



50 LAKH REGISTERED, 4.34 LAKH GET SHOTS IN TWO DAYS

Centre extends reach of vaccination: longer sessions, all private hospitals can be roped in

Govt takes note of overcrowding, ICMR chief clarifies that both vaccines safe to be administered for those on blood thinners

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

WITH OVER 50 lakh beneficiaries registering for Covid-19 vaccination since the second phase of the inoculation drive began on Monday, and with overcrowding being reported in several parts of the country, the Centre on Tuesday directed states to utilise all private hospitals, including those that are not empanelled under government health insurance schemes, for the vaccination exercise.

The Centre has also said that hospitals can, in consultation with state governments, extend their vaccination sessions, and that it is not mandatory to limit the session to 5 pm. Besides,



A long queue for vaccination at the BKC Covid centre in Mumbai on Tuesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

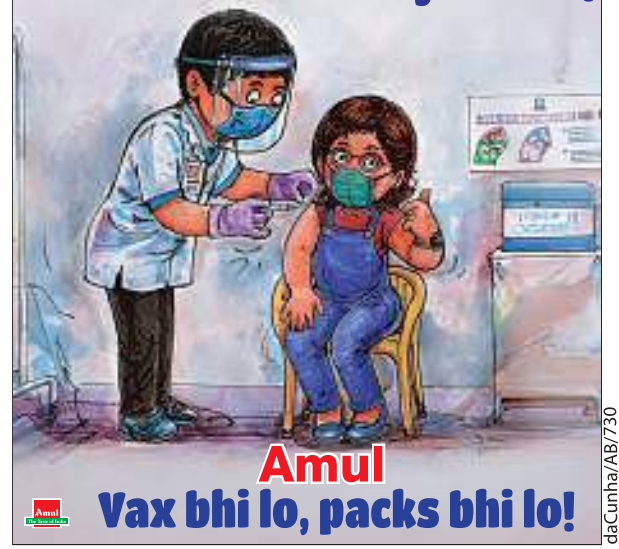
states and hospitals have been told "to open the vaccination slots for 15 days to a month". Currently, beneficiaries applying on the Co-WIN portal can only find slots for a week.

In the first two days of the second phase of the vaccination drive that began Monday — for those above 60 years of age and those above 45 years with associated co-morbidities — around 10,000 private hospitals empanelled under Ayushman Bharat, 600 under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), and State Health Insurance were designated as vaccination centres.

The direction to states to further ramp up coverage and enlist all private hospitals was

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Shot in the aam janata!



Amul Vax bhi lo, packs bhi lo!

BJP sweeps Gujarat local bodies, Cong loses even bastions

PARIMAL DABHI
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 2

DAYS AFTER its impressive win in elections to six municipal corporations in Gujarat, the BJP Tuesday swept the elections to district panchayats, taluka panchayats and municipalities, routing the Congress.

Such was the mandate for the BJP — it claimed victory in all 31 district panchayats, around 200 of 231 taluka panchayats and 75 of 81 municipalities which went to polls — that the Congress, which had made significant gains in 2015 when elections to these local bodies were held in the backdrop of the Patidar quota agitation, was washed out even in its bastions.

Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) chief Amit Chavda and Leader of Opposition in Assembly Paresh Dhanani resigned from their posts, taking responsibility for the debacle. It has set off alarm bells in the party given that the state Assembly elections are due next year.

A Congress MLA and family

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Priyanka Vadra at Sadhuru tea garden in Biswanath, Assam, Tuesday. PTI

IN ASSAM, CONG VOWS TO NULLIFY CAA PAGE 6

EXPLAINED For Cong, 2022 a worry

A YEAR to the Assembly polls, the Congress is losing time to get its house together, with Tuesday's results further hurting the party. The gains from the quota agitation have evaporated.

CRACKS WITHIN THE GROUP OF 23 PAGE 5

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



NEW RULES FOR DIGITAL MEDIA

Imphal dist admin takes back notice to site after Centre rap

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, MARCH 2

A DAY after the district authorities in Imphal issued a notice to news website *The Frontier Manipur*, asking it to "furnish relevant documents" showing "compliance" with the government's new rules for digital media, the Centre informed the Manipur government on Tuesday that the implementation of the new Digital Media Ethics Code was not within the state's purview. The notice was withdrawn by Tuesday evening.

The March 1 notice, signed by Naorem Praveen Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Imphal West, was addressed to the "publisher/ intermediary" of "Khanasi Neinasi", a weekly online discussion programme hosted on *The Frontier Manipur's* Facebook page.

Paojel Chaoba, Executive Editor of *The Frontier Manipur*, said a police team delivered the

THE WORLD



NAVALNY ARREST: US, EU SLAP SANCTIONS ON OFFICIALS PAGE 14

Fresh trouble for BSY govt, Jarkiholi caught in a sex CD scandal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 2

THE RULING BJP in Karnataka found itself mired in a controversy Tuesday with a video CD allegedly featuring Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and a young unidentified woman, and audio conversations between the two, being played on television channels.

A social activist, Dinesh Kalahalli, who claimed he was authorised by the woman's family, later filed a complaint with the Cubbon Park police in Bengaluru alleging that the woman in the video clips was

enticed by the minister with the offer of a government job.

The police are yet to register a formal case and are verifying the legitimacy of the complaint, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) M N Anucheth said.

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa held a meeting with party colleagues, and sources in the government said a decision on seeking Jarkiholi's resignation will be taken after hearing him out. "Party leaders will decide on the issue," said Primary Education Minister Suresh Kumar.

While BJP leaders have not reacted on the issue, Jarkiholi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BJP vs SP in UP as man on bail for molestation kills victim's father

AMIL BHATNAGAR & AVANEESH MISHRA
HATHRAS, LUCKNOW, MARCH 2

A 50-YEAR-OLD man was shot dead in Hathras Monday, allegedly by a man accused of molesting his daughter two years ago. Police said the accused, Gaurav Sharma, had allegedly molested the victim's daughter in 2018, following which a rivalry had ensued between the two families.

On Monday evening, the accused, along with five others, opened fire at her father inside their village in Hathras district, police said. The man was rushed to the nearest hospital where he was declared brought dead, they said.



Spot where the 50-yr-old was shot in Hathras. Gajendra Yadav

The murder triggered a political firestorm in Uttar Pradesh with leaders of the ruling BJP claiming that the accused is a Samajwadi Party leader. The SP,

however, denied the claim and criticised the government for the law and order situation in the state.

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NIA TAKES OVER PROBE INTO ATTACK ON BENGAL MINISTER PAGE 6

LANKA CLEARS PORT TO BE BUILT BY ADANI, JAPAN FIRMS PAGE 5

IN CAR, ON PHONE: TN IPS OFFICER LISTS HARASSMENT BY DGP PAGE 6

Battlelines in Nandigram between communities, Adhikari vs Mamata

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
NANDIGRAM, MARCH 2

NANDIGRAM IN Purbo Medinipur district once catapulted Mamata Banerjee to power. Fourteen years later, Nandigram defines her battle to return to power for the third time. However, therein ends the similarity. The land acquisition agitation of 2007 is old news, Nandigram is now reverberating with the sharp polarisation that

marks the bitter Trinamool-BJP battle for Bengal.

Mamata has upped the stakes by declaring her candidature from the seat, thus pitting herself directly against Suwendu Adhikari, one of the BJP's biggest acquisitions from the Trinamool.

Adhikari was not just the face of the Trinamool in Nandigram, he was also the face of the party's land protest on the ground.

Mamata looms over Nandigram in graffiti,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Mamata hoardings dominate Nandigram. Partha Paul

Unfinished room, wedding cards await missing BRO engineer

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ASAD REHMAN
BALRAMPUR (UP), MARCH 2

THERE IS an unfinished room on the first floor. There are 700 wedding cards lying in a corner. There's a father, a mother, a brother, and three sisters.

All they want is closure — dead or alive.

On June 22 last year, Subhan

Ali, a 27-year-old Indian Engineering Services (IES) officer with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), went missing after the vehicle in which he was travelling with a driver fell into the Drass river from the Zozila-Kargil-Leh road. His family in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur is still waiting to know what happened to him.

They have been to the site of the accident twice. They have been told by officials that the driver's body was recovered a few kilometres from the spot. Last



Subhan Ali's father and brother outside the family's home in Balrampur. A room was being built for Ali. Asad Rehman

month, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh wrote to Amroha MP Kunwar Danish Ali, who is supporting the family, that a DNA test on "an unidentified body" recovered from the river on the other side of the border, five days after the accident, would take more time.

But last week, they were informed that the test conducted by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Chandigarh, with coordination from Pakistani authorities, had led to another dead end. "It did not match their DNA.

The report came a few days ago," says Kargil SP Anayat Ali.

"If we saw his body, we would at least know that he has left us. But till now, all our efforts have been futile," says Subhan's father Ramjan Ali (56), a tailor from Kauwapur village. "It has been eight months..."

Subhan's brother Sahban Ali struggles to speak, taking deep breaths before breaking down. "My mother cries all the time, and keeps asking about him. We have told her to stay busy teaching the Quran to children in the

neighborhood," he says. "Subhan was our everything. He was so bright. He was the district topper in the Class X and XII exams, and all he wanted to do was work for the country... He sent half his salary home every month," says Sahban (33), who runs an IAS coaching centre in Delhi and is a lawyer at the Delhi High Court.

Sahban is married with an infant son who used to call Subhan "papa". "During our school days, Subhan and I realised how hard

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GOYAL CALLS FOR GOVT DEPTS, TO FOLLOW STANDARDS FOR PROCUREMENT

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal on Monday urged government departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) to abide only by Indian standards in procurement processes and asked them to not follow "videshi" (foreign) standards while purchasing goods.

EXPRESS EDUCATION



LINKEDIN REPORT ON GENDER STATS

85% Indian women miss raise or promotion due to gender: report

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



EXPLAINED: AS BENGAL ELECTIONS LOOM

Here's how to read the RJD and SP support to Mamata

EXPRESS AUDIO

The possibilities that India-Pak statement could open up

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today, we talk about the significance of the joint statement made by the two countries, and how it will impact the people who live near the LoC.

FROM PAGE ONE

Hathras killing

"Police teams reached the spot and found the injured victim. He died on his way to hospital. It was found that the accused and victim had an argument, which escalated. The victim's family had accused Gaurav of molestation in 2018 for which he was in jail for a month and later released on bail. One accused has been arrested and others will be caught soon," said Vineet Jaiswal, SP Hathras.

According to police, the accused along with his wife and aunt were visiting a temple close to their house. The victim's daughters were also present and the two families got into an argument. Gaurav and the other accused then went to the victim's field, where he was harvesting potatoes, and allegedly opened fire, police said.

The victim's family has alleged that he was killed because of the complaint made by his younger daughter, on the basis of which a case of molestation was registered against Gaurav.

"Around 6-7 of them shot my father multiple times. He had nothing to do with the argument in the temple. Gaurav Sharma first molested me and when my father filed a case, he did this," the victim's 25-year old daughter said.

An FIR for murder has been filed against Gaurav Sharma, Rohas Sharma, Nikhil Sharma and Lalit Sharma, along with two unnamed accused. Lalit Sharma was arrested Tuesday, the others are absconding.

The family alleged that the accused, for several years, would harass them, flaunt his "political connections" and pressure the victim's daughter for friendship and later marriage.

"I have been raised in this village while Gaurav would visit his relatives here. In his pictures on social media, he can be seen brandishing guns. And he would do the same in the village. He often passed lewd comments. Despite my refusal, he kept harassing me to get married to him. One day, when I was alone in the house, he molested me and then threatened my family," said the victim's daughter.

Police records show that the woman filed an FIR in July 2018 against Gaurav. The FIR stated that since the accused was a distant relative, the victim had been in touch with him.

The statements of the accused had been recorded in a local court and trial is pending.

Speaking to The Indian Express, the woman said: "There was a time we were scared because his threats did not stop. Then for one-and-a-half years, he didn't say anything and we thought the worst was over. When his family saw us again, he became enraged. He's a known SP worker and very influential."

Gaurav originally hails from Shravasti where his father works in the government's Agricultural Department. He would visit the victim's village since his relatives lived here. Most of Gaurav's political activities were limited to Aligarh, police said.

Taking to Twitter, BJP MP from Kannauj, Subrat Pathak, who is also the BJP state general secretary, posted: "Beware of the red cap [worn by SP workers]. This Samajwadi leader has killed the father of a Brahmin girl for opposing her molestation. The Samajwadi Party supports such criminals. Bigger the criminal, bigger the Samajwadi."

In a press meet, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav did not address allegations that Gaurav was an SP member and was at the farmers' protests on the behalf of the party.

"Ask the Chief Minister what he has to say about the Hathras daughter who is crying. Did you hear how she is crying? This is

the situation in Uttar Pradesh, and the CM is roaming in Bengal. A delegation of the Samajwadi Party will soon go to meet her," said Yadav.

However, Yadav lost his cool when a journalist pointed out that an FIR had been registered in the molestation case in 2018, and said, "You are sold (bikay hue). Her father died and you are doing drama. I know how you people get advertisements."

SP spokesperson Juhie Singh said the accused "is neither a sitting office bearer in the party, nor he is a spokesperson". Former SP MLA and former Forest State Minister Pawan Pandey posted pictures of the accused with Aligarh BJP MP Satish Gautam and alleged that they show he got shelter from the ruling party.

Imphal admin

notice at his residence on Monday morning.

"It has come to our notice that you are providing online news services on news and current affairs on the social media platform through the Facebook page Khanasi Neinasi," the notice said.

Citing the new rules, it said: "You are hereby directed to furnish all the relevant documents showing that you ensure compliance of the provision of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, failing which steps as deemed fit shall be initiated without further notice."

But in a note addressed to Manipur Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar on Tuesday, Amit Khare, Secretary, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said: "the requirement of furnishing of information and disclosure of information (under the new rules for digital media) are to be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. These powers have not been delegated to the state government/district magistrate/police commissioner."

On Tuesday evening, the district authorities sent a second notice, informing that the earlier notice had been withdrawn. Chaoba said the second notice was pasted outside his residence.

"It is to inform you that this office notice... dated March 1, 2021 served to you stands withdrawn with immediate effect," said the second notice, also signed by Singh.

Singh could not be contacted on Tuesday.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Chaoba said: "I was arrested recently under sedition charge, and my family is yet to recover from the trauma... Sending a police team to my residence to deliver the notice speaks for itself, this is nothing but intimidation."

He said the focus of the recent Khanasi Neinasi programme was freedom of press. "We will file a petition in court against the notice," he said.

In January, Chaoba and his Editor-in-Chief Dhiren Sadokpam were detained for a night over an article in The Frontier Manipur which allegedly "endorsed revolutionary ideologies". They were released the following day after they reportedly admitted oversight.

WITH ENDS, NEW DELHI

BRO engineer

it was to get a proper education. We had to travel 15 km to school and it was difficult, considering that our father was a tailor at an export house in Delhi," he says.

"But Subhan did his B.Tech in Civil Engineering from Jamia Millia Islamia. And later, both of us bought some land near the village to open a school for underprivileged children from the village, so others would not have to fight for an education," says

All private hospitals to now offer vaccination

communicated to states at a high-level meeting on Tuesday chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, along with Dr Ram S Sharma, chairman of the Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration.

States have been directed to ensure that all private hospitals that will operate as vaccination centres must have "an adequate number of vaccinators, adequate space for observation of the vaccinated, adequate cold chain arrangement and adequate arrangement for the management of Adverse Events Following Immunisation".

On extending the time limit for the sessions, Bhushan, in the

weekly briefing earlier in the day, said, "Co-WIN 2.0 doesn't provide for a 9 am to 5 pm vaccination session. It has done away with the timeline. If the hospital has the capacity, the system permits the hospital to do vaccinations even after 5 pm. They need to do it in consultation with state governments."

As on Tuesday, 4,34,981 beneficiaries in the two priority groups have received the first dose of the vaccine, the Ministry said.

The Centre said there have been about 50 lakh registrations on the Co-WIN website since Monday. "Now if the average number of beneficiaries per registration is around two, it

means as many as one crore people have registered," Sharma said.

During the weekly briefing, ICMR Chief Dr Balram Bhargava clarified that both Covishield and Covaxin are safe to be administered for those on blood thinners.

"I have said this earlier... the vaccine can be administered to those who are on blood thinners. Those who are having aspirin can continue to have it. Those who are on anti-coagulants have to stop for 1-2 days only because there could be a clot near the injection site. There is no contraindication either related to anti-coagulants or anti-platelets," Bhargava said.

During the review meeting, states were informed that there "there is no shortage of COVID vaccines". States have been directed to "not store, reserve, conserve or create a buffer stock of the COVID vaccines at the State and district levels".

Meanwhile, the Centre said five states and Union Territories have administered the first dose to 100 per cent of the registered healthcare workers: Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Lakshadweep. "Some of these states had reported hesitancy. Tamil Nadu was a particular cause of concern. This is a significant improvement," Bhushan said.

BJP trounces Cong in Gujarat local body polls

members of five other party MLAs were among those defeated.

According to the results announced by the State Election Commission, the BJP won 800 of the 980 seats in 31 district panchayats while the Congress managed 169 seats.

In the taluka panchayats, the BJP won 3351 of 4774 seats against 1252 of the Congress. In the municipalities, the BJP took 2085 of the 2720 seats while 388 seats went to the Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Gujarat is firmly with the BJP's agenda of development and good governance."

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told party workers: "Earlier, there was speculation that the BJP has presence in cities but will not get votes/seats in villages. But we have got even better results than in cities. At some places, we are winning entire nagarpalikas."

"This (victory) has laid the

foundation for the formation of a BJP government in 2022 (after the Assembly elections)."

BJP state president CR Paatil told party workers that the voters had "made up for the 2015 losses by paying back with interest". This time, the BJP parliamentary board had denied tickets to those above the age of 60, family members of party functionaries, and those who had completed three terms in a local body.

In 2015, the Congress had swept the local body polls in rural areas, winning 23 of 31 district panchayats and 146 of 231 taluka panchayats.

Congress working president Hardik Patel urged all candidates "who won or lost" to work for the people. "In the coming days, Congress party will become a strong Opposition and take its struggle to the streets, and win back the confidence of the people. From the streets to the Vidhan Sabha, Congress will prove to be a leading Opposition party."

Hardik Patel, whose outfit Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) led the quota agitation, told *The Indian Express* recently that the state Congress leadership was "not utilising" him enough. He also said that the leadership had to accept the fact that the local body elections in 2015 were won because of the agitation.

Leader of Opposition Paresch Dhanani, who resigned after the rout, told *The Indian Express* that Gujarat needs new leadership and, therefore, he has resigned as leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

"I had tendered my resignation after the 26-0 result in favour of the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. I had repeated my request to the party leadership after we lost the recent Assembly bypolls 0-8 despite working hard. Today, we have lost the district panchayat election to BJP 31-0 and this is clearly an indication that we have failed to take the important issues to the new genera-

tion," Dhanani said.

On what changed the fortunes of the party in the five years since 2015, Dhanani said that in 2007 and 2012 elections, the Mahagujarat Janata Party of Gordhan Zadaphia and Gujarat Parivartan Party of Keshubhai Patel had split Opposition votes.

"But in 2015 and 2017, there were no such outfits in the fray and, therefore, Opposition votes went the Congress way and we did well," he said.

The AAP and AIMIM contested the local body polls for the first time. While AAP made inroads in Saurashtra and some other parts of the state, AIMIM emerged as the main Opposition party in the Modasa municipality of Aravalli district by winning nine seats. AIMIM also won seven seats in Godhra municipality of Panchmahals district and one in the Bharuch municipality.

—WITH GOPAL KATESHIYA AND VAIBHAV JHA

Sahban.

The family says Subhan had a "knack to crack competitive examinations". "Without any coaching, he first cleared an examination and was appointed as a Junior Engineer in the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in 2016-17. After that, he gave the examination for Indian Engineering Services (IES) and cracked it in the first attempt," says the brother while showing newspaper clippings with photographs of Subhan along with other toppers after the Class XII results.

After working as a Junior Engineer at DDA, Subhan joined the BRO in January 2020. Leh was his first posting. The family, meanwhile, managed to convert their "kuccha house" into a two-storeyed building. "The construction happened after we got some financial stability because Subhan and I were both earning well," says Sahban.

But the long wait is now beginning to take a toll, in more ways than one. "Our savings have been exhausted, and we have received no financial help. I had to go to Kargil twice to search for my brother with help from the local administration and an NGO. My work has also stopped because I have to stay at home to look after my parents and family," says Sahban, adding that his father had survived a heart attack 10 years ago.

Of the three sisters, Nazia (22) is pursuing an M.Tech while Seema (25) and Shama (31) are school teachers. "Subhan was scheduled to get married last March, but that was postponed due to the lockdown. We had done most of the preparation. The cards were printed in Delhi, and we were getting a room

constructed for him on the first floor with expensive fittings. But now, no one goes upstairs because it just breaks us," says the brother.

IIM PhD thesis

the Bahujan Samaj Party were "ethnically constituted" parties. And that the BJP is a "a pro-Hindu upper caste party."

In his letter, Swamy said the PM was not an upper-caste leader and such depictions were "propagated" by British historians to show India was never "one country" and its society was never united.

Swamy had urged the government that IIM-A should be directed to "re-examine" the thesis by independent professors and that the PhD kept on hold until then.

When asked to share a copy of the thesis, D'Souza wrote to the MoE saying that the Ministry is not an arbiter of complaints regarding a thesis.

He is learned to have also said that the Thesis Advisory and Examination Committee of the Institute had read the thesis, and parts of it were presented to a select academic community at the viva, and anyone having a complaint should have raised at these forums.

When contacted by The Indian Express on Monday, D'Souza declined to comment. Sources said he had been sent another "reminder" regarding the ministry's request to which his response has not been received.

D'Souza declining to share the thesis was cited in the government's justification for seeking powers to initiate an inquiry against the Board of Governors (BoG) of an IIM, if it's ostensibly

found to be acting, what the government thinks, is in contravention of the IIM Act.

That proposal has been shelved after the Law Ministry rejected the idea on the ground that it's inconsistent with the provisions of the IIM Act, which gives unprecedented autonomy to the 20 business schools. And that any provision permitting the government to take punitive action against the institute can only be introduced through an amendment in the law.

This is playing out amid a larger debate on the IIMs' institutional autonomy and accountability. The latest in this is the controversy in IIM-Calcutta where the Board of Governors and a significant section of the faculty have objected to the Director with the Board clipping her powers of appointment last week even though the rules of the IIM Act have no such provision.

Sex CD scandal

himself remained incommunicado. His phone was switched off.

Jarkiholi, 60, is a powerful minister from the Belagavi region of north Karnataka in the Yediyurappa-led BJP government. A bitter personal feud with current state Congress President D K Shivakumar — both were associates earlier — over control of the Belagavi region is believed to be the reason behind the collapse of the Congress-JDS coalition in 2019.

He played a key role in engineering defections of 17 Congress and JDS MLAs to the BJP in 2019. This had helped the BJP topple the Congress-JDS coalition government and come to power in July 2019.

Since then, he has been a central rallying point for MLAs who are new entrants to the BJP and other rebels. He has also been at the forefront of a campaign to seek an increase in quota for his ST Valmiki Nayak community in the state.

Jarkiholi is among four brothers who are active in Karnataka politics from the Belagavi region and is known to nurse an ambition to become chief minister.

The CD featuring Ramesh Jarkiholi has come ahead of the announcement of bypolls to the Belagavi Lok Sabha seat which fell vacant last year following the death from Covid-19 of Suresh Angadi, the then Minister of State for Railways in the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Following the emergence of the alleged sex CD on Tuesday, youth Congress workers staged protests in different parts of the state demanding Jarkiholi's resignation.

The BJP is wary of the CD issue disrupting a budget session of the state legislature which is scheduled to commence on March 4.

In 2016, a senior minister in the then Congress government in Karnataka led by then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah resigned in the wake of a purported video clip of the minister with a woman who approached him for an official favour.

H Y Meti, then 71, was the Minister for Excise and was considered to be a close associate of Siddaramaiah. An RTI activist from Bellary had released the CD of the minister with a woman.

In 2019, a BJP MLA had filed a complaint of being a victim of a gang involved in setting up

honey traps. Investigations by the crime branch in Bengaluru on the basis of the complaint filed by the 49-year-old BJP MLA — who obtained a restraining order from the Karnataka high court and a civil court against being identified in the media — also revealed that the gang targeted at least 12 other prominent persons including politicians and officials.

Nandigram

cutouts and hoardings declaring 'Bangla Nijer Meyeke Chai (Bengal wants her daughter)'. But BJP flags jostle for space. Adding to the crowd is Furfura Sharif cleric Abbas Siddiqui, who has demanded the seat for his party Indian Secular Front in his alliance with the Left and Congress. With a significant proportion of the population in Nandigram Muslim, Siddiqui will further queer Mamata's pitch.

At a rally in Hooghly on January 21, Adhikari declared, "They (the Trinamool) is relying on 62,000 votes (in Nandigram), but I have the support of 2.13 lakh people who chant Jai Shri Ram."

Won by the Trinamool in a 2009 bypoll, Nandigram Assembly seat has since been with the party — Adhikari won in 2016 by 81,230 votes. Before that, it was a Congress and then a CPI stronghold. In 2019, the Tamuk Lok Sabha seat was won by Adhikari's brother Dibyendu, but the BJP had come second, getting over 60,000 votes in the Nandigram segment. Dibyendu is also with the BJP now.

The Trinamool campaign for the Assembly seat is being run from a two-storey house in Tarachand Bar area of Nandigram Block 1. Sitting in a hall plastered with pictures of Mamata, Trinamool district vice-president Sheikh Sufian says they are not worried. "The BJP is trying to draw communal lines in the Nandigram seat. But they will not be successful. Mamata Banerjee will win overwhelmingly... Suwendu Adhikari has made a political blunder," Sufian, 60, says, adding that the BJP would struggle to even put up agents in 100 of the 355 polling booths.

As leader of the Bhumi Uched Pratiroth Committee (BUPC), Sufian had led the movement against the Left government's plan for land acquisition for an SEZ in 2007. He says it was the Trinamool chief who had made the world aware of the "plight" of Nandigram and brought development to the region. The last few years have seen concrete roads, proper drains, a super-specialty hospital, a drinking water project, plans for a ferry to Haldia, and a bus terminus come to Nandigram.

About Siddiqui, Sufian says, "Muslims here are not fools, and Siddiqui has no acceptance."

About 2 km from Sufian's home, a BUPC comrade, Meghnad Pal, says he now has security with him 24X7, ever since he left the Trinamool for the BJP. Meeting The Indian Express in a room showing CCTV footage of outside — on the condition that his location not be disclosed — the former Nandigram Block 1 president of the BJP says the Trinamool has sent goons after him.

"I have written to the Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) for security cover. In Muslims strongholds like Kendamari, Daudpur, Samsabad, our workers are not allowed to campaign," Pal, 62, says, warning that Trinamool leaders can expect the same treatment in Hindu areas.

According to Pal, the BJP will do well in Hindu-dominated areas in Nandigram 2 block. "Nandigram 1 has around 34% Muslim voters while Nandigram 2 has just around 10%... The BJP

will win by 70,000 votes." The party is yet to announce its candidate from the seat.

Debangshu Maity, the BJP co-convenor for Nandigram, says the region saw huge corruption after the Amphan cyclone in May last year. "Trinamool panchayat leaders usurped money meant for the poor. Do you think people will forget this?"

About 4 km away, in Gopimohanpur village near Chowringhee, Abu Taher too lives under security, Y-category, provided by the state government. Also part of the BUPC and now the Trinamool district general secretary, Taher says the 2007 agitation was a struggle of the people. "The people of Nandigram lost their near and dear ones. Suwendu Adhikari came later."

Taher stresses that the BJP's polarisation tactics won't work. "Hindus and Muslims celebrate their festivals together in Nandigram. They agitated together in 2007."

However, it's hard to escape the tension in the air, especially in the hushed tones in the Muslim-dominated areas. "We are in shock over Suwendu Adhikari joining the BJP. The BJP is a communal party, how can we vote for it?" says Sheikh Taslim, a coconut seller standing at the Debipur School corner, adding that he was glad Mamata had chosen to contest from Nandigram. "She will surely win."

Sheikh Zulfikar, who does shrimp farming on 35 bighas of leased land in Kendamari, says they loved Adhikari. "Then he joined the BJP and started giving statements against Muslims... Everyone in our village and surrounding areas will vote for Mamata Banerjee. She will get all the Muslim votes as well as votes of women in the houses of BJP supporters," Zulfikar, who says his 2007 agitation days are far behind him, asserts.

In Sonachura, Ramen Gosain, a small farmer, says their support is for Adhikari, whatever the party. "Around 2016, the BJP started working here. But still a majority of us were with the Trinamool. But after Suwendu babu joined the BJP, the party is our choice," Gosain says.

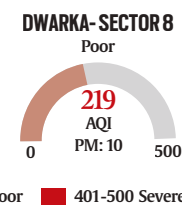
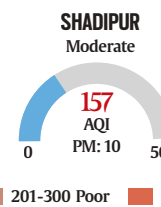
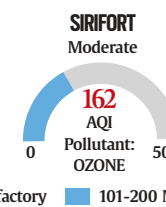
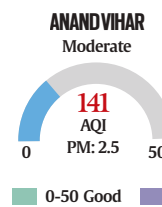
Fellow farmer Haripada Samanta, standing beside Gosain, says the Trinamool has only itself to blame. "After Amphan, Suwendu babu suspended a lot of panchayat members and made some of them return the money they took. After he went to the BJP, those people are back with the Trinamool."

As one ventures towards Nandigram Block 2, the presence of the BJP gets more marked.

In Berulia market, a two-storey building adorned with pictures of Lord Rama, Ganesh and 'Bharat Mata' is the BJP's oldest office in the area. Party district vice president Pralay Pal, 42, says Adhikari crossover had boosted their confidence. Pal adds, "There are around 62,000 Muslim votes out of a total of around 2.75 lakh. So consolidation will be there... A section of Muslims too will vote for us."

Sabita Jana admits there is "confusion". Standing not far from the BJP office, the mother of two whose husband works as a carpenter, says, "On the one hand is Suwendu babu whom we admire, on the other hand is Mamata Banerjee, whom we love too. I am not the only one, many are confused."

A fruit stall owner at the Chowringhee market in Block 1, who refuses to give his name, says a surprise will be in store on May 2 result day, quite like in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when the BJP had won 18 seats. "We are quiet now. But when the time comes we will vote for, you know, which party."



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: March 3
Mainly clear sky.
Mist in the morning.

MAX: 30 MIN: 14
2.9°C Above normal 0.9°C Above normal

WHEAT HARVEST SEASON APPROACHING

Kheti and andolan: Singhu protesters aim for balance

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE MARCH-April wheat harvesting season has meant protesters at Singhu are trying to find a balance between their responsibility at their fields back home and maintaining strength at the protest site on the Delhi border, or as many put it, between "kheti" and "andolan".

Wheat, a winter crop, is sown in October and harvested around this time, reaching the peak around the harvest festival of Baisakhi. Wheat harvesting starts in mid-March and peaks around 15-20 April. This is the busiest period for most farmers from Punjab and Haryana. Potato harvesting season is from mid-Feb to mid-March whereas mustard harvesting takes place throughout March. Sugarcane planting, which is just as crucial, takes place from end of February till mid-April.

Said Jarbara Singh (75), a farmer from Patiala: "I have been here a few days and I'll go back in another five. In the meantime, a few others from my village will come here." Once he is done with work at home in around 20 days, he will head back for the border, he said, explaining how farmers



At Singhu border on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

plan to keep the numbers up at the protest site. The numbers are expected to reduce further between mid-March and mid-April.

Several farmers said that they are relying on their children, spouses and siblings back home to take care of the fields. Baljeet Singh (47) from Jalandhar said: "In case my family needs some help, I will go back for two-three days and then return. We keep in touch on the phone and they keep us updated with the progress."

Locals said that the number of farmers at the mega protest site

has slightly dwindled over the last month, ostensibly owing to the harvest season. Prem Prakash, who runs a general store at the Singhu border, said, "Quite a few farmers from Punjab seem to have gone back... But many from Haryana seem to be joining in."

This is also apparent at the large langars at Singhu, which are feeding fewer people than they used to. Volunteers, however, said this is because the structure of the protest site has changed. Instead of a few langars near the stage, there are many spread out

through the stretch, which means fewer people at each. Surinder Singh (64) from Patiala said each family is planning the next two months in a way that there are people both at the fields and at the protest. In case someone does not have a family member back in the village, neighbours and other residents will come together to tend to his field on a priority basis, he said. "The community sentiment in our villages is very strong; nobody's fields will be ignored as they are here. In fact, they will be given extra care."

2 food delivery staffers held for breaking in, theft

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

TWO SWIGGY employees were arrested for alleged robberies in houses at Noida. Police said the accused, Kafil and Ravi Shankar, would retrace houses during delivery assignments and target them at a later time. Police have recovered TVs and other stolen goods from the accused.

"We arrested a gang of two persons who had been carrying out robberies in houses. The two accused worked for Swiggy and would carry out food deliveries. During that time, they would have a look at houses in the vicinity that were not occupied by people or were easy to get in. Later in the night, they would break in and steal equipment. Another accused, to whom they supplied the materials, will be ar-

The accused would retrace houses during delivery assignments and target them at a later time, police said

rested soon," said ADCP (Gautam Budh Nagar) Ranvijay Singh. The accused hail from Bulandshahr and were working in the Noida region for the food delivery agency. Police said they had three cases of theft and robbery in Noida and Greater Noida.

"We strongly condemn this act and have suspended the delivery partners with immediate effect. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards any such behaviour and will be extending our full support to the investigating authorities," said Swiggy in a statement.

Gather all footage of DJB attack: Court to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

A DELHI court has directed police to collect all CCTV footage of the alleged vandalism at the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office in December last year and conduct an investigation in an impartial manner to unearth the facts. The development came after the court was shown two CCTV footage clips. In one clip, police officers and the SHO were seen trying to protect the gate of the DJB office and another showing police officers not resisting any member of the mob from entering the main building, the court said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by DJB vice-chairman Raghav Chadha, seeking a court-monitored investigation into the case of alleged vandalism and attack on staff members. "ACP DJU

(District Investigation Unit), is directed to collect all the CCTV footage, analyse the same and take appropriate action in the matter. Investigation would be conducted in impartial manner to unearth the truth of the matter," said Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gajender Singh Nagar in his order passed Monday. The court directed the police to file a progress report on March 9.

The application filed by Chadha has alleged the attack was orchestrated by BJP Delhi chief Adesh Gupta and party leaders Yogendra Chandoliya, Ravi Tanwar Upadhyaksh and Vikas Tanwar. Chadha alleged the inaction, coupled with dereliction of duties by police, aggravated the rampage of the offenders who unleashed the "abominable" attack on the DJB and its staff on December 24 last year.

Reviving Ridge will greatly benefit city air & groundwater, says panel head

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

RESTORING OVER 400 hectares of the Central Ridge will have an "enormous" impact on Delhi's air quality and groundwater levels, according to the expert heading the revival project.

Delhi University Professor CR Babu, who heads the Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems, told *The Indian Express* his team aims to begin restoration work this month. The ridge, a reserved forest of about 7,700 hectares and the northern extension of the Aravalli Range, is presently covered with Prosopis juliflora or vilayati kikar — an invasive tree species introduced under the British Empire, which is not exactly serving as the city's "green lungs", according to Prof. Babu.

