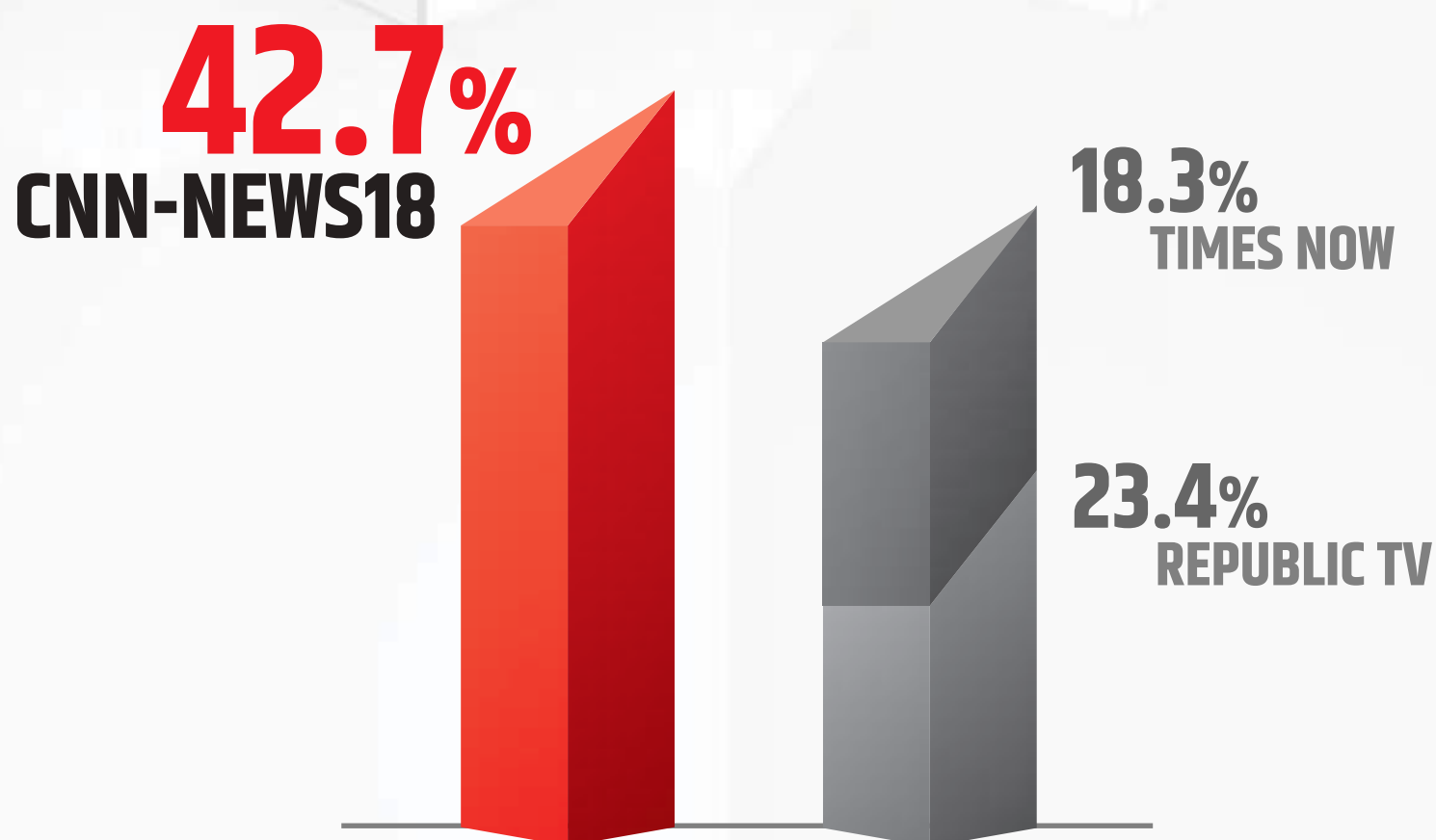


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**PLAIN
SPEAK**

6 - 7 PM

SHIVANI GUPTA

**NEWS
EPICENTRE**

7 - 8 PM

MARYA SHAKIL

**THE RIGHT
STAND**

8 - 9 PM

ANAND NARASIMHAN

**BRASS
TACKS**

9 - 10 PM

ZAKKA JACOB

VANTAGE

10 - 11 PM

PALKI SHARMA

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Pooja Bhatia W/o Vijay Kumar Bhatia, R/o-44, Lajpat Nagar-II, Delhi-24.Dohereby declare that my name mentioned as Neelam Bhatia in LIC policy No. 113306531. But, my correct name is Pooja Bhatia. I affirm that PoojaBhatia and Neelam Bhatia is one person.

0040652083-1

I, Parveen Raj chandila,S/o Sh.Girraj, R/o-Village Budhena sector-86, faridabad, Haryana, have changed my name Parveen to Parveen Raj chandila, for all future purposes

0040652029-2

I, Parmod Singh Bisht,S/o Shri Dharmender Singh Bisht,R/o RZ-284,Gali.no-10,RZ, Gurudwara,Vishnu Garden, New.Delhi-110018.Inform that Pratigya Bisht is,my daughter born on, 31.10.2013, and her, correct and, actual name,is Pratigya Bisht in her,all, documents like Aadhar-Card etc,but in her school-record her,name is mistakenly-written as PRITIGYA.I confirm and declare,that my her correct, and actual,name is Pratigya Bisht.

0040652107-10

I, Parmaveer Singh S/o Sh. Mahender Singh R/o KH-117, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP- 201002 have changed my minor daughter's name from Hedya Bajaj to Aadya Bajaj for all purposes.

0040652023-1

I, Neelam W/o Shivraj Teotia R/o Flat No.210, Patrakar Parisar, Sec-5, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Neelam Teotia.

0070824873-1

I, Naveen Kumar, S/o Raj Kumar Bajaj, R/o 62, Tarun Vihar Society, Sec-13, Rohini- 110085, have changed my name to Naveen Bajaj.

0070824853-1

I, Manveer Singh, S/o Gajraj Singh, R/o H. No. G-502, Winter Hills, Dwarka Mor, Uttam Nagar , New Delhi - 110059, have changed the name of my minor Son from Virat Chowdhary to Virat Chaudhary.

0070824840-1

I, Manveer Singh S/o Gajraj Singh R/o H. No. G-502, winter Hills, Dwarka Mor, Uttam Nagar , New Delhi - 110059, have changed the name of my minor daughter from Nidhi Choudhary to Nidhi Chaudhary.

0070824843-1

I, Manoj Raj S/o Sh. Ramesh Chand, R/o G-103, DLF Capital Greens, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Manoj Raj Sharma, for all purposes

0040652021-1

I, Harish Awasthi S/o Ram Datt Awasthi R/o STA- 1002, Tower A1, Sun Tower, Shrija Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name to Harish Chandra Awasthi.

0040652025-1

I, Gulvir Singh S/o Jagbir Singh R/o-356, Shastri Nagar, Razapur, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Gulbir Singh.

0070824878-1

I, GAURAV RAJ AGNIHOTRI, R/O RU-494,NEAR POWER HOUSE,PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME PRINCE AGNIHOTRI TO AVIRAM AGNIHOTRI.

0040652077-2

I, Dinesh Kumar Tandon, S/o Shri Ratan Kumar Tandon, solemnly affirm and declare that Dinesh Kumar Tandon and Dinesh Tandon both are same person and in future will known as Dinesh Kumar Tandon for all purposes.

0040652041-1

I, Asif S/o Amin R/o H No-4380, Gali No-21, Shanti Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Aasif for all future purposes.

0040652071-1

I, Praveen Kumar Singh S/o Shyam Vir Singh R/o N107, Samtal Enclave, Chhappraula, GB Nagar, UP have changed my name to Praveen Singh.

0070824870-1

I, Ashish Kumar S/o M.S. Chaudhary R/o H. No. C-505, Vijaya Apartment, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P.-201014, have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Tyagi for all future purposes.

0070824897-1

I, Ammit Jain S/o sh.Subhash Chand Jain, R/o-345, Sector-29 Faridabad, have changed my name Amit Jain to Ammit Jain, for all future purposes.

0040652029-1

I, Ambika Prasad Yadav, S/o Ramkrish Yadav, R/o A-305, Fusion Homes, Near EK Murti Chowk, Greater Noida, Sector-1, Greater Noida, West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201318, have changed my name to Anish Yadav for all future purposes.

0070824835-1

I, Sunil Kumar Kumra S/o Khem Chand R/o E-3/9, 3rd Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar

0070824882-1

I,Abhishek Kumar,S/o.Shyam Bahadur Yadava,R/o.Plot.no.62 and -63 Som Bazar-Road Block-L-Extension Dc Mohan-garden, Delhi-110059,have Changed my -minor's son name,from SA RAJ RATN YADAV TO HARSH YADAV Permanently.

0040652123-1

I, SUNIL KUMAR DIKSHIT, S/O,AMIR CHAND, ADD-VILLAGE GARHI ABHARAH, HATHRAS,UTTAR PRADESH-281306, Changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR, for all,future Purposes

0040652079-3

I,Sukhpal Kaur alias Anju Rani D/o Sh. Raj Kumar W/o Sh. Balvinder Singh R/o Kanipla, 104, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136311 have changed my name to Anju Rani for all purposes.

0040652014-10

I,Sheela C Jomon W/o Jomon R/o RZ-52, T/F, Indra Park Extn., Part-1, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059 declare that Sheelamol Mathew Chempanayil & Sheela C Jomon both are the name of one & same person & i will be known as Sheela C Jomon in future.

0040652060-1

I,Sakila Devi W/O, Nanhaku Prasad R/O H-655-1, H- Block, Palm Ext, Part -1, Palam, New Delhi, 110077, have changed my name to Shakila Devi for all purposes.

0040652020-1

I,Priyanka Arora W/o Rajat Kumar Arora R/o WZ-675, Shiv Nagar Extn., Janakpuri-B1, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Priyanka Bali

0070824846-1

al Prateeksha D/o Arun Kumar R/o 38, Jawahar Nagar, Rampura, Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh-285127,have changed my name to Prateeksha Singh

0070824857-1

I,Neeraj Bakshi D/o Sh. Subash Chander Vaid W/o Sh. Sawan Kumar Datta R/o J-2/33-B, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Neera Bakshi for all purposes.

0040652014-8

I,Charanjeet S/o Sh. Babu Lal R/o H.No.1629-A, Gali No.8, Laxman Vihar Phase-2, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana-122001 have changed my name to Akshat Chopra for all purposes.

0040652014-9

I,SANJEEV KUMAR GUPTA, S/O,RAM BABU GUPTA, H.NO-S-89 SUNDER BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, EAST-DELHI 110092, Changed my name to SANJEEV GUPTA,for all,future Purposes

0040652079-4

I,POONAM RANI, W/O,PARVEEN AHUJA,ADD-D-44,GALI.No-6 HAKIKAT RAJ ROAD ADARSH NAGAR DELHI-110033.Changed my name to POONAM,for all,future Purposes

0040652079-5

I,PARVEEN KUMAR, S/O,GYAN CHAND ADD-D-44,GALI.No-6,HAKIKAT RAJ ROAD ADARSH NAGAR DELHI-110033.Changed my name to PARVEEN AHUJA, for all,future Purposes

0040652079-6

I,KULDEEP BHALLA, S/O,SARDARI LAL, H.NO-B-85, GALI.NO-10,MASJID WALI GALI SHAHDARA,NEW MODERN SHAHDARA EAST DELHI 110032 Changed my name to KULDIP KUMAR BHALLA,for all,future Purposes.

0040652079-7

I,HEMLATA,W/O KAILASH CHAND YADAV R/O 267, GALINO 1,NEAR CONSUMER COURT, SHALIMAR VILLAGE,DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HEMA YADAV.

0040652076-4

I,FARAH alias FARHA alias FARHA NAAZ,W/O MOHAMMAD RASHID,R/O 1464 SUBHASH MOHALLA KALAN MAHAL, DARYAGANJ,DELHI-110002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FARHA BEGUM,permanently.

0040652080-9

I,Vijaender Kumar Randy S/o Raj Dev Pandey R/o C-430 Diviya, Jyoti Apartments,Sector-19, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Vijendra Kumar Pandey.

0040652120-3

I,VIJENDRA SINGH/BIJENDER SINGH S/O SHUKHAVIR R/O VILLAGE SANHAPUR NIJ,MORTA-VAYA, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD,UTTARPRADESH-201001.CHANGED MY NAME TO BIJENDRA.

0040652076-3

I,Suhani Chaudhary,W/o Abhishek Malik R/O V-7/15,S econd-Floor,DLF Ph-3, Gurgaon -122010,Haryana have changed my name to Suhani Malik.

0040652077-1

I,Sonu S/o Ram Pal,R/o H.No. 1560/4 Ashok Vihar Lineper Bahadurgarh Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana)changed my name to Sonu Godwal.

0040652077-6

I,Sidharth Rana s/o-Surendra Rana,R/o B-22A,Duggal Colony, Khanpur,New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Siddharth Rana,for all future purposes.

0040652080-6

I,Shubham Sharma S/o Pradeep Sharma R/o-2252A Raja Park Rani Bagh Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Ishmeet Singh.

0040652076-8

I,Sheetal s/o Satpal Sablok R/o-366 Sector-15, Sonipat have changed my name to Sheetal Sablok, for all purposes.

0040652080-2

I,Sheetal Sablok,S/o Satpal Sablok,R/o-366, Sector-15,Sonipat have changed my minor son's name from Utkarsh, to Utkarsh Sablok,for all purposes.

0040652080-1

I,Abda D/O,Abid Ali Khan,W/o Javed Ul-Haq,R/o,A-23,batia House,Jamia Nagar,New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Abida Tasneem for all purposes.And as per 10th-certificate my true date-of-birth is-06-05-1959

0040652077-4

I,ASHWANI KUMAR,S/O MADAN LAL GROVER,R/O-2753 U/G/F, BLOCK-A, GATE.NO-6, GREEN FIELDS-COLONY, NHPC COLONY,FARIDABAD,HARYANA 121001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHWANI GROVER

0040652077-7

I,Reeka D/o Radhey Shayam R/o D/10 Gali No-4, Kabil Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Riya Rana for all purposes.

0070824855-1

I,Shashi Prakash Rana,S/o Shri.Narayan Singh,R/o-Plot. No.534,Nayak Mohalla, Bijwasan, New Delhi-110061, have change my name,from Shashi Prakash Rana to Shashi Parkash for all,future purpose.

0040652077-9

I,Shagufta Parveen,W/o Chaudhary Zubair Ahmed,R/o-C-53/9 Street.No.14/6 Chauhan Banger,Seelampur Delhi,have changed my name to Shagufta Chaudhary,for all purpose

0040652080-4

I,Sanjeev Davey S/o Venayack Ram Davey R/o B-197, 3rd-Floor,Prashant Vihar,Sector-14,Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my ,minor son name Shrish Davey to Shrish K Dave.

0040652077-3

I,SUNITA JYOTISHI/SUNITA, W/O BINAY KUMAR, R/O HURHURU-RANCHI PATNA ROAD,PO HAZARIBAGH, JHARKHAND 825301,CHANGED my name to SUNITA MISHRA.

0040652079-9

SI,SHAMIMNAZ AKHTARKHAN SHIA,W/O AKHTAR KHAN SIIPIA R/O B-4/174, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053,have changed my name to SHAMIM NAAZ.

0040652123-2

I,SHAMEEM AHMAD, S/O, SALEEM ADD-706-710,GALI GURUDWARA FARASH KHANA, NORTH DELHI 110006, Changed my name to SHAMEEM AHMED, for all future Purposes.

0040652107-5

I,SANJAY KUMAR WADHWA S/O DEV RAJ WADHWA, R/O.85/1, BAURAN-GALI,THANESAR, KURUSHETRA,HARYANA-136118.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY WADHWA.

0040652077-8

I,Rishav S/o Chamma Kumar R/o C-19A, DDA-Flats, Saray-Basti, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Rishabh.

0040652120-6

I,Madhu w/o Sheetal Sablok, R/o-366 Sector-15,Sonipat have changed my name to Madhu Sablok,for all purposes.

0040652080-3

I,Raminder Singh,R/O WZ-588A Shiv Nagar Extn.Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058,Have changed My Daughter's Name,from Saira Kaur Dung to Saira Kaur.

0040652107-6

I,Raminder Singh,R/O WZ-588A Shiv Nagar Extn.Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058,Have Changed My Son Name,from Sidak Singh Dung to Sidak Singh.

0040652107-7

I,Raj Kumar,S/o-Piare Lal,Add- House No.772,Sector-1,Rohtak Haryana-124001,changed my name to Raj Kumar Ranga.

0040652120-1

I,Raj Kumar Verma,S/o-Chiman Lal, H.no-461/14 civil road near meham mor gohana distt sonipat,Haryana-131301, Changed my name toRaj Kumar

0040652079-2

I,Rahul S/o Veer Karan,R/o C-55, Hastal Vihar,Uttam-Nagar, West,Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Rahul Singh Bhadauriya,for all Purposes.

0040652107-1

I,FARAH alias FARHA alias FARHA NAAZ,W/O MOHAMMAD RASHID,R/O 1464 SUBHASH MOHALLA KALAN MAHAL, DARYAGANJ,DELHI-110002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FARHA BEGUM,permanently.

0040652080-9

I,Parvati W/o-Hemraj Diwan, R/O-A-24,Aruna Nagar,Majnu Ka Tilla,Civil Lines,Delhi-110054,have changed my name from Parvati to Parvati Diwan for all future purposes.

0040652113-1

I,PANKAJ SHARMA,S/O KANTI PRASAD JOSHI,R/o 607, 2ND FLOOR, NITI KHAND-3, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201014, changed my name to PANKAJ JOSHI.

0040652079-8

I,NIRAJ KUMAR S/O BIJENDRA R/O 562/2B,BAGRI-MOHALLA, PANA-UDYAN,NARELA,DELHI-110040.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEERAJ KUMAR.

0040652076-2

I,NAJIR YUSUF ANSARI S/O MOHAMMED YOUSUF R/O B-4/174, YAMUNA-VIHAR,DELHI-110053, have changed my name to NASEER AHMED.

0040652123-3

I,Mohd Aqil, S/o Mohd Yamin,R/o 306,Block-A 2nd,Madangir, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar,New Delhi-110062, declare that my name on my passport is mentioned as Mohd Aqil Qureshi although my correct-name as per Aadhar Card,Pan Card and others document is Mohd Aqil and both are one and of the same person i.e. myself.

0040652107-3

I,Mohammad Nidal S/o,Mohd Halim Siddiqui R/O,A-2, New-Friends-Apartment, D-11/119, Zakir-Nagar-West,Delhi 110025, Have changed my name to Mohammad Nidal Siddiqui.

0040652107-3

I,Mateen Ahmed,S/o Mehfooz Ali,R/o-C-53/9,Street.No.14/6, Chauhan Banger,Seelampur Delhi,have changed my name to Chaudhary Mateen Ahmed,for all purpose.

0040652080-5

I, YOGENDER SINGH, S/O SH SURESH CHAND R/O NRC-19D, Gali No.-2, Railway Colony, Mandawali East Delhi-110092 have changed my name YOGINDER KUMAR SINGH to YOGENDER SINGH for All Future Purposes.

0040652032-1

I, Shivraj S/o Vir Singh R/o Flat No.210, Patrakar Parisar, Sec-5, Vasundhri, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shivraj Teotia.

0070824875-1

I,Makhan giri,S/o-Gopi Chandhouse.no.8, kh.no.3049, 25ft-Shani-bazar road, Mansarovar park,Lal-Kuan, Ghaziabad,pin:-201002,UP, changed my name to Makkhan Giri Goswami.

0040652120-2

I,MAHAKLEEN SAHNI,D/O MANPREET SAHNI/MANPREET SINGH, R/O-36, KALYAN VIHAR, NORTH WEST-DELHI, DELHI-110009,have changed my name to MEHAKLEEN KAUR.

0040652080-8

I,Kirpal Singh,S/o Bahadur Singh,R/o WZ-C-18, Gali.No-11,New Mahavir Nagar Tilak Nagar Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Kartar Singh Suri.

0040652077-3

I,Kapil Dev,S/o-Prem Prakash, Address-C/288 4th Floor BPTP, sector-85 faridabad Haryana-121002,changed my name to Kapil Dev Kehar.

0040652079-2

I,KHATUN BEGUM,W/O Lt ABDUL HAFIZ R/O DDA-LIG FLAT No.35-DPOCKET-A,NEW FAFRABAD, DELHI-110032,Have Changed my name is KHATOON BEGUM for all future purpose.

0040652076-5

I,KHATUN BEGUM,W/O Lt ABDUL HAFIZ R/O DDA-LIG FLAT.No.35-DPOCKET-A,NEW ZAFRABAD, DELHI-110032,Have Changed my name is KHATOON BEGUM, for all,future purpose.

0040652077-10

I,KAPIL DEV,S/O SHRI RAJINDER KUMAR,H.NO-99 PCKET-12, SECTOR-20,ROHINI,DELHI-110086,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAPIL DEV GARG.

0040652107-4

I,Jasmeet Kaur Anand,W/o Raminder Singh,R/O WZ-588A Shiv-Nagar Extn. Janak Puri New-Delhi-110058,Have Changed My Name to Jasmeet Kaur.

0040652077-5

I,Japjeev Singh Anand,S/O Raminder Singh,R/O WZ-588A Shiv-Nagar Extn. Janak Puri,New Delhi-110058,Have Changed My Name to Japjeev Singh.

0040652107-8

I,JASKIRATH KAUR SAHNI D/O MANPREET SINGH SAHNI R/O-36, KALYAN VIHAR, MODEL TOWN,DELHI-110009, have changed my name to JASKIRAT KAUR SAHNI.

0040652080-7

I,Ishan Bhandula S/o,Rakesh Bhandula R/o,Flat-No.54, Jeevan Bim-Apartments, East Arjun-Nagar, Near Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Isshaan Bhandula.

0040652120-5

I,Inderdeep Kaur Barmi W/o Deepak Saini R/o,RZ-C-80, Dwarkapuri, Palam-Village, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Inderdeep Kaur.

0040652120-4

I,Hemraj,S/o-Biharilal R/o-A-24,Aruna Nagar,Majnu Ka Tilla, Civil Lines,Delhi-110054,have changed my name from Hemraj to Hemraj Diwan for all future purposes.

0040652113-2

I,HAMIDABANU BINTI MUNSHI MIA,W/O VIVEK HARSH SANTRAM,R/o,A-401, Vijaya-Apartments,AhinsaKhand-2, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad,UP)ha ve changed my name to MIA MUNSHI.

0040652076-6

I,Dinesh Saini,S/O-Kishan Chand Saini,R/O-166-A,near Shiv Mandir,Saini Mohalla, Barwala Delhi-110039,have changed my name to Dinesh Singh.In future I shall be known only as Dinesh Singh.

0040652113-3

I,Deepak Gupta S/o Jagdish Chander Gupta R/o-A-20,Panchwati,Azadpur Delhi-110003,changed my minor son's name Divyum Gupta to Divyaum Gupta.

0040652076-9

I,Deepa W/o Junaid R/O CN-10 S-210/322, B.R.Camp,Race Course- Club,NDMC Delhi-110003Have Changed my Name to Rida.

0040652076-1

I,Bratatz Sanyal,W/o Diprangshu Sannyal,R/O UG-3-1/2,Balaji-Arcade 1st-Floor, Sector-5,Rajender-Nagar, Ghaziabad-201005,have changed my name to Bratati Sanyal.

0040652107-9

I, hitherto known as LOVELY alias LOVELY SINGH, S/o KRISHAN PAL, R/o Village Raispur, Near Old Shiv Mandir, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANUBHAV SINGH.

0070824837-1

I, Sagar Kumar Singh S/o Sh.Manas Kumar Singh, R/O-H.No.J-302,BPTP, Princes-park sector-86, faridabad, Haryana, have changed my name Sagar Singh to Sagar Kumar Singh,for all future purposes

0040651498-1

I, SANTOSH W/o Prabhu Dayal Dewan R/o S-23 Sec-12 Noida G.B.Nagar UP-201301 have changed my name to Santosh Dewan for all future purposes

0070824877-1

I, SALONI LAMBA, D/o SH BALDEV RAJ LAMBA, R/o 3181, Tower Cedar Park Laureate, Sector 108, Noida, GB Nagar, UP-201304, have changed my name to SOLONI LAMBA.

0070824820-1

I, Richa Chaturvedi W/o Ashutosh Tiwari R/o E1905, 18th Floor Galaxy Vega, Techzone-4, G.Noida have changed my name to Richa C Tiwari.

0070824872-1

I, Rakesh Kumar Gautam S/o Muditrika Ram R/o Village-Amdaria, Post-Ratsar, Distt-Ballia, Uttar Pradesh-277123, have changed my minor son's name from Raj Arya Gautam aged 16 years to Riyansh forever

0070824858-1

I, Rajee Singh Chauhan, S/O Dhyan Singh Chauhan, R/O M-17, Sector-12, Noida, G.B.Nagar U.P.-201301, have changed my name Rajesh Singh Chauhan to Rajee Singh Chauhan for all further purposes. 0070824851-1

I, Rajat Kumar, S/o Shyam Kumar, R/O WZ-675, Shiv Nagar Extn., Janakpuri-B1, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Rajat Kumar Arora.

0070824849-1

I Tushar, S/O. Shreeraj Mahayan, R/O, 8/17 Jangpura Lane Mathura Road Bhogal New Delhi 110014, have changed my name to Tushar Vardhan Mahayan Zen. For all future Purposes.

0040644798-

LOST & FOUND

I,RAJESH WADHWA S/O Late Khushal Chand R/O 17/1 Old Rajinder Nagar New Delhi-110060 have lost Original Lease Deed & Conveyance Deed of my property No.10/61 Old Rajinder Nagar New Delhi-110060. Finder please contact above address.

0040652012-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be known to the general public that my clients, Shri Ashok Kumar S/o Shri Jawahir & Smt. Tara Devi W/o Shri Ashok Kumar, R/o RZ-625, Gali No. 39/5 Indira Park Palam Colony, Palam Village, West Delhi-45, have disowned, their son namely Satender Kumar, from their all movable and immovable properties and in their relations with him as he used to frequently quarrel with them and not taking care of them. Any body dealing with their son shall do so at his/her own risk, and consequences and my clients will not be responsible for all their actions and have disowned their son, wherever he is in any manner whatsoever.

I,RAJESH BAKSHI,ADVOCATE CH. NO. 40, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, NEW DELHI. MOBILE: 9811568328

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that my client, Mr. Gopal Upadhyay, S/O, Mr. Shingur Upadhyay, and his Mr. Rahul Upadhyay all R/O, 1419 Lodhi Road, Kirti Nagar, Delhi-110029, South Delhi, Delhi-110003 have cut off their family members and have disowned their son, wherever he is in any manner whatsoever.

I,RAJESH BAKSHI,ADVOCATE CH. NO. 40, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, NEW DELHI. MOBILE: 9811568328

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold MG Flat No.125, Second Floor, Block-1, Naraina Vihar, Nagar Delhi, presently owned and possessed by Shri Bhim Lal by virtue of Will dated 29.08.2017 executed by Sh. Prem Prakash Verma in favour of Sh. Sh. Bhim Lal & Smt. Shanti (Half Undivided share), duly registered vide Regd. No.619, dated 23.08.2017 and by virtue of Gift Deed dated 23.06.2022 executed by Smt. Shanti in favour of Sh. Bhim Lal (Half Undivided share) duly registered vide Regd. No. Regd. No.3532, dated 23.06.2022, is offered to Security with State Bank of India. Branch: RACP, Naraina, New Delhi / other Bank / I / NBFC and as per present owner's version the said property is/are free from all sorts of encumbrance.

I, it is hereby notified that any person, Legal heir of deceased, beneficiary of WILL and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or any member of society, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, financial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim and / or objection to thereof, he/she/they may lodge/notify the same to the undersigned, with documentary proof/record, judgment, within 15 days from the date of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/future claim/objection (s) shall be rejected and my client / prospective buyer (s) shall be deemed to have purchased the title/ Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favour of my client or in the name of his/her/ their nominees shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw and impediment.

AEET KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Chamber No. 561, 5th Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi; M- 9810039471

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Flat bearing No. 124 on 1st Floor, Cat-MIG, Block-A, Pocket-1, Sector-7, situated at Rohini, Delhi; hereinafter referred to as "said property". Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc., that our Clients, Mr. Shonkar Lal Gangi, S/o Late Shri Dutt Gangi R/O A-380, U.G.F. Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said property from Mrs. Sadhna Shivastava W/o Shri Deependra R/O D-141/5 Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Mrs. Savita Maheshwari W/o Shri S.P. Maheshwari R/O FLU-41, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110085, and Mrs. Sudha Nigam W/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Nigam R/O 1770205, Sharda Nagar, New Nagar Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208025 (hereinafter called the "Seller"). The seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said property. In this connection, the seller also informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by their Mother, Mrs. Urmila C Nigam vide Conveyance deed executed by President of India through Delhi Development Authority in her favour in respect of the said property. The said deed is registered with the concerned Sub- Registrar of Assurances, as Document No. 8550, Book No. 1, Volume No. 5197, Page No. 31-33, Registered on 02.06.2014 (SRO-VII). After her demise, the said property dev



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

**THE INDIAN EXPRESS
EXCELLENCE IN
GOVERNANCE AWARDS
2020-2021**Making govt
schemes accessible
IMPLEMENTATION OF
CENTRAL SCHEMES**ROHIT SINGH**
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PAGE 10

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2022-23

Survey banks on fiscal discipline and higher capex to drive growth

Expected growth rate 6.5-7% in rest of decade, says CEA

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE ECONOMY will likely grow 6.0-6.8 per cent in 2023-24 with a baseline real GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent on the back of a rebound in private consumption, higher capital expenditure, strengthening of corporate balance sheets and near-universal vaccination coverage enabling spending on contact-based services, the Economic Survey for

**Chief
Economic
Advisor
V Anantha
Nageswaran**

EXPLAINED

KEY TAKEAWAYS
PAGE 15

2022-23 tabled in Parliament on Tuesday said.

A key Budget pointer from the Economic Survey 2022-23 authored by Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran clearly is the likelihood that the government may meet its fiscal deficit target for the current year (at 6.4 per cent of GDP) and further keep a modest target of under 6 per cent for 2023-24. The Survey has placed sufficient emphasis on fiscal consolidation,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Budget will be ray of hope for world: PM

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said Tuesday that the Budget for 2023-24 will not only try to fulfil the hopes and dreams of the common man in the country but it will also be a ray of hope for the world.

Speaking before the start of the Budget session of Parliament, Modi said, "The Finance Minister of our country is also a woman, she will present one more Budget to the country tomorrow."

"In today's global situation, not only India's but the whole world's attention is on India's Budget. In the unstable economic situation of the world, India's Budget will not only try to fulfil the hopes and dreams of the common man of India, but the ray of hope which the world is seeing, will shine more brightly," he said. He said he has full faith that the Finance Minister will make "utmost efforts to fulfil these expectations".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on the opening day of the Budget Session, in New Delhi on Tuesday. *Renuka Puri*

Article 370 to triple talaq, Govt has been decisive: President to House

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

IN HER first address to a joint sitting of Parliament, President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday highlighted the steps taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, and called it "decisive".

"India now has a government which is stable, fearless, and decisive, and which works to fulfil big dreams. It has a government which respects honesty and works to solve the poor's problems and empower them permanently," the President said.

"From surgical strike to a firm crackdown on terrorism, from a

befitting response to every misadventure from LoC to LAC, from abrogation of Article 370 to triple talaq, my government has been recognised as a decisive government."

This stability and decisiveness, she said, enabled the country to effectively deal with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Five names for apex court pending, Collegium recommends two more

Clears elevation of Justices Rajesh Bindal & Aravind Kumar

ANANTHAKRISHNAN & APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Tuesday recommended Justice Rajesh Bindal

and Justice Aravind Kumar — they are Chief Justices of the High Courts of Allahabad and Gujarat, respectively — for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Collegium's fresh recommendation comes even as the five previous recommendations

for appointment as Supreme Court Judges are pending. On December 13 last year, the Collegium had recommended five names and the appointments are yet to be made.

