Minister because of some unavoidable reasons. I thank you for reposing faith in me as my stint as a member of the Union Cabinet." Amid speculation that the former Union Minister might join

Monday's orders were the first set of transfers to be effected by the EC after the Model Code of Conduct came into force with the announcement of elections on March 16.

SANTOSH SINGH & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY PATNA, NEW DELHI, MARCH 19 FROM THE highs of 2021 to the current low, for Pashupati Kumar Paras it has been a com-

plete turn of fortunes.

Three years ago, following a

split in the Lok Janshakti Party

(LJP) that his brother Ram Vilas

Paswan had set up in 2000, his

Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party

(RLIP) was welcomed into the BIP-

led NDA and he received a Union

Cabinet berth. On Tuesday, Paras

resigned as the Union Minister of

Food Processing Industries, a day

after the BIP sided with his rival

and nephew Chirag Paswan and

gave his LJP (Ram Vilas) five Lok

porters in Delhi, "I have served

the NDA with great honesty and

loyalty. Even today, I am thankful

to the PM. But with our party, and

at an individual level with me, in-

justice has been done. So, I am re-

In a letter to PM Narendra

signing as a Cabinet Minister."

Modi, the former minister wrote,

the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan

that is part of the national INDIA

alliance and contest from Hajipur,

BJP insiders said their party's

doors were not completely shut

for him. At his press conference,

Paras too avoided using any

harsh words for either the BJP or

Paras was negotiating with top

Mahagathbandhan leaders for at

least three seats — for himself, his

nephew and Samastipur MP

Prince Raj, and Nawada MP

Chandan Kumar. Paras' Hajipur

seat, which Ram Vilas Paswan

won nine times, is among the five

the BJP has left for Chirag. With

this, the BJP's message is clear: it

considers Chirag the true heir to

Ram Vilas's politics and believes

Why and how LJP split

Ram Vilas Paswan in 2020, the

LJP split when Paras walked

away with four MPs and joined

Months after the death of

he enjoys public support.

However, RJD insiders said

his nephew.

A dejected Paras told re-

Sabha seats in Bihar.

Day after Bihar snub, Paras

quits Modi govt

RLJP chief Pashupati Kumar



Paras in Delhi, Tuesday. PTI



THE BJP claims it was Chirag's condition that Paras be kept out even if it meant a seat less for his party. Paras will gain little by joining the INDIA bloc, according to the BJP. "He should be patient ... He will get something if he sticks with the NDA," said a Bihar BJP leader.

the Modi government.

Leaders in Bihar said Paras had been uncomfortable with Chirag's leadership and his decision to contest against CM Nitish Kumar in the Bihar Assembly polls of 2020 even though both parties were part of the NDA. The BJP, sources said, initially kept away from the entire episode even though it massively benefitted from Chirag's decision to field more than 130 candidates against the ID(U). The move catapulted the BJP into the role of senior partner in the alliance and severely reduced Nitish's elbow room.

After the LIP split, Chirag squarely blamed Nitish and the JD(U) for dividing his party. At the time, some senior JD(U) leaders had tried to persuade Paras to join it to shore up its numbers and have more bargaining power against an emboldened BJP. This made the BJP swing into action and ensure that Paras remained on its side and independent of the JD(U). On June 14, 2021, a day after the split in the LJP, Paras's claim of being the chief of the LJP's Parliamentary Board was accepted by the Lower House,

"Though Chirag declared himself as Hanuman to Shri Ram (Narendra Modi), the BJP had to side with Paras for political calculations then. However, the BJP never shut its doors to Chirag and kept him humoured.

leaving Chirag in the lurch.

EC appoints new

Sabha and Assembly elections.

Regional Office Samastipur: Panchvati Complex, Mohanpur Road, Samastipur (Bihar)-848101

युनियन बैंक Union Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

The undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank of India**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrowers and guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and as stated below. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India,** for an amount mentioned as stated below and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets Name of the Borrower . Amount of Demand

Tola Charmurad, Ward No 5. Place: Samastipur

Name of the

Mortgagor/Guarantor

Description of the Secured Assets Land & building in the name of Sri Ravindra Kumar Ravi S/o Hari Lal at Mauza Thahra, . M/s Second Computer (Prop. Anchal Pusa, Distt - Samastipur bearing land Sri Laxmi Narayan Singh), 2. Sri detail as under:-Thana No.-24, Khata No. Laxmi Narayan Singh, (Prop. of 219 (NEW), Khessra No. - 573, 570, 575, 597 M/s Second Computer) S/o 600, 601, 602, 603, Area- 18 Kattha 4 Dhur Balchandra Singh, both at Sari 92.5 Decimal). Boundry: N- Anup Lal Mahto, 2. 29.12.2023

Rs. 25,80,520.91/-S-Road, E-Sonelal Mahto, W-Mahabir Mahto 3. 14.03.2024

Date of Demand

. Date of Possession

Sari Tola Malipur, Sari, Samastipur, Bihar 848101 3. Sri Ravinder Kumar Ravi (Guarantor), At S/o Late Hari Lal, Village & Post Thahara, Gopalpur, P.S Pusa, Distt Samastipur, 848115

Authorised officer

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

Whereas

Name of Borrower

Bagh Narhat, Nawada,

Date: 18.03.2024

Place: Hisua

Bihar-805122

ZONAL OFFICE, GAYA ZONE Rajlaxmi Complex, Near A.P.Colony, Gaya-823001, Tel-0631-2220143 / 0312220336 / 0312220246 Email:zo.gaya@bankofindia.co.in APPENDIX-IV (See Rule-8(1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice The borrowers/guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s 13(2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property/les (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the date(s) mentioned against the respective property.

The aforesaid borrowers/quarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

ii) Date & Amount as /Guarantor per Notice U/s 13 (2) Smt. Renu Devi i) Hisua W/o Sanjay Kumar, Shri ii) Date: 21.12.2023 Snjay Kumr S/o Krishan Rs. 15,68,669.67 + Gosai Resident of Chande

I) Branch

Hisua, 805122 area -3.00 Decimal. Within the 18.03.2024 Interest & Charges thereof

Property All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No. 06 (N) 07 (0) Khata No 90 (N) 104 (O), Thana No 69, Mauza - North of Gaya Road, Block - Hisua, PS.

Description of the Immovable

registration Sub-district Hisua and District Nawada Boundary: North: Sarwesh Ji, South: Rasta PCC 8 Feet, East: Sarwesh Ji, West: Ramchandra Yadav

Possession

of Assets

Authorized Officer With further interest at applicable rate till Re-payment. Bank of India

In first expansion, Saini inducts 7 new faces in Haryana Cabinet

SUKHBIR SIWACH CHANDIGARH, MARCH 19

SIX-TIME MLA and former Haryana home minister Anil Vii did not find a place as Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini carried out his first Cabinet expansion Tuesday by inducting eight ministers, including seven new faces and a woman. The effective strength of the Cabinet, including the CM, now is 14 — the maximum allowed for Harvana.

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at the Raj Bhavan. BJP MLA from Hisar, Kamal Gupta, was the first to be administered oath as cabinet minister. Gupta was also a minister in the previous Manohar Lal Khattar-led Cabinet.

The other seven were sworn in as ministers of state (independent charge). They include Seema Trikha (Badkhal MLA), Mahipal Dhanda (Panipat Rural), Aseem Goel (Ambala City), Abhe Singh Yadav (Nangal Chaudhary), Subhash Sudha (Thanesar), Bishamber Singh Balmiki (Bawani Khera), and Sanjay Singh (Sohna).



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with MNS chief Raj Thackeray and his son Amit Thackeray in New Delhi, Tuesday. PTI

unpredictable in his politics, one constant has been his strident son-of-the-soil or Marathi Manoos plank. Before now, the BIP has been wary of any understanding with him, for fear of

alienating its North Indian vote bank in Mumbai and the Hindi heartland. The difference this time seems to be the difficult contest the BJP is facing in Maharashtra – a state where the NDA won 41 of

the 48 seats in 2019.

The BIP's target for Maharashtra this time is "Mission 45 plus". Sources said that the BJP is willing to offer Raj the South Mumbai Lok Sabha seat as part of the bargain, though the MNS wants at least one constituency more, Shirdi, to get enough votes to retain its status of a 'state party'.

The RSS has reportedly given its consent to the alliance, seeing in the MNS a strong Hindutva face. A BJP politician who has cordial relations with Raj said: "In politics, the only thing constant is change. There are no permanent friends, nor enemies."

In 2019, certainly, the MNS looked like the enemy. While the party, which could never build on the initial promise of Raj inheriting the Bal Thackeray legacy, and has been on a downward spiral, Sabha polls, it ran a campaign titled 'Lav re tau video (Bring on the video)' highlighting the "failures" of the then BIP-led government in the state and at the Centre. A good orator, Raj also held

did not even contest the Lok

He derided BIP's "guarantees"

as "jumlas" (rhetoric) and "a

bunch of lies". The party is fight-

ing the elections on the issue of

'five nyay' (justices) -- 'Bhagidari

Nyay', 'Kisan Nyay', 'Nari Nyay',

'Shramik Nyay' and 'Yuva Nyay'

giving 25 guarantees, five un-

der each category, that have been

announced by the Congress pres-

ident and Rahul Gandhi.

public rallies where he projected the Lok Sabha contest as between "dictatorship (of the Modi government)" and "democracy". He questioned the PM over the Pulwama attacks, and the "strategic strike" at Balakot in response. Amit Shah was also singled out for attack in MNS speeches.

Sources said the process of rapprochement between BJP and MNS began two years ago, with the BJP keeping channels open with an eye on the Lok Sabha elections, which will be followed by

Assembly polls. **FULL REPORTON** www.indianexpress.com

punjab national bank पंजाब नैशनल बैंक the name you can BANK upon!

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

POSSESSION NOTICE

CIRCLE SASTRA, ARA: Second Floor, Hotel Regal Complex, Near Ramna Maidan, Ara, Bhojpur, Bihar-802301 E-mail: cs8187@pnb.co.in

(For Immovable property)

Whereas. The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, Hotel regal, second Floor, Ara- 802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 26.12.2023 calling upon the Borrower, M/S Maa Durga Enterprises, Prop. Sh Gopal Kumar Verma, S/O Sh Sheo Pujan Seth and Guarantor Sh Sheo Pujan Seth, S/O Late Vishwanath Seth, at R/O Vill- Dandawa, Ward No-03, PO- Kaithi, Mohania, Bhabhua, Dist- Kaimur Bihar- 821109 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 58,92,575.50 (Rupees Fifty-Eight Lakh Ninety-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five and Paisa Fifty Only) and interest and charge there on from **26.12.2023** within 60 days from the date of notice/ date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 15th day of March 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs 60,33,275.50 (Rupees Sixty Lakh Thirty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Five and Paisa Fifty Only) as on 29-02-2024 along with future interest and expenses from 01.03.2024 until payment in full.

The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable Property

 All the Part and Parcel of Land and Building Situated at- Mauza- Dandawa, Thana No 535, Thana + Anchal- Mohania, Khata No-216, Plot No-1145, Dist- Kaimur, Bihar, Area-1.25 Decimal. Owner- Sh Sheopujan Seth, S/O Late Bishwanath Seth. Deed No-12683 and 12684 dated 04.12.2005. Boundary: North- Sarafat Mian, South- Rasta 06 Feet Wide, East-Dipti Sah, West-Rasta 06 Feet • All the Part and Parcel of Land and Building Situated at- - Mauza- Dandawa, Thana No 535, Thana + Anchal- Mohania, Khata No -216, Plot No-1145, Dist-Kaimur, Bihar, Area-2.75 Decimal. Owner-Sh Sheopujan Seth, S/O Late Bishwanath Seth. Deed No-RM Sale Deed No 4159 dated 11/09/2020. Boundary: North-Banshi Panesri, South-Nabbi Miya, East-Damadi sahu, West-Chamela Kuer

Date: 15.03.2024 **Authorized Officer** Place: Kaimur **Punjab National Bank**

Key acccused in Kerala RSS leader

murder arrested Thiruvananthapuram: The NIA has arrested an absconding activist of banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in connection with the murder of an RSS worker in Kerala's Palakkad.

RSS worker Srinivasan was hacked to death by an alleged PFI gang on April 16, 2022, in Palakkad, a day after a local PFI leader was murdered allegedly by RSS men. The NIA, in an official release, said Shafeekh was nabbed from Kollam by the agency's absconder tracking team. A native of Malappuram district, Shafeekh, was part of the PFI's organisation and hit squad that were involved in the murder. Shafeekh had also harboured another accused, Ashraf K P, who had conspired with other PFI leaders to execute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister

Shehbaz Sharif became the

Prime Minister early this month,

after Pakistan held its elections,

which was marred by contro-

versy and accusations of rigging.

PPP (54) agreed to form a coali-

tion government while candi-

dates backed by jailed former

Prime Minister Imran Khan

gained the most (93) seats in the

National Assembly with a total

new government, led by Nawaz

Sharif's brother Shehbaz Sharif

as the PM is a breach of the peo-

What are the implications of

the Shehbaz Sharif-led govern-

ment in Pakistan? What is the

future of Imran Khan? Has

Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir

established his writ on the civil-

ian government? Have the peo-

ple of Pakistan delivered a strong

message by voting in favour PTI-

backed candidates? Is there a

possibility of re-engagement

of these questions, T C A

Raghavan, who was India's High

Commissioner to Pakistan, will

To answer and explain some

Khan has alleged that the

of 266 elected seats.

ple's mandate.

with Pakistan?

The PML-N (79 seats) and

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

the conspiracy.

CASH-FOR-QUERIES CASE

Lokpal orders CBI probe against Moitra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

IN FURTHER trouble to TMC leader and former Lok Sabha member Mahua Moitra, the Lokpal on Tuesday ordered a formal investigation by the CBI into the bribe-forquestions case against her.

"We direct the CBI, under Section 20(3)(a) to investigate all aspects of the allegations made in the complaint, and submit a copy of the investigation report within a period of six months from the date of receipt of this order. The CBI shall also file periodical reports regarding the status of the investigation, every month," the Lokpal order has said.

India's ex-envoy to Pak TCA Raghavan

TCA Raghavan is the author

The People Next Door — The Curious History of India's

explained.Live

DATE: 20 March 2024

TIME: 6 pm

TOREGISTER:

SMS-IEEXP < space > PD

<space> Your name and

email ID to 56161.

Confirmation SMS will be

your registration

be the guest on Wednesday at 6

pm on March 20 at a session of

Explained.Live titled, "Pakistan

in turmoil: what happens next?'

Pakistan was honed over two

Raghavan's expertise on

PLUTUS IAS

relations with Pakistan

to be guest at Explained Live today

Moitra stands accused of sharing her Parliament login credentials with businessman Darshan Hiranandani who allegedly posted questions on affairs related to industrialist Gautam Adani. It is alleged that Moitra did this for bribes, both in terms of cash and expensive gifts, received from Hirananadani. Moitra had denied the allegations.

ducted a preliminary enquiry (precursor to an FIR) in the matter which came about on the direction of Lokpal on November 8, 2023. The CBI has already submitted its inquiry report with the anti-corruption watchdog. The Lokpal also gave Moitra an opportunity to defend herself

postings – before his stint as

High Commissioner from July

2013 to December 2015, he

served as Deputy High

Commissioner from 2003 to

2007 – and in between, as head

of the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran

desk at the Ministry of External

Affairs in New Delhi. He is also

author of the book, *The People*

Next Door -- The Curious History

of India's relations with Pakistan

He will be in conversation

Explained.Live is a unique se-

Guests

to China Gautam

at

with Shubhajit Roy, Diplomatic

ries of explanatory conversa-

tions hosted by The Indian

Explained.Live sessions have in-

cluded former Indian ambassa-

Bambawale, former Foreign

Secretary Shyam Saran, former

Indian ambassador to the US

Arun Singh, former Indian am-

bassador to Russia D B

Venkatesh Varma, former

Foreign Secretary and Indian

ambassador to China Vijay

Gokhale, former Deputy NSA

Pankaj Saran, former Indian am-

bassador to UAE Navdeep Suri,

former G20 Sous Sherpa I S

Mukul, leading astrophysicist Dr

Somak Raychaudhury, among

Editor at The Indian Express.

(Harper Collins, 2017).

Express.

others.

Expert

The CBI has already con-



Trinamool **Congress** leader Mahua Moitra

where she made submissions through her lawyers and denied allegations of wrongdoing. The Lokpal took up the matter on a complaint from BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who also initiated the complaint against Moitra in Parliament, leading to her expulsion.

"After careful evaluation and consideration of the entire material on record, there remains no doubt regarding the fact that

the allegations levelled against the RPS (respondent public servant), most of which are supported by cogent evidence, are extremely serious in nature, especially in view of the position held by her. Therefore, in our considered opinion, a deeper probe is required to establish the truth. This is vital in view of the position and status held by the RPS at the relevant point of time," the Lokpal order has said.

"It is a duty cast upon us and, indeed, the mandate of the Act, that all attempts be made to root out corruption and corrupt practices that bring under their fold aspects such as undue advantage, illegal gain or benefit and quid pro quo in the discharge of public duties," it has added.

The order, however, has stated that in the preliminary Enquiry report of the CBI, the agency has not been able to substantiate through evidence that an amount of Rs 2 crore was paid by Hiranandani to Moitra for asking questions in Parliament. But it has held that the evidence has not been found because of the limited scope of investigations in a PE and thus further investigation is required. The Lokpal order has said

that allegations that Moitra demanded and received travel expenses and gifts in India and abroad from Hiranandani and low are substantiated.

the latter renovated her bunga-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday said the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which is caught in a tussle with the Ajit Pawar group, could use the name "Nationalist Congress Party – Sharad Chandra Pawar" and symbol "man blowing turrah (trumpet)" for the LS and state Assembly elections.

A bench of Justices Surya

asked the Election Commission

It directed the Ajit Pawar the "clock" symbol of the unditice in the newspapers in English, Marathi and Hindi editions, notifying that the allocation of the "clock" symbol is sub judice and the respondents shall be permitted to use the same subject to the final outcome of the proceedings". It said the "declaration shall be incorporated in every template, advertisement, audio or video clip is-

plea filed by Sharad Pawar challenging ECI decision recognising the Ajit group as the real NCP.

Naveen, Modi coming together for greater cause, says Pandian

SUJIT BISOYI BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 19

ASTALKS of an alliance between the BJD and BJP go on, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's trusted aide V K Pandian on Tuesday said neither Naveen nor Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs the alliance. The "two great leaders" want to come together "for a greater cause", he added.

Pandian was speaking at the Rising Bharat Summit in New Delhi by CNN News-18 in partnership with The Hindustan Times. "Naveen Patnaik is undoubtedly going to be CM of the state and Narendra Modi is going to be the PM of the country. But there is something which is beyond politics. It is a mark of great statesmanship. That is how I put it," said Pandian, who is the first BJD leader to publicly speak about the discussions between the two parties. He, however, did not provide clarity on the status of the talks.

Pandian, who joined the BJD last November and is considered to be the second-most powerful leader in the party after Patnaik, said, "Two great leaders want to come together for a greater cause. It has significance as two people coming together as a mark of statesmanship. It has nothing to do with politics. That is how I see it and I put it and even the CM thinks that way. It has no electoral value either for the BJD or BJP."

The BJD, which broke ties with the BJP in 2009, is now pushing the narrative that coming together with the national party would expedite the state's development and make it a developed state by 2036, when the

state will celebrate its centenary The BJD leader said multiple survey reports indicate that Modi would return to power for a record third term, adding that Naveen was also so popular that he gets "three-fourths majority every time" in the state. He cited the BJD's success in the 2022 Zilla Parishad elections in which the party won 90% of the seats while

the BIP bagged only 5% of the seats. "That is why I made it very clear that it has to do with two individuals who share a great friendship and see something beyond politics. There you see a rare mark of statesmanship. I consciously use the word statesmanship. It has nothing to do with politics and is beyond politics," Pandian said.

Asked if he would be Naveen's political successor, the former bureaucrat left it to the people of Odisha to answer the question. "I succeed his (Patnaik's) values; succeed his hard work; I get inspired by his sincerity, commitment, and keeping politics away from public service and doing service to the people. These are the values I imbibed from the CM Politics can come later on whenever and whatever people think is right," he said.

Rewari factory blast: 3 succumb

to burn injuries Gurgaon: Days after the dust collector blast at a Rewari factory,

three people of the 40 injured died on Tuesday, police said. According to SHO (Dharuhera police station) Jagdish Chand, the deceased have been identified as Vijay, Ramu and Ajay, all residents of UP. "Vijay died Tuesday morning, while we were informed of the deaths of Ajay and Ramu on

He said since the complaint did not list the names of owner and company authorities, they have sought details to take action. **ENS**

SC allows Sharad Pawar faction to use 'man blowing turrah' symbol for polls

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

Kant and K V Viswanathan also

of India (ECI) and Maharashtra State Election Commission to ensure that the "man blowing turrah" symbol is used only by the Sharad Pawar group and is not allocated to any other political party or Independent candidate. The court also asked the Ajit Pawar faction, which has been recognised as the real NCP by the ECI, not to use the symbol.

group, which was also allotted vided NCP, "to issue a public nosued on behalf of the... party." The bench was hearing the

FSSAI sets up lab network to test food for pathogens poisoning were the two most **ANONNA DUTT** 34 MICROBIOLOGY LABS IN 24 STATES

Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh

Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra

Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha,

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

WITH FOOD poisoning and diarrhoea becoming a common occurrence, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FS-SAI) is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens, including E coli, salmonella and listeria.

"These labs will help test food for microbial contamination that can lead to spoilage of food and potential health risks," said a senior health official of FSSAI. Another official said: "In fact,

Three labs Two labs One lab

West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, (Source: FSSAI **Puducherry and Tripura**

diarrhoea and food poisoning is so common that most people do not even report such instances. However, it is the job of the department to ensure that the food is safe. These labs will be able to test the food samples collected

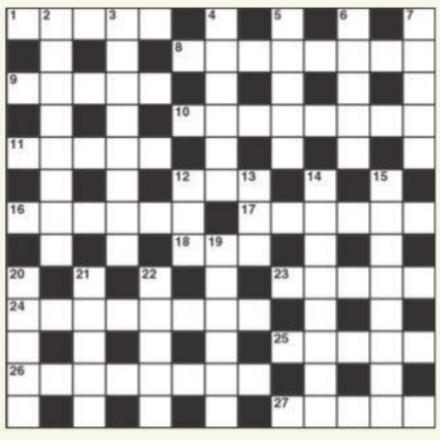
during routine surveillance for microbes now."

Data from the National Centre for Disease Control, which tracks the trajectory of several diseases every week, shows that acute diarrhoeal disease and food

common outbreaks in the country. There were over 1,100 outbreaks of acute diarrhoeal disease across the country in the last four years and nearly 550 outbreaks of food poisoning. However, none of the state

food safety labs are currently equipped to test for pathogens as they require maintaining live reference samples, expensive reagents and a microbiologist. "There are 79 state food testing laboratories in the country, but none of them re-Tuesday night. We have added IPC ally tests for microbes. They are Section 304-A to the FIR," he said equipped to test for protein or carbohydrate content of a food item to see whether it has what is written on the pack," said the official.

CROSSWORD 5317



ACROSS

1 Weapon that is a two-edged knife 2 So serve a new spell abroad (8)

8 Get rid of electrical current for gas (8) **9** Even turned back it's the same

10 Old Italian centaurs running

11 Rita's indisposed but out of bed **12** To love is just as well (3)

17 Club for the motorist (6) **18** A shade too revolutionary for some(3)

16 Father meets a girl, a Spanish

23 Remains top in points (5) **24** The best player is a defender (8) **25** Those disposed to show spirit

26 Order a final course (5,3) 27 A buzzer that doesn't work

DOWN

3 Lie in bed ill; not fit enough to eat

4 Way out writer in French restaurant(6) **5** Gear made to scale (3-2) **6** Managed to have a church in the farm(5)

7 Write in a way that's jaded (5) 12 Sailor possibly low in cigarettes

13 Not even out of the ordinary (3)

14 A tyrant emerges the first day riot act is reformed (8) 15 Duck needs to retain feathers

19 Greek-Cypriot union is one's design(6) **20** A bit of a fight (5)

21 He is absorbed in general physics (5) **22** The sprinter's capacity for a drug(5)

Solutions Crossword 5316 Across: 1 Feet of clay, 6 Tape, 10 Snail, 11 Metronome, 12 Complain, 13 Misty, 15 Elapsed, 17 Monarch, 19 Peerage, 21 Steps in, 22 Rabbi, 24 Aversion, 27 Novelette, 28 Twist, 29 Eels, 30 Icing sugar **Down:** 1 Fast, 2 Evaporate, 3 Orlop, 4 Command, 5 Antonym, 7 Atoms, 8 Everything, 9 Commence, 14 Temperance, 16 Spaniels, 18 Restoring, 20 Elastic, 21 Shebeen, 23 Bevel, 25 Sites, 26 Star

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



WHEN GUYS GROW UP, THEY GET TO PLAY WITH CARS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, CAMERAS, STEREOS, ELECTRIC TOOLS ... YOU NAME IT

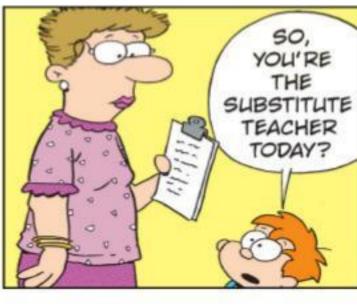


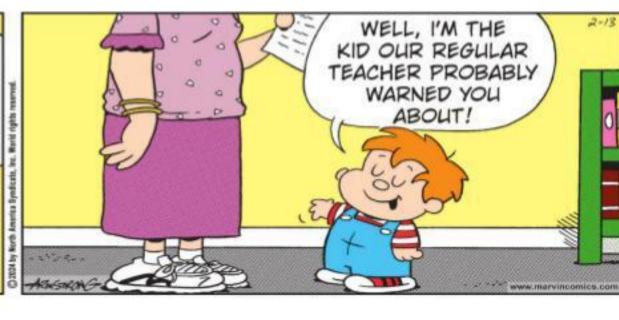


BUT GIRLS DON'T GET ANY



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





JUMBLED WORDS

the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. _ is a dragon with a gift in its mouth...Tame the dragon and the gift is yours - Noela Evans

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to

CPAEE EQULL **EILPCN** DIINGH yours - Noela Evans

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal SUDOKU rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

0				4			1
			6	3			
	7					1	
		9	4	5	7		
	5					4	
			8	6			
2			3				8
	9	1				2	

5506 5 **SOLUTION SUDOKU** 8

3 9 3 9 2 4 8 11 3 9 6

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The fact that Venus has been sending powerful signals to your sign has been responsible for helping you avoid some of the worst consequences of recent events. Your own efforts deserve praise as well You might have to wait for

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Business affairs are requiring more attention, not least because of the efforts that partners and associates will soon be making to interest you in a new scheme designed to double your profits. It seems clear that you will soon be able to come up with the goods

other people to see it the

same way, though.

