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THE HINDU

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
18 pages • ₹10.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

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NEW BATCHES

Starting from 09th March 2022

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HINDI MEDIUM
Time: 01:00 PM- 4:00 PM

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IN BRIEF



J&K delimitation: fears grow over 'voter islands'

NEW DELHI

With the Delimitation Commission yet to publish maps of the proposed new constituencies for the J&K Assembly, a look at the Census 2011 administrative boundaries along with the draft list of tehsils in some seats points to islands, where a part of the constituency is cut off from the rest and surrounded by another constituency.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

SC to hear plea against bail to Ashish Mishra

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on March 11 the challenge raised by the families of farmers who were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri against bail given to prime accused Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra Teni.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

LIVE ONLINE OFFLINE CSAT
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Halt hostilities for evacuation, India urges Russia and Ukraine

Over 1,000 students trapped in Kharkiv, Sumy

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India has urged both Russia and Ukraine to ensure "at least a local ceasefire" so that it could evacuate its nationals stranded in the conflict-torn eastern Ukrainian hotspots of Kharkiv and Sumy, said a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official on Friday.

Addressing the media here, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it is "difficult" for the Indian students to traverse through live conflict locations and India is unwilling to expose them without an assurance of a ceasefire or a local ceasefire. "Without ceasefire, it appears difficult. There is shelling take place, and the two armies have contact points. We do not want our students to pass through areas where they would be exposed to risks. We would expect there should be a safe route for our students so that they could be evacuated safely. We have asked both sides to agree to some form of ceasefire or at least a local ceasefire," said Mr. Bagchi.

The Indian push for "some form of a ceasefire" came as New Delhi continues efforts to evacuate its stranded nationals from Kharkiv and Sumy where at least 1,000 students remain amidst a fast-shifting military situation.



Lives derailed: A fleeing mother and child crossing a track at the Lviv central train station in Ukraine on Friday. ▪ AFP

Russia's assurance

Earlier, Russian National Defence Control Centre Head Mikhail Mizintsev had stated that Russia would help transport foreign students back to their countries. "130 comfortable buses are ready to depart to Kharkiv and Sumy from the Nekhoteyevka (near Belgorod) and Sudzha (near Kursk) checkpoints since 6 a.m. today to rescue Indian and citizens of other foreign states," said Mr. Mizintsev.

Mr. Bagchi acknowledged that evacuating Indian students through the Russian territory would be "easy" but said there is an active zone of hostilities between the current location of the buses at Russian checkpoints and the position of the students.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Russia seizes nuclear plant

Russian forces have seized the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine. At an emergency meeting, UN Security Council members expressed alarm at the prospect of a nuclear incident. ▸ PAGE 13

Open online helplines: SC

The Supreme Court has suggested to the Centre to open up online helplines so that families get to know the whereabouts of people making their way out of conflict zones in Ukraine. ▸ PAGE 10

3,700 Indians evacuated

Over 3,700 Indians from Ukraine returned on Friday on 17 special flights, as part of the Centre's 'Operation Ganga'. Eleven special flights may bring back over 2,200 Indians on Saturday. ▸ PAGE 10

India abstains again in UN vote

HRC panel to probe Russian actions



Gloom spreads: Delegates observe a minute of silence at a session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. ▪ REUTERS

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India on Friday abstained on a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as the Council decided to set up an international commission of enquiry into Russia's actions in Ukraine.

The resolution, the strongest one to be adopted by the UN system yet, "strongly condemned" aggression by Russia, and said it was "gravely concerned" about reports of rights violations by Russian forces, civilian casualties and the forced displacement of 6,60,000 refugees due to Russian "bombing and shelling".

India was among 13 countries of the 47-member council elected from UN members that abstained from the resolution, along with China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Significantly the vote followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attendance at a meeting of Quad leaders hosted by U.S. President Joseph Biden, as well as a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing where senior officials made it clear that the U.S. has "spared no effort" to push India to change its position, with little success.

Thirty-two countries, or nearly two-thirds of the Council voted for the resolution that asked the HRC president to appoint three human rights experts for a year.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Spin legend Shane Warne passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Shane Warne, one of cricket's greatest spinners, passed away in Thailand on Friday.

He was found unresponsive in his villa and could not be revived. It was a twin blow for Australia after wicket-keeping legend Rodney Marsh succumbed earlier in the day and Warne had tweeted condolences.

At 52, Warne was an essential presence in the game he lorded over as evident from 708 Test wickets and a yield of 293 in ODIs. The leg-spinner was part of World Cup and Ashes winning squads and after his retirement in 2007, donned various roles linked to cricket, be it as a coach or commentator.

One of cricket's legends, Warne revived the art of spin and made it fashionable. He was named among *Wisden's* five cricketers of the 20th century, in a list headlined by Sir Don Bradman.



REPORTS ▸ PAGE 15

SC shocked by Punjab HC's relief for ex-DGP

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed shock at a Punjab High Court order granting former State Director General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini protection from arrest in cases likely to be registered against him in future. "This is shocking and we feel such an order is unprecedented... How can it be that an order is passed that a person cannot be arrested in future cases... what is this?" Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, observed.

The Punjab Advocate General D.S. Patwalia submitted that a single Judge had granted blanket protection against everything. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing on caveat for the former top cop, said his client was a decorated police officer and a victim of the government's *mala fide* efforts to frame him in false cases. "But this is an unprecedented order. How can future course of action be stayed? It is shocking..." the Bench made its displeasure clear.

56 killed, 194 injured in blast at Pak. Shia mosque

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
PESHAWAR

At least 56 people were killed and 194 wounded on Friday by a suicide bomb at a Shia mosque in the north-western Pakistan city of Peshawar.

The blast tore through the Kocha Risaldar area of the city moments before Friday prayers were to start, shattering the interior and showering the streets with broken glass.

It came on the first day of a cricket Test match in Rawalpindi – around 190 km to the east – between Pakistan and Australia, who have not toured the country in nearly a quarter of a century because of security concerns.

Muhammad Asim Khan, a spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said the death toll had climbed to 56, the deadliest since a July 2018 blast, claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group, killed 149 people at an election rally. He said 50 of the 194 wounded were in "critical condition".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Ruckus in Haryana Assembly as govt. tables anti-conversion Bill

Speaker suspends Congress MLA for tearing a copy of the Bill

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The BJP-led government in Haryana introduced its new anti-conversion Bill in the Assembly on Friday, leading to noisy scenes as the Opposition MLAs protested against its tabling.

Home Minister Anil Vij introduced the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, which prohibits conversion by allurement, coercion or fraudulent means, etc. during the budget session.

As heated arguments ensued between the Treasury and Opposition benches, Congress MLA Raghuvir Singh Kadian, alleging that the intent of the Bill was not clean, tore a copy of it.

While Mr. Vij hit back saying the Congress believes in communalism and partitioned India on the basis of religion, Chief Minister Manohar Lal said there's no mention of any religion in the Bill and it pertains to only forcible conversions. He said it does not stop anyone who is willingly converting provided that the person submits an application for wilful conversion to the District Magistrate.

Speaker Gian Chand Gupta suspended Mr. Kadian for the remainder of the session after he refused to tender an apology, prompting Congress MLAs to staged a walkout in protest.

CM's defence

Elaborating on the Bill, Mr. Lal said any religious priest or any person intending to organise a conversion shall give prior notice to the District Magistrate about the venue. A copy of this notice shall be pasted on the notice board outside the District Magistrate's office.

"If any person has an objection to this conversion, then they can file their objection in writing within 30 days. The District Magistrate shall investigate and decide whether the conversion is intended to be in contravention of Section 3. If the District Magistrate comes to the conclusion that the intended conversion is in contravention of Section 3, then he shall decline the intended conversion by passing a reasoned order. An appeal can be made against the order passed by the District Magistrate before the Divisional Commissioner within 30 days," he said.

The Chief Minister said many cases have surfaced in the State of people being converted through various allurements. "To stop such incidents, The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022 has been introduced," Mr. Lal said.

SHUBHRA RANJAN
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Evening Batch B9 — 24th Mar, 2022 (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

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Evening Batch L2 — 28th Feb, 2022 (6:00 PM - 8:30 PM)
Morning Batch L3 — 28th Mar, 2022 (8:00 AM - 10:30 AM)

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Sisodia inaugurates Delhi Teachers University

'Will offer new-age teacher education programme after Class XII; collaborate with national and international organisations'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday inaugurated the Delhi Teachers University, which will offer programmes such as BA-BEd and BSc-BEd. The programmes at the university have been designed to ensure that teacher-trainees in the university spend 30-50% of their time in schools and get hands-on learning experience from the very first month of their course.

Speaking at the inauguration, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that while premium institutes for engineers and doctors, such as the IITs, IIMs and AIIMS, were started decades ago, "we couldn't establish a top level teachers' university till date."

"It is easy to prepare good engineers, doctors and other professionals because they work only on specific areas of life but it is not easy to prepare a good teacher because their work is to cover all aspects of life for students and offer a 360-degree approach," Mr. Sisoida said.

"The university will offer a new age, integrated teacher education programme after Class XII. It will also emphasize on fundamental and applied research in education by collaborating with national and international organisations," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Teachers University, Dhananjay Joshi, said that children dream of becoming doctors or engineers, teaching is considered their least favourite career option. But the Delhi Teachers University, Mr. Joshi said, will work towards changing this mindset.

"Teachers are nation builders. To prepare for a better and developed India, we will motivate each and every child to become a teacher," Mr. Joshi added.

The university has been set up within two months of the decision to establish it being passed in the Delhi Assembly.

The university promises to offer a new-age integrated teacher education programme for students after Class XII.

It will also collaborate with national and international organisations. Also, representatives of the university will visit schools in Delhi and motivate students to opt for the teaching profession.

NEW AGE INITIATIVE

FEATURES OF THE DELHI TEACHERS UNIVERSITY

- Pre-service and in-service programmes
- New age B.Ed., M.Ed., Ph.D. and certificate programmes
- Focus on improving intelligence, emotional, social quotient of teachers
- Focus on fundamental and applied research
- National and international collaborations
- Partnerships with schools to provide hands-on experience
- Capacity building, training in practical skills



Audience listening to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia speak at the launch of the The Delhi Teachers University at Mukherjee Nagar in New Delhi. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Four youth bound down for bullying girl

Video of the assault had gone viral

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four youth, including a girl, were bound down by law for beating and bullying a 16-year-old Class X student of a north Delhi school, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the four youth have been identified as Himanshu, Sujal, Rahul and Riya, all aged between 18 and 21. They have been bound down under Section 41A of the Criminal Procedure Code, which means the four have to appear before the police whenever called upon so that they can be prevented from committing a similar offence.

The police said professional counsellors are counselling the victim, who is a student of Geetanjali Modern School in Sant Nagar, and the school authorities are making necessary interventions for minor students involved in the incident.

The school's director Hari Krishan told *The Hindu* that the school has scheduled a meeting between parents and teachers on Monday to discuss the betterment of students and find a solution to prevent such incidents from happening again.

On February 28, the minor girl had just stepped out of school and was on her way home when her friend's brother Sujal, along with his friends, thrashed the girl. Sujal's peers also filmed the episode on a mobile phone.

Viral video

Providing context to the issue, the victim had told *The Hindu* that her friend and she had stopped talking to each other over a personal matter about 15 days ago. "Some people wrote nasty things and made fun of my friend on Instagram and she thought I was behind it all. She told her brother and he brought these people to beat me up," she said.

The girl's father said initially he didn't want to press charges but the next day the teenagers, who thrashed the girl, started sharing the assault videos on social media using derogatory language. He then filed a complaint at the Burari police station.

"I don't want to go back to school. I can't cross that street where they beat me up. I don't want to go for tuitions. It's so humiliating. Everyone in school is laughing behind my back," the girl had said.

Preparation for civic polls in full swing: officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Preparations for the upcoming civic elections in Delhi are under way, with poll authorities having identified strongrooms and counting centres, and returning officers undergoing training ahead of the exercise, officials said on Friday.

The municipal elections are scheduled to be held in April, however, the dates for the polls are yet to be announced.

A senior official said about 15,000-16,000 polling stations are expected to be set up for the civic polls.

Court fines CBI for 'contemptuous' approach

"Deliberate inaction" noted on part of the IO and other CBI officials, says court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Noting that the approach of CBI officials was "disappointing" and "contemptuous", a Delhi court on Thursday imposed a cost of ₹10,000 on the investigating agency for not responding to the court's queries regarding a bank fraud case.

Special Judge Pulastya Pramachala, in her order, said that in the last hearing on February 26, the Investigating Officer (IO) had filed an application seeking time for a written submission in compliance with directions given by the court through an order dated January 22.

The court said it had asked the CBI for reasons for "taking so much time" to respond to its queries raised by the court on January 22, to which the IO replied that as the agency was waiting for a response from the sanctioning authority on their request sought under Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, it could not come up with a response.

"The approach of concerned officials of CBI, including the IO, is actually disappointing and contemptuous..." the order noted, adding that it was needless to say that more than sufficient time was given to come up with a response.

The court said that there seemed to be a "deliberate inaction" on the part of the IO and other concerned officials of CBI, "which cannot be appreciated by this court." It said that this would be CBI's last chance to file a response in a written format.

'Delhi's green cover up 3% in last 8 years'

Survival rate of saplings planted by the govt. between 75-80%, audit finds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Between 2013 and 2021, Delhi's green cover increased from 20% to 23.06%, which is 3% more than the standard set for urban areas by the Forest Survey of India, the Delhi government said on Friday.

Based on an audit conducted by the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, tree plantation in Delhi for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, also revealed that the survival rate of the saplings planted during the government's plantation drive was between 75-80%. Delhi has already exceeded its goal of planting 31 lakh saplings in 2021-22, by planting over 32 lakh saplings so far.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai while presenting the statistics said that the plantation drive was one of the steps being taken by the government to fight pollution in the city. He added that the government was working over a range of solutions, from emergency measures to long-term solutions, such as tree plantation, promotion of electric vehicles and converting all the fossil fuel based industries in Delhi to gas.

"Over the past five years through the large-scale tree-planting campaign, we have not only met the objective but exceeded it. The goal for In 2016-17 was 10 lakh saplings, but we ended up planting 24 lakh saplings. In 2017-18 and 18-19 and we planted nineteen lakh saplings against the goal of ten lakh saplings and in 2019-20, a target of ten lakh saplings was set, and we planted 28 lakh saplings," Mr. Rai said.

Mr. Rai stressed the importance of further increasing the green cover to combat pollution, given Delhi's location where pollution aggravates during the winter season.

L-G reviews decongestion measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Friday reviewed the progress of traffic decongestion measures at 77 major corridors.

According to sources, the L-G was informed that all the requisite tasks on 29 traffic corridors had been concluded. Out of a total of 620 tasks identified on these corridors, 316 have been completed.

"While appreciating the progress made so far, emphasized on timely completion of all the remaining identified tasks to decongest the remaining traffic corridors so as to reduce idling of vehicles and consequently air pollution besides achieving efficient traffic mobility," the L-G tweeted.

The involved departments, he added, were advised to work in close coordination and draw out activity-wise timelines for the remaining 48 corridors.

EXE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT R&B DIVISION CHHOTAUDEPUR
TENDER NOTICE NO.08/2021-22

Online tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Panchayat R&B Division, Chhotaudepur from Govt approved & eligible contractors for various works at different talukas. For further details, contact above office or visit **www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in** Tenders can be filed online from **https://nprocure.com**

Last date of filing Tender	18:00 hrs Dt 21/03/2022
Date of tender opening	12:00 hrs Dt 22/03/2022
Tender fees, EMD & Document submission	Tender fees DD, EMD amount with documents must be uploaded by scanning & hard copies must be presented by RPAD only upto 24/03/2022
Tender opening location	Office of Sup.Engg, Panchayat R&B circle office, Vadodara

Agencies must mention name, address & work details on cover while presenting documents by RPAD.
Executive Engineer - Panchayat R&B Division - Chhotaudepur
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
INF-VAD-1369-21-22 **Panchayat R&B Division, Chhotaudepur**

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Jawali Division HP PWD Jawali on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids,in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest money	Cost of Tender	Deadline for submission of Bid.
1.	Construction of ShaheedSurinder Singh Govt. I.T.I Building (Block-B) at Jawali(SH:- Construction of Building of Block-B including Water Supply and Sanitary Installation and Rain Water Harvesting System).	41869222/-	29.03.2022	451000/-	5000	18.04.2022

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the Department website www.hptenders.gov.in opened on..19.04.2022.
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Jawali- 176023
Telephone No. 01893264186
e-mail ee-jaw-hp@nic.in
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G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE)
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand

TENDER NOTICE No.-GBPNIHE/7669/2021-22/06

Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora Uttarakhand Invites sealed Tenders for auction of Institute vehicle UK-01-7669. The date of receipt of the sealed tenders is 21.03.2022 the tender will be opened on 21.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M. The vehicle may be seen in any working day from 10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M. up to 16.03.2022 at Institute premises.

The full details of tender are available in the Institute **Website http://gbpihed.gov.in**. **Office Superintendent (Store)**
Email: store@gbpihed.nic.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: DRMWNGP-11-2022 Date 25.02.2022

Name of work. Sr. No. 1.: Proposed replacement of (TWS+WCMSC = 1 in 8.5 = 19 Nos.) and (1 in 12 = 58 Nos.) Total = 77 Nos. on Nagpur-Sewagram and Nagpur-Narkher section under Sr.DEN Nagpur Central. **Approx. Cost:** ₹. 2,66,33,529.42. **EMD:** ₹. 2,83,200/-. **Sr. No. 2:** Proposed picking of new rails and sleepers by using Railways BTBRN / BFR on Nagpur Division. **Approx. Cost:** ₹. 79,48,905.76. **EMD:** ₹. 1,59,000/-. **Date & Time of closing of above Tenders: 21.03.2022** at **15.00 hrs.** Details on Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in.**
MA/12/227 **DRM (Works), Nagpur**
RailMadad Helpline 139

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR),Government of NCT of Delhi
2nd , 4th & 5th foor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi -110006
Helpline: 9311551393 | Phone: 011-23862685/86 | Email:dcpcr@hotmail.com

Request for Proposal

Proposals are invited from reputed research institutions, universities, recognised NGOs, consulting firms, monitoring and evaluation organisations, think-tanks, data collection agencies or any recognised organisation for the purpose of conducting monitoring & evaluation of Health & Nutrition related government services in Delhi. The scope of work includes both qualitative and quantitative collection and analysis.

1. DCPCR will hold a **pre-bid meeting** on **22 March 2022**. All prospective organisations may join either in-person or via zoom at 2:00 pm. All prospective organisations may join either in-person or via zoom at 2:00 pm. The zoom link for joining is:
   https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMld-CgrzgqHdNREvlccOJT4KtKly-v7XTZ.
   The participants can register themselves for the meeting on this link. Meeting ID: 878 0981 3077, Security Passcode 639949
2. The bidders may submit their queries, if any, through email on the email id: dcpcr@hotmail.com. The last date for **submission of queries is 24 March 2022**. The query title should be "DCPCR RFP query". Queries received after the deadline will not be entertained.
3. The eligible institutions/ organisations/ research agencies may submit a soft copy of their research proposal in the prescribed format through email at **dcpcr@hotmail.com** latest by **04 April 2022 up to 05:00 PM**

The details can be obtained from our website at https://dcpcr.delhi.gov.in/tenders.

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0695/21-22 **Secretary, DCPCR**

TENDER NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders contained in Circle Office letter **No. Bldg/3-82/81 Dated 27.12.2021** the sealed Tenders are invited for suitable accommodation measuring about **400 Square feet** of carpet area preferably on ground floor in the surrounding area of **Hauz Qazi, Delhi-110006** for housing a Post Office. The accommodation offered should be one hall centrally located near **Hauz Qazi**, Delhi-110006 and easily accessible to public as well as Mail Lorries.

1. Tender should be addressed to the undersigned by name super scribed **"TENDER OF BUILDING FOR Hauz Qazi PO"** and should reach to this office before **13.00 Hrs. on 31st March 2022**. The tenders will be opened on the same date i.e. **31st March 2022 at 15.00 Hrs.** in the presence of such tenderers who may wish to be present.
2. Applicant will be required to provide proof of ownership along with application the Offer must have clear title of the property.
3. As per Post Office requirement antenna /Tower will also be installed in the rented premises and it will not harm the interest of landlord / landlady.
4. The building offered should have independent water and electricity supply and lavatory arrangements. A Sketch map of accommodation offered should be attached stating acceptable rent and others.
5. A lease deed shall have to be executed by the owner in the prescribed form (Genl-8) for a minimum period of 5 years subject to renewal according to terms and conditions of the deed.
6. The department does not have own any responsibility of taxes except the consumption charges of electricity and water supply for which separate meters will have to be provided by the landlord at his own cost before opening the post office in the accommodation offered and minor change /repairs to suit the post office has to be arranged by the landlord at his own cost.
7. Additions/alterations in the building desired by the department will have to be carried out by the landlord before the building is occupied.
8. The tenders received after prescribed date and time will not be entertained and rejected straight away.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Suresh Kumar Bhardwaj)
Supdt. of Post Offices
New Delhi Central Division
New Delhi-110001

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Very Short e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
Very Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/378
Date- 03.03.2022

1.	Name of the work	IRQP/Strengthening work of part (i) (a) Mango Suman hotel to Anand Vihar colony (Length 1.523 Km) (b) Bada Hanuman Mandir to Dipasai High mast (Length 0.850 Km) (c) NH 33 Hanuman Mandir to JKS society (Length 1.30 Km) (d) Jawahar nagar road no 14 and cross road no 13 to gudrubasa Dimna road (Length 1.30 Km) (e) Old Purulia road no 02 to road no 07 (Length 0.85 Km) (f) Road No. 10 (West) Old Purulia Road to Azad Basti Main Road via Jakir Nagar (Length 2.475 Km) and part (ii) (a) Mango road no. 17 to National commitee Babangora chowk and Green valley road (length 1.25 km) (b) Mango-Pardih road no 17 to Kuli road (length 1.55 km) (c) Old purulia road to Seraikela-Kharsawan boarder road (length 1.184 km) (d) Azad nagar Babangora chowk and periferal idgah road no 13 green valley (Length 1.0 Km) (e) Jawahar nagar road no 06 (Mango-Pardih) to Kalikanagar Dimna road (length 1.60 km) Total length 14.882 km. under Head Plan for FY 2021-22.
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 8,48,51,353.45 (Rupees Eight Crore Forty Eight Lakh Fifty One thousand Three hundred Fifty Three and Paise Forty Five) only.
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 8.50 Lakh (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Bank Guarantee valid for minimum 45 days beyond the Bid validity period of 120 day/ 5 Yr NSC / 3 or 5 Yr FD issued by any Indian Post offices/ 3 or 5 Yr FD issued by any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank situated within Jharkhand.
5	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	Three Months
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	11.03..2022 at 10.30 A.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	11.03.2022 from 10.30 A.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	19.03.2022 up to 02.00PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in hard form	21.03.2022 upto 12.00 noon either by Speed post or by hand.
12	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in hard form in the offices	a) Office of the Chairman, e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330A, 3rd floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya , Dhurwa , Ranchi. (b) e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchakkar, Ranchi. (c) Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Jamshedpur in Road No. 1, CH Area.
13	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	21.03.2022 at 3.00 PM by e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchakkar, Ranchi
14.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
15.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	7979945893
16.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur
PR265295 (Road)21-22*D

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nahan on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No	Description	E/ Cost	E/Money	Time	Cost of Form
1.	Providing sewerage with STP in Trilokpur, Kheri and Johron in Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- Restoration of damage street in village Jattanwala).	11,87,938/-	23,800/-	3 Months	400/-
2.	Providing sewerage system with primary treatment unit for KalaAmb Moginand area in Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of sewerage network, Manholes and supporting system From RD 0 to 390 i.e. from police station to CETP).	12,58,805/-	25,200/-	3 Months	400/-
3.	Water quality monitoring and surveillance under JJM under Sirmour Distt. HP (SH:- Supplying and installation of various apparatus and Lab. equipments for water testing Lab in Nahan).	11,74,950/-	35,248/-	1 Month	400/-
4.	Providing LWSS to Harijan Basti Bhasrath Rahiya Khala and Kiyar in GP Koti Dhiman Tehsil Dadahu Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- P/L/J and testing of Rising main lines of MSERW pipe 65mm and 50mm dia (H), Providing, installation and commissioning of centrifugal pumping machinery with allied accessories).	38,79,645/-	65,700/-	3 Months	400/-

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal **http://hptenders.gov.in** by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate **(DSC)** from suitable venders or from any authorized agency at the earliest.
3. **Key dates will be as under:-**

1.	Date of Online publication	04/03/2022 AT 5:00 PM
2.	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 04/03/2022 at 5:00 PM up to 9:00 AM on 11/03/2022
3.	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 04/03/2022 at 5:00 PM up to 11:00 AM on 11/03/2022
4.	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Up-to 11:00 AM on 11/03/2022
5.	Date of opening of Cover-1 (Eligibility criteria) and Cover-2 (Technical bid)	11/03/2022 at 11:30 AM
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bids Cover-2	Shall be intimated separately.

Note:- Other Tender information may be checked online portal website: www.hpetender.com **Executive Engineer**
HP / 7350/21-22 HIM SUCHNA AVAN JANSAPARK **Jal Shakti Division Nahan**

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Jal Shakti Vibhag
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Sunder Nagar on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in Two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag .

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form.	Time
1.	Construction of Type-1 Quarter near new Guest House in Polytechnic campus at Sundernagar Tehsil Sundernagar Distt. Mandi H.P. (Deposit Work).	14,68,026/-	29,400/-	400/-	Six Months

Schedule of tendering:-

1	Bid submission start date	**03.03.2022**	11.00 AM
2	Bid submission end date and time	**10.03.2022**	5.00 PM
3	Opening of Cover 1	**11.03.2022**	11.00 AM
4	Opening of Financial bid	**Date and place to be notified separately**	

Terms and Conditions:-
Tender documents, Term and conditions and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal https://hptenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division Sunder Nagar
HP / 7325/21-22 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

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- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

BJP conducts referendum on govt.'s new excise policy

Party says 99% of the 10 lakh respondents are against it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Terming it the "biggest threat" to women and youth of the Capital, the BJP on Friday conducted a referendum on the Delhi government's new excise policy at over a thousand locations in the city.

The party said it sought views of as many as 10 lakh citizens on the policy at 1,120 locations and 99% of the respondents were against it.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said about 99% of Delhiites believe the new 'Sharab Niti' is actually a 'Kharab Niti'. Under its guise and in the name of augmenting revenue, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was "actually filling up his own pockets" and playing with the future of the youth and women, he added.

> **In league with the liquor mafia, his [Kejriwal's] new scheme of offering a free liquor bottle on purchase of one has even induced daily wagers to stand in queue**
>
> ADESH GUPTA
> Delhi BJP president

"In league with the liquor mafia, his new scheme of offering a free liquor bottle on purchase of one has even induced daily wagers to stand in queue without caring for their own health or the well-being of their family," Mr. Gupta said.

The referendum, the party said, was conducted at 3-4 places in every civic ward and in addition to senior leaders, about 50,000 party workers were part of the drive.

"Delhiites are worried about the new excise policy and are quite angry. Mr. Kejriwal will have to pay a heavy price. For his own benefit, Mr. Kejriwal, in league with the liquor mafia, is hell-bent on pushing Delhi towards alcoholism," said Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly.

Responding to the BJP's referendum, the Delhi government said, "This is not a referendum but an exhibition of the panic that has gripped the BJP. The new excise policy has, in fact, destroyed the nexus between the BJP and the liquor mafia."

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9 cases lodged, 17 held for celebratory firing in 2 years

'Most incidents happened on the outskirts'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Be it weddings or birthday parties, celebratory firings have been a persistent practice at these functions, often leading to injuries and even casualties among the attendees.

According to the Delhi police, in the past two years, nine such cases have been registered in which 17 persons have been arrested.

Senior police officers said such incidents have become a common occurrence at social gatherings with persons carrying licensed or unlicensed weapons firing shots in the air and causing injuries to passers-by and guests.

Last month, a 15-year-boy was hit by a bullet after a man fired his gun during a wedding ceremony in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri. The boy, who was standing on the stage, suffered gunshot injuries on both his legs.

"People usually carry weapons at social gatherings as a status symbol and fire shots in the air... this often leads to the bullet injuring an invitee or some passer-by...The accused persons are mostly in a drunken state," an officer said, adding that most of these incidents happen on the outskirts of the city as a good number of banquet halls are located there.

IN BRIEF

North body shuts 311 garbage collection points

NEW DELHI

With the project of phasing out of garbage collection points in its final leg, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation has shut a total of 311 dhalaos, three walled open structures, according to data available till March 3.

Timings

DELHI

SATURDAY, MAR. 05
RISE 06:43 SET 18:24
RISE 08:23 SET 21:03

SUNDAY, MAR. 06
RISE 06:41 SET 18:24
RISE 08:54 SET 22:00

MONDAY, MAR. 07
RISE 06:40 SET 18:25
RISE 09:26 SET 22:56

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	15
Safdarjang	25	15
Palam	25	16

Delhi Palam Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be comfortable with cool winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
28°C A dry weather to continue.Morning will be very cool.with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be very cool and hazy.

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DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ACE (WB)-II
3RD FLOOR, VARUNALAYA PH-I, NEW DELHI-110005
NIT No.10/DY.SE(WB)-II(2021-22)
"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement solution
1	Supply of treated effulent from Mehrauli STP to DLF Chhattarpur, Satbari & Radhey Mohan Drive Farm houses under ACE(E&M)-I. (Re-invited)	Rs. 14,42,28,170/-	Rs. 24,43,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.03.2022 2022_DJB_217868_1	24.03.2022 at 3:05 PM
2	Supply of 1.0 MGD treated effluent from Narela STP to Bakoli / Bakhtawarpur Farm Houses under ACE(E&M)-I. (Re-invited)	Rs.3,93,50,714/-	Rs. 7,88,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.03.2022 2022_DJB_217868_2	24.03.2022 at 3:05 PM
3	Supply of 04 MGD treated effluent from Kapashera STP to Pushpanjali Farm Houses Bijwasan under ACE(E&M)-I.	Rs.6,82,81,802/-	Rs. 13,66,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.03.2022 2022_DJB_217868_3	24.03.2022 at 3:05 PM
4	Supply of treated effluent by extending Aya Nagar Forest line to Dera Mandi Farm Houses in chhattarpur area under ACE(E&M)-I.	Rs.9,35,01,405/-	Rs. 18,71,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.03.2022 2022_DJB_217868_4	24.03.2022 at 3:05 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) — DY. S.E.(WB)-II
ADVT. NO. J.S.V. 1208 (2021-22) — (RAMESH KUMAR GUPTA)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CE(W)PR-I / EE(PR) W-VIII
A-BUILDING, VARUNALAYA, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI- 110005
Phone No:- 011-23533083, Email : - eeprojectw8@gmail.com
NIT No: 09 (2021-22)
STOP CORONA
WASH YOUR HANDS — WEAR MASK — MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE

Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Last date of Tender Download
Replacement of Transmission mains (Shahdara, G.K. & Jal Vihar Main) emanating from Bhagirathi WTP. Tender ID:-2O22_DJB_218016_1	219.67 Cr	1500/-	230 Lakh (minimum Rs. 20 lac to be transmitted through RTGS and balance through BG).	30 Months	30.03.2022 upto 2:30 PM

Note: Any further amendment /corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploaded and can only be seen on website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. — (P.K. Sharma)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1211 (2021-22) — E.E.(Project)W-VIII

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-2
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT)W-I
DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, ROOM NO.511, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005
TEL:23681009, EMAIL ID: EE1.DJB@GMAIL.COM
Tender ID: 2022_DJB_217971_1
PRESS N.I.T. No. 02 (2021-22)
"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK: FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

S.No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Date of Published on e-procurement portal / Tender ID	Last date and Time of Tender
1	Dredging of balance quantity of silt from River Yamuna near intake at Wazirabad water works	Item rate	5,91,200/-	03.03.2022 2022_DJB_271971_1	21.03.2022 up to 3:00 PM

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.1206 (2021-22) — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT)W-I

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CE(W)PR-I / EE(PR) W-VIII
A-BUILDING, VARUNALAYA, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI- 110005
Phone No:- 011-23533083, Email : - eeprojectw8@gmail.com
NIT No: 10 (2021-22)
STOP CORONA
WASH YOUR HANDS — WEAR MASK — MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE

Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Tender Processing Fee(Rs.)	Completion period	Last date of Tender Download
P/L 600 mm dia water line for disposal of waste water from Bhagirathi WTP to Gazipur drain. Tender ID:-2O22_DJB_218030_1	Rs. 1,33,75,141/-	Rs. 2,67,502/- to be transmitted through RTGS	Rs.1000/- (Non-Refundable)	04 Months	22.03.2022 upto 3:00 PM

Note: Any further amendment /corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploaded and can only be seen on website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. — (P.K. Sharma)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1212 (2021-22) — E.E.(Project)W-VIII

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M-6)
MU BLOCK PITAMPURA: NEW DELHI-110034
PRESS NIT NO. 81 (2021-22)
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement
1.	Providing and laying 450 mm dia outfall sewer line by trenchless technology from Rani Bagh market to 1600 mm dia trunk sewer line on Parwana Road under AEE M-15 in AC-15. **(Re-invite)**	Rs. 1,54,21,159/-	Tender ID No. 2022_DJB_217824_3 on 02.03.2022 at 03:35 P.M.	15.03.2022 Up to 3:00 PM
2	Replacement of old/damage and fully silted sewer line By PENTODE METHOD from UGR BC (East block) to Delhi police colony, Shalimar Bagh, AC-14 under AEE(M)-14. **(Re-invite)**	Item Rate EMD Rs. 1,70,000/-	Tender ID No. 2022_DJB_217824_4 on 02.03.2022 at 03:41 P.M.	15.03.2022 Up to 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) — (Trilok Chand)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1207 (2021-22) — Ex. Engineer (T) M-6

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PUBLIC NOTICE No.CA/422/2022/CMPTN

CONDUCT OF DESIGN COMPETITION FOR SELECTION OF ARCHITECT

The Council of Architecture (COA) invites Architects and Architectural Institutions to participate in an Open Two-Stage Architectural Design Competition being organized by COA, to appoint an Architect/ Firms of Architects for preparation of design drawings and other details including periodic supervision of construction of Building for its proposed Centre of Excellence at Bengaluru. The Competition shall be conducted strictly as per the Guidelines of COA.

