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Suddenly Manipur looks more stable than Haryana.

PARTY RELEASES NAMES FOR ANOTHER 72 SEATS

Gadkari, Khattar and Goyal in second BJP list for LS polls, 28 MPs dropped

3 former CMs, 9 ministers, 2 RS MPs, 15 women among those handed tickets

LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE BJP Wednesday released its second list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections, dropping at least 28 sitting MPs while including three former Chief Ministers, nine Union Ministers, two Rajya Sabha MPs and 15 women.

If the party's first list of 195 candidates, released on March 2, was more about continuity with a large number of candidates being retained, the second list of 72 candidates signalled change and an emphasis on selection based on the winnability factor. With the second list, the BJP has announced all its candidates for Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tripura and Uttarakhand.



Nitin Gadkari will contest from Nagpur; Piyush Goyal from Mumbai North; Manohar Lal Khattar from Karnal

Tuesday and vacated his Karnal Assembly seat Wednesday, has been fielded from the Karnal Lok Sabha constituency. While Union Minister Nitin

EXPLAINED
The winnability factor

THE BJP second list points to the emphasis on the winnability factor of candidates given that it has set itself a target of 370 seats this time. Reason why at least 28 MPs no longer find place in a list of 72 candidates.

Cong revisits its 2019 poll promise of NYAY, assures Rs 1 lakh/year aid for poor women



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Dondaicha, Maharashtra, on Wednesday. PTI

NYAY, or Nyuntam Aay Yojana, was the highlight of the Congress's 2019 election manifesto, under which it had promised "five crore families who constitute the poorest 20 per cent of all families" a guaranteed cash transfer of Rs 72,000 a year. "As far as possible, the money will be transferred to the account of a woman of the family who has a

22,217 poll bonds sold, data to EC names buyers, parties: SBI to SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE STATE Bank of India (SBI) told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that, in accordance with the court's directions, its data on poll bonds -- submitted to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday -- includes the names of the buyers along with the date of purchase and denomination of the bonds, and the names of the political parties who redeemed the bonds along with the date and denomination as well.

One nation, one poll report likely today: In eight volumes, no German model

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE HIGH-LEVEL committee set up by the government to draw a roadmap for holding simultaneous elections is expected to submit an eight-volume report, running into 18,000 pages, to President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday, sources said.

of simultaneous elections. According to sources, it also debated the German model of constructive vote of no-confidence -- where a no-confidence motion against the incumbent can be brought if there is a positive vote of confidence in a successor -- but decided against recommending it. The panel found it to be "against the tenets of Indian democracy", a source said.

The Law Commission, in its 2018 draft report, had recommended the "constructive vote of no-confidence" as a way to ensure stability of governments. The panel met representatives of political parties, retired Chief Justices, former Chief Election Commissioners, industrialists and economists as a part



FLYING COLOURS

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud felicitates Pragya Samal, daughter of an attendant at the Supreme Court who also works as a cook at a judge's residence, on Wednesday. A researcher at the Centre for Research and Planning, the 26-year-old got admission offers for LLM courses from 6 top US law schools, with 2 of them also offering scholarship. PTI

THE WORLD

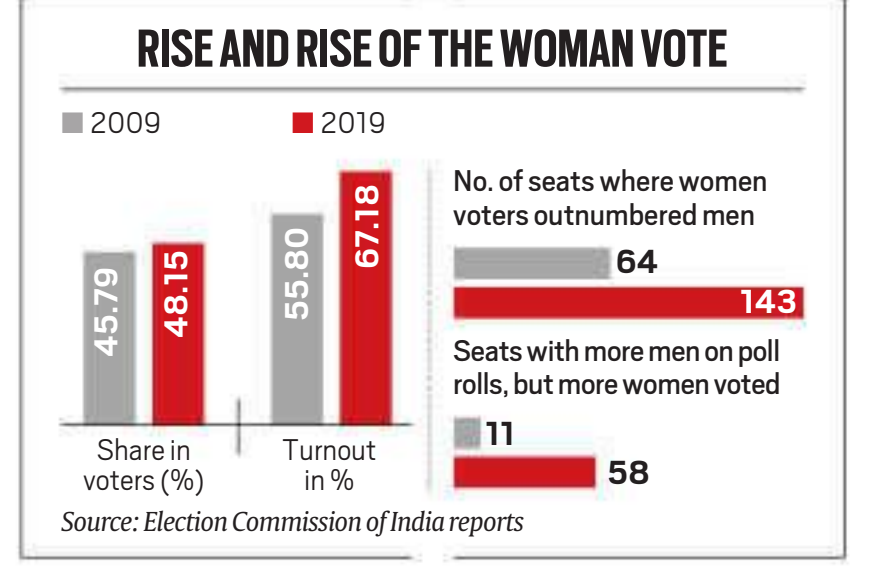
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TRUMP, BIDEN GET NOMINATIONS, KICK OFF REMATCH PAGE 16

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Growing tally, rising turnout: Women steadily outnumber men in LS seats

Seats with more women electors than men up from 85 in 2009 to 110 in 2019



NIA detains man who suspect met 8 hours after Bengaluru cafe blast

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MARCH 13

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA), probing the March 1 blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru that left nine persons injured, Wednesday detained a person identified as Syed Shabbir from Ballari who is alleged to have interacted with the suspect in Ballari the same night, around eight hours after the blast.



CCTV footage of the suspect at the cafe on March 1

Islamic State group, but efforts to nab the suspect and possible collaborators have remained a challenge on account of the group being adept in the usage of terror tradecraft.

Last week, between March 6 and 9, the NIA questioned four members of an ISIS Ballari module -- they are in prison after their arrest in December 2023 -- for possible clues on who the suspect in the blast case could have met in Ballari.

The CCTV trail of the suspect captured from buses and bus stops in Bengaluru and Ballari showed him arriving in Ballari, located around 300 km from

DATA DELETED AS REGIME CHANGED: FIR Hyderabad Police probes tapping of BRS rivals, officer arrested

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

THE HYDERABAD Police on Wednesday arrested a suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) who is suspected of having tapped the phones of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti's (BRS) political opponents while the party was in power in Telangana. DSP Dugyala Praneeth Kumar had been posted with the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) when the alleged offences took place. He was suspended earlier this month after it came to light

that he allegedly erased intelligence data from the SIB's hard drives after Congress won the Assembly election last year.

He is also accused of having copied intelligence data to his personal devices. He was booked last week on charges of tampering with evidence, breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy. Kumar was taken into custody on Tuesday night and arrested on Wednesday following questioning overnight, officers said.

According to sources, Kumar is suspected of having been involved in the tapping of phones of Opposition leaders and others

when the BRS was in power. SIB Additional Superintendent of Police D Ramesh had lodged the first complaint against Kumar after finding that he was involved in the alleged phone tapping and copying of data between 2018 and 2023.

Kumar regularly copied intelligence data onto his personal pen drives, and is suspected of using the official intelligence-gathering machinery to profile several people, including the BRS's opponents, officials said.

After the Congress came to power in December last year

Journey of data journalist who died in US fire: Delhi to NY, DU to Columbia

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

FROM A government school in West Delhi to Columbia University and a job as a data journalist in the US -- Fazil Khan's leap from the Capital's Raghuraj Nagar neighbourhood to New York was part audacious, part inspiring.

That journey was abruptly cut short last month, when Fazil, 27, died in a fire in his building in Harlem, New York, on February 23. While 17 people were injured in the blaze, Fazil was the sole fatality. On February 28, The New York Times reported that the fire was caused by "lithium-ion batteries that power e-bikes". The fire began from an apartment where the batteries were being charged, the report added.

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) had stated on X that the fire was caused by a lithium-ion battery. The New York Police Department (NYPD) told *The Indian Express* in an email, "The investigation remains ongoing."

The email added that Fazil had been rescued by firefighters in a "critical condition" and was "pronounced deceased at the hospital".

Addressing the press on the day of the fire, February 23, New York City Fire Department (FDNY) officials said they had a "challenging fire" that afternoon that started on the third floor of the building but quickly spread to the hallway, blocking off the exit pathway of people on floors above. Fazil lived on the fourth floor.

Fazil was laid to rest in Delhi on February 28. The youngest member of his family, he is survived by his mother, two brothers and three sisters.



He moved to New York in 2020 to pursue a course in data journalism from Columbia University. Facebook

Kashif Khan, 33, Fazil's brother, told *The Indian Express*, "Our father passed away in 2022. This Eid would have marked two years of his death, but we lost Fazil before that."

Fazil was in India in December 2023 for Kashif's wedding and left for New York in January. "He handled our family's textile shop for a day during his visit and also visited our ancestral village (in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh) for the first time in 14 years," says the elder brother.

Kashif said, "In our area (Raghuraj Nagar), studies don't matter but our father ensured we all completed our graduation. Our

neighbours treated Fazil like a celebrity and posed for photos with him because he lived abroad. Fazil had goals and worked hard for them. We did family video calls each Saturday. During our last video call, he said he wanted to go to Mecca in November."

Akshay Kalra, 27, a data scientist and Fazil's classmate at Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, the Delhi government's school for meritorious students, in Paschim Vihar, said he had achieved the impossible.

"Where Fazil is from, leaving it (all behind) is a big deal... People here used to think that he had an attitude because he

would not talk to anyone but he was just working on his goals. Very few boys from our batch were able to do as well as Fazil," Kalra said.

Fazil went on to study English Honours from Delhi University's Aryabhata College and earned a postgraduate diploma in journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), before working in Delhi from 2018 to 2020, first as a sub-editor with *Business Standard* and then a correspondent with CNN-News18. In 2020, he moved to New York to pursue a data journalism course.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● 22,217 election bonds sold, data to EC names buyers, parties: SBI to SC

bonds were purchased and 1,609 were redeemed. It added that from April 12, 2019 to February 15 this year, a total of 18,871 electoral bonds were purchased and 20,421 were redeemed.

In the affidavit, the SBI chairman said the bank "has ready records in which the date of purchase, denomination and name of buyer were recorded, and (in relation to the political parties) the date of encashment and the denominations of the bonds encashed were recorded".

The bank said that in compliance with the Supreme Court's March 11 directions, "before the close of business hours on 12.03.2024, a record of this information was made available to the EC by hand delivering in digital form (password protected)".

"As per direction No. (b), the date of purchase of each electoral bond, the name of the purchaser and the denomination of the electoral bond purchased has been furnished. In terms of direction No. (c), the date of encashment of the electoral bonds, the name of political parties who have received the contributions, and the denomination of the said bonds has also been furnished," the affidavit said.

It added that the "data has been furnished in respect of bonds purchased and redeemed between 12.04.2019 to 15.02.2024".

"Electoral bonds were sold and redeemed in phases during this period and Phase XI started from 01.04.2019. The number of bonds set out in the application... included [by oversight] the bonds that were purchased during the period commencing 1st April, 2019 and not from 12 April, 2019," it said.

The data was handed over to the EC in a pen drive with two PDF documents that are password-protected. An envelope containing the passwords was given along with a letter addressed to Chief Election

According to ECI sources, the poll panel is likely to set up a committee to peruse the PDF files on Thursday and will upload the data on its website in the same format as was shared by SBI

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. According to ECI sources, the poll panel is likely to set up a committee to peruse the PDF files on Thursday and will upload the data on its website in the same format as was shared by SBI.

Earlier, the court had asked the poll panel to "compile the information and publish the details in its official website, no later than by 5 pm on March 15, 2024".

"The amount of the electoral bonds which were not encashed by the political party within the validity period of 15 days during this period have been transferred to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, as per the Gazette notification No. 20 dated January 2, 2018," the SBI said.

On February 15, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had struck down the electoral bond scheme and asked the SBI to furnish details of the bonds purchased and redeemed to the ECI.

On Monday, the court rejected the SBI's request for time till June 30 to disclose the details, and asked it to furnish these before close of business hours on March 12.

The court, however, clarified that it had not asked the SBI to match the bonds against the recipients.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
Gadkari, Khattar, Goyal in 2nd list

Gadkari has been retained from Nagpur, his colleague Piyush Goyal, leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, will be contesting from Mumbai North.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has been fielded again from Dharwad in Karnataka while Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje has been moved from Udipi Chikmagalur to the Bangalore North constituency. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur will again contest from the Hamirpur constituency in Himachal Pradesh.

BJP's media cell head Anil Baluni, who is currently a Rajya Sabha MP, has been fielded from Uttarakhand's Garhwal constituency. Tejasvi Surya, who heads the party's youth wing, has been retained in Bangalore South.

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will contest from Haveri. He is the fifth former CM to be handed the party ticket - the first list had Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh) and Biplab Kumar Deb (Tripura) while the second list named Khattar, Bommai and former Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Trivedi Singh Rawat who will be in the fray for the Haridwar seat. Rawat replaces former CM and former Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal in Haridwar.

The second list also has surprises in Delhi - Harsh Malhotra will be the BJP face in East Delhi and Yogendra Chandolia in the SC-

reserved North West Delhi.

In Maharashtra's Beed constituency, once represented by Gopinath Munde, the party has replaced the late leader's daughter Pritam Munde with her sister Pankaja Munde, a BJP national secretary and a prominent state party leader.

The BJP has dropped Sunita Duggal, one of the most vocal MPs in Lok Sabha, in Sirsa and has fielded Ashok Tanwar who joined the BJP recently from AAP, a party he had joined after leaving the Congress. In another surprise move, the BJP also replaced Union Minister of State Darshana Jadhav in Surat with Mukeshbhai Chandrakant Dalal.

Union Ministers of State Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurgaon), Krishan Pal Gurjar (Faridabad), Bhagwanth Khuba (Bidar) and Bharati Pawar (Dindori, Maharashtra) have found place in the list. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Kalaben Delkar has been handed the BJP ticket from Dadra and Nagar Haveli. She is the wife of the late Mohanbhai Delkar who used to be the MP from the constituency. After his death, Kalaben Delkar joined Shiv Sena and won the 2021 by-election.

Also in the second list is cardiologist CN Manjunath, son-in-law of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, and he will be contesting on the BJP ticket from Bangalore Rural.

The BJP has dropped its two

sitting MPs in Tripura too - after Union Minister of State Pratima Bhoumik made way for Biplab Kumar Deb in Tripura West in the first list, the Tripura East seat, reserved for ST, has gone to Maharani Kriti Singh Debbarna, elder sister of Tipra Motha founder and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarna.

Pratap Simha, who landed in a spot after his office provided visitor passes to men who had jumped with smoke canisters from the Lok Sabha gallery to the chamber last December, has been dropped in Mysore - the ticket has gone to Yadvuveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family. Former Karnataka party unit president Nalin Kateel has been replaced by Brijesh Chawta in Dakshin Kannada. The BJP has also given a ticket to late party MP Rattan Lal Kataria's wife Banto Kataria in Ambala constituency.

In Karnataka's Davanagere, the BJP has replaced veteran party leader GM Siddeshwara, who had been representing the constituency since 2004, with his wife Gayathri Siddeshwara. His father G Mallikarjunappa was also a Lok Sabha MP for two terms - 1996-1998 and 1999-2002. B Y Vijayendra, son of former Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa, has been retained in Shimoga.

But the decision to field V Somanna in Tumkur, a disgruntled leader who had taken swipes

at the party leaders publicly, has raised some eyebrows in BJP circles. A party leader from Karnataka said the move could send a "wrong signal" about discipline, but sources pointed out that with the party setting a target of 370 seats, its primary criterion for finalising the name of a candidate has been the winnability factor. The winnability factor is one of the key takeaways from the list. Those who lost in states where the BJP is strong have mostly been replaced, but those who gave a good fight before losing in Telangana - where the BJP is weak - have been retained.

Nathansaha Kawreti, who lost to Congress leader Kamal Nath's son Nakul Nath from Chhindwara in 2019 by a margin of 37,536 votes, has been replaced this time by Vivek Buntia Sahu. The OBC Sahu has a significant presence in Chhindwara.

Veteran BJP leader Hansraj Ahir, who lost from Chandrapur in 2019, has been replaced by Sudhir Mungantiwar. Similarly, Ashwath Narayagowda of the BJP, who lost the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru (rural) to the Congress's DK Suresh by more than 2 lakh votes, has been replaced by CN Manjunath. The party has been kinder to candidates who put up a good fight in Telangana the last time. In Medak in 2019, M Raghunandan Rao stood third but got over 2 lakh votes. He has been fielded again.

● One nation, one poll report likely today:

of its consultations with stakeholders. It also invited comments from the public in January. In a statement in January, the committee said it had received 20,972 responses, of which 81 per cent were in favour of simultaneous elections.

While it is learnt that the committee wrote to the Election Commission (EC) asking for a meeting at least twice, the EC did not meet the committee but sent its written response. The committee also examined the macroeconomic impact of simultaneous elections, as well as the implications on crime rate and education outcomes.

The Union Law Ministry had appointed the committee in September 2023 to make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

Apart from Kovind, the committee includes Home Minister Amit Shah, former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairperson N K Singh, former Lok Sabha Secretary-General Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve, and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury,

leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, was included in the committee too, but he declined to be a part of it, saying it was an "eye-wash". He said the terms of reference had been drawn up in a way that guaranteed the conclusions.

The committee was asked to suggest specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the RP Act, 1951 and the rules framed under them. It was also tasked with examining whether any amendments to the Constitution would require to be ratified by states.

According to its terms of ref-

erence, the Kovind Committee was also asked to "analyse and recommend possible solution in a scenario of simultaneous elections emerging out of a hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection, or any such other event" and "suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and specifically, suggest the phases and time-frame within which simultaneous elections may be held".

It also looked into the logistics of holding simultaneous elections, and the modalities for a common electoral roll and Voter ID cards.

● Cong revisits its 2019 poll promise of NYAY

bank account or who will be urged to open a bank account," the manifesto had said.

On Wednesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a video statement, and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, at a women's rally in Maharashtra's Dhule district, announced five "Mahila Nyay" guarantees. The first of the promises - Mahalakshmi guarantee - was to give Rs 1 lakh to one woman in each of the poorest families. The Congress did not spell out the overall financial implication of the promise or the estimated number of families which would be covered.

Asked how many families would benefit, former

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and convener of the Congress manifesto committee, T S Singh Deo, told *The Indian Express*: "We are still waiting for the Government of India to do the Census. Once the government does it... we will identify the women. There are figures by various bodies... but they don't match. So obviously, it will be an exercise that the government will have to do."

"One figure puts it (the number of poor families) at 6 or 7 per cent. Another puts it at 12 per cent, yet another puts it at 15-16 per cent. The government has not gone ahead with the Census. The only figures we have is that of the 2011 Census... But that is

not an issue. It is a goal that is to be achieved and it will be done," he said. In its 2019 manifesto, the Congress had said the estimated cost of its NYAY promise would be over 1 per cent of the GDP in the first year, and over 2 per cent of the GDP from the second year. "As the nominal GDP grows and families move out of poverty, the cost will decline as a proportion of GDP," he had said.

Among the other "Mahila Nyay" guarantees announced on Wednesday was a promise of "aadhi aabadi, poora haq" - providing 50 per cent reservation for women in new appointments in the central government. Deo said the promise could be implemented through "executive or-

ders". "Job reservation is not a Constitutional issue," he said.

The other big promise was to double the Centre's contribution in the salaries of Anganwadi, ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and mid-day meal scheme workers.

The party also promised the appointment of a legal assistant in every panchayat to educate women on their rights and provide necessary help, and the construction of at least one working women's hostel in all district headquarters across the country, to be named after social reformer Savitribai Phule. Kharge said the Congress's guarantees are "pathar ki lakeer" (set in stone) and not a "jumla".

● NIA detains man who suspect met 8 hours after Bengaluru cafe blast

Bengaluru, at 8.58 pm on March 1, eight hours after the blast at the cafe at 12.56 pm.

The suspect is believed to have met an acquaintance in Ballari before travelling further in the direction of Kalaburagi in a bus.

The person detained has been identified as a resident of BUDA bazaar in Ballari.

Last week, Minaj alias Md. Sulaiman, 26, Anas Iqbal Shaikh, 23, Shayan Rahman @ Hussain, 26, and Syed Sameer, 19, from the Ballari ISIS module were taken into custody for three days to carry out investigations.

Two missing suspects from the Shivamogga module, Abdul Taha Matheen and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, have emerged as the main suspects in the cafe blast case.

The microscope is on Shazib on account of his close resem-

blance to the suspect seen in the CCTV footage and on account of Taha being identified as a bald man. He was part of a radical-minded youth group that emerged in the Thirthahalli region of Shivamogga between 2013 and 2016.

"Taha and Shazib were believed to be operating from a location outside India until now," police sources said.

The IED used in the cafe blast has been found to be very similar to the detonation system and materials used in the November 19, 2022 Mangaluru cooker bomb blast case.

Evidence from the Mangaluru case, the Shivamogga bomb testing episode from early 2022 which led to arrests in September 2022, a provocative graffiti incident in Mangaluru in December 2020, and a larger south India ISIS conspiracy case - Al Hind con-

spiracy from January 2020 - indicate knowledge of terror trade-craft.

Mohammed Shariq, 24, of the Shivamogga module, who was arrested on November 19, 2022 after a bomb he was carrying for planting in Mangaluru accidentally detonated on his lap in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru, moved around with an Aadhaar card of a railway employee from Hubballi.

Shariq also used the fake identity of a person called Arun Kumar Gavli to stay at a boarding house in Coimbatore in August-September 2022 before he was caught following the accidental explosion in Mangaluru. He told investigators he mistakenly set the timer on the IED for nine minutes instead of 90 minutes, resulting in the accidental blast.

The NIA told an anti-terrorism court last year that the suspects from the Shivamogga IS module

case were using encrypted communication technology to communicate with handlers for the larger IS-linked operatives network for south India.

"As per the data extracted from the electronic gadgets, the accused persons were using many encrypted communication platforms such as Wire, WickrMe, Element, Status, Session, Signal, Protected Text (PT), Telegram, Telegram-X, Graph, etc., and they used the said encrypted communication platforms with an intention to mask their identity," the NIA said.

One of the arrested suspects communicated with a handler identified as "Colonel" on the Session communication platform which facilitates disappearance of chats. The suspect however saved copies of his chats with "Colonel" on a laptop which the NIA managed to extract.

Kirron Kher sanitised mic after I spoke: Chandigarh Mayor

HINA ROHTAKI CHANDIGARH, MARCH 13

CHANDIGARH Mayor Kuldeep Kumar claimed on Wednesday that Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit and BJP MP Kirron Kher misbehaved with him. While addressing media persons along with Congress party in-charge and President H S Lucky,

Kumar said, "I felt bad when Kher got the mic sanitised after my address".

"Madam MP se pehle meri speech thi. Main speech deke jaise apni kursi pe aaya... Madam ne jo mic hai wo sanitise karva meri speech ki baad... Ek ghareeb baccha agar speech dega to aap mic sanitise karvaenge? Itni humse chhuchhut hai! I had to speak before Madam MP's address. The moment I finished speaking, she

got the mic sanitised... Would you get the mic sanitised if a poor child gives a speech? Why am I being treated like an untouchable?" said Kumar.

He also referred to Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit's comments on Tuesday that a supply of free water to the residents wasn't possible and that they should have thought before speaking and making promises. "Everyone knows how yester-

day the Administrator used ill words for me... He didn't misbehave with me but with citizens of Chandigarh who are relieved that we were giving," he said. "Apmanit shabd jo use kiye gaye... woh Chandigarh ki har janta ki liye hai... Mayor first citizen hai, and Mayor ka samman hona chahiye," Kumar said alleging that "Purohit was acting under the BJP's pressure." Kuldeep Kumar said he would

● Journey of data journalist

Fazil eventually ended up working as a data journalist with The Hechinger Report, a non-profit media company that focuses on covering education. One of his recent works was on how, at 17 institutions in the US, economically disadvantaged students paid more than students from affluent backgrounds on account of differences in financial aid.

A friend pointed to a post Fazil shared on LinkedIn that spoke about his "experience of applying for early career data journalism jobs in the US".

But before journalism, Kalra recalled, Fazil considered a career in shooting. "When we were in Class 9, we went on a National Cadet Corps (NCC) trip, where we were introduced to shooting. Fazil turned out to be the best shooter. He thought about pursuing the sport as a career, but neither his family nor our school had the resources for the rifle, the training," he says.

Other friends recalled Fazil as a quiet man who was a confidant of many. They also spoke of him as being "in style" always - in the best of clothes - as someone who wrote poetry and sang in a way that could set the mood in a room.

Parul Rohal, 27, a friend of Fazil's from Aryabhata College, said, "He was always curious and wanted to learn new things. His interests kept changing. He was interested in ghazals, and in our second year of college, in Urdu literature."

His school friend Kalra added, "Fazil was sure he wanted to go to Columbia University. But his plans for later kept changing. Initially, he wanted to live there. He liked working there, but missed his family. Then, he wanted to live with his family, his Ammi, wherever he was... in Europe or the US or somewhere in India."

Madhur Ratawal, 27, another friend of Fazil's from Aryabhata College who asked Instagram to "memorialise" his profile on the social networking site, said, "He was shy and opened up slowly. Fazil was from a very humble background and a big family - and, being the youngest, very beloved. He was religious and would observe roza sincerely. He was happy in New York and would tell his Ammi, 'Bahar leke jaunga (I will take you abroad)'. Sahil, 28, his classmate at IIMC, said, "Fazil was probably the smartest student in our class.

He was incredibly focused, both professionally or personally. At IIMC, he developed an interest in data journalism. We all knew he was meant to do great things."

Priya Keswani, 28, another classmate from IIMC, added, "We were once travelling in the Metro and met a junior who wanted to get into the same course at IIMC. Fazil explained the entire process for half an hour... Though he was very meticulous and ambitious, Fazil was incredibly kind too."

Ratawal says Fazil's warm personality was perhaps the reason why his friends in New York "moved heaven and earth" to send his body back to Delhi within days of his death.

Pooja Dantewadia, a data journalist based in New York and a friend of Fazil's said that in the aftermath of the incident, the priority for his friends in the US was to figure out the logistics and paperwork, and get his body home to India. "My roommate, who was collaborating with Fazil on a project, received a call from his workplace, informing us that he was present in the building where the fire broke out. Upon learning (of the death), all our friends gathered to coordinate logistics and ensure the body could be returned to his home in India," she says.

"Fazil loved his life in New York City and the meaningful work he was engaged in. Our conversations were diverse and enriching; he was an avid reader... He possessed a profound curiosity and was always eager to explore new depths of knowledge. Beyond his passion for cricket, Formula 1 had captured his interest, and he would eagerly watch sporting events on weekends, in addition to speaking with his family on video calls," says Dantewadia.

At a memorial held at Columbia University, a few days after the tragedy, friends and colleagues spoke of how he was always eager for new experiences, including learning ice-skating.

Liz Willen, Editor-in-Chief of The Hechinger Report, who spoke that day, said, "We were very, very lucky to have had him... I have often been asked, why do we do this work? Why? The answer: reporters like Fazil Khan - kind, brilliant, committed to truth-telling without fear or favour. That's one answer. Fazil was the kind of journalist that made it easy to answer that question."

● Growing tally, rising turnout: Women outnumber men in LS seats

constituencies where women outnumber men among electors and voters.

An analysis of the data for the 2009, 2014 and 2019 general elections shows that the share of women in the total electorate (those on the electoral rolls) increased from 47.73 per cent in 2009 to 48.09 per cent in 2019. Similarly, women's share among voters (those who exercised their franchise) went up from 45.79% in 2009 to 48.15% in 2019. These figures, when seen together, show that more and more women are not only registering to vote but turning out to vote on polling day.

A similar trend is seen in the rising number of constituencies where women outnumber men (in absolute terms) on the electoral rolls. The number of such constituencies has gone up from 85 (out of the total 543) in 2009 to 110 in 2019. Similarly, the number of constituencies where the number of women (in absolute terms) exceeded men in exercising their franchise has more than doubled from 64 in 2009 to 143 in 2019.

This trend, over the years, has narrowed the gap in overall turnout (measured in percentage terms) between male and female voters at the national level, with women's turnout surpassing that of men (67.2% for women compared to 67% for men) in 2019. In 2009, the male turnout at 60.3% was higher than the female turnout at 55.8%. In fact, in the 10 years from 2009 to 2019, the female turnout increased by 11.4% points as compared to a 6.7%-point increase

registered in the male turnout and 9.3%-point increase in the overall turnout.

What is particularly noteworthy is the increasing number of constituencies where women's voter turnout exceeded that of men, despite their lower overall numbers on the electoral rolls.

The number of such constituencies increased from 11 in 2009 to 34 in 2014 and 58 in 2019. In 2009, the 11 seats were spread across seven states and Union Territories - 3 in Tamil Nadu; 2 each in Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh; and 1 each in Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, and Punjab.

In 2014, the geographical spread of such constituencies expanded to 13 states - 10 in Bihar; 8 in Tamil Nadu; 3 in Odisha; 2 each in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; and 1 each in Arunachal Pradesh, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

In 2019, it spread to 17 states, with the highest in Bihar at 18 seats, followed by 6 each in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal; 3 each in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand; 2 in Rajasthan; and 1 each in Arunachal Pradesh, Daman and Diu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. According to the Election Commission, approximately 47.15 crore women are expected to participate in the forthcoming general elections.

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KOTA ELECTRECUTION

Another child dies, grandfather gets parole for last rites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOTA, MARCH 13

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy who was among the 20 persons who got electrocuted during a 'Shiv Baraat' procession here last week has succumbed to burn injuries, police said on Wednesday.

The boy, Saman, breathed his last on Tuesday night at MBS hospital here, taking the toll in the incident to two, they said.

Saman's grandfather who is lodged in jail in connection with the incident was brought out for a few hours on parole for the last rites on Wednesday, they added.

Eighteen children and two other participants of the 'Shiv Baraat' procession on the occasion of Mahashivratri on March 8 suffered burn injuries after electrocution from a high-tension power line passing overhead in the Sakatpura area. Badrinal, who is one of the three organisers booked in connection with the incident and lodged in jail, is the grandfather of Saman.

The first death in the incident was reported on Sunday when 13-year-old Shugan died at Jaipur's SMS Hospital.



10.5-FOOT HANDWRITTEN QURAN

A 10.5-foot handwritten Quran at the 'Rang Utsav' in Jaipur on Wednesday. Rohit Jain Paras

Former Cong govt put power companies in debt: CM Sharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, MARCH 13

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Wednesday accused the former Congress government of putting the power companies in debt.

He said that whenever the

Congress government came to power in Rajasthan, it worked to put the power companies in debt. Sharma said that the Congress had incurred a loss of Rs 65,000 crore on the power companies in Rajasthan between 2008 and 2013.

And when the Congress government came again in 2018,

this deficit increased by one and a half times to Rs 90,000 crore, he added.

The chief minister was addressing the PM Kusum Solar Pump Plant Approval Letter distribution ceremony organised at the State Agricultural Management Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur.

Three new tiger cubs spotted in Sariska

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, MARCH 13

THREE NEW tiger cubs have been spotted in Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar district. The Reserve, which faced an extinction of tigers in 2005, now has a population of 25 adult tigers and eight cubs.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma shared the information on X, bringing cheer to conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts. "Tigris ST 12 has been captured on camera with three new cubs in the Tal Vriksh range of Sariska Tiger Reserve. With this the total number of tigers in Sariska is 25 adults and 8 cubs,"



Sariska Tiger Reserve, which faced an extinction of tigers in 2005, now has 25 adult tigers and eight cubs. @Sanjay4India1/X

he said. The chief minister stressed that the "existence of tigers, a unique heritage of nature, is extremely important for the ecosystem". "Our government is committed to the conservation and promotion of the 'national animal' tiger, a symbol of strength and beauty," he said.

