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- North Urimari CHP-Silo, CCL, Ramgarh
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- Retrofitting, Pollution Control System – Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) Units BTPS-A
- NTPC North Karanpura STPP, Chatra Unit#01(660 MW)
- Tori-Shivpur First & Second and Biratoli-Shivpur 3rd Railway Line
- Mohanpur-Hansdiha New Rail Line

Foundation Stone Laying for

- Doubling of Railway Line: Pradhankhunta Jn – Pathardih Bazar-Bhojudih
- Yard remodelling of Sindri Marshalling Yard with revival
- Doubling of Railway Line: Jamuniatand-Chandrapura Section
- Rail Over Rail line between Patratu-Tokisud
- Kuju-Ranchi Road Y-Connection of Railway Line
- Dhanbad-Chandrapura Railway Line
- Sone Nagar - Andal 3rd & 4th Line

Flagging off of

- Deoghar-Dibrugarh train service
- Long haul freight train from Shivpur Station
- MEMU Train Service between Tatanagar and Badampahar (Daily)

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Friday, 01 March, 2024 | 10:45AM | Sindri, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)

- * Revival of three Units by HURL at Gorakhpur (UP), Barauni (Bihar) & Sindri (Jharkhand), and by RFCL at Ramagundam (Telangana), has resulted into a Urea production capacity addition of 50.8 LMT per annum.
- * In order to support the farmers, subsidy on fertilizers is Rs. 1.75 Lakh Crore now, around 2.5 times as compared to Rs. 73 thousand crore in 2014.
- * Robust Rail infrastructure provides better connectivity and facilitates the goods train movement. This would also strengthen the economy of Jharkhand.
- * North Karanpura STPP shall ensure energy self-sufficiency. The Plant shall help in meeting the increasing power demand of Urban and Rural consumers.
- * FGD technology helps in improving the ambient air quality, prevents acid rain and minimizes the respiratory diseases.

In the august presence of

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan
Governor, Jharkhand

Shri Champai Soren
Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Union Minister of Chemicals &
Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare

Shri Arjun Munda
Union Minister of Agriculture
& Farmers Welfare and
Tribal Affairs

Shri P. N. Singh
Member of Parliament

Please Join the Event Live at DD News

In Hometown For Party, Noida Hostelite Murdered By Friends

Body Buried In Farm, Suspects Sent Ransom Text From His Phone To Mlead Kin

Advitya Bahl
@timesgroup.com

Noida: A first-year BBA student who was invited to Amroha on Feb 26 for a party was murdered by his friends and buried in a farm, allegedly after a brawl that began when the victim rebuked them, saying: "Kab tak mere poison se sharaab peete rahoge, kuchh kar lo life mein (how long will you drink with my money. Do something in life)".

After killing Yash Mittal, the group of five youths tried to make it look like a kidnapping by sending his family a ransom demand.

Police tracked them down using call surveillance after zeroing in on Rachit Nagar, an Amroha resident who had picked Yash up from his university campus in Greater Noida on Feb 26. On Wednesday evening, three of the five accused were arrested.

DCP (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan said Yash's father Pradeep Mittal filed a complaint on Feb 27 after the hostel warden informed him that the 20-year-old hadn't returned to his room the previous night. "Yash's father received a text message from the boy's mobile phone on Feb 27 morning. The text, which he believed was from Yash, said he had been abducted and his captors were asking for Rs 6 crore for his

HE LEFT VARSITY CAMPUS ON FEB 26

Photo: Himanshu Singh

FEB 26

- Yash waits for his friend, Rachit, outside the gate of his university campus in Greater Noida while speaking to him on the phone
- He gets into a white car around 6.30pm and they drive off
- They reach Rachit's farm in Amroha and are joined by four other friends



AROUND 1AM

- An argument breaks out between the youths after Yash makes some remarks
- The five youths corner Yash and strangle him to death
- They dig up a pit and bury him

FEB 27

- The accused uses Yash's phone and messages his father asking for ₹6 crore in ransom
- Family submits a complaint after hostel warden informs them that the first-year BBA student hadn't returned to his room since Feb 26 evening

FEB 28

- Call records led cops to Rachit, who is arrested later
- Three other accused are held later that evening after a gunbattle with cops

release," the officer said. Police started electronic surveillance and filed a case on charges of kidnapping for ransom under IPC Section 365A at Dadri police station. "On reviewing footage from CCTV cameras installed on the university campus, it was found that the student left safely in a car around 6.30pm on Tuesday while talking to someone on the phone," the DCP said.

Police discovered Yash had been murdered after tracking Rachit (22) down in Amroha on Feb 28 morning.

"Rachit claimed they were headed to a party at his farm in Gajraula. He also gave the names of four more youths — Shivam Singh, Sumit Singh, Sushant Verma and Shubham Chaudhary. Rachit claimed they were all residents of Gajraula and knew Yash since Nov last year," Khan said.

Rachit told interrogators that the five of them and Yash were drinking at his farm when the argument began. "He claimed Yash's comment provoked the others and they

strangled him. Later, the youths buried him in the field," the officer said.

Yash's body was exhumed from a six-foot-deep pit at the farm and sent for autopsy. Police said three of the other suspects — Shivam, Sumit and Sushant — were arrested in Greater Noida on Feb 28 evening following a shootout. Shubham is on the run.

"We have lodged two FIRs against the accused. One is on charges of murder, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence. The other case was

Rapid Rail and Rapido tie up for feeder service

Abhijay.Jha@timesgroup.com

Ghaziabad: The NCR Transport Corporation has tied up with aggregator Rapido for feeder services from Sahibabad and Ghaziabad stations of the 17 km section of the Delhi-Meerut rapid rail corridor that is currently operational.

Rapido services will be available to commuters include auto rickshaws, 2-wheeler taxis and four-wheeler taxis. Commuters can book these services through Rapido app.

"NCRRTC has partnered with Rapido to provide feeder services from Sahibabad and Ghaziabad RRTS stations of the 17km priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut rapid rail corridor. These will facilitate last mile connectivity," an NCRRTC official said on Thursday.

Apart from ensuring connectivity, these services will be fast and eco-friendly, the official said. The aggregator, the official said, has designated its employees at the Sahibabad and Ghaziabad stations of Namo Bharat to help familiarise commuters about the services available and the booking process.

"These captains will provide information about the available services and guide commuters on various features. Commuters could find the necessary assistance conveniently located within the designated areas of the stations," the official said.

The priority section (Sahibabad to Duhai Depot) of the rapid rail corridor was inaugurated last year in October. Ghaziabad City Transport Services has been offering electric buses from the five stations to localities in the city, but few opt for them.

Acid thrown on woman, hubby's hand suspected

Mahesh.Buddi
@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: A 35-year-old domestic worker from UP's Bijnor became a victim of acid attack at Palam Vihar on Wednesday night. The victim's husband is the main suspect and is currently on the run.

Police said the woman suffered burns on her arms, back and leg. She is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung hospital and out of danger.

The woman stays with her four children in Palam Vihar's Chauma locality. She and her husband lived separately.

"We came to know that the woman has a strained marriage and has been staying separately from her husband for some time," said Naveen Sharma, ACP, Udyog Vihar.

Around 6.30pm on Wednesday, the woman was going back to her home after finishing work for the day, when a masked man in a black T-shirt approached her.

"She was holding her cycle and walking in a lane behind Ansal mall. The offender approached her on foot. He poured acid on her from a mug,

DCP SAYS

The woman was holding her cycle and walking in a lane behind Ansal mall. The offender approached her on foot. He poured acid on her from a mug, and fled the spot immediately

and fled the spot immediately after the assault," said Mayank Gupta, DCP (East), who is also in charge of the West zone.

The woman raised the alarm, and locals alerted cops and called for an ambulance. "She is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung hospital and out of danger," the DCP said, adding that a report is awaited.

Though the woman could not identify the man, investigators suspect the assailant is her husband.

Police said an FIR was registered at the Palam Vihar station under IPC Section 326A (punishment for acid attack). A team of the crime branch is also working to identify and arrest the accused, police said.

Delayed for long, LG asks DSIIDC to finalise flat deeds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has given his approval to a uniform draft for executing lease deeds between Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and the original allottees of flats under various workers' housing schemes at Bawana and Narela in northwest Delhi.

The LG, however, slammed DSIIDC and observed that even after a lapse of about two decades since the initiation of the first housing sche-

me in 2003-04, the lease format was yet to be finalised. The execution of lease deeds will benefit 5,311 allottees under two housing schemes — Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme (RGHS) I and II — launched by DSIIDC in 2003-04 and 2006-07, respectively.

Officials said Saxena had directed the administrative department to fix responsibility on officials for causing delay in processing the matter and take stringent action against them. He noted on the file that despite explicit instructions of his predecessor in 2019 to explain the

reason for the delay, DSIIDC had taken almost five years before placing the matter for the finalisation of the document and its approval.

Raj Niwas officials said the LG had now directed that no further delay could be allowed and the entire exercise of execution of lease deeds had to be undertaken in a time-bound manner.

Officials said 2820 allotments were made under RGHS-I in 2006-07 to industrial workers while 150 and 405 allotments made in 2014 and 2017, respectively, to individu-

als under RGHS-II.

They further explained that DSIIDC made institutional allotment of 384 flats to Pragati Power Corporation Ltd in 2010 and 1,552 flats to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in two batches in 2012 and during 2015-18.

The low-cost housing schemes were introduced to provide functional and economic residences to workers following the directions of Supreme Court in 1996 to shift industrial units running in non-conforming areas to developed industrial areas of Bawa-

na and Narela to avoid clustering of JJ Colony in and around those areas.

Officials said the draft lease deed was prepared on the pattern of Delhi Development Authority and had been vetted by the law department.

"The LG in his noting on file also mentioned that it was only after the persistence of CISF and Pragati Power Corporation that DSIIDC was woken up from its slumber," said an official.

"This case reflects a deep sense of apathy and indifference on part of the organisa-

tion as a whole," he added.

The LG has also directed the secretary of DSIIDC's administrative department to take a comprehensive review of such matters that have been delayed inordinately process the same expeditiously and resubmit them within three weeks.

Though the previous LG had directed DSIIDC in 2019 to submit the proposal, the agency argued that due to "frequent transfer and postings" in the division, the file got mixed up and no further action could be taken.

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Slight rise in max temp, expect light rain today

Anindya Chattopadhyay



CLEARER PICTURE: The air quality is expected to remain moderate today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The weather department has issued a yellow alert for rain on Friday and an orange alert for Saturday.

While the city may see very light rain on Friday, the impact of a western disturbance may increase on Saturday. On Thursday, the city saw a slight spike in the maximum temperature, which was 27.6 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal. The minimum temperature was 11.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, and against 10.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

"There is an active western disturbance which will impact the region. From Friday, March 1 night onwards there would be light weather activity with very light rain. However major impact is likely on Mar 2 with possibility of thunderstorm, strong winds and light to moderate

rain. From Mar 3 onwards, the effect will wear off. The minimum temperature may thus rise due to cloudiness, however it will significantly drop around March 2," Kulddeep Srivastava, senior scientist at India Meteorological Department (IMD), said.

According to IMD, the maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday are likely to be 27 and 12 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The city's air quality was moderate with an air quality index of 147 on Thursday, against 141 a day earlier. Pollution monitoring agencies expect the AQI to remain moderate on Friday.

"The air quality is likely to stay in the moderate category from 29.02.2024 to 01.03.2024. The air quality is likely to be in the satisfactory category on 02.03.2024 and moderate on 03.03.2024," IITM's decision support system said.

BJP starts drive to gather public views for poll manifesto

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Thursday launched a door-to-door campaign for gathering suggestions from people for its manifesto and seeking their views on Viksit Bharat ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

The party will come up with a vision document for Delhi after going through the suggestions, said a senior functionary. Delhi BJP functionary Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, "Whatever suggestions were given by the people of Delhi in 2014 and 2019, we have worked on more than 95% of them. This time again, BJP will release its Sankalp Patra for Delhiites based on people's suggestions." BJP currently holds all seven Lok Sabha seats in the city.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the campaign would continue till March 15, during which party workers would visit all households, markets and public places carrying a form and boxes to gather the feedback. They will also seek suggestions of various professional groups such as chartered accountants, sports persons, teachers, professors and theatre actors.

In the form, people will be asked to give their suggestions on developed India, a better Delhi and their expectations from PM Narendra Modi. They can also give their feedback by downloading NaMo app, Sachdeva said, adding that social media influencers will also join the drive.

An LED van will visit different areas of the city to encourage people to give their suggestions, Sachdeva said. "The manifesto 2024 will be people's manifesto based on their expectations." The Delhi BJP president claimed that the party had fulfilled 529 of the 530 suggestions provided by the people for the 2014 manifesto. "In 2019, we delivered on 222 of the 234 suggestions."

"Our workers collected suggestions from door to door. The manifesto drafted on their basis paved the way for the formation of BJP govt in the state," Sachdeva added.

Missing 8-yr-old's body found, 1 held

New Delhi: An 8-year-old boy who went missing on Monday has been found murdered in Bawana. Police have arrested a family friend who allegedly had a feud with the boy's mother and wanted to teach her a lesson.

The deceased was identified as Shivam who lived with his family in Bawana. His father works at a factory.

Shivam's father complained on Monday that his son had gone missing since 2pm. Police found that Gayasuddin, a family friend, was also missing. "When we searched his house, he was found missing. Through technical surveillance, his location was found to be Ludhiana and a team

was sent there," police said.

Gayasuddin (54) was apprehended in Ludhiana. "He confessed strangling the child to death inside a forest in Sector 5 in Bawana," police claimed.

The accused told police that he was angry over a feud with the victim's mother and hatched the plan to kill the boy. He knew that the kid would not hesitate to come with him, police said. The accused, who runs a shop to refill small cylinders, was planning to leave Ludhiana, but was caught before that, an officer said.

A case under IPC sections 363 (kidnapping) and 302 (murder) was registered and further probe is under way. **TNN**



260th AMC RAISING DAY DINNER

The 260th AMC Raising Day Dinner will be held on 03 April 2024 (Wednesday) at Air Force Auditorium Lawn-1, Subroto Park, New Delhi.

AMC Veteran Officers and their spouses, residing in the NCR region are cordially invited.

Time : 7:30 pm • Dress : Open Collar

For any further information, request contact Asst Registrar, Army Hosp (R&R) and confirm attendance by 31st Mar 2024.

(Contact No. 8136088780 / 9871943601)

(Issued by Office of DGAFMS)

Councillor accused of molesting teen; denies claims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: AAP councillor from Patel Nagar Ankush Narang has been accused of molesting a 14-year-old girl in central Delhi's New Ranjeet Nagar. Delhi Police have launched an investigation in the case.

Narang has denied the allegations, saying, "The case is false and frivolous in nature, it is politically motivated. CCTV camera footage is available, which shows that I have not touched the girl at all. I want a fair investigation in the matter."

In her police complaint, the girl stated that on Feb 25, she was on a road near Munshi Ram Bagh Park in New Ranjeet Nagar. "She said she was waiting to pick her younger brother up from a birthday party when Ankush Narang, along with some other people known to him, came and molested and threatened her," an officer said.

The girl was counselled and her medical examination conducted. A case under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered.

"Further investigation is under way and action will be taken according to evidence that comes forth," police said.

HC refuses to hear plea for merger of NCR cities with Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to entertain a public interest litigation seeking merger of Delhi's neighbouring cities like Meerut, Faridabad and Gurgaon with the national capital.

The petitioner said these cities are far away from their respective jurisdictional high courts and therefore should be made part of Delhi.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan told the petitioner the reorganisation of the territories of states as well as establishment of high courts was not within the high court's domain.

"Someone wants us to redraw the map. That's the only thing that is left," the court remarked. **PTI**



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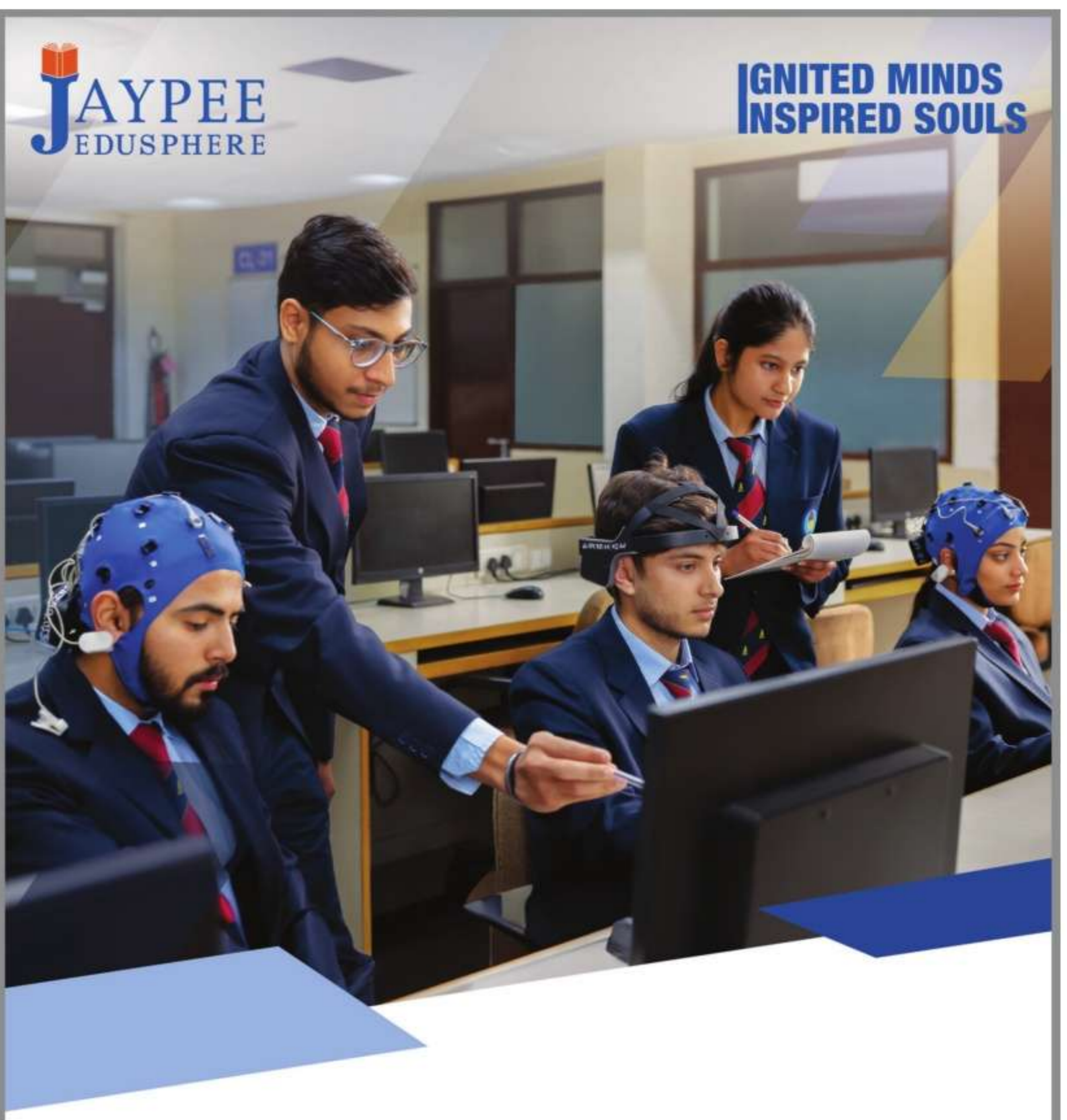



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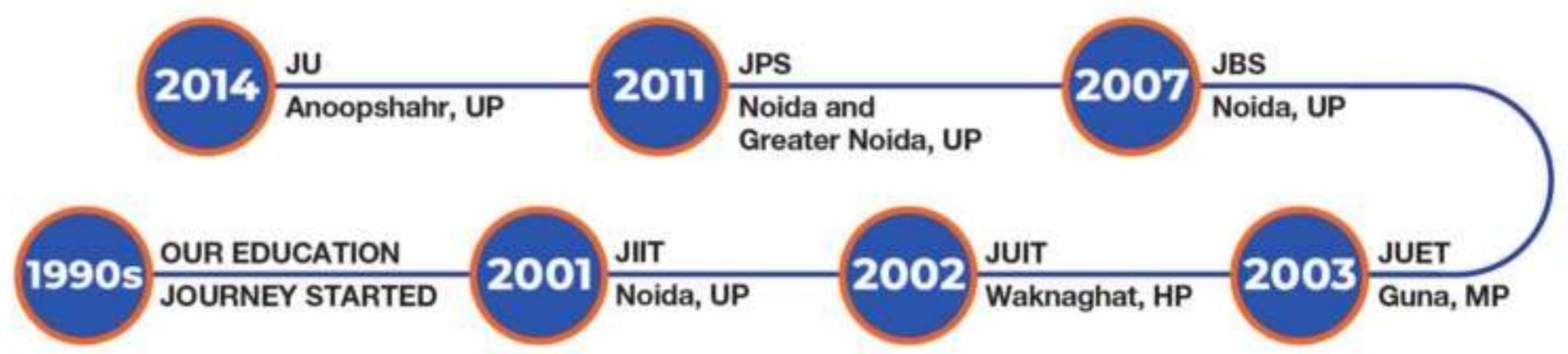
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SHAH-LED HOME MINISTRY ASKS STATES TO STOP CASTE-BASED ASSIGNMENT OF WORK IN PRISONS

AI fined ₹30L over death of flyer not given wheelchair

Mumbai: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India Rs 30 lakh over the recent death of an 80-year old passenger who opted to walk from the aircraft to the terminal building as the airline was short on wheelchairs.