All details related with the competition are in the Competition Dossier available on the COA's website www.coa.gov.in.

Intending competitors are required to register themselves at the Council's website latest by 12.03.2022 to receive a Unique Identity Code from COA for participating in the competition.

New Delhi
Dated : 04.03.2022
Registrar

OFFICE JAL BOARD
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL ENGINEER (C)-5
THROUGH DY. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (C) DR-III
Kanhaiya Nagar, DELHI-110035 Phone: 011-27394876, Email:eecdr3@gmail.com
PRESS NIT NO-26 (2021-22)
"STOP CORONA; WEAR Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of tender/ Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender
1	Consultancy Service for "Providing & Laying Sewerage System And Construction OF Decentralized STP at Auchandi & Qutabgarh for Bajitpur GOC.	Lump Sum	Rs. 3,78,500/-	1000/-	03,3,2022 / 2022_ DJB_217898_1	16,3,2022 Upto 03:00 PM

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. 1203 (2021-22) — **Dy. SE(C) DR-III**

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (P) 4
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
ROOM NO. 29, B-BUILDING, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005. Phone: 09650094325
E-mail Id:- djbwaterbody@gmail.com
PRESS NIT No. 30/WB-I/2021-22
"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender in E-Procurement Solution
01	Providing laying and jointing treated effluent water rising main from Narela STP for rejuvenation of Tikri Khurd Village lake (Re-invited)	3,49,31,948/-	6,99,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	03.3.2022 2022_DJB_217967_1	28.3.2022 At 03:00 PM

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. 1202 (2021-22) — **Dy. S.E. (WB)-I**

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- Felicitation of Pandit Vasantrao Gadgil in 2012
- Interaction of Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad
- Interaction with MIT-SOG Students in 2007
- Felicitation at the hands of Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, 2012

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 12 • No. 54

BJP leader held for assaulting scribe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHHATTISGARH

A local BJP leader was on Friday arrested on the charge of attempt to murder after he, along with his aides, allegedly assaulted a journalist in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, the police said.

Dhirendra Giri Goswami, who works with a digital media platform, was assaulted on Thursday night after he intervened when the accused were allegedly misbehaving with his friend's wife, an official said

Based on a complaint by Mr. Goswami, Monu Sahu, a member of Durg Zilla Panchayat, and others were booked under sections of the IPC, Durg Additional SP (Rural) Anant Kumar Sahu said.

'Can refusal of treatment be grounds for divorce?'

Supreme Court to look into divorce granted to man after wife declined to be treated for mental illness

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to examine whether a man can divorce his wife for refusing treatment for mental illness, a condition she categorically denies.

A Bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose issued notice and stayed a Kerala High Court order granting the man his divorce. The man has accused his wife, a senior nursing professional who works in the U.K., of 'paranoid schizophrenia'. Both the family court and the High



Court had believed him enough to grant a divorce.

Hearing her appeal filed through advocate Vipin Nair, the Bench fixed a hearing in six weeks. The wife argued that it is settled law that a man cannot be granted divorce merely because his wife has become sick.

In this case, the woman said she is not even ill and is a successful professional in the medical field who would know if there is anything wrong with her.

"Her educational background as well as work experience would explain that she never suffered from any sort of mental disorder or even displayed any such symptom and the same is merely an allegation imputed by her husband to her. She has continuously achieved high standards in both her educational and professional career," the petition said.

Mr. Nair referred to the concept of 'paranoid schizophrenia' explained in the Textbook of Medicine by Rustom Jal Vakil as a condition riddled with delusions both logical and bizarre. "The illness usually begins late in life, between the age of 25 to 35 years.... He [the patient] may also have grandiose delusions. Because of his superior intelligence, he may claim to lead his country to victory or the world to prosperity. He may claim to reach the sun, the moon or the stars within a few years. He may claim to be the greatest authority on religion, science or philosophy," the senior lawyer quoted.

He argued his client has shown none of the above aspects. She has instead braved the odds and carved a career for herself.

The woman, through her petition, said forcing the allegation that she was a paranoid schizophrenic despite her categorical denial was cruelty itself. It amounted to mental harassment by the husband.

MVA team meets Koshyari on Speaker, MLCs issues

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A delegation of senior Ministers from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari requesting him to announce the dates for the election of the Assembly Speaker and also to clear the names of 12 MLCs as suggested by the Cabinet for the Upper House.

"We requested him that the election for the Speaker's post be held on March 9. We also asked him to clear the 12 names for the Upper House," said Minister for Urban Development and Public Works Department Eknath Shinde.

The post of speaker in the Assembly is vacant for over a year now since Nana Patole of Congress resigned to become the State unit president of the party.

After the meeting, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Chhagan Bhujbal said,"He sounded positive. We hope that he will do the needful."

H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
"HIM PARIVESH", PHASE III,
NEW SHIMLA-171009

Public Notice

According to the provisions of EIA Notification No. SO 1533 dated 14-09-2006, HP State Pollution Control Board invites suggestions, views, comments and objections on the proposal of M/s Bala Sundri Mines & Minerals (Partners Shri Manish Kumar, Rishi Kumar & Naveen Kumar), House No. 169/9, Ward no. 5, Yamuna Vihar, Shamsherpur, Tehsil Paonta Sahib, District Sirmour for extraction/collection of stone boulder, sand and bajri for open sale @ 57706 TPA (36.13 Bighas or 3.09 Ha) at Khasra No. 137/122/75/1 falling in Mauza Mohal-Bhatrog, Tehsil Kamrao, District Sirmour, HP. The aforesaid Project Proponent has submitted Executive Summary (both in Hindi and English) and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (in English only) related to the aforesaid unit for the purpose of perusal by all concerned.

Local affected persons and others having plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project may inspect the Executive Summary available (both in Hindi and English) and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment/EMP Report (in English only) as submitted by the Project Proponent in the offices of the : (i) Director, Department of Environment, Science & Technology, Paryavaran Bhawan, Near U.S. Club, Shimla H.P.- 171001. (ii) District Magistrate, Sirmour at Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. (iii) Chairman, Zila Parishad, Sirmour at Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. (iv) District Industries Centre, Sirmour at Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. (v) Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Pearson Road, FRI Campus, New Forest, Dehradun-248006. (vi) Assistant Environmental Engineer, H.P. State Pollution Control Board, Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. (vii) Headquarter of the H.P. State Pollution Control Board, "Him Parivesh" Phase-III, New Shimla-171009 during normal working hours on any working day till the Public Hearing is over. In addition to this, these documents are also available in the office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour H.P. and also on the website of the State Board **(www.hppcb.nic.in)**. Suggestions, views, comments and objections from local affected persons and others having plausible stakes in the environment impacts of the project will be accepted by the State Board up to **05-04-2022.**

Environmental Public Hearing related to the above-mentioned proposal of the unit is proposed at Community Hall, Village Poka, Tehsil Kamrau, Distt. Sirmour, HP on **05-04-2022 at 11:30 A.M.**

Local affected persons and others having plausible stake in the environment impacts of the project are also invited to participate in the aforesaid Public Hearing. The traveling and incidental costs to attend the Public Hearing shall be borne by the participants themselves.

(APOORV DEVGAN, IAS)
MEMBER SECRETARY
H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 Fax No.:0651-2400123 (E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. – 450/PR/ JUSNL/ 2021-22

E-tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part – II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm for the following works : -

Name of work	Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials / Equipments, erection, testing and commissioning of 400 kV D/C Quad Moose PVUNL-Katia (Patratu) Transmission Line and construction of 02 nos. 400 kV Line bay at 400/220kV Patratu (Katia) (JUSNL) GSS on turnkey basis.
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 48,87,41,708.00 (including GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 97.75 Lac in the form of DD/BG in favour of JUSNL, payable at Ranchi (in case of BG nationalized/ scheduled bank only)/ On line mode
Completion Period	09 (Nine) Months
e-Tender fee	Rs. 25,000.00 + 18% GST in the form of DD in favour of JUSNL, payable at Ranchi/ On line mode.
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	11.03.2022 at 11:00 AM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	11.03.2022 at 11:00 AM
End date and time of upload of BID	01.04.2022 upto 04:00 PM
Last date of submission of hard copy of bid, tender cost and EMD in the office of G.M., C&M (NWBP)	Upto 01.04.2022 at 05:30 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	05.04.2022 at 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned **(9431747672)** during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR 265386 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(21-22).D

Sd/-
General Manager, C&M (NWBP)
JUSNL,Ranchi

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Dy. CME/Works for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur, for and on behalf of President of India invites single tender through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work :- S.No. (1), E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.-"33-GKP-MWS-2021-22-2" "Retrofitment of revised wiring with modified junction boxes and connectors for 60 LHB Coaches of Escarts make WSP system for GKP NER (PBI No. 1314/21-22)". Estimated cost (In Rs.) : 84,00,000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 1,68,000.00, Last date of tender submission : Date : 31.03.2022 Upto 11.00 hrs., Cost of the Tender forms: Zero, Period of Contract : 24 Months. The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. CME/Works, Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur
CPRO/Mech. -78

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WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT

CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR RAILWAY BRIDGES IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING

Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-Tender for following work. **EPC E-Tender Notice No. CAOC-RJT-KNLS-EPC-01 (1) Name of work with its location:** Construction of Major Railway Bridges (26 No's) with Substructure, Superstructure in PSC/Steel Composite Girders in Rajkot Kanalus Section in Connection with Doubling of Rajkot Kanalus Section of Rajkot Division in Western Railway. **(2) Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 150,32,38,279.04 (In word : One Hundred Fifty Crore Thirty Two Lakh Thirty Eight Thousands Two Hundred Seventy Nine Rupees and four paisa only. **(3) Completion Period:** 24 Months. **(4) Earnest Money:** ₹ 76,66,200.00 **(5) Date & Time for submission of bid and opening of bid:** Submission : 16-05-2022 upto 11:00 Hrs. Opening : 25-05-2022 upto 16:00 Hrs. **(6) Web site particulars Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office:** Office of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot. **Website: www.ireps.gov.in**

RJT-085

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09000400939/08977900939
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for Candidates Interested in
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On Our YouTube Channel
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For Live Zoom Interaction
pl register at www.vaidsics.com
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Start Apr 16 (9.00 am & 2.00 pm)
Admissions : Apr 2

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

IT is hereby given that Mr. Rajesh Sabharwal S/O. Late Ramesh Chander Sabharwal R/o S-31, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 is the legal and rightful owner of the Property bearing no. 21, Mahilla Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Village South Chiragah, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi & he is in the peaceful possession of the said property from the last 22 years and he intends to lend the said premises on lease to **INDUSIND BANK LIMITED.**

Any person claiming any interest in the above mentioned property or any part thereof by wayofsale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement,attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at his office within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the property would be considered unencumbered and no objections will be entertained thereafter.

Siddharth Kurichh (Advocate)
Enrol: D9931/202; M.: 8851921914

PUBLIC NOTICE

A General Body Meeting (GBM) of the owners of office spaces in the corporate office tower named as Corenthum, Plot No. A-41, Sector - 62, Noida 201301 UP is scheduled to be held on 14.03.2022 at office No. B-42 (2nd Floor), The Corenthum, Time: 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM for the Formation of Apartment Owners Association under the UP Apartment (Promotion of Construction, Ownership and Maintenance) Act 2010. All office owners are hereby given notice to attend this meeting in person or through authorised representative. Yours etc.

Office Owner - Tarun Kalra
9868804789

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

It is informed to the general Public that Flat no. 19065 tower no. LGC16/16th Avenue, Gour City-2 Sector- 16c Greater Noida which is Pradeep Shukla S/o Ram Prakash Shukla R/o 332/1 Lal Colony Juhi Kanpur-208014 has been bought from my client Shikha Tiwari &Mr.Ghosh Santanu Krishna Prasad R/o RCF-4/47 Chanood Colony Silivas Road near Arti Garden Chanood Vapi Chanood Valsad Gujarat-396195. whose registri is done on date 14.02.2022 Sub registar Greater Noida the entire possession of the said flat will be the right of the buyers to interfere, anyone else from the date of registry. the claim will be ineffectual and zero. If the above mentioned Plot's papers and forms are mentioned in the bank or court then it will be illegal.

Atulay Nehra Advocte
District court G.B. Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify that all existing insurance policy holders of (Spectrum Insurance Distribution Ltd. COR No. CA 0181) will be serviced by Spectrum Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd., and all the liabilities and issues of Spectrum Insurance Distribution Ltd., will be hence forth responsibility of Spectrum Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd. Order/Direction/ warning if any which are pending and/or under process with the IRDAI with respect to the Spectrum Insurance Distribution Ltd. shall be honored by Spectrum Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd. pursuant to surrendering COR by Spectrum Insurance Distribution Limited. The Tentative date of cessation of business would be 31st March, 2022.

Sd/-
Pankaj Gupta (Director)
For Spectrum Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE FAMILY COURT
AT ETTUMANOOR
O.P. No. 930 of 2020

Petitioner:
Ajith A.G, Son of Gopinathan Nair, aged 39 years, Parampuzha (P.O), Vijayapuram village, Kottayam Taluk, PIN - 686032

Respondent:
Mrs. Kirti alias Keerthi Menon, aged 32 years, Daughter of Remani Menon, House No.1535, Housing Board Colony, Sector 29, Faridabad, Hariyana - PIN - 121008.

NOTICE

The petitioner above named has filed the above original petition against Respondent seeking divorce. You are hereby summoned to appear in the court in person on the 05th day of April 2022 at 11 0' clock in the forenoon to answer the claim. Take notice that on your failure to appear in court on that day as mentioned, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Dated this the 4th day of December, 2021.

Sd/-
Adv. Manju Paul
Counsel for the Petitioner

TENDERS

KERALA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
MUNNAR , 685612

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Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415

CAPT/355/2022-M1(MTL)
E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders (Two Cover Bid System) are invited online (Tender No. 146/21-22/ MTL) from reputed and authorized Sellers of CBSE / NCERT Text Books for LKG to Class X through online vide e-Tender id 2022_CAPT_478848_1.

For detailed information log on the website:
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com

02.03.2022 Sd/- MD, C-apt

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3RD FLOOR, PODIUM BLOCK, VV TOWERS,
DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE - 560001

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION & PHYSICAL OFFLINE AUCTION

NOTICE/ INVITATION FOR E- BID & PHYSICAL AUCTION for MOVABLES & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Pursuant to the provisional attachment of movable & immovable properties by the Government of Karnataka under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE ACT) and consequent declaration of the provisional attachment as absolute by the Hon'ble Special Court, the office of the Special Officer & the Competent Authority has engaged the services of **M/s Quikr Realty Limited (formerly HDFC Realty)** to assist in the sale of the said absolute attached properties through Online auction & Physical Offline Auction on **"as is where is and whatever there is basis".**

The Competent Authority hereby invites bids from the intending bidders along with a bid deposit as mentioned in the table below as Earnest Money for each of the properties to be paid through EFT/NEFT/RTGS/DD for sale of properties:

Short description of the properties:

IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Address	Area	Reserve Price	EMD	Last Date of Submission of sealed Bids & EMD submission	Date of E-auction	Date of Physical Auction Event
Apartment No.1, 3rd cross road, Chengaiah Compound, Krishna Nagar, Bengaluru [Sy.No. 50/2, Byrasandra village,] Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore	**Land Area:** 960 Sq.ft, **Built Up Area:** 4800 sq.ft	1,49,24,000	14,92,400	March 19, 2022 until 5 PM	March 21 2022 1:00 pm-2:00 pm	March 21 2022 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
Apartment, No.257/C, Municipal Katha No. 765/256/C, 1st stage, 2nd Block,Hennur Bellary Road Layout, (H.B.R. Layout) Ward No.24, Bengaluru	**Land Area:** 1257 Sq.ft. **Built Up Area:** 3250 Sq.ft	2,05,84,500	20,58,400	March 19, 2022 until 5 PM	March 21 2022 1:00 pm-2:00 pm	March 21 2022 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
Agricultural Land bearing Sy.no.69/1 situated at Sathagalli Village, Kasaba, Hobli. Mysore Taluka District	1 Acre 30 Gunta	5,74,00,000	57,40,000	March 19, 2022 until 5 PM	March 21 2022 1:00pm-2:00pm	March 21 2022, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Location & Address	Product Type	Reserve Price	EMD	Last date of Bid & EMD Submission	Date of E-auction	Date of Physical Auction
Bangalore	Furniture & Fixtures, Electronics & more	2,20,98,974	22,09,897	March 11, 2022 on or before 5:00 pm	March 14, 2022 by 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	March 14, 2022 by 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The List of movable properties will be made available on the website i.e. www.quikrrealty.com/kpid-ima_movable

The complete description of properties along with details of EMD & its remittance, inspection dates, auction schedule, orders of the Special Court etc. will be made available on the Quikr Realty's website www.quikrrealty.com/kpid-ima_injaz.

For submission of EMD & Online Auction, the prospective buyer can logon to: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

The interested bidders who require assistance on any issue may contact **Quikr Realty Limited.**

Office Address: Gunta No.106, Dr. SRK Nagar, Post, 167, Rachenahalli Main Rd, Thanisandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560045,

E-mail ID: **auctions@quikrrealty.com**

Contact No.**9321575329.**

Date: March 05, 2022
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/3600/AKAR/2021-22

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE Act 2004)
Bengaluru, Karnataka

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19 - ಗಾಳಿಸುದ್ದಿ ಹರಡಬೇಡಿ. ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಿಂದ ವರ್ತಿಸಿ. ಸೋಂಕನ್ನು ದೂರವಿಡಿ-ಸೋಂಕಿತರನ್ನಲ್ಲ.

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
(Tamil Nadu Government Undertaking)
HO, No. 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600010

No:QC1/062107/2021 **SHORT RE E - TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 04.03.2022

Short Re E - Tender No : TNCSC/21-22/ET-60

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for **"The Supply of 20,000 Nos. of Low Density Black Polyethylene Sheets having the Size of 24 X 18 feet with 250 micron thickness.**

Complete Short Re E-Tender document can be viewed, downloaded and uploaded through **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc** from **05.03.2022 to 09.03.2022.**

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED
Phone : (044) 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005
e-Mail : mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in

Last Date for Online Submission : 09.03.2022 upto 02.00 PM
Short Re E - Tender Opening Date and Time : 09.03.2022 at 03.30 PM

DIPR/ 1032 /TENDER/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR

" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம் "

SEARCH FOR MISSING



KAMAR @ AKASH

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely:** Kamar @ Akash, **S/o** Sh. Mange Ram, **R/o:** B 323 Balbir Vihar, Aman Vihar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi, **Age:** About 25 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Jacket, Gray Colour Trousour White Colour Shoes has been missing since 16.02.2022 from his house. In this regard **DD No. 048A, Dated 22.02.2022,** has been registered at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform to the following:-

Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/1316/RD/2022

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27581223 & 9119381995

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Inam Ali, S/o Hazi Sharif,** R/o Khasra No. 147, Burari, Garhi Chowk, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 1022/2021 dated 10.12.2021 U/S 376D/323/506/342/114/34 IPC** PS Burari, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Inam Ali** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Inam Ali** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Inam Ali** of **FIR No. 1022/2021 dated 10.12.2021 U/S 376D/323/506/342/114/34 IPC** PS Burari, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 20.04.2022.

By Order
Ms. Neha Gupta Singh
Metropolitian Magistrate
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2017/N/2022

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Dip/Shabdarth/D/0228/21-22

Directorate of Education, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi

IN BRIEF



Eight feared trapped in stone quarry collapse

MYSURU

At least eight workers are feared trapped in a massive mound of debris following the collapse of a stone quarry near Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka on Friday. Local police said efforts were under way to rescue those trapped in the debris.

FIR against journalist Rana Ayyub in Dharwad

HUBBALLI

The Dharwad police have registered an FIR under Section 295 A against journalist and author Rana Ayyub for describing anti-hijab protesters in Karnataka as "Hindu terrorists" during a television interview. A complaint was raised by one Mr. Ashwath following an interview Ms. Ayyub gave to the BBC.

Karnataka announces no tax hike in Budget

₹1,000 crore to be provided for Mekedatu project; new scheme to encourage cow adoption

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

No increase in taxes, ₹1,000 crore for Mekedatu project, reintroduction of Yeshaswini health insurance scheme for farmers and doing away with government control over temples – these are among the highlights of the Budget 2022-23 presented by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday.

In his maiden Budget, the Chief Minister, who also holds the finance portfolio, said he had attempted balanced development of all sections of society and all regions of the State, while at the same time maintaining fiscal discipline. With just a year left for the Assembly polls in the State, this is most likely to be the last full-fledged Budget ahead of the elections.

The size of the Budget is fixed at ₹2,65,719.92 crore as against ₹2,46,207 crore in 2021-22, an increase of ₹19,512.92 crore over the previous year. It has proposed to borrow ₹72,000 crore. The total liabilities at the end of 2022-23 have been estimated at ₹5,18,366 crore (27.49% of GSDP). The government maintained fiscal discipline and reduced borrowings by ₹4,000 crore from ₹67,100 crore to ₹63,100 crore in 2021-22.

The government, which has enacted an anti-cow slaughter legislation, proposed to launch the 'Punyakoti Dattu Yojane' to encourage public and private institutions to adopt cows in *goshala*s (shelters for cows) by paying ₹11,000 annually. It has also been proposed to increase the number of *goshala*s from the present 31 to 100.

"The economy in 2021-21 is on the road to recovery. In these circumstances, I am not willing to put an extra burden of additional taxes on the common man," Mr. Bommai said.

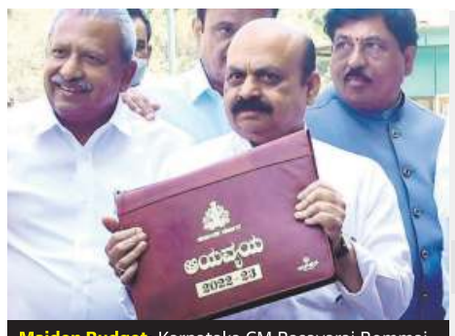
Mr. Bommai expressed his government's commitment for the implementation of the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, which is being opposed by neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Mr. Bommai said a grant of ₹1,000 crore will be provided for implementation of the project.

An amount of ₹500 crore has been provided for the development of infrastructure in the government schools of the State. It also proposes to establish 438 "Namma Clinics" in major cities. Among the welfare measures, Mr. Bommai proposed ₹2,000 monthly hardship allowance for pourakarmikas, increase in monthly honorarium for midday meal workers and ASHA volunteers by ₹1,000 each, and for anganwadi workers by ₹1,500 for those who have rendered above 20 years of service.

Mr. Bommai promised an increase in pension to 1.32 lakh beneficiaries of unmarried and divorced women, gender minorities from ₹600 to ₹800, and increased pension for women of acid victims from ₹3,000 to ₹10,000.

An aid of ₹50,000 for purchase of electric three-wheeler goods vehicle costing ₹1.50 lakh for SC/ST youth is also proposed.

(With inputs from PTI)



Maiden Budget: Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai at Vidhana Soudha on Friday. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bommai's prescription

With just a year left for the Assembly polls in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who holds the Finance portfolio, presented his first Budget and the last full-fledged one ahead of the elections. Key highlights:

- No increase in taxes
- No hike in petrol and diesel rates
- 'Goshalas' to be increased from **31 to 100**
- **₹1,000 crore** for Mekedatu project
- **₹500 crore** for government school infrastructure
- **438 Namma Clinics** to come up

Centre against reopening of Nizamuddin Markaz

A few people can offer prayers, govt. tells High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday opposed before the Delhi High Court fully reopening of the Nizamuddin Markaz where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained shut since then. It said that a few people may be allowed to offer prayers on the upcoming religious occasions.

Case property

Government counsel Rajat Nair told Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri, who was hearing a plea by the Delhi Waqf Board to open the mosque in view of Shab-e-Barat and Ramzan in March and April, that the mosque is a case property and the petitioner board has no locus to seek its re-opening.

Mr. Nair said on earlier occasions, a concession was given to allow a few people to offer prayers subject to conditions and there was no objection with respect to such arrangement this time as well.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner said that the mosque, which is under the lock of the Delhi Police, should be opened as the Delhi Disaster Management Authority has now lifted all restrictions that were imposed on account of the pandemic. The judge listed the case for hearing next week and asked the petitioner to bring the DDMA order on record.

Several FIRs were registered under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act, Foreigners Act and various provisions of the penal code in connection with the Tablighi Jamaat event held at the Nizamuddin Markaz and the subsequent stay of foreigners there during the COVID-19 lockdown last year.

In its application filed through advocate Waqeeh Shafiq, the petitioner has said that last year during these two occasions – Shab-e-Barat and Ramzan – the High Court had permitted prayers in the mosque.

It has said the current strain of COVID-19, Omicron, was not as severe and fatal as the Delta variant and as the conditions have improved, physical hearings of all courts have resumed, schools, clubs, bars and markets have also reopened, therefore, there is no impediment to direct reopening of this Waqf property.

The application was filed in the Board's petition which has sought the reopening of the premises and contended that even after Unlock-1 guidelines permitted religious places outside containment zones to be opened, the Markaz, comprising the Masjid Bangle Wali, Madarsa Kashif-ul-uloom and an attached hostel, continues to be locked up. It has stated that even if the premises was part of any criminal investigation or trial, keeping it "under lock as an out of bound area" was a "primitive method" of enquiry process.

Centre's affidavit

In its affidavit affirmed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, the Centre has told the court that it was "necessary and incumbent" to "preserve" the Markaz property as the investigation in the case has "cross border implications and involves nation's diplomatic relationship with other countries."

Generational shift in Kerala CPI(M)

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan elected State secretary for the third consecutive term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Signalling a generational shift, the Kerala State conference of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], which concluded here on Friday, inducted new faces into the State secretariat and the State committee.

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan was elected State secretary for the third consecutive term as the delegates unanimously endorsed his name proposed by Chief Minister and Polit Bureau member Pinarayi Vijayan.

Veteran leader V.S. Achuthanandan will continue as a special invitee on the State committee. Thirteen leaders were removed from the State committee as part of the party's decision to stick to the upper age limit of 75. However, Mr. Vijayan got an exemption in his capacity as Chief Minister.

The new entrants to the State secretariat include P.A. Mohamed Riyas, P.K. Biju, M. Swaraj, Saji Cherian, V.N. Vasavan, K.K. Jayachandran, Anavoor Nagappan and Puthaleth Dinesan.

The young faces that found place on the 89-member State committee include A.A. Rahim, Chintha Jerome and V.P. Sanu. P. Sasi, who was expelled from the party in 2011 over allegations of sexual misconduct, was included on the State committee. Despite claims of the party coming forward to develop a pro-woman Kerala, only three women figured among the new entrants to the State committee and they are K.S. Saleekha, K.K. Lathika and Chintha Jerome.

John Brittas and Biju Kandakkai were elected invitees to the State committee.



Kodiyeri Balakrishnan waves at the crowd during the CPI(M) State conference, in Kochi on Friday. ▪ H. VIBHU

New alignment of political forces in the offing: KCR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has appealed to people not to interpret the conglomeration of parties that is in the offing to give a new direction to the country's growth process as an anti-BJP or anti-Congress front.

"It is not a third front or fourth front. There is no front so far. Only time can tell what front our efforts lead to," Mr. Rao said in a joint press conference with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Ranchi on Friday.

Mr. Rao was in Ranchi on Friday to give away ex gratia of ₹10 lakh each, announced by Telangana government, to families of 19 soldiers of the Indian Army killed in Chinese aggression in Galwan Valley two years ago.

He also said leaders of several parties were coming together to explore a new path of development for the country. The development agenda of parties in power post-Independence was misplaced. The neighbouring China and some other Asian countries were way ahead of India by development parameters. India fell behind because of misplaced priorities.

He said the leaders of all parties will meet shortly and finalise an agenda to achieve their goal of a new India.

Report of strange canine disease spreads panic

Hyderabad Corporation terms it rumour

SWATHI VADLAMUDI
HYDERABAD

A social media message about a strange disease afflicting large population of stray dogs in several parts of Old City of Hyderabad gave anxious moments to residents and officials.

The message being forwarded on WhatsApp reported dogs dying of a condition marked by severe tremors. In the past 10 days, more than 1,000 dogs were estimated to have died of this disease, the forward said, attaching a video clip of a canine shaking uncontrollably.

Several dogs in the Gruhakalpa building were suffering from the disease, the message said, spreading panic among residents.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials, however, dismissed the message as a rumour. While they found one dog having the described symptoms, there was no evidence of hundreds of dogs dying of it, they said.

"We have isolated the diseased dog in a kennel at the animal shelter in Amberpet, and requested the experts from the Veterinary Biological Research Institute to take samples for examination. Veterinarians from the Animal Husbandry department have been called upon to treat the dog, as we at GHMC are only experienced in anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control operations," Chief Veterinary Officer Abdul Wakeel informed. There is no question of GHMC failing to notice death of hundreds of dogs in the city, as the Veterinary wing is responsible for removing the carcasses of the dogs, he said.

Off to the sky



Thrilling experience: A tourist taking off in a paraglider from the Vagamon Hills in Kottayam district of Kerala. Paragliding has become a major draw for tourists ever since the reopening of the tourism sector in Kerala. ▪ VISHNU PRATHAP

Nokkukooli remains unchecked in Kozhikode

'Kerala Police playing role of mediators'

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

The alleged indifference of the police to complaints against *nokkukooli* (gawking fee) is reportedly discouraging people from raising voice against the illegal practice. Those who recently fell prey to the unfair practice revealed that the police were playing the role of mediator instead of acting against violators.

"All trade unions are hand-in-hand when it comes to the illegal practice. Fearing revengeful action, the victims are reluctant to take legal action," said Mahesh Krishnan, a Thottilpalam native who recently foiled an attempt in his village. He added that the labourers who claimed *nokkukooli* were even ignorant of the fact that it had been banned several years ago.

Some city residents who recently shifted their belongings said they were forced to get the work done on Sundays apprehensive of headload workers who collected money in the name of *nokkukooli*. According to them, local workers too spy for the unions.

Exorbitant rates

"Workers under various trade unions charge exorbitant rates for even simple loading and unloading work. People generally avoid them fearing exploitation," said P.V. Vincent who recently shifted from the city to Balussery.

Meanwhile, some senior police officers said there had been incidents where police action ensured justice to complainants. They also claimed that conciliatory meetings were held only when workers complained of labour rule violations.

Polavaram: farmers to get ₹5 lakh per acre

Those who parted with their lands for the project to get compensation

STAFF REPORTER
DEVIPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday announced that ₹5 lakh per acre financial package would be given to the farmers who parted with their lands for the Polavaram irrigation project prior to the enactment of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Accompanied by Union Minister for Jal Shakthi Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Mr. Reddy said that those who parted with their lands during the regime of his father, the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, for the Polavaram irrigation project, would be paid ₹5 lakh per acre.

Addressing a gathering of displaced families during the inspection of the Indukuru resettlement and rehabilitation colony in Devipatnam Mandal, Mr. Reddy reminded that he was still committed to his promise to offer the ₹5 lakh land package.

"Since 2006, the farmers have been paid barely ₹1.5 lakh package per acre. They will be paid the additional ₹3.5 lakh soon" he said.

"I have already fulfilled my promise to give ₹10 lakh package to the Polavaram project displaced. The second promise of ₹5 lakh package per acre land will also be fulfilled", he said.

The Chief Minister observed that the Polavaram irrigation project would be a lifeline for the entire State of Andhra Pradesh.

In his address, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said: "On behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I am here promising every support to the State of Andhra Pradesh for completion of the Polavaram project. However, the quality and sustainability of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation should be assured by the State government."



Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with A.P. CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visiting East Godavari. ▪ PTI

New gin berry species discovered in T.N.

Glycosmis albicarpa bears distinct large white fruit

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The species, *Glycosmis albicarpa,* with a distinct large white fruit, is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The species belongs to the Orange family *Rutaceae*.

The findings have been published in the latest issue of the *Nordic Journal of Botany* published from Sweden.

Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups are being utilised for their medicinal values and food. Most commonly related species of these plants are collected from the wild, mainly for local use as food and medicine.

Berries of the *Glycosmis* species have the unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and gained in popularity as an edible fruit. The species is also a larval host plant for butterflies like other species of *Glycosmis*, said K.A. Sujana, the leader of the scientific team.

The species, an evergreen small tree, was found as undergrowth in the Tirunelveli semi-evergreen forests at the Panagudi forest section of the wildlife sanctuary as a single population that covers an area of approximately 2 sq. km., said Dr. Sujana.

"While exploring the study site, four sub-populations of the species were located in the valley between two hillocks, with each having three-seven mature individuals in groups," she said. Though flowering, natural regeneration and seedling recruitment of this taxon is found to be fairly good within the locality, habitat modification causes a major threat to the survival of this species, she added. "A special conservation effort for this particular region is the need of the hour," said Dr. Sujana.

The discovery not only re-emphasises the uniqueness and endemism in Western Ghats' flora but also add to the growing inventory of the region's flora, said Ragesh Gopala Vadhyar, co-author.



The gin berry species discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With an eye on poll, Himachal govt. presents tax-free budget

50,000 acres will be brought under natural farming, says Chief Minister

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With an eye on Assembly election due later this year, the Himachal Pradesh government on Friday presented a tax-free budget for 2022-23 financial year with an outlay of ₹51,365 crore.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, presenting the last budget of the present government, said total revenue receipts for the year 2022-23 are expected to be ₹36,375 crore. Revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹40,278 crore. The revenue deficit is estimated to be ₹3,903 crore. Fiscal deficit is expected to be ₹9,602 crore which is 4.98% of the State's Gross Domestic Product, he said.

"We will ensure that adequate resources are arranged with effective tax compliance, cooperation of the Government of India and better financial management," he said.



Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur arrives to present the budget in the Assembly in Shimla on Friday. ▪ PTI

Mr. Thakur said Himachal Pradesh is the first State to promote natural farming in the government sector. "Himachal Pradesh is marching ahead to become a chemical-free State. As per our proposal, 50,000 acres will be brought under natural farming by the end of 2022-23."

M3C scheme

With focus on health sector, Mr. Thakur announced to start a new "Mukhya Mantri Mobile Clinic (M3C)" scheme to introduce mobile health services at the doorsteps of the rural population and interior areas of the State. "A mobile clinic will be started in each Assembly constituency which will have necessary instruments and equipment for providing basic health services," he said.

Outlining India's commitment to take its non-fossil fuel capacity to 50 GW and meet 50% of its requirements from renewable energy by 2030, Mr. Thakur said the State government will make all efforts to ensure that 100% of its energy requirement is met through renewable energy and green energy. "This will make Himachal Pradesh the first Green State. With this, the goods manufactured within the State will fetch good prices in the national and international markets."

