

d

Drishti IAS

8010 440 440 | 87501 87501

IAS GS Foundation Courses

(Prelims + Mains) | Offline Batches

Delhi

English Medium
28 March

Jaipur

English Medium
Admissions Open

हिंदी माध्यम
29 मार्च

Register Now

IN BRIEF



**U.P. Cabinet expands
Cabinet, inducts
4 new Ministers**

LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday expanded his Cabinet for the first time in his second term inducting four new Ministers, including SSSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar, RLD MLA Anil Kumar, and BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan and Sunil Sharma. » [Page 4](#)

**Calcutta HC judge
resigns, says he
will join BJP**

KOLKATA
Hours after he resigned as a judge of the Calcutta High Court, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Tuesday said he was joining the BJP. "I will be joining soon. Maybe on March 7," he said. » [Page 13](#)

OPPORTUNITIES » [PAGE 19](#)

HC acquits DU ex-professor, 5 others in 'Maoist link' case

Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court sets aside the life sentence awarded to all accused; Maharashtra government files an appeal in the Supreme Court, in a replay of 2022 events

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday acquitted former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba and five others in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for alleged Maoist links, saying the prosecution could not prove the case against them beyond reasonable doubt.

Within hours, the Maharashtra government approached the Supreme Court seeking an urgent hearing, after it failed to convince the High Court to stay the implementation of the judgment.

Long wait

A timeline of events in the case against Delhi University former professor G.N. Saibaba and five others

May 9, 2014: Professor G.N. Saibaba arrested on charges of having Maoist links

April 6, 2015: Sanction to prosecute him under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act granted

March 3, 2017: Saibaba and five others convicted under various sections of the UAPA and the IPC by a Sessions

October 15, 2022: Court, Saibaba and others sentenced to life imprisonment

March 29, 2017: Appeal filed in the Bombay High Court against conviction and the sentence

October 14, 2022: All six acquitted in the case by the HC. The Maharashtra government approached the Supreme Court challenging the decision

October 15, 2022: Acquittal stayed by the SC

April 2023: The SC directed the HC to hear the appeal filed by Saibaba afresh

March 5, 2024: HC acquits Saibaba and five others



to Prof. Saibaba and the other accused — Mahesh Tirki, Hem Mishra, Pandu Narote, Vijay Tirki and Prashant Rahi — by a sessions court in 2017, and held the sanction for prosecution under UAPA as "null and void".

Bench too had acquitted him and the other accused on October 14, 2022, only for the Supreme Court to stay the verdict and ask for the case to be heard afresh.

SC dismisses money laundering case against Shivakumar

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the proceedings instituted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) against Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress president D.K. Shivakumar under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of an Income Tax department complaint filed in 2018.

The complaint was filed following searches on the premises of Mr. Shivakumar and his associates. The Income Tax department had alleged that Mr. Shivakumar, who ran business concerns, "hatched a criminal conspiracy" and engaged "different people for the purpose of concealing unaccounted and illegal income, and projecting it as unaccounted property" to evade income tax.



maintained that the case was motivated by political reasons.

On Tuesday, a Supreme Court Bench of Justices Surya Kant and K.V. Viswanathan quashed the ED case against Mr. Shivakumar on the basis of its recent *Pavana Dibbur judgment*, which had held that criminal conspiracy alone would not attract money laundering charges.

Karnataka CM, Deputy CM get bomb threat email

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar received emails on March 2, warning them of "more bomb blasts" in the State.

This comes after a low-intensity blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru on March 1, which left nine injured. Home Minister G. Parameashwara and Bengaluru City Commissioner B. Dayananda too got similar emails on Saturday.

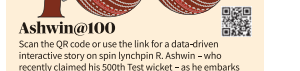
Following the threats, the cybercrime police stepped up investigations and registered a *suo motu* case. The emails warned of attacks at public places and transport.



PLATFORM FEE ISSUE
Google to restore delisted Indian apps
NEWS » [PAGE 14](#)

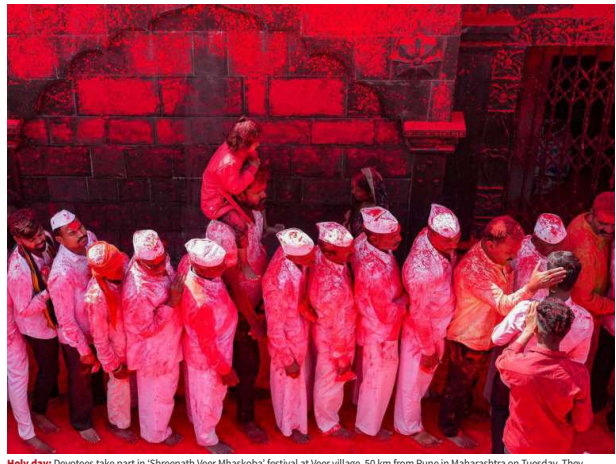


IN SOUTH CHINA SEA
Philippine and Chinese vessels collide
WORLD » [PAGE 15](#)



Ashwin@100
Scan the QR code or use the link for a data-driven interactive story on spin lynchpin R. Ashwin — who recently claimed his 500th Test wicket — as he embarks upon his 100th Test. [think.in/Ashwin](#)

Sea of red



Holy day: Devotees take part in 'Shreenath Veeer Mahaskola' festival at Veer village, 50 km from Pune in Maharashtra on Tuesday. They worship an avatar of Lord Shiva during the festival that falls on Magh Poonima (full moon). 711

'Foreign state actors stashed illicit funds in Paytm bank accounts'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

"Extensive illegal activity" perpetrated by multiple businesses managed by "a syndicate of individuals connected to a foreign state" who cheated lakhs of Indians by offering "fraudulent services including prohibited gambling activities and dating services" was the trigger for the ₹540 crore fine imposed on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) last week.

The matter first came to light over two years ago with the Cyber Crime Station of Hyderabad lodging FIRs under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Telangana State Gambling Act.

business entities and their network of businesses engaging in a number of illegal acts such as organising and assisting online gambling, routing the proceeds of such criminal activities connected to a foreign state" who cheated lakhs of Indians by offering "fraudulent services including prohibited gambling activities and dating services" was the trigger for the ₹540 crore fine imposed on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) last week.

The FIRs flagged certain

Man from Kerala killed in Hezbollah attack in Israel

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI



An Indian national was killed and two were injured in a rocket attack by Hezbollah, the Shia militant organisation of Lebanon, in northern Israel on Monday.

Pat Nibin Maxwell said Pat Nibin Maxwell of Kerala was among those killed in the attack. He hails from Kollam district.

More Indians held up in Russia seek help to return

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A group of seven more Indians stuck on the Russia-Ukraine border released two videos this week seeking the government's help to return to India.

One of the men said that they arrived in Russia on tourist visas and were forced to join the Russian Army as "helpers" after police detained them for not possessing a "slip".

U.P. removes chairperson of police recruitment board over paper leak

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday removed Police Recruitment and Promotion Board chairperson Renuka Mishra in connection with the question paper leak case. The State government had on February 24 cancelled the police constable recruitment examination held on February 17 and 18 following allegations of paper leak.

Activists pushing for a transparent recruitment drive said the official was made a 'scapegoat' amid rising public pressure in the State

sumed the additional responsibility of the board, sources said.

Thakur, a former IPS officer, said, "Only a CBI probe can unearth the truth in the constable paper leak issue. Young aspirants have ruptured the government and the recruitment process due to the continuous discrepancies," said Mr. Thakur, an anti-corruption activist at the forefront of the campaign demanding the cancellation of the constable recruitment exam in view of the paper leak charges.

Demand for CBI probe
Demanding an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Mr.

Don't vilify people who feed stray dogs: activists

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

A day after the High Court remarked that feeding stray dogs makes them aggressive and territorial, animal rights activists on Tuesday said people who feed stray dogs play a vital role in mitigating human-animal conflict and that they should not be vilified.

The court made the remark on Monday while hearing a plea by the father of a one-and-a-half-year-old girl who was maulled to death by a pack of strays on February 24.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, activists said that a pet pitbull and not a stray dog was likely to have attacked the girl, as the spot where the attack took place — Tughlak Lane — lies within a gated colony. They also sought the release of the CCTV footage of the incident.

Income threshold for EWS admissions to be ₹2.5 lakh, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Tuesday ordered that children from families with an annual income less than ₹2.5 lakh will be eligible for admission to schools under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category.

The order was issued by the Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmohar Prithvi Singh Arora.

The court modified a December 5, 2023, judgment of a single-judge Bench that had asked the Delhi government to increase the income threshold for admissions under the EWS category from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

It also stayed the directions issued in the previous order which had called for scrapping the mechanism of accepting self-declarations of income by the families.

Under the EWS system, a child from a family which has been staying in Delhi for the past three years and has an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh was eligible for reservation in schools.

This income bracket was revised by the single-judge Bench in December last year. The Delhi government had filed an appeal against this order and expressed its inability to implement the orders for the current academic session.

The government told the court that asking for income proof from poor people would hinder the education of their children as it financially disadvantaged people were unlikely to have the necessary documents.

The government also submitted that increasing the quantum of income threshold was a policy decision that is best left to the Cabinet.

AAP govt's focus this year will be on empowering women: Finance Minister

Atishi says monthly stipend for women announced in budget will bolster economy; blames I-G for stalling several programmes; says she is fighting 'tooth and nail' to get govt's initiatives executed

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

The monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to women over 18 years of age will strengthen the economy as it will spur spending by households, Finance Minister Atishi said on Tuesday.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, she said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government takes up only one scheme at a time to ensure proper implementation, and this year its focus will be on empowering women.

The Minister's comments came a day after she announced the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana' in her maiden budget speech weeks before the Lok Sabha election.

Under the plan, only those women who are not tax payers and not covered under any government scheme will be given the monthly stipend.

Ms. Atishi said the initiative will ensure the social empowerment of women as they will have more money at their disposal.

"The money will eventually flow back into the economy, which will get a boost through increased



Finance Minister Atishi said her government takes up only one plan at a time to ensure proper implementation. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

spending by women," she said. "A major part of governance is to ensure that your system keeps running well. That is why we introduce only a few flagship schemes every year. We cannot just make things happen in a matter of seconds," she said.

The Minister said in the past two years, the government had focused on providing electric buses and building infrastructure while ensuring proper implementation of the schemes.

In response to a query over the government initiative

While commenting on the sacking of about 300 government consultants, the Minister said the move had "impacted policy creation and implementation".

"On the one hand, you have removed our workers and on the other, you have ensured that all our works are stalled by officials," she said. Ms. Atishi, however, said her government is "fighting tooth and nail" to get the schemes implemented.

Earlier allegations

Delhi Ministers have repeatedly complained in the past about bureaucrats refusing to obey their orders. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier said the problem stemmed from Delhi not enjoying full Statehood as the "real power" lies with the BJP-led Centre, which exercises control over Delhi government bureaucrats.

Some of the major plans that allegedly faced bureaucratic hurdles include the 'Fariyehy Dilli' scheme, under which road accident victims are provided free treatment in hospitals. The government had alleged in the past that funds for it were stopped by senior officials.

Atishi said the government takes up only one plan at a time to ensure proper implementation.

She said the government is "fighting tooth and nail" to get the schemes implemented.

Delhi Ministers have repeatedly complained in the past about bureaucrats refusing to obey their orders.

'Officers toeing I-G line'

"What does the I-G do? All senior officers in the Delhi government follow his orders. They are constantly in his office. He uses them to stop the works undertaken by the AAP government," she said, in an apparent reference to the tussle between the AAP government and the I-G over the control of bureaucrats.

Kejriwal seeks blessings of women voters in LS election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought blessings of women voters in the upcoming general election, saying the registration for his government's 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana' will begin soon.

"Also, ask your family members to support me in the election so that your brother and son could serve you well," Mr. Kejriwal said in a post on X while making the announcement.

However, government sources said the registration for the scheme will not begin till September or October.

Without taking the BJP's name, Mr. Kejriwal said it had left no stone unturned to "crush the BJP", but the blessings of people will fall on the BJP's conspiracies".

'Poll gimmick'

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the government had done well to launch the scheme, but wondered whether all administrative sanctions had been taken for it.

"This is just one more poll gimmick of the Kejriwal government, which has not been regularly distributing pensions among the elderly and persons with disabilities for several years," he said.

CM, L-G spar over Sangam Vihar 'mess'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words broke out between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Tuesday after the latter visited Sangam Vihar and deplored the lack of basic facilities in the area in a post on X. In response, the

CM said Mr. Saxena was "forced to play the role of the Opposition despite holding a constitutional post".

Earlier in the day, the L-G said the residents of Sangam Vihar were "forced to live a hellish life, deprived of basic public facilities. There are no roads, no sewers, no garbage

disposal". Mr. Kejriwal thanked Mr. Saxena for pointing out the shortcomings and demanded the strictest action against the errant official.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said instead of blaming officials, the CM should demand answers from his own legislators.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

26th ANNIVERSARY



Shri. K.R. RAMAMANI
(Senior Advocate)
Fondly remembered by Family Members, Advocates & Staff of M/s. Subbaraya Aiyar, Padmanabhan and Ramani Advocates

To dedicate a space in this section, please contact: 011-43579797 from 10 am to 7 pm.

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehindu.com DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY



S. DINAKAR
Senior Deputy Director, THE HINDU
Father K. Srinivasan
In MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, please contact: 011-43579797 from 10 am to 7 pm.

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehindu.com DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, P.W.D.: BUILDING, ASSAM: CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. Tech-II/111/2023/226

PRESS NOTICE (RE-TENDER)

In cancellation to the earlier Press Notice vide no. Tech-II/111/2023/20 dated 12th January, 2024, the Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Government of Assam, invites online EPC Mode-1 e-tenders in two bid-system (Eligibility and Financial) on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-1 basis from eligible firms / contractors of repute having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The bidders must be enrolled while-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be part of the Bidding Documents.

Sr. No	Package No.	Name of work	Bid Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid
1	Pkg-IV	Infrastructure development of 126 Secondary schools LAC under RIDF-XXXI(2023-24) in Assam for (i) Bokakhat HS School (ii) Dhupguri janajati High school (iii) Balijan HS School (iv) Nabaanga Bapuji High School (v) Tibar town High School (vi) Selanghat HS School (vii) Meleng Prov. High School (viii) Nandemuri HS School (ix) Devicharan Barua Girls' High School	5934.26952	24 (Twenty Four) Months	1% of Bid Value	Rs.30,00,000

The Bid price may vary at the time of delimiting for which no claim will be admissible. The Work will be allotted only after receiving Government approval.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Chandmari, (Health & Education) Assam, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/CI/17367/23/Mar-24

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPWPD Nirman Bhawan Nigam Vihar Shimla H.P., 171002 UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III)

Notice Inviting Tender

1. The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPWPD, Rampur Buzhat District Shimla HP-172001 on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana -III(2023-24) for each of the following works:

District	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion (in days)	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)	Bid Security as per percentage of the total cost, rounded to the nearest thousand
			Construction	Maintenance				
Shimla	HP-02/710	Up-gradation of Narkanda Doza (Mushawani road Km 0/00 to 6/30)	5,17,70,879	38,22,360	5,55,98,438	540	11,12,000	

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 06.03.2024

3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 500/- only per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Kumarsain, HPWPD, Kumarsain.

4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).

6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 12.03.2024 upto 1700 hours.

7. The site for the works is available.

8. Only online submission is permitted, therefore, bids must be submitted online on website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Materials. Further, the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

10. The rates for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.

11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same IT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the quality criteria for the individual contracts.

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons therefor.

Signature and Designation of the authority inviting bids for and on behalf of Government of H.P.

Superintending Engineer 1st Circle HPWPD, Rampur Buzhat Distt. Shimla H.P. Tel: 01762-23167

HP/16716/23-24 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAIN SAMPARK

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT www.thehindu.com CALL: 011-43579797

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

VISIONIAS INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE EDUCATION PLATFORM www.visionias.in

India's leading organization based in Delhi invites passionate individuals for the role of

CONTENT DEVELOPER for GS

• English Medium

• English-Hindi Translator (prior experience)

• WORK AVAILABLE IN OFFLINE MODE ONLY

• Location: Delhi

Skills Desired:

✓ Comfortable in translation (English to Hindi)

✓ Work Experience (at least 1 year)

✓ Have written Civil Services (Main) examination

Send your updated resume to recruitment@visionias.in

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

For Civil Services Exam

COMMERCE

Foundation Course : 8 Months, 5 days/week

Advanced Course : 8 Months, 3 days/week

Face-to-Face/Live/Online/Recorded

Admission open 15 Feb 2024. www.rankerclasses.in

70117066118, 9818464467 / 9818680118

RANKER'S CLASSES

181, 2nd Floor, Bada Bazar, Old Bazar, Old Bazar, Old Bazar

PUBLIC NOTICE

KSG An Institute For IAS Exam. www.ksgindia.com 9999 599707

TENDERS

BUSINESS OFFERS

INVESTORS REQUIRED

M SAND JALLI CRUSHER & ALLIED PRODUCTIONS REQUIRED INVESTORS @ TN

01 93398 9001 thyswredindia25@gmail.com

LEADER

1. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11 KV High Voltage Electronic Weighbridge of Capacity 10000 kg for Cement Plant, Tamil Nadu, Air Cargos Terminal, Chennai, Transunion Port, Chennai.

2. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11 KV High Voltage Electronic Weighbridge at Transunion Port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Air Cargos Terminal, Chennai, Transunion Port, Chennai.

For more details and tender form visit <http://tenders.kpsc.co.in> MD: KSK

J&K Bank Ltd. Technology & Building, Ground Floor, Air India Development, Residency Road, Srinagar 190001

On-Line Request for Proposal (RFP)

For Selection of Service Provider for Enterprise-wide Digital Transaction Reconciliation & Dispute Resolution Solution (Opex Model)

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and submitted on the Banks e-tendering Portal at <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. March 04, 2024, 16:00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Start date for submission of Bids is March 26, 2024, 17:00 Hrs. e-RFP Ref No. JKBC/CHO7&D/Transaction-Sol/2024-1006 Dated: 02-03-2024

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, J&K Bank, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India. E-mail: info@jkbank.com; Web: www.jkbank.com

BRS, BSP to join hands for LS polls in Telangana

Seat sharing to be finalised after talks between KCR and Mayawati; both parties share similar ideology on upliftment of Dalits, says BRS chief; BSP State president says tie-up to 'save secularism'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao and BSP State president R.S. Praveen Kumar announce an alliance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have decided to enter into a formal alliance for the upcoming Parliamentary elections in Telangana. The decision came during a meeting between BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and BSP State president R.S. Praveen Kumar in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

The alliance would be respectable for both parties and seat sharing would be finalised in consultation with BSP national president Mayawati soon, presidents of the two parties announced after their meeting.

The discussions were held over lunch at KCR's Nandinagar residence here, in which Mr. Praveen Kumar, along with a delegation of his party, participated.

From BRS, senior leader

was planning to "scrap the Constitution", and that the Congress, too, was "heading in the same direction", but the BRS had been working to "save secularism since the beginning". "The unemployed youth are taking to the streets again, within just four months of Congress coming to power in Telangana," he said.

He expressed hope that the alliance between the two parties would help improve the lives of people in the State, and reiterated that seat sharing would be finalised soon.

Although neither Mr. Praveen Kumar, a former IPS officer, nor any other candidate fielded by the BSP could secure a seat in the recent Assembly elections in the State, the party managed to secure a vote share of 1.37%, which holds significance, considering that a difference of only about 2% in vote share between the Congress and BRS had ousted the latter from power.

He added that both the BRS and BSP were on the same footing ideologically, and when in power, the BRS had implemented several schemes for the upliftment of the Dalit communities in the State. "Secularism in danger" Mr. Praveen Kumar said secularism was in danger in the country and in the State. He added that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre

was planning to "scrap the Constitution", and that the Congress, too, was "heading in the same direction", but the BRS had been working to "save secularism since the beginning". "The unemployed youth are taking to the streets again, within just four months of Congress coming to power in Telangana," he said.

He expressed hope that the alliance between the two parties would help improve the lives of people in the State, and reiterated that seat sharing would be finalised soon.

Although neither Mr. Praveen Kumar, a former IPS officer, nor any other candidate fielded by the BSP could secure a seat in the recent Assembly elections in the State, the party managed to secure a vote share of 1.37%, which holds significance, considering that a difference of only about 2% in vote share between the Congress and BRS had ousted the latter from power.