To revive the tiger population in Sariska, a rehabilitation programme was started in 2008 by bringing two tigers from Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur district. Sariska Sanctuary is spread over 1213.34 square kilometres in the Aravalli Hills. Apart from tigers, there is a large population of leopards, sambar, chital, nilgai, langur and other animals.

Rajasthan: BSP names 2 candidates for LS polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, MARCH 13

THE BAHUJAN Samaj Party (BSP) Wednesday announced its first list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections from Rajasthan, fielding Fazal Hussain from Alwar and Dev Karan Nayak from Sri Ganganagar (SC seat).

Fazal Hussain had unsuccessfully contested from Alwar's Tijara Assembly seat in 2008 and 2013 on a BSP ticket and then in 2018 as an Independent.

He is the son of two-term Congress MLA and former minister Tayyab Hussain Chaudhary.

Chaudhary was elected to the Assembly in 1993 and 1998 from Kaman seat in Bharatpur and held various portfolios as a

minister in the Ashok Gehlot government between 1998 and 2003, including Agriculture and Health.

BSP officials said Dev Karan Nayak is a Dalit leader from Sri Ganganagar.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, BSP Rajasthan state president Bhagwan Das Baba said, "BJP and Congress always give tickets to a Meghwal candidate from Sri Ganganagar. So, we have decided to go for a non-Meghwal candidate. In Alwar, our candidate is strong with a good political career. Our next list will be released soon."

In 2019, the BSP candidate Imran Khan had polled just 4.47 per cent of the total votes in Alwar, with BJP's Mahant Balak Nath cornering 59.93 per cent of the total votes.

3 of family killed in road accident in Sanchore

Jaipur: A 35-year-old man, his minor son and another member of their family died in a collision between a car and a trolley in Rajasthan's Sanchore district, police said on Wednesday.

Police Sub-Inspector Ganga Prasad said the car rammed into the trolley from behind on National Highway 68 near the Karola crossing late Tuesday night. The deceased were identified as Omprakash Vishnoi, his son Anil Vishnoi (12) and nephew Naresh Vishnoi (10), all residents of Dedwa village.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma condoled the loss of lives in the accident. The police officer said the bodies were handed over to the family and a case was registered against the trolley driver. PTI

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bangalore - 560002. Telephone: 680-26703810, Telex: 080-26704342. E-mail: director_bmcric@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/D&C/03&04/2023-24 Dated: 12-03-2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	BMCRI/D&C/03/2023-24, Dated: 12-03-2024	Tender are invited for the Purchase of Drugs to Teaching Hospitals of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.
2	BMCRI/D&C/04/2023-24, Dated: 12-03-2024	Tender are invited for the Purchase of Consumables and Chemicals to Teaching Hospitals of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.

Tender details, EMD details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-Procurement mode only. Website: <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website.

1) Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: 15-03-2024. 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting: 22-03-2024. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: 15-04-2024 before 4.30 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: 17-04-2024 at 2.30 PM.

For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru. Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4238/Advt/2023-24

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
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Ref No : NFL/FPS/Agro Chem/Tolling/2024/01 Date: 14.03.2024

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the prospective bidders for Empannelment of tolling units for supply of Agro Chemicals under Tolling Arrangement for further Marketing in different States. For details visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app> (e-tendering) & www.nationalfertilizers.com (Homepage). E-Tender no 2024_NFL_190900.1. Last date of Application submission/date of Opening of Application document is - 15.30 Hrs on 02.04.2024/15.30 Hrs on 03.04.2024. Any Corrigendum (s) to this tender shall be published only on our websites. DGM (I/c) FPS (I&D)

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIT-NR)
Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)

Recruitment Notice for Faculty Posts and Registrar

Dr. S.P. Mukherjee IIT-Naya Raipur invites applications from eligible candidates for the following faculty and non-faculty positions in continuation with its advertisement dated 07.02.2024 and 15.02.2024:-

1.	Rolling advertisement for recruitment to faculty posts of Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor.
2.	Recruitment to the post of Registrar on deputation basis.

Last date of receipt of application is 01.04.2024. For details and updates please visit the website of IIT-Naya Raipur <https://www.iitnr.ac.in>. Registrar (I/c)

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RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates (As per UGC notification 18 July 2018 and subsequent UP Government order no. 1190/REG-1-2019-16(114)/2010 dated 15 October 2019 and first Statutes of University as amended from time to time) for appointment in the various departments in the University. Online submission of application start from 06.03.2024 to 06.04.2024. Last date of submission of the printout of online filled form (downloaded) is 12.04.2024. Link for the form and other details: <http://www.ccsuniversity.ac.in/ccsu/recruitment> in for further details and eligibility conditions. Registrar

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

March 14, 2024

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENQ/ENG/200001649 (23-24) Microsoft EA Renewal FY24-25	4 Cr	14.03.2024	04.04.2024 1600 Hrs 04.04.2024 1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dcl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR UPGRADEMENT OF BIRTHING AID SYSTEM OF NORTH AND SOUTH JETTY AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetltd.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

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Tel.: 011-24367072, Fax No.: 011-24361018
Email: isd@ntpc.co.in, Website: www.ntpc.co.in

ATTENTION VALUED DEBENTURE HOLDERS OF NTPC LTD.

Pursuant to Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act) read with Regulation 61A of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the Regulations), the Company is required to transfer the amount of unpaid interest which remains unclaimed for a period of seven (7) years from the date of transfer to the escrow account to the credit of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (Fund) set up by the Central Government.

The 2nd interest after the allotment of Bonus Debenture was paid in March 2017. As per section 125 of the Act read with Regulation 61A of the Regulations, the interest on Bonus Debentures paid in March 2017 which remains unclaimed for a period of seven (7) years from the date of transfer to the escrow account shall be transferred to the Fund. As per the provisions of the Act, the unpaid and unclaimed amounts of aforesaid interest would be due for transfer to Fund on 26.03.2024.

Investors may please note that if any amount is transferred to the Fund, then the same has to be claimed from Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority following the refund procedure as provided under IEPF Rules, 2016. To avoid the inconvenience of claiming the refund from Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, Debenture holders who have not cashed their interest warrant(s) claimed/ received the 2nd interest paid for the financial year 2016-17 paid in March 2017, may lodge their claim with the RTA i.e. KFin Technologies Ltd. (RTA for Tax-free Bonds and Bond Debentures) (Unit: NTPC Ltd. Bonus Debentures) at Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032 Tel.: (040)-67162222 and Email: einward.ris@kfinetech.com or with the Investors Service Department, NTPC Ltd. at the address indicated above. Debenture holders may kindly ensure that the claim, if any, shall be received by the RTA / NTPC Ltd. on or before 26.03.2024 to ensure that the amount is not transferred to the Fund.

Debenture holder(s) may refer to "IEPF Details" under the "Investors" Section of the website: www.ntpc.co.in for further information with respect to unclaimed/unpaid interest. Subsequent due dates of transfer of unpaid/unclaimed interest to IEPF are as under:-

Financial Year	Nature of Payment	Due date for transfer to IEPF
2017-18	3 rd Interest	25.03.2025
2018-19	4 th Interest	24.03.2026
2019-20	5 th Interest	24.03.2027

NTPC Ltd. had issued its Bonus Debentures in March 2015 and as on date, certain Debentures are lying unclaimed. Investors are also requested to check the details of such Debentures under "Investors" Section of the website: www.ntpc.co.in and lodge the claim with the RTA / Company at the address indicated above. Investors may also note that Section 125 of the Act requires a company to transfer all matured debentures with the company in the name of 'Fund' which remains unpaid and unclaimed for a continuous period of 7 years. Accordingly, all unclaimed debentures will be transferred to the 'Fund' meeting the aforesaid criteria.

Debenture holder(s) are requested to keep their email ID and other relevant details updated with their Depository Participant (DP), in case of bonds held in dematerialized form and with the Company/RTA, in case of bonds held in physical form.

For and on behalf of NTPC Ltd.
Sd/-
(Ritu Arora)
Date: 13.03.2024 Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: New Delhi M.No.: F5270

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POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Adani Capital Private Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of 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 demand notice(s) on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Adani Capital Private Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) and (9) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Loan A/C No. / Old Loan A/C No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Demand Notice date & Amount	Symbolic/ Physical Possession on
1	106MSM0010677447	Vijay Kumar Solanki/Neeta Banjara/Roopa Ram	11-Aug-23 Rs. 3627860 As on date 09-Aug-23	07-March-2024 Physical Possession

Mortgage Property address: All that piece or parcel of Land along with structure standing there on being Patta No. 12/1985 Dt. 20-12-1985 of Plot at Bhatwara Khudala Falna The Ball Distt Pal. Bounded as East - Am Rasta, West - Laxman Now Kanya Devi, North - Bhima Rawat Bhat Falna Mohan Das Vaishnav, South - Choga S/O Khima Bhat

Date : 14.03.2024
Place : Rajasthan

For Adani Capital Pvt. Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

EXPRESS Careers

Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma KACHCHH UNIVERSITY
Recruitment Notice

Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University invites Applications for the regular Teaching posts in various departments of different faculties as per the UGC REGULATIONS 2018, and Registrar as per UGC, GoG and THE GUJARAT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2023. For more details please login to the University website <http://www.kskvku.ac.in> Application should be reached on or before 10/04/2024 by personally/RPAD.

Date : 08-03-2024 REGISTRAR

WORLD KIDNEY DAY

Nurturing Kidney Health with Passion

Don't take your kidneys to heaven, we need them here!

How grim is the incidence of kidney diseases in India and how much of it is triggered by diabetes?

The burden of kidney diseases can be gauged from the fact that one in every ten persons have chronic kidney disease and nearly 2 lac to 2.5 lac new kidney patients are added every year. Out of which, only 10,000 kidney transplants are done every year, and only 8000 are on peritoneal dialysis, i.e. home dialysis, while 50,000 patients are on hemodialysis throughout the country, facility for which is available only in Tier 1 and Tier II cities.

The situation is so grave that one out of ten is a diabetic patient in India. About 15.3% are pre-diabetic incidence which is found more in urban areas of India and one in three is hypertensive. In fact, more than 60% of kidney patients are due to diabetes and hypertension. Diabetes is the main cause of kidney disease, which has spread rampantly both, in the urban and rural population of our country. The other cause an infection, nephritis and renal stones.

What are the factors leading to increase in diabetic kidney cases?

Diabetes is preventable, except hereditary. Shockingly even those who do not have family history are turning diabetic in large numbers. That the rural population is largely spared from the impact of diabetes because of a healthier lifestyle and cleaner environment, is only a myth.

It is also attributed that poor lifestyle increases diabetes consequently raising incidence of kidney disease. Reasons being adulterated and junk food with high sodium and preservative content. Even metabolic syndrome, childhood obesity, weight gain, cancer, neuro problem, diabetes, all non-communicable diseases lead to kidney problems. Also, underweight and immature babies with underdeveloped kidneys, given birth by malnourished mothers in all probability are prone to develop kidney disease.

In north India, particularly, in Haryana and Punjab, incidence of renal stones is very high due to polluted underground water, while in villages, kidney incidence also occur due to malaria, infections, leptospirosis, and snake bite.

How critical is the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) situation and what is the survival rate?

A silent killer, CKD escapes detection of symptoms that could raise the red flag. Majority of the patients come to us in advanced stage III and beyond where 70% kidney are damaged already. Therefore, it is essential that those with family history of CKD and diabetes should get regular check-ups done to diagnose them at early age.

The body has two delicate kidneys situated in the lower back on sides of spine in lumbar region and back. But the only consolation is that you can live a normal life with one kidney even if the other is damaged, degenerated, donated or born with one.

In 1: 1500 people there is an incidence of single kidney since birth.

The Various stages of Chronic Kidney Disease

Stage I	-	90 ml/minute
Stage II	-	60-90
Stage III	-	30-60
Stage IV	-	15-30
Stage V	-	<15

The last two stages are critical stages and terminal, when nothing much can be done other than recommending kidney transplant or dialysis.

Why is kidney transplant the best therapy in the event of the organ's failure?

Kidney transplant and that too, preferably from a cadaver donor, is the best option because it improves the quality of life considerably and you don't require living donor. But sadly, in India, only 2-3 percent cadaver donations take place because of lack of awareness and cultural, social taboos, hindering the efforts. Unlike, in the West and South India, which has a more robust cadaver donation programme, the northern states of our country lag behind. India unfortunately has high number of road accidents. If the kidneys of brain dead victims can be grafted and transplanted in a patient with the consent of the family as per rules, we could save many precious lives, who die for want of a kidney. We should aim to take the conversation to the drawing rooms of homes and public discourse.

In living donation any close blood relation can donate their kidney to the patient. Of late even the in-laws have been included for instance, daughter-in-law,



Dr. (Prof.) A.K. Bhalla was born and brought up in Himachal Pradesh, after finishing his high school, he joined Govt. Medical College, Amritsar for MBBS and then PGI Chandigarh for MD (Medicine) and DM (Nephrology). He is also Board certified by National Board.

Amongst India's luminaries of the medical fraternity, **Dr. (Prof.) A.K. Bhalla**, Hony. Secretary, Board of Management, Chairman and HOD, Department of Nephrology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, has been honoured with the prestigious Padma Shri Award for his pioneering work in peritoneal dialysis, apart from several other recognitions. The World Kidney Day, is held every year on 2nd Thursday in the month of March. The theme for 2024 is Kidney Health for all, Advancing equitable and Access to Care & Optimal Medication Practice. He covers a wide gamut about the scenario of kidney diseases affecting the Indian population.

son-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law etc., can donate their kidney. If the patient does not have a family then under new HOTA guidelines, kidney can even be from unrelated donor on emotional grounds. The voluntary donor and the receiver, both have to undergo stringent adherences to rule out any financial transactions.

After Kidney Transplant, immediate results give 98-99 percent, one year survival is 93-95 percent, five year survival is about 60 percent and 40-50 per cent patients survive to 10-15 years. In contrast, on dialysis only 50 percent patients survive for two years and very few patients survive beyond 10 years. The youngest patient to be operated by us was 4-5 years and the oldest 75 years old, which is the upper permissible limit. For children, we recommend peritoneal dialysis usually as a method for Renal Replacement Therapy till they are 5 years old or above.

What are the types of kidney failure, diagnosis and recovery chances?

Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) are the two types of kidney disease. While the former is reversible, because it's caused by injury, which as it heals, the kidney too recovers. The factors leading to acute kidney condition are toxic drugs, heavy metals, drugs, poisoning, obstruction like stone, and very high blood pressure, diarrhoea, vomiting, burns etc.

In CKD the disease develops over a period of 3 months or more and is caused by diabetes, hypertension, infections, primary glomerulonephritis and Renal Calculus disease, hereditary disease, obstruction and malignancies. Urine output usually remains normal and symptoms do not appear till 60-70% kidney damage has occurred.

Simple tests such as CBC, Urine Routine, Protein, RBC, WBC, eGFR, ACR, Creatinine, Ultrasound for Kidney Size, CT abdomen and Kidney Biopsy can diagnose kidney disease.

What are the various signs and symptoms of CKD, and how can it be managed?

CKD usually passes off as insignificant discomforts of daily life and hence deceptive. Only after the kidney damage is at stage 4 or 5 that the symptoms become visible.

The signs and symptoms of chronic Kidney Disease are-

- Urine output mainly usually remain normal
- Nacturia
- Polyuria
- Kidneys are damaged
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Burn in urine
- Pus in Urine
- Blood in Urine

- Loss of Appellate
- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Fatigability
- Insomnia
- Itching
- Drowsiness
- Swelling foot and face
- Hypertension
- Pallor - Anemia
- Reduced Exercise capacity
- New onset heart failure
- Restless leg syndrome

Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

- To slow down the progression of CKD
- Treatment of complications
- ACE Inhibitors
- ARBs
- SGL2 Inhibitors
- Keto Analogs
- Sodabicarb Therapy
- Low Protein Diet
- Management of anemia and mineral bone disease.

What are the various types of Renal Replacement Therapy, and their survival rate?

The three most common and available therapies are namely-

- Hemodialysis
 - Peritoneal dialysis
 - Renal Transplantation
- While hemodialysis is center-based, were the patient has to visit the hospital minimum twice a week for dialysis, peritoneal dialysis contrastingly is home-based and can be managed by the family or healthy patients themselves.
- The survival rate of hemodialysis are as follows:
- 5-10 years on HD
 - 20-30 % of ESRD on HD
 - Die within 2 years
 - Kidney Transplant 16-20 years

You are also an expert is ABO incompatible kidney transplant. Could you share about this intervention?

It was in 2012, that we did the first ABO incompatible kidney Transplant in SGRH. But now we have a technique which was developed first in Japan followed by the US and Europe. India was late to start because we did not have the filter and we introduced the technique of Japanese filter in India. We removed the antibodies of the donor with the help of the special imported filter followed by plasma exchange and then carried out the transplant that works as well even in an incompatible patient. Today, we have 12 years of follow up with us, and till date, we have done almost 350 ABO incompatible transplants. We consider this as a big leap forward. Now about 20% of our recipients are ABO incompatible.

How are advanced technology such as AI proving to be an asset to your specialty?

The use of AI in nephrology is best suited as:

- Prediction Tool for diseases.
- Diagnostic Tool
- Matching for Renal Transplant

Key-hole surgeries using laparoscopy or robot are now common in kidney operation for their meticulous precision causing minimal injury to the tissues, especially of the donor, which is a bigger challenge than the recipient. The future is all about genetic engineering where any defect can be corrected at source.

As President of the Indian Society for Nephrology (ISN), what role are you playing at the policy level with the government and spreading awareness in the public?

A disturbing trend that concerns me is gender inequality of donors, of which 80 percent are women. This is a subject of serious discussion at the national and society level. Mostly, mothers are the first to come forward to donate a kidney, followed by wives and lastly sisters. Yet, women are discriminated despite their sacrifices with dialysis mostly being denied to them as it incurs a cost of Rs 20-25 thousand per month. Comparatively men get preferential treatment among whom CKD is higher than women. Because of our efforts with Ministry of Health and various Government Agencies, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) on 7th April, 2016 as a part of National Health Mission to provide Hemodialysis to poor and needy patients. This covers all the 740 districts in the country, where every government district hospital has a minimum 5 dialysis machines, and trained staff. In 2018, peritoneal dialysis was also included in this programme.

Another concern is that there are only 2500 qualified Nephrologists in India and they practice mainly in metro cities, creating a wide gap. The reason being that the specialty was introduced late, in 1971, by my mentor, the legendary Dr (Prof.) K.S. Chugh, who is known as the 'Father of Nephrology' in India at PGI Chandigarh and initially there were few DM (Nephrology) seats in the country, but now with DNB programme about 250 Nephrologists are being trained in a year. We have to also involve general physicians in management of these patients. Indian Society for Nephrology (ISN) has started screening and early detection of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) by general Physicians at their clinics by providing a simple kit to test for urinary ACR in addition to sugar monitoring and BP recording.

As a leading Nephrologist, what is your strategy for controlling CKD?

The strategy must be a wide screening programme and early detection of kidney diseases in the general population. Considering the population that we have screening everyone is practically daunting and impos-



sible. My suggestion is that atleast diabetes patients and hypertensive patients and those having family history of CKD should be screened. Also, every hypertensive person including children and those with renal stones should be screened for CKD. Those involved in hazardous occupation where there is exposure to heavy metals, chemicals, toxic gases or highly corrosive substance should also be screened. A mistake that many people do is pill-popping pain killers purchased at a chemist without consulting the doctor. It can result in severe consequences including kidney failure. Once the kidney is damaged the only treatment options available are dialysis and transplant.

What is your mantra for ensuring kidney health?

The 8 Golden Rules for Healthy Kidneys are :

- Keep fit - be active - ideal BW
- Eat a healthy diet
- Check & Control Blood Sugar
- Check & control BP
- Take appropriate fluid intake
- Do not smoke
- Don't take over the counter NSAIDs Pain Killers regularly
- Also, get your kidney checked if you have one or more the high risk factors
- Diabetes ● Hypertension ● Obese
- Family history of Kidney disease.

Could you share about your pioneering work and other achievements of your department at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital?

Dr. D.S. Rana, Founder of Department of Nephrology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi started the Department on 1981 and it was the first Dialysis facility in private set-up in New Delhi. He was pioneer in starting Vascular Access (AV Stunt & AV Fistula) by Nephrologist. I joined Department in 1987 and learnt access technique under his mentorship.

We started peritoneal dialysis in north India in 1988 and since then our centre has done maximum CAPD catheter insertions and about 4000 patients were put on peritoneal dialysis. The Nephrology Department of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, one of the largest private set-up in the country, for AV fistula vascular access intervention. Also, we were first to start ABO incompatible Kidney transplant in the country and have done over 300 ABOi Kidney Transplants till date. Our centre is now recognized for Fellowship for Interventional Nephrology by ISN. We have started the first Spouse Kidney Transplant, Swap donations and Renal Transplant in HBsAg +ve patients, at our Centre.

Our Centre is also recognized for DNB Training in Nephrology by National Board. We have 5 seats per year in Nephrology. So far, we have trained more than 90 Nephrologists from our Centre.

We are excited about the important research projects being done at our department in collaboration with various global partners. My favourite project using Autologous Stem Cells in slowing the progression of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in the pipeline and it will be a major break through in Nephrology. Wearable kidney (implantable artificial kidney) is being developed by an Indian doctor in the US, which is expected to launch in next five years. WAK (Wearable Artificial Kidney) achieve a PD based therapy and is being used clinically in USA.

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF KIDNEY

- Removes toxin and excess of water (urea, creatinine) from the body.
- Controls blood pressure
- To produce RBC - control Hb
- Keeps your bones healthy
- Maintains mineral and molecule Acid / Alkali Balance, Sodium, Potassium, Anemia balance.

6 EXPRESS NETWORK

Rajasthan, Punjab farmers up in arms over proposal to close Sirhind feeder for canal work

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, MARCH 13

FARMERS OF Punjab and Rajasthan are up in arms over the possible water crisis in the near foreseeable future as a fallout of the Punjab canal irrigation department's proposal to temporarily close the Sirhind feeder (Mallanwala area in Ferozepur) to carry out relining work in the canal.

The Sirhind feeder canal (originating from Ropar area) will have to be emptied for the relining work – which means the Punjab farmers depending on this canal water for irrigation and other agriculture purposes will be in deep water. Not only this, because of the relining work, water supply in the two canals running adjacent to Sirhind feeder – Bhakra canal and Indira Gandhi canal – is likely to be reduced by the Punjab canal irrigation department to maintain the water pressure, as otherwise it can cause breach of either canal. The water from the two canals – Bhakra canal and Indira Gandhi canal – is used by Rajasthan, and apprehending its (water) possible reduction from March 15 is giving the Rajasthan farmers anxious moments.

Punjab canal irrigation department has proposed to temporarily close the Sirhind feeder canal from March 15.

Sources revealed that talks were going on to reduce the flow of water in Indira Gandhi canal and Bhakra canal till March 31, instead of closing them completely. Accordingly, some adjustment will be made to give water to Rajasthan farmers for irrigation purposes.

Following this temporary arrangement, dhama of farmers was lifted from Hanumangar at about 9pm on Wednesday.

In April 2022 a breach had occurred 2-3 times in Sirhind feeder canal which was undergoing maintenance and the adjacent Indira Gandhi canal was flowing with full capacity, revealed information.

"Normally water supply in all the canals of Rajasthan coming from Punjab is stopped temporarily for 20 to 60 days for maintenance of canals from April 1 or March-end onwards, but this closure may happen in mid-March. This will affect the wheat crop," said Rajat Swami, a BJP leader of Ganganagar.

Boundary issue with India does not represent entirety of ties, says China

An early settlement of situation on China-India border serves common interests of both: Wang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, MARCH 13

CHINA ON Wednesday said the Sino-India boundary issue does not represent the entirety of the bilateral ties and called for enhancing mutual trust between the two countries to "avoid misunderstanding and misjudgement". India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

Bilateral ties nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in more than four decades.

Responding to questions on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks this week that the amassing of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has "not served either of us

well", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, the boundary issue should be placed appropriately in the bilateral ties. "China has stressed multiple times that the boundary question does not represent the entirety of China-India relations, and it should be placed appropriately in the bilateral relations and managed properly", Wang said. While responding to a query from a Chinese diplomat at the 'Express Adda' on Monday, Jaishankar said, I think it is in our common interest that we should not have that many forces on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"It is in our common interest that we should observe the agreements that we have signed. And I believe that it is not just in our common interest and it is in China's interest as well.

This tension that we have seen for the last four years has not served either of us well, Jaishankar said.

Wang, in his reply, said "Both China and India believe that an early settlement of the situation on the China-India border serves the common interests of both countries".

"We hope that the two sides will follow the common understandings between the leaders of the two countries and the spirit of relevant agreements, maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels, and find a solution to relevant border issues that can be accepted by both sides at an early date", he said.

China hopes that India will work in the same direction as China and approach the bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, he said. "We should enhance mutual trust and avoid misunderstanding and misjudgement. We should step up dialogue and cooperation and avoid setting up obstacles. We should handle dif-

ferences properly and avoid creating disputes. In this way, we will bring the bilateral relations to a sound and steady track of development", he said.

When pointed out that Jaishankar's comments referred to the resolution of the present standoff in eastern Ladakh where the two countries deployed thousands of troops, while China referred to the overall boundary issue, Wang said, "The two things in nature are the same." He reiterated China's hope that India can work with China in the same direction, follow the common understandings reached by leaders of the two countries as well as the spirit of relevant agreements, maintain communication via diplomatic and military channels and find a mutually acceptable solution for relevant border issues as soon as possible.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a standoff in

certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Tso (lake) area. The eastern Ladakh standoff has resulted in a freeze of bilateral ties on all fronts except trade.

The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of corps commanders-level talks to resolve the standoff. According to the Chinese military, the two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points, namely the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra). India is pressing the PLA to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok, maintaining that there cannot be restoration of normalcy in its relations with China as long as the state of the borders remains abnormal.

Racially abused and assaulted in Kerala: Ivory Coast footballer

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 13

A FOOTBALLER from Ivory Coast has alleged that he was subjected to a mob attack and racial slurs at a football ground in Kerala's Malappuram district.

Dairassouba Hassane Junior, in his complaint to the local police, said he was stoned to the ground and assaulted by a group of audience who racially abused him.

Hassane Junior was hired by the football club Jawahar Mavoor to play sevens football, a variation of the game with seven players on each side. However, the alleged attack happened on March 10 when the player from the West African country went to play a five-a-side match near Areekode.

In his complaint to the Malappuram district police chief, Hassane said, "Our team got a corner kick when my team was leading by a goal. I went near the corner flag for taking the kick, and the natives and the audience called me a monkey. One among the audience threw a stone at me and it hit my head. When I turned back,

two more stones were hurled at me and they started screaming at me. Those people who threw stones at me were saying 'k African monkey, black cat'."

"In order to save my life, I ran away. The supporters and those belonging to the opposite team hurled stones at me. They hit me brutally. I escaped after supporters of my team intervened and stopped them," he said in the complaint. Hassane Junior, in his complaint, said the incident hurt him mentally. "My race and I have been insulted. I was attacked because of the colour of my skin," he said.

The complaint was forwarded to Areekode police on Wednesday, which recorded his statement for further action.

Players from African countries are a major attraction in sevens tournaments in Malappuram and other northern districts of Kerala. Typically, matches are held from November to May in front of packed crowds. The 2018 Malayalam movie *Sudani from Nigeria* gave a peek into the lives of footballers from African nations plying their trade in Kerala.

SC TO HEAR SUIT ON MARCH 21

Centre-Kerala talks on borrowing limit make no headway

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

WITH THE Centre and Kerala government failing to reach a consensus on the state's demand to raise the borrowing limit after Kerala rejected Centre's offer for sanction to borrow Rs 5,000 crore more as a special case, the Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to hear the state government's suit on the issue on March 21.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan fixed the date after the Centre sought to explain "why any more additional borrowing to Kerala in FY 2023-24 is neither prudent nor in the interest of the state government".

"Rs 5,000 crore will not take us anywhere, we need at least Rs 10,000 crore. They are saying this on the assumption that the suit is liable to be dismissed," Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the ruling LDF government, said.

The SC Tuesday had asked the Centre to consider allowing the state government a "one-time package" in the present financial

year to help it tide over funds shortage while the central government could simultaneously impose more stringent conditions for the next financial year.

On Wednesday, Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman pointed out that in the financial year 2023-24, Kerala had already received consent for borrowing a total of Rs 52,583 crore. He said "based on the projected Gross State Domestic Product for Kerala for 2024-25, the net borrowing ceiling of the state for the year would come to Rs 33,597 crore."

He said after deductions, Kerala will be left with the borrowing space of only Rs 6,664 crore to meet its requirements for first 9 months of 2024-25 if its demand for sanction to borrow Rs 15,000 crore more this fiscal is granted.

"Going by the expenditure trend of Kerala, it will be extremely difficult for the state to manage its finances... it would not be able to manage in Rs 6,664 crore for the first 9 months... This will trigger serious hardships for the people of Kerala," he said.

CJI honours SC cook's daughter set to pursue masters in law in US

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THERE WAS a surprise waiting for Pragya Samal on Wednesday as she walked up to the Supreme Court where she has been working as a researcher at the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP).

Daughter of Promila Samal, a home maker, and Ajay Kumar Samal, a Supreme Court attendant and a cook at the official residence of one of the judges, Pragya has received admission offers for LLM programmes from six western universities and also secured scholarships from at least two of them.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and all other judges of the court were waiting in the judges' lounge to congratulate the 26-year-old who has got admission offers from Columbia Law School, Chicago Law School, New York University, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, University of California Berkeley School of Law and the University of Michigan Law School. Besides, she has secured scholarships from Berkeley and Michigan law schools.

"I was just told to come with



Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud talks to the Pragya's father Ajay Kumar Samal who works as a cook in Supreme Court. Her mother is also present. PTI

my parents. I was told that the CJI wants to meet. When I went there, it was a surprise to me. All the judges were there in the corridor. It was not just the CJI, all the judges were there," she told *The Indian Express*. "I met them around 9.50 am, just before the court hours. The CJI felicitated my parents, gave me three books, of which one was signed by all judges. It was my privilege and I felt really honoured. Everybody congratulated me. Asked me which law school I will choose," she said.

Samal said getting to meet the CJI "was a huge thing for me".

"Being a law student, I have always read his judgments. Not many law students get the chance to work for him, right? For the legal field, especially under him. It's big," she said.

After graduating in law from AMITY University in 2021, Samal worked as a judicial clerk with an SC judge, since retired, and joined CPR in February 2023.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Ansari gets life term in gun licence forgery case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 13

GANGSTER-TURNED-POLITICIAN MUKHTAR Ansari was on Wednesday sentenced to life imprisonment in a case related to the use of forged documents for obtaining an arms licence in 1990.

This is the eighth case in which the former five-time MLA has been convicted and sentenced by a court in UP in the past two years.

The Varanasi MP/MLA court on Wednesday handed Ansari life imprisonment under Sections 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and seven years under Sections 420 (cheating) and 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) of IPC.

Ansari, who was pronounced guilty by Special Judge (MP/MLA court) Awanish Gautam on Tuesday, was also sentenced to six months imprisonment under Section 30 of the Arms Act.