Sharad Pawar mounts lunch diplomacy to secure turf

Invites Shinde, Fadnavis & Ajit Ahead Of Baramati Job Fair. Anurag.Bende@timesgroup.com. Pune: In a surprise development, Sharad Pawar has invited Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and his two deputies...

No hike in fertiliser prices, says govt, offers ₹24,420cr subsidy

Cabinet okays outlay of ₹75,000 crore for rooftop solar units to benefit 1cr homes. Govt on Thursday approved an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore to assist one crore households install rooftop solar systems under the PM-Surya Ghar scheme...

LS POLL DATES EXPECTED ANY DAY NOW, PARTIES DRAW UP WAR PLANS

Field all 15 sitting party MPs from Kerala: Cong panel

Thiruvananthapuram: A Congress screening committee tasked with picking candidates for Lok Sabha seats in Kerala has recommended that all 15 sitting MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, be fielded in their respective constituencies.

BJP to fight 11 of 14 Assam seats, one more than in 2019

Guwahati: BJP announced Thursday that it will contest 11 of 14 LS seats in Assam, reports Prabin Kalita. The remaining three will be shared with allies AGP and United People's Party Liberal.

DMK allots 2 seats each to CPI & CPM, same as last time

Chennai: Sticking to its 2019 seat-sharing formula, DMK Thursday allotted two seats each to its Left allies - CPI & CPM - for LS polls. Talks with Congress and VCK will resume on Saturday...

Watchman at Osmania univ bags 2 govt jobs, will be a teacher soon

Hyderabad: A night watchman at Hyderabad's Osmania University has dazzled the competitive exam score-board by landing two govt jobs. What's more, 31-year-old Golle Praveen Kumar is on a hat-trick, with a third job likely to swing his way.



SPILT FOR CHOICE: Praveen Kumar has MCom & BEd degrees. make Praveen eligible to teach higher secondary students (classes XI and XII) and come with monthly pay packages of around Rs 73,000-Rs 83,000.

Mancherial district takes home a salary of Rs 9,000. And while Praveen Kumar is spoilt for choice at the moment, he is almost certain of going with the JL job.

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नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

विक्रमोत्सव
2024
का
शुभारंभ

डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

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का उद्घाटन

तथा

1.29 करोड़ लाइली बहनों को ₹ 1576 करोड़
का अंतरण

अब तक दी गई कुल ₹ 13,082 करोड़ की सहायता

1 मार्च, 2024 - प्रातः 10:30 बजे - कालिदास अकादमी, बहिरंग, उज्जैन

SC: Will it be prudent to reduce states' room to raise revenue?

Parliament Alone Has Right To Specify Tax Or Royalty On Minerals: AG

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com



At present, states are entitled to royalty, fixed by the Centre, on minerals extracted within their jurisdiction

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Thursday remarked that in the federal scheme of governance, taxation regime majorly rests with Union govt and states have limited avenues to levy tax and asked if it would be prudent to further whittle down this narrow revenue generation field for states.

This remark from the 9-J bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud came in response to attorney general R Venkatesh's submission that states cannot resort to Entry 49 and 50 of List II, which allowed them to tax land and buildings and mineral rights, latter being subject to limitations by law enacted by Parliament.

AG referred to Entry 54 of List I, by which Parliament alone was empowered to enact laws for regulation of mines and minerals development to the extent to which such regulations and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expected.

comprehensive legislation in relation to mineral development. Mineral development as stated above will necessarily include and relate to mineral rights. Matters relating to the grant of mineral rights would thus include a levy, charge, impost, or demand that can be imposed in relation to the exercise of mineral rights," he said.

"The Constitution makers did not contemplate that a law under Entry 54 List I will not deal with matters relating to levy, charge, impost, or demand, in relation to the exercise of mineral rights," he said.

Arguing in support of supremacy of Parliament in relation to limiting and curbing state's power to tax mineral rights, former solicitor general Harish Salve in his preliminary submissions said if over and above royalty, a state, endowed with key minerals for economic development, charges a hefty 300% tax on extracted mineral, it would result in skewed distribution of benefits from national assets.

called, namely levy, charge, impost, or demand, can be on in relation to mineral development or mineral rights facilitation, similar levy, charge, impost, or demand, as provided for and enacted in an Entry 54 List I law, that will be relevant for the purposes of Entry 50 List II."

He said as taxing entries in Seventh Schedule of Constitution cannot be enlarged, states' entitlement to impose tax on land and buildings, in Entry 49 of List II, cannot include any matter relating to mineral rights activities.

"Entry 54 List I enables the Parliament to enact an all-

HC acquits 5 convicted for attack on CPM neta in Kerala

Kochi: Kerala HC acquitted Thursday five people earlier convicted by a trial court of attempting to murder CPM leader P Jayarajan, who the prosecution said was attacked on the evening of Onam on Aug 25, 1999, by a "gang of RSS/BJP men" due to political animosity. Jayarajan lost a finger in his left hand during the attack.

HC upheld the Thiruvananthapuram district and sessions court's decision regarding Chirukanth Prasanth of Kadirur, the second accused, but reduced his sentence from 10 years to one year. The trial court had sentenced six of the accused to 10 years along with a fine of Rs 1 lakh each in 2007. Three others were acquitted, giving them the benefit of doubt.

Those acquitted by the HC bench of Justice P Somarajan are Kadichery Aji, Koyyan Manu, Para Sasi, Elamthottathil Manoj and Jayaprakashan.

The prosecution contended that Aji & Prasanth were armed with billhooks, while Sasi & Manoj brandished two swords during the attack. **TNN**

SC rejects Vedanta plea to reopen Tamil Nadu copper smelting plant

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com



There were repeated charges of violation of laws for pollution check against the plant, SC said

New Delhi: In a massive blow to multi-national group Vedanta, Supreme Court Thursday rejected its plea for reopening of its copper smelting plant at Thoothukudi, upholding TN govt's decision to close down the unit for failure to keep air and water pollution in check.

After elaborate hearings spanning days, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, dismissed Vedanta's appeal against Madras HC's 2020 order, which had upheld the state's decision to shut down the plant after the May 2018 violent protests that resulted in the death of 13 persons in police firing.

"Health of the residents of the area are the ultimate

concern for the state govt," the bench said and ordered dismissal of Vedanta's appeal saying no substantial ground has been projected before apex court to persuade it to interfere with the HC decision of August 18, 2020.

The bench said that there had been repeated charges of violation of laws for curbing air and water pollution against the plant, a vital unit of the multinational mining company, and

Building temple is another way to grab public land: Guj HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

as entire community had contributed to building it.

"I must say that this is how you emotionally blackmail everyone. You encroach upon public property. And this is happening everywhere," CJ said.

The CJ further said that the land on which the temple is situated is not owned by the appellants. "By saying that the temple will be removed, you are trying to cash in on emotions (claiming that people will be affected)."

Ahmedabad: In response to the fervent plea of locals to spare a temple from demolition to make way for a public road under a town planning scheme, the chief justice of Gujarat HC on Thursday observed "this is how people emotionally blackmail everyone". "Building a temple is another way of grabbing public land in India," Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal said.

The case revolves around an appeal by 93 households in Chandlodiya opposing the construction of a public road in a draft TP scheme. After a single judge dismissed their challenge to the scheme, they appealed before the division bench. Despite assurances from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation that no houses would be demolished, residents sought to protect a temple situated along the planned road, citing emotional attachment

agreed with the TN govt that it was the bounden duty of the state to protect the health and lives of citizens.

TN had ordered closure on these grounds: the plant failed to furnish groundwater pollution level test report; copper sludge from the plant deposited in third party land and not removed; non-renewal of permission for removal and disposal of hazardous waste; failure to monitor ambient air quality standard; and non-creation of gypsum pond as required under Central Pollution Control Board guidelines.

The SC said HC has examined the alleged violations, the relevant reports and assessed the rival contentions in detail and that Vedanta has not made out a ground for the apex court to evaluate the evidence afresh in the case.

HC refuses to stay release of series on Indrani

Mumbai: Observing that it found nothing prejudicial to the prosecution or the trial, Bombay HC on Thursday dismissed CBI's petition to stay the release of a docu-series on Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, till trial in the case ends, reports **Rosy Sequiera**.

"For reasons separately recorded, the petition is dismissed," said Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Manjusha Deshpande. Streaming service Netflix thereafter aired the four-episode series titled 'The Indrani Mukerjea Story: Buried Truth'. Indrani is prime accused in her daughter Sheena's death. CBI moved HC after a special court rejected its plea. Its petition said the series could influence witnesses.

Modi: Major step towards saving big cats, habitats

► Continued from P 1

Five of these — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and cheetah — are found in India. The alliance was launched by PM Modi at an event commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger in India in April last year for conservation of seven big cats. PM Modi said on X: "Cabinet decision on the establishment of the IBCA, headquartered in India, marks a major step towards conserving our majestic big cats and their habitats, and also reinforcing India's leadership in global biodiversity conservation."

"The move reflects Prime Minister Modi's commitment towards conservation of wild life, particularly tigers and other endangered big cats," said environment minister Bhopinder Yadav.

Another chaiwallah knocks Gates' socks off

Nagpur: Fans of celebrity tea seller 'Dolly Chaiwallah' were taken by surprise on Wednesday when a reel featuring him was uploaded by none other than Bill Gates, reports **Sudhanshu Bisen**.

The 27-second reel featuring Gates and Dolly went viral moments after it was shared by Gates' accounts on Insta and FB accounts.

In the reel, Gates, who is currently touring India, is seen ordering 'one chai please' to Dolly, who then, in his typical fashion, steams a hot cuppa for the billionaire. Gates says, "I am excited to be back in India, home to incredible innovators

Goyal's current med condition doesn't justify bail, says court

Mumbai: Observing that the current medical condition doesn't justify interim bail and fearing that the freedom could be misused, a special PMLA court on Thursday rejected 74-year-old Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal's plea seeking the relief on the grounds that he was suffering from malignancy.

Special judge M G Deshpande said that Goyal's age should not be exploited in seeking interim relief as the relevant facts and circumstances leading to the generation of proceeds of crime occurred when he was 65-66 years old, reports **Rebecca Samervel**.

Leopard number now 13,874, up 1,022 in 4 years

New Delhi: India's leopard population has increased by 1,022 (nearly 8%) in four years — from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022. The latest assessment report released on Thursday however shows that the number has declined in certain states, like Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Odisha and Telangana, reports **Vishwa Mohan**.

The actual number may be a bit higher as the estimates represent just around 70% of the leopard habitat as the Himalayas and semi-arid parts of the country were not sampled.

This fifth such assessment cycle conducted a foot survey spanning 6.41,449 km to estimate carnivore signs and prey abundance. Camera traps were strategically placed at 32,803 locations, resulting in a total of 4,70,81,881 photographs that captured 85,488 photos of leopards.

Calling rise in leopard population "great news", PM on X said, "This significant increase in leopard numbers is a testament to India's unwavering dedication to biodiversity."

Punjab farmer cremated after FIR for murder and autopsy

Ballo (Bathinda): Punjab farmer Shubhkanar Singh was finally laid to rest at his native village of Ballo in Bathinda district on Thursday, eight days after the 22-year-old's death due to a suspected bullet wound during clashes between protesting farmers and Haryana police at Khanauri border point on Feb 21, reports **Neel Kamal**.

The cremation ceremony happened after Punjab police registered an FIR under murder charges against unidentified persons, and an autopsy was conducted on Wednesday.

The final journey of Shubhkanar began from Patiala-based Rajindra Hospital in an ambulance. "My son gave his life for a cause, and it will be a big tribute if that is accomplished," his father Charanjit Singh said.

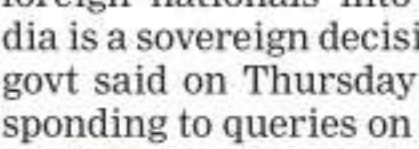
Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Non Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, the two groups leading the farm agitation, postponed the announcement of their future course of action by a day.

On Thursday, Punjab and Haryana high court censured authorities for the delay in registering an FIR regarding Shubhkanar's death and conducting his autopsy. HC asked Punjab govt to produce a translated version of the FIR, written in Punjabi, and the autopsy report.

Letting in foreigners a sovereign decision: MEA on Kaul row

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The entry of foreign nationals into India is a sovereign decision, govt said on Thursday responding to queries on the deportation of Indian-origin UK author Nishtha Kaul, who had landed in Bengaluru to participate in an event organised by the Karnataka govt.



"This particular national came to India on Feb 22. As you know, the entry of foreign nationals into our country is a sovereign decision," the MEA spokesman said.

"Denied entry to India for speaking on democratic and constitutional values. I was invited to a conference as an esteemed delegate by govt of Karnataka (Congress ruled state) but Centre refused me entry," Kaul had posted on X on Sunday, after she was denied entry into Bengaluru.

Karnataka ministers had alleged on Monday that the deportation showed how individual rights, as well as the rights of state govt, were being trampled upon, while BJP described

Govt: Trying for early discharge of 20 Indians in Russia

Following reports that many Indians were employed as support staff for Russian army in the war against Ukraine, govt Thursday confirmed there are still 20-odd of them and assured that it is trying "its best" for their early discharge.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) had said last week that several Indians had been discharged after it took up the issue with Moscow. One Indian national though was reported to have died in a Ukrainian air strike last week.

"We are trying our best to get them out. We are trying to get them discharged and support them. They are at various places and our embassy is in touch with the Russian authorities," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. **TNN**

Kaul, a professor at the University of Westminster and an Overseas Citizen of India, as "a known terrorist sympathiser and one who constantly spews venom and disseminates anti-India propaganda".

Govt fixes prices of 69 medicines, including some for diabetes, BP

New Delhi: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling price of 69 drug formulations. This includes Sitagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release Tablets — a combination drug used to treat high blood sugar levels caused by type 2 diabetes, and Olmesartan Medoxomil, Amlodipine & Hydrochlorothiazide Tablet that is used to manage high blood pressure, reports **Durgesh Nandan Jha**.

The pricing authority has set the retail prices for Sitagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release Tablets at Rs 13.25. The price of Olmesartan Medoxomil (20 mg), Amlodipine (5 mg) & Hydrochlorothiazide (12.5 mg) Tablet has been fixed at Rs 8.92.

The ceiling price is the amount fixed by the govt for Scheduled Formulations in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. It is the maximum price for retailers (excluding GST, if any) for a given product.

In case retail price of any of above formulations is not complied with, as per instant price notification, then concerned manufacturer/marketing company is liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest thereon under the provisions of DPCO 2013, read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955," NPPA said.

TIMES ascent

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Tq: Jamkhandi, Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka State
Phone No.: 08353-238073, e-mail: sdsiddapur@gmail.com

WANTED

The following personnel are immediately required for our 220 KLPD Multi-Pressure Vacuum Distillation Technology Distillery Plant to produce very good quality RS/ENA/Ethanol.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No	Qualification
1.	General Manager - Production	01	B.Sc. and D.I.E.A.T. /AVSI /B.Tech/BE (Chemical) Engineering with minimum 10 years experience as General Manager-Production in similar capacity i.e. Multi-Pressure Vacuum Distillation Technology Distillery Plant.

Attractive Salary & perks shall be paid commensurate with qualification and experience. Please apply with all details at the earliest.

Sd/- JAGADEESH S. GUDAGUNTI
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Date : 28.02.2024

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR

ADVERTISEMENT No. Rectt./01/Non-Teaching/2024 dtd. 23/02/2024

Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar an Institute of National Importance invites **ONLINE applications** from eligible Indian Nationals for filling up the Non-Teaching posts: **Superintending Engineer-Civil(L-13), Medical Officer (L-10), Assistant Legal Officer(L-10), Assistant Registrar (F&A) (L-10), Private Secretary (L-8), Physical Training Instructor (L-6)** on Direct recruitment.

Online Submission of application: 01.03.2024 to 21.03.2024

For details, please visit Institute Website : <https://www.iitbbs.ac.in/jobs-iitbbs.php> Sd/- Registrar

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RECRUITMENT NOTICE

New and Green Energy of Assam Limited (NGEAL) is a JV Company of OTC and Assam Power Distribution Co Ltd (APDCL). It is setting up a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project of **250 MW** in Assam. For **NGEAL, OTC** is looking for a bright and experienced professional for the post of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, NGEAL on regular basis to be placed at Guwahati, Assam.

M/s ABC Consultants Pvt. Ltd. is our recruitment partner for this position. Therefore, interested candidates may visit our website www.otpcindia.in to view detailed job description and submit their application/updated CV at email id: aakriti.arora@abcconsultants.in within 10 days from the date of advertisement.

Managing Director, OTC

IFCI

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INVITING APPLICATIONS OF EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

Advertisement No.: IFCI/2023-24/10

IFCI Ltd. invites applications of experienced professionals, for its Advisory Services function for the following positions (on Contract):

Sl. No.	Title of the Position	No. of Positions
1	Sr Associate-Technical (Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC))	01 (UR)
2	Sr Associate-Technical (India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	02 (UR)
3	Sr Associate-Technical (Bulk Drug)	01 (UR)

Interested candidates may visit the Company's website www.icfild.com for the detailed advertisement containing eligibility criteria, key responsibilities and other terms & conditions.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS MARCH 15, 2024.

Any Corrigendum/addenda to the advertisement shall be notified only on our website. Candidates should regularly visit the website for updates.

Sd/- Himanshu Sharma
General Manager
(Human Resources)

Place: New Delhi
Date: February 29, 2024

IDBI BANK

Regd. Office: IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005.
Tel.: 6655 3355

IDBI Bank Ltd.

Advertisement No. 16/ 2023-24

Appointment of Data Protection Officer (DPO)

Post Name	Vacancy
Data Protection Officer (On Contract)	1

For eligibility criteria (age, work experience, job profile etc.) and other details, please visit the 'Careers' section of the Bank's website www.idbibank.in

Applications received on or before March 15, 2024, will only be considered.

NOTE: IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Any addendum/modifications with regards to the selection process shall only be published on the Bank's website (career section) www.idbibank.in and not through any other media. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the website as above, for update in the matter.