"The leaves of the kikar tree are small and smooth. When dust laden air passes through it, nothing or almost negligible amount of it sticks. Replace that with full-grown forest having three-layer canopy, and broad-leaved trees, and shrubs — it acts as a barrier. The polluted air will pass through the bottom layer of the forest and move up, or vice versa, and that will sieve out fine particles in the air," Babu said. In February, the Delhi cabinet cleared a plan for restoring 423 hectares of the Central Ridge over the next five years. Prof. Babu agrees it is a challenging task, but he aims to turn the area into a space where people can enjoy the biodiversity of the Aravallis, take butterfly and bird-watching safaris, and walk on nature trails and around water bodies in the heart of the city. But first, the kikar has to be re-



Over 400 hectares of the Central Ridge is to be restored

moved, as it does not let any other tree or shrubs survive around it. This is because the tree can dry up underground aquifers through its deep-root system, going as far as 20 metres or more in search of water, significantly higher than around 5 metres that native shrubs and trees go, as per Prof. Babu. The tree's canopy is such that it does not let sunlight reach the ground, which also hinders growth of other species.

In the northern ridge, around Hindu Rao hospital, some of the kikar trees have started dying. "It may be as they are over 150 years old now, or that the groundwater levels have gone down very low for them to survive," Prof. Babu said. Since the ridge is a notified reserved forest, the kikar cannot be removed completely. The plan therefore is to remove a few branches, which will help sunlight to break through and full-grown saplings can be planted in such places, he added.

In the first stage, a patch of the ridge measuring about 100 hectares along the Sardar Patel Marg will be restored and the remaining area will be taken afterwards. Prof. Babu estimates the residents will begin to see the impact of restoration on the environment over the next two years.

DCPCR writes to school over flouting Covid norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE DELHI Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) Tuesday wrote to the Principal of the Venkateshwar International School in Dwarka after receiving complaints from 67 parents over "deliberate and conscious" break of Covid-19 protocol by authorities.

Parents alleged that two students — one each from Class XI and XII — who were attending physical classes, had tested Covid positive, and the school did not send anyone into quarantine. They alleged the school was going ahead with offline exams, scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

In her complaint to Principal Manisha Sharma, DCPCR member Ranjana Prasad wrote, "The Commission received a complaint... stating that two students have tested positive within a week and they both were attending regular school." She said the complaint states "everyone came in contact with the infected people during the classes. Neither the teachers nor the classmates of those two chil-

dren went into quarantine" and the "school deliberately and consciously broke the Covid protocol". "The Commission directs the school to look into the concerns of the parents as its top-most priority. The Commission also directs the DDE to personally monitor the situation" she wrote. Principal Sharma however said, "I think the matter has been escalated unnecessarily. We only received a Covid- positive report from one student who last came to school 15 days ago. The other student, who we are being told also has Covid, has not come for the last 20 days. So, why close the school? We are taking all safety precautions, and we will hold the exams from tomorrow, as many parents have requested us for it".

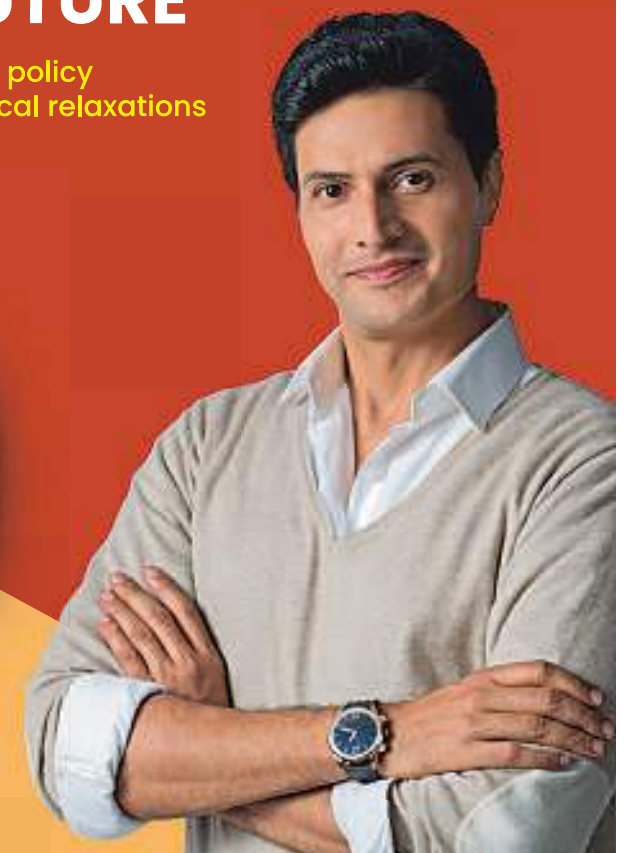
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Public Notice
(Under Paragraph 21 (2) of the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013)
Attention of general public is drawn to the fact that Abbott India Limited, having its registered office at the aforesaid address, is marketing the scheduled formulations namely Letrolife 2.5mg 5s pack (Each film coated tablet contains: Letrozole I.P. 2.5mg, Excipients q.s. Colours: Tartrazine Lake & Titanium dioxide I.P.) (hereinafter referred to as medicine). Abbott India Limited wants to discontinue and stop marketing of the above said product after 6 months from the date of this notice.
After discontinuation of the above medicine, the same may not be available in the market. Therefore, patients using such medicine may consult their doctor for prescribing alternate medicine. All doctors/medical professionals may also make note of this."
Krupa Anandpara
Company Secretary
Date: 02.03.2021
Place: Mumbai
Membership No.: ACS16536

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*Not applicable for high-risk plans like Term Assurance, Health Insurance, Multiple Risk Policies etc. Policies can be revived within 5 years from the date of First Unpaid Premium. (T&C Apply)



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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Public Auction Notice
Debts Recovery Tribunal
A, B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025
State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 1
Vs
M/s Jagdama Rice Mills through Sri Deepak Kumar Singh & Others
(In R.P. Case No. 342/2018 arising out of Certificate No. O.A. 60/2018)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
As per order dated 03/02/2021, under mentioned property will be sold by **public online e-Auction** on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of Rs. 59,98,352/- from M/s Jagdama Rice Mills through Sri Deepak Kumar Singh & Others, the sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. The auction sale will be by way of **online e-Auction**.

Description of Property:

Description of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and Time of Auction
Property standing in the name of Sri Deepak Kumar, Proprietor of Certificate Debtor Number one which has been mortgaged in favor of the certificate holder bank vide Sale Deed No. 1990 dated 14.02.2012 situated at Mouza- Dumri, P.S.- Chariya, Bariyarpur, District- Begusarai under Khata No. 113, Khesra No. 101, Thana No. 410, Tauzi No. 9958, Area- 6.83 Decimals. Boundary- North : Passage 6' wide; South : Chandrachud Choudhary; East : Satyabhama Devi; and West : Niz.	Rs.13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Only)	Rs. 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lac and Thirty Thousand Only) on or before 24/03/2021 upto 4.00 P.M.	26/03/2021 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.

Details of e-auction agency:
Company Name/address :- M/s E-procurement Technologies Limited, A-801, Wall Street - II, Opp.- Orient Club, Nr. Gujrat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujrat, India.
Contact No. 079-61200548.
Website add: <https://drt.auctiontiger.net>
e-mail Address:- bihar@auctiontiger.net, hardik@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net
Contact Person: Mr. Marty Jhon (Mob. No. 9978434773)

Details of the facilitation center:
Address:- State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna SBI Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800 001, Bihar, India, E-mail ID:- sbi.05176@sbi.co.in
Name of Contact Person: Mr. Nand Kishore Kumar, Chief Manager, SARB, Patna.
Mob. No. 9709119255, e-mail ID: nand_kishore.kumar@sbi.co.in

ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER

ACCOUNT NO. & NAME	NAME	IFSC CODE
31472262527 SARB COLLECTION A/C	STATE BANK OF INDIA	SBIN0000152

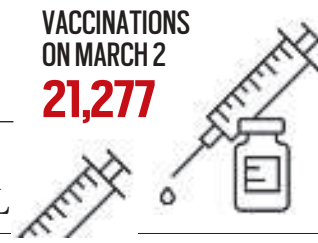
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-

- The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
- To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/Pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna alongwith copy of PAN Card, Address Proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelope containing EMD along with details of documents should be superscribed R.P. No. 342/2018 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 24/03/2021 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the Next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
- The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/ Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
- Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.

Dated: 25/02/2021.
(Nandan Kumar)
Recovery Officer



VACCINATIONS
ON MARCH 2
21,277



		Total	Vacant		
TOTAL CASES		6,39,681			
HOSPITAL BEDS		5,711	5,195		
VENTILATORS		786	684		
		Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Mar 1		175	105	1	39,733
Mar 2		217	78	0	66,624
Total		1,543*	6,27,227	10,911	1,24,87,056

*Total active cases

BRIEFLY

Petition on compensation for minors killed in riots

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the Delhi government to file a response to a petition challenging the fixing of maximum compensation of Rs 5 lakh for families who lost a minor during the Northeast Delhi riots. The court listed the case for hearing on April 26 along with other similar petitions relating to Delhi government's compensation scheme.

Gambhir to bear expenses of family of minor killed

New Delhi: MP Gautam Gambhir said he will bear the educational expenses of the family of the minor girl in East Delhi's Khichdipur who was kidnapped a week earlier and later killed. The girl's father works as a helper in an incense stick company. The minor had three sisters. "Their counselling and further education will be taken care of by Gautam Gambhir Foundation," he said.

Manoj Tiwari attacks AAP over remarks on Kishor

New Delhi: BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Tuesday attacked AAP Punjab MP Bhagwant Mann over his remarks on Prashant Kishor being appointed by Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh as his principal advisor. Tiwari said the comment shows anti-Purvanchal mindset of the AAP. Mann had tweeted in Hindi, "Captain Amrinder you are not able to run the government yourself, now will the government be run after making a person from Bihar the principal advisor?"

Cabinet nod to merge 13 institutes

New Delhi: The Delhi Cabinet has decided to merge 13 government institutes and colleges and bring them under the ambit of Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University. "The Delhi Cabinet decided to merge 10 Government Institutes of Technology, Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering (Wazirpur and Okhla Campus) and Govind Ballabh Pant Engineering College and bring them under the ambit of the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University. This will streamline the skill education in Delhi," the Delhi government said in their statement. **ENS**

COVID VACCINE, DAY 2

Amid some app hiccups, many opt for walk-in

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

A DAY after the Covid vaccine was made available to those over 60 and those between 45 and 59 with comorbidities, many people who wanted the shot opted for walking into vaccination centres without registering beforehand on the Aarogya Setu app or the COWIN portal.

Hospital authorities helped them with the manual registration process, with many saying they found this easier as they weren't able to register on the app or the portal.

On Tuesday, 21,277 people received the Covid shot in Delhi. On Monday this figure was 15,521.

At Fortis, Vasant Kunj, many who were in queue said they completed the registration process at the hospital, which gave them forms to fill and asked

for their identification before giving them the shot.

S P Gupta (68) and his wife Rekha (64), residents of Mehrauli, were among this group. He said, "Once we arrived here, after completing the payment of Rs 250, I tried registering on the app, but there was a glitch so I had to register manually."

Ranjit Das (82), a resident of Vasant Kunj, said, "After payment, I tried to register on the app, but there was a technical error. Eventually, I had to give the form in writing to the hospital."

At Indraprastha Apollo hospital, where Covidshield was being given, staff made people register on the COWIN portal, selfregistration.cowin.gov.in.

"People need not necessarily pre-register before arriving as we are doing their on-spot registration here. They need to present an ID like Aadhaar. In the



The vaccination process underway at Delhi Heart & Lung Institute on Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

DU-affiliated College of Art to be merged with Ambedkar University

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE DELHI Cabinet on Tuesday took the decision to merge the College of Art — currently affiliated to Delhi University (DU) — with Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD). The college is run by the Delhi government.

"The Delhi Cabinet has... approved the merger of Delhi University's College of Arts, functioning under the Directorate of Training and Technical Education, and Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management (DIHRM) affiliated with GGSIP University, functioning under the Directorate of Higher Education. Together they will now be part of

Dr B R Ambedkar University," the Delhi government said.

Earlier in 2009, the Delhi College of Engineering was similarly de-affiliated from DU and made a separate university — called the Delhi Technological University. Similarly in 2019, the Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology was changed to Netaji Subhas University of Technology under the Delhi government.

While the Delhi government announced the decision on Tuesday, DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said any decision on College of Art's de-affiliation with DU was yet to be taken. "They had written to us about 8-10 days ago saying they would look to de-affiliate from DU. We said we would place it before our Academic Council

(AC) since it's a major policy decision. We can't take any decision without the approval of statutory bodies," he said.

A Delhi government official said, "The Delhi College of Art is fully funded by the Delhi government. Therefore, the decision to bring it under Dr B R Ambedkar university does not need any form of clearance from DU."

Four AC members — Kapila Mallah, Sudhanshu Kumar, Alok Ranjan Pandey, Chander Mohan Negi — and two Executive Council members — Seema Das and J L Gupta — have written to the DU vice chancellor opposing the decision. "Such attempt at de-affiliation of DU colleges leading to the dismemberment of the University of Delhi is in contravention to the

Acts, statutes and ordinances of DU, which must be stopped at all levels," they wrote.

BS Chauhan, officiating principal of the College of Art, remained non-committal when asked if he agreed with the decision. However, he said the college was facing several issues.

"Our intake is decided by AICTE but academic approval comes from DU. But DU doesn't conduct our admissions or exams. We have received no support from DU even though we are affiliated since 1974. We are not able to recruit permanent faculty; there has been no permanent principal since 2012. There are too many agencies and issues. I just want that whatever happens should be for the benefit of students," he said.

Riot 'conspiracy' case: Court warns against media trial

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

TAKING COGNIZANCE of a supplementary chargesheet filed against 18 people accused in the alleged larger conspiracy case of the Northeast Delhi riots, a Delhi judge said reporting, particularly on social media, remains "charged up all the time" after many of the accused alleged there was a media trial painting them as guilty.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat while taking cognizance of the chargesheet wrote in his order: "It is indubitably true that every accused has fundamental right to free and fair investigation as also trial. Media reporting particularly on social media remains charged up all the time. Media is free to cover stories but they must also be conscious of remaining careful and objective in their approach. It is the fundamental right of every person accused of any offence to be provided with the opportunity to defend himself."

The court said there is "a world of difference between an accused and a convict. Though it is not possible to lay down guidelines regarding media coverage... yet, in my opinion, there should at least always be a disclaimer when reporting, whether it is the version of the police/prosecution or the accused instead of presenting as if it is the order of the court. Labelling police as completely unfair or the accused as a convict itself is not a healthy sign and impacts the process of criminal justice system. The principal and the tenets of free and fair trial are sacrosanct and inviolable."

Furthermore, the court said there is a "disturbing trend about the reporting of the exact contents of the chargesheet before cognizance is even taken or counsel for the accused are provided copies of it. It is one thing to report generally about the chargesheet but quite another to reproduce it as it is and thus obviously, the question of leakage would arise. This is



Umar Khalid told the court it is very difficult when the media paints accused as guilty before trial

grossly unfair and the court expects that it would not occur in the future."

The hearing began with Ajit S Pujari appearing on behalf of Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, seeking copy of supplementary chargesheet filed in the matter. Pujari submitted that "the investigation is not fair and not all video clips have been investigated". He played a video showing police personnel breaking CCTV cameras to make his point.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said that Pujari's demand seeking a copy of chargesheet has "no legal basis" and added that "the correct position in law is that the copy of the chargesheet cannot be supplied before taking cognizance".

Former JNU student Umar Khalid told the court, "For an accused it is very difficult when media paints accused as guilty before trial; it is happening again and again." He told the court that "there were newspapers where the pictures of Asif Iqbal, Natasha, me, Devangana, etc were published with the headline 'Dilli dango ke bade gunegaar; ye hain unke chehere'. It's an inquisition without being heard."

United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi told the court: "I am unable to understand what are the charges against me. They say I was part of the protest. They are making serious allegations against me like I am a terrorist. They are showing it like... my name is Khalid, I am a terrorist."

Crime and Punishment makes court appearance

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

IN NOVEMBER last year, a Delhi judge composed a poem to explain why he was granting bail to a man accused in the northeast Delhi riots. Four months later, the judge has now discharged two men in the case by relying on a quote from the Russian classic, Crime and Punishment.

"(Fyodor) Dostoevsky, in Crime and Punishment, says, 'From a hundred rabbits you can't make a horse, a hundred suspicion don't make a proof.' Thus, both the accused persons are discharged of the offences under Section 307 IPC & Arms Act," Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Amitabh Rawat wrote in his order. On November 7, the judge had relied on his self-composed poem while explaining why he was granting bail to one of the accused, Babu, who was arrested for a gunshot wound inflicted on one Rahul during the riots.

The judge at the time wrote, "Take your freedom from the cage you are in; Till the trial is over, the state is reined in. The State proclaims; To have the cake and eat it too; The Court comes calling; before the cake is eaten, bake it too."

On Monday, as Babu and co-accused Imran alias Teli approached the court for a discharge from the case, ASJ Rawat said, "Babu has come again to the court, this time accompanied with Imran alias Teli to plead for discharge".

He further said, "The gunshot injury is stated to be caused to Rahul but where is he? His statement is not on record... So by the time, police arrived at the hospital, the alleged victim Rahul had vanished. It is not as if Rahul gave any initial statement and then vanished. The State is categorical in saying that the police never saw Rahul... That being the case, who is going to say that who shot whom and by whom and where. The alleged victim has never been seen by the police. He has never given any statement about any gunshot injury or about any mob/rioters. So how is Section 307 IPC made out against the accused..."

At Dilli Haat, arts and crafts fair that celebrates Ladakh

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

SEVERAL MEN and women from the Dard Aryan tribe of Ladakh and a group of monks from the famed Hemis monastery could be seen walking amidst stalls displaying Rajasthani churan, Madhubani paintings and Lucknowi chikan kurtas at the second edition of Enchanting Ladakh, the annual art and craft fair organised by the Union territory's Department of Industries and Commerce at Dilli Haat.

The event was inaugurated Tuesday evening by Ladakh L-G Radha Krishna Mathur in the presence of MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Feroz Ahmed Khan of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC, Leh, and senior officials from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

While the monks invoked the gods during a special prayer held at the inauguration, visitors were also offered a chance to dress up in the colourful costumes of the Dard Aryans for Rs 50 or get pictured with them.

As many as 76 artisans from the UT, along with their karigars,

will stay put in the capital over the next two weeks, selling their uniquely crafted handloom and handicraft products, which include pashmina shawls (called Lena), clay models, dry fruits, hand-knitted items and seabuckthorn products.

Tsewang Paljor, deputy secretary of Ladakh's Department of Culture, who is part of the organising committee, said, "We have got artisans from all corners of Leh and Kargil, making sure no unique product or art form is left behind."

Paljor said they made sure no well known brands were brought here. In fact, preference was given to rural artisans and craftsmen. Some of them have also brought karigars along so that more products can be created on demand. All the proceeds will go directly to the artisans and the UT administration is taking care of all their boarding and lodging in Delhi.

During his address at the inaugural event, Gyalson said, "This is the second edition. When we conducted this event for the first time last year, just before the lockdown, we didn't record very good sales. But we were told the aim is not to push for sales but to ensure the newly carved UT gets adequate exposure on a national level."

Former Express Chief Photojournalist Raaj Dayal passes away

SURBHI GUPTA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

IN 1993, when the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery scandal hit headlines — 10 MPs belonging from JMM and the Janata Dal cast their votes to defeat a no-confidence motion moved in Lok Sabha against the minority government of P V Narasimha Rao — a photo by former Chief Photojournalist of the *The Indian Express*, Raaj Dayal, captured a defining moment — the exchange of briefcases.

This is one of many key moments captured by Dayal, who covered the length and breadth of the political and social landscape in India for over four decades. He died on Monday due to cardiac seizure. He was 67 and is survived by his wife, daughter and two grandsons.

Dayal had joined *The Indian Express* in 1988 and retired in 2012 as the Chief Photojournalist. Before that, he worked at the film magazine *Mayapuri* and studied photojournalism at Thomson Foundation in Wales, UK.

"Photojournalists cover everything but he was known



Dayal is survived by his wife, daughter and two grandsons

for capturing that excellent picture that went beyond politics," said veteran journalist Usha Rai, who has covered a number of assignments with him.

He is known to have mentored generations of photojournalists. "He was full of knowledge and was always ready to share it with his students and juniors. He used to teach at various media schools around the country," said his niece and journalist Karuna John.

Dayal is also remembered as an ace sportsman while he studied at Delhi University's Ramjas College, and an artist and illustrator, who has exhibited at various group shows in Delhi.

"A lot of people remember him for his laughter. Whether they were covering the budget or a natural disaster, they remember how he cared for people on assignments..." said John.

DESIGN READY, WILL BE 25-METRES HIGH

Work underway to set up 2 smog towers, each will have 1,200 air filters

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

DESIGNS OF how Delhi's two new smog towers are expected to look have been made and work is underway at the project sites to ready the structures by June. The 25-metre high towers are being set up at Baba Kharak Singh Marg at Connaught Place in Central Delhi and behind the Anand Vihar Terminus in East Delhi.

Tata Projects Limited is building the structures with technical support from IIT-Bombay, in col-

laboration with IIT-Delhi, while the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) is the project management consultant.

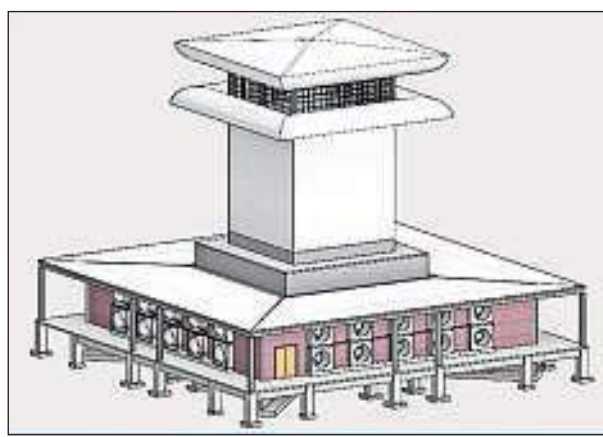
The nodal agency for the tower at Connaught Place is the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), while at Anand Vihar, it is the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

A CPCB official said, "The tower at Anand Vihar should start functioning by the first week of June. The efficiency of the two towers would be studied for two years by IITs Bombay and Delhi.

Based on this study, we will decide on how to take this technology forward."

A DPCC official said the two towers would use 1,200 air filters each that have been developed by a team of experts at the University of Minnesota in the United States — which also helped design a 100-metre high smog tower in Xian, China.

Being built at a cost of Rs 22 crore each, the towers are estimated to reduce concentration of particulate matter of 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5) — fine particles suspended in the air — by



50%-70% in about 1-km radius around them.

The towers are being built on directions of the Supreme Court, and officials said they are following the timelines set by the court.

Each tower would have 40 fans and 40 noise control devices, and would cover an area of 28 square metres. Air would be pulled in from the top of the towers, passed through the filters and released at the bottom, officials

The design prepared by Tata Projects and IIT-Bombay

posed a serious health risk to citizens.

"The filters may need to be replaced once every 6 or 12 months depending on the pollution load," a CPCB official said, adding that the towers would create clean air zones in the city.

Delhi's air pollution levels increase significantly in the winter from sources including construction sites, vehicular emissions, and agricultural residue and waste burning. Pollution from these sources often accumulate in the air due to poor meteorological conditions such as calm winds and low temperatures,

At Baba Kharak Singh Marg, behind the Shivaji Stadium Metro station, a board outside the smog tower project site states that it is a "pilot study for assessment of reducing particulate air pollution in urban areas by using air cleaning system". Inside the site last Thursday, JCB machines were at work while workers laid the foundation of the structures.

A DPCC official said the agency would make all efforts to make the tower ready by World Environment Day on June 5.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



THE BIG FIGHT

WITH THE assembly election in West Bengal being projected as a fight between Mamata Banerjee and Narendra Modi, the state BJP unit is trying to make the best of the Prime Minister's time set aside for campaigning. Modi, who is scheduled to address a rally in the state on March 7, is likely to address at least 14-15 such rallies in the state. Although the party had sought more rallies, BJP leaders admitted that the Prime Minister could accommodate only two in a week. Interestingly, he is unlikely to attend many rallies in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, sources said.

BALANCING ACT

THE BJP may have to go miles to fulfill its grand plan of getting the Nairs and Christians in Kerala on board to support the party — one of the strategies the party's former chief Amit Shah was banking on. However, R Balashankar, co-convenor, BJP national training programme, who is expected to get a party ticket to contest in Kerala appears to have managed it in Chengannur, in central Kerala. He earned praises from the Orthodox Christian community, an influential group in Chengannur, when he managed to get the central government's assistance to get a centuries-old church — St George Orthodox Church at Cheppad — the status of a centrally protected monument of national importance. The church, which was facing demolition for widening the national highway, was saved in the last minute due to central government's intervention. Balashankar has also managed to get a sum of Rs 700,000 from Nair Service Society, a prominent organisation of Nairs in Kerala, for the Ram Temple construction.

PARTY MATTERS

WITTINGLY or unwittingly, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a dig at those who are seeking elections in the party at all levels. He did not make any mention of G 23 leaders though. While interacting with Kaushik Basu of Cornell University, Rahul was asked about internal democracy in his party. He replied that he had been pushing for elections in the party for a decade now. Then he added that he had got a beating from the media as well as his own party leaders when he pushed for elections in the Youth Congress and the NSUI. He said he would be the first person to say that democratic elections within political parties are absolutely critical.

First Odisha survey of backward classes set to begin on May 1

AISHWARYA MOHANTY & SHYAMLAL YADAV
BHUBANESWAR, NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE ODISHA government is set to begin its first state survey of the social and educational conditions of people from backward classes — there are around 209 communities identified as socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs) comprising around 54 per cent of Odisha's population.

A proposal by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSBC) was approved on February 26 to undertake the survey, which is scheduled to be conducted between May 1 and May 20.

"Survey will be conducted on the social and educational conditions of the people belonging to backward classes. Their occupation, education standard and other parameters will be covered," OSBC Chairman Justice Raghunath Biswal said.

"The state government had approached the Centre demanding that a socio-economic caste survey be conducted simultaneously with the general census in 2021. But that proposal was turned down and in 2020 we had decided to conduct the survey ourselves. The state government recently approved the proposal. The move will have a transformative impact on the backward classes of the state," Odisha Minister for SC/ST development, Minorities and Backward Classes, Jagannath Saraka told *The Indian Express*.

Odisha's decision is significant at a time when there is demand for a caste-based census, and considering that a commission headed by former Delhi Chief Justice G Rohini is working on the sub-categorisation of the OBCs, without such data.

Last week, in an interview to *The Indian Express*, former chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) V Eswaraiah had said that the pro-

posed sub-categorisation of OBCs is "un-scientific, atrocious and illegal" without the caste census. BJP ally and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has also recently stressed on the need of caste census.

The Supreme Court last week agreed to examine a plea seeking directions to the Central government to conduct a caste-based census this year to collect data on the Other Backward Classes. A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobe and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian have issued notice to the Centre and National Commission for Backward Classes. The court was hearing a plea filed by Telangana-based social activist G Mallesh Yadav, who contended that a caste census was a "vital necessity" for the betterment of OBCs.

Interestingly, Justice Rohini wrote to Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot on December 12, 2018, with a request for an appropriate budget provision for a proposed all-India survey for an estimate of the caste-wise population of OBCs. But on March 7, 2019, Justice Rohini wrote again to Gehlot, "We have now decided not to undertake such a survey at this stage." On the other hand, on August 31, 2018, then Home Minister Rajnath Singh had announced that in Census 2021, data of OBCs will also be collected, but since then the government has been silent on this. Meanwhile the opposition targeted the ruling BJD in Odisha, accusing it of playing caste politics ahead of the panchayat elections. Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said, "The survey is not a mere coincidence but a well-calculated step to grab votes of the backward classes."

"The state is yet to implement 27 per cent reservation for people from the backward classes and is trying to mislead people with the survey," BJP state general secretary Lekhashree Samantsinghar said.

FULL REPORT ON
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RIFT IN CONGRESS'S 'G 23'

Stand by letter, but boundaries shouldn't be breached: 4 leaders

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

FOUR SENIOR Congress leaders, who were among the 23 signatories of the letter sent to party president Sonia Gandhi seeking reforms in the organisation last year, on Tuesday said they stand by their letter but disassociated themselves from the recent actions of some of their colleagues in G 23, as the group of signatories has come to be known as.

One of them — former Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman P J Kurien — said he was not against efforts to improve the Congress and bring in much-needed reforms but argued that "the boundaries, the Lakshman rekha," should not be breached.

Some of the G 23 leaders — Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Raj Babbar and Vivek Tankha — were in Jammu last week in a first such outing by them. They addressed a joint public meeting, where potshots were taken at the party leadership for not utilising an "experienced" leader like Azad and letting him retire from the Rajya Sabha.

A day after, on Saturday, Azad praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as someone who "does not hide his true self". And on Monday, Sharma lashed



P J Kurien, M Veerappa Moily, Sandeep Dikshit, Ajay Singh

out at the Bengal Congress leadership for the "alliance" with Abbas Siddiqui's Indian Secular Front, saying such association flew in the face of the Congress's core ideology.

Sources said these leaders are planning a similar event in Haryana in the coming weeks.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Kurien said, "Their activities are alright to the extent of strengthening the Congress. But it should not become a dissident activity. Certainly, there is a need for improvement in the Congress... and I am not against... if the activities are in that direction. They should proceed keeping that in mind. I don't know the details of the Jammu event. Only when I get full details can I say whether it was a dissident activity or an effort to strengthen the party."

"I am not against efforts to strengthen and rectify the Congress. I believe that is needed. But the boundaries, the Lakshman rekha, should be kept in mind. It should not become a

dissident activity. As for the comments regarding Bengal, their stand should not help in defeating the Congress... that should be borne in mind..."

Former Lok Sabha MP Sandeep Dikshit said, "There is no group. Twenty-three leaders had signed the letter. Now what they are doing is... these 5-6 must be doing something. I, for example, have no idea. It is not a group. It is just a collection of people who expressed an opinion. We stand by that opinion. What individuals would do or groups within the groups would do or others would do... that is their concern."

Dikshit said he does not believe Azad praised Modi. "It is best to ask him... I have not been in touch with them."

Senior Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Ajay Singh said, "The issues which were raised in the letter regarding elections to all forums... on that I am a part of. I have no interest in saying that the Prime Minister is very good. The letter we signed was

for internal party democracy of which I still hold that it is right... the rest everybody is entitled to their own opinion... I have full faith in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi which the letter also says."

Like the others, he said he was not informed about the Jammu event.

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily said the letter was for a limited purpose and perpetuation of any activities in the name of that letter would be akin to abusing it since it was sent with a genuine sincere hope for rejuvenating the party.

"G 23 is not an institution like G 20... When elections are going [to be held] for five states, this is not an appropriate time to discuss any matters related to the party... No sooner did we give the memorandum, madam Sonia Gandhi immediately called a Working Committee meeting... it was also decided to hold the elections. That was enough. That is the only limited agenda."

On the Jammu event, he said: "None of us intended to go and none of us were invited for such a meeting. I don't want to be one of the (members) of any dissident groups. I have been loyal to the party and I want to continue in this party... So I have already disassociated myself."



AFTER THE SWEEP, THE CELEBRATION

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani joins the celebrations at the BJP headquarters in Gandhinagar on Tuesday after the party's resounding victory in the civic polls. *Nirmal Harindran*

Bihar IPS officer: Need ministry for backward among upper castes

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MARCH 2

A SENIOR serving IPS officer of Bihar cadre has called for formation of an exclusive ministry for the welfare of "socio-economically backward people" among upper castes.

Aravind Pandey, Director General and Civil Defence Commissioner, added that by giving reservation — 10 per cent EWS quota — to people of non-reserved categories, the Central government has also endorsed the need to support the poor among upper castes.

The senior IPS officer's statement came a day after the JD(U)

set up an upper caste cell — the first party in Bihar to do so. The ruling party made Nitish Kumar Tantan, an upper caste Bhumihar leader, the cell's first president.

Pandey, a 1988-batch IPS officer, who went public with his views on Monday with a social media post said: "I just shared what I had been discussing with a former member of Bihar EBC Commission. I agree with his opinion that just as there has been a minority development ministry, scheduled caste development ministry, OBC and EBC development ministries, there is need to set up Swarn Vikas Mantralaya for benefit of those among upper caste groups whose socio-economic condition is not good."

Asked if he was making such a demand from the state or central governments in his capacity as a serving IPS officer, Pandey said: "I am not making any demand from any position. I have shared what is already being discussed in public domain..."

Pramod Chandravanshi, former Bihar EBC Commission member, said: "The IPS officer was referring to me in his social media post. I gathered from my field experience that the poor among upper castes need the benefit of government schemes like others. If the JD(U) has now set up an upper caste cell, it is because of constant pressure from all of us."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Rs 172 crore spent on ads in one year: Baghel

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh government has spent over Rs 172 crore between January 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021 on publishing advertisements, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said in the Assembly on Tuesday.

He was replying to a question by leader of the Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik.

According to Baghel, the state's directorate of public relations spent Rs 172.27 crore from the publicity fund from January 1, 2020 till January 31, 2021. Of the total amount, Rs 70.28 crore was spent on electronic media, while Rs 65.80 crore was spent on the print media (display), Baghel said. Similarly, Rs 29.42 crore were spent under field publicity, Rs 5.81 crore under tribal sub-plan, it was stated. **ENS**

Govt accepts panel recommendations; LSTV, RSTV merged into Sansad TV

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

ON TUESDAY, the government announced that Lok Sabha Television (LSTV) and Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) have been merged into a single 'Sansad TV', of which retired IAS officer Ravi Capoor will be the Chief Executive Officer for a year.

The decision was taken in line with the proposals given by a Parliament-appointed panel headed by former Prasar Bharati chairman A Surya Prakash.

The panel, which had some members of Parliament as its members, had suggested that Parliament should have only one channel, which could be called

Sansad TV. The panel had submitted its report in June last year.

While the panel had suggested that Sansad TV could have two platforms to telecast live the proceedings of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha during Sessions, it had proposed that the same platforms — Sansad 1 and Sansad 2 — could broadcast the same programme, in Hindi and English respectively, during the inter-Session period.

However, no decision on this has been taken yet, sources said.

"It is still undecided whether the same programme will be run separately in Hindi and English, or whether Lok Sabha would like to have separate programmes made for their platforms, is not decided yet. There is also a suggestion that only one platform can function in

bilingual during the inter-Session period," an official said.

Some members in the panel had suggested that the new channel should capture "various activities beyond the proceedings of the two Houses, including the functioning of committees and development activities of the members in their constituencies".

But those details are still being worked out, the sources said.

On the need for a merger of the two channels, a committee member said: "There was a need for integrated programmes. It does not look good for Parliament of India to be running two separate channels."

Welcoming the government's announcement, Surya Prakash told *The Indian Express*: "My

Anti-Azad protest in Jammu, Cong says free to raise voice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

TWO DAYS after senior Congress leader Chulam Nabi Azad praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a group of Congress workers held a demonstration against him in Jammu and burnt his effigy on Tuesday. Hours later, the Congress said that the people, just as Azad, have a free right to raise their voice about what they think.

The Congress also supported West Bengal party unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who had come under attack from senior leader Anand Sharma for the party's association with the ISF, saying the whole idea of a larger front in Bengal was to give the BJP a tough fight.

On the burning of Azad's effigy, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said in Delhi: "I am surprised that you are asking me this question. In a free country, you did not question the right of Azad to say what he did or the right of others to say what they did..."

"This is a democratic process. How can you question the right of people, who may either misunderstand his statement or not like his statement to raise their voice? Just like he has the right to protest, we have a right to protest, you have a right to protest. I have a right to protest... so what is the contradiction, I don't understand," he said.