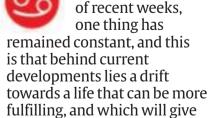
at work.

Professional events have definitely taken an upturn, and even domestic chores should be much less bother than in recent months. Capitalise on helpful planetary influences and make the most of your advantages, chiefly being an upsurge in your

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Throughout the ups and downs

creative powers.



you greater scope to express

your real talents.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The fact that Mercury is today sending a series of important signals will bring relief from

recent disagreements and dilemmas. Over the next two weeks, go all out to put agreements on to a firm footing, but first you may have to revise certain details.

Very soon your thoughts will be turning to those parts of your life

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

which are fundamental to your existence. You know that there are improvements waiting to be implemented, and that only you can take the right initiatives. And don't spend too much while you're about it.

will be more

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) You're entering a period which

intellectually inquisitive. In other words you'll be reading more, writing letters, sharing ideas and even contemplating signing up for a course. In love, you'll be pursuing close personal goals.

Now that certain worldly difficulties have been safely dealt with, you should be able to see that the most trying circumstances in the short term, are often those from which you gain

the most in the long term.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Oh, and by the way, you'll be doing well in conferences and meetings. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) In general, events should start to move

in your direction, although you must be both flexible and decisive. In other words, you must stick to your guns but always take other people's wishes into account, never an easy task, I know. Do yourself a favour and put more energy into social meetings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) You're very sensitive to the needs of others, too sensitive some would say, and over the next month or so you'll be more

influenced than is good for you by partners' grumbles and complaints. But then I have a feeling you'll turn every situation to the good. AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) There's no doubt

that you're entering a period that will be more satisfying from the social point of view. You'll be putting your ideas across much more effectively than in the past, and you'll be getting on top of a decidedly knotty,

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You'll get ahead of events by paying attention to your professional

legal question.

and other ambitions as soon as possible. This is an ideal time to arrange interviews and push yourself forward. Good news is coming, but not just yet. Isn't that always the way?

Answer: Challenge is a dragon with a gift in its mouth... Tame the dragon and the gift is SOLUTION: PEACE, QUELL, PENCIL, HIDING

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 EXPRESS NETWORK

Winners of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards for 2021, 2022



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari speaks at the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday. Renuka Puri

PRINT

Kerala jails

HINDI

2021, Kirti Dubey, BBC News *Hindi:* For her story on the police investigation that followed four lynching cases

2022, Anand Choudhary, India **Today Magazine:** For his story on the loopholes in the implementation of a Central scheme in Rajasthan

2021, Shabitha MK, Mathrubhumi **Daily:** For her investigative series that maps the situation of women in

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

2022. Anand Madhusoodan Sowdi, Kannada Prabha Daily:

For his reports on an appointment scam in Karnataka **ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE &**

TECHNOLOGY REPORTING 2021, Jayashree Nandi, *Hindustan* **Times:** For her stories on unplanned development in the higher reaches of the Himalayas

2022, Basant Kumar & Ayush **Tiwari**, *Newslaundry*: For a series on the slow choking of the Aravallis

UNCOVERING INVISIBLE INDIA 2021, Monica Jha, Freelance

(**Fifty-Two.in**): For her story on how a testimony by four child victims led to conviction in a trafficking case

2022, Rupsa Chakraborty, **The Indian Express:** For her series of stories on the backwardness of

Nandurbar **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC JOURNALISM**

2021, Aditya Kalra & Steve **Stecklow, Thomson Reuters:** For series on how Amazon's business

practices undercut small businesses

2022, Twesh Mishra, *The* **Economic Times:** For his story on



the import of Made in China wheels by the Indian Railways

REPORTING ON POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

2021, Ritika Chopra, The Indian Express: For her series of stories on the inner workings of the Election

2022, Prajwal Bhat, *The News Minute*: For his coverage of the Udupi hijab row

SPORTS JOURNALISM

2021, Mahender Singh Manral & Mihir Vasavda, The Indian Express: For their story on boxer Deepak Pahal and his descent into the world of crime

2022, Andrew Amsan, *The Indian* **Express:** For his story on how an IAS officer got a stadium emptied to walk his dog

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM 2021, Devesh Kumar & Arun **Gondana, Loksatta:** For their

investigation that uncovered the loopholes in a recruitment exam

2022, Zoya Hussain, *TRT World*: For her story on hysterectomies among India's women manual scavengers

FEATURE WRITING

2021, Vandana Menon, *The Print*: How an SDMC engineer tracked down Dara Shukoh's burial site

2022, Raj Chengappa, *India*

Today: For his story on the truth behind why Kashmiri Pandits had to flee their homes

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT COVERING INDIA 2021, Joanna Slater & Niha Masih, **The Washington Post:** For story on

how a group of human rights activists were subjected to surveillance

PRAKASH KARDALEY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CIVIC JOURNALISM 2021, Vinod Kumar Menon,

a raging pandemic **2022**, Azeefa Fathima,

Mid-Day: For his series of stories on

Balakrishna Ganeshan & Prajwal Bhat, The News Minute: For their investigation on the prevalence of manual scavenging

PHOTOJOURNALISM 2021, Gurinder Osan, *PTI***:** For his series of photographs from the 2020

2022, Abhinav Saha, *The Indian* **Express:** For his image of an IAS officer who got a stadium emptied

BOOKS (NON-FICTION)

Tokyo Olympics

to walk his dog

2021, The Long Game, Vijay **Gokhale:** For his book that explores the dynamics of negotiation between India and China

2022, The Life and Times of George Fernandes, Rahul Ramagundam: For his biography of the socialist politician

BROADCAST

HINDI

2021, Jugal Purohit, BBC Hindi **News:** For his documentary on hardships that healthcare workers faced during pandemics

2022, Hridayesh Joshi,

Newslaundry: For his documentary on arsenic contamination in groundwater

REGIONAL LANGUAGES 2021, Sofia Bind, *Media One TV*: For her documentary on the Chola Nayakars of Kerala

2022, Tejas Vaidya, *BBC News* **Gujarati:** For his documentary from Bilkis Bano's village, Randhikpur

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTING 2021, Princess Giri Rashir,

EastMojo: For her documentary on the mushrooming of coking coal factories in Meghalaya

2022, Down To Earth Multimedia team, Down To Earth (Web Portal):

For their documentary told from nine of India's cleanest cities

UNCOVERING INDIA INVISIBLE 2021, Vishnukant Tiwari, *The* **Quint:** For his documentary that

examines what development means to tribals in Bastar

Hindi: For his documentary on the salt workers in the Rann of Kutch

2022, Vikas Trivedi, *BBC News*

AND GOVERNMENT 2021, Brut India: For their documentary on a women-led movement in Assam

REPORTING ON POLITICS

2022, Abhishek Bhalla, *indiatoday.com*: For his story on the Kashmiri Pandit community

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING 2021, Meghnad Bose, *The Quint*: For examining the money flow in the PM-CARES fund for vaccine development

2022. Saurabh Shukla. *NDTV*: For uncovering the truth behind an incident of custodial torture in Saharanpur

SC summons Ramdev, Patanjali MD over ads

ANANTHAKRISHNANG NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

ASKING WHY contempt proceedings should not be initiated for alleged violation of an assurance given to it regarding advertisements of Patanjali Ayurved's products, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed yoga guru Ramdev to appear before it at the next hearing on April 2. The court also summoned the company's managing director, Acharya Balkrishna.

Hearing a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association, a bench of Justices Ahnasuddin Amanullah and PK Mishra had, on November 21, 2023, asked Patanjali not to issue any misleading advertisements or make "casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine".

On February 27, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah issued notice to Patanjali and Balkrishna for allegedly flouting its undertaking given to the court. On Tuesday, the bench noted that no reply had been filed to its February 27 notice. The court's summons to Ramdev was followed by a heated exchange between Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Patanjali, and Justice Amanullah. Rohatgi asked what "further aggravation" had hap-

pened after the court's last order in February, when it had decided to issue notice only to Patanjali and Balkrishna. "There should be some reason," he insisted.

At the February 27 hearing, while Justice Amanullah had indicated that contempt notice would be issued to both Ramdev and Balkrishna as their photographs had appeared in an advertisement issued by the group on December 4, 2023, the bench finally issued notice only to the latter. Responding to Rohatgi, Justice Amanullah said, "We have indicated in the order. Read it when it's uploaded. We are not going to repeat it to you." "I have heard the order," replied Rohatgi.

"That's enough. You have made a request. No interference needed in the order dictated. That's it," Justice Amanullah shot back. Rohatgi, however, persisted: "This is not fair... I am only saying there is no difference between that day and today. If you are referring to some ad... or something which appeared, please put that in the order... If the court has seen something, then the court should put it in the order so that I can tell the client...""We have indicated." repeated Justice Amanullah.

Iustice Kohli then intervened. following which Rohatgi said, "We will accept notice and appear." The senior counsel added: "I am only trying to say (that) if the court has seen something, and the court

feels that there is some aggravation, then we are entitled to respond to that. I am only saying please put it in the order."

Justice Kohli said: "What persuaded this court is, the provisions of the (Drugs and Magic Remedies) Act, they talk of any person..." Rohatgi replied that "violation of the law is not contempt" and only violation of the court's order would constitute contempt. Justice Kohli, apparently referring to the November 21, 2023, order, then pointed out that there was indeed an order which was allegedly flouted.

Rohatgi submitted: "I was only saying(that) if the court feels there is some further aggravation, by virtue of something or the other.. it should be a part of the order so that I can tell my client."

"After one week of the order of the court, a press conference was held raising objections... That is what has been noted today,' Justice Amanullah said. "That was months ago. Last order was February, not November," Rohatgi rebutted. "Between February and today, what has happened?"

Saying it was only a notice to show cause, Justice Kohli said: "It is nothing personal. It has to do with an order passed by the court... We will take it on the next day and see." The court will now hear the matter on April 2. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

Union MoS Karandlaje says TN people plant bomb in Bengaluru; Stalin terms statement 'reckless'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, CHENNAI, MARCH 19

EVEN AS the NIA is yet to arrest the suspect in Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje Tuesday stirred controversy saying that people from Tamil Nadu placed a bomb in a Bengaluru cafe.

Speaking at a protest in connection with the recent attack on a mobile shop owner in Bengaluru, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare said, "People from Tamil Nadu come here, get trained there and plant bombs here. They placed a bomb in the cafe."

The NIA is yet to disclose or establish the whereabouts of the man accused of planting a bomb in Rameshwaram Cafe.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin criticised Karandlaje for her remarks linking Tamils to terrorist activities. Stalin, in his statement, con-

demned the Union Minister's "reckless statement," arguing that such assertions could only be made by someone with direct involvement or detailed knowl-



People protest the recent attack on a shopkeeper in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ANI

edge of the ongoing investigation into the Rameshwaram Cafe blast. "One must either be an NIA official or closely linked to the Rameshwaram Cafe blast to make such claims. Clearly, she lacks the authority for such assertions. Tamilians and Kannadigas alike will reject this divisive rhetoric of BJP," Stalin said. Stalin also sought legal action against Karandlaje and demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) respond to the "hate speech."

Karandlaje, Tejasvi Surya among 40 held

BENGALURU, MARCH 19

KIRAN PARASHAR

THE BENGALURU police Tuesday detained BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and other BJP workers during a protest held in support of a shopkeeper who was allegedly assaulted for playing Hanuman Chalisa during Azaan (the Islamic call for prayer).

Mukesh, owner of a shop, was allegedly assaulted for playing loud music on March 17. While the BJP alleged that Mukesh was attacked for playing Hanuman Chalisa during Azaan, in the police complaint, Mukesh said he was attacked for playing loud music. However, speaking to the media later, Mukesh said, "I was playing Hanuman Chalisa and some local people were offended. Bengaluru city police commissioner B Dayananda said five persons were arrested in connection with the attack on Mukesh.

GUJARAT UNIVERSITY ASSAULT ROW

Foreign students made to sign undertaking not to use public space for 'religious' activity

RITU SHARMA

AHMEDABAD, MARCH 19

DAYS AFTER a mob allegedly assaulted foreign students for offering namaz at their hostel premise, the Gujarat University authorities Tuesday made the overseas students, who have been moved to a newly built NRI hostel, sign an undertaking banning the use of public space for any "private, religious or outside activity".

The rules are applicable to the Indian students as well, V-C Prof Neerja A Gupta told *The Indian* Express. "Without hurting the sentiments of others, you can have these activities with due permission from the university authorities. The rules apply to both Indian and foreign students," she clarified.

"There are rules already in place for Indian students as well. There were guidelines for foreign students, too, but since they are allocated a new hostel, this process has been initiated," she added.

latest report on Tuesday.

regulations of the university". "I am abiding by the same. I understand that failure to comply with the rules may result in disciplinary action or eviction from the hostel,' the undertaking reads. The "rules and regulations" that the foreign students are "required to adhere to" during their stay have been circulated along

University's website Tuesday. function or celebration at hostel

On Tuesday, the foreign students were made to sign an undertaking stating that they have "read these rules and accepted the

with the application form of the NRI hostel where they have been shifted to after the incident on the night of March 16. The rules have also been uploaded on Gujarat The new rules also ban any record.

premises without prior permission. "Playing music/record player, etc, loud enough to cause disturbance to his/her neighbour(s) is prohibited. Repeated acts will render cancellation of allotment of hostel room," the regulations state.

2023 warmest year on record, 2014-23 warmest decade: WMO

ANJALI MARAR BENGALURU, MARCH 19

THE WORLD Meteorological Organisation(WMO) has made it official: 2023 was the warmest year on record, while the past decade (2014-23) was the warmest ever, the WMO said in its

In its annual State of the Climate Report, the WMO has said that global mean surface temperature in 2023 was 1.45 degrees Celsius higher than the average of the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period. This is significantly higher than the 1.29 degrees Celsius increase from pre-industrial times that was recorded in 2016.

The decadal average of the global mean surface temperature between 2014 and 2023 was 1.2 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial average, making it the warmest 10-year period on The WMO report noted that

the observed concentrations of three main greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — also touched new records in 2022, the last year for which consolidated global figures were available. Carbon dioxide

concentrations in 2022 had reached 417.9 parts per million, 150 per cent of the levels seen in the pre-industrial times, while methane concentrations were 1,923 parts per billion, which was 264 per cent of pre-industrial levels. Nitrous oxide concentrations in 2022 were observed at 335.8 parts per billion, which was 124 per cent of pre-industrial level, the report said.

been released in November last year, using data till October, in a provisional report that WMO brings out to coincide with the annual climate change conference. The data till October was so strong that none of the trends were expected to change during the remaining two months of the year. "Concentrations of greenhouse gases continued to rise (in 2022). Ocean heat content and sea level reached record observed highs and the rate of increase is accelerating. Antarctic sea ice extent hit record observed lows. Key glaciers suffered record losses. The climate crisis is the defining challenge that

With 70 per cent of Earth's area covered by water, the rising

humanity faces," said Celeste

Saulo, Secretary-General, WMO,

level and more. 2023 exceeded the 2022 value, thus reaching a 65-year high Much of this information had record, the WMO said.

> Nino conditions that commenced in June last year.

> > episode).

in a statement.

greenhouse gases generate excess energy, which remains accumulated in the form of heat and is absorbed by oceans. In addition to this heat, oceans absorb carbon dioxide, which together with warming of the sea waters result in ocean acidification, rising sea The ocean heat content in

The Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean remained unusually warm, besides the Pacific Ocean warming owing to the El

As like heatwave and coldwave on land, there are oceanequivalent components in the oceans known as marine heat wave and marine cold wave. 2023 being an El Nino year — when there prevails higher than normal sea surface temperatures along the equatorial Pacific Ocean marine heat wave persisted along the North Atlantic Ocean. According to WMO, at least 32 per cent area of the total global oceans suffered from marine heatwave everyday last year (23 per cent area during the 2016 El Nino

More Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh so far this year than entire 2023

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU RAIPUR. MARCH 19

TWO MAOISTS were gunned down in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Tuesday, taking the total number of Maoists killed in the state in the first three months of this year to 29. This is already more than the total number of Naxals killed in the whole of last year -23.

The latest encounter took place around 40 km away from Dantewada district headquarters, in the Purangel Gampur forest area. "Bodies of two Maoists, a man and a woman, have been recovered. Two indigenously made weapons and explosives were seized," Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai said. All of the 29 Maoists killed this year were killed in the Bastar region. Out of the 29, 13 were killed in Bijapur, five each in Dantewada and Kanker, four in Sukma, and two in Narayanpur. This year has also seen the deaths of 12 civilians and six security personnel in Naxal-related incidents.

However, there have also been allegations of fake encounters from families of those killed. Local

residents and relatives of three people killed in what security forces said was an anti-Maoist encounter in Kanker on February 25 marched to the police station in Koylibeda, alleging that the encounter was fake. They said the three were not Maoists. Subsequently, a magisterial probe was ordered into the incident.

Anti-Naxal operations in the state have been stepped up since December last year, after the Assembly elections. In January this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a review meeting with security forces and all stakeholders, asking them to ensure that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) ends in the next three years.

Since then, the deployment of security forces has been increased in the Bastar region, which comprises seven districts – Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma. More than 14 police camps have been made by police in Maoist strongholds including Puarti which is home village of dreaded Madvi Hidma who was heading People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). Hidma's successor Barse Deva is also from Puarti.

UPSC candidates from 2 dists can opt for centres outside state: Manipur to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE MANIPUR government told the Delhi High Court Tuesday that candidates from Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts who may not be able to travel to Imphal for taking the civil services prelims exam can be allotted examination centres outside the state as was done in 2023. The state government also offered to provide monetary help to such candidates. The High Court was hearing a

PIL moved by Zomi Students Federation seeking directions for setting up examination centres with "adequate arrangements" in the hill districts of Manipur, enabling tribal candidates to take the Civil Services (Prelims), 2024, and the Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2024 scheduled on May 26. The court took note of a letter

written by the Manipur Chief Secretary and asked the counsel for the UPSC to obtain instructions in the matter.

The bench listed the matter for hearing on March 22.

WORDLY WISE THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT.

— BILLIE JEAN KING

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED By ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SHRINKING OF MAYAWATI

The steady sinking of BSP tells a larger story of its own complicities and nimble-footedness of the BJP

HE BSP MP from Lalganj, Sangeeta Azad, has become the fourth legislator to leave Mayawati's party ahead of Lok Sabha polls. The reasons may be different in each of the four instances, but there is one binding theme. They all underline the apparently unchecked decline of a party whose rise to power was once one of the most striking emblems of empowerment of the most marginalised and disprivileged sections in Uttar Pradesh and in India. The unnatural silence and quietude that has settled on the BSP in UP as a new election draws closer, therefore, also speaks of the lost possibilities of an alternative politics. It may well be that stories of the BSP's demise are vastly exaggerated, and that Mayawati will re-energise the BSP yet, or a new vehicle and leader will emerge in its place. Or that, as Dalit aspirations are encompassed by or subsumed under other parties and wholes, they will not need a "Dalit party" of their own. But for now, the steady sinking of the BSP is a space ceded and a potential unfulfilled in a country of great diversities and greater inequalities.

The BSP's decline is made of several factors, and it includes the BSP's own complicities. There was always a certain exceptionalism about the party that Kanshi Ram built, inspired by Ambedkarism and also diverging from it, and that Mayawati led to power in UP. The BSP had a unique style of functioning — its self-image is of a "mission", not a party, and it sees itself as pitted against a "Manuvadi" mainstream even when it strategically allies with sections of it. But the fact also is that the BSP has looked increasingly out of step with a changing polity. The inaccessibility cultivated by Mayawati, the seemingly airtight control "Behenji" exerts over party activities, the keeping away from street-level mobilisations except when there is an insult to the party's icons, and the slowness in adapting to new technologies have created a gap, taken a toll. This gap has widened most glaringly ever since the rise of Narendra Modi's BJP. The Modi-BJP has aggressively and successfully wooed Dalits, especially the non-Jatav Dalits. Its successes in UP and at the Centre frame the inroads it is making even in Mayawati's core constituency. By all accounts, confronted by the BJP's many-layered challenge — combining Hindutva appeals with labharthi politics and a projection of winnability — the BSP has neither made any visible effort to re-engage with its own supporters, nor courted new or old allies.

There was a time when an energetic BSP, having mobilised Dalit constituencies, sought to widen its appeal electorally by building a core-plus social coalition, through its "bhaichara samitis" that addressed Brahmins apart from Muslims. This time, however, Mayawati's party seems unwilling or unable to climb out of its corner. As the din and noise of parties and alliances becomes louder, the BSP's lack of outreach is conspicuous, as is its standstill.

PUTIN, AGAIN

Russian President's electoral victory may well be a Pyrrhic one for his country and its people

VEN IN A "year of elections" — in which many major countries including the US and India are going to the polls — the Russian presidential election stands out as a symbol of authoritarianism. That Vladimir Putin won in a landslide with 87 per cent of the vote, the largest margin for any leader since the collapse of the Soviet Union — comes as no surprise. The scale of the win points to Putin's complete control over the Russian state as well as the country's elites. All major opposition, including the media and civil society, was suppressed and Alexei Navalny, long seen as Putin's only viable challenger, died under mysterious circumstances earlier this year.

As he embarks on his sixth term, a question must be asked: Is Russia better off as a result of Putin's rule? In this regard, too, the man who is set to surpass Joseph Stalin as the longest-serving Russian leader since Catherine the Great has, at best, a deeply mixed record. Before Putin began his expansionist drive — first with the annexation of Crimea and the prolonged war in Ukraine — he was regarded by sections in Russia as something of a "saviour". In the 1990s, in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, the erstwhile superpower was in free fall: It was riven by law and order issues, its economy was spiraling as national assets were privatised for pennies on the dollar under Boris Yeltsin's leadership. Putin's early years, from 2000 onwards, were about bringing stability to Russia and, enabled by a huge rise in energy prices, reviving its economy. The hope was that this would be followed by democratisation and Russia taking its place in global affairs as a responsible power. But the opposite has happened.

Putin's idea of "Russkiy Mir" — or a Russian zone of influence — is revanchist and harkens to Czarist notions of empire. Domestically, this has been accompanied by a clampdown on dissent as well as on the rights of linguistic, religious and sexual minorities. Putin has sought to justify his attack on Ukraine by citing NATO expansionism. But rather than halt the US-led alliance, it has pushed many countries — from Finland to Sweden and even Georgia — to seek NATO membership. The invasion has also cut off Russia from its partners and well-wishers in Europe, while making it a junior partner to China. It has made the world more volatile, and global supply chains have been disrupted. Even India, which has continued to engage with Moscow, is rapidly diversifying its arms suppliers. Putin's victory, then, may well be a Pyrrhic one for Russia and its people.

WPL is here

The women's game will evolve at its own pace, set its own benchmarks, grow a vocabulary and style of its own

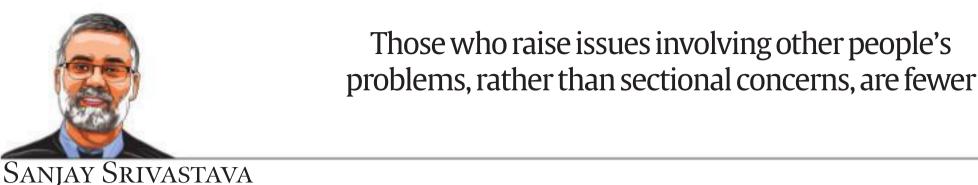
HEN OVER 29,000 trooped in after paying to watch the Women's Premier League second-season final at Delhi, following consistently large audiences at Bengaluru, the tournament was already an unqualified success. Modern sport's ultimate citadel is commerce. And this season, the women's league ticked all the right boxes. Even as Aussie great Ellyse Perry finished the MVP, home cricketers too stood out with sparkling performances. In the final, it was off-spinner Shreyanka Patil who came up with a match-winning spell. Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh hit sixes that landed deep in the stands, matching big names from Australia, West Indies and England. Harmanpreet Kaur struck a memorable century, which is a good omen for the India captain, and Smriti Mandhana marshalled her troops to land her first title.

With the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later this year an immediate goal, Jemimah Rodrigues adding a new dimension to her batting and Yastika Bhatia proving she's reliable both as opener and wicketkeeper, is crucial to the Team India jigsaw. Deepti Sharma delivered on her potential as a world-class all-rounder, not only with crucial wickets with her off-spin, but also by clearing the boundary frequently. The big-hitting was remarkable, of course. But this was also about steely nerves, as when little-known Sajana Sajeevan hit the first ball on her WPL debut — the last one of the match — for six because nothing less would have done. Leg-spinner Asha Sobhana was another find with five wickets to turn a match in the final few overs.