The Collegium, also comprising Justices SK Kaul, KM Joseph,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Risks to growth: Entrenched inflation and depreciating rupee

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE ECONOMIC Survey may have presented an optimistic growth outlook for the next year, but it did highlight the risks of an "entrenched inflation" and hence "higher and longer" interest rates, and a "depreciating rupee" leading to higher current

EXPLAINED

account deficit, both on account of global headwinds.

"On the external front, risks to the current account balance stem from multiple sources. While commodity prices have retreated from record highs, they are still above pre-conflict levels. Strong domestic demand amidst high commodity prices will raise India's total import bill and contribute to unfavourable

developments in the current account balance," the Survey said.

At the same time, the Survey expressed the likelihood of plateauing export growth due to "slackening" global demand amid recessionary concerns in various advanced economies and shrinking of international trade. If the CAD — the difference between the value of goods and services imported into India and the value of those exported out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

With Rs 9,500-crore bids from FIIs and corporates, Adani FPO pulls through

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

CORPORATES AND foreign investors bailed out the Rs 20,000-crore follow-on public offering (FPO) of Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) Tuesday amid volatility in the stock market and the crash in Adani group shares following the release of the Hindenburg Research report that accused it of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud".

Despite the AEL share's mar-

ket price quoting below the issue price, the FPO was subscribed 1.12 times on the last day of the issue following a strong response from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), including foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and non-institutional investors (NIIIs) such as family offices of big industrialists that manage their personal wealth and ultra-high networth individuals.

The QIB portion was subscribed 1.26 times and NIIs 3.32 times. Corporates bid for 1.66 crore shares worth Rs 5,438 crore

and FIIs applied for 1.24 crore shares worth Rs 4,127 crore.

However, the retail investors' portion was subscribed only 0.12 times (12 per cent) with investors bidding for only 27.45 lakh shares as against the quota of 2.29 crore shares. The employees' quota also remained under-subscribed with only 55 per cent of the quota getting bids. The undersubscribed portion of retail investors and employees will be allocated to QIBs and NIIs.

Overall, the FPO received bids

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PM CARES Fund not of Govt, RTI doesn't apply: Centre to HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE CENTRE has informed the Delhi High Court that PM CARES Fund has been set up as a public charitable trust, and has not been created under the Constitution or any law made by Parliament or the State.

It also said the trust is not a public authority under the Right to Information Act.

The Centre's response came on a plea seeking to declare the Fund a 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning.

When the matter was called before a division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad on Tuesday, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for petitioner Samyak Gangwal, submitted that representations have been made to the general public by high public and constitutional functionaries asking for contribution to PM CARES.

"There are scores of constitutional functionaries...you are allowed a large amount of flexibility but there are constitutional fetters. If you are not (State), then you cannot have government symbols or a government website so that the public thinks that you are State. Either you are 'State' or you are not," Divan said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPRESS NETWORK

**EX-LAW MINISTER
SHANTI BHUSHAN
DIES AT 97****ASARAM GETS LIFE
IMPRISONMENT IN
2013 RAPE CASE****MORBI: NEGLIGENCE,
SAYS CHARGESHEET;
OREVA MD HELD**

PAGES 9, 10

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* Former Secretary Govt. of India**Shri Anil K. Sinha IAS** (Retd.)
* Former Executive Director NIDM & Former Advisor,
International Recovery Platform/UNDP, Kobe, Japan**Dr. G.C. Srivastava IAS** (Retd.)
* Ex-member Secretary 12th Finance Commission
* Vice Chairman Central Administrative Tribunal**Shri R. Srinivasan IES** (Retd.)
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* Former Ambassador of South Korea, Uzbekistan**Ambassador Ashok Kumar IFS** (Retd.)
Former Head of Indian Council of World Affairs
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Former Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, M.P.**Mrs Sangeeta Gupta, IRS** (Retd.)
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(Ex Special Secretary to Govt. of India)**Prof. R.V. Sharma**
(Retd. Prof. of Political Science D.U.)**Dr. S.S. Chaudhary**
(Director Vajirao & Reddy Institute)**Shri O.P. Singh IPS** (Retd.)
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* Former DGP CISF & NDRF**Shri Ranjiv Singh Dalal IPS** (Retd.)
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* Former Director General of Police, UP**Shri Arun Jha, IAS** (Retd.)
Former Secretary, Government of India**Shri B.B. Srivastava IAS** (Retd.)
* Former Secretary to the Govt. of India Department
of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development)**Shri A.K. Mangotra IAS** (Retd.)
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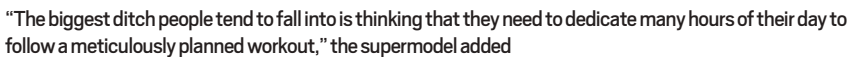
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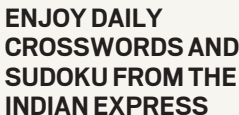
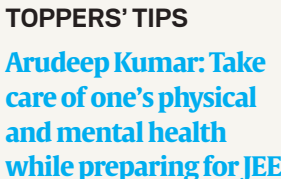
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PUZZLES AND GAMES



It said “the names recommended earlier by the Collegium by its resolution dated 13 December 2022 shall have precedence over the two names recommended presently for appointment to the Supreme Court” and “therefore, the appointments of five judges recommended on 13 December 2022 should be notified separately and earlier in point of time before the two judges recommended by this resolution”.

OVER FIVE MONTHS

Ex-Uber employee booked ‘for embezzling Rs 1 crore by making fake driver profiles’

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, JANUARY 31

A FORMER Uber employee has been booked for allegedly cheating the company of Rs 1.17 crore by creating more than 388 fake driver partner accounts and fraudulently transferring the money to those accounts, said police in Gurgaon on Tuesday.

According to the police, a complaint was lodged by an authorised signatory of Uber India Systems Private Limited in Gurgaon against a former contractor in September 2022. After

an enquiry by the economic offences-2 wing of Gurgaon police, a case was registered against him on Monday.

Police said the complainant stated that the accused worked as a contractor in the driver operations team at its office on Golf Course Road from August 2021 to December 2021. He was hired through a vendor and was responsible for driver arrears function, which involved handling of arrears due from driver partners to Uber. He resigned on December 19, 2021, said police.

Police said that according to the complaint, the accused al-

legedly created and placed non-genuine driver partner accounts in a company spreadsheet. "This was not a part of his scope of work and these accounts did not require any payments to be applied. Internal enquiries by the company found that the non-genuine driver partner accounts were created in bulk and in 191 cases out of 388, the IP addresses which were used to create these fake accounts matched with the IP addresses used by the accused to log into his work computer," reads the FIR.

The FIR further states, "Of the 388 drivers, 345 had a phone

number attached to their account and all 345 phone numbers were unique. Aside from a few duplicates, the names on the accounts were all different as well. There are 388 driver partner accounts which received money fraudulently and the money had been paid into 18 bank accounts. Each bank account was linked to many fake partner accounts."

Police said the accused allegedly used an internal automated tool to apply tags to the driver accounts, which exempted them from some of the company's fraud rules designed to prevent fraudulent payments.

"Whenever there is a negative balance in a driver partner's account, the company employees or contractors message the driver partner to pay back the amount due from them. When the driver partner pays the money, a positive payment is applied to their account to remove the negative balance. The details of the positive payments to be applied to the accounts are uploaded to a spreadsheet which is uploaded to an Uber Payment Tool through an automated python script. This upload would add a positive balance to the driver partner's account to remove arrears which

would allow them to drive again," added the complainant.

Police said the alleged fraud was detected after the accused resigned from the company. A senior police officer said, "A probe has been initiated. The accused is yet to be arrested."

A spokesperson of Uber declined to comment on the case.

An FIR was registered against the accused under IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 408 (criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant), 420 (cheating) and 477-A (falsification of accounts) at Sushant Lok police station, said police.

Shankar Mishra gets bail as court takes note of ‘contradictions’

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

TAKING NOTE of the fact that a witness did not support the claim made by the victim, a Delhi court Tuesday granted bail to Shankar Mishra, who has been accused of urinating on a co-passenger while inebriated onboard an Air India flight between New York and Delhi in November last year.

Additional Sessions Judge Harijot Singh Bhalla granted bail to Mishra after going through the statement of the passenger seated next to the complainant to state that the witness has "not supported the claim made by the victim in her statement, which, of course, cannot also be completely brushed aside at this stage... The claim has, therefore, become more of a matter of trial".

Mishra's lawyer Akshat Bajpai told *The Indian Express*, "We are expecting our client to be released later in the night. The court has agreed with the main arguments made on the conduct of the accused and the statement of witnesses in this case."

The court admitted Mishra's bail on furnishing a bail bond/surety bond of Rs 1 lakh with one surety of the like amount. He has been asked not to influence witnesses in the case, tamper with evidence or leave the country.

On the prosecution's opposition that Mishra was a flight risk, the court said that the FIR was registered after a delay of a month and five days of the incident. It said that following this, a very short



Mishra was sent to judicial custody on January 7

notice was sent to Mishra to join the investigation, and not joining the investigation at such a short notice "cannot show that Mishra was trying to flee from judicial process".

"It is but natural for anyone accused of a cognizable offence to be in a state of panic and seek an opportunity to be able to exercise the right for seeking anticipatory bail or any other remedy that may be available," the court said.

The court also noted that there is no report that the accused tried to threaten or intimidate the witnesses or the victim at any stage. "Although there is a claim that the accused has apologised to the victim in the flight and that subsequently he transferred some money in her account, which was later on returned, simultaneously, there is no unequivocal claim that he has been trying to harass the victim after the incident," the court said.

The prosecution had argued that Mishra was in a position to influence the witnesses and complainant. Mishra's lawyer, senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, had argued that the initial complaints against his client to the airline authorities were over the reimbursement of tickets and "no action had been sought against me".

‘Biased narratives... to favour particular community’: Centre on riot commissions

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday transferred to another HC bench a plea that sought quashing of reports by "private and extrajudicial commissions" pertaining to violence that occurred during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that matters pertaining to the same controversy are assigned to Divisional Bench-II, and thereafter directed the transfer of the plea to the said bench, which is headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul. The matter is next listed on February 10.

The Central government in its affidavit dated September 19, 2022, has informed the court that this "sinister practice" has now become a norm wherein after certain crimes, a "motivated malicious sinister device is created by certain vested interest individuals, private organisations, NGOs, etc to give offence political/com-

munal flavour of being backed by the government of the day, helping a particular community" and discrediting the statutory investigation that is happening.

The Centre has alleged that these "private organisations first create a social media storm and generate a biased narrative accusing the government of being the mastermind of such offence against said particular community/caste". The narrative metamorphs into a national debate by a section of the media and social media influencers who share the same vested interest and mostly operate unregulated, it said.

The affidavit states that to generate a negative public opinion on the basis of the "fake, false or half-true facts", these private organisations constitute "private and extrajudicial commissions" headed by retired bureaucrats, constitutional functionaries or self-proclaimed activists who have personal association with such private organisations.

It said that based on the fake, false or half-true facts presented before it, these private and extra-

judicial commissions enter into a so-called process of "collecting and recording evidences to give it a façade of statutory inquiry or investigation". "After conducting such exercise, (they) come out with a completely biased report which in most of the cases is found to be a report acting as a cover-up to the offence and portraying real accused as victims of the crimes and real victims the accused of crimes," the Centre's affidavit said.

The Centre's affidavit is filed in support of the public interest litigation moved by one Dharmesh Sharma, who alleges that his family-run school in Delhi's Mustafabad area was burned down during the 2020 Delhi riots. He sought quashing of different reports prepared by the Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Citizens and Lawyers Initiative on the riots. He has also sought quashing of an inquiry panel set up by an organisation called Constitutional Conduct Group. Sharma has claimed that reports

published by the DMC as well as other organisations are misleading, biased and impede the due process of law.

The Centre said these reports have ignored that Delhi Police acted in a fair manner and more than 750 FIRs were registered and three Special Investigation Teams were set up to ensure a fair investigation. The Centre has alleged that the "tone and tenor of the reports is biased to sway the public opinion in favour of a particular community".

On the fact-finding committee constituted by DMC, the Centre said it was set up to send a wrong message on the lawful actions against the Delhi Police. Referring to statements from the DMC report which said that "Delhi is suffering from violence by police and goons against peaceful protestors against CAA/NRC", the Centre said it had drawn its conclusions at the outset acting in a premeditated manner. The Centre assailed the jurisdiction of the DMC to carry out the fact-finding exercise, stating the DMC Act does not empower it to do so.

Student's death: After IIT push, subway set to open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

WEEKS AFTER an IIT student died in a car accident while crossing the road, the Public Works Department (PWD) has decided to open the subway round the clock to provide safe crossing for students following the request of IIT Delhi.

The subway situated between the IIT gate 1 and the SDA market remains shut after 10 pm, forcing the students to cross the busy road. All subways in Delhi are open to the public from 6 am to 10 pm.

However, following the death of an IIT Delhi PhD scholar, the institute requested the PWD to open the subway round the clock.

"The security of IIT requested us to open the subway all night as students often go to the SDA mar-



IIT-D had requested PWD to open the subway 24x7

ket. Due to anti-social elements, we close all subways at night. But here, the student movement is frequent even till 2-3 am. The security team assured us they will deploy a security guard inside the subway to ensure students' safety. So, we have given permission but other subways will stay closed after 10 pm," said a senior PWD official.

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2. E-Tender No.: **2023/IRCTC/NZ/IF-FFU/OpenTender** for Setting up, operation and management of Fast Food Units and Food Plazas at B, C & D Category Stations over Indian Railways under IRCTC/North Zone. Availability of E-Tender document: **03.02.2023**. Pre-bid Meeting: **15.02.2023 at 12.30 hrs.** (Through VC). Last date of submission: **27.02.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.** e-mail id: ffpu.nz@irctc.com
3. E-Tender No.: **COINIT/FP-FFU/2022/09** for Setting up, Operation and Management of Food Plaza at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. Last Date for submission of Tender is **21.02.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.** and same shall be opened on **21.02.2023 at 15.15 hrs.**
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S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended	Nine Month Ended	Year Ended		Quarter Ended	Nine Month Ended	Year Ended	
		31st December, 2022	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2022	31st March, 2022	31st December, 2022	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2022	31st March, 2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	285.46	-	285.46	-	6,959.39	-	18,869.98	-
2	Net Profit / (loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	(29.73)	(0.05)	(76.21)	(0.35)	(332.18)	(0.10)	(904.20)	(0.68)
3	Net Profit / (loss) for the period after tax and exceptional items	(29.73)	(0.05)	(76.21)	(0.35)	(325.65)	(0.10)	(878.12)	(0.69)
4	Total Comprehensive Income / (loss) for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(29.73)	(0.05)	(76.21)	(0.35)	(331.85)	(0.10)	(896.73)	(0.69)
5	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 5 each)	1,346.78	3.04	1,346.78	3.04	1,346.78	3.04	1,346.78	3.04
6	Earnings per share in rupees: (Quarterly Not Annualised)								
	- Basic (in ₹)	(0.91)	(0.16)	(2.34)	(1.15)	(10.00)	(0.34)	(26.97)	(2.27)
	- Diluted (in ₹)	(0.91)	(0.16)	(2.34)	(1.15)	(10.00)	(0.34)	(26.97)	(2.27)

- The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee & approved by the Board of Directors of Kamdhenu Ventures Limited at their respective meetings held on 30th January, 2023. The statutory auditors have carried out limited review of the consolidated and standalone unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months period ended 31st December, 2022 in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015 and have issued an unmodified review report.
- The Company got listing approval from BSE Ltd and National Stock Exchange of India Limited on 20th January, 2023 and 2,69,35,500 equity shares of ₹ 5 each allotted pursuant to scheme of Arrangement got listed on 24th January, 2023.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited quarterly results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the unaudited financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and on the company website www.kamdhenupaints.com

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Kamdhenu Ventures Limited

Saurabh Agarwal
Managing Director
DIN: 00005970

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 30th January, 2023

**KAMDHENU GROUP**

KAMDHENU VENTURES LIMITED
CIN: U51909HR2019PLC089207
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, Tower-A, Building No.9, DLF Cyber City Phase-III, Gurgaon-122 002
Phone no.: 0124-4604500 Fax: 0124-4218524
Email: cs@kamdhenupaints.com Website: www.kamdhenupaints.com



**NABARD**

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Head Office: Plot No. C-24, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai 400051. Website: www.nabard.org



UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

₹ crore)						
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		9 months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2021	31.03.2022
		[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	9,965.88	9,636.43	9,059.98	28,463.40	27,456.60
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,546.35	1,457.42	1,773.66	4,421.43	5,242.64
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,546.35	1,457.42	1,773.66	4,421.43	5,242.64
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,169.97	1,102.69	1,335.21	3,345.25	3,923.07
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Paid-up share capital	17,080.00	17,080.00	16,580.00	17,080.00	16,580.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)					43,116.93
8	Securities Premium Account	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9	Net Worth	63,183.23	62,013.26	58,368.34	63,183.23	58,368.34
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	6,12,330.09	5,95,484.44	5,69,757.19	6,12,330.09	5,69,757.19
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Debt-Equity Ratio	9.57	9.48	9.65	9.57	9.65
13	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Not Applicable

* Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt includes Outstanding Deposits, Bonds & Debentures and Borrowings.

Notes: 1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Nine-month ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Nine-month ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (NSE: www.nseindia.com and BSE: www.bseindia.com) and on the bank's website (www.nabard.org).

Place : Mumbai
Date : January 31, 2023

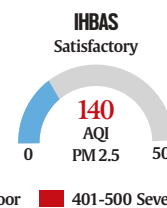
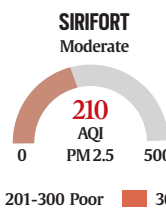
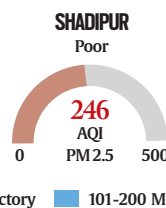
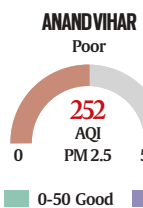
Shaji K V
Chairman

गॉव बदे >> दो देश बदे



/nabardonline

Taking Rural India >> Forward



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: February 1
Mainly clear sky, Strong surface winds (speed 25-35 kmph) during the day

MAX: 20
2.1° C below normal

MIN: 10
1.5° C above normal

BRIEFLY

Rana Ayyub's case: SC reserves order on plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its order on a plea by journalist Rana Ayyub challenging the proceedings before a court in Uttar Pradesh in a money laundering case against her for allegedly misusing charity funds. A bench of V Ramasubramanian and J B Pardiwala reserved its verdict with Ayyub contending that she had "not fraudulently induced anyone to part with their money" and questioning the motives of the complainant and the Enforcement Directorate asserting that it had only gone strictly by the charges against her and not the complainant.

6,112 teachers appointed for schools run by Delhi govt

New Delhi: As many as 6,112 new teachers have been appointed in Delhi government schools in four months, and another 2,200 will be appointed by March, L-G House officials said Tuesday. Officials said the vacancies had been filled between two review meetings revolving around status of vacancies in the education department chaired by the L-G – on September 16 last year and Tuesday – through regular recruitment by the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board. **ENS**



Associated with the anti-corruption movement helmed by Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal, Shanti Bhushan was among the first few members of AAP and acted as a guide for the then fledgling party. *Archive*

Shanti Bhushan and AAP – from Rs 1 cr ‘seed money’ to strained ties

JATIN ANAND & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

FROM ITS founding member to a fierce critic, former union law minister and Rajya Sabha MP Shanti Bhushan's stint with the Aam Aadmi Party may have lasted only three years, but was instrumental in paving the way for the party's arrival on the national stage.

The 97-year-old, who passed away Tuesday, had famously donated Rs 1 crore to the party the day it was founded, in November 2012. But that was not all. Associated with the anti-corruption movement helmed by social activist Anna Hazare and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Bhushan was among the first few

members of AAP and acted as a guide for the then fledgling party. "Shocked and pained to hear this news. The country has lost one of the greatest legal luminaries of our times. God bless his soul," Kejriwal tweeted on Tuesday night.

Those closely associated with AAP say Bhushan's association with the anti-corruption movement in 2011 and subsequently with the AAP extended to the initial days of the 49-day government that the party formed in Delhi in 2013.

"He was an active part of all key meetings held initially, where the party's constitution and structure were discussed. He was an ace lawyer with immense respect in legal circles, also guiding the party in legal positions and issues related to its main

plank of anti-corruption," said a former senior party member.

Tensions arose when the AAP decided to form the government in Delhi in 2013 with outside support from the Congress. "Bhushan was against the decision of forming a minority government with Congress support. That was the first time Kejriwal and Bhushan disagreed strongly on an issue, but differences were resolved, especially after the former decided to step down as CM over the Jan Lokpal Bill being introduced in the Assembly," said a partyman.

In 2015, Bhushan praised BJP's decision to field Kiran Bedi as its chief ministerial candidate. He also said AAP needed a "re-orientation" and seemed to have forgotten the principles it began with.

"Very sad to hear. My sincere

condolences," said Bedi on Tuesday night.

Just weeks earlier, party insiders say, he, Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav had raised objections over the selection of some candidates for the 2015 Delhi assembly elections. Some, but not all, candidates were changed, and many won the polls. Kejriwal had at the time said the disagreement was an example of "internal democracy".

After AAP came to power with 67 out of 70 seats, the distance between the two factions grew wider, with Prashant and Yadav being expelled from the party later that year.

"Shanti Bhushan was a man who never minced his words, which is why he was always a misfit in politics," said one AAP leader.

Police push to shut Gurgaon club raided recently

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, JANUARY 31

DAYS AFTER the Gurgaon police conducted a raid at the Casa Danza nightclub in Gurgaon's Udyog Vihar, following a "secret input" about a "rave party", senior officers said they have written to the excise department in Haryana to cancel the club's licence.

The management of Casa Danza declined to comment on the matter.

"We have written to the excise commissioner to cancel the club's licence. We have attached contents of the FIR and details of the narcotics recovered. Since the raid, the club has been shut. No arrests have been made so far and a probe has been initiated," said a police officer, requesting anonymity.

Around 2 am on Saturday, several police teams, including three ACPs, and a team from the chief medical officer's office had raided the club. During the raid, which lasted over five hours, blood samples of 288 people were collected at the club. Police had said that no narcotics had been recovered from anyone's personal possession.

Police, however, added that since there was a suspicion that people at the club had allegedly consumed a narcotic, contraband or a psychotropic substance, the blood samples of all party-goers had been taken. After sampling, during a search of the club premises, 10.67 gram charas, 6.3 gram heroin, 6.3 gram cocaine, 3.67 gram MDMA, 2.2 gram marijuana in packets, and some suspicious tablets were recovered from the premises, police had said.

Police Tuesday said they have sent the blood samples to the forensic science laboratory for testing and are awaiting the reports. "After the test reports are received, necessary action shall be taken accordingly. We are examining the CCTV footage to ascertain if someone had disposed of the narcotics at the premises or they were being supplied at the club," said the police officer.

Flipkart delivery woman, mother of 3: Jyoti's murder leaves family in disarray

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A DAY after 35-year-old Jyoti, a mother of three, was shot dead by an unidentified assailant, her children rued the loss of someone who wielded the dual responsibility of taking care of the house and earning to fulfil everyone's needs.

At her house in Nihal Vihar, her 14-year-old daughter told *The Indian Express*: "My mother used to drop me and my two other siblings to school on her scooter in the morning before leaving for her job at 1 pm and returning around 6 pm. She was the backbone of our family."

Jyoti started working as a delivery agent at Flipkart around a month ago. Before this, she worked as a domestic help in several houses in the locality. She is survived by a husband, two daughters aged 16 and 14, and a nine-year-old son.

Said her daughter, "She recently took up the job of a delivery agent as she was not satisfied with money given to her as a domestic help. My father works at a plastic manufacturing company and can't singlehandedly run the family and pay our school fees."



Jyoti with her husband and their 16-year-old daughter

DCP (Outer) Harendra Singh said they received a call from Sehgal Hospital regarding the admission of the woman, who was declared dead on arrival. He added that on enquiry, it was found that around 7:15 pm on Monday, while Jyoti was riding back to her house from Vikas Puri side on the Outer Ring Road towards Peeragarhi, an unknown person shot her near Outer Delhi's Meera Bagh traffic signal and fled the spot.

The DCP added that when police reached the spot, the scooter was not present at the location. A case under IPC section 302 (mur-

der) has been lodged at Paschim Vihar Police Station.

"We have got no concrete leads so far. The motive can be falling out with a friend as we suspect that the accused and the victim knew each other. We are also trying to ascertain what happened to the scooter," an officer said, adding that the husband too has been questioned.

Her husband, Deepak, 38, said the family depended on Jyoti, both emotionally as well as financially. "Not a lot of women work as delivery agents but when my wife decided to switch jobs, my relatives or I did not stop her. I

know she is a hardworking woman and can ably go around the city delivering parcels. I leave for my factory around 9 pm and she is the one to pack tiffin for me and my children and drop each of them to school."

"One can ask anyone in the locality about her or the houses she has worked in. She was only bothered about her work and nothing else mattered to her," he said.

Jyoti's brother Lalit said she was the eldest of his three sisters, and all the siblings followed her example and considered her their mentor. "She did not have a lot of degrees but was doing all she could to give my nieces and nephew a bright future," he said. Her eldest daughter said: "When I last spoke to her, she said that she is bringing edibles from a nearby shop like she always did when returning from work. A few minutes later we received a call regarding her death."

A senior police officer said they are examining CCTV footage across the entire stretch where the incident took place to trace where the accused might have fled or whether he came with another accomplice on a two-wheeler. "We haven't found any witness to the shooting so far," the officer said.

they had weapons and stabbed him. How can knives be allowed near the school? We want justice. My brother was innocent," he said.

The family said they are now preparing for Mohan's last rites instead of their daughter's wedding.

DCP Pandey didn't respond to the queries about the incident and arrests.

This is the third incident over the past two weeks where a teenager was stabbed to death. On January 22, 18-year-old Harsh from Sanjay Colony was allegedly thrashed and stabbed to death by a group of boys in a snatching bid. On January 29, another 18-year-old was allegedly stabbed by a man after the accused suspected him of having an affair with his wife.

DEPUTY CM OPPOSED TO MOVE

Near Pragati Maidan, venue for G20, slum gets eviction notice

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AHEAD OF the G20 Summit, the Delhi Chief Secretary has directed the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to demolish the slum situated on Bhairon Marg, opposite Pragati Maidan, and shift residents to nearby shelter homes, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The plan, though, has run into opposition from Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who has asked the PWD not to go ahead with it.

The G20 Summit, to be held at the Pragati Maidan ITPO in September, will have foreign delegates and dignitaries in attendance. Slum dwellers have already been served eviction notice. Sources said a meeting was held on January 25 at the CS's office, attended by DUSIB and PWD officials, who were directed to rehabilitate the inhabitants of the slum. The upcoming G20 found a mention, sources said, adding that directions to demolish a slum at Dhaula Kuan were also given.

"The slum is located just opposite Pragati Maidan's gate 1 and foreign dignitaries will be visiting the stretch. It is PWD land and slum dwellers have illegally encroached on the area," said a government official, requesting anonymity.

Sources said the CS directed DUSIB to conduct a study and submit a report to the PWD with a list of shelter shelters. "There is no shelter home nearby. However, there are two night shelters in Dwarka and Geeta Colony, where around 300 and 200 persons can be accommodated respectively. DUSIB submitted the report on January 27," said a government official.

Sources said that on January 28, PWD issued eviction notices, asking them to "demolish" their jhuggis and vacate the area in 15



The slum situated on Bhairon Marg. *Express*

days, failing which they will be removed with the help of police and be shifted to night shelters.

Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar did not respond to queries seeking a comment.

The PWD, though, is in a tight spot as Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has asked the department to withdraw the notice and not demolish the slum.

An order by Sisodia reads: "Whereas, there is a procedure for removal/demolition/relocation... as per the Delhi Slum and Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015 for jhuggis in NCT of Delhi. PWD has issued a 'notice' dated 28.1.2023 for the removal of jhuggis at Bhairon Marg in front of gate number 1, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The said 'notice' has been issued contrary to the procedures laid down in the policy. Further, the notice has been issued without approval of the minister in-charge (PWD)," reads the order.

"It is further directed that any order/notice regarding removal or relocation of jhuggis shall be issued in future only after following due procedure as per the policy and also after approval of the minister. This order shall be strictly complied with," it reads. "The PWD is in a fix... The department will convey the Deputy CM's orders to the CS

and seek his directions," said an official.

'Where will we go?'

Meanwhile, sitting inside her jhuggi with a roof made of plastic, propped up by wooden sticks, Laxmi Chauhan said, "I am a senior citizen, living with my daughters. PWD staff came two days ago and pasted eviction notice on our doors, asking us to vacate in 15 days. Where will we go? I have been living here for 20 years, and we earn just Rs 100-200 a day."

Preethi Kumari (25) said, "I have two children, aged 2 and 8. The latter has exams soon. We have lived here all our life. They told us we will be sent to a shelter home in Geeta Colony, that too for three months. What happens after that?"

Another resident, Geeta, said, "One of my daughters cannot walk. There are children here studying for Board exams. We work nearby and our children go to school here. If officials think our presence here paints a bad picture to foreigners, they should provide us with a pucca house. Or they can use a tin shed and cover our jhuggis."

The slum is home to 300-plus persons, who claim to have been living here for three decades.

Delhi prisons want to stop physical court visits for inmates

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

KEEPING IN mind the possible risk of attacks on prison inmates and their interaction with outsiders for nefarious means, the Delhi Prisons authority has proposed permanently stopping physical production of prisoners before courts and instead setting up more video conferencing facilities throughout the three city prisons for the purpose, officers said.

Sources privy to the development told *The Indian Express* that several discussions have been carried out regarding safe passage of high-risk prisoners or dreaded gangsters lodged in jail to courts across Delhi-NCR for physical production.

"It takes unnecessary manpower and time to escort a prisoner for physical hearings and can also possibly lead to the inmate interacting with several outsiders in court where they pass chits and interact with accomplices for nefarious purposes... Often, rival gangsters also come to court hearings which can lead to law and order problems," a senior jail officer said.

In September 2021, jailed gangster Jitender Maan alias Gogi, lodged in a Haryana jail, was shot dead by assailants of rival Tiliu Tajpuria gang inside the Rohini court premises while he was being produced before the judge. The attackers had posed as lawyers.

All three city prisons – Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli – are now planning to augment their video-conferencing facilities and install them in each prison ward of the 16 jails.

"Currently, there is a poly-

All three prisons in the city – Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli – are planning to augment their video-conferencing facilities

com video conferencing facility and 5-10 Webex facilities inside each of the 16 jails of the three prisons... Once the proposal is accepted, we will upgrade our IT structure and are planning to have such facilities installed in each prison ward," the jail officer added.

Out of 16 total jails, there are nine in Tihar, six in Mandoli and one in Rohini. "Every jail has around six-seven wards depending on the size of the jail, which is further divided into barracks. Barracks are further divided into cells where high-security prisoners are lodged," the officer said.

Another jail officer, requesting anonymity, said: "This will reduce the number of interactions of the inmates so that he or she doesn't get an opportunity to hatch an escape or a mischievous activity... It will also help save manpower and subsequent cost in escorting them to the relevant court... We have currently put the proposal to the Delhi government and are still awaiting a nod."

Director General (Prisons) Sanjay Beniwal said the proposal, once accepted, will be highly efficient and will allow for safe escorting of prisoners. "It is on the higher authorities to give a go-ahead but we have already started upgrading our IT infrastructure to ensure a hassle-free prison management system," Beniwal said.

Hospital told to terminate rape victim's pregnancy

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday directed the Safdarjung Hospital medical board to terminate the pregnancy of a minor victim of sexual assault, who is pregnant over 25 weeks, on Wednesday.

A single judge bench of Justice Prathiba Singh interacted with the medical board who joined the proceedings through video conferencing. The HC asked the board if the minor was examined and went on to state that she is only 13 years old and will not be able to raise the child if termination is not done. On Monday the HC had directed the board to examine the minor and apprise the court of the risks involved in continuation and termination of the pregnancy. The medical board informed the court that there will be risk if the girl continues with the pregnancy or even if it is terminated. The court was informed that termination will be first attempted by medicines, and if unsuccessful, they will resort to surgery.