All the sentences will run concurrently, it is learnt. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on Ansari who is currently



Mukhtar Ansari is currently in Banda jail. File

lodged in the Banda jail. The case was lodged at Ghazipur's Mohammadabad police station against Ansari and others, alleging that they conspired to obtain a licence for a double-barrel gun with forged signatures of the then district magistrate and the superintendent of police.

After the forgery came to light, a case was filed against Ansari, the then-deputy collector, then ordinance clerk Gaurishankar Srivastava, and four others in December 1990. A charge-sheet in the case was filed in 1997 against Ansari and Gaurishankar Srivastava.

The case against Srivastava was dropped after he died during the course of the trial.

In a statement after Ansari's sentencing on Wednesday, the Uttar Pradesh Police said he is facing a total of 65 cases and 21 of which are being heard in different courts.

Missing Kolkata businessman's body found in sack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 13

THE BODY of a businessman who had gone missing on Monday was found underneath a water tank on the outskirts of the city, a police officer said on Wednesday. The body of Bhavo Lakhani (44), who lived in Bhowanipore area, was found in a jute sack beneath the water tank at the residence of his business partner, Anirban Gupta, on Tuesday, the officer said. Gupta and his accomplice, Suman Das, were arrested in connection with the murder, the officer added.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accompanied by Kolkata Police Commissioner

Vineet Goyal, on Wednesday met the family members of Lakhani. After interacting with Lakhani's wife and two sons, Banerjee termed the crime as a "planned murder" and said the police would take stringent action against the accused persons.

"I cut short my (Siliguri) visit and came here after learning about the murder. The man who was killed was a simple person who ran a pharmaceutical business. His business partner called him to his residence and mercifully killed him," said Banerjee.

She also said, "The family registered a missing complaint on Monday evening. The police made continuous efforts to solve the case and arrested culprits. I have no words for the bereaved

family. It was a planned murder and those who have committed this are bigger criminals than the usual definition of a criminal," Banerjee said considering its gravity, the homicide section of the Kolkata Police has taken over the case from the Nimta police.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal said inquiries indicated the accused had borrowed a significant amount of money from the deceased but failed to repay it over an extended period.

Lakhani purportedly visited Gupta's residence on Monday to discuss "recovery of the money," but his phone became unreachable shortly afterwards, the officer said. In response to a query, Goyal said it was still unclear whether more than two persons

were present at the scene when the murder occurred.

The body of Bhavo Lakhani, who lived in the Bhowanipore area (Mamata Banerjee's constituency), was found in a jute sack beneath a water tank at Gupta's residence in Nimta, North 24 Parganas district. According to the police, the body was found during a raid at Gupta's house, which was prompted by suspicions from neighbours who noticed "sudden" construction activities around the tank on the terrace.

Following interrogation, both Das and Gupta admitted to striking Lakhani on the head with a cricket stump during a heated argument and concealing the body in a jute sack, police said.

Army Major, soldiers thrashed by dhaba workers in Punjab

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 13

AN ARMY Major and his team of 16 jawans were allegedly brutally attacked by the owner and workers of a dhaba on the Manali-Ropar road in Punjab on Monday, leading to grievous injuries to the Major and some jawans. The police filed an FIR at the Kiratpur Sahib police station and arrested two of the accused.

As per the FIR registered in the early hours of Tuesday, the incident took place on Monday when Major Sachin Singh Kuntal

and his troops from Ladakh Scouts were returning from Palchan near Manali in Himachal Pradesh after winning a snow marathon held in Lahaul the previous day.

The team of soldiers, headed for Chandimandir, stopped at the Alpine dhaba near Bharatgarh in the Ropar district for dinner at around 9.15 pm, said the police. According to the FIR, there was an altercation between the soldiers and the dhaba owner over the mode of payment of the bill, as he did not accept payment through UPI and insisted on cash payment to avoid taxation.

As the altercation continued and even after the soldiers paid the bill online, the owner insisted on payment by cash and upon refusal by the Major, a group of around 30-35 people pounced on the officer and his jawans and beat them up with lathis, sticks and iron rods, said the police.

The Major suffered injuries to his arms and head, and was left unconscious, after which the attackers fled from the scene.

The Kiratpur Sahib SHO said: "The dhaba owner is on the run along with several others. We are identifying other accused through CCTV footage," he said.

Renting vehicle in Goa? Signing a road safety undertaking must

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, MARCH 13

TOURISTS WHO want to rent vehicles in Goa will now have to sign a police-mandated undertaking pledging adherence to road safety and traffic norms.

The decision comes in the aftermath of recent fatalities involving rented vehicles in the coastal state. Last month, a motorcyclist from North Goa's Aldona was killed after a rented car, allegedly driven by a tourist from Odisha, collided with his bike on Old Mandovi bridge. The victim fell into the Mandovi river and his body was fished out two days later following a massive search operation.

After the incident, the government mandated the installation of speed governors for all rental vehicles. The Director of Transport had also issued a directive for the inspection of transport vehicles, particularly 'rent-a-car' vehicles, to ensure that the speed governors had been installed and are functional.

SP (Traffic) Rahul Gupta said a "worrisome trend" was observed while analysing data on road accidents in the state. "It has been observed that rent-a-bike and rent-a-cab vehicles are twice as likely to be involved in accidents compared to other registered vehicles. This risk is primarily attributed to the negligence of users, especially tourists and their lack of familiarity with roads, diversions and the topography of Goa," he said.

DAY AFTER 10 GOT LIFE TERM FOR 2018 MURDER OF CATTLE TRADER IN HAPUR

'The wound can't be healed but there's some satisfaction... he has got justice'

DHEERAJ MISHRA
HAPUR, MARCH 13

"WE REALISED yesterday that the law is still alive."

This is the only sliver of relief, says Mohammad Saleem, 38, as he answers the phone at his home in Saddiqpura village of Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district on Wednesday, a day after a local court sentenced 10 people for life for killing his brother Qasim, a cattle trader, on suspicion of cow slaughter six years ago.

Ever since the verdict came, the phone has been ringing incessantly. And every time he speaks, Saleem relives the pain of losing his brother. "Iss bheed ne mere sar ka saaya cheen liya... (That mob

snatched the only support I had)... Bahut tadpa tadpa kemaara (they tortured me to death)," he says.

But amid all the grief, Saleem says, the verdict has brought a sense of relief to the family.

"It took a very long battle, but we got justice. The whole family is feeling better now... The mob did whatever they wanted, but later the police harassed us. They wanted to end the case, but the Supreme Court supported us," says Saleem.

On June 18, 2018, Qasim, 45, was beaten to death and another person, Samaydeen, 62, was seriously injured by a mob, with a video clip that surfaced later showing Qasim lying in a field, his clothes torn and bruises across his body. Days after the in-



Mohammad Saleem, brother of Mohammed Qasim (right), in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh. *Gajendra Yadav*



cident, a photograph was circulated on social media showing Qasim being dragged by some men, with three policemen in the frame. The three policemen were later sent to police lines, and the state police issued an apology.

Months later, after Samaydeen, the prime witness in the case, approached the apex court, the Supreme Court asked the Inspector General of Police, Meerut range, to supervise the probe. The 10 who have been convicted have been named as Maangeram, Karanpal, Rinku Rana, Hari Om, Lalit, Rakesh, Manish, Yudhishtir, Sonu Rana



Double Engine Governance Propels Uttar Pradesh to the New Heights

The Double Engine government has steered Uttar Pradesh towards remarkable progress in infrastructure, placing special emphasis on transforming transportation systems to meet the demands of the modern era. Boasting exemplary rail, air, and waterway systems, the state has undergone a remarkable evolution, ensuring efficient transit of individuals across its expansive territory. Furthermore, initiatives such as the UP-Defence Corridor, focusing on making India Self-Reliance in Defence Manufacturing, the Meerut-Delhi-Ghaziabad Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), and the impending establishment of the International Film City highlight the government's concerted efforts to establish Uttar Pradesh as a growth engine of the country.



UP's Contribution Vital to India's Defence Self-Sufficiency

The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) embodies a strategic effort to combat India's import dependence in the Aerospace and Defence sectors. Aligned with the government's vision, this initiative prioritizes domestic manufacturing, thus advancing self-reliance and catalysing economic development. Recently, the Chief Minister of State, Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the first phase of Adani Defence's Arms & Ammunition Complex in Kanpur.

- Kanpur's Arms & Ammunition Manufacturing Complex is South Asia's Largest and is spread over 500 acres of land.
- Manufacturing complex to provide direct employment to 4000 people.
- Having the capacity to produce 150 million rounds of ammunition per year. Bullets for rifles, light machine guns (LMG), AK-47s and carbines will be made here.
- With this, 4 Nodes of the UP-Defence Corridor are now LIVE.
- All six nodes, namely Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, and Chitrakoot of the defence corridor are actively contributing to India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

International Film City

At the exhibition accompanying the Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC@IV) in Lucknow's Indra Gandhi Pratisthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visionary initiative of an International Film City. He commended the efforts of the UP CM, expressing optimism that the Film City would exceed expectations by offering top-notch facilities to its visitors.

- Capacity to accommodate over 30 film productions simultaneously.
- Versatile shooting floors of varying dimensions.
- In-house equipment including lighting, cameras, set design, construction services, VFX, CG team, logistics and transportation services.
- Accommodation for stars and crew.
- Personal assistance for various approvals.
- Pre- and post-production facilities, such as editing and mixing studios.
- Hospitality amenities, including accommodations and dining options.
- Strategic proximity to the upcoming airport, enhancing its appeal.
- Ideal destination for OTT content and advertisement filming.
- Planned development of a Bollywood-themed amusement park.



State with Maximum Metro Rail

Uttar Pradesh is fast emerging as the Metro state of India with a maximum number of Metro projects which are operational and under construction phase.

- Metro services in Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur and Agra.
- Government approves East-West Route (Charbagh to Vasant Kunj via Chowk) of Lucknow Metro.
- Metro Lite in Prayagraj With a proposed length of 44 km, the metro route will be divided into two corridors.
- DPR of Gorakhpur for a 15.14 km long corridor is approved by the government.

Inland Waterway Authority to enhance cruise services

- Lake Queen Cruise is operational in Gorakhpur's Ramgarh Tal Lake.
- Cruise services will boost tourism and employment opportunities.
- Government to start inland waterway service in rivers like Rapti, Saryu, Ganga, and Yamuna.
- Cruise service from Varanasi to Haldia on Ganga River.

Delhi-Ghaziabad- Meerut RRTS

The Meerut-Ghaziabad-Delhi RRTS is not just a train line; it's a symbol of progress, a testament to India's growing infrastructure capabilities, and a harbinger of a more connected and sustainable future for the National Capital Region.

In a significant development for urban transportation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 17-kilometer stretch of the Meerut-Ghaziabad-Delhi Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) corridor. Through a virtual launch event from Duhai to Modi Nagar North, PM Modi propelled the project forward. This newly opened stretch features three essential stations: Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar South, and Modi Nagar North. With the introduction of this segment, the RRTS services now span a cumulative distance of 34 kilometres, promising improved connectivity and convenience for commuters.

Ensuring balanced and sustainable urban development through better connectivity and access across the NCR, it aims to significantly reduce travel time between Meerut and Delhi by under an hour.

The RRTS covers a length of 82.15 km, featuring both elevated and underground sections. It comprises 22 stations, connecting Meerut to Delhi.

Big Boost to Air Connectivity



The Double Engine government is tirelessly focused on enhancing infrastructure, including the development of new terminals and greenfield airports, alongside the launch of additional flight routes. Recently inaugurated airports in Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Moradabad, and Shravasti, boasting an annual capacity for 100,000 passengers each, mark a significant stride in bolstering domestic air connectivity nationwide.



Jewar International Airport, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida and 5 domestic airports are under construction



THREE MONTHS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

ADVERTORIAL



Shri Narendra Modi
HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER

VISION FOR DEVELOPED CHHATTISGARH

@2047

We are in the process of creating a vision document titled 'Amrit Kal: Chhattisgarh Vision@ 2047'. This document is scheduled to be presented to the state on November 1, 2024. It will outline the various initiatives that will be undertaken to transform Chhattisgarh into a developed state and play a significant role in the advancement of a developed India by 2047.

Focus on the Pillars of Development

Our prime focus would be on 'GYAN' i.e. poor, youth, farmers and women. We aim to attain swift economic advancement by implementing technology-driven changes. To enhance the infrastructure, we are committed to maximising capital expenditure, ultimately leading to the progress of Chhattisgarh.

Doubling the GDP

We aim to double the GDP from 5 lakh crores to 10 lakh crore within a span of five years. In addition to focusing on infrastructure development, our strategy includes enhancing governance by combating corruption, supporting the private sector, driving industrial growth, and enhancing the skills of our workforce.

Creating Niche Institutions

An advisory council on economic matters has been established with the aim of proposing strategies to enhance the economy. Likewise, in order to monitor the effective practices of various departments and recommend improved approaches, a completely new department called the Good Governance and Convergence Department has been established. Additionally, we have devised plans to position Chhattisgarh as a front runner in eco-tourism, medical tourism, and as a center for alternative forms of medicine.

Emphasis on tertiary sector

The service industry has enormous potential for the growth of our state, and is poised to boost our GDP significantly. Initiatives have been set in motion to attract IT firms to Atal Nagar, paving the way for the creation of 10,000 new jobs annually.

Marching Towards Balanced Development

We have recently introduced a new policy aimed at uplifting the most underdeveloped regions within the state. Our strategy involves enhancing infrastructure and supporting traditional trade to foster growth in areas such as Bastar and Surguja.

Facilitating private investment

Our goal is to effectively implement the single-window system and leverage digital technology to reduce bureaucratic interference and corruption. We are dedicated to creating more job opportunities for the people of Chhattisgarh.

Cultural and social development

Our policy of inclusive growth focuses not only on economic development but also on social and cultural development. As part of this, we are actively promoting religious tourism in Chhattisgarh. The construction of a Link Road, which will connect five significant religious spots, has already commenced.



"I firmly believe we will chalk out ways to fulfil promises made under 'Modi ki Guarantee' in the next five years. Key works like allocation of houses, disbursement of two years pending bonus to farmers and implementation of Mahtari Vandan Yojana will be done. Ever since our government came to power in Chhattisgarh, the fight against Naxalism has strengthened. In the coming times, Naxalism will end in Chhattisgarh."

Vishnu Deo Sai
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

KEY DECISIONS MADE BY CHHATTISGARH GOVT

Rs3.716 or pending bonus transferred to 13 lakh farmers, 21 quintal paddy per acre purchased from them

50 lakh rural families get tap connections, Rs4,500 crore allocated under 'Jal Jeevan Mission

69.92 lakh poor families to get free cation for the next five years

Rs1,000 to be provided to women every month under "Mahtari Vandan Yojana

Chhattisgarh Govt asks Call to probe irregularities in PSC recruitment exam

Raniala Darshan Yojana launched for pilgrims of Chhattisgarh

Rs. 369 crore allocated for construction of 18 lakhs houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojarur

Provision of Rs 13,320 crore made under Krishak Unnati Yojana

Remuneration of tendu patta collectors increased from Rs4000 to Rs5500 per standard bag

Rs300 crore earmarked for construction of Katghora to Dongargarh rail line

Chhattisgarh Udyam Kranti Yojana launched to promote self-employment

Rs10,000 will be given annually to landless agricultural labourers under Deendayal Upadhyaya Krishi Majdoor Yojana

Ordinary families to get electricity at half price for up to 400 units per month

Age limit for recruitment in government Jobs increased by 5 years

Atal Monitoring Portal launched to monitor implementation of govt schemes

Online permit and approval system introduced to bring transparency in coal transportation

Ramlala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Yojana Launched



Under the umbrella of the "Modi Ki Guarantee", the Chhattisgarh Government delivered another promise with the introduction of the Ramlala Darshan Yojana. This initiative aims to provide the residents of the state, who are between 18 and 75 years of age, with the opportunity to have a darshan of Shri Ramlala in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme will be implemented by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board. The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are set to sign an MoU as per which the IRCTC will make arrangements for security, health, food, sightseeing, local transport and escort to the passengers during the journey.

Rs 3716 crore transferred to 13 lakh farmers in Chhattisgarh

CM Vishnu Deo Sai on December 25, executed one of the poll promises under 'Modi Ki Guarantee' for the state's paddy farmers and transferred the pending bonus of Rs 3,716 crore to 13 lakh farmers who had sold their paddy in 2014-15 and 2015-16 in cooperative societies under minimum support price (MSP). The bonus amounts were transferred to bank their accounts. In his address, the CM said that his government will fulfil every "Modi guarantee" in the next five years. The

confidence of the farmers in the Chhattisgarh Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased, Sai asserted. He also announced to procure paddy up to 21 quintals per acre, and assured to extend the period, if needed, for procuring paddy at the support price. The promises of recruitment to one lakh government vacant posts in a transparent manner, and free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh under Ayushman Card will also be fulfilled.

Empowering Women through 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana'

The Chhattisgarh Government has recently launched the 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana-2024'. The scheme promises a monthly financial assistance of Rs1000, translating to an annual aid of Rs12,000 per beneficiary. The introduction of 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana-2024' reflects the State Government's commitment to gender empowerment and socio-economic development. This initiative not only addresses immediate financial needs but also strives to create a conducive environment for women to thrive through skill enhancement and entrepreneurial endeavours. This approach aligns with the broader goal of creating a more economically empowered female population in the state. Beyond the immediate financial relief, the scheme places a strong emphasis on fostering self-reliance among women. The scheme is designed to benefit all married women in Chhattisgarh.



State Govt Approves Houses for 18L Poor

Families Under PMAYn his first cabinet meeting, the newly sworn-in CM Vishnu Deo Sai cleared the proposal of implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) for over 18 lakh poor families in rural areas. The Chhattisgarh Government is prioritizing decisions that focus on the welfare and historical development of the state. Announcing the decision, the CM said, the cabinet has decided to clear houses for 18,12,743 needy families in rural areas approve houses for PMAY, a flagship scheme of the Centre, and provide them with the required funds.



State Govt Recommends CBI Probe into 'irregularities' in CGPSC Recruitment

Chhattisgarh Government decided to recommend a CBI investigation into the alleged corruption and irregularities in the recruitment of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC) exam-2021. The decision was taken during a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by CM Vishnu Deo Sai. In the interest of the youth, the State



Government decided to hand over the complaints to the Central agency. The State Government has also promised that transparency will be maintained in the PSC examination in the state and CGPSC examinations will be conducted on the lines of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).



Rural households get free water supply under 'Nal Jal Yojana'

The Chhattisgarh Government is actively working towards ensuring access to clean drinking water for rural communities. Through the 'Nal Jal Yojana', tap connections are being installed in every household, along with the construction of water tanks and the expansion of pipelines. Thanks to PM Narendra Modi's ambitious scheme 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to provide clean and safe drinking water to every household, tap water is now reaching 75% of rural households in the state.

सबका साथ-सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

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Scan this QR code to connect with the official Facebook page of the Chief Minister's Office

10 GOVT & POLITICS



CEC Rajiv Kumar in Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

Will disclose election bond details by tomorrow, says CEC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

CHIEF ELECTION Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has said that the poll panel will make public the details of electoral bonds of all the political parties by Friday — the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court.

The assertion comes in the wake of the Supreme Court directing the State Bank of India (SBI) to submit the details of the electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019 to the EC, which in turn will upload the same on its official website by March 15. SBI is the authorised financial institution to issue the electoral bonds.

"The SBI was supposed to submit the data by March 12. They have given us the details in time. I will go back and look at the data (and) would definitely disclose it in time," Kumar told reporters here. Kumar reached here on Wednesday to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. We will ensure free and fair elections across the country. We request voters across the country including Jammu and Kashmir to enthusiastically take part in the 'festival of democracy,'" the CEC said.

Pointing out that the political parties in Srinagar had raised the issue of delay in assembly elections with him, Kumar denied

EC ON J&K POLLS

Jammu: The Election Commission will decide on holding Lok Sabha and Assembly elections together or separately in Jammu and Kashmir after reviewing the security situation and feedback from stakeholders, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said here on Wednesday. He also rejected criticism about the "delay" in holding assembly elections in the Union Territory, saying delimitation and necessary legislative processes were completed by December 2023 only. PTI

any delay in holding of assembly elections in J&K, saying that these will be held at the earliest possible.

"A final decision on holding them simultaneously with that of parliamentary elections or one after another will be taken following security review after taking the feedback of political parties, district magistrates, government and officials of the para military forces," he said.

He said a social media cell will be established in all districts in order to respond to fake news in real time. "Adequate security to be provided to all candidates and central forces will be deployed," he added.

Trust vote won, Saini says 'only BJP can make party worker CM'

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 13

THE NAYAB Singh Saini-led BJP government in Haryana won the Confidence Motion in the Assembly Wednesday through a voice vote. Speaker Gian Chand Gupta also allowed a two-hour discussion on the Motion. While the treasury benches praised the nine-and-a-half years of Manohar Lal Khattar's tenure and urged support for Saini, the opposition castigated the BJP calling "change of CM face" as the "same polluted water in a new bottle".

Former CM Manohar Lal Khattar also resigned from his Karnal seat announcing he was vacating it for Saini.

In Haryana's 90-member House, the Saini led BJP government attained absolute majority citing a strength of 48 MLAs. The BJP has 41 MLAs and it got support of six out of the seven Independents and lone MLA of Haryana Lokhit Party, Gopal Kanda.

In his maiden address in Vidhan Sabha, Saini said, "I come from a humble family background, no one is in politics in my family. I am just a party worker of the BJP and today I have been given such a big opportunity. I must say that this can be only possible in a party like the BJP."

"Today I have come here for the first time. I thank PM Narendra Modi, party president JP Nadda, Amit Shah and all the Union Ministers, our Manohar Lal ji who have sent me to this position; and I would like to appeal to all the members of this house to support us. I would like to say that even the people of Haryana have confidence in us," he said. Comparing the functioning of BJP with other parties, Saini said, "Many times we have seen that in such situations there's always a thought that who is going to take the CM's place? Obviously, my son... but this is the BJP, where such an ordinary party worker like me has been brought here."

In '19, JJP was factor in half the seats, cut into BJP, Cong votes

ANJISHNU DAS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

FOLLOWING FAILED seat-sharing talks between the BJP and the Dushyant Chautala-led JJP for Haryana's 10 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP dissolved their alliance Tuesday and formed a new government with support from Independents and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini at the helm.

The reshuffle by the BJP appears to be more driven by the Assembly elections in the state later this year, rather than Lok Sabha polls, which the BJP had swept last time.

Over past two decades, the BJP and Congress have been the dominant parties in Haryana. In the Assembly, after two consecutive terms under the Congress's Bhupinder Singh Hooda, from 2005-14, the BJP has held power for last two terms, beginning with the Narendra Modi wave in 2014. In 2014 Khattar became the state's first BJP CM.

Months after the BJP won 7 of the 10 LS seats, reducing the Congress to just 1 and the INLD to 2, the BJP went on to win an outright majority in the 90-member Assembly, with 47 seats, up from just 4 in 2009. For the BJP, the concern is likely to be the 2019 Assembly polls. Its tally had gone down to 40 seats in the Assembly, 5 short of the majority mark.

The Congress had recovered to 31 seats in the Assembly, but the INLD had won just 1, hit by the formation of the JJP in 2018. The JJP had ended up as the kingmaker with 10 seats, with its support helping the BJP form the government.

The Congress will be hoping this time to capitalise on BJP-JJP split, eat into the BJP's non-Jat sup-

Mamata: CAA linked to NRC, won't allow detention camps in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALPAIGURI, MARCH 13

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asserted that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and that is the reason why she is opposing the new legislation.

The TMC supremo said she doesn't want detention camps in West Bengal, like those in Assam.

"The CAA is related to NRC, that is why we are opposing it. We don't want detention camps like those in Assam," she told reporters here. Banerjee also claimed that the CAA is a "political gimmick" ahead of polls.

With the CAA rules being issued, the central government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians.

Addressing an administrative meeting in Jalpaiguri earlier in



CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata, Wednesday. Express

the day, Banerjee underscored that the citizenship-granting process proposed by the central government is different from that of other nations.

The TMC supremo criticised the exclusion of Muslims from the ambit of the CAA, asserting that it aims at creating division among the country's populace.

"The CAA is aimed at dividing the people of the country," she said. Expressing concerns over the lack of clarity in the CAA application process and its potential ramifications on people's

rights, Banerjee affirmed her administration's commitment to safeguarding the citizens of West Bengal. "We are not landlords, but vigilant custodians. No one will be ousted from West Bengal. All refugees will find permanent settlement here," she pledged.

She also rebuked the BJP, alleging that it espouses a "distorted interpretation of Hinduism". Banerjee extended the "Cha Sundari" scheme, providing land titles and allocating funds for housing construction for tea garden workers.

'I break all ties with him': TMC chief on brother

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 13

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit out at her brother Babun Banerjee during a press conference and said that she was disowning him, hours after he objected to footballer-turned-politician Prasun Banerjee being re-nominated by the Trinamool Congress from the Howrah Lok Sabha seat.

"Oke porbar er sadhya bole ami mone kori na. Sob samparka ched. Aaj theke oke ami taji korlam (I do not consider him to be part of my family. I break all relations with him. From today, I disown him)," an angry Mamata said in Siliguri when asked about Babun's remarks to the media on Wednesday morning. Babun is the youngest of Mamata Banerjee's five brothers.

Opposed to CAA earlier, Tripura tribal parties that are now BJP allies in a spot

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, MARCH 13

THE CENTRE'S notification of rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, has left the two tribal organisations which are part of the BJP-led ruling coalition in Tripura, which shares over 80% of its border with Bangladesh, in a spot.

While protests have erupted in parts of the state, the two parties — the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT) and Tipra Motha, which joined the BJP coal-

ition only days ago — which were hitherto vehemently opposed to the law, have chosen silence on the issue. On the other hand, the BJP has already started reaching out to people, telling them that the CAA is "a strong step against infiltrators and anti-India elements", and exuding confidence that it would not have an impact on the party's electoral chances.

On Tuesday, members of the Twipra Students Federation (TSF) burnt copies of the CAA in Agartala, terming the Act "draconian, against the values of the country and against the interest of Muslims and Christians".

"We oppose this Act and do not want its implementation in the state. We live in a democratic country. We appeal to the Centre to exempt Tripura from the law. If they don't agree, we shall hold democratic movements," TSF leader Manish Debbarma said.

BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee said as citizens of India, everyone must be proud of the CAA. Asked if the CAA would impact the party's chances in Tripura, Bhattacharjee said, "Mere khayal se nahin hoga (I do not think it will)." While he was in the Opposition, the Tipra Motha was opposed to the CAA and was a

part of many protests against the BJP government's move to bring in the law. The main plank of the outfit, led by erstwhile royal Pradyot Kishore Debbarma, is statehood for Tripura tribals, which rose out of the resentment against migration from Bangladesh over the years, leaving the tribals a minority in a state where once they were the dominant group.

The CAA, in that sense, goes contrary to that sentiment, by easing the way to citizenship of migrants from Bangladesh.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



NAVY GETS NEW WARSHIPS

The new warships, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited for the Navy, were launched in Kolkata, Wednesday. INS Agray and INS Akshay were launched by Neeta Chaudhari, wife of Chief of Air Staff of IAF, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari. Partha Paul

Financial implications of Cong Nari Nyay promises

UDIT MISRA

THE LATEST set of five promises by the Indian National Congress, aimed towards empowerment of women, appear to be a refreshed version of its 2019 election manifesto. In the run-up to the 2019 general election, the Congress had promised to start a Minimum Income Support Programme (MISP) or Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) if voted to power. This included a cash transfer of Rs. 72,000 a year to the poorest 20 per cent of all Indian families (roughly 5 crore households). At that time, too, the party had stated that "as far as possible, the money will be transferred to the account of a woman of the family". In 2019, economist Jean Dreze had pegged the total annual outgo on account of NYAY to be Rs 3,60,000 crore or around 2% of India's GDP.

The biggest, at least in terms

of the financial implications, promise among the five announced on Wednesday is called "Mahalakshmi" and it involves transferring Rs 1 lakh every year to a woman from a poor family. However, there is no mention of the exact number of poor families it aims to target. As things stand, India's poverty estimates vary substantially based on different methodologies. For instance, Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index, pegs poverty ratio at around 11% while its CEO has reportedly claimed that poverty could be as low as 5% if one takes into account the latest data from consumption expenditure survey released last month. The World Bank pegs India's poverty ratio at 11.3% in 2022-23 based on its international poverty line of people living at US\$2.15 (or Rs 48.9 in purchasing parity terms) per day.

So how much does the

Mahalakshmi promise likely to cost the government if Congress were to implement it in the current financial year? Economist Santosh Mehrotra says that if, for the sake of simplicity one assumes a poverty ratio of 10%, then it implies the target beneficiaries will be 14 crore families (assuming a total population of 140 crore). If one woman from each poor family is targeted — that is, 2.8 crore women — then the total outgo would be Rs 2.8 lakh crore. That's 0.8% of India's GDP (Rs 328 lakh crore) in 2024-25 (according to the Union Budget presented in February). If the poverty ratio is 5%, as Niti Aayog claims, the outgo will be halved to 0.4% of GDP.

Another way to estimate the financial outgo is to target the poorest of the poor families — those who have the Antyodaya ration card — the total number of beneficiaries would be slightly

President clears Uttarakhand UCC Bill; moment of joy, pride, says Dhami

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, MARCH 13

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu has approved Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code Bill, the government in the Himalayan state said on Wednesday.

In February the Bill, which seeks to "govern and regulate the laws related to marriage and divorce, successions, live-in relationships and matters related thereto", was passed by the Assembly following a two-day discussion.

"Under Article 201 of the Constitution, the President gave assent to the Uniform Civil Code Uttarakhand 2024 Bill passed by the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, on 11 March 2024, and it is published as Act Number 3, the year 2024, of Uttarakhand for general information," said the state government in a gazette issued on Wednesday.

After the Bill was passed, the state government formed a Rules Making and Implementation Committee headed by retired IAS officer and UCC draft committee member Shatrughan Singh. Other members are Surekha Dangwal and Manu Gaur, along with Uttarakhand Police ADG (Administration) Amit Sinha and Uttarakhand Resident Commissioner Ajay Mishra.

While the Bill only defines the provisions and sections of the

UCC, rules made by the committee will define in detail how the sections will be implemented.

On February 24, the Rules Making and Implementation Committee had its first meeting, during which it formed a sub-committee to simplify the registration process for live-in relationships and marriages by offering services online. In its first meeting, the committee also formed two other sub-committees — one to make the rules for implementing the UCC and the other to train government officials regarding the implementation.

The official notification of the Act will be issued once the Rules Making and Implementation Committee formulates the rules.

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami called it a moment of great pride and joy and said as per PM Narendra Modi's vision, his government was determined to protect the interests of citizens and maintain Uttarakhand's original nature. "It is a moment of great joy and pride for all the people of the state that the UCC Bill... has been approved by the respected President Droupadi Murmuji today. Certainly, with the implementation of the UCC in the state, along with providing equal rights to all citizens, the oppression of women will also be curbed. #UniformCivilCode will play an important role in promoting harmony by proving importance of social equality in the state," he wrote on X.

News-sharing service by Prasar Bharati launched, content to be 'free of copyright'

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

AHEAD OF Lok Sabha polls, public broadcaster Prasar Bharati launched a news-wire-like service to offer free content across mediums, which will be free of copyright or credit obligations.

Unveiling PB-SHABD (Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination), in Wednesday, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said it will be offered as a "free service for one year to all news organisations registered with the ministry".