The fielding standards in the women's game can improve no doubt and that will give all five franchises, including the three owned by IPL teams, their next goals. The women's game will evolve at its own pace, set its own power benchmarks and grow a vocabulary and style of its own. But for now, the WPL has delivered on sport's most fundamental requirement — four exciting finishes went to the wire. And it spawned fandoms with celebrations spilling onto the streets.

The new citizen

Those who raise issues involving other people's



A FEW DAYS ago, I came across a school photo posted by a friend on social media. It's from the mid-1980s. An immaculately dressed group of teachers stands in a semi-curved formation on a stage. There are students too, in school uniform. Each teacher is holding up a placard with a letter of the English alphabet. These are in red against a white background. Male teachers are dressed in long-sleeved "prince coats" that close at the neck and the women are wearing sarees in a combination of red and white. The letters spell "October". At one end of the formation, a young teacher holds up a large red-coloured hammer and sickle poster. The group is commemorating the Bolshevik Party's October Revolution of 1917.

The school — located in what was then a sleepy little north Indian town — was run by the Indian branch of a well-known global organisation of white-collar professionals. It would be laughable to classify it as sympathetic to Communist thought. This striking tableau — now lost to both time and current ways of thinking about the world — is best thought of as an Indian engagement with the world beyond sectional and sectarian concerns.

In post-colonial societies where electoral democracy has taken root, there are two kinds of national subjects. The first is an imagined – constitutional — subject who is a key character in recurring liberal dreams of what social, political and public life should be about. This person has multiple religious, ethnic, linguistic and caste identities. Depending on the context, the identity of the constitutional subjects varies — sometimes Dalit, occasionally Muslim, and now and then rural.

Within post-colonial liberal thought, this is the Nehruvian subject of nobility, decency, common sense and a bulwark against chauvinism and anti-democratic tendencies. She or he (though usually implicitly imagined as a man) carries all the hopes and burdens of liberalism on his shoulders. In some contemporary versions of liberalism, the Nehruvian subject also has ancient origins, with a capacity and skill for debate and argumentation that has lasted millennia. On this point, ironically enough, liberalism and its antithesis – Hindutva — converge.

The other — actually existing — national subject is one of flesh and blood. It has a complex, dynamic and changing relationship with

It is through the hotch-potch of everyday life that produces the actual — rather than imagined — identities of the Indian voting public that we should try to understand the story of the soon-to-be-held elections and the unfolding saga of electoral bonds. The kind of impact that the murky goings-on of the electoral bonds might have on the election fortunes of the BJP — the most significant beneficiary — can't really be grasped through constantly imagining a Nehruvian national subject as the key

driver of discussions of

public importance.

the world that undermines the fundamental tenets of post-colonial liberal thought. This person watches sensationalist and bigoted media reporting (and frequently subscribes to its viewpoint), loves biryani and ghazal but detests Muslims, laughs at rape jokes in Aamir Khan's 3 *Idiots*, assumes that Indians from the Northeast are "foreigners" and, when asked to comment on the importance of democracy, ranks it lowly. It also votes in elections.

This national subject (a modified one) is, actually, exactly the same as the one who finds great favour in liberal thought. The difference lies in the eyes of the observer. To take an example from an event of current significance, liberal thought believes that the voting public - imagined as the constitutional subject — will punish those politicians who have corrupted public life through the chicanery of electoral bonds. What is needed, the argument goes, is just better information and the truth about the bonds. Politicians, on the other hand, will largely be untroubled by the slew of revelations about who benefitted most from the bond scheme. They are astute observers of national behaviour and identities because their futures depend on it. They rest easy in the knowledge that the modified Indian is far too complex and quixotic a figure to carry out the liberal bidding.

It is through the hotch-potch of everyday life that produces the actual — rather than imagined — identities of the Indian voting public that we should try to understand the story of the soon-to-be-held elections and the unfolding saga of electoral bonds. The kind of impact that the murky goings-on of the electoral bonds might have on the election fortunes of the BJP — the most significant beneficiary – can't really be grasped through constantly imagining a Nehruvian national subject as the key driver of discussions of public importance. It is the modified national population — one that now consists of persons of all castes, religions and ethnicities — who holds the national fate in its hands.

It is important to remember, also, that the Nehruvian subject (that of the school photo) did not suddenly become the modified one. But we rarely focus on the peoples of democracy, preferring to highlight its texts (the Constitution) and structures (the judiciary) as sufficient guides to the possibilities of a democratic future. It is the modified national subject that votes, not texts and structures. The most significant characteristic of the

modified subject concerns the fact it acts entirely according to sectional concerns: Each part of the population primarily raises its voice according to clearly defined sectional interests, including religious, occupational, regional and other forms of identities. The part of the Indian population that raises issues of national interest — involving itself with other people's problems rather than sectional concerns — is minuscule. In any case, its numbers as public voice are fast diminishing. The most significant achievement of the past few decades has been the deepening of a characteristic that has been a significant part of Indian life — sectional concerns. No matter how justified these might be, since the Indian public sphere operates primarily along "community" lines, it is quite easy to mobilise support along these lines whereas hardly any is forthcoming for exactly the same issue that might affect another community. A particular section of the population may rightly protest the violation of its human rights but is unlikely to subscribe to "human rights" as a general principle, also protesting on behalf of others.

Electoral bonds are a national rather than a sectional issue. They are concerned with the impact of opaque political practices that affect all Indians. However, given the consolidation of the sectional, modified voting public, they are unlikely to attract much voter backlash against the party that appears to have benefitted the most.

That October Revolution photograph from a school run by a solidly anti-Communist organisation, its teachers dressed in "national" clothing but commemorating a global event – was a brief Nehruvian moment in the history of modern India. That moment could have unfolded in any direction, producing either sectional or national subjects. For there to be effective political opposition in the face of such overwhelming odds, it is important to understand the nature of the voting public. What excites its interest? Certainly not the "misdeeds" of those who might have benefitted from the electoral bonds.

The writer is British Academy Global Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology *SOAS University of London*



LET'S PREDICT POLL OUTCOME

Given the record of the psephologist, why not turn to the astrologer

PARAPPANANGADI UNNIKRISHNAN PANIKKAR

THE ALMOST ONE billion-strong people electoral ball has started rolling. Elections are a busy time for bureaucrats, politicians, and the media. They are a busy time for astrologers, too, something the general public may not be aware of. Clearly, in political science, there is more politics than science. And in the gap between the two, there are many other factors, the alignment of stars being just one of them.

Of course many will dismiss this as mere superstition, but when your entire being, for those eight or 10 weeks of the campaign, is about hope and the unknown, anything that lights the path ahead is welcome.

That's why many leaders and candidates visit astrologers to discuss their electoral prospects. Some politicians reject astrology and dress it in progressive garb for the media while consulting astrologers in private. I remember watching a video clip of a speech by a veteran politician, an ex-minister, during an electoral campaign a few years ago. The man was ridiculing Jayalalithaa for her faith in astrology. I found it most entertaining because the same person had visited me a month earlier for a thorough reading of his birth chart.

Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who is widely regarded as a rationalist and an agnostic who rejected astrology, had asked his daughter to "make a proper horoscope of his grandson by a competent person". This is in a letter to his sister, published in the book Nehru's Letters to His Sister (1963), edited

Though ours is a data-centric culture, these details are hard to collect and collate. Despite these difficulties, astrologers attempt to study elections. One way to do this is to examine the charts of the leaders. What do those charts say? You can look at the charts and find out how the stars align. Is the current time astrologically in favour and can it be said that the leader will come back? Can he or she execute their pet plans and projects? Can they successfully conquer unethical hostility and enmity that comes against them and their plans? What lies in store?

by Krishna Hutheesing.

Durga Das, in his book India: From Curzon to Nehru and After (1969), writes that, upon the advice of the then Planning Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda, Nehru consulted an astrologer in 1962. When the astrologer predicted a Chinese aggression, an irritated Nehru told the jyotishi "you are talking bilge".

Chinese aggression followed soon after and Nehru "was in a mood to listen to the astrologer," writes Das. The jyotishi this time warned about Nehru's health. Das writes, "What followed was shrouded in the utmost secrecy. Fifty learned priests were engaged by his admirers to perform the prescribed rites at a temple in Kalkaji, a suburb of Delhi. At the end of the daily ceremonies, the Brahmin pundits repaired to the Prime Minister's residence to place an auspicious tilak mark on his forehead." Senior astrologers will have many such interesting stories to tell about politicians. But, of course, as astrologers, we take client confidentiality seriously, so you will not hear these stories in public.

The questions astrologers face at this time will be about the general result of the election. Who is going to rule our nation? Who will get to become ministers? Journalists might ask these questions out of genuine curiosity, or, in some cases, with a veiled contempt for astrology (something that astrologers accept as an occupational hazard)!

The questions about elections that an as-

trologer faces are complicated and precise analyses are tough. It is difficult to analyse the charts of all the candidates. Besides, astrologically too, there are numerous things that might influence an election — from the candidates' birth charts to the exact time at which the nomination is filed.

Though ours is a data-centric culture, these details are hard to collect and collate. Despite this, astrologers attempt to study elections. One way to do this is to examine the charts of the leaders. What do those charts say? You can look at the charts and find out how the stars align. Is the current time astrologically in favour and can it be said that the leader will come back? Can he or she execute their pet plans and projects? Can they successfully conquer unethical hostility and enmity that comes against them and their plans? What lies in store? Of course, one will have to analyse many other charts, and aspects, to get a clearer astrological picture. But the question is, is such a thorough examination warranted in public interest?

One may very well say that astrological analyses are not scientific and hence should be discarded at face value. I would urge them to look at the "scientific" predictions from our psephologists. One can easily see that we, astrologers, are often more accurate than them.

The writer is an astrologer and scholar based in Kerala



MARCH 20, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

WORKERS-POLICE CLASH

SIX PEOPLE, INCLUDING five policemen, were killed and about 500 injured in inter-union rivalry violence. About 1,000 workers attacked a police party that intervened when clashes broke out between members of the Paradip Port and Dock Mazdoor Union. Sub-inspector VKKanungo, officer-in-charge of the Paradip police station, a Naik, two constables of the Armed Police Reserve and a sepoy of the Orissa Special Armed Police were killed.

HOOCH TRAGEDY

TWELVE PEOPLE DIED and over 50 were

taken ill after consuming spurious liquor in Farrukhabad district on the occasion of Holi. Three persons have been rendered blind after taking the drink. Many people were struggling for their lives in various hospitals. A police spokesman said that the exact figures of casualties were awaited.

INDIA ON PAK WEAPONS

INDIA HAS VOICED its concern about Pakistan acquiring sophisticated weapons from the United States and other sources. This, the Ministry of External Affairs says in its annual report, will not only upset the existing military balance between India and Pakistan but also in the South Asian region as a whole. The report points out that the introduction of such weapons would force India to go for matching weapon acquisitions.

SIKH BODY BANNED

THE GOVERNMENT HAS banned the All India Sikh Students Federation with immediate effect and declared the organisation illegal, indulging in subversive and anti-national activities. The government has been getting reports that the federation organises training camps and makes provocative speeches resulting in communal tension and disruption of harmony between Hindus and Sikhs.

-THE GUARDIAN

THE IDEAS PAGE

An election debate not joined

With India's growing international clout, interest has grown in foreign policy. But Opposition has not challenged the government, even in run-up to elections



INDIA MIGHT BE polarised on various domestic issues in this general election, but there is hardly any political argument on foreign policy. Is this because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomacy is so spectacularly successful that there is little room to debate?

To be sure, PM Modi's stewardship of India's foreign policy has been impressive. Coming to power with a full majority in the Lok Sabha in 2014 and improving on it in 2019, Modi has enjoyed great command over his party and government and a freer hand in running foreign policy. All his predecessors since Rajiv Gandhi had to run coalition governments in which all policies, including external affairs, were under continuous disputation. The steady accretion of economic salience has made India an attractive partner for many countries and offered valuable commercial levers to boost Indian diplomacy. At the same time, a favourable global geopolitical environment has created new strategic opportunities to transform key relationships. A professional diplomat — Subrahmanyam Jaishankar — as the foreign minister has given India a definitive edge in international relations.

Yet, it is hard to argue that there are no questions to be asked, no assumptions to be questioned, and no policy alternatives to be proffered. The lack of a foreign policy debate today is less about a genuine consensus than declining interest in world affairs within the demoralised Opposition. Ironically, the more India has become global, the less engaged its political class is with international affairs.

The main opposition party, Congress, has been unwilling to challenge the main trends of the government's foreign policy. During his visits abroad in the last two years, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi chose to focus more on India's domestic divisions than express any difference with the Prime Minister on foreign policy issues. Asked repeatedly about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Rahul backed the government's position. There was a brief moment when the Congress seemed to question the government's unstinting support to Israel in the immediate aftermath of the brutal October 7 terror attacks by Hamas. But the party soon tied itself into knots on the questions of terrorism and the "Palestinian cause".

The loss of the Left voice on foreign policy has compounded the defensive orientation of the Congress. During the first term of the UPA government (2004-09), the Left parties had shaken India's foreign policy to its core. They opposed the historic civil nuclear initiative and pulled out of the coalition, accusing the Congress of sacrificing India's strategic autonomy by drawing close to the US.

The left's arguments found interesting resonance in the BJP and triggered a rare and intense debate on a major foreign policy question — India's relationship with the US. The Manmohan Singh government barely survived amidst an unprecedented and coordinated attack from the CPM and the BJP.

Although the Left parties were out of the UPA coalition, its influence on foreign policy endured in the second term of the UPA (2009-14). The Manmohan Singh government slowed down the engagement with the US. Over the last decade of NDA rule, India has moved closer than ever before to



the US, and in PM Modi's words, Delhi has shed its "historic hesitations" in engaging Washington.

The Congress has largely turned silent on the relations with the US and, more broadly, on the new foreign policy orientation of the Indian government. Despite the BJP government's trenchant critique of Nehruvian foreign policy, the Congress party has not risen to the occasion. The Left critique has become less audible amidst the rapid decline in its parliamentary clout and intellectual influence.

The last decade has seen a dramatic expansion of popular interest in foreign policy. The rapid proliferation of think tanks, the increasing contribution of retired bureaucrats, and the explosion of social media engagement with Indian diplomacy have created the basis for a genuine democratisation of foreign policy discourse. However, much of the output tacks to the government line, some tend to be hyper-nationalistic, and a bit of partisan sniping does break into the discourse to complete the picture.

In the end, though, it is the burden of the political class to lead a purposeful discourse. The story of India's changing foreign policy in the last three decades has been about the political leadership — Rajiv Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao, Inder Kumar Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh, and Narendra Modi pushing the foreign policy establishment in new directions.

As the political parties prepare their manifestos, it might be unreasonable to expect them to devote too much attention to foreign policy. Yet, the fact that we are at a hinge moment in global politics demands serious reflection on the role of a rising India in a rapidly changing world. Four big ideas cry out for attention.

well as India's choices in dealing with it.

three decades has been about adapting to the logic of globalisation, the task today is to make the best of the unfolding rearrangement of the global economic order. There is room for a productive contestation of ideas on how to raise India's share of global trade in the coming years and deepen regional economic integration as the US and China change the commercial rules.

Third is the question of dealing with a China that has risen and presents challenges across all major policy areas in the functional domain – commercial, political, security, technological, and climate change. Assessments of Chinese power also affect our policies in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood, as well as our approach to

other great powers and global institutions. Finally, the old tropes of "non-alignment" and "strategic autonomy" have become less relevant for an India that is on the rise and is well-placed to become the third-largest economy in the next few years. An India with the ambition to become a developed nation by 2047 deserves a new strategic lexicon and a new geopolitical grammar. Can the politi-

The writer is a contributing editor on *international affairs for* The Indian Express

First is the need for a diagnosis of the changing international order — marked by the return of great power rivalry. The ongoing war in Ukraine at the heart of Europe and the growing potential for one in Asia's Taiwan Straits are rooted in the changing distribution of power among the major states. There must be a debate about the nature of this key variable that shapes the international system as

Second, if India's challenge in the last

cal classes begin to deliver?

Time for a tech manifesto

"As the Kremlin's belief that it can 'outlast' the west's support for Ukraine grows, the situation of Russia's democratic opposition is undeniably bleak... organisers must hope similar actions can keep the flame of resistance alive, and that the

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

west will offer what assistance it can to their cause."

Online platforms and networks have become a crucial part of everyday life. Political parties must outline their digital vision



Apar Gupta

FOR DECADES, AN expert consensus has quietly worked to exclude politicians from regulating digital policy — a libertarian attitude that distrusts the state's heavy hand but hails the feather touch of technocrats. The argument is that this prevents "politicisation" and ensures policy continuity across election cycles. It's clear now that such a stance is not only unsustainable, but also anti-democratic. In the last five years, the intensive spread of digitisation has turned technology into a mediator of power and access. Online platforms, smartphones, telecommunication networks and data centres are part of the lives of ordinary Indians. As the general elections draw closer, what can political parties offer to voters in their manifestos?

Five years ago, as Indians cast their votes, technology was merely an afterthought. Apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC), few parties paid significant attention to or offered commentary on it. The BJP highlighted technology as a catalyst for economic and social goals, including enhanced delivery of entitlements and increased farm incomes, but confined its comments on digitisation to boosting gram panchayat connectivity. In contrast, the INC outlined more ambitious digital rights reforms, addressing access, free expression, and privacy in a dedicated section. Beyond these, five parties stood out: The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) supported legal reforms for surveillance; the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) vowed to curb obscene social media content; the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supported expanded CCTV use; and the Samajwadi Party (SP) aimed to expedite the NATGRID mass surveillance programme. If the 2019 manifestos are any measure, political thinking and campaign articulation on how digital technologies impact us today are arid.

As per the latest TRAI data, the number of broadband subscribers in India stood at 904.54 million on December 31, 2023. India also has one of the lowest data rates worldwide. While the BJP may herald this as a victory for its "Digital India" policies, other political parties need to highlight the growth's inequitable and uneven distribution. It has largely concentrated on urban, male, upper-income groups while large sections of the masses remain deprived of internet connectivity. They may also address the petering growth over the past year in broadband connections and smartphone sales, or the sub-optimal delivery of BharatNet and the PM-WANI schemes of

the Union government. This may provide a basis to advance proposals of social justice by digitisation and technology. Here, while state elections, particularly in Rajasthan and Kerala, have seen promises and deliveries of smartphones and mobile internet schemes, the political discourse around the issue remains underdeveloped. Until now, politicians across the spectrum have failed to address the need for universal internet connectivity as a catalyst for social and economic mobility among underprivileged metropolitan and semi-urban voters.

Broadband connectivity's provision is inextricably linked to its forceful deprivation by the state. Despite the Telecommunications Act of 2023, little has changed in the regulation of internet shutdowns. Over the past five years, authorities have wielded this power over Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, and Rajasthan. Most orders target mobile internet access, significantly affecting millions of lower-income Indians reliant on smartphones rather than wired desktops. This situation demands that dense policy debates be distilled into mainstream discourse with a careful balancing of state power and irrational claims of national security. Beyond internet access, frontier issues await public discourse: The coercive digitising of public and welfare services; use of free and open source software; mass citizen surveillance; online fear, abuse and hate speech targeting women and minorities; data breaches predatory loan apps and cyber thefts; and the hoarding of personal data by technology platforms.

Many may question the significance of digital technologies in party manifestos, expressing scepticism towards the Indian electorate. In a political landscape dominated by caste, religion, ideology, and the personality of the Prime Minister, the prospect of voters prioritising lofty policy promises seems remote. Yet, a report last year by the Center for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on public health found that while voters considered it less crucial than employment, at the same time, "a majority of voters say that the provision of health facilities affects their voting choice to some extent". Likewise, technologies essential for employment, health, and modern living are becoming increasingly important Currently, the Indian voter is not even offered a choice in the matter, leaving aside issues of trust or the ability of a political party to implement its manifesto if it comes to power. This lack of offer by political parties manifests in the lack of a constituency It feeds a vicious cycle that separates the development of a digital society from its democratic representation. Thus, when broader attacks occur through digital technologies like spyware and censorship, the outcry remains limited to digital rights activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. While no political party will win the next general elections on its technology promises, it is an opportune moment for all of them to offer an alternate digital vision.

> The writer is an advocate practising in Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FEDERALISM MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Towards a less divided polity' (IE, March 19). Elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies were held together until 1967 because these were the early years of independence, and politics was more about public service and patriotism than self-centredness. The idea that the ONOE will prevent parties from promising populist schemes and negative campaigning is wishful thinking; in all likelihood, there will be more of it as the stakes double. The cost of holding separate elections is worth incurring to preserve the fundamental federal framework of our

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

ADIEU, ADMIRAL

democracy.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'War hero and pacifist' (IE, March 19). Admiral L Ramdas was the chief guest and reviewing officer of the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of our courses at the Air Force Academy, Hyderabad in June 1991. While addressing the newly commissioned officers, he gave us our first leadership lessons. He said, "At its core, military leadership revolves around the principles of integrity, courage, and selflessness... Our nation comes first and always. The organisational interests and the welfare of your subordinates must always come before your own interests and welfare. Lead by example and always take responsibility for your actions."

These lessons are timeless. Manish Mishra, Bhopal

CHECKS & BALANCES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Fuller disclosure' (IE, March 19). Transparent electoral financing is the need of the present political system. However, the fact that SBI tried to withhold information regarding electoral bonds, despite clear-cut instructions from the Supreme Court, has created suspicion. There could have been an element of quid pro quo in the EBs, whether pecuniary or coercive. The question now is, what should be the alternate course of action? For transparency and integrity in our electoral financing system and to check the flow of black money, there must be a system in place. This ultimately affects the quality of our

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

PARTIES IN THE DOCK

democratic dispensation.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The Bond trail' (IE, March 16). The SC's observation of a quid pro quo will be established after SBI makes a full disclosure. Questions regarding who paid whom, when they did so and why can be laid to rest. Even if the ruling dispensation is absolved of receiving the lion's share of funding, it will be difficult to provide a plausible explanation as to the potential timing and other known facts. It is interesting to note that the TMC and BRS also benefitted hugely from the EBs. Other political parties have also been beneficiaries of the opacity of electoral bonds. They are equally answerable.

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata



The judges' glass ceiling

Trial court judges need more career opportunities. This will improve performance

The last decade has seen a

popular interest in foreign

policy. The rapid proliferation

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basis for a genuine

ALOK PRASANNA KUMAR AND DEEPIKA KINHAL

THE CHIEF JUSTICE of India, at a recent event, proposed an initiative to reward "super-performing" trial court judges as a way to incentivise better performance within the judiciary. While the intention behind such a move is to promote efficiency and excellence within the judiciary, one has to keep in mind Goodhart's Law — "when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure". This adage warns against relying too heavily on a single metric for evaluation as individuals may adjust their behaviour to meet the specific criterion, potentially leading to unintended consequences.

The pitfalls of a system that solely focuses on incentivising performance are seen in the infamous "Cobra Effect". During British rule in India, a local government offered a bounty on cobras to curb their population. However, the unintended consequence was a surge in cobra breeding, as people sought to capitalise on the lucrative reward.

Goodhart's law, therefore, says that relying solely on quantitative measures, such as case disposal rates, may have unintended, deleterious consequences for the judiciary at large. Judges may be tempted to prioritise quantity over quality, potentially compromising the thorough examination of cases. Similarly, the emphasis on boldness in handling difficult and sensitive cases may create an environment where judges feel pressured to take extreme measures to demonstrate their mettle, potentially creating a hostile courtroom atmosphere.

Currently, the evaluation of trial court judges is based on Annual Confidential Reports (ACR), prepared by High Court judges who assess their performance based on the number and categories of cases disposed of, resolution of old cases, quality of judgments delivered, etc. While this existing mechanism provides a foundation for assessment, improvements are necessary to ensure a more accurate and holistic evaluation of judicial officers. Lack of scientific assessment of time and acumen required for different categories of cases, non-recognition of administrative duties carried out by the trial court judges, and ad hoc timelines for carrying out performance evaluation are some of the persistent gaps in the current

ACR framework that remain unaddressed. However, rather than scrapping the current system and introducing an entirely new one, a more pragmatic approach might be

to improve and build on the existing evaluation mechanism. One key step is to identify broader, authentic, and multiple metrics that go beyond mere quantitative outputs. The emphasis should shift towards a more nuanced evaluation that considers the quality of judgments, adherence to judicial ethics, and the fairness and efficiency demonstrated in handling cases. Some of these are subjective criteria but that is not necessarily a bad thing. One way to account for potential bias is to widen the scope of persons consulted in assessing a judge and not just leaving it to one other judge higher up in the hierarchy. What this calls for is that the commit-

ment to rewarding "super-performing" judges should be accompanied by a commitment to refining and optimising the evaluation process. By fortifying the existing mechanism with a broader range of metrics and incorporating feedback loops, the judiciary can ensure a fair and transparent assessment of judicial officers' performance. This approach not only acknowledges the existing system's strengths but also addresses its shortcomings, promoting a culture of accountability, excellence and continuous improvement for judicial officers. The evaluation is not an end in itself but

a means to attract and keep the best legal talent in the judiciary, especially in the trial courts. While a robust and effective evaluation process can inspire confidence that performance will be rewarded, it will lose its effectiveness if the existing glass ceiling in the judiciary is not removed.

This glass ceiling, highlighted by Justice Bela Trivedi at the same event where the CJI spoke, relates to the limited opportunities for trial court judges to become High Court judges. Less than one-third of High Court judge positions are taken by district court judges who, on average, tend to have shorter tenures and less important rosters. Such a glass ceiling defeats the purpose of a system of rewarding the best performing trial court judges.