Anti-Azad protest in Jammu; (below) a demonstration in his favour on Tuesday. *Express*



Earlier, in Jammu, Congress workers led by PCC general secretary Shah Nawaz Choudhary held a demonstration against Azad outside the Exhibition Ground and demanded action against him. Soon after the demonstration ended, Azad loyalists also held a demonstration at the same place, demanding action against Shah Nawaz. On the Bengal alliance, Singhvi said the Congress got the seats it had asked for in the alliance. "Secondly, a large front, a secular front has been created mainly to combat the BJP. Now, if one of the parties of that front the CPM decides to give some seats out of its own quota to what is called as the ISF, I think, the perspective is very different."

INPUTS FROM MENS, JAMMU

Sri Lanka clears port project to be built by India, Japan firms

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

A MONTH after walking out of an agreement with Delhi and Tokyo on jointly developing the partially built East Container Terminal (ECT), the Sri Lankan government, led by the Rajapaksa brothers, has decided to offer the West Container Terminal (WCT) to Indian and Japanese companies.

The Sri Lankan government said the proposal by Adani Ports and SEZ consortium has been "approved by the Indian High Commission (in Colombo)". Indian government sources, however, disputed this.

The WCT is strategically located next to a \$500-million Chinese-run container jetty within Colombo's sprawling port.

According to the Sri Lankan government's department of information, the Lankan cabinet "has approved the proposal to develop the West Container Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer basis for a period of 35 years as a public-private partnership with Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited and its local representative John Keels Holding PLC, and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority."

"Accordingly, the Build, Operate and Transfer Plan approved by the negotiating committee had been forwarded to the High Commission of India and the Embassy of Japan, requesting them to nominate investors. The



WCT is strategically located next to a \$500-million Chinese-run container jetty

proposal presented by the Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ consortium) has been approved by the Indian High Commission. However, no investor has been named by the Japanese government," the government decision said.

"The discussions to develop the WCT will be only with India and Japan," Sri Lankan Information Minister Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters in Colombo, according to AFP.

Rambukwella said the cabinet decided on Monday to allow India and Japan to have an 85 per cent stake in the WCT. This is similar to the terms set for the Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), where China Merchants Port Holdings Company Limited holds 85 per cent stake, officials said. These terms are better than the earlier deal on the ECT — where the Sri Lanka Ports Authority would have 51 per cent stake. What this means is that Colombo has made a U-turn, and is offering a sweeter deal on the WCT.

Emergency was wrong but today's India like Egypt and Saudi: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Emergency imposed by his grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975 was a "mistake" and "wrong" but argued the Congress had at no point attempted to capture the country's institutional framework which is what is happening now. He likened the scenario in India today with that of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

In a conversation with Kaushik Basu, professor at the Cornell University, Gandhi said: "There is now one big mother institution called the RSS that is penetrating all Indian institutions. There is not a single one which is not under attack... The judiciary, the press, the bureaucracy, Election Commission... every single institution is systematically being filled by people who have a particular ideology and belong to a certain institution. I would not say eroding, I would say strangling."

Gandhi said he used to wonder "how does (Hosni) Mubarak win an election with 97 per cent of the vote." He added: "The crony capitalists figured out is that the RSS is a sort of institution that can be used to capture the political system. And the trade is very much like in Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, the Wahhabis say you let us handle the institutional structure of Mecca and you handle the... the royal family handles the finances of the oil... so there is a split. This is exactly what is happening here."

BJP: Sad to see leaders like Azad being castigated

New Delhi: The BJP Tuesday took a swipe at the Congress amid a vocal dissidence within the opposition party, saying its ideology is all about fulfilling the Gandhi family's "ambition", and anyone speaking against it or standing with the "rightful" agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is castigated.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference that the Congress will "castigate" anyone who wants democracy in the party.

While stating that the "G23", a reference to the group of 23 Congress leaders who have pushed for an organisational overhaul in the party, is an internal matter of the opposition party, Patra said it is "saddening" to see leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and others being targeted. **PTI**

PM likely to hold over 20 Bengal rallies; at Brigade on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi is likely to address at least 20 rallies in West Bengal during the Assembly polls. Modi is scheduled to hold a rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on March 7.

Sources in the BJP said the PM is also likely to address five-six public rallies in Assam, which will witness a three-phase election. Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said, "We had asked for around 30 rallies by Modi-ji. We are confident that he will at least address 20 rallies in the state."

The PM had addressed around 12 rallies in the run-up to the Bihar Assembly polls last year. According to a senior party leader, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda are likely to address over 50 rallies each in West Bengal.

For PM Modi's rally at Brigade Parade ground on March 7, the BJP has set a target of getting a crowd of at least 10 lakh. For this, the party has already begun a door-to-door campaign requesting people to attend the PM's first rally since elections were announced. State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargya have visited the ground to monitor preparations.

Seat-sharing talks with ISF on, Congress asserts alliance large, secular

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NEW DELHI
MARCH 2

THE SEAT-SHARING talks between the Congress, Left Front and ISF, the newly-formed outfit of Furfura Sharif cleric Abbas Siddiqui, for the West Bengal Assembly polls made some progress on Tuesday, according to party insiders.

Sources said that Congress, which had agreed to give five seats to the ISF, has agreed to give three more to the party. The ISF, on the other hand, is demanding three more seats, which is being opposed by the Congress.

"The negotiation is going on. The ISF's demand cannot be fulfilled a 100 per cent, but we will try our level best," said a CPI(M) leader involved in the negotiation. "We had earlier set aside some seats for the NCP, RJD and other parties, but since some of them are now willing to back the TMC, we are offering those seats to the Congress and other allies," the CPI(M) leader said.

The development comes amid a bitter spat between West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Anand Sharma, a prominent member of the party's dissident "G-23" who Monday said that an association with the ISF flew in the face of the core ideology of the Congress.

The Congress also came out in support of Chowdhury. "A large front, a secular front has been created mainly to combat the BJP. If one of the parties of that front, the CPM, decides to give some seats out of its own quota to what is called as the ISF, I think, the perspective is very different," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

CCTVs in OFFICES OF PROBE AGENCIES

Getting impression you are dragging feet: SC to Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday took exception to the Centre seeking more time to comply with its direction to install CCTV cameras in the offices of central investigative agencies and observed that it was getting the impression that the government was dragging its feet.

"We are getting a distinct impression that you are dragging

Centre hands over probe into bomb attack on Trinamool minister to NIA

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE BOMB attack on West Bengal minister Jakir Hossain will now be probed by the NIA after the Centre took over the case under the NIA Act without seeking the state government's consent, sources said.

The Trinamool Congress MLA and state labour minister was injured along with 21 others when a bomb exploded at Murshidabad's Nimtita Railway Station on February 17. He was waiting at Platform No. 2 to board a train to Kolkata, when the IED is suspected to have been triggered.

The NIA has registered a case based on the FIR filed by the Azimganj Government Railway Police under Sections 326 (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 307 (attempt to murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) apart from sections of the Explosive Substances Act.

The GRP comes under operational control of state governments.

The NIA has not invoked the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). "As of now we have not invoked UAPA as it is merely a re-registration of the West Bengal police FIR. If our investigations show UAPA should be invoked, it will be invoked," an NIA official said.

The West Bengal CID, which was also probing the case, had earlier recovered a mobile phone and a circuit from the spot of the blast and even detained and questioned a Bangladeshi national. It is, however, not clear yet who car-



The blast occurred when Jakir Hossain was waiting to board a train to Kolkata at Nimtita railway station. File

ried out the attack. Sources said NIA will seek details of the investigation carried out by the state CID and the materials recovered by them from the state.

Last week, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar had met Hossain at the hospital. While Dhankhar sought an NIA probe, Banerjee called the blast a conspiracy and alleged a political party was pressuring the minister to join it.

State Minister Firhad Hakim had earlier said, "One minister walks towards the platform where bombs were planted. As he reached, suddenly electricity was turned off. An explosion happened and the minister got injured. His supporters were also seriously injured. Why did such an attack take place? Murshidabad has turned into a stronghold of the TMC; hence, some people are trying to create fear. Is this India or Rangbar of Gabbar Singh?"

Railways had denied the charge of electricity being turned off.

ADMK weighs BJP push for Sasikala; DMK Cong's push for more seats

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 2

WITH THE countdown having begun for the Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, both the ruling AIADMK and the opposition DMK alliances have hit roadblocks.

The AIADMK is in a fix as allies BJP and RSS want to facilitate re-entry into the party of ousted general secretary V K Sasikala, the closest aide of the late J Jayalithaa. On the other side, the DMK is refusing to hand out more seats to the Congress.

A senior AIADMK minister said a late-night meeting of Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam of the AIADMK in Chennai on Sunday night wasn't conclusive. But the BJP is expected to keep pressing the Sasikala issue in the coming days through multiple channels and emissaries. This remains the main stum-

bling block now in the alliance, an AIADMK leader said. "Seat-sharing talks are almost over. Prime ally PMK will get 23 seats, the BJP will get 21 constituencies as well the ticket for the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat (whose sitting Congress MP died of Covid-19 last year)." The AIADMK will contest 170 seats.

In 2016, of the 234 seats, the AIADMK contested in 227 seats and won 136; the PMK and BJP contested separately and didn't open account. The DMK fought in 178 and won 89 seats.

The AIADMK minister said, "The BJP believes Sasikala's re-entry would help the AIADMK-NDA alliance. But while Panneerselvam was okay with this, Palaniswami wasn't. His camp is probably apprehensive of Sasikala (who called the shots during Jayalithaa's time) capturing the party if al-

lowed back. He fears that leaders would become her dummies."

That Sasikala still wields clout in the party is clear. The AIADMK leader quoted above said almost half the party wants her return. "At least 50% of the leaders think it will strengthen the party. Many from the delta and southern districts are Sasikala loyalists. Panneerselvam also agrees with the BJP plan."

A senior BJP leader said they had prepared a list of 60 potential seats they could contest and demanded 33 seats from the AIADMK. While claiming ignorance about the AIADMK's claim of giving 21 seats to the BJP, the leader hinted they would be okay with this number if the Sasikala faction was accommodated in the alliance.

The problems are tougher for the DMK, that sees itself as having

a winning shot. Chief MK Stalin is leading a much bigger alliance, including the Congress, Left, and other smaller parties. He is insistent that the DMK contest 170 to 180 seats at least.

However, talks with the Congress have been stuck. "The Congress has demanded a minimum 34 seats while the DMK is of the view that they cannot give more than 18 seats," said a Congress leader from the state. In 2016, the Congress had won only 8 of the 41 seats it contested. The only other party to open its account in the state in 2016 apart from the AIADMK, DMK and Congress was IUML, with 1 seat.

Stalin's tough stance in the seat talks with the Congress also has to do with his belief that this election -- the first without supremos Jayalithaa and M Karunanidhi in the picture -- is in his pocket, establishing him finally as his father's rightful heir.

"Not only his professional

strategist Prashant Kishor, who does not see faces but only figures and data, but Stalin's closest circle in the party and family too have given him the impression that the DMK can win on its own," said a DMK leader.

Warning against this "over-confidence", the leader added, "Stalin had adopted the same approach in 2016, leading to the DMK's defeat. Hope he won't repeat the mistake."

At the same time, the high-profile road shows of Rahul Gandhi in the past few days have not gone down well with the DMK. "These have become exclusive programmes of the Congress. That is unfortunate," the DMK leader pointed out.

Should the seat talks in the two camps fall through, it will hurt both the AIADMK and DMK. That will leave them pitted against not only the Congress and Sasikala but also smaller parties such as Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiani.

DMK only enemy: Dhinakaran says AMMK talking to parties for third front

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 2

AIADMK REBEL leader TTV Dhinakaran on Tuesday said his outfit Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) will lead a third front in the upcoming Assembly polls "to prevent the DMK's victory". Dhinakaran, who had floated the AMMK along with V K Sasikala after they were expelled from the AIADMK, also dismissed reports about his camp holding talks with the BJP as "rumours".

"We are talking to some important parties," Dhinakaran said. "Cannot reveal now," he said when asked whether he was in talks with the Congress, amid reports of the party looking out for options after being offered only 18 seats in the DMK-led alliance.

To repeated questions about his party's efforts to get Congress and other parties, he said not all alliance talks need to be held at the party office. "Our designated leaders are in talks with different parties," he said.

Asked whether he would join AIADMK-BJP alliance, he said the



TTV Dhinakaran

"DMK is the only enemy". "There is no rigid stand against any other party. We will join anyone who would join hands with us to defeat DMK," Dhinakaran said. "Whoever comes to accept our leadership, we will join hands with them," he said to a series of questions about his approach towards the ruling AIADMK.

Dhinakaran's remarks about leading an alliance has triggered speculation about a third front. Other than AMMK with a little more than 4 per cent vote share, parties currently standing outside the DMK and AIADMK alliances are Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiani (MNM) and Seeman's Naam Thamizhar party -- each with a vote share of about 2 per cent.

An AMMK-led third front can cost the AIADMK as Dhinakaran is believed to have grabbed about 15 per cent of the AIADMK votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.



MNM chief Kamal Haasan receives the Covid vaccine at a hospital in Chennai. "Immunisation of the body immediately. Vaccination against corruption next month. Get ready," he tweeted in a reference to the Tamil Nadu polls. Haasan has often hit out at the AIADMK over corruption allegations. PTI

Law for 75% quota for Haryana locals in pvt jobs gets Gov's nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

HARYANA GOVERNOR S N Arya on Tuesday gave his assent to the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2021, passed by the Vidhan Sabha clearing the way for a 75 per cent quota in private sector for job seekers from Haryana. The Act will remain in force across the state for a period of at least 10 years.

The Act will apply to all the companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership firms, partnership firms and any person employing 10 or more persons and an entity as may be notified by the government from time to time.

"The Haryana Governor today gave his assent... The government will notify it soon," CM Manohar Lal Khattar told reporters at a press conference in Chandigarh.



Govt will notify it soon: M L Khattar

The Haryana Assembly had last year passed the law, a key poll promise made by the ruling alliance partner Jannayak Janta Party in the run up to the 2019 Assembly polls.

Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala said, "It is a day of great happiness for the youths of Haryana as the Governor has given his assent to the Bill. Haryana natives will have 75 per cent reservation in all such jobs in all kinds of industries. We will soon notify its detailed rules and regulations and publish it in the official gazette."

As per the Act, every employer has to register employees on the government portal.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra felicitated by Congress leaders during a rally in Tezpur. Dasarath Deka

In Priyanka's five Assam promises, law to nullify CAA

ABHISHEK SAHA & MANOJ CG
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI,
MARCH 2

UNVEILING WHAT appeared to be the centrepiece of the party's manifesto for the Assembly elections in Assam, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra announced Tuesday five "guarantees", including a law to nullify the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, if the party is voted to power.

Other than the law to nullify the CAA -- Priyanka told a rally in Tezpur that it would be the party's first step -- the promises include five lakh government jobs, raising the wages of tea garden workers to Rs 365, free electricity up to 200 units per household, Rs 2,000 monthly income support to homemakers. "The BJP has attacked the very existence of Assam. They are waging a war against it. They had said before elections that CAA will not be implemented, but they did," Priyanka said at the rally.

Influential groups and several parties consider the CAA to be detrimental to the interests of the indigenous people of Assam. "They have spoken about the CAA all across the country, but here in Assam, they did not have the courage to talk about CAA," she said.

When the Assam Accord was signed by her father, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, its main aim, she said, was to protect Assam's culture and not let the Centre dictate anything to Assam. "The BJP has done the exact opposite of that in the last five years,"

EXPLAINED

Upper Assam, North Bank focus

THE PLACES Priyanka visited hold key to Congress election efforts in Assam. She was in Upper Assam and North Bank districts. "Rahul Gandhi had also come to Upper Assam. Last time, we won only a handful in these regions. We have to get up to 20 seats here... otherwise we cannot form the government," a party leader said.

she said.

She said the BJP makes promises but never fulfils them. "They said they will protect 'jati, mati and bheti' (community, land and hearth) of Assam. They said CAA will not be implemented. They said provisions of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord will be implemented... You trusted them and gave them your votes... After winning elections, they passed CAA. Now when they come to you again, they will again make tall promises," she said.

Clause 6 of the Accord says "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people".

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Priyanka said: "Whenever you have struggled, the country's PM has not visited you... You suffered in lockdown and there were floods also then, but the PM did not come to visit you. He did not announce it to be

a national disaster." On Tuesday, she visited tea gardens and interacted with the workers there. The wages of tea garden workers is a long-standing issue in Assam. Last month, the Assam government announced that the wage of tea garden workers would be increased from Rs 167 to Rs 217 per day. Moreover, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, at a rally in February, had said that his party would ensure a wage of Rs 365 per day if elected to power.

It is unusual for an AICC general secretary in charge of another state to make such announcements. In the past, Priyanka has rarely campaigned in states headed to Assembly elections. She was in Assam during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and held a road show in Silchar, campaigning for Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev. This time, she has campaigned for two days. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Narrow reading of law: SC sets aside NGT dismissal of appeal on time bar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

HOLDING THAT the National Green Tribunal's decision to dismiss an appeal against the environment clearance granted to the Bhogapuram airport project in Andhra Pradesh as time-barred was "erroneous and based on a narrow reading of the law", the Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside the order and asked the parties to appear before the tribunal to argue the appeal on time.

On Monday, *The Indian Express* reported how the NGT in 2020 dismissed every second appeal against green clearances dismissed on the technical ground that appellants did not approach the tribunal in time. In its judgment delivered on Tuesday, the two-justice Supreme Court bench of Justices Nageshwar Rao and S Ravindra Bhat said: "An appeal to the NGT in such matters is no ordinary matter; it has the potential of irrevocably changing the environment with the possibility of likely injury. Application of judicial mind by an independent tribunal in such cases, at the first appellate stage, is almost a necessity."

The original appeal was filed in the NGT in 2017 against the environment clearance granted to GMR's Bhogapuram

International Airport project being set up at Visakhapatnam. It raised issues of illegalities and infirmities such as concealment of facts by the developer, incorrect baseline studies; inadequate and faulty environment impact assessment, non-application of mind during appraisal by the Environment ministry's expert body, and violation of the Greenfield Airports policy of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The applicant moved the apex court in October 2020 after the NGT dismissed the appeal filed on the 91st day, concluding that there was no "sufficient cause" to condone the delay.

Under the NGT Act, 2010, a clearance can be challenged by an affected party within 30 days while the tribunal has the authority to condone another 60 days' delay given "sufficient cause". This time limit applies from the day of communication as both regulators and developers are legally required to place every project clearance in the public domain.

While the NGT held that the appeal was filed on the 91st day even though the 90-day period expired on a Sunday (November 12, 2017), the SC ruled that there is no indication in the NGT Act that Section 10 of the General Clauses Act — which stipulates that if a limitation expires on a holiday, it will extend to the next day on which the court or office

is open — could not be applied.

"This court is of the opinion that given the mandate of the NGT Act, the exercise of discretion, as was done in this case, to reject the appeal by dismissing the application for condonation of delay, on the ground that no sufficient cause was shown, was erroneous and based on a narrow reading of the law," the court said.

It also rejected the developer's argument that "the appellant is an interested party, and cannot be called a public-spirited citizen, because she had opposed acquisition of land for the airport and therefore, was able to access legal advice at the High Court stage" to contest land acquisition.

The judgment said: "There is, in our opinion, nothing in the NGT Act which excludes parties who would be directly affected by a project, that has environmental repercussions, from accessing the tribunal. Likewise, characterizing the nature of legal advice that can be accessed for challenging land acquisition, as similar to a challenge to environmental clearance which involves application of mind to technical issues in a detailed manner, would be unfair and simplistic. Scientific or technical support — apart from expert professional legal advice is necessary, if the NGT were to be approached."

Amazon Prime Video apologises unconditionally for web series 'Tandav'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AMAZON PRIME Video on Tuesday said it respects its viewers' "diverse beliefs" and apologises unconditionally to anyone who felt hurt by scenes in *Tandav*, a starry political saga that found itself in trouble over allegations that it depicted Hindu gods in an objectionable manner.

In a statement, the streamer said it "deeply regrets" the fact that viewers considered certain scenes to be objectionable and added that those have already been removed.

It said it would continue to develop entertaining content with partners while "complying with the laws of India and respecting the diversity of culture and beliefs of our audiences."

deeply regrets that viewers considered certain scenes to be objectionable in the recently launched fictional series *Tandav*. This was never our intention, and the scenes that were objected to were removed or edited when they were brought to our attention," the company said in its statement.

"We respect our viewers' diverse beliefs and apologise unconditionally to anyone who felt hurt by these scenes. Our teams follow company content evaluation processes, which we acknowledge need to be constantly updated to better serve our audiences," it added.

Faced with FIRs, arrests and calls for boycott over allegations that it hurt religious sentiments, the cast and crew of the Ali Abbas Zafar-directed series apologised twice. Eventually, the team decided to cut the objectionable portions.

Amazon Prime exec's challenge to HC order in SC today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will Wednesday hear Amazon Prime Video's head of India Originals' Aparna Purohit challenging the Allahabad High Court order denying her anticipatory bail in connection with FIRs against her over the web series *Tandav*.

Her plea has been listed before a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy.

The HC last week rejected her anticipatory bail plea stating "...the applicant had not been vigilant and has acted irresponsibly making her open to criminal prosecution in permitting streaming of a movie which is against the fundamental rights of the majority of citizens of this country and therefore, her fundamental right of life and liberty cannot be protected by grant of anticipatory bail to her in the exercise of discretionary powers of this court." PTI

Resume physical hearings: SCBA chief to CJI

New Delhi: Newly elected Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, has written to CJI S A

Bobde urging him to resume physical hearings, which were stopped due to Covid-19. Singh stated that the pandemic is "very much in

control in the last 6-8 weeks" and "there is no justification to not open the court for physical hearings completely". ENS

CENTRAL SLIVER PLANT, KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION ICHHAWAR ROAD, SEHORE (M.P.) - 466001

Requirement of Electrical / Electronic Consultant (on Contract Basis)

Application are invited from the candidates possessing minimum Bachelor degree in Electrical or Electronics Engineering for engaging as Electrical / Electronic Consultant for refurbishment program of Central Sliver Plant, Sehore on contract basis for the period of 6 months or upto 31.12.2021, which may be extended for further period upon the performance of the selected candidates. The interested persons fulfilling the eligibility criteria shall submit their application to Project Manager, Central Sliver Plant, Khadi & V.I. Commission, Ichhawar Road, Sehore (M.P.), Pin 466001 on or before **31.03.2021**. For further details of qualification, experience, job description, remuneration, age limit etc., please visit www.kvic.org.in

PROJECT MANAGER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

ADDENDUM TO THE ADV. NO.16/2020

The National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, an autonomous national institution under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, invited online applications for contractual engagement of 10 State Programme Coordinators (SC-1, ST-1, OBC-3 & UR-5), 250 Young Fellows (SC-38, ST-19, OBC-68 & UR-125) and 250 Cluster Level Resource Persons (SC-38, ST-19, OBC-68 & UR-125) to work in its Project for Creating Model GP Clusters across India. In view of a subsequent decision taken by the competent authority, NIRD&PR invites online applications further from eligible EWS candidates (1 post for State Programme Coordinator, 25 posts for Young Fellows & 25 posts for Cluster Level Resource Persons) and PwD candidates (1 post for State Programme Coordinator, 10 posts for Young Fellows & 10 posts for Cluster Level Resource Persons). Age relaxation as per government rules will be applicable to candidates from PwD category. For Job Profiles, Eligibility Criteria, relaxation for reserved categories, submission of online application and other related information, please visit <http://career.nirdpr.in>. The candidates who have already applied for the posts need not apply again but will have to send copies of certificates regarding their claim for reservation under EWS/PwD category by e-mail (nird.examt1@gmail.com). The number of vacancies under UR categories for all the posts notified earlier will stand modified accordingly. The last date for receipt of online applications from EWS & PwD candidates is 09/03/2021. One candidate can apply for one post only.

No.NIRDPR/CPDPD&SSD/MoPR-RGSA/2020-22/02

PRESS NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AS PER MAHARASHTRA WATER RESOURCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016 (MAHARASHTRA ACT NO. VIII OF 2017) :

GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra (GoM) has enacted Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005 to regulate water resources within the State of Maharashtra, facilitate and ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilisation of water resources, fix the rates for use of water for agriculture, industrial, drinking and other purposes and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Fresh nominations are invited by undersigned on behalf of Selection Committee for the post of Chairperson of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority on or before Wednesday, 31st March, 2021 upto 17.00 p.m.

Candidates who have applied for the said post as per the advertisement published earlier are required to re-submit the new application.

All the relevant details regarding eligibility criteria, service conditions, details to be furnished along with the nomination as per the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Maharashtra Act No. VIII of 2017) are available on following web sites.

<https://maharashtra.gov.in>
<https://wrra.maharashtra.gov.in>
<https://mwrra.org>

Sd/-
(Dr. Sanjay Belsare)
Chief Engineer (WR) & Joint Secretary
Water Resources Department,
Government of Maharashtra.

DGIPR/2020-2021/2673

KERALA Top court upholds HC order exempting nun accommodations, hostels from paying building tax

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE SUPREME COURT Tuesday upheld a Kerala High Court ruling which held that residential accommodation for nuns and hostels run by colleges for their students will be eligible for exemption from paying building tax under the Kerala Building Tax Act, 1975.

Under Section 3(1)(b) of the Act, buildings that are used principally for religious, charitable or educational purposes, or as factories or workshops, are exempted from building tax.

The state, in its appeal, had argued that a building used principally for religious or educational purposes can only be a building that is used for religious/educational activity and not for activity which has no direct connection with religious/educational activity — such as residential quarters for nuns, priests or hostel accommodation for students.

However, the top court bench of Justices R F Nariman and B R Gawai dismissed the contention.

Rape victim's abortion plea: Conduct minor's medical exam, SC tells Haryana govt

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Civil Hospital in Karnal district of Haryana to submit by March 5 a medical report examining the feasibility of the plea of a 14-year-old girl, a rape victim, seeking termination of her 26-week-old pregnancy.

"Issue notice. Returnable on 05.03.2021", a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde ordered and directed that "Medical Board — District Civil Hospital, Karnal may examine the girl and submit its report about the feasibility of her request for termination of pregnancy".

The girl, in her plea filed through Advocate V K Bijju, told the bench also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian that she was raped by her cousin. The petition also contended that the foetus could have genetic abnormalities since the accused is a direct blood relative of the petitioner. ENS

Public Auction Notice
Debts Recovery Tribunal
A, B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025
State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 1
Vs
Sunil Kumar Thakur & Others
(In R.P. Case No. 337/2018 arising out of Certificate No. O.A. 58/2018)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

As per order dated 08/02/2021, under mentioned property will be sold by **public online e-Auction** on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of **Rs. 25,71,158/-** from **Sunil Kumar Thakur & Others**, the sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. The auction sale will be by way of **online e-Auction**.

Description of Property:

Description of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and Time of Auction
All that piece and parcel of land Vide Sale Deed No. 1729 dated 23.02.2014 in the name of Smt. Rupam Kumar, Certificate Debtor No. 2 dated at Mauza- Panhas (Lohia Nagar), Pargana- Balia, Thana, Sub-Division and District- Begusarai, Khata No. 160, Khesra No. 1344, Thana No. 355, Tauzi No. 603 area measuring 1 Katha. Bounded and butted as follows- North : Gaya Singh; South : Indumati Jha; East : Purnima Singh; and West : Kacha Road.	Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lacs Only)	Rs. 3,10,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs and Ten Thousand) on or before 24/03/2021 upto 4.00 P.M.	26/03/2021 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.

Details of e-auction agency:
Company Name/Address: M/s E-procurement Technologies Limited, A-801, Wall Street - II, Opp.- Orient Club, Nr. Gujrat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujrat, India.
Contact No. 079-61200548.
Website add: <https://drt.auctiontiger.net>
e-mail Address: bihar@auctiontiger.net, hardik@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net
Contact Person: Mr. Marty Jhon (Mob. No. 9978434773)

Details of the facilitation center:
Address: State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna SBI Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800 001, Bihar, India. **E-mail ID:** sbi.05176@sbi.co.in
Name of Contact Person: Mr. Nand Kishore Kumar, Chief Manager, SARB, Patna.
Mob. No. 9709119255, e-mail ID: nand_kishore.kumar@sbi.co.in.

ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER

ACCOUNT NO. & NAME	NAME	IFSC CODE
31472262527 SARB COLLECTION A/C	STATE BANK OF INDIA	SBIN0000152

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-

- The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit is paid by prescribed mode.
- To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/Pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna alongwith copy of PAN CARD, Address Proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelope containing EMD along with details of documents should be superscribed R.P. No. 337/2018 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 24/03/2021 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the Next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
- The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/ Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
- Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.
Dated : 01/03/2021.

(Kumar Rajiv Ranjan)
Recovery Officer

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
(Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970)

TENDER NOTICE

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following equipments/items :-

For the purchase of following equipments/items

- Purchase of One D.C. Microscope for the College of Fisheries Sciences.
- Purchase of Soil Moisture Meter-TDR Meter for Dept. of MBBS.
- Purchase of Chlorophyll Concentration Meter (SPAD) for Dept. of MBBS.
- Purchase of Refrigerated Thaw/Freeze/Chill Vacuum concentrators with resistant centrifuge 12-17 MM rotor in addition to hexagonal rotor for Dept. of MBBS.
- Purchase of Cladding material for the Renovation/Upgradation of Existing Green House Facility for Dept. of MBBS.
- Purchase of Auto-trainer system in the Dept. of Chemistry
- Purchase of Ultra Pressure Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) System for Dept. of Chemistry
- Purchase of Diffuse reflectance UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer for the Dept. of Chemistry
- Purchase of Lyophilizer in the Department of Chemistry
- Purchase of Scattered Extraction Unit with accessories in the Department of Chemistry
- Purchase of BET Surface Analyser system in the Department of Chemistry
- Purchase of Microwave Synthesis System for the Dept. of Chemistry
- Purchase of Power Weeder for the Pulses Section, Department of G & P.
- Supply, installation and Commissioning of central dust aspiration system on turnkey basis in seed processing plant at Directorate of Farms.
- Procurement of Self Driven Boom Sprayer at Directorate of Farms
- Supply, installation and Commissioning of central dust aspiration system on turnkey basis in seed processing plant at RDS Seed Farms
- Purchase of Power Weeder tiller for the Cotton Section, Department of G & P.
- Purchase of Spectral Radiometer - One No. for the Dept. of Agril. Meteorology
- Purchase of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) for the Dept. of Soil Science
- Purchase of Pressure Plate Apparatus for the Dept. of Soil Science
- Purchase of Penetrometer for the Department of Soil Science
- Purchase of TDR Meter for the Department of Soil Science
- Purchase of Insect Growth Chamber for the Dept. of Entomology
- Purchase of Stereo Zoom Microscope with Camera and software for the Dept. of Entomology
- Purchase of Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometer with (LC-MS/MS) accessories for the Dept. of Entomology
- Purchase of Multichannel Electrochemical Workstation with Impedance for Dept. of Physics
- Purchase of TDR Meter for Department of Physics.
- Purchase of FTR Bench top System for Department of Physics
- Purchase of Microwave Digestion System for Department of Physics
- Purchase of Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM) with EDX for the CBAT
- Purchase of X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRD) System for the CBAT
- Purchase of 2D Electrophoresis for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of Leaf Image Analyzer for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of Leaf Spectrometer for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of Root Scanner for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of High Performance Liquid Chromatography System for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of Chlorophyll Fluorescence Meter for Plant Physiology Studies at RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Installation of Hi-Tech Climate Controlled Research Greenhouse Facility with two independent chambers for conducting climate change studies for RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of Cone Crusher for RD, RRS, Karnal.
- Purchase of High Resolution Mass Spectrometer with Accessories for HOS, Cotton, GFB.
- Supply, installation & Commissioning of Automation, Robotics & Artificial Intelligence Lab Equipments for COAEAT.
- Purchase of Automatic Kq400 for the Forage Section
- Purchase of Automatic Fat Extraction System for the Forage Section
- Purchase of Automatic Fiber Analyzer for the Forage Section
- Purchase of 30 cylindrical shape FRP Fish tanks for the College of Fisheries Science
- Purchase of 9 Hexagonal shape FRP Fish tanks for the College of Fisheries Science

For detail information and e-tendering schedule, please visit the website <http://tenders.hrynicu.ac> and University website <http://hau.ac.in>. Date of start of bid preparation and submission on 03.03.2021 (09.00 hours) and Closing on 23.03.2021 up to 17.00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 24.03.2021 at 10.00 AM. Opening of Financial Bid on 24.03.2021 at 03.00 PM.

Note: 1. All updates, amendments, corrigenda etc. (if any) will be posted only on the CCS HAU Website/Tender. There will not be any publication of the same through Newspapers or any other media.
2. Interested bidders are advised to deposit bid security/EMD on or before 48:30 hrs of expiring date and time of bid online so as to get the payment verified.

-sd- Director (Stores & Purchase)
CCSHAU, Hisar

RAJ BUILDWELL PRIVATE LIMITED
41A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, Captain Gaur Marg, New Delhi 110024
Ph: 011-43178844, Website: www.iclinfra.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, we Raj Buildwell Private Limited are in the process of undertaking development of a Colony in sector 71, over an area measuring 10.89 + 2.7875 (13.6775) acres in the revenue estate of Village Fazilpur Jharsa, Gurugram in accordance with the LOI granted for a Affordable Plotted Colony vide Memo No. LC-4204-4257-E-VA-2021/3780 dated 17.02.2021 by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh. And whereas, the layout plan / Zoning Plan earlier approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised on account of request made by Raj Buildwell Private Limited for migration of license No. 15 of 2013 dated 13.04.2013 (for GH colony) for 10.89 Acres of land in Kharsa nos. 11/2 (4-10), 12/1 (4-11), 16/11 (1-14), 6 (8-0) & 12/2 (6-3), 3 (7-11), 8 (8-0), 1 (8-0), 10/1 (3-4), 11 (8-0), 12/1 (6-13), 12/2 (1-7), 2/0 (7-12), 1/2 (3-19), 10/2 (4-16) & License No. 27 of 2010 dated 18.03.2010 (for IT Park colony) for 2.7875 Acres of land in Kharsa nos. 11 // 3/2/2 (3-12), 4 (7-11), 5 (7-11) & 12 // 1/1 (3-12), Sector 71, Village Fazilpur Jharsa Tehsil & District Gurugram for grant of license under Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna, 2015.

And whereas, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of layout plan and grant of license under Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna, as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the layout plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan / Zoning Plan bearing no. DG.TC/3786, dated 13.04.2013 & the layout plan now proposed to be revised bearing no. DFA/2021/71/Layout/04, Dtd. 01.02.2021 is available for perusal on our website: www.iclinfra.com. The said layout plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Gurugram.

Any allottee having any objection on the proposed revision in the approved layout plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Gurugram within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout plan.