To harness potential using drones in the fields of health, forest conservation, land survey, agriculture and horticulture, disaster management, mining, Mr. Thakur announced to start"Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD)" based on four pillars - "Drone-enabled Governance, Drone Mahotsav-Melas, Enabling framework for Promoting Drones and Drone Flying Training Schools."

Cabinet okays draft Bill on ward delimitation

Maharashtra government takes cue from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Maharashtra government is set to table a Bill in the House on Monday proposing to take over the local body ward delimitation and formation process, on the lines of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

This comes a day after the State government's announcement to not hold local body polls in the State until OBC reservation in local civic bodies is restored.

Both Houses of the State legislature had to be adjourned for the second day of the Budget session on Friday amid protests and sloganeering by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accusing the government of sidelining the interests of the OBCs.

'Fix responsibility'

Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis accused the State government of not being serious enough about reinstating OBC reservation. "This government has made some unpardonable mistakes while submitting the report to the State Backward Class Commission. Who are these officials? Responsibility must be fixed," he said.



BJP MLAs led by Devendra Fadnavis demanding OBC reservation, in Mumbai on Friday. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mr. Fadnavis said that the State government must bring a Bill on the lines of Madhya Pradesh where the State has taken upon itself to declare dates of the local body polls.

Senior OBC leader and Minister Chhagan Bhujbal said that this was not the time to play blame game.

"Even we can accuse the BJP that it did nothing in the last seven years of power in the Centre and five years in the State. But that won't fetch anything. We must stand united to ensure OBC reservation is restored," he said.

Mr. Bhujbal added that the State government will do necessary additions to the report and again submit it to the court as mandated.

Unsatisfied with the reply, BJP MLAs who had come to the House wearing 'OBC Bachao' caps, continued with the protest.

Amid sloganeering, Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal called for question hour.

But the House was adjourned as protests continued. After the House reconvened, Shiv Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar initiated discussion on a resolution thanking Governor for his speech.

But the House had to be adjourned again till Monday.

Bill on Monday

Deputy CM Ajit Pawar said in the council that the State government would bring a Bill on Monday after studying it from M.P. and its impact.

Later in the evening, the State Cabinet meeting was held where the draft of the Bill was approved .

'Pt. Bhimsen Joshi transformed voice into a tangible form'

Poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar delivers inaugural address at PIFF

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The late legendary singer Pt. Bhimsen Joshi transformed voice into a "tangible material form", said poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar on Friday, speaking at the 20th edition of the Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) which began on Friday.

After being blighted by the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly two years which prevented cineastes from enjoying it in the physical form, the week-long PIFF (from March 3 to March 10) which is Maharashtra's official film fest, kicked off at the city's iconic Bal Gandharva Rangamandir with Mr. Akhtar as a special guest at the inauguration ceremony.

Birth centenaries

This year's edition is themed on the birth centenaries of music maestro Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray and acclaimed poet Sahir Ludhianvi.

"Bharat Ratna Bhimsen Joshi was the only maestro who showed voice to the world. When he used to sing, the voice was a tangible material form that could not only be heard but also be seen. My statement about Pandit Bhimsen Joshi may sound exaggerated, but those who have attended his live concerts would definitely agree with me," said the much-feted poet-lyricist.

Commenting on the angle of communalism in films, Mr. Akhtar said that only those filmmakers who cared about themselves and their people brought in the angle of communalism in their films. "If you look at the credit titles of any film which is successful, it would have the names of people from all castes, religion and communities," he observed.



Javed Akhtar with PIFF director and filmmaker Jabbar Patel in Pune on Friday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reminiscing his tryst with Marathi theatre when he newly arrived in Mumbai decades ago, Mr. Akhtar spoke of his joyous discovery of the richness of Marathi theatre and plays written by the renowned playwright Vijay Tendulkar. "I had never seen plays and dramas of this calibre... I truly believe that Vijay Tendulkar is the greatest playwright of India and that is why I created a Vijay Tendulkar Rangmanch in Mumbai from the fund that I received as an MP," he said.

Mother tongue

Ruing the fact that the younger generation had lost its connection with their mother tongues, he said language was the vehicle of culture and tradition. "It is a medium that gives us wisdom and ethos. Only that person who knows his mother tongue can have a rooted identity. It is important to teach children their own language," said Mr. Akhtar.

Heated debates in Gujarat House on rising drug cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Assembly continued to see heated debates between the members of the treasury and the Opposition benches over the issue of law and order and rising cases of drugs in the State.

From the first day, the Opposition members have been targeting the Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghvi for the rise in drug-related cases.

On Friday, the Opposition party members staged a walkout from the House after its senior party legislator Punja Vansh was suspended for seven days for using unparliamentary words against Mr. Sanghvi.

Though Mr. Vansh had tendered an apology and withdrew his remarks as directed by Speaker Nimaben Acharya, the ruling BJP insisted on his suspension.

During the question hour, Congress MLA Naushad Solanki sat on the floor of the House saying he was not satisfied with the replies given by Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel. When Mr. Solanki refused to stand up from the floor, Mr. Sanghvi said the Opposition members were behaving as if they were in the Congress office.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Inauguration of

3180 lakh litres capacity
Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
at Coronation Pillar
and
Laying of 71.51 kms Sewer line
in Sangam Vihar & Deoli Constituencies

on Saturday, 5th March, 2022

Chief Guest:
Satyendar Jain
Water Minister and Chairman, Delhi Jal Board

Key Highlights:

Coronation Pillar-
- Commissioning of WWTP at a cost of approx. Rs 515.08 crore will treat the wastewater generated from its command area before out falling in the river Yamuna.
- Approx. 23,00,000 people will be benefitted.

Sangam Vihar & Deoli Constituencies-
- Laying of 300 mm to 500 mm Internal & Peripheral sewer line in 20 colonies of Sangam Vihar & Deoli Constituencies at a total cost of approx. Rs. 42.36 crore.
- Approx. 90,000 people will be benefitted.





Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0227/21-22

A ND-NDE

Being ready

Vaccination was shown to have been a life saver during the third wave of the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is on a discernible wane. Just a month ago, India was reporting around 1,70,000 cases a day and the latest numbers suggest it has plummeted to around 6,000. India is now contributing to only 0.7% of global cases. Last year this time, cases were below 5,000 a day, encouraging several States and the Centre to claim that the pandemic was over, though within a matter of weeks there was a resurgence fuelled by the Delta variant which birthed a summer of catastrophe. There is, however, a crucial distinction between then and now in that over 75% of those over 15 years are now fully vaccinated in India. A small and growing number of those over 60 have had the third dose. Reports suggest that over 90% of Indians have been exposed to the virus over the last two years and, therefore, combined with the vaccination, are sufficiently protected against disease – but not infection – for many more months ahead. What bears emphasis is that avoiding vaccination makes one, particularly the elderly, vulnerable to serious infection. Balram Bhargava, Director-General, ICMR, said at a press meet this week that 92% of those who died of COVID-19 since January this year were unvaccinated, and underlined that vaccines and the wide vaccination coverage had played an important role in protecting hundreds of lives.

India is fortunate in that it does not have to battle vaccine hesitancy in a large measure. The initial scepticism regarding the vaccines not having passed the typical stages of vaccine approval saw a certain degree of hesitation, but very soon it emerged, in April and May last year, that India's main problem was an insufficient number of vaccines. Though India today has administered nearly 178 crore vaccine doses and has several indigenously developed vaccines that have been approved in emergency mode by authorities, there are still serious questions on supply. Currently, vaccine demand is low and the vaccination drive is in 'mop up mode' and administering second doses. But were the pandemic situation to suddenly turn for a fourth wave to take shape, there would be a spike in demand for vaccinations for children, particularly those below 15, as well as booster doses for adults. The experience of Covaxin's manufacturer being unable to ramp up vaccinations in time during the crisis months ought to be a persistent reminder to other biotechnology companies that having vaccines is very different from being ready with a seamless supply chain. The Indian government has still not made public a timeline for when vaccines from Biological E, Gennova and Zydus Cadila will be practically available for mass use. Though the world is occupied with a different crisis, India must not let its guard down and should insist on companies being ready with a measurable timeline.

Capital verdict

A.P. High Court judgment on Amaravati protects governance from political whimsy

That policies change with governments may appear acceptable in a democracy, but no court will allow a transformation so fundamental that rights and entitlements that accrued during an earlier regime are abandoned or frustrated. In 2014, the Amaravati region was chosen as the site of the capital of Andhra Pradesh, the residuary State left after the creation of Telangana, but work was stopped after the present YSRCP regime took over. Instead, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy mooted the idea of 'decentralised' development, by which he meant that the State will have Amaravati as the legislative capital, while Visakhapatnam will be the executive capital, and Kurnool the seat of the High Court. In a stern rebuff to the 'three capitals' idea of the present regime, a Full Bench of the State's High Court has ruled that it cannot abandon the project to develop Amaravati as the capital city after over 33,000 acres had been given up by farmers and ₹15,000 crore sunk in it over development expenditure. Holding the State government to its promise of developing the region into the capital city, it has directed the government to complete the required developmental work in Amaravati within six months. As a consequential relief to the farmers who had given up their land for the specific purpose, the court has asked the State and the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority to develop the surrendered land and deliver reconstituted plots to them within three months.

In political terms, the decision to locate the three organs in different cities was possibly motivated by a wish to undo a key policy measure of the previous TDP regime, as well as negate speculative gains the erstwhile rulers may have allegedly made by choosing Amaravati. However, it was projected as a measure to decentralise governance and take the fruits of development to all parts of the State. After farmers approached the court, the government sought to render the matter infructuous by repealing its decentralisation law, the one that it enacted in 2020 for spreading the capital city and proposing 'inclusive development' of all regions. However, the Bench took note of the government's intention to pursue its multiple capital cities plan and decided that it will adjudicate on the petitioners' grievances. It held that the State legislature lacked the competency to shift the organs of the State. The verdict, if undisturbed by the Supreme Court, may put an end to attempts to shift the capital city out of Amaravati. A welcome feature of the verdict is that it has invoked the doctrines of constitutional trust and *promissory estoppel* to prevent a regime from going back on its promises to citizens. It sends out a message that governance should not be buffeted by winds of political change or be held hostage to the passing whimsy of a particular regime.

Russia's war, the impracticality of violence

The world must forgo any attempt to place 'heroes' of wars on higher pedestals than the apostles of non-violence



ARUN MAIRA

Russia's violent war on Ukraine has isolated it from the global community. Public attention has been diverted from Russia's long-standing fears of suppression by the United States and western European nations to the misery of innocent Ukrainian citizens who are an inevitable collateral damage of war. Even countries with colonial histories, who could sympathise with Russia's concerns of encirclement by an alliance of economically and militarily stronger nations, felt morally compelled to rally against Russia. India has been caught between a rock and a hard place. Across India's long and insecure borders sits Pakistan, an implacable foe, and the mighty China, with an economy six times larger than India's and more self-reliant in defence equipment. India is wary of relying on a distant U.S.: it needs continuing Russian support for high-tech defence needs.

Leading the way

India must never condone violence, no matter how just the cause. India is a global champion of non-violence; Mahatma Gandhi, the "father of the nation" is a global icon. "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind," Gandhi said. He even called off the civil disobedience movement when Indian citizens, fighting for freedom from British injustice, turned violent.

Gandhi (*picture*) advocated non-violence not only as a moral principle in fights for justice: whether in the struggles of colonised peoples against foreign rulers, or internal conflicts to correct structural injustices, such as the oppression of lower castes by upper castes and the poor by the rich. He was also a practical man. He also honed methods of non-violent resistance whereby the weaker masses, united for a just cause, could prevail against entrenched powers. Gandhi's example was followed, with success, by leaders of the civil rights movement in the U.S., uprisings against Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, and the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa which won support around the world.

The dynamics

Strategies which work in 'set piece' conflicts and 'bounded' games, in which the opponents are clearly identifiable, cannot work in asymmetrical wars where the sources of power of the antagonists are very different: on one side, "organised" power, and on the other, a diffused mass. Even leaders fighting for justice for powerless masses can lose the support of citizens if the movement turns violent. They must enrol citizens who neither have arms to fight with nor wish to risk their lives in violence. In *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Gene Sharp, a great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, and one of the world's foremost scholars of non-violent movements, distils the dynamics and methods of non-violent struggles from the histories of many countries. Attitudes and activities of wider populations associated with the struggle are critical because, if sympathetic, they may provide facilities and supplies. Gandhi's strategy of non-violent civil disobedience was founded on this insight.

Even leaders of invading armies need the support of civilian populations for the safety and supplies



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

of their troops. They need support from their own civilian populations at home also. "Non-violent action is capable of striking at the availability of sources of political power of the ruling authority," said Sharp. "Over-reacting on repression may, instead of weakening the resistance, react against sources of an opponent's own power". The deaths caused by its military action in Vietnam lost the U.S. government the support of its own citizens. In a war to end all wars neither Russia nor the U.S. can claim the moral high ground.

Non-cooperation in the West

Before Americans rose up in arms against the British, several civil resistance movements and the boycott of British goods were underway in the American colonies. Americans refused to comply with the Stamp Act. The New York General Assembly and the people's Council of Boston refused to make provisions for the quartering of the King's troops. The British were discovering that it is difficult to rule uncooperative people. Though they had a strong army; they did not have weapons to win hearts and minds. On the other side, the non-violent resisters had to be patiently resolute while they wore the British down. Gandhi applied this strategy courageously and effectively to win India's independence from the British, though he faced opprobrium from within – that he abjured arms because he was weak. Subhas Chandra Bose broke with Gandhi and joined the Japanese to create an Indian army to fight the British.

Leaders of non-violent resistance against the British had a hard time restraining hot heads chafing against British rule. When the Minutemen fired on British troops in Lexington in April 1775, the British called out more troops to crush the armed uprising. Then the revolutionaries, less equipped and less organised, had to fight the British in the conventional way. They suffered several defeats and many casualties before they won their War of Independence, with George Washington as their leader.

Histories of conflicts valorise wars and generals, even when they are defeated; not the non-violent movers of change. Cities and streets are named after George Washington, Nathanael Greene, Henry Knox, and the Marquis de Lafayette; their statues are raised on pedestals–even Robert Lee who lost the Civil War. Dates of major battles are memorised and war plans analysed for lessons in strategy. Nowadays, children grow up playing violent games on videos but which rake in millions for their creators. In real life too, the makers of weapons nudge leaders towards violent wars. It is good for their business, whichever side wins or loses, so long as the wars last long.

Soft power icon

Mahatma Gandhi stood out in the 20th century. He led a massive movement of freedom non-violently in one of the most violent periods of human history, with two World Wars within 50 years and bloody battles that continue to be themes of popular movies a century later. He demonstrated there was a better, non-violent way to shake off oppression. "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth, said Albert Einstein on Mahatma Gandhi's 70th birthday.

Both Subhas Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi were great men who dedicated their lives to the freedom of their country. They disagreed about methods to free India from the British. Bose collaborated with the Japanese army to fight the British with arms. He lost because the Japanese lost. One may wonder what would have happened had he succeeded and India had a government propped up by the Japanese when the Allies finally won the War. Years of further struggles would have followed for a friendless India. Fortunately, India won its freedom the other way and became a beacon of hope for a world wearied by violence. Gandhi's way became the greatest source of India's soft power – greater than its ancient culture, yoga, and Bollywood. We weaken ourselves when we do not stand up against violence anywhere.

Bose was a great man. His statue deserves to be on Rajpath – the old Kingsway in India's capital – where armies parade and war memorials stand. However, Indians must not place heroes of wars on higher pedestals in their minds than apostles of non-violence, like Gandhi and others who actually won our freedom. Let us not be tempted to take to violence in our country for settling our grievances, by rioting, lynching, and burning, and by war-mongering against our neighbours. We must be role models showing the world a non-violent path to justice for all by practising what we preach.

Arun Maira, a former Member, Planning Commission, is the author of 'Transforming Systems: Why the World Needs a New Ethical Toolkit'

The new handbook to covering the U.P. elections

With a confusing caste alignment emerging, the mediaperson needs to keep an eye on crucial micro-level changes



RAJESH MAHAPATRA

The morning after Lucknow went to the polls last week, I met a retired railway worker at a tea stall. Buddhu Rai told me how there was a swing in favour of the Samajwadi Party (SP). "*Lag raha hai*, cycle *nikal legi* (it looks like cycle will win)," he said, referring to the election symbol of the SP. As observers of the Uttar Pradesh elections of 2022 would tell you, it is largely a bipolar contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Samajwadi Party led by Akhilesh Yadav.

Rai continued without my prompting: "*Mehengai*, *berozgari … log pareshan hai* (People are tired of inflation, unemployment …)," followed by a sudden pause midway to ask me what I do for a living. The moment I told him I was a journalist from Delhi, his tone changed dramatically. He began to explain how unemployment cannot be blamed on this government and why people should be willing to bear the burden of inflation if that helps the nation's development. I was confused by now. Was he critical of the BJP or not? Pat came his reply. He was actually trying to make me understand why some people, including him, were still voting for the BJP and why Mr. Adityanath should be the Chief Minister again. Before I could untangle the claims, he got up suddenly and left.

When people do not tell you what they mean, and they do not mean what they tell you, is any meaningful reportage possible? Undoubtedly, there is fear, personal calculation and, often enough, the need to tactically mislead. For journalists from Delhi in particular, who are always short on time, low on patience, deadline driven and prone to see and hear precisely what they are looking for, the Uttar Pradesh election of 2022 is mined with psychological traps. For one, in many cases, the person you are interviewing will most likely assume, unless proven otherwise, that you are with the current ruling establishment. I experienced this on many occasions in my recent travels through Uttar Pradesh, a fact corroborated when comparing notes with many of my journalist friends.

The 'very aware' voter

This radical difference between an on-camera version from the off-camera version when dealing with the same person, however, confirms that U.P. voters are not only playing their cards close to their chest but also making it clear that



AP

politics is serious business. Voting among the marginalised, in particular, is not simply about them exercising choice. It is also linked to an entire social and economic architecture that will subsequently enable their access to welfare schemes and the local administration. In other words, a journalist has to be extremely attentive about how to read the political changes at the micro-level.

There is a churn

Consequently, voting preferences, the talk around it, the entire web of claims, and even the general electoral noise have made the intensely fought U.P. election to date seeded with the flavours of post-truth; the need to understand a political culture that goes beyond a simple true/false or honesty/lying binary. And it is in such a post-truth context that non-voters and the silent voters might help us better understand the big ongoing churn within U.P.'s politics. A churn or caste realignment that is most certainly happening but not immediately visible to ready-made journalism and the usual observer.

Looking at the constituency-level voter turnout data, we can draw some credible inferences about who is not voting. When the temple city of Ayodhya reported a drop in voter turnout despite a high voltage campaign, the question of who chose not to vote became significant. The needle of suspicion pointed to the BJP voter. Similarly, in Sardhana in western U.P., where the sitting MLA was facing visible disenchantment among his own supporters, voter turnout fell sharply by 4.5 percentage points. In both Ayodhya and Sardhana, the BJP has a tough fight on its hands and if some of its voters are not showing up that could spell bad news for the party. The same seems to be the case with several other constituencies where the BJP voter, by staying away, might actually be making a political statement.

The voters to watch

While the no-show voter could play a decisive role in some constituencies, especially if the contest is close, it will be the silent voter who is and will likely make a bigger difference in this election. By silent voter, we mean the socially and the economically marginalised but not politically visible. They include mostly women (especially from the lower economic strata), backward castes which go unrepresented by any political party and non-Jatav Dalits who have been voting for the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Although the BSP won only 19 seats in the 403-member State Assembly in 2017, the party polled a formidable 22% share of votes. A sizeable part of such voters often remain well below the noisy campaign radar. This time, with the BSP missing from the contest in most places, these voters will likely choose between the BJP and the SP.

The big picture that seems to be emerging is that the kaleidoscope of different castes that the BJP had assembled in 2017 is not so much disintegrating in one go as much as it seems to be fragmenting, ebbing and breaking away constituency wise. While bits and chunks of the core BJP voter are choosing not to vote, swathes and sections of silent voters might be making efforts to vote against their immediate fears. In other words, the 2022 U.P. State election seems to have set in motion a steady and confusing caste realignment. Only a careful scrutiny of the disaggregated picture might be able to tell us how tectonic or shallow the big churn in U.P. politics is. And, March 10 will tell us whether the results are the beginning or the end of this process.

Rajesh Mahapatra is an independent journalist based in New Delhi and a commentator on current affairs. He tweets @rajeshmahapatra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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India's stand

Like millions of other people around the world, I am completely disappointed by India's failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Only days later, in the Quad meeting, one has to hear India talk about how it prizes sovereignty. Is it about sovereignty as a universal principle or just Indian sovereignty that it prizes so much?

India cannot walk both sides of the street: on the one side expecting the Quad and others to defend Indian sovereignty while on the other not prepared to oppose attacks by some on the sovereignty of others. Sorry. But on this one, India has failed in its international responsibilities, regardless of where its arms come from.

Make it right, India.

MICHAEL PARKER,
Little Bay, NSW, Australia

A weakened America

What has emboldened Russian President Vladimir Putin is America's much weakened status. After the American debacle in Afghanistan, the perception is that even small powers no longer look at the U.S. in awe.

Mr. Putin has shown himself to be a man of steely nerves and icy determination. China has jumped in to back Russia probably because of its plans across the world, which might include Taiwan. The current U.S. leadership seems to lack the plan or the plans to defuse the situation through dialogue. Finally, Ukraine should improve its ties with Russia and stop antagonising it. The American eagle's wings are clipped on account of its varied domestic problems.

M.R. ANAND,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

■ While Russia's coercive military action on Ukraine is indeed deplorable, one should not discount Ukraine's own brinkmanship in its quest to join NATO – the bone of contention that incited Russia.

NATO, by its very purpose, is an anti-Soviet military alliance, and Kyiv's alacrity to use its services to retrieve Crimea and the restive Donbas region is quite discernible.

Thus, regardless of the current crisis, Ukraine's inclusion into NATO would have triggered a war either way. Both Russia's imperialistic and NATO's expansionist behaviour must cease if the world has to see some peace.

M.B. BHARGAV,
Bengaluru

Rescue missions

The times have indeed changed as far as the present political dispensation is concerned whether it is the "Vande Bharat" operations, and now "Operation Ganga", to rescue Indian students in Ukraine (OpEd page, 'Notebook' - "Rescue missions without fanfare", March 4). It is unfortunate that the exercise is being coloured – almost as if it is the outcome of the ruling party spending its own resources for this particular rescue mission. The perception is that it seems to be an attempt to have the spotlight on a particular political individual.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

■ There seems to be a subtle move to record this moment in memory for "political gains". The issue here is that many of us do not seem to look beyond "propaganda". E.H. Carr in his book, *What is History?*, has said 'getting facts right is not the primary function of a historian. It is a primary duty of a historian to get the facts right'. Using the analogy, rescue missions are the "primary duty" of the Indian government. And its primary function is to formulate a foreign policy which is in accordance with our values and national interest. The Government has got the policy right, but I am against the fanfare of rescue missions.

MUKESH BHAGAT,
New Delhi

Rodney Marsh

In the passing of Rodney Marsh, the cricket world has lost a wicket-keeping giant "Caught Marsh, bowled Lillee" was the enduring and famous radio commentary phrase that constantly rang in the ears of cricket fans during the 1970s and the early 1980s, and became a common entry on international scorecards.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Shane Warne

The cricketing skills of one of cricket's all-time greats were unmatchable. The game has lost a star cricketer and a great commentator. The world will also miss a coach whose knowledge about the game would have helped many a budding talent. Without doubt, Warne was a magnetic presence.

A.P. THIRUVADI,
Chennai

Is Telugu cinema set for a change of scene?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy wants the Telugu film industry to relocate to Visakhapatnam from Hyderabad. While the sops he has offered are attractive, there is reluctance in the industry to move. **Appaji Reddem** reports on a dilemma that the industry has faced once before



A view of Ramanaidu Studios, located on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. (Below): A film set being erected at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad (file photo). ▪ DEEPAK K.R.; MOHAMMED YOUSUF

The Telugu film industry is caught in a dilemma and struck by a sense of déjà vu. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy harbours a 70 mm-sized dream that he is keen to fulfil, which is to see the industry move base to the scenic and populous city of Visakhapatnam. This, he hopes, will help the port city grow into "a mega city like Hyderabad or Chennai". Reddy has been assiduously persuading the industry, popularly known as Tollywood, to shift from Hyderabad, which is located in Telangana and has been home for the industry for decades.

For the industry, this is a case of history repeating itself. About 50 years ago, established as well as upcoming directors, producers and actors were hesitant to move from Madras, where the industry was born and nurtured, to Hyderabad in united Andhra Pradesh. Back then, it was actor-producer Akkineni Nageswara Rao who was trying to convince reluctant producers and directors to shoot their movies in Andhra Pradesh, where he founded the Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. The move, slow and steady, proved to do wonders for Telugu cinema.

Discussions today over the second move have reached a fever pitch. On February 10, the State seemed star-struck. Television channels and social media were awash with photos and videos as the Chief Minister met Chiranjeevi, Prabhas, Mahesh Babu, S.S. Rajamouli and Koratala Siva, among others. Apart from listening to their concerns, Reddy offered them sops such as land for studios and residential townships in Visakhapatnam. He reminded them that the industry earns more revenue (60%) from Andhra Pradesh than Telangana. He promised to construct a locality similar to Jubilee Hills, the affluent suburban neighbourhood in Hyderabad where many actors live. The Chief Minister left no stone unturned in his pursuit of getting the show on the road.

Chiranjeevi told the press after the meeting that the industry too wants to develop equally in the two Telugu-speaking States. But whether the industry wants to shift lock, stock and barrel to Visakhapatnam is still unclear.

Baby steps

The journey of the Telugu film industry began in the Madras Presidency. In the early 1900s, Raghupathi Venkaiah Naidu, known as the father of the Telugu film industry and a pioneer of Indian cinema, started a south Indian cinematograph company called Star of East Films. He also set up a film studio named Glass Studio, which had a roof made of glass to allow the sun to shine through in the days of no electricity. Naidu, a native of Machilipatnam in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, had moved to Madras at the age of 18 and had managed to make it big in the film industry. His audacious ideas soon turned into reality. He and his London-educated son, Raghupathi Surya Prakash Naidu, produced several films over the years, including *Bhishma Pratigna* (a silent film), *Gajendra Moksham*, *Mathsyavatharam* and *Nandanaar*.

But the going was tough. The company was expected to import technology and compete with European firms in the Indian market. A resolute Naidu swam against the tide. He made short films. He established Esplanade Ten House to exhibit his films, Gaiety Talkies on Mount Road, Crown Theatre on Mint Street, and Globe Theatre in Parasuwakka, all over a span of a few years. These theatres exhibited Indian, American and British films. But in the following years, Naidu faced severe financial issues due to intense competition from the East India Film Company.

Over the next decade, other Telugu-speaking filmmakers also pushed the envelope. The first Telugu talkie, *Bhakta Prahlada*, was made by H.M. Reddi on the sets of *Alam Ara*, in 1932. Many Telugu films were shot in Calcutta and Bombay. The previous year, Reddi made the first Indian multilingual (Telugu and Tamil) sound film, *Kalidas*. The commercially successful film, *Lavakusa*, was directed by C. Pullaiah, in 1934. Socially aware films such as *Vande Mataram* (1939), which presented the problems of uneven development, and *Mala Pilla* (1938), on the issue of untouchability and produced by Sri Sarathi Studios, ruled the roost till India achieved Independence in 1947.

From then on, there was no going back for the industry. Chitoor V. Nagaiah, the director, producer and writer, produced several classic movies including *Thyagaiah* (1946). Telugu production houses such as Vijaya Productions of B. Nagi Reddy and A. Chakrapani, Vijaya Vauhini Studios of B.N. Reddy, Bharani Pictures of Bhanumati Ramakrishna, Prasad Art Pictures of A.V. Subbarao, Annapurna Pictures of D. Madhusudhana Rao, and Prasad Labs of L.V. Prasad were set up. The industry mostly made bilingual movies that catered to the Telugu and Tamil markets. Over 300 films were released between 1950 and 1960.



The big move to Hyderabad

The industry's perception began to change when the Madras Legislative Assembly passed the Andhra State Act in 1953, to provide for the formation of the State of Andhra Pradesh with Kurnool as its capital. On November 1, 1956, Andhra State and the Telangana region of Hyderabad State were merged to form the united Telugu-speaking State of Andhra Pradesh. Yet, the industry, which had built studios and firmly established itself in Madras, did not show a keen interest in shifting to Hyderabad. But the new State of Andhra Pradesh opened up new markets for Telugu films and the industry soon saw a reason to expand. Soon after the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, called for relocation of the industry, Sarathi Studios was set up in Hyderabad in 1959. Soon, more directors and producers followed suit. Prominent among them was Akkineni Nageswara Rao, who built Annapurna Studios in 1976, in an almost barren stretch of land on the outskirts of Hyderabad. By the 1970s and 1980s, except for Bharani Pictures, all the production houses had either moved to Andhra Pradesh or expanded. Hyderabad steadily evolved as a hub for Telugu films.

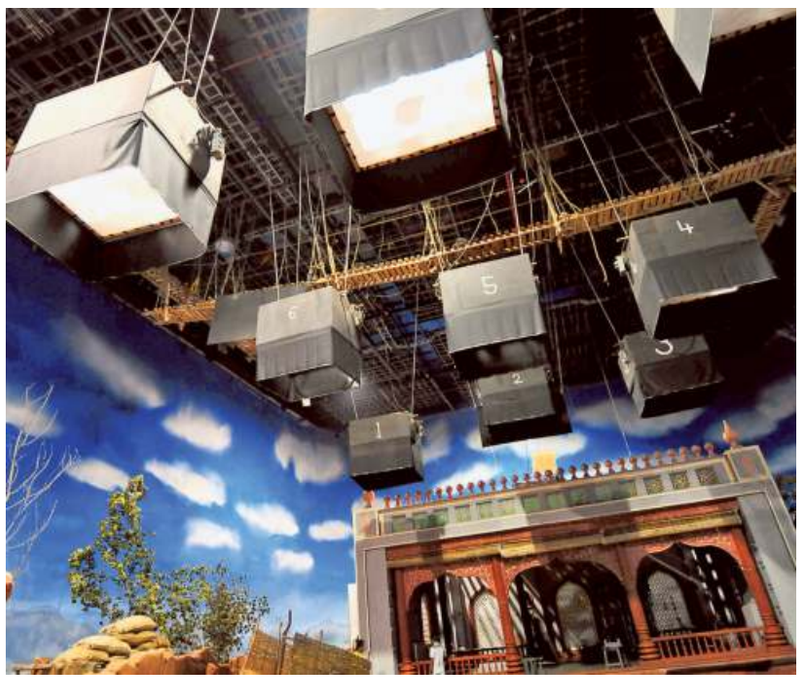
Creative director, producer and writer Pavani Prasad Sivalenka, 63, recalled that period. While the industry produced movies in Madras, business happened in Andhra Pradesh, he said. Film personalities preferred to stay in Chennai but took lands offered by the Andhra Pradesh government. "Some of them shifted, but many of them secured land in Hyderabad for future expansion. There were others who got a second address in Hyderabad but continued to work in Madras. These include S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, K. Viswanath and Sobhan Babu," Prasad said. Some of the younger actors preferred Hyderabad and left Madras, he said.

The industry expanded its roots in Hyderabad under the leadership of Chief Ministers Marri Chenna Reddy, N.T. Rama Rao, N. Chandrababu Naidu and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Many production houses came up after the creation of the new State of Andhra Pradesh, including Ramanaidu Studios, Padmalaya Studios, Prasad Labs, and Geeta Arts.

A game-changing addition to this was the 2,000-acre Ramoji Film City, which was built in Hyderabad in 1996. It entered the Guinness World Records as the world's biggest such facility. The integrated film city and thematic holiday destination enabled small and big movies to be shot there. Hundreds of movies in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil and English were made in Ramoji Film City. With sets such as forests, gardens, hotels, a railway station, an airport, apartment blocks, mansions and workshops, the film city emerged as a unique destination for film production houses from across the world.

The film city has about 1,200 employees, including 8,000 agents. The non-production revenues too are huge considering the entry ticket price, which is ₹1,150 per head. Over 15 lakh people visit Ramoji Film City every year. The film city also handles about 400-500 movies per annum in various Indian languages. On any given day, it has the capacity to facilitate 15 shoots. Besides serious production activity throughout the year, the thematic holiday destination is filled with people visiting the sets of films like *Baahubali* and *Wild Wild West*.

It was in the 1990s that the Telugu film industry finally called Hyderabad its permanent home. Today, the industry is estimated to be making over 300 films annually. The approximate revenue from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana amounts to over ₹9,000 crore per annum. Considering the pan-India appeal of movies such as Rajamouli's *Baahubali*, the industry is estimated to grow multifold in the coming years. It took Tollywood more than half a century to make the transition from Madras/Chennai to Hyderabad.



A divided Andhra Pradesh

In 2014, Parliament passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, creating the new State of Telangana. In the process of bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh lost its capital city Hyderabad and along with it, the film industry. Hyderabad was where prime businesses and investments took place. The film fraternity, who are predominantly from Andhra Pradesh, were comfortably settled in Hyderabad.

As the first Chief Minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu appealed to the film industry to relocate slowly to Visakhapatnam, the next best destination for filmmaking. However, the proposal did not garner much interest.

Former Andhra Pradesh Film Development Corporation (APFDC) chairman Ambica Krishna said Visakhapatnam has great potential to be a destination for filmmaking given its beauty, topography and history. "Visakhapatnam is a better place for filmmaking than Hyderabad. It has a long association with the film industry. Hundreds of films have been made in the city over the past seven decades. We have identified a 100-acre land around the city where the film industry can develop. Some senior actors had applied for land here, but the efforts did not fructify during the previous government's rule," she said. In fact, when the industry moved from Madras, Visakhapatnam was the location it initially considered.

Like Naidu, Reddy is now batting for Visakhapatnam as a filmmaking hub. Visakhapatnam, said many, has sufficient infrastructure to house the industry. Film shoots take place regularly. Ramanaidu Studios is a fully equipped studio on a hill top facing the sea coast on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam. Over 100 film shoots each year, small and big, take place at the 33-acre studio-cum-film city, according to its manager Avinash. "Most production houses come here for indoor and outdoor shoots. Most movies made here are in the Telugu language. We also have several filmmakers from Odisha and West Bengal coming here as these States are nearby," he said. The facility is reportedly attractive for low-budget filmmakers as it is 50% less expensive compared to facilities in Hyderabad.