Removing this glass ceiling must therefore go hand in hand with any changes to the evaluation process for judges.

> Kumar and Kinhal are Senior Resident Fellows at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and lead the Karnataka and JALDI teams respectively

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED CLIMATE

Behind and beyond the water crisis in Bengaluru

While the spotlight is on Bengaluru, much of Karnataka and its neighbours are facing water scarcity. Reasons include poor monsoon and the nature of aquifers



AMITABH SINHA

AN ACUTE drinking water crisis in Bengaluru has been creating international headlines for the past few days. On Monday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Bengaluru was facing a shortage of 500 million litres of water every day, which is about a fifth of the city's daily total demand. The CM said arrangements were being made for additional supplies for Bengaluru.

However, the shortage of water is not restricted to Bengaluru, and neither is it only a drinking water problem. The entire state of Karnataka, as also the adjoining areas of Telangana and Maharashtra, are facing water

scarcity. Much of this has to do with the lower-than-normal rainfall in this area in the last one year and the nature of underground aquifers in this region.

Why the water shortage

During the 2023 monsoon, Karnataka received rainfall that was 18 per cent below normal, the least since 2015. Even the post-monsoon period did not bring much rain here. Like most other parts of the country, Karnataka receives the bulk of its annual rainfall during the monsoon, and it is this water that fills up the reservoirs and recharges the aquifers. A rainfall deficit in the monsoon months almost inevitably results in water stress.

Karnataka was not the only state to receive below-normal rainfall last monsoon. Kerala, for example, finished the season with a 34 per cent deficit. Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh had almost 25 per cent deficit each.

However, what makes the difference in the case of Karnataka, as pointed out by Vimal Mishra, a professor of Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences at IIT Gandhinagar, is the nature of the underground aquifers in the area.

"South India has a very different kind of aguifer system. It is very rocky. The aguifers don't hold a lot of water. They empty out quickly, and they also get recharged pretty quickly. What this means is that groundwater resources are not able to sustain for very long in the event of a prolonged dry spell. This is very different from the aquifers in north India, which have a much better capacity to hold water. This is why Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which got even less rainfall last year than Karnataka, have not seen similar water scarcity," Mishra, the Vikram Sarabhai Chair professor at IIT Gandhinagar, said.

"Aquifers in North India, once full, can hold enough water to sustain the demand for a couple of years," he said.

Falling reservoir levels

Another direct consequence of low rainfall has been the relatively low level of water in reservoirs. Latest data from the Central Water Commission show that Karnataka reservoirs are currently holding water at only 26 per cent of their full capacity, which is at least 10 percentage points lower than what is expected at this time of the year. Instead of the nearly 8.8 billion cubic metres of water that is expected in Karnataka's reservoirs at this time of the year, only 6.5 billion cubic metres is currently available. And this is depleting steadily. A month earlier, the state's reservoirs were holding 7.78 billion cubic metres of water, CWC data show.

Again, it is not just Karnataka's reservoirs that have below-normal water levels. Other states in South India are facing the same problem, with Telangana being in a far worse situation. But the demands in Karnataka are different, and its reservoirs are depleting faster than those of the neighbouring states. The state is being forced to draw more from the reserves even before the start of the summer season.

"Roughly about half of Bengaluru gets its drinking water through piped supply. The remaining half mostly uses groundwater for drinking purposes. The areas that have piped supply are not facing much disruption because this water is coming from the reservoirs. In these kinds of situations, when the rainfall has been scanty and reservoir levels are low, the tendency of the government is to prioritise drinking water needs, especially in the urban areas. It is in parts of Bengaluru that are dependent on groundwater that the drinking water problem seems most acute," Mishra said.

As summer rolls in, the state might be staring at an even bigger water crisis, as the demand goes up, not just from households but also from industry, agriculture and hydropower sectors. This is likely to continue till the monsoon rains arrive, hopefully in the first or second week of June.

Dealing with water shortage

"There are a lot of long-term structural issues, like unregulated construction, systematic destruction of lakes, hindrances to the natural underground flow of water, and climate change, that affect the availability of water in Bengaluru. But these do not seem to be the immediate triggers for this particular ongoing event. This one has to do largely with the seasonal fluctuation in rainfall and the state's inability to create capacities to deal with these kinds of variabilities," Mishra said.

He said while the focus has been on Bengaluru — the main urban centre with a major international footprint — it was quite likely that the rural parts of the state were facing an even greater shortage. India still has not built capacities to deal with multipleyear droughts, he said.

"We have extrapolated data going back several hundred years. We have found that the probability of two or three continuous years of drought at the national level is extremely low, but at the state level this is very probable; in fact, quite high. We will have to become resilient to such disruptions," he said.

"The key obviously is to put value on water. It is not a free resource. Low or optimum consumption needs to be incentivised while wastage must be discouraged. How this is done is a matter of policy choice. But the use of ground water through the use of household pumps, for example, needs to be discouraged and minimised," he said.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHAT DOES HONG KONG'S NEW STRINGENT SECURITY LAW SAY?

HONG KONG on Tuesday passed its new national security law, which broadens the definition of crimes including sabotage, sedition and state secrets, and stipulates tougher penalties of up to life imprisonment.

The law comes on top of a 2020 security law imposed by China a year after massive pro-democracy protests.

The law could have implications for many sectors in the global financial hub including business, academia, law, diplomacy and the media, observers say.

Key offences and sentences **Sedition**

■ The offence carries jail terms of up to 7 years for any seditious act, word or publication with the intention of bringing hatred, contempt or disaffection against the China or Hong Kong governments.

■ If such acts are carried out in collusion with an "external force", which could include foreign governments, a foreign political party, an international organisation or a company linked to a foreign government, the penalty rises to 10 years.

■ The offence also carries a 3-year jail term for possession of a publication with seditious intention, although the Bill does not give specific examples of what such

material might be. **State secrets** ■ At least 3 years jail for unlawful pos-

session of a state secret which would likely harm national security if released, defined broadly to include secrets spanning defence, foreign affairs, economic development or scientific technology.

■ Jail terms of 5 years for unlawful acquisition of such secrets, and 7 years for those leaving Hong Kong with such state secrets.

External interference

■ Jail terms of 14 years for collaborating with an external force to bring about interference over areas including government

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Hong Kong lawmakers applaud after the new security Bill was passed on Tuesday. Reuters

Espionage

ing entering prohibited places, and intercepting information or documents of use to an external force.

■ Maximum life imprisonment for various acts including joining an external armed force at war with China, or use of force to endanger Chinese unity.

Effect on defendant's rights

curity offences.

riod of suspects will be expanded from a maximum 48 hours to an additional 14 days with the approval of a magistrate. Access to legal representatives could also be denied in view of circumstances endangering national security by the magistrate, who may issue a warrant authorising a senior police officer to restrict the person's consultation with a lawyer. An arrestee's movements could also be restricted, and the early release of national security prisoners will only be allowed if not contrary

Under the new law, the detention pe-

policy, the legislature, courts or elections.

further undermine the legal protections for defendants charged with national se-

to national security interests. **REUTERS**

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tions to Lok Sabha and four state Assemblies, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday brought forward the date of counting

Rights advocates say the new law will

/AJIRAM & RAVI



■ Jail terms of 20 years for acts includ-

Treason

What was the original schedule for the

election and counting in these two states? According to the schedule announced on March 16, the Assembly elections in Arunachal and Sikkim would be notified on March 20, nominations can be filed until March 27 and withdrawn until March 30, and votes for both Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be cast on April 19, the date for the

02.06.2024".

Lok Sabha.

first phase of polling. Lok Sabha elections will be held in seven phases — on April 19 and 26; May 7, 13, 20, and 26; and June 1. Twenty two states and Union Territories, including Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, will have one-day elections.

of votes in two states — Sikkim and Arunachal

Pradesh — to June 2 because "the term of both

the Legislative Assemblies...is due to expire on

states (two seats in Arunachal Pradesh and one

in Sikkim) will be held as scheduled on June 4,

along with all other Lok Sabha seats and

Assemblies in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, the

Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha — have

historically gone to polls simultaneously with

These four states — Arunachal Pradesh,

Election Commission said.

The counting for Lok Sabha seats in these

Counting for all seats in Lok Sabha and the four Assemblies would happen on June 4, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar had said.

So what has changed now?

A day after the election announcement, the ECI said counting for Assembly seats in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim would take place on June 2 instead of June 4.

According to ECI officials, it was realised after the announcement had been made that the Assemblies were coming to the end of their terms on June 2, and that counting had to be brought forward because the election process has to be completed before the term of an Assembly ends.

proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code

says: "Whoever, by words either spoken or

intended to be read, or by signs or by visible

representations, makes or publishes any

imputation concerning any person intend-

ing to harm, or knowing or having reason

attract a jail term up to two years, with or

LOK SABHA OVER THE DECADES: KEY DATES

EXPLAINED POLITICS

House term and poll schedule

The date of counting for Assembly elections in Arunachal and Sikkim has been advanced by two days to

What does the Constitution say on the terms of Houses? How does the ECI decide schedules?

Lok Sabha (First to Seventeenth)		Date of constitution of the House	Date of first sitting	Date of expiry of term (Article 83 (2) of the Constitution)	Date of dissolution
,	2	3	4	5	6
First	21.02.1952	02.04.1952	13.05.1952	12.05.1957	04.04.1957
Second	15.03.1957	05.04.1957	10.05.1957	09.05.1962	31.03.1962
Third	25.02.1962	02.04.1962	16.04.1962	15.04.1967	03.03.1967
Fourth	21.02.1967	04.03.1967	16.03.1967	15.03.1972	*27.12.1970
Fifth	10.03.1971	15.03.1971	19.03.1971	18.03.1977	*18.01.1977
Sixth	20.03.1977	23.03.1977	25.03.1977	24.03.1982	*22.08.1979
Seventh	06.01.1980	10.01.1980	21.01.1980	20.01.1985	31.12.1984
Eighth	28.12.1984	31.12.1984	15.01.1985	14.01.1990	27.11.1989
Ninth	26.11.1989	02.12.1989	18.12.1989	17.12.1994	*13.03.1991
Tenth	15.06.1991	20.06.1991	09.07.1991	08.07.1996	10.05.1996
Eleventh	07.05.1996	15.05.1996	22.05.1996	21.05.2001	*04.12.1997
Twelfth	07.03.1998	10.03.1998	23.03.1998	22.03.2003	*26.04.1999
Thirteenth	04.10.1999	10.10.1999	20.10.1999	19.10.2004	*06.02.2004
Fourteenth	10.05.2004	17.05.2004	02.06.2004	01.06.2009	18.05.2009
Fifteenth	13.05.2009	18.05.2009	01.06.2009	31.05.2014	18.05.2014
Sixteenth	12.05.2014	18.05.2014	04.06.2014	03.06.2019	
Seventeenth	19.05.2019				

 st Mid-term polls were held, dissolution took place before the elections. Source: Government data. Last dates of poll in column (2) are based on reports of Election Commission.

What exactly does the Constitution say about the terms of state Assemblies and Lok Sabha?

Under the Constitution, the terms of both state Assemblies and Lok Sabha last for five years from the first sitting of the House.

Article 172(1) states: "Every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly."

The term of the Assembly "may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament...for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate".

For Lok Sabha, Article 83(2) states: "The House of the People, unless sooner dissolved. shall continue for five years from the date apthe expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the House."

pointed for its first meeting and no longer and

How does this apply to the Assemblies of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim?

The existing Assemblies of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh met for the first time on June 3, 2019, and their terms will, therefore, end on June 2, 2024.

Officials said that counting will be completed and results will be announced before midnight on that day, and the Governors of the two states can then issue notifications to constitute the new Assemblies.

What are the things that the ECI looks at while fixing the election schedule?

It is standard procedure for the ECI to consider factors such as the weather, festivals, and important examinations, as well the availability of school buildings, where polling

stations are often set up, and teachers, who are mobilised for election duty, while deciding the schedule of elections. CEC Kumar spoke of the country's "historical and geographic" situation, and the logistics requirements of moving security forces to ensure free and fair elections.

Several serving and former election officials said the date of expiration of the term of the legislature is the "first thing" that is taken into consideration. This date is known a full five years in advance, as it is calculated from the date of the first sitting of the existing House.

Former CEC S Y Quraishi told The Indian Express that as the "term of the House is sacrosanct", the Election Commissioners and Deputy Election Commissioners have these dates "on their fingertips". The ECI works towards completing the election process at least one day before the end of the term of the House — which means results are declared a few days prior, and one or two days are kept for the completion of documentation and other formalities, he said.

An ECI spokesperson on Monday declined to comment on how the oversight may have happened.

occurred earlier too? Retired election officials could not recall an

Has something similar to this situation

earlier instance in which the date of counting has had to be changed after being announced for this reason. However, the ECI has in the past drawn up

schedules delinking the counting in a particular state from the counting in the rest of the country (or from the counting of other elections held together). In 2004, the tenure of the Assembly in Andhra Pradesh was to end on May 13, the same day that counting for Lok Sabha and other states was scheduled. So the counting in AP was scheduled for May 11.

The ECI does make changes to the announced election schedule to accommodate a festival or a locally relevant event. Last year the date of counting for the Assembly election in Mizoram was changed from December 3 — when votes in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana were counted — to December 4 because December 3 was a Sunday and, according to the ECI, Sundays hold "special significance for the people of [Christian-majority] Mizoram [who may be attending Church]".

Does retweeting allegedly defamatory content amount to defamation?

LAW

KHADIJA KHAN

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE SUPREME Court last week restrained a trial court from proceeding until mid-May with a criminal defamation case against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for retweeting a YouTube video against the BJP's IT cell in 2018. The court is hearing Kejriwal's challenge to a February 5 order of the Delhi High Court upholding the summons issued to him in the case.

Last month, a Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had said that a retweet did not always mean endorsement.

"If it is an endorsement, then it may have its own consequences," Justice Khanna had said. "The other way to look at it is, you found something on the Internet or the website, and you are just sharing that information."

View of Delhi HC

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the HC had observed that "Every retweet of defamatory imputation would ordinarily amount to 'publication' under IPC Section 499", and that when a public figure tweets a defamatory post, the ramifications extend "far beyond a mere whisper in someone's ears".

Kejriwal had gone to the HC against two orders – by a magisterial court in July 2019 summoning him, and by a sessions court in October 2019 dismissing his revision plea against the summons.

Defamation in law

Defamation can be a civil wrong or a criminal offence. Civil defamation can be libel (through writing) or slander (spoken word), and is punishable with financial compensation.

In criminal cases, defamation must be

Right to free speech

to believe that such imputa-

tion will harm, the reputa-

tion of such person, is

said...to defame that person."

Criminal defamation can

without fine (Section 500 IPC).

In its 2016 ruling in Subramanian Swamy vs. Union of India, the SC upheld the constitutionality of IPC Sections 499 and 500, saying that the right to reputation is protected under Article 21 (Protection of life and per-

sonal liberty) of the Constitution, and that criminal defamation is a reasonable restriction on the right to freedom of expression.

While Article 19(1)(a) protects the right to speech and expression, Article 19(2) allows the state to impose "reasonable restrictions" on this right in the interest of "sovereignty and integrity of India,

EXPLAINED the security of the State, friendly relations with Foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence".

> In its 2017 ruling in *Kaushal Kishore vs* Union of India, a five-judge Bench of the SC said that no additional restrictions can be imposed on free speech except those under Article 19(2).

The erstwhile Section 66A of The IT Act.

"offensive", and on the ground that the provision was "violative of Article 19(1)(a) and not saved under Article 19(2)." Consequences of retweeting

messages" by means of "a computer re-

source or a communication device". This

provision was quashed by the SC in 2015 in

Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India in view of

the ambiguity in the definition of the term

Does retweeting allegedly defamatory

content amount to defamation? Senior advocate Madhavi Goradia Divan, author of the textbook Facets of Media Law, said: "An essential ingredient of defamation is the lowering of one's reputation in the public eye. Also, the defamatory statement must be communicated to a third person."

Divan said that "a [defamatory] retweet multiples quickly and reaches others", and 2000, had criminalised sending "offensive "thus, the damage is far greater in cases of

online abuse".

In Kejriwal's case, the Delhi HC ruled that "retweeting a content which is allegedly defamatory on the Twitter account and projecting it to be as if his own views, will *prima facie* attract the liability under Section 499 of IPC for the purpose of issuance of summons".

The court noted that "while the petitioner may plead absence of any malicious intent in the act of retweeting", it has to consider the "responsibility that accompanies the petitioner's political and social standing". The large social media following of a Chief Minister "undoubtedly implies a wider reach, making any retweet a form of public endorsement or acknowledgment", the High Court said.

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'STATE OF THE ECONOMY' ARTICLE IN THE RBI'S MARCH BULLETIN

'Repetitive food price pressures deter fall in inflation towards 4% target'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MARCH 19

EVEN AS inflation is easing, the repetitive incidence of short amplitude food price pressures deters a swifter fall in headline inflation towards the target of 4 per cent, an article published in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monthly bulletin said on Tuesday.

The monetary policy needs to guide inflation to the 4 per cent target, while ensuring that the momentum of growth is sustained, it said.

As per the in-house model, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth is likely to remain robust at 7.4 per cent during the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), the article said. This estimate is higher than the RBI's projection of the real GDP growth for FY25 at 7 per

"Inflation is on the ebb; the steady decline in core inflation would have taken down headline inflation towards the target of 4 per cent even sooner and faster. but for the repetitive incidence of short amplitude food price pressures," the 'State of the Economy' article published in the RBI's March bulletin said.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

DOMESTIC BENCHMARK indices

Sensex and Nifty fell one per cent

on heavy selling after Bank of Japan

raised interest rates for the first

time in 17 years and caution ahead

of the outcome of the United

The BSE's Sensex tanked 1.01

per cent, or 736.37 per cent, to

close at 72,012.05, while the NSE's

Nifty shed 238.25 points, or 1.08

Tuesday decided to increase inter-

est rates for the first time since

2007, ending the negative interest

rates regime of eight years. It raised

the interest rate to a range of zero

to 0.1 per cent from (-)0.1 per cent.

"Following the BOJ's decision to

hike interest rates for the first time

in 17 years, the Asian peers' mood turned sour, which pulled the

Indian market to continue its recent pessimism," said Vinod Nair,

Head of Research, Geojit Financial

Services. Nomura in a report said

amid the BOI's gradual normalisa-

tion, spillovers to Asia should be

market has also been triggered by

concerns over premium valua-

tions and the delay of rate cuts by

the US Fed due to hotter-than-ex-

pected inflation, which is evident

from the upward trend in the dol-

The correction in the domestic

limited.

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on

per cent, to finish at 21,817.45.

States' Federal Reserve meeting.

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

Markets tank 1% as

investors turn cautious

ahead of US Fed meet



Food inflation on a year-on-year edged up to 7.8 per cent in February from 7.6 per cent in January. File

According to the article, the consumer price-based inflation (CPI) inflation is projected to average 4.4 per cent during FY25, lower than 5.4 per cent projected for FY24 with most of the decline occurring in first half of FY25.

This article comes days ahead of the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI. The MPC is scheduled to meet from April 3 to 5, in which it is expected to keep the reporate - the key policy rate - unchanged at 6.5 per cent on concerns over higher inflation.

In February, the CPI or retail

Investors preferred to exit long

positions ahead of the US Federal

Open Market Committee meeting,

which will put the spotlight back

on the interest rate scenario going

ahead. With the sharp fall, Nifty

faces resistance at 22,001-22,251

levels and has support in the range

of 21,657 to 21,375, said Prashanth

Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta

meeting, led by Fed Chair Jerome

Powell, is likely to hold rates and

may start cutting rates by the sec-

continued on the back of broad-

based selling, as investors worried

over expensive valuations in mid

& small-cap stocks are also exiting

in the red but information technol-

ogy, media and pharma indices

lost the most, falling over 2.5 per

cent. Of the NSE firms, Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services, Cipla,

Britannia Industries Limited and

IndusInd Bank were the stocks that

declined the most. The BSE

SmallCap and the BSE MidCap

dropped 1.04 per cent and 1.36 per

(FPIs) net bought Rs 1,421.48 crore

of local shares and domestic insti-

tutional investors purchased equi-

tes worth Rs 7,449.48 crore, the

BSE's provisional data showed.

Foreign portfolio investors

cent, respectively.

Among sectors, almost all the major sectoral indices were traded

frontline counters," Tapse said.

ond half of the current year.

According to analysts, the

"Pessimism in the markets

Equities Ltd.

inflation stayed flat at 5.09 per

cent against 5.1 per cent recorded

for the month of January. Food in-

flation on a year-on-year (y-o-y)

edged up to 7.8 per cent in

February from 7.6 per cent in The article said that the CPI readings for January and February 2024 show that the winter easing of vegetable prices turned out to

be shallow and short lived. Cereal prices maintained strong momentum, and prices of meat and fish have registered a surge. Food price pressures on the headline have been capped by

53%

Dependency on

imported LNG in FY21

'LNG imports seen

dropping to 45% by FY26'

for reduced imports, said Care Ratings analysis

Significant growth in domestic output from FY22 onwards

along with expected increases in FY24 and FY25 offer hope

core disinflation to among its lowest prints in the series. Core inflation continued to ease down to 3.4 per cent in February from 3.5 per cent in January-its lowest level in four years. Fuel prices remain in deflation and this may get pronounced in March due to the reduction in price of liquified pe-

Overall, headline inflation's momentum turned positive in February 2024, offsetting a favourable base effect, it said.

troleum gas (LPG).

"Accordingly, monetary policy has to remain in a risk minimisation mode, guiding inflation towards the target while sustaining the momentum of growth," the article added.

The article has been prepared by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra and other central bank officials. The RBI said the views published in the article are of the authors and not of the institution. It added that the global economy is losing steam, with growth slowing in some of the most resilient economies and high frequency indicators pointing to further levelling in the period ahead.

"By contrast, the Indian economy is experiencing a conducive macroeconomic configuration that can be its launching pad for a step-up in its growth trajectory," the article said.

Over the period 2021-24, growth has averaged above 8 per cent; and the underlying fundamentals indicate that this can be sustained and even built upon.

The domestic real GDP growth was at a six-quarter high in the third quarter of FY24 at 8.4 per cent, powered by strong momentum, robust indirect taxes, and lower subsidies. The high visibility of structural demand and healthier corporate and bank balance sheets will likely be the galvanising forces for growth going forward, it said.

For FY24, the nowcast of real GDP growth for January-March 2024 seen in conjunction with high-frequency indicators for the fourth quarter, suggests that the National Statistics Office's estimate for the full year FY24 at 7.6 per cent will be exceeded and a rate closer to 8 per cent may be clocked, the article said.

"Looking ahead to the next year, projections from the inhouse Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model suggest that the GDP growth is likely to remain robust at 7.4 per cent during 2024-25," it

NEW DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

30 MMSCMD: Over the past three years

15 MMSCMD:

Expected to come on-stream next fiscal

Higher demand for natural gas is also expected to be supported by sizeable growth in domestic gas production

There has been a steady growth in natural gas consumption till FY20

■ The demand for natural gas declined since fiscal FY21-23, the agency said.

■ The government aims to increase the share of natural gas in its primary energy mix from the present 6 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030.

Source: Care Ratings/PTI

Why B200 'Blackwell' AI chip promises to tighten Nvidia's stranglehold on the market

ANILSASI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

"I hope you realise this is not a concert," Nvidia Corporation chief executive officer Jensen Huang, half in jest, quipped before kicking off its annual developer conference in San Jose, California, where it unveiled its latest artificial intelligence (AI) chip.

Called the B200 'Blackwell', the new chip can do some computational tasks 30 times faster than its current blockbuster, the H100 'Hopper' – a chip that has helped the company gain a 80 per cent market share. The new chip, with even more computational power and optimised power consumption, will surely extend its dominance in this niche space.

The Blackwell GPU has 208 billion transistors, compared with 80 billion in the H100 that was launched last year, markedly increasing the compute power of Nvidia's new range of high-end chips called graphic processing units or GPUs. Huang said at the conference that the new chip was "twice as powerful" when it came to training AI models, and had "five times their capability" when it came to "inference", or the pace with which AI models such as Gemini or ChatGPT can tackle queries and generate responses. So, while training a a version

of the GPT model that powered ChatGPT (a 1.8 trillion parameter model) would have previously taken 8,000 Hopper GPUs and 15 megawatts (MW) of electricity, Nvidia's CEO said 2,000 of its new Blackwells can do the job while consuming just four MW of The company, according to an

FT report, said its major customers including Google, Amazon, Microsoft and OpenAI are expected to use its new chip in their cloud-computing services as well as for their own AI products. Customers are already lining

up. "Blackwell offers massive performance leaps, and will accelerate our ability to deliver leadingedge models," Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, said in a statement.

Even before its latest announcement, Nvidia is already the third-most valuable company in the US, behind only Microsoft and Apple, and shares of the chip major have surged nearly 250 per cent over the past year. Nasdaqlisted Nvidia's stock surge added fresh momentum to what is be-



Nvidia Corporation CEO Jensen Huang. Nvidia

ing described as a 'FOMO' AI stock rally that has already propelled the Santa Clara-based chipmaker to the title of the world's most valuable chipmaker, eclipsing storied competitors such as Intel and AMD. The concert-like mood at the San Jose developer conference that started Monday and will run through Thursday is reflective of the investor, developer and media interest in the AI boom

in general, and in Nvidia's ability to supply the most crucial hardware to power this business – the GPU.