Place - Mumbai
General Manager-HRD

DALY COLLEGE, INDORE, A CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY CUM BOARDING SCHOOL, FOUNDED IN 1870, AFFILIATED TO CBSE AND A REGISTERED CENTRE FOR CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL (CI) INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS:

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TGT: English, Hindi, Science, Computer Science, Sanskrit
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Part-Time Teachers: Spanish, German
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Hostel Staff: Dorm Parents/Wardens/Matrones
Counsellors: Career Counsellor, Guidance Counsellor and Psychological Counsellor
Coaches: Football, Athletics, Cricket, Shooting, Squash, Hockey, Badminton

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

EA to the Principal
Administrator
Project Manager: Graduate/PG in Civil Engineering with expertise in project management; In-depth knowledge of construction and interiors
Site Supervisor
IT Staff: Graphic Designer, MIS Operator
Other Staff: Store Keeper (Proficient in excel and creating purchase orders), Cook for the kitchen

Campus: Free partially furnished accommodation on campus for outstation candidates, free education for upto two children from class 2, CPF, Gratuity, Medication etc. as per school rules.

Shortlisted candidates called for interview will be paid to and fro 3rd AC rail fare for the shortest route.

DALY COLLEGE IS HIRING

For all teaching positions

- Freshers having exceptional academic records may apply, Excellent communication skills and good computer literacy is a must.
- Candidates willing to take up boarding house responsibilities will be preferred.
- Candidates with experience/ keen to teach the Cambridge curriculum will have an added advantage.

Application forms: Available on Daly College website- www.dalycollege.org
Form Submission: jobs@dalycollege.org within 7 days from release of this advertisement.

No Prez assent to bill replacing Kerala gov as chancellor of varsities, 2 others

(replacing governor from position of chancellor of universities), University Law Amendment Bill, 2022 (expansion of search committee for appointment of V-C) and University Law Amendment Bill, 2021 (which deals with appellate tribunal and other amendments to Technological University and others).

“Seven bills were referred to the President in Nov 2023. Of these, assent has been accorded to only one bill, namely, Kerala Lok Ayukta (amendment) Bill, 2022. Decision on others is awaited,” a statement issued by Raj Bhavan said.

The decision to withhold consent could have far-reaching consequences in higher education sector: Govt and governor are already at loggerheads over attempts to divest governor of his powers, and governor's attempt to hold on to chancellor post at any cost.

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Jalgaon Dist. Jalgaon
email- jalgaon.ee@mahapwd.com
E-Tender Notice No. 103 For 2023-2024

Online Tenders (e-tender) of Works in “B-1” form are invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Jalgaon (Phone No. 0257-2227343) for and behalf of Government of Maharashtra, Electronic Tender Management System <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from Registered P.W.D. Contractor / Eligible Contractor who fulfil the Terms and Conditions of Tender. The rights are reserved to reject all or any tender by Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer. Conditional Tenders are not acceptable.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online from dated 28/02/2024 to 14/03/2024 at 17:00 Hours directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Pre-Tender conference for Works Sr.No. 01 to 05 will be held on dated 06/03/2024 at 12:00 Hours in the office of The Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Jalgaon and for Works Sr. No. 06 to 07 will be held on dated 07/03/2024 at 12:00 Hours in the office of The Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nashik. Last date of tender submission is 14/03/2024 at 17:00 Hours.

This detailed tender notice for 09 (Nine) Road / Building Works are also available on portal www.mahapwd.com and on Notice Board in the office of Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Jalgaon Dist. Jalgaon.

Sd/-
(N.P. Sonawane)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division, Jalgaon

DGIPR/2023-2024/8973

Deadline for FASTag to be extended till March-end:
NHAI is set to extend deadline for 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' compliance to March-end. 'Patym FASTag' users are still facing problems. We don't have any other option than extending deadline to avoid inconvenience for commuters,' said an official. TNN



Sahitya Kala Parishad Presents



Art Exhibition (Works Created in Art Camp 2017 & 2024)

Voice of Colors

Inauguration

Sh. Saurabh Bharadwaj
Hon'ble Minister of Art & Culture
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

1 March 2024 | 6.30 pm

Kalam kaar Gallery First Floor, Bikaner House
Pandara Road, India Gate, New Delhi, Delhi 110011

Participating Artists

- Ajay Samir | Anupam Sud | Anwar | Dharmendra Rathore
Gopi Gajwani | Hemraj | Jagannath Panda | Madhvi Parekh
Manish Pushkale | Manu Parekh | Manoj Aggarwal
Milan Sharma | Ritu Kamath | Sabia | Shobha Broota
Shridhar Iyer | Yusuf

You Are Cordially Invited

1-5 March 2024

The exhibition will remain open from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm daily



Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Hon'ble Chief Minister Delhi

DIP/Shabardh/Display/0139/23-24

Tender Notice No : SMART/PIU MSWC/WORKS/68 /2023-24
Government of Maharashtra World Bank Funded
Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project, Pune
Construction of silo system of total capacity 10,000 MT (4 X 2500 MT) (Extension to 1st Call)

The tender submission due date of e-Tender Notice No. SMART/PIUMSWC/WORKS/68/2023-24 Date: 27/02/2024 for the work of Design, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing & commissioning of grain silo system of total capacity 10,000 MT (4 X 2500 MT) on EPC basis at Latur MIDC, Plot No. E- 18, District Latur, Maharashtra State has been further extended upto 12/03/2024 at 17:00 Hrs. The date of opening of tender is 14/03/2024 at 10:00 Hrs. (Tentative). All other conditions in the tender will remain unchanged.

The e-tender (Tender ID-2024_CMTDM_984458_1) is available on www.mahatenders.gov.in website. (Organization-Co- Operation & Marketing Textile, Mumbai), from 27/02/2024.

Sd/-
Chairman and Managing Director & Head PIU-MSWC, SMART Project

DGIPR/2023-2024/9002

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) DEPARTMENT KASHMIR
Tel : 0194-2474234 Fax : 2482032 email : kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject :- Extension No. 01.

In view of poor response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No. 06 of 2024 dated. 07.02.2024 for Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Tulip Garden Cheshmashahi, Srinagar (Tulip Show-2024) is hereby extended as per the details given below :-

1. Period of downloading of bidding document	28.02.2024 from 02:00 PM to 09.03.2024 up to 02:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	28.02.2024 from 02:30 PM
3. Bid submission End date	09.03.2024 up to 02:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	11.03.2024 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

No:- DFK/GS-718/4390-93
Dated:- 27/02/2024
DIP.No.DIPK-17158/23/28/02/2024

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Press Advertisement No: **PRESS ADVERTISEMENT** Date: 01.03.2024
File No. 8457/2022/TCP-3

Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) through the process of e-tendering invites online tenders from the experienced prospective bidders registered with tenders portal in appropriate class for the work of "Preparation of GIS Based Master Plans for Tamil Nadu under AMRUT 2.0 sub-scheme"

Interested firms can download the Request for proposal from the website www.tenders.gov.in. The Terms of Reference, Qualification Criteria and other terms and conditions are provided in the Tender Document. EMD is INR 5, 00, 000/-.

Tenders shall be uploaded through www.tenders.gov.in on or before 16.04.2024 at 3.00 pm and the same will be opened on 16.04.2024 at 4.00 PM.

Released by: The Director, Town and Country Planning Department, EAC Market Road, CMDA Complex, 3rd Floor, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600107. DIPR/1299/TENDER/2024 Director of Town and Country Planning (Sd/-)B.Ganesan

CAD-4389

idco ODISHA
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O.P&C/EST/E-2359/03/2023/ 6854, Dt: 28.02.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

- Name of the work: Construction of SFRC precast, pretension Compound Wall around Ac.123,9875 land at Padabadian for establishment of Bank Note Paper Mill India Pvt. Ltd. of currency paper mill (RBI Project) in the District of Balasore, Odisha.
- Value of the work: Rs. 436.78 Lakhs.
- Period of completion: 04 (Four) Calendar months
- Other details:

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR - 14003/11/0434/23-24

CAD-4391

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO: BANAHARPALI, DIST: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234
Phone no: (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
OPGC invites sealed bids from bona fide and financially sound Registered Agencies /Firms /Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpli.
Works Tenders: NIT No. ITPS/CC-22/2023-24/23, Date: 01/03/2024

SL	DESCRIPTION	BID SALE DATE
1	Installation of solar lighting system at Ash Pond	11.03.24 to 02.04.24
2	AMC & AOH of Elect Maintenance Main Plant 03 years	15.03.24 to 06.04.24
3	Physical stock assessment of coal stock yard of OPGC-I&II Y 2024-25	15.03.24 to 06.04.24
4	Construction of Store Room near recycling pumphouse and Portable water supply at Tile Ash Pond	05.03.24 to 20.03.24
5	Approach Road along ash disposal pipeline	05.03.24 to 20.03.24
6	AMC of Ash conveying line, Ash silo & Ash water recovery system of AHP	16.03.24 to 01.04.24
7	Annual Overhauling of Mechanical Equipments of Ash Handling Plant during AOH of Unit # 2 during the FY: 2024-25	16.03.24 to 01.04.24
8	AMC of Ash Handling Plant Mechanical Maintenance, Unit 3 & 4, ITPS	20.03.24 to 04.04.24

The detailed NITs along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at www.opgc.co.in. Addenda/Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Sd/-
GM-CONTRACT
OIPR-04067/11/0029/23-24

Govt. of Bihar
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Sitamarhi
SBD BASED DETAILED NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM RE-TENDER
(Through E-procurement mode Only Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
NIT NO.-RCD/SITAMARHI-05/2023-24

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser: Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Sitamarhi
- Date of issue of Notice inviting Tender: Date 28.02.2024
- Bid submission start date: Date 06.03.2024 From 10:00 A.M. on <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>
- Time Date & Place of Pre Bid Meeting: Date 07.03.2024 up to 03:00 PM., Chief Engineer North, RCD, Bihar T-5 Officers flat, Punaichak, Patna
- Bid submission end date: Date 09.03.2024 till time 03:00 P.M. on <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>
- Date & Time & Place of opening of Technical Bid: Date-09.03.2024, Time-03.30 P.M. or next working day of last date of uploading of tender document by the bidders as stated in above serial-5. Place- on website- <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>
- Details of works:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated / B.O.Q. Amount (in Lakh)	Earnest money (in Lakh)	Cost of B.O.Q. (in Rs.)	Bid processing fee (non-refundable) (in Rs.)	Time of completion of work (in month)	Type of work
1	W/S work of Left Over portion Runnaisaidpur-Pupri-Parihar-Bhiswa Road (SH-87) Total Length-7.295 km. under Road Division, Sitamarhi for the year 2023-24	3104.01000	41.05	10000.00	5900.00	12 months	SBD

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR. No. 018523 (RCD) 2023-24 Executive Engineer RCD, Road Division, Sitamarhi

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Re-Tender Work:-

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs)
1.	57/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M(E/M)-III/2023-24	Providing Facade Lighting Arrangement for Sector 18 Underpass, Noida	Rs. 195.29
2.	44/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M(E/M)-IV/2023-24	Providing Street Lighting Arrangement in Duplex Sector-135, Noida	Rs. 108.94

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 07.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 11.03.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (E&M) Noida
Office : Sector-39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PLANNING BOARD
(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)
1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Preparation of Functional Plans

National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi invites sealed bids from national and international consulting entities / organizations/ joint ventures/ consortiums etc. for undertaking works relating to preparation of Functional Plan on Dairy Sector as per Regional Plan-2041 proposals for National Capital Region Area. The RFQ-cum-RFP document containing the Terms of Reference (ToR), Details of Qualification and Evaluation Criteria etc. can be downloaded alongwith the draft Contract Agreement from the website of NCRPB i.e. <http://ncrpb.nic.in/tenders>.

Hard copy of the RFQ-cum-RFP document may also be obtained from the office of NCRPB, Core 4-B, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003. Last date of submission of completed bid is **1st April 2024.**
CBC 44103/11/0014/2324 Sd/- Member Secretary

AIC AGRICULTURE INSURANCE COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED
Regd. Office: Plate B&C, 5th Floor, Block-1
East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023
CIN: U74999DL2002PLC118123

TENDER NOTICE

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC), providing Crop Insurance to the farming community in India, invites online Bids for Renewal of AMC/ATS of various Components (Hardware and Software) for On-Premise Infrastructure for 1 Year (RFP No. InfoTech/AMC&ATS RENEWAL/2024). The RFP document may be downloaded from AIC website <https://www.aicofindia.com/> and E-tender portal <https://aicofindia.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> The last date for submission of Bid is 22.03.2024 till 04:00 PM.

Deputy General Manager (InfoTech Dept.)

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना - 800001

विज्ञापन संख्या - 22/2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-3.0)
परीक्षा कार्यक्रम (समयावधि / विषय)

विज्ञापन संख्या - 22 / 2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE - 3.0) दिनांक- 15.03.2024 को दो पालियों में तथा दिनांक - 16.03.2024 को एकल पाली में निम्नांकित कार्यक्रमानुसार राज्य स्थित विभिन्न जिलों में अवस्थित परीक्षा केन्द्रों में आयोजित की जायेगी :-

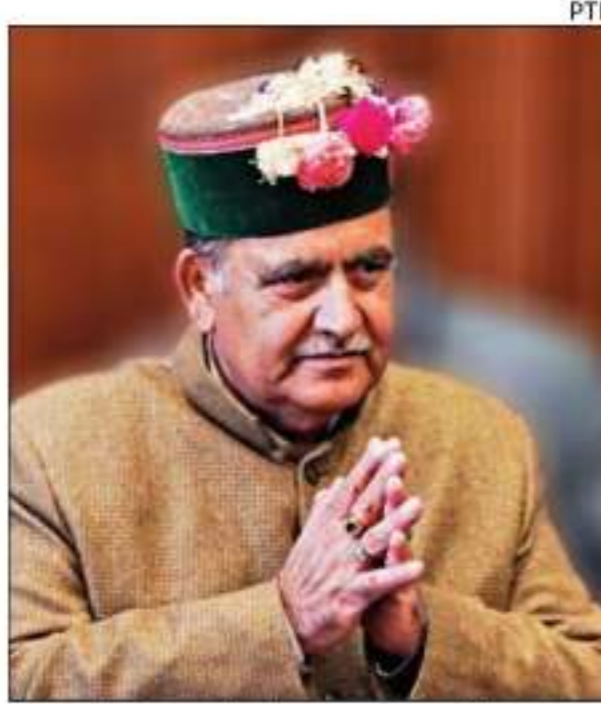
परीक्षा की तिथि	(प्रथम पाली- 09.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 12.00 बजे अपराह्न तक)	(द्वितीय पाली- 02.30 बजे अपराह्न से 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक)
15.03.2024 (शुक्रवार)	विषय- गणित एवं विज्ञान, सामाजिक विज्ञान, हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, संस्कृत एवं उर्दू शिक्षा विभाग के मध्य विद्यालय वर्ग: 1-5 के सभी विषयों के लिए	विषय- सामान्य, उर्दू एवं बांग्ला i. शिक्षा विभाग के मध्य विद्यालय वर्ग: 1-5 के सभी विषयों के लिए ii. अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग वर्ग: 1-5
परीक्षा की तिथि	एकल पाली (12.00 बजे मध्याह्न से 02.30 बजे अपराह्न तक)	
16.03.2024 (शनिवार)	विषय- हिन्दी, बांग्ला, उर्दू, संस्कृत, अरबी, फारसी, अंग्रेजी, विज्ञान, गणित, ललित कला, नृत्य, शारीरिक शिक्षा, मैथिली, संगीत एवं स्नाजिक विज्ञान। i. शिक्षा विभाग वर्ग: 9-10 (माध्यमिक तथा विशेष विद्यालय अध्यापक पद के सभी विषयों के लिए) ii. अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग वर्ग : 6-10 (कम्प्यूटर विज्ञान, संगीत / कला विषय को छोड़कर शेष सभी विषय)	

नोट:- शिक्षा विभाग के अन्तर्गत वर्ग: 1-12 के सभी विषयों तथा अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग के अन्तर्गत वर्ग: 6-10 कम्प्यूटर विज्ञान, संगीत / कला विषयों की परीक्षा के लिए सूचना बाद में प्रकाशित की जायेगी।

स्वा:-
परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

Cong retains HP majority but remains vulnerable

Party Diktat To Functionaries: Keep Lips Sealed



Himachal Pradesh Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania in Shimla on Thursday

Shimla: Congress's designated troubleshooters in Himachal Pradesh, including former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Karnataka deputy CM D K Shivakumar, on Thursday claimed to have since set its house in order...

Wednesday morning citing "humiliation", only to withdraw it at the behest of AICC's Himachal minder Rajeev Shukla and other senior functionaries. The high command will pick the other three members of coordination panel, sources said.

NDA will win more than 400 seats in LS polls, and all 80 in UP: Yogi

Times News Network

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath Wednesday expressed confidence that BJP-led NDA will win more than 400 seats in Lok Sabha elections and all 80 seats in UP.



Taking a swipe at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said he should first take care of his family

tion ceremony at Ram temple has created a "new Ayodhya", which is a step towards formation of a 'New India'. Taking on "those who politicised invite to pran pratishtha", he said: "Ram ka bulava ek hi baar aata hai, baar baar nahi aata. You should go there on your own, instead of waiting for invitation."

Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he has never worked to unite the country and "it's not in his genes". Speaking at the event earlier, Akhilesh said: "Our slogan for NDA is '400 ki haar'."

Government of Odisha Higher Education Department Inviting Applications for Government of Odisha Sponsored UPSC Civil Services Residential Coaching Scheme for the Session 2024-25

CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Vishvighyan Bhavan, 31 Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Post Box No. 80, Lucknow-226001

Date of Commencement of Online Applications & Fee Submission: 01 March 2024 from 10.00 AM

A unique opportunity for research career in Science & Technology CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 (UP)

No. 533/Estb.2/Dr.RMLIMS/2024 Date: 28/02/2024

Sub: Cancellation of Recruitment Advertisement-Non-Teaching Post

The following Non-Teaching posts which were advertised in our combined recruitment Advt. No. 04 to 19 / Estb.-2 / Rectt./ Dr.RMLIMS / 2022 / 2764 dated 8/10/2022, are hereby cancelled and withdrawn with immediate effect:-

Table with 3 columns: SI No., Name of the Post, Reference of Advt.

For reasons, kindly visit the Institute website www.drmlims.ac.in DIRECTOR Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY The Kannanloor police have recovered an unidentified deadbody from Muttakavu on 22.12.2023. The investigation that followed revealed that the body was that of a man who was working in a Cashew Factory at Muttakavu in Kollam.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur Himachal Pradesh-174037

NOTICE With reference to the advertisement No. AIIMS-BLS(B-I)(2)(5)(Vol-II)-21-6303 dated 02.02.2024 for the recruitment of faculty Group-A posts in various departments, it is informed to all concerned that the last date of receipt of applications for all the posts of faculty has been extended up to 15-03-2024

SB State Bank of India (Constituted under the State Bank of India Act, 1955) Shares & Bonds Department, Corporate Centre, 14th floor, State Bank Bhavan, Madama Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021

Only 46 of 485 cities supply potable water to people: Govt survey

New Delhi: A national level survey by govt has found that only 46 cities (municipal areas) out of 485 supply clean drinking water to their citizens. The ranking of cities is based on test results of 25,000 samples lifted across these municipal areas and response of 5.2 lakh urban households will be announced next week.

K'taka 'caste census' report given to CM, may be put up before cabinet

Bengaluru: After months of dithering and political speculation, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) submitted its Socio-Economic and Education Survey report, commonly called a "caste census", to Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Thursday.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES Vijaypur, Jammu - 184120 Camp Office : GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu - 180001

AIIMS/JMU/MED-PHY/Rect/2024/(01) Date: 01-03-2024

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu will conduct walk-in-interview for the post of Medical Physicist on Contractual basis for a initial period of 12 months (1 year) extendable up-to max. 2 years or till next regular recruitment, whichever is earlier, as per the following schedule :-

Table with columns: S. No., Name of post, Level of pay in Pay Matrix, No. of posts, Age Limit, Essential Eligibility Criteria for deputation, Date / Venue of Interview

Reporting Time : 08.00 A.M to 09:00 A.M. Candidates fulfilling all the eligibility criteria should report for Walk-in-Interview along with their original certificates/testimonials etc. on scheduled date at the above designated venue for verification.