This may include newspapers, periodicals, TV channels and even social media news channels registered with the I&B Ministry, and the content provided will include newsfeed, videos, audio, text and images, available on the websites of DD News and Akashvani News as well as updated News on Air mobile app, as per officials. However, the content won't be available to end users.

"Over the years, Prasar Bharati has cultivated an elaborate network of news gathering as well as news delivery... Now, we intend to share this accurate



I&B Minister Anurag Thakur at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Wednesday. ANI

and meaningful content with the rest of the print and electronic media industry," Thakur said. Officials say the news organisations will be provided with clean feed and will not have to carry the logo of Doordarshan. "This will support smaller news organisations," said senior Prasar Bharati officials.

The minister said the SHABD service is being offered free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all major Indian languages across 50 categories.

Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi said they will make an outreach to media organisations and share audio, video, photo and text-based information gathered by its network.

HC refuses to interfere with ITAT order on Congress tax recovery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday "refused to interfere" with a March 8 order of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) dismissing the Congress plea seeking a stay on the recovery of an outstanding tax demand of over Rs 100 crore for the 2018-19 assessment year.

A division bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Purushendra Kumar Kaurav noted that during the pendency of the ITAT proceedings, the I-T department had obtained bank drafts of Rs 65,88,81,874 from various bank branches where the party maintains its accounts. The HC order noted that the department's counsel informed

the bench that the bank drafts "have been encashed", which roughly translates to 48% of the outstanding demand.

"This changed circumstance is an aspect which... would merit consideration by the ITAT... While we find no ground to interfere with the order impugned, we dispose of the writ petition... according to liberty to the petitioner to approach ITAT by way of a fresh stay application, bringing to its attention the change in circumstances noted above. An application, if so moved, may be considered by the ITAT with due expedition," the bench ruled.

The bench ruled, "We fail to find any fundamental infirmity in the prima facie conclusions." It, however, clarified that the HC's order should not be construed as affirming the ITAT's view.

The HC further said although the first demand notice was issued to the party on July 6, 2021, "no concrete steps appear to have been taken by the petitioner to either consider securing the outstanding demand or to seek appropriate interim protection..."

While the party filed its appeal before the ITAT in May 2023, the stay application was filed only on February 14 this year, it "appears to have fallen into a deep slumber and stood reawakened only in January 2023 when a notice of demand came to be raised", the bench noted.

The bench also took note of the adjournments sought by the party before the ITAT, adding that the party appeal appears to have been called on numerous dates before "coercive steps" were initiated on February 13.

"An assessee in default can neither be permitted nor expected to adopt such a casual or lackadaisical approach while faced with a tax demand which had remained outstanding right from 2021..." the bench underscored.

The HC noted that the Congress had moved an application for a stay of recovery of demand before the Assessing Officer (AO), who had disposed of it on October 28, 2021, and directed the party to deposit 20% of the outstanding tax liability and the failure to deposit would amount to the party being treated as an "assessee in default." The assessment of the Congress for 2018-19 was completed at an income of Rs 1,99,15,26,560 "against nil income" declared in its return, resulting in a demand of Rs 105,17,29,635.

SC to hear plea against law dropping CJI from panel to select CEC, ECs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday agreed to take up on Friday an application seeking directions to the Centre to fill the two existing vacancies of Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India (ECI) only as per the recommendation of a panel that would also include the Chief Justice of India.

The matter was mentioned before a bench presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

In March 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench had ruled that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) shall be appointed on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the CJI.

Following this, Parliament brought the Chief Election Commission and other Election Commissions (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, leaving out the CJI from the panel.

The Association for Democratic Reforms and Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Jaya Thakur filed petitions against the Act.

However, SC refused to stay the new law while hearing these pleas earlier.

With Arun Goel resigning as the Election Commissioner on March 10, 2024, the parties once again urged the court to take up their pleas.

Knocking at woman's door at odd hours unbecoming of officer: HC

Mumbai: Declining to quash the penalty imposed on a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel for misconduct, the Bombay High Court on March 11 observed that knocking on the doors of a woman at odd hours asking for a lemon was "unbecoming" of an officer of the force.

The 33-year-old constable had approached the high court against a penalty imposed on him by reduction in his pay. An order passed by the Deputy Inspector General, Western Zone, CISF, in 2021 and a

revisory order passed in 2022 passed by the Inspector General, CISF, had directed that the constable will also not earn increment of pay for three years.

The charge against him was that on the intervening night of April 19 and April 20, 2021, he had knocked on the door of a neighbour around midnight in the residential quarters of CISF personnel. The neighbour said that she was alone at home with her six-year-old daughter as her husband was on election duty in West Bengal.

CRPF forms board for promotion, financial issues of cadre officers

MAHENDER SINGH
MAHARAJ
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

TO RESOLVE issues of stagnation in promotion and financial upgradation of cadre officers, a board, comprising 11 officers, has been formed with the approval of CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh, said an order issued by a DIG rank officer on March 7.

"A board... is hereby constituted to examine the issue of stagnation in promotion and financial upgradation of cadre officers, whether existing recruitment rules require any change and if so, the details of suggested changes with proper justification, and action to be taken to increase the authorisation of officers in the force."

The board has also been asked to find out steps to reduce litigations, which also become impediments in timely promotions and how to extend the benefits of Non-Functional Financial Up-gradation and Non-Functional Selection Grade to officers in time.

The board of officers have been also asked to work out the modalities and suggest required action on some of these aspects: how to ensure timely promotions in each rank of of-

cers, whether existing recruitment rules require any change and if so, the details of suggested changes with proper justification, and action to be taken to increase the authorisation of officers in the force.

The board has also been asked to find out steps to reduce litigations, which also become impediments in timely promotions and how to extend the benefits of Non-Functional Financial Up-gradation and Non-Functional Selection Grade to officers in time.

Kerala Cong MP questions Pak role in Pulwama attack on CRPF, BJP calls it insult

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 13

ANTO ANTONY, three-time MP and the Congress candidate from Kerala's Pathanamthitta Lok Sabha constituency, Wednesday questioned Pakistan's role in the 2019 Pulwama attack and alleged the 40 CRPF soldiers killed were "sacrificed" for election victory.

The BJP called his remarks an insult to soldiers. The remarks of Antony — who is pitted against BJP's Anil Antony, the son of Congress veteran Anil Antony — came as both the ruling LDF and the main opposition UDF are protesting against the BJP-led Centre for notifying the CAA rules.

"This time (it is) CAA. Last time, just before the elections, it was Pulwama (attack)... What was Pakistan's role in it? The lives of our jawans, who were in extremely adverse weather, were sacrificed. That is how they won the election. A blast that happened within Indian territory. They (jawans) were purposely sent, a blast happened and they were killed. This is what the (former J&K) Governor Satya Pal Malik said," Anto told reporters in Pathanamthitta.

BJP's Kerala unit president K Surendran said, "He (Anto) has insulted the brave soldiers of the country. People of Pathanamthitta will give a fitting reply to him through the ballot."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-45/2023-24 Memo No-763
Dt. 11-03-2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for building works as detailed in the table below:

1	Nature of Work	: Building Works
2	No of Work	: 10 Nos
3	Tender Cost	: Rs. 10,000.00 (On-Line)
4	Class of Contractor	: B&A Class
5	Available of Bid document in the Website	: From 10.00 AM of Dt.18.03.2024 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.30.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6	Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.02.04.2024 at 11.30 AM
7	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Khordha (R&B) Circle,
Khordha
OIPR- 34127/11/0056/2324

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division 8th Main, 2nd block Jayanagar, Kanakanapalya, Bangalore-560011
Ph: 080-26570088

Tender Notification NO.EE/CKP/E-PROC/25/2023-24 Dated:13-03-2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (TWO COVER)
(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer (Chickpet Division), BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways / MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Repair and Renovation of City Cattle Pound, Usmaankhan Road (Animal Husbandry) Call-2. Estimate Cost : Rs.100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs.200000

Calendar of events: 1) Pre bid meeting will be held on 16-03-2024 at 15.00. 2) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 28-03-2024 up to 16.00. 3) Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on 30-03-2024 at 11.30 4) Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 005.

Roc.No.1075/A&A/RIGHTS/2024 TENDER NOTICE Dated : 13.03.2024

Bids are invited from potential bidders to Hiring of Human resource agency for recruitment of Staffs through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-www.scd.tn.gov.in as well as on the tender website-tntenders.gov.in.

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at <http://tntenders.gov.in>

Project Director - TN RIGHTS / Director for Welfare of the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Project Director - RIGHTS / Director for Welfare of the Differently Abled
DIPR/ 1592 /TENDER/2024

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAL SODHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in, cebuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel. -(0674)-2391523

File No-B-IV-H (H&D)-16/2024 Lr. No.- 11224 Bhubaneswar, the 7th Mar, 2024
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 77/2023-24

The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works: (1) Construction of new CHC Building (G+2) at R.Udayagiri, Paralakhemundi in the district of Gajapati, (2)Construction of new CHC Building (G+2) at Gurandi, Paralakhemundi in the district of Gajapati, (3) Construction of new CHC Building (G+2) at Mohana, Paralakhemundi in the district of Gajapati, (4)Construction of CHC Building at Kukudakhandi, Ganjam, Odisha, (5)Construction of CHC Building at Digapahandi, Ganjam, Odisha, (6)Construction of CHC Building at Gallery, Ganjam, Odisha, (7)Construction of new Community Health Centre at Jajpur Road in District of Jajpur, (8)Construction of new Community Health Centre at Korei in District of Jajpur, (9)Construction of CHC Building at Borikina in District of Jagatsinghpur, (10)Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block at MC&H Balesore, Odisha, as detailed below.

2	Nature of work	: Building work
3	No. of work	: 10 Nos.
4	Cost of Bid Document	: Rs. 10,000/- (each)
5	Class of Contractor	: 'A' / Special Class
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: From dt. 20.03.2024 to 17.00 Hours of dt.04.04.2024.
7	Date of Opening of Bid	: Dt.08.04.2024 at 11.30 AM.
8	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings IC,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR- 34117/11/0164/2324

SHIVALIK SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD.
Registered Office : 501, Sakon Aurum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025
CIN : U65900DL2020PLC366027

AUCTION NOTICE

The following borrowers of Shivalik Small Finance Bank Ltd. are hereby informed that Gold Loan's availed by them from the Bank have not been adjusted by them despite various demands and notices including individual notices issued by the Bank. All borrowers are hereby informed that it has been decided to auction the Gold ornaments kept as security with the Bank and accordingly 28.03.2024 has been fixed as the date of auction at 03:00 pm in the branch premises from where the loan was availed. All, including the borrowers, account holders and public at large can participate in this auction on as per the terms and conditions of auction. The auction will be conducted online <https://eagol.auctiontiger.net> on 28.03.24 from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.

Branch	Account No.	Actt Holder name	Father's/ Spouse Name	Address	Ac opening Date	Payoff
INDRAPURAM	101942516820	ANJU BHUKESH	C/O ANJU BHUKESH	C/O KANWAL SINGH BHUKESH 104 ROYAL PARK, DEVLJI ARAB ROAD, RAIPURA ROAD, RAIPURA, KOTARJ 324001	07-11-2023	38,519.1

Auction date is 28.03.2024 @ 03:00 pm.

The Bank reserves the right to delete any account from the auction or cancel the auction without any prior notice.
Authorised Officer, Shivalik Small Finance Bank Ltd.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
B-1936
e-mail ID - sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com,
Phone/Fax No -06856 - 223049
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. C.C.E (RANDB) RGDA-20/2023-2024 (Online) 07.03.2024
No. 414 Date. 7/3/2024
INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover mode to be received in online mode only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:

2	Nature of work	: Building & Bridge Works
3	No. of works	: 05 (Five) nos. of works
4	Estimated Cost. (Approximately)	: Rs. 434.41 Lakh, Rs. 183.69 Lakhs, Rs. 261.30 Lakhs, Rs. 727.46 Lakhs, Rs. 837.33 Lakhs,
5	Bid Cost (Online)	: Rs. 10,000/- (each)
6	EMD/ Bid Security Amount (Online)	: One Percentage of the Estimated Cost.
7	Class of Contractor	: "B, A and Special" Class as per Financial Eligibility.
8	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: 11.00 Hrs of Dt. 16.03.2024 to 17.00 Hrs of Dt. 02.04.2024.
9	Date of opening of Bid	: 11.00 Hrs of Dt. 03.04.2024.
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada
OIPR- 34154/11/0028/2324

वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Attention! GST Taxpayers
Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover# is upto a specified limit* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2024-2025 by 31st March, 2024


Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):

- Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy
- Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit

Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.

- Easy & Convenient Compliance
- Attractive Tax Rates
- Minimum Compliance Requirements
- Available for supplier of Goods as well as Services
- Less Bookkeeping
- Auto Renewal and Easy to Opt-out

Type of Suppliers	Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2023-24
Supplier of Goods	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States upto ₹ 75 Lakh Taxpayers registered in other States upto ₹ 150 Lakh
Supplier of Services	upto ₹ 50 Lakh

For details please scan 

For more details, please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019- Central Tax dated 07.03.2019

GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

www.cbic.gov.in

bc 15502/13/0029/2324



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The suitable citizen

At some point, Supreme Court will awaken from its slumber. For now, government has had its way on CAA



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE CHANGE WITHIN

BJP's change of guard in Haryana signals how party blends politics with power — and shifts course if it needs to

THE BJP HAS replaced the old BJP government in Haryana by a new BJP government, with an election still to happen in election year at the Centre and in the state. In one sense, the swift and sudden Haryana change of guard, orchestrated from above, isn't surprising. It could even be said to be part of a now-familiar BJP playbook — as, in recent years, in Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Gujarat. It speaks of the BJP's will to be seen as a change agent even where it is the incumbent, and its unflinching efforts to sidestep and beat back anti-incumbency, often by its high command springing a surprise not just on the people but also on the BJP's own. Manoeuvres such as the overnight replacement of Manohar Lal Khattar by Nayab Singh Saini as Haryana Chief Minister showcase a party at work and on the move, one that does not let victory blunt its appetite for victory. After all, alongside the accomplishments in Khattar's almost 10-year tenure, were several protests and agitations — be it the Jat reservation stir in 2016, the farmers' pushback in 2020-21, or the wrestlers' protests in 2023, a year that also saw communal violence flare in Nuh. The BJP evidently calculates that a change of chief minister can help it project a new leaf before the Lok Sabha and assembly polls. But that may not be all there is to it.

Ever since the BJP's winning spree began in 2014, it has tried to rearrange the conventional caste calculus in politics-so-far. In Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana, the party gambled on a chief minister from the non-dominant caste. This was as much a hard-headed strategy to consolidate the anti-dominant caste vote in its own favour, as it has been an ideological claim of the supremacy of Hindutva over caste. In a party with a high command more powerful than ever before, it could also be read as an overriding of the tyranny of the caste imperative by the prerogative of the leader. So it was that when the BJP won Haryana in 2014, Khattar, a Punjabi Khatri, a caste that falls under the upper caste umbrella, became the first non-Jat chief minister of the state in nearly two decades — it was seen as an upset, like the swearing-in of Devendra Fadnis, a Brahmin, in Maharashtra and of Raghuraj Das, a non-tribal, in Jharkhand.

The replacement of Khattar now by an OBC leader may be an acknowledgement that the experiment did not deliver as the BJP expected it to — incidentally, the same experiment was also seen to flounder for the party in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. This recognition in Haryana has not led the BJP to abandon its anti-dominant caste consolidation strategy, but to a recalibration of its tactic by putting forward an OBC face. This can be seen as a step towards addressing the traditional caste logic that the party has made a point of shunning so far. It is also a direct counter to the political opponent it disdains — Congress is talking up the OBC cause, and the need for the caste census, in its own Lok Sabha campaign. And, in between all these lines, another message, with Khattar getting a Lok Sabha ticket from Karnal. Clearly, the party has a plan for its former chief minister.

SPACE TO PIVOT

Greater clarity over trajectory of food inflation could pave the way for rate cut by Monetary Policy Committee

DATA RELEASED BY the National Statistical Office on Tuesday showed that retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, has remained at almost the same level since the beginning of this year. Inflation stood at 5.09 per cent in February, only marginally lower than 5.1 per cent in January. However, the disaggregated data points towards diverging trends — food inflation has edged upwards, while core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and fuel, has eased further. This represents a conundrum for monetary policy.

As per the latest data, the consumer food price index rose to 8.66 per cent in February, up from 8.3 per cent in January. Inflation remained elevated in vegetables (30.25 per cent), pulses and products (18.9 per cent), eggs (10.69 per cent), cereals (7.6 per cent) and sugar (7.48 per cent). According to a note by Crisil, inflation in the TOP segment (tomato, onion and potato) has surged to 22.7 per cent. This would suggest that the effects of El Nino and subdued production are showing. However, at the same time, core inflation is witnessing broad-based easing. As per ICRA's estimate, core inflation, which excludes food and beverages, fuel and light and petrol and diesel for vehicles, moderated to 3.5 per cent in February, down from 3.7 per cent in January. Inflation has eased in clothing and footwear (3.14 per cent), household goods and services (2.82 per cent), recreation and amusement (2.71 per cent). As per these estimates, core inflation is now at its lowest level since January 2015. Alongside, data released by the NSO shows that industrial production slowed to 3.8 per cent in January, from 4.2 per cent in December, driven by subdued performance of manufacturing. As per Crisil, growth in industrial output has been lower in the second half of the year as compared to the first.

In its last meeting, the monetary policy committee had chosen to maintain the status quo. However, the decision was not unanimous as one member voted in favour of a rate cut. As per RBI projections, while the economy is expected to maintain its growth momentum, inflation is expected to trend lower. The central bank expects growth at 7 per cent and inflation at 4.5 per cent in 2024-25. However, there remains considerable uncertainty around the trajectory of food inflation. As greater clarity emerges over the coming months on production trends and the monsoons, it could open up space for the MPC to pivot.

LIFE AFTER LOVE

Forsaken by France and 'cancelled' by her ex, Picasso, artist Françoise Gilot is finally getting her due

LIFE AS in art, few archetypes are as enduring as that of a lover scorned. The tumultuous affair between artist Camille Claudel, muse and lover to French sculptor Auguste Rodin, ended with Rodin's refusal to leave his partner Rose Beuret for her. Claudel destroyed most of her work and had to be institutionalised in the twilight of her life. When her relationship with the Spanish painter Pablo Picasso ended, photographer Dora Maar found refuge in Roman Catholicism, proclaiming famously, "After Picasso, only God". Writer and painter Françoise Gilot, though, the woman who replaced Maar in Picasso's affections, bucked the trend — against considerable odds. In 1953, when she walked out of her relationship with Picasso, with whom she had two children, the artist reportedly told her, "One doesn't leave a man like me." What followed could only be termed as an early example of "cancel culture": Picasso and his influential cohort went out of their way to sabotage her career in France, forcing her to move eventually to the US.

The news of the Picasso Museum in Paris dedicating an entire room to Gilot's art for a year-long exhibition, therefore, comes with a sense of posthumous vindication — Gilot, who died last year, is finally being recognised in France not in terms of a decade-long relationship she decided to forego but for her prodigious work that include *Adam Forcing Eve to Eat an Apple* (1946), *Paloma à la Guitare* (1965) and the *Labyrinth* series (1961–1963). In the aftermath of their relationship — the two had met when Gilot was 21 and Picasso 61 — Picasso had ensured that she lost invitations to prestigious exhibitions and representation by galleries in France. Even the publication of her 1964 biography, *Life with Picasso*, had been stalled.

In her refusal to submit to a jilted ex's malice, Gilot showed that there is life — and success — after love. Now, in giving her her due in France, the country that had forsaken her in favour of her iconic paramour, Picasso Museum is only validating her indomitable spirit.

THE ENACTMENT OF the Citizenship Amendment Rules is a perfect embodiment of a polity where rulers are utterly cynical, and their supporters increasingly credulous. The enactment of the rules was inevitable after Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019. But it is worth recounting the progression of aspects of this issue to understand where we are at.

First, on the CAA itself. The government could claim, quite rightly, that it was something of a scandal that persecuted refugees from neighbouring countries who had been residing in India for years had not been given a pathway to citizenship. No one ought to be opposed to granting citizenship to groups covered by the Act. But it cynically downplayed two important facts. First, the Citizenship Amendment Act was not necessary to grant refugees a pathway to citizenship. Second, the purpose of the Act was not to clear a pathway for groups persecuted on grounds of religion from neighbouring countries residing in India.

Even on the question of persecution, the Act is inconsistent. For example, why stop at 2014 as a cut-off date, since, by the government's own account, persecution of minorities is an ongoing phenomenon? It was to send a clear signal that Muslims will be excluded from this pathway. It is simply false to assert that there are no persecuted Muslim groups in the neighbourhood. It introduced a religion-based difference in how migrants, persecuted minorities and refugees were treated. The aim was nothing other than the transformation of Indian citizenship, and to reinforce the idea that Muslims do not naturally belong to India. Having made that point, the government took four years to enact the rules, conveniently trotting it out a few days before elections, when there is some spotlight on its perfidy in the electoral bonds case.

But what made the CAA such a cynical exercise was its ideological alignment with another ominous project, the NRC. The challenge for any citizenship law in India, as Niraja Gopal Jayal had written very powerfully at the time in the most comprehensive piece on the subject, 'Faith Based Citizenship' (*India Forum*, October 2019), was that, "The NRC and the CAB are manifestly conjoined in their objectives.

By driving, for the moment, a wedge between the CAA and NRC, even for NRC-excluded Hindus, the rules become limited in scope and application. It defuses the ground for protest. It also potentially protects the rules from legal challenge. It will be difficult to mobilise a broad coalition on this. We must give the Shaheen Bagh protest credit, even as we recognise its limitations. The credit consists in the fact that the government has not been able to proceed with the NRC on quite the scale that it was signaling in the heady days of 2019.

The first paves the way to statelessness and detention centres for many poor and vulnerable people, and most unjustly for those whose genuine nationality is repudiated only on the basis of their faith. The second offers a smooth path to citizenship for groups of migrants who are deemed acceptable only on grounds of their faith." The current anxiety over the NRC has its roots in the politics of Assam, where the issue of illegal migration has understandably deep resonance. But by insisting on a fast-tracked and unimplementable NRC, the SC helped create the conditions where the prospect of hundreds of thousands of citizens or residents getting dispossessed of their rights was real. This is what gave the protests against the CAA such urgency.

The newly enacted rules, for now at least, drive a wedge between the CAA and the NRC. They emphasise only the positive side of granting non-Muslim refugees (who by definition will be treated as a persecuted group), a path to citizenship. This, for the moment, throws cold water on the apprehension that while all Hindus excluded under the NRC would automatically get citizenship, Muslims would not. Under the current rules it seems that for Hindus to be eligible they would have to furnish documentary proof of their connection to Afghanistan, Pakistan or Bangladesh. So the challenge will not be that of producing Indian papers, but of producing some papers from these countries. The rules are not discriminatory in the general way that the pairing of NRC and CAA was going to produce.

This could potentially be consequential in a state like Assam. In the rest of India, outside of the CAA framework, it is still possible that the state is simply likely to assume that all Hindus are entitled to be here; Muslims have to potentially bear the burden of proof. It is unlikely to consider non-Muslims as illegal migrants in the way Muslims might be. As Aman Wadud, who has tirelessly worked on how people can be stripped of citizenship through administrative procedures and law, has often pointed out, a lot of the action on citizenship is not the formal promulgation of the law, but the shifting of the burden of proof.

But this move is potentially clever. At the moment, it blunts some of the formal legal

charge of discrimination amongst those who might be Indian citizens. It symbolically reminds the electorate that this government will progressively enact laws that privilege Hindus. But it does not, for now, precipitate the kind of exercise the NRC was signaling. By driving, for the moment, a wedge between the CAA and NRC, even for NRC-excluded Hindus, the rules become limited in scope and application. It defuses the ground for protest. It also potentially protects the rules from legal challenge.

It will be difficult to mobilise a broad coalition on this. We must give the Shaheen Bagh protest credit, even as we recognise its limitations. The credit consists in the fact that the government has not been able to proceed with the NRC on quite the scale that it was signaling in the heady days of 2019. We must have no doubt about the direction in which the government wants to move. But at the margins, it is still having to comply with some limits that the current constitutional form imposes. Shaheen Bagh was the last and most significant protest that used that constitutional argument in an effectively public way.

But having said that, the protests also had two limitations. As much as the protests displayed an extraordinary grammar of constitutionalism, they did not draw as much widespread support amongst non-Muslims. Now that potential might have diminished even more. And in India any protest ends up labouring under the ability of the state to whip up the fear that the protest will be hijacked by extra-constitutional forces. It will be hard to circumvent that fear at this moment.

At some point, the SC will awaken from its slumber and fully consider the complex issues involved in the CAA. But for now, the government gets to fulfill its promise, and use it as an election talking point, while throwing cold water over the apprehensions of an NRC being used to disenfranchise citizens. Civil society will have to remain vigilant on the last point. The project of transforming Indian citizenship may be proceeding more by stealth than big bang.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA

AN ERSTWHILE KINGMAKER

Biggest loser in Haryana's political realignment may be JJP

"ANOTHER SHREWD DEMOCRATIC experiment." This is how political observers are likely to describe the swift change of guard in the Haryana CM's office — from Manohar Lal Khattar to Nayab Saini. Just a day earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken glowingly about the "progressive mindset" of the now former CM, while reminiscing about the good old days when he would ride pillion on Khattar's motorbike.

The unassuming Khattar was an unexpected choice for Chief Minister. In 2014, the lotus sprang a surprise by winning 47 out of 90 seats in the 2014 Haryana assembly elections. CM Khattar had just begun to come into his own. He kept a punishing schedule and had all state-related information at his fingertips. Until the very last minute when Khattar proposed Saini's name, a section in the CMO continued to reassure media persons that he was not going anywhere.

However, the BJP has never shied away from the unpredictable. Cracks in its alliance with Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) had begun to appear last year amid the jousting for the 10 Lok Sabha seats, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah announcing that the BJP would contest all of them. The JJP, led by Dushyant Chautala, former deputy chief minister of Haryana, had also been making similar noises. That it was an alliance of mutual convenience, not shared ideology, wasn't hidden from anyone. The JJP, born in the run-up to the 2019 assembly polls as a fall-

out of the vertical split in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), found itself playing the role of a kingmaker when it won 10 assembly seats.

In what wasn't seen then as a masterstroke, the BJP joined hands with the fledgling JJP, giving its young leader Dushyant, then aged 31, the deputy chief minister's seat. In one stroke, the party had neutralised the budding opposition. Dushyant, whose voter base is largely rural, stuck to the alliance despite the blowback from the 2020 farm agitation that prompted his uncle Abhay Chautala to resign from the lone INLD seat in the assembly — he won it back in the Ellenabad bypolls in 2021.

But the biggest loser in this exercise is the JJP. The newborn party, which had cast itself as the rightful heir to the INLD now finds itself without both power and a constituency. The death of the coalition doesn't bode well for the INLD as well, once a robust regional party that had ruled Haryana. Ironically, INLD allied with BJP in 1999 only to break it after winning the 2000 assembly polls with 47 seats.

The current shakeup, weeks before the Lok Sabha polls, appears to be targeted more at the assembly elections slated for October, with a resurgent state Congress. A new CM and cabinet is the easiest way to beat anti-incumbency. It is also a convenient way to brush off any rancour caused by the wrestlers' protest in the not-too-distant past or the recent farm agitation in Punjab, and the Haryana government's muscular response to it.

But the change is not just cosmetic. In Nayab Saini, the 55-year-old Kurukshetra MP, Haryana gets a CM from an OBC community. Other Backward Classes form over 40 per cent of the state's population as per the 2011 census; the Jats comprise only 20-25 per cent. The BJP had kept this mathe-

matics in mind even during the 2014 elections when, in a departure from the past, it installed Khattar, a first-time MLA from Karnal and a Punjabi Khatri with a Jat as its state party chief. Lately, Congress has also been shining a light on the lack of representation of OBCs, with Rahul Gandhi leading the charge. After Congress installed Uday Bhan, an OBC, as its state party chief in April last year, BJP, too, followed suit with Saini, now CM.

The great split comes days after Brijendra Singh, the BJP MP from Hisar and a great-grandson of Sir Chhotu Ram, the legendary farmer leader, quit the party to join Congress following differences over JJP. Beseet by factionalism, Congress will now have to work harder as the BJP takes advantage of its new look.

But the biggest loser in this exercise is the JJP. The newborn party, which had cast itself as the rightful heir to the INLD now finds itself without both power and a constituency. The death of the coalition doesn't bode well for the INLD as well, once a robust regional party that had ruled Haryana. Ironically, INLD allied with BJP in 1999 only to break it after winning the 2000 assembly polls with 47 seats.

The BJP's message is loud and clear: Anyone can be a CM, winnability is all that matters.

manraj.grewal@expressindia.com



MARCH 14, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

CORRUPTION BILL

THE MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS (I) legislature party seemed set for a split when former chief minister Babasaheb Bhosale defied the party whip and tried to introduce his non-official bill to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act. Legislative Affairs Minister Shantaram Gholap, other ministers present and some legislators were stunned when Bhosale rose to introduce his bill.

ATTEMPTED MURDER

FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF minister Darbara Singh escaped an attempt on his life when a

person fired at him near Nangal in Ropar district. He escaped unhurt while four persons, including a woman, were injured. The assailant has been arrested and identified as Mohinder Singh of Faridkot district. Darbara Singh had gone to attend the immersion of the body of religious leader Sant Mohinder Singh Harkhawal near Gurudwara Bhabour Sahib at Nangal.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE

LT GEN S K Sinha (retd) who was denied his chance by Mrs Gandhi's government last year to be the army chief is likely to join politics soon. There is a move by several opposition

parties in Bihar to put him up as a consensus opposition candidate for this month's elections to the Rajya Sabha. Among others, these parties are the Lok Dal, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Party.

FIRING IN BANGALORE

A CURFEW WAS imposed in 11 localities after violence continued in east Bangalore and the City Market area. Police fired three rounds in the air in the Bamboo Bazaar area when a riotous mob attempted to set a police vehicle on fire. Mobs also indulged in large-scale violence and arson in the City Market area and K G Halli, where seven persons were killed.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

When Mumbai was Bombay

The city's landscape has altered dramatically. So have its ethos and priorities



COOMI KAPOOR

PACKING UP TO leave forever, the family apartment in south Mumbai, was an emotional wrench, but also an eye-opener. In the boxes of photographs and letters I sorted out were memories of the city I grew up in. There is little resemblance between the Mumbai of today and the Bombay of my childhood.