GPU wave Nvidia has a stranglehold over

these highly prized chips called GPUs, which crunch data for AI models. There are two reasons for the shortage: One, the generative AI boom has led to the demand for these specialised chips to skyrocket, given that GPUs have the computing power and operational efficiency to run the calculations that allow AI companies working on LLMs (or large language models), such as ChatGPT or Gemini, to chomp down on massive volumes of data. Two, Nvidia's virtual monopoly over GPUs has meant that the chipmaker is now swamped with orders that it is struggling to deliver. The new B200's promise of increased compute power could potentially mean a faster pathway to end these shortages.

Moody's Investors Service, in its just published 2024 AI outlook, has said "growing AI spending, model improvement and edge computing" will speed up AI adoption and that AI investment will rise as firms move "from exploration to deployment". "A shortage of high-performance

graphical processing units, essential for most AI computing, will persist in 2024, but supply will improve gradually", Moody's noted.

Traditionally, the CPU, or central processing unit, has been the most important component in a computer or server, and Intel and AMD dominate the market. GPUs are relatively new additions to the computer hardware market and were initially sold as cards that plugged into a personal computer's motherboard to add computing power to an AMD or Intel CPU.

Nvidia's main pitch over the years has been that graphics chips can handle the computation workload surge of the kind that is needed in high-end graphics for gaming or animation applications far better than standard processors. AI applications too require tremendous computing power and have been progressively getting GPU-heavy in their backend hardware.

Most advanced systems used for training generative AI tools now deploy as many as half a dozen GPUs to every one

CPU used, completely changing the equation in EXPLAI which GPUs were seen as add-ons to CPUs. Nvidia dominates the global market for GPUs and is likely to maintain this lead well into the foreseeable future.

AI wave, data centre demand

If Taiwan-based foundry specialist TSMC is the most important backend player in the semiconductor chips business, Nvidia (with Intel, AMD, Samsung and Qualcomm) is at the front end Since 1999, when Nvidia first popularised the term GPU with its GeForce 256 processor, the company's chips have been coveted as shaping what is possible in graphics. Alongside the application of GPUs, the company's chips are comparatively more expensive that most CPUs on a per unit basis, resulting in better margins.

According to Aravind Srinivas founder and CEO of Perplexity AI Nvidia is ahead in the race for AI chips because of its proprietary software that makes it easier to leverage all of the GPU hardware features for AI applications. Nvidia also has the systems that back the processors up, and the software that runs all of it, making it a full stack solutions company.

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Direct tax collections grow 20% to ₹18.90 lk cr till March 17 on higher advance tax mop-up

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE NET direct tax collections grew 19.88 per cent to over Rs 18.90 lakh crore, with advance tax collections rising over 22 per cent during April 1-March 17 in the financial year 2023-24, the Income Tax Department said on Tuesday. With this, the government has

achieved over 97 per cent of its direct tax target set in its revised estimates for this financial year. In the revised estimates for 2023-24, the government had pegged direct tax receipts at Rs 19.45 lakh crore.

Personal income tax collections continued to be higher than the corporation tax mop-up. The net direct tax collections of Rs 18,90,259 crore, which are adjusted for refunds, include corpo-

ration tax of Rs 9.14.469 crore and personal income tax, including Securities Transaction Tax (STT), of Rs 9.72.224 crore. Refunds amounting to about Rs 3.37 lakh crore have also been issued in the current fiscal till March 17.

On a gross basis, before adjusting for refunds, the direct tax collections stood at Rs 22.27 lakh crore, an increase of 18.74 per cent growth from the year-ago period.

"The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (as of March 17,2024) show that net collections are at Rs 18,90,259 crore, compared to Rs 15,76,776 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year (FY 2022-23), representing an increase of 19.88 per cent," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a

New Delhi: To speed up the debt recovery process, the Finance Ministry has set up a panel to suggest amendments to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets (SARFAESI) and

Govt may amend laws to

speed up debt recovery

Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) Acts, including a provision for granting legal sanctity to e-notices to debtors, sources said.

The committee headed by an Additional Secretary held several meetings, and discussions are in the advanced stage in this regard, sources told PTI. Last month, the Finance

Ministry held extensive deliberations with the top brass of banks and DRTs to enhance the efficacy for expeditious recovery of debts. "The aim is to make the debt recovery process less tedious and more effective. We are also planning to introduce a provision to provide legal sanctity to e-notices," sources said. PTI

BRIEFLY

lar index, Nair said.

I-T dept expands scope for filing appeals by tax officers

New Delhi: The CBDT has permitted income tax authorities to file appeals irrespective of monetary threshold in cases relating to TDS/TCS, undisclosed foreign income, or information received from investigating agencies like ED and GST Intelligence. **PTI**

India Al Mission gets₹2,000 crfor startups

New Delhi: The government has earmarked over Rs 2,000 crore for funding and supporting Artificial intelligence-related startups, and the scheme will be rolled in the next fiscal, beginning April 1, a senior government official said on Tuesday. **PTI**

Vodafone Idea debt bonds into equity

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

MOBILE TOWER company American Tower Company (ATC) has opted for converting Rs 1,440 crore worth of debt bonds issued by Vodafone Idea into equity, according to a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

Loss-making Vodafone Idea had issued Rs 1,600 crore worth of optionally convertible debentures (OCDs) to ATC Telecom Infrastructure that were convertible into equity shares at a conversion price of Rs 10 per equity on October 21, 2022, against payments owed to the mobile tower company. This translates into ATC holding less than 1 per cent equity in the telecom firm.

ATC is one of the largest infrastructure service providers for Vodafone Idea. The conversion price of Rs 10, at the time of OCD issuance, was at a premium to

the then prevailing market price of share of Vodafone Idea. On Tuesday, shares of Vodafone Idea ended down 2.4 per cent at Rs 12.9. In August last year, Vodafone Idea had extended the deadline for repayment of OCDs worth Rs 800 crore issued to the tower company, by one year.

Lately, ATC has also taken a \$322-million (about Rs 2,700 crore) goodwill impairment charge for its India unit in the July-September quarter owing to the challenging business environment in India. Earlier this year, Brookfield

Asset Management said it will acquire 100 per cent stake in ATC India business for \$2 billion (Rs 16,500 crore). The deal is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in the second half of 2024. In another exchange filing, Vodafone Idea said it will meet institutional investors in Singapore and Mumbai, over the next few days. **FE**

ATC to convert ₹1,440 cr Audi to drive in over 20 new models by 2025-end (internal combustion engine),

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

GERMAN AUTOMAKER Audi plans to roll out over 20 new models by the end of 2025 across markets, Audi AG CEO Gernot Dollner said on Tuesday. The company also plans to electrify all core segments by 2027. The automaker has also lined

up a capex of EUR 41 billion for

the period between 2024-2028.

billion in the development of ICE

Audi AG will invest EUR 11.5

PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) and other segments and EUR 29.5 billion for BEV (battery electric vehicles) and digitisa-"We are planning more than

20 new models in 2024 and 2025, including the presentation of the A6 e-tron in the summer of 2024 and the new generation of the A5 and Q5 as the first models on the new Premium Platform Combustion (PPC) in the second half of the year, " Dollner said.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (A Government of India Enterprises - Mini Ratna) CIN: L74899DL1999G0I101707 (B) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER-SZ/RNP/Machinery NIT/2024 dated 19.03.2024 Rail Neer Plant/Palur: GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (through two parts system) for Machineries Viz., Blowing Machine, Rinsing-Filling- Capping Machine, Labelling Machine and Shrinkpack Machine Tender Document Downloading Last date and time of submission and participation of E-Tender 19.03.2024 onwards 09.04.2024 at 14.30 hrs. Pre-bid meeting at Rail Neer Plant/Palur on 27.03.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Tender document downloading and participation can be done on website: < www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC > in case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only

on IRCTC's website: < www.irctc.com >

www.aicofindia.com

statement.

AGRICULTURE INSURANCE COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED Plate B & C, 5th Floor, Block 1, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023 CIN: U74999DL2002PLC118123

TENDER NOTICE

(Ref: Estt/HO Delhi/Empanelment/1776/2024)

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. intends to create a panel of reputed agencies for providing various types of following services, works & goods for its Offices / Guest Houses / Residence of Sr. Executives situated in NCR Delhi -

(1) Courier & postal services for delivery of posts and parcels within India,

(2) For supplying uniforms,

(3) Sanitization & deep cleaning services,

(4) Pest & rodent control services,

(5) For supplying flower arrangements, indoor plants with maintenance services,

(6) For providing upholstery items, crockery, dinner sets, tea sets, cutlery items, handloom items etc.

(7) AMC for Air Conditioning / VRV / VRF / HVAC equipment

(8) AMC Biometric Attendance Devices

For detailed information, please logon to AIC website www.aicofindia.com and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in/ titled as "Tender Notice for empanelment of various agencies".

Interested eligible parties may submit their offers / proposals electronically through E-bidding portal https://aicofindia.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/

Note: The bidders who are eligible for more than one category of services / works / goods etc. and are interested to apply for more than one category of empanelment, then they shall have to apply for such categories separately.

Last date for submitting offers will be 16-04-2024 upto 4:00 p.m. Please visit our official website www.aicofindia.com for any updates regarding this tender notice.

Estate & Establishment Dept.

General Manager Date: 20th March, 2024

Tender are as under:

2 HOD (PMG)/BRPL/2023-24/264 dated 06.03.2024 Tender document and their details are available

on now, bsesdelhi.com & www.mstcecommerce.com

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 orate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527, Telephone No.: +91 11 4920 7235

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE (An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008. Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode)

IISERPune invites online bids through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal forprocurement of following equipment's. . Ultra-High Performance Liquid Chromatograph- Electrospray ionization- Quadrupole- (UPLC-ESI-Q MS)- fraction collector Ultra-High Performance Liquid Chromatograph- Electrospray

ionization- Quadrupole- Time of Flight (UPLC-ESI-QTOF) Tender documents are published on https://gem.gov.in/ and

http:https://www.iiserpune.ac.in/tenders Advt. No: IISER/S&P/19/23-24 Dated 13/03/2024 Director

G2@ NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.:16320232024 Date:15.03.2024

E-Tendering Tender Notice Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs on 26.04.2024 The details of the

S.N.: 01 T.No.: 435 Approx Cost Rs:₹5124062.34 | Bid security:₹102500.00 Name of work: Improvement of level crossing No 35 R & 424 by Rubberized level crossing and Loading Leading and unloading of Miscellaneous P.war material and other item under Sr. DEN /I\PRYJ.

Completion Period: 06 Month, Date of Opening of tender: 26.04.2024 Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Any work involving supply & fixing o rubberized surface on roads or Railway level crossing, 1. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs. of tender opening date. 2. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 516/24(DG)

🕜 North central railways 💢 @CPRONCR 🌢 @north central railway 🌐 www.ncr.indian railways.gov.ii

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704) Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 (E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

1st TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Important date against RFP No. 647/PR/JUSNL/2023-24 for Appointment of Tax consultant for Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (JUSNL) is hereby extended in following manner: -

End date and time of upload of BID 03.04.2024 up to 04:00 PM BID Opening date for technical & 04.04.2024 at 04.00 PM commercial part

This extension notice is also available on the website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in PR No. 319757

रवहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें। PR 323149 Jharkhand Urja

General Manager, C&M (NWBP)

Sancharan Nigam Ltd (23-24) D JUSNL, Ranchi

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 Rajesh

S/o Ramu Singh R/o Vill Makrandh Pur, Post: Daultapur, PS Korel Distt Main Puri, UP. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 0088/2019 U/s 279/337 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest

there upon issued that the said accused Rajesh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rajesh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rajesh of FIR No. 0088/2019 U/s 279/337 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.04.2024 By Order

> MS. MEENA CHAUHAN Metropolitan Magistrate,-8

DP/1932/CD/2024

Room No.272 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

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 (1) Saleem @ Pavva S/o Saidul Malik R/o Jhuggi No. 163, Gali No. 7, Dairy Farm, Ghazipur, Delhi (2) Sheikh Sadam S/o Mustafa R/o Jhuggi No. 328, Gali No. 7, Dairy Farm, Ghazipur, Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 571/2023 U/s 380/457/411/34 IPC, PS Ghazipur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Saleem @ Pavva (2) Sheikh Sadam cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Saleem @ Pavva (2) Sheikh Sadam have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Saleem @ Pavva (2) Sheikh Sadam of case FIR No. 571/2023 U/s 380/457/411/34 IPC, PS Ghazipur, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.05.2024.

By Order Ms. Himanshi Tyagi Metropolitan Magistrate (East), Room No. 16,

DP/3128/ED/2024(Court Matter) Karkardoom Courts, Delhi

DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMIN BANK Regional Office, Bhabhua

Rule 8 (1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in excercises of Powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002. The Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sec. 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against each Account. The borrowers in particular and the public on general is hereby cautioned not to deal with properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank for the amounts and Interests thereon mentioned against each account here in below:

Branch: Bhabhua

Palce: Bhabhua

Date: 19.03.2024

 Name of the Borrower/Unit: M/S Ghar Grihasthi General & Kirana Store Prop-Shri Deepak Kumar Das s/o Shri Ashok Das, A/C No:73388700003713 & 7338IL00000027, Date of Demand Notice(13-2)/ Possession(13-4): 12-12-2023/ 14-03-2024, Name & Address of the Mortgager & Guarantor: Smt Saroj Devi w/o Shri Ashok Das, Address: Paschim Muhalla, Ward No.04/14, near Ekta Chauk, Bhabhua, Po-Bhabhua, Dist-Kaimur, Details of Property: Sale Deed No-8122, date: 13.06.1991, Mauza- Bhabhua, Ward No-04/14, Thana- Bhabhua, Thana No-491, Khata No-75, Plot No-05, Area- 0.0040 Hect., with in the registration Dist-Kaimur . Bounded by: North- Bhabhua Kudra Road, South- Somaru Mishtri, East-Gurudarshan Das, West-Sangita Jamuna Das, Demand Amount on the date of notice: Rs.4,79,532/- (Rs. Four lakh Seventy-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Two Only) + Interest & incidental expenses etc.

Authorised Officer Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank Regional Office, Bhabhua

Purvanchal Vidyut CORRIGENDUM OF TENDER NOTICE NO. 38/2024 DATED: 28-02-2024 Nigam Corrigendum against Tender Vidyut Notice No. 38/2024 Dated: 28-

Vitaran

Limited

E- tender already have been

invited for the following

corrigendum is done as under.

The tender will be accepted up

to at 15.00 hrs. Please visit

website **www.etender.up.nic.in**

for details/ download and for any

other corrections/ amendments/

modifications/ extensions till the

date of submission of bids. SI

No. 1., Tender Specification

No. EAV- 222/23-24, Name of

Material HT XLPE CABLE 3 X

120 SQ MM 33 KV Quantity

88.5 Km., Earnest Money (Rs.)

12,40,000.00, **Tender Fee (Rs.**)

|10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, **Last**|

date & Time for online

|document 09.04.2024 15.00|

Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-1

10.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. Sd/-

|S U P E R I N T E N D I N G|

ENGINEER (MM-I) "Save

Electricity in the interest of

of tender

submission

Nation"

दिनांकः 19.03.2024

02-2024 has been published. Nagar, P.O. - BLW Now to be read as: Date & Varanasi-221004 Short Term E-Time of closing of tender: 15.30 hrs. of 28-03-2024 instead of 15.30 Tender Notice (Corrigendum) hrs. of 19-03-2024.

> PCMM/Con, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organisation) Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAIWAY **TENDER NOTICE** Srl.No.(I) E-Tender No. 168 - ST - TENDER Date 13-03-2024

Work: " Provision of Fire Alarm system at 48 locations over Bilaspur Division. Tender Value: Rs. 3,00,75,529.80 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Five Thousand Five hundred Twenty Nine and Eighty Paise Only) EMD: Rs. 3,00,400/- (Rupees Three Lakh Four Hundred Only) Submission of Tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 04.04.2024.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notice is available over website https://www.ireps.gov.in Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tender

Divil.Sig & Tele. Engineer CPR/10/481 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur f South East Central Railway @@secrail

indianexpress.com

l arrive at a conclusion not an assumption. Inform your opinion with detailed analysis.

♦ The Indian EXPRESS

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI 4" FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 TA No. 33/2023

> UNION BANK OF INDIA MRS REKHA

1) MRS REKHAW/O SHANIL POCKET -2 SECTOR 22 ROHINI DELHI

(2) SHRI ANIL S/O SHRI DAYANAND HOUSE NO -2 III RD FLOOR POCKET 2 SECTOR 22 ROHINI DELHI 3) MR. DINESH SHARMA 22/2 GALI NO 12 INDUSTRIAL AREA ANAND PARBAT DELHI

CENTRAL DELHI-110015 Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery Rs. 76,00,413.78/- (Rupees SEVENTY SIX LAKH FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN AND SEVENTY EIGHT PAISA ONLY) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Hon; ble PO on 22.04.2024 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.etribunal.gov.in Phone Number: 011-

23748473. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above

mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-All the Advocates a Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/ Software; "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head. In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 12th January 2024 By Order Of This Tribunal Assistant

Registrar

Notice for 46th EGM

The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Extra-Ordinary General Meeting ('EGM') of The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council is scheduled to be held on 12th April 2024 at 4.00 P.M. through Video Conference (VC) or Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM), in compliance with the circulars issued by the MCA, to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of the EGM. As per the circulars, the Notice of EGM is being sent only by electronic mode to those Members whose E-mail Id are already registered with the Council.

The Council, in line with rule 20, section 108 of the Companies Act 2013, is also providing e-voting and remote e-voting facility to all its members. The Date and time of commencement of Remote E-voting is April 9, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. (IST). The Remote E-voting would end on April 11, 2024, at 5:00 PM. (IST). Notice of the EGM and login details for e-voting shall be sent to your registered email ID. Members may note the same and update the particulars timely. Members attending the meeting through VC/ OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of Quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.



E-Mail scphedbalotra@gmail.com & PH. 02988-220706 कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता जन स्वा अभि विभाग वृत बालोतरा

क्रमांक अअ/जनस्वा/बालो/2023-24/ 1031-37 दिनांक 17.03.2024 निविदा सूचना संख्या-2023-2024/04

Online tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of Rajasthan for the following works from enlisted contractors with the PHED Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria, The tender document can be downloaded from the web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov, in details of the tender notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIT exhibited on web site. www.dipronline.org & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in NIB No PHE2324A6498

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु लागत (लाखों में)	धरोहर राशि	निविदा शुल्क एवं प्रोसेसिंग	कार्य करने
	·-		8 8	फीस	की अव
1	उपखण्ड अधिकारी बालोतरा के अन्तर्गत ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में निजी टैंकरों द्वारा पेयजल परिवहन का बार्षिक दर अनुबंध। UBN No PHE2324SLRC15641	220.00	440000.00	2000+2500	एक व
2	उपखण्ड अधिकारी सिवाना के अन्तर्गत सीडब्ल्यूआर सिवाना शहरी क्षेत्र में निजी टैंकरों द्वारा पेयजल परिवहन का वार्षिक दर अनुबंध। UBN No PHE2324SLRC15642	175.00	350000.00	2000+2000	एक व
3	उपखण्ड अधिकारी बालोतरा के अन्तर्गत बालोतरा शहर के विभिन्न वार्डों में निजी टैंकरों द्वारा पेयजल परिवहन का वार्षिक दर अनुबंध । UBN No PHE2324SLRC15643	70.00	140000.00	1000+1000	एक व

ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 26.03.2024 मध्यान्ह पश्चात 2.00 बजे तक

प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन बीड खोलने की तिथि व 26.03.2024 दोपहर 03.00 बजे से

(जे.एस. राजपुरोहित) अधीक्षण अभियंता जन स्वा अभि विभाग वृत बालोतरा

"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.

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.- BLW,

Varanasi - 221004 Short Term E-Tender Notice (Corrigendum) E- tenders

already have been invited for the following materials dated 14.03.2024, the

following corrigendum is done as under. The tender will be accepted up to a

15.00 hrs. Please visit website **www.etender.up.nic.in** for details/download and for any

other corrections/ amendments/ modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids

SI. No.: 1, Tender Specification No.: EAV-208/23-24, Name of Material: Steel Tubular

Pole 11 Mtr., Quantity: 600 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 10,64,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).

10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document:

08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 2, Tender Specification No.: EAV-209/23-24, Name of Material:

Steel Tubular Pole 9 Mtr., Quantity: 39000 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 62,22,000.00,

Tender Fee (Rs.): 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of

tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender

part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 3, Tender Specification No.: EAV-210/23-24.

Name of Material: PCC Pole 8.5 Mtr., Quantity: 35500 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.)

11,04,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online

submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 4, Tender Specification No.:

EAV-211/23-24, Name of Material: PCC Pole 9.00 Mtr. (33 KV), Quantity: 14500 Nos.

Earnest Money (Rs.): 7,02,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date

& Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date &

Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 5, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-212/23-24, Name of Material: LT XLPE CABLE 1X70 SQ MM,

Quantity: 800 Km. Name of Material: LT XLPE CABLE 1X240 SQ MM, Quantity:

663 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 22,77,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @

18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00

Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.:

6, Tender Specification No.: EAV-213/23-24, Name of Material: LT XLPE CABLE

1X630 SQ MM, Quantity: 112 Km. Name of Material: LT XLPE CABLE 1X1000 SQ

MM, Quantity: 26 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 9,38,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 5,000.00

+ GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024

15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:** 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs

SI. No.: 7, Tender Specification No.: EAV-214/23-24, Name of Material: HTXLPH

CABLE 3X70 SQ MM 11 KV, Quantity: 338 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 19,59,000.00,

Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of

tender document: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs.. Date & Time for online opening of tender

part-I: 10.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 8, Tender Specification No.: EAV-215/23-24

Name of Material: Cable AI. 3x120 sq. mm. XLPE 11 KV, Quantity: 473.0 Km. Earnest

Money (Rs.): 37,18,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date &

Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time

for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 9, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-216/23-24, **Name of Material:** 3x185 sq.mm. XLPE 11 KV

Cable, Quantity: 1226.00 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,20,00,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).:

25,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender documents

08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:** 09.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 10, Tender Specification No.: EAV-217/23-24, Name of Material:

Cable AI. 3x300 sq. mm. XLPE 11 KV, Quantity: 276.0 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.):

38,64,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online

submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 11, Tender Specification No.:

EAV-218/23-24, Name of Material: Cable AI. 3x300 sq. mm. XLPE 33 KV, Quantity:

911.0 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,78,00,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 25,000.00 + GST @

18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00

Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.:

12, Tender Specification No.: EAV-219/23-24, Name of Material: LT XLPE Cable 1x120

sq. mm., Quantity: 33 Km. Name of Material: LT XLPE Cable 1x400 sq. mm.

Quantity: 542 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 22,14,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00

GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024

15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs

SI. No.: 13, Tender Specification No.: EAV-220/23-24, Name of Material: LT XLPE

Cable 3.5x150 sq. mm., Quantity: 95.5 Km. Name of Material: LT XLPE Cable 3.5x400

sq. mm., Quantity: 48.0 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 12,55,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).:

10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document:

08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 14, Tender Specification No.: EAV-221/23-24, Name of Material:

1x70 sq. mm. PVC Cable, Quantity: 40 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 43,000.00, Tender

Fee (Rs.).: 3,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender

document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:

09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 15, Tender Specification No.: EAV-222/23-24, Name of

Material: HT XLPE CABLE 3 X 120 SQ MM 33KV, Quantity: 885.5 Km. Earnest

Money (Rs.): 12,40,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date &

Time for online submission of tender document: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time

for online opening of tender part-I: 10.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 16, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-223/23-24, Name of Material: LT PVC Cable 3.5x400 sq.mm

Quantity: 8.5 Km., Name of Material: LT PVC Cable 3.5x150 sq.mm. Quantity: 18 Km..

Name of Material: LT PVC Cable 3.5x240 sq.mm. Quantity: 74 Km. Name of Material:

LT PVC Cable 3.5x70 sq.mm. Quantity: 25 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 11,00,000.00,

Tender Fee (Rs.).: 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of

tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender

part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 17, Tender Specification No.: EAV-224/23-24,

Name of Material: 11 KV POLYMER Pin Insulator. Quantity: 58000 Nos., Name of

Material: 33 KV Polymer Pin Insulator. Quantity: 44000 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.):

2,45,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online

submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 18, Tender Specification No.:

EAV-225/23-24, Name of Material: Polymeric Disc Insulator 45 KN(T&C Type)

Quantity: 16000 Nos., Name of Material: Polymeric Disc Insulator 70 KN(B&S Type),

Quantity: 17200 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): 100000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00

GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024

15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs

SI. No.: 19, Tender Specification No.: EAV-245/23-24, Name of Material: Disc Fitting

45 KN (B&S Type), Quantity: 9500 Nos., Name of Material: Disc Fitting 70 KN (B&S

Type), Quantity: 9600 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): 44000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).:

3,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document:

09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:** 10.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 20, Tender Specification No.: EAV-226/23-24, Name of Material: 11

KV V Type Cross Arm, Quantity: 19500 Nos., Name of Material: 33 KV V Type Cross

Arm, Quantity: 16000 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): 3,36,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).

5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document:

08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:** 09.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 21, Tender Specification No.: EAV-227/23-24, Name of Materials

G.I. Stay Wire 7/10 SWG Quantity: 134000 Kg., Name of Material: GI Wire 3.15 mm 10

SWG, Quantity: 2800 Kg., Name of Material: GI Wire no.6 SWG, Quantity: 178000

Kg., Name of Material: GI Wire no.8 SWG, Quantity: 170000 Kg., Earnest Money

(Rs.): 4,10,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for

online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 22, Tender Specification No.:

EAV-228/23-24, **Name of Material:** M.S. Earth Rod 2500x200 mm, **Quantity:** 46000

Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 2,11,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last

date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date

& Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 23, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-229/23-24, Name of Material: Stay Set GI 16x1800 sq.

mm.11KV, Ouantity: 19900 Nos. Name of Material: Stay Set GI 20x1800 sq. mm.