He added that both the BRS and BSP were on the same footing ideologically, and when in power, the BRS had implemented several schemes for the upliftment of the Dalit communities in the State. "Secularism in danger" Mr. Praveen Kumar said secularism was in danger in the country and in the State. He added that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre

Raids against immigration agents in Gujarat, Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it conducted fresh searches in Gujarat, Delhi and Maharashtra against agents, consultants and linked persons, who run illegal immigration rackets to send Indians abroad, especially to the United States of America and Canada. The agency had raided similar entities in January and February this year.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 06
RISE: 06:41 SET: 18:25
RISE: 03:37 SET: 13:49

THURSDAY, MAR. 07
RISE: 06:40 SET: 18:25
RISE: 04:30 SET: 14:59

FRIDAY, MAR. 08
RISE: 06:39 SET: 18:26
RISE: 05:18 SET: 16:11

Delhi Weather
Delhi City 23 09
Safdarjung 23 09
Palam 22 10

Delhi Palam Today
26°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be very cool.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool.

© Copyright Skyman Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

Nitish files papers for re-election as MLC

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of his visit to the United Kingdom, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on

Tuesday filed nomination papers for his re-election to the State Legislative Council in the presence of a host of NDA legislators. If elected, it will be Mr. Ku-

mar's fourth consecutive term as a Member of Legislative Council.

Mr. Kumar is set to fly to the U.K. on Wednesday to return on March 14.

राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम

RIICO
GROUP WITH ROYALTY

निवेश अनुकूल
उद्योग अनुकूल प्रदेश

लगायें उद्योग
रीको के साथ

सबल ई-नीतामी के माध्यम से

आधारभूत सुविधाओं युक्त औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में करें उद्यम की स्थापना

कुल औद्योगिक भूखण्ड

49

ईस्क्री प्रारम्भ तिथि: 07 मार्च, 2024 (सात: 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि: 21 मार्च, 2024 (सात: 06:00 बजे)

ऑनलाइन बिड प्रारम्भ तिथि: 22 मार्च, 2024 (सात: 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि: 27 मार्च, 2024 (सात: 05:00 बजे)

03 बालोता	04 कियानगढ़	02 नीमरावा
02 बांसवाड़ा	02 भीमनगर	03 भीलौरी
03 भरतपुर	01 जोधपुर	03 जयपुर (सक)
02 बूंद	02 मकरपुर	04 उदयपुर
04 चित्तौड़-1	05 सवाईमाधोपुर	03 मारवाड़
04 भीलवाड़ा	03 जालौर	

*25% पुरालन के बाद, रेष 75% पुरालन 11 क्रिसो में 8.5% ब्याज के साथ का 120 दिनों के मीटर ब्याज वित्त पुरालन का

समान प्रको के लिए स्कैन करें

राजस्थान स्टेट इन्वैस्टमेंट्स लिमिटेड
उद्योग भवन, त्रिकुण, रो-रवडी, जयपुर-302005

ई-नीतामी हेल्पलाइन नं. 0141-4593260, 4593237, क्याटलॉग: +91 9001306615, ई-मेल: nico@nico.co.in

ईमेल: nico@nico.co.in

Five vomit blood after being served dry ice

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The manager of a restaurant in Gurugram was arrested on Tuesday after five persons were hospitalized upon ingesting dry ice, offered to them as

mouth fresher in a "mix-up" by the staff.

According to Ankit Kumar, the complainant, he and four others had gone for dinner to the restaurant in Sector 90, and were offered the "mouth fresher" by a waiter after finish-

ing their meal. Moments after they consumed it, they began vomiting blood.

After the victims confronted the manager, a waiter brought forth the polythene bag from which the substance had been

served. The victims took the bag with them, and a doctor who examined its contents later told them that the substance was dry ice — a cooled form of carbon dioxide gas known to cause serious health problems if ingested.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify the authenticity of advertisements. The publisher is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the advertiser's negligence. The publisher is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the advertiser's negligence. The publisher is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the advertiser's negligence.

MARUTI SUZUKI

YOU CANNOT MISS THIS.

Avail exciting offers on NEXA Range of Cars.

CREATE. INSPIRE.

VISIT YOUR NEAREST NEXA DEALERSHIP TO GET EXCITING OFFERS UP TO ₹ 1 50 000*

NEXA SAFARIBUNG ENCLAVE TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 72609520	NEXA OKHLA PHASE 1 NEXA MOTORS PH: 011-4290000, 706501531	NEXA EAST OF KOLASHI BANA MOTORS PH: 999198886	NEXA LAPAT NAGAR SINGLA ENG AGENCIES PH: 981919637	NEXA PATIPARANGI MAGS AUTO PH: 892940503	NEXA OKHSAAD GARDEN COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 837700792	NEXA GORULPURA VPL MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 999935361	NEXA PREET BHAR TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 726091122	NEXA ANKUSHARHAM FAROOKI CARS PH: 999952561	NEXA DHANRA SECTOR 9 MAGS AUTO PH: 726070564	NEXA RAJOURI GARDEN TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 999952550	NEXA PUNJAB BAGH MAGS AUTO PH: 983990000
NEXA MAYAPUR SINCEKAR AUTOMOBILES PH: 987878706	NEXA MOTI NAGAR AAA VEHICLE PVT. LTD. PH: 844997840	NEXA DWARAKA SECTOR 14 COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 726097336	NEXA ANBELA SINCEKAR AUTOMOBILES PH: 987878706	NEXA MAYAPUR SINCEKAR AUTOMOBILES PH: 987878706	NEXA KARNAL ROAD SINCEKAR AUTOMOBILES PH: 726097336	NEXA WAZIRPUR COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 987878706	NEXA ROHINI SECTOR 10 SINCEKAR AUTOMOBILES PVT. LTD. PH: 844997840	NEXA DARYAGANJ TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 726091122	NEXA SECTOR 5 VPL MOTORS PH: 999170771	NEXA SECTOR 1 ROHAN MOTORS PH: 987866699	NEXA SECTOR 1 VPL MOTORS PH: 999170771
NEXA NOKIA SECTOR 17 FAIR DEAL CARS PH: 982622315	NEXA SECTOR 19 NEHA BOND AREA GAR. NOKIA PH: 874400000	NEXA GOLDEN GATE NOKIA BANA MOTORS PH: 920831000	NEXA BUT MANSAR VPL MOTORS PH: 920831000	NEXA INDUSTRIAL AREA NOKIA'S RECENT AUTOLINKS PVT. LTD. PH: 920831000	NEXA SAMBARDIA NEHA HERRYURY ROAD PH: 987190618	NEXA AMBERKAR ROAD NEHA MOTORS LTD. TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 987190618	NEXA MATURBA ROAD VPL MOTORS PH: 999202002	NEXA BATA CROWN VPL MOTORS PH: 999202002	NEXA DELHI ROAD BUNCA WHEELS LTD. PH: 708210031	NEXA KASHI NAGAR NARAINA PLATINUM AUTO GROUP PH: 965308841	NEXA SECTOR 5 VPL MOTORS PH: 999170771
NEXA RAN CHOKI, GURUGRAM BANA MOTORS PH: 892628342	NEXA SECTOR 29 GURUGRAM TR SWANNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 999262340	NEXA BHOYSY SEC 34 VPL MOTORS PH: 837700792	NEXA UJWAI BHAR MAGS AUTO PH: 9205899721	NEXA RDC GURUGRAM MAGS AUTO PH: 0124-444000, 706501531	NEXA MG ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 971900061	NEXA PARLIH CENTRAL PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 931788640	NEXA DELHI ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 987891000	NEXA DELHI ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 708210031	NEXA KASHI NAGAR NARAINA PLATINUM AUTO GROUP PH: 965308841	NEXA SECTOR 5 VPL MOTORS PH: 999170771	NEXA SECTOR 1 ROHAN MOTORS PH: 987866699

*Terms & conditions apply. Features and accessories shown may not be of standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. All offers are brought to you by NEXA dealers only. Offers may vary subject to the model and variant purchased. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. Consumer offers applicable for 2023 model while stocks last. For more details regarding offers please contact your nearest NEXA dealership. Maruti Suzuki Smart Finance is now available pan-India. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe available only in selected cities.

IN BRIEF



Day after quitting Congress, Gujarat leaders join BJP

Former Gujarat Congress chief and ex-MLA Arjun Modhwadia along with the party's former working president Ambarish Der joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday, a day after they quit the grand old party. The two leaders joined the BJP at its State headquarters in Ahmedabad along with several others. State BJP chief C.R. Paatil inducted them into the party by offering them saffron caps and scarves. Mr. Modhwadia and Mr. Der resigned on Monday, expressing anguish over the party's decision to "boycott" Ram temple consecration ceremony held in Ayodhya in January. **PH**

Ambala-Chandigarh highway reopens after three weeks

Authorities have reopened the Ambala-Chandigarh national highway that was closed for the last three weeks to prevent the entry of protesting farmers from Punjab who wanted to march to Delhi, officials said on Tuesday. However, the Haryana-Punjab border in Shambu near Ambala continues to remain blocked. Ambala administration opened a single lane of the Ambala-Chandigarh highway near Sadopur late on Monday night, removing the barricades to enable traffic movement. The protesting farmers have been camping at the Shambu border after their "Delhi Chalo" march was stopped by security personnel. **PH**

Former MP Dhananjay Singh convicted in kidnapping case

A local court in U.P.'s Jaunpur on Tuesday held former MP Dhananjay Singh and one other guilty of kidnapping "Namami Ganga" project manager Abhinav Singhal, demanding extortion, abusing and threatening him. Additional Sessions Judge Sharad Kumar Tripathi, after hearing both the factions, held Singh and his associate Santosh Vikram guilty in the matter. The punishment will be decided on Wednesday. Both Singh and his associate have been sent to judicial custody. The former MP was arrested in the case and later got bail from the Allahabad High Court, District Government Counsel Satish Pandey said. **PH**

14 trainee sub-inspectors arrested in paper leak case

Fourteen trainee Rajasthan Police sub-inspectors were arrested on Tuesday over a 2024 paper leak case connected to the recruitment exam they cleared, officials said. They said sixteen probationary sub-inspectors were detained in connection with the case and an FIR was filed against 40 people in total. At the Special Operations Group headquarters in Jaipur to discuss the paper leak of the Sub-Inspector and Constable Commandment Recruitment Examination held in 2021, Cabinet Minister Kirori Lal Meena said the number of fraudulently recruited candidates for the S-I position could reach 300. "I will talk with the government to cancel the examination," he added. **PH**

J&K HC to hear Mirwaiz Farooq's plea against 'illegal, unauthorised detention'

Peerzada Ashiq

The J&K High Court is likely to pass directions on Wednesday in a petition filed by Hurriyat chairman and the Valley's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on alleged restrictions on his movement and "denial of permission" to attend Friday prayers at Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. **WISSE/ANHAD**

The court on February 21 granted the Lieutenant-Governor's administration "the last and final opportunity" to file its reply and elaborate on the reasons for placing the 50-year-old cleric under "house arrest" in Srinagar. In September last year, Mr. Farooq approached the court seeking an order or direction to the J&K

Rajbhar finally gets look-in as Adityanath inducts four new Ministers into Cabinet

Two from BJP and one RLD MLA inducted in Council of Ministers; the expansion signals BJP's focus on getting right the social and regional balance ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha election

Mayank Kumar

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday expanded his Cabinet for the first time in his second term inducting four new Ministers — two from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and one each from allies Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD).

SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar, RLD MLA Anil Kumar, and Dara Singh Chauhan and Sunil Sharma (both BJP) were sworn in by Governor Anandiben Patel. With this, the strength of the State Council of Ministers has increased to 56. Uttar Pradesh can have a maximum of 60 Ministers.

While Mr. Rajbhar represents the Zahirabad Assembly segment of Ghazipur district in eastern U.P., Mr. Anil Kumar is an MLA from Purkazi reserved constituency in Mu-

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel administers the oath of office to Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party Chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Dara Singh Chauhan and Sunil Kumar Sharma and RLD MLA Anil Kumar as State Cabinet Ministers in Lucknow on Tuesday. **ANI**

zaffarnagar district, while Mr. Sharma is the MLA from Sahibabad in Ghaziabad district.

Of the four newly-inducted Ministers, only Mr. Chauhan is a Member of the Legislative Council. Congratulating the new Ministers, Mr. Adityanath wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "I am fully confident

that all of you will play an important role in realising the resolve of 'Developed Uttar Pradesh' by bringing 'Modi's Guarantee' to the ground."

Mr. Rajbhar, who joined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in July last year, has continuously pushed for his induction in the U.P. Cabinet.

Tuesday's expansion comes a day after Mr. Rajbhar opposed the candidature of BJP's nominee from Salempur Lok Sabha constituency Ravindra Kushwaha.

The expansion clearly signals BJP's focus on getting right the social and regional balance with an eye on the upcoming general election.

While two new entrants, including Mr. Rajbhar, hail from the non-Yadav Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and are from eastern U.P., the other two — a Dalit and a Brahmin — are from western U.P.

The SBSP enjoys sizeable support among the Rajbhar community in eastern Uttar Pradesh, while Mr. Chauhan, who also joined the BJP in July and lost the Ghosi Assembly bypoll, is said to have considerable influence among non-Yadav OBC voters in some areas of the eastern U.P. region.

Jail radicalisation: NIA searches in six States; mobiles, cash seized

The Hindu Bureau

Expanding the ambit of its investigation in the Bengaluru Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) prison radicalisation case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday searched multiple locations in six States and seized a host of digital devices and incriminating documents, along with cash.

NIA teams swooped down on the premises of suspects in various places across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, Gujarat and West Bengal on Tuesday, and recovered 25 mobile phones, six laptops and four storage devices, besides various incriminating documents, apart from a currency notes of various countries.

The NIA has been probing the case since October 25, 2023, and has filed a charge sheet against eight



persons on January 12 this year. Two of them are absconding. Investigations had revealed that the absconder had established a network comprising individuals across India to promote the LeT's activities.

The case relating to radicalisation of inmates in Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison by alleged LeT operative T. Nazeer was originally registered by the Bengaluru City Police following the seizure of arms and ammunition. Nazeer was arrested in connection with the 2008 serial bomb blasts.

Shah lashes out at the 'dynasts of INDIA' at Sambhajinar rally

Shommojit Banerjee

Accusing leaders of the opposition INDIA alliance of caring only about the political ambitions of their kin, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that those who worked only for the welfare of their sons, daughters and nephews were incapable of working for the welfare of the country.

Addressing a massive rally in Sambhajinar (formerly Aurangabad), Mr. Shah said that leaders in the INDIA bloc of parties did not "practise the politics of principles but of dynasty". The Sambhajinar Lok Sabha seat is currently held by Imitiaz Jaleel of the AIMIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi.

"There are two camps ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha election. One, the NDA alliance under PM Modi's leadership; the other,

Home Minister Amit Shah with Maharashtra Deputy CM Fadnavis and BJP State chief Bawankule at a rally in Jalgaon on Tuesday. **ANI**

their country," said Mr. Shah.

Targeting the AIMIM, Mr. Shah exhorted the audience "to throw out the Malle" from the government and "gift a lotus to PM Modi" in the upcoming election.

Seat-sharing turmoil

Mr. Shah is on a two-day visit to the State amid seat-sharing turmoil within the ruling 'Mahayuti' parties (Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP). Prior to his rally,



Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldip Singh Pathania also confirmed that notices have been sent to some BJP MLAs, and said the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee.

7 BJP MLAs got notices for House 'ruckus': Thakur

Press Trust of India

Seven BJP MLAs have received notices for allegedly creating a ruckus in the Vidhan Sabha on February 28, Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said on Tuesday.

Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldip Singh Pathania also confirmed that notices have been sent to some BJP MLAs, and said the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee.

The Speaker did not specify the number of legislators against whom proceedings have been initiated.

The notices have been issued to the BJP MLAs for creating a ruckus in the House and not leaving it when it was briefly adjourned after the suspension of 15 BJP legislators.

The BJP MLAs were suspended a day after the Opposition party won the elections for the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh after some Congress MLAs cross-voted in favour of BJP party candidate Harsh Mahajan.

"The indiscipline created by BJP legislators inside

the House invites action for breach of privilege, rules and constitutional provisions and notices are being issued to them in this regard," Mr. Pathania said.

"Not permissible" MLAs can protest in a dignified manner and raise slogans but throwing papers on the chair of the Speaker is not permissible, Mr. Pathania said. The Privileges Committee would hold its proceedings on camera and submit a report, he said.

In a statement issued here, Mr. Thakur said the Congress is hatching a conspiracy to save the government by issuing notices to the BJP MLAs through Privileges Committee.

The democratic rights of the legislators are being violated, he said.

Voice of dissent in Rajasthan after BJP distributes tickets for Lok Sabha poll

The Hindu Bureau

A voice of dissent has emerged in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Rajasthan after the distribution of tickets for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Two-time Churu MP Rahul Kaswan, who was denied the ticket, has registered his protest amid indications that the Opposition Congress is trying to entice him. Mr. Kaswan, 47, may contest the Lok Sabha election as an independent candidate.

The BJP sprang a surprise by fielding Devendra Jhajharia (right) in the place of two-time Churu MP Rahul Kaswan (left), who has made known his protest.



The BJP fielded Devendra Jhajharia (right) in the place of two-time Churu MP Rahul Kaswan (left), who has made known his protest.

which has 25 Lok Sabha seats in its first list released on March 2. Eight of the candidates are sitting MPs who were renominated.

Mr. Jhajharia, 42, has earned distinction as a javelin thrower and is known as the country's most decorated Paralympics player, having won gold medals in 2004 in Athens and in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. Mr. Kaswan's candidature was ap-



parently rejected because of allegations over his role in the defeat of senior BJP leader Rajendra Rathore at Taranagar in the 2023 Assembly election.

In an emotional outburst, Mr. Kaswan asked in a long post on X on Monday about the reasons for not declaring him the Lok Sabha candidate for the third term. "Was I not loyal? Was I tainted? Did I leave any stone unturned

in getting the works done in Churu?" he asked, adding that he had ensured implementation of all Central schemes in his constituency.

"What else was needed? Whenever I asked this question, everyone remained speechless. Maybe my own people can tell me something," Mr. Kaswan said. The MP holds considerable influence among Jats in the Shekhawati region.

Amid speculation over Mr. Kaswan's next political move, the Congress seems to be offering a place in the Churu to Jhajharia District Congress Committee chief Bishanram Syag said that if Mr. Kaswan had opted to align with the Congress, his victory would be a "foregone conclusion".



TRANSFORMING CULTURAL SPIRITUAL HUBS INTO ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE



Uttar Pradesh's remarkable transformation, spearheaded by CM Yogi's relentless crackdown on crime and corruption, has earned the unshakable trust of investors, propelling Uttar Pradesh into a prime investment destination. Investments pouring in all sectors and job opportunities for lakhs of youth have effectively controlled migration to other states. In a concerted effort, the state government has prioritized the development of world-class infrastructure, while also highlighting the cultural, spiritual, and historical significance of its cities. This dual focus has not only enhanced the overall appeal of these cities but has also contributed significantly to the state's economic growth. Cities such as Ayodhya Dham, Varanasi, Mathura, Prayagraj, and the Buddhist circuits have emerged as highly sought-after destinations for tourists within the country. Additionally, the government has embarked on the establishment of a State Capital Region (SCR), modeled after the National Capital Region (NCR). This initiative aims to equip districts, including Lucknow, with cutting-edge infrastructure and amenities, thereby attracting more investors and fostering a thriving business environment. Programs like One District One Product (ODOP) and Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana have not only provided a distinct identity to these districts but have also bolstered their economic self-reliance. UP has achieved a monumental milestone by simultaneously launching investment projects exceeding Rs 10 lakh crore during the GBC 4.0, marking a historic first in the nation. The initiative, comprising over 14,500 projects, promises to generate employment opportunities for 34 lakh youths in the foreseeable future.