Venue for Reporting : Camp Office, AIIMS Jammu located at GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu - 180001

The dully filled Application form be forwarded to Recruitment Cell (recruitmentcellaiimsjammu@gmail.com) / (admofficer1aiims@gmail.com) on or before 21/03/2024

The hard copies of the filled-up form should also be sent on or before 23/03/2024 at following address ;

AIIMS, Jammu, Camp Office, GMC, Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Bakshi Nagar Jammu - 180001

Candidates are requested to visit the Official Website (www.aiimsjammu.edu.in) of AIIMS Jammu for downloading of Application Form and Terms of conditions. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the Official website of AIIMS, Jammu (www.aiimsjammu.edu.in) for any up-dates etc. related to the subject Advertisement.

For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu.



THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. Phone No: 080 - 29565353, 29566556, 29604556 E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

NOTICE / INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable Properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE - IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-Auction of the immovable property through e-Auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-Portal provided by the Service Provider / Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in Order No. MISC No. 868/2022)						RESERVE PRICE (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Bid Increase Value (Rs.)	Clear Title
	Village	Hobli	Taluk	District	Sy.No.	Area				
1	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/2	1 Acre 14 Guntas	1,08,00,000/-	10,80,000/-	1,08,000/-	RTC Stands in the Name of Competent Authority M/s. Green Buds Agro Farm Company Pvt. Ltd.
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
2	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/3	0 Acre 9 Guntas	18,00,000/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
3	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/7	0 Acre 9 Guntas	18,00,000/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
4	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/8	0 Acre 9 Guntas	18,00,000/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
5	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/9	0 Acre 8 Guntas	16,00,000/-	1,60,000/-	16,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
6	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/10	0 Acre 9 Guntas	18,00,000/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
7	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	8/11	0 Acre 9 Guntas	18,00,000/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/YoC8bdmJ745PEEyK7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'30.9"N 76°33'13.9"E										
8	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	37	1 Acre 38 Guntas	1,56,00,000/-	15,60,000/-	1,56,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/xez83yVJ4Aq6tsx6 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'48.6"N 76°32'49.2"E										
9	Baradanapura	Jayapura	Mysore	Mysore	38/1	0 Acre 35 Guntas	70,00,000/-	7,00,000/-	70,000/-	
Google Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/xez83yVJ4Aq6tsx6 Latitude and Longitude: 12°12'48.6"N 76°32'49.2"E										

Date of Pre Bid Meeting & Time and Place	Date of Inspection & Time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD Submission	Date & Time of E-Auction
15th April 2024, 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	17th April 2024 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM	18th April 2024 Before 5.00 PM	19th April 2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080 - 46010000, 080 - 68948777). The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mobile No: 8217203930.

Place: Bengaluru Date: 27-02-2024
Special Officer & Competent Authority (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

PM, Shah attend BJP meet, 1st candidates' list likely by weekend



New Delhi: After several rounds of brainstorming, first meeting of BJP's central election committee in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and other senior leaders took place at party headquarters on Thursday, amid buzz that a large number of sitting MPs, possibly one-third, could be rested and several known faces from younger generation could be fielded.

BJP chief JP Nadda welcomes PM Modi at the party's poll panel meet in New Delhi on Thursday

sitting MPs belonging to OBC category would be repeated as BJP has emerged as community's overwhelming favourite and the top brass is said to be satisfied with performance of MPs belonging to the category. Of BJP's 303 Lok Sabha MPs, 85 are from OBC category, almost 30%, a reflection of the party's popularity with OBC voters. Sources also said BJP brass is taking a "generous" approach in seat-sharing with NDA partners, including caste-based smaller parties in states like Uttar Pradesh, as these parties are seen as crucial to consolidate the alliance's prospects on the lines of Modi's exhortation of winning 370 seats for the party and 400 for the alliance.

NH construction set to touch 95,000km in 10 yrs

New Delhi: Just ahead of Lok Sabha elections, national highway (NH) construction is set to touch 95,000 km in 10 years of Narendra Modi gov't, translating to 26 km per day, reports Dipak Dash. The Modi gov't has showcased rapid growth of NH network and fast pace of construction as a strong indicator of big infrastructure boost the country has got in its watch. BJP has maintained that the push to highway development started during Atal Bihari Vajpayee gov't when Golden Quadrilateral was launched. "Since 2014, we have crossed building 92,000 km of NHs and we still have a month left. By March end, it will touch 95,000 km," Union road transport and highways secretary Anurag Jain said on Thursday while addressing a conference of International Road Federation (IRF). "Now we have gone a step ahead and are planning our infrastructure development using PM GatiShakti Master Plan. While planning next phase of NHs and expressways, we have used data of GSTN entry bills, toll collection across stretches and taken into account how congestion will happen on different stretches in every five year," the secretary said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items :-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82242095	Tab.Olaparib 150mg	4752 Nos	20.03.2024
2.	82248836	Insulin Biphasic Aspart Inj (Insulin Aspart and Insulin Aspart Protamine 30/70) Cartridge 100IU per mL in 3mL Each (Intermediate Acting) One pen device with 15 Cartridge.	7638 Nos	25.03.2024

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No: Inj. Medicines Date: 28.02.2024 648/2024

INDIAN RAILWAYS

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड RAILWAY BOARD)

No.2023/RS(E)/TM/2 New Delhi, dated 29/02/2024
Sub: E-Open Indigenous Tender No-2023-TM-2 opening on 23.02.2024 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 78 nos. of 'on track Utility Track Vehicles (8-Wheeler) for B.G. (1676 mm)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.
Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 78 nos. of 'on track Utility Track Vehicles (8-Wheeler) for B.G. (1676 mm)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work with its location	Approx Cost of work (Rs.)
1. Dismantling of old Railway track parallel to elevated Railway track, construction of 5 units staff quarters and shifting of duty hut of LC no.1-B on ROK-PNP section, (NIT 69-W-IV-23-24)	(1) Rs.50,55,394.76 (2) Rs.41,53,306.73 (3) Rs.32,82,984.83 (4) Rs.71,300.00
2. TRR (P) 1.5 KM (66.300 to 67.8) on Rohtak-Panipat Section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ROK, (NIT 71-W-IV-23-24)	(1) Rs.1,01,100.00 (2) Rs.83,100.00 (3) Rs.65,700.00
3. TRR (P) 1.2 KM (67.8 to 69.00) on Rohtak-Panipat Section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ROK, (NIT 72-W-IV-23-24)	(1) Rs.1,01,100.00 (2) Rs.83,100.00 (3) Rs.65,700.00
4. Development of goods shed at Nanngli under ADEN/Rohtak (NIT 73-W-IV-23-24)	(1) Rs.1,01,100.00 (2) Rs.83,100.00 (3) Rs.65,700.00

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

No.	Name of Work with its location	Approx. Cost of work (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen
1.	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with PART-A: Raising of platform at BBDE, BZK, BZJT, GRA, MO, TRR, DHKR, DPP, SHDM and extension of platform, BBDE, BZK, BZJT, GRA stations on DUK section. PART-B: Raising and extension of platform on DSA-SMQL-SRE section.	Rs. 1,44,84,498.36/-	Rs. 2,22,400/-	08.03.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 22.03.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)	22.03.2024 (15.00 hrs.)	www.ireps.gov.in

Government of Odisha

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna
1ST CORRIGENDUM NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BPT/ONLINE-49/2023-24
No. 532 Dt. 28/02/2024

The 1st Corrigendum to the TCN of Bid Identification No. BPT/Online-49/2023-24 and this office letter No.314 dt.03.02.2024, the revised date and time are as below

Sl. No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 29.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 06.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 28.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 04.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
3.	Date & time of opening of tender	01.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	07.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Office of the Superintending Engineer

3rd Circle, P.W.D. Pithoragarh
E-Mail: sepwdpith@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 1064/13 P.U.-03/2024 Dated: 29-02-2024

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available online from date 05.03.2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

S. N.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's category of registration
1	Construction of (03 no.), 24.00 mtr. Span R.C.C. Bridges, reconstruction of damaged walls & other protection work in Tanakpur-Jauljivi Motor road along Indo-Nepal Border in District Champawat of Uttarakhand State. (km. 12.000 to 55.000)	68.30	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category A & higher for Road & Bridge works, in State Govt/ Govt. of India

Cabinet Secretariat Department

(Directorate of Civil Aviation) Patna Airport, Patna - 800014
(Only as per e-Tender procedure on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
TEL No: 0612-222559, 2224423, Fax 0612 2224614, e-mail: cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter No: CBN(Res.)-02-01/2020-150 CORRIGENDUM
(PR.NO.16937 (CSD)/2023-24 and PR.NO.18178 (CSD)/2023-24)

CHANGE IN LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF SHORT TENDER

With reference to our short tender notice Ref. No. PR-NO.16937(CSD)/2023-24 published on date 07.02.2024 for Hiring of One Twin Engine Helicopter (8+2 Seater) on Wet-Lease for operation under Directorate of Civil Aviation at our Patna base location for a period of 70 days from the date of announcement of election for Department of Election, Govt. of Bihar

Karnataka assembly passes temple bill again: State legislative assembly passed the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Bill, 2024 on Thursday for the second time in last 10 days. The legislation will now proceed to Governor for final approval.

CAD-4392

idco ODISHA
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
File No. HO/Civil/T&E-E-5058/01/2024/6610 Dt. 26.02.2024
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL) IDCO
IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST- 63 /2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH eProcurement

1. Name of the Work : Sports Complex, Dhenkanal
2. Value of the Work : Rs. 7310.38 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 15 (Fifteen) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender on line for Bidding : I. Start Date : 18.00 Hours of dt. 20.03.2024 II. End date : 17.00 Hours of dt. 15.04.2024 III. Opening date : 11.30 AM of dt. 16.04.2024

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
Bridges Deptt. No.83 / 0200 / 2024
Tender Notice
e-tenders are invited for the following work in two cover system as per details furnished below.

S.No.	Description of work
1	Construction of Flyover at Valluvar Kottam Junction in Div - 110 & 113, Zone - IX. Work Value : Rs.66.62 Crore, (including GST @ 18 %), EMD amount : Rs.66,62,000/-

B-1859

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No-No-B-IV-H (H&D)-52/2021 Lr. No.-7825 Bhubaneswar, the 19th Feb., 2024
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 67/2023-24

1. 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 work, "Construction of Trauma Care Unit and New SDH Building at Rairakholi, Sambalpur" as detailed below.
2. Nature of work : Building work
3. No. of work : 1 No
4. Bid Cost. : ₹ 10,000/- (each)
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.01.03.2024 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 16.03.2024.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 18.03.2024 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.

Jawan injured in accidental firing in Poonch: An Army jawan suffered injuries after his rifle accidentally went off in Poonch district of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday. The Army jawan was stationed at a forward area along LoC in KG sector, police said.

नागरिक उड्डयन निदेशालय, उ३प्र०, लखनऊ।

दूरभाष : 0522-2436504, फैक्स : 0522-2435780, ईमेल : purchase.cad-up@gov.in

निविदा संख्या-04 (ई)/सीएडी/2023-24 की सूचना

नागरिक उड्डयन निदेशालय, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ-226009 के वायुयानों की उड़ानों को सम्पादित करने के लिए Flight Planning Services तथा Flight Support Services के कार्य हेतु एजेन्सी के चयन हेतु ई-निविदा आर्मांत्रित की जाती हैं। इच्छुक संस्थायें उत्तर प्रदेश के ई-टेंडर की पोर्टल वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर निर्धारित शुल्क और धनराशि (ई-टेंडर के नियमानुसार) के साथ निविदा दिनांक 11.03.2024 को 01:00 बजे तक डाल सकते हैं। ई-निविदा उसी तिथि को 03:00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत अधिकारियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निदेशक को किसी भी अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।

UPID 204776 dt 28.02.2024, www.upgov.nic.in

h-35 Ref. No: SOI/2022-23/76/2961 Date: 29/02/2024
Startup Odisha Special Economic Zone Road, Infocity, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751024

ENGAGEMENT ON CONTRACT BASIS IN STARTUP ODISHA

Applications are invited from interested retired State / Central Govt. or State/Central PSU professionals for selecting 2 Administrative Officers for deployment on contract basis in Startup Odisha office in Bhubaneswar. Interested candidates may send duly filled in application form along with their C.V. through e-mail to recruitment@startupodisha.org.in and/or should appear in walk-in-interview on 12.03.2024 at 11 A.M. along with one copy of duly filled application form in the Board Room of STARTUP ODISHA office at 2nd Floor, Tower-A, Odisha Startup Incubation Centre, O-Hub, Special Economic Zone Road, Chandaka, Bhubaneswar- 751024. No separate interview letter will be issued and no TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the walk-in-interview. Along with application form candidates should produce all the original documents including experience certificates and two passport size photographs along with one set of photocopies at the time of walk-in-interview. No interim correspondence will be entertained. Canvassing in any form will be treated as a ground for disqualification and STARTUP ODISHA reserves the right either to cancel the notification or increase the number of posts including devising its own method of selecting the candidates. Interested candidates may download details of advertisement by visiting www.startupodisha.gov.in (career menu) and are further advised to keep referring Startup Odisha website (www.startupodisha.gov.in) for any updates in reference to this advertisement. The appointment / engagement is purely temporary and terminable at any time without prior notice and assigning any reason thereof.

O-2700

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Road with Bridge Work under DMF
Identification No. Road with Bridge Online NCB No. 427
No. 1105 / Date: 28.02.2024

1. Name of the work : Construction of roads with bridges under DMF in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of work : 10 (Ten) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :

CAD-4399

ODISHA SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ORSAC)
(Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No. 45/48(P), Jayadev Vihar, Unit-16, Bhubaneswar-751023, Tel. 0674-2303625, E-mail: orsac@odisha.gov.in, orsac.od@nic.in
ADVT. NO. 04/2024 Dt. 28.02.2024

Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) a State Government Agency under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha, invites applications from eligible candidates from Central Government/ State Governments/ Universities/ Recognized Research Institutions/ Public Sector Undertaking organizations for filling up of 6 (Six) posts of SCIENTIST 'C' on Deputation Basis for a period of three years. The application form containing the educational qualifications & experience profile, age limit, experience, detail service period, Scale of Pay, and selection procedure and other terms & conditions details can be downloaded from ORSAC Website (<https://orsac.odisha.gov.in>) or Govt. Website (www.odisha.gov.in) or can also be available from the office of ORSAC on the above address. The last date of submission of the application is 30.03.2024.

OFFICE OF THE GUWAHATI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

:: Ganeshguri :: Guwahati-06

No : GER/MSWM(P)/08/2022/110

Notice Inviting Bids (Re-Bid)

Bids are invited from eligible firms/companies/entities for - "Transportation and carriage Services for 200000 Metric Tonne of Wastes from Belortol dump site to Bio-mining Plant of Boraogran". The detailed documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 01.03.2024 (11.00 Hrs).

- A pre-submission meeting is scheduled on 04.03.2024 at 14.00 Hrs. Address for the meeting is - O/o the Commissioner, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Ganeshguri, Guwahati- 6.
- The last date of submission is 11.03.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs.
- Bids will be opened online on the e-procurement portal on 11.03.2024 at 14.30 Hrs.
- A non-refundable fee of INR 6000/- is required to be deposited online through www.assamtenders.gov.in only.
- Bid Security of INR 50000/- is required to be deposited online through www.assamtenders.gov.in only.

The Inviting authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to cancel/annul the process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.

Commissioner
Guwahati Municipal Corporation
Guwahati

Janasanyog/CF/6056/23/1-Mar-24

Women celebrate early Holi in Sandeshkhali

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: News of Shahjahan Sheikh's arrest was greeted with joy in many parts of Sandeshkhali with villagers distributing sweets and women playing with gulal even as administration imposed fresh restrictions



Villagers celebrate with gulal in Sandeshkhali after Shahjahan's arrest on Thursday

under Section 144 of CrPC in 49 places on Thursday in anticipation of trouble. Cops were deployed in various areas, including at Shahjahan's Akunjipara residence under Sarberia-

No one can seize tribal land: Didi

Forest rights belong to tribals and no one can seize tribal land, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday, stressing that laws had been enforced to protect their rights, report **Sujoy Khanra & Debashis Konar**. She also emphasised on resolution of pending land deeds for tribals, focusing on need for govt land to be used for handing over these deeds. She addressed issue of tribals' rights, assuring that tribals' rights will be restored.

Agarhati gram panchayat. Police said restrictions were imposed in Sarberia, Boiramari, Nazat, Metiakali, Taltala, Kalinagar, Trimohini, Dhamakhali, Khulna hat, Monipur, Patrapara, Hatgachi and Atapur, all falling under blocks I and II of Sandeshkhali, till March 3.

Tada court acquits Tunda in 1993 serial train blasts case

CBI To Appeal In SC Against Court Order

Kshitz Gaur & Ashish Mehta | TNN

Ajmer/Jaipur: Syed Abdul Karim alias Tunda (81), accused in 1993 serial train blasts, was acquitted of all charges by a designated Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Tada) court in Ajmer on Thursday while stating that 'unless the offense charged is proved beyond reasonable doubt, accused is acquitted of all charges'.

Court of special judge Mahaveer Prasad Gupta, however, awarded life imprisonment to co-accused Irfan Ahmed (70) and Hamiduddin alias Hameed (44) under different provisions of

BEHIND 24 BLASTS

- > Tunda, 81, who was on India's most wanted list handed over to Pak after 26/11 terror attacks, is an expert bomb-maker. Involved in at least 24 blasts across India
- > Born in Daryaganj, brought up in Palkhuwa, where he ran a homeopathy shop. Radicalised after Babri demolition and came in contact with LeT
- > Main accused in serial blasts in Lucknow, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Surat and Mumbai



on intervening night of Dec 5-6, 1993 to mark Babri demolition's first anniversary

- > Arrested in 2013 along Banbasa-Mahendranagar border with Nepal in Uttarakhand's Champawat dist. Was carrying a Pakistani passport

Tada Act, Railway Act, IPC and other laws. CBI will appeal against the acquittal before Supreme Court. On first anniversary of Babri demolition in Dec 1993, there were serial train blasts across country and several FIRs were registered for the crimes in different cities. Ajmer Tada court started trial of five such serial blasts, including ones near Hyderabad railway station, at Amali in Rajasthan's Kota, Dehsthan near Surat in Gujarat,

at Kanpur and Lucknow. There were 18 accused in the five serial blasts. Of these, 15 accused were pronounced guilty through a verdict passed on Feb 2, 2004. All 15 convicts are at present lodged in Ajmer central jail.

With present verdict, Tunda has been acquitted in 28 of 32 cases of terrorism against him throughout the country. Remaining four cases are being tried in a Delhi court.

CBI, investigating the 1983 blasts, had not filed a supplementary chargesheet against Tunda in the present case and Ajmer court tried him on the basis of initial chargesheet filed on Aug 24, 1994. Court observed, "CBI filed no separate chargesheet against accused Syed Abdul Karim." Special public prosecutor for CBI, Bhawani Singh said, "We will appeal against the acquittal before SC."

We've no sympathy for Shahjahan, says HC CJ

Sanjib Chakraborty & Subrata Chattoraj | TNN

Sandeshkhali: Fugitive TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh was traced to Minakhan in Bamanpukur of North 24-Parganas district and arrested on Thursday. When his counsel moved division bench challenging the councillor's arrest despite four anticipatory bail petitions pending in lower courts, Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam told the lawyer he should focus on the "wonderful job" of defending his client "for the next 10 years".