33KV, Quantity: 3300 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,42,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.):

5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender documents

08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024

15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 24, Tender Specification No.: EAV-230/23-24, Name of Material: 33

KV PT (Outdoor) (33 KV/110 V), Quantity: 259 Nos. Name of Material: 33 KV CT

200/100/1-1-1A, **Quantity:** 388 Nos. **Name of Material:** 33 KV CT 400/200/1-1-1A,

Quantity: 408 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 2,50,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 5,000.00

GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024

15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs.

SI. No.: 25, Tender Specification No.: EAV-231/23-24, Name of Material: LT XLPE

CABLE 1X150 SQ MM, Quantity: 900 Km. Earnest Money (Rs.): 15,94,000.00, Tender

Fee (Rs.): 10,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender

document: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:

10.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 26, Tender Specification No.: EAV-232/23-24, Name of

Material: LT XLPE CABLE 3.5x50 SQ MM, Quantity: 4 Km., Name of Material: LT

XLPE CABLE 3.5x70 SQ MM, Quantity: 58 Km., Name of Material: LT XLPE CABLE

3.5x240 SQ MM, Quantity: 94 Km., Earnest Money (Rs.): 9,73,000.00, Tender Fee

(Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender

document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I:

09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 27, Tender Specification No.: EAV-233/23-24, Name of

Material: 33 KV Lightening Arrestor, Quantity: 336 Set, Earnest Money (Rs.):

17,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 3,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time for online

submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for online

opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 28, Tender Specification No.:

EAV-234/23-24, Name of Material: 33 KV Line Isolator(400A/800A), Quantity: 102

Nos., Name of Material: 33 KV Bus Isolator(400A/800A), Quantity: 43 Nos., Earnest

Money (Rs.): 57,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 3,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date & Time

for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date & Time for

online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 29, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-235/23-24, Name of Material: 33 KV Single Transformer Control

Panel, Quantity: 166 Nos., Name of Material: 33 KV Double Transformer Control Panel,

Quantity: 25 Nos., Name of Material: 33 KV Single Feeder Control Panel, Quantity:

59 Nos., **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 2,04,000.00, **Tender Fee (Rs.):** 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%

Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs.

Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 30

Tender Specification No.: EAV-236/23-24, Name of Material: Battery Charger 24 Volt.

Quantity: 318 Nos., Name of Material: Battery Set 12/24 Volt, Quantity: 308 Nos.

Earnest Money (Rs.): 3,08,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.).: 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, Last date

& Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., Date &

Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. SI. No.: 31, Tender

Specification No.: EAV-237/23-24, Name of Material: Different Size 11 KV Jointing Kit

Quantity: 2641 Nos., Name of Material: Different Type 33 KV Jointing Kit, Quantity:

228 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,86,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.): 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%,

Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 08.04.2024 15.00 Hrs.

Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I: 09.04.2024 15.00 Hrs. Sd/-

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE

INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक 1153/ दिनांक 18.03.2024.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Open Tender through E-Tendering

CWM/Carriage & Wagon workshop North western railway Bikaner acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender No. 05-MECH-BKNW-PRG-24 Closing Dated 08.04.2024. Name of work and its location: Preparation of land for development of green areas including Afforestation with ancillary activities, Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 84,24,804.76 (Inclusive of GST) Earnest money: Rs. 1,68,500.00, Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender: 08.04.2024 upto 14:30 Hrs. E-Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day, Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in 377-PR/24

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 05.04.2024 as below: Tender No. 168, Name of Work with its location: Operation, running, maintenance & disinfection of the swimming pool at Bikaner under ADEN/HQ/BKN (For 200 days). Approx Cost of Work: Rs. 678924.08. Earnest Money: Rs. 13600.00, Tender No. 169, Name of Work with its location: Provision of tool cum rest room in the jurisdiction of ADEN-Ratangarh. (20 no. locations), Approx Cost of Work: Rs. 15612447.66, Earnest Money: Rs. 228100.00. Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.

ollow us at f 🗓 🖸 🕭 INWRailways 🔞 NWRailways_ REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR APPOINTMENT OF **AUTHORITY ENGINEER**

TENDER NOTICE NO.: S&T_CON 2024 03. E-tenders are invited by th undersigned for the following work:- RFP BID No. DyCSTE_C_NJP_2024_02_04. Name of work: Request for Proposa (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for the work Provision of Automatic Signalling in Surjakamal (SJKL) to Old Malda (OMLF) section (118 Km) and in Katihar (KIR) to Mukuria (MFA) section (34 KM) & Provision of Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) in Old Malda-New Jalpaiguri Katihar-Mukuria section of Katihar ivision of N.F. Railway'. Approximate cost: ₹4,32,31,313.20; Earnest Money: ₹3,66,200.00. Bid Closing Date & Time: 05-04-2024 at 12.00 hrs. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in. Detail nformation of the work and conditions may be seen in the RFP document. Dy.CSTE/Con, New Jalpaiguri

Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) 'Serving Customers with a smile" NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE Opened E-Tender based on

Single Packet system (Tender Notice No.-M/C&W/10/2023-24 Dt. 16-03-2024) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/Mech. C&W/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:-

Description of Works: "GCT Station Design, Development, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant 100 KLD Capacity along with 03 years AMOC on turnkey basis." Approx Value: ₹ 1,07,93,210.13 (One Crore Seven Lacs Ninety three thousand two hundred ten and thirteen paise only). Bid Security Money ₹ 2,04,000/- (Rs. Two Lacs Four Thousand only), Cost of Tender Paper-Nil, (Authority SGCC, Works, April 2022 issued by Railway Board vide letter No. 2022/CE-I/CT/GCC-2022/Policy New Delhi, Dated 27-04-2022), Period: For Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Machines on turnkey basis:-180 Days from the date of issue of LOA. Warranty Period:- Minimum two year from the date of commissioning of plant. AMOC of Plant-03 years after warranty period., . Date and time of Closing of E-Tender: 15-04-2024 at 14:30 Hrs. • Date and time of Opening of E-Tender: 15-04-2024

 Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 15-04-2024 at 14:30 Hrs. • Pl. go to the website www. ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload the tender. Sr. DME/C&W/

CPRO/Yantrik-138 Varanasi Never travel on roof and foot boards.

at 15:00 Hrs.



(through https://ireps.gov.in) CE/C-I/SC Construction Organisation S.C.Railway, Secunderabad,

respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works: 1. NIT No.: PMS-03-CAO-C-SC-2024

Date: 16/03/2024 Name of work SCR Construction Organisation: Appointment of Authority Engineer for providing Project Management Services (PMS) for "Doubling of track between Gooty and Pendekallu stations including Electrification and signaling works in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway and Doubling of track between Diguvametta and Nandyal stations excluding Tunnels portion (i.e., From KM 219.00 To 223.800 & KM 232.300 to 233.600) including Electrification and signaling works in Guntur Division of South Central Railway. Estimated Cost: (₹) 15,17,79,200.00 **EMD**: (₹) 9,08,900.00 Completion Period: 30 (Thirty) Months. Date of Opening:

20/05/2024 15:00hrs. i) For bid document and other details, please login to website https://ireps.gov.in.

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period. Chief Administrative Officer/Const.

A0365 For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents,

Secunderabad

Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I.megha bisht, D/o-Surendra Singh Bisht, Addressflat.no.b3,rzp 326,b block,Raj Nagar-2, palam colony Delhi-110077, changed my name to Maggie bisht. 0040720837-4

I.Veena Kumari Bhatia,W/o Raj Kumar Bhatia R/o C-4/210-Rohini Sect-6, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Veena Bhatia, permanently.

0040720834-7

I,VIKAS CHAHAR, ADDRESS:H.NO.522 FIRST-FLOOR, OMAXE CITY, NEAR-DELHI BYE PASS,ROHTAK,HARYANA-124001changed my minor

daughter's name VANYA to

VANYA CHAHAR. 0040720840-4 I,VIJAY KUMAR S/o Sh.Madan Lal,R/o J-11/27,F.F.,Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Dharna.

0040720840-1

I,Usha Shaw,D/o Jamuna Prashad Shah R/o-58A.Pocket-4 Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-110091, Have Changed My Name To Usha Shah For Future.

0040720837-2

I,Usha Rani,W/o Narender,R/o 113, Faizabad (87), Badli, Jhajjar (Haryana)-124105,have changed my name to Usha Sharma. 0040720834-8

I,Usha Pahal,W/O Sanjay Pahal,R/O.H.No-82/D,GH-10, Sunder-Apartments, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my minor Son's name Divansh Pahal to Divvansh Pahal.

0040720837-5

I,Sunny Chaurasia, R/o 122-A,Pocket-A Sukhdev-Vihar, Delhi-110025, Have Changed My Daughter's Name, From Kiaara Chaurasia To Kiaara Shandil.

0040720837-8

I.Sunita Kumari Babel,W/O Sandeep Babel R/O Victoria A-605, Grand Omaxe, Sector-93 B,Gautam Buddha Nagar,Uttar Pradesh - 201304, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sunita Babel for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 19/3/2024 Sworn before notary GB Nagar, Noida. I have complied with all the legal requirements in this regard. 0040720840-9

, hitherto known as VARSHA, D/o SHRI VEDPAL R/O-SUBANA(226) JHAJJAR.HARYANA-124109, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

VARSHA CHHILLAR

0040720783-

I.Sunil Kumar.S/o-Hari Shankar Sharma,R/o-H.No.1555,Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, that Sunil Kumar, and Sunil Kumar Sharma are one and the same person. shall hereafter be known, Sunil Kumar Sharma.

0040720849-1

I,Subhash S/o Brijlal,R/o Mohammandpur Jharsa (103), PO-Narsinghpur, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122004, Changed my name to subhas.

0040720834-3

I,Shweta Nawariya,R/o-C3/505,Eco-Village 2 Supertech, Greater-Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P-201009, have changed minor son's name, from Avyukt to Avyukt Chourasia, for all, future purposes. 0040720834-6

I,Shailender Kadian S/o,Ran Singh Kadian House-No.308, Old Housing Board-Colony Rohtak Haryang, Have changed my name to Shailender singh

kadian. 0040720835-9 I.SUMIT KUMAR.S/O-BANWARI LAL.R/O - 119/5, EAST MOTI BAGH, SARAI ROHILLA, Delhi-

110007, have Change my name to SUMIT AGGARWAL 0040720835-2

I.SOMA CHAWLA.W/o bhushan chawla, Add: house no-488,1stfloor sec-30 faridabad-121003, changed my name to SOMA DEVI. 0040720832-1

I,Ravi Kumar Chuniyal,S/o,Hari Lal Chuniyal R/o, RZG-87, Block-G,DDA-Park,Raj-Nagar-II, Palam-colony, Delhi-110077, Declare that Name of My-Wife has been Wrongly-Written as Menu Chuniyal in my Passport (No.

X3606480), The Actual-Name of My-Wife is Meenakshi 0040720837-6 Chuniyal.

I,ROHIT S/O Shri Naresh kumar, R/O R-1/56, Budh Vihar phase-1, North West Delhi, Have changed my Name to ROHIT

ROHILLA 0040720835-7 I,RIDHI W/O AYUSH JETHY R/O-G-97 PREET VIHAR DELHI-

110092.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RIDHI JETHY.

0040720832-4 I,REETU CHAUDHARY,

W/O.SUBHASH CHAUDHARY, ADD-183, JAMMU MOHALLA MAUJPUR SHAHDARA, DELHI-110053, changed my name to RITU CHAUDHARY, for all, future 0040720835-8 purposes.

I,Praveen Sharma,W/o Late Kamal Kishore Sharma, R/o-1/3437, First Floor, Ram Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, declares that my name is Praveen Sharma also known as Pinky Sharma. Praveen Sharma and Pinky Sharma both are same and one person.

0040720836-2

0040720819-2

I, Chander mohan S/o Pawan Bindal R/o-2654, Sector-16 faridabad, have changed my name to Chander Bindal

I,PRIYA MEHTA/DR PRIYA MEHTA W/O JEEVESH MEHTA,R/O 1688,G/F,OUTRAM LANE, GTB NAGAR, DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRIYA JAITLY MEHTA.

I.PINKI SACHDEVA.W/O GURMEET SINGH R/O HOUSE NO. 237 SECTOR-21B

0040720837-1

NAME TO PINKY SACHDEVA. 0040720834-4 I,PARVEEN DHARNE,W/o Sh.Vijay Kumar Dharna, R/o, J-11/27, F.F., Rajouri-Garden, New-Delhi-

110027, have changed my name

Noida, G.B. Nagar, have changed

FARIDABAD, HARYANA-

121001, HAVE CHANGED MY

to Parveen Dharna. 0040720840-3 I,Nidhi Vassan,W/o Loveleen Kumar, R/o Ajnara Daffodil Flat-J604,6th Floor,Sector 137,

my name to Nidhi Wassan. 0040720834-1

I,Narender @Narender Singh,S/o Om Parkash,R/o Village Pahasor Faizabad(87), Badli, Jhajjar (Haryana)-124105, have changed my name to Narender Sharma.

0040720834-9

I,NEHA KUMARI SHAW W/O-RAJIV KUMAR JHA R/O,A-3/28 THIRD-FLOOR, SECTOR-15, ROHINI, Delhi-110089, have Change my name to NEHA RAJIV JHA. 0040720835-1

I,Sukh Lal Sharma,S/o Kalka Prasad,R/o-H-24/A, Street No.36, West Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Ram Avtar Sharma.

0040720832-3

I.NARESH s/o shri TEK CHAND, R/O R-1/56, Budh Vihar phase-1, North West Delhi, Have changed my Name to NARESH 0040720835-6 KUMAR.

I,MOHD AYUB/MOHMMAD AYUB S/O HAJI MEHAR LIAHI R/O F-1,2nd-FLOOR,PRITHVI RAJ-ROAD, SAI-MANDIR, ADARSH-NAGAR, DELHI-110033. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD

I,Lt col srinivasan,residence of,no.380 Trangull RR Layout,RT-nagar,Mysuru 570026.CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR-daughter name **SMRITI AND SHE SHALL** HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS **SMRITIS** 0040720837-3

LATE SHRI SANJHI RAM GUPTA,R/O RT-817,ROYALE TOWER, SHIPRA SUN CITY, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U.P. 201010, MY **EXACT & CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH-26 TH FEBRUARY 1950 AS** PER MY AADHAR CARD, HAVE

I.KRISHAN DATT MAHAJAN, S/O

CHANGED MY NAME, FROM K. D. MAHAJAN TO KRISHAN DATT MAHAJAN FOR FUTURE AND ALL PURPOSE. BOTH ARE THE NAMES OF ONE & SAME PERSON. 0040720832-7

I,JASMEET KAUR W/O GURMEET SINGH GABA R/O-H.NO-159 HARGOBIND ENCLAVE DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JASMEET KAUR GABA 0040720832-5

I,Harinder S/o Balraj Singh R/o

H.No.-266, Naya Mohlla Dlf Phase-3, Nathupur Gurgaon (Haryana)-122002, have changed my name to Harinder Lohia. 0040720835-5

I**,Geetika** W/o Rohit Rakheja,R/o H.No.-486, Sector-7, Gurgaon Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Geetika Chopra.

0040720835-4

I,Garima Kailash Mahajan W/o Rishi Sinha R/o G-101, Ansal Neelpadam-1, Sector-5, Vaishali, I.E Sahibabad Ghaziabad (U.P-201010) have changed my name to Garima Mahajan for all purposes.

0040720804-1

I,GURMEET SINGH S/O DAVENDER SINGH GABA R/O-H.NO-159 HARGOBIND **ENCLAVE DELHI-110092 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GURMEET SINGH GABA.**

0040720832-6 I.Amariit Singh Narula, S/O Kulwant Singh Narula R/O-17/110, First Floor Vikram Vihar, Laipat-Nagar-4, Delhi-110024, Have Changed My Name to Amarjeet Singh Narula, For All

I,Abhinav Bhatnagar, R/o H.No.241,2nd-floor, Mayfield Garden, Sector 51, Gurugram (Haryana), have changed my-Minor Daughter name, from Pianshi to Pianshi Bhatnagar.

Purposes.

0040720834-5

0040720832-2

I,ASTHA NAGAR SETHI,W/o BIMAL SETHI, ADD:E-171, RAM NAGAR EXT, SODALA KATARIYA COLONY, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN 302019, changed my name to **ASTHA NAGAR.** 0040720835-3

I,ANUJ KUMAR MITTAL,S/O PRITAM SINGH MITTAL, R/O 3551/A, JAIN MOHALLA, DHARMPURA, BAND GALI, NEAR JAIN MANDIR, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, have changed my name to ANUJ MITTAL. 0040720834-2

I,AJIT KUMAR,S/O SAKATI SINGH,R/O,F-269,VIKASPURI, **OPPOSITE ST-CECILIA PUBLIC-**SCHOOL, NEW DELHI-110018, have changed my name to AJIT KUMAR SINGH, S/O SHAKTI SINGH, for all, future 0040720837-7 purposes.

I Nakul Singh Bhati S/o Girdhari Lal R/o Bisnoli Dujana Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh. Has Been Changed My Name To Nakul Bhati For All Future Purposes. 0070895087-1

I Hema Devi Negi, W/o Anand Singh, R/o 102, Sahridaya Apartment, A-4, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Hema Bisht for all future purposes.

0040720788-1

Mann, R/O-A-1/9, Mayur Apptts, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have Changed my name to Sunita Mann for future. 0040720836-1 I, Vinay Kumar Gupta S/o. Sh.

Jawahar Lal Gupta R/o.SS the leaf, Tower-2, Flat no. 6C, Sec -85 Shikhopur tehsil manesar Dist. Gurgoan Haryana 122004, declare that Vinay kumar & Vinay Kumar Gupta is same person and my correct name is Vinay Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

I, Sunita, D/O-Shri Chander Bhan

I, Sadhana Chugh, W/O Mahesh Kumar Chugh R/o Bw-66 C, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110088. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Karuna 0070895053-1

I. SATYA PRAKASH JAISWAL S/O SHRI UMA SHANKAR PRASAD R/o B-164, SECTOR-20, NOIDA, U.P.-201301, have changed my name SATYA PRAKASH.

0070895095-1

0040720629-1

I, SARFARAZ ALAM S/O SHARIF AHAMAD R/O G-45, 1ST FLOOR, VIJAY VIHAR, PHASE-1, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as SARFRAJ and SARIF AHMAD in my Driving License No. P08042004387684. The actual name of mine and my father are SARFARAZ ALAM and **SHARIF AHAMAD** 0070895043-1

I, Renu Rana D/O Ram Chand, W/O Sunil Kumar Rana R/o 19/167, 3rd Floor, Old Rohtak Road, Sarai Basti, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi, Usha Mata Mandir, North West Delhi-110035. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Renu 0070895049-1

I, Rani Rawat W/O Ajay Singh Bisht, R/o A-3, d-12, Upper Ground Floor, Mahavir Campus, Near Buddh Bazar Road, Raj Pur Khurd, Ignou, South Delhi, Delhi-110068 I have changed the name of my minor daughter Soumya Bisht aged about 3 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Maanvi Bisht 0070895047-1

I. Ramesh Chand Bhatia S/O Udhav Das Bhatia (also known as Udhaw Das) R/O House No. E-113, AWHO COLONY, SECTOR-82, VIVEK VIHAR, PHASE-2, NOIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304 have my name shown as R.C. Bhatia or Ramesh Chand Bhatia on different documents. I shall be known as Ramesh Chand Bhatia for all purposes.

0040720760-1

I, ASH RANI RASTOGI W/o LATE SHRI ANIL KUMAR RASTOGIR/O B-30, SECTOR-72, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P.-201301, have changed my name ASH RANI RASTOGI to ASHA RANI RASTOGI for all purpose.

0070895098-1 I, Raksha Devi Pandey W/o Devendra Chaturvedi R/o E1201, K.W.Shristi, Rajnagar Ext., Ghaziabad have changed

my name to Raksha.

0070895089-1

I, Priya Das Lodh W/O Subhradip Lodhi, R/o H.No-D-546, Near S.B.I Bank, Gokal Puri, North East Delhi, Delhi- 110094 I have changed the name of my minor daughter Prapti Lodh aged about 13 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Prapti 0070895055-1

I, Pawan Kumar Bindal S/o Devender Kumar Bindal R/o-2654 sector-16, faridabad, have changed my name to Pawan

I. Niti Marwah w/o Anurag Pratap Singh, R/o B-1/195, Near Puri Mandir, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have

Bindal

Gupta

changed my name to Neeti. 0040720763-1

0040720819-1

I. NIRMALA @ VIMLA W/O LATE SH. SATPAL @ SATYAPAL R/O A5/1, GANDA NALA SHASTRI NAGAR DELHI-52 DECLARE THAT DEPONENT IS KNOWN AS VIMLA. AFTER THE MARRIAGE. MY MAIDEN NAME WAS NIRMALA. THUS, VIMLA @ NIRMALA IS ONE AND THE **SAME PERSON.** 0070895044-1

I. Monika, W/O Prashant R/o 18/36, Block-18, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi- 110091. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Monika 0070895051-1

I, MEENA RANI W/O LATE JAI BHAGWAN SINGHAL R/O B-20. **NEW GUPTA COLONY, FIRST** FLOOR, STREET NO-18, DELHI-110009 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENA RANI SINGHAL. MY DEPOSITORY **ACCOUNT NO-60172596 AND**

DEMAT NO-1002154904 WITH

SBI CAP SECURITIES. 0070895093-1

I, M.V.R Pavan Deepak S/O Ramanakumar Pattabiraman, R/o D-73, Second Floor, Krishna Park Colony, Khanpur, Po: Pushpa Bhawan, South Delhi, Delhi- 110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pavan Deepak Mandigala Venkata Ramana.

0070895048-1

I, Kaur Hardev W/o Sarbjeet Singh R/o Bazpur, Banskhera, Udham Singh Nagar, Bhajuanagla, Uttarakhand-262401 Have Changed My Name to Hardev Kaur for all Purposes. 0070895110-1

I Farzana Gulzar W/o Gulzar UR Rehman R/o A- 261, Second

Floor, New friends Colony, Near DD Market, New friends Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Farzana **Tabassum**

0070895083-1

I, Harsha D/o Shri Pushpamangalathu Sreedharan Prasannakumar R/o D-4/UG-1, Om Sai Apartment, Dilshad Colony, Delhi, Pincode-110095 have changed my name to Harsha Nair for all future purposes vide affidavit No. IN-DL60413381883774W dated

19/03/2024 0040720765-1 1. DEVISINGH MANRALS/O UMED SINGH MANRAL R/O H.NO. B-164, STREET NO.3, NEAR **DURGA PURI CHOWK, HARDEV** PURI, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110093 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as DEVI SINGH in my PPO No. D/2869/73. The actual name of mine is DEVI SINGH MANRAL

I, Chandrakanta Tomar legally wife of army no.16028101M RFN Deepak Kumar my name in mentioned as Chandrakanta in military documents of my husband which is a wrong entry which should be corrected to Chandrakanta Tomar, Chandrakanta Tomar R/o Vill. Deta Saidpur, Post Sabalpur, Tehsil Gabhana, Thana Pisawa, Distt Aligarh, (U.P.) 202155 0040720811-1

I. Brii Mohan S/O Jogdhyan Garg, R/o 553 Veer Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Raja Pur Kalan, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Brij Mohan Garg. 0070895058-1

I, Aakashdeep S/o Madan Lal R/o 72A, Gali No-11B, New Lahor, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31, have changed my name to Aakash Deep 0070895090-1

I, ALOK KUMAR S/O HARISHANKAR PRASAD R/O LH-1303, AMARPALI VILLAGE. NEAR KALA PATHAR ROAD, NYAY KHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM, **GHAZIABAD UP-201014 HAVE** CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM DIVYANSH TO DIVYANSH ALOK KUMAR FOR ALL PURPOSES IN FUTURE.

Sector-5 Vaishali Indrapuram Ghaziabad. 0070895102-1 I Satvinder Singh Kohli S/o Harcharan Singh Kohli R/o B-2/1 S/F, Front Side, Janakpuri B-1, West Delhi, Delhi-110058. Have Changed my minor

I Jatinder Singh S/o Krishan R/o Dauhla (80), PO- Dyohla Dist-Jind, Haryana- 126125 have changed my name to Bittu

I Hitu Lalit D/o Sh. Brij Mohan Grover R/o Flat No.12A02, Tower-D5, Exotica Parsvnath, Golf Course Road, Sector-53, Sikander Pur Ghoshi(68), Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 have changed my name to Hettu for all purposes. 0040720759-1

I Bismeeet Kaur Matharu W/o Rohit Paul R/o 117/A, Street Number 6, Krishna Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029 have changed my Name from Bismeeet Kaur Matharu to Bismeet Kaur for all future

I, hitherto known as, I, Ishaan Zaveri S/o Sh. Jatin Zaveri, R/o 1144, Near Kapashera Border, Sector-21, Gurugram have declare that, name of my name wrongly written in Passport as Ishaan instead of his correct name Ishaan & Ishaan Zaveri (both are same person) for all future purposes. 0040720805-2

I, Rajeev Khanna S/o Krishan East Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008. ABB India Limited Share certificate details is FOLIO NO.K0001201 **CERTIFICATE NO.902334 DISTINCTIVE NO.933816866-**933816919 NO. OF SHARES 54, finder may contact. 9868907561

RECRUITMENT

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of this advertisement along with update resume and one set attested photocopies of all testimonials and recent passport size photographs to Fatehpur Billoch (Faridabad) &

Contact : 9953263945, 9911811878

physical possession of her self acquire Plot no.8, Sector-3, New Delhi - 11007

I have changed my name from Ekta Shami to Shivansh. In future, I should be known and recognized by the name of Shivansh in all documents. Ekta Shami daughter of Satendra Kumar Shami resident of House.No.170

daughter name Prabhsirat Kohli to Prabhsirat Kaur Kohli for all Future purposes.