VARANASI

UPGIS-2023

Projects	581	MoUs (Rs. crore)	142903
Investment (Rs. crore)	19245	Employment	44215

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	19245	Employment	44215
------------------------	-------	------------	-------

INVESTMENT FRIENDLY STATE

Gorakhpur is witnessing a lot of industrial development. GIDA is the economic capital of east UP, Nepal, and border districts of Bihar. It has a market potential with a good supply of manpower also. We are expanding our paper disposable unit with an investment of Rs 10 crore

Sudhanshu Tibrewal, Industrialist, Gorakhpur

AYODHYA

UPGIS-2023

Projects	508	MoUs (Rs. crore)	145116
Investment (Rs. crore)	12915	Employment	25000

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	12915	Employment	25000
------------------------	-------	------------	-------



MATHURA

UPGIS-2023

Projects	484	MoUs (Rs. crore)	30235
Investment (Rs. crore)	16587	Employment	31680

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	16587	Employment	31680
------------------------	-------	------------	-------

The Uttar Pradesh government has focussed on urban development resulting in the creation of job opportunities and the development of cities. Our company is investing about Rs 750 crore in real estate projects, of housing and commercial complexes at Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Mathura

Sunil Solanki, Omaxe Ltd., Prayagraj

GORAKHPUR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	630	MoUs (Rs. crore)	183738
Investment (Rs. crore)	17313	Employment	37000

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	17313	Employment	37000
------------------------	-------	------------	-------



A favorable business environment is prevailing at Sitapur. The policies of the government are helpful in promoting business and development. Industries are being set up in accordance with local needs facilitating easy availability of raw materials. Naimsharanya has great potential in terms of tourism

Ajeet Kumar Singh, Industrialist Sitapur

PRAYAGRAJ

UPGIS-2023

Projects	460	MoUs (Rs. crore)	63618
Investment (Rs. crore)	13227	Employment	25000

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	13227	Employment	25000
------------------------	-------	------------	-------

Muzaffarnagar has great potential for investments and business opportunities with the creation of an investor-friendly environment by the state government. Sectors like paper mills, cotton yarn, hotel industries, engineering, and agricultural machinery are drawing heavy investments

Pawan Kumar Goel, IIA Muzaffarnagar chapter

CHITRAKOOT

UPGIS-2023

Projects	280	MoUs (Rs. crore)	67422
Investment (Rs. crore)	7147	Employment	7000

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	7147	Employment	7000
------------------------	------	------------	------



SANT KABIR NAGAR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	92	MoUs (Rs. crore)	5480
Investment (Rs. crore)	1872	Employment	3652

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	1872	Employment	3652
------------------------	------	------------	------

MAJOR INVESTMENT BY COMPANIES

AYODHYA

House of Abhinandan Lodia (Real Estate)
Investment - Rs. 3000 crore
Employment Opportunity - 100 people
Pakka Limited (Paper Manufacturing Machines)
Investment - Rs. 550 crore
Employment Opportunity - 600 people

MIRZAPUR

Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited (Cement Manufacturing)
Investment - Rs. 3000 crore
Employment Opportunity - 2500 people

SITAPUR

Century Plyboard India Limited (Wood)
Investment - Rs. 1500 crore
Employment Opportunity - 3000 people
Greenlam South India Limited (Wood/MDF)
Investment - Rs. 1500 crore
Employment Opportunity - 2000 people

MATHURA

Keshav Publications Pvt Limited (Stationary goods, electric items, plastic products mfg.)
Investment - Rs. 1250 crore
Employment Opportunity - 10000 people
IFP Petro Products Pvt Limited (Refinery)
Investment - Rs. 1100 crore
Employment Opportunity - 700 people

MUZAFFARNAGAR

Bhartiyam Beverages Pvt Limited (Beverages)
Investment - Rs. 600 crore
Employment Opportunity - 500 people

PRAYAGRAJ

JK Cement Limited (Cement Manufacturing)
Investment - Rs. 400 crore
Employment Opportunity - 250 people

PRAYAGRAJ, GORAKHPUR, CHITRAKOOT, AMETHI

Varun Beverages Limited (Beverages)
Investment - Rs. 3500 crore
Employment Opportunity - 10000 people

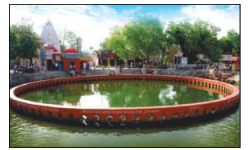
SITAPUR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	302	MoUs (Rs. crore)	29886
Investment (Rs. crore)	22172	Employment	18000

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	22172	Employment	18000
------------------------	-------	------------	-------



SHRAVASTI

UPGIS-2023

Projects	439	MoUs (Rs. crore)	2422
Investment (Rs. crore)	666	Employment	3905

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	666	Employment	3905
------------------------	-----	------------	------

MIRZAPUR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	243	MoUs (Rs. crore)	17166
Investment (Rs. crore)	7437	Employment	15135

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	7437	Employment	15135
------------------------	------	------------	-------



BALRAMPUR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	194	MoUs (Rs. crore)	1402
Investment (Rs. crore)	438	Employment	1851

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	438	Employment	1851
------------------------	-----	------------	------

KAUSHAMBI

UPGIS-2023

Projects	143	MoUs (Rs. crore)	1689
Investment (Rs. crore)	681	Employment	3382

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	681	Employment	3382
------------------------	-----	------------	------



MUZAFFARNAGAR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	249	MoUs (Rs. crore)	15549
Investment (Rs. crore)	9938	Employment	10284

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	9938	Employment	10284
------------------------	------	------------	-------

KUSHINAGAR

UPGIS-2023

Projects	346	MoUs (Rs. crore)	3713
Investment (Rs. crore)	1169	Employment	9133

GBC 4.0

Investment (Rs. crore)	1169	Employment	9133
------------------------	------	------------	------





Kerala student's death: V-C suspends Dean

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University officiating Vice-Chancellor P.C. Saseen-

dran on Tuesday suspended M.K. Narayanan, Dean, and R. Kanthanathan, tutor and assistant hostel warden of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, in

connection with the death of a student Sidharthan whose body was found in the hostel on varsity campus on February 18.

In his explanation, Dr. Narayanan said there were no lapses on the part of the administrator. He also said that he was not the person residing on the campus and supervising things.

Nadda sets BJP's tone for LS polls, questions Cong. president on 'pro-Pak.' slogans

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda, who is on a visit to Belagavi district, on Tuesday set the tone for the party's Lok Sabha poll battle by demanding an explanation from AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge about the alleged incident of "pro-Pakistan" slogans raised in the Vidhana Soudha. He said: "It seems everything is free here, including terrorism."

"The country expects an explanation by Mr. Kharge about pro-Pakistan slogans in the Vidhana Soudha," Mr. Nadda said while addressing a public rally organised by the party in Chikkodi of Belagavi district. "Why do you support people who spread terror in the minds of the people? Are you in favour of India or Pakistan?" Mr. Nadda sought to ask Mr. Kharge. Accusing both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of "remaining silent" on the issue, he alleged that their silence had indicated that they were supporting the perpetrators.

Launching an offensive against the Congress government in Karnataka, Mr. Nadda said: "Why are the Congress leaders silent even when their own MP's supporters indulge in such an anti-national act? There has been a bomb blast in Bengaluru recently. Going by the way Congress is ruling Karnataka, it seems everything is free here, including terrorism."

At the same time, he claimed the BJP would seek votes based on its achievements and not by criticising the Congress. "We have not come here only to criticize the Congress. We have come to speak about the good work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Today's India is moving towards self-reliance. It doesn't matter that we did not win the Assembly elections in Karnataka. But we are trying to convince the people about the dangers of electing the Congress," he said.

Congress ex-MP from Varanasi joins BJP

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Congress leader and former Varanasi MP Rajesh Mishra on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in New Delhi. Mr. Mishra, who represented the seat between 2004 and 2009 and is a prominent Brahmin face in eastern Uttar Pradesh, said that he will try to ensure that the Opposition candidate will sail to get both agents in Varanasi parliamentary segment in the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the sitting Lok Sabha member from Varanasi and has been re-nominated to contest the seat.

The former MP, who spent around four decades in the Congress, later said that the alliance with Samajwadi Party (SP) is disastrous for Congress in the State. Welcoming Mr. Mishra, BJP leaders said his entry will further consolidate the party in Varanasi and adjoining regions.

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.
TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Managing Director, U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., General Manager (Agra Zone I) (Lucknow Zone-2) and Electrical Zone-4, invites online percentage bids in two bid system for:

- (1)- NIT No-2898 Dated 23-02-2024 Construction of Proposed Repair and Renovation of Orphanage Block at GSSM Medical College Kanpur Nagar.
- (2)- NIT No-2899 Dated 23-02-2024 Construction of Jacocha Bachecha Hospital at GSSM Medical College Kanpur Nagar.
- (3)- NIT No-2897 Dated 21-02-2024 Construction of New Block on First Floor of Institute of Medical at GSSM Medical College Kanpur Nagar.
- (4)- NIT No-2896 Dated 20-02-2024 Construction of Renovation of Surgery Department at GSSM Medical College Kanpur Nagar.
- (5)- NIT No-7010M Lilo Zone-2 (Type-V) R/RNH.C.U. (1)-2024 Dated 14-02-2024 Construction of Renovation and Painting of Type-V Residential ATB Lucknow.
- (6)- NIT No-71930M Lilo Z-21 R/RNH.C.U. Dated 04-03-2024 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENLIGHTENED OF PRICE WORK CONTRACTOR VENDOR FOR VARIOUS PROJECT UNDER JURISDICTION OF LUCKNOW ZONE-2 U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.
- (7)- NIT No-2895 (ELEC. and Equip. Tender R/RNH.C.U. Dated 03-03-2024 Construction of PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION OF ICS BLDG IN BRUNDASTRAM.
- (8)- NIT No- 1857A/ME/Elec. unit Prayagraj/2024 Dated 10-02-2024 Construction of SFC of Escalator (4 Nos) in Carpet Ego Mart Bhadoosi. Last date of submission of offers upto 2:00 PM on Date 11-03-2024 (S-1 to 5), upto 3:00 PM on Date 11-03-2024 (S-4), upto 3:00 PM on Date 12-03-2024 (S-7) upto 12:00 PM on Date 11-03-2024 (S-6) all other details on website: www.tender.up.nic.in and www.upnigam.org

Govt. of Bihar
Rural Works Department

Notice Inviting Short Term Tender (No.-RWD/STATE SCHEME (NABARD)/HQ/ET/14/2023-24)

Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, SBD based Percentage rate short term tender in electronic tendering system under State Scheme (NABARD) for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES /Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Description of the Works	Table-1		Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable* (In Lacs)	Cost of BOQ	Works Division Name
			Length (M)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)				
1	Madhubani	Construction of Bridge at Ranipatti to Itharwah Mukhaya Road me Jarjar/Pul per	30.26	391.51	2.25	393.76	7.88	Benipatti
2	Jamui	Construction of H.L. RCC Bridge Over Gajhi River in Garbhudhi more to Blichkerwa Road	97.44	494.18	9.209	503.39	10.07	Jhajha

Table-2

Downloading of Bidding Documents	From 11.03.2024 (0900 Hours) to 18.03.2024 (1500 Hours)
Online Bid Submission last Date	on 18.03.2024 up to 1500 Hours
Offline Bid Submission last Date	on 18.03.2024 up to 1500 Hours
Online Bid Opening Date	on 18.03.2024 at 1530 Hours
Cost of Bid	10000/ (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of concerned Executive Engineer.
Place, date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Concerned office of Superintending Engineer on 11.03.2024 from 1100 Hours

For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prbidhar

PR-18875 (R W D) 2023-24

Engineer-in-Chief
Rural Works Department

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Victoria Cross Vigneh Gaba Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwar Road, Dehra Dun-248001
Corporate Headly No. 144/198/2003/SC/2003/17233
Tel No. 0513-270972-26 Fax No. 0119-2709289 Web: www.uttarakhandpc.com

CORRGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

This office e-tender specification No.CCP-II/26/2023-2024 invited previously for engagement of Accredited Energy Auditor to carry out the energy audit and submit their report for FY 2023-2024 is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 13:00 hrs of 07.03.2024. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 07.03.2024 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uttarakhandpc.com.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
No. 129/EE/IGM/UP/CL/2-2 Dated: 05.03.2024 CORPORATE (CAP-2)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use LED Bulb. Save Electricity. (Toll Free No. 1912) *Pay Electronly SBI Online 24x7 from www.up.gov. [For information on E-tendly that, informer may report to 04 Free No. 1800 181 4195-05/Fax No. 0135-2709311]

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: L40108JH2013NGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 (E-mail: cejusnl@gmail.com)

Expression of Interest (EoI) Notice
EOI No. 702/PR/JUSNL/23-24

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (JUSNL) invites bid for Expression of interest for appointment of suitable agency for energy accounting and energy audit of actual energy wheeled through JUSNL transmission system for the period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24 as per specification and scope of work of EoI documents.

EoI notice & document are available on <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> for downloading. Any modification/ corrigendum etc. in EoI notice will be available on <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only.

Date of uploading EoI document	07.03.2024 at 11:00 AM
Pre bid meeting	15.03.2024 at 12:30 PM
Closing date of downloading EoI document	02.04.2024 upto 04:30 PM
Date and time of opening of EoI	03.04.2023 upto 04:00 PM

1. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (8987421011) during office hours.

सहित एच ईओ नोटिस में कमी वरतने 1 कुपय उपरने विचारणे का 1802346620 (ऑफिस सेन्स) पर करें वरतने।

Sd/-
PR 321633 Jharkhand Urja General Manager, C&M (NWBP) Sancharan Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D JUSNL, Ranchi

Agra Gets a Secure, Fast, Reliable, Comfortable & Eco-Friendly Urban Transportation System

Inauguration of Agra Metro Rail Project
(Priority Section from Taj East Gate to Mankameshwar)

By **Narendra Modi**
Prime Minister
(Through Video Conferencing)

In the August presence of

Anandiben Patel Governor Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh	Hardeep Singh Puri Minister, Petroleum & Natural Gas Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India
Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India	Kaushal Kishore Minister of State, Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India	Baby Rani Maurya Minister, Women's Welfare, Child Development & Nutrition, Uttar Pradesh
Dharmveer Prajapati Minister of State (Independent Charge), Jail & Home Guard, Uttar Pradesh	Rajkumar Chahar MP, Fatehpur Sikri	Yogendra Upadhyay Minister, Higher Education, Science and Technology, Electronics & Information Technology, Uttar Pradesh
	Naveen Jain MP, Rajya Sabha	

6 March, 2024 | 09:45 AM | Taj Mahal Metro Station, Agra

- World class travel experience for locals and tourists
- Seamless connectivity to Taj Mahal, Agra Fort
- Decongestion of Roads
- Divyangjan Friendly
- Sustainable Transport System

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited | LIVE TELECAST | DD NEWS & YouTube.com/DDNEWS | UPGovtOfficial | CMOUTtarpradesh | CMInfoUP | Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

Heady electoral rhetoric with a hegemonic ring to it



Deprivileging bribe

Voters should know that MPs do not act under monetary inducement

I was a judgment that has rankled for years. The artificial distinction that the Supreme Court of India made over 25 years ago between 'bribe-givers' and 'bribe-takers' in the infamous JMM bribery case left many aghast that those who paid crosses of rupees to MPs for voting in favour of the PV. Narasimha Rao government in a no-confidence motion were to be prosecuted for corruption, but those who took the money were immune from prosecution. The reason was that those who had voted for money enjoyed the constitutional privilege of not being subject to any legal consequence for 'anything said or any vote given in Parliament'. There was one exception among the alleged bribe-takers: Ajit Singh, who was accused of taking a payoff, was to be prosecuted because he was absent during the voting, and was thus stripped of the protection enjoyed by those who actually voted in terms of the bribery agreement. The Court has corrected this anomaly in the law related to parliamentary privileges by holding that there can be no immunity for a Member of Parliament or a State Legislature against a bribery charge in connection with a vote or speech in the legislature. In overruling the majority verdict in *PV. Narasimha Rao vs State (CB/SPE)* (1998), a seven-member Constitution Bench has redefined propriety as the main aspect of parliamentary functioning.

The Court has made it clear that parliamentary privilege, enshrined in Article 105 (for MPs) and Article 194 (for State legislators) is aimed at protecting the freedom of speech and independence of the legislators in their functioning in the House and not in relation to bribery, and is essential to the casting of the vote or in deciding how to cast it. A key rationale that weighed with the Constitution Bench in 1998 was that parliamentary privilege was essential to protecting members from persecution for anything said or any vote in the House. The majority feared that limiting this privilege might have serious consequences and felt that continuation over the conduct of some MPs accepting a bribe should not lead to the court constraining the Constitution so narrowly that it removes the guarantee for effective parliamentary participation and debate. However, the seven-member bench has concluded that the potential for such misuse is neither essential nor distinct from the guarantee of the court's jurisdiction to prosecute a member for bribery. The Bench has also held that voting in a Rajya Sabha election, being part of a legislator's function, is protected under Article 194 of the Constitution as a privilege. It requires utmost protection for a member to vote freely and without legal persecution. But, the majority verdict meets public expectation that the members they elect do not act under monetary inducement.

Law and disorder

The continued radicalisation of Manipuri society is a cause of concern

One of the cardinal principles of a functioning and modern democracy is that only the state, led by a government that is elected by the people, has a legitimate right to use or to authorise the use of physical force. When civilian groups resort to violence against state actors without repressions, one has to call into question the maintenance of law and order in the State of Manipur. In late February, cadres of the Meitei chauvinist group, the Arambai Tengol, allegedly abducted a police officer, threatened him and vandalised his property. Officers protested the act, lamenting their inability to take action against the group. It is another matter that the group has managed to source its weapons from the looting of police stations in the valley following the ethnic conflagration last May. Many of the weapons are yet to be seized or returned. It is despite this that the police officers in the valley are heavily ethnised with barely any representation from the Kuki-Zo minority. Yet, the impunity with which the Arambai Tengol has acted against a police official, and even assaulted a leader of the opposition in the recent past besides administering oath to legislators from the valley to pledge for its majoritarian cause, is a testament that the political leadership of the State government or have been deliberately ignored. The severe ethnisation in the valley and the hills has also granted a degree of popularity to groups such as the Arambai Tengol and counterparts in the hills, making law enforcement difficult to achieve.

It is the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, cracks the whip on the Arambai Tengol, the radicalisation of Manipuri society will continue, making a return to a much-needed civic state of affairs all the more difficult. But with Mr. Singh acting less as a Chief Minister and more as a leader promoting majoritarian politics, it is incumbent upon the BJP leadership to re-evaluate its strategy to let the status quo continue in the State.

The run-up to the general election this year is a propitious moment to interrogate the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition's self-presentation of its rule to the electorate, in whose name it governs.

As the ruling coalition seeks a third consecutive mandate at the Centre, one can trace a tangible shift in the coalition's campaign pitch to voters. At the surface, one finds a perceptible repositioning in the campaign's mainline narrative: economic progress and 'softer' cultural rejuvenation have morphed into welfare guarantees and blunter Hindu majoritarianism. At a deeper level, the defining characteristic of the sought mandate has turned away from promises of socio-economic transformation and moved closer towards a rebranding on a hegemonic political order.

The latter shift came as a referendum on the disproportionate political capital expended towards demonstrating the ineptitude or venality of the opposition parties. The government appears on less sure ground on its billboard 'Modi ki guarantee' theme: a motley of stated government achievements (identified in a personalised manner with the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi) across social, economic and cultural fronts.

The rationale for the government's apparent hesitancy in clearly foregrounding a pro-incumbency campaign – similar to the NDA's 'India Shining' campaign in 2004 – is not particularly hard to fathom. While the term 'guarantee' signifies an expectation of certainty, the claims enrobed within the 'guarantees' appear to carry, on the whole, a much more limited popular credibility.

'Guarantees' versus survey

To illustrate the point, let us juxtapose the explicit guarantees being proffered in the Prime Minister's name, with the corresponding set of survey evidence (taken from last month's bi-annual *India Today* 'Mood of the Nation' (MOTN) survey).

The guarantee of 'A Promising Ecosystem for the Amrit Pechli' portrays a rapid pace of job creation – "reducing the unemployment rate from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 3.2% in 2022-23". In contrast, the voter survey exhibits a marked dissatisfaction on job creation, with only about a third of respondents crediting success to the government on this front. The 'welfare guarantee' also appears to be on a shaky foundation as 62% expressed difficulty in managing daily expenses. What about the 'empowering *amudata* (farmers) guarantee' or the 'middle class emerges a winner' guarantee? The survey shows a plurality (45%) blaming government policies for widening the gap between rich and poor. What about the 'Indian Economy: A Story that Inspires' guarantee? A quarter believe their household income will improve in future, while



Asim Ali
is a political researcher and columnist

three-quarters believe it will either remain stagnant or worsen. In fact, more respondents expect a reduction in future income (30%) than those who expect an improvement (25%).

The most damning indictment is expressed on the question probing which sections are seen to have benefited most from government policies – 52% say big businesses, compared to 9% for farmers, 8% for salaried classes and 6% for daily wage labourers.