Raj Kumar Bhambri
(V.P. Projects)
For Raj Buildwell Private Limited
Place: Gurugram Date: 03/03/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
ALTIUM ENERGIE PRIVATE LIMITED
Flat 1303, PKT - A, The Sleuths CGHS Ltd., Plot No 6, Sector 19 B, Dwarka, Delhi, India, 110075

Notice under sub-section (2) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003

The person above-named, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Category V license for inter State trading in electricity in Pan India before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi. The necessary details in respect of the applicant are given hereunder:

a)	Authorized, issued, subscribed and paid-up capital (in INR)
a) Authorized Share Capital	2,50,00,000
b) Issued Share Capital	2,05,26,000
c) Subscribed & Paid-up Share Capital	2,05,26,000

ii) Shareholding pattern

Name of the Shareholder	Citizenship	Residential Status	No of Share	Share Holding %
Amit Kumar	Indian	Resident	1,019,000	47.44%
Nishita Thakur	Indian	Resident	456,000	23.2%
A.K. Thakur	Indian	Resident	300,100	15.25%
Vineet Mehrotra	Indian	Resident	100,000	5.08%
M/s. Amit Kumar HUF	Indian	Resident	97,500	5.72%
M/s. Altium Consulting LLP	Indian	Resident	80,000	3.30%

iii) Financial and technical strength- Mr Amit Kumar, Head of Business, is a seasoned professional with solid experience in Power trading & Renewable Energy. He has over 14 years of business analyst & techno-commercial experience of working, which is spread across different domains, with different stakeholders in SAARC nations, European & Indian Electricity Markets.

iv) Management profile of the applicant including details of past experience of the persons in the management of the applicant in trading of electricity and similar/related activities- Mr. Amit Kumar, sets the direction for management committee, plays a pivotal role in creating the vibrant culture, and leads the thinking of what Electricity can offer to the society through Altium's vision. Mr. Kumar's work domain comprises of strategic and New Business Development which strongly relates to experience in energy & Utilities segment, in particular areas of Business Development, Strategy, & Execution, Power trading, Policy Advocacy, holistic Energy Solutions, energy Derivatives Trading, Renewable Energy Trading, Electricity Distribution Franchisee Business etc. in the Indian Power Sector.

v) Volume of electricity intended to be traded during the first year after grant of licence and future plans of the applicant to expand volume of trading- As allowable under Category V of the CERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of trading licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2020.

vi) Geographical areas from within which the applicant will undertake trading in electricity- All India

vii) Net worth as on 31st March of three consecutive years immediately preceding the year of application or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application- Rs. 2,07,25,130/-

viii) Year-wise current ratio and liquidity ratio of the applicant for three years preceding the year in which the application is made, or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application; Current ratio = 42.06:1, Liquidity ratio= 41.66:1.

(a) A statement whether the applicant is authorized to undertake trading in electricity under the Memorandum of Association or any other document-Yes

(b) If so, reproduce the specific provision of Memorandum of Association or any other document so authorizing trading in electricity. "1. To establish and carry on the businesses of generators, suppliers, processors, accumulators, distributors, traders, converters of and dealer in, and the sale and purchase of electricity and electrical energy in any form and by any process..."

(c) Details of cases, if any, where the applicant or any of his associates, or partner, or promoters, or Directors has been declared insolvent and has not been discharged. -None

(d) Details of cases, if any, in which the Applicant or any of his Associates or partners or promoters or Directors has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, fraud or any economic offence during the previous three years preceding the year of making the application and the year of making the applicant and the date of release of the above person from imprisonment, if any, consequent to such conviction. - None

(e) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(f) Whether the Applicant has been granted a licence for transmission of electricity. -No

(g) Whether an order cancelling the licence of the Applicant, or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors has been passed by the Commission. - None

(h) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(i) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(j) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(k) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(l) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(m) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(n) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(o) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(p) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(q) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(r) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(s) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(t) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(u) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(v) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(w) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(x) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(y) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(z) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(aa) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(ab) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(ac) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(ad) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(ae) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(af) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal. - None

(ag) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence

Gujarat: Dalit RTI activist hacked to death at home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, MARCH 2

A DALIT RTI activist was allegedly hacked to death inside his home by a group of upper caste men at Sanodar village in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district on Tuesday. The activist's daughter, who rushed to help his father was also injured in the attack, police said.

The activist, Amrabbai Boricha, 50, was allegedly attacked with spears, iron pipes and swords, his family members said. "First they threw stones on us. As my father rushed inside the house for safety, the assailants broke the gate, barged in

and attacked my father with spear, iron pipes and sword, killing him," said Boricha's daughter Nirmala.

She said the incident took place around 4.30 pm on Tuesday. "Around 50 members of Darbars (Kshatriyas) of our village passed by our home playing DJ music when my father and I were standing outside. They returned a while later and started throwing stones on us. We have police protection, yet they managed to barge in with spear, axes, pipes and swords," Nirmala added.

She was rushed to Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital in Bhavnagar city after being injured in the attack. Nirmala said that her father was attacked in

Amrabbai Boricha's daughter claimed her father was attacked earlier as well, but a PSI said he would register an FIR after he is murdered

2013 also when his leg was broken. "A month ago, my father had given a complaint but PSI Solanki (of Ghogha police station) did not register an FIR. He told us that he would file FIR after he (Boricha) is murdered. The PSI of Ghogha police station is responsible for all this," she said.

Alleging that the deputy superintendent of police of Bhavnagar division did not provide armed security to the family and instead gave them two home guards, Nirmala said, "We are attacked so many times and yet why are we not being given protection? GRD (Gruh Rakshak Dal or home guards) is not sufficient."

Arvind Makwana, a worker of Navsarjan, an Ahmedabad-based NGO working for Dalit rights, said that around a month ago, Boricha, a farmer by occupation, had given a complaint at Ghogha police station against Kshatriyas but sub-inspector PR Solanki of Ghogha did not register an FIR. "Boricha moved a court in this respect. In the meantime, he was

attacked by a group of Kshatriyas," said Makwana. No FIR was registered at Ghogha police station till around 10.30 pm in connection with Boricha's murder. Phone calls to PSI Solanki, Bhavnagar SP and Bhavnagar IG went unanswered.

Makwana added that Boricha's was the lone Dalit family in Sanodar village and the Kshatriyas were trying to usurp his agricultural land as well as residential plot. "Around a month ago, the accused had encroached on Boricha's residential plot. He had given a complaint to police but no action was taken," said Makwana adding Boricha, had got registered around 10 FIRs against the accused.

'Rigged' TRP: HC grants bail to Partho Dasgupta

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, MARCH 2

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday granted bail to former CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta, who was arrested and jailed for his alleged involvement in the Television Rating Points (TRP) scam.

A single judge bench of Justice Prakash D Naik granted Dasgupta bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh with one or more sureties in the like amount. The court allowed depositing of provisional cash bail immediately in lieu of sureties and Dasgupta will have to furnish solvent surety certificates within six weeks.

Dasgupta was arrested on December 24 on charges of criminal breach of trust and cheating.

He will also have to deposit his passport with the investigating officer and report to the Mumbai Police on the first Saturday of every month for six months and thereafter once in three months. He was further asked to appear before the court when summoned during trial, unless exempted by it.

Wheat procurement may rise 10% in 2021-22 marketing yr

New Delhi: The government expects to procure 427.36 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) wheat during the upcoming rabi marketing season (RMS) 2021-22, with the highest quantity of 135 LMT wheat estimated to be procured from Madhya Pradesh.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said, "A total quantity of 427.36 LMT wheat has been estimated for procurement during the forthcoming RMS 2021-22 which is 9.56% more than the 389.93 LMT procured during RMS 2020-21."

In the current rabi crop season, wheat production is estimated to reach an all-time high of 10.92 crore tonnes during the current crop year (July-June), which is 1.28 per cent higher than the previous high of 10.78 crore tonnes in 2019-20.

Earlier, Punjab was the leading state to supply the highest quantity of wheat for the central pool. However, last year, Madhya Pradesh took a lead over the state. ENS

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL MATHURA CANTT
INVITES QUOTATIONS FROM REPUTED VENDORS FOR SUPPLY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FOR CONSTR AT APS MATHURA CANTT. DESIROUS VENDORS/FIRMS TO SEND/DROP THEIR QUOTATIONS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE BY 17th MAR 2021 AT APS MATHURA CANTT 281001. FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: apsmathuracantt.edu.in

PRINCIPAL
APS MATHURA

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Human Resource Management Department, Patna
Tender Notice
Catering Service at Staff Canteen at RBI, Patna
Sealed tender in covered envelope is invited for providing catering service at Staff Canteen in Reserve Bank of India, Patna. For more details, please visit TENDERS link on our website https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewTenders.aspx. Last date for submission of tender is April 07, 2021 upto 04:00 PM. The Bank reserve the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

March 03, 2021
Patna
General Manager-in-Charge

परिचयांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. ई-निविदा सूचना
निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाई सम्बन्धित क्षेत्रों की विद्युत आपूर्ति सुचारु रूप से बनाये रखने हेतु प्रस्तावित कार्य बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। निम्नका प्रथम एवं द्वितीय भाग www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 24.03.2021 को 12.00 बजे तक प्राप्त जा सकता है। निविदा विधिपत्रिका एवं अन्य नियम व शर्तों www.etender.up.nic.in/www.pvvn.org पर देखें। अग्रोहस्ताश्री को बिना कारण बताये ई-निविदा निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा एवं स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिये उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखते रहना चाहिए। 1:- ई-निविदा संख्या 140/2020-21-अधिकांशो अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्यक्षेत्र में 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र मुजफ्फर एवं सिसौली पर स्थापित 02-02 नं. 11 केवी वीसीसीवीओ के सही प्रकार से कार्य नहीं करने पर क्षतिग्रस्त सामान के स्थान पर नया सामान उपलब्ध कराते हुये मरम्मत का कार्य। 2:- निविदा संख्या: 141/2020-21- अधिकांशो अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्यक्षेत्र में 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र दुपली एवं लडवा नसीरपुर पर स्थापित 02-02 नं. 11 केवी वीसीसीवीओ के सही प्रकार से कार्य नहीं करने पर क्षतिग्रस्त सामान के स्थान पर नया सामान उपलब्ध कराते हुये मरम्मत का कार्य। नोट:- क्र.सं.-1 व 2 प्रति ई-निविदा की धरोहर राशि रु 2000.00 एवं ई-निविदा शुल्क रु. 1180.00 है। हस्ता/अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-प्रथम मुजफ्फरनगर। पत्रांक 3440/वि.वि.म.प्र. मु.नगर/के.दि.सं.क्र. 02/03/2021

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail:-eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

CORRIGENDUM
Pre-bid meeting for e-Tender ref no:- RCD/FSD/AP/RAN/23/2020-21, Dated:- 26-02-2021, Published with PR No -242598(Road) 20-21_D and e-Tender ref no:- RCD/FSD/AP/RAN/24/2020-21 Dated:- 26-02-2021, Published with PR No 242604 (Road) 20-21_D will be held in the office of Superintending Engineer, Advance Planning Circle, RCD,Ranchi,Room no.- 305,Nirupan Bhawan,56 seth Chowk,Doranda,Ranchi on dated-08.03.2021 at 11.30AM.

Other terms & condition and information shall remain unchanged.
For any clarification may contact- Office of Executive Engineer, FSD,AP, RCD, Ranchi. E-mail:-eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in, Mobile No. 94315-91027
Executive Engineer, FSD,AP, RCD, Ranchi.
PR 242834 (Road)20-21#D

ZONAL HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH JAMMU
e-Mail ID: sspcrimejmu@jkpolice.gov.in

Look Out Notice



It is informed to the General Public through Medium of this notice that the accused Arfat Ahmed S/o Mohd. Aslam Rio Bulandpur District Assar District Doda is involved in Case FIR No. 59/2016 U/S 420,465,467,468,471,120-B IPC stands registered at P/S Crime Branch, Jammu. This investigating agency requires the arrest of accused for legal proceedings but accused deliberately evading his arrest since the registration of the instant case.

As such, anybody having knowledge/information about his whereabouts may please inform SSP Crime Branch Jammu on E-mail ID: sspcrimejmu@jkpolice.gov.in or phone No.0191-2578901/0191-2570060. The photograph of the accused is attached herewith. The identity of informer shall be kept secret.

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Crime Branch, Jammu.

No: CBJ/NS/2021/6267
Dated: 25.02.2021
DIP/J-12591

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY Ltd.
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi - 834001
Ph. No - 0651-2225878, E-Mail ID - juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN:U45200JH2013SC0011752
Corrigendum - 1

PR Ref.No:241937
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RFP/SBW/368
Tender ID: 2021_UDD_47929_1
Project Name: Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of Bungalows for residence of Secretaries and Other Senior Officers of Government of Jharkhand.

All the bidders are hereby informed that **Corrigendum 01** for the **Tender ID: 2021_UDD_47929_1**; Project Name: "Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of Bungalows for residence of Secretaries and Other Senior Officers of Government of Jharkhand" has been published on the e-procurement website of Government of Jharkhand, and they may submit their bid proposal accordingly.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

PR 242820 Urban Development and Housing(20-21)D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SIL No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD BAR, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF GUEST HOUSE IN GOVT. POLYTECHNIC & MULTISKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE/MISSION HEAD QUARTER AT SECTOR-26, PANCHKULA.	02.03.2021 22.03.2021	210.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2925477 pwd-ecpd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
2	PWD BAR, JHAJJAR	ANNUAL REPAIR FOR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE AT SACL IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 (RE- INVITED)	01.03.2021 06.03.2021	10.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01251-252085
3	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROADWAYS, HISAR	REGARDING INVITING E-TENDER FOR PUTTING HOARDINGS, JNPOLES ETC. FOR ADVERTISEMENT AT BUS STAND AND WORKSHOP AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF HISAR DEPT	05.03.2021 05.04.2021	60000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8708123443 htrsr@gmail.com
4	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, BHUWAHANI	PURCHASE OF GUDDA GUDDI BOARD OF SIZE 3X2	01.03.2021 15.03.2021	1.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172243956 wbhwha.wcd@gmail.com
5	RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA JALHAL	WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT RD 1430 OF PAPASAR LINK DRAIN + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	19.90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746223384 xerats@gmail.com
6	POLICE DEPARTMENT HARYANA	SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE CANTEEN SERVICES IN SERC BUILDING AT SECTOR 3 PANCHKULA FOR HARYANA IIT CROSS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	EMD	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722987507 haryana.01.pd.panchkula@hry.nic.in
7	DISTRICT FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS	E TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR TRANSPORTATION AND LABOUR & CARTAGE FOR NQSI HANDE REWARI HANDE BAWAL HANDE AND RAIL HEAD JHORI FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 IN RESPECT OF STATE PROCUREMENT AGENCIES	05.03.2021 13.03.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466730068 dfccwr@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, PANPAT	RETENDER REPAIR & CONSTRUCTION OF ROOM IN G.V.H + 7 OTHERS	01.03.2021 15.03.2021	106.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	-9355815400
9	GENERAL MANAGER, HARYANA ROADWAYS, GURUGRAM	TENDER FOR PUTTING UP ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS/HOARDINGS IN THE PREMISES OF BUS STANDS, GURUGRAM, WORKSHOP AND OLD OFFICE, BUS STAND SECTOR-26, RAJIV CHOWK, SOHNA, PATAUDIA	02.03.2021 18.03.2021	12 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	htrsr@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST) I
M 16 MAYUR VIHAR PKT E PHASE II NEW DELHI-110091

Stop Corona: 1. Wash Your Hands 2. Wear Mask 3. Maintain Social Distance

PRESS NOTICE TENDER
NIT NO.39/ East-I/ (2020-21)

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) Amount put to tender	Tender Fees	Date of Release of Corrigendum in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/ Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
01	Demolishing of De-functioning and abandoned Over Head Tank at OHG Kondli sewer store in AC-56 in East-I	29,55,348.00	500.00	26.02.2021 2021_DJB_200621_1	15.03.2021 AM 03:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govt.procurement.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/-
Pratap Singh
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-I
Advt. No. J.S.V. 459 (2020-21)

Govt. of Jharkhand
Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development Department
Directorate of Employment and Training, Jharkhand, Ranchi

RFP-CORRIGENDUM
PR No. :- 241852

Directorate of Employment and Training (DET), Department of Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development (DoLET&SD), Jharkhand, Ranchi had published the Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Project Management Consultant for providing Technical Assistance Support to Directorate of Employment and Training, Jharkhand, Ranchi for the World Bank Assisted Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)"" via letter no.-146, dated- 27.01.2021 and subsequently issued CORRIGENDUM via letter no.241, dated- 18.02.2021 which is already uploaded on the website <http://www.nijojanprashikshan.nic.in>.

As directed, revised dates for the RFP submission is as below:-

- Last Date & Time of Bid Submission - 12.03.2021 (12:30 PM)
- Opening of Technical Bids- 12.03.2021 (03:00 PM)
- Technical Presentation - 12.03.2021 (04:00 PM)
- Commercial Bid Opening - to be announced later.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Training (HQ)
Directorate of Employment and Training
Jharkhand

PR 242790 Labour Employment and Training (20-21)_D

verka
The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Ltd.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-66 www.verka.coop

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items -

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Contract Period/ Quantity (Approx)	Consignor/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/ depositing of e-tenders	Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tenders	Date & Time for opening of e-tenders
1.	Hiring of Vehicle TATA 207, Mahindra Maxi truck etc. for transportation of Milk from Societies/Farms. (Route no. 14 at MCC Samana)	01	Verka Patiala Dairy 80549-85534, 80549-85535	-	15,000/- (Per Vehicle)	05.03.2021 from 05.00 PM	22.03.2021 up to 12.30 PM	Technical Bid 23.03.2021 at 12:00 PM Financial Bid 24.03.2021 at 12:00 PM
2.	Hiring of tankers for transportation of Furnace Oil from Oil Depots/ Refineries to Verka Mohali Dairy.	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Mohali Dairy (Ph. No. 0172-2271784, 020, 5008350-351)	500/-	50,000/-	04.03.2021	23.03.2021 up to 03:30 PM	Technical Bid 24.03.2021 at 12:30 PM Financial Bid 25.03.2021 at 12:30 PM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970284 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Note: Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (PLMPURCHASE)

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (2nd Call)

Online Percentage rate bid are invited for the following work from registered contractors of repute & having GST Reg No. & fulfilling registration criteria :

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract EMD/Cost of Form	Completion Period (Months)	Date of Submission of Bid	Date of Opening of Tenders
1.	Tender ID: 2021/MP/HD/132179_1 (2nd Call)	Construction, Barrier Free Design and Renovation Work of at Govt. College Hatpihya, Distt. Dewas, Govt. Krishnaji Rao P.G. College Dewas and Govt. College Kannod Distt. Dewas.	535.14 Lacs (Rs. 638140.00) (Rs. 23600.00)	18 Months Including Raining Season	04.03.2021 10:30 A.M. to 18.03.2021 17:30 Hrs.	Envelope-A 19.03.2021 15:00 Hrs. Envelope-B 22.03.2021 15:00 Hrs. Envelope-C 25.03.2021 15:00 Hrs.

- Interested bidder can view the detailed NIT on website www.mphousing.in and <http://mpeproc.gov.in>.
- The bid document(s) can be purchased online from 04.03.2021 at 10:30 to 18.03.2021 at 17:30 Hrs.
- Amendments to NIT, if any would be published on website only, and not in Newspapers.
- Financial bid shall be opened on 26.03.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. at the office of Executive Engineer Division Ujjain.

Visit us : www.mphousing.in (R.C. Panwar)
E-mail : eednhbujain@mp.gov.in mpmhb@mp.gov.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Division Ujjain
M.P. Madhyam/100128/2021 mpmhb@mp.gov.in Mob. : 79990-94160, Ph. No. : 0734-2511286

UTTAR HARYANA BILJI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(A POWER DISTRIBUTION & RETAIL SUPPLY UTILITY GOVT. OF HARYANA)
Regd. Office : C-16, Viduyt Sadan, Sector-6, Panchkula-134109, Haryana.
Office of CE/Admn. (GA Section), UHBVN, Panchkula.
PH. NO. 0172-3019180, 172-3019132, FAX-0172-3019119
E-mail: usga@uhbvn.org.in, Website: www.uhbvn.org.in
CIN: U40109HR1999SGC034166

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Uttar Haryana Bilji Vitran Nigam Limited invites application from retired officers of State/Central/Govt./PSUs for the post of Superintending Engineer (Civil) in UHBVN on contract basis. For eligibility criteria and pay & perks etc. may please visit on www.uhbvn.org.in. The last date for applying the post is hereby extended by 21 days from the date of publication. The other terms and conditions will unchanged.

Under Secretary/GA,
For CE/Admn., UHBVN, Panchkula.

1989/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner, 7th Floor, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

No. WDD/Proc.Cell/CBBO/T-3/2020-21 Date: 26.02.2021

Tender Inviting Notice
The Department under the Central Sector Scheme invites bids for Empaneling the Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for Formation & Promotion of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) through Karnataka e-procurement portal. The Tender documents and the detailed information for tenderers have been uploaded in the e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>). Interested Govt./ semi Govt./ Private service Institutions or their authorized Representative may please go through the details in the e-procurement portal and offer the bid. The date of commencement of bid documents is 26.02.2021 and the last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is 13.03.2021 by 5.00 PM with no E.M.D. Pre-proposal meeting will be on 05.03.2021 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/- Director
Watershed Development Department
Bangalore
DIPR/DDU/SHIRDI SAI/2948/2020-21

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask, 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

No. 1640/96ME-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2020-21
Short Term E-Procurement-Inviting Tenders

Dated: 20.2.21

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etenders.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below category as applied from Date 04.03.2021 to 11.03.2021 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 11.03.2021 at 02:00 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh)	Completion time (Days)	Tender document fee including GST (in Rs.)	Address of Executing Engineer	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	Construction of RCC mini bridge and approach road on Tiki Rajwaha bridge location in Madhraj-Niwari road, Suhana, Nagpur bridge, Galyaspur, Ravali, Negar bridge km 09 in Ghazabad district.	71.000	5.55	12 Months	Tender Cost Rs. 300/2000-1 8% G.S.T.+ Rs. 414/- 2714/-	CD-2 PWD Ghazabad	Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meenat Zone, P.W.D., Meenat	A. B. G (वर्ग ९)

- The Bid Security and Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
- All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
- Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
- Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>
- During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety precautions for COVID-19.
- In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prathi Software URL for Prathi is <http://www.upsws.gov.in/Prathi/>

Sd/-
(Manoj Verma)
Executive Engineer
CD-2, PWD,
Ghaziabad

UPID No.161420 DATE- 01.03.2021
www.upgoc.nic.in

Sd/-
(Ajay Shankar Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr Circle, PWD
Bulandshahr

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice
e-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-
S.I.No.1. e-Tender No : ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-40-20-21 in single Packet system
Name of work : Maintenance of Track & formation including miscellaneous permanent way work of transportation of P/Way materials (like Rails, Sleeper, fittings etc.) and other related ancillary works in connection with construction of new B.G. Rail line between Biratoli and Mahumailan as surface connection (Km. 0.00 to Km. 9.00) and between Biratoli and Tori as ROR line connection (Km. 0.00 to Km. 9.560) in Latehar District of Jharkhand State. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : 1,72,27,871.14. Period of work completion : 12 (Twelve) Months.
S.I.No.2-Tender No : ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-38-20-21 in Two Packet system
Name of work : Construction of Road over bridge (ROB) in lieu of LC NO. 69/C between Kamnassa and Sairajraja station at Km 642/5-7 on DFC route of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : 47,20,75,747.33
Period of work completion : 18 (Eighteen) Months. Date and time for closing of tender 22.03.21, 15.30 hrs.

All e-tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.iireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.iireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/ corrections etc in connection with this e-tender.

CAO/Con/South
EC RH, Mahendraghat, Patna
PR/1526/CON/ENGG/T/20-21/56

Electrical (Construction) Branch OPEN TENDER
NIT No. : JBP/LC/T/2021/02 Date - 26.02.2021
The Executive Electrical Engineer (Construction), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders from the reputed and experienced contractors having valid 'A' Class Electrical License (In the name of Firm or with one of the partner or in his own name if sole proprietor) issued by any state Govt. through On-Line for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. NIT No. - JBP /LC /T/2021/02 DL. 26.02.2021, Name of Work with Location - Electrification of non-electrified sidings over jbp division i.e. NKJ yard/area, Diesel shed/NKJ, left over miscellaneous sidings/lines etc. in JBP division for diesel free shunting by 1x25 kV OHE including provision of SSP at Kachhpur, JBP Division, W

Rajasthan man held for abetting wife's suicide moved to Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad: A day after he was arrested from Pali district of Rajasthan, Aarif Khan, accused of abetting the suicide of his 23-year-old wife, was brought to Ahmedabad on Tuesday morning.

According to police, Aarif's wife, Ayesha Banu Makrani, allegedly jumped into the Sabarmati river on February 25 after recording a video message alleging that she was being harassed by her husband. Aarif, a

native of Jalore in Rajasthan, was arrested from Pali on Monday by a team of the Ahmedabad Police from his relative's residence.

"The accused has been brought to Ahmedabad today (Tuesday) and we are interrogating him. We will produce him in front of the magistrate on Wednesday and seek police remand," said VV Desai, police inspector, Sabarmati Riverfront West Police Station. **ENS**

India moves UK court to extradite terror accused Kuldeep Singh

London: Indian authorities have moved the High Court in London to seek permission to appeal against a magistrates' court order turning down the extradition, on human rights grounds, of Kuldeep Singh, wanted in India as an alleged member of banned terrorist organisation Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF).

Singh, also known as Keepa Sidhu, is charged with conspir-

ing with others to commit terror activities in Punjab dating back to 2015-16, including a plot to assassinate the then chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal.

The 44-year-old is also accused of recruiting youth in Punjab into the banned organisation by offering them money and organising a meeting of separatists in a gurdwara. **PTI**

ADVERTISEMENT AF STATION GURGAON OLD DELHI ROAD ACCOUNTS CLERK IN NPF SI FUND

Application are invited from eligible Indian Citizens aged between 18-35 yrs for the post of Accounts Clerk in SI Fund paid out of Non Public Fund at Air Force Station Gurgaon at a pay scale of Rs. 15,000/- (Consolidated). The minimum educational qualification is B.Com and computer literate. The eligible candidates are to apply for the post on foolscap paper neatly typed or hand written in capital letter along with recent passport size photograph pasted on the application duly attested by Gazetted Officer and submit the same with the copies of educational certificates and a self addressed envelope with stamp of Rs. 5/- in a sealed envelope super scribing "Application for the Post of Accts Clerk" to OIC NPF Co-Ord AF Station Gurgaon Old Delhi Road Gurgaon-122005 within 10 days from the date of publish the advertisement. (Preference will be given to Ex Serviceman) **For further query please contact — 9007465304 / 9074071120**

OBITUARY



Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Feb 2021.

- 15691927W Nk Uttam Kumar Singh
- 15755475F Sigmn Chankabadi Sharma
- JC-376771F Sub Maj Rokati Manohar
- 15696918Y Nk Lallu Lal Meena
- 15698861N Nk Manoj Kumar Sahu
- JC-385401 Sub Kuldip Sinha
- 15673052H CHM Maheshwar Lal Vishwakarma
- IC-60531F Col Vikas Gautam
- 15720719M Nk Manish Kaur
- JC-385839Y Sub Doipjode Laxman Santu

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledgors, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 19/03/2021 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BHIWANI, BHIWANI, 119170700025575, 6094, 6145, 6214, 6232, 6264, 6297, 6300, 6308, 6338, 6354, 6987, 7049, 7075, 7077, 7079, 7087, 7112, 7125, 7144, 7183, 7201, 7206, 7209, 7210, 7228, 7268, 7287, 7288, 7316, 7320, 7334, 7338, 7339, 7342, 7346, 119170730014369, 6176, 6220, 6314, 6776, 6796, 6842, 6843, 7987, 8415, 8474, 8497, 8574, 8627, 8788, 8789, 8796, 8810, 8811, 8841, 8841, 8998, 9000, CHARKHI DADRI, 1380507000000511, 0538, 138050700001806, DINDO GATE BHIWANI, 1385707000000580, 0584, 0585, 0590, 0594, 0598, 0599, 0600, 0618, 0619, 0623, 138570730001291, FARIDABAD, BALLALGARH, 122540700022114, 3468, 3705, 4149, 4240, 4247, 4361, 4388, 5292, 5302, 5304, 5309, 5326, 5331, 5334, 5355, 5366, 5386, 5390, 5431, 5382, 5383, 5393, 5394, 5400, 5406, 5427, 5428, 5434, 5447, 5454, 5455, 5458, 5459, 5461, 5462, 5468, 5473, 5475, 5478, 5489, 5490, 5491, 5492, 5493, 5494, 5495, 5503, 5505, 5551, 5552, 5559, 5568, 5575, 5590, 5600, 5601, 5607, 5609, 5610, 5617, 5622, 5631, 5635, 5638, 5642, 5647, 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8851, 8887, 8897, 8915, 8921, 8923, 8924, 8925, 8929, 8931, 8951, 8959, 8960, 8964, 8969, 8984, 9000, 9007, 9008, 9009, 9033, 9059, 9066, 9067, 9072, 9073, 9076, 9077, 9082, 9090, 9094, 9097, 9100, 9118, 9122, 9124, 124310730009881, 124310730010985, 0994, 1040, 1046, 1071, NEELAM BATA CHOWK, 112430700017988, 7989, 8733, 8735, 8736, 8737, 8738, 8742, 8755, 8759, 8761, 8764, 8775, 8787, 8797, 8800, 8807, 8833, 8836, 8837, 8838, 8841, 8842, 8843, 8844, 8848, 8849, 8852, 8861, 8862, 8879, 8885, 8887, 8890, 8891, 8895, 8896, 8898, 8914, 8922, 8924, 8955, 8963, 8964, 8968, 112430730010566, 0600, 0601, 0622, 0647, 0733, NIT VK CHOWK ROAD, 118270700022278, 2424, 3769, 3801, 3815, 3849, 3881, 3900, 3919, 3921, 3922, 3923, 3924, 3951, 3994, 3995, 4000, 4004, 4055, 4082, 4089, 4100, 4084, 4854, 4866, 4867, 4886, 4895, 4896, 4900, 4909, 4916, 4920, 4924, 4942, 4943, 4954, 4989, 4990, 4992, 5004, 5029, 5030, 5034, 5042, 118270730009961, 9973, 9976, 9999, 118270730010104, 0142, 0168, 0169, 0171, 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The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Knowledge and diplomacy

India's successes in space, pharma point to diplomatic potential of knowledge industry. And to waning soft power



SANJAYA BARU

UNSEEMLY PROPOSAL

CJI-led bench's remarks risk perpetuating retrograde notion of marriage as payoff for rape. Onus is on court to undo damage

THE IMPLICATIONS OF a bench of the Supreme Court led by the Chief Justice of India asking a man accused of raping a minor if he would marry the victim are disquieting. Words uttered in the highest, most pre-eminent court of the land ripple out into the larger society. They have the power to expand the constitutional rights of citizens and defend them against unequal value systems of clan, caste, patriarchy. In this case, the SC's remarks, unfortunately, risk perpetuating the offensive and retrograde idea of marriage as a payoff for the trauma and violation of rape. The court posed the question to a government servant, accused of stalking and then raping a 16-year-old girl multiple times as well as forcing her mother to not lodge a police complaint on the promise that he would marry the victim when she turned 18. The accused had appealed against a Bombay High Court order that struck down the anticipatory bail granted to him by a sessions court. "Will you marry her?" the SC bench said, before going on to grant the accused interim protection from arrest for four weeks.

Under the law of the land, rape is a "non-compoundable" crime. That is, the offence cannot be diluted or mitigated by any settlement reached outside court. The Supreme Court has repeatedly spoken out against such obscene matchmaking that devalues a woman's worth by making her violation a matter to be settled between families to preserve the reputation and honour of male assailants. In a 2015 judgment in *State of MP vs Madanlal*, the court had unambiguously stated, "In a case of rape or attempt of rape, the conception of compromise under no circumstances can really be thought of... Sometimes solace is given that the perpetrator of the crime has acceded to enter into wedlock which is nothing but putting pressure in an adroit manner; and we say with emphasis that the courts are to remain absolutely away from this subterfuge". In an earlier judgment in *Shimbu v State of Haryana*, the SC had said, "Rape is not a matter to be left for the parties to compromise and settle."

Nevertheless, the patriarchal understanding of the crime as a permanent damage to a woman's social standing and place (the rape victim as the alleged "zinda laash") discourages the pursuit of justice in favour of a "compromise" that somewhat restores the victim's "honour", even if it means exposing her to more violence from her husband/assailant. It is pertinent to note here that marital rape is not a crime under the Indian Penal Code. Such compromises are routinely peddled by police, village councils and lower courts. In 2015, the Madras High Court granted bail to a rape accused to mediate a marriage with the woman he had assaulted — even when the victim had declared her revulsion at such a settlement. The CJI's remarks in open court could perpetuate this inglorious tradition and derail the progress made by several judgments that affirm the dignity and autonomy of Indian women as equal citizens. The onus is on the court to undo the damage.

CONCERNS ABOUT CREDIT

As borrowers and lenders turn wary, banks will have to build capital buffers to withstand Covid shock, lend to economy

IN ITS STUDY on the "Sectoral deployment of bank credit in India", the Reserve Bank of India has highlighted the sharp decline in bank credit to parts of the economy. The collapse is due to both supply and demand-side factors — the pandemic has forced both borrowers and lenders to tread warily. In the first half of the year, demand for credit remained muted as economic activity was restricted due to the lockdowns. Subsequently, even though economic activity has rebounded, appetite remains subdued, as there is considerable uncertainty over the medium-term growth outlook. On the supply side, as the report notes, there is "a general reluctance on the part of bankers to lend" to large industries owing to stressed assets. This decline in credit to large industries, and the infrastructure segment, is a matter of concern.

Bank credit, which grew at a healthy pace in 2018-19, had slowed down even prior to the pandemic in 2019-20 — GDP growth had slowed down from 6.1 per cent 2018-19 to 4 per cent in 2019-20. At the aggregate level, non-food credit growth was 6.1 per cent in March 2020, as compared to 13.4 per cent a year ago. Growth slid further to 5.9 per cent in November 2020, down from 7.8 per cent a year ago, the report notes. This decline is, in part, due to large industries — their share in the incremental credit flow was actually negative in the year ending November 2020. Retail credit (personal loans) and loans extended to the services sector accounted for the bulk of the lending during this period, highlighting the risk aversion of banks. The only bright spot is the rise in lending to medium-sized industries — this could be on account of policy measures such as the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) which aimed to provide credit to MSMEs.

The economic shock from the pandemic will add greater pressure to bank balance sheets. The central bank now expects banks' bad loans to rise to 13.5 per cent by September 2021, up from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 in its baseline scenario. Under more severe conditions, this may deteriorate to almost 15 per cent — underscoring the need to build adequate capital buffers to withstand this shock. This, as RBI governor Shaktikanta Das noted in an earlier speech, "will be crucial not only to ensure credit flow but also to build resilience in the financial system."

CONSUMER UNDURABLES

EU has enacted a 'right to repair'. But there is no law to regulate the love of the new and shiny

THE PROBLEM WITH consumer durables is that they aren't all that durable. The warranty runs out in a year, and then — in India at least — either a neighbourhood repairman does his best to fix the inevitable breakdowns, or the *kabadiwala* takes the product off your hands. In Europe — and much of the First World — these options are not as readily available. And more importantly, discarded televisions, refrigerators, washing machines, etc are adding to the growing problem of e-waste, continuing the almost irreparable harm to the environment that a culture of consumerism has caused. The European Union has enacted, for this reason, a "right to repair" under which companies will be required to ensure that spare parts are available for their products for at least 10 years.

The EU law hits at "planned obsolescence" — companies ensure that their products are made from components that don't last long, to get repeat customers. In some cases (and the law allows for these), technologies may become genuinely obsolete: For example, air conditioners that use less power and CFCs or more fuel-efficient cars. But forcing the purchase of new goods has led to a pressure on wallets and the environment that is now untenable. The next step, according to EU officials, is to extend the ambit of the law to cover IT hardware — cellphones, laptops and the like — which are responsible for a large amount of e-waste. Apple is already facing a lawsuit from Deco Proteste, a private consumer organisation from Portugal, over the planned obsolescence of the iPhone 6.