0040720767-1 purposes.

LOST & FOUND

Kumar Khanna, 14/33 1st Floor Share Cirtificate had been lost. 0040720762-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation of the Public Notice

dated 17 Jan 2019, published in th

Times of India and Dainik Jagran, it

again informed to the general public tha

my client Smt. Madhu Saxena W/o Sh

Anil Kumar Saxena has alread

disowned & severed all ties with SI

Anil Kumar Saxena S/o Late R.C

Saxena. Sh. Anil Kumar Saxena has no

right, claim or share in Smt. Madl

Saxena's movable or immovable

properties nor in any other asset of an

nature belonging to her. My client, Sm

responsible, in any manner whatsoever

for any acts of Sh. Anil Kumar Saxena

and has no past or present ties

dealings with him. Any person dealing

with Sh. Anil Kumar Saxena shall b

doing so at his/her own discretion ar

Smt. Madhu Saxena will not b

responsible in any manner whatsoeve

Also, my client, Smt. Madhu Saxena

the sole lawful owner and in actua

property bearing number B703, Gau

Ganesh Apartment Himachal CGHS Lt

("Property"). She has not given an

consent for use/misrepresentation of

representation of the Property for an

ommercial activity to anyone. He

Delhi High Court & Supreme Cour

Madhu Saxena is not answerable

0050239413-1

Sd. Ashish Kumar (Advocate Chamber No. 320, Block-District Courts, Gurgaon, 12200

Public at large is hereby informed that chawla R/o wz-106/72, 1st Floor, Rajo Garden, Delhi-110027. That after demises of Smt Saroi chawla w/o La Sh.R.P.Cahwla, Smt. Mamta chawla is only surviving legal heir of Lt.Smt. San Chawla and of her all assets, movable a mmovable properties. If anyone has a objection in all that kindly contact oncerned authorities/courts for their claim My client shall not be responsible in ar

Property. RUDRA PALIWAL Advocat

E. No. D/612-A/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that my client Shri Sumit Kumar Gupta S/o late Shri Ram Kishore Gupta, presently residing at Flat No.103, Fatima Al Owais Building, Karama, Dubai. UAE with Delhi address a Plot No. 48, House No. 4947 Lekh Ram Road, Darya Ganj New Delhi-110002 is the sole and absolute owner o property No. 626, 585-587, Katra Asharfi, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006, with single superstructure. That my client had/has not entered into any Agreement to Sell or any other kind of transfer transaction or given any authority to sell or create any third party interest pertaining to the said property or any par thereof to anybody. Any person dealing with anyone regarding any kind transaction i.e. sale, purchase,

nature whatsoever. **VINAY GUPTA** Advocate E. No. D-374/88 827, Gali Kundewalan, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110006

lien, mortgage, third party

whatsoever in respect of the

said property, shall have no

legal effect and binding upor

my client and the said

transaction shall be treated as

null and void and the alleged

person/concern dealing with

the same, shall be solely

responsible for all the losses

upto any extent, either

monetory or otherwise of any

nature

interest of any

PUBLIC NOTICE Chauhan, W/o.- Satpal Chauhan, House No 590. Sector-14, Gurugram, Harvana 12200 have sweared their relation, debarred a lisinherited with their son Mr. Sach Chauhan, from all their properties, bo novable and immovable, my client and h other family members has no control ov nim who have no regard and respect for n respect then he/she will himself /herself w responsible for the consequences. The my client has executed this statement w ner own free consent and desire without a

Jai Prakash, Advocate Office No. 2, GF, Rakshak Plaza, Old Railway Station, Sec. 5, Gurgaon-12200

influence or coercion

perty bearing No-117, First floor without oof rights. Area Measuring-105.90, sq.mtrs Aviation Employees Co-Oprative Hous fullding Society Ltd. known as Gagan Vihar ew Delhi., Owned by Rosy Sachdeva b rtue of Sale Deed, Dated-16:09:2023 egistration No- 6818,SR-VIII-A,New Delt DELHI, and as per owner version the said property/ Flat/ floor/Apartment is/are fre om all sorts of encumbrances. Link cuments are missing & duly inform ride LR No-1563020/2024, Dt-19.03.202 ith Sho Crime Branch, Dell tity, firm/company, Bank, HUF/ member f HUF, financial institution having a laim, any charge, interest or lien or clain the about said property the basis of cuments and/or objection to thereof, he sher they may lodger notify the same court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice iting which any further / future claim objection(s) shall be rejected and market able without any defect, encumbrance

Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE "It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Anjali Rai has acquired Property area measuring 45.55 Sq yards, out of Khewat No. 3/3, Khatauni No. 5, Mus No. 56, Kila No. 12(8-0) situated in the area of Agwanpur, Tehsil & Distric Faridabad Haryana vide Sale Deed dt. 25.08.2023 executed by Mr. Brijest Pandit, Now Mrs. Anjali Rai is the undisputed owner of above said property. OR Any person / firm institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/hen/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161. Basement, Vikram Vihar Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

Mrs. Shyam Bala W/o Shri Madan Gopal, have lost the Sale Deed dated

PUBLIC NOTICE

his is to inform the public at large tha

23.05.1977 bearing reference number 4104-4105 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 2055 on Page No. 51-56 Sub-Registrar Ghaziabad, pertaining to House No. 14 situated at Kira Enclave, Model Town, Nasarpur, Tehsi & District - Ghaziabad (U.P admeasuring 241 Sq. Yard, executed by M/s Kalkatta Land & Housing Corporation in favour of Mr. Madho Saran Dass Bhatnagar and Mrs. Shanti Devi Bhatnagar. In lieu of the same an NCR/FIR dated 17.03.2024 has been filed with P.S. Kotwali Nagar Ghaziabad TAPAN RAGHAV (ADVOCATE

Ch. No. G-220 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032. M - 8800096522

PUBLIC NOTICE Singhal son of Sh. G.R. Singhal and St angeeta Singhal, wife of Sh. Satish Singh oth residents of 35/26, Sector 23-23/ Gurugram, Haryana has applied for taking loa from Puniab National Bank, Gurugram asuring 225 Sq. Mtrs (270 Sq. Yards) havi overed area 3000 Sq.Ft approx, situated in t Residential Colony known as Palam Viha Gurugram, Haryana. That at present the s Palam Vihar, Gurugram, owned vide Sale De earing Vasika No. 10984 dated 07.12.199 egistered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Gurga urchased from Sh. Jatinder Kumar Bagga S h. Guljari Lal Bagga Resident of B-166, Am Colony, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-110024. That sa Jatinder Kumar Bagga was the owner of pre property from M/s Ansal Property & Indust imited vide Sale Deed bearing Vasika No.918 dated 24.01.1990 registered in the office of Su Registrar, Gurgaon.

No 9183, Dated 24.01.1990 registered in the

usband Sh. Anil Kumar Saxena doe not have any share, claim or right in the PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to General Public that t

> B-Block, Lohia Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP, was the joint owner of property bearin No. KB-001, Sector-63A, Distric Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, U.P measuring area 205.50 sq. mtrs, as wel as owner of Plot No.59A, Sain Compound, B-Block, Lohia Nagar Ghaziabad, U.P.. besides same, he was the owner of various other immovable properties, who died intestate of 23.04.2021 leaving behind his legal heirs namely Smt. Sarita Chauhar (wife), Sh. Rahul Chauhan (son) an Ms. Parul Chauhan (daughter). My client being the daughter-in-law of Late Sh. Ashok Kumar and wife of Sh. Rahu Chauhan has been in possession of the aforesaid properties being her share household. Certain disputes aros between my client and her husband and her in-laws and they are trying to transfer/dispose of the above said my client from the said properties. An persons dealing with the said propertie without the consent of my client shall b doing so entirely at his/her/their risks and costs, which be noted very

> > (Advocate Ernol. No. D-281/0 Chamber No. 53, Civil Wing Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE structionsfromandonbehalfofmyclient/s nvolient/sandalltheirotherfamilymembers hall not be responsible for any acts done by J.C. Trikha (Advocate

Ch.No.M-4, TisHazari Courts, Delhi-54

Floor Built on Plot No. C-124 area 75 Colony Known as Vishwas Mrs. Nitu. Now Mr. Lokesh Kumar i or right in respect of the said Propert by way of inheritance, share, sale agreement, lease, license, gif cossession, legal heirs, partners of encumbrance howsoever or otherwise hereby required to intimate in writing o the undersigned within 07 days from he date of publication of this notice of mentioned address. After expiration o

oinding on our client Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) I.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE "It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Jyoti Prasad has acquired Plot area measuring 400 sq. yrds, out of Khewat No., 3/3, Khatoni No. 5, Musttil No. 56, Kila NO. 9(8-0) situated in revenue estate of Village Agwanpur ehsli and District Fandabad vide regd GPA dt. 05.04.2019 executed by M Avdhesh Singh Bhadauriya, Now Mrs. Jyoti Prasad is the undisputed owner f above said property.OR Any person firm / institution / company having an claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share sale, agreement, lease, license, gif encumbrance howsoever or otherwis s hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Civil Lines, Raipur, Chattisgarh is in the process of advancing a property.

Vishal Chopra, Advocate **GNA & Associates** D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

The above mentioned Sale Deed bearing Vasik

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kantu Ram Chauhan R/o Plot No. 59A

SATISH KUMAR S/O LATE HANS RAJ. & POOJA JUNEJA W/o SATISH KUMAR R/o A-15, Old Qtrs. Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have disowned/debarred discard their Son SUMIT KUMAR JUNEJA his wife NEHA JUNEJA from all their mmovable properties and moveable assets and severed all relations with them due to their dis-obedienceand mis-behavior Any body dealing with them, will do at his/her /theirownrisks, costs and responsibility and

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Ar. Lokesh Kumar has acquired Third sq. yards., Khasra No. 102/21, Village Park, Uttam Nagar New Delhi vide GPA dt. 01.04.2012 along with ATS executed by Mrs. Swaran Lata and the undisputed owner of above said property. OR Any person / firm / property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim nis/her/their share or claim, if any, with supporting documents at below

4rth Floor, Satpal Chambers

Gauray Path, Near Rai Bhayan

the loan by mortgaging the said

property bearing Residential House No.J-1244 House in question is owned by Sh. Jatinder Pa Vohra S/o Sh. Gulzari Lal Resident of J-124

office of Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon have been lo if any concern having any claim object related to above transactions including, sale dec and mortgage with Punjab National Ban He/She may kindly contact me within 15 Da

KUNAL CHOUDHARY ADVOCATI Plot No. 428/10 Metro Pillar No. 531-Mundka Delhi-

father-in-law of my client Late Sh Ashok Kumar Chauhan S/o Late Sł

NARENDER BHANDARI

notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

My client ICICI Bank Ltd., 3rd &

loan to M/s Corpress Consultants and Advisors Pvt Ltd. for purchase of Entire First Floor, Property No. 295, (216.00) Sq. Mtrs.), Block-A-1, Safdar Jung Enclave, New Delhi, from Mr. Uday Nath, who has represented that he is the sole & absolute owner of said property having inherited after the death of his father Late Mr. Vijendra Nath (being his only class- I lega heir), who was the lawful owner vide Conveyance Deed dated 15.10.2009 (Doc. No. 14825) I anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property or objection to its mortgage, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 10 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CT(GD) Rayaz Ahmad Gojar Khatana

20th March, 2019 "Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart CT(GD) Rayaz Ahmad Gojar Khatana, who made the supreme

sacrifice for the Nation. On this day, he attained martyrdom during cross border shelling from Pakistan in Distt- Baramulla (J&K). He will always be remembered for his courage, valour and

supreme sacrifice for the Nation. "SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL"

PUBLIC NOTICE

t is notified for the General Public that my o

mt. Sarswati w/o late Sh. Ajit Haldar resid

D-34, Pocket-16, Phase-1, Sector-3, J.J. Colo

debar and dis-inherit her son namely Sh. Ru

Haldar s/o late Sh. Ajit Haldar and her daugh

in-law Smt. Kalyani Haldar w/o Sh. Rupa Hal

and her grand-daughter Ms. Khushi Haldar d/o

Rupa Haldar and her grand-son Master Rud

Haldar s/o Sh. Rupa Haldar, from her all move

ner control. That my client will not be respo

for any acts civil/criminal done by Sh. Ru

Ch. No. 310, Lawyers Chamber Sector-10

Dwarka Court Complex New Delhi-11007

'IMPORTANT'

acceptance of advertising

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DP/3178/OD/2024

(Court Matter)

Raiiv Kuma

Haldar and Smt. Kalyani Haldar and their fan

and they will be responsible for all acts.

Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, hereby di

PUBLIC NOTICE my clients SH. RAM MAHESH S/O SH. RA BADAN NISAAD & SMT. MAYA DEVI W SH RAM MAHESH NISAAD BOTH R/O 88/5, KHAZAN BASTI, MAYAPURI, PHAS NEW DELHI-110064 have disowned debarred their son namely SH. MANOJ KUMA (Age 22 years) from all their movable as immovable properties with immediate effective of his misbehavior, constant fighting nome and outside and loss of my clients men peace, harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocit

Aggarwal w/o Anil Aggarwal both R/o G-28 Near Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Bali Nagai New Delhi-110015, have disowned/debarre their son Sahil Aggarwal & daughter-in-la Samridhi Bhasin both R/o D-807, Aditya Urbai Casa, Noida, Sector-78, Gautam Buddh Nagar Noida-201301, from their all assets, moveable immovable property located at anywhere & also severed all relations with them. Any person, dealing with them, shall be at his/her/their own risk/cost. Jagdish Chandra Trikha (Advocate)



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> TRANSPORTING GOODS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Rohit @ Radhu S/o Ramshakal Sharma R/o H.No. 197, Village Sutanpuri, Mazra, Delhi, Raj Park has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 127/21 U/s 25 Arms Act PS Raj Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Rohit @ Radhu can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Rohit @ Radhu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) Rohit @ Radhu of case FIR No. 127/21 U/s 25 Arms Act PS Raj Park, Delhi are required to

THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or Ebbani Aggarwal

Metropolitan Magistrate (NW) Room No. 107, 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi

THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Sanjay @ Sonu S/o Nand Lal R/o H. No. K-287, 4thFloor, Padam Nagar, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 273/23, dated 15.11.2023, U/s 21/29 NDPS Act, P.S. Crime Branch, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sanjay @ Sonu can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sanjay @ Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said

accused person Sanjay @ Sonu of FIR No. 273/23, dated

15.11.2023, U/s 21/29 NDPS Act, P.S. Crime Branch, New

Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said

complaint on or before 26.04.2024 at 10:00 AM.

DP/3157/Crime/2024

IFB- 02/2023-24

कार्य का नाम

(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

Ld. Special Judge (NDPS)-02 Central District, Court Room No. 222, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

दिनांक 15-03-2024

जिला-गिरिडीह, प्रखण्ड-गाँवा,

By Order

Sh. Sanjeev Kumar

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, जलपथ प्रमण्डल, बरही अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा का प्रसंग- WRD/WWDivisionBarhi/

ग्राम-भेलवा के पास सकरी नदी के दाया तट पर हो रहे कटाव निरोधक कार्य। प्राक्कलित राषि रूपये 1,04,51,000.00 (एक करोड चार लाख एकावन हजार)। परिमाण विपन्न का मृल्य रु० 10,000.00 (रुपये दस हजार) (अप्रत्यापणीय राषि) अग्रधन की राषि रु० 2,10,000.00 (दो लाख दस हजार) मात्र। कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 06 (छः) माह वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाषन 21-03-2024 को 11:00 बजे पुर्वाहन । परिमाण विपन्न एवं अग्रधन की 21-03-2024 को 11:00 बजे राषि ऑनलाइन मोड में जमा पूर्वाहन से 10-04-2024 को 5:00 करने की तिथि एवं समय। बजे अपराहन तक। बीड समर्पित करने का तिथि 21-03-2024 को 11:00 बजे एवं समय । पूर्वाहन से 10-04-2024 को 5:00 बजे अपराहन तक। निविदा खोलने की तिथि 12-04-2024 को 2:00 बजे अपराहन में। निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय. पदाधिकारी का नाम / पता जलपथ प्रमण्डल, बरही (हजारीबाग) पिनकोड 825402

नोटः केवल ई-निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। किसी भी विशेष जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। परिमाण विपन्न की राशि घट-बढ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट पदाधिकारी का

मोबाइल संख्या

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का दूरमाध

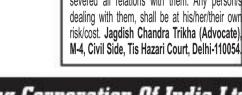
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ommitted by him against my clients. Anyboo dealing with him shall do so at his/her own ris

cost and responsibilities thereto. My clients sha not be responsible in any manner for the same. H. K. BABBAF Advoca DG-3/409, Vikash Puri, N.D.-1 M:-98116745 PUBLIC NUTICE Be it known to all that my client/s Anii Kun Aggarwal s/o Raikumar Aggarwal & Ruch



Messi ruled out of friendlies

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi will not play in Argentina's two friendlies in the United States this month due to a right leg muscle injury. The captain was injured last week while playing for his Inter Miami club in the CONCACAF Champions Cup. AP

IPL TAKES

Hasaranga, banned by ICC, could play initial games for SRH

Dubai: All-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga could be available for initial few games for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League after he was suspended from the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh by the ICC, despite coming out of retirement on Tuesday.Hasaranga, who had retired from Tests in August last year, was named in Sri Lanka's 17-man squad for the two-Test series against Bangladesh starting on Friday. But the ICC informed that the 26-year-old has 'breached the threshold of eight demerit points, which, pursuant to article 7.6 of the Code, have been converted into four suspension points' in his latest offence during the third ODI."Hasaranga was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match'," the ICC said on its website.

Surya certain to miss Ml's season opener

Mumbai: Star batter Suryakumar Yadav is certain to miss Mumbai Indians' IPL opener against Gujarat Titans on March 24 as he is yet to get fitness clearance from the National Cricket Academy (NCA).The world No 1 T20 batter Suryakumar has been stationed at the NCA in Bengaluru for his recovery and rehabilitation following a surgery for sports hernia. Suryakumar, who has been out of action since December, had a fitness test at the NCA on Tuesday but PTI understands that the 33-year-old "further assessment". Suryakumar will be assessed once again on Thursday. His participation in the subsequent matches for Mumbai Indians — against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 27, Rajasthan Royals on April

Pant appointed Delhi Capitals captain

be determined at a later stage.

1 and Delhi Capitals on April 7 — would

New Delhi: Rishabh Pant was on Tuesday appointed as the captain of Delhi Capitals for the upcoming edition of the IPL, marking a wonderful chapter in his miraculous comeback saga. The keeper-batter missed cricketing action for 14 months after suffering a horrific car accident in December 2022."We are delighted to welcome Rishabh back as our captain. Grit and fearlessness have always dictated his brand of cricket, and not surprisingly, even his road to recovery."I can't wait to see him walk our team out once again as we look forward to a new season with renewed passion, vigour and enthusiasm," said DC chairman and co-owner Parth Jindal in a media release. The left-hander has been a part of the Capitals pre-season preparatory camp in Visakhapatnam, ahead of their first IPL 2024 match against Punjab Kings on March 23.

Gutted to miss IPL: injured Behrendorff

New Delhi: Australia and Mumbai

Indians fast bowler Jason Behrendorff on Tuesday said he was gutted to miss this year's IPL after fracturing his leg "freak training incident".Behrendorff, a left-arm pacer, was on Monday replaced by England's Luke Wood in MI squad."Unfortunately, there was a freak accident at training last week which resulted in my leg being broken. It wasn't anyone's fault, just a very unlucky incident," Behrendorff wrote in a social media post."I have loved being a part of the MI Family and I am absolutely gutted to be missing this year's IPL."

PTI

Kohli has the numbers on his side

Strike rate, batting average in chases, MoM awards — in T20Is Kohli remains a match-winner

SANDIPG NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

EVER SINCE Virat Kohli returned to India, even the minutest detail about the 35-yearold has found its way to social media. That he spotted a salt-and-pepper beard when he arrived at the Bangalore Airport; that he wore baggy black t-shirts, or he lunged to his left and then sprung to his right during a fielding drill.

Suddenly, the narrative that Kohli needs a profitable IPL to guarantee his spot in the T20 World Cup, which begins a week after the league, has vanished.

Such a thought was ludicrously to begin with. True that Kohli is not a super-modern batsman in this format and that a posse of incredibly talented youngsters has staked their claims. But the simple reality is that he remains undroppable in any version of the game. It's not because of his stature, or the grand past, or the commercial pull of his face splashed on New York skyscrapers. But because he still matters when he has a bat in hand.

There could be more enterprising batsmen. He is not an improvisational genius as Suryakumar Yadav is. He might not be as nonchalant a hitter as Hardik Pandya. But in some ways, he continues to be the team's heartbeat, their biggest match-winner still in this format.

It's a simple but instructive number. Of the 109 times he has batted in T20 Internationals, India have won on 70 occasions. In those outings, he has scored 2828 runs at 67.33; 15 times he was the man of the match.

He is still the unparalleled chase-master. He averages 71.85 when chasing, with a healthy strike rate of 137. The nearest competitor from a top-10 nation is Suryakumar Yadav (50.12) but with a better striking rate of 159. In 46 chases when Kohli has batted, India have won 40. In those games, he averages 86.84. The strike rate is around his mean

- 136 to the overall 138. And 18 times, he has remained undefeated. None more memorable than the unbeaten 82 against Pakistan in Melbourne during the T20 World Cup. But that knock, freakish as it is tempting

to say, was not an outlier. Often forgotten, among other knocks, are his 82 not out (SR of 160) against Australia in Mohali and 55 not out (140) against Pakistan

in Kolkata in the T20 World Cup. His strike rate has often been projected, myopically, as his T20 Achilles' heel. While 138.15 is not a superhuman number, it's not middling either. Rohit Sharma's is just a notch above, at 139.97; Pandya's is 139.8. Chris Gayle struck at 137.50; Alex Hales at 138. When assessing Kohli's strike rate, one has to consider his role too.

Team's batting axis

Oftentimes, his primary duty has been to



Of the 109 times Virat Kohli has batted in T20 Internationals, India have won on 70 occasions. In those outings, he has scored 2828 runs at 67.33. PTI

drag his team through the middle overs, to keep the run-rate moving along with supreme ary-hitting. It's what makes him fearful for opposition captains. You can stop neither singles or stem the flow of singles and twos. And at the death, he would turn on beast mode. He would straddle roles as only a few others could. Kohli could not improvise like Suryakumar. But Suryakumar could not be the team's axis like Kohli could be.

Every successful team had one. When West Indies tore the T20 perception with bighitting in 2016, they still required the stability of Marlon Samuels (SR of 112 in the tournament). Australia hinged on David Warner's consistency (SR of 146). England's batting bulwark Jos Buttler hit at 144. Both were openers too, and hence an understandably better hitting rate.

Another myth: That he doesn't hit as many boundaries as the format demands. He finds a four or six every 6.1 balls. Rohit's corresponding number is 6.3. Among his batting colleagues, who have played at least 20 games, only Yadav has a better boundarystriking ratio (3.9).

The root cause of India's supposed sluggishness at the top was not Kohli in isolation. But a top three that batted at a similar tempo (SR of 138-140), who took time to rev up, was

the malaise of India in the last two World Cups. That, though, would change. Rohit has embraced a more carefree approach, as he has displayed in the 50-over World Cup,

where the new mantra is to treat the format like a stretched out version of T20s rather field manipulation, and the occasional boundthan the other way around. Rohit's partner would be one of Yashasvi Jaiswal (it solves the left-hander issue) or Shubman Gill. Jaiswal especially likes to start finding the boundaries from the start. All these changes would benefit Kohli.

Unshackled approach

The master batsman himself has not resisted change either. He has made a conscious effort to lift his strike in the past few years. In the last 14 games for his country, he has hit his runs at 146.31, with a fifty plus score in every two and half innings.

A boundary has been eked out of every 5.3 balls too. He has unshackled his game too – he steps out of the crease, especially to the seamers, more often. He attempted a few cute paddle sweeps last year, and was not shy to slog the spinners. Last IPL, his second most prolific season,

he said, was his most enjoyable as a batsman. "A lot of people feel my T20 cricket is declining, but I don't feel like that at all. I feel I am playing my best T20 cricket again. I look to hit gaps, hit a lot of boundaries and the big ones in the end if the situation allows me to."

The more time he spends at the crease, the better his strike rate turns out to be. He has faced 27 or more balls 51 times in T20Is. On 18 of those occasions, he scored at 150plus. Eight times, he maintained between 140 and 150.

Virat Kohli's average when chasing in T20 Internationals. His strike rate in chases is 137. The nearest in

terms of average from a top-10

(50.12) but with a better striking

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Kohli has hit his runs at 146.31, with a fifty plus score in every two and half innings.

In that sense, Kohli is a partly misunderstood T20 cricketer. Some of his colleagues, like Rohit, cannot fathom this scrutiny. "I don't even understand why they are called experts," he jibed to a reporter last year.

Maybe, it's because Kohli has never won a T20 trophy, neither IPL nor World Cup. That then should be the narrative arc of Kohli before the T20 fiesta, and not him needing to assert his credentials in the IPL to earn his spot in the T20 squad.

Women's rights: Australian men's team postpones Afghan series

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MARCH 19

THE AUSTRALIA men's cricket team has postponed the three-match T20 International series against Afghanistan scheduled for

August due to human rights issues, Cricket Australia (CA) announced on Monday. "Following consultation with the Australian Government, CA previously postponed the ODI series against Afghanistan scheduled for March 2023 after a marked deterioration in human rights for women and girls in Afghanistan, stating we would: 'Continue to engage with the Afghanistan

Cricket Board in anticipation of improved

conditions for women and girls in the country,' CA said in its statement. "Over the past twelve months, CA has continued to consult with the Australian Government on the situation in Afghanistan. The government's advice is that conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan are getting worse. For this reason, we have maintained our previous position and will postpone the bilat-

eral series against Afghanistan," it added. In January 2023, Australia postponed an ODI series against Afghanistan scheduled to be held in March due to similar issues. CA had then explained that the "decision followed the Taliban's recent announcement regarding further restrictions on women and girls' education and employment."