The basis of a hegemonic strategy

In spite of the stark disconnect between incumbent claims and popular perceptions, the headline figure of the *India Today* survey depicts the NDA heading for a comfortable majority, skirting the scale of the 2019 mandate. The government itself projects the ringing figure of 400-plus. The inevitability and incontrovertibility of a third term is itself presented as the overarching guarantee of the campaign narrative.

This is what we mean when we say that the NDA seeks a mandate characteristic of an aspiring political hegemon. A political regime can draw sustenance through such a self-perpetuating hegemonic effect even in the absence of widespread popular approval of its political projects. The critical condition hinges on the political project's credibility as representing the 'only game in town'.

What are the mechanisms through which such a hegemonic effect is maintained? One can glean three complementary legs of the NDA's hegemonic tripod: the first is tactical political control. The critical political edifice through a mix of coercive measures and power-sharing incentives. The second is delegitimising the political Opposition as corrupt or pernicious, focusing attention on their 'normless' self-seeking opportunism. The third is undermining the possibilities for emergence of a broad-based alternative.

On the tactical political control, the media spaces, with depictions of the fragmented or listless state of rival political formations, heralding the much-trumpeted certainty of coming electoral triumph.

However, even this overarching guarantee of electoral triumph remains blighted with deficits in credibility. On the question of whether the NDA bloc can defeat the NDA, 31% of the 'MOTN' survey respondents say yes and 55% say no. Nevertheless, as the magazine adds: "the drop in voter confidence has not been as sharp even as the alliance has lost key partners".

The NDA's own political manoeuvres also betray the stubborn tenacity of political control. The portrayal of opposition alliances as woefully lacking in popular acceptability seems to be rebuffed by the regime's high-profile attempts at breaking away these very rival formations, including in the core heartland states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

In the book, *Neoliberal Hegemony and the Pink Tide in Latin America: Breaking Up with TINA*,

political scientist Tom Chodor examines the conditions undergirding hegemonic sustenance and breakdown. In the Latin America of the 1980s and 1990s, right-wing regimes took power by instituting neoliberal economic policies which were consistently blamed for increasing socio-economic inequality and even intensifying absolute poverty.

As Chodor explains, while their economic policies remained widely resented by the broad populace, these 'Ceasarist' regimes survived by assembling a coalition of dominant social classes: industrial bourgeoisie, rural oligarchy and upper middle classes. A steady mix of coercion and incorporation of elite challengers, buffeted by an equal emphasis on the opposition's 'unfitness to govern', helped institute a 'common sense' understanding in Latin America that there was no alternative to their respective regimes of unconstrained neoliberalism.

The pink tide of social democratic forces taking power across the continent from the early 2000s (notably in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela), according to Chodor, succeeded through a forging together of an evolving counter-hegemonic bloc. This convergence encompassed the leftists working class consciousness, with newly politicised 'marginalised and excluded subjectivities': an 'anti-elite' coalition built on an enlarged political bloc including women, indigenous communities and growing sectors of informal labourers.

Chodor argued that this coalition strategy followed "Grassroots' insistence that the development of a radical political will is 'an active and reciprocal' educative relationship...illuminating the intersecting dimensions of class, race, and gender exploitation".

A similar coalition of backward castes, labouring classes, and marginalised minorities emerged in India, with the ruling party more than half-a-century ago by Rammanohar Lohia. Interestingly, the choice of the newly incorporated parties in the NDA (the Janata Dal (United) and Rashtriya Lok Dal) suggests the BJP's discomfort at the possibility of an INDIA coalition which can fuse together the constituencies of caste-based social justice and agrarian discontent within its ideological umbrella.

Notwithstanding the heady hegemonic rhetoric, the NDA remains acutely cognisant of its previous losses: from the 2015 defeat in Bihar to a social justice platform of a grand Mandala alliance to the recent electoral losses in Karnataka and Telangana.

The Hindutva coalition has indeed willed away on quite a few occasions in the recent past, faced with a backlash emanating from the backward castes and rural sectors. The only guarantee inherent in the political process is of a fluid space where alternative imaginations and possibilities can be temporarily suppressed but never foreclosed.

As the National Democratic Alliance seeks a third consecutive mandate at the Centre, there is a tangible shift in the coalition's strident campaign pitch to the voter

Green jobs and the problem of gender disparity

The transition to low-carbon development has the potential to add about 35 million green jobs in India by 2047. The International Labour Organization defines green jobs as "decent jobs that contribute to preservation or restoration of the environment". Many of these span across sectors such as manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, energy efficiency and automobiles, which traditionally saw a lower representation of women.

Globally, men are likely to transition to green jobs faster than women. Even as India increased its renewable energy capacity by 25% between 2015 to 2021, women comprised merely 11% of workers in the solar rooftop sector. The Annual Survey of Industries 2019-20 shows that women workers are mostly concentrated in industries such as apparel, textile, leather, food, and tobacco. In contrast, a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 2019 report shows that men comprise 85% of the work force in sectors such as infrastructure, transport, construction, and manufacturing.

A study in 2023 by the Skill Council for Green Jobs indicated that 85% of the training for green skills was imparted to men while over 90% of women believed that social norms limited their participation in training for green jobs. These restrictive social norms include factors such as the belief that women are unsuitable for certain technical roles, safety concerns, lower representation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects, and familial constraints.

As the world enters the green transition, empowering women and advancing gender equity in climate actions will be one of the keys to unlock the co-benefits of low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy. Increasing women's representation in green jobs has several benefits.

In the short run, it can address the gender biases in the Indian labour market and improve women's labour force participation rates. In the

Anany Chakraborty
is with the World Resources Institute, India

Bhavna Ahuja
is with the World Resources Institute, India

Arvind Nambi Appadurai
is with the World Resources Institute, India

Increasing women's representation in green jobs will lead to benefits such as boosting a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy

long run, this can contribute to improving women's agency and their empowerment by creating economic, technical, and social opportunities.

Address the gaps in data

There is limited data to understand the landscape of women's work for green jobs in India. Mapping emerging areas for green growth and collecting sex-disaggregated data on green jobs could be the starting point to improve women's participation. There is need to build evidence on the present and future impact of low-carbon transitions on women's employment and earnings while considering the hidden and invisible roles played by women across different sectors and geographies. This could be done by conducting gender analysis, collecting gender statistics on green jobs through periodic labour force surveys and mobilising additional resources to emphasise and encourage women's role in the green transition.

Globally, women are being left behind in the worldwide race to achieve climate targets and sustainability goals. This is particularly evident in the transition to a low-carbon economy, where new opportunities are created alongside job displacement and transformation. Recently in a survey on the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions planning, COP 28's high-level dialogue launched 'Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership' with a focus on improved data, targeted finance, and skill development.

Given the unequal landscape of women's work and participation in green jobs, we need to ensure that women can access emerging opportunities from low-carbon transitions. There is a strong need to review the status quo, map the current roles of women, address structural barriers that hinder women's employment choices, and also create a conducive ecosystem to foster their participation in green jobs.

In India, despite 42.7% of the total number of STEM graduates being women, they represent

only 30.8% in engineering, manufacturing and construction programmes which are the key sectors for green transition. To bridge this gap early hands-on learning, mentorship, scholarships, financial assistance, and awareness generation are crucial to empower women in green-job-related fields.

Supporting women entrepreneurs

Gender-focused financial policies and products catering to the requirements of women entrepreneurs can spur their ability to enter the green transition market. Collateral-free lending, financial literacy training and building supportive ecosystems are crucial steps to unlock their potential. Suitable tools must be developed to assess creditworthiness, disburse loans, and reduce operational costs for women-owned businesses.

Finally, bringing in more women into leadership positions to incorporate gender-specific needs in low-carbon development strategies can promote women's integration in green jobs.

A gender-just transition demands a multi-pronged strategy that focuses on employment, social protection, reduces the burden of care work, and enables skill development. Partnerships between government, private sector and other stakeholders are necessary to leverage the benefits of innovation, technology and finance for women entrepreneurs and workers.

Businesses must recognise the centrality of gender justice and ensure equity throughout the green transition by mitigating barriers that exist due to stereotyping or gender bias and fostering equitable job opportunities for a just transition that benefits everyone. This is the time to build the capacity and support women in meeting the demands of the new world of work and co-design a future pathway that is socially equitable and inclusive for all.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poll bonds, bank plea

That the nation's premier bank which prides itself on its digital initiatives is seeking more time to collate data on poll bonds, is shocking and surprising (inside pages, March 5). It is amply evident that the

bank's nine-page application in the top court of the land is aimed at delaying the whole process beyond the general election, by which time any kind of disclosure will not be possible (March 5). It is biggest winner among the

political parties.

J. Anantha Padmanabhan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Name, name change
Long before women fought for equal rights, in Kerala, women and men used the surnames of their mother.

My family name has the initial 'A', for 'Allah', the family name of my mother. Bravo Ms. Divya Modi Tongya (Editorial, March 5). **A. Balagangadharan,**
Pollachi, Tamil Nadu

In most of the southern

States, the practice of adding the father's name when a baby is born or admitted in school is not followed. The name has just the initial(s). Well-informed parents add a surname so that there is uniform in government records. But

the girl child is usually not given any surname. After marriage, some add the husband's name. Perhaps it is best to have the full name of the father in the child's name and just stick to it! **V. Lakshmanan,**
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

The dynamics of household consumption

The eagerly awaited fact sheet of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 was released recently by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The results of the survey are significant as the last results on household consumption expenditure were released in 2011-12.

What the survey does
The HCES offers a close look at how households across India incur expenditures on consumable items in a given period. It captures auxiliary information on household characteristics and demographic details. The information gleaned from the HCES is instrumental in constructing a weighing diagram for Consumer Price Indices, an index that tracks retail inflation. The weights obtained from the HCES represent the relative significance of goods and services, determined by their respective shares in the overall consumption patterns of households.

The HCES has played a pivotal role in India's growth story since its inception in 1950-51. Beyond merely detailing spending habits, this survey has been a crucial factor in estimating the head count ratio, which is the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line. Moreover, the HCES has been an invaluable resource for research in diverse fields, including economics and sociology, contributing to our understanding of the nation's socio-economic landscape.

The HCES was initially scheduled to be conducted in 2020-21 but this could not happen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey finally commenced in August 2022 and went on until July 2023. The survey's resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity. Another phase of HCES, ongoing in 2023-24, started after the completion of the first phase.



Subash Chandra Malik
is an ISS officer, currently posted as Additional Director General, Field Operation Division, NSSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), malik.sc@nic.in



Harshvardhan Singh Garwal
is an ISS officer, currently posted as Assistant Director at Regional Office-Jaipur, FOD, MoSPI, harshvachon@nsargoal@gmail.com

The views are the authors' own

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 is a testament to India's commitment to a resilient statistical system embracing both tradition and innovation

The two-phase approach not only underscores the perseverance displayed in navigating the challenges in the first phase but also emphasises the commitment to capturing a comprehensive and evolving snapshot of India's household consumption patterns.

A significant stride in HCES 2022-23 was the positive shift to the modern and efficient computer-assisted personal interview method from the traditional paper-aided personal interview method. Data this time were entered using tablets. This shift expedited data collection and processing, introducing a more streamlined scrutiny mechanism across surveys of the NSSO.

Engaging a significant sample size of 2,61,746 households, strategically selected through statistically sound sampling design, the survey was designed to align with the consumption patterns of 'New India'. The questionnaire was enriched with contemporary items such as paner, LED bulbs, headphones, and details on online purchases and the removal of obsolete items. To ensure a more efficient and accurate data collection process, the survey adopted a strategic approach. The questionnaire was divided into three parts, and households were surveyed in three separate monthly visits within a quarter. This not only expedited the canvassing process but also resulted in an improvement in response quality, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the consumption expenditure on all 407 items.

This holistic approach to data collection, combining both conventional and contemporary practices, highlights the commitment of the HCES to accurately capture the diverse consumption patterns of households. The robust sampling design, coupled with the incorporation of new and innovative survey techniques, reflects a dedication to staying attuned to the dynamics of a rapidly changing official statistics

domain. The fact sheet provides key estimates within six months of the end of the survey, with low relative standard errors for monthly per capita expenditure at both national and State levels.

While embracing modernity, the survey also retained certain traditional practices. The age-old method of imputing the value of home-grown or produced stock, gifts, loans, and exchanges persisted. Additionally, the NSSO took a pioneering step by imputing the value of items received free of cost through various social welfare programmes for the first time.

Insights into changes, trends
The fact sheet provides intriguing and precise insights into India's economic landscape. The average MPCI stands at ₹3,773 in rural India and ₹6,459 in urban India. Notably, when considering imputed values of free items, these figures increase to ₹3,860 and ₹6,521, respectively. The fact sheet covers various aspects, including the consumption share of item groups, average MPCI by household type, and figures at both the all-India level and across States and Union Territories.

It provides trends as well. Analysing the trend from 1999-2000 to 2022-23 reveals a significant transformation in MPCI composition in rural and urban areas. There is a noticeable decline in the percentage share of expenditure on food items (especially cereals), accompanied by an increase in the share of spending on fresh fruits and processed foods. There is a surge in non-food expenditures' share, particularly on durable goods, indicating an improved standard of living and a growing preference for lifestyle enhancements.

HCES, through the collective endeavor of the Indian Statistical Service officers, the Subordinate Statistical Service officers and the entire staff, stands as a beacon of reliability, a valuable tool for shaping the trajectory of New India's economic policies.

The question of Rajya Sabha seats

The Congress has to tread cautiously with the IJML

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
bijugovind@thehindu.co.in



The rival political coalitions in Kerala — the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) — have nearly hammered out the differences within their alliances to reach a consensus on seat allocation for the 20 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

Known for its adept handling of allies, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which leads the LDF, has seen greater success in seat distribution compared to the Congress, which leads the UDF and which has encountered challenges due to its dominant presence in the Indian Union Muslim League (IJML), demanding an additional seat to contest the elections. Reportedly, both the main parties engaged in negotiations with their constituents and offered them a Rajya Sabha seat in the near future. Kerala elects nine members to the Rajya Sabha for a six-year term.

The Rajya Sabha terms of CPI(M) member Elamaram Kareem, CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam, and Kerala Union Muslim League (IJML), demanding an additional seat to contest the elections. Reportedly, both the main parties engaged in negotiations with their constituents and offered them a Rajya Sabha seat in the near future. Kerala elects nine members to the Rajya Sabha for a six-year term.

Currently, all these seats are held by the LDF. But the LDF will lose a seat to the UDF based on the strength of legislators from both fronts in the Assembly. The CPI(M), which has three more members in the Rajya Sabha, i.e., in addition to Mr. Kareem, will have

to persuade the CPI, which is contesting four Lok Sabha seats, to offer the second winnable Rajya Sabha seat to the IJML.

With the IJML announcing its candidate, Thomas Chazhikadan, for the lone additional seat in Kottayam, Mr. Mani at present holds no official position in the LDF. The IJML enjoys support in Central Travancore, while the CPI has built a presence in all the districts over the years, though its influence is waning now. After the IJML switched loyalties from the UDF to the LDF, the Left parties supported Mr. Mani for the continuation of his tenure in the Rajya Sabha.

Dilemma of the Congress
Meanwhile, the Congress party is coping with the dilemma of accommodating the IJML's demand for a Rajya Sabha seat without having one of its own members elected to the Upper House. Incidentally, the Congress had to forgo the Rajya Sabha seat that it could have easily won in 2018, as the party handed it over to the IJML to facilitate its return to the UDF. In 2016, the IJML walked out of the UDF, ending a three decade-long association, saying the Congress had not supported K.M. Mani in the alleged bar bribery scam.

At that time, the Congress Central leaders criticised its Kerala leaders for offering the Rajya Sabha seat to its junior partner. Six years later, the

prospect of the Rajya Sabha bill is again looming over the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The IJML's demand for a third Lok Sabha seat or another Rajya Sabha seat resonates with the rank and file. The party seeks better representation for Muslims in elected bodies, commensurate with the community's population share (28%) in Kerala. The UDF already has two Rajya Sabha members — P.V. Abdul Wahab of the IJML and Jebi Mather Hisham of the Congress, both belong to the Muslim community.

Post-delimitation, when Malappuram district gained four seats and Kannur, Kozhikode, and Palakkad districts in Malabar each gained one seat, the IJML expanded its base. It has a presence in the southern districts, with Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta losing two seats each and Kollam and Kottayam losing one each. Interestingly, the LDF secured 39% of the Muslim votes in the 2021 Assembly polls, according to the Loknit-CSD post-poll survey.

Electoral-wise, the Congress needs the IJML, but IJML does not need the Congress, to win Lok Sabha seats in Malabar. The IJML's demand is expected to make the final decision on the IJML's demand for the Rajya Sabha seat. However, if it hands over the Rajya Sabha seat to the IJML, it could spell serious trouble for the party and the UDF. Already facing accusations of appeasement, the Congress has to tread cautiously. It needs to balance electoral pragmatism and ideological integrity, while retaining its support from the Central leaders criticised its Kerala leaders for offering the Rajya Sabha seat to its junior partner. Six years later, the

Airlines damaged luggage of one in every two flyers: survey

While the number of lost and damaged luggage has increased over time, customer handling has become better

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

In the last two years, every one in two flyers in India had experienced damaged baggage at least once, as per a survey by LocalCircles. In the same period, every two in five flyers in India had their baggage delayed or lost by an airline at least once. Moreover, one in three flyers whose baggage was lost/delayed/damaged by an airline said that when they reached out to complain, customer service and the responsiveness of the airline was poor or pathetic.

The survey, conducted through the LocalCircles platform in 2024, garnered responses from more than 41,000 airline passengers across 303 districts in India. Of them, 67% were male and 33% female. The geographical distribution of the participants included 41% from tier-1 areas, 30% from tier-2 areas, 17% from tier-3 areas, and 12% from tier-4, and rural areas. To take part in the survey, participants were required to be verified citizens registered with LocalCircles.

Recently, after incessant complaints from passengers, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, which oversees regulations, issued instructions to seven leading Indian airlines to increase their staff. This directive aimed at optimising and improving the process of baggage handling at airports before the end of February 26. It warned that failure to comply may lead to more regulatory measures.

Chart 1 shows the times in the last two years (2022-2024) when travellers experienced delayed or lost baggage. Among respondents, 18% said that they had experienced this more than once, while 24% said that they had experienced it once. Together, 42% had experienced this at least once. Only 56% said that they had always got their baggage on time.

form in 2022, and for the years 2020 to 2022. **Chart 2** shows the comparison. In 2022, only 11% had said that they had experienced lost/delayed baggage more than once, while only 14% said that they had done so once. 75% of them always got it on time. So, the share of passengers whose luggage was lost or delayed by airlines has sharply increased. However, it is to be noted that the 2022 survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic when airlines were not in operation for a while.

Chart 3 shows the times in the last two years (2022-2024) when travellers experienced damaged baggage. Among respondents, 26% said that they had experienced damaged baggage more than once, while 24% said that they had done so once. Together, 50% had experienced this at least once. Only 48% said that their luggage had never been damaged.

The same question was asked in a survey conducted by the platform in 2022. **Chart 4** shows the comparison. In 2022, only 35% said that they had experienced damaged baggage at least once, while 65% said that their baggage had never been damaged. So, the share of passengers whose luggage was damaged by airlines has sharply increased.

Chart 5 shows the times in the last two years (2022-2024) when travellers experienced damaged baggage was delayed, lost or damaged who rated the responsiveness of the airlines as excellent, good, average, poor or pathetic. Only 10% rated it excellent; 27% rated it good, 31% average, 12% poor, and a similar share said it was pathetic.

The same question was asked in a survey conducted in 2022. **Chart 6** shows the comparison. In 2022, 50% had rated the customer service as poor or pathetic. So, customer service has improved significantly in the last two years.

So, while there is a rise in the share of travellers whose luggage was lost or damaged or delayed by the airlines, the response to the crisis has improved over the years.