There is also a fully developed film club, Vizag Film Nagar Cultural Center, which has stayed active over the past few years. The club intends to develop a residential colony for the film fraternity in Visakhapatnam. The General Manager of the club, T.D.S. Hari, said, "We have over 1,200 members in our club. We are waiting for the government to give us more details about its offer of land for the industry. If the decision is delayed, we are prepared to buy land to develop a Film Nagar here."

But is there equal enthusiasm among the well-known film directors and producers and actors? Director Geeta Krishna, who has shot several films, including the award-winning *Sankeertana*, in and around Visakhapatnam, said the offer of land is definitely attractive and will trigger a shift from Hyderabad. "This was what happened when the industry moved from Madras. Many in the industry took land and expanded their facilities in Hyderabad. Eventually the ecosystem was built over a period of time. The same is likely to happen in Visakhapatnam. It took a long time to shift to Hyderabad. The shift to Visakhapatnam may also take time," he said.

Telangana won't give up

What then of Hyderabad film city? The Telangana government looks like it will do everything necessary to keep the industry in good humour. At a time when the Andhra Pradesh government has reduced movie ticket prices as well as the number of shows, moves which will negatively impact the industry, the Telangana government has allowed an increase in the price of tickets and in the number of shows.

During the film release function of the Pawan Kalyan-starrer *Bheemla Naik*, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's son K.T. Rama Rao, who is Information Technology Minister, stated that the State government will do everything it can to promote the film industry. "We will see to it that Hyderabad becomes the national hub of the film industry. We are committed to extending our full support to the industry," he said.

The film industry is feeling the pinch in Andhra Pradesh. Upset over the decision regarding the pricing of tickets, many in the industry wanted the government to revoke the Government Order put out in this regard. In December 2021, the Andhra Pradesh government had brought out the Order to restrict the price of movie tickets and number of shows, arguing that movie makers and theatres have been exploiting the common man with high ticket rates and more shows.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Cinematography Minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) said that the government would bring in changes in the Cinematography Act to introduce online movie ticketing, restrictions on the number of shows, and caps on the ticket price to control the exploitation. The State government had announced that it will initiate the process through the Film Development Corporation.

In response to the industry's concerns, articulated during the February 10 meeting, Reddy proposed to offer a few concessions to films with big budgets of ₹100 crore or more with regard to ticket pricing in the first week of release. He also favoured a proposal to have five screenings per day.

The movie ticket pricing episode sits rather uncomfortably with the sops announced by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. While the government says its decision was taken keeping in mind the issue of affordability of entertainment for the common man, some in the industry see it differently. Director Ram Gopal Varma said that "the government, while settling scores with its political rivals, is punishing the entire industry with new ticket prices and restrictions on shows." Such restrictions, he said, will definitely "impact creative zeal and discourage distributors from investing in quality films that would need big budgets."

Branding it as "vendetta politics", director Geeta Krishna said, "I like the Chief Minister's policies in the manifesto but in my opinion, the government's decision on ticket pricing is a big blunder." Such a decision will definitely impact the industry post-COVID-19, he added. There are movies whose total worth would amount to over ₹5,000 crore waiting to be released any time now. "The recent pan-India movie *Pushpa* collected over ₹100 crore. The Telugu industry is very important now and is making a big impact across markets in India. Considering the ground situation and potential, it's important for the Andhra Pradesh government to incentivise the film industry," he added.

The film industry wants to see the Andhra government walk the talk on its promises. To add to Reddy's woes, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has ordered the government not to move the capital from Amaravati. This will likely cast a shadow over his Visakhapatnam dream city project for now.

FROM PAGE ONE

Halt hostilities for evacuation, says India

"These buses are actually, 50 or 60 kms away from where the students are. They are frankly too far away for them to just walk and take it. Having the buses is a good step but the key step is not there which is how do we get the students from where they are in relative safety (of bomb shelters)," said Mr. Bagchi. He described this phase as the "most difficult" that can't be accomplished without security guarantees from both sides.

Mr. Bagchi explained that India's primary focus remains on getting the students out in a safe and secure manner. The official reiterated that an Indian national has already died in the conflict and therefore New Delhi has reasons to be cautious about the safety of the students during the critical period of transiting through the areas near Sumy and Kharkiv.

He also assured that the Government of India would be bearing the medical cost of the required treatments for Harjot Singh who was shot on Friday in Kyiv and is currently hospitalised. India evacuated around 1,000 students from Kharkiv during a brief pause in hostilities on Wednesday.

However, there has been no forward movement in the evacuation of the rest of the students despite an agreement reached by Russia and Ukraine during the second round of discussion in Belarus on Thursday.

Following the discussion, Dmytro Kuleba, Foreign Minister of Ukraine announced that Ukraine has set up a helpline for foreign students.

"We have established an emergency hotline for African, Asian and other students wishing to leave Ukraine because of Russia's invasion - +380934185684," Mr Kuleba said in a social media post.

India abstains from vote to probe actions of Russia

They were mandated them to "investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes, in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine".

Only Russia and Eritrea voted against the resolution. Russia has denied targeting civilian areas, and Russian President Putin had accused the Ukraine government of attacks and human rights violations in the Eastern Donbas region to justify military operations in Ukraine.

India did not speak after the vote, but Permanent Representative of India to the UN in Geneva Indramani Pandey had addressed the Council's "urgent debate" on the human rights situation prior to the vote on Thursday.

The Modi government has decided to abstain from three votes at the UN Security Council, two at the UN General Assembly in New York, two at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and one at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

The IAEA vote was particularly significant as it related to safety at four nuclear power stations and a number of nuclear waste sites including Chernobyl, as the Russians seized control of them.

On Friday, Russian troops captured another nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia after bombing the area, which triggered more worries.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said he was "deeply concerned" with the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear power plant and was in touch with senior Ukrainian officials, as the UN Security Council planned to discuss the issue on Friday. India's vote on the issue, as well as an upcoming vote on a resolution demanding humanitarian access, due to be presented at the UNSC next week, will be watched closely.

56 killed, 194 injured in blast at Pak. Shia mosque



People rushing an injured to a hospital after the bomb blast in a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan on Friday. ▪ REUTERS

Muhammad Ali Saif, a spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government, told AFP that the blast was a "suicide attack" and numerous witnesses recounted the moment of detonation.

Ali Asghar saw a man enter the mosque before Friday prayers and open "fire with a pistol", picking out the worshippers "one-by-one". He "then blew himself up", Mr. Asghar said.

"I saw a man firing at two policemen before he entered the mosque. Seconds later, I heard a big bang," said another witness, Zahid Khan.

The head of Peshawar's bomb disposal unit, Rab Nawaz Khan, told AFP that the attacker detonated five to eight kilogrammes of "highly explosive TNT" packed with ball bearings to amplify the damage. An AFP reporter saw body parts strewn at the blast site, where desperate family members were held back by the police.

Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ijaz Khan told AFP two attackers were involved.

He said two police officers were shot at the entrance of the mosque. "One policeman died on the spot while the other was critically injured," he said.

Muhammad Asim Khan, a spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said, "We have declared an emergency at the hospitals and more injured are being brought".

PM condemns attack

A spokesman for Prime Minister Imran Khan's office said he "strongly condemned" the attack.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Peshawar, just 50 km from the porous border with Afghanistan, was a frequent target of militants in the early 2010s but security has greatly improved in recent years.

Open helplines for kin of Indian nationals: SC

Acknowledging Centre's efforts in Ukraine crisis so far, court asks govt. to take families of stranded students into confidence

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on March 4 orally suggested to the government to open up online helplines so that parents and families can know the whereabouts of students and Indian nationals making their way out of conflict zones in Ukraine.

"We are concerned... You can keep an online helpline so that parents, families can know where the students are... Some State governments are doing it in their State bhavana... Trying to contact children. You work out something, we are not passing any orders," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Centre.

Mr. Venugopal defensively said the court could be assured that the "government is as concerned as Your Lordships" about the safety and evacuation of Indians coming out of Ukraine.

"Please understand we appreciate what the government is doing but at the same time we are concerned about the anxiety of parents, families of these children," the Chief Justice responded.

"Your Lordships concern will certainly be taken into account," Mr. Venugopal said.

During the hearing, the CJI explained it was "unfortunate that we have not learnt the lessons from history about human race fighting wars and killing people... I know that conflicts can be resolved... However, here we have no say in that issue... But our anxiety is how to save lives of students and Indians caught in the zone".

Mr. Venugopal said 17,000 Indians had already been evacuated. He said the government was "tackling the problem" and the remaining students would also be swiftly evacuated.

The top law officer said the Prime Minister had held a meeting with Cabinet Ministers to further pursue the cause of evacuation and ensure that it was completed swiftly.

"The government of India has previous experience... From Kuwait, a lakh of persons were evacuated," Mr. Venugopal said.



Sigh of relief: Relatives greeting Indian nationals evacuated from Ukraine, upon their arrival in New Delhi on Friday. ▪ PTI

Fatima Ahana's rescue

The court acknowledged the efforts made by the government in the successful evacuation of a medical student, Fatima Ahana, and others in her group who were crossing over to Moldova from Ukraine.

Senior advocate A.M. Dhar, the lawyer for Ms. Ahana, a medical student at Odessa in Ukraine, had made an urgent plea before the Supreme Court on Thursday to intervene with the government for their evacuation. Ms. Ahana's side had said the students were stuck at the Ukraine-Moldova border in freezing cold without food, water or money.

The court had immediately asked Mr. Venugopal to use his good offices and communicate with the government about the students' plight.

Briefing the court on Friday, Mr. Venugopal said Ms. Ahana and her group were already in Romania, from where they would fly out to reach India on March 4 night.

Mr. Venugopal said he had on March 3 informed P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, about the court's concern for the students. Mr. Mishra had in turn reached out to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was present in Romania and in charge of the evacuation operations there. Mr. Scindia and his team had contacted Ms. Ahana on her mobile phone.

"We sincerely thank you for taking personal interest in resolving this issue," the Chief Justice told Mr. Venugopal. Mr. Dhar also expressed his gratitude to the Attorney General on behalf of the student's family.

The Bench asked the Attorney General to inform Central government lawyers in the various States to convey to the Chief Justices of High Courts not to entertain similar petitions as the Supreme Court was already seized of the issue.

The court listed the case for hearing on March 11.

In Sumy, students await govt. response

Their lives are at stake with no progress on 'humanitarian corridor' for evacuation

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The fate of several hundreds of students at Sumy in eastern Ukraine hangs in the balance as there was little progress on a "humanitarian corridor" for evacuation of civilians on Friday, while students who were able to reach Pesochin from Kharkiv after an advisory continued to leave for the western border on privately arranged buses.

"There were air-strikes and bombings on Sumy yesterday, which led to power and water supply being cut-off. We spent the entire night without electricity, and we can't cook without water," says Shivangi Jaiswal.

She says that unlike Kharkiv, where there was some movement because of a train station, Sumy is cut off from all sides as roads and rail tracks have been damaged, entrapping students in their hostel bunkers.



Officials said it would be difficult to evacuate students from conflict zones until there was a ceasefire. ▪ REUTERS

On Thursday, Russia and Ukraine agreed to create humanitarian corridors for evacuation of civilians. But Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a press interaction on Friday that there would be difficulties in evacuating students from an active conflict zone until there was a ceasefire.

Reacting to these comments from Sumy, Zara Azan said, "the government says they are waiting for us at the borders. I want to ask them, if you can't brave the shelling to reach us, then how do you expect young college students to make their way to the border."

In Pesochin, where nearly 1,200 students fled to from Kharkiv following a government advisory, students continued to leave for the western border on privately arranged buses for which they have paid from their own pocket. They were earlier expecting that they would be able to make their escape through the border with Russia on buses they believed the embassy would arrange for them. "There is no information yet from the embassy on an exit plan for us through Russia," said Mohamed Thaha Sheikh.

Operation Ganga brings back over 3,700 Indians

2,200 more people expected today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 3,700 Indians returned on Friday on 17 special flights after fleeing Ukraine and reaching its neighbouring countries.

As part of the government's 'Operation Ganga', 14 civilian flights mounted by Indian airlines brought back 3,142 people and three C-17 flights by the Indian Air Force brought back 630 Indians from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

Four more C-17 aircraft are expected to reach India late on Friday night and early on Saturday.

Eleven special flights are expected to bring back over 2,200 Indians on Saturday, which include five flights from Budapest, two from Rzeszow and four from Suceava. About 9,364 Indians have been evacuated so far, according to a statement from the Ministry of Civil Aviation. These include seven flights of C-17, which have also taken 9.7 tonnes of relief material.



Indian students on an aircraft after being evacuated from Ukraine.

Cong. questions delay in rescue operations

'Ministers resorting to PR exercise'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Playing out a video of a group of students in Sumy, a city in northeastern Ukraine, pleading for help from the Government of India, the Congress on Friday asked why India had not been able to ensure a safe passage for the students.

Addressing a joint press conference, party spokespersons Gurdeep Sappal and Shama Mohamed said that though the four Ministers of the Narendra Modi government were expected to speed up the evacuation process, they had been indulging in "chest thumping" and PR exercise.

"You saw the video at the beginning of the press conference in which the boy is literally crying for help. But these cries of pain neither reach the Prime Minister nor his government," Mr. Sappal said.

"Modi ji speaks to both Russian and Ukrainian Presidents. Has he spoken about a safe passage for our students and if yes, what is the problem to have this passage?" he added.

Mr. Sappal reiterated his party's demand that the government should disclose the number of students rescued from Ukraine and how many were still stranded.

When pointed out that Congress MPs including Rahul Gandhi had appreciated India's evacuation effort, Mr. Sappal said, "We will support whatever steps the Government of India takes to get back our children. But the problem is that the government is not giving out basic information".

Admit students from Ukraine in Indian institutions, says IMA

Letter to PM flags uncertain situation in war-hit country

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, seeking his intervention to end the uncertainty about the future of Indian medical students whose studies have been disrupted in war-hit Ukraine.

The Association is seeking, as a one-time measure, to accommodate the students at Indian institutions to complete their education.

Proper certificates

"This will also need the validation of certification which has been made by the competent academic authorities of the medical schools where they were originally admitted in medical schools in Ukraine whereby the progression of theirs' would be permissible in Indian medical schools. On passing out they will be Indian medical graduates and not foreign medical graduates,'' the Association said.



A group of students from a medical university in Ukraine arriving in Chennai.

The number of medical students who have sought admission to medical colleges/schools in Ukraine is substantial and they are at various stages of their progression, the Association said.

Uncertain future

The medical body added that it is uncertain when the existing situation in Ukraine will be resolved.

The letter said it is difficult to predict how long it will take to restore normalcy in that country and hence how long the stranded students at various stages of their education will face uncertainty.

"The Association is concerned about the fate and future of all these medical students,'' the letter said.

Next week's DefExpo postponed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELH

Amid the deepening crisis in Ukraine, the 12th edition of DefExpo scheduled to be held in Gujarat next week has been postponed, the Defence Ministry announced on Friday.

"Due to logistics problems being experienced by participants, the DefExpo2022 proposed to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from March 10th till March 14th is postponed," the Defence Ministry Spokesperson said on Twitter.

Officials sources said some of the participating countries had difficulty in scheduling their travel due to the ongoing crisis situation in Ukraine.

COVID-19 makes its presence felt at Kolkata book fair

From pandemic literature to the ubiquitous mask, Kolkatans embrace new normal

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

This year, Shreya Datta is visiting the International Kolkata Book Fair not as a book lover but a researcher. "Do you have any literary works on the pandemic?" the MPhil scholar, studying comparative literature and translation at the Central University of Gujarat, asks at every stall she steps into.

Considering that it has been two long years since COVID-19 struck, the answer is more often than not in the affirmative. Her quest, to examine pandemic literature as a genre, originated during the lockdown-forced migration and is driven by her need to collect *itihasa*, which she believes is different from the western concept of history.



People visiting the Kolkata book fair. ▪ PTI

"History is just facts, *itihasa* has a narrative along with facts," says Ms. Datta, whose efforts have yielded rich results. "My collection is already big. If I have to choose the important ones, then I would say *Labour Train* by Manjira Saha; *Uran* Little Magazine; *Itihase Mahamari Mannantar*, edited by Nandita Sengupta; *Dussamayer Dinalipi* by Sankar; *Pandemic and the Politics of Life* by Ranabir Samaddar; and *Katha Haranor Journal* by Nasrin Nazma, a COVID warrior herself."

The pandemic, needless to say, is making its presence felt at the fair – be it on the spines of several books, or in the form of face masks, or the general mood at the event that's being held at Central Park in Salt Lake City. The crowds are back, but not enough yet to kick up dust, but these are still early days – the fair will go on till March 13.

Online boost

"The fact that the fair is being held, even if after a gap of two years, that itself is an indication that humankind is stronger than the virus," said Moumita Bhattacharyya, proprietor of Rik Prakashani, a small publishing house. "But if you ask me, the pandemic seems to have worked in our favour. Our books are available online and our sales were quite good during the last two years because I think many people rediscovered their reading habit."

IN BRIEF



Modi chairs meeting on situation in Ukraine

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday chaired a meeting to review the Ukraine crisis amid the ongoing exercise to evacuate Indian nationals, mostly students, from the country facing attack from Russia. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and another Union minister Piyush Goyal were part of the meeting besides top officials, including NSA Ajit Doval. PTI

Mamata worried over the plight of Indian students

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said she was worried about the lives of Indian students held up in Ukraine and asked why it was taking "so much time to bring them back". "I am very much worried about the lives of the Indian students held up in Ukraine. Life is very precious," Ms. Banerjee said on Twitter. "Why was not things done earlier?" she added. The Trinamool Congress chairperson urged the "Central government that adequate number of flights be arranged immediately".

'Will fund Delhi-Agartala airfare of students'

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said on Friday that he would fund the Delhi-Agartala airfare of students of the State, who are returning from war-ravaged Ukraine. "I am always indebted to the people of Tripura for their unconditional blessings and affection. As a humble token of gratitude, I have decided to contribute from my salary for the airfare of Delhi-Agartala flights for the students who are returning from Ukraine," he tweeted. PTI



There is no question of caste, the SP will take along all human beings

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV
SAMAJWADI PARTY FOUNDER



The SP chief sees one community with one eye and one caste with the other

AMIT SHAH
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

FINAL PHASE

Higher stakes for Congress in second phase of Manipur election

Of the 22 seats in the final phase, there are 11 seats each in the valleys and the mostly Naga-dominated hills

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The stakes for the Congress are higher than arch-rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the second and final phase of polling for 22 Assembly seats in Manipur on March 5.

The Imphal and Jiribam Valleys together have 11 of these seats. The hills around, mostly dominated by the Nagas, account for the remaining 11 constituencies.

The Congress had won 12 of these 22 seats in the 2017 polls – eight across Imphal valley and four in the Naga-majority hills. The BJP could muster three of the second phase seats five years ago, one of them in the Naga hills.

"The people have seen through the machinations of the BJP. If the election is free and fair, we have every chance of doing better than retaining our seats," State Congress president Nameirakpam Loken Singh said.

The Congress has a few heavyweights in this phase, led by former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh contesting the Thoubal seat, and former State party president Gaikhangam (Nungba).

But a couple of its MLAs in this phase are now BJP candidates while Md Abdul Nasir, the party's most prominent Muslim face until recently, is the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) candidate from the Muslim-majority Lilong seat.

Muslims hold the key in at least five of the second phase valley seats, including the only one in Jiribam with a sizeable number of Bengali-speaking Muslims. The BJP, too, is upbeat about doing much better in the phase 2 seats than in 2017. "The situation today is way different than what it was five years ago. Our development agenda has appealed to the people, a majority of whom have been benefited by our schemes," State BJP president A. Sharda Devi said.

Apart from bagging most of the valley seats, the saffron party hopes to expand its footprint in the hills where Nagas call the shots in nine seats, while their population is almost the same as the Kuki-Zomi tribes in two seats (Chandel and Tengnoupal). The BJP is contesting all the 11 seats in the hills, much to the annoyance of ally Naga People's Front (NPF) that had won four seats in 2017. The NPF is confident of an improved show, banking on its "Naga connection" and its push for the resolution of the "Indo-Naga political issue" hanging fire since 1997.

The issue pertains to the peace process with the extremist National Socialist Council of Nagalim or NSCN(Isak-Muivah).

Thuingaleng Muivah, the general secretary of the outfit, hails from Somdal village in Ukhrul district, the epicentre of Naga politics, but his homecoming has been stalled by the Manipur government for decades.



Citizen's choice: Voters during the first phase of Manipur State elections in Imphal, on February 28, 2022. ▪ AP

Ensure fair polls: Cong. to EC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Alleging that militant outfits are intimidating voters to influence the ongoing Assembly polls in Manipur, the Congress on Friday approached the Election Commission (EC) to ensure a free and fair poll.

The Congress delegation, that met the EC ahead of the second phase polling on Saturday, took up the issue of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led State government releasing funds to militant groups under the suspension of operation agreement in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that is in force. The delegation, comprising of senior AICC observer for Manipur, Jairam Ramesh and former Law Minister Salman Khurshid, met the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

The party also flagged a statement issued by the president of the banned Kuki National Organisation, asking electors to vote for the BJP and threatening them with dire consequences if they did not comply.

The NPF is not the only party challenging both the BJP and Congress. The National People's Party, which had won two of the second phase seats in 2017, and the JD(U) are expected to put up a stiff fight in some seats.

Of the total candidates, 22 are of the BJP, 18 of Congress, 11 of NPP, ten each of JD(U) and NPF, three of Republican Party of India-Athawale, two each of Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party, one each of Rashtriya Janhit Sangharsh Party and CPI, and 12 independent candidates.

The fate of these second-phase candidates is in the hands of 8,47,400 electors.

Along with the 22 constituencies, re-polling will be held in 12 polling stations in five of the 38 Assembly seats that went to the polls in the first phase on February 28.

The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

In U.P. rally, Rajnath speaks of India's valour on global stage

Defence Minister also highlights Operation Ganga

NISTULA HEBBAR
JAUNPUR AND CHANDAULI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's campaign pitch for the seventh and last phase of Assembly polls in the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh was peppered with references to the Russia-Ukraine war, the Galwan Valley clash between India and China, and the free rations provided by the government.

Speaking in Malhani in Jaunpur district, where the Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) Dhananjay Singh is tipped to win, Mr. Singh referenced the Russia-Ukraine war in the context of the Centre's Operation Ganga for the evacuation of Indian nationals stuck in war-torn Ukraine. "Prime Minister Modi's actions have enhanced India's reputation internationally," he said at all three rallies – one in Janunpur and two in Chandauli district – that he addressed on Friday.

In Sakaldia in Chandauli, he spoke of the Galwan Valley clash between India and China, and attacked what he termed the Opposition's lack of faith in the Indian Army.

"The Opposition has continuously questioned whether our brave soldiers got the better of the Chinese, despite all evidence attesting to the acts of valour. In my statement in Parliament, because of diplomatic nuances, I did not speak of the casualty figures of the Chinese. But truth cannot be hidden for long, and an Australian newspaper, *The Klaxon*, investigated on its own and said that, in fact, Chinese casualties were between 38-50. Our own casualty figures are well-known, of course. The Opposition needs to introspect," he said to applause.



Rajnath Singh

His best turn was reserved for Chakia constituency, where his village, Bhabhaura is located. Mr. Singh's helicopter landed on the playing field of his school, Aditya Inter College. "We used to play on these grounds," Mr. Singh told this correspondent with a wistful look.

On the stage, Mr. Singh spoke of the free grain scheme provided both by the Centre under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana and a State government scheme.

"COVID-19 arrived and the whole world was hit hard. A country like America is seeing historic levels of inflation, the highest in 40 years, but in India, *bhook se chhutkara dilaya hai* Mod*-ji ne* (Modi has provided freedom from hunger)," he said.

Moving on from the challenges of COVID-19, he said that the war between Ukraine and Russia could also result in hardship as uncertainty prevailed over fuel and gas prices, adding that the Modi government would overcome those challenges, too.

"*Ab* Chakia *main hain to sab kuch saaf saaf batai dein* (now that I'm in Chakia, I want to do some plain speaking)," he said in Bhojpuri.

The rally in Chakia was not just the last rally of the day for Mr. Singh but the last of the rallies addressed in the long seven-phase polls in U.P., with voting slated to conclude on March 7, and the results to be declared on March 10.

POLLPOURRI

EC bars Abbas from campaigning



NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday banned Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) candidate from Mau, Abbas Ansari, from campaigning for 24 hours for a recent speech threatening officers. The EC took action against Mr. Ansari, whose party is in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, for a recent speech where he said he had told SP chief Akhilesh Yadav not to transfer officers for six months, assuming the SP wins the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, so that scores could be settled. In its order, the EC noted that the speech was in violation of the Model Code of Conduct. The EC said a notice had been sent to Mr. Ansari by the Mau Returning Officer on Thursday, however, no reply was received. The EC barred him from public meetings, processions, rallies, road shows and public utterances with regard to the polls for 24 hours from 7 p.m. Friday.

MBCs the X factor in 2022 U.P. polls

Rajbhars, Nishads, Nonia Chauhans and Sonkars to play decisive role in outcome

ANUJ KUMAR
GORAKHPUR/ MAU/ AZAMGARH

After six rounds of intense battle for Uttar Pradesh, the most backward castes (MBCs) have emerged as the X factor. Hard to impress, difficult to retain, the dozen-odd castes will prove to be decisive in the final outcome. Understanding their mind is only slightly easier than making jaggery, the popular sweet that is offered to every guest with water.

One belt seems swinging in favour of the BJP, the other seems swayed by the Samajwadi Party. And sometimes, the tone gets so satirical that you feel that you are being played. The SP feels buoyed for, last time the Rajbhars, the Nishads, the Nonia Chauhans and the Kashyaps had deserted them. The BJP is trying to hold them by showing them the bulldozer, a symbol of security, and reminding them of the ration that reached them during the pandemic through the conveyor belt connected to the Double Engine.

However, in private, both describe them as blackmailers on whom huge amounts are being splurged so that they remain in good humour, at least till the EVM button is pressed.

Best bargain

There are inherent contradictions in the arguments that members of these castes offer but they don't care. Their only interest seem to be where they could get the best bargain. For some, getting more share in job reservation is the only road for progress. They feel that the BJP didn't keep the promises made in 2017 and hence they are headed to the SP alliance. However, there are those, for whom security and welfare schemes are paramount, particularly the housing scheme, where the BJP has delivered well.

For instance, Rajbhars attack the BJP for appropriating their king Suheldev and turn him into Kshatriya. According to legends, Suheldev defeated a Ghaznavaid general. "Why don't the BJP leadership address him as Suheldev Rajbhar," asks Ramesh Rajbhar in Nevada village. "Even the stamp the government released in his memory had no mention of Rajbhar."

But their leadership talks of "*Jo Jaano Woh Mano* [believe what you see]," the typical Buddhist and Ambedkarite thought. It is because the SBSP's top leadership was initiated into politics by Bahujan Samaj Party founder Kanshi Ram. "The mission is to save the Constitution," said Sanjay Rajbhar, coordinator of the Azamgarh zone of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party. "We want a caste census and division of OBC bracket of 27% into three layers of 7%, 9% and 11%. Even if we get 2% reservation, it will go a long way in the progress of the community." He agreed that it would be difficult to negotiate with their new friends, the Yadavs, as they used to get the highest chunk of jobs when the SP was in power.

In the same vein, the lawyer, a close confidant of SBSP founder Omprakash Rajbhar, agreed that his community was notorious for voting for liquor. At the Yogi Adityanath rally in Jiyanpur, one met several Rajbhars who were rooting for 'Yogi's bulldozers' that were on display. "They are meant for who have squatted on government's land. The BJP has taken good care of us," was the common refrain. However, Mr. Rajbhar said it was just a ploy to earn some money in the election season. "As we are a small party, we can't distribute money. The BJP has looted a lot, let it splurge some of it on those who suffered the most during the pandemic," he said.



Proud supporter: Ramnaval Chauhan, a Nonia Chauhan, who runs a dhaba in Dohrighat roots for the BJP. ▪ ANUJ KUMAR

Disillusioned section

Similarly, the Nishads relate their glorious mention in the Ramayan but have this time rediscovered their icon Phoolan Devi. Chandrika Nishad, an SP post holder in the Dohrighat area reminded it was the Samajwadi Party that sent the dacoit-turned-politician to the Parliament. He said Sanjay Nishad of the Nishad Party who had aligned with the BJP had sold the interests of the community.

The Sonkars, the community of fruit and vegetable sellers who come under Scheduled Castes, have traditionally voted for the BJP but this time there is a section that seemed disillusioned. "I agree we don't have land but we are dependent on farmers. "If they do well, we will get the right produce and price of the fruits and vegetables we sell," said Sanjay Sonkar, pradhan of Jameelpur village in Azamgarh.

In Itaura Dayal village, the Rajbhars complained of Ram Achal Rajbhar, who has switched from the BSP, for letting them down by ignoring their interests and behaving like "the elite". Ramnaval Chauhan, who ran a tiny dhaba for daily wagers in the Madhuvan constituency of Mau, said they pushed Dara Chauhan as their representative but he failed to secure the community's interests. "He was less than ordinary but when he reached the Assembly, he only filled his belly."

Mr. Ramnaval Chauhan said the BJP had provided them security from extortionists. "For the first time, I have seen welfare schemes reaching the poor as they are meant to be. If the government would spend so much on us, there is bound to be some inflation. People don't notice that the daily wage has also increased," he said.

It is only Om Prakash Rajbhar who has somehow escaped the criticism of his community. Perhaps, because he left the BJP ship when it was sailing on placid waters. Observers feel it is the Rajbhars who are mobilised the most against the BJP and the SP has done well to give the party 18 seats from its share including the contentious ones like Mau where the SBSP has fielded Abbas Ansari, son of don Mukhtar Ansari, the centerpiece of BJP's anti-Muslim mafia narrative. The Rajbhars are eloquently defending this newfound bonhomie with Muslims.

जवाहरलाल नेहरू उन्नत वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान केंद्र (ज.ने.उ.वै.अ.के.)
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Integrated Ph.D Programmes in Physical Science, Chemical Science and Biological Science. Candidates should have a minimum of 55% marks at the Bachelor's level. Those appearing in the final examination of their Bachelor's degree this year may also apply. Candidates qualified in the Joint Admissions test for Masters (JAM) are encouraged to apply.

SC/ST/PwD/EWS/Minorities/Women candidates are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are advised to visit the website http://www.jncasr.ac.in/admission/degree-programmes for detailed information about these programmes, their eligibility criteria, fellowships etc. The last date for submission of online applications is 31st March 2022.

Sd/-
Academic Coordinator

बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ
कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग बीकानेर
क्रमांक:- 2851 — DIPR/C/2228/2022) निविदा संशोधन — दिनांक:- 24.4.22
बिड- सूचना संख्या 18 / CRIF/ 2021-22 में आंशिक संशोधन
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 2719 दिनांक 14.02.2022 के द्वारा NIB No. 18/CRIF/2021-22 आमंत्रित की गई थी। जिसमें निम्नानुसार Clarifications जारी किये जाते हैं:-
(A) धरोहर राशि के संबंध में Clarifications

पूर्व में प्रकाशित विवरण	Clarifications
1- धरोहर राशि निविदा प्रपत्र में दर्शाई गई कुल अनुमानित लागत की (Approximate value of work Bid security I_1 - Upto Rs. 20 Crores @2% (Subject to maximum of Rs. 30.00 lacs) I_2 - Upto Rs. 20-50 Crores @1.5% (Subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lacs) I_3 - Above Rs. 50 Crore @1%) Note- The security will be fixed sum rounded off to the nearest ten thousand rupees)	सनिवि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों को निविदा राशि का 0.5 प्रतिशत धरोहर राशि के रूप में जमा करवाना होगा। शेष संवेदकों को निविदा के बिन्दु संख्या 1 के अनुसार धरोहर राशि जमा करवानी होगी

(B) निविदा की वैधता अवधि के संबंध में Clarifications
उक्त निविदा में अंकित दोनों कार्यों की वैधता अवधि तकनीकी बिड खोलने की दिनांक से 150 दिवस रहेगी। अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी

UBN No. PWD2122WLOB15346 — PWD2122WLOB15348

(सुधीर माथुर)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
सानिवि, संभाग- बीकानेर

DIPR/C/2878/2022

SALAR JUNG MUSEUM, HYDERABAD
SITUATION VACANT - CORRIGENDUM
Applications are invited for the posts - Assistant Curator-01 (one post) and Display Assistant-01 (one post) were notified in Employment News on 29th January 2022. The last date of receipt of Application for the posts is now extended upto 19-03-2022. For more details visit **www.salarjungmuseum.in**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer-1, Lakes Division,
Room No.306, 3rd Floor, New Building,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No.EE-1/Lakes/Tend-27/2021-22 — Date: 03-03-2022
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work & Category	Esimate Cost of work (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Providing Chain link fencing to Balance reach at Rampura Lake. **(General).**	99.00	198000/-
2.	Providing Chain link fencing to Balance reach at Nagareshwara Nagenahalli Lake. **(General).**	100.00	200000/-
3.	Emergency work at Sarakki Lake, Call-2. **(General).**	100.00	200000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 14-03-2022. (2)** Technical Bids will be opened on the **15-03-2022 at 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer-1, Lakes Division, BBMP.
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circe-II, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad-500038, T.S.
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. and Date	Name of Work	Approximate Estimate Contract Value
EP-196/CGM(E)/ O&MC-II/ 600mm MS Pipeline/ SPR Hills/ 2021-22, dt: 04.03.2022	Manufacturing, Supply, Laying and Testing of 600mm MS pipe line with cement coating using 10mm thick MS Plate as per the drawings and alignment provided by the department, testing, commissioning of the same including interconnections etc complete under SPR Hills Section, SD-II, O and M Division No.VI.	Rs. 304.39 Lakhs
EP-197/CGM(E)/ O&MC-II/ 2x200KW Pumps/Pump House/ SPR Hills/ 2021-22, dt: 04.03.2022.	Manufacture, Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 2x200 KW pump sets and construction of Pump House at Borabanda Reservoir for newly proposed 4.0 ML GLSR reservoir at SPR Hills under SPR Hills Section, SD-II, O and M Division No.VI.	Rs. 143.10 Lakhs

(1) The bid documents download starts online from **dt: 10.03.2022. (2)** Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned- **Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle-II, HMWSSB, S.R.Nagar, Hyderabad-500038, (3)**The contractors/ firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. **(4)** Further details can be seen @ **https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in**
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle-II, S.R.Nagar, Hyderabad-500 038. T.S.