After interacting with the board, the HC observed, that "it appears there are risks involved... in the termination of pregnancy as also in continuing". The court considered that the minor girl is "only 13 years old and is stated to be a victim of sexual assault and an FIR has already been registered" and that she does not wish to carry on with the pregnancy, noting that the girl's mother who was her legal guardian had confirmed this stand. "...Keeping in mind interest of the life of petitioner, her tender age, education, and... social circumstances, even though gestational period is more than 25 weeks, this court is of the opinion that pregnancy is terminated," the HC said.

ECONOMIC SURVEY

Chidambaram: Survey seems to be looking through rearview mirror, not windshield

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE ECONOMIC Survey tabled in Parliament on Tuesday lacks an objective view of the economic situation as its focus seems to be on “looking through the rearview mirror” rather than looking ahead and cautioning the government about the pitfalls and how to negotiate them, senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram has said.

“The Survey seems to be looking through the rearview mirror. It is not looking through the windshield. Most of it is rearview mirror. What happened over the last year, what happened over the last five years. That is useful but it certainly does not give an insight into what we can look forward to,” he told *The Indian Express*.

The Economic Survey and the Economics Division, the Congress leader said, should have taken a view from outside the government. “For all said and done, Arvind Subramanian did that. He stepped aside and looked at the economy. But this Economic Survey seems to be a very departmental point of view. It does not take an objective view of the economy,” said Chidambaram.

For instance, said the Congress leader, the Survey, after looking at the rearview mirror for 20-odd pages, talks about the fact that the impact of monetary tightening is beginning to show in slowing economic activity and factors such as prolonged strains in supply chains, heightened uncertainty due to geopolitical conflict, slower growth in economic output, damper trade growth, risks to the current account balance, unfavourable developments in the current account balance, plateauing export growth, slackening global demand, depreciation pressure on the currency, entrenched inflation, and borrowing



No mention of what should be done to counteract the negative factors, says former finance minister

costs remaining high. “You have put all the negative factors that are ahead of you in two paragraphs but then what are you saying about how the government according to you should deal with these problems?,” said the former Union minister.

Arguing that Subramanian had made a good beginning by stepping aside and looking at the government’s performance on the outlook, he said, “You can objectively say these are the things that need to be done. I don’t find anywhere in the Economic Survey what should be done to counteract the negative factors ... That is the problem with this survey.”

On the growth projection, he said while the Survey has quoted the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) growth forecast for the year, it has not talked about the projections of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN).

“The world economy will slow down, major economies will go into a recession, and the security situation will worsen in 2023-24. Now, given these three almost certain events, you (the CEA) should advise the government on how do you minimise the impact of these events and how do you take countermeasures. That is not there,” said Chidambaram.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Opp slams Murmu address in joint House session, calls it poll speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

CUTTING ACROSS party lines, the Opposition on Tuesday slammed President Droupadi Murmu’s first address to the joint sitting of Parliament. Maintaining that the President’s speech made no mention of the challenges the country is facing, they said it was a “laundry list” of the government’s “alleged achievements”.

Many leaders called it an “election address”, devoid of any mention of the steps the government is contemplating to control price-rise, create jobs, strengthen fiscal federalism, promote communal harmony, and face the Chinese aggression at the border.

While Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who could not attend Parliament after being stuck in Srinagar due to bad weather, said the President has merely said what the government wanted her to say, his party colleague Manish Tewari called the speech a “laundry list” of government’s “alleged achievements”.

“The complete absence of any reference to the border situation with China, complete absence of



President Droupadi Murmu exchanges greetings with Sonia Gandhi as she leaves after addressing the joint session of Parliament on opening day of Budget Session on Tuesday. PTI

any mention of unemployment, inflation and on other challenges that India confronts... shows that it was not a serious exercise in order to inform Parliament about the issues the country faces,” Tewari told *The Indian Express*.

“Article 87 of the Constitution states the purpose of the President’s Address explicitly. It is to inform Parliament of the causes of its summons,” Tewari said. “It, therefore, can not be a platform to articulate the alleged achievements of the government...”

Kharge said if the Centre’s achievements listed by Murmu are true, then people should not feel the pinch of inflation and un-

employment. Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor told news agency ANI that the address was an “election speech” trying to praise the government for everything it has done and skipping the bits it has not done so well.

BSP chief Mayawati tweeted that claims made in the speech are “not enough to console people who suffer from poverty, inflation and unemployment... Due to internal and economic policy of the government, there is absence of [an] environment of peace, happiness, prosperity and development [for the people].”

Trinamool MP Derek O’Brien tweeted, “As is convention,

President’s Address is written by GoI (Government of India). Any line in speech about controlling prices, creating jobs, strengthening (fiscal) federalism, promoting communal harmony, passing Women’s Reservation Bill?”

Aam Aadmi Party and Bharat Rashtra Samithi boycotted the speech to protest the Centre’s failures “on all fronts of governance”. CPI(M) floor leader in Rajya Sabha Elamaram Kareem said the President’s speech has become nothing more than a narrative of the “corporate appeasement policies of the BJP government”. He said, “In the 19-page speech, there is no mention of the word worker or labour. It does not mention anything about our agriculture sector... It prides itself on having a stable government in the Centre for two consecutive terms and turns a blind eye to unconstitutional interventions by Governors destabilising state governments.”

CPI general secretary D Raja said BJP has forgotten the basics of Parliamentary democracy by boasting of stability and forgetting all responsibility. “The President used the word stable thrice to characterise the government but the word responsibility could not become part of her speech,” he said.

Electoral bonds: Apex court trifurcates pleas, to hear issues separately

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday posted petitions challenging the Electoral Bonds Scheme, 2018, for hearing in the third week of March.

A bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud noted that the batch of petitions raised three separate issues—a challenge to electoral bonds, whether political parties should be brought under the ambit of the RTI Act, and amendments made to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

The bench, also comprising Justice P S Narasimha, decided to hear the three issues separately and said while the pleas challenging the scheme will be taken up in the third week of March, those for bringing political parties under the RTI Act will be heard in the

first week of April and those against the FCRA amendments in the middle of April.

The court asked the Centre to file any additional affidavit, if it wanted to, in the matter.

The matter was heard last on December 15, 2022, by a bench presided by Justice B R Gavai.

While the Centre had termed the scheme “a big step towards electoral reform” which “will ensure transparency” and “accountability”, petitioners contend that it affects transparency in political funding as it allows parties not to disclose their annual contribution reports to the Election Commission of India (ECI) and details of the identity of those who have donated through the Electoral Bonds.

In April 2019, a three-judge SC bench, in an interim order, directed political parties to “forthwith” submit the details of the bonds to the ECI.

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Senior Fellow, NMML
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Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. tcp.haryana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Sternal Buildcon Private Limited						
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 17 of 2020 dated 17.07.2020. Building Plan Approved on 22.10.2020 Memo No. ZP-1425/SD(DK)/2020/18773,						
3. Location	Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana						
4. Provisions Project Area	29 no. of apartments available out of total 1,322 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 9.103 acres. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-croche of 2000 sq.ft.						
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms							
Apartment details							
Category (Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqm (approx)	Carpet Area sqft (approx)	Balcony Area sqm (approx)	Balcony Area sqft (approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking Amount 5%
2BHK TYPE-01	8	53.961	580.836	7.464	80.342	25,19,853.20	1,21,975.56
2BHK TYPE-02	21	54.742	589.243	7.474	80.450	25,55,270.60	1,23,741.03

*Rate mentioned above does not include GST and other charges such as Stamp Duty, Registration Fees etc.

Balance amount payable shall be equivalent to the amount payable as per the construction link payment plan of the project as applicable in terms of construction stage at relevant point of time

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles, • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Apply Online at TCP website (https://edraw.tcp.haryana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 01.02.2023. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 15.02.2023.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All” programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana, Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.
4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment. Applicant shall also upload ID Proof & Address Proof i.e. Aadhar Card & Pan Card.
Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcp.haryana.gov.in).

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Brig. Abhay Bhat (Retd) Director, Army Institute of Technology, Pune

8 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 31

EVEN AS the matter of developing Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh is pending in the Supreme Court, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday reiterated that Visakhapatnam would soon become the state capital.

Addressing investors in New Delhi at a preparatory meeting for the Global Investors Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam in March, the CM said he would also be shifting his office to the port city.

"I am here to invite you to Visakhapatnam, which is going to be our capital in the days to come. I myself will be shifting there in the months to come. I am inviting you to the Global Investors Summit that we are organising at Visakhapatnam on March 3-4," he said.

While the previous TDP government led by then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had acquired over 33,000 acres of land from farmers to develop Amaravati as the state capital in 2015, Reddy, after coming to



Will shift to Visakhapatnam soon: CM Reddy, Express

power in 2019, proposed the establishment of three state capitals as part of "decentralised development". He said Amaravati would be the legislative capital, Visakhapatnam the executive capital, and Kurnool the judicial capital.

In January 2020, Reddy's government passed a Bill in the Assembly scrapping the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Act, 2014, passed by the then TDP government to develop Amaravati as the capital city.

It also passed the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All

Regions Bill in 2020. But this Bill was repealed in November 2021, after farmers who had given up their land for developing Amaravati filed petitions in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, under the banner of the Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshana Samithi.

Without giving any time-frame, Reddy, speaking on the floor of the Assembly, had said the government would come out with a "comprehensive, complete and better" Bill after plugging loopholes in the previous version.

On March 3 last year, the Andhra Pradesh High Court, while hearing the farmers' peti-

tions, directed the state government to develop Amaravati as envisaged under the APCRDA Act of the previous TDP government, and set a deadline of six months.

The HC said the government should also develop the plots allocated to farmers in lieu of the agricultural land that they gave up, and hand it back in three months. Besides infrastructure facilities around the developed plots, the HC said other plans too, such as the development of nine theme cities — knowledge city, health city, electronics city, tourism city, justice city, media city, sports city, finance city, and government city of Amaravati — as envisaged under the APCRDA Act should be carried out.

The Reddy government, however, challenged the HC's order in the Supreme Court in September last year. On November 28 last year, the SC stayed the HC's directions till January 31, 2023, and sought responses from the Centre, Andhra Pradesh government, and Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshana Samithi. While the matter was listed on Tuesday, the SC did not hear the case.

Seeking my share in JD(U) like Nitish did from Lalu: Kushwaha

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 31

AMID TALKS that he is already in touch with the Bharatiya Janata Party, JD(U) parliamentary board chairman and MLC Upendra Kushwaha on Tuesday dropped clear signals of splitting away from the JD(U) anytime now. Kushwaha said he was asking for his "share in the party like Nitish Kumar had asked from Lalu Prasad before quitting Janata Dal in 1994".

Claiming that the party didn't give due representation to the extremely backward classes (EBCs) despite his requests, Kushwaha also hinted at resigning as the MLC.

Kushwaha, who has been engaged in a war of words with CM Nitish Kumar and other senior JD(U) leaders for some time now, said: "When I joined JD(U) in 2021, the party had to amend its constitution to appoint me parliamentary board chairman. But I was not given any power, not even to make someone a JD(U) member. The parliamentary board members were never elected. For last two years, I am occupying a ceremonial position..." 'jhunjhuna' (a child's rattle).

Kushwaha said he had been asking the party brass for a representation to the EBCs at the sen-



Upendra Kushwaha in Patna on Tuesday. He alleged that his car was pelted with stones in Bhojpur district. PTI

ior level. "The JD(U) national president can correct me or react if I am wrong. I made certain recommendations during the last two years but my suggestions were never considered," he said.

Kushwaha, who had earlier faced blistering attack from several JD(U) leaders for seeking his "share", said: "Some people have been reacting too sharply to my demand for share from the JD(U). Just as Nitish Kumar had asked his share from then Janata Dal leader and CM Lalu Prasad in 1994, I am asking for my share."

Though Kushwaha's charting his own course had become a foregone conclusion soon after Nitish projected his deputy as his

successor about one-and-a-half months ago, the immediate trigger was the CM recently asking Kushwaha to meet a senior party leader. When Kushwaha objected to not meeting any leader other than Nitish, he was given time by the CM little over a month ago. But the CM did not respond to any of Kushwaha's demands, it is learnt.

The JD(U) has the option of expelling him but that may benefit only Kushwaha, who could further play a victim card.

Senior JD(U) leader and Bihar minister Ashok Kumar Choudhary, however, said: "What is the contribution of Kushwaha to the party? He has no right to ask for any share."

CPI(M) claims to be in talks with TIPRA Motha

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, JANUARY 31

IN A surprising turn of events, Tripura CPI(M) state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury Tuesday said the Communist party is having talks with Tripura ADC's ruling TIPRA Motha and said the two parties are hoping to reach some "understanding" within February 2, which is the last date for withdrawal of nominations for the Assembly election.

Weeks after the talks were suspended with TIPRA Motha, Chaudhary Tuesday campaigned at Sabroom in South Tripura, where TIPRA Motha didn't field any candidate, and said, "Motha has fielded candidates in 40 seats or so. TIPRA Motha chairman called me this morning and said our victory is certain and TIPRA Motha supporters would vote for me".

Sources said Motha is not looking for any formal alliance with any party since no party has given any written agreement to Motha on its core Greater Tripaland demand.



'If you build it, I will break it': Ruckus at public hearing on TN pen memorial in sea

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 31

A PUBLIC hearing held in Chennai on the ambitious 'Pen Monument' for late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi in the Bay of Bengal, off the Marina beach in the city, witnessed heated arguments between certain political parties and activists opposing the project and DMK functionaries who wanted the memorial to come up at the proposed site.

The Rs 80-crore project, titled 'Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar Pen Monument', was proposed by Chief Minister M K Stalin government to honour Karunanidhi's contributions to literature. Despite the opposition to the project on environmental grounds, it is reportedly moving forward as neither the AIADMK nor the BJP have opposed it yet.

The first proposal with details on the 'Pen Monument' came out in July 2022. What makes it an ambitious project is its design: a giant pen built above the water in the Bay of Bengal. The pen's pedestal would be taller than 42 metres, and surrounded by landscaped gardens. It will be built in the water on the Marina beach and connected to the existing Karunanidhi memorial on the seashore by a bridge that is 650-metre-long. The project plan accessed by *The Indian Express* shows 290 metres of the bridge would be over land — Marina seashore — and the remaining 360 metres would be over the water. At the public hearing, a senior PWD official said fishing boats would be able to sail under the bridge.

Even though most people at the public hearing, mostly DMK members, supported the project, Naam Tamilar Katchi chief coordinator Seeman and local BJP cadres and their fishermen wings opposed it. Seeman climbed the stage during the hearing and said he would "break the statue if it was built".



It was proposed to honour Karunanidhi's contributions to literature

EXPLAINED
Green concerns

THE PROPOSED 'Pen Monument' is not the first-of-its-kind project in India. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial project of the Maharashtra government in the Arabian Sea, and the Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanyakumari, are a few examples. The Thiruvalluvar statue is built on a rock bed that looks like an island but the 'Pen Monument' needs a larger artificial base to raise the seabed to the level of the water. This is why many groups are opposing the project, saying that it will harm the environment in the sensitive coastal waters.

He said the monument could be built anywhere, "even in the front yard of Anna Arivalayam (the DMK's headquarters), but not in the sea". He said if the project is executed according to the plan, at least 13 fishing villages will be affected.

A senior government official who coordinated the public hearing said the Central government's approval for the project is expected as there are no objections to it so far. A senior DMK leader said, "Even the BJP is not opposing it; only some fringe groups do."

No buzz on Day One of nominations, parties yet to name candidates

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 31

THE ASSEMBLY election process in Nagaland started off on a slow note on Tuesday, with no nominations being filed on the first day. All major parties have yet to finalise their list of candidates.

The gazetted notification for the Assembly election, scheduled for February 27, was released Tuesday. The notification officially kicks off the election process, but all major political parties said they were still in the process of finalising their list of candidates. The last date for filing nominations is February 7.

The Naga People's Front (NPF) said it would release its candidate list and election manifesto on February 3. While party leader K Azo Nienu earlier told

The Indian Express that the party would contest between 25 to 30 seats, he said Tuesday, "We have very good numbers. They are on the rise but are under scrutiny. These could go down as well. So we don't know yet how many seats we will be contesting."

A BJP leader said the party would distribute tickets "in a day or two" while the state Congress's election committee met on Tuesday to discuss the matter.

The working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) — the joint banner of seven armed Naga outfits that joined the peace talks after renewed negotiations between the Union government and the NSCN (IM) in 2015 — appealed to prospective candidates on Monday to refrain from filing nominations.



KARNATAKA

Worried about hung House, BJP & Cong take aims at JD(S)

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 31

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls, both national parties in the fray in Karnataka — the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress — seem to have arrived at the realisation that the only way either of them can win a clear majority is by ensuring that the third force in the state, the regional Janata Dal (Secular) party, is restricted from winning many seats.

In a sign that both parties are apprehensive of the 2023 Karnataka polls throwing up a hung verdict, like in 2004, 2008 and 2018, the BJP and Congress are imploring voters not to vote for the JDS. Over the last few days, BJP and Congress leaders have said at pre-election rallies in two different regions that the JDS is the fly in the ointment to their prospects.

At an election rally in Belagavi this weekend, Union Home Minister Amit Shah made a plea to maximise BJP wins in seats in the region, in order to ensure the party wins a clear majority. In 2004, 2008 as well as 2018, the BJP emerged as the single largest party in Karnataka, but fell short of the halfway mark of 113 seats in the 224-member Assembly, forcing it into a post-poll alliance with the JDS in 2006, and inducing defections in 2008 and 2018, to assume power.

"The Congress and JDS look like two different parties but I want to tell the people of Karnataka that every vote cast for the JDS will ultimately go to the Congress. It would only help the Congress achieve victory," on January 28 at the Belagavi rally said, calling for BJP wins in at least 16 of the 18 seats in the district.

A day earlier, former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah of the Congress was heard asking voters in the Mandya region — where the JDS had won seven out of seven seats in 2018 — not to support the JDS in the 2023 polls and to choose the Congress.

"Last time, out of the seven seats in this region you did not



H D Kumaraswamy says JDS is an alternative to the BJP and Congress is fading

give us even one seat. All were won by the JDS. This time that should not happen. Will you do it again? You have to give us five to six of the seven seats in Mandya," Siddaramaiah said at the Vokkaliga community stronghold that consistently backs former PM H D Deve Gowda's JDS.

"The JDS will not come to power. Kumaranna (JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy) keeps saying he will get 123. When we were all together we could win only 58 seats. They later fell to 29. If they win 20 to 22 seats it will be too much. Do you want to trust them?" he said.

State Congress president D K Shivakumar, who is a Vokkaliga, also implored Mandya voters to shift their loyalty to the Congress.

The JDS, which is playing safe and hoping to win just enough seats to force the BJP or the Congress into a coalition with it, reacted angrily to Congress and Siddaramaiah's calls for the Mandya voters to shift their loyalty to the Congress.

"They are saying that JDS will not come to power and so people should not vote for us. The factionalism in the Congress will not allow the party to come to power. Their leaders are not able to look into the faces of each other. They have no capability to control their own party and they are talking about my party," Kumaraswamy said. "We will grow the JDS as an alternative to the BJP in this state. The Congress is fading away," he said.

'Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza' state anthem from Feb 19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

THE MAHARASHTRA state cabinet on Tuesday cleared the decision to designate 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza' as the state anthem, which will now be played along with the National Anthem at all government events.

For the first time since the establishment of Maharashtra as a state in 1960 that the government

has declared an official state song. It said the state song will play at all government programmes after the National Anthem, which will remain supreme. All schools will also play the state anthem in addition to the daily prayer and National Anthem.

Written by Raja Nilakanth Bade, the song eulogising Maharashtra will officially become the state song from February 19, marking the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji

Maharaj. The song comprising two stanzas is 1.41 minutes long.

The state cabinet has also cleared the guidelines to be followed by playing the state song. The guidelines mandate that common citizens must remain in alert positions with exceptions made for children, pregnant women, sick individuals, divyang and senior citizens. State board textbooks will also carry the state anthem from next year.

The state government had

COMPLETING 5-DAY CLIMATE FAST, HE BLAMES LADAKH L-G FOR 'PUSHING YOUTH TOWARDS MILITANCY'

Sonam Wangchuk: We were better off with Jammu & Kashmir

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31

MAGSAYSAY AWARD winner Sonam Wangchuk, who on Monday completed a five-day fast to safeguard the "glaciers, mountains, land and people" of Ladakh by demanding the region's inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, looks deflated. A one-time staunch admirer of PM Modi and strong advocate of the 2019 abrogation of Art 370 in the then Jammu and Kashmir state, the engineer and innovator-turned-climate activist today said that the administration in Ladakh is

"trying hard to sow seeds of militancy in the peaceful region".

Wangchuk, who completed his 'climate fast' at his institute — the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Ladakh — says seeing the current situation in Ladakh, he now thinks Ladakhis were better-off as part of the pre-2019 Jammu and Kashmir state.

"I have been asked to sign a bond... Three innocent teachers of my school have been taken to police station, so that they force me to sign the bond. These tactics are being employed by the L-G sahib... I would say that L-G sahib, you are working hard to sow the seeds of militancy in peaceful Ladakh. The way youth



Sonam Wangchuk on the third day of his five-day climate fast to 'save Ladakh' in Phyang on January 28. PTI

have been kept unemployed and are being oppressed, this can happen. But remember, we will not let this happen," Wangchuk

said in one of his video statements. "I didn't think I would ever say this... we were better-off with J&K than today's UT [Union

Territory]. I would also tell that our tomorrow's UT would be better and golden."

The founding Director of Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh, Wangchuk began his fast on January 26, Republic Day. While he was originally scheduled to hold the fast in the open at Khardung La — where temperatures drop to -40°C — he wasn't allowed, and eventually organised the fast at his institute. On Monday, the last day of the fast, he organised a solar exhibition. "Today is the fifth and last day of my climate fast, for the safeguard of mountains, glaciers, land and people of Ladakh under

the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution," Wangchuk said in a video statement on Twitter. "Since my climate fast has twin purposes — to draw the attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister towards Ladakh, and to draw the attention of people around India and world to live simpler, carbon neutral lives — I am putting up a solar exhibition here."

He said the Leh administration has put him under house arrest, and are asking him to sign a bond for his release. The terms of the bond include that he will not comment, issue statements, make speeches or hold/participate in any activity that is "related to Leh district".

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

KARNATAKA
2 arrested for throwing bottle at Kailash Kher

Bengaluru: Two youth who threw bottles at singer Kailash Kher during a live performance during Hampi Utsav were arrested by the police on Sunday night. Saddam Hussain (23), a driver by profession, and Krishnappa (22), a painter by profession, were angry at Kher for not singing Kannada songs, police said. In a viral video of the incident, the bottle can be seen falling near Kher as his staff removing it from the stage. The Hampi tourism police said both the men were under the influence of alcohol and that there was enough security at the event. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA
4 killed as car collides with bus on highway

Palghar: Four persons were killed when their car collided with a bus on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in Palghar district on Tuesday, police said. The accident took place around 3.30 am near Mahalakshmi bridge, police said. The four occupants of the car, including a woman, were travelling from Gujarat to Mumbai and were residents of Bardoli in Surat. **PTI**

KERALA
Man arrested for burning copy of Bible

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Police on Tuesday arrested a youth on charges of burning a copy of the Bible. Muhammed Mustafa, 38, a native of Kasaragod, was remanded in judicial custody for two weeks. In a video of the incident he uploaded on social media, Mustafa is heard saying he burnt the Bible in protest against the burning of the Quran by far-right politician Rasmus Paludan in Denmark on January 27. **ENS**

Himachal Police paper leak: CBI searches 50 places in 7 states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 50 locations in seven states as part of its ongoing probe into two cases related to the last year's leak of question paper for the police constable recruitment test in Himachal Pradesh.

The agency had registered two FIRs on November 30, 2022, after they received a request from the state government to take over the investigation of cases being probed by the state police.

Question paper of written test held on March 27, 2022, for the posts of constable in Himachal Pradesh Police was leaked ahead of the date by several middlemen spread across several states. The incident came to light on May 5 last year and the examination was cancelled the next day, followed by the constitution of an SIT on May 7. "The SIT found that a part-time employee – Sudhir Yadav – of a printing press had leaked the question paper in March before giving it to those accused in the case," an officer said.

"During investigation and scrutiny of documents, a well-organised network of middlemen based in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, etc. came to the fore," said a spokesperson of the CBI.

Searches on Tuesday were conducted in Kangra, Una, Mandi, Hamirpur, Kullu, Shimla, Sirmour districts in Himachal; Nalanda, Samastipur, Munger, Lakhisarai, Patna, and Nawada in Bihar, and Haridwar, among other places.

10 women among 14 killed in blaze at Dhanbad apartment

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JANUARY 31

TEN WOMEN and three children were among 14 people killed in a fire that broke out on the third-floor of a multistorey apartment complex in Jharkhand's Dhanbad on Tuesday evening. As many as 14 people with burn injuries were hospitalised, it is learnt.

According to officials, the fire broke out around 6 pm at Ashirwad Tower apartment under the Bank More police station jurisdiction, and the blaze was brought under control after a nearly four-hour operation in which nearly 40 fire tenders were used.

Dhanbad district administration shared a press release stating that the fire started on the third floor. "Fourteen people have died. All injured have been rescued and



Firefighters try to douse the flames at the multistorey building in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, on Tuesday. **PTI**

hospitalised."

Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner Sandeep Singh said: "A total of 14 deaths have been confirmed so far; 10 were women, three children, and one male. We have completed the rescue and also done the combing. The fire-affected area of the build-

ing has been cleared. Those who got injured are out of danger."

Dhanbad Fire Officer Laxman Prasad said: "As per the preliminary information based on my conversation with the security guard of the apartment complex, an oil lamp had caused the fire. However, we are still investigat-

ing to verify his claim."

Prasad said while some were charred to death, many died of suffocation.

Four days ago, five persons, including a doctor couple, were killed in a fire at a nursing home in the district.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire in Dhanbad. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon." He announced ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for next to kin of each victim and Rs 50,000 to each injured.

In a tweet, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said: "The death of people in Dhanbad fire is extremely heart-wrenching. The district administration is working on war footing and treatment is being provided to the injured. I am personally monitoring it."

BRIDGE COLLAPSE

Oreva MD surrenders before Morbi court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 31

MANAGING DIRECTOR of Ajanta Manufacturing Private Limited (AMPL) of Oreva Group Jaysukh Patel surrendered before a court in Morbi Tuesday in connection with the bridge collapse case, with the Morbi police arresting him following his surrender.

Patel was listed as an absconding accused in the chargesheet filed by police on January 27.

Ajanta Manufacturing Private Limited was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the river in Morbi that collapsed on October 30 last year killing 135 people.

Patel surrendered before the court of Morbi chief judicial magistrate which had issued an arrest warrant against him on January 13.

The Oreva Group MD is among the 10 accused who are facing charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Earlier this month, Patel had moved the Morbi district and sessions court seeking protection against arrest.

However, the court adjourned his anticipatory bail plea till February 1 after the prosecution sought time to file its response to the application.

Meanwhile, seven other accused have filed fresh bail applications before Morbi district and



Oreva group owner Jaysukh Patel outside sessions court in Morbi on Tuesday. **PTI**

sessions court on Tuesday after filing of the chargesheet, which are due to be heard on February 2.

Those who have moved for bail include the two AMPL managers — Deepak Parekh and Dineshbhai Dave, two ticket clerks — Madevbhai Solanki and Masukhbhai Topiya, and three security guards — Alpeshbhai Gohil, Dilipbhai Gohil and Mukeshbhai Chauhan.

The Surendranagar-based Devprakash Solution, the fabrication firm's proprietors, Prakash Parmar and Devang Parmar, the other two accused, have not yet filed for bail.

The Morbi court had refused to grant bail to the nine accused earlier in November 2022, which were filed prior to filing of the chargesheet. They had subsequently moved Gujarat High Court with bail pleas but had withdrawn the same.

Gross negligence by accused for financial gain, says chargesheet

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 31

THE CHARGESHEET filed by police on January 27 in the case related to the Morbi suspension bridge collapse that killed 135 persons in October 2022, alleges "gross negligence and carelessness" on part of the accused "for financial gain".

Among the seven who have recorded confessional statements under section 164 of CrPC before the magistrate, is an accused — proprietor of Surendranagar-based Devprakash Solution Devang Parmar.

The chargesheet says, "The incident has been caused due to gross negligence and carelessness of the accused, post-incident the accused did not extend any help or relief and did not cooperate fully during the investigation."

During the hearing of the suo motu PIL at the Gujarat High Court on January 25, the Oreva Group offered to compensate the victims and support the seven children who were orphaned in the tragedy. Agreeing to the same, the court, however,

clarified that such compensation would not absolve the company of any liabilities.

The chargesheet mentions six other witnesses who have recorded confessional statements. The witnesses cited in the chargesheet include now suspended chief officer of Morbi municipality Sandipsinh Zala, Morbi municipality president Kusum Parmar, vice-president Jayrajsinh Jadeja, executive chairman Sureshkumar Desai, former president of Morbi municipality Ketan Vilpara and civil engineer of the municipality Keval Kalola. Additionally, 156 kin of the deceased have been listed as witnesses along with 28 victims who were injured and 24 eyewitnesses.

Detailing the offences, the chargesheet states that a condition in the MoU executed by Oreva on March 8, 2022, noted that the bridge will be reopened following appropriate renovations undertaken over a span of "eight to 12 months". However, in violation of the condition, the bridge was reopened in six months, "without care and vigilance, or without technical assistance, for the company's financial benefit".

Three killed in pit collapse in Raipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, JANUARY 31

THREE PERSONS, including two women, were killed and a 15-year-old girl was injured when a pit in which they were collecting fly ash caved in near an industrial area in Siltara on the outskirts of capital Raipur in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday morning.

The girl was admitted to a hospital and she is said to be out of danger, police said.

The four were extracting fly ash beneath the earth in the pit at Sankra village when the soil around them collapsed, trapping them under the debris, police said. The incident took place around 11 am. "The coal-like ash is used by the villagers as cooking fuel," said a police officer from Dharsiwa police station.

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 31

ACCLAIMED FILMMAKER Adoor Gopalakrishnan on Tuesday resigned as the chairman of Kottayam-based K R Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts.

Gopalakrishnan's resignation came a week after the institute's director Shankar Mohan had quit in the wake of allegations of caste discrimination. Close on the heels of Gopalakrishnan's decision, eminent filmmaker Girish Kasarvali also quit as the chairman of the academic council of the institute, which has Chief Minister Pinarayi

(WITH PTI INPUTS FROM WASHINGTON DC)

Shanti Bhushan, veteran lawyer and former Union Law Minister, dies at 97



SHANTI BHUSHAN
1925-2023

APURVA VISHWANATH, ANANTHAKRISHNAN & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

FORMER UNION Law Minister and veteran lawyer Shanti Bhushan died Tuesday after a brief illness. He was 97.

He is survived by his sons Prashant Bhushan and Jayant Bhushan, both leading lawyers, and daughters Shalini Gupta and Shefali Bhushan.

A crusader in courtrooms and outside, Shanti Bhushan took up several causes in his long public life. After a brief stint in the Congress (O), he took on Indira Gandhi on behalf of his client Raj Narain before the Allahabad High Court, challenging her election victory. He won the case that eventually led to Gandhi imposing Emergency. In 1977, when the Janata Party came to power, Bhushan was appointed Law Minister when he overturned a series of Constitutional Amendments that were made during Indira Gandhi's time.

The 44th Constitution Amendment, which was a political promise to "restore the Constitution to the condition it was in before the Emergency", was passed during his tenure.

In 1980, after the fall of the Janata Party, Bhushan joined the BJP but quit a few years later.

Returning to practice after his political stint, Bhushan fought a

long list of cases, from constitutional to criminal law. In a Bar dominated by giants from Bombay and Madras, he is said to have set the trend for a high-fee charging senior advocate even as he took up several public causes.

"The POTa law was brought in to make confessions before police acceptable in terror cases. In perhaps the mother of all terror cases, the 2001 Parliament attack case, Shanti Bhushan ensured the Court did not accept two confessions of the accused. He told the Court he would morally convince the judges that it was the right thing to do and did exactly that," senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, who assisted him in the case, said.

A crusader for judicial accountability, Bhushan founded the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Judicial Reform that took up several cases of alleged corruption in the judiciary. In 2012, he joined the Aam Aadmi Party.