Handle with care

The data for the charts were sourced from a survey conducted by LocalCircles



Chart 1: The chart shows the times in the last two years (2022-2024) when travellers experienced delayed or lost baggage

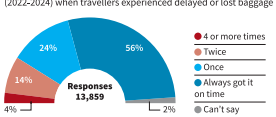


Chart 2: The chart plots the same data shown in chart 1 for 2022 & 2024

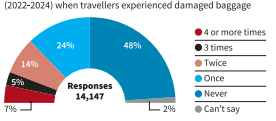


Chart 3: The chart shows the times in the last two years (2022-2024) when travellers experienced damaged baggage

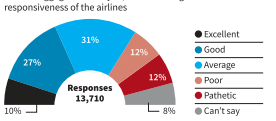


Chart 4: The chart plots the same data shown in chart 3 for 2022 & 2024

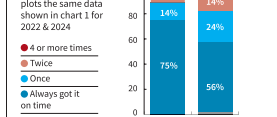


Chart 5: The chart shows the share of travellers among those whose baggage was delayed, lost or damaged who rated the responsiveness of the airlines

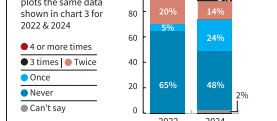
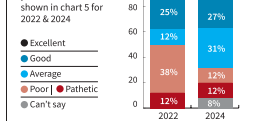


Chart 6: The chart plots the same data shown in chart 5 for 2022 & 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1974

Wilson returns to power in UK.

London, March 5: The Labour Party leader, Mr. Harold Wilson, returned to power as Britain's Prime Minister last night.

Mr. Wilson, 58, accepted Queen Elizabeth's commission to form a new Government soon after Mr. Heath turned in his resignation at Buckingham Palace.

With 301 of the 635 seats in the House of Commons, the new Labour Government will be a minority government, the first since 1929.

Mr. Wilson's moment came when the 14 MPs of the Liberal Party - the party playing its biggest role in British politics for half a century - opted out of any action to keep Mr. Heath's Conservatives in power.

The Liberal MPs expressed themselves unanimously in favour of a national government made up of members of all the three main parties.

Mr. Wilson's resignation came four days after the general election in which his Conservative Party lost its majority in Parliament and emerged five seats behind the Labour Party.

He publicly said last night that he would support the Labour Government on every policy that he considered realistic and in the national interest.

Mr. Wilson named a cabinet of familiar faces with one surprise - left-winger Michael Foot in the key job of Employment Secretary, empowered to try and settle the coal miners' strikes.

Otherwise key cabinet posts went to most of the same men who served in Mr. Wilson's last Labour Government defeated in 1970, although not always in the same posts.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1924

Jute boom in Scotland

London, March 4: Scottish jute cloth manufacturers have received orders beyond their brightest hopes. Contracts for more than million yards of Hessian cloth have been booked, delivery being as far ahead as the end of this year. Prices have risen sharply. The explanation is that consumers are purchasing heavily in view of the great demand for floor cloth which will follow the Government's housing schemes.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The decline in India's unemployment rate in 2023, as per the NSSO

3.1 in percentage. Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years or above declined in 2023 and was the lowest in the last three years, as per a report of National Sample Survey Organisation. PH

India's coal output from April to February in FY24

880.7 in million tonne. India is now just 119.28 MT away from its one billion tonne coal production target for FY24. In 2022-23, India's total coal output was 893 MT. PH

Worth of order bagged by BHEL for NTPC for thermal project

9,500 in ₹ crore. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) said it was given the order from the NTPC to set up a 1,600 MW Singrauli thermal power project (Stage-II) in U.P. PH

Number of companies in the northeast to opt for the NPS

76 companies. There are over 17,000 registered companies in the northeastern region, of which only a few opted to enrol their employees under the National Pension System (NPS). PH

The decline in the borrowing cost of States in India

7.4 in percentage. Amid continuing lower supplies, the borrowing cost for States fell to a 32-week low, down by 4 bps from the previous week's auctions. PH

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://www.facebook.com/thehindu) twitter.com/the_hindu [instagram.com/the_hindu](https://www.instagram.com/the_hindu)

Maharashtra's latest Maratha quota law

What have commissions said about the law? What is the legislative history of the Bill and will it pass judicial scrutiny, unlike its predecessors? What is the current reservation pool of the State? Why was the earlier Bill struck down by the Supreme Court?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

In February 20, the Maharashtra Assembly unanimously passed a Bill granting 10% reservation in education and government jobs to the Maratha community. However, activists have claimed that the new legislation is a "betrayal" of the community and instead seek a Maratha quota carved out from the existing reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) category.

What does the new Bill entail?

The Bill does not disturb the existing OBC quota and is distinct from the Maharashtra government's earlier notification on the issuance of Kunbi caste certificates to eligible Marathas for inclusion within the OBC category. Thus, non-Kunbi Marathas will continue to be covered under the new law, making the Maratha community eligible for reservations under two separate categories for the first time. However, those who fall within the "creamy layer" bracket will not be entitled to the benefit. The law has been formulated based on a report by the Justice (retired) Sunil B Shukre-led Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission that claims to have surveyed 1,58,20,264 families across the State. It opined that "exceptional circumstances and extraordinary situations" justify granting reservation to the community beyond the Supreme Court-approved 50% limit. While concluding that the Marathas constitute 28% of the State's population, with 84% of them qualifying as not advanced, it pointed out that such a large backward class cannot be added to the existing reserved categories. The Commission also attributed extreme poverty, decline in agricultural income, and partitions in land holdings as reasons for the declining status of the Marathas.



Not over yet: People celebrate the passing of the Maratha reservation bill, in Mumbai on February 20, 2024.

Maharashtra already has 52% reservations, split into Scheduled Castes (8%), Scheduled Tribes (7%), OBC (19%), Vimalta Jati (3%), Nomadic Tribe B (2.5%), Nomadic Tribe C (3.5%), Nomadic Tribe D (2%), and Special Backward Classes (2%). The 10% Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation is also applicable to the State – making the total reservation pool 72% with the inclusion of the new quota.

When was the demand first raised?

The first-ever bid for implementing a law to extend reservation to the Marathas was in 2014 when a non-statutory committee headed by veteran leader Narayan Rane submitted a report to the then Prithvraj Chavan-led Congress-NCP Democratic Front government, stipulating that the Marathas constitute 32% of the population in the State and needed economic

upliftment in the form of a special quota. Accordingly, the government passed an ordinance reserving 16% of government jobs and seats in educational institutions for Marathas and 5% for Muslims. However, the Bombay High Court passed an interim order staying the ordinance, pointing out that findings of previous committees such as that of the National Commission for Backward Classes have shown that the Marathas cannot be regarded as a backward class. Referring to the apex court's landmark verdict in *Indra Sawhney versus Union of India* (1992), the Court underscored that the 50% cap for reservations cannot be breached except "in extraordinary situations and for extraordinary reasons."

What has the Supreme Court said?

Following its failed attempt, the government constituted an 11-member

statutory commission – the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission headed by Justice (retired) N.G. Gaikwad to conduct a survey. In its report submitted on November 15, 2018, the Commission recommended granting Marathas 12% reservation in higher education and 13% reservation in public employment. Based on this, the government on November 30, 2018, implemented the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018, which provided the Marathas 16% quota overall in education and government jobs.

However, in May 2021, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil versus Chief Minister, Maharashtra* struck it down and held that there were no "exceptional circumstances" that merit the government breaching the 50% ceiling limit to bestow quota benefits on the Maratha community. Declining to revisit its *Indira Sawhney* verdict, the Court said that the 50% cap is now constitutionally recognised. Dismissing the findings of the Gaikwad Commission, the Court observed that the Marathas are a "dominant forward class and are in the mainstream of national life."

Will it pass judicial muster?

According to Alok Prasanna Kumar, Co-Founder and Lead at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, the legislation is unlikely to pass judicial scrutiny. "The Court refused to recognise the Marathas as a socially and educationally backward class. The criteria for granting such a reservation should be based on data which shows that the community suffers from social backwardness. For instance, were they denied access to education and social facilities?" he highlights.

"To breach the SC-ordained 50% reservation cap, exceptional circumstances need to be shown, which is not the case here, as Marathas are politically dominant, and have land holdings – by no metric can they be said to be socially and educationally oppressed," Mr. Kumar adds.

THE GIST

On February 20, the Maharashtra Assembly unanimously passed a Bill granting 10% reservation in education and government jobs to the Maratha community.

The law has been formulated based on a report of the Justice (retired) Sunil B Shukre-led Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission that claims to have surveyed 1,58,20,264 families across the State. It opined that "exceptional circumstances and extraordinary situations" justify granting reservation to the community beyond the Supreme Court-approved 50% limit.

As per Alok Prasanna Kumar, Co-Founder and Lead at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, the legislation is unlikely to pass judicial scrutiny.

Why did Google delist some Indian apps from Play Store?

What is the platform fee issue that has brought Indian tech firms and the tech giant at crossroads?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

In March 1, Google announced that it was pulling the apps of almost a dozen firms out of its marketplace for Android apps. While the announcement seemed sudden, it was preceded by years of wrangling between the search giant and Indian companies, with proceedings in the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court. After the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology intervened, the apps were restored on Monday, but the issue remains unresolved.

What is the problem?

At the heart of the issue is Google's platform fees. For all in-app purchases that involve a purely digital service – such as an ebook purchase or an OTT streaming subscription – Google collects a fee of anywhere between 11 to 30% per transaction. This fee, Google argues, helps the company pay for Google Play

and develop the Android ecosystem. The exact fee paid by each developer varies. If a developer is using Google's own billing product, and is offering a recurring subscription service, or if they make less than \$1 million a year in revenue from in-app payments, the company charges 15%. For app purchases for bigger firms, the amount is 30%. In India and South Korea, where regulatory scrutiny on these fees has been among the most intense, Google collects 11% or 26% in fees if developers choose to use a different payment method. However, Indian developers – like many global counterparts – see these fees as a high price to pay. Some, including Bharat Matrimony and Disney+ Hotstar, approached the courts at different stages to avoid paying the fee altogether.

"While Google should definitely be able to charge a fee for creating and maintaining the app store ecosystem, the main contention is the size of the fee," Rohit Kumar, founder of the public policy firm The Quantum Hub explained.

What about other marketplaces?

Apple has not faced similar pushback in India, as relatively fewer Indians use its products. Android, however, dominates the smartphone market, and Google Play is widely seen as the best bet for developers who want to be discovered by consumers. However, both Apple and Google have faced serious international resistance to these fees, and both firms have pushed back strongly against developers' resistance. The music streaming firm Spotify filed a complaint with the European Commission, after Apple stopped Spotify from telling its users how to pay for its service using a browser to avoid the App Store's fees. Additionally, Spotify said this was anti-competitive because Apple Music was not subjected to the 30% barrier that was erected for Spotify. Following the complaint, Apple was hit with a €1.84 billion fine by the European Commission, which ruled that it had fined the company over unfair trading conditions. Similarly, in the U.S., Epic Games, the developer of

the popular Fortnite franchise, sued Apple as well as Google over the 30% fee. Unlike Apple, Google allows third party app stores around the world, something that gives app developers a little more leeway in avoiding these fees. But Google Play apps installed by default on most Android phones.

How have regulators responded?

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had in 2022 fined Google ₹96.44 crore for its Play Store policies. The segment is in the process of appealing that fine, as well as orders by the CCI that it give developers comprehensive choices for in-app payments. An appeal by Google against this fine is pending at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. Meanwhile, the Indian apps that went to the Court are back on the platform for now. In-app payments are not yet a major part of the digital economy in India, as purely digital services for which Indian consumers have been willing to pay have been limited to content streaming, dating and matrimonial services – the very segment that is largely up in arms against Google's fees. "What we really need is regulation to increase competition in the app store market," Mr. Kumar said. "This should involve removing barriers to the adoption of other app stores (by placing restrictions on arrangements that Google makes with phone manufacturers to set defaults and give primacy to its own apps) and allowing side-loading (for apps to be downloaded via websites)."

THE GIST

On March 1, Google announced that it was pulling the apps of almost a dozen firms out of its marketplace for Android apps.

At the heart of the issue is Google's platform fees. For all in-app purchases that involve a purely digital service, Google collects anywhere between 11 to 30% per transaction. However, Indian developers – like many global counterparts – see these fees as a high price to pay.

Apple has not faced similar pushback in India, as relatively fewer Indians use its products.

ABSTRACT

Have India's health centres really 'collapsed'?

In this paper, the authors counter and complicate the prevailing narrative of 'collapse'. They present a portrait of the healthcare centres in five north Indian States, documenting their strengths and struggles alike

Saumya Kalia

Jean Drèze, Reetika Khara, Rishabh Malhotra, "The Changing State of Health Centres in North India", Economic & Political Weekly (2024)

There is a well-documented infancy around public health centres. Some have likened it to a chasm, others to a systemic rot representing the "greatest failure of the Indian state". There is proven dilapidation and disrepair – there are no doctors, no diagnostics, no drugs. There are no buildings either sometimes, and people walk for miles to get substandard treatment. These centres, as reflections of the vast network of public healthcare, stoke the fear that India's health system has either collapsed or is disintegrating rapidly.

In this paper, the authors counter and complicate the prevailing narrative of 'collapse'. They present a portrait of the healthcare centres in five north Indian States, documenting their strengths and struggles alike. Their survey shows a pattern of "improving quality and intensity of services over time", but the nature of progress is "largely cosmetic", and "the pace of improvement" remains "far from adequate". Still, there is scope and strength in redeeming health centres potential, they say. Against all odds, health centres "are mostly functional" and show "a demonstrated capacity to improve".

Why do health centres matter?

Health centres are the lowest rung of India's public health system, charged with offering accessible and affordable primary care. Almost two lakhs in number, they are conceptualised as a three-tier system: sub-centres (later renamed as health and wellness centres), public health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs). 94% of these centres are located in rural areas, but reports show that less than 20% of them function effectively, pushing disadvantaged communities to rely on expensive, exploitative private health care. "Torn between the two, many patients end up risking their health or their wealth, if not both". Last year's Economic Survey showed that in the absence of proper insurance and affordable services, almost half of all health spending in India is still paid by patients themselves, pushing many households into poverty.

The answer to social and health inequity may lie in accelerating the expansion and improvement of health centres. "The best healthcare is a much better way of dealing with most health problems than to let patients lose on larger public hospitals or the private sector".

'Unsured' improvements

The researchers studied the performance of 241 health centres – 26 CHCs, 65 PHCs and 150 sub-centres, spread across Bihar (23), Chhattisgarh (36), Himachal Pradesh (45), Jharkhand (37) and Rajasthan (100). They referred to data from two studies from two different decades, one in 2002 and one in 2013, conducted in Udaipur and parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Centres from the 2013



Still hope: People outside a flooded government health centre in Saran, Bihar in 2021. PTI

survey were revisited in 2022, with Chhattisgarh added to the mix. Himachal Pradesh was always a "trailblazer" with functional centres serving 83% of its population, but States like Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have introduced "valuable initiatives". "Health centres today have better facilities, dispense more medicines, serve more patients, and provide a wider range of services than they did 10 or 20 years ago", the researchers found. This perception of progress was shared by health workers too, who found that "the work environment and the work culture seem to improve hand in hand".

Two case studies stand out. Chhattisgarh was a pleasant surprise: by 2022, it illustrated a "radical expansion in public provision of healthcare". Local health workers reported running water, functional toilets, better facilities for cold storage, vaccines, contraceptives, etc.), more medicines, a supportive role of ASHAs and open centres with staff

present most of the time. There also has been a surge in public healthcare utilisation. On the other hand, the "twin States" of Bihar and Jharkhand presented a contrasting narrative, with Bihar the apparent laggard. The quality of health centres was "dismal", some local sub-centres were dormant and others were non-existent.

On average, contrary to popular belief, there is "evidence of functionality" across PHCs: "The centres are generally open during working hours, patients are being treated, basic facilities (not more) are in place, and healthcare is more or less free except in Bihar". What changed between 2002 and 2022? The share of health expenditure in the Union Budget increased drastically, coupled with the introduction of the National Rural Health Mission. India's flagship Ayushman Bharat programme, launched with the vision of achieving universal health coverage, in 2018 introduced a health insurance component

(PMAY) and a public provision component through health and wellness centres (HWCs). State-specific schemes launched by Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh boosted their performance. The survey noted that COVID-19 contributed to a "sustained increase in patient utilisation", with people placing greater trust in public health facilities.

The flip side

Progress is rarely ever linear or logical. The study contextualises these signs of life's "noisiest improvements": only. The centres are still "grossly underutilised"; there is high staff absenteeism, the number of patients per day is low, services are limited and "quite likely, of poor quality". Bihar's sub-centres "are still trapped in the old pattern where Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) focus mainly on family planning targets and 'motivating' people—mainly women—for sterilisation".

The health workers interviewed listed challenges that remain neglected: lack of staff; irregular flow of funds; lack of toilet facilities; no drug use; functional testing equipment; and the growing burden of both online and on-field work. The study also documented social discrimination in health centres: some upper-caste doctors had "disparaging attitudes towards marginalised communities", and upper-caste families shied away from disrespected Dalit ANMs. Care isn't offered in a vacuum devoid of social realities; identity markers like caste, class, gender, and religion have historically shaped Indians' access to health services.

Researchers also made a rare mention of the critical role women play in health settings. The study found female nurses and staff members ran district hospitals and did "the bulk of the effort", while men in senior positions tended "to take advantage of their seniority". ANMs and ASHAs worked in grim environments with centres lacking running water and toilets. Still, they "tended to perform much better than the system in which they work". The researchers echoed demands made by frontline health workers: to enhance investment in this "veritable army of valuable health workers" so that women can reap the recognition or rewards of their work.

The pursuit of development

Investment in healthcare increased, but the "improvements are patchy" and allocations prioritise material development in tertiary healthcare. Take the composition of the healthcare budget: the allocation in 2022-23 (1.9%) was almost the same as a decade ago in 2013-14 (1.7%). The National Health Mission share shrank from 69% to 44%. In comparison, the government spent 10 times as much money on PMJAY and new tertiary AIIMS hospitals than on public welfare arms like the HWCs. The researchers poked holes in the claim that lakhs of HWCs were "created" – these were "minor upgrade[s]" of existing centres. The HWCs "have a relatively attractive look" but were only "marginally better" than sub-centres. "Quality improvements only "cosmetic" in nature".

The study sketches India's health centres as sites of hope, debunking cynicism surrounding its failures and dissects claims of progress. These struggles "cannot be regarded as success", but nor is it "hopeless", because "hope lies in the experiences of States that have shown how decent standards of healthcare can be achieved in the public sector". The researchers conclude by noting that "beyond the current tokenism of Ayushman Bharat", "major support from the centre... would make it much easier for poorer states to emulate these initiatives".



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. A. Shankar, Kallai Road, Kozhikode, wants to know the contexts in which the following words are used: (a) excuse (b) forgive (c) pardon."

"Please excuse me for losing my temper."

The sentence means that the person concerned is sorry for losing his temper and wants to apologise for it.

He always has a ready excuse for not doing his homework.

Here 'excuse' means 'some reason, whether true or untrue, given when asking to be forgiven for absence, bad behaviour, etc.' 'Excuse' also means 'reason, justification'.

She always has an excuse for entertaining people. It is either her birthday or her husband's salary day or her mother's recovery from a bad cold!

Please make my excuses for her for not attending her party.

Here "to make one's excuses" means "to explain why someone is not doing something or for absence." 'By way of excuse' or 'in excuse' is used when you want to justify your action.

I am sorry I did not attend the meeting. I can only say by way of excuse that I was unwell on that day.

"To excuse oneself for something" means "to set someone free from a duty, requirement, punishment, etc." In this sense, it is used in the passive.

He was excused from attending classes. She may be excused from PT classes.

'Excuse me' is used as an apology when one interrupts, disapproves or has to behave impolitely. Excuse me, can you tell me the way to the station?

'Excuse me,' he said, 'as he pushed his way through the crowd.'

Excuse my interruption. He stepped on my foot and said, 'Excuse me.'

When you did not hear what someone had said and would like him to repeat it, you say, 'Excuse me?' This is used more in American English than in British English. In British English, in such contexts, you say 'Pardon?' or 'I beg your pardon.' You also say 'Sorry?' These are polite ways of asking another person to repeat what he had said. 'Pardon' also means 'an action of a court or jury forgiving a person for an illegal act and giving freedom from punishment.' 'Pardon' in this sense is a formal word. 'Forgive' also means 'to pardon.' When you forgive someone, you do not want to punish him; also you have no resentment against him. In 'forgive' there is an element of compassion. 'Pardon,' 'excuse' and 'forgive' are also used to convey one's apologies for causing some inconvenience to another.

I beg your pardon. Excuse my interruption. Forgive my interruption.

"Ms. Meera Chatterjee, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of 'She danced like crazy'."

"Like crazy," 'like mad' are idioms which mean "to an extreme degree," very intensely. 'She danced like crazy' means that she danced with great enthusiasm. She talks like crazy. She spoke like mad.

These are used in informal contexts. "She laughed like crazy" means she laughed and laughed and laughed as if she were mad!" Published in The Hindu on April 30, 1991.