A ND-NDE

SC to hear plea against bail to Ashish Mishra

Kin of slain farmers approach court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on March 11 the challenge raised by the families of farmers who were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri against bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to prime accused Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni.

In an oral mentioning of the petition before Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, advocate Prashant Bhushan sought urgent listing of the case.

"The prime accused has been granted bail for totally extraneous reasons. None of the considerations settled by the Supreme Court in law, like whether the accused can influence witnesses or tamper with evidence while out on bail, were ignored by the High Court," Mr. Bhushan submitted.

He said that other accused in the case, encouraged by Mr. Ashish Mishra's bail, were also seeking bail.

"We can hear the case on March 11," the CJI said. The families said they had appealed the February 10 bail order as the State of Uttar Pradesh did not budge.

The petitioners alleged the bail was an "arbitrary" exercise of discretionary powers by the High Court and their lawyer was unable to present their side of the case.

The petition said the top court, on November 17 last year, ordered the formation of an independent SIT to conduct the investigation and filing of status report before it after the chargesheet was filed.

J&K delimitation: fears grow over 'voter islands'

Draft proposal does not recognise that constituencies have to be geographically contiguous, say some political leaders

PEERZADA ASHIQ
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

With the Delimitation Commission yet to publish maps of the proposed new constituencies for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, a look at the Census 2011 administrative boundaries along with the draft list of tehsils in some seats points to islands, where a part of the constituency is completely cut off from the rest and surrounded by another constituency.

The Delimitation Commission, chaired by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai and including Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the State Election Commissioner as ex-officio members, was likely to publish its draft for public comments soon, according to sources.

Political leaders participating in the delimitation process as well as independent observers have raised fears of "islands" being formed. Chattar Singh, a former vice-president of the Delhi Congress, who has been engaged with delimitation issues for years, used the administrative atlas for J&K and the draft proposals to find that many such islands were being proposed.

Wrong units used

For example, in Kishtwar district, where the number of constituencies has been proposed to be increased from two to three (Mughalmaidan, Kishtwar and Padder), Bounjwah tehsil was proposed to be in the Mughalmaidan constituency.

However, one village in the tehsil, Kewah, would be completely surrounded by villages in the Kishtwar constituency, according to Mr. Singh's analysis.



National Conference workers protest against a draft proposal of the J&K Delimitation Commission in Srinagar. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Mr. Singh said the draft proposals had used the boundaries of the *patwar halqa*, an administrative unit of multiple villages, which in some cases included villages that were not located next to each other.

"This has happened because the basic principles have not been followed. The Delimitation Act, 2002 says that apart from population, the constituencies have to be geographically compact areas and contiguous. In my research, I have found several instances of islands being proposed," Mr. Singh said.

The three Jammu and Kashmir National Conference MPs, who are associate members of the Delimitation Commission, including former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, have also raised concerns about the voter islands.

Case of Rajouri

In their submission to the Commission on February 14, the three MPs wrote that the Commission "has carved out geographical islands and joined with the other Assembly segments without any proximity or connectivity". The MPs cited the example of Rajouri, where Sohna, Doongi and Bagla *patwar* circles had been added to Thana Mandi seat.

"The inhabitants of these areas have to cross entire Rajouri to reach Thana Mandi. All the fundamental legal parameters have been grossly violated with least consideration of the hardship the people may have to suffer," they had said.

The Commission had once again sought the associate members' responses till Friday after making some changes, according to sources. On Friday, the National Conference (NC) submitted an 18-page dissent note to the Delimitation Commission. The NC MPs stuck to their earlier stand, reflected in its objections filed in February where it questioned the panel's constitutional validity and "unacceptable biased proposals".

"Our stand on the Delimitation Commission remains unchanged. We hope the NC response is placed on the official website soon," MP Hasnain Masoodi said.

IN BRIEF



Ex-Army chief S.F. Rodrigues passes away

NEW DELHI

Former Chief of Army Staff General Sunith Francis Rodrigues passed away in Goa on Friday. "General M.M. Naravane COAS and all ranks of Indian Army express heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of General S.F. Rodrigues, who passed away today. Known as a thinker and strategist, he leaves behind a legacy of utmost dedication and service to the nation," the Army said on Twitter.

NIA files chargesheet against five persons

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against five alleged Khalistani terrorists in a case involving smuggling of narcotics, weapons and explosives via Indo-Pakistan border, using drones. The accused have been identified as Harmesh Singh, Darvesh Singh, Gurmukh Singh, Gagandeep Singh and Lakhbir Singh Rode, founder of banned outfit International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF).

'Militant injured in shoot-out in Kashmir'

SRINAGAR

A militant was injured in a shoot-out with the security forces in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Friday. "One militant, identified as Abrar Hassan, a resident of Azad Gunj in Baramulla, was arrested with arms and ammunition in an injured condition at Langate area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara after a brief shoot-out," a police spokesman said.

Resign from posts allotted to allies: Stalin

DMK president warns rebels of action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Friday directed some of his party's functionaries who violated the terms of the coalition agreement to resign from their posts immediately.

Some DMK members contested in the indirect elections for the posts allotted to the allies and won.

Mr. Stalin also expressed regrets to the leaders of the allies over the development.

He warned such functionaries that they would be divested of the primary membership of the party if they did not resign immediately.

He also directed the district secretaries and incharge leaders to take action.

"Those of you who contested on the DMK symbol in the indirect elections and brought disrepute to the party should immediately step down from these posts. After that, come and meet me," Mr. Stalin said.

Allies unhappy

His directives came after leaders of the allies expressed displeasure. "I convey my regrets to the leaders of the Secular Progressive Alliance. I am very clear that the solidarity that our alliance has shown and the affection of people that we have won are not affected at any time," he said.

He said the victory of the alliance should have brought him immense joy. "These people think they have achieved something through this, but as the party president, I am let down and feeling guilty," he said.

Friday prayers allowed at Jamia Masjid after 30 weeks

Crowds throng historic mosque, welcome govt. move

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

With J&K authorities allowing congregational Friday prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar after 30 weeks, crowds of men and women joined the prayers. The worshippers were seen praying for the welfare of people of Kashmir.

Religious scholar and cleric Moulana Ahmad Syed Naqshbandi delivered the Friday sermon and demanded the immediate release of the chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq "to resume his religious duties" at the central mosque.

"The pulpit has been rendered silent, which is causing hurt and sorrow to people. The Mirwaiz should be immediately released as the holy month of Ramzan is approaching," Mr. Naqshbandi said.

"The repeated ban on Friday prayers at the grand mosque without any reason is a cause of anxiety and restlessness among people and violation of their fundamental human right to practice religion," Mr. Naqshbandi said.


People praying inside Jamia Masjid that remained closed for nearly eight months due to the pandemic curbs. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Elderly men and women, many in tears, welcomed the government's move to allow Friday prayers at the mosque, which accommodates over 50,000 worshippers.

ED arrests promoter of CEPL in coal import case

'Low quality coal was supplied to PSUs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ahmed A.R. Buhari, promoter of Chennai-based Coastal Energy Private Limited (CEPL), in a money-laundering case involving overvaluation of coal imported for supply to public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The ED probe is based on a First Information Report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Mr. Buhari and others, which included unknown officials of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and Aravali Power Company Private Limited (APCPL).

According to the ED, Mr. Buhari controlled CEPL, Coastal Energen Private Limited, Coal & Oil Group (Dubai) and other offshore entities located in Mauritius and the British Virgin Islands. The public sector undertakings were supplied coal of lower calorific value, instead of the higher specification for which tenders were floated and executed by the CEPL or MMTC. The coal was supplied by CEPL either directly or through MMTC.

The ED alleged that Mr. Buhari generated ₹564.48 crore from the overvaluation of coal. He diverted ₹557.25 crore through CEPL and CNO Group entities, the United Arab Emirates, and routed the same back to India via Precious Energy Holdings and Mutiara Energy Holdings (Mauritius) to invest in Coastal Energen, India.

10 killed, several injured in Bihar blast

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

At least 10 people were killed and several others injured in a powerful blast at an illegal firecracker factory running in a three-storied building at Kajbalichak under Tatarpur police station of Bhagalpur district in Bihar. The incident happened late on March 3.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the incident and offered condolences to the families of people died in the explosion.

"*Prima facie* it appears that the explosion took place because of illegal firecracker factory running in a house", said Bhagalpur district magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen.


A volunteer near a damaged house after a massive explosion ripped through a three-storey building in Bhagalpur. ▪ PTI

Rescue operation are in operation and debris of the houses collapsed in the explosion are being removed from JCB machines, he added.

Locals, however, said the death toll may rise after removal of debris and as many as 12 injured people are admitted at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Bhagalpur.

"Five people had died on the spot while others are in the hospital. We were asleep when a powerful explosion shook us in our bed and we ran outside to save our live", said Nirmal Kumar whose house was damaged in the explosion.

All top district administrative officials and an FSL (forensic) team reached the spot, and later a probe was ordered into the incident.

Woman dies, family blames threat by Trinamool leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The death of a 19-year-old student by suicide in the Burdwan town of West Bengal has brought to fore allegations of intimidation by supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

Tuhina Khatun, a student of Burdwan Raj College, was found dead at her house in Ward Number 27 of the Burdwan Municipality late on March 2. The family members of the woman accused Bashir Ahmed, the newly elected local Trinamool councillor of intimidating the young woman.

According to reports, the family of the deceased student was supporting a rival faction of the ruling party in the civic polls that was led by Mukhtar Miyan. The results of the municipal polls were declared on March 2, and soon after the results, a sketch was drawn outside the house of Tuhina Khatun. It was found on a boundary wall of the house and it showed three women hanging from a tree, with the words "*holo na, holo na*" [did not happen, did not happen] scribbled below.

According to locals, the victim's father, Junai Sheikh is known to be a Trinamool supporter but was opposed to the Bashir Ahmed, who won the civic polls. Jharna Bibi, sister of the deceased student, said that her sibling could not take the insults and intimidation any more.

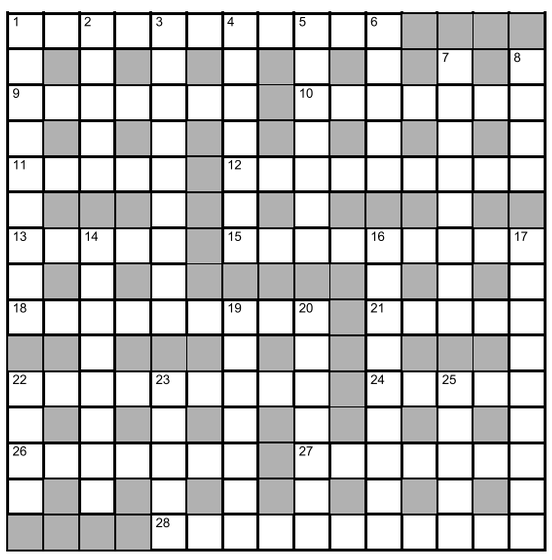
(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling by calling Kolkata suicide prevention helpline number 033-24637401.)

THE CROSSWORD + 13496

(set by Karaoke)

Never go off the grid. Come solve online. We are digital now. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 0-9 students hate to score (6-5)
9 Implicate doctor in emergency room operation incident lapse primarily (7)
10 The body part that can turn either way (7)
11 Bank rate eclipsed distress recovery sign (5)
12 Offer to look back into risky venture (9)
13 Reviewing puzzle without answer? Write differently (5)
15 Variety of rebates on food (5,4)
18 They decide the winners by draw in split second (3-6)
21 Side dish served up in party in air regularly (5)
22 180°! (5,4)
24 Unhappy man leaves mortal to become ascetic (5)
26 Duettos composed in shelter (7)
27 Oddly stupid children end it all (7)
28 Lodger staying up with girl friends essentially in disguise (6,5)

DOWN

1 Have doubts about returning sailor with all birds leaving skuas heartily (5,1,3)
2 Celebrity almost grabs honour (5)
3 Floater at sea sheltered very good nurse (4,5)
4 Daughter given sedative finally on the organ to give birth (7)
5 African native, good or bad associate? (7)
6 Giant stretch, I hear (5)
7 Alien broadcast endless secrets of one and all other people? (2,6)
8 You say this when freezing bishop comes with many rooks (4)
14 Unwanted switch of poles gets grape variety (8)
16 Dreadful night to admit impulsive defeat (9)
17 Windy apartment gets upper-class lease housing central banks (9)
19 Incorporate small particle in some detailed analysis (7)
20 Some say — no, let it stand over headgear (7)
22 Reject franchise cycling backwards (4)
23 Supply drug to queen in person at first (5)
25 Liquefy bomb, diffuse valency basically (2-3)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS5367 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13495

L	I	C	H	E	N	S		F
O		A		T		Q		L
W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E
E		T		O		I		X
R	E	I	N	S	E	R	T	E
E		L				R		D
D	I	A	M	E	T	E	R	
		G		A		L		O
S	K	E	T	C	H		B	R
U				H		A		D
L	A	Y	S		E	N	T	E
T		O		V		G		R
A	Z	U	R	E		O	R	I
N		N		R		R		N
A	L	G	E	B	R	A		G

R	E	I	G	H	T			
	R				O			
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B	R	I	N	G	S	U	P	
A		D				A		R
E	N	T	E	R	P	R	I	S
R		R		L		S		
O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	S
R		N		M		N		E
G	R	E	A	T	E	R		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Conventional learning code

The Upanishads teach the highest knowledge, Brahma Vidya, in many ways. Sometimes it is taught to deserving and keen disciples by realised sages and rishis who have gained insight into this knowledge through the revelations they have felt when steeped in meditation. At times Brahma, Brighu, Yama, etc, are also shown to impart this vidya to their disciples.

The traditional method followed when imparting this vidya that confers the highest good for the jiva, salvation, is governed by very high ideals and norms that are to be imbibed and practised by both the acharya and sishya, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. In this way, this knowledge has been preserved and handed down in its pristine state without distortions to posterity. So, it is important that the acharya has to be selective about the nature and calibre of the disciple. This he ascertains through meticulous testing. The sishya, for his part, is expected to remain humble when seeking this knowledge, and with extreme patience imbibe and contemplate on what is taught.

For instance, Brahma as the teacher does not directly impart the knowledge to his disciples Indra and Virochana. He first teaches one aspect and makes them contemplate on what is taught. Virochana thinks he has gained the knowledge and goes away satisfied. But Indra is not so sure about it and gets back to Brahma many times for further clarification until he attains the knowledge. Yama tests Nachiketas on many counts, and only after he is satisfied does he teach him the knowledge. The Lord tests Arjuna at every stage in accordance with the established code and after explaining the paths of karma, jnana and bhakti, concludes instruction with the esoteric path of surrender for the jiva's salvation.

Russia seizes Europe's largest nuclear plant

Fears of a potential disaster at the Ukrainian facility sparks alarm; 'no signs of elevated radiation levels'

REUTERS
LVIV

Russian forces seized the largest nuclear power plant in Europe after a building at the complex was set ablaze during intense fighting with Ukrainian defenders, Ukrainian authorities said on Friday.

Fears of a potential nuclear disaster at the Zaporizhzhia plant had spread alarm across world capitals, before authorities said the fire in a building identified as a training centre, had been extinguished.

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said there was no indication of elevated radiation levels at the plant, which provides more than a fifth of total electricity generated in Ukraine.

Earlier, a video feed from the plant verified by Reuters showed shelling and smoke rising near a five-storey building at the plant compound.

The footage shot at night showed one building aflame, and a volley of incoming shells, before a large candescent ball lit up the sky, exploding beside a car park and sending smoke billowing across the compound.



Delicate situation: The damaged administrative building of the Zaporizhzhia plant. ▪ REUTERS

"Europeans, please wake up. Tell your politicians – Russian troops are shooting at a nuclear power plant in Ukraine," Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address.

Mr. Zelensky said Russian tanks had shot at the nuclear reactor plants, though there was no evidence cited that they had been hit.

The Mayor of the nearby town of Energodar said fierce fighting and "continuous enemy shelling" had caused casualties in the area, without providing details.

Early reports of the incident at the power plant sent financial markets in Asia spiralling, with stocks tumbling and oil prices surging further.

Russia had already captured the defunct Chernobyl plant north of Kyiv, which spewed radioactive waste over much of Europe when it melted down in 1986. The Zaporizhzhia plant is a different and safer type, analysts said.

Earlier, U.S. President Joe Biden spoke with Mr. Zelensky to get an update on the situation at the plant.

"President Biden joined President Zelensky in urging Russia to cease its military activities in the area and allow firefighters and emergency responders to access the site," the White House said.

Only one Ukrainian city, the southern port of Kherson, has fallen to Russian forces since the invasion was launched on February 24, but Russian forces continue to surround and attack other cities.

Mariupol, the main port on the Sea of Azov, was surrounded and under heavy bombardment. Water and power was cut off, and officials say they cannot evacuate the wounded.

Putin says Ukraine must meet Russian demands

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin says Russia is ready for talks with Ukraine but insisted that it must meet Moscow's demands. Mr. Putin told German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that Ukraine must agree to demilitarise, accept Moscow's sovereignty over Crimea and surrender territory to Russia-backed rebels in the east, the Kremlin said in its readout of Friday's call. Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 following the ouster of the country's former Moscow-friendly leaders and cast its support behind the rebels in eastern Ukraine. AP

UNSC holds meet to discuss Zaporizhzhia fire

Several western countries, including the U.S., U.K, slammed Russia for endangering nuclear facilities

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members expressed alarm at the prospect of a nuclear incident in Ukraine, at an emergency meeting on Friday, convened hours after a training building at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant caught fire, as Russians moved in on the facility and seized control of it. The International Atomic Energy (IAEA) chief told the Council that no reactors had been damaged.

Several western countries, including the U.S. and the U.K, spoke out against Russia for endangering nuclear facilities, while others – including India and China – more generally expressed alarm about the situation without blaming one side.

Director General of the IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said that the IAEA had confirmed, through its agency contacts as well as directly from the plant that "no security or safety systems have been compromised" and that no reactors were hit by the projectile which hit the training building.

During his remarks, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UNPR), T.S. Tirumurti, warned of the danger a nuclear incident.

"India attaches the highest importance to ensuring safety and security of nuclear facilities, as any accident involving the nuclear facilities may have severe consequences for public health and the environment," Mr. Tirumurti said. He also emphasised that a humanitarian crisis was confronting Ukraine. India has been concerned about the lives of its nationals caught in the conflict.

Mr. Tirumurti reiterated India's position – calling for a resolution of differences through dialogue and respect for the UN Charter and sovereignty of nations.

The U.S. condemned Russia and called for the cessation of the war. "Mr. Putin must stop this madness and he must stop it now," the U.S.'s UNPR Linda Thomas Greenfield said, warning that the Russians were closing in on the country's second largest facility. "So this imminent danger continues," she said.

'Chilling signal'

"The attacked last night by Russian forces on the nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia has shocked us all. It has sent a chilling signal across Europe indeed across the globe," said Ireland's UNPR, Geraldine Byrne Nason.

Russia's representative, Vasilly Nebenzya, and his Ukrainian counterpart, Sergiy Kyslytsya traded charges on who was responsible for the incident. During his speech, Mr. Kyslytsya also appeared to take a shot at those who did not condemn Russia in this war – presumably, a reference to India and others who have consistently abstained at UN meetings. "Shamefully, there is a handful of those around us ...or among us, rather,... who do nothing," Mr. Kyslytsya said.

China Parliament to meet amid economy, Ukraine challenges

Beijing may raise defence budget by around 7%: reports

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

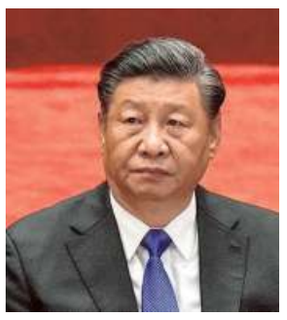
China's National People's Congress (NPC) or Parliament will open a week-long session on Saturday, during which it will announce plans for the coming year amid renewed concerns over both domestic economic challenges and global instability with the crisis in Ukraine.

Chinese Premier and second-ranked leader Li Keqiang will present an annual government work report at the NPC's opening on Saturday, during which he is expected to announce a growth target for the year.

China's economy grew 8.1% last year, recovering from the pandemic, although growth slowed to 4% in the fourth quarter.

The growth target will reflect the balancing act that policy makers are grappling with, as they consider measures to keep the economy ticking, such as infrastructure spending, without worsening already serious debt problems, particularly in the real estate sector. Observers will also be watching for any policy moves involving the embattled tech sector, with many of China's tech giants still reeling from a number of anti-monopoly investigations by Communist Party regulators.

A growth target of "above 5%" is expected by many Chinese economists, which would strike a balance amid external headwinds, particular in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a global economy still in recovery.



Xi Jinping

Zhang Yesui, the NPC's spokesperson, told a press conference on Friday that China was likely to continue with its "dynamic zero-COVID" approach, the only major country to still implement strict international travel restrictions. He said the strategy "worked in China's context" and allowed the domestic economy, as well as supply chains, to remain functioning with China avoiding a major second wave. The measures did come with some costs, such as targeted lockdowns in several cities to squash outbreaks, but Mr. Zhang said those were "worthwhile" as most of the country enjoyed normalcy.

China's annual defence budget will also be announced on Saturday, which Chinese media reports said may be raised by around 7%. The budget in 2021 crossed $200 billion for the first time, after a 6.8% hike. A 7% rise would lift it to around $225 billion. India's defence budget earlier this year was announced as around $70 billion.

Jude Blanchette, a China scholar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said China was dealing with "a convergence of headwinds" this year which will give President Xi Jinping "a difficult position" ahead of the 20th Party Congress set for November, the main political event of the year when he will begin his third term.

'Misreading of the crisis'

Besides the economy, China's misreading of the Ukraine situation – Beijing had hosted Russian President Vladmir Putin in early February and Russia launched the invasion days after the Winter Olympics in China concluded – would be "a mistake Xi will be cleaning up for much of his third term," Mr. Blanchette said.

Tong Zhao, a Senior Fellow at Carnegie China, said the West's sanctions aimed at Russia "could further strengthen Mr. Xi's long-standing preference of self-reliance & autarky, believing China must be able to prevent external strangulation." "It may limit how much China and the West can prevent decoupling and develop mutually beneficial and interdependent relations," he said on Twitter.

'Close to reviving Iran N-deal'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VIENNA

A deal on reviving the 2015 accord between Tehran and world powers on Iran's nuclear programme is "close", Britain said on Friday, at a crunch point for negotiations in Vienna.

"We are close. E3 negotiators leaving Vienna briefly to update Ministers on state of play," British envoy Stephanie Al-Qaq said on Twitter, referring to negotiators from U.K., France and Germany.

Along with counterparts from China, Iran and Russia they have been taking part in the latest round of talks in the Austrian capital since late November.

The U.S. has been participating indirectly. Iran's Foreign Minister Alsossein Amir-Abdollahian said he was prepared to travel to Vienna if a deal is reached to revive the accord.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions, prompting Iran to start disregarding the limits on its nuclear activity laid down in the agreement.

Church mounts pressure on Gotabaya over Easter attacks

Influential Archbishop seeks support from the Vatican, UN

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lanka's Catholic church has sought the intervention of the Vatican and the UN to ensure justice for the victims of the Easter terror attacks of 2019, mounting pressure on the Rajapaksa administration that came to power promising to bring perpetrators to book.

Earlier this week, Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith met Pope Francis in Rome and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in Geneva.

He raised concern over "inadequate" progress in the probe into the Easter bombings that shook Sri Lanka in April 2019, killing 279 people, including 45 foreign nationals. The serial blasts, attributed to a network of Islamist radicals, took place at three churches in capital Colombo and the eastern town of Batticaloa, and at three luxury hotels in Colombo.

Cardinal Ranjith's international outreach comes after a series of protests and statements in Sri Lanka, seeking justice for families affected by the most gruesome terror attacks in Sri Lanka, in the island nation's post-civil war years. According to activists, the Catholic church's campaign for justice will heighten in the coming weeks, in the run up to the third anniversary of the bombings.

Known to be a supporter of the former President Mahinda Rajapaksa administration (2005-2015), especially when government forces fought the LTTE, Cardinal Ranjith earlier denounced any foreign intervention in Sri Lanka's affairs when Tamils, including some Catholics, called for international support for war-time accountability and justice.

In a clear shift, he has now sought help from both the Pope, and at UN forums.

Last month, the top Roman Catholic bishop slammed the government, when authorities arrested catholic activist Shehan Malaka Gamage, who has in the past questioned if politicians used the 2019 Easter attacks for political gains including electoral victory, alluding to polls held later that year. He termed the activist's arrest an "indecent and thuggish act" that resembled "an abduction".

U.S. bomber gets death sentence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court has reinstated the death sentence for convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

The Justices, by a 6-3 vote on Friday, agreed with the government's arguments that a federal appeals court was wrong to nix the death sentence a jury imposed on Tsarnaev for his role in the bombing that killed three people near the finish line of the marathon in 2013. Tsarnaev was convicted of all 30 charges against him.

TAMBARAM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Roc.No.2552/2021/E1 **TENDER INVITING NOTICE** Date.04.03.2022

Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned an Construction of Daily Market in Tambaram city under Kalainger Nagarpuram Membattu Thittam (KNMT) 2021-22 in Chengalpattu District. Under this scheme the Corporation Commissioner, Tambaram invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified contractors for the following works as detailed in the table given below:

Sl. No.	Packages	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs	Tender document available from	Tender Opening	Period of Completion
1.	Construction of Daily Market (Duraisamy) at Ward No.35, Block No.17, Old S.No. 324/1A, 1A, 1B, 32/1P, New T.S.No. 2/1,2/2, Block 17	1375.00	11.03.2022 (10.00 am)	12.04.2022 (3.30 pm)	9 Months
	Total	1375.00			

Pre- Bid conference **21.03.2022** at **11.00am** in the Corporation office, Tambaram

Tender document and schedule available in **https://tntenders.gov.in** can be downloaded from **11.03.2022.** The Bidding document will be received by the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation by way of off- line also in 2 cover system up to **12.04.2022, 3.00 pm** Earnest Money Deposit, 1% of the value of work should be submitted along with the tender. If e-tender, the EMD should be dropped in the tender box before closure time, it is at **3.00pm** on **12.04.2022.** Evaluation of bid will be done as per Tender Transparency Act 1998 of Government of Tamil Nadu and rules there us. If the said tender date happens to be a holiday, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. The Corporation Commissioner reserves the rights to accept or reject any bidding document at any time without assigning any reason thereof. Eligibility criteria and other details can be had from the Bidding document.

For other details contact e-mail address: **commr.tambaram@tn.gov.in**

DIPR/ 1014 /TENDER/2022 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Commissioner
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in; Ph-No-06782/260318
Balia, Balasore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

"e" - Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 320 for 2021-22

Letter No: - 572/WE Date: -03.03.2022

1. Name of the Work : Road Work
2. Total No. of Work : 02 Nos. (Two)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.358.73 Lakhs & Rs.801.02 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contactor : 'A' Class, 'Special' Class & 'Super ' Class, (of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities (as per annexure)
5. Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) & 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months for the work.
6. Other Details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	NCB No.-320	07.03.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	21.03.2022 Up to 5.00 P.M.	22.03.2022 Up to 5.00 P.M.	23.03.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

S/d:- Er.S.K.Mishra, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balasore.

O-1775: OIPR-25105/11/0036/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK - 753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488,
Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No:- Tender Online RCK - 06/22 Letter No.- 470 / Date:- 02.03.2022

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Settlement Colony of Mankedia Tribes At-Kusumundia, Ransol District of Jajpur Under DMF (Balance Work).
2. Class of Contractor : B & A Class as specified in the column 7 of the Annexure
3. Time for Completion : As Specified in the Column - 8 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK- 06/22	09.03.22 At 11.00 A.M.	23.03.2022 At 5.00 P.M.	22.03.22 up to 5.00 P.M.	24.03.22 At 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

O-1769: OIPR-25129/11/0041/2122

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office: 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 010
Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id. : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN : U15137TN1972SGC006157

SHORT RE E-TENDER NOTICE

No.: QC2/062134/2021 Dated: 04.03.2022
Short Re E-Tender No: TNCSC/21-22/ET-59

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for **"The Supply of 15,000 Nos. of Low Density Black Polyethylene Covers having the Size of 9.8 x 6.4 x 5.2 meters with 250 micron thickness."**

Complete Short Re E-Tender document can be viewed, downloaded and uploaded through **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc from 05.03.2022 to 09.03.2022.**

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone : (044) 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 e-mail : mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in

Last Date For Online Submission : 09.03.2022 up to 2:00 PM
Short Re E-Tender Opening Date and Time : 09.03.2022 at 3:30 PM

DIPR/1024/Tender/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) in collaboration with UNICEF is planning to conduct virtual cadre training in Disaster Risk Reduction for Government departments of Kerala. Proposals are invited from reputed institutions/NGOs. Further details can be found in **www.sdma.kerala.gov.in** - Tenders

Sd/- Member Secretary, KSDMA

தமிழ் நாடு அரசு - இந்து சமய அறநிலையத்துறை
அருள்மிகு கபாலீசுவரர் திருக்கோயில்
மயிலாப்பூர், சென்னை - 4

ஒப்பந்தப் புள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

கீழ்கண்ட வரிசை எண். 1 மற்றும் 2 பணிகள்
அரசு துறைகள் (பொதுப்பணித் துறை உட்பட) கட்டிட பணிகளுக்கு பதிவு செய்து தகுதியுள்ள அனுபவம் வாய்ந்த ஒப்பந்ததாரர்கள் மட்டுமே பங்கேற்கலாம்.
வரிசை எண். 3ன் பணி
அரசு துறை (பொதுப்பணித் துறை உட்பட) மின்சார பணிகளுக்கு பதிவு செய்து தகுதியுள்ள அனுபவம் வாய்ந்த ஒப்பந்ததாரர்கள் மட்டுமே பங்கேற்கலாம்.

வ. எண்.	வேலை விவரம்	ஒப்பந்தப் புள்ளி மதிப்புத் தொகை ரூ.	பணி முன் முடிக்க வேண்டிய காலம்	முன் வைப்புத் தொகை ரூ.	ஒப்பந்த புள்ளி படிவம் விலை வரிகள் உட்பட.
1.	அருள்மிகு கபாலீசுவரர் திருக்கோயிலுக்குச் சொந்தமான எண். 45, நடுத்தெரு, சென்னை – 4ல் திருக்கோயில் அர்ச்சகர்கள் மற்றும் பணியாளர்ருக்கு அடுக்குமாடி குடியிருப்பு கட்டும் பணி.	3,08.50,269/-	11 மாதம்	1,65,000/-	16,800/-
2.	அருள்மிகு கபாலீசுவரர் திருக்கோயிலுக்குச் சொந்தமான சர்வே எண். 3228, மயிலாப்பூர், மத்தள நாராயணன் தெரு, கதவு எண்.22ல் நிர்வாக அலுவலர் குடியிருப்பு கட்டும் பணி.	35,02,472/-	6 மாதம்	28,000/-	1,080/-
3.	அருள்மிகு கபாலீசுவரர் திருக்கோயிலுக்குச் சொந்தமான எண்.45, நடுத்தெரு, சென்னை – 4ல் திருக்கோயில் அர்ச்சகர்கள் மற்றும் பணியாளர்களுக்கு அடுக்குமாடி குடியிருப்பில் மின்சாரப் பணி.	32,74,013/-	11 மாதம்	26,500/-	1,080/-

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி ஆவணங்களை பெற இத்திருக்கோயில் அலுவலகத்தில் 07.03.2022 முதல் 07.04.2022 தேதி வரை விலைத்தொகை செலுத்தியும் அல்லது **www.tntenders.gov.in. www.hrce.tn.gov.in** என்ற இணையதளத்திலிருந்து இலவசமாக பதிவிறக்கமும் செய்து கொள்ளலாம். உறையில் மூடி முத்திரையிடப்பட்ட ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் 08.04.2022 பிற்பகல் 3.00 மணிக்குள் திருக்கோயில் அலுவலகத்தில் உள்ள டெண்டர் பெட்டியில் சேர்க்க வேண்டும். வரப்பெற்ற ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகளை அன்றே 4.00 மணியளவில் ஒப்பந்ததாரர்கள் மற்றும் அலுவலர்கள் முன்னிலையில் திறந்து பதிவு செய்யப்படும்.

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி நிபந்தனைகள் மற்றும் விவரங்கள் திருக்கோயில் அலுவலகத்தில். அலுவலக நேரத்தில் தெரிந்துக்கொள்ளலாம்.

பி. விஜயகுமார் ரெட்டி, தக்கார்.
த.காவேரி, எம்.எல் இணை ஆணையர்/செயல் அலுவலர்

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

செ.ம.தொ.இ/1022/ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி/2022

Tel-0663-2548268; E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR.

e-Procurement No.430 / Dated:02.03.2022

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf **Odisha State Rural Roads Agency** invites **Percentage (%)** bids through e_ Procurement from eligible class of experienced bidders for construction of roads and CD works including maintenance for 5 years of rural roads under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana PMGSY-III, Batch-I.**

1	Name of work.	:	Construction of road and CD works including five year maintenance under PMGSY-III, Batch-I Package no.OR-08-119
2	Class of Contractor.	:	**"A"** and **"Special"** Class
3	No of packages.	:	1 No of Package
4	Estimated cost	:	**Approx. 312.20 Lakh** (Information in DTCN will be Final)
5	Bid submission fee	:	Rs.10,000/-(Non-Refundable) per set of package
6	Mode of submission of tender	:	Only through online in website **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**
7	**Summary of key dates are provided below:**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Last Date and time of submission of Original documents	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of tender Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	**PMGSY-Online-RWCSBP-47/2021-22**	**08/03/2022 From 11.00.A.M.**	**22/03/2022 Up to 5.00 P.M.**	**17/03/2022 Up to 5.00.P.M.**	**25/03/2022 By 5.00.PM**	**23/03/2022 At 11.00.A.M.**	**Will be intimated later**

* **Special conditions:** 1- EPF registration is mandatory before drawl of agreement. 2 - Rate quoted by the contractor shall be excluding GST. 3 - Original Bid Secutiry declaration form, Bid submission fee and original affidavits should be submitted at the O/o Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur or O/o Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer of Concern Rural Works Division.
* Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**
* Subsequent modification/corrigendum/Addendum if required shall be appeared in the website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.