Tributes poured in from both political and legal circles. In a Twitter post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Shri Shanti Bhushan Ji will be remembered for his contribution to the legal field and passion towards speaking for the underprivileged. Pained by his passing away. Condolences to his family. Om Shanti."

Former Attorney General K K Venugopal said, "I came to know him very well much before the Emergency when he visited Madras and also appeared for M Karunanidhi, the then Chief Minister, before the Sarkaria Commission... I had appeared along with him. But finding that the Commission was rather hostile, we walked out of the case. When the Janata government came into existence, he invited me to Delhi as an Additional Solicitor General and thereafter when that government was swept out of power, both of us started appearing against each other. We developed considerable respect for each other and our friendship too lasted right through the years."

Prashant Bhushan said, "All I can say is that this is the end of an era. He was a person who saw the evolution of the Constitution and the legal system from close quarters since Independence."

Jurist and senior advocate Fali S Nariman said, "He was a very dear friend of mine. I am very sorry to hear the news. We had spoken some months ago on the telephone and he was not well at all."

Courageous lawyer, teacher, legal fraternity's North Star

SPECIAL TO EXPRESS

DUSHYANT DAVE

GANDHIJI ONCE said, "Life and death are but phases of the same thing, the reverse and obverse of the same coin. Death is necessary for man's growth as life itself is." To Tagore, the journey was "let life be beautiful like summer flowers and death be like autumn leaves".

Shanti Bhushan, affectionately called Shantiji, was independent India's most courageous lawyer. He always stood on a high pedestal, espousing honesty in judicial life.

He not just spoke, but fought against corruption in public life, exposing Indira Gandhi or P V Narasimha Rao, even former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court.

An outstanding and hugely successful lawyer, a respected Advocate General of UP, an active Law Minister, a crusader on public issues of great significance, Shantiji lived the most fulfilling life.

As a lawyer, he was totally self-made. Starting his practice in Allahabad, he acquired a respectable name in a short time and then having started practice in the Supreme Court after 1980, he became a leading lawyer. Commanding thriving practice on varied subjects, he also commanded a very high standard in fees.

But he was one of the hardest working lawyers one could encounter. Every page of his brief would be read carefully and marked diligently. Never did he enter a courtroom without thorough preparation.

Extremely soft spoken outside the court, he was effective inside with a resounding, and at times booming, voice. His sheer presence had an impact on all — the judges, the lawyers and the litigants. If he could at times be tough with judges, with the opposite lawyers he was always courteous and calm.

Outside courtrooms, he was hilarious, regaling one and all with very funny jokes and courtroom stories. One could not reconcile that this was The Shanti Bhushan.

He loved the judiciary in his own way and strongly believed in its independence. His crusade against corruption and nepotism in the institution was due to that love. He was the most ardent admirer of honest and bright judges and the most feared critic of the corrupt and the inefficient.

While facing possible contempt proceedings, Shantiji told the Supreme Court, "The applicant will consider it a great honour to spend time in jail for making an effort to get for the people of Indian honest and clean judiciary."

He had many interests in life. He was a voracious reader, a crazy cricket fan and an avid golfer. He constantly talked about India's democracy, its challenges and pitfalls, on public platforms and travelled across the nation to do so. He was a constant teacher to the young Indians, especially the lawyers, inspiring them to follow the right and courageous path.

He successfully argued the election case for Raj Narain against Indira Gandhi before Justice Sinha of the Allahabad High Court. During hearings, he strongly rebuked the then Attorney General's casual attack on the Supreme Court judgement in the famous Kesavananda Bharati case which

held that Parliament could not amend the basic structure of the Constitution.

He argued, "If I may say so, with respect to my learned friend, his attitude towards this historic judgement of the Supreme Court was unworthy of the office he holds. So long as the decision continues to be binding, what can possibly be the relevance of the Attorney General ceasing to attach importance to that decision." Such powerful words spoken in 1975 are resounding even today.

Shantiji believed that "a country is great when it worships principles and not men". He also felt the "glory of justice lies in being based on principles than on any other trivial considerations".

He was a true Indian, someone Sahir Ludhianvi was searching for in his famous song "Jinhe naaz hai Hind par woh kahan hain, kahan hain, kahan hain".

Shantiji's life was a great journey full of joy, hard work, courage, passion, humour and success. Most of all, standing up to defend the Constitution of India and the institutions created under it.

Before committing suicide as directed by emperor Nero, his teacher Seneca said, "I leave you what is of far more value than earthly riches, the example of a virtuous life."

Shantiji has been a real example.

The legal fraternity has in recent years become poorer and poorer, losing great lawyers one after another. Today, it loses its North Star. Let us hope his life continues to light the path for future generations of lawyers. Sans that democracy will perish.

The writer is a senior advocate and former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Adoor quits Kerala institute's chairman post



Adoor Gopalakrishnan

Vijayan as the president of the governing body.

Some students of the institute, named after the first Dalit President of India K R Narayanan, had been on agitation since December 5, demanding ouster of Mohan. Under the banner of the

Institute Students Council, they had alleged that Mohan had undermined the reservation norms for admission in the current academic year and had discriminated against the staff on the basis of caste. Along with the students, a section of cleaning staff had also joined the agitation, seeking removal of the director.

Subsequently, the government appointed a probe panel, and Mohan quit on January 21 days after the committee submitted the report. Announcing his decision to quit as the chairman of the film institute, Gopalakrishnan on Tuesday said he handed over his resignation letter to the Chief Minister. "The allegations against Mohan were

baseless. He was invited to head the institute in Kerala and then shown the door after being insulted. The film institute was in a shambles and Mohan had toiled hard to convert it into one of the best film institutes in the country. He had served as the director of the International Film Festival of India and had headed Kolkata-based Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute without giving room for any complaints," said Gopalakrishnan.

"They had alleged that Mohan had forced sweepers belonging to Dalit community to clean toilets at his home. There is not a single Dalit among the sweepers. They all belong to other communities," he said.

Asaram gets life term for 2001 rape of former disciple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 31

A GANDHINAGAR sessions court on Tuesday sentenced self-styled godman Ashumal Harpalani alias Asaram Bapu to life imprisonment on charges of rape and unnatural sex on a complaint filed by a former woman disciple in 2013, a day after the court held him guilty of the offences.

Additional sessions judge DK Soni also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Asaram to be paid as compensation to the victim. The defence said the order will be challenged in the Gujarat High Court.

On Monday, the court convicted Asaram in the case registered in 2013 for raping a woman disciple, who hailed from Surat, on several occasions from 2001 to 2006 when she was living at his ashram at Motera near Ahmedabad. The 81-year-old convict is serving a life term in a Jodhpur jail in another case of raping a minor girl at his ashram in Rajasthan in 2013.

The prosecution had demanded that Asaram be given the maximum imprisonment of life imprisonment. It also cited his April 2017 conviction and life imprisonment awarded by a Jodhpur court to establish that he was a "habitual offender", Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) in the case RC Kodekar said.

The court of sessions judge DK Soni held Asaram guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 376 (2)(c) (being on the management or on the staff of a place of custody established by or under any law for the time being in force or of a woman's or children's institution takes advantage of his official position and commits rape on any inmate of such place) and 377 (unnatural sex).

The court sentenced Asaram to life imprisonment for these two offences and imposed a

Decriminalisation of adultery doesn't apply on armed forces: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

ARMED FORCES would be at liberty to initiate disciplinary proceedings against officers and personnel for adultery notwithstanding that the Supreme Court had decriminalised the offence in 2018.

On Tuesday, a five-judge constitution bench presided by Justice K M Joseph clarified that in the judgment on September 27, 2018, the SC was concerned only with the validity of Section 497 of the IPC and Section 198(2) of the CrPC dealing with adultery, and had "no occasion whatsoever to consider the effect" with respect to the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts.

"It is not as if this court approved of adultery. This court held that it is a civil wrong and will continue to be a ground for securing dissolution of marriage," the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and CT Ravikumar, said.

"In view of the fact that the scheme of the Acts in the context particularly of Article 33 of the

I-T dept raids premises linked to 2 Punjab pastors

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JANUARY 31

THE INCOME Tax (I-T) department on Tuesday conducted raids on the premises linked to two pastors of Punjab — Bajinder Singh from Jalandhar and Harpreet Deol from Kapurthala.

Bajinder Singh runs the Church of Glory and Wisdom in Jalandhar's Tajpur village, while Harpreet Deol manages the Open Door Church at Khojewala village. It is learnt that around 50 I-T sleuths in various teams conducted parallel raids in Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Amritsar, New Chandigarh, Mohali, Kurali, etc., and seized documents pertaining to properties, bank accounts, and



The 81-year-old convict is serving life term in a separate rape case as well

penalty of Rs 10,000 each for each of the offences, Kodekar said.

Asaram was also held guilty of offences under sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 506(2) (criminal intimidation), 354 (assault with intent to outrage modesty of woman) and 357 (assault) of the IPC.

Kodekar said that the court took into consideration the prosecution's argument that "the offences are not only crimes against women, but crimes against society which has resulted in women not feeling safe in the society".

The court acquitted five other accused of all charges, including Asaram's wife Laxmi Harpalani, Nirmalaben Lalwani, Miraben Kalvani, Dhruvben Balani, and Jashvantiben Chaudhary.

The FIR in the case was lodged at Chandkheda police station in Gandhinagar. The 33-year-old former woman disciple stated in the complaint that she was raped by Asaram in 2001 and was frequently molested and sexually assaulted by him in connivance with his ashram managers.

The woman said she and her father were followers of Asaram. She said she had been afraid to file a complaint owing to Asaram's influential status and mustered courage in 2013 when a minor lodged a similar complaint.

Constitution did not fall for the consideration of this court, we are of the clear view that we must observe and clarify that the judgment of this court was not at all concerned with the effect and operation of the relevant provisions in the Acts which have been placed before us by applicants," the bench said. "In other words, this court was neither called upon nor has it ventured to pronounce on the effect of sections 45 and 63 of the Army Act as also the corresponding provisions in other Acts. We only make this position clear and dispose of the application," the court added.

The court was hearing an application by the Centre seeking a clarification on the 1998 ruling.

The government submitted that the forces were unable to proceed against those accused of unbecoming conduct as those who were being proceeded against were citing the 1998 judgment striking down Section 497.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Diwan contended that discipline would be eroded if personnel and officers can be acted against in case of such conduct.

other relevant papers. I-T sources said that they received information that the pastors have been running churches in the name of healing ministries, which are self-styled churches, receiving huge funding from foreign countries. These are registered either as independent religious bodies or under some societies run by a pastor.

"They have seized some documents, computers, and registers where the attendance is registered or the online bookings are recorded for attending the religious congregations," said an insider at Tajpur ministry.

Pastor Bajinder Singh hails from a Jat family in Haryana. The Tajpur church has around 15 branches, including eight in

With access as key, an MP district brings govt home to beneficiaries

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NARSINGHPUR (MP), JAN 31

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES of a government scheme should be able to access it without hassles.

This was the basic premise of a project the district administration of Narsinghpur, in Madhya Pradesh, launched formally in 2022 to take the administration's services to the people.

"As administrators, we can create an impact if we can ensure that everything (all government schemes) is implemented in letter and spirit. Unfortunately, that's not really the case," Rohit Singh, former District Collector of Narsinghpur, said.

And thus was born 'Project Nidaan'. Singh, under whom the project was implemented last year, said that until then, the Collector's office received tens of applications to get even "basic issues" resolved — problems that should have ideally been "addressed at the lower levels by local-level officials, such as panchayat functionaries". These were problems related to accessing pension, below poverty line (BPL) ration cards, Aadhaar cards, Ayushman cards, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, water supply.

Project Nidaan ensured administration officials visited the panchayats concerned. While a "jan sunwai", or public hearing, is usually held at one location in the district, getting people to assemble there and air their troubles, Nidaan was a sort of decentralised jan sunwai system, District Renewable Energy Officer Prabhat

Kanoje, who was a nodal officer for the project, said.

While the groundwork — such as jan sunwais at the panchayat and tehsil levels — started from October 2021, the camps as part of the project were formally rolled out in 2022.

As part of Project Nidaan, the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), tehsildars and panchayat-level officials addressed such applications every Tuesday and got them resolved, in addition to the jan sunwai at the district level. The status of these applications was then reviewed by the Collector at 'time limit' meetings every Monday.

A district-level officer was made in-charge of a panchayat; clusters of panchayats were formed, and camps were held one cluster at a time.

Anjana Tripathi, Deputy Director, Social Justice, who was one such nodal officer, said they would talk to people at these camps about their problems and try to resolve them. "There would be issues such as difficulty in getting a toilet built, or clearing a drain. In one instance we helped a resident procure a hearing aid," she said.



Tripathi said more than 400 panchayats were covered in this way. Two camps were held in each panchayat — the first under the SDM and the second, 14 days later, under the Collector. Different officials were present at these camps to resolve issues and dispose of applications. "This meant that every panchayat was given 15 days to work, and by the time the Collector reached the panchayat, no applications should reach him," Singh, among 19 winners of The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards for 2020 and 2021, said.

The biennial awards celebrate the finest work done by District Magistrates, women and men



Project Nidaan was implemented under Rohit Singh. Abhinav Saha

considered the foot soldiers of governance, as they script change that touches the lives of countless people across the country.

Kamal Yadav, a resident of Dangidhana village in Narsinghpur who works in sugarcane fields, said one of these camps had helped him apply for a BPL ration card. "I had applied a few years ago, but it didn't come through," he said, alleging caste bias.

Dangidhana residents Dashrath Mehra, 35, and Hakkibai Chaudhary, 56, recalled that the Collector had visited last year, and "people went to him with their troubles". "I remember him say-

ing that their issues would be resolved," Mehra said.

Chaudhary said she wanted to claim widow's pension at the camp since her husband had not been around for over 15 years. But officials had told her that she could not claim pension without her husband's death certificate.

Saurabh Sonawane, CEO, Zila Panchayat, Narsinghpur, said a statewide project — Mukhyamantri Jan Seva Abhiyaan — along similar lines was then launched in September and October 2022.



Roshni, Kahcharai Land Encroachment SC turns down plea challenging J&K's Jan 31 eviction deadline

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

CLEARING THE way for removal of encroachments on Roshni and Kahcharai land in Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court on Tuesday turned down a plea challenging the circular issued by the Union Territory administration fixing January 31 deadline for the evictions.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna told the petitioners who contended that they still had title to land allotted under the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 — also called the Roshni Act — that the legislation had already been held to be unconstitutional and that no title survived after that.

With the bench refusing to entertain their prayer, petitioners finally chose to withdraw the plea.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners told the court that they had paid the entire amount at commercial rate for the land allotted to them and

KVS flags delay by CPWD in construction project of schools

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

DELAY IN construction of schools by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is leading to students being deprived of "proper infrastructure for effective teaching and learning process", Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) said in a letter to the CPWD recently.

KVS, the autonomous body under the Education Ministry that runs the central schools, flagged the delays in completion of nine projects as well as 89 projects that were pending at pre-tender stage and 21 projects that were pending with the CPWD at the stage of preparation of detailed project report.

In a letter to CPWD Director General Shailendra Sharma on January 20, KVS Commissioner Nidhi Pandey wrote, "Work in some KVs is slow leading to time and cost overrun, resulting dispute/litigations/arbitrations etc." She added that during a meeting with CPWD officials on June 15, last year, it was decided to ensure "timely completion of school buildings along with quality construction work".

"The delay in completion is depriving the students of proper infrastructure for effective teaching and learning process," the KVS commissioner wrote.

The letter included the list of projects that had been delayed, including the nine buildings that were under construction.

The project at Bandipur, Jammu and Kashmir, was the one delayed for the longest time — three years and seven months.

Focus on border areas, NCC plans to raise cadet strength by 8 lakh

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE NATIONAL Cadet Corps (NCC), a tri-service organisation involved in grooming and training the youth in social services, discipline and adventure training, is planning a major expansion of cadet strength by 8 lakh from the current strength of 15 lakh, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Government officials said the expansion is likely to be carried out in a phased manner over the next few years.

The plan, they said, is to expand NCC's reach to a greater number of educational institutions with a focus on far-flung border areas to bring in more youth into its fold and groom them in social service and inculcate in them discipline and values of nationalism.

A government official privy to the development said there has been a long waiting list for schools and colleges who wanted to get students enrolled in NCC, but it could not be done so far due to lack of resources and instructors. "The expansion will ensure the waiting list gets



PM Narendra Modi during the Prime Minister's NCC rally, in New Delhi last week. PTI File

reduced and students from more institutions can be part of NCC," the official said.

According to this official, the expansion is likely to be carried out by the optimisation of each NCC battalion so that its impact is maximised in its area of jurisdiction, without having to go beyond seven to eight companies in a battalion. The expansion plans, he said, will cover NCC units of the Army and not naval

and air wing units, as they have a requirement of specialised equipment.

An NCC group can include four to eight battalions and can cover three to 15 districts. There are 17 NCC directorates across the country, with three to six groups under each directorate.

A second official said each directorate will hold discussions with state governments to assess the vacancies needed in each

Two days after health minister's killing, Odisha government shunts SP, SDPO

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 31

TWO DAYS after Odisha Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisore Das was shot by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI), the state government on Tuesday shunted Jharsuguda SP Rahul Jain and Brajrainagar sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Gupteswar Bhoi in an apparent action over the killing. Both Jain and Bhoi have been attached to state police headquarters.

Bargarh SP Smit Parmar replaced Jain as new SP of Jharsuguda while Chintamani Pradhan replaced Bhoi. Even as the Crime Branch, which is probing into the murder, is yet to ascertain the motive, senior officers said accused ASI Gopal Das appears to have planned the minister's killing over some time.

"The murder was pre-planned for quite some time. But we are yet to ascertain the motive and those involved in it. We are examining different aspects to unearth the facts," a senior officer, who did not want to be



Naba Kisore Das

named, told *The Indian Express*.

Earlier, Crime Branch ADG Arun Bothra had stated that the accused has admitted to committing the crime.

The investigating agency, which has sought remand of the accused, questioned the driver and personal security officer (PSO) of the minister at Jharsuguda while a separate team questioned the family members of the accused ASI at their native village in Ganjam.

Sources said the Crime Branch has picked Satyanarayan Das, elder brother of ASI Das,

from his Ganjam residence for further questioning. Satyanarayan runs an eatery near Gandhi Chowk in Brajrainagar, where the incident occurred. The accused was a frequent visitor to the eatery. According to nearby shop owners, the eatery was closed on the day of the incident.

A statement issued by the Crime Branch said they have put a 3D scanner to find more evidence from the spot. Also, the vehicle used by the minister was thoroughly inspected by the scientific officer and ballistic experts to find out evidence and clues. CCTV footage from near the spot was also being verified, the statement said.

While the FIR was initially lodged under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC, it has now been changed to Section 302 (murder).

The killing has also triggered a political slugfest with opposition parties questioning the silence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the issue. The BJP and Congress targeted the BJD government over the deteriorating law and order situation and al-

leged "bigger conspiracy" and involvement of influential persons in the killing.

BJP's state president Samir Mohanty reiterated his party's demand for a CBI probe. "A police officer is a main accused in the killing of the minister. How can the police investigate the case impartially? It's a rare case not only in Odisha but in the entire country. The state government should immediately hand over the case to the CBI," he said at a press conference.

Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Jayanarayan Mishra alleged that the minister died on the spot while the state government enacted a drama of his treatment.

BJD spokesperson Sreemayee Mishra said Mishra, who is out on bail after his arrest for the murder of a BJD leader, is making baseless allegations. Congress spokesperson Sudarsan Das alleged a conspiracy at the "top level" in killing of the minister and asked why the Chief Minister has not uttered a word in this incident. He demanded a court-monitored SIT inquiry into the incident.

Abbasi’s attack on Gorakhnath lone-wolf act, waging war against govt, says court

In order, judge considered temple as UP Chief Minister’s residence and attack on it an attack on State

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 31

THE SPECIAL NIA/ATS court that sentenced Ahmed Murtaza Abbasi to death has viewed his act of April 3 last year as an attack on Gorakhnath Temple, which the court considered as the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister’s residence, and noted that it was a “lone-wolf attack which comes under the category of waging war against the Government of India”.

The court sentenced Abbasi, 31, an IIT-Bombay graduate who worked for a private firm, to death under IPC Section 121 (waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India) and sentenced him to prison terms under Sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act [UAPA], and other IPC Sections.

In its order on Monday, the special court said the attack on Gorakhnath Temple with a

“baanka” (sharp-edged weapon), to enter the temple “raising slogans of Allahu-Akbar (Allah is the greatest), cannot be considered a regular attack but comes under the category of lone-wolf attack”. The court said it is Abbasi’s “personal contribution to the objective to implement the ISIS ideology, which he undertook with Uttar Pradesh’s Chief Minister and the State as a symbol”.

“...this court is of the opinion that the attack by Abbasi...has symbolic importance and for this reason, it comes under the category of IPC Section 121 which is (waging) war against the Government of India...” Special Judge, NIA/ATS, Vivekanand Sharan Tripathi ruled.

The trial was shifted to Lucknow from Gorakhpur due to the Special ATS court’s jurisdiction, he said. Abbasi is lodged in a jail in Lucknow.

Police had said that two PAC personnel, Gopal Gaur and Anil Paswan, suffered injuries on their hands and legs during the

attack, and Abbasi was subsequently overpowered. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is the head priest of Gorakhnath Temple, was not present on the premises at the time.

Abbasi’s father Muneer Ahmed, who worked for a legal consultancy firm in Mumbai before returning to Gorakhpur two years ago, had said that his son was undergoing treatment for depression and was “not well since 2017”.

An application, filed before Allahabad High Court on behalf of Abbasi, had sought directions from the High Court to quash an order which had rejected an application moved by Abbasi under CrPC Sections 328 (procedure in case of accused being lunatic) and 329 (procedure in case of person of unsound mind tried before court). Abbasi’s lawyers had contented that the case should be heard by the “3rd senior most court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Lucknow”.

In Monday’s order, the special

court said, “The convict has not shown regret towards his actions.... But it has come to light that during questioning by investigating agencies he is proud of his actions on the path of jihad. He is radicalised by the jihadi ideology of ISIS through online literature, PDFs, videos and other mediums. His thoughts have come to be shown to be that people belonging to other religions are kafirs (infidel) and they must bleed.”

Twenty-eight prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial.

The order noted, “...it has come to light that the attack was not out of momentary anger but to display ISIS’s ideology of the Caliphate against secularism, democracy and disrespect towards other religions and to destroy them. To show this, the attack was done with the intention to humiliate UP’s Chief Minister on the national and international level. The objective of the attack can be linked to the objective of ISIS because Ahmad Murtaza

Abbasi is an active member of ISIS, to which he has pledged allegiance.”

The order listed the Islamic State’s “goals” from the “Wikipedia online page”.

It said the amicus curiae, Ram Narayan Tiwari, told the court that if Abbasi is considered an IS sympathiser, he should not be given the death sentence. “In that case, people at top posts in ISIS should be punished,” Tiwari told the court.

In the judgment, Special Judge Tripathi also noted that Abbasi had picked his email ID after Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and observed that after each strategic victory, Aurangzeb destroyed existing symbols of a specific community in the region. The judge said this was part of a strategy to destroy symbols of cultural importance to conquer a state.

The court said if Abbasi is given any punishment less than death, then other fundamentalist groups will consider him their ideal and attack other symbolic places in the country.



जनजातीय कार्य विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

विविध जनजातीय सम्मान वर्ष 2021

जनजातीय समाज के स्वाभिमान, नेतृत्व गुणों, त्याग, बलिदान की स्मृति को बनाये रखने, समाज के समुख आदर्श प्रस्तुत करने तथा जनजातीय जीवन के पारंपरिक कला-कौशल एवं सृजनात्मक अवदान को प्रचारित-प्रसारित और गौरवान्वित करने के उद्देश्य से स्थापित।

वर्ष 2021 के लिये नीचे लिखित सम्मान के लिये नामांकन/अनुशंसाएँ विभिन्न राज्य स्तरीय समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापित प्रकाशित की गयी थी। जिसमें अंतिम तिथि 20.01.2023 निर्धारित थी। उक्त तिथि को बढ़ाकर **28 फरवरी 2023** किया गया है।

निर्णायक मंडल : मध्यप्रदेश शासन, जनजातीय कार्य विभाग द्वारा गठित निर्णायक मंडल का सर्वानुमत निर्णय आवश्यक होगा, जो शासन के लिए बंधनकारी होगा।

प्राारूप : प्रविष्टि के साथ व्यक्ति/संस्था का पूर्ण परिचय, उनके सृजनात्मक कार्यों की विशेष जानकारी, उन्हें पूर्व में प्राप्त पुरस्कारों का विवरण, उनके बारे में पूर्व प्रकाशित प्रतिवेदन की जानकारी तथा सम्मान के लिए नामांकित संस्था/व्यक्ति के बारे में प्रख्यात व्यक्तियों/पत्र-पत्रिकाओं द्वारा की गयी टिप्पणियों की प्रतिलिपियाँ भी अपेक्षित होंगी। प्रविष्टि में दिये गये तथ्यों/निष्कर्षों/प्रमाणों का संपूर्ण उत्तरदायित्व प्रविष्टि प्रस्तुतकर्ता का रहेगा। इस मामले में राज्य शासन किसी विवाद में पक्षकार नहीं माना जाएगा।

- एक से अधिक सम्मान के लिए नामांकन की स्थिति में, प्रत्येक सम्मान के लिए पृथक-पृथक प्रविष्टि आमंत्रित है।
- जनजातीय सृजनात्मक कला, शिल्प, साहित्य, संस्कृति एवं समाजसेवा के आदर्शों के अनुरूप कार्य करने वाले व्यक्तियों, संस्थाओं, समाजशास्त्रियों, बुद्धिजीवियों, साहित्यकारों, पत्रकारों, लेखकों, समीक्षकों, विषय विशेषज्ञों, विश्वविद्यालयों, शोध संस्थानों, जनजातीय केन्द्रों से नामांकन/अनुशंसाएँ आमंत्रित हैं।
- पात्रता संबंधी विस्तृत विवरण कार्यालय वन्या प्रकाशन में कार्यालयीन समय पर तथा जनजातीय कार्य विभाग की वेबसाइट www.tribal.mp.gov.in पर देखा जा सकेगा।

वन्या कार्यालय में नामांकन/प्रविष्टि भेजने की अंतिम तिथि : 28.02.2023, अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक



प्रबंध संचालक, वन्या (जनजातीय कार्य विभाग)
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Rahul ends J&K visit with prayers at Kheer Bhawani, Hazratbal

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31

AFTER COVERING thousands of kilometres during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which concluded on Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday travelled to Ganderbal, about 20 km from Srinagar, to pay obeisance at the Kheer Bhawani temple. He was accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Upon his return to Srinagar, Rahul visited the Hazratbal shrine in the city and left for New Delhi in the afternoon.

The Kheer Bhawani temple, also known as Ragnya Devi temple, is one of the most important temples for Kashmiri Pandits. The Gandhi siblings travelled to the village of Tulmulla in central Kashmir’s Budgam, where the temple is located, in the morning, accompanied by party leaders. The party’s chief spokesperson in Jammu and Kashmir, Ravinder Sharma, told *The Indian Express* that it was a private visit.

“Today @RahulGandhi ji and @Priyankagandhi ji bowed their heads in Kheer Bhawani temple and prayed for the country’s unity, prosperity and took blessings of

the mother,” Congress tweeted.

On his return from the temple, Rahul went to the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, the most sacred Muslim shrine in the Valley, along with Congress’s Jammu and Kashmir president Vikar Rasool. “Today @RahulGandhi ji reached Hazratbal Dargah in Srinagar and prayed for peace and prosperity in the country,” tweeted the Congress.

Rahul arrived in the Valley on January 27 as part of the Yatra. His padayatra started from Qazigund in south Kashmir and ended in Srinagar’s historic Lal Chowk two days later. On Sunday, the Congress MP unfurled the Tricolour at Lal Chowk, 75 years after his great-grandfather Jawahar Lal Nehru unfurled the national flag there and promised Kashmiris the right to self-determination.

The yatra culminated on Monday with a public rally in Srinagar that was supposed to be a show of unity of the opposition. But, not many Opposition leaders turned up at the rally because of heavy snowfall that led to flights being grounded. During the day, Rahul and Priyanka were seen indulging in a snowball fight.



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The Indian EXPRESS

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REASONED OPTIMISM

Economic Survey presents an upbeat assessment of economy.
But there are more short-term challenges than it lets on

THE ECONOMIC SURVEY 2022-23, the annual flagship document of the Ministry of Finance, is carefully optimistic in its assessment of the prospects of the Indian economy over the coming year. The optimism is striking, particularly when the global situation isn't exactly rosy, with tightening financial conditions and subdued trade growth. The Survey has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24, a tad lower than the forecast of 7 per cent for the ongoing financial year. This assessment is at odds with the more pessimistic forecasts by international agencies and other independent evaluations. In its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund has pegged India's economic growth to slow down from 6.8 per cent in 2022 to 6.1 per cent in 2023. On similar lines, rating agency Crisil has projected growth at 6 per cent, while investment house Nomura has pegged it even lower. While the Survey's projections of the decline in growth may not necessarily be incorporated in the Union budget, they nonetheless provide an insight into the government's views on the state of the economy.

The Survey's growth prognosis is based on expectations of robust domestic demand and a pick-up in capital expenditure. It notes that as export growth moderated in the ongoing financial year, domestic consumption rebounded, providing a fillip to economic activity. However, this was largely due to the release of "pent-up" demand. While the Survey expects this rebound to have "lasting power", to what extent it is sustainable — in the context of elevated inflation eroding purchasing power and an uneven recovery impacting sales of both consumer durables and non-durables — is debatable. On investment activity, the Survey highlights the increasing trend in project announcements and private capex spending. While there are some signs of an uptick in the private investment cycle, these indicate a skew in favour of specific sectors, not a broad-based pick-up. Moreover, the continuing downturn in exports will have ramifications. While the Survey does acknowledge the prospects of sluggish exports, a detailed articulation on the risks to growth from a slowdown in the developed economies — if interest rates remain "higher for longer" — is absent.

The Survey has devoted an entire chapter to India's medium-term growth outlook. The broad conclusion is encouraging — the twin balance sheet crisis does not appear to be an impediment to growth anymore. Both corporate and banking sector balance sheets are in far better shape, and the credit cycle is poised for an uptick. The Survey emphatically states the Indian economy is well placed to embark on a growth trajectory similar to what it experienced post 2003. This is reassuring. Thus, while the short-term outlook is challenging, favourable demographics, formalisation and digitisation are reasons for optimism in the long run.

CLASSROOM SKEW

AISHE report shows that pandemic threatens to undo gender parity gains in higher education. Policymakers must take note

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC seems to have made the road to gender equality rockier than before. Reports have documented that the economic blow of the public health emergency has fallen disproportionately hard on women — men had more job security, and could negotiate higher wages, compared to women during the crisis years. Now the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) for 2020-21 has revealed that crucial gains made in closing the gender gap in undergraduate programmes suffered a setback during the pandemic. In classrooms where men were already in majority — computer science, business administration, pharmacy, technology and law courses, for instance — the number of women has gone down further. And in fields of study where the gender gap had, by and large, been plugged — medicine and commerce — the reverses are significant. The gender ratio in the B.Com course is down to 2016 levels.

Cultural notions about careers appropriate for women have traditionally held back their mobility. However, the spurt in aspirations in recent years exercised a steady influence on the gender composition of classrooms. In 2014, for instance, for every 100 male students enrolled in undergraduate commerce programmes, there were 90 female students. This gap was plugged in 2019. In MBBS and B.Sc programmes, the skew was addressed a year earlier. The Covid-related setback to gender equality in college and university classrooms is in contrast to developments in school education. The ASER report, released two weeks ago, shows that exigencies of the pandemic have not diminished parents' keenness to get their daughters enrolled in schools. However, in a society where women's education still does not receive adequate importance and the burden of caring for the family falls disproportionately on them, the effect of the crisis on higher education is telling.