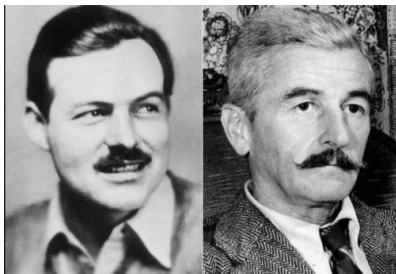
THE DAILY QUIZ

Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez was born on this day in 1927. Here is a quiz on one of the most significant authors of the 20th century

Sindhu Nagaraj

- QUESTION 1**
Let's start with a simple one: in which year did Márquez win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
- QUESTION 2**
Upon García Márquez's death in April 2014, Juan Manuel Santos, then president of Colombia, called him something. What is it?
- QUESTION 3**
This is a fictional town from one of his most celebrated novels of all time, *Hundred Years of Solitude*. The town is often supposed to draw from Márquez's

- childhood town, Aracataca. Name the town.
- QUESTION 4**
What was the name of the Colombian newscast that aired between 1992 and 1997? Márquez was one of the founders of this newscast.
- QUESTION 5**
This 1975 novel by Márquez is termed a 'dictator novel', having been based on a variety of real-life leaders. Name the novel.
- QUESTION 6**
What is the title of the speech given by Márquez upon being awarded the Nobel Prize? This theme also runs through much of Márquez's works.



Visual question: Name these two authors. How were they related to Márquez?

- Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The reason Antonio Vivaldi was nicknamed 'Red Priest': Ans: He had red hair and was trained as a priest.
- 2. The reason Vivaldi did not function as a priest was because of this ailment. Ans: Asthma.
- 3. The composer spent 37 years of his life at the Pio Ospedale della Pietà, a school which housed these inmates. Ans: Orphaned girls.
- 4. The most recognised of his compositions was this group of four concerti written for this instrument. Ans: The Four Seasons ('Le quattro stagioni') for the violin.
- 5. Vivaldi's compositions are identified by these two letters. Ans: RV (Ryom-Verzeichnis), a number created by Danish musicologist Peter Ryom.
- Visual: Name this famous composer. Ans: Johann Sebastian Bach.
- Early Birds: Prashant Nain | Md Sarfaraj Nawab | N.K. Viswanathan | Asrin Khattun | Lavanya Ranvee

Word of the day

Emote: give expression or emotion to, in a stage or movie role

Synonyms: play, represent, act

Usage: The ease with which he was able to emote this character deserves applause.

Pronunciation: /biːtʃ/əmoʊtəpə

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tʃmoʊt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

BJP calls out INDIA bloc parties over remarks by DMK leader

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday came down heavily on the India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties over alleged remarks by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP A. Raja that "India was not a nation".

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, at a press conference at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi, demanded to know whether the constituents of the INDIA bloc agreed with Mr. Raja's remarks on India's ethos.

Mr. Raja reportedly referred to the chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' raised by supporters of the BBKS in some contexts which were released from prison and said, "If that is your 'Jai Shri Ram', if this is your 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', we will never accept it."

Covt. is using SBI to hide dubious deals: Kharge

Congress chief says bank is trying to delay disclosure of poll bond donors till LS polls; party asks if bank and ruling party are defying SC order; CPI calls it attempt to save BJP from embarrassment

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A day after the State Bank of India (SBI) sought time from the Supreme Court until June 30 to submit details of the electoral bond scheme, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of using the SBI as a "shield to hide its dubious dealings".

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge claimed that experts were of the view that nearly 45,000 automated data entries of donors could be matched within 24 hours. "Why does the SBI then need 4 more months, to collate this information?" he said.

"Modi gov. is using the largest bank of our country as a shield to hide its dubious dealing," he said.

The Congress chief added, "No less than the Supreme Court of India had



The Congress leader alleged that the extension was being sought to ensure that the names of the donors were not exposed. PTI

struck down Modi gov's 'Black Money Conversion' scheme of Electoral Bonds, holding it 'Unconstitutional', Parliament and Op'ral. 'Violative of RTI and 'Illegal' and asking SBI to furnish donor details by March 6."

"BJP is the beneficiary" Mr. Kharge alleged that the extension was being sought to ensure that the names of the donors were not exposed before the Lok Sabha elections. "The BJP is the main beneficiary of this fraudulent scheme."

"Black money sources" Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Supriya Shrinete, who heads the social media

department, questioned why a bank that operated 48 crore accounts, 66,000 ATMs, and 23,000 branches, needed five months to provide information about electoral bonds.

"This should have been available at the click of a button," she said. "The question arises whether the country's largest government bank has now become a means of hiding the financial irregularities of the BJP and the means to conceal source of black money," she added.

The question arises whether a political party and a government bank are together defying the decision of the Supreme Court of the country," Ms. Shrinete asked.

Congress condemns remarks by DMK MP

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday condemned the reported controversial remarks of DMK MP A. Raja and asserted that one should exercise restraint while speaking.

Supriya Shrinete, a Congress spokesperson, when asked about Mr. Raja's remarks, said, "100% disagree with his remarks.

From this platform, I condemn such a statement. I believe Raja belongs to everyone and is all encompassing."

"I believe that Ram, who was called Inam-e-Hind, is also a community, religions and castes. Ram is an ideal of living life. Ram is dignity, Ram is ethics, Ram is love. I completely condemn this statement, it could be his statement, I do not support it."

Congress manifesto to focus on livelihood issues

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A foolproof system to prevent leak of question papers of professional recruitment exams, providing an allowance to unemployed youth, offering cooking gas cylinders for Rs450, cash assistance to women, and a low interest rate on education loans are some of the proposals that the Congress party may promise in its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said there would be a foolproof system to prevent the leak of question papers. The paper leaks that endanger the future of the youth. "In the past seven years alone, more than 70 paper leak cases have broken the dreams of more than 2 crore students. This is not only wasting their precious years but also putting a financial strain and mental burden on their families," he said in a post on X.

There is a need to ensure accountability at every level by ending the criminal nexus, says Rahul

every level by ending the criminal nexus of a callous government, corrupt officials, and mafia involved in cheating and private printing presses.

not let the future of students be played with" he added. Draft complete For the second day on Tuesday, the manifesto committee met to finalise the draft manifesto with a clear focus on employment and wellbeing issues.

The party will also reiterate its commitment to scrap the Agnipath scheme and revert to the old system of recruitment for the armed forces. "We have completed the draft manifesto and it will now go to the Congress Working Committee. The CWC will finalise it," P. Chidambaram, chairman of the manifesto committee, told presspersons.

Calcutta HC judge Gangopadhyay resigns, says he will join BJP

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

Hours after he resigned as a judge of the Calcutta High Court, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Tuesday said he was joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Asked about the reasons for his joining soon, maybe on March 7 in the afternoon," he said at a press conference. Speaking to presspersons at his residence, he said he had been in touch with the BJP. "I approached the BJP and the BJP approached me," he said.

The former judge, who had presided over crucial cases such as the West Bengal school job recruitment scam, had earlier sent his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu with copies to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court T.S. Sivagnanam.

Mr. Gangopadhyay said it was for the BJP leadership to decide his candidature for the Lok Sabha elections. He criticised the Trinamool Congress leadership and accused it of corruption. "Trinamool is not a political party. It is a jatra [rural theatre] party," he said.

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) HYDERABAD - 500007. WALK-IN INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION No. 03/2024

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA RGT No. 100/2024

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS IUCAA (An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission) Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411007

MASTERS DEGREE DIRECT ADMISSIONS 2024. School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Vijayawada

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION P.W.D., PUDUCHERRY. PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER

APPOINTMENT. National Forensic Sciences University, Dharam (Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU MADURAI HIGHWAYS PROJECTS CIRCLE. TENDER NOTICE. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Scheduled Tender under two cover system through online will be received upto 08.04.2024 15.00 hours

IN BRIEF



Man smokes beedi on board IndiGo flight, held in Mumbai

A 42-year-old man has been arrested after he allegedly smoked a beedi inside a lavatory on board a Riyadh-bound IndiGo flight, a Mumbai Police official said on Tuesday raising concerns over security as the passenger had managed to pass through pre-boarding check-in at the Delhi airport. He was handed over to the police by cabin crew after the Delhi-Mumbai-Riyadh flight landed at the city airport. The accused managed to sneak in a lighter and a beedi when he boarded the flight at the Delhi airport on Monday, the official said. A labourer by profession, the accused, was flying to Riyadh.

INS urges govt. to scrap 5% Customs duty on newsprint

The Indian Newspaper Society has urged the government to scrap the 5% Customs duty on newsprint to allow publishers to manage their operational costs more effectively. In a statement, the INS said a combination of factors affecting the price and availability of newsprint have created a formidable burden for publishers in the country. "This measure, if withdrawn, would provide much-needed relief to the print media industry, allowing publishers to manage their operational costs more effectively and ensure the continued dissemination of credible news and information to the public," INS president Rakesh Sharma said.

6 disqualified Himachal MLAs move Supreme Court for relief

Six Congress MLAs who were disqualified after they crossed-voted in the recent Rajya Sabha polls in Himachal Pradesh moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday against their disqualification. The former MLAs have filed a plea against the February 29 decision of the State Legislative Assembly Speaker, Kuldeep Singh Panthania. These Congress rebels, who had voted in favour of BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls on February 27, later abstained from voting on the Budget, defying a party whip. Senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi told the Rajya Sabha elections owing to cross-voting by the rebels.

Tejashwi Yadav calls for issue-based debate with PM

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday hit back at the BJP's Modi Ka Parivar (Modi's family) campaign, which came about as a response to his father Lalu Prasad's recent remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi having "no family". "Eighty per cent people are suffering from poverty, 100 crore people are unemployed, 120 crore people are helpless due to inflation, all the families are unhappy, yet he (Mr. Modi) calls them his family," Mr. Yadav told mediapersons in Patna. "There should be issue-based debate... He cannot run away from his responsibilities," the leader added.

Indian troops out, Maldives inks defence pact with China

The agreement says Beijing will provide free military assistance to Maldives to foster ties between the two nations; Muizzu says no Indian troops to remain on island, 'in uniform or in civil clothes'

Meera Srinivasan COLOMBO

Days after a technical team from India arrived in the Maldives to replace troops that President Mohamed Muizzu wanted removed, the Maldivian Defence Ministry announced signing a military pact with China.



Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon and Zhang Baoqun at China's Office for International Military Cooperation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Maldivian's Minister of Defence Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon and Major General Zhang Baoqun, Deputy Director at China's Office for International Military Cooperation, on Monday signed an agreement on "China's provision of military assistance gratis to the Republic of Maldives, fostering stronger bilateral ties", the Maldivian Defence Ministry said. The two sides also held bilateral talks on military cooperation.

The Ministry's post on social media platform X did not mention details of what the agreement entails. Further, China donating green ambulances to the Maldives' Health Ministry on Monday. The development is in line with the two countries agreeing to "elevate" China-Maldives relations to a "comprehensive strategic partnership".

Following bilateral discussions between a high-level core group, the two sides in early February reached a consensus on Indian troops leaving the Indian Ocean archipelago by May 10, in phases.

Addressing a public event on Monday, Mr. Muizzu reassured his supporters that Indian troops will no longer be stationed in the Maldives after the date, "either in uniform or in civil clothes". He appealed for responding to critics claiming that Indian soldiers had returned to the island nation in civil attire.

Addressing a public event on Monday, Mr. Muizzu reassured his supporters that Indian troops will no longer be stationed in the Maldives after the date, "either in uniform or in civil clothes".

Addressing a public event on Monday, Mr. Muizzu reassured his supporters that Indian troops will no longer be stationed in the Maldives after the date, "either in uniform or in civil clothes".

bullies don't provide USD 4.5 billion in aid when the neighbours are in trouble", referring to Lanka during its crisis in 2022, "have drawn wide attention in the Maldives."

Interpreting it as a "swipe at" Mr. Muizzu, several Maldivian media outlets reported the remarks, linking them to Mr. Muizzu's media comments soon after his return from China in January.

"Maldives may be small, but that doesn't give others the licence to bully the island nation," Mr. Muizzu said. During his China visit, the Maldivian leader also urged Chinese travellers to reclaim their spot in tourist arrivals to the island nation, India was the largest source market last year, but has since slipped to the sixth spot, following the "boycott Maldives" campaign that went viral on Indian social media earlier this year.

According to the Maldivian Tourism Ministry's latest figures, China accounts for 12.8% of the total number of visitors — 4.31,002 as of March 3 — recorded in 2024, while India accounts for 6.4%. Earlier this year, Beijing said "the relations between China and the Maldives now stand at a new historical starting point."

Bitter back and forth Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent comments at an event in New Delhi, where he said that "big

INDIA bloc leaders not able to digest success of govt.: PM

Satysunder Barik BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday strongly criticised the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), asserting that its nepotistic leaders intensified their attacks on him due to their inability to counter his government's accomplishments.

Addressing a public meeting in Odisha's jurjur district, he said, "Corrupt leaders of INDIA alliance do not like the developments undertaken in the country. These dynasts do not have any answer to our commitments, achievements, policies, and dedication. INDIA alliance has now stepped up its attack on Modi."

Every farmer, son and daughter refers to themselves as part of Modi's family, the Prime Minister says

free-ration programme for the poorer section of society. This is the reason why we continue to get blessings of people. We have extended the scheme by another five years. We are also executing Har Char Jal Yojana to make provision for tap water supply to every rural household. I am also working on making three crore lakhpatri didis (women self-help group leaders)," he said.

Modi, INDIA alliance leaders say that it is an ideological fight against me. The ideology of INDIA alliance leaders is family first while Modi's ideology is nation first. These leaders only live for their families while Modi lives for the family of the country," Mr. Modi said.

"These leaders have used poverty to get rid of their own power. But during administration of Modi, 25 crore families have elevated themselves from poverty. This is why I call mera bharat mera parivar (my country, my family). These statements are disheartening family-centric leaders. Since yesterday, every farmer, son and daughter have been resonating this, calling them part of Modi's family," he said

Bengal officials have been warned to curb poll violence: CEC

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA



Rajiv Kumar

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday that the Election Commission has issued strict instructions to the West Bengal bureaucracy to contain violence and ensure a level-playing field during the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Kumar said adequate personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) would be deployed in the State. The CAPF personnel would be jointly deployed by the nodal officer of the State police, the Chief Electoral Officer, and the Central Observer for the State. Information on deployment of forces would be provided to all parties, he added.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Kumar said the bureaucracy in the State had been fully sensitised to make sure that the elections were "free and fair". On previous failures to curtail violence during polls, Mr. Kumar said, "Incidents will not be that widespread this time. If violence does happen to spread, then the district administration will take action. If they do not take action then we will make them take action."

Law enforcement agencies have been directed to monitor inter-State boundaries and international borders to curb flow of in-

ducements, especially drugs, gold, and counterfeit Indian currency, he added. "All enforcement agencies will coordinate closely and not operate in silos and will ensure not only violence-free elections but also prevent any incident," he said.

The CEC said there were 7.58 crore voters — 3.85 crore men and 3.73 crore women — in the State. The number of first-time voters stood at 15.25 lakh.

The electoral gender ratio in the State stood at an impressive 968 women voters for 1,000 men voters, with 90 Assembly seats having a gender ratio of over 1,000. The full bench of the Election Commission has been in Kolkata for two days and held meetings with political parties and officials of the State government.

Mr. Kumar said the commission had taken steps to prevent the flow of fake news. It has launched an integrated mechanism system and a toll-free number to register complaints.

Google reinstates Indian apps 'in spirit of cooperation'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



Google is reinstating dozens of apps that were delisted by the company on March 1 for resisting the firm's platform fees on in-app payments, the tech company said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In the spirit of cooperation, we are temporarily reinstating the apps of the developers with appeals pending in the Supreme Court," a Google spokesperson said, referring to apps by developers like Bharat Matrimony and Kuku FM.

"Google maintains its right to implement and enforce its business model, as established in various courts. We will invoice our full applicable services fees

what they characterised as high fees that Google conditioned on their products being available on the company's Android application store. The tech firm collects 11%-30% per transaction in platform fees, which an emerging class of apps eager to charge for their services in India — such as in the dating, matrimonial or OTT streaming space — are trying to avoid.

"Google has been supporting our technology development journey and we believe that in the coming months, both start-up companies and Google will come to a long-term resolution," Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told ANI after meeting representatives from both camps.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

FAITH Gratitude to parents article with text and graphics.

WASHINGTON

Meta suffers global outage of Facebook, Instagram and Threads



Meta suffered a highly unusual outage of all its social media platforms on Tuesday with users of Facebook, Instagram and Threads locked out of their accounts. At about 12:00 U.S. east coast time (22:30 IST), the sites seemed to be returning to normal, about two hours after the outage reports first emerged. AFP

China defence budget up by 7.2%, targets 5% GDP growth

Associated Press BEIJING

China on Tuesday announced a 7.2% increase in its defence budget, which is already the world's second-highest behind the United States at 1.6 trillion yuan (\$222 billion), roughly matching last year's rise. The official budget figure announced on Tuesday at the opening of the legislature's annual meeting is considered only a fraction of spending by the People's Liberation Army, the world's largest military. The Communist Party, once spending on research and development and foreign weapons purchases are considered.

Premier Li Qiang, in his annual report to the legislature, said China's GDP growth target at 5% this year, while acknowledging it would be difficult to achieve.

China's economy is dealing with high youth unemployment and a cratering real estate market.

“Trump policy would not differ from the past on China, India”

Former Trump administration official says there will be fierce U.S.-China competition, and the continued building up of strategic alliances and partnerships with countries including India

INTERVIEW

Lisa Curtis

Subhasini Haider



As the U.S. elections increasingly look like a Trump vs Biden rematch from 2020, U.S. foreign policy will differ on certain issues like Russia and support to the UN depending on who wins, but there will be continuity on issues like China and the Indo-Pacific, says former Trump administration official Lisa Curtis. Speaking to The Hindu on the sidelines of a “Quad-Plus” conference in Manila, Ms. Curtis, who was earlier a Deputy Assistant to the U.S. President at the National Security Council (2017-21) and is now the Director of the Indo-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, said the presence of Indian-Americans in the fray is a “coming of age” for the Indian diaspora community in the U.S.

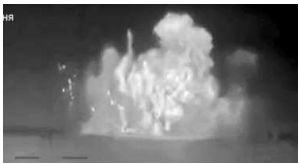
Do you think 2024 is a rematch with Biden vs Trump?

I don't think I see a tremendously different foreign policy than what we saw in the first Trump administration. And I think if you look at some of the accomplishments with the first Trump administration, there would be a continuation of that.

I think that's the way it's looking, even though I think the American electo-

KYIV

Ukraine says it destroyed another Russian warship in the Black Sea



Ukraine said on Tuesday its forces had destroyed a Russian military patrol ship in the Black Sea near the key Crimean, the latest naval attack on Moscow's fleet in an anniversary. Kyiv also said it was behind a drone strike on an oil pipeline in a Russian border area. Ukraine said it destroyed the Russian Patrol ship Seregi Kotov. AFP

NEW YORK

Hamas committed rapes during its October 7 attacks in Israel: UN



There are “reasonable grounds to believe” rapes were committed during Hamas's October 7 attacks on Israel and that hostages subsequently taken to Gaza have also been raped, a UN report said. UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, said she had “convincing information” on the matter. AFP

PARIS

Iran executed at least 834 people last year, the highest since 2015



Iran executed at least 834 people last year, the highest number since 2015, as capital punishment in the Islamic republic surged to a “staggering” level. The number of executions was up some 43% on 2022, Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (TADP) said on Tuesday. AFP

Philippine and Chinese vessels collide in disputed South China Sea

Four Filipino crew members were injured and Manila's vessel suffered minor structural damage in separate incidents; U.S., Australia and Japan condemn Beijing's actions which transpired ahead of an ASEAN summit taking place in Melbourne

Associated Press MANILA

Chinese and Philippine coast guard vessels collided in the disputed South China Sea and four Filipino crew members were injured on Tuesday in high-seas confrontations as Southeast Asian leaders gathered for an ASEAN summit where alarm over Beijing's aggression at sea was expected to be raised.

The Chinese Coast Guard ships and accompanying vessels blocked the Philippine Coast Guard and supply vessels off the disputed Second Thomas Shoal and executed dangerous manoeuvres that caused two minor collisions between the Chinese ships and two of the Philippine vessels, Philippine officials said.