O-1771: OIPR-25091/11/0062/2122

MARKET WATCH

	04-03-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,334	-1.40
US Dollar	76.17	-0.30
Gold	51,863	0.37
Brent oil	115.16	2.95

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	700.15	-6.55
Asian Paints	2738.15	-133.75
Axis Bank	715.00	-22.65
Bajaj Auto	3242.10	-55.00
Bajaj Finserv	15333.20	-370.90
Bajaj Finance	6537.90	-210.45
Bharti Airtel	653.70	-18.35
BPCL	348.35	1.95
Britannia Ind	3371.35	4.95
Cipla	931.20	-3.70
Coal India	181.00	-7.95
Divis Lab	4094.70	-65.75
Dr Reddys Lab	3828.65	109.80
Eicher Motors	2339.25	-70.25
Grasim Ind	1477.60	-26.00
HCL Tech	1138.45	-1.25
HDFC	2217.50	-55.50
HDFC Bank	1366.50	-4.50
HDFC Life	521.50	-10.25
Hero MotoCorp	2311.30	-106.10
Hindalco	583.80	-22.50
Hind Unilever	2019.50	-71.50
ICICI Bank	688.05	-10.25
IndusInd Bank	901.90	-10.35
Infosys	1723.30	2.45
Indian OilCorp	113.25	-1.40
ITC	225.50	6.10
JSW Steel	631.95	-22.75
Kotak Bank	1752.15	-40.10
L&T	1711.75	-40.55
M&M	732.30	-29.75
Maruti Suzuki	7247.30	-348.25
Nestle India Ltd.	17391.85	-44.65
NTPC	130.20	-1.90
ONGC	165.25	-5.05
PowerGrid Corp	215.05	-2.80
Reliance Ind	2325.55	-52.75
SBI Life	1057.35	-23.95
State Bank	461.95	-5.45
Shree Cement	22550.35	-276.70
Sun Pharma	829.65	8.75
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	669.95	-17.10
Tata Motors	417.25	-19.85
Tata Steel	1277.10	-26.20
TCS	3524.35	-20.05
Tech Mahindra	1453.60	26.95
Titan	2441.00	-133.25
UltraTech Cement	6050.30	69.60
UPL	713.75	0.00
Wipro	575.30	5.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.96	76.28
Euro	83.58	83.93
British Pound	101.13	101.56
Japanese Yen (100)	65.83	66.11
Chinese Yuan	12.02	12.08
Swiss Franc	82.70	83.06
Singapore Dollar	55.88	56.13
Canadian Dollar	59.67	59.95
Malaysian Ringitt	18.17	18.29
Australian Dollar	55.91	56.20

Source:Indian Bank

'Geopolitical events have added to challenges for central banks'

Financial markets have turned volatile amid heightened uncertainty: RBI's Das

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Financial markets the world over have turned extremely volatile as they have been left grappling with heightened uncertainty over the pace of future monetary policy normalisation, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

"Recent geopolitical developments have further aggravated the challenges and dilemmas for the central banks," Mr. Das said, without specifying the developments he was referring to.



Tough times: Central banks are in a bind; act aggressively to curb inflation and they risk starting a recession, says Das. ▪ AFP

'Complex challenges'

"The current global conditions, after about two years of living through the pandemic, are now posing complex challenges for central bank communication," he noted, delivering an address on Monetary Policy and Central Bank Communication at the National Defence College in New Delhi.

"A number of economies, including the major ones, are facing multi-decadal high inflation due to supply disruptions, tighter labour markets, fragility of the just in time inventory management and geopolitical disturbances," he added.

"Central banks are in a bind – if they act aggressively to contain inflation which may perhaps subside as normalcy returns, they run the risk of setting in recession; on the other hand, if they act too little and too late, they may be blamed for "falling behind the curve" and may have to do a lot of catching up later, which will be detrimental to growth," the RBI Governor observed.

Stating that communication was an extremely potent component of the toolkit of modern central banks, Mr. Das said it needed to be balanced and well-telegraphed to avoid unintended consequences.

Rupee slips on oil to 11-week low past 76/$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee on Friday slid below the 76-mark for the first time in 2022 and settled at an 11-week low as investors assessed the global economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict amid rising oil prices.

The rupee fell by 23 paise to 76.17 against the U.S. dollar, the lowest close since December 15. Persistent foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in domestic equities also weighed on the local currency, forex traders said.

The rupee weakened by 1.11% or 84 paise in the week, making it a second straight week of losses.

International crude oil prices shot above $120 a barrel for the first time in nine years on Thursday.

Conflict will worsen chip shortage: Moody's arm

'Neon, palladium supplies may be hit'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI



The Russia-Ukraine war could hit global supply chains that are already constrained due to the pandemic and the worst impact would be on the ongoing chip shortage because the warring nations control significant supplies of key raw materials used in semiconductors, Moody's Analytics warned in a report.

Russia controls about 44% of global palladium supplies and Ukraine produces 70% of the neon supply – two key raw materials that go into making chips.

The markets can expect the global chip shortage that began with the pandemic to worsen if the military conflict lingers on, the research firm said in the report released on Friday. Palladium and neon are two resources that are key to the production of semiconductors and these chips are necessary in the likes of automobiles, mobile phones and consumer electronics.

During the 2014-15 Russia-Ukraine war, neon prices climbed several times, indicating the significance of the material in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

'February services PMI signals muted growth'

Firms continue to shed jobs: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



Services sector activity in India picked up marginally in February on the back of better demand and the retreat of the pandemic, but the rate of expansion was the second-slowest since last July and was subdued by historical standards, a monthly survey showed.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index saw a moderate rise to 51.8 in February, from 51.5 in January.

"The upturn was attributed... to greater bookings, better demand conditions and the retreat of the pandemic. That said, the latest increase was subdued by historical standards, with some companies indicating that growth was dampened by competitive pressures, COVID-19 and higher prices," IHS Markit said.

"Inflationary pressures, input shortages and the local elections dampened growth," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

"There was also an uptick in business confidence, but firms continued to shed jobs," IHS Markit noted.

Steel prices rise as war hits supply chains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Domestic steel makers have raised the prices of hot-rolled coil (HRC) and TMT bars by up to ₹5,000 per tonne as supply chains are being impacted amid the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

According to industry sources, prices have been increased in the past few days and are expected to go up further in the coming weeks with the conflict intensifying. After the price revision, a tonne of HRC would cost about ₹66,000, while buyers would get TMT bars for about ₹65,000 per tonne.

An industry executive said the increase was of about 20% compared with the rates a few weeks ago.

FADA slashes automobile sales outlook to 'negative' citing war

It says Russia-Ukraine conflict may hit global supply chain

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Friday revised downwards its sales outlook for the Indian automobile sector from 'neutral' to 'negative' as the Russia-Ukraine conflict is expected to negatively impact the global automobile supply chain.

"With Omicron passing away without much impact and supplies showing signs of recovery, it looked as if the Indian auto industry was at the cusp of recovery until Russia invaded Ukraine," the industry body said.

FADA said that there were concerns over the shortage of semiconductors creating additional supply side issues for passenger vehicles.



"Till the time Russia-Ukraine conflict doesn't come to an end, FADA changes its outlook from 'neutral' to 'negative'," the automobile retailers group said.

Russia is one of the largest producers of rare-earth metals, especially palladium, a metal used for plating semiconductors, while Ukraine is one of the biggest producers and exporters of neon gas that is used in the manufacture of semiconductors.

According to FADA data, total retail vehicle sales fell 9.21% to about 13.74 lakh units last month from more than 15.13 lakh units in February 2021. The sales were down 20.7% compared with February 2020's sales of more than 17.32 lakh.

Passenger vehicle (PV) sales declined 7.84% to 2.38 lakh vehicles, while that of two-wheelers and tractors fell 10.7% to about 9.83 lakh units, and almost 19% to 50,304 units, respectively.

Commercial vehicle sales rose 7.41% to 63,797 units.

'Need ₹12 fuel price increase for break even'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices, which have been on a freeze for the past four months in view of assembly elections in five States, need to be raised by more than ₹12 per litre by March 16 for fuel retailers to break even, ICICI Securities said in a report.

Global crude oil prices shot above $120 a barrel for the first time in nine years on Thursday before retreating to $111 on Friday. With international oil prices – on which domestic fuel retails are directly benchmarked – spiking in the last two months, retailers "need a massive price hike of ₹15.1" after including margins for oil firms, the company said.

IN BRIEF



NSE begins hunt for MD, invites applications

NEW DELHI

The NSE, which is facing allegations of governance lapses, has started the hunt for a new MD and CEO as the five-year tenure of incumbent chief Vikram Limaye is ending in July. The exchange has invited applications from candidates having IPO (initial public offering) experience for the top post before March 25, according to a public notice issued on Friday. PTI

Hero MotoCorp unveils new brand 'Vida'

NEW DELHI

India's largest two-wheeler-maker Hero MotoCorp announced a brand-new identity 'Vida' for emerging mobility solutions, including upcoming EVs. It also announced a $100 million Global Sustainability Fund for establishing global partnerships, spearheaded by the BML Munjal University and Hero MotoCorp, with the objective of nurturing more than 10,000 entrepreneurs in ESG solutions, it said.

CIL's pithead coal stock may rise by end FY22

NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Friday said the current coal stock of 43 million tonnes (MT) at its pithead is likely to increase further by the end of the current financial year and this will help the company gear up for meeting the coal demand of summer which is on the advent. "The current coal stock of 43 MT at CIL's pitheads is expected to increase further by FY22-end," the state-owned company said. PTI

BMW rolls out locally made 1,00,000th car

CHENNAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group rolled out its 1,00,000th locally-made car. A BMW Individual 740Li M Sport Edition has received this special badge. "This is the result of the team's hard work and consistency which ensures every BMW or MINI car locally produced in Chennai is of the same international quality standards as any other BMW plant across the world," Thomas Dose, MD, said.

Motor third party premium set to rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Third-party motor insurance premium is likely to increase for various categories of vehicles from April 1 with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in a draft notification, mooting a moderate-to-sharp upward revision as well a reduction for some.

For private cars, depending on their engine capacity, the increase ranges from ₹7-195. For two-wheelers, the proposed increase varies from ₹58 to ₹481. A reduction of ₹38 has also been suggested for 75-150cc bikes (commute category). A discount of 15% has been proposed for electric vehicles, including private cars and passenger-carrying vehicles.

Data protection bill may hit FDI: industry bodies

Govt. reviewing concerns:Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Implementation of the proposed data protection bill, as recommended by a Parliamentary panel, will significantly degrade India's business environment and reduce foreign investment inflows, a dozen global industry bodies have said in a joint letter to the government.

The industry associations have sought wider consultations with stakeholders before the bill is introduced in Parliament.

The industry bodies represent thousands of companies and technology majors like Google and Dell.

The letter, dated March 1, addressed to Union Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, said the panel's report includes novel recommendations for the personal data protection bill which, if enacted, would create powerful disincentives for India's innovation ecosystem.

Non-personal data

The bodies have expressed concern on inclusion of non-personal data, restrictions on cross-border data transfers and data localisation obligations. They said mandates for firms to locally store data in India will degrade the privacy and cybersecurity protection.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday had said the government is going through the concerns that stakeholders have shared with the Ministry.

ISMA revises upwards sugar output estimate

'Mills set to produce 333 lakh tonnes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE



Sugar production this sugar season (October 2021-September 2022) is estimated at 333 lakh tonnes against 312 lakh tonnes in the previous season.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said between October 2021 and February 2022, as many as 516 mills crushed sugarcane, producing 252.87 lakh tonnes of sugar against 503 mills producing 234.83 lakh tonnes during the same period last season.

Production is higher than previous estimates in Maharashtra and Karnataka and the total production provisional estimate for the current season is 333 lakh tonnes after considering diversion of 34 lakh tonnes sugar equivalent for ethanol.

Further, almost 60 lakh tonnes of sugar were contracted for exports so far this season and 42 lakh tonnes shipped. Another 12 lakh tonnes are likely to be shipped this month and the season is expected to end with total exports of 75 lakh tonnes .

Total domestic consumption in 2021-2022 sugar season will also be higher than last year at 272 lakh tonnes.

Tea exports saw marginal dip in 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Tea exports during the 12 months of 2021 declined marginally to 195.5 million kg from 209.72 million kg seen in 2020, Tea Board data showed. The value of exports stayed almost flat at ₹5,246.89 crore, compared with ₹5,235.29 crore. The CIS block continued to be the largest importer of Indian tea at 44.57 million kg, a decline from the 51.63 million kg.

Among CIS nations, Russia was the largest buyer at 34.09 million kg. China's imports from India also slid to 5.76 million kg from 11.44 million kg.

According to tea industry sources, imports were lower mainly due to shortage of shipping containers and high ocean freight.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a man namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 25.02.2022 at Road Side Vide MLC No. 938/22 has Declared dead by Doctor during Treatment.** In this regard **DD No. 47-A U/s 174 Cr.PC dated 25.02.2022** has been lodged at Police Station, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi. The dead body could not be identified and has preserved in Hindu Rao Morturary for 72 Hours. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 42 Years, Height: 5'6", Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black & Black Beard & Mustchases, Wearing: Black & Orange Colour Sweater having Tag Puma.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi
DP/2037/N/2022 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23528060, 8750870125

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 02.03.2022 at 10:17 am at Ram Piyau, Kalkaji Mandir, New Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 34-A, dated 02.03.2022** has been lodged at Police Station, Kalkaji, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: Above 65 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Colour Shirt, Green Coat & Pajama/Lungi.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Kalkaji, New Delhi
DP/42/SE/2022 Ph.: 011-26430607, 8750870930

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Mayank

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Mayank (Deaf and Dumb), R/o:** Salam Balak Trust, Tis Hazari, Delhi, has been kidnapped/ missing since **08.09.2016**. from the area of P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 307/2016 U/s 363 IPC dated 08.09.2016** has been registered at P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi. The description of the kidnapped/ missing boy is as under: **Age:** 16 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Dark, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing**: Sky blue colour shirt, navi blue colour pant and sport shoes with blue laces. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/1981/N/2022

SHO
P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 23844632, 8750870129

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its Administrative Office at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the branch offices at **Door No.C-15, Acharya Niketan, Phase-I, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi -110091** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **08-11-2021** followed by Paper Publication dated **15-12-2021** calling upon the Borrowers **No.1) M/s. Gaurav Security Services(Regd.), at A61/C 13, Gali No.6, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi - 110092. No.2) Mr. Surender Kumar Sharma, S/o. Shri. Surat Ram Sharma, at 106, Balco Apartment, Plot No.58, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. No.3) Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma, at 106, Balco Apartment, Plot No.58, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. No.4) Mr. Gaurav Sharma, S/o. Surender Kumar Sharma, at 106, Balco Apartment, Plot No.58, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. No.5) M/s. Apex Security & Detective Services, at A 86 B, 1st Floor, Khasra No.251, School Block Chander, Vihar Mandawali, Delhi. No.6) M/s. Jai Ambey Buildmart Pvt. Ltd., at 106, Balco CGHS Ltd., 58, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. No.7) Mr. Neki Ram, S/o. Banwarilal, at No.144, Ward No.6, Bawani Khesa, Bhilwani, Hariyana** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.3,48,17,312/- (Rupees Three Crore Forty Eight Lakh Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred and Twelve only)** within 60 days from the date of the said notice with subsequent interest thereon from **25-10-2021** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **01st day of March 2022.**

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.3,60,21,499/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty Lakh Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Nine only)** and interest thereon from **11-02-2022** till the repayment of entire dues.

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

Note : 1) That our **355 - New Delhi - Mayur Vihar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR:501812080050674) dated **28-03-2019** requested by No.**2** of you for which Nos.**3 & 4** of you stood as Co-obligants and No.**6** of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.2,00,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11%** and the balance outstanding as on **10-02-2022** is **Rs.1,85,61,755/-.**

2) That our **355 - New Delhi - Mayur Vihar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (SECURED OD WITHOUTDP:512120020014483) dated **28-09-2017** requested by No.**5** of you represented by Nos.**2,4 & 7** of you as Partners for which No.**2, 4 & 7** of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos.**3,4,5 & 7** of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.3,00,00,000/-** at a ROI of **12%** and the balance outstanding as on **10-02-2022** is **Rs.3,63,56,940/-**

3) That our **355 - New Delhi - Mayur Vihar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE SCH:501812080076426) dated **31-10-2020** requested by No.**5** of you represented by Nos.**2,4 & 7** of you as Partners for which Nos.**2, 4 & 7** of you stood as Co-obligants and No.**3** of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.1,10,00,000/-** at a ROI of **9.25%** and the balance outstanding as on **10-02-2022** is **Rs.1,16,44,704/-.**

4) That our **355 - New Delhi - Mayur Vihar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR:501812080050673) dated **28-03-2019** requested by No.**5** of you represented by Nos.**2,4 & 7** of you as Partners for which Nos.**2, 4 & 7** of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos.**3 & 6** of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.1,98,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11%** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **14-10-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **10-02-2022** is **Rs.2,01,50,371/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **11-02-2022** till the date of realization.

5) That our **355 - New Delhi - Mayur Vihar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080079804) dated **03-07-2021** requested by No.**2** of you for which Nos.**3 & 4** of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos.**3 & 6** of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.45,00,000/-** at a ROI of **12%** and the balance outstanding as on **10-02-2022** is **Rs.48,81,602/-.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Property - 2 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)
Property Bearing No.S-402, admeasuring 200 Sq.Yds., out of Khasra No.258, situated in the Abadi of School Block, Shakarpur, in the area of Village Shakarpur khas, Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi -110092. Boundaries : North : 20 Ft. wide Gali, South : Road, East : Property No. S-403, West : Property No S-401.

Property - 4 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)
Property bearing Flat No.106, having Built-up Area 91.04 Sq.Mtrs., Ground Floor, Tower No.01, Balco Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. Boundaries : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Flat No.105, West : Park

Property - 5 : (Property Owned by M/s. Jai Ambey Buildmart Pvt. Ltd., Represented by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)
Built-up Property, bearing Property No.BB-7, & New No.B-276, Land Area measuring 78 Square Yards (i.e.) 65.20 Square Metres (Approximately), along with its whole of the structures whatsoever built therein, with the rights of construction upto the last storey, out of Khasra No.1240/832, situated in the Abadi of Gali No.03, Kumaon Square, West Vinod Nagar, in the Area of Village Mandawali, Fazalpur, Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi - 110092. Boundaries : North : Gali, South : Property of Others, East : Property of Others, West : Property of Others.

Property - 6 : (Property Owned by M/s. Jai Ambey Buildmart Pvt. Ltd., Represented by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)
Built-up Property, bearing Property No.425, Land measuring area 200 Square Yards, (i.e.) 167.2 Square Metres (Approximately), along with its whole of the structures whatsoever built therein, with rights to construction upto last storey, out of Khasra No.772, situated in the Abadi of Sarpancha Ka Bara, Mandawali, Fazalpur, in the Area of Village Mandawali Fazalpura, Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi - 110092 and bounded as under : North : Property of Others, South : Property of Others, East : Property of Others, West : Road/Gali.

Place: Delhi, Date: 01-03-2022 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

Shane Warne — cricket's transcendent King of Spin — passes away

Former Australian player found unresponsive in his villa in Thailand after suspected heart attack

1969 TO 2022

REUTERS

Australian cricketer Shane Warne, one of the finest leg-spin bowlers of all time whose talent and personality transcended the sport, has died aged 52, his family said on Friday.

Warne, who ended his spell-binding international playing career that stretched from 1992 to 2007 with a remarkable 708 Test wickets, died on Friday from a suspected heart attack in Koh Samui, Thailand, his family confirmed in a statement published by the *Telegraph* in Sydney.

"Shane was found unresponsive in his Villa and despite the best efforts of medical staff, he could not be revived," the statement read.

"The family requests privacy at this time and will provide further details in due course."

His death comes hours after another former Australian cricket great, wicketkeeper Rod Marsh died on Friday at the age of 74.

Current Australia batter David Warner wrote on Instagram: "Two legends of our game have left us too soon. I'm lost for words, and this is extremely sad. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Marsh and Warne family. I just can not believe it. #rip, you will both be missed."

Warne's last post on Twitter, 12 hours before his death was reported was a tribute to Marsh.

"Sad to hear the news that Rod Marsh has passed. He was a legend of our great game & an inspiration to so many young boys & girls. Rod cared deeply about cricket & gave so much-especially to Australia & England players. Sending lots & lots of love to Ros & the family."

After ending his Test career, Warne played in the IPL and other T20 competitions before retiring from all international cricket in 2013, but continued to be involved in the game as a broadcaster.



Ultimate showman: Warne had been adept at keeping the audience engaged. ▪ GETTY IMAGES



Wizard of Oz: Warne bamboozled the batters with his guile and mesmerised the fans with his artistry. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

SHANE WARNE'S CAREER IN NUMBERS

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Econ	SR	5WI/10WM
Tests	145	273	708	8/71	25.41	2.65	57.4	37/10
ODIs	194	191	293	5/33	25.73	4.25	36.3	1/0
IPL	55	54	57	4/21	25.39	7.27	20.95	0/0

A cruel blow to the sport's heart

The legend revolutionised the subtle art of spin

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

It turned out to be a Friday shrouded in despair. The day broke with news trickling in about legendary wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh's demise and as the skies darkened, his fellow Aussie and the sultan of spin Shane Warne followed him into the mists of time.

At 52, Warne had a massive legacy to rest upon and ahead of him were innumerable summers through which he could share his zest for cricket. Tragically, it was not to be and like Dean Jones, who passed away in 2020, Warne's heart gave up. Cricket lost a rock star, who practised the slow art of spin and added words like zooter to its vocabulary.



'Ball of the Century': Warne flummoxed Gatting with a beauty in the Old Trafford Test of 1993. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Deceptive beginning

As beginnings go, it was deceptive as hell. Warne emerged as a lad struggling to rein in Ravi Shastri while the latter scored a double century during the Sydney Test in 1992. Sachin Tendulkar struck a 148 too and Warne's first steps seemed consigned to the cobwebs of memory. But the irrepressible spinner had countless tricks as batters would soon learn.

It started with the 'Ball of the Century' to a flummoxed Mike Gatting at Manchester's Old Trafford in 1993. A willow-wielder, known to be adept at countering spin, was castled and 'Warne the legend' was born. He, along with Muttiah Muralitharan and Anil Kumble, gifted renaissance to spin. Finally when the wily practitioner hung his boots in 2007, he had 708 Test wickets besides 293 ODI scalps.

Warne had presence and the naughty words to back it up. He was a magician conjuring new tricks and all this was done with a classical air coated with the latest marketing tools. He would christen his new-found deliveries and would prise out wickets with a wicked charm. If the rival got the better of him, like Sachin Tendulkar often did, he would graciously acknowledge and applaud. In the hard-edged professional sporting world, Warne revealed a sense of the amateur. "I trust my head not laptops," he once said during an Indian Premier League (IPL) press conference.

Be it the Ashes or other significant contests, Warne was up for the battle. Named among *Wisden's* five cricketers of the last century, Warne sparkled in doughty Australian teams headlined by splendid batters and incisive fast bowlers. He lent them a mystical charm and turned out to be the buddy most hung out with. Later as captain and mentor for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, he continued to display his leadership skills and then he seamlessly moved into the commentary box, ever alive to the moment, eyes lighting up on seeing a fresh talent and always retaining his sense of wonder about the game he loved deeply.

His personal life provided fodder to tabloids, he was mixed up with bookies while sharing 'weather-information' and had also taken a banned diuretic pill. Warne was always in the news, on the field and off it. And on a wretched Friday, the news about his departure is a blow to cricket's heart. This is gut-wrenching and the sport is poorer.

A genre-defining rock star on the world stage



Memorable journey: Warne, chosen as one of the five *Wisden* Cricketers of the Century, had a stellar career. The leg-spin wizard led from the front for Australia time and time again. He captained Rajasthan Royals to the title in the IPL, and shared a good rapport with Brian Lara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble. ▪ FILE PHOTOS

TRIBUTES TO SHANE

- Unbelievable. I am shocked to the core. This can't be true... — VIV RICHARDS
- Terrible news! Shocking! — ANIL KUMBLE
- Shocked, stunned and miserable... will miss you, Warnie — SACHIN TENDULKAR
- No, can't believe you are no more. RIP, my hero — HARBHAJAN SINGH
- One of the greatest spinners, he made spin cool —VIRENDER SEHWAG
- A legend and one of the greatest ever to grace the game —V.V.S. LAXMAN
- I'm shocked and shattered. Simply can't believe I'm hearing this. Very sad day for our cricket community —WAQAR YOUNIS
- It's going to take a long time to get over this loss —SHOAIB AKHTAR
- Absolutely shocked and gutted... just can't believe it —KUMAR SANGAKKARA
- Very few can match attitude with raw talent. Warne made bowling look like magic —GAUTAM GAMBHIR
- He was always magical on the field —SURESH RAINA
- Life is so fickle and unpredictable. I cannot process the passing of this great of the sport. Greatest to turn the cricket ball —VIRAT KOHLI
- I'm truly lost for words, this is extremely sad. An absolute legend and champion of our game has left us —ROHIT SHARMA
- Find it hard to believe. Such a devastating loss for the cricket world —BABAR AZAM

Rod Marsh passes away at 74

He was in a hospital in induced coma in Adelaide

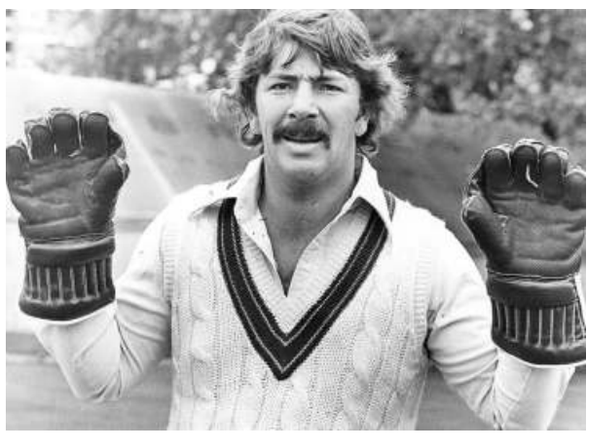
1947 TO 2022

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australian cricket great Rod Marsh, widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has died after suffering a heart attack at a charity event, his former teammates said on Friday.

The 74-year-old, who played 96 Tests and was later a long-time national selector, had been in an induced coma and passed away at a hospital in Adelaide.

Marsh made his debut in 1970 before retiring in 1984 with what was then a world-record 355 Test dismissals, many off the bowling of legendary paceman Dennis Lillee.



A giant: Rodney Marsh was a legend with the big gloves. ▪ FILE PHOTO

He was the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a Test century. After his playing career, Marsh remained closely linked to the game as head of the Australian Cricket Academy, helping nurture dozens of Test players including Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer, before becoming chairman of selectors.

Marsh is survived by wife Roslyn and sons Daniel, Paul and Jamie.

Rodney Marsh's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s	Ct/St
Tests	96	150	3633	132	26.51	3/16	343/12
ODIs	92	76	1225	66	20.08	0/4	120/4

'Marsh's death a great loss to the cricketing community'

Syed Kirmani recollects his association with the legendary wicketkeeper

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Syed Kirmani shared a special bond with Rod Marsh whom the world sadly lost on Friday.

Wicketkeepers are a closely knit tribe and Kirmani recalled his association with Marsh during India's tour of Australia in 1981.

Great admirer

Kirmani, arguably India's greatest wicketkeeper, told *The Hindu*, "I was a great admirer of Rod Marsh, his anticipation, reflexes, fitness and that ability to take gravity-defying catches."

Kirmani remembered, "We had a culture those days when the batting side would come to the dressing room of the fielding team after the day's play, a culture introduced by Bishan Bedi."

He continued, "I asked Rodney what I needed to do to have his great reflexes and fitness and he told me, 'Kiri you already have all these attributes.'"

Kirmani said, "Apart from his astonishing 'keeping, Marsh scored runs in crisis situations. He inspired and motivated the side. And guided the bowlers."

An emotional Kirimani said, "And he would just fly to take those catches. 'Caught Marsh bowled Lillee' became so common."

Class act

Kirmani said, "Marsh was aggressive without being arrogant. A class act."

The Indian stumper recalled an occasion in England at a party thrown by the ICC ahead of the 1983 World Cup. "All the major 'keepers were present. Marsh, Alan Knott, Bob Taylor, Wasim Bari, Jeff Dujon, Ian Smith and myself."

Kirmani said, "Gradually, the conversation shifted to who was the best among us. And Knott and Marsh said in unison, 'It's you Kiri because we don't keep wickets to B.S. Chandrasekhar, Bedi and Erapalli Prasanna."

> **Apart from his astonishing 'keeping, Marsh scored runs in crisis situations. He inspired and motivated the side. And guided the bowlers**

The ace Indian stumper said, "Marsh had so many great achievements. Yet he said this. He was a humble person."

And none was happier than Marsh when Kirmani, adjudged the 'Best 'Keeper' of the 1983 World Cup, won a glove and a ball, both in silver.

Kirmani said, "We got along so well. His death is a great loss to the cricketing community that appears to have neglected 'keeping with teams being without a wicketkeeping coach."

"On a personal front, it is a huge loss to me," Kirmani concluded.



Spectacular: Rodney Marsh attempts to run Graham Gooch out in a Prudential Trophy ODI at The Oval in August, 1980. ▪ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Pant special puts India on the ascendancy

The swashbuckling batter misses hundred; Vihari chips in with half-century while Kohli falls for 45

SL IN INDIA

N. SUDARSHAN
MOHALI

The free-flowing willow of Rishabh Pant put India on the ascendancy on day one of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the IS Bindra PCA Stadium here on Friday.

At multiple points during the day, India had looked like taking the upper hand, only for the contest to be reset through timely wickets from the visitors. But Pant's belligerent 97-ball 96 (9x4, 4x6) transformed the match situation, leaving the host at a healthy 357 for six on a wicket that took turn pretty early.

Going berserk

During the first half of his innings, Pant was busy without being overtly extravagant, bringing up his half-century off 73 balls. But immediately after, he went berserk, smashing left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya and offie Dhananjaya de Silva for 43 runs in just 13 balls, including three sixes and five fours.

It was reminiscent of the way Pant has in the past dominated spinners on pitches that offered help – by stepping out and hitting them for sixes. He had done that to Nathan Lyon in Australia, Englishman Jack Leach in India and Keshav Maharaj in South Africa.

The 24-year-old was daring enough to hit Embuldeniya for back-to-back sixes between long-on and deep mid-wicket despite Dimuth Karunaratne having stationed fielders at both positions. de Silva was carted straight down the ground for a six and two fours, the bottom hand coming off the bat nonchalantly.



Rollicking knock: Pant forced the Sri Lankan attack into submission with audacious strokeplay. ▪ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

Oft-criticised for playing one shot too many, and at inopportune times, Pant was finally dismissed for a shot he did not try to play. To an innocuous-looking Suranga Lakmal delivery, in the first over after the new ball was taken, Pant's bat came down lazily, a few fractions after the cherry had clipped the top of off-stump.

He looked distraught as he trudged back to the pavilion, but it wasn't before the sparse but energetic crowd had had their heart's fill and the 104-run sixth-wicket stand with Ravindra Jadeja (45 batting, 82b, 5x4) had deflated Sri Lanka.

Earlier in the morning, Rohit Sharma elected the bat. The two captains seemed to have read the pitch differently; India named three spinners, Jayant Yadav in addition to Jadeja and R. Ashwin, while Sri Lanka went in with three seamers (Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando).

The pacemen didn't exactly repay the trust, bowling erratic lines, especially Kumara, as Rohit (29, 28b, 6x4) and Mayank Agarwal (33, 49b, 5x4) stroked smoothly at more than five an over. But the skipper fell attempting a pull shot, holing out to fine-leg. Mayank played outside the line to a lovely arm-ball from Embuldeniya and was trapped leg-before.

Watchful knock

Hanuma Vihari, promoted to No. 3, played a typically watchful knock (58, 128b, 5x4), with his two driven boundaries to the cover fence standing out. Virat Kohli (45, 76b, 5x4) started with a beautiful straight drive and was brisk in his run-making as the duo put on 90 runs for the fourth wicket. But Embuldeniya foxed Kohli with a delivery that pitched on middle stump, beat the outside edge and crashed into the off-stump. The dismissal should have made Embuldeniya's day but Pant sent both his figures and Lanka's chances south.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Mayank Agarwal lbw b Embuldeniya 33 *(49b, 5x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Lakmal b Kumara 29 *(28b, 6x4)*, Hanuma Vihari b Fernando 58 *(128b, 5x4)*, Virat Kohli b Embuldeniya 45 *(76b, 5x4)*, Rishabh Pant b Lakmal 96 *(97b, 9x4, 4x6)*, Shreyas Iyer lbw b de Silva 27 *(48b, 3x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 45 *(82b, 5x4)*, R. Ashwin (batting) 10 *(11b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-5, nb-9): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 85 overs): 357.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-52 (Rohit, 9.5 overs), 2-80 (Mayank, 18.3), 3-170 (Kohli, 43.3), 4-175 (Vihari, 46.3), 5-228 (Shreyas, 61.1), 6-332 (Pant, 80.5).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Lakmal 16-1-63-1, Fernando 16-1-69-1, Kumara 10.5-1-52-1, Embuldeniya 28-2-107-2, de Silva 11-1-47-1, Asalanka 3.1-0-14-0

Toss: India

Felt nervous walking out: Kohli

'We are crazy about milestones, but I don't think like that'

N. SUDARSHAN
MOHALI

To watch Virat Kohli at his prime is to watch an embodiment of invincibility. But it's a truism that even the best feel skittish and nervous. Kohli admitted to the same feeling on the day he played his 100th Test.

"Rahul bhai actually asked me in the morning how I was feeling and I said 'I am feeling like I was making my debut', Kohli said, at the end of day one. "I had butterflies in my stomach. I didn't realise the magnitude of the event till things got closer to today. It was a moment which was very, very special and I did feel very nervous walking out."

The 33-year-old seemed to have managed them pretty well during his 104-minute stay at the crease that brought him 45 runs. The thought of him no longer being the captain but just a specialist batter didn't cross his mind, he said.

Responsible player

"Even before I became captain, it was exactly the same. It never changed and it never wavered and I have always been a responsible player and took responsibility even when I wasn't captain. Obviously, captaincy brings in lot more responsibility but the mindset was exactly the same and nothing changed."

But it was yet another innings from him in recent times that promised much but ended short. Kohli though was unperturbed.