"As many as 42 cases are pending against him (Shahjahan)... You won't have time to handle any other brief," said CJ Sivagnanam, who recently held Shahjahan singularly responsible for the upheaval in Sandeshkhali and said Mamata Banerjee govt "can't be backing him".

The trigger for the flare-up in Sandeshkhali, including a stand-off between the administration and a section of residents allegedly

harassed by Shahjahan for years, was a mob attack on an ED team headed to his Sarberia home on Jan 5 for a raid linked to corruption charges against him. Shahjahan, in his trademark white kurta-pyjama, strode into courtroom a few steps ahead of his guards and wagged a finger at media, refusing to answer questions.

ED moved division bench of CJ Sivagnanam & Justice Hiranmay Bhatnagaryya, seeking an urgent hearing on its appeal against an order to have a police-CBI special investigation team probe the Jan 5 FIRs.

Deputy solicitor general Dhiraj Trivedi told court that while the plea had been listed for hearing on March 6, ED feared that evidence against Shahjahan could be destroyed by then.

HC did not immediately respond to the plea, just as it refused to entertain petition by Shahjahan's lawyer for an early hearing of his bail plea. "We have no sympathy for this person," CJ said.

Arrest is gov't 'legal shield' for Shahjahan: BJP

New Delhi: Dubbing arrest of TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh, main accused in Sandeshkhali violence cases, as 'legal protection' given to him by Mamata govt, BJP on Thursday accused West Bengal police of not booking him for sexual assault and land grab as alleged by many women of the area.

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Sheikh was arrested in a case involving violent attack on ED officials by his supporters.

"Mamata Banerjee first defended him on floor of the House and he now has police protection. What was the meaning of the victory sign he showed the media?" questioned Trivedi.

BJP IT department chief & Bengal-co-charge, Amit Malviya, said, "As the spectacle of Shahjahan's sham arrest plays out, don't forget that this man marked out Hindu women and raped them, while their families were intimidated into silence. Mamata abetted these crimes, defended him and continues to protect him." TNN

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES NEW DELHI
Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 5
Notice No. 28/2024 Date: 26.02.2026
www.aiimsexams.ac.in

Online Application is invited for the Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 6 for the recruitment of Nursing Officer posts at Level 07 in the Pay Matrix prervised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9300-34800 with Grade Pay of Rs.4600/-, Group-B for AIIMS New Delhi and other AIIMS as per available vacancies in the respective Institutes.

The On-line applications can be done through AIIMS web site www.aiimsexams.ac.in from 26.02.2024 to 17.03.2024 up to 5:00 P.M.

Eligibility Criteria for appearing in NORCET	
Essential Qualification	
I	a. B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/state Nursing council recognized Institute or University OR B.Sc. (Post-Certificate) / Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute/ University.
	b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State/Indian Nursing Council
OR	
II	a. Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute / Board or Council
	b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife in State / Indian Nursing Council.
	c. Two Years' Experience in a minimum 50 bedded Hospital after acquiring the educational qualification mentioned above as applicable for all Participating AIIMS.

Remarks - The required two years of experience as in above is as an essential criterion and to be valid, the experience shall be acquired after obtaining Essential Qualification, i.e. after completing residency period of the course, declaration of result & registration with State/Indian Nursing Council.

Age Limit: For all AIIMS: Between 18-30 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of respective Institutes/Hospitals.)

All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form.

- APPLICATION FEES:**
- A) General/OBC Candidates - Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)
 - B) SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs.2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)
 - C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

The candidate can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/CREDIT CARD/NETBANKING. Transaction / Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the bank by the candidate.

Application fee once remitted shall not be refunded under any circumstances. Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected.

Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after declaration of results in due course of time after verification SC/ST certificate to be uploaded at a later stage.

Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 14th April, 2024 (Sunday), Online (CBT) for Stage II: NORCET Mains, Date: 5th May, 2024 (Sunday)

Please visit AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in to apply online & for latest information.
CBC 17112/12/0043/2324

Government of Maharashtra
Swachh Maharashtra Mission (U)
Urban Development Department
4th Floor, Apeejay House, Dinshaw Vacha Rd, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400020

Adv. No: SMM/Adv/231/2024 Date: 28/02/2024

Tender Notice
Mission Directorate, Swachh Maharashtra Mission invites online tenders from reputed and experienced firms to participate in bidding for the below-mentioned RFPs.

Name of RFPs	RFP No.	Estimated Project Cost	Bid Security	Cost of Document	Period of Completion
Procurement of Vehicle Mounted Desludging Equipment under Water Management for ULBs in the Maharashtra State	SMM/UWM/021/2024 -5th Jan 2024	INR 119.75 Cr.	INR 60,00,000/-	INR 10,000/- (inclusive of GST)	Twelve (12) Months

The complete bidding process will be online (e-tendering). Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 28/02/2024 15:00 hrs. Bids can be submitted online in the e-tendering portal www.mahatenders.gov.in on or before 15:00 hrs on 20/03/2024 and will be publicly opened on 21/03/2024. All the notifications regarding this tender notice hereafter will be published online on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Mission Directorate, Maharashtra Urban Development Mission, Swachh Maharashtra Mission

DGIPR/2023-2024/8998

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chalki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra, Gujarat. Pin - 390 007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051
Regional Office: ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi - 110 003

PROCEEDINGS IN TERMS OF RBI CIRCULAR ON WILFUL DEFAULTERS WITH RESPECT TO SVOGL OIL GAS AND ENERGY LIMITED

Kind Attention:
Mr. Prem Singhee, DIN: 00021962, Promoter, Chairman and Managing Director of SVOGL Oil Gas and Energy Limited; and erstwhile Director of TRS Technologies Private Limited
Mr. Padamkumar Singhee, DIN: 00021995, Promoter and Joint Managing Director of SVOGL Oil Gas and Energy Limited; and erstwhile Director of TRS Technologies Private Limited
Ms. Vandana Padamkumar Singhee, DIN: 00221775, erstwhile Director of Dharti Oil Services Private Limited

Whereas, ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank") has instituted proceedings in terms of RBI Master Circular on Wilful Defaulters dated July 01, 2015 (as amended from time to time) inter alia against Mr. Prem Singhee (DIN: 00021962), Mr. Padamkumar Singhee (DIN: 00021995) and Ms. Vandana Padamkumar Singhee (DIN: 00221775) and whereby, it has come to the notice of ICICI Bank that the letter dated February 19, 2024 giving details of the meeting for personal hearing before the Committee for Identification of Wilful Defaulters ("Committee") could not be served through Speed Post at your last known address 'H No J238/3, Lane W-15 J, Western Avenue, Sainik Farm, New Delhi - 110062' and the same was returned as 'Addressee Left without instructions'. Therefore, this notice is being published by way of public notice, calling upon you to collect the details of the meeting for personal hearing from Mr. Rajdeep Roy (Email: rajdeep.r@icicibank.com, Ph: +91 9372721880, Address: ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Pragati Vihar, Bhisma Pitamah Marg, New Delhi - 110003) within 7 days from this publication.

Please note that through this publication, last opportunity is being provided to you and in the event you fail to collect the details of the meeting within the stipulated time, as mentioned above, or otherwise do not attend the meeting, the Committee shall be at liberty to presume you have nothing to submit and shall proceed further in the matter based on the documents/evidences placed before the Committee which you may please note. Please also note that this notice is being published without prejudice to the rights and remedies available to ICICI Bank in law and/or contract.

Date: February 27, 2024
Place New Delhi
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Limited

चन्द्रगुप्त प्रबंध संस्थान पटना
CHANDRAGUPT INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT PATNA
Mithapur Institutional Area, Patna-800001.
Tel: 0612-2366015/034/004; Website: www.cimp.ac.in

Advertisement for Faculty Positions

Advertisement No: 103/1/2024 Date: 29/02/2024

Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna (CIMP); a standalone government institute in management education, consulting and research approved by AICTE, accredited by NBA and recognized by AIU; invites applications from eligible candidates for the following faculty position on contractual/regular basis:

Position	Qualification and Experience
1. Assistant Professor	• Master's Degree in Business Administration or equivalent with good academic record. • Two years of relevant experience is desirable. • PhD/Equivalent is desirable.
2. Associate Professor	• PhD or equivalent, in appropriate discipline with good academic record in Masters Degree in Business Administration or equivalent. Post PhD publications and guiding PhD students is desirable. • Minimum of five years Teaching/Industry/Research experience, of which at least two years post PhD is desirable.
3. Professor	• PhD or equivalent, in appropriate discipline with good academic record in Masters Degree in Business Administration or equivalent. Post PhD publications and guiding PhD students is desirable. • Minimum of 10 years of teaching/research/industrial experience of which at least 5 years should be at the level of Associate Professor or minimum of 13 years' experience in teaching/research/industry.

- Persons with qualifications from IIMs, IITs, IRMA, XLRI & other reputed institutions with relevant work experience will be given preference.
- Faculty from other national institutions such as IIMs can come on leave/deputation for shorter periods.
- Pay scales would be as per VII Pay Commission
- Institute follows reservation policy
- Preference will be given to the candidates who have published research papers/IPR

Application Procedures:
Please e-mail your detailed resume as an attachment (in PDF or Word format) mentioning the name of the post applied for in the subject line, and a covering letter in the main body of the e-mail to hr@cimp.ac.in & director@cimp.ac.in

Last date of receipt of application is 14th March 2024.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of the President of India the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway Charnbagh Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below: Tender No.: W-CB-23-DEMU-FILTER-2024
Name of Work: Repairing/overhauling of old/damaged panel air filters & cyclonic filters of DEMU as per scope of Work. Estimated Cost of Work: Rs.15,68,928
Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 31,400/- only. Cost of Tender Form: Rs. 0/- only
Period of Contract: 12 Months Date and Time for Submission of Tender: from 08.03.2024 to 22.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time for Opening of Tender: after 15:15 Hrs. on 22.03.2024. • The tender form may be submitted at the website www.ireps.gov.in from 08.03.2024 to 22.03.2024 (up to 15:00 Hrs.). • Manual offers are not allowed against this tender; any such manual offer received shall be ignored. • Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money/Bid security only cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. • The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above. In case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day. • No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the technical & commercial offers. Even suo-moto post letter of the tender shall be treated as NIL & Void. Tender Notice No.: NR/CB/Workshop/February/DEMU Filter/2024
Dated: 29.02.2024
655/2024
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of Jharkhand
Department of School Education and Literacy
(Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi)
JSCA Stadium Road, Sector- III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jepranchi1@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice
JEPCC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Construction of district level library with capacity of 1000 seats located Garhwa district in Palamu Division of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 25.03.2024.
The details of tender documents can be seen and applied through website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (read only purpose) from departmental website <https://jepcc.jharkhand.gov.in>. (Kiran Kumari Pasi) State Project Director
Jharkhand Education Project Council
Ref. No.: JEPCC/CIV/03/940/2024/719 Ranchi, Date :28.02.2024
PR 320838 (Jharkhand Education Project Council)23-24'D

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
Maha Metro, Block No. A3, Food Grain Godown, Near Civil Court, Next to Kamgar Putala Vasahat, Shivajinagar, Pune 411005
E-mail : tenders.pmp@mahametro.org
Web : www.punemetrorail.org Tel. : 020-26051074

Tender Notice No: P1PD/27/2024 Date: 01 Mar. 2024

Name of Work : Licensing of Semi-Naming Rights, Train Wrapping Rights and Advertisement Rights on Metro Stations and Trainsets of Pune Metro Rail Project for a period of 15 years in Two Packages.
Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the Tender documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 17:00 Hrs. on 11/03/2024 to 16:00 Hrs. of 12/04/2024.
General Manager (TP & Procurement-PD) Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
Pune Metro - City's Transport Solution

राजकीय आर्युर्विज्ञान संस्थान
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Kasna, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar.
Contact No. : 0120-2341738, 9993384468
Email ID: gimsnoida16@gmail.com Website: www.gims.ac.in
(An Autonomous Institute under UP Government)

Advertisement No.-GIMS(deputation/01 Dated : 29.02.2024
Recruitment on Deputation at GIMS, Greater Noida
The GIMS, Greater Noida invites application on prescribed format from the Indian nationals working in various government department/ organizations for the following posts on Deputation Basis:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Grade Pay/Level (7 th Pay Commission)	Post	Upper Age Limit
1	Engineer (Civil)	Rs. 4200/Level-6	01	50
2	Engineer (Electrical)		01	
3	Engineer (Mechanical)		01	

Please visit our website www.gims.ac.in for detailed information. Director

राष्ट्रीय गतिशील दिव्यांगजन संस्थान
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan)
(दिव्यांगजन संस्थाएकिके विद्यालय, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता विभाग, भारत सरकार)
(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India)
44 ई.डी. जे. बाबासाहेब आम्बेडकर रोड, 1st Block, Bin-Hongdy, Kolkata-700099
Phone: 251-0279, 251-0610/91 Fax: 251-87796, 251-87794, 251-87793
Email: nild@nic.in, www.nildnic.in

No. RECRUIT-CONTRACT-2024/2971/ESTT/NILD/2028 Date: 05-02-2024

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
Eligible Indian Nationals are hereby informed to appear for the selection to the following posts purely on contract basis in the Institute. The selection will be held on 19-03-2024 and 21-03-2024 at 10:00 a.m. onwards. Candidates should report at the venue 01 hours before the scheduled time. The details of the post as under:-

No.	Name of the Posts/No. of Posts
01	Senior Resident (Orthopaedic)-01 (03 years tenure post)
02	Senior Resident (PM&R)-01 (03 years tenure post)
03	Orthopaedic Surgeon (Consultant)-01
04	Clinical Tutor (Prosthetics & Orthotics)-01
05	Clinical Tutor (Occupational Therapy)-02

Date of written test on 21-03-2024 at NILD, Kolkata
Date of Clinical Test (Prosthetics & Orthotics)-01
Date of Clinical Test (Occupational Therapy)-02

For details of advertisement & application format log in to www.nildnic.in Sd/-
CBC 38113/12/0025/2324 Director

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Premises Department, Local Head office Maharashtra Strynry, 3rd Floor, C-6, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051 Phone No. 022-26445630, e-mail: agmpe.lhomah@sbi.co.in

TENDER ID: MAH202402002

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DESIGN COMPETITION FOR SELECTION AND ENGAGEMENT OF PRINCIPAL PROJECT ARCHITECT CUM PMC FOR PROPOSED INTERIOR WORKS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LHO MAHARASHTRA IN PUNE
State Bank of India (SBI) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Architectural Firms/Individual for participating in the Design Competition for selection and engagement of Principal Project Architect cum Project Management Consultant to render Architectural Consultancy Services for the Proposed Interior Works for establishment of Bank's Local Head Office Maharashtra in Pune for State Bank of India.
The prequalification/eligibility criteria, scope of the services to be rendered, terms and conditions of appointment and prescribed formats for submission of application can be downloaded from Bank's website <https://bank.sbi> under procurement news from 1st March 2024 to 22nd March 2024 up to 3.00 PM.
Interested Architectural Firms complying prescribed eligibility criteria should ensure submission of their applications in the prescribed format with supporting documents at this office latest by 3.00 pm on 22.03.2024. Applications received after due date and time will not be entertained. The SBI reserves its rights to accept any or to reject all the applications without assigning reasons therefor and no correspondence shall be entertained in this regard.
Date: 01.03.2024
Place: Mumbai Assistant General Manager (P&E)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana India, www.manage.gov.in

NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from individuals with Bachelor's Degree in any discipline for admission in different online programs offered by MANAGE for the year 2024-25, as per the details provided below:

Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM-MOOCs)	Post Graduate Diploma in Agri-Warehousing Management (PGDAWM-MOOCs)
Last date for receipt of applications for 15th Batch is 31 st March, 2024. Course is open for Indian and International Candidates. For further details, kindly visit: https://www.manage.gov.in/moocs/pg-daem-moocs.asp pgdaem-moocs@manage.gov.in	Last date for receipt of applications for 11th Batch is 31 st March, 2024. The Course is open only for Indian Candidates. For further details, kindly visit: https://www.manage.gov.in/pgdawn/pgdawn-moocs.asp pgdawn-manage@manage.gov.in

-Principal coordinator (PGDAEM) -Principal Coordinator (PGDAWM)

For details on all educational programs offered by MANAGE, kindly visit link Education on the <https://www.manage.gov.in>



DREW BARRYMORE SAYS SHE ONCE OBJECTED TO HER DAUGHTER WEARING A CROP TOP & WAS PROMPTLY TOLD 'YOU WERE ON COVER OF PLAYBOY!'

KATE WINSLET SAYS SHE IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR CATE BLANCHETT, AND SHE GOES ALONG WITH IT: 'IT IS A HUGE COMPLIMENT'

Sending Nato Troops To Ukraine Risks Global Nuclear War: Putin

'West Should Keep In Mind We Also Have Weapons To Strike Their Territory'

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed Thursday to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine and sternly warned West against deeper involvement in the fighting, saying such a move is fraught with the risk of a global nuclear conflict. Putin's blunt warning came in a state-of-the-nation address ahead of next month's election he's all but certain to win, underlining his readiness to raise the stakes in the tug-of-war with West to protect Russian gains in Ukraine.



Alexei Navalny's allies said on Thursday that hearse drivers are refusing to take his body from the morgue to his funeral on Friday after getting threats

In an apparent reference to French President Emmanuel Macron's statement that the future deployment of Western ground troops to Ukraine should not be "ruled out", Putin warned that it would lead to "tragic" consequences for countries who decide to do that.

Putin noted that while accusing Russia of plans to attack Nato allies in Europe, Western allies were "selecting targets for striking our territory" and "talking about the possibility of sending a Nato contingent to Ukraine."

"We remember the fate of those who sent their troop contingents to the territory of our country," the Russian leader said in an apparent allusion to the failed invasions by Napoleon and Hitler. "Now the conse-

Putin bears blame for Navalny's death: EU

European parliament said Thursday Russian President Putin bore the "criminal and political responsibility" for the death of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and should be held to account. In a resolution passed with 506 votes in the 705-seat assembly, lawmakers also called for an "independent and transparent international investigation" into the circumstances of Navalny's death. Nine lawmakers voted against the resolution. AFP

Russia detains editor for discrediting army

Russian authorities on Thursday detained journalist Sergei Sokolov, the editor of Novaya Gazeta, on charges of discrediting the army, the newspaper and Russian state media reported. Novaya Gazeta said in an online report that Sokolov's detention was over coverage of the Russian army in an article, but did not provide more details. Novaya Gazeta's former editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov is a Nobel prize winning journalist. REUTERS

quences for the potential invaders will be far more tragic." In a two-hour speech to lawmakers and top officials, Putin cast Western leaders as reckless and irresponsible and de-

clared that West should keep in mind "we also have the weapons that can strike targets on their territory, and what they are now suggesting and scaring the world with, all that ra-

ises the real threat of a nuclear conflict that will mean destruction of our civilization."

The strong statement followed earlier warnings from Putin, who has issued frequent reminders of Russia's nuclear might since he sent troops into Ukraine in Feb 2022 as he sought to discourage West from expanding its military support for Kyiv. Putin emphasized that Russia's nuclear forces are in "full readiness," saying the military has deployed potent new weapons, some of them tested on the battlefield in Ukraine. He said they include the new Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile that has entered service with Russian nuclear forces, along with the Burevestnik atomic-powered cruise missile and the Poseidon atomic-powered, nuclear-armed drone, which are completing their tests.

Putin again dismissed the US' claim that Moscow was pondering the deployment of space-based nuclear weapons.

In his speech focused heavily on economic and social issues ahead of the March 15-17 vote, Putin argued that Russia was "defending its sovereignty and protecting our compatriots" in Ukraine, charging that Russian forces have the upper hand in the fighting. AP

US to probe if Chinese cars pose national security risks

Washington: The US is opening an investigation into whether Chinese vehicle imports pose national security risks and could impose restrictions due to concerns about "connected" car technology. White House said Thursday. The US commerce department probe is needed because vehicles "collect large amounts of sensitive data on their drivers and passengers (and) regularly use their cameras and sensors to record detailed information on US infrastructure," it said.