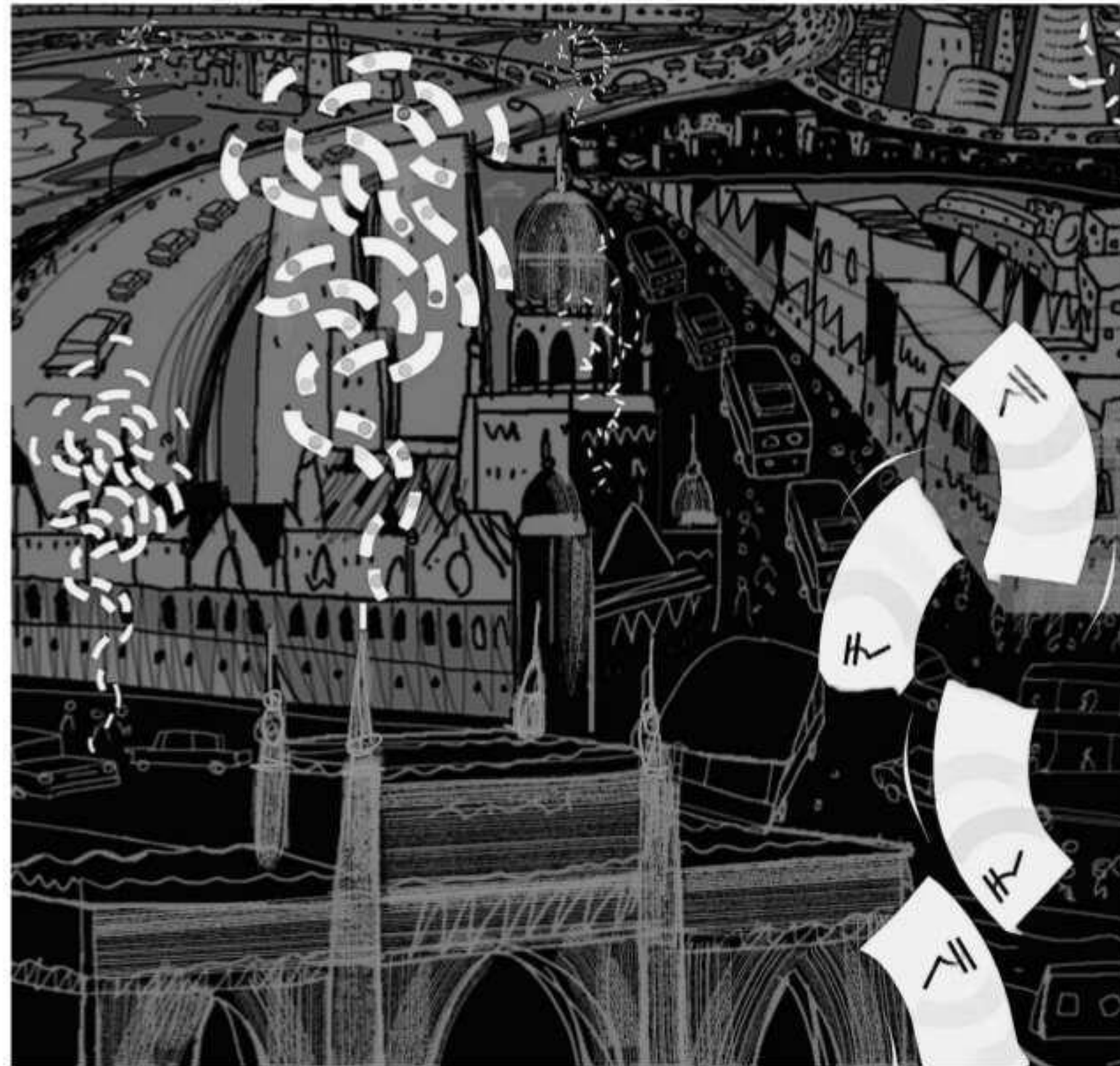
I am among the last of the generation which can still recall a genteel, slower paced, less vainglorious city. I grew up on a leafy quiet street, lined with Victorian two-storey villas, where a lamplighter nightly illuminated the gas street lamps manually with a rod. On the walk to school, one passed the gracious Anglo-Gothic buildings of the Bombay High Court and Bombay University. For longer journeys, there was a tramline near the art deco Regal cinema. The tram moved so slowly you could jump on and off at any point. Churchgate station came up literally in front of my eyes in the Fifties. Then suburban trains started plying, disgorging, at intervals, thousands of commuters from the suburbs working in the then bustling Fort area.

By the early Sixties, the houses on my residential street, New Marine Lines, had been torn down to make way for ugly multi-storey office buildings on a road far too narrow to cope with the necessary infrastructure required for the sudden influx of people and cars. The changes came about abruptly due to a deft amendment tweaking municipal corporation rules concerning heights and floor area ratios in the zone. A new breed of builders changed the landscape forever. Then greedy politicians in partnerships with builders extended the boundaries of the island city, reclaiming large tracts of land at Nariman Point.

Every time I return to Mumbai, I witness fresh changes. In January, a six-lane highway bridge connecting Mumbai with the satellite city of Navi Mumbai was inaugurated. In front of the Nepean Sea Road apartment I have left behind, construction on a sea-link road stretching from Chowpatty to Mahalaxmi has continued for years. Another sea-link road is to connect Bandra to Versova. Work on Mumbai's raised Metro line pillars also seems unending and the dust from the myriad building sites has made the beautiful port city so polluted and hazy that often you cannot see Nariman Point from the Hanging Gardens.

As Mumbai's landscape alters dramatically, so do its ethos and priorities. I notice that familiar bookshops and coffee shops have been replaced by wedding couture boutiques. Appropriately, the Mumbai buzz at present is all about the razzle dazzle of the over-the-top Ambani pre-wedding festivities in Jamnagar. The carefully crafted YouTube video clips share every detail of the mind-boggling conspicuous consumption.

Mumbai's landscape alters dramatically, so do its ethos and priorities. I notice that familiar bookshops and coffee shops have been replaced by wedding couture boutiques. Appropriately, the Mumbai buzz at present is all about the razzle dazzle of the over-the-top Ambani pre-wedding festivities in Jamnagar. The carefully crafted YouTube video clips share every detail of the mind-boggling conspicuous consumption.



C R Sasikumar

port was converted overnight into an international airport are brushed aside and viewed as a case of sour grapes.

I can recall an innocent time when wedding ceremonies of even the wealthy in Mumbai were restricted to a single reception and dinner with dance band crooners such as Goody Seervai, Nelly or Maurice Concessio. The only decor was the twinkling lights in the trees. Today, even austere middle-class Maharashtrian families have moved with the times to accommodate Punjabi *joie de vivre* functions such as *sangeets*, and *mehendis*. But the Ambani pre-wedding festivities have raised the bar to a whole new level of dazzle, glitz and limitless expense. *Tatler* magazine estimates the cost at \$120 million.

Some see more similarities between India's uber rich today and powerful Russian oligarchs than with the fiscally prudent, publicity reticent, philanthropic merchant princes and industrialists who dominated Mumbai in an earlier era. Flashy jewellery and stunning outfits may always have been *de rigueur* for the rich, but there were also examples of Bombay's wealthy women of yesteryears pawning their jewellery, sometimes secretly, for worthy causes such as a cancer hospital, a steel mill, animal welfare or supporting Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Eminent academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta terms the hubris of organising well publicised, but private Jamnagar style festivities as "a perfect embodiment of our age". Some view this crass demonstration of power and wealth as an inspiring advertisement for aspirational India and economic liberalisation.

I can recall an innocent time when wedding ceremonies of even the wealthy in Mumbai were restricted to a single reception and dinner with dance band crooners such as Goody Seervai, Nelly or Maurice Concessio. The only decor was the twinkling lights in the trees. Today, even austere middle-class Maharashtrian families have moved with the times to accommodate Punjabi *joie de vivre* functions such as *sangeets*, and *mehendis*.

Superstars, emirs and internet billionaires not only participated enthusiastically, but gifted suitably mind-boggling presents. The rags-to-riches story of Anant's grandfather has become a legend and the few murmurs of moralistic disapproval are drowned in general fascination and ambitions to emulate his life story.

One sees some interesting parallels in today's Mumbai story with a popular serial *The Gilded Age*, trending on an OTT platform. The serial is set in New York of the 1880s and some of the principal characters are modelled on the Vanderbilt family members, parvenus trying to break into the snobby social circles of New York's old money. Season Two centres on the society war over competing opera houses. It was inspired by the real life story of Alva Vanderbilt who funded a new Metropolitan Opera House when she was denied a box at the Academy of Music opera house. The Tata Trusts funded the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), billed as Asia's first multi-venue cultural centre, at Nariman Point. It was opened half a century ago. It could soon be overshadowed by the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) inaugurated last year. The NCPA is in sleepy south Bombay, which has sadly been left behind. The city's trendy restaurants, offices and apartment complexes are now in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) where the NMACC is located. It is a reflection of the city's changing character.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The fact that prices have skyrocketed despite there being sufficient food supplies is totally unacceptable. As Ramadan unfolds, we urge the government to honour its commitment anyway possible. The spirit of Ramadan must not be overshadowed by the burden of astronomical prices." — THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

A fact sheet, a sheet anchor

We need unit-level data to draw firm conclusions from consumer expenditure survey. It does indicate increase in income and prosperity



BIBEK DEBROY

"EVERY GIFFEN GOOD is an inferior good. But every inferior good is not a Giffen good." Every undergraduate textbook on microeconomics will have this statement while discussing consumer behaviour. I wonder whether we would have remembered Robert Giffen had it not been for Alfred Marshall's influential (at the time, in 1890) *Principles of Economics*. Most students read contemporary textbooks, not what are known as classics. Marshall wrote, "For instance, as Sir R Giffen has pointed out, a rise in the price of bread makes so large a drain on the resources of the poorer labouring families and raises so much the marginal utility of money to them, that they are forced to curtail their consumption of meat and the more expensive farinaceous foods: and bread being still the cheapest food which they can get and will take, they consume more, and not less of it." Had they read the classics, they would have known that farinaceous means something with starch, based on the Latin for ground wheat, or flour. If the price of a good goes up, we consume less of it. The reverse also holds and this is known as the law of demand. A Giffen good violates this principle. When the price goes up, we consume more and vice-versa. This is explained by breaking up what happens into an income effect and a substitution effect.

An inferior good is one where income increases lead to a decline in demand and vice-versa, contrary to what one might expect. Public transport might be an example, since I switch to private transport as income increases. If the price increases, the relative substitution effect will make me switch to other goods. For a Giffen good, the perverse income effect (since it is an inferior good) overrides the substitution effect. This explains the statement from undergraduate texts. Thanks to Marshall, we might identify Giffen as an economist. Since he wrote on finance and taxation, you could call him an economist. But he was primarily a statistician. Indeed, he was the Chief Statistical Officer to the Board of Trade. Therefore, it is appropriate that I should mention Giffen's name in the context of the recent household consumption expenditure survey (HCES) fact sheet brought out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This is for 2022-23 and we await the results of the 2023-24 survey. This is just a fact sheet, we await unit-level data. With changes in methodology, we await some kind of validation, with a smaller sample that uses both the old methodology and the new. Despite such caveats, people have jumped the gun, on poverty ratios and inequality, and the World Poverty Clock shows that India has eradicated extreme poverty. Let me ignore those issues.

Let me instead flag shifts in the compo-

sition of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE). There has been income growth and consumption growth — that's obvious, though such household surveys always underestimate aggregate consumption, as measured through national accounts. This isn't a problem specific to India alone. With the caveat that different NSS (National Sample Survey) rounds aren't comparable, rural households are spending less on food, down from 59.40 per cent in 1999-2000 to 46.38 per cent in 2022-23. Across the rounds, there has been a steady decline and naturally, an increase in non-food. At that aggregate level, food is an inferior good. Disaggregated, it's a bit more complicated.

There has been a steady decline in cereals and pulses shares and an increase in consumption of fruits, eggs, fish, meat and processed food. Perhaps rural India's consumption of farinaceous items has shifted to junk food — potatoes may be inferior goods, not potato chips. Wouldn't one have expected the share of milk and milk products to go up over time? (It hasn't). The fact sheet has a separate table with imputations, where there are imputations for subsidised items provided through welfare schemes (with no imputations for health and education). With that, not surprisingly, shares of both food and cereals increase, compared to shares without imputations. Wouldn't one have expected the share of education to increase? It hasn't, not since 2004-05. Nor has that of non-hospitalisation medical expenses, not since 1999-2000 — hospitalisation has increased. These contradict anecdotal assertions and note, these trends pre-date recent welfare schemes. Therefore, the substitution of private expenditure by public expenditure is not a convincing explanation.

These were rural trends. For urban India, food is down from 48.06 per cent in 1999-2000 to 39.17 per cent in 2022-23 and the farinaceous shift to processed food is much more pronounced. The education and health trends diverge quite a bit, between rural and urban. For education, the share increased sharply till 2009-10, but has dipped since then. Non-hospitalisation medical expenses have increased, but hospitalisation has been flat. Again, these are not patterns quite in conformity with a priori impressions. A priori impressions, anecdotal or otherwise, can of course be wrong. However, to validate and check properly, one needs to wait for the unit-level data. The opposite of an inferior good isn't called a superior good. It is simply called a normal good, one where income increases lead to demand increases.

Durable goods are bound to be that and for both rural and urban, increases in shares of durable goods underline increases in prosperity and income. Even though this is an aggregate fact sheet, that improvement cannot be denied. Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, there is also the catch-up of rural vis-à-vis urban, highlighting the blurring of differences between the two. That fact is a sheet anchor of these results.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Views are personal

The Court's trajectory

With electoral bonds decision, SC has retrieved lost institutional ground. Or has it?



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

THE DECISION OF the Supreme Court on the electoral bonds scheme stands in stark contrast with a long series of judgments that appeared to go systematically in favour of the government at the Centre. Is the court back on track in its role of custodian of the constitutional letter and spirit, and as the institution that protects freedoms and liberties against state transgression? And why did it let itself get detailed in the first place?

For decades, India's Supreme Court has been admired across the globe because of its ability to resist, and stand up to, executive power. Till recently, the Court's career had only been rarely tainted by one episode, the Emergency, about which Justice Y V Chandrachud, the longest serving Indian Chief Justice, came to show remorse later. Two months after he was controversially sworn in as chief justice by the Janata Party — large sections of the judiciary protested his appointment because of his *habeas corpus* ruling — he said in a 1978 speech: "I regret that I did not have the courage to lay down my office and tell the people, well, this is the law".

After almost a decade of decisions in which it appeared to give a domineering Executive the benefit of every doubt, the Supreme Court of India was hardly recognisable, till the electoral bonds decision. The Indian trajectory is not unique here.

Everywhere, in the name of the people, populists fight against the independence of the judiciary. Look at the manner in which judges and their role are viewed by Viktor Orban, Jaroslaw Kaczynski or Benjamin Netanyahu.

As early as July 2014, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi promoted a constitutional amendment in order to create a commission which would be responsible for appointing and transferring judicial officers and which would consist of the CJI, two senior judges, the Minister of Law and Justice and two "eminent personalities". These two personalities would have been selected by a committee comprising the CJI, the PM and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. This bill was passed in Parliament, but the Supreme Court quashed it in 2015 because it would affect the independence of the judiciary, guaranteed, in its view, by the Collegium system.

However, the Supreme Court began to drop the ball with regard to its vigilance against the crossing of lines by the Executive. In 2017, the Court refused to examine a petition alleging dilution in the Whistleblower Protection Act and in 2018 it validated the Aadhaar Act that the government had passed as a money bill — like the Electoral Bonds Bill — in spite of the fact that it fell well outside the limits set by the Constitution for money bills.

These bills solely concern taxation and government spending — that's why they do not need to be examined by the Upper House of Parliament, something the Modi government found to be convenient because the BJP did not have the majority in the Rajya Sabha.

Four senior-most members of the Supreme Court — Justices Kurian Joseph, J Chelameswar, Madan Lokur and Ranjan Gogoi — held a press conference to make their criticism public against Justice Misra's functioning in January 2018. But Justice Misra's successor, CJI Gogoi seemed to follow in his footsteps, confirming that the problem had spread to the Court as an institution. This was evident from the fate of crucial cases, including the electoral bonds case. In 2019, the Supreme Court judgment on the MLAs who had defected from Congress to BJP — enabling the latter party to form the government in Karnataka in spite of its electoral defeat — made a mockery of the Anti-Defection Law.

Similarly, the Court kicked the can down the road on the constitutional challenge to the abrogation of Article 370, and the splitting of the erstwhile state of J&K into two Union Territories, on reservation for economically weaker sections, judicial review of money bills, electoral bonds and the challenge to the Citizenship Amendment Act.

If what constitutional law scholar Gautam Bhatia has called "judicial evasion" remained the Supreme Court's favourite strategy, when it did make decisions, none of them challenged the government. For instance, it dismissed the plea to transfer the PM CARES Fund, that had received large sums of money during the Covid-19 crisis to the National Disaster Relief Fund and upheld the validity of the draconian Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), including the investigative powers of the Enforcement Directorate.

The 10 per cent EWS quota was upheld, as was the legality of the government's 2016 demonetisation move, and the abolition of Article 370 as well as the downgrading of J&K into a Union Territory, which senior lawyers with an impeccable reputation, like Fali Nariman, considered as poor decisions.

With the decision on electoral bonds, the court seems to have retrieved some of the ground it had steadily ceded to the Executive. It remains to be seen, however, if, on this decision and in cases in the future, it can stay the course.

The writer is a senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A POLITICAL TOOL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Between the rules' (IE, March 13). The Modi government's notification of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 Rules, despite the matter being sub-judice for violation of the right to equality, ought to be seen in the light of BJP-RSS's ideology. Non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are only a few thousand compared to 140 crore Indians. If granted citizenship, they could hardly impact the election. But the rhetoric built around their suffering in the hands of Muslim rulers would appeal to BJP supporters and many Hindus, which explains the timing of the announcement before the election.

L R Murmu, New Delhi

SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Satwik-Chirag' (IE, March 13). India's sports landscape witnessed a paradigm shift with Satwik-Chirag's victory. Moreover, with Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa's presence at the FIDE World Cup final, Neeraj Chopra's Gold at the World Athletics Championships, the blind Women's Cricket Team's win at IBSA World Games etc., India has championed inclusivity. Even so, issues persist, such as sexual harassment allegations and inadequate infrastructure. As spectators, however, we must evolve and respect players irrespective of wins or losses. Sports must transcend hate and foster a culture of appreciation and support for athletes.

Snehanjal, New Delhi

FALI'S GENIUS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Seven lessons from my guru' (IE, March 13). Fali Nariman was a man of principles, diligently practicing what he preached — the most challenging of tasks. He was readily accepting of his faults. While the constitution committee drafted the Constitution, Fali Nariman implemented it for the people. His resignation on the day of the Emergency exemplified his profound patriotism towards the nation's citizens. Before embarking on his heavenly journey, he bestowed a gift upon the people of our country in the form of his book *You Must Know Your Constitution*. Rest in peace, Prophet.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

Ajay Corriea, Vasai



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The froth in small stocks, and why regulators are worried

HITESH VYAS & GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

STOCKS OF small companies are showing signs of becoming bubbles, and regulators have sounded a warning. Over the last five trading sessions, the Smallcap index has fallen by 10% and the Midcap index by 5.9%. In comparison, the benchmark Sensex at BSE has lost only 1.2%.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has said there is evidence of price manipulation in the initial public offerings (IPOs) and trading in the shares of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). And the apex body of mutual funds (MFs), the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), last month asked fund managers to act proactively to protect the interests of investors.

Is there a bubble building in small caps and SME stocks?

Some categories of stocks do appear to be moving ahead of their fundamentals.

In the one-year period between March 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024, while the benchmark Sensex rose 22%, the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices rose nearly three times that — by 63% and 65% respectively. Over the same period, the BSE SME IPO index shot up 141%.

While the SME IPO index rally is alarming, and the jump in the small and mid cap indices is of concern as well — especially when compared with the Sensex, which comprises bluechip companies.

A sharp rally in stocks, if not backed by corresponding growth in earnings, makes it overvalued — and any correction in the market leads to a sharper decline in those stocks. Thus, while the Sensex has been relatively stable over the last five trading sessions, the Smallcap and Midcap indices have fallen much more.

Are SME stocks being manipulated on the exchanges?

There are some signs, but the regulator is not able to take action immediately, SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Monday.

SIGNS OF A BUBBLE

	Mar 1, '23- Feb 29, '24	Mar 1-Mar 13, '24
Sensex	22%	-1.33%
BSE Largecap	29%	-2.1%
BSE Midcap	63%	-5.3%
BSE Smallcap	65%	-10.7%
BSE SME IPO	141%	-15.9%

Source: BSE

"In terms of actual price manipulation (in the SME segment) both at the IPO level and the trading level, we are working to evidence that, and we do see the signs. ...We are able to see certain patterns. However, as per the regulations, the way we need to construct the entire case, we do need to take some time to do that in a robust manner," she said at an AMFI event. Buch said SEBI has received feedback

from the market on price manipulation in the listing of SMEs. Market participants have also advised the regulator on ways to identify such cases and to deal with them. While the picture is not clear yet, market sources indicate rigging in the IPO process, and manipulation in prices after listing.

"The reality is that these (SMEs) are relatively small entities, the market is small, the free float is small, it is relatively easy to manipulate both at the IPO level and the trading level," Buch said.

Has there been a lot of market activity in the SME sector recently?

SMEs have been flocking to the exchanges to list their shares. In 2023, there were 182 SME IPOs, which cumulatively raised more than Rs 4,600 crore, an increase of 150% over the Rs 1,800 crore raised through SME IPOs in 2022. In 2024, the first two months alone saw 30 SME IPOs that collectively raised more than Rs 1,000 crore.

The small and mid cap segments have seen

a surge in inflows from investors, which has raised the prices of these stocks 100-200% higher over last year. Small and mid caps are companies with a market capitalisation of less than Rs 5,000 crore, and more than Rs 5,000 crore but less than Rs 20,000 crore respectively.

Over the past six months, the Nifty Smallcap 100 index has surged by 33%, and the Nifty Midcap 100 has risen by more than 24%. This is much higher than the 14% growth seen in the benchmark Nifty 50 in the same period.

Between August 2023 and January 2024, small cap funds saw net inflows of Rs 22,252.14 crore, and mid cap funds received Rs 13,042.1 crore, according to AMFI data. Over the same period, large cap funds saw net inflows of only Rs 1,577.04 crore.

These huge inflows contributed to the surge in small cap and mid cap stocks, with retail investors also jumping on to the bandwagon.

Why is all of this a concern?

Analysts have expressed concern over the high valuations of small and mid cap compa-

nies, which pose risks for investors who tend to follow the herd and invest in high-priced stocks without adequate research. Regulators are worried that when a correction comes, investors who invested at high valuations are bound to lose heavily — and want the money flow to small cap stocks to be moderated.

On February 27, AMFI wrote to its members: "In the context of froth building up in the small and mid cap segments of the market and the continuing flows in the small and mid cap schemes of mutual funds, trustees, in consultation with the Unitholder Protection Committee of the AMCs, shall ensure that a policy is put in place to protect the interest of all investors."

Buch said SEBI could not allow bubbles to build up. "Some people call it a bubble, some may call it froth. It may not be appropriate to allow that bubble to keep building because if it keeps building, then when it bursts... By definition bubbles burst, and when they burst, they impact investors adversely, which is not a good thing," she said.

EXPLAINED AI

THE 'FIRST AUTONOMOUS' AI SOFTWARE ENGINEER: MEET DEVIN

BIJIN JOSE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

US-BASED applied AI lab, Cognition, has introduced what it claims is the world's first AI software engineer. The makers say that the AI agent, named Devin, has successfully passed freelance engineering interviews held by leading AI companies. It has also completed real jobs posted on Upwork, an US-based freelancing platform, according to Cognition.

"Devin is a tireless, skilled teammate, equally ready to build alongside you or independently complete tasks for you to review. With Devin, engineers can focus on more interesting problems, and engineering teams can strive for more ambitious goals," read the company's official blog post on Devin.

What can Devin do?

The AI agent comes with advanced capabilities in software development, including coding, debugging, problem-solving, etc. Devin uses machine learning algorithms to constantly learn and improve its performance and adapt according to new challenges. It can build and deploy apps end-to-end and can also train and fine-tune its own AI models.

Devin can plan and execute complex engineering tasks that would require thousands of decisions. This is possible owing to Cognition's advances in long-term reasoning and planning. According to the company, Devin can recall relevant context at each step, self-learn over time, and even fix mistakes.

Besides, the makers have also endowed the AI software engineer with the ability to proactively collaborate with the user. It reports progress in real-time, is capable of accepting feedback, and works along with the user through design choices as needed.

What about its performance?

On the SWE-Bench benchmark (a benchmark for evaluating large language models on real-world software issues found on GitHub), Devin correctly resolved 13.86 per cent of the issues without any assistance compared with the 1.96 per cent unassisted and 4.80 per cent

assisted of the previous state-of-the-art model.

In terms of performance, Devin AI is capable of augmenting efficiency and speed within software development processes by automating repetitive tasks, instantly generating code, expediting project timelines, and cutting down development expenses substantially.

One of the most notable facets of Devin AI is that it is immune to human errors or inconsistencies. The AI agent is capable of guaranteeing precision and uniformity in coding practices which can lead to the development of superior-quality software products.

It needs to be noted that the company has not disclosed anything about the AI model that is powering Devin AI, nor has it revealed detailed technical specifications. Some of the other popular AI-powered tools that help with coding are OpenAI Codex, GitHub Copilot, Polycoder, CodeT5, Tabnine, etc.

What challenges, opportunities does it bring?

While the company has elaborated on the capabilities of Devin, some experts feel that the AI software engineer may struggle with complex requirements or instances that rely on human intuition and creativity. Besides, AI tools such as Devin seem to fan concerns about job losses.

However, others believe that Devin can be an ally for thousands of software engineers, offering new avenues of collaboration between human ingenuity and AI.

What is Cognition?

Cognition, the firm behind Devin, is headed by Scott Wu. Cognition calls itself an applied AI lab that is focused on reasoning. The company claims that it is building AI teammates with capabilities that surpass existing AI tools. "Building Devin is just the first step—our hardest challenges still lie ahead," reads the website.

The agent will soon be available to be hired for engineering works, but for now, companies need to join a waitlist.

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EXPLAINED SCIENCE

FBR and energy security

The beginning of 'core loading' at the Kalpakkam Fast Breeder Reactor marks a critical milestone in India's three-stage nuclear power programme. How does FBR work to convert 'fertile' material to fissile material?

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE VITAL second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme got a boost with the commencement of 'core loading' at the country's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, earlier this month.

Core loading refers to the process of placing nuclear fuel assemblies inside the core of a nuclear reactor. The initiation of the process was witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 4.

The completion of core loading will effectively mark the first approach to 'criticality' — the initiation of a self-sustaining nuclear fission reaction that will eventually lead to the generation of power by the 500 megawatt electric (MWe) FBR.

India's FBR programme

Efforts to build an FBR were initiated two decades ago, and successive governments have nurtured the project as a step towards India developing comprehensive capabilities that span the entire nuclear fuel cycle, by which electricity is produced from uranium in nuclear power reactors.

In 2003, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister, the Bharatiya Nabhihiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd or BHAVINI was incorporated to build and operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor, the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).

The project was expected to be completed by September 2010, but was delayed due to technological challenges. The last set of approvals had revised the completion target to October 2022.

Once commissioned, India will be the second country after Russia to have a commercial operating FBR. China has a small programme on fast breeders; programmes in countries such as Japan, France, and the United States were shut down amid safety concerns.

From 'fertile' to 'fissile'

The Department of Atomic Energy's (DAE's) three-stage power programme envisages a pathway to utilising India's abundant thorium reserves — found in coastal and inland placer sands on the beaches of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, and in the inland riverine sands of Jharkhand and West Bengal — to generate electricity.

A placer deposit is a natural concentration of heavier minerals created by the action of gravity on moving particles. These concentrations are typically found along streams, rivers, beaches, and stretches of residual gravel where they wash up. Besides thorium (from monazite ore), gold, platinum, titanium, uranium, and rare earth elements are

commercially mined from placer deposits.

India owes the vision of the three-phase programme of nuclear power to ensure energy security to Dr Homi J Bhabha, the father of India's nuclear programme, and Dr Vikram Sarabhai, who recognised the need for developing FBRs, as these reactors generate more nuclear fuel than they consume due to the gainful conversion of fertile isotopes into fissile material.

The three stages involve the conversion of 'fertile' material (which is not fissionable by thermal neutrons but can be converted into fissile material) into fissile material.

For example, U238, the dominant isotope of uranium, is a fertile material that cannot by itself make the reactor achieve criticality, and has to be converted to fissile plutonium (Pu239) in a nuclear reactor. The spent fuel from thermal reactors contains Pu239, which is most efficiently burnt in a fast reactor.

NUCLEAR FUELS & REACTORS

NUCLEAR FUELS are classified as 'fissile' (U233, U235, Pu239) or 'fertile' (U238, Th232). Fissile isotopes can be directly used as nuclear fuel; fertile isotopes need to be converted into fissile before they can be used. U235 is the only fissile isotope that occurs in nature.

IN INDIA, resources of exploitable uranium (natural uranium is mostly U238, with only 0.7% U235) are limited, while thorium (Th232) is abundantly available.

BOTH fissile and fertile isotopes are precious commodities that must be used judiciously for optimum utilisation. Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, which burn U235, also convert fertile Th232 to Pu239. This plutonium is used in Fast Breeder



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kalpakkam on March 4. PTI

Reactors as fuel to generate electricity. **FAST REACTORS** produce more fuel than they consume. They also aid in the conversion of fertile Th232 into fissile U233, which can be used to fuel subsequent reactors.

INDIA'S THREE-STAGE PROGRAMME

STAGE 1: PHWRs use natural uranium-based fuels to generate electricity, while producing fissile Pu239, which can be extracted by reprocessing the spent fuel.

STAGE 2: FBRs of the kind at Kalpakkam, using Pu-based fuels, can enhance nuclear power capacity, and convert fertile thorium into fissile uranium (U233). Reprocessing of the spent fuel is vital for efficient

utilisation of plutonium inventory. **STAGE 3:** U233 produced in the second stage can be used for the third stage of the power programme, which consists of advanced thermal and fast breeder reactors, for long-term energy security. In addition, fissile isotopes can be produced by Accelerator-driven Subcritical Reactor (ADS) systems.

Source: BARC, DAE

ral uranium as fuel and heavy water (deuterium oxide) as coolant and moderator.

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd operates 22 commercial reactors with an installed capacity of 6,780 MWe. The programme has been supplemented by construction of imported Light Water Reactors (LWRs) — the first of two units built with Russian collaboration is already generating power.

The second stage involves the setting up of FBRs backed by reprocessing plants and plutonium fabrication plants, primarily to multiply the inventory of fissile material. Multiplication of fissile inventory is also needed to establish a higher power base for using thorium in the third stage of the programme.

The third stage will be based on the Th-U233 cycle. For producing U233, obtained by irradiation of thorium in PHWRs and FBRs, an Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) is proposed.

The combination of power reactors from all the three stages is expected to ensure long-term energy security for the country. But the commercial utilisation of thorium on a significant scale can begin only when abundant supplies of either U233 or Pu239 are available. The progress on the FBR has made the passage to the third phase visible.

Way forward hereafter

As core loading commences, the FBR will initially use Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel, officials said. The U238 'blanket' around the fuel core will undergo nuclear transmutation to produce more fuel — thus the name 'Breeder'. Nuclear transmutation involves the conversion of a chemical element or isotope into another chemical element, with the numbers of protons or neutrons in the nucleus of the atom undergoing a change.

The use of Th232, which is not a fissile material, as a blanket is also envisaged in this stage. Through transmutation, thorium will create fissile U233, which will be used as fuel in the third stage.

The DAE maintains that despite the use of this advanced technology, both the capital cost and per-unit electricity cost are "comparable" to other nuclear and conventional power plants.

While the first of the three stages is already underway with the PHWR programme, the India-US civil nuclear deal has opened the doors for India to buy uranium for its domestic reactors, thus increasing the pace of its nuclear programme.

The DAE aims to increase the share of nuclear power in the energy mix by 2032 by producing 22,400 MWe from its nuclear power plants. It has approved the construction of 10 new PHWRs in 'fleet mode', in which a plant is expected to be built in five years from the first pouring of concrete.