In the wake of the pandemic, the government was quick to respond to several welfare and equity-related issues. Relief packages under PMJDY and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan — ASHA workers were brought under this package — were announced within days of the lockdown. The SVANIDHI scheme was launched for street vendors, a large percentage of whom are women. But the skew in classrooms threatens grim implications for women's empowerment, which, in turn, could have a bearing on the nutrition, health and education of future generations. The Centre, state governments and educational institutions must find ways to enable women to return to institutions of higher education. In the short term, this could mean increasing the outlay for scholarships and creating more dorms and hostels. In the long run, this should mean catalysing processes of social change that enable half of the country's population to attain its aspirations.

AMAR, PATHAAN, ANTHONY

Shah Rukh Khan's invocation of 'Amar, Akbar, Anthony' is a hopeful reminder — cinema can go beyond polarised politics

BY ALMOST ANY objective metric, the material lives of Indians — regardless of religion, caste, gender — are better in 2023 than in 1977. But if the imagination of a nation is about more than per capita income, or even health and education levels, the story becomes complicated. A nation is also made of its symbolism — which in its worst form can descend to mere tokenism and at its best, is a form of representation. Shah Rukh Khan's invocation of *Amar Akbar Anthony* at an event to celebrate the massive commercial success of *Pathaan* earlier this week, was a throwback to a time when mainstream cinema — and society — were less polarised than they are today.

In response to a question about the controversy around *Pathaan* and attempted boycotts of the film, Khan said that the cast of the film, like the characters in Manmohan Desai's 1977 classic, belonged to different religions but were united by a larger purpose — to provide joy to the audience: "This is Deepika, she is Amar, I'm Shah Rukh Khan, I'm Akbar and John he is Anthony..." Khan was gesturing to the sometimes choreographed but mostly unselfconscious inclusivity that has marked Hindi cinema down the years.

Bollywood is, of course, a bubble. The Sachar Committee report (2006) wasn't really needed to show that the condition of India's largest religious minority remains relatively poor in social, educational and economic terms — cricket team captains and movie stars notwithstanding. And the Amar Akbar Anthony trope is a cliché. Yet, the fact that mainstream blockbusters would promote a secular ethos — without calls for boycott or a barrage of "hurt sentiments" — is something worth remembering. Khan's comparison is also a hopeful one. It seems that in 2023, as in 1977, the box office doesn't always reflect the polarisation outside.

Post pandemic, pre-election



Amid tight financial conditions, cautious optimism on inflation, Survey suggests calibrated fiscal consolidation

DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI AND PANKHURI TANDON

THE ASSUMPTIONS AND assessments of India's annual Economic Survey and Budget last year went awry within weeks of tabling them. Russia invaded Ukraine. Inflation ran riot. A year later, the war continues. The inflation genie is yet to be bottled. Will this fiscal be any different?

To be sure, as the Economic Survey 2022-23 notes, the Indian economy looks more upbeat than many others, given the circumstances. A broad-based recovery is underway and has lifted all major sectors above the pre-pandemic levels this year. But that is about to be tested by slowing global growth amid tighter financial conditions. The full effects of aggressive rate hikes by global central banks through 2022 will play out this year. A cache of troubles — high global debt burden, rising debt servicing costs, tight external financing conditions, geopolitical risks, and extreme weather events — threaten to pile on.

At home, the global slowdown will hit exports and export-linked segments. The full-blown impact of rate hikes by the RBI will kick in. And India will continue to reckon with volatility in crude and commodity prices, much like everywhere else. The Survey also highlights the risks from an elevated current account deficit amid challenging external financing conditions.

Even as it acknowledges these risks, the Survey expects India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for fiscal 2024 to slow to about 6.5 per cent — slightly more optimistic than projections by multilateral agencies and CRISIL's forecast of 6 per cent. It expects the high and broad-based domestic inflation seen this fiscal to ease next fiscal. CRISIL's forecasts echo this, at 5 per cent for CPI inflation, and even lower for WPI.

Not all the views and suggestions of Economic Surveys have been reflected in past Budgets. Yet, the document serves as a useful policy mirror to the past year's actions and sets the stage for what lies ahead in the near and medium term. In the uneasy environment of tight financial conditions and cautious optimism on inflation, this year's Survey suggests calibrated fiscal consolidation. We agree with this stance.

The fiscal deficit for the coming fiscal should move towards the glide path that targets 4.5 per cent of the GDP by fiscal 2026, as

Given the uncertain environment, we believe that it would make sense for the budget to continue propping up capex while facilitating private investments. Creating the fiscal space for doing this will indeed be challenging. In particular, the slower rise in nominal GDP would impact the momentum in tax collections. Space for capex, therefore, can only be created by reorienting spending from bloated subsidies and going on a divestment and asset monetisation overdrive.

committed to earlier. This is important because the benefit of high nominal GDP for the fiscal deficit is likely to fade in the coming months. Slowing growth and high borrowing costs will worsen the debt dynamics. India has one of the highest debt-to-GDP ratios in its peer group. Fiscal consolidation will also complement monetary policy. A lower fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio will help reduce pressure on domestic interest rates, the Survey opines.

Since the pandemic, the government has prioritised spending on infrastructure creation, relying more on direct budget support and less on off-budget financing. The Survey recognises this as a sound way to create higher multiplier effects in the economy over the medium term and help crowd in private investments.

Robust government capex has played a key role in lifting investment growth this fiscal, too. While the central government front-loaded its capex in the first half, states are expected to ramp theirs up towards the end of the fiscal. According to the first advance GDP estimates, investment expenditure is set to reach 34 per cent of the GDP (in real terms) in fiscal 2023, finally surpassing the fiscal 2014 levels.

The private sector in India is currently primed for undertaking investments with healthy balance sheets, cash reserves and low leverage. However, economic uncertainty is holding the "animal spirits" back, although some corporates are pencilling in a higher capex in the coming fiscal.

That said, government and private capex are not substitutes for each other, but complementary. While the government typically focuses on infrastructure creation, corporates invest in manufacturing. Given the uncertain environment, we believe that it would make sense for the Budget to continue propping up capex while facilitating private investments. Creating the fiscal space for doing this will indeed be challenging. In particular, the slower rise in nominal GDP would impact the momentum in tax collections. Space for capex, therefore, can only be created by reorienting spending from bloated subsidies and going on a divestment and asset monetisation overdrive.

As the pandemic's effects ebb, the time is ripe for re-orienting the economic strategy to the changing world order and developing a

medium-term plan that could help India grasp emerging opportunities — notably the shift in global manufacturing out of China — while also mitigating challenges such as providing employment for the growing Indian workforce, and climate risks. The Economic Survey devotes an entire chapter to these.

Growing domestic manufacturing remains a long-standing ask in this context. Its share in the GDP has been stagnant at 17-18 per cent for over two decades. The global search for alternative manufacturing bases since the pandemic is widely held as India's "China moment". The Survey considers India ready to seize the occasion, thanks to the structural reforms carried out between 2014 and 2022, and the progress made by production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes to attract private investments. We agree that the PLI schemes have quickened the pace of private investments. However, more needs to be done on ease of doing business and simplifying legal bottlenecks to create an upside to India's medium-term growth prospects, pegged at 6.5 per cent in the base case by the Survey.

On climate change, the Survey recognises India's rising vulnerability to climate-related risks. It details how the government is creating a conducive environment and contributing to the international policy agenda regarding the green transition. We believe a bigger financial commitment is in order, though. If India has to meet its net zero goals, fiscal policy must rapidly create the right environment for a boost in private sector participation and green investments. The Budget, it is hoped, will announce specific steps to support small enterprises' transition to a lower carbon footprint. To mitigate the impact of climate change on the food economy and smoothen price volatility, the Budget could focus on measures such as increasing allocations to, or incentivising the development of, extreme-weather-resistant crops, warehousing and food processing.

The Survey touches upon wide-ranging aspects that would shape India's outlook in the coming fiscal year and the medium term. How much of that will a pre-election year Budget foreground? We are about to find out.

Joshi is chief economist and Tandon is economist at CRISIL Ltd

WHERE SHE SHOWS THE WAY

Women must be empowered to take charge of their lives, help others



T SUMATHY

INDIA AT 100, for me, will be progressively occupied by the spirit of women. It is the expanse where we've transcended from the on-paper legal and constitutional utopia envisioned for women to a space where every woman's enterprise and individuality are recognised and she is free from the shackles of hackneyed traditions, distorted social perceptions, and contradictory standards of morality.

There are no two opinions on the fact that women have progressed since Independence. We now understand and acknowledge that the nation cannot progress if half of it is held back. From laws enabling women to own property and safeguard their interests, to being economically independent and leaving their mark in the business space, Indian women have seized the reins and developed a vision in tune with global developments.

As we march towards the 100th year of our Independence, the increasing recognition being given to a comprehensive system of growth must be marked by two factors — not just how and how many women perform, but also how gender-inclusive and representative institutions are and can become. Only 15 and 14 per cent of MPs in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively, are women; 11 women feature in the council of ministers; just 26 per cent of the selected candidates for Civil Services were women; only 23.3 per cent are in the labour force; only 20.37 per cent are



We need to strive to ensure that every woman from a disadvantaged background has the same access and information to empowering measures as a woman coming from privilege would. We need to keep reiterating the same question: What is being done for the women in the country, and is it adequate?

MSME owners; only 10 per cent of start-ups in India have women founders; and women only contribute 18 per cent to the nation's GDP.

The discussion now needs to evolve to understand the "whys" along with the "whats" embedded in percentages or numbers. The debate around women's participation must progress beyond the currently used metric of assessing the availability of opportunities, solutions, and avenues, which is, in my opinion, a unidirectional approach. A more holistic approach would entail an assessment of the comprehensiveness, feasibility, applicability, and accessibility of resolutions — whether in the form of a law, policy or directive — to propel women towards a promising future.

At the same time, every step in this direction must have social justice, equality, and inclusivity at its heart. We need to strive to ensure that every woman from a disadvantaged background has the same access to empowering measures as a woman coming from privilege does. We need more regional voices in strategic policy-making decisions, more rural women taking control of their economic decisions, and more women overcoming impediments and climbing the leadership ladder. We need to keep reiterating the same question: What is being done for the women in the country, and is it adequate? A policy is only good as the number of lives it impacts.

Tamil Nadu and its history are laced with the impactful legacies of leaders like Thanthai

Periyar, C N Annadurai, and Kalaigarr M Karunanidhi, who were not only proponents of equality and social justice for women but also set up practical examples for India and the world to emulate. Not only did Kalaigarr discuss issues affecting Indian widows in his screenplays, but he also announced financial assistance schemes for them. He instituted the Women Entrepreneurs Scheme, the Women's Small Trade Loan with Savings Scheme, reservations for women in government jobs and panchayat elections, marriage and maternity benefits, and other policies that have catapulted Tamil Nadu onto the path of development. His vision is what Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been furthering.

In the next 25 years, I hope for egalitarianism and justice to be the light of the nation. I fervently hope that we catapult more women forward, not only by empowering them to take charge of their lives, but also to impact the lives of thousands of other women, thereby initiating a cycle that creates space for inclusivity, empowerment, and development.

Thamizhachi Thangapandian aka T Sumathy is an academic, Tamil poet and DMK MP (South Chennai Constituency), and Member of the Standing Committee for Information and Technology. This article is part of an ongoing series, which began on August 15, by women who have made a mark, across sectors

FEBRUARY 1, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

PATIL To Be CM

VASANTRAO PATIL WAS elected the new leader of the Maharashtra Congress (I) legislature party. The two AICC observers, P Shiv Shankar and Buta Singh expressed confidence that the party would unitedly extend its cooperation to its new chief. Prior to the announcement, the observers had prolonged talks with the high command at New Delhi. The results of the secret ballot taken earlier to elect the new leader were not disclosed.

MINISTER CONVICTED

DEPUTY IRRIGATION MINISTER of Madhya

Pradesh Satyavrata Chaturvedi was convicted by the MP High Court on a charge of kidnapping a person with intent to murder him. Chaturvedi sent his resignation to the chief minister. He has been sentenced to three years imprisonment.

ORISSA BANDH

THE ONE-DAY WESTERN Orissa bandh called by the united Opposition front against the proposed Manibhadra dam project on the Mahanadi river turned violent in Bolangir district resulting in police firing, lathi-charge and tear-gassing. At least one person was injured when police opened fire.

SCIENTISTS ARRESTED

THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT arrested two scientists of the Agricultural Research Centre, Jorhat under the ESMA apparently for refusing to undertake election duty. This follows the arrest of five middle-rung officers at Diphu in the Karbi-Anglong district under the ESMA on the same charge last week.

US' DEFENCE BUDGET

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION presented a \$238.6 billion defence budget and said this was a realistic figure to make up for the neglect of US military spending in the 1970s.



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

THE TRIANGULAR DYNAMIC between the US, Russia and China has long been the principal factor shaping independent India's geopolitics. The unveiling of a new Sino-Russian alliance a year ago this week, the Russian aggression towards Ukraine, and the deepening confrontation between the West and Russia and China are compelling India to recalibrate its international relations.

Last February, Vladimir Putin travelled to Beijing to unveil a partnership "without limits" and with no "forbidden areas". To be sure, Russia and China had a strategic partnership for a long time before Putin's February 2022 visit. What the Beijing declaration did was lay out a solid basis for jointly confronting the West. Until the turn of the 2010s, both Moscow and Beijing sought a productive relationship with the US. Russia's accumulating grievances against the West and China's new ambition to replace the US as Asia's dominant power have brought them much closer now.

A few days after issuing the declaration on February 4, Putin invaded Ukraine. We do not know the nature of the consultations, if any, on Ukraine when Putin and Xi Jinping met in Beijing. It is not unreasonable to presume that the Sino-Russian alliance added to Moscow's confidence in risking a confrontation with the West in Europe. Putin had hoped that his multi-pronged military offensive would force a quick collapse of the regime in Kyiv and fold Ukraine's sovereignty into Russia's. Imagine for a moment he had gotten away with this in Ukraine. Putin, who had long complained about the European security order, would have driven a stake through its heart.

A quick, decisive and successful use of force in Ukraine would have deeply divided Europe and fractured the US-led trans-Atlantic security system that dominated the region for more than seven decades. Coming less than a year after the ignominious US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Moscow's absorption of Ukraine would have further undermined the credibility of the US as a global power. Putin's victory in Europe would have had a dramatic impact on Asia too. It would have reinforced the sentiment that America is in terminal decline, weakened US alliances in Asia, and boosted China's ambition to radically reshape its periphery. If Putin had successfully conquered Ukraine, Xi's path to unification with Taiwan through the use of force or mere coercive diplomacy might have eased.

But the Sino-Russian project of building a post-Western global order went awry in Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's defiant courage prevented the quick collapse of the regime in Kyiv and that, in turn, helped mobilise massive military assistance from the Western world.

Nearly a year after the invasion, Putin is locked in a grinding stalemate. He has lost nearly 50 per cent of the territory Russia gained in eastern Ukraine during the early



phase of the invasion. Russia's military material and manpower losses have been immense and Moscow faces a harsh regime of Western economic sanctions.

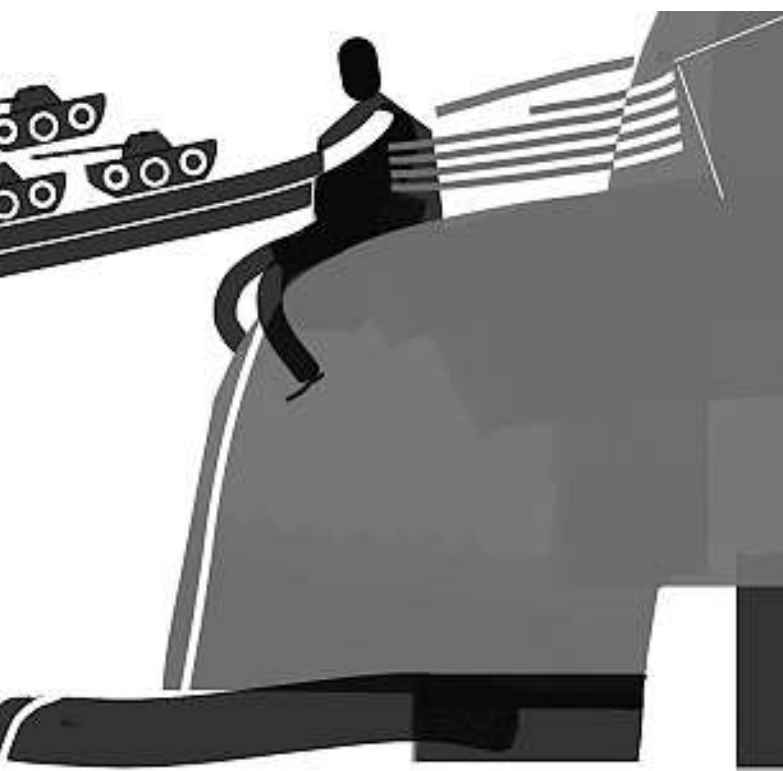
Where does this leave the Sino-Russian alliance and what are its implications for India? Several preliminary assessments can be laid out.

First, instead of delivering a final blow to the US primacy in the international system, Putin and Xi have facilitated the resurrection of Western unity under American leadership. The Ukraine invasion has also allowed the US to put simultaneous pressure on both China and Russia.

In Europe, Putin's war has helped the US galvanise and expand NATO. The Russian invasion has also triggered the fear of Chinese territorial expansionism in Asia. This has led to the strengthening of US bilateral alliances with Australia and Japan. Washington has significantly raised its military and political support for Taipei and is making it harder for Xi to embark on an invasion of Taiwan.

Second, the Sino-Russian alliance and the Ukraine war have seen two reluctant and pacifist powers — Germany and Japan — join the battle against Moscow and Beijing. Japan and Germany happen to be the world's third and fourth largest economies and their mobilisation significantly alters the so-called "correlation of forces" between the West and the Moscow-Beijing axis. Both Berlin and Tokyo are now committed to raising their defence spending to cope with the security challenges from Moscow and Beijing. Despite their huge stakes in economic engagement with Russia and China, Berlin and Tokyo have had no choice but to join Washington in ramping up the commercial pressure against Russia and China.

Third, if Russia and China thought they could dominate Eurasia through an alliance, Washington is doing something similar to bring its alliances and partnerships in Europe and Asia closer. We saw the leaders of America's Asian allies join for the first time a NATO summit last June in Madrid. NATO, in



C R Sasikumar

turn, has promised to take a greater interest in shaping the Indo-Pacific balance of power.

Fourth, while the jury is out on the future of the Sino-Russian alliance, there is a growing prospect that Moscow will become more beholden to Beijing after Putin's military misadventure in Ukraine. The poor Russian strategic performance may have diminished Putin's standing with Xi and complicated China's plans, but Beijing is unlikely to abandon Moscow. A weakened Putin will remain a valuable asset for Xi even as Beijing seeks to blunt some of the new Western hostility to China.

Finally, India's discomfort in the messy *menage a trois* with Russia and China will only grow. The Sino-Russian alliance puts India in a terrible predicament: China can ramp up, at will, the military pressure on the disputed border with India; Delhi depends on Russian military supplies to cope with the PLA challenge; and Moscow is now a junior partner to Beijing. This is certainly not a nice place for Delhi to be in.

To make matters worse, the dependence on Russian arms has severely constrained India's position on Ukraine and cast a shadow over Delhi's engagement with Europe and the US. If the Russian partnership was long seen as the key to India's "strategic autonomy", Delhi's arms dependence on Moscow is now the biggest constraint on India's freedom of action.

Nearly three decades ago, India turned to Russia and China to promote a multipolar world amidst a unipolar moment dominated by the US. As it faced the prospect of a unipolar Asia dominated by a rising and assertive China, Delhi has turned to the US and its allies to restore the regional balance of power. The transition, however, has at once become more urgent and complicated by the new Sino-Russian alliance and President Putin's war against Ukraine.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The Conservative party has been doomed by a culture of rebellion that has flourished since Brexit. Rightwingers have divided their party and humbled its leaders. It is their strength that now makes a Tory defeat seem so probable." — THE GUARDIAN

Hope and challenge in Valley

For Congress, enthusiastic reception of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kashmir brings responsibilities. It will need to be vigilant and responsive



RADHA KUMAR

I JOINED THE Bharat Jodo Yatra because I thought the simple act of bringing politics back to the people was sorely needed at a time when politics had become both virtual and weaponised. It was both literally and metaphorically a television screen that could be switched off but not replaced. By providing the physical act of walking and talking with political representatives face to face, the Bharat Jodo Yatra shattered that delusion. And for that alone I was grateful.

I chose to join the Yatra in Srinagar because I was concerned about its impact in the Valley. As someone who had seen and shared the trough of despair that Jammu and Kashmir had plunged into after August 2019, when its special status was removed and the former state was divided and demoted to Union Territories, I feared that the Bharat Jodo Yatra would be greeted cynically.

The enthusiastic reception that the yatri received was, therefore, a surprise, though only partly so. I had called friends before going, and they told me there was excitement and anticipation for Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra's arrival.

Since 2019, no national party leader has visited the former state except in bullet-proof cars and tight security. The last time a national party leader walked through Srinagar was half a century ago. And the last time a national party leader led a public march through the city is lost in memory.

True, a large part of the enthusiasm was because Kashmiris had not been allowed to gather publicly for three and a half years. Just to be able to be out in large numbers was an enormous relief, as Mehbooba Mufti tweeted.

But there was more to it than that. For those like me, who have not been confined for long periods, it might be difficult to imagine the importance of even a day of freedom. It has taken me 24 hours to absorb its full import, which is not just those few moments of public space but what they imply for the immediate future. Having permitted the Yatra, will the Jammu and Kashmir administration return to its policy of confinement or will there be some gradual relaxation in it? Might other demonstrations of public aspiration or grievance follow? Better yet,

Kumar is a writer and policy analyst

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AFTER THE YATRA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Walk the talk' (IE, January 31). The Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra ended in Srinagar, on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, after 135 days on the road. The party's outreach might not have immediately refreshed its electoral fortunes. But Rahul Gandhi interacting with citizens across the country, and the very organisation of the yatra has injected energy into the Congress. In the years since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been increased violence in the Valley. The presence of members of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC) at the flag hoisting ceremony in Srinagar, points to a sincere attempt at solidarity between Kashmiri politics and the national opposition. Yet, in terms of the Congress's revival, the road ahead is long.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Walk the talk' (IE, January 31). Two unstated but key objectives of Rahul Gandhi's yatra were to refurbish his image as an energetic leader and gain acceptance as the national Opposition leader. He succeeded in achieving the former mainly by demonstrating his astonishing stamina. He will have to do much more in order to establish himself as the main contender against Narendra Modi. He has revived the sinking morale of his party's cadre. To sustain it, he should start winning elections.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

WORK TOGETHER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Let diplomacy flow' (IE, January 29). The conflict due to the Indus Water Treaty is the latest point of friction between India and Pakistan. Finding a middle ground to re-

solve the hydel power projects issue is the way forward. Adhering to the norms set by the World Bank could be helpful. Regardless of the specifics, New Delhi's approach needs to be diplomatic and conciliatory. Hopefully, Islamabad will follow the same principle.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

THE 2024 TEST

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Travellers and tourists' (IE, January 31). Many across the Opposition did not join the Bharat Jodo Yatra. This indicates the lack of confidence opposition parties have in the Congress to be the national contender against the BJP. The Yatra helped Rahul Gandhi regain the spotlight as a capable leader. The real test will be in 2024. The show might have ended with reasonable success for the Congress and the Gandhis, but the hard work of "winning" seats starts now.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

TROUBLED WATERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The shape of water' (IE, January 30). In a significant move, India has slapped a notice on Pakistan to join the talks within 90 days as per the Indus Waters Treaty since it refused to discuss the issue under the Permanent Indus Commission that meets at least once a year. India appears to have taken a calibrated step to leverage its upper riparian advantage to renegotiate the treaty. Though the government sought to underplay it as a technical matter, employing the dispute as a counterweight to curb cross-border terror is very much on the table. PM Modi had, after the Uri attack, said that blood and water cannot flow simultaneously. However, India lacks the ability to impound or divert those waters, even if it wants to. How it would eventually play its cards remains to be seen.

Khokan Das, Kolkata



RAKESH SINHA

THE NATURE of politics changes with the emergence of new forces in any society. The first consequence of that is people liberate themselves from ideological baggage. The transformation of England's politics in the mid-1970s is a good example. Both the Labour and Conservative party were compelled to readjust their social philosophy and economic perspective with the leadership of Margret Thatcher. When parties and leaders fail to recognise such shifts, they unconsciously cling to the conventional modes of appeal. That does not cut much ice with people. This is exactly what happened with Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. The 4,000 km-plus journey is replete with ambiguities. Besides the timing of the Yatra, Rahul Gandhi's statement that he is a "new Rahul Gandhi" needs to be decoded to understand the journey's objective.

Rahul Gandhi took to the streets after senior Congress leaders, known as the G23, questioned the ability of the Nehru-Gandhi family to restore the party's lost glory. The Yatra was planned by his brain trust to safeguard the legitimacy of the dynasty and give a message to the scattered opposition parties that the signboard of the Congress still carries some utility. The leaders around Rahul Gandhi tried to glorify him as a saint and warrior. However, all this was a mere celebration of a politician as a marathon runner. There is no Pilgrim's Progress in politics. The crisis of legitimacy continues.

Parties like the SP, RJD, JDU and DMK understand the Congress's limits and, therefore,

none of them is prepared to play second fiddle. Moreover, Rahul Gandhi's old formula of presenting himself as the first among equals in chanting anti-RSS and anti-Modi slogans has failed to give him an edge.

So, how much has the Yatra bolstered Rahul Gandhi's leadership? The answer to this question has less to do with his individual identity and more about the ideas he cherishes. His oft-repeated statements against the RSS and V D Savarkar only appeal to intellectuals of the Nehruvian and Marxist lineage and do not excite the masses. In the changed context of Narendra Modi's pro-marginalised politics and consistent government policies, it is difficult for the non-BJP forces to convince people with their propaganda. Instead of spelling out its economic views, Congress has been confined to polemics against the BJP government. The party has been caught in a paradoxical situation. The party think tank endorses neo-liberalism while it tries hard to push Rahul Gandhi's pro-poor image.

While capitalism has been making aggressive advances all over the world, PM Modi's economics is close to the people's aspirations and provides ideological and political deterrence to crony capitalism. Once a votary of the socialistic pattern of society, Congress has seen its social base, the poor and the marginalised, moving over to the BJP. Today, these sections are vocal supporters of PM Modi. Interestingly, even the communists have not taken on Modi-economics as being opposed to their concept of socialistic governance.

It is in this context that anti-BJP parties are compelled to rely on political gimmicks based on caste and communal polarisation. Each of them is conscious of Modi's outreach to their traditional support base. The BJP-RSS is meticulously addressing emerging social classes. Now, the "changed" Rahul Gandhi has added more confusion for the Congress rank and file than ever. He uses metaphors and symbols to prove himself a genuine Hindu and at the same time denounces the BJP-RSS's Hindutva as majoritarianism.

The Congress and its intellectual allies have failed abysmally in comprehending that the battle of ideas is now based on the civilisational and cultural identity of India. Modi represents the mission of redefining India by freeing it from the web of Eurocentric mentality. This was long due. The last attempt was made during our anti-colonial struggle by nationalists like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. They tried to re-Indianise the country by reviving its art and culture. However, this movement was nipped in the bud before it could be articulated as a basis of the nationalist struggle. The Europeans abhorred it due to their cultural colonisation agenda and the dominant leadership of Congress denounced the movement as a militant and religious revivalist one.

The current ideological battle is part of a cultural renaissance. The current generation may be apprehensive about it but posterity will acknowledge the new strength of India. The question "who are we?" can't be an-

swered by only swearing loyalty to the Constitution. A nation is far more than a constitutional society. This is as true of Israel as it is of the US and India. Rahul's Hindu claim is welcome but does it answer the aforesaid question? Modi's decolonisation agenda, seen in the reimagining of structures and symbols which were reminiscent of the colonial aggressors, is criticised by a class of intellectuals in India and abroad who in the same vein quote Ngugi wa thiong'o and Frantz Fanon. Ngugi was a celebrated Kenyan author who not only abandoned English as a colonial language in support of his mother tongue Gikuyu but also changed his name from James thiong. Fanon believed that colonial structures must be removed to achieve decolonisation. The hypocrisy of the Congress and its intellectual allies confuses more than gives clarity to the party.

Rahul Gandhi lacks an unambiguous definition of secularism and, therefore, India for him remains defined within the Nehruvian ideological moorings. His metamorphosis is just for electoral gains. India's cultural march led by Modi is now irreversible. No political party can now win the confidence of the people by escaping from the discourse on our civilisational history and identity. The decline of Congress was first visualised by its former president, Shankarrao Deo in three consecutive speeches in 1949. He remained unheard. And Congress is now a victim of the syndrome of being neither here nor there.

The writer is a BJP Rajya Sabha member



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EXPLAINED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Assessing the case for amending India-Pak Indus Waters Treaty



AMITABH SINHA

THERE ARE two ways to look at India's recent notice to Pakistan on the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of six rivers flowing through the two countries.

It can be viewed as India's counter measure to Pakistan's repeated objections to every irrigation or power project on the Indian side of the Indus basin. This would imply that if Pakistan drops its obstructionist approach, India might not insist on amending the Treaty.

Alternatively, this can be seen as the beginning of something more significant. India

could be serious about making amendments to the Treaty and might have just set the ball rolling with the notice, served on January 25.

While it is premature to hazard a guess on the eventual outcome of the move, the renegotiation of the Indus Waters Treaty is not as radical an idea as it might appear. In fact, it is not a new idea at all.

Several reasons to renegotiate

Calls for amending or renegotiating the Indus Waters Treaty have been made for more than two decades now on both sides. Despite being awarded nearly 80 per cent of the water flow in these rivers, Pakistan has always maintained that it has been treated unfairly, arguing that it should have been allotted some share of the Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers as well. The Treaty gave India full rights over the waters of these three 'Eastern' rivers, while most of the flows in the three 'Western' rivers — Jhelum, Chenab and Indus — were meant for Pakistan. The Western rivers have far greater volumes flowing in them.

But this is not the only reason why Pakistani voices want the Treaty renegotiated. Experts on both sides agree that there have been significant changes since the Treaty came into being in 1960, and it needs to be updated. The impacts of climate change and the advancement in water storage and management technologies are cited as some of the most compelling reasons to renegotiate.

Climate change concerns bother Pakistan more. One of the consequences of climate change has been a decrease in the overall flows in the Indus river system. The decline thus far is just about 5 per cent from 1960, but is expected to worsen rapidly.

On the other hand, Pakistan's population has increased six to seven times since Independence, and is still growing at a fast pace. That means increased demand for water, and thus increased dependence on these rivers.

Considering new technologies

The Indus Waters Treaty is very prescriptive in what can or cannot be done on the

rivers by India, the upper riparian state. But today's dams or reservoirs are very different from the ones in the 1960s. Whenever India has tried to use newer designs and technologies, Pakistan has objected, like with the Baglihar dam.

The dispute over the Baglihar dam had to be referred to a neutral expert who ruled in favour of India, arguing that the new technology, even if not fully in accordance with the Treaty, would prolong the life of the project, and was therefore in everyone's interest. Making the Treaty non-prescriptive on design and technology could also help mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on water availability in the Indus river system.

Other reasons include the need for joint management, greater flexibility in utilisation of waters, and adoption of basin-wise approach in the management of the river waters. Some Pakistani voices also hope that a renegotiation of the Treaty would allow China to become a party, which would then neutralise India's advantage. The Indus basin ex-

tends to China and Afghanistan as well.

Weaponising the waters

These reasons notwithstanding, it would be naive to assume that India's proposal to modify the Treaty is driven by anything other than strategic interest. Despite its reputation as one of the most successful water-sharing agreements between countries, the Indus Waters Treaty has kept both India and Pakistan dissatisfied for six decades.

In his authoritative book *Indus Basin Uninterrupted: A History of Territory and Politics from Alexander to Nehru*, Uttam Kumar Sinha, Senior Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, detailed the objections raised by several leaders, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when the Treaty was brought for ratification by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960. Nehru was castigated for "yielding to Pakistan's wishes" and agreeing to "concessions after concessions". However, the Treaty has been largely absent from public discourse after that — unlike in

Pakistan, where its perceived injustice is part of everyday conversations.