As vehicles could "be piloted or disabled remotely" the probe will also look at autonomous vehicles.

"China's policies could flood our market with its vehicles, posing risks to national security," President Biden said. "I'm not going to let that happen on my watch."

White House officials told reporters it was too early to say what action might be taken and said there was no decision on a potential ban or restrictions on connected Chinese vehicles. REUTERS

France gets closer to enshrining abortion access in its constitution

Paris: France took a step closer to enshrining access to abortion in its constitution, after senators backed a bill Wednesday to include it as a "guaranteed freedom."

Before the constitutional amendment becomes official, it must receive approval by three-fifths of all lawmakers in a special meeting called a congress, which is planned for Monday and considered to be a rubber stamp, since both houses have already supported the bill. While many politicians consider the move natural for the country that produced the universal rights of man, they also conceded the trigger came with US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade.

Instead of declaring abortion a right, the change would declare abortion a "guaranteed freedom" overseen by Parliament's laws. NYT

112 killed waiting for aid, overall toll tops 30,000: Gaza officials

Hamas Accuses Israeli Forces Of Massacre; Tel Aviv Disputes Version, Says Many Run Over By Aid Trucks

Cairo: Gaza health authorities said more than 100 Palestinians had been shot dead by Israeli forces as they waited for an aid delivery on Thursday but Israel challenged the death toll and said many of the victims had been run over by aid trucks.

At least 112 people were killed and more than 280 wounded in the incident near Gaza City, Palestinian health officials said, as the death toll in nearly five months of war passed 30,000.

Medics said they could not cope with the volume and severity of the injuries. Dozens were taken to Al-Shifa hospital, which is only partially operational after Israeli raids.

The loss of civilian lives was the biggest in weeks. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said it was an "ugly massacre conducted by the Israeli occupation army on people who waited for aid trucks at the Nabulus roundabout".

Israel disputed the account. An Israeli military official said two separate incidents had occurred as the convoy of trucks passed into northern Gaza from the south along the main coastal road. In the first, he said aid trucks were surrounded by hundreds of people and, in the confusion, dozens were injured



Hamas said the Gaza incident could jeopardise ceasefire talks in Qatar

or killed, by being trampled or run over. As the trucks left, he said, some of those who had rushed the convoy approached Israeli forces including a tank, which then opened fire. "The soldiers fired warning shots in the air and then fired towards those who posed a threat and did not move away," he said. "We're continuing to review the circumstances."

Ashraf Al-Qidra, spokesperson for the Gaza health ministry, said the comments showed Israel "had pre-plotted intentions to carry out the new crime and massacre", and that the death toll could rise. Hamas said the incident could jeopardise ceasefire talks in Qatar.

US President Joe Biden was asked if he thought the incident would complicate the

talks, and said: "I know it will." "We're checking (the facts) that out right now," Biden said. "There's two competing versions of what happened. I don't have an answer yet." He also said a temporary ceasefire probably would not happen by Monday, as he had earlier predicted. "I was on the telephone with the people in the region. Probably not by Monday but I'm hopeful," Biden said.

One video shared on social media, whose location Reuters was able to verify, showed trucks loaded with many dead bodies as well as wounded people. Another, which Reuters could not verify, showed bloodstained people being carried in a truck, bodies wrapped in shrouds and doctors treating injured patients on the hospital floor. REUTERS

Pak House to elect new PM on Sunday

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN



Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif on Thursday took oath as an ordinary lawmaker

Islamabad: Hours after the first session of Pakistan's 16th National Assembly Thursday, a notification issued by the secretariat stated that the new parliament would elect the next prime minister Sunday. Former PM Shehbaz Sharif is PML-N and PPP's joint candidate for the post backed Imran Khan's PTI-backed Omar Ayub.

During the inaugural session, newly elected members were sworn in amid protests by lawmakers backed by Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). Prominent politicians who took oath as National Assembly members included

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief and three-time PM Nawaz Sharif, ex-PM Shehbaz Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, ex-PM Yusuf Raza Gillani and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The session started with a ruckus as soon as the national

anthem ended with PTI lawmakers surrounding the speaker's podium shouting slogans in support of the party's founder. "Who will save Pakistan? Imran Khan! Imran Khan!" they chanted. PTI-backed lawmakers also shouted "Imran Khan Zindabad" and "Aayl, aayi PTI (PTI has arrived)".

Later, when the Sharif brothers entered, PML-N members chanted: "Sher aya, sher aya". The session saw Nawaz return to Parliament after seven years. He had stepped down as PM following his disqualification by Supreme Court in the "Panama Papers" scam in 2017. PML-N members also shouted "Ghari-chor" (wrist-

watch thief), an apparent reference to Toshakhana corruption case against Imran.

The elections for speaker and deputy speaker, meanwhile, are scheduled Friday and the two will be administered oath of office the same day. The election for Leader of the House will take place on March 3.

The Feb polls had resulted in a split mandate, with PTI-affiliated Independents winning 93 seats, followed by PML-N's 79, and PPP's 54. PPP and PML-N reached a power-sharing deal last week after the former agreed to support Shehbaz for PM in return for presidency, governorships and Senate chairman's slot. (With inputs from PTI)

2023 saw a 60% increase in Indians crossing to UK on illegal small boats: Report

Naomi Canton

London: There was a 60% increase in Indian nationals making the dangerous English Channel crossing on small boats in 2023, making Indians the ninth-largest cohort which arrived in this manner after paying smugglers in Calais hundreds of pounds to do so. The vast majority of Indians are males aged 18 to 39 who then make asylum claims.

RISKY JOURNEY

Office of National Statistics' latest data, released Thursday, shows that in 2023, 1,192 Indians arrived in UK illegally on small boats. This is a 60% increase from 2022 when 748 Indians crossed on small boats. In the past two years, numbers have risen exponentially compared to 2021 when 67 crossed, and 2020 when 64 crossed.

In 2018 and 2019 no one from India arrived via this route.

The top eight nationalities to arrive by small boats in 2023 ahead of India were from Afghanistan (5,545), Iran (3,562), Turkey (3,040), Eritrea (2,662), Iraq (2,545), Syria (2,280), Sudan (1,612), and Vietnam (1,323). There were far less arrivals from Pakistan in 2023, numbering just 103. A total of 29,438 illegal migrants arrived this way in 2023 on 602 boats, a 36% drop from 2022 when 45,774 came this way on 1,110 boats.

The most common boats used are rigid-hulled inflatable boats, dinghies and kayaks.

Between Jan and March 2023, 663 Indian small boat arrivals made asylum claims, of which 648 were male and 571 were men aged 18 to 39. Between April and June 2023, 194 Indians made asylum claims, of which 188 were male and 154 were men aged 18 to 39.

Spy row erupts in Aus over 'traitor' politician

Sydney: Australia's gov't faced angry demands Thursday to name a "traitor" former politician accused by Canberra's top spy of having "sold out" the country to a foreign power.

In an extraordinary revelation, director-general of security Mike Burgess said a spy team from an unidentified country had cultivated and recruited a former politician. "This politician sold out their country, party and former colleagues to advance the interests of the foreign regime," he said in a speech in Canberra Wednesday.

Australia is a member of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing group that includes the US, Britain, Canada and New Zealand — making it a juicy target for operatives from co-

untries like China and Russia.

Burgess said the unidentified former politician had been recruited "several years ago". The person had even proposed bringing a PM's family member into the "spies' orbit", a plan that did not proceed, he said. The former politician did, however, organise an overseas conference at which spies posing as bureaucrats targeted participants for recruitment, eventually obtaining security and defence information from an academic, Burgess said.

Following the claims, Alex Turnbull, son of former PM Malcolm Turnbull, said he was approached about an infrastructure project by suspected Chinese agents when his father was in office in 2017. AGENCIES

World becoming less free, can this year's polls change that?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Flawed elections and eroding freedoms across the world, says a new report by Washington, DC-based non-profit Freedom House. It says political rights and civil liberties improved in 21 countries last year, but declined in 52 others last year, affecting more than one-fifth of the global population.

It was the 18th consecutive decline. Last time the world showed improvement overall was in 2005, when 83 countries moved up the scale and 53 slipped.

Flawed Polls: The report says violence and manipulation in elections are largely responsible for clipping people's freedoms. Ecuador, for example, was downgraded from 'free' to 'partly free' because gangs eliminated several state officials and political candidates there. Niger saw the second largest drop last year after the military ousted its elected govt.

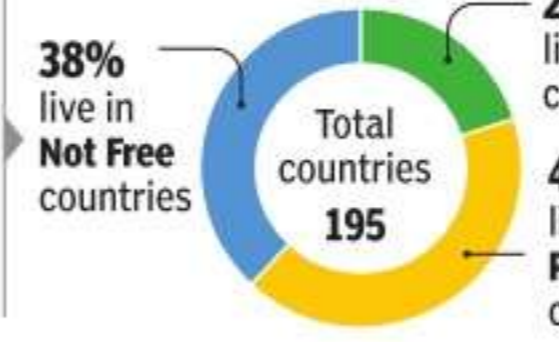
Coups are another form of violence that undermines democracy and erodes freedom. "Not only are coups multiplying, but coup leaders are increasingly expressing solidarity with one another, further contributing to the erosion of democratic norms," the report says.

Risks of Violence: The report says poll violence not only sidelines candidates but also keeps citizens away from the voting booth. "A loss of confidence in electoral institutions can contribute to voter apathy, significantly weakening the legitimacy of elected governments..."

Disputed Territories: People living in disputed territories are "especially vulnerable to abuses by authorities with no meaningful checks on their power". Prominent examples are Beijing's clampdown on freedoms in Hong Kong and Tibet, Russian repression in Crimea, and also Israel's violation of basic rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

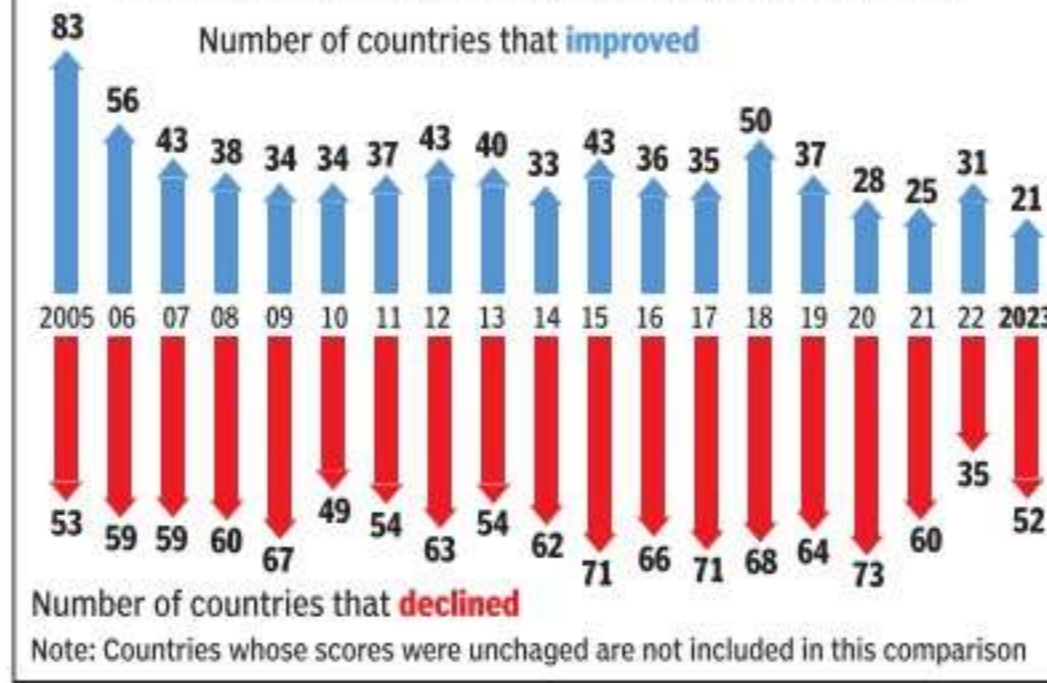
CHAIN REACTION

A majority of people worldwide live in **Partly Free and Not Free countries**



18 YEARS OF DECLINE IN GLOBAL FREEDOM

Countries with aggregate score declines in freedom have outnumbered those with gains every year for the past 18 years. The scope and scale of deterioration affected a fifth of the world's population in 2023



Note: Countries whose scores were unchanged are not included in this comparison

from abroad." Coups are another form of violence that undermines democracy and erodes freedom. "Not only are coups multiplying, but coup leaders are increasingly expressing solidarity with one another, further contributing to the erosion of democratic norms," the report says.

Significant Year: Manipulated elections affected the rankings of 26 countries last year. This year, almost half of the world population will vote to elect new govt's. Polls are scheduled in India, South Africa and the US — "three of the most influential democracies in the world". Altogether, more than three dozen countries will see national polls in 2024 "and many more will conduct other types of balloting".

Pluralism Waning: Along

Heathrow BA staff hiding in India after helping desis enter Canada without visas

Naomi Canton

London: A former British Airways supervisor is on the run in India after fleeing the UK having been accused of a £3 million (Rs 31 crore) immigration scam. The man had been working as a BA check-in supervisor at Heathrow Terminal 5 where he is alleged to have accepted £25,000 (Rs 26 lakh) as bribes per head over five years to allow Indians in London onto BA flights to Canada without valid visas.

Upon arrival in Canada, the Indians immediately made asylum claims. The man fled to India with his partner, who was working in BA ground services, after he was arrested in UK on Jan 6 and bailed for the offence. BA has sacked both members of staff.

UK police are working with Indian authorities to track down the pair and extradite them to Britain to face charges. The man is understood to have several homes in India, presumably paid for using his multi-million-pound income from the racket.

A source told TOI: "The scam was to help Indians get to Canada — not into the UK —



The staffer has been accused of a £3m (Rs 31cr) immigration scam

as they had the correct documentation to be in the UK." The Indians had either flown to the UK on BA flights on visitor visas with the goal of entering Canada or were asylum seekers in Britain who worried their claims would be rejected, leading to deportation.

A source told The Times: "He ensured they came to his check-in desk and then made sure he was at the boarding gate too... He claimed it was useful because he was bilingual." Canadian authorities raised the alarm after noticing a pattern of Indians arriving off BA flights from London and claiming asylum upon arrival, The Sun reported.

Committed to improving visa process: WH

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Addressing concerns over the pace of reforms in the immigration system, Karine Jean Pierre, White House press secretary, said Biden administration is committed to enhancing the visa process.

During a briefing Wednesday, Pierre stated, "We are doing everything we can to improve the visa process." She highlighted actions taken by the administration to streamline the H-1B visa process and eliminate backlogs for lawful permanent residents eligible to become US citizens. Pierre noted

recent efforts to strengthen the integrity of the immigration system and reduce fraud, including department of homeland security's publication of a final rule related to H-1B visas.

"We will continue our work to improve the system within our authorities. That has certainly been a priority," she said.

The H-1B visa is particularly popular among Indians seeking to work in the US, with approximately 60% of the annual quota of 85,000 visas typically allotted to Indian beneficiaries, especially those in the technology sector. Recent proposals, that were covered by

TOI earlier, include a shift to a beneficiary-centric selection process for H-1B visas, aimed at preventing manipulation of the system. E-registrations for H-1B visas open on March 6 and run through March 22.

In the context of the upcoming third anniversary of the first Quad Summit, Pierre emphasized that President Joe Biden was proud of the progress made over the past three years. "We hope to continue that momentum in 2024 under India's host year... We are talking about not just the US, but obviously India, Japan, and Australia."

AROUND THE WORLD

This funny French newspaper comes out only on Feb 29

Read all about it, right now — or you'll have to wait another four years. Satirical French newspaper La Bougie du Sapeur only comes out on Feb 29. It's a leap year-only publication, filled with cringe-worthy puns and commentary on events of the past four years. The 2024 edition includes an article suggesting France doesn't need schools anymore thanks to AI. Another floats the idea of dismantling Eiffel Tower during Paris Olympics to curb security risks — and having IKEA produce a manual for rebuilding it. Some friends

started the newspaper as a joke in 1980, naming it after a comic book figure who was born on Feb 29. The last edition — in 2020, as the world went into Covid-19 lockdowns — sold 120,000 copies. Its revenue goes mainly to a charity for people with disabilities.

Where is the Princess of Wales? Rumours swirl

On Christmas, the Princess of Wales, Kate, attended service in Sandringham wearing royal blue. She walked to church with her husband, Prince William, and their children, much like she had in years past. Greeting

the crowds and cameras. "She looked lovely for the occasion," said Town & Country. The princess has not been seen in public since. On Jan 17, Kensington Palace said Catherine, 42, had been admitted to hospital for "a planned abdominal surgery." The lack of information around Kate has given rise to wild speculation about her health. A Spanish journalist, Concha Calleja claimed she spoke with a source within the royal family, who told her Kate faced serious complications after surgery, requiring "drastic" actions to save her life. "The decision was to put her in an induced coma," Calleja said. "They had to intubate her." But the palace has called the claims "total nonsense" and "ludicrous."

Apple's Scrapped Car Project Means AI, Headset Bets Are More Urgent

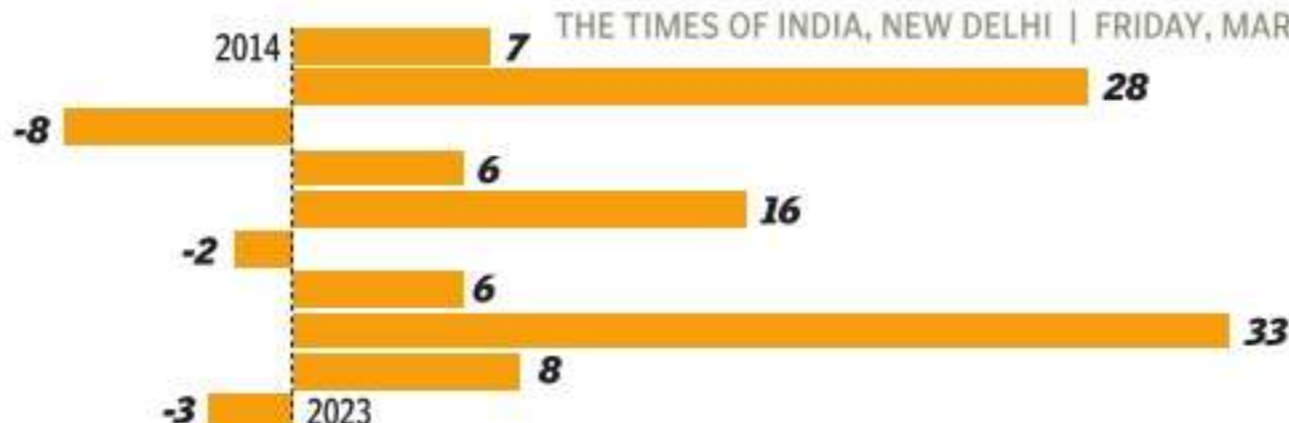
In abandoning plans for a self-driving car, Apple is giving up on billions in potential revenue and the dream of selling what one executive called 'the ultimate mobile device'. The hope is that other big bets — including GenAI and mixed-reality headsets — can make up the difference. The upshot is that Apple's future isn't going to hinge on selling \$100,000 cars with self-driving features and it will instead focus on catching up with rivals in the GenAI industry

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

Co's revenue declined last year after a big run-up during Covid

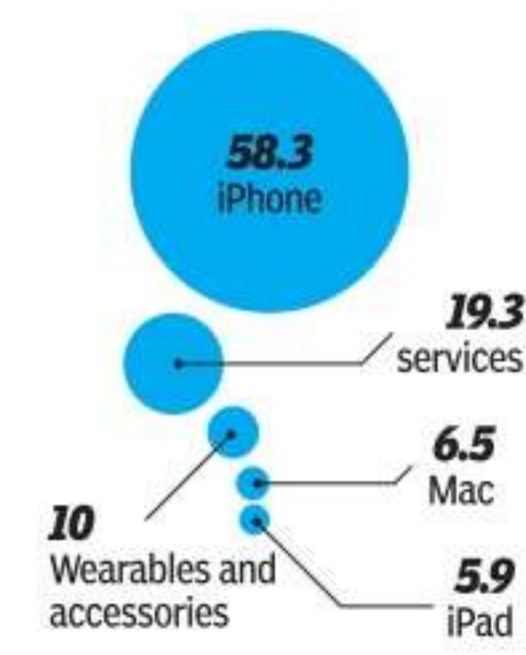
Change in FY sales (%)



Source: Bloomberg

Apple gets over half of its revenue from the iPhone

Product share in sales (%)



Govt clears 3 semiconductor mfg projects worth ₹1.3L cr

Include ₹91,000Cr Fab Unit By Tata Group-Taiwan Co PSMC

Pankaj.Doyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt on Thursday cleared proposals for three semiconductor manufacturing units worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore, including the country's first fab manufacturing plant by Tata Group and Taiwanese Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC) in Gujarat.