Pi Day: Understanding the world's most famous mathematical constant

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

MARCH 14, OR 3/14 as per the American convention, is celebrated as Pi Day worldwide as an ode to the most well-known approximation (3.14) of the mathematical constant Pi.

The tradition was started by physicist Larry Shaw of the Exploratorium museum in San Francisco in 1988, and has since seen global popularity.

On the day, mathematicians try to raise awareness on their subject among lay persons, through lectures, museum exhibitions and pie-eating competitions.

In 2019, UNESCO's 40th General Conference designated Pi Day as the

International Day of Mathematics.

What is Pi?

Pi, often represented by the Greek letter pi, is the most famous of all mathematical constants. It represents the ratio of a circle's circumference (boundary) to its diameter (a straight line between two points on the circle's boundary, passing through its centre). Regardless of the circle's size, this ratio always remains constant.

Pi is an irrational number — it is a decimal with no end and no repeating pattern — which is most often approximated to 3.14, or the fraction 22/7.

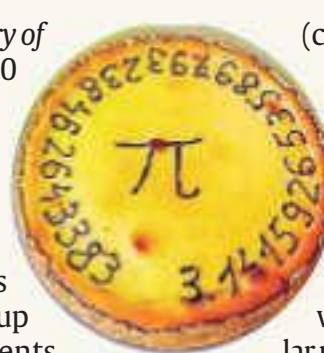
How is Pi calculated?

The importance of Pi has been recognised for at least 4,000 years. Academic Petr

Beckman in his classic *A History of Pi* (1970) wrote that "by 2,000 BC, men had grasped the significance of the constant that is today denoted by pi, and that they had found a rough approximation of its value."

Both ancient Babylonians and ancient Egyptians came up with their own measurements, probably by drawing a circle of some diameter, and then measuring its circumference using a rope of said diameter in length. Babylonians settled at 25/8 (3.125) as the value of Pi, while ancient Egyptians settled at (16/9)2 (approximately 3.16).

It was Greek polymath Archimedes



EXPLAINED MATH

(circa 287-212 BCE) who came up with the method to calculate Pi that remained in use till the 17th century. He realised that the perimeter of a regular polygon of 'n' sides inscribed in a circle is smaller than the circumference of the circle, whereas the perimeter of a similar polygon circumscribed about the circle is greater than its circumference. This can be used to calculate the limits within which the value of Pi must lie.

Now, as one keeps adding more and more sides to this polygon, it gets closer and closer to the shape of a circle. Having reached 96-sided polygons, Archimedes proved that 223/71 < Pi < 22/7

(in decimal notation, this is 3.14084 < p < 3.142858).

Following Archimedes, this method was used by mathematicians constantly increasing the number of sides of the polygon to calculate Pi to ever greater decimal places.

The problem with this method, however, is that it is extremely labour intensive. For instance, it took Dutch mathematician Ludolph van Ceulen (1540-1610) a staggering three decades to calculate Pi to 35 decimal points.

It would be Isaac Newton (1643-1727) who significantly simplified the process of calculating Pi. In 1666, he calculated Pi up to 16 decimal places using calculus, which he discovered along with mathematician Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1713). What had taken mathematicians years to calculate

now could be done in a matter of days.

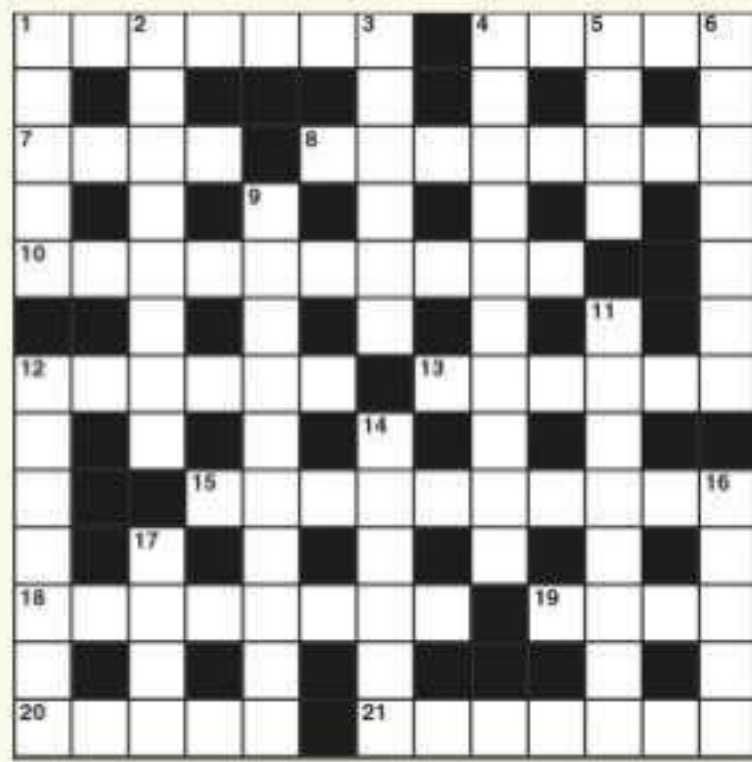
But why does all this matter?

Circles are everywhere in the world. So are three-dimensional shapes like cylinders, spheres, and cones, all of which carry the proportion of Pi. Knowing Pi's value, thus, has some crucial practical benefits in the fields of architecture, design, and engineering. From constructing water storage tanks to fashioning hi-tech equipment for satellites, the value of Pi is indispensable in all sorts of areas.

Moreover, Pi seems to be woven into descriptions of the deepest workings of the universe — from calculating the vastness of space or understanding the spiral of DNA.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained

CROSSWORD 5312



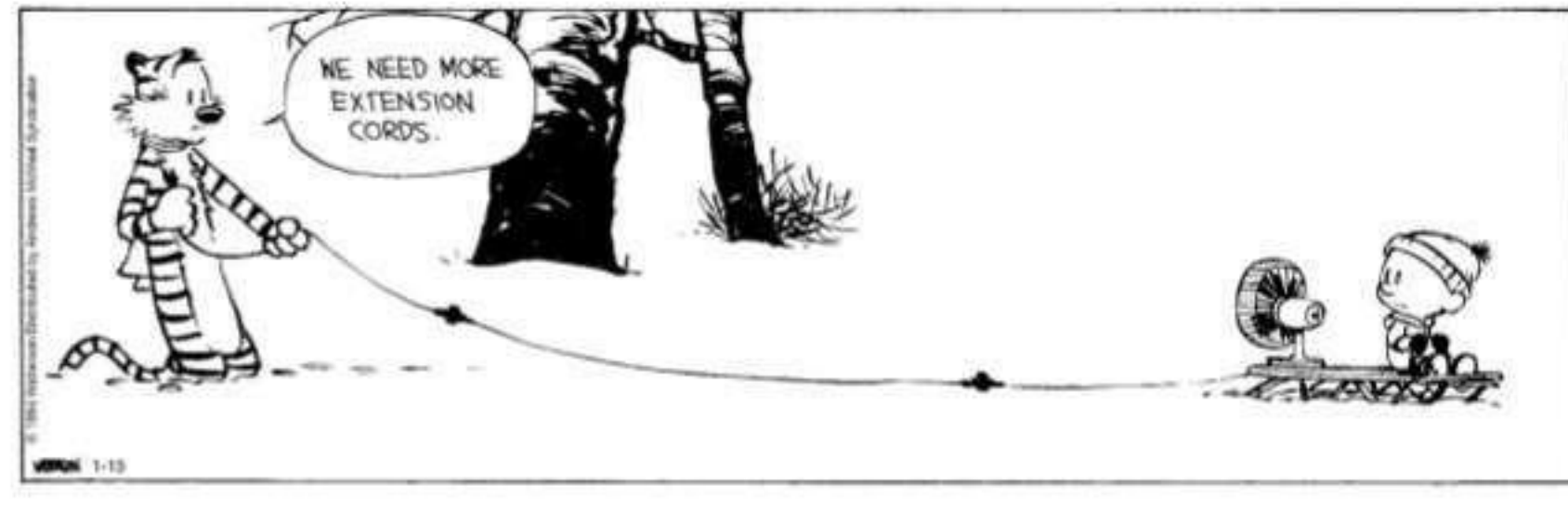
- ACROSS**
- Husband shows reticence (7)
 - Leaves on even terms (5)
 - Preentious songs? (4)
 - Keepers put dogs around a hill (8)
 - The more they cut down, the more they gain (10)
 - Arouse revolutionary tribes (6)
 - I'm out of aspirin ordered for the injury (6)
 - They face the wall (10)
 - A diet put out for fitness (8)
 - One in prison. He killed his brother (4)
 - To be hesitant is not entirely modest (5)
 - Politician for whom no tears are shed (7)
- DOWN**
- Come up to stretch between bends (5)
 - Drunken pursuer is disposed to stagger (8)
 - Right sort of stock (6)
 - A child of four (10)
 - Trickster admitting his image? (4)
 - Meeting that has no standing? (7)
 - He is known by his acts (10)
 - Tie up an order for speedy production (4,4)
 - Naval jail and a potential inmate (7)
 - Remarks players ignore as the team comes in (6)
 - Leave the older Spaniard (5)
 - Restrain a supporter (4)

Solutions Crossword 5311 Across: 1 Enlargement, 9 Neutron, 10 Nines, 11 Open, 12 Cup of tea, 14 Spells, 16 Simple, 18 Marriage, 19 Acme, 22 Night, 23 Egotist, 24 Address book
Down: 2 No use, 3 Airs, 4 Genius, 5 Mongolia, 6 Nonstop, 7 Endorsement, 8 Escape death, 13 Cloister, 15 Enraged, 17 Agrees, 20 Cairo, 21 Comb

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

... is the interruption of a ... by the pressure of particular or individual interests. - Alain Badiou (4...5)

DTEIR **BDEOLU**

AORIT **AIRSHV**

SOLUTION: TRIED/TRIED, TAVOT/TAOUBLE, RAVISH/RAVISH, EVIL is the interruption of a truth by the pressure of particular or individual interests. - Alain Badiou

SUDOKU 5501

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
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 rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5500

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given, for the intention of proposed change in management of M/S SHREE GOVINDAM FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED, (RBI Reg. No. JAI12001) [CIN No. U65993RJ2009PTC030413] a company registered under Companies Act, 1956 and having registered office at 100 Ft. Road, Opp. Naira Petrol Pump, Ayodhya Puri, Kankroli, Rajasmand-313324 (Ra), pursuant to approval granted by Reserve Bank of India dated 11.03.2024, regarding change in management, detail of proposed changes are as under :-

The new director to be appointed is Ms. Meenakshi Bagora and the resigning directors are Mr. Pankaj Mallani, Mr. Sunil Mallani, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Mansinghka and Mr. Sunil Kumar Mansinghka. Proposed new director will join the above company to expand and diversify the business activity. The above Notice is being given pursuant to RBI Circular DNRB, (PD) CC, No.065/03.10.001/2015-16 dated July, 09, 2015, Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company - Scale Based Regulation) Directions, 2023, RBI/DoR/2023-24/106, DoR.FIN.REC.No.45/03.10.119/2023-24, Dated October 19, 2023, Updated as on November 10, 2023 and other relevant Regulations. The company has already obtained the prior approval for change of Management from RBI, Jaipur vide letter No. JAI.DOS.DSD No. S-754/09.10.647/2023-24, dated 11.03.2024. Any clarification / Objection in this regard may be addressed to Department of Non-Banking Supervision, Reserve Bank of India, Ram Bagh Circle, Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302004 within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice stating therein the nature of interest and grounds of objection. This public Notice is being issued jointly by the Company and the above-mentioned proposed directors and existing directors.

For Shree Govindam Finance Private Limited	-SD-	-SD-	-SD-
[Ghanshyam Bagora]	[Meenakshi Bagora]	[Pankaj Mallani]	[Sunil Mallani]
Director	Proposed Director	Director	Director
[DIN : 03082748]	[DIN : 02663478]	[DIN : 00584168]	[DIN : 00584198]

-SD-	-SD-	-SD-
[Rajendra Kumar Mansinghka]	[Sunil Kumar Mansinghka]	[Ghanshyam Bagora]
Director	Director	Director
[DIN : 02249507]	[DIN : 02663478]	[DIN : 03082748]

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Monika Garg/ Pawan Kumar Garg- LBJA100003785648/ LBJA100003908340	Flat No. D-404, 4th Floor, Tower D, Khasra No. 81, 82/1, 83, 95/1, Pari Residency, Affordable Group Housing Project Under Chief Minister Jan Awas Yojna- 2015, Near Patrakar Colony Mansarovar, Village Chakka Harvashpura, Tehsil Sanganeer District Jaipur, Rajasthan- 303903/ March 12, 2024	November 30, 2023 Rs. 5,65,193.00/-	Jaipur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: March 14, 2024
Place: Jaipur
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited

Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahintulal Sayani Road, Opp. Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, CS : 8291889898 Website: www.motilaloswal.com. Email: hfquery@motilaloswal.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

(UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd), under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned hereunder calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being also mentioned hereunder within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The following borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned hereunder:

Sr. No.	Loan Agreement No. / Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice and Outstanding	Date of Possession Taken	Description of the Immovable Property
1	LXJAI00417-180063479 Harishingh Saryia Ram Saini & Bhoridevi Hari Singh Saini	23-06-2021 For Rs 390244/-	07-Mar-24	Patta No - 22, Gram Panchayat Manpur, Panchayat Samiti, Sikaray, Dausa, Rajasthan - 303509

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited for an amount mentioned herein above 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.

Place : Rajasthan
Date : 14.03.2024

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
(Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited)

CHANGE OF NAME

My Name is Written as Bharat Kumar in all my Documents, But in passport it is written as Bharat Kumar Khatri. Both the name pertain to the one and same Person. My real Name is Bharat and Surname is Kumar. Bharat Kumar S/O Dilip Kumar 30, Ganeshpura Road, Shree Ram Colony, Beawar, Dis-Beawar 305901.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Patashi devi spouse of No. 2854798N Rank RPN Name Amar singh resident of Vill Dhindwa Aguna Post Dhindwa Aguna Teh Piliani Dist Jhunjhunu Rajasthan have Changed My Name From Patashi Devi to Patasi Devi vide affidavit dated 05-03-2024 before Notary Public piliani.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Chaudhari Vandanshen Ashokkumar W/o No. 15622363N NK Chaudhari Ashokkumar Rajsanghai serving with 8th Battalion Brigade of the Guards and want to change my name from CHAUDHARI VANDANABEN to CHAUDHARI VANDANABEN ASHOKKUMAR vide Affidavit No. BU708862 Dated 09-03-2024

"IMPORTANT"

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HDFC BANK

HDFC Bank Limited

Branch : The Capital Court, Munirka, Outer Ring Road, Okla Palme Marg, New Delhi-110 067
Tel. : 011-41595568. CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618, Website: www.hdfcbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property / Secured Asset
1.	MR MAHENDER SINGH DOI	Rs.12,61,183/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Sixty One Thousand One Hundred & Eighty Three Only) due as on 31-JAN-2022 *	02-FEB-2023	11-March-2024 (Symbolic Possession)	UNIT NO. 902, 9TH FLOOR, TYPE A, TOWER-A2, "AVALON RIDGE VIEW", NH 08, NEEMRANA, RAJASTHAN ALONG WITH UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND UNDERNEATH AND CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE
2.	MR KULDEEP SINGH And MR.RANBIR SINGH	Rs.11,91,699/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred & Ninety Nine Only) Dues as on 31-AUG-2022*	26-SEP-2022	11-March-2024 (Symbolic Possession)	FLAT NO. A-102, 1ST FLOOR, KRISH ICON TOWER-A, VILL-TATARPUR, TEH-TIJARA, DISTRICT ALWAR, RAJASTHAN -301019 ALONGWITH UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND UNDERNEATH AND CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE
3.	MR VISHAL SINGH	Rs.13,56,026/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Twenty Six Only) Dues as on 28-FEB-2023*	28-MAR-2023	11-March-2024 (Symbolic Possession)	FLAT-805, FLOOR-8TH, TOWER G , GRANDEUR SUTAJIG, SECTOR- 56, BHIWADI , ALWAR BYEPASS RAJASTHAN- 301019 WITH UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND AND CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE
4.	MR BANSI LAL	Rs.18,69,694/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Four Only) Dues as on 28-FEB-2023*	28-MAR-2023	11-March-2024 (Symbolic Possession)	FLAT 1508, AVALON RESIDENCY, BLOCK C-2, VILLAGE-UDAIPUR, TIJARA ROAD, BHIWADI RAJASTHAN, AND CONSTRUCTION THERE ON PRESENT AND FUTURE ALONGWITH UNDIVIDED PROPORIONATE SHARE OF LAND UNDERNEATH
5.	MR KAPUR CHAND MANJHI & MRS. SUNITA	Rs.23,02,666/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six Only) Dues as on 30-NOV-2021*	28-DEC-2021	11-March-2024 (Symbolic Possession)	APARTMENT NO. E-1503, 14th FLOOR, TOWER-E, "TERRA ELEGANCE", KHASRA NO. 1289/1025, SITUATED IN VILLAGE KHIJURIBAS, TEHSIL TIJARA, DISTRICT ALWAR, RAJASTHAN ALONG WITH UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND UNDERNEATH

*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation.

However, since the borrowers mentioned hereinabove has failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of HDFC has taken **Symbolic Possession from S. No. 1 - 5 of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset** described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.

The borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid immovable properties / secured assets and any dealings with the said Immovable Property / Secured Asset will be subject to the mortgage of HDFC.

Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Copies of the Panchanna drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) is requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place: BHIWADI-NEEMRANA
Date : 13-MARCH-2024

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorized Officer

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Registered Office: Radriksa, 2 Nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009 Branch Office: HDB Financial Services Ltd E-145, Ramesh Marg, Opp Sardar Patel Marg, C-scheme, Jaipur Rajasthan 302001

CORRIGENDUM

Please Refer to the 16-Auction Second Sale Notice Under Surface Act, Published in This Newspaper On 12.3.2024. The General Public Herby Intimated that the Reserve Price & EMD Amount Of The Borrower: Murlidhara Fashion Private Limited - Budh Plaza 2nd Above Syndicate Bank 3rd Floor Circular House Bikanera Bikanera 345 - 311001 - Loan Account No 854188/14558581 Should Be Considered As Reserve Price (IN INR) Rs. 14904000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty-Nine Lac Four Thousand Only) & EMD Amount (IN INR) Rs. 1490400/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Only) Instead of Reserve Price (IN INR): Rs. 14076000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lac Seventy-Six Thousand Only) EMD Amount (IN INR) : Rs. 1407600/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only) Rest Of The Notice Will Remain Same. Date: 13-03-2024. Authorized Officer Place: Jaipur HDB Financial Services Limited

FORM NO. URG-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act

[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 4 (1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050 that "Ms. BABA RAMDEV AGRO INDUSTRIES" a Partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a Company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:

- To carry on all the business of manufacturing, processing, grading, trading & supply of all kind of food grains, pulses, cereals, spices, oil seeds, oil, oil cake, gwar, gram gum, sugar, khandani and other general merchandise goods, old and new badana, packing material.
- Acting as commission agent, broker, dealer, importer and exporter of such items.
- To set up ware house and cold storage units.

3. A copy of the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed Company may be inspected at the Registered Office at Plot No. F-09-10, RICO Industrial Area, Nokha, Bikaner, Rajasthan.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its registered office.

For BABA RAMDEV AGRO INDUSTRIES

Sushil Kumar Jhanwar (Partner)
Kiran Jhanwar (Partner)
Kiran Devi Jhanwar (Partner)
Rajni Devi Jhanwar (Partner)

Date : 13.03.2024 | Place : Bikaner

TOP OF THE WORLD



Rocket explodes after its launch. Reuters

JAPAN

First pvt space shot fails right after launch

Tokyo: Kairos, a solid-fuel rocket made by Space One, exploded just seconds into its inaugural launch Wednesday as it tried to be the first Japanese firm to put a satellite in orbit. The setback for Space One and the rocket industry in Japan comes as the government and investors ramp up support for the sector amid a national security buildup and skyrocketing demand for commercial satellites. Space One did not specify what triggered self-destruction after the first-stage engine ignited - or when the company would launch the next Kairos - only pledging an investigation into the explosion. **REUTERS**

UNITED KINGDOM

New Bill to quash wrongful postal scam convictions

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak paid tribute to hundreds of post office branch managers, including several of Indian heritage, as he confirmed that a new law to quash their wrongful convictions would be tabled in the Lower House Wednesday. Under the proposed new Bill, convictions will be automatically quashed if the postmasters were prosecuted by the Post Office or Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or charged with offences carried out between 1996 and 2018. **PTI**

POLAND

Farmers to let in Ukrainian grain trucks in goodwill

Warsaw: Polish farmers protesting at the Dorohusk border crossing with Ukraine will let all trucks stuck there pass through as a gesture of goodwill, a protest leader told state news agency PAP on Wednesday. Farmers across the EU have been calling for changes to restrictions placed on them by the EU's Green Deal plan to tackle climate change, and for the re-imposition of customs duties on imports of agricultural products from Ukraine. "It's a gesture from us to the Ukrainian drivers, so that they can go back to their families," protest leader Wojciech Los told PAP. **REUTERS**

DENMARK

Conscription to include women, increases term

Copenhagen: Denmark wants to increase the number of young people doing military service by extending conscription to women and increasing the time of service from 4 months to 11 months for both genders, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Wednesday. "We do not rearm because we want war. We are rearming because we want to avoid it," Frederiksen told a press conference. Denmark currently has up to 9,000 professional troops on top of the 4,700 conscripts undergoing basic training, as per official figures. **AP**

'WEAPONS EXIST IN ORDER TO USE THEM'

Putin warns West again: Russia ready for nuke war if sovereignty threatened

Says US understands sending troops to Ukraine or Russian territory will be treated as intervention

REUTERS

MOSCOW, MARCH 13

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin warned the West on Wednesday Russia was technically ready for nuclear war and that if the U.S. sent troops to Ukraine, it would be considered a significant escalation of the conflict.

Putin, speaking just days before a March 15-17 election which is certain to give him another six years in power, said the nuclear war scenario was not "rushing" up and he saw no need for the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

"From a military-technical point of view, we are, of course, ready," Putin, 71, told Rossiya-1 television and news agency RIA in response to a question whether the country was really ready for a nuclear war.

Putin said the US understood that if it deployed American troops on Russian territory - or to Ukraine - Russia would treat the move as an intervention.

"(In the US) there are enough specialists in the field of Russian-American relations and in the field



of strategic restraint," said Putin, the ultimate decision maker in the world's biggest nuclear power.

"Therefore, I don't think that here everything is rushing to it (nuclear confrontation), but we are ready for this."

Putin's warning came alongside another offer for talks on Ukraine as part of a new post-Cold War demarcation of European security. The US says Putin is not ready for serious talks over Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine has trig-

gered the deepest crisis in Russia's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

In a US election year, the West is grappling with how to support Kyiv against Russia, which now controls almost one-fifth of Ukrainian territory and is rearming much faster than the West and Ukraine.

Kyiv says it is defending itself in an imperial-style conquest designed to erase its national identity. Russia says the areas it controls in Ukraine are now Russia.



Vladimir Putin speaks in an interview in Moscow Wednesday. (left) The site of a Russian strike in Sumy, Wednesday. AP, Reuters

Ukraine drones damage Russian oil refineries for 2nd straight day

Moscow: Ukraine struck Russian oil refineries in a second day of heavy drone attacks on Wednesday, causing a fire at Rosneft's biggest refinery in what President Vladimir Putin said was an attempt to disrupt his country's presidential election this week.

Russia and Ukraine have both used drones to strike critical infrastructure, military installations and troop concentrations in their more than two-year war, with Kyiv stepping up attacks on Russian refineries and energy facilities in recent months.

A day after seriously damaging Lukoil's NORSI refinery, Ukrainian drone attacks hit refineries in the Rostov and Ryazan regions, Russian officials said. In Ryazan 180 kms (110 miles) from Moscow, a drone attack caused a fire at Rosneft's refinery, Russia's seventh largest. **REUTERS**

Putin reiterated the use of nuclear weapons was spelled out in the Kremlin's nuclear doctrine, which sets out the conditions under which it would use such a weapon: broadly a response to an attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, or the use of conventional weapons against Russia "when the very existence of the state is put under threat."

"Weapons exist in order to use them," Putin said. "We have our own principles."

Israeli House clears amended budget to fund war in Gaza

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, MARCH 13

ISRAELI LAWMAKERS gave their final approval on Wednesday to an amended 2024 state budget that adds tens of billions of shekels to fund Israel's war against the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza, as the conflict runs into its sixth month.

The amended budget adds more spending on defence and compensation to households and businesses hurt by the war, which was sparked by Hamas' shock attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

Members of the Knesset, or parliament, voted 63-55 in favour of the spending package of 584 billion shekels (\$160 billion), or 724 billion including debt repayment. "The amended war budget... has clear goals - to win the war, support the reservists, strengthen the home front and continue to grow the Israeli economy," Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said after the vote. Israel last year approved a two-year

ISRAEL KILLS HAMAS MEMBER IN LEBANON

Beirut: An Israeli drone strike on a car outside the southern Lebanese city of Tyre on Wednesday killed a member of Hamas from the nearby Palestinian camp of Rashidieh, Israeli and Hamas officials said.

A Hamas source, speaking to Reuters, identified the member as Hadi Mustafa but said he was not a senior figure. Hamas's Al Aqsa television said Mustafa was a leader of the group's armed wing. **REUTERS**

budget for 2023 and 2024, but the Gaza war has shaken up government finances, requiring budget changes and additional spending.

Spending was boosted by 70 billion shekels from the original budget - with 55 billion shekels going to the military and 15 billion to finance civilian needs.



After an Israeli airstrike in Qatar-funded Hamad City in south Gaza's Khan Younis on Wednesday. Reuters

Texas man who lived 70 years inside iron lung dies at age 78

REUTERS

MARCH 13

A PARALYZED Texas man who lived 70 years inside an iron lung after he survived polio as a child has died, his family said.

Paul Alexander, 78, died on Monday, his brother Philip said in a post on Facebook. He gave no cause of death.

"It was an honor to be part of someone's life who was as admired as he was. He touched and inspired millions of people and that is no exaggeration," Philip Alexander wrote in a post on Tuesday.

Alexander was six years old when he was placed in full-body metal cylinder known as an iron lung in 1952 after contracting polio, a deadly disease that once paralyzed tens of thousands of children every year. An iron lung uses pressure to blow air into the lungs. Alexander graduated law



Paul Alexander was six when he was placed in full-body metal cylinder known as an iron lung. X/@NthingMtrs

school, passed the bar and practiced law. He also traveled to every continent, his brother said.

"He commanded a room. What a flirt! He loved good food, wine, women, long conversations, learning, and laughing," his brother wrote.

Alexander had contracted COVID-19 and was hospitalized in February.

His illness left him weak and dehydrated, according to a spokesperson on TikTok, where Alexander had more than 300,000 followers.

Nepal PM wins vote of confidence

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, MARCH 13

THE FIVE-PARTY coalition led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal won a vote of confidence at the House of Representatives, his third in the past 15 months.

A total of 157 Members voted in favour while 110 voted against the motion that PM Prachanda moved in the morning. The vote of confidence was necessitated following the change of constituents of the coalition - after he replaced the Nepali Congress with the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist.

Prachanda was called "dishonest" and a "betrayal" by the opposition members, to which he responded asking "how can a party that till yesterday called me statesman say all this against me today". Chitra Bahadur K C questioned the 'hypocrisy' of the Prime Minister for his promise to eradicate corruption. "How can you do that by bringing someone involved in the cooperative scam as the Deputy PM," he asked, referring to Rabi Lamichhane, chief



PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda

of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party. Swarnim Wagle of the RSP countered the NC leaders by asking "why did you propose him as the PM candidate?"

Prachanda promised clean and effective governance but recent media disclosure about two sons of former Vice President and Maoist leader Nanda Kishore Pun involved in a gold smuggling case with Chinese smugglers had tarnished his government.

As members from the opposition kept warning the Prime Minister that it is not going to be a stable government, he said "I dare you form an alliance of the NC and the UML," referring to the two largest parties in the House.

1ST PRESIDENTIAL REMATCH IN 70 YEARS

Trump, Biden clinch nominations, kick off bruising rematch

REUTERS

MARCH 12

PRESIDENT JOE Biden and former President Donald Trump both clinched their parties' nomination on Tuesday, kicking off the first US presidential election rematch in nearly 70 years.

Biden needed 1,968 delegates to win the nomination, and he passed that number on Tuesday night as results began to come in from the primary contest in Georgia, Edison Research said.

Hours later, Trump clinched the 1,215 delegates required to secure the Republican presidential nomination as four states held contests, including Georgia, the battleground where Trump faces criminal charges for his efforts to overturn the state's 2020 results.

Biden issued a statement after he sealed the Democratic nomination, taking aim at what he called Trump's "campaign of resentment, revenge, and retribution that threatens the very idea of America."

The outcome of Tuesday's voting was essentially predetermined, after Trump's last remaining rival for nomination, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, ended her presidential campaign after his big win last week on Super Tuesday.

Trump said there was no time to celebrate, and put focus on beating Biden, whom he called

the "worst" president in history. This year, voters have expressed little enthusiasm for a



Joe Biden; Donald Trump

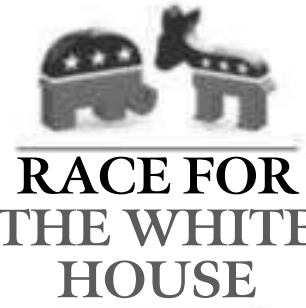
EXPLAINED Four times in 248-yr history

THE LAST rematch came in 1956, when President Dwight Eisenhower again faced Adlai Stevenson, his Democratic opponent he had four years prior to secure an even larger landslide. William McKinley topped Democrat William Jennings Bryan in the election of 1896 and then in 1900, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson faced off twice for the presidency - in 1824 and 1828. In the first-ever rematch in 1800, John Adams, the second US president lost to Thomas Jefferson, whom he had defeated in 1796.

repeat of the bitter 2020 election, with Reuters/Ipsos public polls showing both Biden and Trump are unpopular with the majority of voters.

While Trump's myriad criminal charges could harm his standing among the suburban voters, Biden has been dogged by the perception

among a majority of voters that he is too old to serve a second four-year term.



Shehbaz-led govt 'puppet' of Pakistan military, says senior Nawaz party leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE, MARCH 13

A CLOSE aide of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has admitted that the PML-N party-led government at the Centre is a mere "puppet," indirectly indicating that the military establishment is running the government it had stitched.

Mian Javed Latif, a stalwart from Nawaz Sharif's PML-N and a former federal minister, told a private TV channel on Tuesday that his party failed to secure even a simple majority in the National Assembly in the February 8 elections.

"They (the military establishment) stitched a government by collecting seats of National Assembly from here and there. You may call it a government of PML-N or some other party but as a matter of fact, it is a puppet government and everyone knows who has the real power," Latif said.

"Whosoever is running this government, the PML-N will



Mian Javed Latif at the interview. X/@Mian_JavedLatif

have to bear the brunt of their (establishment) policies at the end of the day," he added.

This is the first time that a senior leader of the ruling party openly admitted the government led by PML-N is a "puppet setup" installed by the military. The anchor, who too looked surprised at Latif's comments, asked him to confirm and yet again Latif repeated the same allegation.

The anchor then asked him if he was venting out his anger now because he had not been elected in the last month's elections, Latif said, he was speaking the truth.