The EU law aims to address the supply-side greed that makes big business sell people things that go kaput. But the other problem with a culture of consumerism is the consumer. Why, pray, do people need a "smart fridge"? Or a new phone which is exactly like the old but pretends not to be? The most durable thing is not the product, but the consumer's desire for the new and shiny.

THE LAUNCH OF Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) comes weeks after India allowed the export of COVID-19 vaccine to Brazil, as part of its "vaccine maitri" diplomacy. Taken together, these two examples of technological and scientific cooperation draw attention to the diplomatic potential of India's knowledge economy. India's current global diplomacy in the fields of space and pharmaceuticals, engaging several countries around the world, is the fruit of 50 years of sustained state support for "atmanirbharta" in both fields.

Even though one of the satellites put into space was embossed with the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the credit for India's space programme should in fact go to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It was Prime Minister Gandhi who authorised the creation of ISRO in 1972 and it was again her decision to enact the Indian Patents Act, 1970, that triggered the growth of the domestic pharmaceuticals sector. Subsequent governments have all contributed to the development of both industries. Thanks to these initiatives India is today able to place satellites of several countries into space at globally competitive rates and is able to supply drugs and vaccines at affordable prices to developing countries.

The credit for India's competitive pricing of satellite launches and pharmaceuticals exports goes entirely to Indian engineering, scientific and technological talent that has pursued world-class standards at a fraction of the cost incurred in developed economies. The willingness of high-quality Indian scientists, engineers, biotechnologists, pharmacologists and such like to work in India at Indian rates of compensation, not tempted by better paying jobs abroad, has allowed organisations like ISRO and Serum Institute of India to do the work they now do.

India's demonstrated potential to be a low-cost global provider of knowledge-based products had prompted the developed West, especially the US, to deploy policies aimed at curbing the development of Indian capabilities. Unilateral sanctions were imposed to deny Indian industry access to technology and markets and a multilateral regime for intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection was created,

under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation to thwart indigenous technology development. Indian capabilities in space and pharma grew in the face of such constraints. India's more broad-based capability for knowledge-based diplomacy has, however, significantly decreased over the past quarter century rather than increased. Consider the fact that as early as in the 1950s, many developing countries looked to India to access development-oriented knowledge. Students from across Asia and Africa sought admission to Indian universities for post-graduate courses. Indian expertise was sought by global organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The government of South Korea even sent its economists to the Indian Planning Commission till the early 1960s to be trained in long-term planning.

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There were many other fields in which Indian expertise was sought in the past and where India lags behind today. Railways is one. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), which incidentally was also established by Indira Gandhi in 1974, had acquired a global profile with business in Africa and Asia. The development of India's dairy and livestock economy also attracted global interest. Indian science and technology had something to offer the developing world that the developed economies of the West were either unwilling to provide or did so at much higher cost. India lost this leadership in the knowledge economy, barring sectors like space, pharma and information-technology, for two reasons. First, a flight of Indian talent that began in the 1970s and has since accelerated. This has sharply increased in recent years. I have written about this before in these columns ('Secession of the Successful', IE, December 30, 2020). Second, China has emerged as a major competitor offering equally good, if not better quality, S&T products and services at lower cost. While India has maintained its lead in IT software, China has developed competitive capabilities in space, pharma, railways and sev-

eral other knowledge-based industries.

Indeed, given the competition from China, the ability of Indian space and pharma to offer much-needed products to other developing countries goes to the credit of the people who serve in these industries. The Indian familiarity with the English language and the still good quality of teaching in mathematics and statistics has enabled Indian firms to remain competitive in data processing, business process outsourcing and software services. Here too, the competitive edge is beginning to blunt.

The biggest setback in the global appeal of India's knowledge economy has been in higher education. Overseas students were drawn to Indian universities and institutions because they offered good quality education at a fraction of the cost of developed country institutions. The appeal of education in India for overseas students has waned. Even South Asian students, from countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, who preferred to come to India in the 1960s and 1970s no longer do so. Indian institutions attract fewer foreign students not just because the quality of education offered in most institutions is below par, but that the creature comforts provided and the social environment offered here is no longer as cosmopolitan as it used to be. The growing assertion of narrow-minded ideologies only makes Indian campuses even less attractive to overseas students and scholars.

Space and pharma are at the apex of a narrow pyramid of the knowledge economy. If ISRO's global competitiveness is a tribute to public policy and government support, the global success of the pharma sector is a tribute to private enterprise and middle-class talent in pharmacology and biotechnology. Their global success points to the diplomatic potential of the knowledge industry and to India's "soft power". However, the fact that they are the exception rather than the rule points to the lack of political and intellectual support to the development of India's knowledge base and an inadequate commitment to excellence.

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SURJEET DHANJI

THE DIVERSITY GAP

People of Indian origin are underrepresented in Australian politics

AUSTRALIANS OF Indian origin are yet to make substantial inroads into Australian legislative institutions. They participate in many sectors of the Australian economy and society. Many are well educated and earn high incomes. Most speak English and, coming from a democratic country, understand democratic political processes. But this group has not risen to political leadership in numbers proportionate to the size of the community in Australia.

The most recent census in Australia (2016) found that approximately 6,19,000 people, or 2.6 per cent of the population, traced their ancestry to India. Of them, approximately 3,76,000 people, or 1.6 per cent of the population, had Australian citizenship (officially defined as Australians of Indian origin) — a key eligibility criteria for holding political office. But very few Australians of Indian origin have been elected at federal, state or local levels. A 2018 study by the Australian Human Rights Commission showed that 94 per cent of members of the Federal Parliament had either Anglo-Celtic or European heritage.

Australians of Indian origin account for 0.5 per cent of representatives in the federal parliament, 0.7 per cent in the Victorian state parliament, and even lower proportions for local councils in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. They are doing relatively well in the NSW state parliament, where they account for 1.5 per cent of elected representatives.

In May-December 2019, I conducted interviews with eight Australians of Indian origin, some of whom had been elected to parliament and others who were unsuccessful, to find out the opportunities, barriers and challenges they

had experienced. Interviews were also conducted with nine leaders and members of the Indian diaspora in Australia.

A major finding is that the complex process of preselection by political parties is a significant hurdle. There is a perception among the respondents that regardless of the contribution of these candidates to the community, first preference in winnable seats is given to candidates with Anglo-Celtic backgrounds. One of them said, "...political parties put Indian-Australian and Asian candidates in seats where it really does not make a difference because it is a safe opposition seat." Another asked: "Are they saying...[this is] not the image of what Australia looks like?" Further, both first- and second-generation Indian migrants lack the social and professional networks that connect them with politicians and parties. "Party power brokers often 'pluck' or handpick sharp, bright scholars from Melbourne and Monash Universities to become policy advisors to politicians: [...] Eventually, party faction power brokers endorse them as party candidates," another respondent informed. Though many Australians of Indian origin have tertiary qualifications, few, if any, appear to have been "plucked" from universities.

Community members and leaders interviewed criticised the calibre of Australians of Indian origin who stood as candidates in recent state and federal elections. They felt many lacked the skills to articulate a policy agenda or handle the media. They also reproached candidates who stood for the anti-non-white immigration party — Pauline Hanson's One Nation — because these candidates failed to

appreciate the values they saw as fundamental to the community.

Australia has neglected to embrace cultural and ethnic diversity in parliament to the same degree as nations such as Britain and the US, where politicians from Indian migrant backgrounds were elected to government as early as the 1890s and 1957 respectively, when the Indian diaspora was comparatively minuscule.

Australian political parties should address the under-representation of ethnic minorities with resolve similar to the efforts undertaken to redress the under-representation of women in parliament. They should take note of programmes such as Canada's Prime Minister's Youth Council and the US' New American Leaders Project. The Australian Labor Party is currently piloting Poliversity, a programme that advocates culturally-diverse leadership. They should also initiate communication training for political candidature to broaden the pool of talent amongst Australia's Indian diaspora and other minority groups.

Harnessing the talent of future generations of Australians of Indian origin and other minority ethnic groups by channeling resources to initiatives that act as pipelines to future candidates is another imperative. Political parties could tap into the expertise of existing groups, such as the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria and the Diversity Council of Australia, which already work in areas of diversity and inclusion.

The writer is post-doc and Hon. Fellow, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne



MARCH 3, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

GOVT ON CORRUPTION

THE CENTRE IS inclined to pursue the prima facie cases as established in the Justice Vaidalingam report, against Kantilal Desai son of former prime minister Morarji Desai and Gayatri Devi, Charan Singh's wife. When the report was received in January 1980, soon after Mrs Gandhi came to office, the thinking was to ignore the findings. The argument was that it would emphasise the point that her government was not interested in commissions or their conclusions. There was also an eye on the future so as to establish a precedent to not look into the affairs of the previous government. For certain reasons, these considerations have

been jettisoned.

RIFT IN LOK DAL

THE LOKDAL is heading for a crisis with the differences between Charan Singh and Devi Lal having assumed serious proportions. The two leaders have been fighting for the last several months for the leadership of the party but their differences on the composition of the executive committee of the Haryana Lok Dal appear to be pushing them towards a showdown.

ANTI-ZIA STRIKES

STRIKES BY THOUSANDS of lawyers against President Zia's martial rule and teachers

and doctors seeking pay raises gripped most of Pakistan's legal and medical institutions. These protests coincided with the formation of a newly-formed opposition front, Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

ASIAD OFFICIAL JAUNTS

YET ANOTHER FOREIGN jaunt is in the offing for officials connected with the Asian Games. Months after the construction of the controversial indoor stadium near the Rajghat complex, all the engineers associated with the project will be leaving for a 20-day trip to London, Munich, Berlin and Moscow.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The costs of a face-off

India's swift military response and political resolve have forced China to disengage. But political and security establishment must do more to ensure a crisis does not sneak up on us again



ARUN PRAKASH

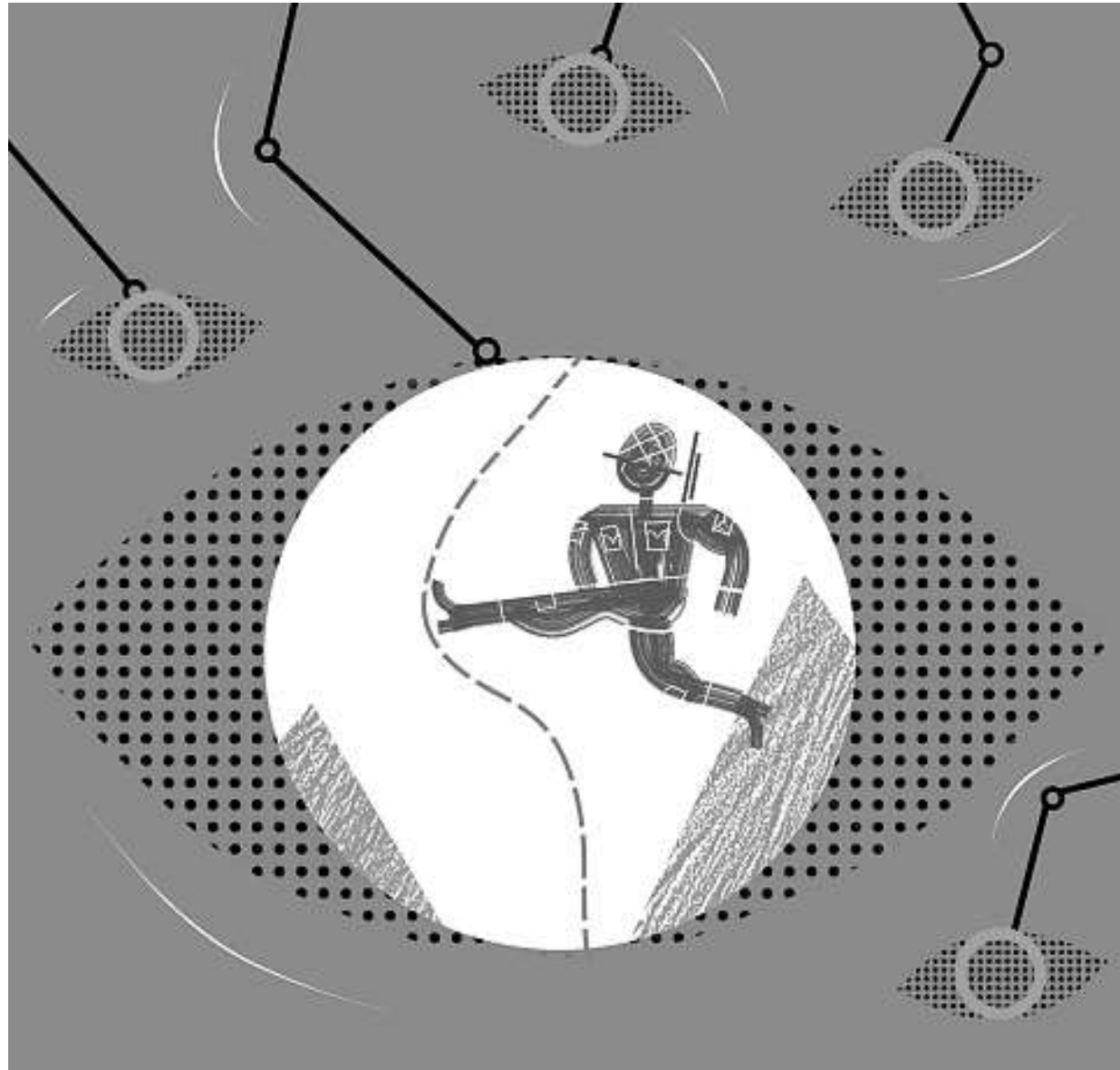
THE NATION HEAVED a collective sigh of relief as the Indian and Chinese armies commenced a process of "synchronised and verifiable disengagement" on banks of the Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. This mutual climbdown came after 10 months of a tense and sanguinary armed confrontation, punctuated by talks between respective military commanders. It marks the beginning of a process that should lead to disengagement at other "friction points" along the line of actual control (LAC) in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang, and eventually, to a state of "de-escalation", wherein, both armies will revert to pre-April 2020 force-levels and deployments.

Even as political analysts rack their brains about the motivation underlying China's blatant territorial incursions, and its equally perplexing withdrawal, this traumatic event calls for deep reflection in South Block. Clearly, India's swift military response, backed by firm political resolve, came as an unpleasant surprise to China, and influenced its eventual decision to disengage. Possible "loss of face" in Beijing may see some in the Party and/or the People's Liberation Army (PLA) pay the price for miscalculation. But even in the (unlikely) event that the status-quo ante is restored, China's periodic transgressions have imposed costs on India which cannot be ignored. While the political consequences of these intrusions are being managed through legerdemain, it is the price being paid, in terms of economic and security penalties, which calls for attention.

The expenditure demanded by an unanticipated redeployment of 50,000-60,000 soldiers and their sustenance in the high-altitude, arctic conditions of Ladakh would be substantial. While the rapid troop build-up is testimony of India's newly acquired, strategic airlift capability, it will extract a price in terms of wear and tear on the IAF's transport and helicopter fleets. The cumulative costs of this military confrontation could, therefore, impose a significant burden on an already stressed defence budget and will impact on force modernisation plans. Relief at the ongoing disengagement must be tempered by the fact that this is just the latest act in the ongoing drama being played out by China along the LAC.

The notional LAC was described by the then Chinese Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai, in 1959, as conforming to "the so-called McMahon Line in the east and the line, up to which each side exercises actual control in the west". In 1962, the PLA advanced to this claim line, before withdrawing, unilaterally, 20 km behind it. This left China in occupation of 38,000 sq km of the Aksai Chin plateau. In the east, China now claims, as part of "Southern Tibet", 84,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh, which is well to the south of the McMahon Line.

Having neglected for 59 years post-bellum to negotiate conversion of the 3,500 km disputed Sino-Indian boundary into an international border, India continues to pay a heavy price for this glaring omission. The mere existence of an undefined and un-demarcated LAC has provided an instrumentality for China to periodically intimidate and distract New Delhi, and damage India's image internationally. History will judge the culpability of statesmen and diplomats, who



CR Sasikumar

allowed this situation to persist, but the Indian state must take note of other, equally egregious, lapses that have encouraged adventurism on the part of our neighbours.

Prime amongst these is the indifference of India's politicians, bordering on neglect, towards defence preparedness. The 1962 military-debacle that resulted from Prime Minister Nehru's order to "throw out the Chinese" from NEFA was a direct consequence of his total ignorance about the dismal state of the Indian army vis-à-vis the PLA and the adverse terrain that our poorly-armed and ill-clad troops were to fight in. In March 1971, PM Indira Gandhi, eager to march into East Pakistan, was, fortunately, restrained by General Manekshaw's firm but principled dissent. The consequent six-month respite enabled our military to make up for drastic weapon and equipment shortages through imports.

A manifestation of this political syndrome is the oft-heard statement in Parliament: "When the time comes, all resources will be made available to our gallant armed forces." The absurdity of such statements seems lost on our political elite, because "when-the-time-comes" is too late to hand out guns to soldiers. Consequently, every crisis sees a panic rush abroad, for "emergency purchases" of items ranging from rifles to fighters.

Another cause for India being repeatedly caught flat-footed in crises situations is the strange and ostrich-like reticence, which prevents self-assessment as well as policy-articulation. Thus, no government has, so far, defined national aims, objectives, vital interests and "red lines" in the form of a security doctrine or strategy. One also wonders if the

The expenditure demanded by an unanticipated redeployment of 50,000-60,000 soldiers and their sustenance in the high-altitude, arctic conditions of Ladakh would be substantial. While the rapid troop build-up is testimony of India's newly acquired strategic airlift capability, it will extract a price in terms of wear and tear on the IAF's transport and helicopter fleets. The cumulative costs of this military confrontation could, therefore, impose a significant burden on an already-stressed defence budget and will impact on force modernisation plans.

60-year experience has helped the Ministry of External Affairs to evolve a "China-specific" strategy. The MoD steadfastly refuses to undertake strategic defence reviews, which would clearly show up the yawning gaps that exist between the budget and military resources available, on the one hand, and the capabilities required to meet extant threats, on the other. This has created a dilemma for the Indian armed forces, wherein they are expected to discharge roles, for which the government has neither funded nor equipped them; two examples being "fighting a two-and-a-half front war" and becoming a "net-security provider for the Indian Ocean region".

Finally, the term heard consistently in India's national security discourse is "surprise", used in the context of the 1947, 1962, 1965 and Kargil conflicts, as well as episodes like the IC-814 hijacking and the 26/11 terror strike. The phrase implies intelligence failures on account of flaws in collection, collation and analysis, as well as timely dissemination of information. The 1999 Kargil Review Committee in its public report had stated: "There are no checks and balances in the Indian intelligence system to ensure that the consumer gets all the intelligence that is available and is his due... each intelligence agency is diligent in preserving its own turf."

The two decades since Kargil have seen reconnaissance and surveillance operations transformed by the induction of drones, aircraft and satellites and the inception of a dedicated "tech-int" agency. And yet, in April 2020, the PLA managed to sneak up on us.

The writer is a former chief of Indian Navy

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"[Donald] Trump has radicalised the base of his party to a troubling degree by restricting and distorting their view of the world, patterns of thinking and value systems."
— THE GUARDIAN

The citizen's budget

People's participation and voice in municipal budgets will deepen democracy, make for better cities



SRIKANTH VISWANATHAN

THE BUDGET SEASON is upon us. The Union budget, which lays out the receipt and expenditure proposals of the Government of India, is an annual feature in Parliament on February 1. It receives extensive press coverage — in fact, it sends both TV and print media into a frenzy. The halwa ceremony in North Block to mark the budget being sent for printing, whether the Finance Minister is carrying her budget papers in a briefcase or in a bahi khata, which poets in what languages she quoted, etc. get covered by print and TV media.

About 30 state governments present their budgets in respective state assemblies generally during February or March. State budgets too receive a certain degree of attention and coverage, albeit far less than the Union budget.

However, budgets that matter most to us, our parents, children, friends and colleagues are city budgets or municipal budgets. Ironically, they receive little or no attention in the media, except run-of-the-mill, fleeting coverage in the much-neglected city pages. Yet, a staggering 4,500+ municipalities in which over 300 million people live present their budgets every year during the budget season. Are we able to breathe the clean air, do we get clean drinking water in our taps, is garbage cleared properly and on time, do we all have access to clean toilets at home and in public spaces, is our wastewater treated and disposed of safely, are our children and parents able to walk safely on streets and enjoy public spaces — these are all determined by these municipal budgets. While it is a pity we don't yet have accurate data, estimates suggest that taken together, these 4,500+ city budgets aggregate to an amount in the range of Rs 1,50,000-1,80,000 crore annually.

The secret to a better quality of life in our cities lies in these city (and to a certain extent state) budgets. We need greater degrees of citizen engagement and media engagement on these budgets for them to become instruments of real change at a street, neighbourhood and ward level. At present, most municipal laws don't provide for citizen participation in budgets or transparency in civic works and tenders. Budget documents themselves are not easy to read and understand for an average citizen. To exacerbate this, substantial expenditure in the city happens through parastatal agencies such as development authorities, transport corporations and water supply boards, which have separate budgets which are never discussed in the city council or covered in the media.

There seems to be evidence to suggest that when there is citizen participation in budgeting and closer engagement of citizens in the monitoring of civic works, there are better outcomes and fewer leakages.

"Participatory Budgeting" is a concept that was pioneered in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre in the mid-1980s. It is now practised in one form or other in thousands of cities around the world. In India, participatory budgeting in cities was pioneered by Janaagraha in Bengaluru in 2001, but took firmer roots in Pune, which drew inspiration from the Bengaluru experience and had a more committed leadership.

More recently the MyCityMyBudget campaign, first launched in 2015, is gathering traction in Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam, as a collaborative effort between respective city corporations, neighbourhood communities and Janaagraha. Across Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam, over 85,000 budget inputs have been crowdsourced from over 80,000 citizens in over 350 wards on a wide range of civic issues such as "yellowspots" (public urination spots), public toilets, footpaths, garbage dumps, roads and drains. These inputs will be reviewed and incorporated into the city budget. This is significant because in the government system, allocating budgets is the first step towards getting any piece of work done. Such an initiative has several benefits. It facilitates a targeted, hyperlocal focus on budgeting and problem-solving. It makes citizens feel like they have a voice in civic governance and thereby builds trust. It addresses inefficiencies arising from misplaced prioritisation of civic works relative to citizen needs. Finally, it improves accountability for civic works at the last mile (as citizens would monitor budget execution).

Even if 5 per cent of municipality budgets are set aside for participatory budgeting, that would amount to over Rs 7,500 crore nationally! If citizens could work with ward-level engineers to use these funds to get their street lights fixed, make their footpaths walkable, spruce up their parks, create a new childcare centre or public toilet in an urban poor settlement, or make bus shelters safe and comfortable, imagine the difference it would make to their lives and the trust it would build between citizens and governments. Children, women, senior citizens, the differently-abled and several interest groups would be able to make a case for their causes and aspirations and have them fulfilled. This would foster far greater ownership in communities for civic assets and amenities, thereby resulting in better maintenance and upkeep. At the local level, it is a win-win for communities, elected councillors and the city administration.

In fact, most of the allocations for cities in the Union and state budgets find their way into municipal budgets, as municipalities implement most of their schemes. Union and state governments have a hard time gaining assurance that these schemes and funds result in intended citizen outcomes. Participatory budgeting in cities is, therefore, in their interest too. Unlike the Union budget, the municipal budget is not just a financial or legal document. It can be an enabler of grass roots democracy in cities and tangible change for communities particularly children, women and the urban poor. Communities and media in cities need to engage more deeply with municipal budgets.

The writer is CEO, Janaagraha



BHUPENDER YADAV

An extradition, a vindication

Order for Nirav Modi's return proves corrupt have no amnesty in Modi rule

ON FEBRUARY 25, the Westminster Magistrate's Court in London accepted the contention of the Indian government to extradite Nirav Modi, who duped the Punjab National Bank of billions of rupees and fled the country when he found the noose around him tightening, saying that the evidence against him "is prima facie sufficient to order his extradition to India to face the charges".

Delivering the verdict, Judge Sam Goozee said: "India is governed by it(s) written Constitution which has at its core the fundamental principle of the independence of the judiciary by virtue of the separation of powers between judiciary, the executive and the legislature. There is no cogent or reliable evidence that the judiciary in India are no longer independent, or capable of managing a fair trial even where it is a high-profile fraud with significant media interest. (sic)"

The verdict assumes great significance because it not only ensures that Nirav Modi will be brought back to face charges but also serves as a reminder to all fugitives, their protectors and those trying to defraud India that they can no longer just take a flight out of the country after duping Indian institutions and

people hoping to find safe havens abroad. The law will catch up with them. This is a unique case where the government has succeeded in its attempt to extradite a fugitive hiding on foreign soil.

Allowing the extradition plea of the Indian government, Judge Goozee said: "Pulling all these findings together, I determine, on one possible view of the evidence, I am satisfied that there is evidence upon which Nirav Modi could be convicted in relation to the conspiracy to defraud the PNB. A prima facie case is established."

The verdict is a result of sustained efforts of Indian investigating agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation that built a water-tight case against Nirav Modi and punctured holes in all his contentions, such as fairness of investigation, trial, admissibility of evidence, prison conditions, availability of health facilities in India and extraneous consideration against the extradition request. The agencies had the full backing of the Narendra Modi government, which has promised that those who defraud India will not be allowed to go scot-free by taking refuge on foreign soil.

The verdict has also busted the Congress's motivated campaign, which tried to project the Narendra Modi-led government as one protecting the corrupt. It is well known by now that Nirav Modi executed the fraud during the UPA regime. It has now also been documented that Congress leader and former high court judge, Abhay Thipsay, deposed in favour of Nirav Modi at the UK court but "never disclosed his party-political affiliation either in the report's biography or in relation to his declaration as an expert and disclosure of any potential conflict of interests". The court has also made some scathing remarks against former Supreme Court Judge Markandey Katju for saying that Nirav Modi is unlikely to get a fair trial in India.

The judgment exposes those who were trying to shield Nirav Modi, something that the BJP had maintained all through the trial in the case.

The Westminster Court has upheld the supremacy of the Indian judiciary and reposed faith in the country's judicial system to accord a fair trial to Nirav Modi. It has also said that India is well-equipped to ensure Nirav Modi's human rights are protected and

he gets all the necessary medical assistance during and after his trial. The court upheld all assurances of India and rejected the submissions of the defence regarding human rights violations, fair trial and prison conditions. That the court observed that considering the length and strength of relations between India and the UK, there is no evidence of breach of solemn diplomatic assurance by the government of India goes to prove India's global standing. These are not facts that needed vindication but the UK court spelling it out will help India in handling cases of other fugitives.

The verdict serves as a reminder that business as usual is no longer acceptable. Under PM Narendra Modi, India is no banana Republic where an unholy business-political nexus will be allowed free reign to dupe, defraud and hide offshore. This is a victory of India's investigating agencies, judicial process, global prowess and 130 crore-plus people who have said no to corruption and shielding the corrupt.

The writer is BJP National General Secretary and member of Rajya Sabha

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPOKE IN WHEELS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'On the road with COVID: auto-rickshaws, bike taxis recover faster, cabs behind' (IE, March 2). There is no doubt the pandemic has broken the back of many a business. It is good to know, therefore, that autos are recovering faster than expected in metro cities like Kolkata with 80 per cent followed by Delhi and Mumbai with 50 per cent. However, in Mumbai the autos and taxis are in a delicate situation. On the one hand, they are suffering a loss of business on account of less demand due to the pandemic affecting business enterprises, while on the other hand, they were unable to willingly accept a steep hike in fares offered to them as the government seems unable to offer them any other form of assistance. One only hopes that situation will return to normal as soon as possible.

Melville X D'Souza, Mumbai

CHINA'S GOOSE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Trilateral humility' (IE, March 2). It is true that China and Pakistan on the one hand and India alone on the other, instead of putting their heads together to sort out the border disputes once for all, are blowing their own trumpet of triumphalism. It is clear that China is following a policy of a war of nerves to clip our wings. But at the same time, it will not cross the Rubicon. This is because the balance of trade is hugely in its favour. India is a

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● HOW TO OPTIMISE THE VACCINATION DRIVE:
N K GANGULY

● THE THAW IN LADAKH:
AMEYA PRATAP SINGH

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goose that lays golden eggs. Given this situation, we can tactfully exploit our indispensability to it. Pakistan will fall in line automatically.

Tarsem Singh Mahilpur

NGT'S FAILURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Paler Green' (IE March 2). The primary purpose of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is to provide environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. But due to the careless dismissals of the NGT, neither issue is resolved. To rectify this and to address other issues, it is only correct to place the organisation under watch for the recovery period.

Sai Adhithi M, Puducherry

BRIEFLY



Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan

MADHYA PRADESH
BJP Lok Sabha member dies of Covid issues

Bhopal: Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, died at a hospital in Gurugram, family sources said on Tuesday. He was 69. The six-term MP, who was suffering from Covid-19 and was airlifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram last month in a serious condition, breathed his last late Monday night, the sources said. He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters, a BJP spokesman said. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA
Man scolds actor for not speaking on farmers, held

Mumbai: Police arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly stopping the car of actor Ajay Devgn and berating him for not speaking in favour of farmers protesting against the three farm laws. Senior inspector Dharnendra Kamble said the accused, Rajdeep Ramesh Singh, was travelling in an auto-rickshaw when he identified the actor in a car stuck in traffic. "He did not allow the vehicle to go ahead and told the actor that he should be ashamed for not raising his voice for the farmers who are protesting the farm laws... Eventually the actor's bodyguard took him aside and contacted us," Kamble said. **ENS**

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Kangana moves SC for transfer of three cases

New Delhi: Actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel have approached the Supreme Court seeking transfer of cases pending against them in Mumbai to Himachal Pradesh alleging threat from the ruling Shiv Sena and the Maharashtra government. The plea referred to three cases, including a criminal defamation complaint by lyricist Javed Akhtar, and the other two over social media posts. It said that looking at the threat perception to her she was provided with Y-plus category of CRPF security by the Union Home Ministry. "It becomes quite evident that the petitioners face serious threat to life and property". **ENS**

PAKISTAN
Indigo flight make emergency landing, one dead

Karachi, New Delhi: An Indigo flight from Sharjah to Lucknow made an emergency landing at the Karachi airport in Pakistan on Tuesday morning after a passenger on board fell sick and later died. An official of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority said the landing permission was granted to the captain of IndiGo flight GE1412 after an elderly passenger fell seriously ill. The passenger unfortunately expired on the plane even though the Indian aircraft was given permission to land at the Karachi airport, "the official said. **PTI**



An elderly man is inoculated in Mumbai, Tuesday. Deepak Joshi

DAY 2 OF VACCINATION SECOND PHASE

Software functions better, but vaccination centres struggle

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, MARCH 2

TUESDAY SAW some improvement in the functioning of CoWIN software, but centres continued to struggle as a large number of senior citizens and people with co-morbidities turned up for vaccination on the second day.

For an hour, the BKC jumbo centre witnessed jostling as huge crowds gathered in the waiting area to get tokens and enter. Amid the risk of becoming a super-spreading event for coronavirus, police security was beefed up to maintain physical distancing amid vaccine recipients.

BMC plans to scale up to 40 vaccination centres from Wednesday to cope with the overwhelming turnout of those wanting to get immunised. On Monday, there were eight centres, which was increased to 22 on Tuesday for senior citizens and people with comorbidities.

In the coming days, BMC plans to vaccinate 40,000 people a day. "We are appealing to people to pre-register and wait for their slot. People should not rush to centres. There are enough vaccines available for all and we have adequate manpower," Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said. BMC may begin evening slots for vaccination to distribute the crowd throughout the day.

By Tuesday night, the Union Health Ministry allowed Maharashtra to open 29 private hospitals as vaccination centres in Mumbai. These centres, including major hospitals like HN

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



NUMBER OF DOSES (MAR 2)
6,09,845

Total so far: 1,54,61,864

365 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES:
1,11,24,527

ACTIVE CASES: **1,68,358**
DEATHS: **1,57,248**

TESTS: 21,76,18,057 RECOVERIES: 1,07,98,921

MAR 1	CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
	12,286	91	12,464	7,59,283

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES	CASES (MAR 1)		TOTAL
	CASES	DEATHS	
Maharashtra	6,397	21,61,467	
Kerala	1938	10,61,342	
Punjab	633	1,82,809	

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS	DEATHS (MAR 1)		TOTAL
	CASES	DEATHS	
Maharashtra	33	53,391	
Punjab	18	5,850	
Kerala	13	4,258	

Data as on March 1, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments.

Reliance, Hinduja, Lilavati, Fortis, Hiranandani, Bombay Hospital, are slated to begin vaccination from this week once they receive enough stock.

BKC centre on Tuesday saw several walk-in recipients apart from those who had pre-booked a slot. "People were waiting since 9 am and the software was not working. Senior citizens were trying to get tokens and there were many youths accompanying elderly people who were trying to make way through the

crowd and get tokens. The chaos began from there," said Manish Kekatpure (63), who reached the centre at 9 am and got vaccinated by 1 pm.

Dr Rajesh Dere, dean in BKC jumbo centre, said the CoWIN software did not work for over an hour and they could not begin vaccination. "We already had a lot of people waiting for their shot and more kept coming in. That led to overcrowding," he said. **FULL REPORTSON** www.indianexpress.com

Karnataka minister takes jab at home, Centre says not allowed, seeks report

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE CENTRE on Tuesday said it has sought a report from the Karnataka government over state Agriculture Minister B C Patil receiving the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at his residence in Karnataka's Haveri district. "This is not allowed in the protocol (of administering the vaccine at home). It has come to our notice. We have asked for a report from the state government," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

Patil on Tuesday courted controversy after taking the vaccine at his house instead of going to a hospital, drawing criticism from state Health Minister K Sudhakar and others.

Patil, 64, and his wife took the

vaccine at his residence in Hirekerur, in Haveri district, on the second day of the new phase of the vaccination drive to cover people aged above 60 and those aged 45-plus with co-morbidities.

Patil tweeted, "Took the #COVID19Vaccine with my wife, at my Hirekerur house from the government doctors today. While 'Made In India' vaccines are being immensely appreciated by many countries, some vested interest groups are spreading false information about the vaccines."

As several social media users questioned his decision to take the vaccine at home, Sudhakar said the protocol is to get it in the hospital.

Patil defended himself, saying that he had not committed any crime and wanted to avoid

trouble for the public. "Have I done any theft or robbery? I have only taken the vaccine at home which is not a crime," the minister told reporters. He said it was good that his inoculation became public which would inspire others to take the shot.

Patil also said that had he gone to the hospital, it would have caused trouble for people waiting there.

Sudhakar expressed dissatisfaction over Patil's conduct and said the medical team should have persuaded him to come to hospital. "Unless there is a prior permission, no one is allowed to go home to vaccinate. It is wrong to go home to administer a vaccine," he said.

He would issue a circular to doctors not to administer vaccines at home, the minister added.

ECONOMIC SURVEY

Jharkhand GSDP set to contract 6.9%: Survey

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, MARCH 2

JHARKHAND GROSS State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 6.7 per cent in 2019-20 compared to a year before but is estimated to contract by 6.9 per cent in the ongoing fiscal year, as per the Economic Survey released on Tuesday.

The report said that provisional GSDP in 2018-19 stood at Rs 2.24 lakh crore, which grew to Rs 2.4 lakh crore (projected) in 2019-20. The estimated contraction will bring the state's GDP of 2020-21 at 2018-19 level, it said.

The Survey pegged the state's receipt in the current financial

year — both revenue and capital — at Rs 86,370 crore (budgeted estimates) growing from provisional receipts of Rs 70,732 crore in the previous fiscal.

On rural development front, the Survey highlighted that the number of houses supposed to be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Gramin fell short by more than 40%, as the scheme began in 2016-17. In the ongoing fiscal, against the target of 4,22,125, only 33,604 houses were completed despite 3,33,479 houses being sanctioned.