This will be a big push to India's electronics manufacturing set-up as the chips will be made within the country for the first time. The Cabinet nod, which also includes a project involving Japanese Renesas Electronics, follows Rs 22,000 crore testing and packaging unit project of US company Micron, that was approved in June last year (production is expected to happen by close of this year).

"India has taken a giant leap today in gaining a foothold in the coveted chip manufacturing eco-system. With these

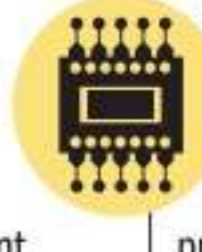
Big Push To Electronics Ecosystem

Tata Electronics & PSMC's project in Gujarat will have a capacity to produce 50,000 wafers per month

Cabinet has also approved project of Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test in Assam at an investment of ₹27,000 crore

Japanese firm Renesas Electronics and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics's project in Gujarat at investment of ₹7,600 crore has got green signal

Govt is also close to approving ₹90,000 crore proposal of Israel's chipmaker Tower Semiconductor



All the units will create nearly 26,000 direct jobs and another one lakh indirect ones

—ASHWINI VAISHNAV | COMMUNICATION MINISTER

units, semiconductor manufacturing and its ecosystem will get established in India," communications minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

Tata Electronics will set up a Rs 91,000 crore semiconductor fab project with PSMC at Dholera in Gujarat. The plant will have a capacity to produce 50,000 wafers per

month. PSMC is renowned for its expertise in logic and memory foundry segments.

Tata Electronics said it is proud to lead India's entry into global semiconductor fabrication, and said construction for the project will begin this year. "This will also accelerate our progress towards providing high-technology

employment opportunities for the youth," Randhir Thakur, CEO and MD of Tata Electronics, said.

Minister of state for IT & electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar said a slew of new proposals are in the pipeline and added that govt expects a total investment outlook of nearly Rs 2.2 lakh crore.

Cabinet has also approved semiconductor unit of Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test (TSAT) in Assam at an investment of Rs 27,000 crore. Renesas Electronics and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics's project in Sanand in Gujarat at an investment of Rs 7,600 crore has also got green signal. Govt is close to approving a Rs 90,000 crore proposal of Israel's chipmaker Tower Semiconductor.

Vaishnav said all the units will create nearly 26,000 direct jobs and another one lakh indirect ones.

SoftBank cuts stake in Paytm to under 3%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: SoftBank has cut another 2.1% stake in Paytm, reducing its shareholding in the fintech firm to 2.8%, the company said in a recent stock exchange filing. The Japanese investment behemoth which bets heavily on tech firms had invested over \$1 billion into Paytm and held about 18% stake in the Noida-based company at the time of its initial public offering in 2021.

Even as SoftBank has been offloading its stake in the firm, the developments come at a time when Paytm Payments Bank has come under regulatory scrutiny due to persistent non-compliance. Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the largest shareholder in PPBL with a 51% stake while Paytm parent One97 Communications holds 49% stake in the banking entity whose operations have been restricted by RBI. The central bank has directed PPBL to stop accepting money in any customer account — including wallets and other prepaid instruments such as FASTags, NCMC (national common mobility cards used in metro and other transport) or any other instruments — after March 15 following lapses in complying with the regulatory framework on KYC and relationship with parent.

Share price of Paytm closed at Rs 405 apiece on the BSE on Thursday, down 0.2%.

Core sector growth slows to 15-mth low of 3.6% in Jan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Growth in the country's key infrastructure sector slowed to a 15-month low in January, dragged down by contractions in refinery products and fertilisers, while steel and cement sectors remained strong.

Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Thursday showed eight core sectors, spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, grew 3.6% in January, slower than 4.9% in the previous months and below 9.7% recorded in January last year.

"Core sector growth slid to a 15-month low of 3.6% in January 2024, with contractions emerging in refinery products and fertilisers, and a sub-1% rise in natural gas. Encouragingly, the other five components displayed a moderate-to-healthy expansion, ranging from 5.2% to 10.2% in January 2024," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Separate data showed fiscal deficit at January-end was at Rs 11 lakh crore or 63.6% of the revised annual estimates, narrower than 67.8% in the corresponding period last year.

Govt releases 2 tranches of tax devolution

New Delhi: Govt has authorised release of two installments of tax devolution amounting to Rs. 1.4 lakh crore on Thursday to strengthen hands of state governments for financing various social welfare measures and infrastructure development schemes. This release is in addition to tax devolution of an installment of Rs 71,061 crore made on February 12. With this release, states have received total of three installments of tax devolution in February, according to the finance ministry.

Uttar Pradesh will receive Rs 25,495 crore, followed by Bihar which will get Rs 14,295 crore. Madhya Pradesh will receive Rs 11,157 crore and West Bengal Rs 10,692 crore. The release of the tax devolution comes ahead of the national elections likely to be held in April-May. TNN

RIL-Disney deal gets thumbs up from D-St

Merger May Add Up To ₹45 To Reliance Stock | Analysts See Gains From Dominant Mkt Share

Partha.Sinha@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Most brokerage houses are positive on the deal that Reliance Industries and Walt Disney struck on Wednesday to merge their media operations in India. The Disney India-Viacom18 joint venture, with near-monopoly in cricket broadcasting rights in India, is expected to push up advertisement rates and turn the broadcasting industry highly competitive, especially for smaller players.

Analysts from various broking houses estimated that the merger would be value accretive to RIL's stock price — it is expected to add between Rs 35 and Rs 45 per share. On Thursday, RIL shares on the BSE were marginally up at Rs 2,925. Disney shares rose just over 1% in the US on Wednesday while Reliance-owned Viacom18 is an unlisted entity.

"This merger will redefine India's media landscape and also enhance sector growth in advertising and subscriptions," a CLSA India report said. Analysts said the entity will enjoy a large market share of the broadcasting and digital spaces in India, which in turn could push up advertising costs. Analysts feel that the merger could be negative for smaller players in the space like Zee, Sony and Sun TV.

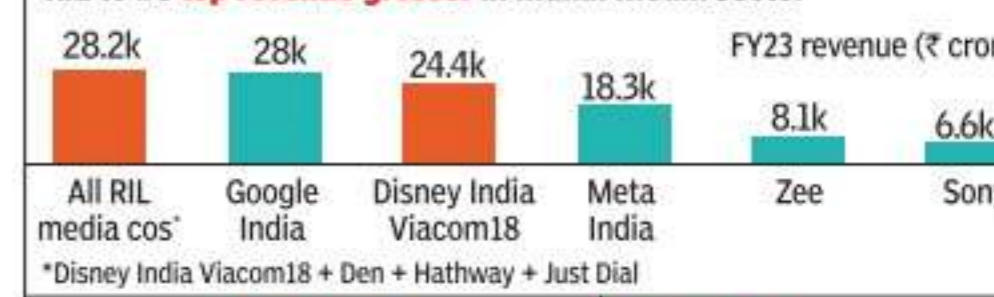
"The JV will be a dominant player in the ecosystem, with an estimated 40% viewership share in linear TV, and over 50% share in digital, as JioCinema and Disney+Hotstar are by far the largest streaming platforms in the country," a report by UBS India said. RIL had said that the entity would have

HIGHER AD PRICE PITCH FOR CRICKET

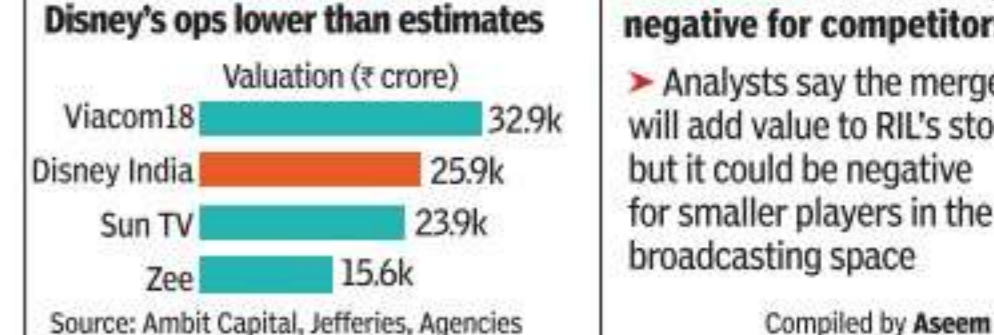
What Viacom18-Disney India's 40% TV market share means for...

Consumers	Subscription prices in digital platforms and TV may go up, analysts say	Advertisers	Bargaining power of the merged entity will be higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► The duo hold rights for major sports events including int'l cricket matches, IPL, Premier League & Olympics Other broadcasters & telcos Stronger marketing power poses challenges for smaller broadcasters to compete and scale market share ► Jio will have a much more superior access to content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Dominant market share will boost ad revenue, especially in cricket telecasts Content bidding intensity for future sports rights will be lower 		

RIL to be top revenue grosser in Indian media sector



RIL secured hard bargain by valuing Disney's ops lower than estimates



Source: Ambit Capital, Jefferies, Agencies

Stock boost for Reliance, negative for competitors

Analysts say the merger will add value to RIL's stock but it could be negative for smaller players in the broadcasting space

2027, digital rights for IPL till 2027 and media rights for BCCI domestic and international matches till 2027. "It also owns rights for EPL and the Olympics. The Jio Cinema app, Viacom18's 40 linear TV channels along with Disney's 70 linear TV channels, make it the most prolific player in India's media space."

According to a Kotak Institutional Equities report, RIL's strong share in digital cable (Hotstar + Den) and data consumption (Jio) augur well. "Merger synergies would be significant owing to better pricing on advertising and subscription, especially in the case of sports and cost rationalisation," the report said.

Divisions on remittances, movement of health workers

► From P 1

There are deep divisions on several issues, including areas of interest to India such as remittances and movement of health workers. India has managed to keep investment facilitation agreement, a China-backed initiative with over 120 countries, out of the scope of WTO agreements for the moment, a negotiator told TOI.

An outcome on fishing is looking difficult, given the deep wedge. Like India, some of the Pacific countries are demanding a reduction in subsidies by rich nations, which offer up to \$75,000 annually to every fisherman, and are arguing that they will only cap their subsidies if there is a commitment from the advanced nations to reduce their support. In addition, India is seeking that the rights for its artisanal fishers to venture into exclusive economic zone that extends up to 200 nautical miles must be retained.

EU's keenness on getting an extension of the e-commerce moratorium has, however, opened some possibility of a give-and-take, despite countries such as Brazil joining the ranks against continuing with the waiver beyond March.

Till evening, there appeared little sign of progress on agriculture, especially on finding a solution to public stockholding — that allows countries such as India to maintain a large stock of grains to feed its large population. On Thursday, Brazil took an aggressive position, demanding a reduction in domestic support, a defensive issue for EU, and threatened to block an extension of the moratorium. India has maintained that talks on domestic support or tariffs should not take place until the issue of food stocks was addressed. Negotiators indicated that a work programme on reducing tariffs and cutting subsidies is expected amid discussion on revising the reference price from 1986-88 for calculating food subsidy.

WTO: What's behind Thailand-India spat

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

Unless you are an avid reader of all things concerning world trade, Tuesday's spat between India and Thailand at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) conference may have come as a surprise. The Thai ambassador to WTO accused India of exporting rice at unfairly low prices funded by govt subsidies. The subsidies, the allegation goes, that are meant to supply low-price rice to India's poor, are actually subsidising the country's rice exports.

Indian delegation protested the claim, lodged a complaint, taking strong exception to the statement.

The incident is only the latest spark to fly off the contentious issue of agriculture trade that has divided countries for over two decades. India and Indonesia, along with other developing nations, are pushing for reforms in rules governing agriculture trade. The current rules don't allow them enough freedom to support their farmers and the poor, who need free or subsidised food.

The background Back in 1994, the WTO set up an agreement to lower import taxes and subsidies that affect agriculture. Here's how subsidies are categorised:

Green Box: These are subsidies that don't really affect trade much. They include direct payments, general services and environmental programmes. There's no limit on these.

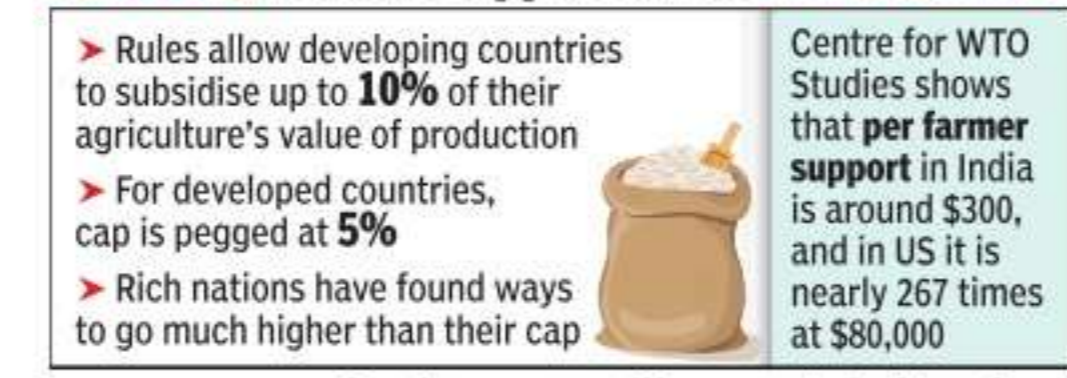
Blue Box: These subsidies are supposed to be cut down over time. They're mainly used by rich countries — and China — and are tied to how much land is farmed or crop yield.

Development Box: It allows

developing countries to provide input subsidies to low income or resource-poor farmers and investment subsidies for agriculture.

Amber Box: Most other subsidies fall here. They can make farming and trade unfair because they might en-

At \$80K, Farmer Support In US 267X India's



courage overproduction or lower prices too much. The rules allow developing countries to subsidise up to 10% of their agriculture's value of production. For developed countries, the cap is 5%. But rich countries have found ways to go much higher than their cap. For instance, a paper by the Centre for WTO Studies estimated that EU was providing 150% of its sugar's value of production as subsidy, and the US 189% to coffee.

TOI Explains

Why Are Developing Countries Upset? The rules favour wealthier nations, giving them more ways to support their farmers and dominate the global market. This makes it harder for poorer countries to compete. For example, India has exceeded the 10% subsidy limit for rice, and others might too. The prices, set in the 1980s as a reference for what counts as a subsidy, are outdated, not accounting for inflation or current market prices.

Farms are small in India, which makes government support vital. There is also the need to keep food in stock for the poor during crises like the Covid pandemic.

What's Being Done? This issue was first raised in 2002 but became a hot topic in 2013. To move forward with trade discussions, developed countries agreed to a 'peace clause' that prevents disputes over subsidy limits. Since then, India and others have been pushing to find a permanent solution.

Current Status For the past decade, groups representing developing and poorer countries have been asking for a permanent fix but claim rich nations aren't keeping their promises.

What Do Developed Countries Say? Rich countries think public stockholding programmes distort trade. They've accused developing countries like India of exporting subsidised grains. This is where Thailand's allegation comes in. They're calling for a major reform to lower tariffs and subsidies. However, there's disagreement among them, with the EU resisting tariff cuts, unlike the US and other countries seeking broader changes.

a tiller gets in India, where average land holding is just above one hectare.

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Gas price up, cap to protect users

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Thursday raised March price of natural gas produced from domestic fields under legacy financial and regulatory regimes by about 4% to \$8.2 per unit (million metric British thermal units) but consumers will not be impacted due a \$6.5 price cap in the current pricing mechanism.

The government had in April 2023 linked domestic gas pricing to 'Indian basket' — or the mix of crude bought by the Indian refiners after scrapping the earlier formula

based on benchmark prices in gas-surplus markets such as the US, Canada, Europe and Russia. The revised formula, based on recommendations by a panel led by economist Kirti Parikh, set domestic gas price at 10% of the monthly average of the Indian Basket in the previous month, with a floor of \$4 and a cap of \$6.5 per unit.

The floor ensured minimum remunerative price for producers in a depressed market, while the cap protected consumers such as CNG and PNG consumers from the full impact of price spikes.

Non-life cos to offer price data

Mayur.Shetty @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Non-life insurance companies have said they can help govt by providing standardised rates for medical procedures. On Tuesday, the SC asked central govt to consult with states and implement a law that would mandate notification of standard rates for medical procedures.

"The insurance industry settled Rs 80,000 crore of health insurance claims regarding bills from nearly 40,000 hospitals. This data is available if the ministry

wants to bring in data transparency to curb high charges," said Tapan Singhel, chairman of the General Insurance Council and MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

According to Singhel, even if hospitals were required to disclose their schedule of charges for various procedures, it would significantly enhance transparency. "We have initiated the effort to provide cashless treatment in all hospitals..." said Singhel. He said the National Health Claim Exchange would boost transparency.

Strong momentum to continue in Q4, says CEA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The strong momentum of the economy is expected to continue in fourth quarter of current financial year, chief economist said.

Anantha Nageswaran said on Thursday and hoped the farm sector will stage a rebound in next quarter.

"So the actual performance of the economy has continued to defy expectations and do better than what many had projected, underscoring the fact that a structural transformation of the

economy is indeed underway, both in terms of physical infrastructure and digital infrastructure as well as inclusion agenda, boosting the purchasing power of Indian households," Nageswaran told reporters after release of GDP data.

The farm sector contracted 0.8% during Q3 of 2023-24 largely due to impact of patchy monsoon rains. CEA said prospects of robust rabi harvesting and expectations of fading away of El Niño and forecast of a normal monsoon augured well for a better-than-normal

malkharif sowing. He said strong growth was linked to vibrant underlying demand conditions, adding economy has shown strong resilience to global vulnerabilities and there has been a decline in India's uncertainty index.

Nageswaran said moderation in overall inflation and core inflation (minus food and fuel) is expected to boost consumption. He said prospects of healthy rabi harvesting, sustained manufacturing profitability and underlying service resilience to support economic activity in 2024-25.

MANUFACTURING LEADS THE PACK

Quarterly estimates of GVA at basic prices for Q3 (at 2011-12 prices)

Sectoral Watch | Q3, 2022-23 | Q3, 2023-24

Sector	Q3, 2022-23	Q3, 2023-24
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	-0.8	5.2
Mining and quarrying	1.4	7.5
Manufacturing	-4.8	5.2
Electricity, gas, water supply	8.7	9.5
Construction	9.5	9.5
Trade, hotels & transport	6.7	9.2
Financial, realty & professional services	7.7	7
Public admin, defence & other services	3.5	7.5

Source: Mospi

robust 8.4% GDP growth in Q3 2023-24 shows the strength of Indian economy and its potential. Our efforts will continue to bring fast economic growth which shall help 140 crore Indians lead a better life and create a Viksit Bharat," PM Modi posted on microblogging site X after the data release.

The finance ministry said India continues to be an outlier and remains the fastest-growing major economy in the Oct-Dec 2023 quarter and it builds on the momentum of the previous quarter. It said growth was broad-based, driven by robust investment demand.