However, the September 2016 Uri attack changed things in India, triggering a public clamour for weaponising the Treaty. Being the upper riparian state, India has a distinct advantage, with an entirely one-sided power to inflict damage. Indian governments until then had resisted the temptation to use the Treaty as a strategic tool against Pakistan. But in the aftermath of the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "blood and water cannot flow together" remark, and the temporary suspension of routine meetings of Indus Commissioners, signalled a departure. The recent notice to Pakistan is another step in the same direction.

In a way, this is another Balakot moment. The notice is a message to Pakistan that India would be unpredictable in its dealings with it, and would not shy away from escalation. Considering Pakistan's desperate dependence on the Indus basin rivers, this in itself could be extremely unsettling.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Economic Survey takeaways

The central thrust of this year's Economic Survey is that India's economy has recovered from the Covid disruption and is poised to grow like it did post 2003. However, there are several challenges

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

ON TUESDAY, the government tabled the Economic Survey 2022-23. The Survey laid out the outlook for India's growth, inflation, and unemployment in the coming years.

First, what is the Economic Survey?

For any year, the Survey provides a detailed report of the national economy. It is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).

It has chapters on everything from agriculture to government finances, and from unemployment to the state of infrastructure in the economy.

Apart from detailing the events of the year, the Economic Survey also looks at future scenarios, and provides an outlook in every chapter.

The comments or policy solutions contained in the Survey are not binding on the government or the Union Budget. Still, the Survey provides a comprehensive and official account of the Indian economy.

What are the main takeaways of the Economic Survey this year?

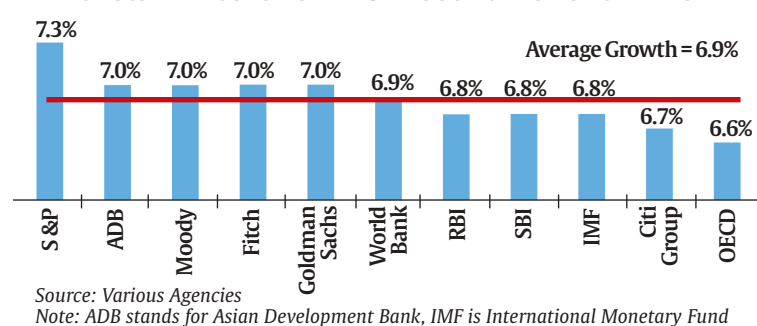
GDP GROWTH: The Survey states that India's growth estimate for FY23 is higher than for almost all major economies. In fact, the Survey pointed out that India's growth is "even slightly above the average growth of the Indian economy in the decade leading up to the pandemic".

"Despite strong global headwinds and tighter domestic monetary policy, if India is still expected to grow between 6.5 and 7.0 per cent, and that too without the advantage of a base effect, it is a reflection of India's underlying economic resilience; of its ability to recoup, renew and re-energise the growth drivers of the economy," the Economic Survey says.

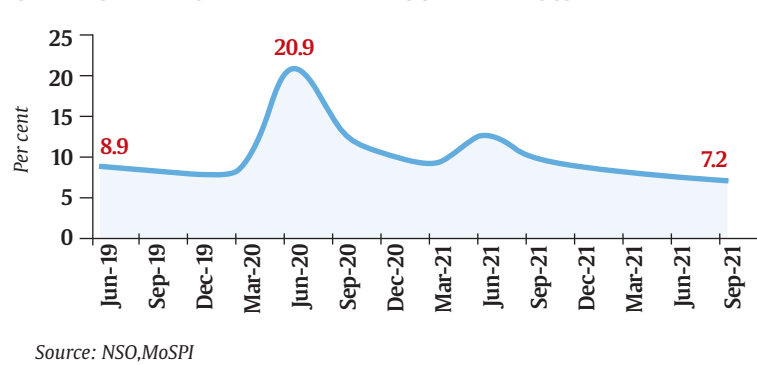
INFLATION: The RBI has projected headline inflation at 6.8% in FY23, outside its comfort zone of 2% to 6%. High inflation is seen as a big factor holding back demand among consumers. However, the Survey sounds optimistic about the inflation levels and trajectory, saying "it is not high enough to deter private consumption and also not so low as to weaken the inducement to invest."

UNEMPLOYMENT: The Survey says "employment levels have risen in the cur-

INDIA GROWTH PROJECTION BY VARIOUS AGENCIES FOR FY23



URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT FOUR-YEAR LOW



rent financial year", and that "job creation appears to have moved into a higher orbit with the initial surge in exports, a strong release of the "pent-up" demand, and a swift rollout of the capex."

It points to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which showed that urban unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and older declined from 9.8% in the quarter ended September 2021 to 7.2% one year later. The Survey also underlines that the fall in unemployment rate is accompanied by an improvement in the labour force participation rate.

What is the outlook for 2023-24?

The Survey projects a baseline GDP growth of 6.5% in real terms in FY24.

However, it has detailed some downside risks to this projection. For instance, low demand for Indian exports, thanks to poor global growth, may widen India's trade deficit and make the rupee depreciate. Similarly, sustained monetary tightening (higher interest rates) may drag down economic activity in FY24.

What does this mean for the future of India's economy?

The central thrust of this year's Survey is that India's economy has completely recovered from the Covid disruption and, at long last, is poised to see sustained robust growth in the rest of the decade.

Explaining this contention, CEA V Anantha Nageswaran has said that the phase between 2014 and 2022 — that is, the time when the BJP has been in power — has witnessed "wide-ranging structural and governance reforms that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency".

He clarified that these reforms had not yielded the desired results so far because banks were getting rid of their non-performing assets (NPAs) and business firms were deleveraging. Shocks such as the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine war made matters worse.

"As the health and economic shocks of the pandemic and the spike in commodity prices in 2022 wear off, the Indian economy is thus well placed to grow at its potential

in the coming decade, similar to the growth experience of the economy after 2003. This is the primary reason for expecting India's growth outlook to be better than it was in the pre-pandemic years," said the Survey.

Why is there a reference to 2003?

The Survey has argued that the situation in 2023 is similar to how the economy was poised in 2003.

It says the period between 2014 and 2022 is analogous to 1998-2002, when despite transformative reforms by the government (also led by the BJP), the Indian economy lagged growth returns. This was due to temporary shocks such as the US sanctions after India's nuclear test, two successive droughts, the collapse of the tech boom, etc. But once these shocks faded, the structural reforms paid growth dividends from 2003. The Survey claims the same story is set to be repeated from 2023.

How likely is this?

The first thing to note is that even before Covid, India's potential growth rate — the rate at which it can grow without inflation becoming a problem — had fallen to just 6%. In the 2003-2008 period it was 8%. Between 2009 and 2015, it was 7%. In the next few years, it is unlikely to rise much above 6%.

Secondly, during the 2003-2008 phase, the global economy was booming — exactly opposite of the situation now.

Thirdly, in India, unemployment rates underestimate the alarming stress in the labour market, because labour force participation rate (or the proportion of people demanding jobs) is itself quite low. Moreover, over the past two decades, India's growth has become increasingly capital-intensive (using relatively less labour). This trend is likely to worsen as automation eats into routine jobs.

Widespread joblessness translates to lower incomes and lower consumer demand. That, in turn, dissuades private sector investments and eventually acts as a drag on economic growth.

India is the world's most populous country with a growing youth bulge. It has the world's largest pool of poor people and the largest pool of malnourished children. Given the low levels of per capita income, it requires much faster growth than many developed countries. A growth rate of 4% in India can feel like a recession and even though a 6% growth should be achievable, it may not create enough jobs to satisfy a growing population.

EXPLAINED POLITICS

Capital tussle in AP: Jagan says it will be Vizag; Amaravati claim in court



When *The Indian Express* visited Amaravati in August 2019, flats for MLA/MLCs and All India Services officers were almost complete. Sreenivas Janyala/Express Archive

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 31

VISAKHAPATNAM WILL be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced on Tuesday. The process to choose the new capital has seen several twists and turns, and a related matter listed for hearing in the Supreme Court on Tuesday was ultimately not taken up.

Reddy's announcement

At the International Diplomatic Alliance Meet in New Delhi, the CM said: "I am here to invite you to Visakhapatnam, which is going to be our capital in the days to come. I myself will be shifting there... I am inviting you to the Global Investors Summit we are organising on March 3 and 4 at Visakhapatnam."

The announcement is being seen as reiteration that Jagan's government will go ahead with its plan for "all-round development of Andhra Pradesh" through decentralisation, including establishing three capitals for the state — Amaravati, which the N Chandrababu Naidu government had begun to develop as the state capital, as the legislative capital; Visakhapatnam as the executive capital; and Kurnool as the judicial capital.

Idea not abandoned

In November 2021, facing protests and legal difficulties, the government repealed the law to create the three capitals, but it did not give up its plans.

In January 2020, the Jagan government had scrapped the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Act, 2014 passed by the previous TDP government, thus slamming the door on Amaravati's future as the state's capital.

The government had also passed the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, which provided for three "Seats of Governance...to be called as 'Capital(s)'" — Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool — "to enable a decentralised model of governance".

However, hundreds of farmers who had given their land for the development of the capital city at Amaravati under the TDP regime, and who had organised themselves under the banner of the Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshana Samithi, challenged the decentralisation decision in the AP High Court.

Under pressure, the government decided to scrap the decentralisation law. The CM told

the Assembly that it would introduce a "better" and "comprehensive" Bill after plugging loopholes in the previous version. He did not give any timeframe.

Despite repealing the three capitals Act, the government continued to propagate the decentralisation plan.

Battle in the courts

On March 3, 2022, the AP High Court, acting on the petitions of farmers who had given land for Amaravati, directed the state government to develop the (erstwhile) proposed capital as envisaged under the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Act of the previous TDP government, and set a deadline of six months to do so.

It also told the government to develop the plots allocated to farmers in lieu of the land they had given up and hand it to them in three months, and to carry through the plans to develop the nine theme cities in Amaravati.

The state government challenged the order in the Supreme Court in September 2022. On November 28, 2022, the SC frowned on the directions of the High Court, and put a stay on their implementation. The SC sought responses from the Centre, the Andhra Pradesh government, and the Amravati Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshana Samithi by the next date of hearing, January 31, 2023.

The matter, however, was not taken up on Tuesday. "The matter was listed in the cause list for today, but hearing did not take place. A fresh date will be issued," YSRCP MP V Vijay Sai Reddy told *The Indian Express*.

Government's plan

Even as the question of what happens to the farmers and the assets already developed at Amaravati remains open, the state government has been pushing its decentralisation plan, which was reflected in the CM's statement on Tuesday. In recent weeks, Ministers and leaders of the YSRCP have been saying that the government would start functioning from Visakhapatnam soon.

Ahead of the March 3-4 summit, nearly Rs 100 crore has been allocated to beautify Visakhapatnam, which will also host the G20 Summit Working Group Committee on March 28-29.

Chief Minister Reddy and almost the entire government will be working from Visakhapatnam in March.

LONGER VERSION
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Recession fears dissipate, India will be fastest growing major economy: What the IMF's outlook update says

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

IN ITS January update of the World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) marginally improved its global growth forecast for 2023 — a relief, given fears of a global recession this year. The turnaround reflects "positive surprises and greater-than-expected resilience in numerous economies", the update said.

The IMF releases the WEO in April and October every year, and updates it in January and July.

Global growth will bottom out in 2023, gather pace in 2024

The October 2022 WEO forecast that

the global growth rate will decelerate from 3.4% in 2022 to 2.7% in 2023. "More than a third of the global economy will contract this year or next, while the three largest economies — the United States, the European Union, and China — will continue to stall. In short, the worst is yet to come, and for many people 2023 will feel like a recession," the IMF had said then.

In the Tuesday update, the IMF has effectively ruled out a global recession: "Negative growth in global GDP or global GDP per capita — which often happens when there is a global recession — is not expected."

Instead, it expects global growth to bottom out in 2023 before starting to gather speed in 2024. Global growth is now projected to fall to 2.9% in 2023 before rising to 3.1% in 2024.

"Compared with the October forecast,

the estimate for 2022 and the forecast for 2023 are both higher by about 0.2 percentage point..." the IMF said.

China, Russia, the US, Germany, and Italy have seen the most significant upward revisions of 2023 GDP forecasts. There is an almost 1 percentage point downgrade in the UK's 2023 GDP forecast.

Global inflation has peaked, but relief will come slowly

Inflation is expected to have peaked in 2022 but disinflation (the fall in inflation rate) will be slow, and will take all of 2023 and 2024, the update said.

"About 84 percent of countries are expected to have lower headline (consumer price index) inflation in 2023 than in 2022. Global inflation is set to fall from 8.8 percent in 2022 (annual average) to 6.6 per-

cent in 2023 and 4.3 percent in 2024 — above pre-pandemic (2017-19) levels of about 3.5 percent," the IMF said.

Price rise is slowing due to monetary tightening by central banks, and because, in the wake of faltering demand, prices of both fuel and non-fuel commodities have come down from their recent highs.

India will be fastest growing major economy in 2023, 2024

"Growth in India is set to decline from 6.8 percent in 2022 to 6.1 percent in 2023 before picking up to 6.8 percent in 2024, with resilient domestic demand despite external headwinds," the IMF has said. This means India will remain the world's fastest growing major economy in both 2023 and 2024. China is set to grow at 5.4% in 2023 and 4.5% in 2024.



TRUMP'S ROLE IN PAYMENT TO PORN STAR
GRAND JURY HEARS HUSH MONEY CASE

The grand jury's hearing of evidence over Donald Trump's role in hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels during his 2016 White House campaign could lay groundwork for possible criminal charges against the ex-president, Reuters reported

TOP OF THE
WORLD



Nigeria's commercial banks don't have enough new cash. AP

NIGERIA
Cash shortage in push for newly designed notes

NIGERIA'S PUSH to replace its paper money with newly designed currency notes has created a shortage of cash, leaving people unable to buy what they need and forcing businesses to close. The Central Bank of Nigeria says the re-designed denominations of 200, 500 and 1,000 naira notes and new limits on large cash withdrawals would help curb money laundering and make digital payments the norm in Africa's biggest economy. But the process to replace the old currency notes is "rushed," and commercial banks don't have enough new cash to give to customers, pushing demand higher than supply, said Ayokunle Olubunmi with Nigeria's main ratings agency, Agusto and Co. AP

NEPAL CRASH
DNA tests of six victims begin

AUTHORITIES ON Tuesday began conducting DNA tests on the remains of the six unidentified passengers who died in the horrific plane crash earlier this month. They were among 72 people who died after Yeti Airlines flight 691 crashed on the bank of the Seti River between the old airport and the new airport in the resort city of Pokhara, minutes before landing, on January 15. Fifty-three Nepalese passengers and 15 foreign nationals and four crew members were on board the plane when it crashed. PTI

CYPRUS
Vote amid ethnic split on Sunday

CYPRIOTS ARE voting for a new president who they'll expect to steer the nation through shifting geopolitical sands and uncertain economic times that have become people's overriding concern, eclipsing stalemated efforts to remedy the country's ethnic division. The months-long campaign has been a lacklustre affair, mainly because the three leading candidates are associates of outgoing President Nicos Anastasiades and so their battles have centred on trying to persuade voters they're not all cut from same cloth. AP

ARMY CHIEF VOWS MORE FOCUS ON ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS

Mosque blast toll 100, Shehbaz urges parties for unity: 'Political fights later'

REUTERS, AP & PTI
PESHAWAR, JANUARY 31

THE DEATH toll from Monday's suicide blast rose to at least 100 on Tuesday after rescue workers retrieved more bodies from the debris of the devastated mosque inside a major police facility in Pakistan's northwestern Peshawar city.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Mohammad Ajaz Khan told Geo TV the head of the suspected bomber was also recovered at the site.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who called the suicide blast "no less than an attack on Pakistan", on Tuesday dismissed criticism of his government and his call for unity after the blast.

"Through their despicable actions, terrorists want to spread fear & paranoia among the masses & reverse our hard-earned gains against terrorism & militancy," he tweeted. "My message to all political forces is one of unity against anti-Pakistan elements. We can fight our political fights later."

Referring to the attack, Army chief General Asim Munir directed his Generals to focus on anti-terrorism operations as he vowed zero tolerance for terror-



Rescue workers search the rubble for bodies at the blast site in Peshawar, Tuesday. Reuters

ist groups. "Such immoral and cowardly acts cannot shake the resolve of the nation rather reinvigorate our determination to succeed in ongoing war against terror," he said.

As distraught relatives thronged hospitals to look for their kin, Mohammad Asim, the spokesperson of the government-run Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), said 100 bodies had been brought to the medical facility since the attack.

Police said the hospital also received more than 200 injured after the attack, the deadliest in a decade to hit this restive, north-western city near the Afghan border. Riaz Mahsud, a senior local government official, said the casualty toll was likely to rise as workers searched through the debris.

Counter-terrorism police are investigating how the bomber was able to reach the mosque, which is in a walled compound, inside a high security zone. "Yes, it was a

security lapse," said Ghulam Ali, the provincial governor in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, of which Peshawar is the capital. "The inspector-general of the police has set up an inquiry committee, which will look into all aspects of the bombing," he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. The TTP denied responsibility though it has stepped up attacks since withdrawing from a peace deal with government last year.

Azerbaijan to ICJ: Armenia must stop sowing mines

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE, JANUARY 31

AZERBAIJAN APPEALED on Tuesday to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to urgently order Armenia to stop the laying of land mines and booby traps on Azerbaijani territory and disclose the location of such explosives that already have been placed, in the latest legal battle focused on the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Azerbaijani Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Elnur Mammadov told judges at the ICJ that his country has discovered more than 2,700 Armenian land mines since December 2021, when the court ordered both Azerbaijan and Armenia not to take any action that would aggravate their decades-long territorial dispute. He said the mines and booby traps are a deliberate attempt by Armenia to prevent the return of Azerbaijanis forced from their homes by the conflict.

"If Azerbaijanis preparing the liberated territories for the return of those displaced cannot do so safely, how can displaced Azerbaijanis safely exercise their right to return?" Mammadov said. The claim came in hearings at the court's headquarters in The Hague in a pair of cases brought by Armenia and Azerbaijan alleging breaches of a convention preventing racial discrimination.

The legal skirmishes are playing out against a backdrop of rising tensions just over two years after the nations ended a war in Nagorno-Karabakh that killed about 6,800 soldiers and displaced around 90,000 civilians.

Amid Israel-Palestine tension, Blinken urges peace but offers no new US help

MATTHEW LEE
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 31

US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken wrapped up a two-day visit to Israel and the West Bank on Tuesday with renewed appeals for Israeli-Palestinian calm amid an alarming spike of violence.

Blinken met Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday, a day after seeing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Standing alongside Netanyahu, Blinken stressed the importance the Biden administration places on resolving the long-running conflict with a two-state solution.

However, beyond urging a de-escalation of tensions, Blinken offered no new US initiative to do so. There were few signs that Blinken was making



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken with Palestinian civil society members in Ramallah, West Bank, on Tuesday. AP

progress on even the modest goal of halting the latest wave of violence, much less of addressing the broader issues surrounding peace talks.

Speaking to reporters in Jerusalem, Blinken said leaders on

both sides had voiced concerns about the current violence during his meetings. He said he instructed two top aides — Barbara Leaf, the top US diplomat for the Middle East, and Hady Amr, the US envoy to the Palestinians — to remain in

the region to work to defuse tensions. "Restoring calm is our immediate task. But over the longer term, we have to do more than just lower tensions," he said.

Blinken also said the US would oppose "anything" that undermines the two-state vision, including new settlement construction, legalising settlement outposts, demolitions of Palestinian homes and incitement to violence.

In Ramallah, Abbas placed all blame for the spike in violence on Israel and berated the international community for not doing more to pressure Israel. "We affirm that the Israeli government is responsible for what is happening today," he said, adding: "Israel is being overlooked, without deterrence or accountability, as it continues its unilateral operations." He called for "complete cessation" of the operations. AP

France hit by new wave of strikes against Macron's pension reform

SYBILLE DE LA HAMAIDE & STEPHANE MAHE
SAINT-NAZAIRE, JANUARY 31

STRIKING WORKERS disrupted French refinery deliveries, public transport and schools on Tuesday in a second day of nationwide protests over President Emmanuel Macron's plan to make people work longer before retirement.

Crowds marched through cities across France to denounce a reform that raises the retirement age by two years to 64 and which is a test of Macron's ability to push through change now

that he has lost his working majority in parliament.

On the rail networks, only one in every three high-speed TGV trains were operating and even fewer local and regional trains. Services on the Paris metro were thrown into disarray.

Buoyed by their success earlier in the month when more than a million people took to the streets, trade unions which have been battling to maintain their power and influence urged the public to turnout en masse.

"We won't drive until we're 64!" bus driver Isabelle Texier said at a protest in Saint-Nazaire,

adding that many careers involved tough working conditions.

The pension system reform would yield an additional 17.7 billion euros (\$19.18 billion) in annual pension contributions, according to Labour Ministry estimates.

Unions say there are other ways to raise revenue, such as taxing the super rich or asking employers or well-off pensioners to contribute more. "This reform is unfair and brutal," said Luc Farre, the secretary general of the civil servants' UNSA union. "Moving (the pension age) to 64 is going backwards, socially." REUTERS



A destroyed Russian tank on display in downtown Kyiv. AP

Tanks in pipeline, Kyiv push for jets risks West's unity

SUSIE BLANN
KYIV, JANUARY 31

UKRAINE'S PUSH for fighter jets to help beat back Russia's invasion force risks straining the unity of Ukraine's Western allies, amid fears that the move could escalate the nearly year-long conflict and draw them deeper into the war.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov was due in Paris Tuesday where discussions about the possible delivery of fighter jets to Ukraine was expected to be on the agenda.

Kyiv officials have repeatedly urged allies to send jets, saying they are essential to challenge Russia's air superiority and to ensure the success of future counteroffensives that could be spearheaded by tanks recently promised by Western countries.

There was no indication that a decision on warplanes to Ukraine might come any time soon and no sign that Western countries have changed their earlier stance on the issue. Ukraine's allies also have ruled out providing Kyiv with long-range missiles able to hit Russian territory, signaling a similarly cautious stance on warplanes.

Asked about Lithuania's call for Western countries to provide Ukraine with fighter jets and long-range missiles, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the comments "reflected an aggressive approach taken by the Baltic nations and Poland, who are ready to do everything to provoke further escalation without thinking about consequences."

"It's very sad that the leaders of big European countries that drive the European agenda don't fulfill a balancing role to offset such extremist inclinations,"

EXPLAINED
Cautious stance

IT WAS only after months of haggling that Ukraine last week persuaded its Western allies to send the tanks amid Russia's renewed push in the offensive. However, despite Kyiv's efforts, its allies have continued to balk at the prospect of sending it fighter jets, urging caution vis-a-vis Putin and Russia.

Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that France doesn't exclude sending fighter jets to Ukraine, but he laid out multiple conditions before such a significant step is taken.

The conditions, he said, include not leading to an escalation of tensions or using the aircraft "to touch Russian soil," and not resulting in weakening "the capacities of the French army."

Asked by a reporter Monday if his administration was considering sending Ukraine F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, U.S. President Joe Biden responded "no."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz appeared to balk at the prospect of providing fighter jets, suggesting Sunday that the reason for the entire discussion might be down to "domestic political motives" in some countries.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Monday there are "no taboos" in efforts to help Ukraine. But he added that sending jets "would be a very big next step." AP



An attack claimed by an anarchist network in Rome on Monday. AP

damage to Italian diplomatic targets in Argentina, Bolivia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. No injuries have been reported.

"It is obvious that there is an international solidarity (among anarchists) and therefore an attack against Italy, against Italian institutions, is being carried out across the world," Tajani said, adding that security was being raised at all embassies and consulates.

The attacks and as well as a series of protests, including one planned Tuesday in Madrid, are in solidarity with Alfredo Cospito, a militant serving a 10-year sentence for shooting in the leg an state energy executive and 20 years for a series of dynamite attacks in Italy. AP

LONG FUEL LINES HAVE VANISHED, BUT ECONOMY REMAINS ON VENTILATOR

Meals shrinking, hopes falling, Sri Lanka's easy calm hides uneasy reality

MUJIB MASHAL & SKANDHA GUNASEKARA
IBBAGAMUWA, COLOMBO, JANUARY 31

ON THE surface, calm has returned to Sri Lanka since the South Asian nation plunged into political chaos and virtual bankruptcy last summer. Gone are the fuel lines that snaked for blocks; a seaside expanse that had been the site of a months-long protest encampment was resplendent over the holidays with Christmas lights and carnival rides.

But underneath, the island nation's economy remains on a ventilator, with the government

yet to secure a way out of crushing debt. Sri Lankans have become resigned to a sad reality: pared-down meals, shrunken incomes and reduced expectations.

Many young people are desperately trying to find a way out of the country. Those who cannot escape are left to reckon with the likelihood that any economic rebound will be modest at best, all but erasing the earlier promise of mobility in this once middle-income nation.

Perhaps most of all, what has taken the wind out of Sri Lankans is that, even after a popular uprising that ousted the strongman president in July, the same political elite still call the

shots, with little accountability for the mismanagement and excess that wrecked the country.

Economic data paints a picture of starkly diminished lives. Inflation, which peaked at around 90% during the worst of the crisis, remains a punishingly high 59%. For two in five households, food purchases eat up at least 75% of expenditures. Nearly 30% of the population is experiencing food insecurity, according to the United Nations.

Some semblance of stability has come not through repairing the economy, but through a series of painful tax hikes and subsidy cuts that have further constrained demand. While



Many Sri Lankans are desperate to leave the country. NYT

necessary, the moves are unpopular and offer grist to the political opposition, which raises the

risk that this government or the next could pull back on them.

In Sri Lanka's lush central

plains, H M Dissanayake, 65, a farmer, and his wife, Malani Mangalika, 64, who runs a corner store, have reduced their consumption of fish and meat from three times a week to once a month. The couple looked at each other as they tried to remember the last time they had milk. "Six months ago," Mangalika said.

"How long since we had eggs? Dissanayake asked. "Two months," she said.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its debt last spring, and it is now in discussions with the IMF over a bailout package that could inject \$2.9 billion in much-needed cash into its economy and, more im-

portant, restore some confidence with creditors. The government has been moving on other pieces of the IMF's conditions to reduce its budget gap — raising taxes, slashing subsidies on essentials like fuel and electricity, and trying to turn around money-losing public enterprises.

Shehan Semasinghe, the state minister for finance, said the government had improved the supply and availability of essential items since the worst months of the crisis. But he acknowledged that Sri Lanka's foreign reserves remained "negligible" and that the country was still hand-to-mouth.

"Everybody wants to leave

this country," said Ravi Selliah, the general manager of a recruitment firm. "Even CEOs of companies come and ask for any kind of jobs abroad."

Kugan Sivanathan, a 21-year-old bank clerk, has been filling out application after application without much luck. When he got his bank job after graduating college, he thought his earnings and his father's salary would give their family of four a comfortable life. But as prices skyrocketed and the country's currency plunged, Sivanathan's salary was in effect halved.

"At this stage, I thought I could buy a bike," Sivanathan said. "I still take the bus." NYT

GOLD

₹56,780

RUPEE

₹81.92

OIL

\$83.15

SILVER

₹68,418

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 30

International market data till 1900 IST

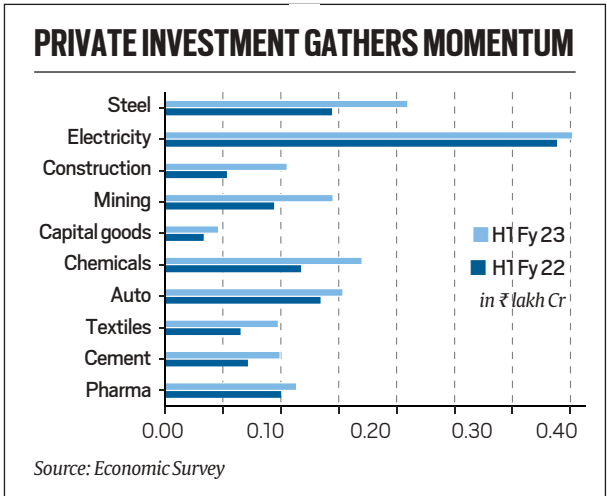
GOVERNMENT’S THRUST ON CAPEX HAS LONGER-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR GROWTH

Capex-led growth to bring back animal spirits, help manage debt levels: Economic Survey

HITESH VYAS
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

STRONG DOMESTIC demand and a pickup in capital investment will support the country’s growth trajectory in FY24, according to the Economic Survey. In possible pointers to the Union Budget 2023-24 pushing capital expenditure, the Survey said the government’s thrust on capex, particularly in the infrastructure-intensive sectors like roads and highways, railways, and housing and urban affairs, has longer-term implications for growth. Capex-led growth, it said, will bring back animal spirits and

help manage debt levels. Central to the government’s growth optimism in FY24 is the expectation of a recovery in private capex, driven by improved balance sheets, resurging credit, and the crowding in from public capex. This, and an anticipated funding boost stemming from capital flows once the recessionary trends in major advanced economies trigger a halt in monetary policy tightening, are likely to be growth drivers in the coming years. “Growth is expected to be brisk in FY24 as a vigorous credit disbursal, and capital investment cycle is expected to unfold in India with the strengthening of



the balance sheets of the corporate and banking sectors,” the Survey said. “While on the one hand, capital expenditure strengthens aggregate demand and crowds-in private spending in times of risk aversion; it also enhances the longer-term supply-side productive capacity,” it added. The financial system stress experienced in the second decade of the millennium, evidenced by rising non-performing assets, low credit growth and declining growth rates of capital formation caused by excessive lending witnessed in the first decade-plus, is now behind us, the finance ministry’s report card on the government’s per-

formance during the current fiscal said. The other factors, the Survey said, that will push India’s growth are limited health and economic fallout for the rest of the world from the current surge in Covid-19 infections in China; inflationary impulses from the reopening of China’s economy turning out to be neither significant nor persistent and recessionary tendencies in major advanced economies triggering a cessation of monetary tightening and a return of capital flows to India amidst a stable domestic inflation rate below 6 per cent. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Digital infra can add 60-100 bps to GDP growth: CEA Nageswaran

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

INDIA’S DIGITAL public infrastructure (DPI), which includes platforms like Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and the account aggregator network, can add around 60-100 basis points (bps) to the country’s potential GDP growth rate, chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said Tuesday. “There is lots of justified optimism about India’s digital public infrastructure. The digital infrastructure can help the hitherto excluded sections get a fair shot at accessing national and international markets,” Nageswaran said while presenting the Economic Survey for 2022-23 tabled in Parliament.

According to the Survey, payments made through UPI accounted for over half of all digital transactions in India in FY22 (2021-22). “In FY22, UPI accounted for 52 per cent of the total 8,840 crore financial digital transactions with a total value of Rs 126 lakh crore,” the Survey said.

Between FY19-22 (calendar year), UPI transactions grew 121 per cent in value and 115 per cent in volume, the Survey noted. In December 2022, UPI touched its highest-ever mark with 782 crore transactions worth Rs 13 lakh crore.

The Economic Survey also said that UPI had processed 2,922 crore contactless merchants’ transactions with a total value of over Rs 21.7 lakh crore in the first nine months of FY23 (2022-23). More than 380 banks had become a part of UPI as of December 2022, from 35 in December 2017.

Highlighting the increasing number of digital transactions being done in the country, the Survey said that the country had

GROWTH IN UPI TRANSACTIONS

■ Between FY19-22 (calendar year), UPI transactions grew 121 per cent in value and 115 per cent in volume, the Survey noted. In December 2022, UPI touched its highest-ever mark with 782 crore transactions worth Rs 13 lakh crore

a fintech adoption rate of 87 per cent among the public, compared to the global average of 64 per cent, making India the third biggest market for such transactions after the US and China. “In 2009, only 17 per cent of adults in India had bank accounts, 15 per cent used digital payments, 1 in 25 had a unique ID document, and about 37 per cent had mobile phones. Today, these numbers have seen a meteoric rise — tele density has reached up to 93 per cent, over a billion people have a digital ID document, more than 80 per cent have bank accounts, and as of 2022, over 600 crore of digital payment transactions are completed per month,” the Survey said.