The Survey also mentioned that since the pandemic, unemployment rate rose in Jharkhand, reaching a peak of 59.2% in May 2020, and decreased gradually to

11.3% in January this year. In January 2020, the unemployment rate was 10.6%, it mentions.

Health remains a major cause for 'concern', with 66% of "out of pocket health expenditure" by the people in year 2020-21. The report said that inefficient public health facilities continued to suffer from "poor infrastructure and inadequate manpower", thereby increasing dependence on the private sector, which is covered from household savings and by borrowing in the absence of health coverage schemes.

The Economic Survey also criticised the three farm laws, stating that they remain "silent" on "continuation" of MSP, which is "disturbing".

In car, on phone: IPS officer lists 'harassment' by TN DGP

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 2

A TAMIL NADU Special DGP facing allegations of sexual harassment from a woman IPS officer had made several attempts to hold her hand, had kissed her hand, made her sign, sent a strike force to stop her vehicle on the Trichy-Chennai highway, and even called her father-in-law to strike a compromise, according to her complaints made to senior government authorities.

The Madras High Court had on Monday taken suo motu notice of the alleged harassment, and is directly monitoring the case now being probed by the CB-CID. The court had also imposed restrictions on the media against naming the woman police officer and the accused Special DGP. On Tuesday, the CB-CID team started the investigation visiting witnesses — all senior IPS officers — and the victim, for their detailed statements and related evidence.

According to senior woman IPS officer's written complaint, she was on "bandobust duty" in Karur district as part of the state

Chief Minister's visit on February 21. As the CM's speech was in progress in the evening, the

Special DGP told her she may accompany him in his vehicle to the next meeting place. They would then, in the Special DGP's vehicle, visit two places where the CM was to hold meetings.

In between, the victim officer had informed her Personal Security Officer (PSO) to follow the Special DGP's vehicle in which she was travelling.

During their journey from the third place to a point where she was supposed to be relieved from duty, the Special DGP offered her snacks kept in his car and gave her a pillow for headrest. Then he asked her to sing a song. Upon his insistence, she sang. Sitting to her left, he extended his right hand and asked for her hand. She thought it was for a handshake in appreciation, but he insisted for the other hand, and held on to her hand.

The complaint said he then started singing "for about 20 minutes", lifted her hand and kissed. She told him she "wasn't comfortable." "He smiled and let go of it" and later he tried to catch hold of her hand again, upon which she said she "wasn't comfortable and it was inappropriate." During the journey, he showed a picture of hers he clicked during his earlier visit to her work place. He told her

he saved it as his favourite picture on the phone. Before she got down from his vehicle, he made one more attempt to hold her hand.

The victim filed her first complaint before the head of the police force in Chennai a day after the incident. In another complaint, she gave details of the "criminal acts" she was subjected to on the second day when she travelled to Chennai to meet the DGP and the state Home Secretary.

The complaint said the Special DGP kept calling her that day but she didn't pick. He sent her a message requesting her to call back. He also asked three IPS officers of equivalent rank to speak to her and make her cancel the trip to Chennai. Before reaching Chennai, her complaint said the Chengalpatt SR, D Kannan, had stopped her car with the help of personnel from "striking force."

"The Striking Force vehicle was stationed before my official car to stop me from proceeding forward," she said in her complaint. They asked her driver and personal security officer (PSO) to get down from the car. "They took out the car keys and I was sitting inside the car alone feeling threatened for my life," she wrote. "Kannan told me that

Special DGP had asked him to block my car. I demanded to be allowed to go but he did not clear the way," the complaint said.

Kannan insisted she speak to the special DGP on his phone. When she refused to speak, she was told she won't be allowed to go. After five minutes, she took the call. "He started speaking and the first thing he said was 'I will fall at your feet and apologise for my actions'," she wrote in the complaint.

When she replied that she wanted to meet the Head of Police Force in Chennai and that he should ask Kannan to clear the way, Special DGP replied that "the conversation was being recorded and intelligence branch people were also listening so I should tell what had happened."

"He told me that I am your friend, to which my reply was 'We are not friends, I am (designation of the victim withheld), and you are Special DGP'. He said, 'I am your well wisher and friend, I am coming behind you, I will reach there and we will talk'," the complaint noted, detailing the sequence of events before the Special DGP finally asked Kannan to let her go.

FULL REPORTON www.indianexpress.com

Agra girl recovered from Delhi, 2 youths booked for kidnapping

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, MARCH 2

A WEEK after 32-year-old Mehtab Rana was booked in Agra for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl belonging to a different community, police on Tuesday said they found the 16-year-old girl at a guesthouse in Delhi. The girl told the police that she had gone to Delhi with a youth from Gwalior, identified as Divyanshu, with whom she was reportedly in contact for the past one year.

Police have booked Divyanshu and his friend Rinku, a resident of Delhi, on charges of kidnapping.

According to police, the girl has so far denied Rana's role, who was booked for kidnapping on February 23 and is currently absconding. Two days ago, police arrested Rana's wife and two sisters-in-law on charges of keeping the kidnapped person in confinement.

"With the help of surveillance and other sources, we traced the girl to a guesthouse in Delhi. During questioning, the girl told us that she had gone to Delhi with Divyanshu, a youth from Gwalior, on February 23. Divyanshu was arrested by

Gwalior police two days ago in a separate cybercrime case," Assistant Superintendent of Police (Agra City) Botre Rohan Pramod said.

Police are also looking for Divyanshu's friend Rinku who had allegedly accompanied them to Delhi.

"Both Divyanshu and Rinku are accused of the kidnapping of the girl," Pramod added.

On Mehtab Rana's role, police said that they would take the next course of action based on the girl's statement before the magistrate. "On the basis of the girl's statement before the magistrate, we will take the next course of action. We are yet to ascertain Rana's role in the kidnapping case. The decision on his three family members arrested two days ago will also be taken after that," said the officer.

Police said that three years ago, Rana was booked for kidnapping and raping the same girl. The girl was then recovered from Meerut and Rana was arrested. He was later released in 2019.

A father of six children, Rana had come to Agra in 2018 to work in a hotel where the girl's father was employed, said police. He used to regularly visit her house for work, they said.

MADHYA PRADESH

Budget aims to create 'self-reliant' state, Nath says 'bundle of lies'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, MARCH 2

WITH THE aim to develop an "Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh" and increase local production to at least 10 trillion rupees, Finance Minister Jagdish Devda on Tuesday presented a budget of Rs 2.41 lakh crore for 2021-22 in the Assembly.

With no additional tax burden, Devda said a provision of Rs 5,962 crore has been made for the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water to households -- a jump of nearly 337 per cent over 2020-21. The budget makes a provision of Rs 24,911 crore for the ST sub-plan and Rs 17,980 for SC sub-plan. Devda announced that 24,200 teacher vacancies will be filled up while a provision of Rs 9,793 crore has been made for the establishment of primary schools.

Devda said the agriculture sector is the government's top priority, with a provision of Rs 3,200 crore towards Kisan Kalyan Yojna and another Rs 1,000 crore for interest grant on short-term loans to farmers.

Devda said that it is estimated that the revenue receipts

"The girl told us that Rana was threatening her to change her statement in the 2018 kidnapping case," said Pramod.

According to police, the girl was carrying a new cellphone number when she was traced to a Delhi guesthouse. "During questioning, the girl told us that she came in contact with Divyanshu a year ago at a wedding. They used to regularly speak over the phone. The girl said that on February 23 she had gone to a hospital with her aunt for treatment. The same day, Divyanshu arrived there with his friend Rinku in a vehicle. Divyanshu changed his get-up by wearing a pathani suit and turban before entering the hospital. She then left the hospital in a burqa and the three reached Delhi where Rinku kept her at guesthouse on false identity," said a police officer involved in the investigation.

"During investigation, we suspected that the man coming out of the hospital was Mehtab Rana who was named in the FIR (filed on a complaint lodged by the girl's father on February 23). We will again review the CCTV footages in the light of the girl's statement," said Pramod.

The girl has been sent for a medical examination.

LGBT activist held for sexual assault in Goa, released on bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, MARCH 2

A 28-YEAR-OLD French woman has accused LGBTQI activist, poet and psychologist Divya Dureja (27) of sexually assaulting her in a resort in North Goa on February 23. Dureja, who was arrested following the woman's complaint filed at the Pernem Police Station, was released on bail by a local court last week.

According to the victim's complaint, Dureja kept her in her hotel room for over four-and-a-half hours without her consent and penetrated her with her fingers. North Goa SP Utkrishit Prasoan said Dureja was arrested based on the victim's complaint. He said the victim's statement will be recorded before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

According to the police, the victim, a yoga trainer, had arrived in Goa in January. The victim has alleged that Dureja invited her to her room in a resort in North Goa and assaulted her.

In the FIR filed at the Pernem Police Station on February 24, Dureja has been charged under Section 354 (criminal assault on woman with the intention of outraging her modesty) and Section 342 (wrongful confinement) of the IPC.

Delhi-based Dureja is an LGBTQI activist, psychologist and poet and has spoken on various platforms in support of the LGBTQI community. Dureja remained unavailable for comment. Messages sent to her by *The Indian Express* remained unanswered.

Don't shy away from engaging with J&K people: Mufti to Centre

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, MARCH 2

STATING THAT peace in the sub-continent would lead through Kashmir, former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday urged the Centre not to shy away from "engaging with the people of Jammu and Kashmir" and to carry forward the dialogue with Pakistan.

Addressing a party convention in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, she said New Delhi should "take a considerate view of rights and aspirations" of the people of J&K. Mufti said she is hopeful that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will grab the opportunity, provided by the SAARC summit, to carry forward the recent Indo-Pak peace gesture.



Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda announces the Budget in the state Assembly on Tuesday. PTI

for 2020-21 will be 5.05 percent less compared to the previous year.

For infrastructure, the budget has made a provision of Rs 44,152 crore, Rs 40,958 crore has been allocated for providing quality education at government schools and nine new government medical colleges will also be set up, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said.

Amid the pandemic, his government provided adequate as-

sistance to farmers and those schemes will continue, the chief minister said.

However, Leader of Opposition Kamal Nath criticised the budget, calling it a bundle of lies and jugglery of numbers. "We hoped that this budget would provide some respite to the common man by lowering the high petrol-diesel rates but this budget has nothing new. It is against people's expectations."



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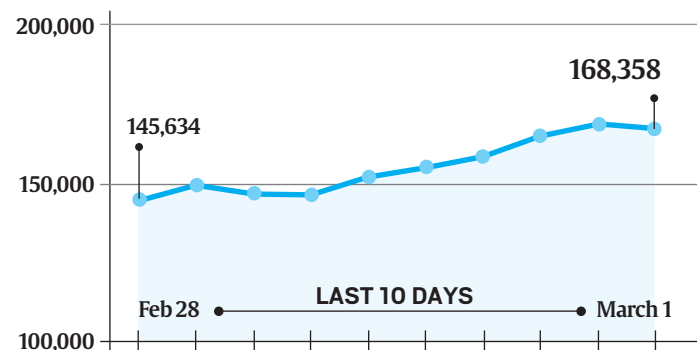
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

168,358



Note: The March 1 figure in this graph is based on the government update on March 2

INDIA TOTAL CASES
11,124,527

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on March 2

WORLD TOTAL CASES
114,618,923

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on March 2

Software shows promise of vaccine against influenza, possibly coronavirus too

A NOVEL computer algorithm, which could create a broadly reactive influenza vaccine for swine flu, also offers a path toward a pan-influenza vaccine and possibly a pan-coronavirus vaccine as well, according to a new paper published in *Nature Communications*.

The algorithm, Epigraph, has already been used to predict therapeutic HIV vaccine candidates, and it has also shown promising potential as a vaccine against highly diverse Ebola and Marburg viruses, protecting against disease when tested in an animal model. Vaccination with the Epigraph-designed product led to the development of a strong cross-reactive antibody response in mice, the study showed. In swine, it induced strong cross-reactive antibody and T-cell responses.

The research was conducted in a collaboration of researchers from the Nebraska Center for Virology at the University of Nebraska, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Los Alamos, which functions under the US Department of Energy, describes itself as a multidisciplinary research institution engaged in strategic science.

On its website, Los Alamos quoted computational biologist Bette Korber, co-author on the new study, as saying: "We developed the Epigraph strategy for this kind of problem, and it can, in theory, be applied to many diverse pathogens. The tool creates a cocktail of vaccine antigens designed to maximize efficacy across a highly diverse population"

Korber created the algorithm in

partnership with her husband, James Theiler, a Los Alamos Fellow. She was quoted as saying: "This work takes us a step closer to a pan-swine flu virus vaccine. The hope is to eventually be prepared with an effective and rapid response if another swine flu epidemic begins to spread in humans, but this swine flu vaccine could also be useful in a veterinary setting." The immune responses to the vaccine showed very promising breadth

against diverse viral variants. "The same basic principles may be applicable to developing a pan-coronavirus vaccine to enable a rapid vaccine response to future coronavirus cross-species jumps," said Korber.

Pigs are susceptible to swine, avian, and human influenza viruses, making them the perfect "mixing vessel" for novel reassorted influenza viruses, the authors note. These novel reassorted viruses have significant pandemic potential if zoonosis (transfer from pigs to humans) occurs, as seen with 2009 H1N1 swine flu pandemic.

The research was supported by the US National Institutes of Health. Los Alamos said the Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease (BEI) Repository provided the Influenza A virus isolates repository for reagents used in the study.

The open-access study, 'Epigraph hemagglutinin vaccine induces broad cross-reactive immunity against swine H3 influenza virus', is online at www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-21508-6.

Source: Los Alamos National Laboratory/US Dept of Energy



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

SIMPLY PUT

China's cyber eye and India

In the latest in a series of surveillance and hacking attempts, a Chinese state-backed hacker firm has been reported to be targeting Indian vaccine makers. Why is this happening, and what are the implications?

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AMID SOURING relations between India and China last year, evidence emerged in September of a Chinese government-linked company's attempt to monitor the digital footprint of thousands of Indian citizens. In November, the government was apprised of a malware threat in segments of its power infrastructure — malware that was last month linked to a Chinese state-backed firm. Now, a cyber intelligence firm claims another Chinese government-linked hacking group has targeted the makers of the two vaccines currently used in India's Covid-19 vaccination programme.

A look at the various surveillance and hacking attempts, and their implications:

Zhenhua & its targets

The *Indian Express* had earlier reported in a series of reports that a Shenzhen-based technology company, Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co, with links to the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, was monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations. This was part of the company's global database of "foreign targets". Its *modus operandi* is to collect information about relevant people from the web and social media platforms, and track research papers, articles, patents, and recruitment positions.

The company also monitors the person's digital footprint across social media platforms and maintains an "information library". Those monitored in this database included not only influential political and industrial figures, but bureaucrats in key positions, judges, scientists and academicians, journalists, actors, sports persons, religious figures, activists and even hundreds accused of financial crime, corruption, terrorism and smuggling.

The collection of such data by Zhenhua does not violate any rules under the Information Technology Act of 2000, as nearly all of this data is available in the public domain. However, Zhenhua's 24x7 watch had raised red flags with cybersecurity experts, who observed that the information collected could be put together for tactical manoeuvring, targeting the individuals under surveillance or their institutions.

Red Echo & ShadowPad

On February 28, Massachusetts-based cybersecurity company Recorded Future published a report saying it had observed a "steep rise" in the use of resources like malware by



Cyber intelligence firm says Chinese hacker group is targeting the software of Serum Institute of India (above) and Bharat Biotech. Express Archive

a Chinese group called Red Echo to target "a large swathe" of India's power sector.

It said 10 distinct Indian power sector organisations were targeted, including four Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) that are responsible for the smooth operation of the country's power grid by balancing the supply and demand of electricity. Recorded Future said the group also targeted two Indian seaports.

Red Echo used malware called ShadowPad, which involves the use of a backdoor to access servers. The Ministry of Power on Monday confirmed these attempts, stating it had been informed in November 2020 about the ShadowPad malware "at some control centres" of the Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO), the government enterprise in charge of facilitating the transfer of electricity through load despatch centres.

The Ministry said it was informed of Red Echo's attempts to target the country's load despatch centres in February. It had said "no data breach/data loss" had been detected due to the incidents and that none of POSOCO's functions had been impacted. The government said it had taken action against the threats observed.

While there was speculation earlier that Red Echo was possibly behind the October 12 blackout in Mumbai, Union Power Minister R K Singh on Tuesday denied that the power

outage in the city was the result of a cyberattack, instead attributing it to human error.

Stone Panda & vaccines

On Monday, Goldman Sachs-backed cyber intelligence firm Cyfirma said a Chinese hacker group known as Stone Panda had "identified gaps and vulnerabilities in the IT infrastructure and supply chain software of Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India", according to a Reuters report. These companies have developed Covaxin and Covishield, which are currently being used in the national vaccination campaign. They are also in the process of testing additional Covid-19 vaccines that could add value to efforts around the world.

Some Indian companies involved in Covid-19 vaccine development have told *The Indian Express* that they have noticed a nearly hundred-fold increase in cyberattack attempts by foreign entities from countries like China and Russia over the last six months.

Possible reasons

All this could be happening for several reasons. One major factor is the border clash between the two countries in June 2020.

"As bilateral tensions continue to rise, we expect to see a continued increase in cyber operations being conducted by China-linked groups such as Red Echo in line with national strategic interests," stated Recorded Future.

Other cybersecurity experts agree. "This is clearly something that is linked to China's geopolitical interests," said Raman Jit Singh Chima, Asia Pacific Policy Director and Global Cybersecurity Lead at Access Now. "It is established very clearly that the use of cyber offensive tools and espionage is a fairly active element of what the People's Republic of China seems to be adopting and encouraging. Even when they are not directly in charge of an offensive operation, they seem to be consistently encouraging actors to develop this capability."

However, as reported in the 'China Watching' series in *The Indian Express*, these attempts could also be part of a long-term strategy.

"It could also be an attempt to test and lay the grounds for further operations in the future," said Chima. "One has to also remember that sometimes these offensive operations are carried out to distract people from other places that they might be targeting or other activities that might be occurring."

There was an increase in cyber offensive operations and incidents around the world in the second half of 2020 especially targeting the healthcare and vaccine space, with incidents often attributed to actors linked with the Chinese and Russian governments, according to Chima.

When vaccine companies are targeted, the motive could be competition. The motivation behind Stone Panda's attack against SII and Bharat Biotech's IT systems was to extract the companies' intellectual property and gain a "competitive advantage over Indian pharmaceutical companies," as per Reuters. SII and Bharat Biotech have been getting global orders for their vaccines.

Lack of information

India has not voluntarily made information about these attempts public. According to Chima, this lack of information could leave other companies and government bodies may be in the dark about their vulnerability to such attacks.

"The problem is you need more data to be able to figure out what is going on, including specific data about what has happened in India," said Chima.

He said there is also little clarity on the government's chain of command where cybersecurity issues are concerned, as different agencies deal with this issue. This makes it difficult to understand who all to approach in the event of such cyber threats.

"Because that information is not out there, and it's not available easily — except to people who work very closely with the government — it impacts India's cybersecurity as a whole," Chima said.

The significance of BPF-Cong tie-up in Assam

ABHISHEK SAHA

GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 2

LAST WEEK, the Bodoland People's Front (BPF), an ally of the BJP in the Assam government, broke away to join the Congress-led 'Grand Alliance'. What significance can the move hold in the upcoming Assembly elections?

Why BPF matters

The Bodos are the single-largest tribal community in Assam at over 5-6% of the population. Over a decades-long movement demanding a separate state, three accords have been signed so far among the Centre, state and the Bodo outfits — in 1993, 2003 and January 2020.

The BPF, earlier called the Bodo People's Progressive Front, drew a large section of its founding members from former militants of the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) who surren-

dered following the 2003 Accord. It is led by the influential leader Hagrama Mohilary, a former BLT chief.

The 2003 Accord led to the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The BTC governs the Bodoland Territorial Region, which translates into around 15 Assembly seats. The BPF swept the BTC polls in 2005, 2010 and 2015.

In 2006 and 2011, the BPF was part of the Congress-led government in Assam; they parted ways in 2014. In the 2016 Assembly polls, the BPF won 12 seats out of the 13 it contested and allied with the BJP to form the government. BPF general secretary Prabin Boro said last week, "We will certainly contest and win the 12 seats we have. In addition to that, we will see where else to contest."

In the last BTC polls in December, the BPF was the largest party with 17 seats out of 40, but power was claimed by the BJP (12) when

it allied with UPPL (9). The Congress (1 seat) was not in alliance with the BPF then.

Allies & opponents

In 2016, allies BJP (60), BPF (12) and AGP (14) won a majority in the 126-member Assembly. This year, having split with BPF, the BJP (along with AGP) has allied with the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in the Bodoland region.

The Congress-led alliance includes the AIUDF, three Left parties and a regional party.

In 2019, the BJP had faced opposition in Assam over the CAA, with influential groups arguing that the Act was detrimental to the interests of the indigenous people of Assam.

There is a third side to the contest, with two new parties born out of protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The Assam Jatiya Parishad and Rajior Dal will contest in alliance.

What it could mean

Because of the BPF's influence in the Bodoland region, the Congress sees its new alliance as a boost to its prospects. "The BPF is our old friend. They hold a large influence in the BTR region. Even by conservative estimates, they will definitely win 6-7 seats and then be a very decisive factor in 18 more seats where there are a considerable number of Bodo voters," Congress spokesperson Rhituporna Konwar said.

The BJP, for its part, has ruled out any threat to its own prospects. State BJP president Ranjeet Dass said: "They are eyeing votes of the Miya community (Bengali-origin Muslim community) and hence have gone into the alliance. They are hoping they will win one or two seats with the Miya community votes. We anyway do not need those votes, and hence we don't care."

Should Olympics players jump the vaccine queue? Countries debate

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

WHEN MARTINA Veloso, Teo Shun Xie and Teh Xiu Hong land in New Delhi later this month for the shooting World Cup, they will be among the few shooters who would have received Covid-19 vaccines. Even as other countries debate the process to secure vaccine shots for their Olympics-bound athletes, Singapore put their sports persons in the priority group and began vaccination last month.

With less than 150 days to go for the Tokyo Olympics, more and more countries are grappling with the question of where to place their athletes in the vaccination queue. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Tokyo Olympics Organising Committee have recommended that athletes and officials get their jabs before the Games. However, it has not been made mandatory, meaning it is left for the countries to decide if they want their athletes to get special treatment and get

bumped ahead in the queue, or like other citizens, wait their turn.

Jumping the queue

SINGAPORE'S Minister of Culture, Community and Youth, Edwin Tong, said their athletes were administered vaccine so that they can travel and compete in the events leading up to the Olympics, apart from the Games themselves.

"We must support our athletes as they travel, train, and compete for Singapore on a global stage," Tong wrote on Twitter. "We will therefore progressively arrange for our athletes and coaches to get their vaccinations ahead of their overseas travel so that they remain safe, and can focus on their competitions."

HUNGARY has begun vaccinating athletes not just for the Tokyo Olympics (July 23-August 8) but also the Beijing Winter Games, which will be held six months later. The Hungarian Olympic Committee, according to Reuters, has identified 868 athletes who will receive the Moderna vaccine. The Hungarian athletes were in the queue after

healthcare workers but alongside the elderly. Serbia, too, began inoculating its athletes with Chinese and Russian vaccines in late January, Reuters reported.

ISRAEL had already vaccinated half its Tokyo-bound delegation last month, and its Olympic Committee said their entire contingent would receive their doses by the end of May.

BELGIUM has requested 400-500 vaccines for athletes and support staff, asking that Olympians be considered among the "essential professions". The Belgian Olympic Committee's chief physician Johan Bellemans has said the country's athletes would be at a "competitive disadvantage" if they did not get the vaccines and their opponents did.

Those queuing up

INDIA has said the 100-odd athletes and officials will be vaccinated before they leave for Tokyo. However, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has left it to the Health Ministry to decide when they will be administered the doses.

Last month, the National Rifle Association



Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine vials at Tokyo Medical Center, Japan, hosting the Olympics, beginning its vaccination campaign for health workers last month. AP

of India wrote to the Health Ministry, seeking emergency vaccination for officials who will be on duty for the World Cup. The Ministry did not respond to their request.

As the government began the process of vaccinating the elderly population and those with co-morbidities, it is not yet clear when athletes will be eligible to get vac-

cines. Sports Secretary Ravi Mital said it will be done before the Olympics and the interval between the two doses will be taken into account as well.

FRANCE'S Olympic Committee chief Denis Masseglia earlier spoke in favour of allowing their athletes to jump the queue to get the vaccines. But after other members of the Committee raised concerns, it was decided that athletes will have to wait. "For me, it poses an ethical problem. As an athlete, I don't have the feeling that I am a person who is vulnerable and so I don't have the impression we should take priority, because that is the question being posed," Committee member Astrid Guyart was quoted as saying by AFP.

AUSTRALIA has not begun immunisation of its athletes either. While its sports persons have been "encouraged" to get the shots, some of the top stars have said they should not get preferential treatment. "At the end of the day, we are a sport and there are a lot of people who deserve to get the vaccine before us," Stewart McSweyn, who has qualified in 1500, 5000 and

10000m races, was quoted as saying by *the-newdaily.com.au*. "... I don't think we should jump the queue."

ITALY has decided against prioritising athletes for vaccines. The head of Italy's Olympic Committee, Giovanni Malago, said they will not put the vulnerable population at risk. He told *La Repubblica* newspaper: "An elderly person has a sacred right to be vaccinated before a 20-year-old athlete is."

However, according to *The New York Times*, Italian athletes could get vaccinated soon. The newspaper quoted an Italian Olympic Committee spokesperson as saying that "around 60 per cent of their prospective Olympians belonged to sports clubs affiliated with the country's military, which automatically puts them on the priority list."

THE UNITED STATES, too, will not let its athletes jump the queue although the country's Olympic officials are in talks with their government to figure out if the vaccines can be administered before their Olympic trials in June. Germany and Great Britain are among the nations that haven't sanctioned vaccines for their athletes so far.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Andrew Cuomo

UNITED STATES
Calls for Cuomo to quit as 3rd accuser emerges

New York: Calls for New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's resignation intensified late Monday after a third woman accused him of offensive behavior, saying he'd touched her face and back and asked to kiss her moments after they met at a wedding reception. Anna Ruch told *The New York Times* late Monday that she removed the Democratic governor's hand from her back, but she said she seemed "aggressive," promptly put his hands on her face and asked if he could kiss her. The latest accusation follows sexual harassment allegations against Cuomo from two women who had worked for his administration. **AP**

UNITED KINGDOM
Meghan privacy case: Publisher to appeal ruling

London: A British newspaper publisher said Tuesday it plans to appeal against a judge's ruling that it invaded the privacy of the Duchess of Sussex by publishing parts of a letter she wrote to her father after her marriage to Prince Harry. Meghan Markle, 39, sued publisher Associated Newspapers for invasion of privacy and copyright infringement over five February 2019 articles in the *Mail on Sunday* and on the *MailOnline* website that reproduced large portions of a letter she wrote to her father. High Court judge Mark Warby ruled last month that the publisher had misused the duchess's private information and infringed her copyright. **AP**

AUSTRALIA
Police won't charge minister accused of rape

Canberra: Police Tuesday ruled out investigating an unnamed Australian Cabinet minister over an allegation that he raped a 16-year-old girl more than 30 years ago. The decision by New South Wales police adds pressure on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to establish an independent investigation to probe the accusation, which has created a cloud over the 16 men in Morrison's Cabinet and is feeding complaints of a culture within Parliament that is toxic for women. **AP**



Tear gas and fire extinguisher gas at a protest against the military coup in Yangon. Reuters

Defying crackdown, crowds again protest Myanmar coup

Police fire tear gas, rubber bullets at demonstrators; Asean ministers to discuss crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON, MARCH 2

DEMONSTRATORS IN Myanmar took to the streets again on Tuesday to protest last month's seizure of power by the military, as foreign ministers from Southeast Asian countries prepared to meet to discuss the political crisis. Police in Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city, used tear gas against the protesters.

The planned special meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations comes in the wake of worsening violence in Myanmar. The country's new military rulers over the weekend escalated their use of deadly force and mass arrests to try to quash protests against the

February 1 coup that ousted the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The UN said it believed at least 18 people in several cities were killed on Sunday when security forces opened fire to disperse demonstrating crowds. Funerals were being held Tuesday for several of the victims.

The authorities also detained more than 1,000 people over the weekend, according to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Those detained included at least seven journalists. At least two dozen journalists have been detained since the military's takeover.

Hundreds of protesters gathered on Tuesday in the Hledan

area of Yangon, where a day earlier police had fired repeated rounds of tear gas canisters. The protesters, many of whom wore construction helmets, dragged bamboo poles and debris to form barricades to impede any attempt to rush forward and make arrests, and chanted slogans and sang songs at the police lines.

Tear gas was used again Tuesday. The demonstrators — hundreds of mainly young people — fled in panic but soon returned to their barricades.

Protesters also took up their flags and banners and assembled to march through the streets of Dawei, a small city in southeastern Myanmar that has seen almost daily large demonstrations against the coup.

Some of them also carried

metal shields, an apparent response to the possible use of tear gas canisters and rubber bullets by police.

On Sunday, Dawei was the scene of a violent crackdown, with up to five people killed when security forces shot into a large crowd of demonstrators.

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar after five decades of military rule, coming the day a newly elected Parliament was supposed to take office. Ousted leader Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party would have been installed for a second five-year term in office, but instead she was detained along with President Win Myint and other senior officials.

US, EU slap sanctions on Russia officials over Navalny arrest

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, BRUSSELS,
MARCH 2

THE US and European Union on Tuesday announced sanctions of Russian officials and businesses for a nearly fatal nerve-agent attack upon opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his subsequent jailing.

US administration officials did not immediately identify the Russian officials targeted. The Biden administration also announced sanctions under the US Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act for 14 businesses and another enterprise, most of which it said were involved in production of biological and chemical agents.

The US intelligence community concluded with high confidence that Russia's Federal Security Service used the Russian nerve agent Novichok on the dissident last August, a senior administration official said.

Tuesday's sanctions would be the first of several steps by the Biden administration to "respond to a number of destabilizing actions," said one of the ad-



Alexei Navalny

ministration officials.

The sanctions are the first against Russia by the Biden administration, which has pledged to confront President Vladimir Putin for alleged attacks on Russian opposition figures and hacking abroad, including of US government agencies and US businesses.

The Biden administration coordinated the sanctions with the European Union, which already had imposed sanctions against a small number of Russian officials in Navalny's case.

Some rights groups previously faulted the EU for not targeting the most important Russian officials allegedly involved. The EU announced new sanctions Tuesday targeting high-ranking Russian officials over the jailing of Navalny.

The 27-nation bloc imposed bans on travel and froze the assets in Europe of Alexander Bastrykin, head of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation; Igor Krasnov, the prosecutor-general; Viktor Zolotov, head of the National Guard; and Alexander Kalashnikov, head of the Federal Prison Service.

The Biden administration had forecast for weeks actions against Russia. Besides the Navalny sanctions, officials have said the administration plans to respond soon to the massive Russian hack of federal government agencies and private corporations that laid bare vulnerabilities in the cyber supply chain and exposed potentially sensitive secrets to elite Kremlin spies.

Navalny, 44, was sickened by the Russian nerve agent in an attack that the United States and others linked to Putin's security services. After months of recuperation in Germany, Navalny flew home to Moscow in January and was arrested upon arrival for an alleged parole violation.

Authorities have transferred the opposition leader to a penal colony to begin serving a sentence, after what rights groups said was a show trial.

Pakistan, China launch events to celebrate 70 yrs of bilateral ties

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 2

ALL-WEATHER ALLIES Pakistan and China on Tuesday launched year-long activities to celebrate 70 years of the establishment of their diplomatic ties.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi formally commenced the activities through a virtual ceremony simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing.

The Foreign Office (FO) said that the ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials from both sides.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary, both sides have planned a series of events, including people-to-people exchanges, spread over the entire year to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner, it said.

"We believe that (Chinese) President Xi Jinping's leadership, at a momentous history, has greatly helped Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations," Qureshi said. **PTI**

Nepal Constitution's lacunae helps Oli retain power

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, MARCH 2

WHEN NEPAL'S Constitution was promulgated in September 2015, leaders cutting across party lines praised it, calling it the "best in the world" with "all inclusive features".

However, with the country plunging into a political and constitutional crisis less than six years later after Prime Minister KP Oli dissolving Parliament mid-term — a move overturned by the Supreme Court — the Constitution seems inadequate, with its ambiguities appearing heavily loaded to favour incumbency.

With the court passing its verdict, the reinstated House is set to meet on Sunday, which is well within the 13-day deadline stipulated in the judgement. However, Oli now claims that he has become more powerful after the court declared his move to dissolve Parliament null and void.

"If they remove me through no-confidence motion, I will come back with two-thirds majority in



Nepal PM KP Oli

the next elections," Oli told a mass meeting in Jhapa district on Tuesday, implying he is neither ready to step down from his post on moral grounds nor seek a vote of confidence in the House.

Instead, he seems to imply, he has left it to his opponents to move a no-trust motion.

Cabinet Spokesperson and Communication Minister Parbat Gurung went to the extent of saying that Oli "cannot resign following the court verdict" — something not mentioned anywhere in the verdict or in the Constitution.

Meanwhile, the two NCP factions are waiting for the Election

Commission to decide which side gets to keep the existing party name and symbol.

Interestingly, the faction of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Madhav Kumar Nepal, which had given notice for a no-trust motion on December 19, now appears reluctant to push for the same on Sunday.

"We are considering removing him from the post first, and then seek recognition as a different group in the House, but we will move a no-trust motion only if we are confident about dislodging Oli with the support of other parties," a senior leader of the Dahal-Nepal faction said.

Any party moving a no-trust motion shall have to name the person they wish to replace Oli as the Prime Minister, but since the NCP has not officially split, Oli continues to be the leader of the parliamentary party.

If Parliament is hung, then other provisions of the Constitution will be attracted, and any party or a coalition of parties may replace Oli.

Their failure to do so will favour Oli's continuation as Prime Minister.

Some of the students abducted by gunmen in Jangebe. AP

279 kidnapped schoolgirls freed: Nigerian governor

LEKAN OYEKANMI
GUSAU (NIGERIA), MARCH 2

HUNDREDS OF Nigerian schoolgirls abducted last week from a boarding school in the north-western Zamfara state have been released, the state's governor said Tuesday.

Zamfara state governor Bello Matawalle announced that 279 girls have been freed. The government last week said 317 had been kidnapped.

Gunmen abducted the girls from the Government Girls Junior Secondary School in Jangebe town on Friday, in the latest in a series of mass kidnappings of students in the nation.

An *Associated Press* reporter saw hundreds of girls dressed in light blue hijabs sitting at the state Government House office

in Gusau. After the meeting, the girls were escorted outside by officials and lined up to be taken away in vans.

Matawalle said they would be taken for medical examinations before being reunited with their families.

Police and the military had since been carrying out joint operations to rescue the girls, whose abduction caused international outrage.

President Muhammadu Buhari expressed "overwhelming joy" over the release of the girls. "I join the families and people of Zamfara State in welcoming and celebrating the release of these traumatized female students," he said in a statement. "Being held in captivity is an agonizing experience not only for the victims, but also their families and all of us." **AP**

Britain's expired cruise ships being scrapped in India: Report

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MARCH 2

BRITISH CRUISE ships that are no longer meant for use are finding their way to India to be scrapped, as per a media report Tuesday.