Almost 24 hours after his interview was broadcast, there has been no reaction from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) or the establishment.

GLOBAL SIGNPOST FOR OTHER GOVTS GRAPPLING WITH HOW TO REGULATE FAST-DEVELOPING TECH.

European lawmakers give final approval to world's first AI law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, MARCH 13

EUROPEAN UNION lawmakers gave final approval to the bloc's artificial intelligence law Wednesday, putting the world-leading rules on track to take effect later this year.

The European Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Artificial Intelligence Act, five years after they were first proposed. The AI Act is expected to act as a global signpost for other governments grappling with how to regulate the fast-developing tech.

"The AI Act has nudged the future of AI in a human-centric direction, in a direction where humans are in control of the

technology and where it helps us leverage new discoveries, economic growth, societal progress and unlock human potential," said Dragos Tudorache, a Romanian lawmaker who was a co-leader of the Parliament negotiations.

Big tech companies generally have supported the need to regulate AI while lobbying to ensure AI while lobbying to ensure OpenAI CEO Sam Altman caused a minor stir last year when he suggested the ChatGPT maker could pull out of Europe if it can't comply with the AI Act - before backingtracking to say there were no plans to leave.

Like many EU regulations, the AI Act was initially intended to act as consumer safety legislation, taking a "risk-based approach" to

THE RISKIER THE MORE SCRUTINISED

BANNED USES:

- Social scoring systems that govern how people behave.
- Predictive policing, emotion recognition systems in schools, workplaces.
- Police scanning faces in public using remote 'biometric identification' but with exceptions.

ON GENERATIVE PLATFORMS

- General purpose AI models will provide

detailed summary of the media and data on the internet used.

- AI-generated deepfake pictures, video or audio of existing people, places or events must be labeled.

EXTRA SCRUTINY FOR MOST POWERFUL

- There's extra scrutiny for the biggest and most powerful AI models that pose 'systemic risks,' which include OpenAI's GPT-4 - its most advanced system - and Google's Gemini.

products or services that use AI.

The vast majority of AI systems are expected to be low risk, such as content recommendation systems or spam filters. Companies can choose to follow voluntary requirements and codes of conduct.

High-risk uses of AI, such as in medical devices or critical infrastructure like water or electrical networks, face requirements like using high-quality data and providing clear information to users.

Some AI uses are banned because they're deemed to pose an unacceptable risk, like social scoring systems that govern how people behave, some types of predictive policing and emotion recognition systems in school and workplaces. Other banned uses include police scanning faces in

public using AI-powered remote "biometric identification" systems, except for serious crimes like kidnapping or terrorism.

The law's early drafts focused on AI systems carrying out narrowly limited tasks, like scanning resumes and job applications. The astonishing rise of general purpose AI models, exemplified by OpenAI's ChatGPT, sent EU policymakers scrambling to keep up. They added provisions for so-called generative AI models, the technology underpinning AI chatbot systems that can produce unique and seemingly lifelike responses, images and more.

Developers of general purpose AI models - from European startups to OpenAI and Google - will have to provide a detailed sum-

mary of the text, pictures, video and other data on the internet that is used to train the systems as well as follow EU copyright law.

AI-generated deepfake pictures, video or audio of existing people, places or events must be labeled as artificially manipulated. There's extra scrutiny for the biggest and most powerful AI models that pose "systemic risks," which include OpenAI's GPT-4 - its most advanced system - and Google's Gemini.

Brussels first suggested AI regulations in 2019, taking a familiar global role in ratcheting up scrutiny of emerging industries, while other governments scramble to keep up. The Act is expected to officially become law by May or June, after a few final formalities.

17 ECONOMY

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹65,950	₹82.85	\$82.96	₹75,300

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of March 12

SENSEX: 72,761.89 ▼ 906.07 (1.23%) NIFTY: 21,997.70 ▼ 338.00 (1.51%) NIKKEI: 38,695.97 ▼ 101.54 HANG SENG: 17,082.11 ▼ 11.39 FTSE: 7,741.08 ▼ 6.73 DAX: 17,945.88 ▼ 19.23

International market data till 1900 IST

SENSEX DOWN BY 906 POINTS, NIFTY BY 338

Markets decline amid bubble warnings in small, mid-caps

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

THE DOMESTIC stock market witnessed a significant fall on Wednesday, with Sensex declining below the 73,000 level and the Nifty sliding 338 points on heavy sell-off amid concerns over the higher valuation of small and mid-cap stocks.

The BSE's Sensex tanked 906 points, or 1.23 per cent, to close at 72,761.89. It ended below the 73,000 mark for the first time since February 29. The NSE's Nifty 50 plunged 338 points, or 1.51 per cent, to finish at 21,997.7.

In the past two days, the domestic market declined despite the global market performing better. The overall BSE market capitalisation, or the total value of all listed shares, fell by Rs 13.5 lakh crore to Rs 372.16 lakh crore.

The fall in the market on Wednesday came even as the domestic consumer price-based inflation (CPI) for February remained unchanged at 5.09 per cent, compared to 5.1 per cent in January. "In contrast to the global uptrend, unfavourable risk-reward balance of mid and small-cap stocks, fuelled by prolonged premium valuations, has aggravated the downfall," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Earlier this week, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said the regulator cannot allow bubbles to build up in small and mid-cap funds. The regulator has also asked mutual fund houses to conduct stress tests on



In the past two days, the domestic market declined despite the global market performing better. File

small and mid-cap funds and disclose the results by March 15.

Recently, AMFI had written to mutual fund trustees to take measures to protect the interest of investors of small and mid-cap schemes, which have seen heavy inflows in the recent past. A few mutual funds have announced to limit the inflows into their small and mid-cap funds on worries of excessive valuation in these segments. "The announcement by various fund houses to cap inflows into small and mid-cap funds must have sent a negative message. Investors such as ultra HNIs must have taken a call to reduce their position from these schemes," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities.

While the BSE SmallCap declined 5.11 per cent, the BSE MidCap tanked 4.2 per cent on Wednesday.

According to Chouhan, the fall in the market was also due to profit booking during the financial year closing. After the Sensex broke the crucial level of 73,300

and Nifty the 22,200 mark, investors started selling heavily, he said.

"Nifty witnessed massive sell-off as investors/traders rushed to take whatever profits were left on table to offset the losses on their recent trades. Nifty made a long-range bear candle on March 13. 21,750-21,860 band will now be crucial to be protected in case the uptrend in the Nifty has to continue. On rises, 22,400-22,460 could now be tough to breach in the near term," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. On Wednesday, oil prices climbed amid expectations of robust global demand, particularly from the United States, one of the world's largest consumers.

"Despite somewhat persistent US inflation, there was no significant alteration in expectations that the Federal Reserve might initiate rate cuts soon," Kotak Securities' Chouhan said. CPI inflation in the US rose by 3.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis in February 2024, higher than an estimated 3.1 per cent increase.

Little froth but not out of control: Kotak

Mumbai: Uday Kotak, founder and director of Kotak Mahindra Bank on Wednesday said there may be froth in the market but it is not out of control. There are enough checks and balances in place, he said.

"I believe at this stage we are nowhere near that risk and there are enough checks and balances in our system today to compare ourselves in serious bubble territory. There may be early froth...I would say that it is still froth, a little bubbly, but not out of control," Kotak said while addressing the 5th SEBI-NISM Research conference. ENS

Among sectors, all the major sectoral indices traded in the red but reality, metal, media and energy indices, shed over 5 per cent. Within the BSE firms, ITC, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and HDFC Bank were the top gainers.

On Wednesday, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) offloaded Rs 4,595.06 crore worth of equities whereas domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased Rs 9,093.72 crore of local shares, according to the BSE's provisional data.

'Need to be cautious... there's little bit of froth in low-floating stock counters'

NILESH SHAH, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company, says there is a need to be cautious in the market so that people do not end up getting swayed by the low floating stocks, prices and valuations in uncharted territory.

"This is the reason why the regulator and the mutual fund industry are trying to caution people that if they are coming to small caps, they should not come with last one year's return expectation, that's not going to happen," Shah says in an interview to HITESH VYAS and GEORGE MATHEW. "Our valuations are undoubtedly above average but our profit-to-GDP ratio is also more than above average. It is not that there is a big bubble but the road definitely is downward sloping," Shah says. Edited excerpts:



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

WITH NILESH SHAH
MD, KOTAK MAHINDRA ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY

What is your opinion on the current valuation of the entire market? Is it fairly valued or excessively valued?

The market is not cheap like it was let us say during the subprime crisis in 2008, or even in mid-2022. It is a fairly valued market. The large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap are trading slightly above their long-term historical averages, which is also justified as profits are also above average. We have been growing profits in teens for the last five years. Besides, we are also benefiting from other people's self-gain.

As a global investor, one can't put money in Russia because of Ukraine. By investing in China, investors have two baggage - one, in the last 30 years they haven't made any money, and second, tomorrow they can go to Taiwan. In South Africa, it is difficult to visit without worrying about safety. Brazil has good fundamentals but they have a communist government whose agenda is not clear

to the market and so, people are waiting and watching. In Korea, one is cautious because it might get upgraded to a developed market. As an emerging market investor, if you were to allocate your money, your only options are Mexico, Indonesia and India.

Our fundamental growth story is looking very good. Now, are there excesses in the market? Undoubtedly, yes. Normally, the valuation of large-cap is the highest, mid-cap little lower, small-cap lowest and micro-cap even lowest. Currently, we are seeing a reverse trend in terms of valuations. Is there a little bit of froth? It is there in low floating stock counters. When floating stocks are limited, you can pull the prices higher, valuation goes higher and

that's where we believe investors are not going to make money.

Where is the market headed now? What are the possible risks?

There are always risks to the market because it is constantly discounting news flow. So, what has it discounted? First, on the global side, the US Fed will cut rates. Now, just for assumption if they raise rates, there would be a correction. The market has discounted the Modi government (after the 2024 Lok Sabha election). If that doesn't happen, then there will be a reaction in the market. There is an assumption of about Rs 1,125 to Rs 1,150 Nifty EPS (Earning per Share) for FY25. Let's say it comes out to be Rs 1,300, market will shoot from here; and if it is Rs 1,000, then markets may correct.

So, the market has discounted certain assumptions. Anything happening better than what the market has discounted, it will give a push. Anything happening worse than what the market has discounted, it would result in a correction. Do we have the ability to analyse or predict those things? The answer is no. So, one should try to invest for the long-term, buy good companies with good managers who can grow earnings over a long period, and just stay with them.

Last month, we saw equity fund inflows of around Rs 22,000 crore, which pushed the indices to new peaks. Are these inflows pushing the market up or is it because our economy is doing well?

Have we reached peak valuation? The answer is no. We are at a substantial discount to what was the peak valuation in the 1990s, 2000s, 2007 or 2018. Undoubtedly, today there is a

Triveni Sangam (confluence) of three things - money flow is coming, domestic investors are investing and global investors are also putting in money. Sentiments are positive about India and even the worst critics of India are grudgingly accepting that the country has done good things.

This is the first time when even fundamentals are keeping pace with the prices. Companies are generating 15-20 per cent compounded profit growth. Profit growth to GDP ratio is now 4.9 per cent. The banking sector's NPAs are almost fully provided for. So, there is Goldilocks - flows are good, sentiments are good, fundamentals are good, valuations are above average, and so is the profit.

Kotak Gilt Fund has completed 25 years. How has it performed?

To celebrate 25 years of India's first gilt fund is indeed a matter of pride for Kotak Gilt Fund. We commit to make that an integral of every Indian's portfolio.

During the last 25 years, the fixed income market in India has seen various challenges such as the Asian currency crisis, global financial crisis, taper tantrum, Covid-19 etc. Various events have led to volatility in rates such as 10 year Indian g-sec at 11 per cent down to 4.8 per cent and then 9 per cent and back to 7 per cent today.

Amidst all this volatility, the fund has generated more than 9 per cent return in the regular plan since inception. The challenges have been used as an opportunity and hence the superior returns were generated which could have made an investment of Rs 11 lakh to Rs 1 crore in 25 years.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

As US cracks down on Russian oil shippers, India expects no real supply, sanction risk

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

INDIA IS NOT too concerned about the intensifying scrutiny of tankers and shipping firms involved in Russian oil trade by the United States (US), which has led to a number of vessels being placed under sanctions by Washington over the past few months.

As per highly placed sources in the government, Indian refiners are not at risk—of sanctions or a major supply disruption—as shipping is arranged by the suppliers of Russian oil, and India has enough alternative source markets for crude in case some of the volumes coming from Russia get

impacted due to shipping disruptions. In the latest action against oil tankers over alleged violation of the G7 price cap of \$60 per barrel for seaborne Russian crude, the US on February 23 sanctioned Russia's state-owned shipping major Sovcomflot along with 14 tankers associated with it. This was in addition to similar actions against other shippers and tankers involved in hauling Russian oil over the past few months. Given that India is a top buyer of Russian crude, most of the 14 tankers sanctioned recently had transported oil to Indian refiners over the past year, ship tracking data shows.

According to a senior official, the government does not want Indian refiners to take crude oil

deliveries on sanctioned tankers. As long as that is clear and complying with, there is no cause of concern for the government or Indian refiners, said the official, who did not wish to be identified. Another official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the situation is more of a risk for Russia than India, as Moscow depends heavily on income from energy exports and would want to prevent a significant hit to its oil export volumes.

"There is no real supply risk for us. We can buy oil from a number of suppliers...The risk is essentially for Russia because they have to sell their oil and there are not too many buyers," said the second official, adding that the expectation in the government and India's oil

industry is that Russian oil exporters would work towards ensuring smooth sailing for Russian oil cargoes. Over the past couple of years, Russian oil exporters have managed to amass a large fleet of tankers, the so-called shadow fleet, to transport Russian oil without depending on Western shipping. Russian oil is bought by Indian refiners on a delivered basis, which means that chartering of tankers and the associated procedures are the responsibility of the oil supplier. Indian buyers pay the all-inclusive landed price of crude and have no involvement in the shipping of the oil, which keeps them insulated from possible price cap-related complications. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Auditing regulator plans innovation lab, Sandbox

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

NATIONAL FINANCIAL Reporting Authority (NFRA) Chairperson Ajay Bhushan Pandey on Wednesday said it has plans to set up an Innovation Lab or Sandbox for audit innovations to "support cutting edge auditing techniques".

Pandey said NFRA intends to engage with Audit Committees and Independent Directors at time of inspections to gather perspective as part of larger efforts to improve audit quality as well as corporate governance.

The investor community expects auditors to exercise professional scepticism and follow path of 'Trust but Verify' and emphasised the need for Indian audit firms to start 'risk-based' pricing for their audits, he said at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) summit.

Pandey highlighted the five lines of defence of financial reporting and sound corporate governance - management, audit committee and independent directors, auditors, investors and regulators - and maintained that "all five lines of defence needs to be vigilant and work together to build trust".

Tata fab to roll out first chip by 2026-end; PM Modi says 'historic'

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
DHOLERA, MARCH 13

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Wednesday laid the foundation stone of three semiconductor plants, including what is going to be the country's first commercial fabrication plant. The Prime Minister called the occasion "historic" and added that India was "creating history and taking a big step towards a resilient future."

The fabrication plant is being set up by Tata Electronics in partnership with Japan's Renesas in Gujarat's Sanand city. These projects - which represent a cumulative value of Rs 1.26 lakh crore - were cleared by the Union Cabinet last month as part of India's Rs 76,000 crore capital expenditure incentive scheme for the semiconductor ecosystem.

Earlier, a packaging plant of United States-based Micron Technology worth \$2.75 billion in Sanand was approved by the Cabinet and construction of the facility is currently underway. The approvals are a major fillip to India's semiconductor ambitions. As geopolitical tensions shape the global narrative, the Indian government has identified electronics manufacturing as a key economic growth driver, with chip manufacturing at the heart of these plans. (The reporter was in Dholera, Gujarat at the invite of the IT Ministry) FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran. PTI

CM Stalin dares PM to spell out projects he has brought to TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POLLACHI, MARCH 13

CHIEF MINISTER M K Stalin on Wednesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to list out the special projects that the union government has given to Tamil Nadu and were scuttled by the state government.

Stalin's comments came as a response to Modi's charge during his visit to Tamil Nadu last month that the state government stalled several central government schemes. Modi should also specify the central projects that were stalled by the DMK government in Tamil Nadu, Stalin said.

In his address during a government event, Stalin alleged that while the prime minister has advertised in newspapers and television channels about 'Modi's Guarantee', he has actually done nothing for the people. The chief minister also questioned what happened to Modi's 'old guarantees' of depositing Rs 15 lakh in every citizen's bank account and creating two crore jobs a year.

The government function marked the distribution of welfare assistance to beneficiaries, laying of the foundation stone for new projects and inauguration of new schemes.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : WRD/KWA-CE/SR/TR/3288/2024_5_1_1/1
Jal Jeevan Mission - Chirakkadavu and Kanjirappally - Phase 2- Construction of 50000L Sump cum Booster Pump House and providing Water supply facilities at Koovalyap in Kanjirappally Pt and Chirakkadavu - Package 2-Construction of 5.25 LL OHSR at Pookunnam and 2 LLOHSR at GH Kanjirappally- General Civil Work, EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/-
Tender fee : Rs. 11025/(985). Last Date for submitting Tender : 02-04-2024 03:00pm, Phone : 0481 2562745, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.stenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH circle Kottayam
KWA-JB-GL-6-2613-2023-24

SBFI
Marketing & Communication Department, 9th Floor, State Bank Bhavan, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400021
CORRIGENDUM
Please refer to RFP No. SBI/M&C/2023-24/05 Dated: 20.02.2024 for Empanelment as Media Audit Agencies for SBI. Please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi> for Corrigendum 01 issued on dated 13.03.2024.
Revised Last date and time for submission of bids: 22.03.2024 up to 15:00 hrs.
Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.03.2024
-Sd-
Deputy General Manager (M&C)

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2023-24/0422-35
निविदा सूचना/2023-24
निविदा सूचना के लिए केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के अधिकाधिकी विभागी एवं उसके अधिनस्थ संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुमोदित संस्थाओं के निविदाी प्रथम में ई-प्रोक्च्यूरमेंट ऑफिसा हेतु अधिनस्थ निविदाी अधिनियम की जाती है।
कार्य का विवरण

सूचना संख्या (S.N.)	अनुमानित मूल्य (₹)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
SITC of HVAC, Fire Fighting, Lift, MGPS, External Electrical work etc. of Medical Hospital, Banswara. UBN: (1)RRC2324WLOB01513	1410.00 Lakh	अप्रस्तावित
External Electrical work, HVAC & Lift work at Medical College & Upgradation of Hospital at Dausa. UBN: (2)RRC2324WLOB01501	995.05 Lakh	23-24
External Electrical work, HVAC work & Fire Fighting work at Bundi & Baran. (02 No. works) UBN: (3)RRC2324WLOB01502 (4)RRC2324WLOB01503	1954.42 Lakh	
SITC of HVAC System work for Medical College & attached Hospital at Churu. UBN: RRC2324WLOB01504	530.00 Lakh	अप्रस्तावित
External Electrical work, Elevator work, SITC of High Side Electrical, Cabling and Lift work in various Building at Hospital District, Churu. (02 No. works) UBN: (1)RRC2324WLOB01511 (2)RRC2324WLOB01512	2193.00 Lakh	अप्रस्तावित

निविदा में सम्मिलित प्रथम में निविदा सूचना, मोहर, सील, डाकनमोड करने व कोटेशन की कॉपीज सहित सम्पूर्ण निविदा पर मोहोप उपचारित।
<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://pppr.rajasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc> पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संस्थाओं को अपने निविदा दस्तावेज के माध्यम से केवलपत्रित <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
राजस्थान

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, D.R. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru - 560029
Phone : 25536223 / 26096813 Fax : 080-25536105
E-mail : ahykmf@yahoo.com

IFT NO.: KMF/AH/TGM-16/KPPP: T&C Tender/2024 Date: 14.03.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

The Karnataka Milk Federation, Bengaluru invites tenders for the period of 2 (Two) Years from eligible tenderers for supply of following item:

Veterinary Drugs, Chemicals, Feed Supplement Surgical Instruments	EMD Rs.30,000
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The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the item / goods given in annexure Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Interested tenderers may obtain further information at the same address. The KMF will not be held responsible for the website problems if any, last date submission or non-receipt of the same. Also may contact help line No: 91-8046010000 / 91-8068942777, E-mail: support@ihelpdsk.com, Date of commencement of Tender From 14.03.2024, Last date for submission on or before 15.4.2024 up to 5.00 PM, Date of opening of Technical Tender on 18.04.2024 at 5.00 PM, Date of Commercial bid opening 30.04.2024.

The other details can be seen in the tender documents.
For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- DIRECTOR (AH)

SBFI
Information Security Department, State Bank of India, Global IT-Centre, Sec-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400 614
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP - 1060)
RFP No. SBI/GITC/ISD/2023-24/ISO/39 Dated: 14.03.2024
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Engaging competent Twenty-Five (25) resources for Infrastructure Security Managed Services to work in Bank's environment for a period of one year, extendable on same terms and conditions for State bank of India (SBI). For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://bank.sbi> and <https://etender.sbi/SBI/>
Last Date and time for Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents: 21.03.2024 up to 17:00Hrs
Commencement of download of RFP: From 22.03.2024 at 18:00hrs
Last date and time for submission of bids: 22.04.2024 up to 15:00 hrs
Place: Navi Mumbai
Deputy General Manager (Cyber Security)
Date: 14.03.2024
Information Security Department

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR)
Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY
Dr. S.P. Mukherjee IIIT-Naya Raipur invites separate bids from eligible and interested bidders for supply and installation of the following:-
1. Workstation and other equipment for AI Experiential Lab.
2. Workstation and other equipment for Edge Computing Lab.
3. NVIDIA Jetson and RaspberryPI for AI&DL Lab.
4. Red Hat Linux workstation.
5. Repair/Replacement of damaged parts of rooftop solar panels.
6. Supply of plumbing and civil items.
For last date and other details please visit the website of IIIT-Naya Raipur <https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/tenders>
Registrar

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CEE/T&P/SEE-2/EE-17/AEE-17/KCO-172/2023-24/14792-812 Date:13.03.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number.

Enquiry No./Name of the Work
KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT836

Enhancement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer-3 to 1X20MVA, 110/11 kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV Hutti Sub-station in Lingasur Taluk and Raichur District on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including Dismantling and civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 14.03.2024 @ 15.00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 15.04.2024 @ 15.00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy),
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009.



(From right) Philosopher and author Professor Michael J Sandel in conversation with Aakash Joshi, Deputy Associate Editor, *The Indian Express*, and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group

‘Politics of hope can’t just be about technocratic things. It has to address the deepest spiritual sources that move people’

At a recent Adda, Michael Sandel, one of the world’s foremost political philosophers, spoke on the state of democracy, the rise of authoritarian leaders, and why it’s a mistake for progressive parties to allow patriotism and national identity to become a monopoly of the right

On the success of authoritarian populist figures

The success of right-wing authoritarian populist figures and parties is usually a symptom of the failure of progressive politics. I certainly think that’s true in the United States with the success of (Donald) Trump. And so I think it should be an occasion not to look down on those people who are voting for Trump and similar candidates, but an occasion to ask if he is as disagreeable as we think he is. What does that say about us? Why is it that we have failed to offer a compelling alternative and does it have something to do with the tendency of elites to look down? And the cultural sources and the religious sources of populist appeal — that too is worth taking seriously because technocratic politics that assumes it’s only about the economy, misses the deepest sources, not only of the politics of grievance, but also of any politics of hope. A politics of hope can’t just be about technocratic things. It has to address the deepest cultural and spiritual sources that move people, that give rise to people’s anger and frustrations and resentments, but also to their hopes and aspirations. And for the most part, mainstream liberal elite technocratic politics over the last four or five decades has had a tin ear to that dimension of politics and aspiration.

On the backlash against elites

We see the backlash against elites in many democratic societies and it takes different forms. But it’s worth asking why. Why the appeal of more nationalistic politics, sometimes various forms of religious fundamentalism in various countries and societies connected to the populist backlash. And I think it’s because for four to five decades governing elites embraced a hubristic conception of the economy and of politics... The free flow of capital and goods and people across borders is the wave of the future and anyone who challenges it or criticises it must be parochial or backward or intolerant. And that hubristic picture essentially said, ‘leave it to us to govern as technocrats’.

On nationalism and secularism

Well, let’s take nationalism and secularism to go right to the heart of it. I was speaking earlier about the technocratic, seemingly value-neutral picture that mainstream governing elites offered of the global economy that they were promoting. And this is connected to, it’s not the same as, but it’s connected to, the question of secularism as a governing philosophy. Now this goes back in the case of India to the Independence movement and to Nehru. And also in the ‘40s and ‘50s, there was a kind of faith in countries



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POORNIMA SAMPATH
Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Tata Digital



NALINI SINGH
Senior Journalist



PRASHANTO CHANDRA SEN
Senior Advocate



AVANTIKA DALMIA
Chairperson, Avanee Foundation



PRASHANT PADMANABHAN
Senior Advocate



SUNANDA NAIR-BIDKAR
Director, Strategic Planning, South Asia, Institute for New Economic Thinking

around the world that the way to a tolerant society, the way to avoid communal conflict and violence, was to insist on governing principles that were entirely secular, even to the point in some countries as this liberal secular picture unfolded, it was a version of liberalism that insisted that citizens leave their moral and spiritual convictions outside when they enter the public square. I think it was a mistake. First, it’s not possible to decide fundamental questions of justice and law and rights and freedom and the common good without reference to substantive conceptions of the good, of the good life, of civic virtue, of how to live.

But neither is it desirable to try to conduct politics in a way that is truly neutral with respect to contested moral and spiritual questions or questions of the good life. It’s not desirable because what it creates is a hollowed out public space that can’t per-

sist for long. People want public life to be about big things, about larger questions of meaning and purpose and belonging and identity. And if a purely secular technocratic political outlook creates an empty public space, sooner or later that public space will be filled possibly by narrow, insistent, intolerant moralisms, which typically take two forms — religious fundamentalism or hypernationalism.

On patriotism and national identity

It’s a mistake for progressive parties and politicians to allow patriotism and national identity and belonging to become a monopoly of the right. There is no reason it needs to be a monopoly of the right because there are competing conceptions of what it means to express national pride and a sense of belonging. And progressive politics has long required sources of

HOW DO YOU ENSURE A FREE PRESS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS THE BIGGEST ADVERTISER AND ALSO USES ITS ACCESS TO THE MEDIA AS A WAY OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON IT?

THE NEED to cater to ratings, the market, and eyeballs — those imperatives to chase ratings or to win advertising from government or its agencies is damaging to the free press. If the media is funded in a way that is too beholden to powerful advertisers, whether those powerful advertisers be the national government or state governments or corporations or those who care about the ratings, then we're likely to have a degradation in the quality, fearlessness, courage, and the quality of coverage, which suggests that we may need to consider



PRIYADARSHINI NARENDRA
Director, Dee Vee Projects

alternative media funded in ways that may be from not-for-profit, civil society, alongside the profit-driven ones. But to see whether we can experiment with new forms of funding to support coverage that is necessary in a free society for democracy to flourish, needs to be looked at.

BACK IN 2010 YOU'D SPOKEN ABOUT THE LOST ART OF DEMOCRATIC DEBATE. FOURTEEN YEARS ON, WHERE DO YOU THINK WE STAND? ALSO, INSTEAD OF DEMOCRATIC DEBATE, WE NOW TALK OF DELIBERATION, DISCUSSION, AND DISCOURSE. DO AMERICAN AND INDIAN CABLE TV CHANNELS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT SWITCH FROM DEBATE TO DISCOURSE?

AS FOR THE art of democratic debate, we stand worse. The shift is because debate has been discredited because of its association with the shouting matches and



SHERBIR PANAG
Partner, Panag & Babu

the food fights — the partisan food fights that often appear on cable television or other forums. I would like to redeem the term debate from that shallow shouting match picture to make it more continuous with discourse. But I think that accounts less of debate and more of deliberation.

IT'S DEBATABLE WHETHER FREE MARKET ECONOMY HAS OR HAS NOT DONE JUSTICE TO EQUALITY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WELFARE STATE. DO YOU THINK A HASH OF THAT SAME FREE ECONOMY MODEL WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE CLIMATE AGENDA?

WILL THE MARKET faith deliver the climate agenda? Well, the short answer is no. No, because to figure out how to cooperate together, to make the transition to a green economy, economic incentives can play an important part. A carbon tax could play an important part. But fundamentally, we need



SALONI GOEL
Director, Projects & ESG, Religare Enterprises

to change norms. Shifting attitudes are not something that can be achieved by economic incentives or market mechanisms alone. This requires political deliberation, persuasion, and shifting the way we live with nature.

QUICK QUESTIONS

If we look at the history of humanity, are we moving towards the left or the right?

Neither, because what changes is the definition of what's left and what's right.

What is Michael Sandel's state of mind? Are you optimistic? Are you scared? Are you cautiously optimistic?

I would distinguish between optimism and hope. But I do have hope, and that hope arises every time I encounter young people.

Why should a party care for a minority?

First, because one day they too will be in the minority. Second, respecting the minority is a fundamental condition of the mutual respect on which a decent society depends.

The one mistake that Indian democracy must learn to avoid from American democracy.

Allowing money to dominate politics and political campaigns.

The one thing that Indian democracy should learn to emulate from American democracy.

Social equality.

The one thing that American democracy should learn to emulate from Indian democracy.

The spirited passion for politics.

Equality or liberty, if you have to choose one.

I can't because properly understood, they go together. Each depends on the other.

What is success for Michael Sandel?

Managing to contribute even modestly to promoting a better kind of public discourse across countries and cultures.

The one secret ingredient to American soft power.

The ability to stand on one's own two feet, to speak one's mind as a citizen, as an equal. I think that ideal, though we realise it imperfectly, is an important source of the regard that people have around the world for America.

The one magic bullet that can fix social media.

Ban targeted online advertising.

The one necessary condition for being a liberal in 2024.

The one important thing to being a good liberal is to listen carefully to rather than vilify those who disagree with you.

Henry Ford or Elon Musk, who is Michael Sandel's choice of capitalist?

There were a lot of problems with Henry Ford but the one thing that would lead me to go for him is that he recognised that the best way to develop the auto industry was to pay workers enough so that one day they could buy a Ford car that they were making. There was a deep insight in that.

Should intellectuals be on Twitter?

Why would they want to be?

WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

For the president of a top Ivy League university, if one of the donors calls and says, we need to pull out our donations, our endowments, unless you stop anti-Semitic protests by students on campus.

Well, first ask the donor whether they're right about the level of anti-Semitism that they worry about. Because if they are right, then the university is doing something wrong in the

first place. If the donor pressure is pushing for something that's illegitimate, then the right thing to do is for the university president to stand up and say, 'I'm very sorry, but that's not something that we can do. That's at odds with our educational mission... If it's a legitimate problem, then you say to the donor, you've got a point, we're working on it, here's how, perhaps you can help us. If it's not a legitimate demand, then you have to stand up to the donor.'

An Indian software engineer has an offer for a job that will double his monthly salary. He has to leave his family and live without them. Should he take the offer and pay down the debt that he picked up to study and enter this merit race? Or should he read your book on what money can't buy and stay with the nourishment of the family?

Well, I hope those aren't the only two alternatives. I hope that he or she can read *What Money Can't Buy* and still feel the moral weight, the tug of family, even while trying to balance how to promote the family's good in the long term, maybe through a financial opportunity.