Under the digital identity system Aadhaar, which was launched in 2009, about 135.2 crore Aadhaar numbers were generated as of November 2022, which saw 8,621 crore authentications be done via Aadhaar and 1,350 crore eKYC transactions. 75.3 crore residents have linked their Aadhaar with ration cards to avail ration while 27.9 crore residents have linked their Aadhaar with cooking gas connections to receive LPG subsidies, the Survey said. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Strong agri growth led to a YoY dip in monthly demand for MGNREGS

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE YEAR-on-Year (YoY) decline in monthly demand for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) work is emanating from the normalisation of the rural economy due to strong agricultural growth and a swift bounce-back from Covid-19, according to the Economic Survey 2022-23, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

“The number of persons demanding work under MGNREGS was seen to be trending around pre-pandemic levels from July to November 2022. This could be attributed to the normalisation of the rural economy due to strong agricultural growth and a swift recovery from Covid-induced slowdown, culminating in better employment opportunities,” the Survey noted.

“In FY23, as on January 24 2023, 6.49 crore households demanded employment under MGNREGS, and 6.48 crore households were offered employment, out of which 5.7 crore availed employment,” it noted. According to the Survey, a total of 5.6 crore households availed employment and 225.8 crore person-days employment has been generated under the Scheme till January 6, 2023.

The Survey also said that the significant growth in rural India was the “major shock absorber” during the Covid-19 pandemic when both businesses and consumer demand were impacted.

“When majority of the workforce reverse-migrated to rural areas in search of livelihoods, agriculture (3.4 per cent growth in FY20-21) as well as the world’s largest employment scheme MGNREGA supported the domestic economy,” it said.

“The digital infrastructure created over the years in rural areas ensured transparent and timely payments to the beneficiaries directly into their account, thus limiting their exposure to the virus,” it added.

The Survey also highlighted that the NREGS has been “rapidly” creating more assets in respect of “Works on individual’s land” than in any other category. “The share of this category rose to about 60 per cent in FY22, indicating that MGNREGA, besides generating daily wage employment, has also been creating assets for individual households to diversify their sources of income and lift their supplementary incomes,” it said.

The Survey also highlighted that “cash transfers” under the central schemes like PM-KISAN were “a big relief” for all the “adversely affected masses” in the country during Covid-19.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Despite layoffs, number of direct jobs created by Indian startups rose 36% in 2022

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

Even as Indian start-ups went on a layoff spree that started in 2022 and has continued well into the beginning of the current year, the number of direct jobs created by these new-age firms rose 36 per cent to around 2.7 lakh last year, according to the Economic Survey for 2022-23, tabled in Parliament on Tuesday. About 48 per cent of the start-ups in the country come from tier II and tier III cities, the Survey said.

The number of start-ups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has increased from 452 in 2016 to 84,012 in 2022, which includes more than 1,000 start-ups in the agricultural technology space and over 500 working in millet value chains, it added.

The Survey also said that the rate of job creation by start-ups in 2022 was 64 per cent higher than the average of the previous three years. As per the latest report, in 2020, start-ups created around 1.6 lakh jobs; around 2 lakh jobs in 2021; and close to 2.7

lakh jobs in 2022, a year where start-ups are estimated to have collectively let go of more than 20,000 workers. The Survey also said that the rate of job creation by start-ups in 2022 was 64 per cent higher than the average of the previous three years.

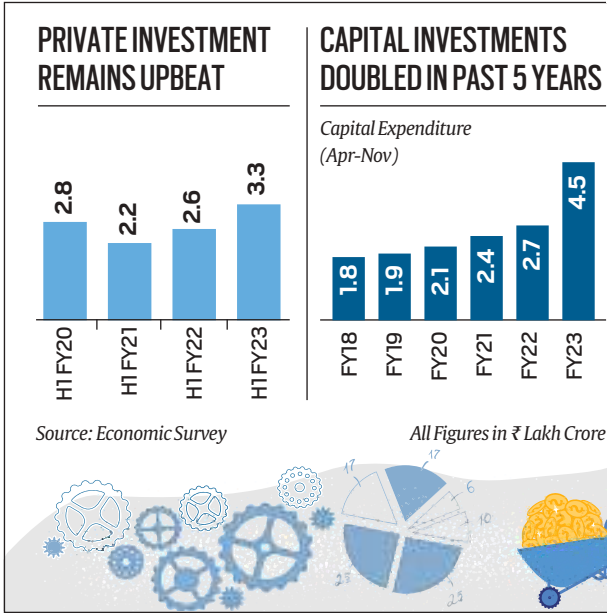
Overall, labour markets and employment recovered beyond pre-Covid levels, and the increase in the women workforce and the decline in school dropouts will aid in socio-economic development, the Survey said.

Quarterly urban employment data shows progress beyond pre-pandemic levels as the unem-

ployment rate declined from 8.3 per cent in July-September 2019 to 7.2 per cent in July-September 2022. “The noticeable rise in Rural Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) from 19.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 27.7 per cent in 2020-21 is a positive development,” said the Survey.

According to a survey conducted by the Labour Bureau, manufacturing had 122.5 lakh employees, education came in second with 69 lakh, and IT/BPO employed 38.3 lakh people during January-March 2022.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com



GOVT CAPEX TO CROWD IN PVT INVESTMENT

■ As the government pushed capex over the last two years putting thrust on infrastructure, it has, on expected lines led to crowding in of the private sector and there has been an uptick in the bank credit growth too

■ The Economic Survey points that it was part of a strategic package aimed at crowding-in private investment into an economic landscape. The Economic Survey states that there has been a pick-up in private sector investment since the January-March quarter of 2022

■ It also said that there is an increasing trend in announced projects and capex spending by the private players

SECTORAL POINTERS

Regulating crypto ecosystem

THE RECENT collapse of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX and the ensuing sell-off in the crypto markets have placed a spotlight on the vulnerabilities in the crypto ecosystem, the Economic Survey said on Tuesday. Crypto assets are self-referential instruments and do not strictly pass the test of being a financial asset because it has no intrinsic cashflows attached to them. A rare joint statement by the Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) on January 3, 2023, highlighted their concerns about crypto-asset risks to the banking system, it noted.

EV market may cross 1-crore sales

INDIA’S ELECTRIC vehicles (EV) market is expected to grow to one crore units annual sales by 2030 and create 5 crore direct and indirect jobs, as per the Economic Survey. The survey said that in December 2022, India became the third-largest automobile market, surpassing Japan and Germany in terms of sales. “The automotive industry is expected to play a critical role in the transition towards green energy. The domestic electric vehicles (EV) market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 49 per cent between 2022 and 2030 and is expected to hit one crore units of annual sales by 2030,” it said.

Fiscal deficit touches nearly 60%

THE GOVERNMENT’S fiscal deficit as of end-December touched 59.8 per cent of the full-year Budget Estimate on subdued growth in revenue collections, according to finance ministry data released on Tuesday. In actual terms, the fiscal deficit — which is the difference between expenditure and revenue — was Rs 9,92,976 crore during the April-December period of 2022-23. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 50.4 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22. The government has budgeted fiscal deficit at Rs 16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year ending March 2023.

5G can unleash new eco avenues

THE ROLLOUT of 5G services can unleash new economic opportunities and help India leapfrog the traditional barriers to development, while boosting innovation by startups and businesses, the Survey said. The massive wave of digitisation, rising penetration of smartphones, and technology adoption have opened the doors for both traditional and new-age sectors, observed the Economic Survey 2022-23. “The rollout of 5G services can unleash new economic opportunities and help the country leapfrog the traditional barriers to development, spur innovations by startups and business enterprises, and advance the ‘Digital India’ vision,” it said.

FDI may rebound in coming months

FOREIGN DIRECT investment into the country is expected to rebound in the coming months on account of India’s high economic growth, and steps to further improve the business environment of India, the Economic Survey said on Tuesday. The rise in global uncertainty in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, FDI equity inflows in the manufacturing sector in the first half of the current fiscal (April-September) fell below its corresponding level in the first half of 2021-22, the document, which was tabled in Parliament, said. The monetary tightening at the global level has further restricted the FDI equity inflows, the survey said. PTI

BRIEFLY GST collection

New Delhi: The GST collection in January surged to over Rs 1.55 lakh crore, the second highest-ever mop-up, the finance ministry said on Tuesday. The revenues in the current financial year up to January 2023 are 24 per cent higher than the GST revenues during the same period last year. PTI

CII, export

New Delhi: CII President Sanjiv Bajaj suggested setting up of an export commission to widen India’s overseas trade portfolio help the country tackle external headwinds. PTI

Agriculture sector needs ‘re-orientation’ due to likely hurdles in climate change, surge in costs of inputs

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

OBSERVING THAT Indian agriculture has performed well, the Economic Survey 2022-23 said on Tuesday that the sector needs “re-orientation” given challenges like adverse impacts of climate change, fragmented landholdings and rising input costs.

The Survey, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha, noted, “The Indian agriculture sector has been growing at an average annual growth rate of 4.6 per

cent during the last six years. It grew by 3.0 per cent in 2021-22 compared to 3.3 per cent in 2020-21.”

“In recent years, India has also rapidly emerged as the net exporter of agricultural products. In 2020-21, exports of agriculture and allied products from India grew by 18 per cent over the previous year. During 2021-22, agricultural exports reached an all-time high of \$50.2 billion,” it said.

“This period of buoyant performance could be ascribed to the measures taken by the Government to promote farmer-producer organisations, encour-

EXPLAINED

Indian agriculture sector

AS PER THE Finance Ministry, agriculture sector has been growing at an average annual growth rate of 4.6 per cent during the last six years. It grew by 3.0 per cent in 2021-22 compared to 3.3 per cent in 2020-21

age crop diversification, and improve productivity in agriculture

through support provided for mechanisation and the creation of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund,” it said. However, the Survey highlighted that Indian agriculture needs re-orientation in view of challenges like climate change and rising input costs.

“While Indian agriculture has performed well, the sector needs re-orientation in the backdrop of certain challenges like adverse impacts of climate change, fragmented landholdings, sub-optimal farm mechanisation, low productivity, disguised unemployment, rising input costs, etc.,” it said.

The Survey further said that

the performance of the agriculture sector remains “critical” to growth and employment in the country.

“Investment in the sector must be encouraged through an affordable, timely and inclusive approach to credit delivery. Intervention by the Government through PM Kisan to provide income support, strengthening of institutional finance and insurance through the PMFBY and the push given to Kisan Credit Cards as also access to machines and tools that improve productivity have been significant,” the Survey said. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

States debt cost up 7.68%

New Delhi: In the second-highest auction in FY23, 13 states raised Rs 25,800 crore in debt capital on Tuesday, paying a higher price as the cost rose by 4 basis points to 7.68 per cent. PTI

RailTel
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN No L64202DL2000G0107905

RailTel/Region invites e-tenders from eligible bidders for the work of “Trenching, laying, termination, splicing, testing and commissioning of OFC for connectivity of NTRO Udaipur (main and protection paths) in Northern Region of RailTel”.
Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,49,79,576.57
Tender opening date : 15-02-2023
Tender Notice & tender documents are available on www.railtelindia.com and www.reps.gov.in. Addendum/ corrigendum will be uploaded in RailTel and IREPS website only.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No T No 94/2022-23/SE/G
NABARD-RIDFXVII - CWSS to Kunnathoor, Poruvazhi, Sooranad North Panchayaths in Kunnathoor Taluk and Thazhava, Thodiyoor, Kulasekharapuram Panchayaths in Karunagappally Taluk - Construction of 10/10 Dia Intakewell Cum Pump House, Approach bridge, Substation building near Njanakadav (Right Bank), 900 mm DI K9 RWP/M. Supply erection commissioning transformer and allied work. Supply & erection Raw water pump set etc. EMD : Rs. 500000 . Tender fee : Rs. 16540 +(2978) GST.
Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-02-2023 02:00pm Phone : 04742745293,
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in .

Supertending Engineer
PH Circle
Kollam

KWA-JB-QL-6-1528-2022-23

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(एक नवर्तन कम्पनी) (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
A Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC Business Park, New MDSP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Ind. Estate, New Delhi-110020

PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE
DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4 those containers arrived on or before 31-03-2021 through e-auction on 16-02-2023 & 28-02-2023 on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS”. All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstcecommerce.com w.e.f. 03-02-2023 & 17-02-2023. All importers including Government Undertakings/ Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list listed up in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/ Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaires, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven) Days of this notice falling which the goods will be auctioned on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS” without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstcecommerce.com

Executive Director, Area 1

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NANGAL UNIT, NAYA NANGAL - 140126 (PUNJAB)

Ref.No. NFL/NGL/Civil/2023
Sealed tenders are invited from contractors for the following work:

Item Description	Reserve Price	Cost of tender document	Last date & time for sale of tender documents	Last date & time for receipt of tenders / opening of tenders (Envelope 1 & 2)
Licensing of Fruits Orchards in NFL Nangal Unit for different Fruits, Crops for a period of 5 years on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".	Rs. 30.80 Lakhs	Rs. 750/-	03.03.2023 up to 11.00 am / 04.00 pm	04.03.2023 up to 11.00 am / 11.30 am

For further details please visit our website www.nationalfertilizers.com Vendors are requested to visit our website regularly. Any further amendment / corrigendum to the above will be displayed only on aforesaid website.
Senior Manager (Civil)



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown**, Age about 20/25 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Strong Built, Wearing White, black & red colour T-shirt and black colour lower was found dead Near Hanuman Mandir, Bawana Canal Narela, Delhi on 28.01.2023. In this regard a DD No. 43A dated 28.01.2023 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS: Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27282350, 9013218797

DP/989/ON/2023

**VAIKUNTH MEHTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT (VAMNICOM)**
(A Grant-in-aid Institution under Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India)
Near Ganeshkhind Road, Pune - 411007.

email: info@vamnicom.gov.in Phone No. 020-25701000

Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) invites proposals from eligible reputed publishers for "designing, printing and production of book on History and success of cooperatives in India".

Note: The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) could be downloaded from www.vamnicom.gov.in and sealed bids in prescribed format should reach in favour of the Registrar, VAMNICOM, Pune on or before the dates as prescribed in the RFP.

Registrar
VAMNICOM

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/GSU/DLI, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, ROOM NO-8, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

- Name of work** : "S&T works including Supply of Signalling and Telecom Materials i.c.w. Extension of loop lines to full length CSL at Badli, Nilokheri and Dhola Mazra stations of Delhi Division"
- Approximate Cost of the work** : Rs. 1,05,28,362.01 (Rs One crore, Five Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred sixty two and one paisa only).
- Cost of tender form** : Nil.
- Address from where tender document can be downloaded.** : Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in
- Bid security Deposit** : Rs. 2,02,700/-
- Completion period** : 6 (Six) months.
- Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender** : Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in on 10.02.2023 up to 11:30 hrs. on 14.02.2023, Date of tender Opening: 24.02.2023 at 11:30 hrs.
- Detailed Tender Notice** : Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in.

No.: GSU_DLI_SNT_01 Dated: 31.01.2023 317/2023

Serving Customers with a Smile

**OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL, GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE**
PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN - 248001 UTTARAKHAND
TEL: 0135-2726020-2726021, Email: doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com, Website: www.gdmcuk.com

LetterNo.: GDMC/Advt./Recruitment/2022-23/478 Dated: 30-01-2023

WALK IN INTERVIEW

A Walk in Interview will be held on **14.02.2023 at 10:00 am** onwards in Govt. Doon Medical College Campus, Patel Nagar, Dehradun for various faculty positions (Broad Specialities & Super Specialities) of Government Doon Medical College, Dehradun. The appointments will be made on contractual basis upto a maximum of three years (Expendable on yearly basis) or till regular appointments are made, whichever is earlier. The detail about the vacancies in various departments are uploaded in the website of Govt. Doon Medical College www.gdmcuk.com.
Principal,
Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. U45109UP200115GG02567/2356
Victoria Cross Vignya Gauri Singh Upa Bhawan, Kanwar Road, Dehradun, Telephone-01351 275291/2/3, Fax-01351 2756233

E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

E-tender Specification No. CCP/135/2022-2023/Pkg-7/Lot-1, Lot-2 & Lot-3 invited by this office on Turkey Contract for work of Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of the Work of Undergrounding & Strengthening of HT & LT Electrical Network on Arerial Roads of Dehradun Town under Uttarakhand Transmission Strengthening and Distribution Improvement Program (UTSDIP) with financial support of M/s ADB are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. Bid documents will be purchased and submitted upto 10:00 Hrs. of 14.02.2023. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 14.02.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. of Lot-1, 11:30 Hrs. of Lot-2 & 12:00 Hrs. of Lot-3. Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uttendenders.gov.in.

No.: 65/EE/CW/UPCL/A-2 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Date:- 30.01.2023 CORPORATE [C&P-I]

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION. Use LED Bulb. Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.apcl.org.in" [For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001834185/Fax No. 0135-2760911]

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**
TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE TIME	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HODAL	DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION, SEGREGATION, TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PROCESSING OF WASTE. MC HODAL	19.01.2023 08.02.2023	3 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9728025011 mahendersinghxn@gmail.com

15379/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocmement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**
TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE TIME	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	LUMP SUM CONTRACT FOR SWEEPING AND CLEANING OF SUB STATIONS/OFFICES (ROHTAK)	CLOSING DATE 07.02.2023	20000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT No-03/2022-23	9354726568 xenopus2rohtak@uqbvn.org.in

15377/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocmement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**
TENDER NOTICE

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
“शुद्धि पत्र”
P.R. No-288113 Drinking Water and Sanitation (22-23)#D
एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्या-- DWSD/SKL/MVS/31/2022-23" (3" Call) दिनांक--20.01.2023 को निम्नवत् तिथि को इस हय तक संशोधित समझा जाय।
(Saraikela full Block Coverage Rural Water Supply Scheme)

बोड प्रात की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 30.01.2023 05.00 बजे तक।	संशोधित दिनांक 09.02.2023 05.00 बजे तक।
बैंक गारंटी एवं परिणाम विषय का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि, समय एवं सम्य	दिनांक 31.01.2023, 02.00 बजे अपराहन तक 1. कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला। 2. अधीक्षण अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा। 3. क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, रॉबी प्रखेत्र रॉबी।	दिनांक 10.02.2023, 2.00 बजे अपराहन तक 1. कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला। 2. अधीक्षण अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा। 3. क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, रॉबी प्रखेत्र रॉबी।

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 01.02.2023, 12.00 बजे तक। दिनांक 11.02.2023, 12.00 बजे तक।

पढ़ा जाय।। शेष यथावत रहेगी।
PR 288790 Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23)#D कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला

**DELHI JAL BOARD**
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-XI
ROOM NO. 110, OLD SHIV MANDIR MARG, JAL SADAN, LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024
Email: eteltdjbm1@gmail.com Ph- 011-29810956



NIT No: 73 / EE (T) M-XI/ 2022-23

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Improvement of sewerage system by desilting of main peripheral sewer line of Pocket-1, 2 & 7, 8 and 700mm dia sewer line from Mother Dairy at Pocket-11 to Jasola SPS in Jasola Vihar with super sucker machine in Okhla Constituency AC-54 under AEE(M)-54.	31,99,895/-	2023_DJB_235592_1 27.01.2023	09.02.2023 upto 2:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 464 (2022-23) Sd/- (Nareesh Kumar Kardam) Executive Engineer (T) M-XI
STOP CORONA
"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

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

68वीं संयुक्त (प्रारम्भिक) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा
बेगुसराय जिला के 01 परीक्षा केन्द्रों के परिवर्तन संबंधी आवश्यक सूचना
उपर्युक्त परीक्षा विवरण, दिनांक 12.02.2023 को एकल बैठक (12.00 बजे मध्याह्न से 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक) में बिहार राज्य के 38 जिलों में अवस्थित परीक्षा केन्द्रों में आयोजित होगी।
इस परीक्षा में सम्मिलित होने वाले सभी परीक्षार्थियों का ऑनलाईन प्रवेश पत्र आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर जारी किया जा चुका है। अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नांकित परीक्षा केन्द्र को परिवर्तित किया गया है:-

जिला का नाम	अनुक्रमिक	प्रवेश पत्र में अंकित परीक्षा केन्द्र का कोड एवं नाम	परिवर्तित परीक्षा केन्द्र का कोड एवं नाम
Begusarai	268793 से 269392	(314) Vikas Vidyalaya, Shikshak Nagar, Dumri, Begusarai	(314A) R.S.A.S. High School, Ballia, Begusarai
	269393 से 269788		(314B) R.K.G.D.R. (+2) High School, Bari Ballia, Begusarai

इस विज्ञापन के माध्यम से उपर्युक्त परीक्षा केन्द्र से सम्बद्ध परीक्षार्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे अपने परिवर्तित परीक्षा केन्द्र पर निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय पर उपस्थित होकर परीक्षा में सम्मिलित हों।
पूर्व में निर्गत प्रवेश पत्र ही मान्य होंगे, नये प्रवेश पत्र निर्गत नहीं किये जायेंगे।
हस्ता./-
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

**Varthana Finance Private Limited**
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.)
Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : Office No 402, 4th floor, Prateek Center, Near AU Small Bank, Sanjay Place, Agra 282002.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, is in possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Agra, (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd), will be sold on 09-03-2023 (Thursday) between 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of below mentioned loan account. The details of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ Auction date & time, EMD & Bid increase amount are mentioned below :
Name of The Borrowers/Mortgagors : 1). M/s. BCLG Educational Institute, Rep. by Authorized Signatory, 3). Mr. Manoj Kumar Gautam, S/o. Jagdish Parsad, 4). Mrs. Indu Gautam, W/o Praveen Kumar.
Loan A/c. No. S.18AGR-AGR-001231 and U20AGR-AGR-015772.
Details of Total Outstanding Amount in Rupees : Rs. 35,46,414/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred And Fourteen Only) as on 23-01-2023, together with further agreed contractual rate of interest plus legal costs/ charges, till realization of the entire amount.
Details of Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khasra No.317 Area 1.7730 hectare (17730 Sq Meater) Share of 3/5 Part area- 1.063 Hectare (10630 Sq Meater) Total Land Area- 1.063 hectare (10630 Sq Meater) Situated at Mauja- Pattishakti Tehsil- Sadabad Dist Mahamayanagar (Hathras) and bounded as under. East By : Chakroad after Gata No.390, West By Gata No.314,315,316, North By : Gata No.318, South By: Chakroad.
Reserve Price of above Property is Rs. 1,66,70,420/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Six Lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred And Twenty Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be (EMD is 10% of the Reserve Price) Rs.16,67,042/-.
Known Encumbrances if any : Nil.
Intending bidders should submit their EMD amount and Bid amount along with KYC documents (PAN Card and Aadhaar/Voters ID/Driving Licence) and Rs. 1,000/- being Non-refundable Tender fee by way of Demand Draft/ Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank, favoring "M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited", payable at Agra before 5.00 p.m. on or before 08-03-2023 (Wednesday).
The Auction will be held at : Office No 402, 4th floor, Prateek Center, Near AU Small Bank, Sanjay Place, Agra 282002., Maharashtra- 440012., on 09-03-2023 (Thursday) between 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in Company's website i.e. : www.varthana.com
The prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, Mr. Son Vir Singh - Phone No. 9012210800, Mr. Mittin Kakkar - Phone No. 8685050505 and Mr. Raman Arora - Phone No. 7827926395 for further details/information.
Date : 01-02-2023, Place : Bangalore Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

**KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
Transport Bhavan , Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023
e-Tender Notice



KSRTC, one of the largest fleet owners of the country, intends to invite e-Tender for the implementation of Selection of a System Integrator for the Development and Maintenance of a Comprehensive Finance System for KSRTC. The documents may be downloaded from the e-tender portal: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

For the detailed visit: www.keralartc.com Sd/-
e-mail : edpc.krtc@kerala.gov.in Chairman & Managing Director
31.01.2023

**DELHI JAL BOARD**
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-5
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-III
Kanhaiya Nagar, Delhi-110035
Phone: 011-27394876, Email: ecedr3@gmail.com



PRESS NIT No. 05 (2022-23)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Non- Refundable Tender processing fee (Rs)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last datetime of receipt of tender
Item-1	Making house service sewer connections with construction of sewer chambers with existing manholes in Kureni GOC falling under Narela AC-01	8,40,56,160/-	16,81,120/-	1500/-	28.01.2023/ 2023 DJB 235677_1	20.02.2023 upto 3.00 P.M
Item-2	Construction of chamber for house sewer connections for Singhu GOC falling under Narela WWTP Catchment area in Delhi.	2,13,79,484/-	4,27,600/-	1500/-	28.01.2023/ 2023 DJB 235677_2	20.02.2023 upto 3.00 P.M
Item-3	Construction of chamber for house sewer connections for Shahbad GOC falling under Rohini/Fithala WWTP Catchment area in Delhi.	23,82,22,781/-	47,64,460/-	1500/-	28.01.2023/ 2023 DJB_235677_3	20.02.2023 upto 3.00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 467 (2022-23) Sd/-
"STOP CORONA: WEAR FACE MASK , FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE" EE(C)DR-III

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in



No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-55/13/2022-23 Date: 31.01.2023
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of (1). Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 45M Wide, 24M Wide & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Ducts, SWD, 0.5ML OHT, 2.50ML GLSR, Raising Main, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line etc, at Chapparadahalli Block Sector-4 Industrial Area, Devanahalli & Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (2). Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 45M Wide, 24M Wide, 18M Wide & 12M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, Ducts, RCC Cross Drainage Works, SWD & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line etc, at Doddagollahalli Block Sector-2 Industrial Area, Devanahalli & Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPRI/CP/4403/Zen/2022-23

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NOTICE (CORRIGENDUM)
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT (CIVIL ENGINEER) IN CRPF
EXAMINATION, 2021



1. Refer Notice, for recruitment of 25 Assistant Commandant (Civil Engineer) in CRPF, published in Employment News for the period 26 June 2 July, 2021 and hosted on CRPF website "www.crpff.gov.in".
2. PST/PET for recruitment of Assistant Commandant (Engineer-Civil) Exam-2021 conducted w.e.f. 08/11/2021 to 25/11/2021 at various recruitment centres. **Paper- I** of **Stage-II** of recruitment i.e. Computer Based Test and **Paper-II** Conventional /Subjective Type Paper will be conducted tentatively between 22/02/2023 to 28/02/2023. Examination venue, date and time will be available on candidate's Admit Card being uploaded on CRPF website "www.crpff.gov.in".
3. The Admit Cards for CBT will be uploaded on CRPF website "www.crpff.gov.in". Candidate are advised to download the Admit Card from CRPF website tentatively from 15/02/2023 onwards. Candidates Roll No. and DOB will be unique ID for downloading of Admit Card. A link through SMS/e-mail will also be sent on registered mobile No. & e-mail ID as mentioned in application form by candidates.
4. Candidates will carry 02 coloured copies of admit card with their original Identity Card for Examination Centre.
5. Recruitment process i.e. **Stage-III** (Documentation/DME), **Stage-IV** (Review Medical Examination) and **Stage-V** (Interview) are amended as under as per latest guidelines issued by MHA :-

For	Read
Stage-III (Documentation/ DME) &	Stage-III:- Documentation, DME & RME will be conducted concurrently. As per latest guidelines issued by MHA, candidates declared unfit during Detailed Medical Examination (DME) will be allowed to undergo Review Medical Examination (RME) provided that, they give their written consent by appending their signature on the intimation indicating the reasons for being unfit, as per Annexure-A-I same day. RME of candidates will be conducted in continuation of DME preferably on the next day of DME. Remaining terms & conditions of RME are unchanged.
Stage-IV (Review Medical Examination)	Stage-IV- Interview
Stage-V Interview	Stage-IV- Interview

Sd/-
(Sudhakar Upadhyay)
IG(Estt) Dte
davp -19140/11/0015/2223

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Invitation of Tenders through
E-Procurement system



Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date : 31.01.2023
Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing date
01	82231454	Sitagliptin 50mg and Metformin 1000mg Tab.	581452 Nos.	02.03.2023

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No manual offer will be entertained



313/23 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. BPL/TRD/DRG/wc/393 & 359RT Dated: 30.01.2023

Sr. DEE/TRD/WCR, Bhopal acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 11.00 hours on the dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and detail information regarding tender, is available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction, in this tender, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date which may be seen up to the date of tender opening. **Tender No. - BPL TRD/ DRG/ WC/393, Description of work - Annual maintenance Contract (AMC) of SCADA of GUNA-GWL, VJP-MKC & BPL-ET section for the period of 05 year. , Completion Period - 48 month, Estimated cost Rs. - 11912466.72, EMD Rs.- 209600.00, Closing Date and Time for submission of Tender - 23.02.2023 at 11.00 Hrs. Tender No. - BPL TRD/ DRG/ WC/359RT, Description of work - Provision of neutral section of chord line at Km 2/9 (SGBJ-BIR) and at km 600A/1 (BIR -TLV) of Bhopal division., Completion Period- 9 month, Estimated cost Rs. - 215932.19, EMD Rs.- 43200/-, Closing Date and Time for submission of Tender - 23.02.2023 at 11.00 Hrs.**
Sr.DEE/TRD/West Central Railway, Bhopal
कोरोना को है हराना, टी टीकारण जरूर करना

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Jitender Kumar @ Om Prakash, S/o Raj Singh, R/o H.No. 17, Block-B, Amar Colony Village Mundka Nanglo, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1188/2014 U/S 420/406 IPC** PS Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Jitender Kumar @ Om Prakash** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Jitender Kumar @ Om Prakash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jitender Kumar @ Om Prakash** of **FIR No. 1188/2014 U/S 420/406 IPC** PS Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.03.2023.

By Order
Ms. Bharti Beniwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-11
Room No. 05, Ground Floor
Dwarka District Courts, New Delhi

DP/917/WD/2023

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**
EMPANELMENT OF
ADVERTISING AGENCIES



Notice No. PR/Advt/2A(3)/2023-25 Dated 30-01-2023
Chief Public Relations Officer/CLW invites offers through Application Form from INS Accredited and reputed Advertising Agencies.
Name of the Work: Empanelment of Advertising Agencies by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan (West Bengal).
Earnest Money Deposit: Rupees 1,00,000/- (Refundable).
Period of Empanelment: 2 (two) years (Year-2023-25).
Cost of Application Form: Rupees 5900/- (Rupees 5000/- plus 18% GST = Rupees 5900/-) **Non Refundable.**
Application Form Document along with terms & conditions can be downloaded from CLW's official website: <https://clw.indianrailways.gov.in/> [by accessing the link: News & Recruitment→Important Notice→Empanelment of Advertising Agencies by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan (West Bengal) for year 2023-25] from **10.00 hrs. of 31-01-2023 till 12.00 hrs. of 21-02-2023.**
Application Form along with all relevant documents in a closed cover should reach the below address before **15.00 hrs. of 21 February, 2023.** After which it will not be accepted.
Application packets will be opened at or after **16:00 hrs. of 21 February, 2023.**
For further details of **Mode of payment of Cost of Application Form/ document, EMD, Eligibility criteria** etc., please refer Empanelment document.
Chief Public Relations Officer,
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works,
PR2-362 Chittaranjan (West Bengal), PIN- 713331
Like us on www.facebook.com/clwrailways

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,**
NAGAR PARISHAD, CHAIBASA
West Singhbhm (Jharkhand)



Request For Proposal for selection of Agencies for bio-remediation & Bio-mining of legacy waste sites utilizing various methodologies/technologies.
Very Short NIT, Request for Proposal
Tender Reference No.- CNP/109/2023

	Name of Work	Bio-remediation
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‘Very important knock for me and team’

Andhra were in strife when Vihari retired hurt but Ricky Bhui starred with an unbeaten 115 vs MP

VENKATA KRISHNA B
JANUARY 31

EVERSINCE Ricky Bhui walked into the Andhra team as a 17-year-old, he has had to deal with expectations. Coming from a state where only three players have donned the national colours so far, Bhui was touted as an India material from the outset. A century on his List A debut in the Vijay Hazare Trophy added to his growing status in Andhra. And almost 10 years since his debut, Bhui is at a stage of his career where he is still waiting for that one break-through season.

After blowing hot and cold over the last few seasons, the 26-year old Bhui seems to be getting there. On Tuesday, his unbeaten 115 runs powered Andhra to a strong position against Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy quarter-finals at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. Asked to bat first, he walked in with Andhra on at 58/2 and three overs later as Hanuma Vihari retired hurt effectively leaving them three down, the onus was on Bhui to deliver. And in the company of Karan Shinde, Bhui thwarted Madhya Pradesh's hopes of shutting Andhra to a low total as they ended Day 1 at 262/2.