Ships at the end of their lives are considered hazardous waste and it is illegal to send them to developing countries from the UK. But months after being sold at auction to buyers outside the UK they are then sold on as scrap, according to a new *File on 4* investigative show for the BBC. As these vessels were set to be used for further trading when they leave UK waters, their arrival in India does not break the British law.

There are serious concerns about the environmental impact and working conditions in the ship-breaking industry across South Asia, as each year around 800 ships come to the end of their lives and need to be broken apart and recycled. **PTI**

Criminal inquiries loom over Assad's use of chemical weapons

MARLISE SIMONS
PARIS, MARCH 2

CHEMICAL MUNITIONS experts have for years compiled information that Syria's government has used these banned weapons against its own people, a war crime that so far has gone unpunished and been dismissed with a sneer by President Bashar al-Assad.

Now the first criminal inquiries that target Mr. al-Assad and his associates over the use of chemical weapons may soon get underway.

In a major step to hold Mr. al-Assad and his circle accountable for some of the worst atrocities committed in the decade-old Syria conflict, judges at a special war crimes unit in France's palace of justice have received a complaint about chemical weapons attacks in Syria, filed by three international human rights groups. **NYT**



Syria's Bashar al-Assad

The complaint, which lawyers said the judges would likely accept, requests a criminal investigation of Mr. al-Assad, his brother, Maher, and a litany of senior advisers and military officials that formed the chain of command.

Together with a similar complaint filed in Germany last October, the French complaint, submitted Monday and made public Tuesday, opens a new front aimed at ensuring that some form of justice for chemical weapons crimes is exacted on Mr. al-Assad and his hierarchy.

If nothing else, the criminal inquiries in France and Germany could vastly complicate the future for Mr. al-Assad, who has emerged largely victorious in the Syrian war. **NYT**

Greenland finds green power can be a curse

REUTERS
COPENHAGEN, MARCH 2

IN THE tenth century, Erik the Red, a Viking from Iceland, was so impressed with the vegetation on another Arctic island he had found he called it "the green land." Today, it's Greenland's rocks that are attracting outsiders — superpowers riding a green revolution.

The world's biggest island has huge resources of metals known as 'rare earths,' used to create compact, super-strong magnets which help power equipment such as wind turbines, electric vehicles, combat aircraft and weapons systems.

The metals are abundant globally, but processing them is difficult and dirty.

As Greenland's ice sheet and



Exploration drilling at the Kringlerne rare earth deposit near the town of Narsaq. Reuters

glaciers recede, two Australia-based mining companies — one seeking funding in the US, the other part-owned by a Chinese state-backed firm — are racing for approval to dig.

The contest underscores the polluting side of clean energy, as well as how hard it is for the West to break free of China in production of a vital resource. Rare earth metals have many

uses, and last year China produced about 90 per cent of them, according to Toronto-based consultancy Adamas Intelligence.

Each Greenland mine would cost about \$500 million to develop, the companies say. Both plan to send mined material away for final processing.

Debate on them has triggered a political crisis in the capital of Nuuk, forcing a general election on the island of 56,000, due in April.

The country may ultimately back either project, both, or neither, but for those Greenlanders open to mining, the two proposals boil down to a choice between one mine that would not produce radioactive material, and another that would.

The first mine, a private initiative from an Australian geologist, would not involve nuclear material. It has won preliminary

environmental approval, but it needs cash and a processing plant.

The second one has already spent more than \$100 million preparing to mine, has proven processing technology through its Chinese partner, and won initial political support from Greenland's coalition government. But its plans include exporting uranium to China, and it recently ran into strong opposition, including from residents of the nearby town of Narsaq.

Greenland, a self-governing territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, has a gross domestic product of around \$3 billion. With its people living mostly on fishing and grants from Copenhagen, its government is keen to attract foreign investments.

Greenland's government did not respond to requests for comment for this story.



GOLD

₹44,760



RUPEE

₹73.37



OIL

\$64.54



SILVER

₹67,073

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on Mar 1, 2021

SENSEX: 50,296.89 ▲ 447.05 (0.90%) NIFTY: 14,919.10 ▲ 157.55 (1.07%) NIKKEI: 29,408.17 ▲ 255.33 HANG SENG: 29,095.86 ▲ 356.71 FTSE: 6,636.65 ▲ 48.12 DAX: 14,075.47 ▲ 62.65

International market data till 1900 IST

SECURITY WATCH
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**Interconnected sectors raise need for robust cyber defence strategy**PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

EVEN AS contradictory claims emerge from the Centre and the Maharashtra government over the involvement of Chinese actors in the Mumbai power outage of October last year, the allegations have put focus on the need for India to be better prepared to protect its critical infrastructure against globally rising cyber-attack attempts on key infrastructure. Cybersecurity experts pointed out that this is particularly significant given the increasing interconnectedness of sectors and proliferation of entry points into the internet, which could further grow with the adoption of 5G.

A National Cyber Security Strategy is being formulated by the Office of National Cyber Security Coordinator at the National Security Council Secretariat. A strategy document prepared by an inter-ministerial task force involving representatives from different central government ministries and departments has now been forwarded to an Empowered Technology Group for consultation. Once the process is through, the document will be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Security for deliberations and approval.

Hackers targeting critical infrastructure is not a new trend but experts believe that propensity for damage is more than ever, especially with countries investing in cyber-offensive capabilities. In 2015, in what was the first known successful cyber attack on a power grid, hackers compromised systems of three energy distribution companies in Ukraine thereby disrupting electricity supply.

"Critical infrastructure is getting digitised in a very fast way — this includes financial services, banks, power, manufacturing, nuclear power plants, etc. Because of these a lot of security issues arise. We just saw the SolarWinds hack, which impacted national critical infrastructure in the US. Most countries are not prepared for combating the sophistication of attacks that are happening," Saket Modi, co-founder & CEO of cybersecurity firm Safe Security told *The Indian Express*.

"A lot of countries have started taking advantage of this. They're spending unprecedented amount of money and are building armies. Israel is a good example, they say that there is a

A National Cyber Security Strategy is being formulated by the Office of National Cyber Security Coordinator

fourth unit in the defence system, which is for defence and offence. Most countries though are not prepared, India not being an exception but there is a need for high level of preparedness because an attack can have a great impact on the economy, safety, etc," Modi added.

For the Mumbai incident, while the Centre has denied that the outage was a result of cyber attack by Chinese group Red Echo, the Maharashtra government — citing an analysis of Maharashtra Cyber Police's report by Maharashtra State Electricity Board's (MSEB) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system — said "there is some evidence to point at probable cyber sabotage on MSEB servers".

In addition to the Mumbai incident, Chinese actors are also said to be involved in the attack on IT systems of vaccine makers Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech. There were 6,97 lakh cyber security incidents reported in the first eight months of 2020, nearly equivalent to the previous four years combined, according to information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), suggesting a surge in cyber incidents. The surge in number is perceptible since 2018 — 2.08 lakh reported incidents — and 3.94 incidents reported in 2019. In 2017, the number was 53,117 and 50,362 in 2016.

Consequently, there is also a need for an updated cybersecurity policy in the country, which the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is expected to come out with soon. The current cybersecurity framework put out by the government dates back to 2013. "It is important for the corporates or the respective government departments to find the gaps in their organisations and address those gaps with the help of next generation security solutions. It is essential that there is a layered security system, wherein security threat intelligence sharing is happening between different layers," said Sunil Sharma, managing director — sales (India & SAARC), at cybersecurity firm Sophos.

TOTAL REALISATION: ₹77,814 CR; NO BIDS FOR 700, 2,500 MHz BANDS**Spectrum sale: Higher than DoT estimate, but 20% of base price**

Rjio top bidder with ₹57,122 cr; Bharti bid ₹18,698 cr and Vi spent ₹1,993 cr

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE GOVERNMENT mopped up an additional Rs 668 crore on day two of the spectrum auction for 4G, bringing the total to Rs 77,814 crore, Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said on Tuesday.

Though the total amount — at more than Rs 77,800 — is far higher than the government expectations of Rs 45,000-Rs 50,000 crore, it is only about 20 per cent of the base price of Rs 3.97 lakh crore that was set by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for the spectrum auction. Of the total 2,308 megahertz (MHz) spectrum that was up for grabs, the DoT managed to sell 855.60 MHz spectrum over the last two days.

Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Jio Infocomm emerged as the highest bidder in the 4G auctions concluded on Tuesday, having bid for 488.35 MHz of the total 855.60 MHz spectrum that was sold over the two days.

EXPLAINED
Mop-up below DoT base price

EVEN AS the amount exceeds the number expected by the government, it is far lower than the base price of Rs 3.97 lakh crore planned by the Telecom Department. Over these two days, bids were received from telcos for all bands except two, i.e. the 700 MHz and 2,500 MHz. Officials believe this was because of their high base price and that they could be used for 5G services.

Its rival Bharti Airtel was not far behind and bought a total of 335.45 MHz of the total available spectrum sold over the two days.

On the other hand, Vodafone Idea — which had a gross debt of roughly Rs 1.18 lakh crore as of

June 2020 — bought only 11.8 MHz spectrum, Prakash said.

As expected, there were two more rounds of bidding on Tuesday, in addition to the four that were conducted on Monday. There were no bids for the 700 MHz and the 2,500 MHz bands even on day two, he added.

Among the telcos, Reliance Jio spent Rs 57,122.65 crore and Bharti Airtel bought Rs 18,698.75 crore, while Vi spent Rs 1,993.40 crore to buy spectrum.

All the spectrum auctioned off over the two days was sold on base price, with the maximum bidding seen in the 800 MHz frequency band. Of the total 230 MHz spectrum available in the 800 MHz band, about 150 MHz or 65 per cent was sold.

On Tuesday, the DoT also revised its estimates of upfront payment receipts for this financial year. The Department now expects payment of up to Rs 20,000 crore from the three telecom operators by March 31.

Prakash said an interministerial committee of the telecom ministry and the Finance Ministry will meet over the next 10 days and give its final approval for the auctions conducted over the last two days.

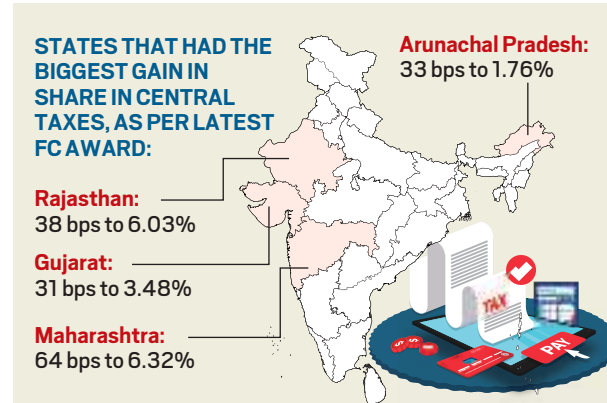
"Most of the operators have consolidated their positions in the existing spectrum bands in which they were operating and taken spectrum in the bands," he added.

For the auctions this time, the government has put on offer frequencies in the 700, 800, 900, 1,800, 2,100, 2,300, and 2,500 MHz bands. A total 2,251 MHz of spectrum for a reserve price of Rs 3.92 lakh crore are up for bids.

On Monday, the Centre had received bids in the 800, 900, 1,800, 2,100 and 2,300 MHz bands, while no bids were received in the 700 MHz and 2,500 MHz bands. Government officials, however, said that the price of high base price 700 MHz band and the fact that it can also be used in 5G services could be one of the reasons the spectrum in that band remained unsold.

'Cess, surcharge share at 19.9% of central taxes in FY21'

The share of cesses and surcharges in gross tax revenue of the Centre reached 19.9 per cent last fiscal year, a report by India Ratings and Research said



Why is it important: The latest FC report lays down a realistic fiscal consolidation path offering three scenarios for fiscal deficit at Union level and a range for aggregate state fiscal deficits over its award period of FY22-FY26

41% EXPECTED GRANT-IN-AID TO STATES, RECOMMENDED BY THE 15 FINANCE COMMISSION (FC) TO COMPENSATE FOR LOW GROWTH IN TAX DEVOLUTION

48.6% TRANSFER FROM THE CENTRE TO STATES, INCLUDING NON-FINANCE COMMISSION TRANSFERS, IN 2019-20; DECLINING FROM 53.4% IN 2011-12

10.4% Share of cesses and surcharges during fiscal 2011-12, compared to which share in FY21 has nearly doubled

7% Rise in tax devolution, or an overall 17.2% growth in transfers to the states

Significant change from FY23: The fiscal arithmetic of states will alter significantly in 2022-23 with the ending of the GST compensation

STATES WHERE SHARE IN CENTRAL TAXES FELL, AS PER LATEST FC AWARD:

- Karnataka: 118 bps to 3.64%
- Kerala: 60 bps to 1.93%
- Telangana: 40 bps to 2.10%
- Andhra Pradesh: 35 bps to 4.05%
- Uttar Pradesh: 27 bps to 17.94%
- Assam: 24 bps to 3.13%
- Odisha: 22 bps to 4.53%
- Tamil Nadu: 2 bps to 4.08%

92.3%: Rise in grants-in-aid to states for FY22-FY26 recommended by latest FC report over the 14th FC report

Source: India Ratings and Research/PTI

Exports slip into negative zone in Feb as core shipments slowENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

HAVING GROWN at the fastest pace in 22 months in January, merchandise exports slipped again in February, though marginally, continuing its roller-coaster ride in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

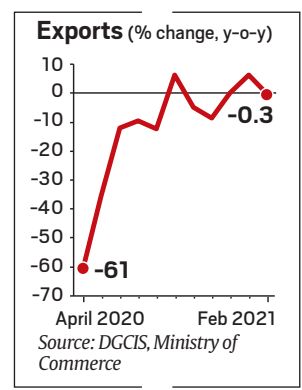
Of course, growth in exports (year-on-year) may accelerate again in the coming months but that would be driven more by an

ultra-favourable base effect than any meaningful recovery.

Exports had crashed between March and May 2020, as the government was forced to impose a stringent lockdown to battle the pandemic.

Between June 2020 (when the lockdown curbs started to ease) and February 2021, monthly outward shipments have risen only three times from a year before.

Exports dropped 0.3 per cent year-on-year in February to



\$27.67 billion, against a 6.2 per cent rise in the previous month, showed the preliminary data released on Tuesday, indicating a bumpy road to recovery.

However, what comes as partial relief is that imports rose 7 per cent on-year in February to \$40.55 billion against 2 per cent in the previous months, suggesting a gradual return of domestic demand that was battered by the pandemic. This may also augur well for import-sensitive exports segments, including gems

and jewellery.

Trade deficit narrowed to \$12.88 billion in February from \$14.54 billion in the previous month, but it's almost 27 per cent higher from a year earlier.

Importantly, growth in core exports (excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery) — which reflect the competitiveness of the economy — slowed to 5.8 per cent in February from 13.4 per cent in January.

Growth in such imports eased only a tad to 7.4 per cent in

February from 7.5 per cent in the previous month.

The data show that the overall outbound shipments until January this fiscal remained 12.3 per cent lower than a year earlier, while imports dropped at almost double the pace of 23.1 per cent.

The products that witnessed impressive growth in exports in February included iron ore (168 per cent), rice (30 per cent) and drugs and pharmaceuticals (15 per cent). FE

BRIEFLY**Govt to sell up to 16% in Itron**

New Delhi: The offer for sale for up to 16 per cent government stake at a floor price of Rs 88 per share in Itron will open on Wednesday. The base issue size is 10 per cent or over 4.70 crore equity shares, with option to retain over-subscription of 6 per cent shares. PTI

Bol recruits 23 sportspersons

New Delhi: Bank of India has recruited 23 sports persons for clerical and officer grade posts at the bank. It had invited job applications from various sports disciplines.

New IT park in Navi Mumbai

Mumbai: Rupa group is planning to set up a grade A mixed-use integrated IT Park called Rupa Renaissance in Navi Mumbai. ENS

Under govt scrutiny, Jack Ma not China's richest man anymoreYINGZHI YANG & BRENDA GOH
BEIJING, MARCH 2

ALIBABA AND Ant Group founder Jack Ma has lost the title of China's richest man, a list published on Tuesday showed, as his peers prospered while his empire was put under heavy scrutiny by Chinese regulators.

Ma and his family had held the top spot for China's richest in the Hurun Global Rich List in 2020 and 2019 but now trail in fourth place behind bottled water maker Nongfu Spring's Zhong Shanshan, Tencent Holding's Pony Ma and e-commerce upstart Pinduoduo's Collin Huang, the latest list showed. His fall out of the top three comes "after China's regulators reined in Ant Group and Alibaba on anti-trust issues," the Hurun report said.

Ma's recent woes were triggered by an October 24 speech in which he blasted China's regula-

'In 2020, India added 40 new billionaires'

New Delhi: Forty Indians entered the billionaires' club in the pandemic-stricken 2020 to take the number of those in the coveted list to 177 people, the Hurun Global Rich List said on Tuesday.

Reliance Industries head Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of \$83 billion, saw a 24 per cent jump in fortunes and climbed up one spot to be the eighth richest globally, Gautam Adani, whose wealth nearly doubled last year, rose 20 places to be the 48th richest person globally. PTI

tory system, leading to the suspension of his Ant Group's \$37 billion IPO days before the fintech giant's public listing. REUTERS

Georgieva: Big economies agree to boost IMF fundingREUTERS
NEW YORK, MARCH 2

G20 MAJOR economies have agreed to raise International Monetary Fund reserves with a new allocation of the fund's own special drawing rights (SDRs) currency, the IMF's head said on Tuesday, in a potential boost for lending to poor countries.

"We finally last Friday at the G20 meeting got a green (light) to work on a new SDR allocation," Kristalina Georgieva said during the IMF's African Fiscal Forum, broadcast online. "500 billion — in which each and every member of the IMF would receive its own share immediately contributing to reserves," she said.

Finance officials from the Group of 20 major economies on Friday expressed broad support for boosting the IMF's emergency reserves after US officials dropped the previous administration's opposition.

SUPREME COURT RULING**Payments to non-resident cos for software not taxable as royalty**INDUBHAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday ruled that payments made to non-residents for software purchase can't be taxed as royalty, setting at rest a long-standing row.

This means tax liability of foreign software seller without a permanent establishment in India would reduce to the 2 per cent equalisation levy introduced via Finance Act 2020, from the 10 per cent royalty tax, which the Indian buyer has hitherto been liable to withhold. The ruling will lower the cost of software purchases for Indian firms as the overseas sellers may choose to lower prices, taking advantage of the tax relief.

Software firms such as IBM India, Samsung Electronics, GE India, Hewlett Packard India, Mphasis and others, which import software for sale in India, are among the principal beneficiaries.

After the SC ruling, such software firms have now been exempted from deducting TDS for

purchase of software from foreign software suppliers.

Vishal Malhotra, national tax leader-TMT at EY India, said: "This is a welcome judgment which not only brings certainty on the two-decade-long debate, but also vindicates the non-taxability stand on software payments by reinforcing supremacy of tax treaties entered into by two sovereigns over the domestic law."

Earlier court rulings on the dispute were conflicting. In the case of Samsung Electronics, Karnataka High Court had ruled in favour of the taxpayer while the Delhi High Court, in the Ericsson case, upheld the taxpayer's con-

tion. The subsequent rulings by other HCs have been divergent.

"Though many cross-border software payments would be relieved from royalty tax, these transactions could still be covered under the expanded equalisation levy that was introduced in April last year," said Rakesh Nangia, chairman, Nangia Anderson India.

Setting the 20-year dispute, a Bench led by Justice RF Nariman said "...the amounts paid by resident Indian end-users/distributors to non-resident computer software manufacturers/suppliers, as consideration for the resale/use of the computer software through the End-User Licence Agreements/distribution agreements, is not the payment of royalty for the use of copyright in the computer software, and that the same does not give rise to any income taxable in India, as a result of which the persons (resident Indian importers) referred to in Section 195 of the Income Tax Act were not liable to deduct any TDS under Section 195 of the Income Tax Act." FE

Focus on building flex engine: Gadkari to automakersEXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS should prioritise production of flex engines in India, as many of them do elsewhere in the world, to make use of alternative fuels such as ethanol, Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari told automakers on Tuesday.

Meeting a delegation of car-makers from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Gadkari said with ethanol beginning to be easily available in the country, and more than 70 per cent of gasoline consumption being done by two-wheelers, there is a need to develop indigenous technology for flex fuel vehicles.

SIAM has requested the Centre to postpone implementation of BS-VI CAFÉ Phase II regulations to April 1, 2024. FE

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Rama Rai W/o Raj kumar Rai, H.No.C-421, C-Block, Gali.No.28, Khajoori Khas, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Rama Rao, permanently.
0040565703-9

I, No-9088729K, Ex NK-Mohd Ishaq Khan, R/O-Haihama Paypora, Tehsil/District-Paypora, in my service records the name and D o B of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Zahoor Ahmad (D o B-07-08-2002) instead of Zahoor Ahmad Khan (D o B-15-12-2001) as in school records. It needs correction. Objections be filed to 12th JAKLI within seven days.
0020418785-1

I, Muskaan D/o-Dinesh Singh R/o-K-80, Jal Vayu-Vihar Sector-25, Noida-Gautam Budh-Nagar Pin-201301, U.P. have changed my name, from Muskaan to Muskaan Singh, for all future purposes.
0040565735-2

I, KUMAR HARIUTTAM R/o-1984 Orchid-Tower, Gaur Saundaryam, Sector-Tech Zone-IV, Greater Noida-201306, have changed my son name, from Utarkash to Utarkash Singh, Affidavit dated-27.01.21.
0040565735-5

I, Harpreet Khurana W/o Paramjeet Singh Khurana R/o-House No-705 GH-13 Paschim Vihar Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur Permanently.
0040565678-2

I, rakesh kumar S/o bane Singh, HN-65, ashola-fatehpur beri, near-Shiv mandir, Chattarpur, south/delhi-110074, changed my name to rakesh bhati.
0040565704-4

I, Vikram Mishra S/O Sh.Narendra Mishra R/O B-32, Vijay CGHS Krishna-Residency Plot.No.17, Sector-18A Dwarka N.S.I.T Dwarka, South-West Delhi-110078, have changed the name of my minor son Namish Mishra age 4 years and he shall hereafter be known as Ipsit Mishra.
0040565704-10

I, Manish Goel R/o-3837/8, Kanhya Nagar, Tri Nagar, New-Delhi-110035, have changed the name of my minor son from Manan to Tanish Goel for all future purposes.
0040565704-5

I, Vijay Awasthi s/o Dharam Chand R/o 935, Janta-Flats, NandNagari, Mandoli, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Awasthi permanently.
0040565703-5

I, Sonal Mishra, S/o Yamuna Prasad Mishra, R/o A-27, Aali Vihar, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-110076, have changed my name to Shivakash Mishra.
0070733767-1

I, Shradha, D/o Ramshankar, R/o Onaha, Mainpuri Kuarra, Uttar Pradesh-205268, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as Ram Shanker in my 12th class certificate and Ram Shankar Singh in my graduation certificate. The actual name of my father is Ramshankar which may be amended accordingly.
0070733736-1

I, Shashank Shekhar Khare, S/O Mukesh Khare, born on 20/06/1996 (R/O 54 Vikramshila, IIT Delhi, Huz Khars, New Delhi), confirm that Shashank Shekhar Khare & Shashank S Khare are the same person.
0070733793-1

I, Shaktuntala W/o Rajeshbhai Chaturbhai Patel R/o G-9/Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Shaktuntalaben Rajeshbhai Patel.
0040565732-1

I, Savita Devi W/o Sh.Pappu Rajak R/o P-89/1, Kabul-Line, Delhi-Cantt., Sadar-Bazaar, Delhi-110010, inform that my date-of-birth was wrongly mentioned as 01.07.1969 instead of my actual date-of-birth i.e.15.06.1979 which will be consider as my actual and correct date-of-birth, in future, for all purposes.
0040565704-9

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Ganga Prasad Sharma R/o D-2/464, Gali-No.6, 3rd-Pusta, Sonia-Vihar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Sanjay Sharma.
0040565703-6

I, SHYAM LAL MEHRA, S/O MULAK RAJ, ADDRESS-C-83, TAGORE GARDEN EXTN, NEW DELHI-110027, changed my name to SHYAM LAL.
0040565736-4

I, SAMSHER SINGH, S/O Baldev Singh, R/o H.No. 18, Near Sadh Sangat Gurudwara, New Colony, Railway Road, N.I.T, Faridabad-121001, have changed my name to SHAMSHER SINGH.
0070733738-1

I, SACHIN KUMAR GUPTA S/O RAMESH CHAND R/O E-2-2ND-3RD/FLOOR VIJAY- VIHAR, PHASE-2 DELHI-110085, have changed my name to SACHIN GUPTA.
0040565703-3

I, PARAMJIT KAUR CHANNI W/O PARAMINDER SINGH R/O V-2/802, KINGSBURY APARTMENT, TDI CITY, KUNDLI, SONIPAT-131028, CHANGED MY NAME TO PARAMJIT KAUR.
0040565703-8

I, Neeru Bala Shrivastava W/o Naresh Kumar Shrivastava R/o G-10/68, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Neeru Shrivastav.
0040565732-4

I, Rajneesh Kumar S/o Sh.Pappu Rajak R/O P-89/1, Kabul-Line, Delhi-Cantt., Sadar-Bazaar, Delhi-110010, inform that Rajneesh Kumar and Rajneesh are the one and same person. I may use my name as Rajneesh Kumar, in future, for all purposes.
0040565704-8

I, Rajesh Bhai S/o Chatur Bhai Patel R/O G-9/8, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Rajeshbhai Chaturbhai Patel.
0040565732-2

I, REKHA BHATYA, W/o Ajay Bhatia, R/o 36 S/F, Paschim Marg, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Vihar-1, South West Delhi-110057, have changed my name to REKHA BHATIA.
0070733760-1

I, PRIYA ANAND, W/o Avneet Chaudhary, R/o 7/23, Sector-2, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name to PRIYA CHAUDHARY.
0070733759-1

I, NIKHAT PARVEEN/NIKHAT CHOUDHARY/NIKHAT PARVEEN CHAUDHARY W/O FAKHRE ALAM CHAUDHARY, H.NO.159/10, 3RD/FLOOR STREET.NO-10, MOUSQUE, APARTMENT ZAKIRNAGAR-OKHLA, DELHI-110025, changed my name to NIKHAT CHAUDHARY Permanently.
0040565704-2

I, NIKHAT PARVEEN/NIKHAT CHOUDHARY/NIKHAT PARVEEN CHAUDHARY W/O FAKHRE ALAM CHAUDHARY, H.NO.159/10, 3RD/FLOOR STREET.NO-10, MOUSQUE, APARTMENT ZAKIRNAGAR-OKHLA, DELHI-110025, changed my name to NIKHAT CHAUDHARY Permanently.
0040565704-2

I, NAZMA SAIFI W/o MOHD MOEEN, H.No.T-34 Gali.No.8, Gautampuri, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to NAZMA PARVEEN, permanently.
0040565703-10

I, NANDKUMAR MADHUKAR DEO S/O MADHUKAR PUNLIK DEO, ADD-588, POCKET-C, SIDHARTH EXTENTION NEW DELHI-110014, changed my name to NANDKUMAR DEO, permanently.
0040565704-3

I, Medhavi Shrivastava W/o Ashwani Srivastava R/o G-10/68, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Medhavi Srivastava.
0040565732-5

I, Manoj Kumar Bhatti, R/o C-146, Beta-1, Greater Noida U.P. declare that my father wrong name is mentioned in my passport as Jagbir Singh whereas his correct name is Jagbir Singh Bhatti.
0070733794-1

I, MOHD MOEEN SAIFI S/O MOHD MOBIN, H.No T-34 Gali.No.8, Gautampuri, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to MOHD MOEEN permanently.
0040565703-11

I, MOHAMMED IMTEYAZ ALAM S/O ABDUL HAMID KHAN R/O T-75-EXTN, S.F., VISHWAS-PARK, UTTAMNAGAR, DELHI-110059, have changed my name to IMTEYAZ ALAM.
0040565703-1

I, MANOJ BHATEJA, S/o Ashok Kumar Bhateja, R/o G-73, Gali No-20, Raja Puri, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR BHATEJA.
0070733758-1

I, Lovely Lalus, W/o, Shri Antony Palakkattottu Ulahannan, R/o B-1/18, Vindhyashree Apartments, Kharsa no. 542, 543, Main Road-Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Lovely Antony for all future purposes
0050176381-1

I, KRISHNA DEVI W/O Sh. Sukhbir Singh Dabas R/o 7081 Block-N, Devinder Vihar, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed my name from Krishna Devi to Krishna Dabas for all future purposes.
0070733763-1

I, KUMARI HEMA W/O-VIJAY KUSHWAHA, R/O B-302, METRO VIHAR-MUKUNDPUR, DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HIMANSHI KUSHWAHA, FOR ALL PURPOSES
0040565735-1

I, Hitherto known as Saurabh S/O Cuckoo, Residing at-F-13/9, Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Saurabh Kanojia.
0040565704-6

I, KUMARI HEMA W/O-VIJAY KUSHWAHA, R/O B-302, METRO VIHAR-MUKUNDPUR, DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HIMANSHI KUSHWAHA, FOR ALL PURPOSES
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0040565704-6

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0040565703-8

I, Neeru Bala Shrivastava W/o Naresh Kumar Shrivastava R/o G-10/68, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Neeru Shrivastav.
0040565732-4

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President Governing Body

Rajan Grover S/o Sh. Surinder Lal Grover R/O House No.2, Paschim Marg, D.L.F. Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Rajveer Singh for all purposes.
0040565652-2

I, Ravinder Verma S/o Sh. Rohtas Kanwar R/O B-2/100, Ground Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar Verma for all purposes.
0040565652-2

I, Rajan Grover S/o Sh. Surinder Lal Grover R/O House No.2, Paschim Marg, D.L.F. Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Rajveer Singh for all purposes.
0040565652-2

I, KAUSHALYA DEVI W/O Sh. Raghuveer Singh R/O House No. 3/7, Ground Floor, North Face, Indira Vikas Colony, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have lost my Original General Power of Attorney and Will along with affidavit and Agreement to Sell of above said property. Finders may contact at Mobile No.9899187118
0040565652-1

I, MOHD ASAN MAHEDI S/o Hasan mehdi, R/O J-21 2nd-floor Laxmi-nagar Delhi-92, Have lost my original-certificated class-12th year-2017 Rollno-9746116 CBSE-DELHI.
0040565736-7

I, RAJESH THAKUR S/O Late Man Singh R/o 11093 Subhash park Naveen shahdara Delhi-32, have lost my original-certificated class-12th year-1986 Rollno-1318589 CBSE-DELHI.
0040565736-6

Lost Lease Deed Documents against my Plot No.47, Pocket-N, Sector-1, DISCD Industrial Complex, Bawana, Delhi-39. Finder may Contact-Sharvan Goel (Shiv Plastic Industries) at above said address.
0040565691-1

I, Garima Singh D/o Satinder Pal Singh, Add-20/34A Tilaknagar Delhi, have lost my original-certificated Class-12 Rollno-5620446Year-2013 CBSE-ALLAHABAD.
0040565736-5

I, Harsh Soni S/o Sanjay soni, Address-2565 Gali Neem Wali Dharam Pura Chandni-Chowck Delhi-06, have lost my original-certificated class-10th year-2014 Rollno-8658649 CBSE-DELHI.
0040565736-9

I, Sourabh kumar, S/o Rakesh kumar, Address-C-66/1, Hardevnagar, Jharoda majra North Delhi-84, Have lost my original-certificated Class-12th year-2015 Rollno-9133328 CBSE-DELHI.
0040565736-10

I, DHARAM RAJ S/O Upendra prasad, R/O Village Dumari post Dumari sahpur thana shivsnagar Rohtas Bihar-821111, have lost my original-certificated class-10th year-2013 Rollno-8817251 CBSE-DELHI.
0040565736-8

I, BEENA GUPTA W/O RAMESH CHAND R/o D-85 AVANTIKA SECTOR-1 ROHINI DELHI-110085, have changed my name to BINA GUPTA.
0040565703-4

I, ANKUR OBERAI, S/o Gulshan Oberoi, R/O B-435, Meerza Bagh, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi-110063, have changed my name to ANKUR OBEROI.
0070733763-1

I, ABDUL MUNEEM PASHA/ABDUL MUNEEM PASHA SAYED S/O SAYED MAHABOOB, ADD-FLAT.NO.12, POCKET-E, MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-2 EAST-DELHI-110091, changed my name to SAYED ABDUL MUNEEM PASHA. Permanently.
0040565736-1

I, Amina W/o Vinod R/o B-75, Gauri Shankar Enclave, Part-1, Prem Nagar-3, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Seema for all purposes.
0040565688-1

I, Amarjit Singh S/o Mehar Singh R/o G-60-D, Pocket A-3, Kalkaji Extn. New Delhi-110019, declare that name of Amarjeet Singh Sehgal and Amarjit Singh both are same person.
0040565736-2

I, Alka Goel W/o Deepak Goel R/O C-128, Ground-Floor, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, changed my name to Alka Goel for all future purpose.
0040565732-6

I, Naresh Kumar Shrivastava S/o K.K Srivastava R/O G-10/68, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Srivastava.
0040565732-3

I, Hanif S/O-Mujibur Rehman, R/O-827, Kharji Wali Gali, Jwala-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi, changed my name to Hanif Ur Rehman, for all purposes.
0040565736-3

I, SHYAM NAIR, ADD-B-6 701 K/L GREENS SECTOR-77 NIMKA(96), FARIDABAD HARYANA-121004, changed my Minor daughter name AGRATA to AGRATA NAIR. Permanently.
0040565704-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public notice is hereby informed that my client Mr. Tara Chand Soni S/O Shri Om Prakash Soni R/O A-14, Central Market, Madangri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110062 has disowned his daughter Kanika Soni (Aadhaar No. 6044 8414 1144), Age 26 yrs. and from all immovable and moveable assets and has severed all his relations with her as she is disobedience & working against & beyond the control of my client. Anyone dealing with Kanika Soni in any matters shall do so at his/her own cost and risk.
Ashok Mahamma (Advocate)
Off-84 Central Market, Madangri, New Delhi-62

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general public at hereby that my client Sh. Budh Prakash So Late Sh. Naran Das R/O D-3/44, Sultanpuri near Barat Ghar, Delhi-110086 due to misdeemeanor, misbehavior with respect to the said Property in the name of Manmohan Singh Sh. Budh Prakash R/O House No. 1440, K.M. Pur, New Delhi, disowns him and sever all his relations and ties with him. My client further informs and declares him from all his moveable and immovable properties with immediate effect. Anybody dealing with above named person shall do so at their own risk and costs. My client shall not be responsible if any manner whatsoever.
Rajiv Bhargava, Advocate
B-4, Housing Society, South Extension, New Delhi-110049
M: 9810341320

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President Governing Body

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public at large is hereby notified that my client Mr. Arvind Kumar Jain and Mrs. Kamini Jain both r/o D-201, Rajashah Apartments, Pitam Pura, Delhi-34 have entered into an Agreement for the purchase of Society Bldg. Flat No.54, in Block C-3, on Vih Floor, situated at Rajashah Apartments, Madhuban Chowk, Pitam Pura, Delhi-34 from its owners (1) Shri Naran Dass son of Shri Kishan Pal and (2) Smt. Binia Devi wife of Shri Naran Dass both r/o 45-A, Sarjan Society, Patel Point, Surat-395007 Gujarat, India. Therefore, notified that anybody claiming any claim, right, title and interest or lien over the above said property may file such claim or objection to the undersigned within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice otherwise it will be presumed that the said property is free from all sorts of encumbrances, charge and/or lien and said Mr. Arvind Kumar Jain and Mrs. Kamini Jain will proceed with the purchase of the said property and no claim of any nature whatsoever shall be entertained afterwards on the said property & my client shall proceed further to complete the transaction.
KANHAYA AGGARWAL, (Advocate)
RU-352, Pitampura Delhi-34
MOB.No.9810041930, 01161380057