The manufacturing sector recorded a double-digit growth of 11.6% compared to a contraction of 4.8% in the year-ago quarter, while construction grew 9.5% compared with similar expansion in the year earlier period. The farm sector remained a worry with a contraction of 0.8% compared to an expansion of 5.2% in the third quarter of the previous year, largely impacted by

patchy monsoon rains. Public administration, defence and other services grew by 7.5% during the Dec quarter, compared to a growth of 3.5% in the year-ago quarter. Overall, the services sector witnessed some moderation. It grew 7% in the Oct-Dec quarter, slightly slower than 7.2% in the third quarter of last year but higher than 6% in the second quarter.

"In terms of the expenditure side, as expected growth has been mainly led by strong

capex by govt. Consumption going forward, the most critical aspect to watch out for will be a broad-based improvement in consumption growth. The other critical aspect would be a meaningful improvement in private investment. Overall robust GDP growth will be sustainable only when there is a meaningful improvement in consumption and private investment," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at rating agency CareEdge.



A thought for today

Internet is a collective hallucination – one of the best humanity has ever generated

JONATHAN ZITTRAIN

Sundar, This Ain't

Google makes a doo doo with Gemini. Blame silly wokeness and poor testing. Lesson for AI bosses

Aggressively colour-blind casting has made a hit out of streaming shows like Bridgerton. In its alternative 18th-century universe, black Britons are monarchs. But a similar thing served up by Google's new Gemini AI has horrified the world. Prompted for an image of a medieval British king, it poured out a black man, an Indian woman, and a Native American. It misrepresented Google's own famous founders – as East Asian.

Info minus | Gemini's text-to-image generation capabilities have been paused, pending improvements. Is the world better off out of this brief encounter? Yes. Because it has made dramatically clear how those who are programming LLMs could literally be writing history and reality for future generations. True, we still have things we know to be true even if internet says otherwise. But it's a losing battle. Events without any online trace feel more ephemeral offline to many people. With LLMs, whether it's wokes or their opponents who have their way, the real worry is how much the information environment can be edited, diminished or mutated.



Hum tum | Glitches are of course part of every tech journey. Windows has had plenty of painful boo-boos over the decades. Apple, otherwise quite the hungry-foolish-victorious paragon, has wasted billions and a decade on a dud EV project. And Google continues to stand by it being "generally a good thing" for a "wide range of people". Yes it is, compared to the time when Google Photos appallingly labelled a pic of two black people as "gorillas". But, so far, text-to-photo tech doesn't hold a candle to a human graphics editor – who wouldn't need a global uproar to know that neither pics of "racially diverse" Nazis nor female popes fly as "historically accurate depictions".

Fast & furious | Problem is the scorching competition to become an AI superstar. A 9-month-old French startup is being plugged as a potential challenger to OpenAI, after the Feb launch of its Mistral-Large LLM. But how much are AI companies cutting corners when it comes to testing? Counter-question: how much testing can ever truly prepare for a live launch? Because this tech also improves, or is supposed to, as it's used. For their own sake, though, AI companies need to invest in "structural changes, updated product guidelines, improved launch processes" – big phrases used in Google boss Pichai's internal memo. AI may be hot. But it doesn't take much for people to turn cold to repeat offenders.

Red Faces, Two Hubbies...

Image/word goof ups in govt & party ads/campaigns are more common than you think. And mostly good fun

Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu would have been happy to be known as the proud home of India's upcoming second spaceport. No such luck. Full page newspaper ads in TN celebrating the project had Modi and Stalin's photos – as expected – but also, rising proudly behind them, was a rocket with China's flag on its tip. Huh?! Someone goofed up, and no one noticed. But this is election season, nunba (that's Tamil for buddy, btw) – so BJP launched rhetorical rockets aimed at DMK. DMK, face as red as China's flag, tried to fire back. But this round went to BJP. Mind you, pretty much everyone goofs up.

Only recently, a Kerala BJP protest song included lyrics that called for removing govt at the Centre. Ouch. In 2010, when Mamata-di was UPA's rail mantri, a railway ad showed an India map...no big deal...except, Delhi was in Pakistan, and Kolkata, unmoored, hovered as a dot over Bay of Bengal. People chuckled. Govt blushed. The ad agency was blacklisted. Soon, everyone forgot about it. Even our navy has gotten over a 2011 ad, released on Navy Day of all days, that proudly displayed a Chinese naval fighter jet – the very model Beijing had gifted to its strategic nunba, Islamabad.

We must acknowledge here that newspapers, and media in general, are no strangers to goof ups. And just as good journalistic practice demands owning up, so must govts and parties. Millions of images are floating around. Gatekeeping is essential. More so when AI can be deployed by nasty creative types to deliberately cause embarrassment.

Some goof ups are endearing. Ads of AAP and BJP showed the same people as their supporters. And, in an entirely unintended pitch for polyandry, in two 2018 govt ads in Telangana, the same lady was featured with two different 'husbands'.

The 7-rupee nimbu

India's economy is like a balloon: it gets bigger and bigger, but why does it leave a sour note?

Jug Suraiya



The other day I paid ₹28 for four limes. ₹7 for a single nimbu? How could one solitary nimbu be worth so much? And the answer was that the ₹7 nimbu wasn't worth so much. It was the ₹7 that was worth less. Or worthless. Every day we are informed that India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world. It now ranks as the world's fifth-largest economy and could soon be the third-largest.

We're all set to hit the USD 5 trillion mark, then the USD 7 trillion mark, and by 2047 we'll be up and running as a fully developed country, like US. Ready, steady, go! But even as our economy keeps growing, the unit of our economy with which we do our day-to-day budgeting, the INR, the rupee, keeps shrinking in value, so that we have to use up ₹7 to buy one nimbu.

It's not just nimbu. The price of everything has risen hugely, particularly food items, from veggies to staples like wheat, rice and dals.

If you're reading this newspaper, chances are that you belong to an economic bracket in which the increasing price of food won't worry you too much. It's like a bothersome fly that distracts you for a moment before being brushed away, leaving you free to get on with more pressing matters, like pursuing a career or a hobby.

For India's urban middle classes – which should be called consumer classes – food accounts for relatively little of their expenditure. For an average rural family, the expenditure on food is much more, leaving relatively little for the kinds of spending better-off classes take for granted.

Inflation, particularly food inflation, hits the poorest the hardest. Which is why sceptics might be tempted to compare India's fast-growing economy to a balloon, swelling up with the gas of inflation and political rhetoric. A case of sour grapes? Or sour nimbus. At ₹7 a pop.

Two Bulls, Two Markets, Two Stories

Stocks are booming in US and India, but India's boom has a much broader base. That means Indian markets have greater growth potential & the bar of expectations is set high

Ruchir Sharma



Most global investors are consumed by the ascent of stock prices in the world's financial hegemon, US. But India's bull market is even more intense and classic in nature.

As the only two major stock markets that have recently rallied to all-time highs in dollar terms, US and India are ahead of the global pack in some obvious ways. Their markets are driven by relatively strong economies, and by a large base of optimistic domestic investors. Beyond that general body type, however, these bulls look nothing alike.

American exception | US is a historic anomaly. It's all about one big sector, tech, and within that sector, mainly just the few giants that have gone by a scrabble board of different nicknames, most recently the "Magnificent Seven". They are getting older, larger and sucking the life out of other stocks.

In the last year, the Magnificent Seven are up by 80% on average, and account for more than half of all US stock market gains over that time. Meanwhile, the median stock, out of 4,700 that are publicly traded in US, is down. It's a tale of unusually concentrated returns, further concentrated by the growing mania for any stock with a link to AI, which is seen as a boon mainly to the biggest firms.

Small caps suffering | To get a sense of just how unusual this is, note that in the past, during US bull markets in which large caps outperformed, small caps did not suffer. In early 1970s, and again in late 90s, small caps delivered double digit annual returns, their fortunes lifted along with the rest of the rising market.

Now, the small are down and out. Typically, retail investors take a lot more risk than institutional investors and tend to hold very different portfolios. Just three years ago, at the height of the pandemic, the retail crowd was in open revolt, trying to prove the hedge fund kingpins wrong by betting against their positions. Today

the Magnificent Seven dominate the top 10 holdings for both hedge funds, and day traders on Robinhood.

India's classic bull run | India's bull market is, by contrast, a broad-based classic. Gains in stock market are much more evenly distributed across sectors, and no



sector accounted for even a quarter of total returns over last year. Individual tech giants like Apple account for a larger share of US gains than any single industry has accounted for in India. While large cap stocks are gaining in India, medium and small caps have gained even more; instead of losing ground since early 2023, the median stock is up more than 40%. In emerging markets, India now accounts for 25% of all small cap stocks by value, more than any other country, including Taiwan, South Korea and China.

Bullish domestic investors | There's a perception that India is benefitting as money flees China. Indeed, foreign money is flowing in, but not as fast as domestic money. As a result, foreign portfolio investors now own less than 40% of stocks that are available for public trading, down from 60% a decade ago. Instead of AI-generated optimism, India is getting a boost from the spread of an equity culture, with rising

incomes enabling more people to purchase stocks. The amount of money Indians hold in "systematic investment plans" has tripled in just last two years to nearly \$110 billion.

Strong growth | According to Bloomberg data, which excludes micro caps with a value under \$10 million, over last two decades the number of publicly listed companies multiplied by a factor of nearly five to 2,800 in India. Meanwhile, that number was falling by a quarter to 4,700 in US, where oligopolies began to exert a stronger grip on most industries, not just tech.

Remarkably, about 180 companies in India have at least tripled this decade and now have a value of \$1 billion or more. That is well ahead of any other country, including US with fewer than 160 and China with less than 80.

Most bull markets see excesses build up over time; in India, they are visible in subsets of the growing retail investor class. Last year, Indians purchased more than 85 billion options, or nearly eight times the volume in US, and on average held those contracts for only half an hour. Amid the frenzy, regulators ordered trading platforms to open with a warning that 90% of retail investors are losing money on these trades.

A diverse mix | With a total value of \$4.6 trillion, India's market is, like all others, dwarfed by that of US at \$62 trillion. Yet it's as diverse, more competitive and has greater growth potential. Of course, investing in Indian market comes with its own risks. It's now even more expensive than US market and also less volatile, suggesting a very strong conviction on part of investors that good times will roll on.

For a country that has long disappointed both optimists and pessimists, the bar of expectations is now very high. Still, at a time when the investing world seems to have eyes only for AI-centric boom in US, it is striking to see another major market marching to its own bullish but classic tune.

The writer is an author and global investor

GOOD TIMES AHEAD

Number of stocks that have tripled this decade and are now worth \$1 billion or more

Bar chart showing the number of stocks that have tripled this decade and are now worth \$1 billion or more for various countries: India (183), US (157), China (79), Taiwan (55), Canada (28), Turkey (28), South Korea (24), Japan (21), Australia (20).

Stock returns (%) since Jan 2020. Source: Breakout Capital, Bloomberg Factset (as of Feb 9, 2024)

Three Things Follow From GOI's Latest GDP Figures

One, it signals govt is a good economic manager. Two, it encourages India Inc to invest. Three, it gives RBI more flexibility to manage rupee

T K Arun



It is a matter of considerable cheer for those who have the luxury of knowing the rate of economic growth by official statistics rather than by lived experience that India's pace of economic expansion is accelerating, even as the rest of the world scrambles to avert recession.

Remarkable growth | By forecasting the growth rate of the economy for the present fiscal year, which will conclude by the end of this month, at 7.6%, faster than the 7% achieved in the previous fiscal, CSO has accomplished several things. One, it gives a shot in the arm to GOI's credibility as a good manager of the economy; two, it encourages private industry, whose contribution to fresh investment and capital formation has been rather anaemic so far, to commit to expanding capacity and building infrastructure, now that growth is a reality rather than a tantalising prospect; and, three, it gives RBI some additional leeway in stabilising the rupee, even if a flood of external capital gushes in, chasing returns offered by fast growth.

Inflation collapse | Even more remarkable is the collapse of inflation. The measure of economywide inflation is GDP deflator. The name is derived from the technical processes through which statisticians manage changes in the assortment of prices for an assortment of goods and services that comprise total economic output. For us ordinary mortals, suffice to appreciate that difference between rate of growth in current prices and rate of growth in constant prices is a very close approximation of GDP deflator. The deflator for gross value added in 2022-23 was, as

per the revised data that has also been made available today, 7.3%. The nominal growth rate of GDP in current fiscal has been forecast at 9.1%, and the real growth rate at 7.6%. That means that GDP deflator has collapsed to a remarkable 1.5%. If economywide inflation had been marked at a higher level, that would have depressed real growth rate.

Share of food | Data recently released for monthly per capita consumption expenditure had revealed a decline in share of food in the consumption basket of almost all sections of society. This gives statisticians leeway to reduce weightage of food in the consumer price index. Since food has been one of the most volatile components of the price index, reducing its weightage would have the overall effect of reducing inflation, thereby raising real growth rates.

GDP is gross value added in the period under consideration, plus product taxes net of subsidies. If share of net taxes rises, that would have the effect of pushing up GDP. That, too, has happened in the current fiscal. Net taxes have risen from ₹22.9 lakh crore in 2022-23 to an expected ₹27.1 lakh crore in 2023-24.

Rise in investment | The most significant item in GDP data is share of fixed capital formation in GDP. Total

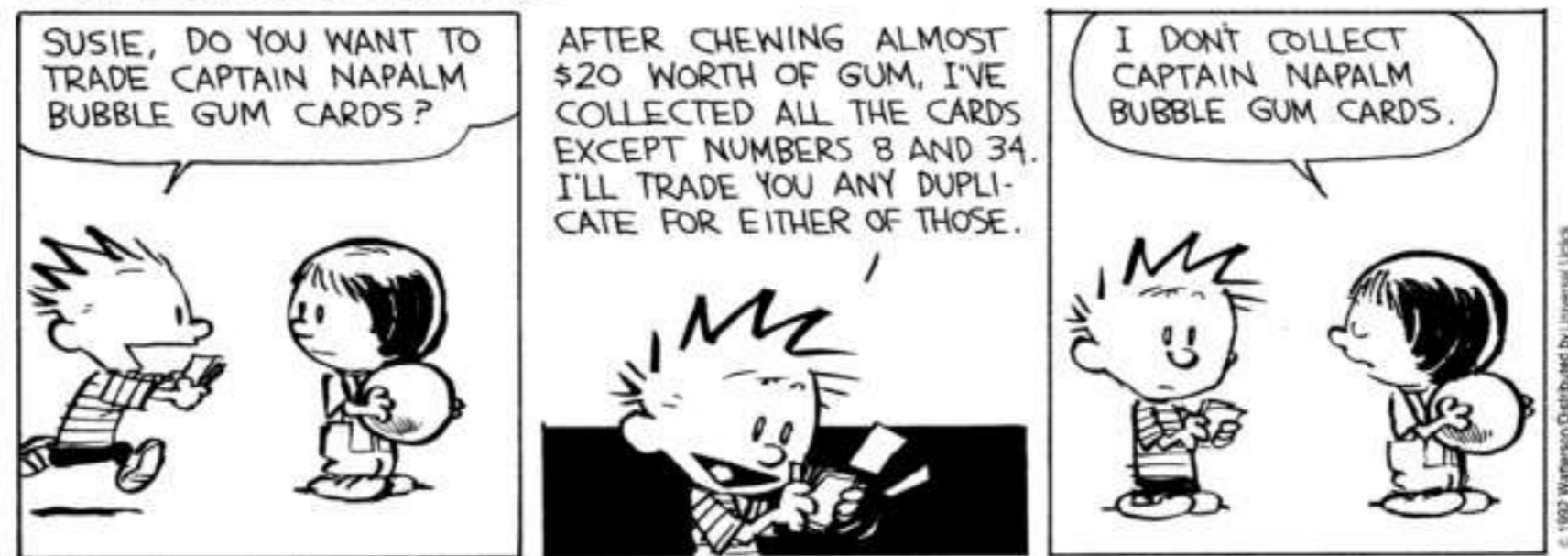
investment comprises fixed capital formation, change in stocks, change in valuables and errors and omissions. The most important is fixed capital formation. In the decade prior to 2014, share of investment in GDP had touched 38%, and fixed capital formation had risen to 35% of GDP. After 2014, it had dipped below 30%, measured in current prices, and stayed there till now.

Fixed capital formation rising above 30% is a signal that investment is picking up and that the economic growth that has been achieved would sustain, rather than disappear. Final word | Statistical machinery depends on availability of data for its efficacy. GST has made corporate value added available very fast, as compared to the past. Value added by a company is GST paid by it, divided by the rate of GST it bears.

Increase in computerisation economywide and in govt allows faster collection, collation and analysis of data. Accordingly, GOI has now decided GDP no longer needs a third revision to be finalised. Second revision of a GDP estimate now makes it the final estimate. This has happened with the data for the year 2021-22.

If GOI statisticians are right, India's economy is on a real hot streak.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred space

You may experience anything, but you must never rest content with that whether you experience pleasure or pain, ask yourself the question who feels the pleasure and carry on the sadhana until pleasure and pain are transcended, till reality alone remains. Ramana Maharshi

Understanding The Universe Anew

Debabrata Roy

Evidence of design, intelligence, and a purpose are integral elements of a live Universe. Creation. These are but qualities or attributes and need to be manifested by some agency. That is to say, can there be intelligence without some intelligent entity manifesting that intelligence? Or a design without a designer? Can a purpose be served without an agency 'purposing' it? Of course, this is a logic driven by observations from the observable world around us, that is there is a cause-and-effect relationship operating in this phenomenal world; that everything which begins does degenerate and come to an end; that we are time-bound...on which are based classical laws of physics.

But it's not the end of it all. Beyond what is objectively verifiable, there must be a domain of subjective truth

as well that is barely quantifiable by us. That is why and how we now strive toward introspective wisdom seeking the Absolute in myriad ways. This is also why and how we have broken off the limits of classical physics, delving ever deeper into elusive precepts of quantum physics.

We may have been witnessing a silent but nevertheless significant paradigm shift in the way we perceive, understand the phenomenal juggernaut, the universe around us and our coordinates in it. We feel obliged to peer and probe beyond mere binaries and dichotomies of an observable world, treading, however hesitatingly, onto a spectral and illusory, sub/supra real terrain of an assimilative world within.

Neil deGrasse Tyson has discussed the likelihood of us living in a simulated reality. In a debate, he argued that

the probability is high that we live in a computer simulation. This theory is based on the idea that a highly advanced civilisation could have the technological capability to create a simulated universe, and that it is more likely for us to be living in such a simulation rather than in base reality.

It may also verily be said that alternate realities now morph out of phantasmagorical imageries driven by beautiful assumptions, implicit in intimidating equations of sublime mathematics.

Consider these: Firstly, gerontologists swear to have already undone the cryptic lingo of the centromere and come up with know-how to not only stall aging but reverse it; secondly, that would mean you would be obliged to reconfigure your notion and experience of space-time. Time then, it is presupposed, might just appear to move backwards and not

necessarily in a linear course.

Thirdly, such being the case, the terms, infinite and infinitesimal portend to be 'reviewed' in their newer avatars, read perception, meaning, and implication. Fourthly, teleporting yourself may not merely be a conjecture and that too traversing through wondrous holes – worm, white, black, and sundry – into hitherto unforeseen dimensions.

Fifthly, information coded in your genome and memory – conscious or sub/supra conscious – stands poised to be electronically or by other evolved means sent to and stored in a cloud, which is to say that you may go on to potentially live forever unless there befalls a digital death of some weird kind.

And finally, it indeed does follow that religion and various 'isms', quest for truth, belief and faith, too might, in all fairness, subject themselves to that ever-poignant shift.

The writer is pro vice chancellor, Ras Bihari Bose Subharti University, Dehradun



THE SPEAKING TREE



THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Ronaldo has been suspended for a match for allegedly making an offensive gesture during an SA league game while playing for Al Nassr, P26

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