"There have been a lot of ups and downs right from my Under-19 years. I've not got enough opportunities even in the IPL, and I have managed to have runs behind me in domestic cricket across formats. But every batsman will have that one break-through season where he hits a purple patch. I feel it is just around the corner, especially with the way my game is heading in the last couple of seasons. You need a season where you have to flourish and for that I need to keep improving," Bhui told *The Indian Express*.

With many of his contemporaries (he was part of the 2014 U19 World Cup side which had Shreyas Iyer, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson, Avesh Khan, Deepak Hooda) in the national team and Sarfaraz Khan knocking the doors, Bhui knows he has plenty of work to do.

In a season where Andhra have managed to qualify for the knockouts from the toughest group, Bhui's contributions have been vital. Coming into the tournament, Bhui had a good outing in the Vijay Hazare Trophy as well and has carried that form into the Ranji Trophy, scoring 576 runs so far including two centuries.

"It was a very important knock not just for me, but for the team as well, because we lost Vihari to injury and one of us had to put the hand up and deliver. It was crucial that I and Karan got a partnership and glad we were able to do that," Bhui said.

With the team needing experience and balance, Bhui has also been forced to take up the wicketkeeping gloves in the last three matches. He is in fact the third wicketkeeper Andhra have had this season with KS Bharat busy with

With many of his contemporaries (he was part of the 2014 U19 World Cup side which had Shreyas Iyer, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson, Avesh Khan, Deepak Hooda) in the national team, Bhui knows he has plenty of work to do.

international commitments. Being one of the main batters and keeping wickets isn't an easy job, but for now Bhui is enjoying it.

"I'd already kept wickets in the Duleep Trophy, so I was quite prepared for the role. Since that happened very early in the season, I had made my mind that at some stage I've to keep wickets and I got to be ready and when Bharat left, it was an opportunity for me to help the team," Bhui said.

Although Vihari is around this season, for most part of his career Bhui has also had to tweak his game to suit the team's demands. While he made a name for himself by being an aggressive batsman, Bhui has

RANJI TROPHY

developed a different facet to his game – which is to bat long and construct an innings – keeping the team's interest in mind.

"You need to do that and you got to be as versatile as possible. It has helped me improve my shot selection, now I know which ball to attack and which ball to defend. I started aggressively, but playing for a team like Andhra where they are depending on me in the middle-order, I can't be aggressive and throw away my wicket. I've to take that pressure and it has held me back, but like I said it has helped me evolve as a batsman and the team is also benefiting from it."

With a sizeable total on board, Andhra would like to build on it on Day 2, and put Madhya Pradesh under pressure. "It is not an easy team pitch to bat and given the attack they have we have done well. But our job is only half done, we have to look for a big total and hopefully we will be able to do that tomorrow (Wednesday)," said Bhui.

Meanwhile, with regards to Vihari who came in at No 3 and retired hurt, it is understood that the injury is not serious and if everything goes well, he would resume his innings on Day 2.

Brief scores: Andhra 262 for 2 in 88 overs (Ricky Bhui 115 batting, Karan Shinde 83 batting) vs Madhya Pradesh.



Bhui thwarted Madhya Pradesh's hopes of shutting Andhra to a low total as they ended Day 1 at 262/2. EXPRESS

No 9 Bhut slams unbeaten 111 for Sau

DEVENDRA PANDEY
JANUARY 31

WHILE PLAYING cricket all these years, Saurashtra's No 9 Parth Bhut always wished for a day in his life when he could replicate an innings like MS Dhoni or Virat Kohli's.

He dreamt of an outing on the pitch where he bats with fellow tailenders and rescues his team. Tuesday will be a day long remembered.

All those years of visualisation finally turned to reality, as Bhut found a situation against Punjab where rescuing was required. There was no target in coloured clothing, but a Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at stake with his team struggling to post a decent first innings total. Saurashtra were 147 for 8 with their top-order line up back in the dressing room. Punjab's bowlers must have felt an early wrap-up was imminent, but Bhut had other plans.

His rivals didn't know that all this time, the 25-year-old Junagadh left-arm spinner and batsman had been preparing for just this kind of scenario. "Take the innings deep," he kept telling himself while facing each ball.

"All these years I have seen MS Dhoni and tried to follow his technique in how he takes the game so deep (when chasing). I have closely followed Virat Kohli's batting on TV on how he assesses the situation and scores big in those tense moments. So when I was batting, I was just remembering those points," Bhut said after his unbeaten 111.

While he was batting, he kept talking to number ten, Chetan Sakariya. They didn't



Bhut after hitting maiden ton.

want to play rash shots and get out, instead they wanted to play calculated cricket. They added 61 runs for the ninth wicket. "I told Chetan that we will bat positively and will not get bothered about the scoreboard. We batted over by over, and followed Dhoni's strategy which has been simple. Take the game deep, once we reach that stage, the bowlers must get tired and the fielders will be a bit relaxed. Then we will pick bowlers, whom we can go after," Bhut adds.

Poor start at home

At his home ground, Saurashtra had won the toss and elected to bat first in their quarter-final game in Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket

Association Stadium. Opener Snell Patel held one end up as the Saurashtra top-order saw wickets falling at regular intervals with Punjab's leggie Mayank Markande and seamer Baltej Singh sharing the day's honours.

Before Bhut struck his maiden first class century which had four sixes and 11 fours. Alongwith Yuvrajsinh Dodiya, he added 95 runs for the last wicket as Saurashtra were bundled out for 303.

Being a tailender, Bhut says he had an idea how to bat with lower-order batsmen and it helped his team launch a fight back from their precarious start.

Bhut's father is a property dealer back in Junagadh, and the performance holds a special place. He took cricket seriously only because he accompanied his friend to the nets in the neighbourhood, but Bhut is enjoying the run at the top.

Before the game, he wasn't sure whether he would even make it to the playing eleven. The past two games he went back to the bench as he had to make way for Ravindra Jadeja, who played against Tamil Nadu in Chennai. "I wasn't sure whether the team management will play me or not. I was told this morning that I'm there because they wanted to take a call only after seeing the pitch. At the end, it feels great to walk back unbeaten and everyone cheering for the contribution, hope I do perform with the ball too," he added.

Brief scores: Saurashtra 303 all out (Snell Patel 70, P Bhut 111 not out; Mayank Markande 4/84, Baltej Singh 3/60) vs Punjab 3 for no loss.

DAY 1 ROUND-UP

Bengal restrict Jharkhand to 173

Kolkata: Pacer Akash Deep led Bengal's impressive show with a four-wicket haul as Jharkhand failed to last three full sessions and folded for a paltry 173 in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final at Eden Gardens here on Tuesday. The Bengal pace trio of Akash Deep, Mukesh Kumar (3/61) and Ishan Porel (1/26) claimed seven wickets between them to revel in bowling-friendly conditions after the home team skipper Manoj Tiwary won a good toss. More than half of Jharkhand's score was made by their No 3 batter Kumar Suraj, who looked composed and elegant en route to a gritty 89 not out. The lefthander struck some elegant cover drives, scored on both sides of the wickets using his wrists beautifully but only to be stranded 11 runs shy of a third first-class hundred. Suraj batted deep into his crease to negate the pace threat by the Bengal pacers and carried his bat through but wickets kept on falling at the other end.

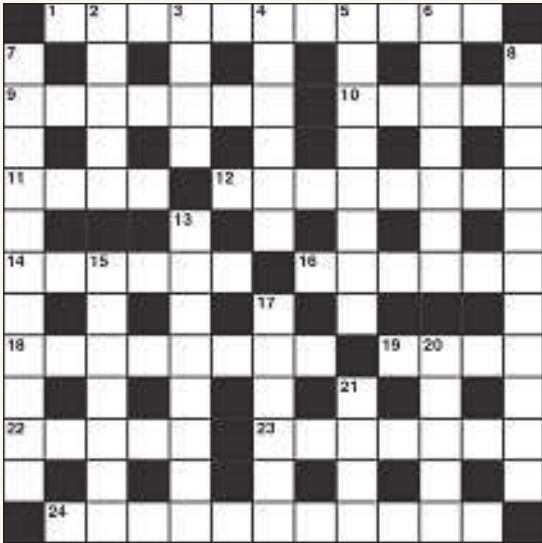
Brief scores: Jharkhand 173; 66.2 overs (Kumar Suraj 89 not out; Akash Deep 4/62, Mukesh Kumar 3/61) vs Bengal.

Pacer Venkatesh shines for Karnataka

Bengaluru: Medium-pacer M Venkatesh sizzled with a five-wicket haul as Karnataka produced a sensational bowling effort to bundle out Uttarakhand for a paltry 116 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here on Tuesday. Karnataka were 123 for no loss at stumps. The 22-year-old Venkatesh justified captain Mayank Agarwal's decision to field after winning the toss as he rocked the top-order, removing Avneesh Sudha (17) and Dikshanshu Negi (9) early after Vidhwath Kaverappa (2/17) drew the first blood, dismissing opener Jiwanjot Singh (1). Vijaykumar Vyshak (1/25) then had Swapnil Singh (0) caught by Samarth R, while Kaverappa cleaned up Aditya Tare (14), as Uttarakhand lost half their side for only 64 in 274 overs. Kunal Chandela (31) tried to hold one end but wickets continued to tumble, with Venkatesh returning to strike twice in the 47th over.

Brief scores: Uttarakhand 116 allout (Kunal Chandela 31; M Venkatesh 5/36) vs Karnataka 123 for no loss in 26 overs (R Samarth 54 not out, Mayank Agarwal 65 not out). —PTI

CROSSWORD 4966



ACROSS

- 1 A state of independence unique to Rome (7,4)
- 9 Three wise men not in line (7)
- 10 Part of a ship or dock (5)
- 11 Song that gave a false impression (4)
- 12 He gives us one final tune (8)
- 14 Chuck starts writing for openings (6)
- 16 Fighting dogs? (6)
- 18 A counterfeit piastre won't be heard when dropped (8)
- 19 Blonde and beautiful (4)
- 22 Question one how to cook a steak? (5)
- 23 Countryman is caught in a rainstorm (7)

DOWN

- 2 Dispute right to enter complaint (5)
- 3 They are charged for half portions (4)
- 4 He attacked the Romans but turned tail at first (6)
- 5 They once made a bolt for it (8)
- 6 It's up to time in cultivation (7)
- 7 Pocket-money makes very little difference (5,6)
- 8 Ring for matches? (6,5)
- 13 It's not fair for one to use this (8)
- 15 Fix a quiet spot (7)
- 17 The horses in the racket (6)
- 20 A right outsider (5)
- 21 Found everyone playing (4)

Solutions Crossword 4965: Across: 1 Auburn, 4 Estonian, 9 Pedant, 10 Doggerel, 12 Ruth, 13 Froth, 14 Dado, 17 Gravediggers, 20 Lost for words, 23 Toad, 24 Amend, 25 Scar, 28 Renegade, 29 Remote, 30 Honestly, 31 Prosit. Down: 1 Amperage, 2 Bedstead, 3 Rung, 5 Sports ground, 6 Orgy, 7 Inroad, 8 Nelson, 11 Artist's model, 15 Get on, 16 Grown, 18 Precious, 19 Esurient, 21 Starch, 22 Cannon, 26 Eggs, 27 Hear.

JUMBLD 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 quip.

No bird soars too high, if he soars with _____ - William Blake (3,3,5)

CNIIO



NIGHTS



EENSS



DINOWW



Answer: No bird soars too high, if he soars with his own wings - William Blake

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5096

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 5095



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Personal plans matter most, so don't let authority, society or other external pressures distort your judgment. Give a high priority to domestic plans and be aware of a tendency to stick your head in the sand at work.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's a useful day to travel, make contacts and extend discussions which may have got off to a faltering start. Good communication is of the essence, and anyone attending interviews or other important meetings has a perfect right to be confident.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

For the next month or so you may be tremendously open and upfront, but, in reality, keeping all your most important and intense feelings deeply hidden. However, consider this: if you want to communicate with loved ones you might have to be a little more direct.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's time to take control and insist that other people see things your way. This doesn't mean that you should ignore their interests, but it's about time you had a fair and unbiased hearing. Perhaps you should spend a little longer preparing your case.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Daydream to your heart's content, and don't let other people make you feel strange for wanting to spend time by yourself. At work, it's very much who you know rather than what you know that carries you through. There's nothing wrong in exploiting personal contacts, is there?

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your social stars become stronger, which means that even at work it is personal connections which count most. However, you may put the details to one side and look at the long-term, making every effort to broaden your horizons. Besides, there's a surprise just around the corner.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's time to be more forthright about your ambitions, including professional aspirations. Also, bear in mind that you can no longer shrug off partners' irritation, for there appear to be deeper issues at stake than you once thought. Not that it's a bad thing, mind you.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may check out the legal situation, putting the emphasis on your own rights, but not forgetting your responsibilities. Don't let other people make the running when it comes to setting standards, for their view of what should and shouldn't be done is less rigorous than yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

This is an adventurous moment, and you should know now that you can't be held back by social taboos which have lost their meaning. Your competitive instincts must be released if you are to come out on top. However, it's not so much a matter of finishing first as doing the best job.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Partnership affairs are central to your life today, so you really should attempt to reach a compromise. Partners and colleagues may be muddled, or they may be unable to express themselves clearly, but that doesn't diminish the relevance of their message.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There's so much planetary activity in the lower reaches of your chart that maximum change must be expected at home. It could be about another twelve weeks before you're clear about what your part must be. People could be coming and going, but what you really need is security.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You should rummage around in the recesses of your character, searching out those qualities which are businesslike, organised and efficient. Then you'll be able to divert extravagant stars into the cause of boosting your income. And there can be no more worthwhile exercise.

21 SPORT

Injured Shreyas ruled out of first Test

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

INDIAN MIDDLE-ORDER batsman Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the first Test match against Australia which is scheduled to start in Nagpur from February 9. Iyer is likely to be fit by the second Test onwards as the batsman hasn't completely recovered from his back injury.

The Mumbai middle order batsman had to opt out from the three match ODI series against New Zealand due to a back injury and was asked to head to National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru for his rehab. It is learnt that despite taking injections, Iyer still has pain in his lower back and as a result the NCA has advised the middle-order batsman to take at least two weeks' rest.

Iyer won't be joining the Indian team camp at Nagpur before the first Test match starting February 2, and is likely to rehab at NCA.

"His injury hasn't healed as expected and he will take two weeks at least to play cricket again. He will certainly not be available for the first Test and his availability for the second Test will be subject to his fitness report," a source in the Indian board informed.

The BCCI selection committee has picked a 16-member Indian Test squad for the Test match series against Australia. It is not clear whether the national selection committee headed by Chetan Sharma will pick a replacement or will go ahead with a 15 member squad for the first Test at home.



Shreyas Iyer is likely to be fit for the second Test.

In a statement a few weeks ago, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had informed about Iyer's injury.

"Team India batter Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match ODI series against New Zealand due to a back injury. He will be heading to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for further assessment and management," BCCI secretary Jay Shah had said in a statement.

Iyer's absence might give all-rounder Suryakumar Yadav the chance to make his Test debut.

Jadeja to join camp

Meanwhile, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja will be joining the Indian team camp to be held in Nagpur starting February 2. The Indian team players have been asked to report on the morning of February 2. Jadeja cleared his match fitness after he played a Ranji Trophy game for his home side Saurashtra against Tamil Nadu last week in Chennai. Jadeja bowled 41.1 overs and took a match winning seven wickets haul to ensure Saurashtra reached the Ranji Trophy quarter-finals.

The left-arm spinner's last Test appearance came last year in one of the Test matches against England after which he underwent a knee surgery which saw him missing the T20 World Cup.

Small victory as former wrestler Babita added to Oversight Committee

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 31

DAYS AFTER protesting wrestlers said they wanted their pick added in the Oversight Committee, appointed to probe allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Singh Sharan, the Sports Ministry added the name of former grappler **Babita Phogat**.



Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Sarita Mor tweeted that the sports ministry had gone back on its word by not consulting them before forming the committee.

Now the wrestlers seem to have gotten their way with the addition of Babita to the Oversight Committee. Babita was among the names the wrestlers had forwarded to the sports ministry, following a meeting post the formation of the Oversight Committee, Sarita

told *The Indian Express*.

Babita, a former World Championship and Commonwealth Games medallist, is Bajrang's sister-in-law and a cousin of Vinesh.

Bajrang's wife Sangeeta, also a wrestler, is Babita's younger sister. Babita joined the BJP in 2019 and lost the Haryana assembly elections when she contested from Dadri. She had visited the protest site at Jantar Mantar on the second day and promised to try and find a solution.

"We had submitted names when we had a meeting with the sports ministry and Babita Phogat's name was among them. I have not spoken yet with the other members of the core group of wrestlers since Babita was added to the committee. We will discuss it soon," Sarita said.

The wrestlers did not attend a meeting of another committee formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which comprises two members who are also part of the Oversight Committee — Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt, the 2012 London Olympics bronze-medal winning wrestler.

Sarita also did not rule out another protest if 'action was not taken by the Oversight Committee' at the end of their one-month long probe into the allegations of sexual harassment and financial irregularities and mismanagement in the WFI.

The same old pitch



India coach Rahul Dravid (centre) inspects the pitch on Tuesday, the eve of the third T20I against New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

Nirmal Harindran

The last time we went, I'm pretty sure we got served up a green-top (to practise on) and it was sort of irrelevant. We're better off having our own nets and getting spinners in and bowling as much as they can."

-STEVE SMITH

To be honest, it (Lucknow pitch) was a shocker of a wicket. In fact, both the games we have played on so far. I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets are not made for T20."

-HARDIK PANDYA

cate what we're going to come up against, and then we go into Nagpur fresh and hopefully it pays dividends at the back end."

'Shockers'

Had they watched the T20 series between India and New Zealand, they would have been utterly terrified at the wickets in Ranchi and Lucknow. If the strips for T20Is turned, jumped and bounced, what awaits them in the Tests! But the paradox cannot be escaped from. After dishing out the calamitous turner in Lucknow, the local association sacked the curator. Had he prepared this pitch for a Test, the captain or the coach could have tipped him a decent sum. Pandya, who is leading India in the T20I series, called both decks "shockers".

"To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket. In fact, both the games we have played on so far. I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets are not made for T20," he said after the match.

One can't imagine Rohit Sharma making statements of this nature in a Test match. Or head coach Rahul Dravid, who has not openly called for turners yet. Even during his days as India's captain, he was not supposedly the one to order curators for a specific type of wicket. But with a spot in the World Test Championship final at stake, India could rely on turners to see them through.

In Dravid's tenure, India have not resorted to violent turners. The sample size is small — under Dravid, India has played just four Tests at home, two apiece against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, winning three and drawing one. Though all four tracks did assist spinners at different stages, none of them were un-

playably terrible. The Australia series thus would be the biggest series yet under him, and probably would show a clearer picture on how he perceives turners when push comes to shove.

The turners in T20s and Tests need some contextualisation. Whereas in Tests, it's an element subcontinent teams use to maximise advantage, just as England and New Zealand resort to swing, Australia to bounce and South Africa to both swing and bounce, in T20Is, turners are un-permissible as it robs a proper contest with bat and ball. It would be the same if a T20 game is played in swinging or seaming conditions. So, fundamentally, turners are a preserve of the five-day game, one that India might scowl at in T20s or ODIs but greet with folded arms in Tests.

To dig into recent history, whenever a big prize is at stake, India tend to dish out turners. Of all hues — ones with spin and bounce, those with spin and invariable bounce, low and slow types, sharp and square-turning ones, snake-pits and dust bowls, bunsen burners and akhadas. When England toured last time, India needed to win the series to make the WTC final. Duly, turners were rolled out in Ahmedabad and Chennai.

So, Smith and Co. would not need a soothsayer to foretell the nature of the pitches or a spy to nick classified information from the curator's cave in the stadium. They would hope that their experience, practice on the scuffed-up North Sydney Oval, and the ground staff at Alur where they would practice for four days, would help them slay the spin-ghosts.

TV TIMING: India vs New Zealand (3rd T20I), 7pm, Star Sports Network

BAYERN SIGN CITY FULL-BACK CANCELO

Munich: Bayern Munich have signed full back Joao Cancelo on an initial loan deal from Manchester City for the rest of the season with an option to buy the Portugal international. Cancelo made 16 league starts for City this season but has not played for the club since their derby loss to Manchester United earlier this month, missing the last three games. **REUTERS**

Surya: We had to adapt to whatever we got

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 31

SWASHBUCKLING INDIAN batter Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday while talking about the Lucknow pitch said that if both teams are trying to have a good competition, the wicket shouldn't matter a lot. He also added that the situation with the pitch was not in their control and the Indian batters had to adapt to whatever they got on that ground and move on.

"I feel it doesn't matter what soil you play on. These are the things which aren't in your control and we did whatever we could have done in the last game. We had to apply and adapt to whatever we got on that ground and just move on with the situation," Surya said on in a pre-match press conference before the 3rd T20I vs New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

"But it was an exciting game. No matter what the condition or the format is, be it T20 or ODI, if both teams are trying to have a good competition, the wicket shouldn't matter a lot. You go out there, have a challenge, accept it and move on," he added.

The Lucknow pitch has been in the eye of the storm after India trudged over the line to chase 100 runs with one ball to spare, to level the T20 series 1-1 against New Zealand on Sunday which led to the pitch curator at Ekana Stadium getting the sack, according to sources in the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA).

"We (Hardik and I) had a chat later on, and it was like, whatever we got in future we will go with it. It's completely fine," SKY said when pressed to talk about Hardik's 'pitch was a shocker' comment.

When Surya was asked about what he and captain Hardik Pandya were discussing while

sharing a laugh in the middle in the last over of the match, he said, "Actually at the time, you know what the situation was. We were battling together for a long time now. We had some good partnerships in the past and at that time it was very important for the both of us to have good communication, have a nice atmosphere over there as we knew it was a little tense situation in the last over. And we were just trying to have a laugh, back each other, telling each other that whoever gets the opportunity just try and finish the game."

Talking about the upcoming Test series against Australia and his inclusion in the squad for the very first time, Surya said, "Everyone wants to play Test cricket and whenever you start playing cricket, you have to start in the domestic league in red ball cricket only. I am excited and everyone knows how exciting the upcoming series will be.

The Mumbaikar attributed his exploits in domestic cricket to his composure while batting in tense situations.

"I've played a lot of domestic cricket before making my international debut, that has helped me a lot. You have to apply yourself a lot and the grind you have there, playing on different challenging tracks, I just carried it from there. Rest I've learnt seeing so many senior players in the team, talking to them. Every game, I try to put my best foot forward," he said.

The world's No. 1 T20I batter has come a long way since making his debut against England at the same venue on March 14, 2021.

"I told my manager also 'I'm back where it all began'. Even I took the steps slowly thinking of 2021 and how I came here. I've very good memories, but it will be completely different now. I'm very excited. Beautiful stadium, amazing crowd, looking forward to an exciting game tomorrow," he said.

Babita, a former World Championship and CWG medallist, is Bajrang's sister-in-law and a cousin of Vinesh. Bajrang's wife Sangeeta, also a wrestler, is Babita's younger sister.

the Wrestling Federation of India.

"The Oversight Committee is also doing an enquiry into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses of the WFI, as leveled by prominent sportspersons."

On January 18, accusing Brij Bhushan of sexual harassment, Vinesh had said, "Women wrestlers have been sexually harassed at national camps by coaches and also the WFI president. Some of the coaches appointed at national camps have been sexually harassing women wrestlers for years. The WFI president is also involved in sexual harassment." The wrestlers had called off their three-day protest on January 20 after a late night meeting with sports minis-

ter Thakur who announced that the Oversight Committee would be set up. But the wrestlers were unhappy when Thakur announced the names of the members.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bajrang had said, "The women wrestlers who have faced sexual harassment are willing to talk to the Oversight Committee only if the person we suggest is added to the committee. This is a sensitive issue and they need to be confident that a fair probe will be conducted."

Bajrang also said that during the meeting with the sports minister, the names of members of the committee were not agreed upon and the wrestlers were told to take 'two to three days' to discuss among themselves and suggest their nominee.

Babita is the sixth member of the Oversight Committee which also includes former badminton player Trupti Murgunde, Radhica Sreeman, former executive director (teams) of the Sports Authority of India and Rajesh Rajagopalan, the former-CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme.

Talking about the wrestlers' protest, Sarita said, "It has been a mental battle for all of us but we were ready for the long haul. Our parents as well as partners are supporting us in the fight and that's what is keeping us motivated too."

Global business leaders pitch for inclusive growth at the B20 India Inception Meeting



From L to R: Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII; Mr N. Chandrasekaran, Chair, B20 India & Executive Chairman, Tata Sons; Mr Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa; Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Communications and Railways; Mr Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution; Mr Som Parkash, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry; Mr Pankaj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat; Mr Anurag Jain, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd, at the Opening Session, B20 India Inception Meeting at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

THE INCEPTION MEETING OF THE BUSINESS 20 (B20) Engagement Group under India's Presidency of the G20 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 22-24 January 2023. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as the B20 India Secretariat, was the organiser of B20 India Inception Meeting.

Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, advised businesses to work together to build a permanent agenda and focus on innovation while making new technologies affordable and available to all, in order to ensure an equitable agenda for the future. He said India is working on a 25-year roadmap to become a developed nation by 2047. This growth hinges on massive investments in infrastructure, focus on integrity, inclusive development & international outlook.

Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, presented four approaches on economic management, digital economy, and regulation in new technologies that India has taken in the recent

past to maintain its relatively high growth rate in difficult times. He also announced that India Stack, a set of open APIs and digital public goods, is now being offered to the world in the spirit of social service.

Mr Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, highlighted the advantages that India offers, particularly with respect to business. He urged industry members to actively participate in the dialogues scheduled during B20 for their suggestions to find a place in policy recommendations.

Mr Amitabh Kant, India's Sherpa to G20, echoed the vision of PM Modi in saying that the G20 and all its engagement groups must be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented". Some of the biggest challenges in the near future will be digital transformation, climate financing, the decoupling of and monopolizing global value chains.

Mr Anurag Jain, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, pointed out that "India believes in B20 for B200".

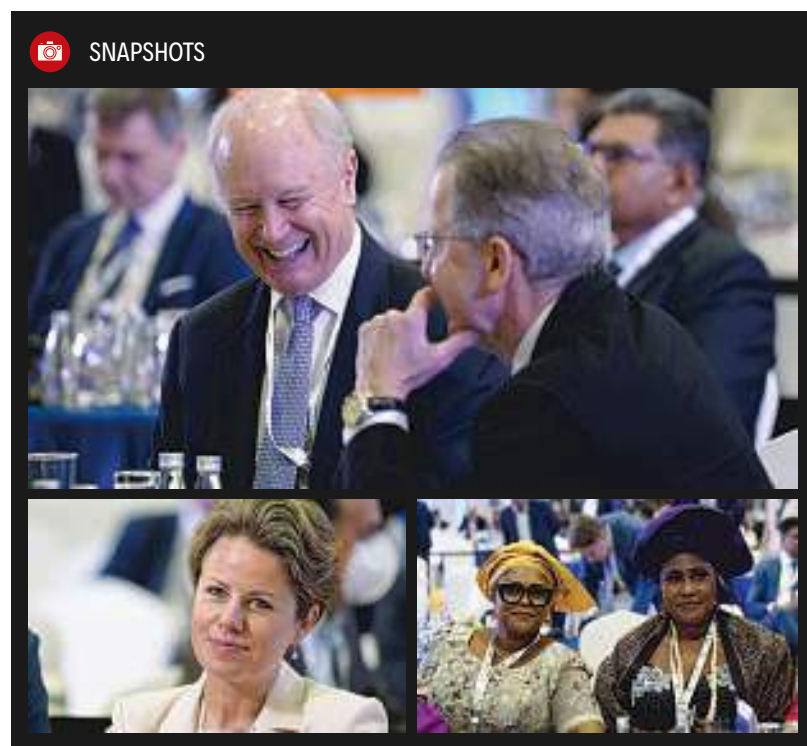
Under the theme of "R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses", B20 India will work through various task forces and action councils to develop policy recommendations aligned to the overall vision of B20 as well as G20 and advocate for inclusivity and sustainability as the foundational pillars of growth.

Special plenary session on B20 India Priorities

THE SESSION ON B20 India priorities largely focused on the role of the global business community and the B20 leadership in addressing and solving the geopolitical, economic and social challenges facing the world today. It emphasized that corporate leaders from G20 countries needed to come together in the current difficult global environment, to work towards shared goals.

Gujarat's G20 connect

GUJARAT'S G20 CONNECT saw an engagement with key ministers from the State Government. Gujarat is India's manufacturing hub contributing 9% to India's GDP & 18% to India's industrial output, said Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Civil Aviation, Labour and Employment, Government of Gujarat. Gujarat was one of the first states in India to enforce women empowerment gender budget with allocation of 35% of the state budget, said Shri Kanubhai Desai, Minister of Finance, Energy and Petrochemicals, Government of Gujarat. Digital health brings efficiency & transparency. Government of Gujarat is enabling last mile digital connectivity for all villages, the Minister added. Other speakers at the session deliberated on the conducive investment and industrial ecosystem of Gujarat.



DISCUSSIONS

Sustainable production both possible and profitable in India



The plenary on **Climate Action: Accelerating Towards Net Zero Energy for Greener and Sustainable Future** recognized the potential of India to be a sustainable production hub.

Industry discusses integrating ESG into supply chains to build resilience



At the plenary on **Building Resilient Global Value Chains: Advancing Inclusion & Integration of All**, the discussions focussed on how to create a sustainable value chain.

With 550 million smartphones and 1.35 billion unique digital IDs, India is pioneering financial inclusion



Panelists at the plenary, **Fostering Financial Inclusion and Empowering Societies**, were appreciative of India's efforts to bank the unbanked.

Need to rethink innovation to drive inclusive impact, says the B20 business community



Participants at the plenary on **Rethinking & Revitalizing Innovation to Drive Inclusive Impact** noted that technology has been playing a significant role in solving important problems such as climate change and food security.

Redefining the Global Digital Cooperation



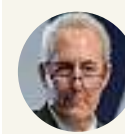
The plenary **Redefining the Global Digital Cooperation** noted that digital strategy needs a global framework but must be adapted to the local context.

INDUSTRY VOICES



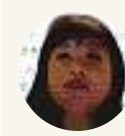
"We have begun our journey towards sustainability in India. Sustainable production is possible in India and it is profitable."

Mr Christian Cahn von Seelen, Member of the Board and Executive Director, Volkswagen Group



"Trust is the real currency of the digital economy. We have to build trust in the digital economy through investments in cybersecurity."

Mr Michael Froman, Vice Chairman & President, Strategic Growth, Mastercard and Former United States Representative in the Executive Office of the President



"The need for MSME and emerging countries to participate more is to ensure resilience and create a new path of development, creating jobs, income and improved skill to global economy."

Ms Shinta Kamdani, Chief Executive Officer, Sintesa Group



"The private sector and businesses with inventiveness, competitiveness and vast financial resources is a necessary partner to help design and implement effective and sustainable solutions for the challenges that we are facing today."

Mr Charles R. Johnston, Chair, Business at OECD (BIAC) and Managing Director, Global Government Affairs, Citi Group



"In 2023, more and more business leaders will step up climate action, demonstrating the four A's of climate leadership; Ambition, Action, Advocacy and Accountability."

Ms Maria Mendiluce, Chief Executive Officer, We Mean Business



"Sustainability is built on the ESG pillars – Environment, Social and Governance – and all three pillars need to be integrated into supply chains to build resilience."

Ms Linda Kromjong, President, amfori



"India has made an enormous stride in getting the unbanked banked. The most important thing is getting your banking system to reach everybody."

Lord Edward Lister, Senior Advisor to Group Chairman, HSBC



"In this age, digital capability is probably more important than financial literacy. The digital divide remains one of the most important challenges we face."

Mr Graham A.N. Wright, Group Managing Director, Microsave

"The B20 presidency is an opportunity for India to showcase and share best practices as well as work towards developing specific recommendations on bringing equality using digital transformation."

MR N. CHANDRASEKARAN, CHAIR, B20 INDIA; EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS



"India is pioneering financial inclusion with 550 million smartphones and 1.35 billion unique digital IDs."

MR SANJIV BAJAJ, PRESIDENT, CII; CHAIRMAN & MD, BAJAJ FINSERV LTD