Restrictions on female participation in sport arose in Afghanistan immediately after the Taliban seized control over the state in September 2021.

Several Afghanistan players had then expressed disinterest over Australia's decision. "I am really disappointed to hear that Australia have pulled out of the series to play us in March. I take great pride in representing my country, and we have made great progress on the world stage. This decision from CA sets us back in that journey. If playing vs Afghanistan is so uncomfortable for Australia, then I wouldn't want to make anyone uncomfortable with my presence in the BBL. Therefore, I will be strongly considering my future in that competition," senior star Rashid Khan had wrote on X.

The Australian government's advice is that conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan are getting worse. For this reason, we have maintained our previous position and will postpone the bilateral series against Afghanistan."

-CRICKET AUSTRALIA STATEMENT

Multiple factors at play in RCB's lack of home advantage

VENKATA KRISHNA B CHENNAI, MARCH 19

ON ANY given day during the summer, the energy levels at M Chinnaswamy Stadium can act as a catalyst for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). Speaking strictly of atmosphere, the franchise can stand on an equal footing with Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians. Despite the trophy-less years, it still enjoys a fanatical following with the decibel levels at the stadium on match days capable of intimidating noise. Perhaps as intimidating as Chepauk when it clears its throats as MS Dhoni takes guard or Wankhede when Rohit Sharma

But the Chinnaswamy stadium is nowhere close to being an intimidating venue for the opposition from a cricketing perspective. Thanks to the venue's history of offering flat decks to go with short boundaries on all sides, it is a stadium where opposition teams take the field fully aware that they have an even chance. As RCB head into the 17th season of the Indian Premier League, their win percentage at Chinnaswamy Stadium reads 46.51. To put it in perspective, Chennai has a win per-

centage of 70.96 at Chepauk, Mumbai 62.33 at Wankhede, Sunrisers Hyderabad 62% at Uppal and Kolkata Knight Riders 57.31 at Eden

To put it simply, in the most competitive T20 tournament in the world, where home advantage makes a big difference, the Chinnaswamy stadium remains slippery ground for RCB. Since the start of the 2011 season, only twice have they lost just one game at the home venue (2011 & 2013). They have lost four home games three times - in 2012, 2016 and 2023. And in the 2017 season when they finished at the bottom of the table, they went through the season without a home win.

Unlike Chepauk, where Dhoni will use spinners to strangle oppositions and Wankhede where Mumbai will use pacers who extract bounce to good effect, RCB captains have not really had any such luxuries. With 65m-long square boundaries in a format where horizontal bat shots are most common, anything that is pitched remotely in the shortpitched zone tends to disappear into the top tier of the stadium. And with the straight boundaries being only 70m, good length and full deliveries have often found their destination on the roof.



Despite the IPL trophy-less years, M Chinaswamy Stadium still enjoys a fanatical followingr. PTI

With such short boundaries, even quality bowlers have struggled at the venue. Yuzvendra Chahal, one of the most big-hearted leg-spinners who is brave enough to operate on a line outside off-stump, picked up 51 wickets for RCB at Chinnaswamy. That the next best in franchise history is Vinay Kumar's 26 tells a story of the daunting task of bowling at the venue. It is the reason that every season, RCB's home games have become a shoot-out between two batting units.

NUMBER PLATE

Chinnaswamy Stadium. To put it in perspective, CSK have a win percentage of 70.96 at Chepauk, Mumbai 62.33 at Wankhede, SRH 62% at Uppal and KKR 57.31 at Eden Gardens.

No lost cause

It's a venue where even a total of 200 is not safe. In 2018, after RCB piled on 205/8 and reduced CSK to 74/4 by the 9th over, a famous derby win was on cards. But coming in at No 6, Dhoni scored an unbeaten 70 off 34 deliveries to pull off a stunning win. And a year earlier, Mumbai who were 7/4 and later 33/5 in a chase of 142, ended on the winning side with Kieron Pollard scoring 70 at No 6. No other venue offers opposition teams that are down and out to make a comeback with the bat like

That RCB have only banked on flat decks and often taken the field with a bowling unit that seldom compliments the conditions has not helped their cause. On such venues, having bowlers with an X-factor could be a game-changer of sorts, especially since the margin of error is too small at the venue. A mystery spinner or an out-and-out pacer who can clock 150 kmph, may be capable of making a difference. But barring Mitchell Starc, RCB have seldom had such bowlers in their ranks.

This season, they have looked to address the issue at the auction table, bringing in Lockie Ferguson and Alzarri Joseph, two pacers who are quicker through the air and can push batsmen onto the backfoot. But whether they are can find the control that is needed to succeed at the venue remains the question for RCB.

Maximising home advantage is part of the success formula of CSK and MI. Each season they target a minimum of five home wins. That often leaves them needing only three away victories to get to the play-offs. It is a code that RCB will hope to crack this season as it searches for its maiden IPL title.

(With inputs from **Lalith Kalidas**)

Hardik's return can help Mumbai reclaim the trophy after three years

TANISHQ VADDI

MARCH 19

IF 2022 was a disastrous season for Mumbai Indians who finished at the bottom of the table. 2023 would have left a bittersweet taste in the mouth as they made it to the playoffs with a weakened team. However, bringing Hardik Pandya back could prove to be a game-changer

for the franchise this year. Hardik, when fully fit, is a rare breed - an Indian pace-bowling all-rounder who can bowl at brisk pace at any stage of the game, also having brutal power-hitting ability in the final

When Hardik was not retained ahead of the mega auction in 2021, he hadn't bowled a single ball for the franchise for a couple of years (2020, 2021). His batting stocks had also fallen drastically in 2021 when he averaged just 14.11 at a strike rate of 113.29.

However, while not retaining him would have been an easier decision at the time, replacing him was the real challenge for Mumbai Indians. To get a suitable alternative, who could deliver consistently at a high level, the franchise had to look for an overseas option.

In 2022, Rohit would occasionally turn to Kieron Pollard with the ball to make up the fifth bowler's allotment but the big West Indian bowling at military medium was never going to give any batting unit nightmares.

Last season, the franchise brought in Cameron Green who did reasonably well with the ball and was exceptional with the bat coming at the top of the order. But it forced the team management to alter its success mantra of playing two overseas pacers. Mitchell Johnson-Lasit Malinga, Mitchell McClenaghan-Malinga, or Trent Boult with either James Pattinson or Nathan Coulter-Nile, alongside Jasprit Bumrah as the lone Indian seamer, was one of the major reasons behind their success.



As a pace-bowling all-rounder, he allows the team to play two overseas **pacers.** *Instagram*

Green would take up one of the four overseas spots leaving Mumbai having to use two Indian seamers and one overseas bowler. To Hardik, when fully fit, is a rare breed - an Indian pace-bowling all-rounder who can bowl at brisk pace at any stage of the game.

make matters worse, Bumrah missed the entirety of last year and Jofra Archer who was supposed to be the main overseas option was unavailable through injury as well.

The emergence of Akash Madhwal in the middle part of last season and veteran leggie Piyush Chawla picking wickets papered over a lot of cracks, but they were no match for Shubman Gill's sublime assault in Qualifier 2 which brought the curtain down on Mumbai Indians' campaign.

While Mumbai Indians were struggling with these issues, Hardik was writing his own

success story at Gujarat Titans. Leading a new franchise, he tasted ultimate glory in the inaugural season when nobody would gave them a chance, ending on the losing side the next year after a last-ball thriller.

Hardik, who looked to be a fading force at Mumbai Indians, would reinvent himself at Titans. He would take the new ball and swing it both ways, come up the batting order and churn out vital runs. The all-rounder enjoyed arguably his best period in the IPL in the Gujarat Titans shirt.

Though Hardik's return has put smiles on the faces of Mumbai Indians fans, the opinions were mixed when he was announced as cap-

tain of the side. That decision was influenced by how Hardik galvanised Gujarat Titans in the two seasons he led them. But replacing Rohit would have been a difficult call for the franchise, especially after he became India captain. It would be the first time an India captain would not lead his franchise since the inception of the tourna-

However, Rohit's own batting returns have tapered off in the IPL of late. To be blunt, if his numbers were looked at in isolation without knowing the player's name it would be a surprise that the player was not dropped.

Bringing back Hardik and naming him captain is a calculated gamble by Mumbai Indians. For a franchise that has won the most trophies (5) alongside Chennai Super Kings in the history of the tournament, and with the quality of players and support staff at their disposal delivering silverware regularly is not a luxury but a necessity for the franchise.

It is going to be a baptism by fire for Hardik. Every decision he makes will be scrutinized closely and every facial expression captured by cameras dissected on social platforms. He needs to deliver silverware to buy over the fans and repay the faith reposed by the franchise.

SPORT

Sabalenka's partner and former NHL player dies in 'apparent suicide'

STEVE KEATING MIAMI, MARCH 19

KONSTANTIN KOLTSOV, the Belarusian former pro ice hockey player and boyfriend of tennis player Aryna Sabalenka, died in an "apparent suicide" the Miami-Dade police department said on Tuesday. Police said in a statement sent to Reuters that they had responded to a call on Monday at a Miami resort about reports of a man jumping off a balcony.

"At approximately 12:39 a.m., Bal Harbour Police and Fire Rescue were dispatched to the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, 9703 Collins Avenue, in reference to a male that jumped from a balcony," said the Miami Dade police department.

"The Miami-Dade Police Department, Homicide Bureau, responded and has taken over the investigation of the apparent suicide of Mr. Konstantin Koltsov.

"No foul play is suspected."

The former forward, who was 42, played for the Belarus national team in the 2002 and 2010 Olympics and spent parts of three seasons with the National Hockey League's Pittsburgh Penguins from 2002 and 2006.

His death was confirmed by Russian club Salavat Yulaev, where he was an assistant coach. "It is with deep sorrow that we inform you that the coach of Salavat Yulaev, Konstantin Koltsov, has passed away," Salavat Yulaev, which is based in the Russian city of Ufa, said in a statement.

"He was a strong and cheerful person, he was loved and respected by players, colleagues, and fans. Konstantin Evgenievich forever wrote himself into the history of our club.

"May he rest in peace."

Sabalenka, the world's number tworanked women's tennis player and Australian Open champion, is in Miami for a women's WTA event.

According to media reports Sabalenka is not withdrawing from the Miami Open, which gets underway on Tuesday, but will not do press conferences following her matches.

Sabalenka has a first round bye and is scheduled to play either Romanian wildcard Simona Halep, who is returning from a doping ban, or Spain's Paula Badosa on Friday.

Sabalenka and Koltsov were first linked in June 2021, according to People magazine, and the world number two has frequently posted photos of them together on her Instagram account.

"I love you @koltsov2021," she wrote in one post that included heart and other emojis. "Happy birthday my love. You are my dearest person, my best friend and my strongest support. Peace be with you, strength, patience and health.

"I hope we will have everything we planned I love you," she wrote.

Koltsov also applauded Sabalenka after the Belarusian won her second consecutive Australian Open title in January. **REUTERS**



Aryna Sabalenka with partner Konstantin Koltsov. Instagram

Sindhu gets a system update

Padukone wanted Olympic medallist at peak fitness if he was to coach her and insisted on data-backed regimen

SHIVANI NAIK

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

SOMEONE NEEDED to tell PV Sindhu that her target in life ought to be an Olympics gold, not to be content with a silver and bronze, resting on her laurels. Someone also needed to tell Sindhu that to even dream of the said Paris gold, her fitness was nowhere near perfect six

Prakash Padukone didn't mince words. If he had to re-start travelling with a player

after 25 years, he needed that player to meet his standards of excellence.

"Prakash sir told Sindhu (and Lakshya Sen) in no uncertain terms, that he demands that they take responsibility for their careers. He told them they were privileged to have a good team but shouldn't expect everyone will do things for them. Sindhu and Lakshya were never not in the best shape. But now they are in incredible shape," informs Viren Rasquinha, who while heading Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ) projects, brought Sindhu's Bangalore team together.

It was a hard conversation with Sindhu, Rasquinha informs, after she requested Padukone to be courtside. "Her fitness was way below Prakash sir's standards, though to a layman she might have appeared fit. He told her 'I will agree to work with you, if you get fit and pass all sports science tests," Rasquinha recalls.

Stat-led results

Sindhu's game is traditionally built around fitness and her coach during the first Olympics, Pullela Gopichand, always insisted on micromanaging her strength and stamina markers when she won her early World Championship and Rio Games medals. But Padukone simply set down the rules - every assertion would be backed by data. "And we have staggering results. Sindhu is back to her 2016 Rio-time body weight now, like when she won silver," Rasquinha informs. "She is at her ideal weight now, but needed work on body fat percentage, peak power and muscle mass."

Completely rejigging her team, she was



Wins against elite names are yet to materialise but PV Sindhu continues to build base to compete in three-setters. (Right) Sindhu with Prakash Padukone. Special arrangement

given a new nutritionist, and strength & conditioning coach, in Bangalore. "Sindhu remains so humble despite two (Olympic) medals, and trusts her team. Also, data doesn't lie. We needed her to be able to push longer and play 3 sets," Rasquinha says.

That she's improved is not in doubt - managing to nick sets off An Se Young, Chen Yufei and Carolina Marin. But the wins against elite names are still nowhere in striking distance, with recurring third-set instances of losing steam, though she gave Yufei one right scare at the French Open.

Padukone had said at the outset of their association that being able to beat Tai Tzu Ying, Se Young and Yufei, would be the real deal. Still, there's more variety in her game now, and an attacking intent that had disappeared while her career dawdled under defensive-minded Korean coach Park Tae Sang for two years. At 28, no one claims it will be easy. But

Padukone was only going to be dragged out of his contented semi-retirement if Sindhu set her sights on the improbable top perch. Hands-on coaching

Saina Nehwal made All England and World Championships finals after moving to Bangalore, and much is expected out of Sindhu's move. "No, but, Prakash sir was not involved with Saina's tournament coaching. It was mostly Vimal sir. With Saina, he would sit behind and chip in with advice. But with Sindhu, he's back on court. For the first time. I'm seeing so much enthusiasm and he's on court every day. He's 68, but his approach is refreshingly modern," Rasquinha says.

He sets a lot of store on ideal body weight



and needs daily updates on blood tests and tests in the sports science lab. Himself known for deceptive stroke play and net magic while maintaining insane fitness levels, Padukone is under no illusion that mere racquet skills suffice. Sindhu's aggressive game will always rely on power and her long range, but while those get shored up, her shot selection has improved - incrementally. But her team reckons she's fighting fit for the deciders. Like a marathoner, the training mileage is only at 35km off the 42.195km at this point. "It will improve more, but will boil down to fitness in those two Olympics weeks," Rasquinha says.

Results are no great shakes against the Fab Four & Furious Marin. And the knee injury was an almighty scare, but she's giving herself a chance by propping up her fitness.

"She'll have to walk the fine line between peak fitness and injury prevention - when to push, when to recover," Rasquinha says. Nehwal's over-training before 2016, where she was in swell form, is a cautionary tale.

With Yufei, Tai Tzu Ying, He Bingjiao, Akane Yamaguchi, and Se Young all walking the injury tightrope, Paris might well get interesting, and be decided solely on who reaches there in their fittest avatar.

But Sindhu's team is hoping for better seedings, though she's No 11 right now. "We have to get Sindhu and Lakshya's ranking up as high as possible, at least Top 8, so they don't get tough opponents at the start," Rasquinha says. Paris seedings dictate they manage this taut scheduling balance till end-July.

Ahead of Tokyo, Sindhu had mimicked Tokyo court conditions. Simulating Paris opponents isn't high on Padukone's list though, and he doesn't really believe in lining up sparring partners with her rivals' styles. "Sindhu has enough male players to spar with. We had that discussion, but Prakash sir thinks that no one can replicate exact style. (Tai Tzu can't be cloned in a lab). It can't be an excuse. We won't give too much emphasis to it," Rasquinha says. Sindhu 2024 can be upgraded though.

Sindhu regaining attacking game ahead of Paris

PV SINDHU'S support staff (coach, trainer, physio, nutritionist, strategist) has been completely replaced in 2024 from her 2016 team, when she won her first Olympic medal. But Sindhu's pivoting from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, from Pullela Gopichand to Prakash Padukone - via Park Tae Sang, Vidhi Chaudhary, Hafiz Hashim and Agus Santoso – is in pursuit of the same end goal - making her an aggressive, attacking player once again.

At Bengaluru, the defensive delaying of kill shots till late in the rally is being scrubbed clean. The jump hopsmash has resurfaced and Sindhu's lunging at the net with more assurance. Padukone has rejigged her drops - helping choose the right moment to play them to end a rally, with the smash as a set-up shot, not the kill. Back in the day, she didn't need to bother with nuance on the smash and could hit through. Now she bides her time, but never gets defensive,

Sindhu's thirdgame endurance is still pretty wretched. But she nicked a 21-19 middle game against Carolina

dictating rallies.

Marin in Denmark with Md Siyaduttullah in the coaching chair, and in Paris, took the opener 24-22 against Chen Yufei with Agus and Padukone instructing. She lost both matches, but bared vintage fighting claws, closing out these games against top names.

Sindhu didn't win very much in the lead-up to Rio 2016 either, but opponents feared a 19-19 situation with her. With her wolf-pack backing her, the bite is new. The attacking hark is old.

Her fitness was way below Prakash sir's standards, though to a layman she might have appeared fit. He told her 'I will agree to work with you, if you get fit and pass all sports science tests"

VIREN RASQUINHA

-OLYMPIC GOLD QUEST HEAD

Independent football regulator to oversee English football business

ASSOCIATED PRESS MARCH 19

LEGISLATION TO establish an independent regulator in English soccer will be introduced on Tuesday in an effort to ensure the financial sustainability of clubs and stop teams from joining breakaway competitions like the European Super League.

The Football Governance Bill, which will underpin the creation of a new regulator which will license clubs in the top five tiers of the English game, was described by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as a "historic moment for football fans." The British government is acting on a recommendation from a fan-led review carried out in the wake of the collapse of two lower-league clubs — Bury and Macclesfield — because of financial mismanagement. It also comes in response to the failed attempts of 12 of Europe's elite clubs, including six from England's Premier League, to set up a European Super League in 2021.

The English clubs quickly shelved the idea after a backlash from fans and the government. The government said the regulator will be a standalone body — independent of the gov-



The British government said the regulator will be a standalone body independent of the government and **football's authorities.** Reuters

ernment and soccer's authorities — that is "equipped with robust powers revolving around three core objectives: To improve financial sustainability of clubs, ensure financial resilience across the leagues, and to safeguard the heritage of English football." Under the bill, new owners and directors will face more stringent tests to stop clubs falling into the wrong

IFR: The bill proposes to institute an independent body - English Independent Football Regulator (IFR) that will conduct checks and balances perform "enhanced due diligence" on

new owners' financial resources, and if unsuitable owners fail key tests, make them divest of their holdings. **OWNERS' TEST:** A three-stage test has

been proposed regarding new owners of clubs, including assessments on financial soundness, business plans, and "integrity and honesty."

hands, and face the possibility of being removed from owning clubs if they are found to be unsuitable. Clubs from the Premier League down to the fifth-tier National League will, for the first time, need a license to compete in elite competitions. That license will require all clubs to meet certain mandatory conditions, such as basic requirements on fan engagement, cor-

FINANCIAL HEALTH:

KEY TENETS OF FOOTBALL GOVERNANCE BILL

Responsibilities include operating a "licensing regime" which will conduct checks on financial health of clubs and make sure it complies with financial regulation.

FOOTBALL HERITAGE: To protect "English football heritage", fans will be consulted regularly by clubs, but not required to act on their concerns.. Any plan to sell a home ground, for example, will require fan consultation.

porate governance and financial reporting. Clubs will be required to consult their fans on key off-field decisions, such as club heritage and the club's strategic direction. There will be protection against breakaway competitions and stadium relocations.

The regulator also will have the power to settle an ongoing row over financial distribu-

tion between the Premier League and the English Football League — the three divisions below the top-flight. "Backstop powers," as the government has called them, will be confirmed when the bill is introduced to Parliament on Tuesday.

"Football is nothing without its fans," Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer said. "We are determined to put them back at the heart of the game, and ensure clubs as vital community assets continue to thrive.

"The new independent regulator of football will set the game on a sustainable footing strengthening clubs and the entire football pyramid for generations." Facing a possible reduction of its powers, the Premier League – the most-watched and most lucrative domestic league in the world — said it will study the bill and work closely with the government having previously voiced concerns about how a regulator could potentially damage the league's ability to attract investment.

"Mindful that the future growth of the Premier League is not guaranteed," the competition said on Monday, "we remain concerned about any unintended consequences of legislation that could weaken the competitiveness and appeal of English football."

SPORTS BAR



Nagal fails to qualify for Miami Open main draw

INDIAN TENNIS player Sumit Nagal failed to make the main draw of the Miami Open on debut after losing his final qualifying round match to Hong Kong's Coleman Wong here on Tuesday. Nagal lost 6-3 1-6 5-7 to the 19year-old, squandering the advantage he secured by winning the first set. Wong, who like Nagal is playing his first Miami Open, defeated France's Hugo Gaston 6-2 3-6 6-2 in his first qualifying round. Earlier, Nagal showed great composure on way to a straight-set win over Canada's Gabriel Diallo to make a bright start to the tournament. The 26-year-old, playing the first-round qualifier match, kept his nerves in the crucial stages to outwit the 6 feet 8 inches tall Canadian Diallo 7-6(3) 6-2 on Monday. Nagal had broken into the world's top-100 last month after winning the Chennai Open. PTI

Sathish Karunakar advances in Swiss Open

INDIA'S SATHISH Kumar Karunakar won the first two men's singles matches and progressed in the Swiss Open badminton on Tuesday. The seasoned Sameer Verma rallied to beat fourth seeded Brazilian Ygor Coelho 11-21 21-10 21-14, while Karunakar first won his match against Uriel Francisco Canjura Artiga of Salvador 21-18 21-12 and then defeated Korea's Jeon Hyeok Ji in the qualification. However, Verma lost his next qualification match to Alwi Farhan 18-21 12-21. In mixed doubles qualification, the duo of Sumeeth B Reddy and Sikki Reddy got the better of Brazil's Davi Silva and Samia Lima 21-12 21-17. PTI

Monahan says meeting with PIF 'constructive'

The PGA Tour took a first step in sparking negotiations with Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund with a meeting in the Bahamas that Commissioner Jay Monahan described as "constructive" without offering many more details. In a memo late Monday night to players, Monahan said the player directors on the PGA Tour Enterprises board met with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of the Public Investment Fund that provides the money behind rival LIV Golf. It was the first time player directors, including Tiger Woods, met with Al-Rumayyan. Woods played nine holes with him at Albany Golf Club, according to a person informed of the meeting. **AP**



The Paris Olympics are set to begin on July 26 this year. Reuters

Russians, Belarusians not part of Paris opening

RUSSIANS AND Belarusians will not take part in the parade of athletes at the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics in July, the International Olympic Committee said on Tuesday. The athletes from these countries who qualify for the Games will be competing as independent athletes without their flags and anthems following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. They will compete as individual neutral athletes (AINs) under a specially-created flag and with an anthem without lyrics, the IOC said.

"They will not participate in the parade of delegations during the opening ceremony, since they are individual athletes," the IOC said following an executive board meeting. "But an opportunity will be provided for them to experience the event." The IOC said it expected an estimated 36 Russian and 22 Belarusian athletes to make the cut for Paris, compared to the Russian team of 330 at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Belarus had a team of 104 at those Games. **REUTERS**

Shaili Singh prepared for Indian Open Jumps

THE SPOTLIGHT will be on promising Shaili Singh at the Indian Open Jumps Competition beginning here on Wednesday. With the Paris Olympics lined up in July-August, the world U-20 silver medallist in women's long jump has specific goals set this year. "It is too early to expect outstanding performance but we are hoping for a good result, otherwise it will be a challenging task to earn a ticket to Diamond League competitions," Shaili's personal coach, Robert Bobby George, said on the eve of the one-day domestic competition. **PTI**

Sharath climbs to 34 in ITTF rankings

INDIAN TABLE tennis player Sharath Kamal on Tuesday gained as many as 54 places to jump to 34th spot in the ITTF Word Rankings, following a quarterfinal finish at the Singapore Smash last week. Sharath had been in the top-50 for a long time before a string of early exits pushed him down in the rankings. The 41-year-old, who will be featuring in his fifth and final Olympics in Paris later this year, had beaten world number 15 Darko Jorgic before getting the better of 17th-ranked Omar Assar of Egypt enroute to the quarterfinals in the WTT event in Singapore. PTI



Madrid files complaint over Vini Jr abuse REAL MADRID filed a new complaint with

Spanish state prosecutors on Monday follow-

ing reports of more hate chants aimed at forward Vinícius Júnior in the Spanish league. The club also filed a complaint with the Spanish Football Federation disciplinary committee against the referee of Saturday's match at Osasuna for not including in his match report the alleged "Die, Vinícius" chants by local fans at El Sadar Stadium. Madrid called the match report by referee Juan Martínez Munuera "negligent." "The official omitted, in voluntary and deliberate fashion, the insults and humiliating chants directed towards our player on a repeated basis, despite his attention being drawn to them continually by our players as they were happening," Madrid said in a statement late Monday. Madrid has asked prosecutors to try to "identify the perpetrators of the abuse" against its player. AP