The ship Sindangan of the Philippine Coast Guard had minor structural dam-



Bone of contention: Chinese vessels deploy water cannons at a civilian boat operated by Philippine military in South China Sea. AFP

age from the collision that happened shortly after dawn. Over an hour later, another Chinese coast guard ship first blocked and then collided with a supply boat the Philippine coast guard was escorting, the Philippine officials said.

The task force was the actions by the Chinese was “another attempt to illegally impede or obstruct a routine navigation and rotation mission.”

China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal. China also claims the ship lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with

dogged acts of coercion and wretched maneuvers” against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal “put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos,” it said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

Blast shakes Taliban security base in Afghanistan with no casualties

A blast shook a Taliban military base near the airport in Fajzabad, the capital of Afghanistan's northeastern Badkhash province, but without causing casualties, officials said on Tuesday. A roadside IED exploded near the base but no one was killed or wounded. AFP

SALE NOTICE

Background: The Board of the Kerala State of India dated 22.01.2024. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is permitted by the Ministry of Finance to conduct an auction of the mortgage property described below. The successful bidder shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the LIC's Bank Auction. LIC shall not be liable for any loss or damage to the property in the event of a default by the successful bidder. The successful bidder shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the LIC's Bank Auction. LIC shall not be liable for any loss or damage to the property in the event of a default by the successful bidder.

S. No.	Property Description	Area (Acres)
1	Plot No. 39 at Ananthur Industrial Estate At the junction of National Highway 7 (NH 7) and the road leading to Ananthur Industrial Estate, Ananthur Taluk, Trivandrum District, Tamil Nadu. Comprised in Survey Nos. 75/1 part, 76/2 part, 7/1 part, 7/2 part, 8/1 part, 10/1 part, 11/1 part, 12/1 part, 13/1 part, 14/1 part, 15/1 part, 16/1 part, 17/1 part, 18/1 part, 19/1 part, 20/1 part, 21/1 part, 22/1 part, 23/1 part, 24/1 part, 25/1 part, 26/1 part, 27/1 part, 28/1 part, 29/1 part, 30/1 part, 31/1 part, 32/1 part, 33/1 part, 34/1 part, 35/1 part, 36/1 part, 37/1 part, 38/1 part, 39/1 part, 40/1 part, 41/1 part, 42/1 part, 43/1 part, 44/1 part, 45/1 part, 46/1 part, 47/1 part, 48/1 part, 49/1 part, 50/1 part, 51/1 part, 52/1 part, 53/1 part, 54/1 part, 55/1 part, 56/1 part, 57/1 part, 58/1 part, 59/1 part, 60/1 part, 61/1 part, 62/1 part, 63/1 part, 64/1 part, 65/1 part, 66/1 part, 67/1 part, 68/1 part, 69/1 part, 70/1 part, 71/1 part, 72/1 part, 73/1 part, 74/1 part, 75/1 part, 76/1 part, 77/1 part, 78/1 part, 79/1 part, 80/1 part, 81/1 part, 82/1 part, 83/1 part, 84/1 part, 85/1 part, 86/1 part, 87/1 part, 88/1 part, 89/1 part, 90/1 part, 91/1 part, 92/1 part, 93/1 part, 94/1 part, 95/1 part, 96/1 part, 97/1 part, 98/1 part, 99/1 part, 100/1 part, 101/1 part, 102/1 part, 103/1 part, 104/1 part, 105/1 part, 106/1 part, 107/1 part, 108/1 part, 109/1 part, 110/1 part, 111/1 part, 112/1 part, 113/1 part, 114/1 part, 115/1 part, 116/1 part, 117/1 part, 118/1 part, 119/1 part, 120/1 part, 121/1 part, 122/1 part, 123/1 part, 124/1 part, 125/1 part, 126/1 part, 127/1 part, 128/1 part, 129/1 part, 130/1 part, 131/1 part, 132/1 part, 133/1 part, 134/1 part, 135/1 part, 136/1 part, 137/1 part, 138/1 part, 139/1 part, 140/1 part, 141/1 part, 142/1 part, 143/1 part, 144/1 part, 145/1 part, 146/1 part, 147/1 part, 148/1 part, 149/1 part, 150/1 part, 151/1 part, 152/1 part, 153/1 part, 154/1 part, 155/1 part, 156/1 part, 157/1 part, 158/1 part, 159/1 part, 160/1 part, 161/1 part, 162/1 part, 163/1 part, 164/1 part, 165/1 part, 166/1 part, 167/1 part, 168/1 part, 169/1 part, 170/1 part, 171/1 part, 172/1 part, 173/1 part, 174/1 part, 175/1 part, 176/1 part, 177/1 part, 178/1 part, 179/1 part, 180/1 part, 181/1 part, 182/1 part, 183/1 part, 184/1 part, 185/1 part, 186/1 part, 187/1 part, 188/1 part, 189/1 part, 190/1 part, 191/1 part, 192/1 part, 193/1 part, 194/1 part, 195/1 part, 196/1 part, 197/1 part, 198/1 part, 199/1 part, 200/1 part, 201/1 part, 202/1 part, 203/1 part, 204/1 part, 205/1 part, 206/1 part, 207/1 part, 208/1 part, 209/1 part, 210/1 part, 211/1 part, 212/1 part, 213/1 part, 214/1 part, 215/1 part, 216/1 part, 217/1 part, 218/1 part, 219/1 part, 220/1 part, 221/1 part, 222/1 part, 223/1 part, 224/1 part, 225/1 part, 226/1 part, 227/1 part, 228/1 part, 229/1 part, 230/1 part, 231/1 part, 232/1 part, 233/1 part, 234/1 part, 235/1 part, 236/1 part, 237/1 part, 238/1 part, 239/1 part, 240/1 part, 241/1 part, 242/1 part, 243/1 part, 244/1 part, 245/1 part, 246/1 part, 247/1 part, 248/1 part, 249/1 part, 250/1 part, 251/1 part, 252/1 part, 253/1 part, 254/1 part, 255/1 part, 256/1 part, 257/1 part, 258/1 part, 259/1 part, 260/1 part, 261/1 part, 262/1 part, 263/1 part, 264/1 part, 265/1 part, 266/1 part, 267/1 part, 268/1 part, 269/1 part, 270/1 part, 271/1 part, 272/1 part, 273/1 part, 274/1 part, 275/1 part, 276/1 part, 277/1 part, 278/1 part, 279/1 part, 280/1 part, 281/1 part, 282/1 part, 283/1 part, 284/1 part, 285/1 part, 286/1 part, 287/1 part, 288/1 part, 289/1 part, 290/1 part, 291/1 part, 292/1 part, 293/1 part, 294/1 part, 295/1 part, 296/1 part, 297/1 part, 298/1 part, 299/1 part, 300/1 part, 301/1 part, 302/1 part, 303/1 part, 304/1 part, 305/1 part, 306/1 part, 307/1 part, 308/1 part, 309/1 part, 310/1 part, 311/1 part, 312/1 part, 313/1 part, 314/1 part, 315/1 part, 316/1 part, 317/1 part, 318/1 part, 319/1 part, 320/1 part, 321/1 part, 322/1 part, 323/1 part, 324/1 part, 325/1 part, 326/1 part, 327/1 part, 328/1 part, 329/1 part, 330/1 part, 331/1 part, 332/1 part, 333/1 part, 334/1 part, 335/1 part, 336/1 part, 337/1 part, 338/1 part, 339/1 part, 340/1 part, 341/1 part, 342/1 part, 343/1 part, 344/1 part, 345/1 part, 346/1 part, 347/1 part, 348/1 part, 349/1 part, 350/1 part, 351/1 part, 352/1 part, 353/1 part, 354/1 part, 355/1 part, 356/1 part, 357/1 part, 358/1 part, 359/1 part, 360/1 part, 361/1 part, 362/1 part, 363/1 part, 364/1 part, 365/1 part, 366/1 part, 367/1 part, 368/1 part, 369/1 part, 370/1 part, 371/1 part, 372/1 part, 373/1 part, 374/1 part, 375/1 part, 376/1 part, 377/1 part, 378/1 part, 379/1 part, 380/1 part, 381/1 part, 382/1 part, 383/1 part, 384/1 part, 385/1 part, 386/1 part, 387/1 part, 388/1 part, 389/1 part, 390/1 part, 391/1 part, 392/1 part, 393/1 part, 394/1 part, 395/1 part, 396/1 part, 397/1 part, 398/1 part, 399/1 part, 400/1 part, 401/1 part, 402/1 part, 403/1 part, 404/1 part, 405/1 part, 406/1 part, 407/1 part, 408/1 part, 409/1 part, 410/1 part, 411/1 part, 412/1 part, 413/1 part, 414/1 part, 415/1 part, 416/1 part, 417/1 part, 418/1 part, 419/1 part, 420/1 part, 421/1 part, 422/1 part, 423/1 part, 424/1 part, 425/1 part, 426/1 part, 427/1 part, 428/1 part, 429/1 part, 430/1 part, 431/1 part, 432/1 part, 433/1 part, 434/1 part, 435/1 part, 436/1 part, 437/1 part, 438/1 part, 439/1 part, 440/1 part, 441/1 part, 442/1 part, 443/1 part, 444/1 part, 445/1 part, 446/1 part, 447/1 part, 448/1 part, 449/1 part, 450/1 part, 451/1 part, 452/1 part, 453/1 part, 454/1 part, 455/1 part, 456/1 part, 457/1 part, 458/1 part, 459/1 part, 460/1 part, 461/1 part, 462/1 part, 463/1 part, 464/1 part, 465/1 part, 466/1 part, 467/1 part, 468/1 part, 469/1 part, 470/1 part, 471/1 part, 472/1 part, 473/1 part, 474/1 part, 475/1 part, 476/1 part, 477/1 part, 478/1 part, 479/1 part, 480/1 part, 481/1 part, 482/1 part, 483/1 part, 484/1 part, 485/1 part, 486/1 part, 487/1 part, 488/1 part, 489/1 part, 490/1 part, 491/1 part, 492/1 part, 493/1 part, 494/1 part, 495/1 part, 496/1 part, 497/1 part, 498/1 part, 499/1 part, 500/1 part, 501/1 part, 502/1 part, 503/1 part, 504/1 part, 505/1 part, 506/1 part, 507/1 part, 508/1 part, 509/1 part, 510/1 part, 511/1 part, 512/1 part, 513/1 part, 514/1 part, 515/1 part, 516/1 part, 517/1 part, 518/1 part, 519/1 part, 520/1 part, 521/1 part, 522/1 part, 523/1 part, 524/1 part, 525/1 part, 526/1 part, 527/1 part, 528/1 part, 529/1 part, 530/1 part, 531/1 part, 532/1 part, 533/1 part, 534/1 part, 535/1 part, 536/1 part, 537/1 part, 538/1 part, 539/1 part, 540/1 part, 541/1 part, 542/1 part, 543/1 part, 544/1 part, 545/1 part, 546/1 part, 547/1 part, 548/1 part, 549/1 part, 550/1 part, 551/1 part, 552/1 part, 553/1 part, 554/1 part, 555/1 part, 556/1 part, 557/1 part, 558/1 part, 559/1 part, 560/1 part, 561/1 part, 562/1 part, 563/1 part, 564/1 part, 565/1 part, 566/1 part, 567/1 part, 568/1 part, 569/1 part, 570/1 part, 571/1 part, 572/1 part, 573/1 part, 574/1 part, 575/1 part, 576/1 part, 577/1 part, 578/1 part, 579/1 part, 580/1 part, 581/1 part, 582/1 part, 583/1 part, 584/1 part, 585/1 part, 586/1 part, 587/1 part, 588/1 part, 589/1 part, 590/1 part, 591/1 part, 592/1 part, 593/1 part, 594/1 part, 595/1 part, 596/1 part, 597/1 part, 598/1 part, 599/1 part, 600/1 part, 601/1 part, 602/1 part, 603/1 part, 604/1 part, 605/1 part, 606/1 part, 607/1 part, 608/1 part, 609/1 part, 610/1 part, 611/1 part, 612/1 part, 613/1 part, 614/1 part, 615/1 part, 616/1 part, 617/1 part, 618/1 part, 619/1 part, 620/1 part, 621/1 part, 622/1 part, 623/1 part, 624/1 part, 625/1 part, 626/1 part, 627/1 part, 628/1 part, 629/1 part, 630/1 part, 631/1 part, 632/1 part, 633/1 part, 634/1 part, 635/1 part, 636/1 part, 637/1 part, 638/1 part, 639/1 part, 640/1 part, 641/1 part, 642/1 part, 643/1 part, 644/1 part, 645/1 part, 646/1 part, 647/1 part, 648/1 part, 649/1 part, 650/1 part, 651/1 part, 652/1 part, 653/1 part, 654/1 part, 655/1 part, 656/1 part, 657/1 part, 658/1 part, 659/1 part, 660/1 part, 661/1 part, 662/1 part, 663/1 part, 664/1 part, 665/1 part, 666/1 part, 667/1 part, 668/1 part, 669/1 part, 670/1 part, 671/1 part, 672/1 part, 673/1 part, 674/1 part, 675/1 part, 676/1 part, 677/1 part, 678/1 part, 679/1 part, 680/1 part, 681/1 part, 682/1 part, 683/1 part, 684/1 part, 685/1 part, 686/1 part, 687/1 part, 688/1 part, 689/1 part, 690/1 part, 691/1 part, 692/1 part, 693/1 part, 694/1 part, 695/1 part, 696/1 part, 697/1 part, 698/1 part, 699/1 part, 700/1 part, 701/1 part, 702/1 part, 703/1 part, 704/1 part, 705/1 part, 706/1 part, 707/1 part, 708/1 part, 709/1 part, 710/1 part, 711/1 part, 712/1 part, 713/1 part, 714/1 part, 715/1 part, 716/1 part, 717/1 part, 718/1 part, 719/1 part, 720/1 part, 721/1 part, 722/1 part, 723/1 part, 724/1 part, 725/1 part, 726/1 part, 727/1 part, 728/1 part, 729/1 part, 730/1 part, 731/1 part, 732/1 part, 733/1 part, 734/1 part, 735/1 part, 736/1 part, 737/1 part, 738/1 part, 739/1 part, 740/1 part, 741/1 part, 742/1 part, 743/1 part, 744/1 part, 745/1 part, 746/1 part, 747/1 part, 748/1 part, 749/1 part, 750/1 part, 751/1 part, 752/1 part, 753/1 part, 754/1 part, 755/1 part, 756/1 part, 757/1 part, 758/1 part, 759/1 part, 760/1 part, 761/1 part, 762/1 part, 763/1 part, 764/1 part, 765/1 part, 766/1 part, 767/1 part, 768/1 part, 769/1 part, 770/1 part, 771/1 part, 772/1 part, 773/1 part, 774/1 part, 775/1 part, 776/1 part, 777/1 part, 778/1 part, 779/1 part, 780/1 part, 781/1 part, 782/1 part, 783/1 part, 784/1 part, 785/1 part, 786/1 part, 787/1 part, 788/1 part, 789/1 part, 790/1 part, 791/1 part, 792/1 part, 793/1 part, 794/1 part, 795/1 part, 796/1 part, 797/1 part, 798/1 part, 799/1 part, 800/1 part, 801/1 part, 802/1 part, 803/1 part, 804/1 part, 805/1 part, 806/1 part, 807/1 part, 808/1 part, 809/1 part, 810/1 part, 811/1 part, 812/1 part, 813/1 part, 814/1 part, 815/1 part, 816/1 part, 817/1 part, 818/1 part, 819/1 part, 820/1 part, 821/1 part, 822/1 part, 823/1 part, 824/1 part, 825/1 part, 826/1 part, 827/1 part, 828/1 part, 829/1 part, 830/1 part, 831/1 part, 832/1 part, 833/1 part, 834/1 part, 835/1 part, 836/1 part, 837/1 part, 838/1 part, 839/1 part, 840/1 part, 841/1 part, 842/1 part, 843/1 part, 844/1 part, 845/1 part, 846/1 part, 847/1 part, 848/1 part, 849/1 part, 850/1 part, 851/1 part, 852/1 part, 853/1 part, 854/1 part, 855/1 part, 856/1 part, 857/1 part, 858/1 part, 859/1 part, 860/1 part, 861/1 part, 862/1 part, 863/1 part, 864/1 part, 865/1 part, 866/1 part, 867/1 part, 868/1 part, 869/1 part, 870/1 part, 871/1 part, 872/1 part, 873/1 part, 874/1 part, 875/1 part, 876/1 part, 877/1 part, 878/1 part, 879/1 part, 880/1 part, 881/1 part, 882/1 part, 883/1 part, 884/1 part, 885/1 part, 886/1 part, 887/1 part, 888/1 part, 889/1 part, 890/1 part, 891/1 part, 892/1 part, 893/1 part, 894/1 part, 895/1 part, 896/1 part, 897/1 part, 898/1 part, 899/1 part, 900/1 part, 901/1 part, 902/1 part, 903/1 part, 904/1 part, 905/1 part, 906/1 part, 907/1 part, 908/1 part, 909/1 part, 910/1 part, 911/1 part, 912/1 part, 913/1 part, 914/1 part, 915/1 part, 916/1 part, 917/1 part, 918/1 part, 919/1 part, 920/1 part, 921/1 part, 922/1 part, 923/1 part, 924/1 part, 925/1 part, 926/1 part, 927/1 part, 928/1 part, 929/1 part, 930/1 part, 931/1 part, 932/1 part, 933/1 part, 934/1 part, 935/1 part, 936/1 part, 937/1 part, 938/1 part, 939/1 part, 940/1 part, 941/1 part, 942/1 part, 943/1 part, 944/1 part, 945/1 part, 946/1 part, 947/1 part, 948/1 part, 949/1 part, 950/1 part, 951/1 part, 952/1 part, 953/1 part, 954/1 part, 955/1 part, 956/1 part, 957/1 part, 958/1 part, 959/1 part, 960/1 part, 961/1 part, 962/1 part, 963/1 part, 964/1 part, 965/1 part, 966/1 part, 967/1 part, 968/1 part, 969/1 part, 970/1 part, 971/1 part, 972/1 part, 973/	

IN BRIEF



BYD India unveils luxury EV sedan at ₹41 lakh

Chinese auto major BYD India, a subsidiary of New Energy Vehicles (NEV), has entered the luxury, electric-sedan segment by introducing BYD Seal, with prices starting at ₹41 lakh. BYD said bookings were open for the vehicle which would be available in three variants. With a range of up to 650km per charge, BYD Seal can accelerate to 100 km/h in 3.8 seconds. "We are confident BYD Seal will play a significant role in accelerating the new energy vehicle revolution in India," said Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, Senior VP, Passenger Vehicle Business, BYD India.

Venture Center, BFI sign pact on biomedical innovation

Venture Center has tied up with Biochain FM Impact (BFI) under the BFI-Bioime Virtual Network Program to expand initiatives aimed at nurturing innovation and driving advancements in healthcare. Venture Center is the first incubator across India to partner BFI for the initiative, the Pune-based firm said. Under this programme, BFI will allocate more than \$2 lakh over three years and leverage Venture Center's expertise for healthcare start-up programmes.

Ex-LIC chief Kumar joins Bol as Non-Executive Chairman

Bank of India (BoI) named M. R. Kumar as the Non-Executive Chairman. He will be responsible for overseeing the overall growth trajectory of the public sector lender. He was the Chairman of LIC India from 2019 to March 2023. The bank named Rajiv Mishra as its CEO in 2006. It will handle stressed-asset resolution and recovery, including policy matters.

Lubrizol names Bindra as MD of IMEA region

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Specialty chemicals major Lubrizol has named Bhavna Bindra as MD for India, Middle East & Africa (IMEA) Region. She will be responsible for leading the company's IMEA team to deliver record growth for Lubrizol across the region, which is a local-for-local approach.

Singapore gives nod for Vistara-AI merger

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) has granted conditional approval for Vistara's merger with Air India along with Singapore International Airline's 25% stake in the latter. The approval was granted following commitments from all three airlines that the merged entity would "maintain" capacity, or passenger seats, at pre-COVID level (calendar year 2019) for flights between Singapore and Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram.

This followed competition concerns identified by CCCS as the three entities hold majority of the mar-

Settled 1-cr. claims in 18 years: Star Health

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. (Star Health Insurance), claimed to be the first standalone health insurer to settle more than 1 crore claims since its inception in 2006. Star Health Insurance disbursed more than ₹44,000 crore in claim payments, covering cashless and reimbursement claims across India. Most claims were from Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Delhi, the insurer said in a statement. About 14% claims were paid to senior citizens, 6% to adults and 25% to children. Fever and infectious

Singapore gives nod for Vistara-AI merger

Approval subject to merged entity maintaining capacity at pre-COVID level on four key routes

ket shares among various airlines offering direct flights on the four routes. "Price coordination" "CCCS also found that the price and capacity coordination between the parties arising from the consolidation of the transactions would significantly restrict competition on the affected routes," it said in a statement on Tuesday.