So, India-China relations are getting tough. An Indian tech entrepreneur gets an investment offer from a strategic Chinese company. What's the right thing to do?

I think it depends on the concrete practical arrangements that can be negotiated. I would say that if it meant ceding control altogether at that extreme then maybe forgo it.



(From left) Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Education; Justice Anish Dayal with wife Charanpreet Arora, Board Member, Internews Europe and Former Business Head, Viacom 18 Digital Ventures



Michael Sandel at Express Adda

solidarity. The left speaks of solidarity, the right monopolises the term patriotism, but the left makes a mistake to cede the language of patriotism and national pride to the right.

And so far, as left or progressive politics depend on making citizens alive to their mutual obligations in virtue of sharing a common life and a public project together, it has to speak the language of solidarity. Which is to say, in the setting of the nation state, the language of patriotism and belonging and national identity. It may be a different conception of nationalism or of patriotism than the right, but then that should be the debate.

On the tendency of democracies to tilt in favour of majorities

Democracy is not the same as majoritarianism. Democracy is not only about voting or about majorities. Democracy at its best describes a public culture of deliberation and ongoing argument and contestation. And so for democracy to flourish, it's necessary that there be sites and occasions for genuine citizen deliberation about these kinds of questions.

On free speech on university campuses

Well, what we've seen on university campuses is not a good thing because there has been a freezing up of openness to discussion on fraught questions including the Israel-Palestinian conflict. But not only that, I mean this problem was already arising even before the Hamas attack of October 7 with regard to other issues.

And I think we have to do the same kind of reimagining in the university that we've been discussing with regard to public discourse and the use of online platforms. There are tensions on campuses, and students do feel inhibited in voicing their views in public on sensitive questions within the classroom.

On reservations

I would say the importance of affirmative action or reservations in any particular country depends on the extent to which those inequalities have left their mark on the opportunities that still exist. And in so far as that's true, and it's true in a great many societies, I think it's important to take those inequalities, to try to address those inequalities in education and in other opportunities.



RAKESH ASTHANA

Special Monitor, National Human Rights Commission & Former Police Commissioner, Delhi



ASHOK CHAWLA

Former Finance Secretary



VISHAL SEHGAL

President, Harvard Club of India



Michael Sandel with Dr Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson, Religare Enterprises Limited



MOHINI BHULLAR

Former Executive Director, Corporate Affairs, India Today Group



MIHIRA SOOD

Executive Director, Centre for Child Rights & Juvenile Justice



BHARAT MEHTA

CEO, HR Synergy (left) in conversation with a guest



MEERA DEWAN

Filmmaker

IN 2024, AROUND 70 COUNTRIES ARE HEADING FOR ELECTIONS. IN THE CASE OF MANY COUNTRIES, THERE IS NOTHING DEMOCRATIC ABOUT THEM. DO WE HOPE FOR DEMOCRACY OR DO WE NEED TO REDEFINE DEMOCRACY?

IT IS striking how many countries are going into elections and how strong and pronounced is the tendency in many of these countries to embrace what are sometimes called strongmen, and they do tend to be men — figures who project authority that promises to vindicate the anger and frustrations of many. Any time we see a widespread politics of backlash and grievance, there's reason to worry. And we see this in many of the democratic countries



POONAM DABAS

Executive Editor, Centre for Media & Strategic Studies

now. Putin's upcoming re-election, counts as truly democratic or not. It bears a certain formal similarity in that people do cast ballots and the ballots are counted in some fashion. But if any serious Opposition is banned, jailed and its leaders are killed, then even though it's an election, it's hard to call that a democracy.

WITHIN THE PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, IF A POPULIST GOVERNMENT WINS AN ELECTION OR A RE-ELECTION, HOW CAN THE LIBERALS AND THE INTELLECTUAL MIDDLE CLASS SAY THAT THIS IS A THREAT OR THE COUNTRY IS NOT DEMOCRATIC?

THEN I THINK we would say that the people have spoken and that the government that's been elected or re-elected has a democratic legitimacy and right to rule. Those who disagree with that government or with that candidate have to figure out how to persuade the public that their mission and agenda are better. Now,



RAVINDRA S GARIA

Advocate

if a government wins an election or re-election and is in power for an extended period and begins to erode or change the basic constitutional framework in ways that undermine democracy, liberty, and respect for minority communities, then that's a different matter. Then that does constitute an erosion of democracy.

WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE THE JUDICIARY PLAYING IN THE HOPE FOR A DECENT SOCIETY? WHERE DO YOU THINK IT HAS MOST LACKED, BE IT IN THE US OR IN INDIA AND WHERE DO YOU THINK IT HAS BEST EXCELLED?

THE JUDICIARY at its best, especially in constitutional democracies, not only adjudicates disputes and conflicting interpretations of the law, it also serves as an institution of civic education, especially where big public questions are decided. This is one of the most important tests of the role the judiciary can play in a constitutional democracy. Safeguarding rights under the Constitution is crucial. Protecting those rights against majoritarian incursion and violation, is



NIDHI ARORA

Consultant, NITI Aayog

important. But the civic education explaining, offering justifications in opinions and in dissenting opinions can model the kind of public discourse we have been discussing. These days, I find myself admiring the Indian judiciary by contrast with some of the decisions the US Supreme Court has made of late.

LAZIO COACH SARRI RESIGNS

Rome: Maurizio Sarri has resigned from his role as Lazio coach and assistant coach Giovanni Martusciello has been nominated to lead the team, the Serie A club said on Wednesday. Sarri has been criticised of late as Lazio, who finished second last season, won only two of their last eight league games. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Para World Cup: Narwal dominates with 2 silver medals

New Delhi: Star Indian para shooter Manish Narwal won a silver medal each in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1) individual and team events at the WSPS Para Shooting World Cup here on Wednesday. Narwal shot 236.7 to finish behind Chao Yang of China (240.3), who claimed the top step on the podium while Korea's Jeongdu Jo of Korea settled for the bronze (214.7) in individual section. The World Champion para shooter then joined forces with Rudransh Khandelwal and Sanjeev Giri to fetch the silver in the P1 men's team 10m air pistol (SH1) event. In the other events of the day, Indians failed to make it to the final eight of the R7 - men's 50m rifle 3 positions (SH1) category, with Rakesh Nidagundi being the best performer in the qualification round, finishing 14th. **PTI**

Wasn't satisfied to bat at one down: Babar

Karachi: Former Pakistan skipper Babar Azam's public expression of his unhappiness at being asked to bat at number three in T20 Internationals indicates that all is not well in the national team's dressing room. Babar made his feelings clear at a media interaction during the Pakistan Super League on Tuesday that he was not satisfied with the decision to bat at number three during the New Zealand T20Is in January. "It was the Pakistan team's demand at the time. I did that for Pakistan. If I was asked individually, I wasn't satisfied with the decision to bat at one down position. However, I did that for Pakistan," Babar said. **PTI**

IPL: Bairstow available for Punjab Kings

New Delhi: England batter Jonny Bairstow will be available for the entire duration of the Indian Premier League, beginning March 22, despite returning home only recently following a long Test tour of India. On the sidelines of the Dharamsala Test, the BCCI officials were in talks with their England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) counterparts over the availability of their players for the IPL. Test regulars like skipper Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Mark Wood had already made themselves unavailable for the lucrative T20 league as part of ECB's workload management following the five-Test series that ended in Dharamsala on Sunday. **PTI**

Hockey nationals: MP, Bengal log big wins

Pune: Defending champions Madhya Pradesh opened their campaign with a 8-0 win over Chhattisgarh, while Bengal showed no mercy in a 28-0 landslide victory over Gujarat at the Senior Women's National Championship here on Wednesday. Hritika Singh struck four times to help Madhya Pradesh ease past Chhattisgarh in Pool A. Hritika opened by converting a penalty corner in the 11th minute and added goals in the 17th, 22nd and 33rd minutes. Leading 4-0 at the halfway stage, MP pushed the scoreline via Preeti Dubey (24th), Aishwarya Chavan (46th), Anjali Gautam (48th) off a penalty corner and Sadhna Sengar (57th) to bag full points. **PTI**

YASHASVI JAISWAL INTERVIEW

'I don't take success and failure to my head'

The batting sensation reveals his mindset and the support he receives from Dravid and Rohit

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

IN THE span of seven weeks, Yashasvi Jaiswal transformed from a bright young potential to the new torchbearer of India's batting. His immaculate body of work in the series against England—712 runs at 79.91 including a pair of double centuries compiled with a blend of youthful aggression and technical rectitude—not only fuelled India's comeback and the dismantling of Bazball, but also set his destiny rolling. But he remains firmly grounded and takes *The Indian Express* through his journey in the series:

Does the England series feel like a dream?

It's a great feeling, I'm happy but I want to be more focused, so that I can do well for my team. I'm not thinking about anything today. I want to take one match at a time. I don't know what will happen tomorrow, so I don't want to think too much.

Are you on a high after scoring 700-odd runs?

No, in cricket one has to grind on a daily basis. I don't take success and failure to my head. It's an uncertain game. I enjoy the success and learn from it why it was good. When I fail, I try to learn what I can do to improve it.

You seem to love batting. Someone had to literally take you out of even the nets...

Yes, *woh toh hai* (that is true). I love batting and feel I'm really lucky that I'm getting to do what I love the most. I'm really blessed that God has been kind enough to give me this opportunity and I want to make it count. I want to work hard, give my 100 percent. I have the confidence that I have worked enough for it. I can sleep well when I bat well in the nets. It's a process, be it batting, eating, or listening to people on how they became great. Be punctual, disciplined and consistent. If I have to play five Test matches, then I need to sleep well, eat well, and be on the ground on time. It's like a routine and I don't want to break that routine.

How did you prepare mentally for the series? Are you someone who watches and analyses the bowlers beforehand?

I didn't do much because I was already playing in South Africa. I was in a good zone. I got to learn a lot from South Africa and it was a good experience. I was trying to make sure that if I get set, I score big runs. It was the only thing crossing my mind.

You have an appetite for big runs...

When I walk to the crease, the only thing I keep telling myself is that I want to finish this game. Want to win this for my team. In Tests, one gets time to prepare and plan.

When you go on the offensive, you strike with a lot of power. How much of it is down to the power and range-hitting?

I have that range and thanks to T20 cricket and Zubin Bharucha sir, who has helped me to improve my game. It has been three or four years since I have been working with him. Thanks to Rajasthan Royals that they provide me a platform where I can go and practice for endless number of days. At the same time, I have been playing with the Indian team for the past nine months and there I speak to Rohit Sharma sir and Rahul



Yashasvi Jaiswal scored 712 runs over five Tests against England in India. **PTI**

Dravid sir a lot. That has helped me improve my game a lot. It helped me to understand the game situation, how I can be there for a long time, and make sure I play all my shots and enjoy the game.

Rohit keeps saying in the media that 'let Jaiswal be, let him score'. How is he in the dressing room with you?

It's so good to have him there inside the dressing room. It has been great to play under him. There are a lot of moments which I don't want to disclose at the moment. Let it be with me. The way he backed players throughout this journey, the way he talks, the way he bats. Whatever happens, he will be there to stand by you. I think it's incredible to see that in your leader.

Did you read what Ben Duckett said about you?

I don't want to say anything about it. I just need to do whatever I can on the ground that says the best I can do.

When Shoaib Bashir and Joe Root were tossing up the ball full and outside off, you would square-drive and mistime it. Rohit then told you 'bhai udhar mat maar' and showed the bat straight down the ground. In the same over (off Bashir), you hit three straight boundaries! Can you elaborate?

He came and told me that in that moment that shot is not on, it will be better to hit straight. So I was trying to hit straight. I must tell you nothing misses his eyes. He



Shafali Verma scored 71 off 37 balls in the win for Delhi Capitals. **Sportzpics**

Shafali underlines Delhi Capitals' dominance

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

SEVEN FOURS, five sixes, and an all-round confident performance. If there was anything to perfectly encapsulate Delhi Capitals' dominance over Gujarat Giants, it was Shafali Verma's belligerence with the bat, hitting a 37-ball 71 to take her team to a seven-wicket win, chasing down 126 with almost seven overs to spare in the final league match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Wednesday.

Skipper Meg Lanning may have once again become the leading run-scorer of the tournament, but after her early run-out and Alice Capsey's wicket caused a slight wobble, it was Shafali who took control with the bat to obliterate Gujarat's limp bowling attack.

The 20-year-old opener proved she is not simply an aggressor at the top, but also has the ability to pace her innings and see a run-chase through to the end. She rotated strike effectively, and walloped the balls in the V. Ash Gardner may be the most pedigreed bowler in the Gujarat side, but Shafali tore through her with three sixes and a four.

With the win, Delhi go straight to the final and remain firm favourites at home while Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore face each other for a place in the title clash.

This was a match between a team that was all but confirmed to go straight to the final, and a team that was all but confirmed to finish last. And it showed.

Lanning's captaincy calls bore fruit, as she managed her bowlers smartly to keep the Giants batters guessing. The team's sharpness was evident on the field as they hardly gave anything away.

Gujarat Giants proved to be a disappointment that they have been in so many matches throughout both seasons of the league – uncoordinated, inexperienced, wasteful. The combination of top-level international players that they bet so big on simply has not worked.

Once Beth Mooney departed early to a Marianne Kapp ripper, the team collapsed. The investment in Gardner and Phoebe Litchfield (who had a high-scoring outing during Australia's recent tour of India) didn't give adequate returns. Gardner scored 12, bringing her tournament total to 120. Litchfield hit 21 of her 108 runs this fortnight. Neither have been significant contributors in any of the eight matches.

There was a late flourish from Bharti Fulmal, but after her team had been reduced to 48/5 within the first half of their innings, her 36-ball 42 would be utterly in vain, only allowing her side to crawl to 126/9.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Giants 126/9 in 20 overs (Bharti Fulmal 42; Minnu Mani 2/9) lost to Delhi Capitals 129/3 in 13.1 overs (Shafali Verma 71; Tanuja Kanwar 2/20) by seven wickets.

RANJI TROPHY

Karun fights bravely but Musheer puts Mumbai in total control of final

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

A LOUD, desperate cry from Musheer Khan did not move the umpire but it woke up a couple of young men, sitting next to the Sachin Tendulkar statue, on the uppermost row of the Vijay Merchant Pavilion, from their nap.

The gentle sun and mild sea breeze made the stand an ideal location for an afternoon siesta. Even the band in the MCA Pavilion, brought in to celebrate Mumbai's 42nd Ranji Trophy title, sat in silence. And there wasn't the risk of missing out on any action. For, there wasn't a lot. At least it felt like that.

After Mumbai challenged them with a mammoth target of 538 in the Ranji Trophy final, Vidarbha had two templates to choose from. One, by Musheer Khan who batted for more than seven hours for his century. And then there was the Shreyas Iyer – absent from the field on Wednesday – way, an aggressive approach from the get-go to get close to a ton inside two hours. Vidarbha chose the former.

To their credit, they took the match to Day 5, which would have been their first target. At the same time, the two-time winners still find themselves needing 290 runs

to win and the onus to pull off the unlikely of heists is on their lower order. At stumps on Day 4, Vidarbha were 248/5 chasing 538.

Things might not have looked so ominous for Vidarbha had Mumbai not taken the most important wicket of Karun Nair with just half an hour left in the day. It was barely surprising that it was Musheer who provided the breakthrough.

The 19-year-old has played in just 5 innings for Mumbai this season but has had an oversized impact on their performances. The 433 runs at an average of more than 100 have put Mumbai closer than ever to ending their Ranji title drought. But it'll be doing him an injustice if Musheer's contribution is seen merely through stats.

Musheer toils

It's his ability to grind, as well as the energy he brings to the field, that's infectious. After batting for nearly 500 minutes across the second and third days, Musheer bowled 20 overs on Wednesday. At some level, Musheer knew the bowlers might have to toil as the pitch had very little to offer. And toil he did, but at no stage did he look tired or a lack of heart, even when Vidarbha were merely blocking the balls.

Musheer constantly tested the batsmen's defence and got the ball to turn just



Vidarbha's Karun Nair scored 74 before losing his wicket on Wednesday. **Pradip Das**

enough to keep the close-in fielders interested. After bowling like that the whole day, he was rewarded with the big wicket of Nair.

Musheer pitched the ball full, around the middle and off, and got it to drift in. Nair stepped forward to defend but the ball turned away and kissed the outside edge.

It's his ability to grind, as well as the energy he brings to the field, that's infectious. After batting for nearly 500 minutes across the second and third days, Musheer bowled 20 overs on Wednesday.

Wicket-keeper Hardik Tamore safely pouched the catch, after he had dropped Nair when he was at 4.

Nair stood like a statue, fully aware of the consequence of his rare error. When he finally started walking back to the dugout – after a failed review that he took against all hope – the motley Wankhede crowd got on its feet. It was for Musheer but they might as well be applauding Nair's slow-burn innings.

It was a kind of knock that's largely out of fashion these days. He took 43 balls to hit his first boundary, a drive through the covers off pacer Tushar Deshpande. The shot also took Vidarbha's score past 100 – in the 36th over. It took Vidarbha another 42 overs to reach 200 while Nair took 222 minutes for his 50.

Alongside captain Akshay Wadkar (56

not out), Nair dealt largely in singles and although there was an odd attempt to hit a reverse sweep, he never really managed to connect. Barring those shots, it was a largely chanceless innings. Until he finally fell to Musheer.

The wicket, he knows, is a potential game-changer. "I think we need to be realistic. It's a tough task," he said of the challenge that Vidarbha now face. "I can say something about the team, they have the character. (But) I would have loved to be batting overnight."

Nair knows that had he stayed on, there would have been slight anxiety when Mumbai would have come out on Thursday even though they'd have remained the favourites. Especially after making the Mumbai bowlers grind all day on Wednesday.

His wicket leaves the lower order exposed and with 290 runs still to get, Mumbai now have one hand on the trophy. Safe to say, when they return on Thursday, there will be few napping in the stands and the dhul wallahs won't be silent.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 224 and 418 vs Vidarbha 105 and 248/5 (Karun Nair 74, Akshay Wadkar 56; Musheer Khan 2/38, Tanush Kotian 2/56). Vidarbha need 290 more runs to win

CL: Barca win knockout match after 4 years, enter quarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MARCH 13

FOUR YEARS later, Barcelona is again celebrating a triumph in the knockout stage of the Champions League.

The five-time European champions returned to the quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Napoli on Tuesday.

Fermin Lopez, Joao Cancelo and Robert Lewandowski scored for Barcelona as it advanced 4-2 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Italy three weeks ago.

Amir Rrahmani scored for Napoli, which couldn't repeat its last-eight appearance from last season, when it won a knockout round for the first time.

Barcelona had been eliminated in the group stage the last two years and hadn't reached the quarterfinals since 2019-20, when it lost to Bayern Munich.

"It was an incredible night," Barcelona midfielder Sergi Roberto said.

"It had been four years since this club was where it deserves to be. We have to enjoy this moment." In the other Champions League match on Tuesday, Arsenal eliminated Porto in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 aggregate draw.

The Champions League could be Barcelona's last realistic chance for a title this season. It was eliminated in the Copa del Rey and trails Spanish league leader Real Madrid by seven points. Coach Xavi Hernandez already announced he will leave at the end of the season.

"It was a great match, very complete," Xavi said.

"We have been criticised unfairly, and today we showed that this team is prepared to compete in Europe. We are among the best eight teams in Europe. We have to enjoy it." The victory also means extra income for Barcelona, which has been struggling financially recently.

The Catalan club is unbeaten in six meetings with Napoli in all competitions.

Arsenal beat Porto on penalties

Reuters Adds: David Raya proved the hero as Arsenal survived a penalty shootout to scrape past Porto and reach the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time in 14 years after a tense last-16 duel had ended 1-1 on aggregate on Tuesday.

Porto, who won the opening leg 1-0, proved stubborn opposition for the Premier League leaders and Arsenal fans must have feared another night of European heartache.

But Martin Odegaard, Kai Havertz, Bukayo Saka and Declan Rice all tucked away their spot kicks with clinical precision and Arsenal keeper Raya made two saves. He got the slightest of touches to send Wendell's effort against the post and then saved Galeno's penalty to send Arsenal through 4-2 in the shootout and spark wild celebrations.



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring. Reuters

Lakshya sets sight on Antonsen

Indian shuttler hasn't beaten Danish metronome since 2022, and needs to maintain intensity for longer to break losing streak

SHIVANI NAIK
MARCH 13

ONE REASON why the allure of the All England endures in these parts of the world is that no Indian has won it for a long time. Since 2001.

It's one of four annual Super 1000s. But top Indians have just not nailed the big occasion, when others don't bother pretending that it's just another event, and are always looking to peak at it.

Saina Nehwal made the final in 2015, but Carolina Marin properly crushed her title hopes. Perhaps the most audacious charge was made by Lakshya Sen in 2022 - beating Sourabh Verma, Anders Antonsen, Lu Guang Zu and Lee Zii Jia, before Viktor Axelsen imposed his monster game.

But no matter what the prologue has been to this year, or what the projections in an Olympic year might be, Sen perennially threatens to cause a stir at the All E.

Amongst all the Indian men's singles players, he looked likely to go the deepest after his run at the French Open. On Wednesday, he wrapped up a straight-games win over young Dane leftie Magnus Johannesen, 21-14, 21-14 in an easy Round 1, and ended up the only Indian in Round 2 of men's singles. Priyanshu Rajawat gave Chico Wardoyo a scare, but had not much left in the tank in the third, losing 19-21, 21-11, 21-9. So it's down to Sen, who plays another Dane, a more compact, stubborn and quicker one, Antonsen, seeded 4, who lost his first match of 2024 only last week.

Sen, unseeded at Birmingham, has a predictably tough draw. And Antonsen is a repeat of last year's pre-quarters. Sen hasn't actually beaten the Dane, who's tamed his wild hitting ways with exceptional shuttle-control and shorn his temperament off any tempestuous outbursts, since the 2022 All England. That's three losses straight, denying Sen entry into the quarters at All England, Indonesia and China. The Indian is due to pull one back, and it could be on the back of the clinical win over Johannesen.

Sen wasn't pushed much in his opener. But he remained sharp, and did well not to dawdle and wind up in a decider. As is his wont, Sen played a disproportionately large number of returns from below the tape in the first game. His low defence is so outlandishly good that he can work the shuttle around without going overhead too often, and picks winners by just skipping about letting the wrist man-



With his win over Magnus Johannesen, Lakshya Sen remains the only Indian in the men's single draw at All England. File

oeuvre the shuttle, not exerting his shoulders. Against a better Dane, which Antonsen is, he will be summoned to play the shuttle much sooner, and push the pace of rallies by striking it early. Johannesen is far too inexperienced and stood no chance at the net. But Antonsen will push the shuttle back, aim for the lines, and make Sen work.

Tough cookie

There's a perceivable increase in pace and intensity in rallies when Sen hits the home stretch of a game. He suddenly piles on the menace in rallies, and opponents tend to find him difficult in 17-17 situations. His brain is granite in endgames, and the reason he's rated so highly is because no other Indian plays the clutch points better than him. Prannoy has

sheer talent, stroke variety and skill. But Sen mentally disintegrates opponents, with ridiculous retrieves, and outrageous net kills.

Antonsen, though, has built himself the patience reserves and will pick a fair share of Sen's round-the-head smashes. The Indian can run out of patience if three successive ones get picked. He'll just need to be prepared to go for the fourth one against Antonsen.

He was constructing points nicely against Johannesen, but will need to be a chameleon on pace against the head band-wearing anti-McEnroe of shuttle, who has a lid on his temper, and no qualms about playing boring points. Sen will simply have to buy into the idea that the first few rounds against the likes of Antonsen, or even the later rounds against Kunlavut Vitidsarn, can be laborious.

He has the likes of Lee Zii Jia, Loh Kean Yew and Shi Yuqi to spice up his life ahead, if he can put his head down and disrupt Antonsen with pace eccentricity. But in the city of legendary guitarist Tony Iommi, Sen will need to alter the riffs on the strings and mix up the tempo.

Amongst his batch of 2018, Li Shifeng exited on Tuesday and Kodai Naraoka was packed off on Wednesday. Only Sen and Kunlavut remain. The Indian had his second- and third-game meltdown and a bout of cluelessness against Vitidsarn at the French, though one suspects he was in a hurry to cross the channel. But the Indian loves his All England stomp. He knows he's always belonged there. Antonsen starts favourite in Round 2, but Sen can dial 2022 again.

Rd 2, the best time for Sindhu to beat An Se Young

A DAY'S extra rest and preparation. Good carry-over vibes from last week's French Open. And nothing to lose.



It's not exactly what aligning of stars reads like, but a second-round face-off against the unstoppable Korean An Se Young might well be the best-timed challenge for PV Sindhu. She's not likely to be particularly exerted from her first round quick progress ahead of Thursday's clash, and Se Young, 22, invariably gets difficult to dislodge deep into tournaments.

The Korean World No.1 is a difficult proposition for Sindhu, but viewed from the other end, Se Young will find herself up against a tough cookie in the Indian so early in the week while defending her title.

Sindhu has lost all six times they've played, and nicked just the one game, 21-18 off Se Young at the Asian Championship in April 2023. In fact, Se Young has won 11 off her 17 tournaments in the last year, making her extremely formidable. While a good, quick start might help, Sindhu might want to go in prepared for a tough three-game wringer, with the same fight she showed against Olympic champ Chen Yufei last week.

Se Young anticipates brilliantly at the net, and doesn't mind the back-court-front court quick shuttle, so Sindhu's drops might get picked more often. But the deep power smashes and varying the pace whimsically can surprise the Korean who likes running away with a gush of points. Just as well, it's early in the tournament, and Sindhu will be prepared for the running. SHIVANI NAIK

In Smash, Kamal shocks World No 13, dispels doubts over form

ANIL DIAS
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

BEFORE THIS year's World Table Tennis (WTT) Singapore Smash event, India's 10-time national champion Sharath Kamal hadn't won a single game in the two seasons of the top-tier event. His best performance at a WTT event was reaching the Round of 16 at a Star Contender (second-tier) event back in 2021.

He smashed away all doubts and concerns over his fitness and form with a superlative performance on Wednesday, coming back from a game down to beat World No. 13 Darko Jorgic 3-1 (8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-9) and enter the Round of 16 of the Smash.

"I've played him twice before this, and I've lost both times. So I went into the match thinking that at least let me start off with one set, because last time I lost 0-3," Sharath told the WTT media channel after his win. "From the second set onwards, slowly, I found my right momentum. There were a lot of shots which in

the first set, I was a bit hesitant about. But, as the game went on, I went for my shots and continued to put them in difficult places," he said.

That Sharath could pull off a victory despite the Slovenian dominating the first game, shows why he has been the story of this tournament, having entered the main draw after going through the rigours of qualifying. Sharath, ranked World No. 88, began his campaign by beating Romania's Andre Istrate then Yuta Tanaka of Japan, and finally Slovenia's Deni Kozul to book his place in the main draw.

He then simply outplayed World No. 31 Nicolas Burgos 3-0 in the round of 64.

Race to the Olympics

There was not a lot left for the 41-year-old to prove when it came to world rankings and his focus would be more on events with the Indian team, like the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and other team championships.

It's different this time around though. India, against all odds, qualified for the Paris Olympics as a team after reaching the Round of 16 of the



Sharath Kamal's entry into the Rd of 16 is his best performance in a WTT event.

World Championships in Busan last month. That means that Sharath is close to achieving his lifelong dream of playing the team event at an Olympics. He has been India's best paddler for over two decades but over the latter part of the past decade, he has been yanked off

his turf by the likes of G Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, and even the young Manav Thakkar

Only three players can make the team in Paris - with one being a reserve player - so, to confirm his spot in India's team or rather, avoid any hiccups, Sharath knew that he would have to improve his rankings by having a couple of great runs at WTT before the cutoff in June.

He will pocket more than \$10,000 as a result of reaching the pre-quarters. Sharath will be even more thrilled with the 175 ranking points added to his tally that should take him close to the top-50 in world rankings. If he wins his next game, he could enter the top-35 in world rankings.

Standing between him and a place in the quarterfinal is World No. 22 Omar Assar of Egypt. The 32-year-old reigning African Games champion led his country to the quarterfinal of the World TT Championships last year and is a force to be reckoned with.

25-year-old coach

Sharath is rarely seen with a coach at an in-

ternational WTT event and it was quite surprising to see him with a 25-year-old coach in Singapore - Anders Lind. The Danish 12-time national champion competes at the international level while also coaching. Lind is a close friend of Sharath and the warm bond between them was evident in the match against Jorgic.

Lind was quite animated on the bench, passing on instructions to Sharath, who celebrated whenever their strategy seemed to bear fruit. The only time Lind was nervous was when Sharath was up 10-6 in the fourth game and lost three points to make it 10-9 before winning the match with a little bit of luck. The ball ricocheted off the edge of his racket and somehow found its way onto the table. "We've been friends for a long time. And he also helped me in the qualification matches earlier. He was free today and he's pretty good," said Sharath about Lind.

"He's boasting about his records as a coach; that he's quite positive. He has won more matches than he has lost. And it proved again today."

Alcaraz, Sinner reach quarters at Indian Wells

Indian Wells: Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz avenged a previous loss to Fabian Marozsan, winning 6-3 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open as the top remaining seed in the men's draw.

A day after "lucky loser" Luca Nardi stunned No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the third round at Indian Wells, Alcaraz on Tuesday advanced easily over the Hungarian who ousted him from the Italian Open in May.

Marozsan was a qualifier and the No. 135 player in the world when he upset Alcaraz - then on the verge of taking the top spot in the rankings - 6-3 7-6(4) in the third round in Rome.

"Honestly, I was nervous before the match. I'm not going to lie," Alcaraz said. "Playing against someone that beat you. ... Today I knew what I had to do."

Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner beat Ben Shelton 7-6(4) 6-1 later Tuesday for his 18th consecutive victory. The third-ranked Italian has won 15 matches in a row to start 2024, claiming titles at Melbourne and Rotterdam. It was the 150th hard-court victory for the 22-year-old Sinner, who became first player born in the 2000s to reach that milestone.

Sinner had a set point, up 5-4 and 40-30 in the first, before Shelton was saved by a net cord. It then took Sinner another 15 minutes to close out the first set; in the second, he went up 3-0 and coasted to the victory. AP

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डबल इंजन सरकार का संकल्प

मोदी की गारंटी

भजनलाल सरकार कर रही साकार



श्री भजनलाल शर्मा
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

डेयरी उद्योग का निरंतर विकास दुग्ध क्रांति की ओर बढ़ता राजस्थान

दुग्ध उत्पादकों का सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक कल्याण - राज्य सरकार का संकल्प

॥ गोपाल किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड योजना ॥

1 लाख रुपये तक ब्याज मुक्त अल्पकालीन ऋण मिलेगा किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड की तर्ज पर

प्रथम चरण में लगभग 5 लाख गोपालक होंगे लाभान्वित

योजना पर 150 करोड़ रुपये होंगे व्यय

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20 हजार डेयरी सहकारी समितियों की होगी स्थापना।
किसानों को दूध की मिलेगी सही कीमत

नए दूध प्रोसेसिंग क्लस्टर होंगे स्थापित।
कलेक्शन, पाश्चराइजेशन, कोल्ड स्टोरेज एवं पैकेजिंग की होगी बेहतर व्यवस्था

प्रत्येक ब्लॉक में आवश्यकता अनुसार नई गौशालाओं का होगा निर्माण

राजस्थान संवाद



आपणो अग्रणी
राजस्थान