"Obviously disappointed as I got a good start. I was batting well. The endeavour is always to play a big innings for the team. [But] as long as I am batting well, I am not bothered at all. People look at milestones and talk about a lot of things. But they are just conversations on the outside.

"I know for a fact that I have been involved in big partnerships for the team. If people are not getting to see me get those big scores, it's probably down to their own expectations.

Important partnership

"But even today, the partnership of 90 runs [with Hanuma Vihari] was important for us as we were two down for 80 odd. So as long as your focus is on the right things, these are just conversations on the outside.

They will continue to happen because we are somehow crazy about milestones and materialistic achievements. But I personally don't think like that. I am batting well and that's the most important thing for me."



Unperturbed: Kohli said he was disappointed that he let go of another good start, but insisted that he was not bothered at all. ▪ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

Proud moment



In elite club: Kohli receives the symbolic cap on his 100th Test appearance from Dravid who himself is its distinguished member. ▪ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

Axar, Shreyas and Siraj promoted in BCCI contracts list

Rahane, Ishant and Pujara slip from Grade A to B; Dhawan and Hardik demoted to C

AMOL KARHADKAR
AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer and Mohammed Siraj have been promoted while Ajinkya Rahane, Ishant Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Hardik Pandya are among the prominent cricketers to have been demoted in the list of Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI's) annual retainer for 2012-22.

The 28-member list of centrally contracted cricketers from October 2021 to September 2022 was ratified by the BCCI president, secretary and chairman of selectors at the apex council meeting on Wednesday. The list, accessed by *The Hindu*, has half the number of cricketers in Grade A (₹5 crore) from 10 to five. While three of the five demoted cricketers – Rahane, Pujara and Ishant – have been moved to Grade B (₹3 crore), Dhawan and Hardik were shifted from Grade A to Grade C (₹1 crore). Rahane, Pujara and Ishant have been dropped for the Test series versus Sri Lanka, and Dhawan has remained a single-format cricketer, perhaps the only ODI specialist in India.



Shreyas. ▪ PTI

- The list has half the number of cricketers in Grade A (₹5 crore) from the earlier 10 to five
- Suryakumar Yadav is the only new entrant to the list

Hardik, meanwhile, hasn't been considered for selection since India's disastrous T20 World Cup outing last year. From the list of 29 contracted cricketers for the previous year, Kuldeep Yadav and Navdeep Saini have been omitted for the ongoing cycle.

Suryakumar Yadav is the only entrant to the list. Shreyas, Axar and Siraj have been rewarded for their exploits across formats. There has been no change in the amount of retainer, with Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah continuing to be paid ₹7 in the top tier. The annual retainers' list is conventionally finalised by the BCCI president, secretary and chairman of selectors.

The grades:

Grade A+ (₹7 cr.): Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah; **Grade A (₹5 cr.):** K.L. Rahul, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Shami.

Grade B (₹3 cr.): Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ishant Sharma, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer, Mohammed Siraj.

Grade C (₹1 cr.): Shikhar Dhawan, Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Suryakumar Yadav, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Washington Sundar, Deepak Chahar, Yuzvendra Chahal.

New entrant: Suryakumar Yadav.

Omissions: Kuldeep Yadav, Navdeep Saini.

Promotions From C to B: Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer, Mohammed Siraj.

Demotions: From A to B: Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ishant Sharma; **From A to C:** Shikhar Dhawan, Hardik Pandya; **From B to C:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Mayank Agarwal, Wriddhiman Saha.

Donald is Bangladesh bowling coach

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Bangladesh on Friday named South African fast bowling great Allan Donald as the new pace bowling coach of the national side, the country's cricket board said.

"Allan will join us as bowling coach and will work with the national side until Twenty20 World Cup in Australia this year," the Bangladesh Cricket Board's cricket operation chief Jalal Yunus said.

Donald is replacing West Indies' Ottis Gibson.

Donald, 55, will join the Bangladesh side in South Africa during their tour in March-April. The team will reach South Africa on March 13 to play three ODIs and two Test matches.



Donald. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Ramkumar serves strong, takes out Sigsgaard with consummate ease

Yuki gets the better of Torpegaard as India jumps into the driving seat with a 2-0 lead to earn the opening day's honours

DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Ramkumar Ramanathan gave a robust start, and Yuki Bhambri built on it with a quality fight against Denmark No.1 Mikael Torpegaard, as the host jumped into the driving seat with a 2-0 lead in the Davis Cup World Group play-off tie on the grass courts of the Delhi Gymkhana Club on Friday.

With a near capacity crowd providing a vibrant atmosphere, and the surface playing as expected, it came down to execution of the plan, which was done in a commendable fashion by Ramkumar and Yuki, amidst all the buzz and contrasting performance of the opponents.

Solid serve

Ramkumar was so solid, especially with his serve, that he did not face a single breakpoint in the hour-long match, or give any chance for Sigsgaard.

"I had good feel on the serve", said Ramkumar, asserting that years of experience had helped him stay focused and play to potential when required.

Yuki was happy to subdue a talented opponent who was blowing hot and cold. After an initial exchange of breaks of serve, Yuki broke decisively in the ninth game and served out the first set, saving two break points. Into the second set, Yuki went up 4-0 when Torpegaard gave a glimpse of his big game, but it was too late to catch up.

"I was confident, and when he went for broke, I was able to raise my game", said Yuki, happy to have played well on grass, adapting to the demands of the situation, and grateful to Ramkumar for getting the 1-0 cushion.

While the Indian camp was toying with the idea of "going for the kill", with the recently successful pair of Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar playing the first doubles on Saturday, the Danish captain Frederik Nielsen emphasised that his team was "pretty far from being out".

Captain delighted

Captain Rohit Rajpal was delighted with the performance of the two boys, especially with the way Yuki closed out the match against the tricky Torpegaard.

Call on doubles pair

"The first set was tight for Yuki, but that is when his class came into play.

The 2-0 lead takes a lot of pressure off the team", said Rohit, emphasising that the team would take a final call on the doubles combination, even though he had instinctively responded on international television that Bopanna would pair with Divij Sharan as per the original nomination.

Denmark would look up to its captain Nielsen, 2012 Wimbledon doubles champion, to infuse some life into the contest.

The results:

India leads Denmark 2-0 (Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Christian Sigsgaard 6-3, 6-2; Yuki Bhambri bt Mikael Torpegaard 6-4, 6-4).





Good day in the office: Ramkumar did not face a single breakpoint in his match against Sigsgaard while Yuki was happy to subdue a talented opponent in Torpegaard. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

> I was confident, and when he went for broke, I was able to raise my game
>
> YUKI BHAMBRI

A real cracker of a Sprinters' Cup in the offing at Guindy

Stayers' Cup could see a replay of 2021 as Invitation Cup weekend is all set to get underway



Prep time: Horses participating in the Invitation Cup weekend races being put through their paces at the Guindy racecourse on Friday. ▪ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

RACING

CYRUS J. MADAN
CHENNAI

The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Sprinters' Cup will be the first of the Invitational Races scheduled to be run on Saturday (March 4).

The 7-year-old bay gelding Multifaceted could well become the seventh horse to win two Sprinters' Cups back to back. Winner of 12 races from 19 starts, he's unbeaten in his last five essays and has an outstanding chance.

Standing between him and history, will be Corfe Castle, who lost to the former narrowly the last time they met, in this very race in December, 2021. A month later he showed the ability and courage of a champion to win the Kakatiya Million. However Ashwa Bravo, the horse he beat by a neck, was conceding two kilos to him that afternoon. This time they meet on level terms and that definitely brings Ashwa Bravo into the reckoning.

And then, there could well be a riddle that needs to be answered in the form of a 5-year-old mare named Enigma. The Sprinters' Cup promises to be a real cracker, but for me it's the Darius Byramji-trained Multifaceted.

Later, as the sun begins to go down on the Guindy racecourse, 12 horses participating in the Farmfields Stayers Cup will be lining up to face the starter to compete in the 42nd running of a race to be decided over 3000m.

On paper, it seems to boil down to a veritable replay of the 2021 race which was run in Mumbai last December.

A mere neck was all that separated the B. Suresh-trained 6-year-old My Opinion from the Shroff trained 4-year-old Theon, who was just having the fifth start of his life. He has subsequently come out and waltzed away with the Indian St. Leger, in a smart timing.

My Opinion has won two of his last three starts (South India St. Leger and Stayers Trial Stakes in Chennai). Both seem to be at the top of their form, with My Opinion having the home advantage while Theon has age on his side.

Though it promises to be an engaging battle between the duo, there are ten others who will be pushing them, as they aren't there for a joyride around the Guindy track.

What the professionals say

SPRINTERS' CUP

Srinivas Reddy: Ashwa Bravo very close to Corfe Castle last time out. Better placed. He will run close.

L. D'Silva: Corfe Castle was unlucky in Mumbai. He is very well and will run a great race.

D. Byramji: Multifaceted is looking very well and has relished the rest he has had after his race last December. Has a great chance.

Pesi Shroff: Enigma has shown improvement and loved the weather in Bengaluru where she was stationed after her last win. Travelled well and will run well.

STAYERS' CUP

Vijay Singh: Cliffhanger relishes a trip and is well within himself. Must run a good race.

B. Suresh: My Opinion has done everything asked of him. He is very consistent and stays well. Will be right there.

Pesi Shroff: Theon, who has improved a lot and travelled very well, will run a big race.

Warren Singh: Speedster is in great heart and won her last race very well. Will go close.

Multifaceted for Sprinters' Cup

My Opinion looks well prepared to retain Stayers' Cup

H. KAMAL KHAN
CHENNAI

Multifaceted appeal most in the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Sprinters' Cup, while My Opinion looks well prepared to retain the Farmfields Stayers' Cup, the two plum events to be run here on Saturday (March 5).

THE INDIAN TURF INVITATION WEEKEND 2022

1 MYSORE RACE CLUB MILLION (1,200M), RATED 20 TO 45 — 1-30 p.m.

1	Magic Circle	(G. Srinivas)	P.S. Chouhan	1	62
2	Protea	(D.K. Futnani)	Dhanu Singh	4	62
3	Streek	(Fazal Ul Rehman)	Rajesh Kumar	13	61
4	Cartel	(Mandanna)	Mukesh Kumar	10	60.5
5	Flying Quest	(Md. Khan)	Ashhad Asbar	14	60.5
6	Devils Magic	(N.B. Devaney)	S. John	7	60
7	Shanaey	(B. Prithviraj)	Suraj Narredu	9	58
8	Classic Charm	(S. Ganapathy)	C.S. Jodha	15	57.5
9	Excellent Star	(P. Krishna)	M.S. Deora	3	56
10	Daddy's Girl	(S.M. Johnson)	K. Sai Kiran	8	55
11	John Connor	(Prasanna)	Antony Raj	11	55
12	Magellan	(Attaollahi)	P. Trevor	5	54
13	Innisbrook	(J.E. Mckeown)	C. Umesh	16	53.5
14	Amber Lightning	(R. Foley)	Nakhat	2	53
15	Prince Corporate	(Rakesh)	R.N. Dharshan	12	58
16	Maranello	(Mandanna)	Arshad Alam	6	52.5
17	Three Of A Kind	(G.S. Parmar)	P.K. Gaddam	17	51

STREEK: A good second to Alexander over 1,100m; working well. SHANAEY: Finished second in his last two starts at Bengaluru; in fine condition. **CLASSIC CHARM:** Despite being left at the gate, finished a good third to Golden Wing over 1,200m at Bengaluru; well tuned. **MAGELLAN:** A consistent runner; continues to shine in the morning trials. **PRINCE CORPORATE:** Justified the favouritism by winning a 1,400m easily at Mysuru (will now carry a sanctuary penalty of 5kg); may repeat.

1. CLASSIC CHARM | 2. PRINCE CORPORATE | 3. SHANAEY

2 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB MILLION (1,400M), RATED 20 TO 45 — 2.00 p.m.

1	Diamond And Pearls	(Sebastian)	Yash Narredu	10	60
2	Douglas	(S. Padmanabhan)	P. Trevor	9	59.5
3	Pinatubo	(Jasbir)	Hindu Singh	7	56.5
4	Queen Regnant	(Aravind G)	Neeraj	4	55.5
5	Angel Light	(A.S Jodha)	C.S. Jodha	2	53.5
6	Pedro Planet	(L. D'Silva)	C. Umesh	1	52.5
7	The Intimidator	(J.E Mckeown)	P. Vikram	3	52.5
8	Blast In Class	(Prasad Raju)	Akshay Kumar	5	52
9	Senora Bianca	(R. Ramanathan)	P. Sai Kumar	6	51
10	I Can	(S.M Johnson)	K. Sai Kiran	8	50

DIAMOND AND PEARLS: Has come down a class; may prove a different customer. **DOUGLAS:** Warming up late, finished a good second to Golden Wing in his last start over 1,200m; has improved since. **ANGEL LIGHT:** A close second to stablemate Heidmar over 1,200m in her last start; working impressively. **BLAST IN CLASS:** Has come on after his fourth to Farrell over 1,200m at Malakpet.

1. DIAMOND AND PEARLS | 2. BLAST IN CLASS | 3. DOUGLAS

3 HYDERABAD RACE CLUB MILLION (1,200M), RATED 40 TO 65 — 2-30 p.m.

1	Beethovan	(J. Sebastian)	A.M. Alam	13	61.5
2	Black Coffee	(Neil Darashah)	Antony Raj	11	60
3	Despacito	(J.E. Mckeown)	Shane Gray	4	60
4	Obsidian	(Prasanna)	S. John	9	59.5
5	Wakanda	(Mandanna)	C. Umesh	3	59.5
6	Unsung Hero	(M.F. Ali Khan)	—	—	58
7	Star Waves	(Fahad)	A. Imran Khan	6	58.5
8	Katahdin	(Saddam)	Ashhad Asbar	5	58
9	The Awakening	(M. Narredu)	Yash Narredu	7	58
10	Michigan Melody	(Azhar Ali)	Arshad Alam	12	57
11	Pacific	(Saddam)	Shahar Babu	14	56
12	Wild Frank	(Mandanna)	K. Mukesh Kumar	1	56
13	The Inheritor	(Sharat Kumar)	K. Sai Kiran	2	55
14	Golden Marina	(R. Ramanathan)	P. Sai Kumar	8	54
15	Smithsonian	(Aravind G)	C.S.Jodha	10	52.5

BLACK COFFEE: After winning three races in a row in the lower class, did not finish on the board in Lucky Chance's 1,400m at Bengaluru; working well. **DESPACITO:** A comfortable winner of his last start over 1,200m; retains form. **OBSIDIAN:** A failed favourite over 1,200m in his last start at Bengaluru; warrants another chance. **THE AWAKENING:** A gutsy winner of his last start over 1,400m at Mumbai; his latest spurt here was impressive. **THE INHERITOR:** A facile winner over 1,200m in the lower class at Bengaluru; maintains form.

1. THE AWAKENING | 2. THE INHERITOR | 3. DESPACITO

4 BANGALORE TURF CLUB MILLION (2000M), RATED 40 TO 45 — 3-00 p.m.

1	Ashwa Raudee	(Laxman Singh)	K. Mukesh Kumar	7	62.5
2	N R I Infinity	(Shashikanth)	B.R. Kumar	12	61
3	Princess Gloria	(A. Mangalorkar)	S. John	15	59.5
4	Arc De Triomphe	(A.S. Jodha)	P. Trevor	6	58.5
5	Avellino	(J.E. Mckeown)	P. Vikram	4	57.5
6	Wellington	(A.S. Jodha)	C.S. Jodha	1	57
7	Aries	(Karthick G)	Bhawani Singh	10	56.5
8	Royal Commander	(R. Foley)	Nakhat	11	55.5
9	Grey Channel	(M.R. Singh)	P.S. Chouhan	3	55
10	Prince Abir	(Attaollahi)	Akshay Kumar	2	55
11	Winmylove	(A. Mangalorkar)	P.S. Chouhan	1	55
12	Lord Frankel	(S. Padmanabhan)	Shane Gray	9	53.5
13	Aretha	(J.E. Mckeown)	C. Umesh	13	53
14	Easy Rider	(B. Cama)	Zervan	14	50
15	Painted Apache	(Deshmukh)	Arshad Alam	8	50

ASHWA RAUDEE: His last run is best ignored. **PRINCESS GLORIA:** Judiciously prepared. **ARC DE TRIOMPHE:** Won his last two starts impressively in the lower class; in fine trim. **WELLINGTON:** In line for a hat-trick. **PRINCE ABIR:** Carrying 60kg won a 1,800m easily in the lower class; retains form. **LORD FRANKEL:** A comfortable winner over 1,400m in the lower class at Bengaluru; well in at the weights.

1. LORD FRANKEL | 2. PRINCESS GLORIA | 3. PRINCE ABIR

5 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB MILLION (1,400M), RATED 80 & ABOVE — 3-30 p.m.

1	Victory Parade	(D. Netto)	Akshay Kumar	1	60
2	Electra	(Attaollahi)	Antony Raj	5	57.5
3	Emelda	(B. Suresh)	Bhawani Singh	10	56.5
4	His Eminence	(Ranjeet)	Dhanu Singh	2	56.5
5	Gods Plan	(R. Ramanathan)	P. Sai Kumar	12	55.5
6	Vachan	(Rakesh)	S. John	4	59.5
7	Sea Of Cortez	(Neil Darashah)	P. Trevor	3	54
8	Knight In Hooves	(Rajesh Narredu)	Yash Narredu	11	52.5
9	Glorious Destiny	(J. Sebastian)	S. Kamble	6	51.5
10	Premier Action	(L. D'Silva)	C. Umesh	7	51.5
11	Scramjet	(Prasad Raju)	C.S. Jodha	9	51.5
12	Pense'e	(J.E. Mckeown)	Neeraj	8	50

VICTORY PARADE: After leading in the straight beaten close home by Bellator over 1,400m in his last start; warrants another chance. **ELECTRA:** Deserves following on her consistency. **VACHAN:** A gutsy winner over 1,400m recently at Mysuru; will now carry a sanctuary penalty of 5kg. **KNIGHT IN HOOVES:** A hat-tricker; may extend his winning streak. **SCRAMJET:** Well in at the weights.

1. KNIGHT INN HOOVES | 2. VICTORY PARADE | 3. ELECTRA

6 ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA SPRINTERS' CUP (GR. I), (1,200M), 4-Y-O & OVER, (TERMS) — 4-15 p.m.

1	Ashwa Bravo	(M. Srinivas)	Suraj Narredu	1	59
2	Cavallo Veloce	(B. Suresh)	A. Imran Khan	2	59
3	Corfe Castle	(L. D'Silva)	David Egan	4	59
4	Iron Age	(I.A. Sait)	S. John	8	59
5	Joaquin	(Shazaan Shaw)	Neeraj	5	59
6	Leopard Rock	(D. Narredu)	Yash Narredu	9	59
7	Multifaceted	(Darius)	P. Trevor	3	59
8	Enigma	(P. Shroff)	P.S. Chouhan	6	57.5
9	Wakeful	(D.K. Futnani)	Dhanu Singh	7	57.5

ASHWA BRAVO: Gave Corfe Castle 2 kg and lost a neck in the Kakatiya Million. Now level weights. Has a great chance. CORFE **CASTLE:** Bounced back to win the Kakatiya Million by a neck, but has to improve further to overcome the 2 Kg difference he enjoyed last time. **MULTIFACETED:** Has not run after winning the Sprinters Cup last December; had a mock race in Bengaluru to sharpen him up. Has an outstanding chance. **ENIGMA:** Won the Dr. S.C. Jain Sprint Championship to show she has the credentials to be a live contender.

1. MULTIFACETED | 2. ASHWA BRAVO | 3. CORFE CASTLE

7 FARMFIELDS STAYERS' CUP (3,000M), 4-Y-O & OVER, (TERMS) — 4-15 p.m.

1	Angelino	(D.K. Futnani)	S. John	12	59
2	Automatic	(I. Ghatala)	A. Qureshi	4	59
3	Cliffhanger	(Vijay Singh)	C.S. Jodha	3	59
4	My Opinion	(B. Suresh)	Akshay Kumar	7	59
5	Pissarro	(Attaollahi)	P. Trevor	8	59
6	Redoutable	(Rutherford)	P. Ajeeth Kumar	9	59
7	Salazaar	(I. Ghatala)	C. Umesh	6	59
8	Theon	(P. Shroff)	P.S. Chouhan	1	59
9	Hioctane	(Rakesh)	Antony Raj	5	57.5
10	Speedster	(Warren Singh)	Suraj Narredu	11	57.5
11	Fire Power	(Deshmukh)	K. Mukesh Kumar	10	56.5
12	Faith Of Success	(Aravind G)	Neeraj	2	55

CLIFFHANGER: Ran a blinder over 2800m behind Parisian in Kolkata receiving 5Kg; Has shown great improvement. **MY OPINION:** Won his last two starts in Chennai; with an home advantage capable of retaining the Stayers' Cup. **THEON:** After losing narrowly in the last Stayers Cup in Mumbai, he has warmed up for this race with an easy victory in the Indian St. Leger. **SPEEDSTER:** Unbeaten in last two races, she won the Stayers' Trial Stakes in great style; stays well.

1. MY OPINION | 2. THEON | 3. SPEEDSTER

8 DELHI RACE CLUB MILLION (1,800M), RATED 20 TO 45 — 5-45 p.m.

1	Key To The Mint	(D.Todywalla)	P. Trevor	9	60
2	Proposed	(R. Ramanathan)	P. Sai Kumar	7	58
3	Like My Daddy	(S. Qureshi)	A. Qureshi	12	57
4	Top Dancer	(A. Mangalokar)	Antony Raj	5	57
5	Pink Jasmine	(Attaollahi)	Akshay Kumar	1	56.5
6	Illustrious Ruler	(R. Foley)	Nakhat	10	56
7	Masterpiece	(B. Suresh)	Bhawani Singh	2	56
8	Moresco	(J.E. Mckeown)	P. Vikram	6	56
9	Windstorm	(S. Narredu)	—	—	54
10	Gangster	(B. Cama)	Zervan	4	53
11	New Hustle	(Ravinder Singh)	B. Nikhil	3	53
12	Royal Thunder	(Prasanna)	Dhanu Singh	11	53
13	Tifanny	(S. Padmanabhan)	Neeraj	13	51.5
14	Love	(Rajesh Narredu)	Arshad Alam	8	50.5

KEY TO THE MINT: After winning a 2,000m in a gutsy manner in the lower class, finished third to Mandeville (2,400m) at Mumbai; in good condition. **TOP DANCER:** Won a 1,400m impressively on her debut at Bengaluru; may repeat. **PINK JASMINE:** A consistent runner; continues to shine in the trials. **GANGSTER:** First run; well prepared.

1. GANGSTER | 2. KEY TO THE MINT | 3. TOP DANCER

JKT: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; MINI JKT: 5, 6, 7 & 8; TR (I): 1, 2 & 3; (II): 4, 5 & 6; (iii): 6, 7 & 8.

Imam's maiden century drives Pakistan

Azhar chips in with unbeaten fifty as host takes day's honours

AUS IN PAKISTAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAWALPINDI

Opener Imam-ul-Haq hit a memorable first Test century on Friday and led Pakistan to a commanding 245 for one in its first home Test against Australia in 24 years.

The left-hander closed out the opening day of the first Test on 132 not out on a typically slow and grassless subcontinent wicket. Veteran Azhar Ali is also looking solid on 64 not out.

Australia might have missed a trick by opting to go with its three frontline fast bowlers who hardly troubled the batters. Australia even used its three part-time spinners – Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head and Steve Smith – without any reward. Imam and Azhar denied Australia any hope of a breakthrough with the new ball in the 10 overs before stumps and stretched their second-wicket partnership to 140.

Only success

Nathan Lyon (1/87), got the only success of the day for the visitors when he dismissed Abdullah Shafique for 44 just before lunch, but not before a 105-run opening wicket stand with Imam.

Azhar and Imam then frustrated Australia for the entire two sessions by piling up another century stand. Imam showed grit throughout the day against fast bowlers and spinners after Babar Azam elected to bat.

Australian players wore black armbands as a tribute to Rod Marsh who died on Friday at the age of 74.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan — 1st innings: Abdullah Shafique c Cummins b Lyon 44, Imam-ul-Haq (batting) 132, Azhar Ali (batting) 64; Extras (b-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for one wkts. in 90 overs): 245.

Fall of wicket: 1-105.

Australia bowling: Starc 16-4-43-0, Hazlewood 14-3-24-0, Lyon 31-4-87-1, Cummins 15-3-34-0, Head 3-0-13-0, Green 5-1-18-0.

Toss: Pakistan.

Manika bows out in quarterfinals

WTT

SPORTS BUREAU
OMAN (MUSCAT)

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Manav Thakkar and Archana Kamath lost to China's Chuqin Wang and Chen Xingtong 11-3, 11-3, 11-6 in the final of the WTT Contender Muscat here on Friday.

However, there was some good news for India as the unseeded women's pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee entered the summit clash. The duo defeated counterparts S. Selena Deepthi and Akula Sreeja 11-4, 11-6, 12-10 in the semifinals. Sutirtha-Ayhika will take on Rui Zhang and Kuai Man of China on Saturday.

Earlier, India's top woman paddler Manika Batra went down tamely 9-11, 4-11, 3-11 to Kuai Man of China, ranked 238 places below her at 287, in the women's singles quarterfinals.

The results: **Women**: **Singles (quarterfinals):** Kuai Man (Chn) bt Manika Batra 11-9, 11-4, 11-3.

Doubles (semifinals): Sutirtha Mukherjee & Ayhika Mukherjee bt S. Selena Deepthi & Akula Sreeja bt S. Selena Deepthi & Akula Sreeja 11-4, 11-6, 12-10.

Mixed doubles: **Final:** Chuqin Wang & Chen Xingtong (Chn) bt Manav Thakkar & Archana Kamath 11-3, 11-3, 11-6.

Semifinals: Manav & Archana bt Nandor Ecseki & Leila Imre (Hun) 11-9, 11-7, 11-5.

Matthews, Dottin sizzle as Windies pull off a thriller

Devine's century goes in vain for Kiwis

WOMEN'S WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Deandra Dottin complemented Hayley Matthews' whirlwind century with an immaculate last over as West Indies notched up a stunning three-run victory over the fancied New Zealand in the Women's ODI World Cup opener on Friday.

Hayley smashed a 128-ball 119 (16x4, 1x6) but the rest of the West Indies batters failed to convert their starts as the team set up a 260-run target after Sophie Devine opted to field. In reply, the 2000 champion rode on Devine's chancy 108 to overcome a shaky start but only to choke in the final over.

Needing six runs in the final over, New Zealand lost three wickets in four balls to get all out for 256 in 49.5 overs with pace bowling all-rounder Dottin returning with figures of 0.5-0-2-2.

Having survived some anxious moments, Devine completed her sixth ODI century but could not take her team over the line.

The scores: West Indies 259/9 in 50 overs (Hayley Matthews 119, Stafanie Taylor 30, Chedean Nation 36, Lea Tahuhu 3/57, Jess Kerr 2/43) bt New Zealand 256 in 49.5 overs (Sophie Devine 108, Amy Satterthwaite 31, Katey Martin 44, Jess Kerr 25, Hayley Matthews 2/41, Anisa Mohammed 2/60, Deandra Dottin 2/2). **Toss:** NZ. **Player-of-the-Match:** Hayley Matthews. *WI won by 3 runs.*



Final nail: West Indies' Deandra Dottin runs out Fran Jonas of New Zealand to clinch a victory. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

Jamshedpur climbs to the top

Beats Odisha, seals League Winners' Shield with a 5-1 win

ISL 2021-22

SPORTS BUREAU

Jamshedpur FC moved top of the league table with 40 points after a thumping 5-1 win against Odisha FC. It needs just a point from its final game to seal the League Winners' Shield.

Jamshedpur scored its first goal in the 23rd minute off a free kick. Greg Stewart took a direct shot at goal from approximately 35 yards.

Kamaljit Singh got a glove and deflected the ball, which struck the crossbar and bounced back into play. Daniel Chima Chukwu was there to head the rebound home.

Chukwu got his brace three minutes later. He pressed Paul Ramfangzauva to snatch the ball off him near Odisha's penalty area, carried it inside the box, and slotted the ball in the bottom-right corner.

Sloppy

It seemed like Jamshedpur would go into the break with a clean sheet, but some sloppy goalkeeping by T.P. Rehenesh allowed Ramfangzauva to pull a goal back in the 45th minute.

He took a shot at goal from outside the box, and Rehenesh failed to hold on to the ball, spilling it inside the net.

Jamshedpur continued the onslaught in the second half.

In the 54th minute, Ritwik Das controlled a well-measured aerial through ball from Stewart and averted the attention of his marker to stroke the ball home in the bottom-right corner. This was Stewart's ninth assist of the season.

Substitute Jordan Murray joined the party in the 71st minute, scoring from a first-time shot after Stewart had cut back from the right flank to find him.

There was a protest by the Odisha players as they felt that Len Doungel had fouled Sahil Panwar before Murray's goal. Jonathas, too enthusiastic with his show of dissent to the fourth official, was sent off after seeing a second yellow card.

Making no mistake

Jamshedpur's fifth came in the 87th minute. Laldinliana Renthlei sent an accurate low cross into the box from the right flank, which found Ishan Pandita, who made no mistake in blasting the ball inside the net.

The result:

Jamshedpur FC 5 (Chukwu 23 & 26, Ritwik 54, Murray 71, Pandita 87) bt Odisha FC 1 (Paul 45).



Double delight: Chukwu netted a brace for JFC against OFC. ▪ FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

TV PICKS

Women's World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. & Star Sports 3, 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Davis Cup: India vs Denmark, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.45 a.m. onwards
Pakistan vs Australia: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 p.m., 8.30 p.m. & 11 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. & 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Donic delights as Dallas beats Warriots again

DALLAS

Luka Doncic exploded for a game-high 41 points as host Dallas beat Golden State 122-113.

The results: Atlanta 130 bt Chicago 124; Boston 120 bt Memphis 107; Miami 113 bt Brooklyn 107; Detroit 108 bt Toronto 106; Dallas 122 bt Golden State 113; Sacramento 115 bt San Antonio 112; LA Clippers 132 bt LA Lakers 111. REUTERS



Murray reunites with former coach Lendl

LONDON

Andy Murray has appointed Ivan Lendl as his coach for a third time, reuniting with the man who guided him to all three of his Grand Slam titles. The former world number one, who has been searching for a coach since splitting from Jamie Delgado in December, first began working with the eight-time Grand Slam champion in 2012. AFP



Barty withdraws from Indian Wells, Miami Open

MELBOURNE

Women's World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty pulled out of the forthcoming WTA hardcourt tournaments at BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells and Miami Open in which she is a two-time champion. In a statement released by the WTA website, Barty said she took the decision due to health seatbacks and hoped to make a comeback in the Billie Jean King Cup qualifying event on April 15 to represent her country Australia. ANI

Siddharth, Shahrukh help TN take handy lead

Utkarsh and Tiwary come up with half-centuries, but Jharkhand falls short by 59 runs in the first innings

RANJI TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
GUWAHATI

Spinners M. Siddharth (4/37) and M. Shahrukh Khan (3/36) bowled Tamil Nadu into a strong position and helped secure a handy first-innings lead of 59 runs against Jharkhand on day two of the final Ranji Trophy league match here at the Nehru Stadium on Friday. Resuming the day on 256 for seven, TN was bowled out for 285 after Jharkhand left-arm pacer Sushant Mishra quickly took the last three wickets with a fiery and accurate spell.



Spinning a web: Shahrukh's three wickets complemented Siddharth's haul of four as TN won the first innings race. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Strong start

In reply, Jharkhand started strongly with opener Utkarsh Singh (52) getting his side off to a good start and taking the team to lunch at 80 for two in just 23 overs.

The left-handed batter went after the TN quicks Sandeep Warrier and M. Mohammed, slamming five boundaries against them.

Utkarsh was supported by skipper Saurabh Tiwary (58), who too was aggressive and started his innings with a six and four against Sai Kishore as they added 73-runs for the third wicket. Utkarsh was the first to get to his fifty with two fours in an over against Aparajith before he was caught behind off Warrier.

Tiwary, who had raced to 45 off 53 balls, was made to wait for his half-century which he got to by stepping down and hitting Mohammed through covers. He was then dismissed by part-time off-spinner Shahrukh as Jharkhand went from 133 for two to 179 for five at tea.

Delhi knocked out

Meanwhile, Amandeep Khare's brilliant unbeaten 156 (318b, 18x4, 1x6) and Shashank Singh's 122 (177b, 16x4, 2x6) powered Chhattisgarh to a mammoth first innings total of 482 for nine declared against Delhi on the second day of their Ranji Trophy match at the ACA Stadium.

Delhi, which has been knocked out of the competition, ended the day on 103 for three. Chhattisgarh has given itself the best chance to qualify for the knockouts as it now can press for an outright win over the next two days. In case, there is an outright result in the match between TN and Jharkhand, as it seems likely, Chhattisgarh will need to beat Delhi to qualify.

The scores: Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: M. Kaushik Gandhi b Shukla 10, L. Suryapprakash c Nazim b Shukla 1, B. Aparajith b Shukla 6, B. Indrajith st (sub) b Nadeem 100, Vijay Shankar lbw b Ashish 11, R. Sai Kishore c Tiwary b Anukul 81, M. Shahrukh Khan c Tiwary b Anukul 20, N. Jagadeesan c Kushagra b Sushant 19, M Mohammed b Sushant 7, M. Siddharth b Sushant 8, Sandeep Warrier (not out) 4; Extras (b-9, lb-6, w-3): 18; Total (in 80.2 overs): 285.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-16, 3-21, 4-32, 5-203, 6-235, 7-244, 8-264, 9-272.

Jharkhand bowling: Ashish 12-4-30-1, Shukla 14-2-57-3, Nadeem 23-2-83-1, Sushant 10.2-1-39-3, Utkarsh 7-1-18-0, Anukul 14-4-43-2.

Jharkhand — 1st innings: Utkarsh Singh c Jagadeesan b Warrier 52, Mohammed Nazim c Vijay Shankar b Warrier 17, Kumar Kushagra c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 14, Saurabh Tiwary c Indrajith b Sharukh 58, Virat Singh c Suryapprakash b Siddharth 17, Kumar Suraj lbw b Shahrukh 19, Anukul Roy lbw b Shahrukh 17, Shahbaz Nadeem lbw b Siddharth 1, Sushant Mishra c Sai Kishore b Siddharth 4, Ashish Kumar not out 8, Rahul Shukla lbw b Siddharth 5; Extras (b-11, lb-1, nb-2): 14; Total (in 74.3 overs): 226.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-58, 3-131,4-165, 5-177, 6-199, 7-200, 8-204, 9-208.