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Ram Narresh & Sh. Anand S/o Late Sh. Rajender Singh & their wives, permanent Residence-H.No.6/1, 2118, Rasia Marg, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, and their brother Sh. Ram Shanker and his wife and children, disowned their brother Ram Shanker and his wife Rajni, their all moveable and immovable properties and assets with immediate effect and his wife are abiding and quarrying with my clients and breach of trust and my clients have broken all relation from them and my clients have no concern with any liabilities or any transaction made by them in any manner and Ram Shanker has already has left the said house and said house was made by my clients & my clients have full right in the said house.
Karan Bansal (Advocate)
Ch.No.878, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

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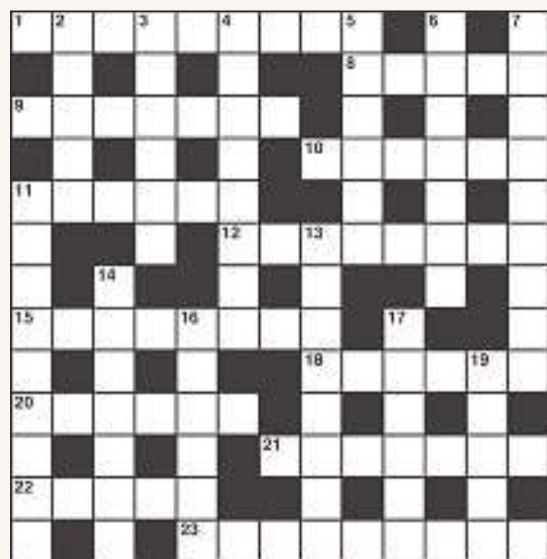
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Ram Narresh & Sh. Anand S/o Late Sh. Rajender Singh & their wives, permanent Residence-H.No.6/1, 2118, Rasia Marg, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, and their brother Sh. Ram Shanker and his wife and children, disowned their brother Ram Shanker and his wife Rajni, their all moveable and immovable properties and assets with immediate effect and his wife are abiding and quarrying with my clients and breach of trust and my clients have broken all relation from them and my clients have no concern with any liabilities or any transaction made by them in any manner and Ram Shanker has already has left the said house and said house was made by my clients & my clients have full right in the said house.
Karan Bansal (Advocate)
Ch.No.878, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Ram Narresh & Sh. Anand S/o Late Sh. Rajender Singh & their wives, permanent Residence-H.No.6/1, 2118, Rasia Marg, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, and their brother Sh. Ram Shanker and his wife and children, disowned their brother Ram Shanker and his wife Rajni, their all moveable and immovable properties and assets with immediate effect and his wife are abiding and quarrying with my clients and breach of trust and my clients have broken all relation from them and my clients have no concern with any liabilities or any transaction made by them in any manner and Ram Shanker has already has left the said house and said house was made by my clients & my clients have full right in the said house.
Karan Bansal (Advocate)
Ch.No.878, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

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Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Ram Narresh & Sh. Anand S/o Late Sh. Rajender Singh & their wives, permanent Residence-H.No.6

CROSSWORD 4368



- ACROSS**
1 Eager aunt arranged to act as security (9)
8 Arrived with nothing but a carving (5)
9 Make a note to crush someone (3,4)
10 Note deserter is not charged (6)
11 Many admit to being inexperienced (6)
12 Just as bad as one who doesn't gamble (2,6)
15 Involved in a score or film story (8)
18 Continue being eager to hold work back (4,2)
20 Express disapproval about alternative teachers (6)
21 Aggressive marital break-up (7)
22 Monsters back among the lesser goblins (5)
23 Fatigue confuses both residents and dissenter (9)
- DOWN**
2 A lump in the throat (5)
3 It may be used to sort out a difficult problem (6)
4 A man of property perhaps but not for long (3,5)
5 Create chaos in a card game (6)
6 Employ someone else as a model (7)
7 Restrict study on stress (9)
11 A pause made by canoeists (9)
13 Alibet judge may hear it, but it's usually shelved (8)
14 Court cards? (7)
16 Seize a king before all others (6)
17 Having failed to win is punished (6)
19 Not rounds used in erratic salvo (5)

Solutions Crossword 4367: Across: 1 Sighted, 4 Tasks, 7 Ewan, 8 Veronese, 10 Paper clips, 12 Canoes, 13 Orders, 15 Elasticity, 18 Sturgeon, 19 Kite, 20 Smelt, 21 Engaged, Down: 1 Sweep, 2 Grasping, 3 Dwellis, 4 Troop train, 5 Slew, 6 Steighs, 9 Green light, 11 Retiring, 12 Courses, 14 Ashore, 16 Yield, 17 Jute.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.
It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I was - Anne Sexton (8)

BGTEE AACTMR
COEVR EJUBM

Answer: Remember

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4400

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4399

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

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
In all close relationships your hopes and fears may be unexpectedly intense, perhaps more so than you may realise. You should therefore watch out that you are not unintentionally irritated by people whose feelings are entirely well-meaning.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
The Moon is matched with an intense and passionate part of your chart, a region connected closely with money. At the heart of financial issues, though, is the extent to which you have managed to consistently undervalue your own worth. Change your approach now.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
At home it looks very much as if partners have the stronger hand, and if they insist on doing things their way, you might as well let them. After all, it can be relaxing to let other people take the strain. You can remain behind the scenes, providing sympathy and support.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
If you feel vulnerable, it's because the Moon is spending a few days aligned with your sign, raising the emotional temperature. As long as you understand that you're likely to feel up one moment, down the next, and then up again, nothing will take you by surprise.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
All your instincts should be telling you to delay finalising important transactions, at least until you've had time to absorb all the facts. The point is that circumstances have changed, and your most personal plans must therefore be duly amended.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
You have become more determined to make a success of yourself, to be somebody. It doesn't matter what your current ambition is, just as long as you accept nothing less than first place. You need to trawl through all the available possibilities, ready to make your move when the time comes.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
All financial or business matters now need to be viewed in a new light, mainly because what once seemed so certain, is yet again a matter of dispute. At home, the pressing need is now for more luxury. At the very least other people need to be pulling their own weight.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Venus is sailing along quite happily through a region of your chart which is related to professional ambitions, indicating that the route to worldly success lies in exploiting all personal contacts to the hilt. Whatever you're doing, do your best.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
A decidedly tricky relationship between one family member and another could spring a few surprises on you, especially where it hurts, in your pocket. Tread very carefully at work, sticking to the straight and narrow at all times. If you bend the rules you might get caught out.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Your dominant romantic influence indicates long-distance love, so ideally you should be travelling to far-away places. Your heart will soon be stirred by people from cultures very different from your own. Or perhaps a person already close to you develops a new interest and a fascinating allure.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
You may think long and hard before changing direction in midstream. It may be best to continue with a course of action which was initiated at the beginning of the month, or even earlier. There'll be time enough for a change of plan in about five weeks' time.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
This really is a trying time for both intensely personal and career matters. You do have the chance to bring other people in on your side, but when all is considered, you can be a very difficult person to help. Why should this be? Perhaps it's because you just don't like to ask for assistance.

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
Headquarter, 4, Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur-302004
Phone : 0141-2716808 e-mail : member-secretary@rpcb.nic.in
TollFree HelpLine No. : 18001806127 Ext. 7

नीलामी सूचना
मण्डल में अनुपयोगी सामान (प्रयोगशाला उपकरण एवं अन्य यथा सोफा, कुर्सी, फ्रीज एयरकंडिशनर, इत्यादि एवं अन्य अनुपयोगी सामान) की नीलामी की जाती है। नीलामी की तिथि 16.03.2021 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे निर्धारित है। उपस्थित बोलीदाता / उनका प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष बोली लगाकर, सामान नीलाम किया जावेगा। नीलाम किए जाने वाले सामान का पुस्तकात्मक मूल्य राशि रुपये 82,78,615/- (रुपये अठ्ठासी लाख अठ्तर हजार छः सौ पन्द्रह मात्र) है। विस्तृत विवरण राज्य मण्डल की वेब साइट (http://envforment.rajasthan.gov.in/rpcb) पर उपलब्ध है। मुख्य पर्यावरण अभियन्ता राज.संवाद / सी/ 20 / 10359

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
पंत कृषि भवन, जयपुर, जयपुर-302005
Ph. 0141-2227665, 2227514 Fax No. 2227174 E-mail rajseedsmkto@gmail.com
CIN-U75132RJ1978SGC001781 www.rajseeds.org
क्रमांक : एफ 6 (31 ए) विपणन / ई-नीलामी / 2020-21 / 33983 दिनांक : 02.03.2021

ई-नीलामी हेतु पंजीकरण
निगम की इकाईयों पर विभिन्न जिल्लों के अग्रकार / आउटसाइड / स्वीपेज / सिलोबोर की अनुमानित 22228 कि. गा. की ई-नीलामी जहां है जैसी स्थिति में है, एनसीडीईएक्स एवं एनसीएमएल मार्केट याई प्रांति. ई-मार्केट के माध्यम से क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयवार प्रारंभ की जावेगी। उपलब्ध जिल्लों का इकाईवार विवरण निगम की वेबसाइट www.rajseeds.org पर उपलब्ध होगा। इच्छुक फर्म दिनांक 25.03.2021 तक रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाकर इन संस्थाओं के द्वारा सम्पन्न होने वाली ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकती है। रजिस्ट्रेशन हेतु क्रमशः www.nemli एवं www.MktYard.com पर सम्पर्क करें तथा इस संबंध में अन्य कोई जानकारी हेतु एनसीडीईएक्स से 9425087497, 9828065270 पर तथा एनसीएमएल मार्केट याई प्रांति. से +918448896155, +919821895690 पर सम्पर्क करें। प्रबन्ध निदेशक राज.संवाद / सी/ 20 / 10433 (DIN 08383856)

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2020-21/22536-55 Date 01.03.2021
अनुसूचित ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 377/2020-21
निम्न लिखित परियोजना पर राजस्थान राज्य सड़क विकास एवं निर्माण निगम लि. (RSRDC Ltd.) में पंजीकृत टोल कलेक्शन ठेकेदारों से पथकर व्यूली हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अंदाजित राशि (₹.)
1	Collection of Toll Tax (Including Private Vehicles) on following Road for 02 years:-	
1	On Bikaner Bypass Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00554	4174.78 Lakh
2	On Chomu-Ajetejarh-Shahpura Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00555	2045.09 Lakh
3	On Durgargarh-Sandashahar-Rajgarh Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00556	4640.71 Lakh
4	On Gotan-Bhilara-Sojat Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00557	2768.35 Lakh
5	On Jaipur-Jobner-Kuchaman-Nagar Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00558	4863.30 Lakh
6	On Merta-Raas Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00559	4061.00 Lakh
7	On Nasirabad-Kekri-Deoli Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00560	6219.21 Lakh
8	On Pali-Nadol-Gomati ka Chauraha Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00561	1834.51 Lakh
9	On Sikar-Jhunjhunu-Luharu Road. UBN No. RRC2021SLOB00562	7896.88 Lakh

ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रेषण बंद होने तक 26.03.2021 प्रातः 09:00 बजे से 12.03.2021 सां. 06:00 तक रहेगा

निविदा से संबंधित प्रश्न में निविदा बुलक, धरोहर राशि, बडनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संबंधित वेबसाइट http://eprocr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने विहित हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट http://eprocr.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड कवरना आवश्यक है।

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248006

Tender Notice No. XXI/6/2020-21/STR (Auction) Dated: 02.03.2021
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited on behalf of Director, Forest Research Institute, P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun, for the sale of un-serviceable /Condemned Vehicles of FRI, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-248006. The prescribed Tender Form can be obtained from Store Section, FRI, P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun 248006 against a payment of Rs.1000+18% GST Rs 1180/(Including GST) each by Demand Draft drawn in favour of Director, Forest Research Institute P. O New Forest, Dehra Dun 248006 on all days from 04.03.2021 to 19.03.2021 up to 12:30 P.M. Sealed Tender addressed to Store Officer, Forest Research Institute, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun must reach on or before 19.03.2021 up to 2:30 P.M. The tender will be opened on 19.03.2021 at 3:00 P.M. at Store Section, Forest Research Institute. Contact Officers for inspection of condemned vehicles of FRI 1. Sh. S.P. Mangai, CTO, Mob. No. 09411365084 2. Sh. Pratap Singh T.O. Mob No. 09410572750 Contact Employees for sale of Tender forms for auction. 1. Sh. Deepak Kumar, Technician, Mob. No. 07579286646 2. Sh. Ashish, LDC, Mob. No. 09813803773

Registrar
Forest Research Institute,
Dehradun

KHADI GRAMODYOG BHAVAN
KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India)
Office: K-Bloq, Chaudhary Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-1
Showroom: 24, Regal Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-1
Phone : 011-23416758, 23411651, Fax : 011-23418126, E-mail: kgbndgs@gmail.com, kgb_newdelhi@kvic.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders/offers are invited for empanelment of the professional / branded tailoring/ Garment houses preferably having in-house designers for fabricating & designing of Khadi fabrics for Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi from Tailoring Firm/Garment Houses.

Sr. No.	Description	E.M.D./ Security in ₹	Date for the sale of tender	Last Date for the sale of tender	Cost of Tender Form in ₹
1.	Professional / branded tailoring/Garment houses preferably having in-house designers for fabricating & designing of Khadi fabrics for Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi.	1.00 Lakh	03.03.2021	24.03.2021	1000 Plus 18% GST

The detailed terms and conditions are given in tender document which can be purchased in cash, on any working day between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. Tender forms can also be downloaded from our website www.kvic.org.in, however, the cost of tender form will have to be deposited along with the tender in the shape of demand draft/pay order drawn in favour of "Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi".
Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all the tenders/offers without assigning any reason/notice thereof.
Dy. CEO / General Manager

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KULGAM

1. NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Fresh E-N.I.T No.: 14 of 2020-21 Date: 22.02.2021
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory e-tenders (Two cover System), are invited from reputed and resourceful "AAY" class Contractors/Firms/Companies/joint venture of reputed on item rate basis, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>, up to last bidding date: 08.03.2021 upto 4.00 p.m for the subjected work referred below and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT/Tender Documents/ PWD Form No. 25 are accepted. The detailed tender document, Specifications and drawings can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> and also on departmental website fckashmir.com. The cost of tender document in the form of Demand Draft (bidders other than UT of J&K) & e-challan/Treasury Challan/receipt remitted to MH 0701/0702 (non-refundable) Non-transferable) in favor of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kulgam.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost of Work	Bid Security	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Doc.	Period of Completion	Position of AAA	Position of Funds	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Modernization of Grimtoo Canal	Rs. 1862.14 Lacs	Declaration as per Annexure-A	Clas A & Above	11000/-	24 Calendar Months	Accorded	Partly available	Chief Engineer, Kashmir Irrigation & FC Deptt. Srinagar.

2.0 ELIGIBLY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION OF TENDERERS:

2.1 For Single /individual bidder entity

2.1.1 TECHNICAL

The contractor should possess the experience of having successfully completed similar works like river valley projects, canal works, hydraulic structures, irrigation projects, flood control works and drainage works during last seven years ending 31/12/2020 which should be any one of the following:-

- One similar work costing not less than 80% of advertised cost during the last Seven years.
- Two similar works costing not less than 50% of advertised cost each, during the last Seven years.
- Three similar works costing not less than the 40% of advertised cost each, during the last Seven years.

2.1.2 FINANCIAL CRITERIA:
As a proof of sufficient financial capacity, the tenderer/s should have an average annual turnover of at least 30% of advertised cost, which shall be calculated for the three years ending on 31st March 2020.

NOTE:

- Certified Annual reports including audited balance sheets of the relevant three years profit and loss account to be annexed.
- Valid GSTin, latest GST clearance & PAN No
- 2.2 Joint Ventures (Joint venture of only two entities shall be allowed)**
- 2.2.1 Technical Criteria**
 - Any member or members of Joint Venture should have done at least:
 - One work of similar nature costing not less than 80% of advertised cost during the last seven years ending 31/12/2020.
 - Two similar works costing not less than 50% of advertised cost each, during the last seven years ending 31/12/2020.
 - Three similar works costing not less than 40% of advertised cost each, during the last seven years ending 31/12/2020.
- 2.2.2 Financial Criteria**
 - The arithmetic sum of average annual turnover of both the members of the Joint Venture in last three year ending on 31.03.2020 should be more than 30% of the advertised Cost.
 - Average annual turnover shall be calculated for the three years ending on 31st March 2020.

NOTE:

- Certified Annual reports including audited balance sheets of the relevant three years profit and loss account should be enclosed/uploaded.
- Joint Venture shall comprise of a lead partner having at least 55% share and the other partner having at least 20% share and overall 100%.
- Valid GST No, latest GST clearance & PAN No

2.2.3 Both the members of joint venture shall be jointly & severally responsible for all the acts done on behalf of joint venture & tender bid shall be jointly signed by both members of the joint venture or their authorized representative so as to legally bind them jointly & severally. All tenders must be submitted with a copy of Joint Venture agreement duly registered by the First Class Judicial Magistrate.

2.3.4 All above criteria must be satisfied by the joint venture to qualify for opening of their Price bid.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Kulgam

No.: 3811-30 Date: 22.02.2021
DIPK-14219

CORRIGENDUM- VENDOR REGISTRATION FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL STORES AT ARMY HOSPITAL (R&R), DELHI CANTT FOR THE FY 2021-2022

Refer notice for vendor registration for supply of Medical Stores dated 05 Jan 2021. Last date for submission of registration form has been extended till 15 March 2021

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORRIGENDUM
No.-75214026 Dated:- 27/02/2021. Sub: Change of Tender Closing date. Ref:- COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 dtd. 03/02/2021. Tender No.: 75214026 for procurement of "Item-01 & Item-02: Complete Shell Assembly for WAG-9HC Locomotives with Pneumatic Piping & Painting for 258 Sets" scheduled to be opened on 10/03/2021 instead of 01/03/2021.
Dy. Chief Materials Manager/ M-II, C.I.W./Chittaranjan
For and on behalf of the President of India
80008-267 www.facebook.com/dhravya

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDERING NOTICE
No. 17/2021 Date - 01.03.2021
Dy.CE(TMD), WCR, BPL acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for Supply of following items. Tender details and documents are uploaded on IREPS on date 01.03.2021. For more details visit <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Any corrigendum, if required will be uploaded on website 10 days before closing date of bidding. In case corrigendum is issued in under 10 days then due date shall be suitable deferred details are also displayed on notice board of Dy.CE(TMD)BPL office, till the date of closing of instant tender. All the bidder must see the website before bidding. Name of Work - Bolts, nylon lock nuts & spring washers required for track machines working in WCR. Part no.- As per annexure. Make:- Unbrako, DFL, TVS, LPS., Tender No.- WCRBPLTM20S113 Dated:- 01.03.2021, Estimated cost of tender - Rs. 409950.3/-, Delivery / Completion Period - 30 Days, Date of Opening - 25.03.2021
XEN/TMD/
West Central Railway, Bhopal
रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2762808 Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं: 178 दिनांक : 01 / 03 / 2021

e-Tender Notice

Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ramganga Power Station, UJVN Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites online tender from interested parties. Detail of tender is given below.
T. No. 21/EE(M)/Kg/2020-21
Name of work : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Dewatering & Drainage Pumps.
Estimated cost : Rs. 61,82,850/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 02/03/2021
Last date for submission of tender : 23/03/2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



LIVERPOOL GREAT ST JOHN DIES AT 82

Ian St. John, the former Liverpool forward who scored the winning goal to seal the club's first FA Cup title and was a key player in its rebuild under Bill Shankly in the 1960s, has died. He was 82. St. John died on Monday following illness, Liverpool said on Tuesday.

AP

'Indo-Pak Express' back on track: Bopanna and Qureshi set to reunite

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, MARCH 2

WHEN WORD spread that Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi had decided to team up again, there was a bombardment of messages on social media. Nothing negative, instead an array of heartening posts which claimed that the Indo-Pak combination was something fans wanted to see on the tennis court again. That wait will end on March 15, when the pair will take to the courts of Acapulco at the ATP 500 Mexican Open.

"Ever since we decided to team up, I didn't even think it would be that big a deal, but people have been posting so many positive messages to me on Twitter and Instagram," Qureshi tells *The Indian Express*.

"I feel everyone is looking forward to it. People here (in Pakistan) understand that

Bops helped me get a lot of laurels for my country. And hopefully we can help each other again and get back to winning ways."

The sentiment and reception, Bopanna explains, has never been different than what the pair of 40-year-olds (born just two weeks apart in March 1980) have experienced before. "When I've played with Aisam, the majority of the time it's been only positive," Bopanna says. "There's been great support, and it seems like people from the two countries like to support that one team. So a majority of the messages have been good."

Immediately memories of the 2010 US Open come rushing back. The 'Indo-Pak Express', as they were called, had proven to be a powerful and effective combination. They were within touching distance of winning their first Grand Slam title – a moment even Ambassadors of both countries to the United States had come to witness. But they



Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi will team up after a gap of six years at Acapulco ATP 500.

Express

fell at the summit to the World No 1 team of identical twins Mike and Bob Bryan in two tie-break sets. Till date, it remains the closest either has been to winning a men's doubles Grand Slam title. And they cherish the fact that their best moments on the tennis court came together.

"Our greatest years came together at the US Open 2010," Bopanna says. "We went through the tournament, playing well, enjoying the quick courts. And when we faced the Bryans in the final, we were the only team to have beaten them in the past few weeks."

And now that they're back together, for the first time since competing together at the Shenzhen Open in September 2014, they're looking to "do more damage."

The duo decided to get together for another swing while they were at the Australian Open. Both were looking to find a partner for upcoming events, and it just so

happened that doubles World no 40 Bopanna and World No 49 Qureshi's combined rank was good enough to get into the main draw at Acapulco.

At that stage they had long cleared the air about what happened in 2019, when they were expected to face each other on opposite sides of the court. India was expected to travel to Pakistan for a Davis Cup tie, but political tensions saw India pushing the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to shift the tie to a neutral venue. Qureshi did not hide his disappointment, and instead chose to boycott the tie that eventually took place in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

"We sat and had a chat about it over dinner when we met later," Bopanna says. "He told me his side of things, and then I told him what actually happened on my side. Those differences aren't there because our friendship is much bigger."

Qureshi explains further: "He told me that it was not in his hands, it was the federation and the government's call. He's been to Pakistan many times before, he came for my first wedding, and he's been there when we played the India-Pakistan League. Unfortunately it didn't work out because of political reasons. But we have to keep it in the past and hope things get better between both countries."

The friendship is their biggest strength, and the foundation of their team. "But now we are much more mature and also experienced athletes," Bopanna adds. Their rankings however have dropped over the past few years. Bopanna was once ranked as high as third, and Qureshi eight. But the veterans continue to pursue that path back up the ranking ladder. And it's with each other that the Indo-Pak Express hope to make the journey back to where they once were.

BCCI's fear of farmer protests saw Mohali losing out as IPL venue

DEVENDRA PANDEY
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 2

BECAUSE OF the ongoing farmers' agitation, the BCCI has decided to strike off Mohali from the list of hosting venues for the forthcoming IPL. The BCCI feels it would be a risk if there was an agitation by farmers around the stadium, which would "attract media attention of the world". Mumbai too will be carefully monitored for the worsening Covid-19 situation in the city. As per BCCI's current plan Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru have been shortlisted.

"We don't want a situation to arise where we have an IPL match in Mohali and a farmer agitation march moves towards the stadium. It will attract media attention from all over the world. We don't want such a situation to arise. Mohali is not among shortlisted venues due to the current scenario in the northern part of India," a top BCCI official told *The Indian Express*. The Punjab Kings has its base in Mohali but won't host matches.

Venues in Punjab were not allotted Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 games because of fears of farmers' agitation, the official said.

"Except Punjab, we are monitoring most of the other venues. The elections also might force some changes in the venue list," the BCCI official added.

Mohali's exclusion as an IPL venue has not gone down well. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh tweeted, "I am surprised at the exclusion of Mohali Cricket Stadium from the upcoming IPL season. I urge and appeal to @BCCI & @IPL to reconsider their decision. There is no reason why Mohali can't host IPL and our Government will make all necessary arrangements for safety against #Covid19."

On Tuesday Punjab Kings had emailed BCCI asking for clarity on the reason for barring Mohali from hosting any IPL games. Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia said that he was disappointed that Mohali had not been shortlisted despite the number of Covid-19 cases being low. "We have written to the BCCI to find out under what criteria they have selected the venues and why they have not selected us," Wadia told PTI. "We were hoping to have games in Punjab."

As per BCCI's current plan Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru have been shortlisted.

Why so many left-arm spinners from Gujarat?

SANDIP G tries to answer the question Virat Kohli asked after Jadeja's replacement Axar Patel's breakthrough match at Motera

NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AFTER LEFT-arm spinner Axar Patel, a like-for-like replacement for Ravindra Jadeja, helped India nose ahead in this tense series against England, Virat Kohli seemed amused by a certain coincidence. The Indian skipper was intrigued by Gujarat churning out left-arm spinners in abundance. Axar, born in Nadiad, plays for Gujarat. As for Jadeja, he turns up for Saurashtra and has roots in Jamnagar. "I don't know what it is with Gujarat and producing so many left-arm spinners. Jadeja goes and there comes Axar," Kohli said, in a semi-amused, half-serious tone.

Inadvertently, the Indian captain dusted up an old, forgotten cricketing legacy – left-arm spinners of Gujarat (the state and not the cricketing entity) and Indian cricket. A chapter unto itself. A book unto itself. For arguably the first poster-boy of Indian cricket, undoubtedly the first Indian cricketer who had the world in awe, Vinoo Mankad, to the latest inheritor of the lineage, Axar, seven left-arm spinners from the region have accounted for 637 Test wickets. A stretch of 300 kilometres from Jamnagar to Rajkot and Nadiad. Erstwhile princely states, but more everyman in their cricketing achievements, literally and figuratively inhabiting a corner of the domestic field.

In the post-independence era, Gujarat waited for 60 years to hold aloft its maiden Ranji Trophy title. Saurashtra won their first three years later. But only Karnataka could claim of a particular breed of spinners accumulating more Test wickets than them (leg-spinners Anil Kumble and BS Chandrasekhar alone have snaffled a combined haul of 861 Test scalps). It's a bigger coincidence that their birthplaces – Jamnagar to Rajkot to Nadiad – come within 300km. Like a parish in Kingston producing a crew of world-class sprinters. Or a lane in Cuba throwing up boxers. Or twinkle-toed forwards popping up from a decrepit favela in Rio de Janeiro.

No dearth in numbers

There is left-handedness peeping from every column of a scoresheet of games involving Gujarat and Saurashtra. Ravindra Jadeja missed most of Saurashtra's ascent to the Ranji peak last year, but another left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja filled the void. If Axar is not around for Gujarat, there is Siddharth Desai, who has picked 71 wickets in 17 games. In most games, Gujarat accommodated both. "Any first-class game involving Gujarat or Saurashtra, you see at least one left-arm spinner, often two. Often, the first person a coach picks in the team is a left-arm spinner," says veteran Saurashtra Cricket Association administrator Niranjani Shah, who in his first-class playing days batted left-handed and occasionally bowled, what else – left-arm spin.

Not just in the spin department. Two of



From Vinoo Mankad, to the latest inheritor of the lineage, Axar Patel, seven left-arm spinners from the region have accounted for 637 Test wickets.

Two of Saurashtra's regular seamers are left-armers – Jaydev Unadkat, Chetan Sakariya. Gujarat have Arzan Nagaswalla and Rush Kalaria sharing the new ball.

BCCI/Twitter

Saurashtra's regular seamers are left-armers – Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya. Gujarat had two left-arm seamers sharing the new ball, Arzan Nagaswalla and Rush Kalaria.

The reason often offered is that there are more left-handers in Gujarat than any other state, that it's less stigmatised to left-handedness than most parts of the country, though it's an anecdotal than scientific rationale, more theory than data. But southpaws have streamed into every other realm as well. "I think it's part of the DNA, a lot of Gujaratis are left-handed. I am a left-hander, my father was one, and so is my son," says former India left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi. His son Nayan, though born in Nottingham, continued the family tradition and played for Derbyshire, Surrey and even Saurashtra. The most famous Gujarati – Mahatma Gandhi – too was left-handed, and if he indeed played cricket,

chances are that he would have bowled left-arm spin, with his thin frame and large digits.

Rich legacy

Having an unceasing chain of icons helps. Though Shah claims that quality left-arm spinners were plentiful even before Mankad's exploits, the latter's dash and charm encouraged a generation of youngsters to embrace left-arm spin. "In my time, Salim Durani was everyone's hero, and everyone wanted to be like him, everyone looked up to him. He didn't do justice to his potential, but was a huge influence. So, having a larger-than-life idol helps in creating a legacy. It keeps passing from one generation to another," observes Doshi. If Mankad was a left-arm pacer, who knows the region might have perhaps inspired a generation of left-arm speedsters. Or if he just focussed on his

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VINOO MANKAD



SALIM DURANI



DILIP DOSHI



RAVI JADEJA

batting, which he plied with his right hand.

On such historical quirks hinge legacies. Sometimes, on chance too. The flamboyant Durani could have ended up as an off-break bowler had not Mankad seen him bowl when he was just nine.

"I could bowl with both hands. Once Vinoo bhai saw me and told my father that I should stick to the left hand. My father would make me bowl from a stationary position. With the right hand tied, I had to bowl with my left hand. That really made my left hand more powerful," he once told this paper.

Durani never scaled the heights he was touted to, but remains one of the game's most alluring characters, with his wit, roguish good looks, and story-telling. For domestic bowlers of his time, he was more like an elder brother. "He had immense knowledge about the game and youngsters like me would pick his brains. My bowling blossomed when playing alongside him. He would suggest small, practical tips that helped my bowling," Doshi says.

It's another benefit of legacy – that there is always an old hand to lean on, to feed off, and learn from. And the senior bowlers were willing to pass the knowledge and wisdom to their successors. "All of these legends were willing to help the youngsters out. A lot of them, after they retired, took up coaching and naturally left-arm spinners looked out for left-arm spinners. There used to be a kind of fraternal bonding, they took them under the wings and developed them," opined Karsan Ghavri, who bowled both left-arm seam and spin.

Ghavri, inspired by Mankad and Durani, began as a left-arm spinner himself, before an ankle injury to his school captain, who was a left-arm seamer, made the coach throw the new ball to him. "Bowl from a longer run-up,

BRIEFLY

Ashwini-Satwik beat World No 8

BASEL: Indian World No 19 pair of Ashwini Ponappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy scored an upset win over second seeded Indonesians Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Widjaja at the Super 300 Swiss Open mixed doubles event on Tuesday. They beat the higher ranked pair, World No 8, 21-18, 21-10 in 38 minutes. Breaking away at 16-all in the opening set of Round 1, the Indians were relentless, wrapping up the second in double quick time at St Jakobshalle. **ENS**

Sania returns to WTA circuit with win in Doha

DOHA: Sania Mirza made a winning return to the WTA circuit as she and her Slovenian partner Andreja Klepac beat Ukrainians Nadiia Kichenok and Lyudmyla Kichenok to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the Qatar Total Open. The Indo-Slovenian pair won 6-4 6-7(5) 10-5 against the duo of Kichenok and Kichenok in the opening round of the WTA 500 tournament. **PTI**

Cricket takes a back seat in IPL: Steyn

KARACHI: South Africa pace great Dale Steyn has claimed that cricket takes a back seat at the Indian Premier League, insisting that money is given more importance than the game in the lucrative T20 tournament. Justifying his on-and-off IPL career, Steyn said this was one of the reasons he had not featured regularly in the world's biggest franchise-based T20 tournament. "I think when you go to the IPL, there are such big squads and so many big names and so much emphasis on maybe the amount of money players earn and everything like that, so sometimes, somewhere down the line, cricket gets forgotten," said Steyn, who was part of the RCB squad in the last IPL held in the UAE. In January this year, Steyn announced that he is opting out of the IPL 2021 but will play other leagues around the world. Steyn's decision influenced RCB to release him ahead of the IPL 2021 auction. Steyn has played 95 IPL matches, picking up 97 wickets with a best of 3 for 8. But the South African's repeated injury breakdowns didn't help his cause as he just featured in 12 IPL matches in the last three seasons. **PTI**

Working on reducing gloss: Pink-ball maker

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 2

TO REDUCE the lopsidedness of the pink-ball day-night Tests, where bowlers have had an advantage, Sanspareils Greenlands (SG) has started working on a "new technique" that will reduce the extra gloss on the ball while retaining its colour. Paras Anand, the marketing director of SG, is hopeful that the experiment, if successful, will bring more parity between bat and ball. An extra coat of lacquer is used on the pink ball to make it glossy which helps visibility.

"We have already started working on that. There are newer techniques of getting (retaining) the colour on the ball and that new technique will reduce the gloss on it and the gloss obviously is resulting in the ball moving faster off the deck. That work is already going on," Anand told *The Indian Express*. "Once it is ready, once it is tried and tested, we will definitely talk about it (sharing details about the new technique)," he added.

SG, the BCCI's official ball supplier, has accelerated the ball manufacturing process through this new technique after the third Test between India and England in Ahmedabad



Batsmen found the pink-ball, which skidded faster, difficult to negotiate. The straighter one accounted for a majority of wickets.

BCCI

which ended inside two days.

A rank turner was prepared for the third Test but the pink ball mostly skidded off the surface. As Virat Kohli said post-match, 21 out of 30 wickets had been accounted for by straight deliveries.

"Bizarre game... I have never been part of a Test match where things have moved so quickly," the India captain had said at the post-match presentation. "I'd say one element was the ball – the plastic coating there gathers pace off the wicket – to be brutally honest. Both sides

struggled with that throughout the game," said England skipper Joe Root.

SG has taken note. "Now this issue has suddenly come up post this Test in Ahmedabad, that people are saying the ball was doing a bit more off the surface. This is the feedback we did not get after the first game (against Bangladesh in November 2019), which got over in two days and one session in Kolkata. (But) now the issue has come up, and once the series is over we will be in touch with the BCCI. But we have started looking on how to tackle this issue, if we can work on the way we are preparing the ball and if we can maybe ensure that at least (we) get as close as it can get (to the red ball)," Anand said.

Since its inception in 2015, 16-day night Tests have been played so far, a couple of them getting over in two days with four matches finishing in three days. Be it seam or spin, bowlers by and large have dominated pink-ball Tests. In December last year, the Australia versus India pink ball Test in Adelaide was over on the third afternoon, with the visitors getting bundled out for 36 in their second innings and Australian seamers Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins sharing nine wickets between them. Curtain was lowered on the India-England third Test in Ahmedabad early into the final

session on the second day, with spinners bagging 28 out of 30 wickets that fell in the game.

The pink-ball, unlike its red counterpart, is still a work in progress. "See, initially when we were given a brief for the pink ball; two things were very critical. One was that the ball should retain the colour for 80 overs so that visibility is not an issue under lights. The other thing was that the ball should have the seam and overall playability like a red ball, like how a red ball is able to last 80 overs in a Test match. So those were the two main parameters we were initially targeting for and that has been achieved," Anand said, adding: "Whether it is Joe Root or the Indian team players, they have raised it (the issue) and now we are going to address it."

At a recent press conference, Ravichandran Ashwin mentioned how the odds have been stacked in favour of the bowlers in pink-ball cricket. "If you give a little bit of favour stacked towards the bowlers, this is what might happen. When there is a little bit of advantage to the bowlers, where it swings more or seams more, the margin of error for the batter is so little."

At the same time, he admitted that familiarity with the pink ball will help players adapt better. "You play more and more and get used to it, the players are going to adapt better."