Tamil Nadu bowling: Warrier 11-5-28-2, Siddharth 16.3-3-37-4, Sai Kishore 11-2-38-1, Mohammed 8-1-23-0, Aparajith 6-1-32-0, Kaushik 10-2-20-0, Shahrukh 12-3-36-3.

Tamil Nadu — 2nd innings: Kaushik Gandhi c Kushagra b Shukla 1, Suryapprakash c & b Shukla 2, Aparajith batting 7, Sai Kishore (batting) 2; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for two wkts. in 10 overs): 15.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-12

Jharkhand bowling: Shukla 4-1-4-2, Ashish 2-0-9-0, Nadeem 3-2-1-0, Anukul 1-1-0-0.

Yakshika, Vidhi enter medal rounds

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian boxers Yakshika (52kg) and Vidhi (57kg) entered the junior girls' semi-finals with comprehensive victories at the Asian Youth & Junior boxing championships in Amman, Jordan, on Friday.

While Yakshika outperformed Nepal's Swostika Tiruwa, Vidhi blanked Uzbekistan's Odinakhon Ismoilova.

Assured of bronze

Assured of at least bronze medals, Yakshika and Vidhi will now take on Kazakhstan's Shakhnaz Tairzhan and Hangoma Isoeva of Tajikistan respectively in their semi-finals on Tuesday.

However, it was curtains for Tamanna, who gave her all during an intense junior girls' 66kg last-eight contest against Kazakhstan's Aruzhan Zhangabayeva but ended up losing 1-4.

In the youth men's bout, last edition's silver medallist Vanshaj entered the 63.5kg quarterfinals with an easy unanimous win against local boy Abdallah Almharat.

RANJI TROPHY, ROUND 3, DAY 2

Elite: Group A (Rajkot): Gujarat 555/8 decl. in 141.4 overs (Saurav Chauhan 51, Bhargav Merai 223, Het Patel 154, Umang Kumar 47, Chirag Khurana 5/151) vs Meghalaya 99/6 in 30 overs (Punit Bisht 54 batting).

Madhya Pradesh 474/5 in 180 overs (Yash Dubey 224 batting, Rajat Patidar 142, Akshat Raghuwanshi 50) vs Kerala.

Group B: At Cuttack: Bengal 437 in 115.3 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 114, Anustup Majumdar 95, Manoj Tiwary 53, Sayan Mondal 97 n.o., Jagjit Singh 5/87) vs Chandigarh 133/6 in 52 overs.

At Bhubaneswar: Hyderabad 197 & 169/6 in 59 overs (Rohit Rayudu 49 batting, Chandan Sahani 54) vs Baroda 163 in 47 overs (B. Punnaiah 4/35, Ravi Teja 4/50).

Group C (Chennai): Karnataka 453/8 decl. in 132.2 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 178, K.V. Siddharth 85, Manish Pandey 107 n.o., Ashith Rajiv 4/80) vs Pondicherry 52/2 in 18 overs.

Jammu & Kashmir 259 vs Railways 297/8 in 91 overs (Pratham Singh 75, Shivam Chaudhary 47, Abid Mushtaq 5/72).

Group D (Ahmedabad): Saurashtra 347 in 87.4 overs (Chirag Jani 140, Sheldon Jackson 97) vs Goa 239/4 in 85 overs (Amogh Sunil Desai 47, Suyash Prabhudessai 64, Shubham Ranjane 59 batting, Eknath Kerkar 52 batting).

Odisha 284 in 107.1 overs (Shantanu Mishra 89) vs Mumbai 259/3 in 70 overs (Prithvi Shaw 53, Armaan Jaffer 77 batting, Sarfaraz Khan 107 batting).

Group E (Thiruvananthapuram): Uttarakhand 194 & 36/2 in 12 overs vs Andhra 226 in 85 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 45, Shaik Rasheed 56, Deepak Dhapola 4/80).

Rajasthan 92 & 23/0 in 14 overs vs Services 301 in 113.2 overs (Ravi Chauhan 47, Shamsher Yadav 60, Rajat Paliwal 91, Manav Suthar 4/82).

Group F (New Delhi): Tripura 127 & 232 in 65.5 overs (Subham Ghosh 55, Manisankar Murasingh 85, Arshdeep Singh 5/33) vs Punjab 120 in 37.4 overs (Manisankar Murasingh 6/48).

Haryana 302 in 106.5 overs (Himanshu Rana 129, Nishant Sindhu 73, Sidharth Sharma 4/57) & 61/0 in 21 overs vs Himachal Pradesh 184 in 45.5 overs (Amit Kumar 56, Akash Vasisht 40, Amit Rana 5/58).

Group G: At Lahli: Assam 316 in 92.1 overs (Rishav Das 44, Riyan Parag 48, Swarupam Purkayastha 113, Rajneesh Gurbani 5/77) vs Vidarbha 266/9 in 82 overs (Faiz Fazal 86, Atharva Taide 42, Riyan Parag 5/68).

At Sultanpur: Maharashtra 462 in 147.1 overs (Rahul Tripathi 56, Ankit Bawne 140, Naushad Shaikh 53, Azim Kazi 113) vs Uttar Pradesh 62/1 in 32 overs.

Group H (Guwahati): Chhattisgarh 482/9 decl. in 145 overs (Sanidhya Hurkat 44, Ajay Mandal 63, Amandeep Khare 156 n.o., Shashank Singh 122, Vikas Mishra 6/124) vs Delhi 108/3 in 30 overs.

Tamil Nadu 285 in 80.2 overs (B. Indrajith 100, R. Sai Kishore 81) & 15/2 in 10 overs vs Jharkhand 226 in 74.3 overs (Utkarsh Singh 52, Saurabh Tiwary 58, M. Siddharth 4/37).

Plate (Kolkata): Arunachal Pradesh 196 & 210/7 in 78.3 overs (Teshi Tiku 47, Rajesh Bishnoi 70 batting, Ashutosh Aman 4/47) vs Bihar 109 in 36.3 overs (Nabam Abo 6/32).

Nagaland 509 in 137.3 overs (Yugandhar Singh 49, Shrikant Mundhe 123, Hokaito Zhimomi 71, Chetan Bist 119, Nagaho Chishi 76) vs Mizoram 95 in 33.1 overs (Raja Swarnkar 5/17).

Sikkim 462 in 113.3 overs (Liyan Khan 179, Palzor Tamang 43, Ankur Malik 126 n.o., Bishworjit Konthoujam 4/96) vs Manipur 238/7 in 64 overs (Nitesh Sedai 62, Rex Rajkumar 62, Kangabam Singh 40 batting, Tarun Sharma 4/39).

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Easy win for Sehgal Club

Man-of-the-match Sultan Ansari scored an unbeaten 25-ball 66 and Abhishek Sharma made 68 while Sumit Mathur and Ankur Malik picked up three wickets each as Sehgal CC beat Life Care by 116 runs in the 1st All India Unique Sports tournament.

The scores:
SCC 267/6 in 35 overs (Abhishek Sharma 68, Sultan Ansari 66 n.o.) bt Life Care 151 in 28 overs (Siddharth Yadav 55, Parth Patel 34, Sumit Mathur 3/5, Ankur Malik 3/35).

Sapience Club lifts PCL Premium title

Pardeep Parashar and Yashjeet picked up three wickets each as Sapience CC beat Sandhu XI from Ludhiana by 79 runs to lift the 5th All India PCL T20 Premium tournament and win a purse of ₹1,51,000. Bharat Sharma was named best batsman, Pardeep Parashar best bowler and Nehal Pajni man-of-the-series of the tournament.

The scores: Sapience Club 194/5 in 20 overs (Dheeru Singh 69, Lakhan Bharti 53, Manish Sheoran 2/46) bt Sandhu XI 115 in 18 overs (Nipun Sharda 36, Pardeep PArashar 3/19, Yashjeet 3/15, Nehal Pajni 2/27).

Sporting claims Sandeep Singh memorial title

Yogesh Kumar Chako scored crucial 37 runs and took two wickets while Pramod Chandela and Shivam Singh made half centuries as Sporting Club beat Haryana CA by 21 runs to lift the All India Sandeep Singh memorial T20 tournament. Chako was also named man-of-the-series.

The scores:
Sporting Club 187/6 in 20 overs (Pramod Chandela 56, Shivam Singh 50, Yogesh Kumar Chako 37, Sangeet 2/34, Raunak Dabas 2/27) bt HCA 166/6 in 20 overs (Vivek Yadav 87, Jayant Lakhlan 52, Manish Sehrawat 2/19, Yogesh Kumar Chako 2/49).

Sanju leads Youngsters win

Sanju top-scored with 60 runs and Rishi Kakaria added 45 as Youngsters XI beat West Delhi Academy by 25 runs in the CS Rajput memorial tournament.

The scores:
Youngsters XI 207 in 36 overs (Sanju 60, Rishi Kakaria 45, Sushant 5/31) bt WDA 182 in 39 overs (Amar Faizal 42, Rahul Rai 3/35).

Aarav and Kridhey shine

A half-century by Aarav Chauhan and three wickets by Kridhey Berry saw Airliner Academy beat GRM Academy by 73 runs in the Friendship Cup.

The scores:
Airliner Academy 201/6 in 30 overs (Aarav Chauhan 54) bt GRMA 128 in 24 overs (Harsh Tripathi 35, Kridhey Berry 3/45).

Winter Paralympics open



Colourful start: The Olympic cauldron is lit during the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics on Friday. The Games opened here with the Russian athletes sent home and the Ukrainian team escaping a war zone to get to China. A Ukrainian team member in a wheelchair carried the country's now widely known blue and yellow flag at the head of a 20-person delegation entering the Bird's Nest. ▪ GETTY IMAGES





I'm coming levels down to take this fight. I've fought the best around the world. I've conquered America. I'm coming levels down because people want to see this fight

AMIR KHAN BEFORE THE BOUT

Amir is a deluded man. He believes the yes men behind him, and he's living in cloud cuckoo land. He's never respected me, never acknowledged me as a great fighter. But I've always acknowledged him — he's done great in his career, and I've never dissed him in any way

KELL BROOK BEFORE THE BOUT

How Amir Khan and Kell Brook's legacies stack up after feud-ending bout

Khan — Olympic silver medallist and multiple-time world champion — took bigger risks, enjoying stardom and wealth. Brook — long criticised for taking easy fights — won world titles, too, but perhaps more significantly claimed bragging rights against his bitter rival

ASHWIN ACHAL

When the referee stepped in to save a battered Amir Khan from yet another barrage from Kell Brook in the sixth round, it brought an end to a storied rivalry that had been simmering for nearly two decades. Brook emerged the clear winner in the deeply personal, much anticipated grudge match between two popular British boxers.

The bout, held in front of a sell-out 21,000-capacity crowd at the AO Arena in Manchester, may have been a non-title fight, but it was not short on significance. The two boxers had been on a collision course since their days as amateurs, but circumstances had stopped them from facing each other in the ring.

Time running out

So much so that there was a serious possibility of the fight never happening. Brook and Khan, both 35, were at the end of their careers; time was running out.

Their rivalry began when Khan was picked ahead of Brook to represent Great Britain in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Khan won the silver medal in the lightweight category at the Games, and became an overnight sensation. He quickly turned professional, and enjoyed tremendous stardom and wealth with his boyish charm and quick punching hands.

Brook, on the other hand, took a more laboured approach to success. He started his professional career with wins over journeymen boxers, before winning his maiden title — the British welterweight crown — four years after his debut.

Fight choices

Brook did collect a few world titles later, but his resume lacked big-name fights. A resilient, talented fighter, Brook was long criticised for taking easy fights and not challenging himself against the best in the business. The few times that he did take the plunge — against the likes of Gennady Golovkin, Errol Spence Jr. and Terence Crawford — he tasted defeat.

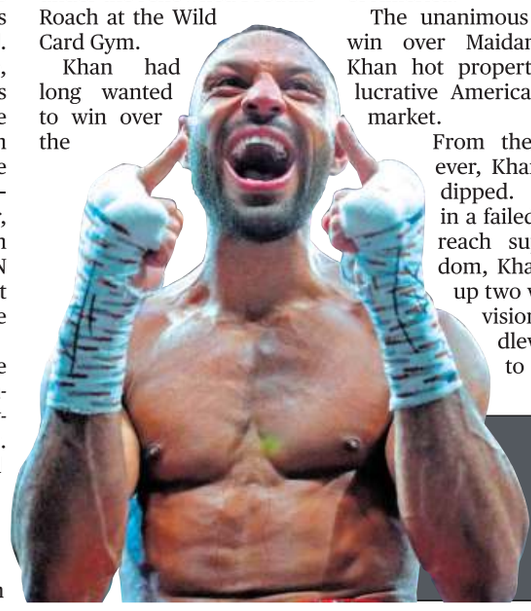
To Brook's credit, he did constantly push for a fight with Khan. The fans wanted it, and for Brook, it was a chance to prove the doubters wrong.

Brook was also deeply hurt that Khan never rated him. "Amir is a deluded man. He believes the yes men behind him, and he's living in cloud cuckoo land. He's never respected me, never acknowledged me as a great fighter. We're the same weight, same age, from the same country. But I've always acknowledged him — he's done great in his career, and I've never dissed him in any way," Brook told ESPN before their fight. "I don't like his face basically," he added.

Khan added fuel to the fire, stating in a press conference, "I'm coming levels down to take this fight. I've fought the best around the world. I've conquered America. I'm coming levels down because people want to see this fight. They want to see me punch Kell in the face."

American ambition

It is true that for a large part of his career, Khan had his sights set on bigger and better things. After suffering a shock defeat to Colombian Breidis Prescott in 2008, Khan made a bold move to Los Angeles (USA) to train under the renowned Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Gym.



Khan had long wanted to win over the American fans, and he made a fine debut in the USA with a win over former light-welterweight world champion Paulie Malignaggi in 2010. He then passed a huge test against tough Argentinian slugger Marcos Maidana, in a thrilling bout that was voted 'Fight of the Year' by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

The unanimous decision win over Maidana made Khan hot property in the lucrative American boxing market.

From there, however, Khan's graph dipped. In 2016, in a failed effort to reach super stardom, Khan moved up two weight divisions to middleweight to fight the dangerous Canelo Alvarez.

Fears that Khan would be utterly outmatched proved to be true, as the bigger Alvarez knocked him out cold with a devastating punch in the sixth round. Despite the loss, Khan grabbed a handsome payday.

Khan once again chased after a pot of gold, taking on the acclaimed Crawford for the WBO welterweight title in 2020. Crawford proved too good on the day, and once again, Khan left with nothing more than a paycheque.



I've had 40 fights, winning two world titles, fighting in America and around the world. I need to sit down with my family. But it is more towards the end of my career. The love for the sport isn't there anymore

AMIR KHAN AFTER THE BOUT

At long last

While trying to break new ground in the USA, Khan was in no mood to take an all-British, non-title fight against Brook. Fans and pundits made it clear that if Khan continued to avoid Brook, his reputation would take a severe beating. It was only after the Crawford loss that Khan, in the final stage of his career, signed the contract with his old compatriot.

Both fighters were well past their primes at Manchester, but nevertheless, it was a case of better late than never. Khan was magnanimous in defeat, embracing and praising Brook after the bout. Brook was happy to bury the hatchet as well, acknowledging that Khan had proven to be a worthy foe. The bad blood was now in the past.

Khan admitted that the time had come for him to consider retirement seriously.

"I've had 40 fights, winning two world titles, fighting in America and around the world. I need to sit down with my family. But it is more towards the end of my career. The love for the sport isn't there anymore," Khan told Sky Sports.

There is a rematch clause in the contract, but Khan is unlikely to activate it.

Brook, however, might look to cash in on this blockbuster success with a few more fights. Young talents Chris Eubank Jr. and Conor Benn have already called him out.

End game

"I'm big news now; I'm a superstar now. My mojo is back, and I want to fight on. I'm friends with Conor Benn, but there's money and bragging rights at stake. Chris Eubank — I don't like the guy. They all can get it. There are many options for me," Brook told Sky Sports in a recent interview.

Brook will do well to avoid these potential fights against younger, fitter, hungry opponents. It would be ideal if he can exit on a high, with his legacy as a British great untarnished. With his health intact and morale high, it is time to ride into the sunset.

I'm big news now; I'm a superstar now. My mojo is back, and I want to fight on. There are many options for me

KELL BROOK AFTER THE BOUT

STACKING UP



ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	8,615	24
2	Novak Djokovic	34	8,465	13
3	Alexander Zverev	24	7,515	25
4	Rafael Nadal	35	6,515	11
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	6,445	28
6	Andrey Rublev	24	5,000	29
7	Matteo Berrettini	25	4,928	22
8	Casper Ruud	23	3,915	31
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,883	26
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,496	29
11	Jannik Sinner	20	3,495	39
12	Cameron Norrie	26	3,325	30
13	Denis Shapovalov	22	3,020	27
14	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,865	27
15	Roberto Bautista Agut	33	2,480	29

Top Indians ▶



Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 170 ▲ 7 spots



Sumit Nagal
Rank 205 ▲ 5 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Ashleigh Barty	25	7,980	13
2	Barbora Krejcikova	26	5,073	26
3	Aryna Sabalenka	23	4,853	18
4	Iga Swiatek	20	4,776	15
5	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,721	20
6	Paula Badosa	24	4,510	31
7	Maria Sakkari	26	4,436	17
8	Karolina Pliskova	29	4,242	14
9	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,235	18
10	Ons Jabeur	27	3,065	18
11	Danielle Collins	28	2,972	16
12	Jelena Ostapenko	24	2,880	19
13	Emma Raducanu	19	2,664	21
14	Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	30	2,473	12
15	Elina Svitolina	27	2,427	21

Top Indians ▶



Ankita Raina
Rank 341 ▼ 51 spots



Karman Thandi
Rank 442 ▲ 2 spots



English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	27	21	3	3	64	17	47	66
2	Liverpool	26	18	6	2	70	20	50	60
3	Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	31	50
4	Man. United	27	13	8	6	44	34	10	47
5	West Ham	27	13	6	8	46	34	12	45
6	Arsenal	24	14	3	7	38	27	11	45
7	Tottenham	25	13	3	9	35	32	3	42
8	Wolves	26	12	4	10	24	21	3	40
9	Southampton	26	8	11	7	34	37	-3	35
10	Brighton	26	7	12	7	25	30	-5	33
11	Crystal Palace	27	6	12	9	37	38	-1	30
12	Leicester City	24	8	6	10	39	43	-4	30
13	Aston Villa	25	9	3	13	33	37	-4	30
14	Newcastle	25	5	10	10	28	45	-17	25
15	Brentford	27	6	6	15	27	44	-17	24
16	Leeds United	26	5	8	13	29	60	-31	23
17	Everton	24	6	4	14	28	41	-13	22
18	Burnley	25	3	12	10	22	32	-10	21
19	Watford	26	5	4	17	25	47	-22	19
20	Norwich City	26	4	5	17	15	55	-40	17

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	27	17	6	4	49	19	30	57
2	AC Milan	27	17	6	4	53	29	24	57
3	Inter Milan	26	16	7	3	55	22	33	55
4	Juventus	27	14	8	5	41	25	16	50
5	Atalanta	26	13	8	5	50	30	20	47
6	Roma	27	13	5	9	45	34	11	44
7	Lazio	27	12	7	8	54	42	12	43
8	Fiorentina	26	13	3	10	45	36	9	42
9	Verona	27	11	7	9	52	43	9	40
10	Sassuolo	27	9	9	9	45	45	0	36
11	Torino	26	9	6	11	33	28	5	33
12	Bologna	26	9	5	12	32	42	-10	32
13	Empoli	27	8	7	12	40	53	-13	31
14	Udinese	25	5	11	9	32	42	-10	26
15	Sampdoria	27	7	5	15	35	46	-11	26
16	Spezia	27	7	5	15	28	49	-21	26
17	Cagliari	27	5	10	12	28	48	-20	25
18	Venezia	26	5	7	14	24	47	-23	22
19	Genoa	27	1	14	12	22	47	-25	17
20	Salernitana	25	3	6	16	20	56	-36	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	26	18	6	2	52	20	32	60
2	Sevilla	26	15	9	2	39	18	21	54
3	Real Betis	26	14	4	8	48	32	16	46
4	Barcelona	25	12	9	4	46	28	18	45
5	Atletico Madrid	26	13	6	7	47	34	13	45
6	Real Sociedad	26	12	8	6	27	25	2	44
7	Villarreal	26	11	9	6	47	25	22	42
8	Athletic Bilbao	26	9	10	7	29	25	4	37
9	Valencia	26	8	9	9	38	42	-4	33
10	Celta Vigo	26	8	8	10	29	28	1	32
11	Osasuna	26	8	8	10	25	31	-6	32
12	Rayo Vallecano	25	9	4	12	28	30	-2	31
13	Elche	26	7	8	11	28	37	-9	29
14	Espanyol	26	7	8	11	31	40	-9	29
15	Getafe	26	6	9	11	26	30	-4	27
16	Real Mallorca	26	6	8	12	23	41	-18	26
17	Granada	26	5	10	11	27	40	-13	25
18	Cadiz	26	3	12	11	21	39	-18	21
19	Alaves	26	5	6	15	21	44	-23	21
20	Levante	26	3	9	14	28	51	-23	18

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	24	19	1	4	75	26	49	58
2	Dortmund	24	16	2	6	64	37	27	50
3	Leverkusen	24	13	5	6	63	39	24	44
4	RB Leipzig	24	12	4	8	50	28	22	40
5	SC Freiburg	24	11	7	6	39	26	13	40
6	Hoffenheim	24	12	4	8	47	36	11	40
7	Union Berlin	24	10	7	7	32	32	0	37
8	Cologne	24	9	9	6	36	38	-2	36
9	Mainz	24	10	4	10	35	29	6	34
10	Eintracht	24	8	7	9	33	36	-3	31
11	Bochum	24	8	5	11	25	34	-9	29
12	Wolfsburg	24	8	4	12	26	37	-11	28
13	M'gladbach	24	7	6	11	32	48	-16	27
14	Arminia	24	5	10	9	22	32	-10	25
15	FC Augsburg	24	5	8	11	26	41	-15	23
16	Hertha Berlin	24	6	5	13	25	54	-29	23
17	Stuttgart	24	4	7	13	28	45	-17	19
18	Greuther Furth	24	3	5	16	22	62	-40	14



Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	935	935
2	Joe Root	872	917
3	Steve Smith	845	947
4	Kane Williamson	844	919
5	Travis Head	773	773
6	Rohit Sharma	773	813
7	Virat Kohli	767	937
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	754	772
9	Babar Azam	750	800
10	David Warner	714	880

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	898	914
2	R. Ashwin	839	904
3	Kagiso Rabada	835	902
4	Shaheen Afridi	822	822
5	Kyle Jamieson	820	825
6	Tim Southee	790	839
7	James Anderson	788	903
8	Josh Hazlewood	786	863
9	Neil Wagner	777	859
10	Jasprit Bumrah	763	835

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	873	873
2	Virat Kohli	811	911
3	Rohit Sharma	791	885
4	Quinton de Kock	783	813
5	Aaron Finch	779	798
6	Jonny Bairstow	775	796
7	David Warner	762	880
8	R. van der Dussen	750	750
9	Fakhar Zaman	741	779
10	Joe Root	740	824

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	737	770
2	Josh Hazlewood	709	733
3	Chris Woakes	700	711
4	Matt Henry	691	691
5	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	681	712
6	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
7	Mehedi Hasan	675	725
8	Mitchell Starc	652	783
9	Rashid Khan	650	806
10	Andy McBrine	646	646

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	805	896
2	Mohammad Rizwan	798	798
3	Aiden Markram	796	796
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Devon Conway	703	784
6	Aaron Finch	679	900
7	R. van der Dussen	669	780
8	Martin Guptill	658	793
9	Pathum Nissanka	654	685
10	K.L. Rahul	646	854

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Tabraiz Shamsi	784	821
2	Josh Hazlewood	752	806
3	Adil Rashid	746	746
4	Adam Zampa	719	743
5	Rashid Khan	710	816
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
7	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	679	745
8	Anrich Nortje	655	655
9	Ashton Agar	645	717
10	Shadab Khan	634	769

Xavi's tiki-taka vision thrills Camp Nou — but can it last?

Barcelona has climbed from ninth to fourth under the former midfield maestro, who has emphasised a return to the club's celebrated playing style. But already under severe financial pressure, Barca can't afford to miss out on Champions League football



ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Barcelona seemed a club both broken and heart-broken after talisman Lionel Messi's departure last year, and so it was no surprise that news of Xavi Hernandez's return, after 2,373 days away, was accompanied by waves of relief and euphoria in Catalonia's capital city. Both icon and ideologue, the midfield maestro was one of the driving forces behind Barcelona's celebrated playing style and spectacular success between 2004 and 2015, when it won an incredible seven LaLiga titles and four Champions League trophies. His appointment as coach was confirmed last November, at the start of the international break. The crackle of excitement that preceded his unveiling was electric.

Star treatment

Xavi was the first Barcelona coach to be presented on the pitch in front of fans at the 99,000-capacity Camp Nou stadium, with the routine usually reserved for the club's biggest signings. His attempts to thank the crowd were thwarted by the sound of them chanting his name. "I am very excited," he told the fans. "We are the best club in the world and we will work hard to be successful. Barca can't be satisfied with draws or losses. We have to win every match." He said he was moved by the welcome and chanted along with the crowd. "We need you," Xavi told the fans. "Especially during the bad moments. We are in a difficult situation as a club. We need you more than ever."



In decline

Xavi did not undersell the level of difficulty. Barcelona had slid down the ranks of the elite and was in unfamiliar territory. When the 42-year-old took over from Ronald Koeman, the club was ninth, six points adrift of the fourth and final Champions League spot. It had conceded more goals than Espanyol and Rayo Vallecano, both of whom had just come up from the second division. It had won none of its four previous league games, and Xavi's first priority was — and remains — a top-four finish to ensure the financial security of Champions League football. A quick-fix option had seemed remote, with the club still desperately trying to reduce record debts of more than a billion euros. The official club line was that "as it stands, there is nothing left" for signings in the January transfer window. Dismay at the club's decline and Messi's departure hung heavy around Camp Nou.

Revival needed

Understandably, the supporters were desperate for even the smallest sign of a revival. So it wasn't startling that something as momentous as Xavi's recruitment raised hopes that the club would begin a return to Europe's elite. Several observers of Spanish football agreed that Xavi's return would reignite the spark, through nostalgia and hope, if nothing else — but cautioned supporters to keep their expectations low. They reminded fans of the fact that he was a largely untested, inexperienced manager and that he was taking charge at one of the world's biggest clubs with all its attendant pressures. At Barcelona, it isn't enough to merely win; you must win with beautiful, slick football, dominating possession, passing circles around opponents, and scoring bagfuls of goals.

Almost 120 days into his reign, Xavi appears to have lifted Barcelona out of the gloom he had found it in. The club sits fourth on the LaLiga table, up five places, with eight wins, four draws and one loss under Xavi. It may have crashed out of the Champions League in the group stages — it had lost two of its first four league games before he took over, and drew against Benfica and lost to Bayern Munich during his first month at the helm — but it has looked a little more like its old self in recent months in Europe, albeit at one level lower, in the Europa League.

Echoes of the past

Its 4-2 away win over Napoli in Europe was sandwiched by a 4-1 victory on the road against Valencia and a 4-0 rout of Athletic Bilbao at home in the league — all within a seven-day period in the last week of February. It was the first time since May 2017 that Barcelona had scored four goals in three consecutive games. Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez had claimed 11 of those goals in 2017— echoes of a different, more successful era, which Xavi is attempting to reprise.

"The sensations are getting better and better," Xavi said. "The team has been practising very well and now the results are showing. [Against Napoli], we dominated for 90 minutes and that's the first time we've done that since I became coach. It's a win over a team which I repeat is a Champions League-level team, one which does not concede many goals and is fighting for the league title." The win that followed was also against a miserly defence. Athletic had the third best defence in the league — having conceded just 21 goals, bettered only by Sevilla (17) and Real Madrid (20) — before Barcelona took it apart. "Against a rival that defends well, with a medium and low block, we have scored three goals at the end, but we have had a solid game," Xavi said. "We are going to grow. We are working with humility. It's very good for the harmony of the fans."

I'm very happy when I see the fans outside the training ground and in town. We will continue to work, with the same sacrifice and humility as before. At Barca, only the wins count, we can't draw. We have a team that will leave it all out on the pitch

We still lose a lot of unnecessary balls. We need to be embarrassed by losing these balls. We need to be responsible for our actions and defend better. Defend better from set plays. We have a lot of points we need to improve but it's also evident we are improving a lot

There are several reasons for Barcelona's improvement under Xavi, but two are immediately obvious: a return to its playing roots and a smart January transfer window, which saw the arrivals of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Adama Traore and Ferran Torres, who have already contributed six goals and seven assists in 18 appearances combined. After the win over Napoli last week, defender Gerard Pique highlighted both of these facets. "We went back to the origins, to have the ball. For a while we stopped doing it. Who was to blame? A little bit of everyone, it's not fair to target anyone. Decisions were made that were not appropriate," Pique said. "Now there is a base in which the team feels confident. We have reinforced very well in January, now we have real weapons up front. All that is happening is a continuous improvement in the game, which sometimes translates into good results and sometimes not, but the line is ascending."

Passing it in

The fourth goal against Napoli, which saw every Barcelona player touch the ball during the course of a 23-pass move before Aubameyang found the back of the net, was a glimpse of what Xavi's work on the training field has achieved. "I know where I'm at," he said. "These 22, 23 touches... that's what people like. We want to implement the style again that made us great. We can win or lose but we want the people to identify with the style of play, that's fundamental. We continue to work on this. I know this week I received praise, but we know next week the opposite can happen."

Barcelona's manager also appears to have struck a chord with his players. "We are enjoying winning, Xavi gave us a new energy and he is giving great advice to the youngsters," 19-year-old midfielder Pedri, who Xavi has likened to the great Andres Iniesta, said. "We are enjoying ourselves right now."

The handling of Ousmane Dembele seems another example of Xavi's man-management skills. The mercurial talent was told by Barcelona that he could leave if he refused to sign a new contract, but bitter negotiations ended in a stalemate. Xavi has reintegrated Dembele in the last few weeks. When Xavi brought him on as a substitute against Napoli, Dembele was greeted by screeching whistles from angry home supporters. Yet Xavi appears to have managed the situation as smoothly as possible, with Dembele scoring a stunning goal against Athletic and going over to celebrate with his coach, who gave him a hug and an approving pat on the head.

Realistic outlook

While Barcelona fans have begun to dream big, Xavi, who has received criticism for the team's frailties in defence, offered a more clear-eyed assessment. "We still lose a lot of unnecessary balls," he said. "We need to be embarrassed by losing these balls. We need to be responsible for our actions and defend better. Defend better from set plays. We have a lot of points we need to improve but it's also evident we are improving a lot. In our current situation, every match is like a final for us."

Auba [Aubameyang] hasn't surprised me, he's been showing it his entire career. Adama [Traore] has surprised me in his decision-making... it wasn't the best but now it is. Ferran [Torres] is spectacular, incredible how he works for the team... we are talking about a player of top level

GAME THEORY

The fast and the victorious

With the new season just a fortnight away, here's a look at some of the most successful drivers in Formula One:

MOST RACE WINS OVERALL | Seven-time world champions Hamilton and Schumacher lead the pack by a significant distance. Hamilton also has the best win % of any driver with at least 25 wins. Five-time world champion Juan Manuel Fangio, who won 24 GPs from 52 entries, has the best-ever win % (46.15%)



Driver	World titles	Race entries	Race wins	Race win%
Lewis Hamilton	**7**	**288**	**103**	**35.76%**
Michael Schumacher	7	308	91	29.55%
Sebastian Vettel	4	280	53	18.93%
Alain Prost	4	202	51	25.25%
Ayrton Senna	3	162	41	25.31%
Fernando Alonso	2	336	32	9.52%
Nigel Mansell	1	191	31	16.23%
Jackie Stewart	3	100	27	27.00%
Jim Clark	2	73	25	34.25%
Niki Lauda	3	177	25	14.12%

MOST WINS IN A SEASON

It's lucky 13 for Schumacher and Vettel. Hamilton has six seasons with double-digit wins, Verstappen notched up his first last year

Driver (season)	Wins /Total races
Schumacher (2004)	**13 / 18**
Vettel (2013)	**13 / 19**
Schumacher (2002)	**11 / 17**
Vettel (2011)	**11 /19**
Hamilton (2014)	**11 /19**
Hamilton (2018)	**11 / 21**
Hamilton (2019)	**11 / 21**
Hamilton (2020)	**11 / 17**
Hamilton (2015)	**10 / 19**
Hamilton (2016)	**10 / 21**
Verstappen (2021)	**10 / 22**

MOST SUCCESSIVE SEASONS WITH AT LEAST 1 WIN

Hamilton, who has the opportunity to make the record his own, and Verstappen will want to keep their streaks going

Driver	Seasons	Total
Schumacher	1992-2006	**15**
Hamilton	2007-2021 (ongoing)	**15**
Prost	1981-1990	**10**
Senna	1985-1993	**9**
Piquet	1980-1987	**8**
Moss	1955-1961	**7**
Clark	1962-1968	**7**
Coulthard	1997-2003	**7**
Stewart	1968-1973	**6**
Vettel	2008-2013	**6**
Verstappen	2016-2021 (ongoing)	**6**

SOURCE: FORMULA 1

PICTURE THIS



JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

Bone-rattler

An athlete from Team Germany slides during the men's skeleton event at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games recently in Yanqing, China.

The sport of skeleton involves competitors — lying face down and head first on small sleds — sliding down frozen tracks.

Some believe that the bony appearance of the sled may have led to the formulation of its and the sport's name. Another theory is that the word is a corruption, or an anglicised version, of 'kjelke', the Norwegian term for toboggan (a basic sled).

Although skeleton is considered the slowest of the sliding sports — the riding position is less aerodynamic than the face-up, feet-first posture used in other disciplines — elite racers can reach speeds of up to 130kmph.

The sport made an appearance at the Winter Olympics in 1928 and 1948 (both in St. Moritz, Switzerland) before being permanently added to the Olympic programme for the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City, Utah (USA).

Skeleton's popularity has grown since 2002. Even countries without the climate, terrain or financial resources needed for the sport, such as Australia, Bermuda, South Africa, Argentina, Iraq, Israel, Mexico and Brazil, have started to send skeleton athletes to the Winter Olympics.