The merger is now expected to conclude in 2025. CCCS as the three entities hold majority of the mar-

Feb. services PMI growth slows

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) signals fractional job creation that was weakest in 21 months. Services PMI contradicts the signals put out by the HSBC India Flash PMI for last month, which is based on early responses from surveyed firms

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI

India's services sector, growth in new orders and output slowed in February, despite business confidence levels and resulting in only a fractional uptick in employment that was the slowest in 21 months, as per the HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The seasonally-adjusted PMI print for services eased to 60.6 in February from 61.8 in January. A reading of over 50 on the index indicates growth in activity levels. Surveyed firms reported the second-

Losing steam

February's overall private sector output in India slips to 60.6 from January's six-month high of 61.2



■ The seasonally-adjusted PMI print for the services sector eased to 60.6 in February, from 61.8 in January

■ Feb. Flash PMI had indicated services output rose at a seven-month high pace

■ The PMI ascertains business confidence levels on the basis of firms' outlook for the year ahead

weakest input cost pressures since August 2020 and raised prices at the mildest pace in two years.

The services PMI contradicts the signals put out by the HSBC India Flash PMI for last month, which

"India's services PMI suggests... the pace of expansion in the services sector eased in February from January," HSBC economist Iqbal Latif wrote. "Due to a slowdown in growth in new orders and output, services companies' outlook for future business activity, while remaining strongly positive, weakened slightly," she added.

The index ascertains business confidence levels on the basis of firms' outlook for the year ahead. Around 26% of companies foresee growth and 2% anticipate a fall, as of February.

On the bright side, new business from abroad rose for the thirteenth month in

a row, and at a pace that was among the best in nine and a half years.

Taken together with the manufacturing sector's performance last month, with its PMI rising to 56.3, from 56.5 in January, over all private sector output in India decelerated in February. The HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index slipped from a six-month high of 61.2 in January to 60.6, as per a note on last month's index.

"Rates of expansion were broadly similar at manufacturers and services firms, though the former registered an acceleration and the latter a slowdown," HSBC explained.

RBI bars JMFPL from loans on IPO shares

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India has directed regulated entity JM Financial Products Ltd. (JMPL) to cease and desist, with immediate effect, from doing any form of financing against shares and debentures, including sanction and disbursement of loans against Initial Public Offerings (IPO) of shares or against subscription to debentures as the entity has been found violating regulatory guidelines.

"It was observed that the company repeatedly



helped a group of its customers to bid for various IPO and NCD offerings by using loaned funds. The credit underwriting was found to be perfunctory, and financing was done against meagre margins," the RBI said.

Bloomberg to add Indian bonds to EM indexes in Jan.

Reuters

MUMBAI

Bloomberg Index Services said on Tuesday it would include in its Emerging Market Local Currency Index from Jan. 31 next year 34 Indian government bonds eligible for investment in the country's fully accessible route (FAR).

"The inclusion of these bonds will be phased in over a 10-month period starting on the rebalance date of January 31, 2025," it said in a statement. "The weight of India FAR bonds will be increased in increments of 10% of their full market value every month over the 10-month period ending in October 2025."

Discussions from 2013

The Indian government began discussing inclusion of its securities in global indexes as far back as 2013, but the move was held back by its curbs on foreign investments in domestic debt. In April 2020, the Reserve Bank of India introduced a clutch of securities free of foreign investment curbs under a "fully accessible route" (FAR), that made them eligible for in-

clusion in global indexes.

JPMorgan was the first to announce India's inclusion in its widely tracked emerging market debt index in September, setting the stage for billions of dollars of inflows into India.

Tuesday's inclusion by Bloomberg Index Services Ltd. was the latest to be backed in January on its plan to include eligible Indian bonds in the EM local currency indexes.

By January 31, 34 Indian FAR bonds with a market value of \$448 billion were eligible for EM Local Currency Government Index.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Sensex	115,001	% Change
US Dollar	82.90	-4.30
Gold	65,809	1.25
Brent oil	63.93	-0.20

NIFTY 50

Stock	Price	Change
Adani Ports	3310.20	-6.95
Adani Power	1338.30	-4.30
Axis Bank	6661.10	-27.80
Asian Paints	2620.40	-11.35
Axis Bank	1100.80	-5.45
Bajaj Auto	6221.75	1.66
Bajaj Finance	1550.50	-5.80
Bajaj Finserv	634.25	-27.80
BHEL	1168.50	-1.00
BKSP	645.10	4.05
Britannia Ind	4225.65	-12.35
Coal India	1475.65	1.55
Coal India	460.55	5.25
Divis Lab	3484.45	2.15
Dr Reddy's Lab	6351.30	-15.80
Eicher Motors	2215.95	-6.45
Grasim Ind	2215.50	-2.65
HCL Tech	1943.25	-18.80
HDFC Bank	1440.85	8.15
HDFC Life	607.70	-2.60
Hera Motocorp	4590.00	-21.70
Indus Towers	4242.90	-1.35
Hind Unilever	2399.85	-22.15
ICICI Bank	1088.65	-4.15
Infosys	1626.50	11.20
Infosys	1626.50	11.20
ITC	406.15	2.95
ITC	628.30	0.20
Kotak Bank	1715.70	-11.50
LAT	3612.60	-31.85
Life Insurance	2141.95	28.30
M&M	1939.25	18.20
M&M	1939.25	18.20
Maruti Suzuki	11970.60	-76.40
Metals India	2215.95	-6.45
NTPC	359.25	4.40
ONGC	283.75	0.55
Punjab Corp	225.00	0.25
Reliance Ind	3000.40	-14.40
SBI Life	1491.25	-26.70
State Bank	789.15	11.90
Sun Pharma	1824.30	21.10
Tata Motors	2300.00	24.70
Tata Motors	1031.90	3.45
Tata Steel	151.85	-1.35
Tech Mahindra	4022.90	-68.60
Telcel India	1272.50	7.55
Titan	3750.75	18.85
UltraTech Cement	9839.35	-140.05
UPL	478.25	0.00
Wipro	513.30	-7.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicator	Value	% Change
US Dollar	82.90	-4.30
UK Pound	89.76	50.11
Japanese Yen	54.98	55.13
Singapore Dollar	61.54	61.72
Malaysian Ringgit	17.46	17.55
South African Rand	52.89	52.96

MRF cuts price of 'Steel Muscle' truck tyres by ₹350

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

MRF Ltd. reduced the price of its mainline truck tyres by ₹350 apiece beginning March 4. MRF said this was to meet market requirements of its most popular truck tyre - Steel Muscle, which is currently sold at ₹25,250 apiece. After the price reduction, it is expected to sell at ₹24,900 apiece, he leading tyre manufacturer said in a statement. MRF said Steel Muscle tyres are ideal for heavy duty use. They have even tread wear, better abrasion, lower heat build-up and cut resistance.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

REC Successfully Lists Two Bonds on NSE & BSE Worth ₹2,500 Cr and ₹2,875 Cr

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has successfully listed two bonds on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). These two bonds are worth ₹2,500 crore and ₹2,875 crore with maturity periods of 10 years and 3 years 2 months respectively. The funds raised through this private placement are not meant for any specific project; therefore, the proceeds of this issue shall be utilized for regular business activities. These bonds are rated IND AAA by IIRPL and ICAAAA by ICRA. Shri. S. S. Kumar, Dewanang, CMD, REC Limited, said: "The successful listing of these bonds underscores REC Limited's commitment to innovation and financial prudence. We are dedicated to leveraging these funds to further our mission of empowering India through sustainable power and infrastructure solutions."

PATANJALI TRAINS WOMEN IN 'TRADITIONAL ECO ART'

Entrepreneurs setting up projects of Rs 5435 crore in all three districts of Saharanpur division. More than 10,669 employment opportunities will be created through 14 projects worth more than Rs 50 crore. The Saharanpur division of Uttar Pradesh is set to undergo transformation with the launch of 14 significant projects valued at over Rs 50 crore each, spanning across Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, and Saharanpur districts, during the ground breaking ceremony (GBC 4.0) held recently. These projects, totaling Rs 5435 crore, are poised to create over 10,000 job opportunities. They encompass diverse sectors such as ethanol production, solid waste management, power transmission, private industrial ventures, wood handicrafts, hospitality, distilleries, and rebar manufacturing.

Saharanpur division set for a facelift with over 5K crore investment

Entrepreneurs setting up projects of Rs 5435 crore in all three districts of Saharanpur division. More than 10,669 employment opportunities will be created through 14 projects worth more than Rs 50 crore. The Saharanpur division of Uttar Pradesh is set to undergo transformation with the launch of 14 significant projects valued at over Rs 50 crore each, spanning across Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, and Saharanpur districts, during the ground breaking ceremony (GBC 4.0) held recently. These projects, totaling Rs 5435 crore, are poised to create over 10,000 job opportunities. They encompass diverse sectors such as ethanol production, solid waste management, power transmission, private industrial ventures, wood handicrafts, hospitality, distilleries, and rebar manufacturing.

Entrepreneurs setting up projects of Rs 5435 crore in all three districts of Saharanpur division. More than 10,669 employment opportunities will be created through 14 projects worth more than Rs 50 crore. The Saharanpur division of Uttar Pradesh is set to undergo transformation with the launch of 14 significant projects valued at over Rs 50 crore each, spanning across Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, and Saharanpur districts, during the ground breaking ceremony (GBC 4.0) held recently. These projects, totaling Rs 5435 crore, are poised to create over 10,000 job opportunities. They encompass diverse sectors such as ethanol production, solid waste management, power transmission, private industrial ventures, wood handicrafts, hospitality, distilleries, and rebar manufacturing.

Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) Announces New Office Bearers for 2024-25 Term

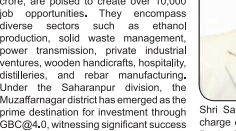
The Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has announced the office bearers for the 2024-25 term. The council, which is the apex body for the Chartered Accountants in the region, has elected its members for a two-year term. The new office bearers include the President, Vice-President, and other key positions. The council aims to continue its efforts in promoting the profession and providing quality services to its members and the public.

A Business Initiative

create 300 employment opportunities. Swaroop Steel Industry Pvt. Ltd. has committed Rs 270 crore for TMT sariya manufacturing, anticipating 325 employment opportunities. Additionally, Alcobulcs Ltd. has invested Rs 160 crore in constructing a distillery, paving the way for 145 employment opportunities. Among the three districts comprising the Saharanpur division, the district headquarters, Saharanpur, is poised to offer the highest employment prospects. Projects totaling Rs 1,314 crore are expected to create 7,249 employment opportunities in this district. Notably, four projects exceeding Rs 50 crore each are underway, including the establishment of Saharanpur is the Saharanpur Handicraft Development Center, which is investing Rs 804 crore in the export of wooden handicrafts, projected to generate 2,000 employment opportunities. Additionally, Patalajali Industrial Park Limited is investing Rs 500 crore in establishing a private industrial park, aiming to create 5,000 employment opportunities. Further contributing to employment growth, an investment of Rs 130 crore is being made by Cosmos Infra Engineering India Pvt. Ltd. in the field of commercial plot development, which will create 150 jobs. Furthermore, Synergy Teltech Pvt. Ltd. is investing Rs 80 crore in creating a CGB plant, expected to create approximately 100 job opportunities.

Shri Sandeep Bhatnagar takes Over as Chief General Manager, SBI Jaipur Circle

Shri Sandeep Bhatnagar took over the charge of Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), Jaipur Circle, from Shri Rajesh Kumar Mishra. Shri Mishra has retired on 29 February 2024 after successfully discharging his duties on the present post. Shri Bhatnagar joined the Bank in the year 1984 as Probationary Officer. During his 30 years of Banking career, he has set many records in the Banking industry by holding important positions like Chief General Manager (Credit Review) at Corporate Centre, Mumbai, General Manager (NW-2), LH Bengaluru, CCG Mumbai, Deputy General Manager CAG, Chennai, SSG Corporate Centre, Mumbai and Assistant General Manager CAG, Mumbai.



Shri Sandeep Bhatnagar took over the charge of Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), Jaipur Circle, from Shri Rajesh Kumar Mishra. Shri Mishra has retired on 29 February 2024 after successfully discharging his duties on the present post. Shri Bhatnagar joined the Bank in the year 1984 as Probationary Officer. During his 30 years of Banking career, he has set many records in the Banking industry by holding important positions like Chief General Manager (Credit Review) at Corporate Centre, Mumbai, General Manager (NW-2), LH Bengaluru, CCG Mumbai, Deputy General Manager CAG, Chennai, SSG Corporate Centre, Mumbai and Assistant General Manager CAG, Mumbai.

LION ALERT

Captain Dhoni lands in Chennai ahead of the IPL season



Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni landed in Chennai on Tuesday ahead of the IPL season. CSK posted a picture of Dhoni, who led the team to its fifth title last season, exiting a vehicle on social media, captioning it "THATAA Dharisanam!" Speculation is rife that this would be Dhoni's final one as a player.

TOUCH OF HUMOUR

Not sure I've insurance; Perry jokes after breaking car window



Ellyse Perry played an instrumental role during RCB's 23-run triumph over UP Warriorz at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. In the 19th over, she smashed the window of the display car in Deepthi Sharma's over. After the game, she talked about her window breaking six and said, "Not sure I have insurance here to cover that."

TAKEAWAY

Domestic tournaments give chance to rediscover basics: Tendulkar



The legendary Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday said, "When India players turn up for their domestic teams, it raises the quality of play for youngsters and sometimes new talent is identified. It also gives the national players a chance to sometimes rediscover the basics," Tendulkar posted on X.

I AM BACK!

Halep wins doping case on appeal, cleared to resume tennis at once



Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep was cleared for an immediate return to tennis on Tuesday after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said its judges partially upheld Halep's appeal and reduced her four-year ban to just nine months. It was applied retroactively and expired last July.

Ashwin and Bairstow all set for a century of Tests

The duo will share the rare milestone of playing the 100th match in the longest format of the game when India takes on England in the final game of the engrossing series

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Rakesh Rao
DHARAMSHALA

For R. Ashwin and Jonny Bairstow, this week at the foothills of the imposing Dhauladhar mountain ranges would coincide with their scaling 'Peak 100' in Tests. When the fifth and final India-England Test opens here on Thursday, the duo would share the milestone of playing the 100th Test.

No doubt, Ashwin's journey has been more glorious and comes days after he took the 500th Test wicket in a winning cause. In contrast, Bairstow still has not been in the best of form with the bat in the series. As Ashwin said, "a lot of things need to go your way when you have to get a breakthrough and also continue playing for so many years."

Long journey Indeed. Since his debut against the West Indies in Delhi in 2011, the off-spinner has come a long way. Looking back, Ashwin chose to mention the 2012



Reflecting: Ashwin mentioned how many things have to go one's way in a long career while Bairstow said it will be an emotional week. R.V. MOORTHY & FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

England's tour to India during which he learnt lessons that were to stand him in good stead. "One of the turning points of my life was when England series when (Alastair) Cook came here and made all those runs along with (Kevin) Pietersen, who had a great game in Mumbai. It has been spoken about a lot. Leading in-

to the next series against Australia at home, there was a lot of noise about being left out of the team. "And that is a wonderful lesson I have still kept with me all these years. Whatever happens, we can hold a lot of complaints against somebody external or blame it on another individual. But for me, if you look internally, you can im-

prove at least by another five per cent. "Until and unless there is something wrong with you, people aren't going to throw punches at you or point fingers at you..."

Ashwin graciously acknowledged the role played by S. Badrinath, Mithun Manhas, and Rajat Bhatia during the days before he made it big. "These are

some of the greatest batters of spin who I would have not wanted to encounter in international cricket. They were my finishing school before I went on to play international cricket."

On his part, Bairstow declared, "Playing 100 Tests means a hell of a lot. It will be an emotional week for me."

Bairstow, like Ashwin,

made his debut against the West Indies but in 2012. "No matter what it is, I'll be going out there, chewing my gum, puffing my chest out and trying to have a good time with the other 100 blikes out there. Whatever the situation is, we'll be going out there with smiles on our faces, like we have done in the whole series."

Series won, but Indians surprisingly caught in spin-web

Rakesh Rao
DHARAMSHALA

A dead rubber in a Test series is no longer an opportunity to experiment with the bench-strength. Thanks to the World Test Championship, no team risks the points earned. Teams in contention for a spot in the final do not get influenced by the outcome of an ongoing series.

When the fifth and final Test between India and England begins here at the picturesque HPCA Stadium on Thursday, there will be no let up in the intensity in both camps. The current 3-1 scoreline could have looked a lot different, but credit to India for seizing the big moments after squandering them in the first Test.

From India's point of view, it is a good time to reflect on what this series has thrown up instead of being

satisfied with the much-anticipated series-win. This series has exposed the vulnerability of the Indian batsmen even against debutant spinners in home conditions. In contrast, some English batters gave a much better account of facing quality spinners.

Barring the exception of the fifth Test, where England commendably fought back from a 190-run first-innings deficit to turn things around, Indian batsmen battled tough phases and the bowlers — and not just the spinners — struck when needed.

But the larger question remains. How could England, despite losing the services of its most experienced spinner, left-armer Jack Leach (36 Tests) after the first Test, keep the Indian batters on tenterhooks for the next three Tests with their grossly inexperienced spin attack?

After Lanning and Jemimah pilot DC to big total, Jonassen takes over

WPL SEASON 2

Lavanya L
NEW DELHI

Jemimah Rodrigues is an entertainer. She knows how to turn up on a big stage. Delhi Capitals' 29-run win over Mumbai Indians in its first ever home fixture in the Women's Premier League (WPL) saw the batter at her explosive best as she made a match-winning 33-ball 69 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

A 48-run opening stand set the tone for Capitals, put in to bat on a slow surface. After promising starts, Shafali and Alice Capsey fell in quick succession. Meg Lanning slowly sunk her teeth into the MI bowling stock pile. Even a 132kmph rizzer from Shabnim Islam couldn't stop the Australian from the ball off to a half-century. When she fell soon after, courtesy a brilliant catch by Amelia Kerr at deep midwicket, the onus fell on Jemimah.

A rare off-day with the ball off to help her ease, with Jemimah finding enough time to walk across the stumps most times and send the ball to the ropes. The over in which she hit Nat Sciver-Burnt for a four and two sixes was the decidedly delightful. It saw



Audacious: Jemimah did as she pleased, cashing in on the MI bowlers' off-day. SHV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

her fist-pumping her way up and down the field as her team's score inflated. With 192 on the board, Marizanne Kapp and Shikha Bhatta cleaned up Yastika Bhatia and Sciver-Burnt. Jess Jonassen did not allow Hayley Matthews to capitalise on a botched catch by Taniya Bhatia behind the stumps as Capsey snapped up another mistimed hit at midwicket. Pooja Vastrakar and Amanjot Kaur's 48-run partnership gave MI some hope before the latter fell to Jonassen. Capitals fielded four pacers but it was the wily left-arm spinner who sealed the game in her team's favour.

Pooja and S. Sajana's big hitting only reduced the margin of defeat for the defending champion. Her fist-pumping her way up and down the field as her team's score inflated. With 192 on the board, Marizanne Kapp and Shikha Bhatta cleaned up Yastika Bhatia and Sciver-Burnt. Jess Jonassen did not allow Hayley Matthews to capitalise on a botched catch by Taniya Bhatia behind the stumps as Capsey snapped up another mistimed hit at midwicket. Pooja Vastrakar and Amanjot Kaur's 48-run partnership gave MI some hope before the latter fell to Jonassen. Capitals fielded four pacers but it was the wily left-arm spinner who sealed the game in her team's favour.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning c Kerr b Pooja 53 (38r, 6v, 2x6), Shafali Verma c Yastika Bhatia lsmail 28 (12b, 3x4, 2x6), Alice Capsey b Matthews 19 (20b, 3x4), Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 69 (23b, 6v, 2x6), Marizanne Kapp b Saika 11 (12b, 1x4), Jess Jonassen (not out) 4 (5b), Extras (lb-1, w-7), 8; Total (for 100 overs): 192

FALL OF WICKETS
1-48 (Shafali, 43 overs), 2-79 (Capsey, 9.3), 3-114 (Lanning, 12.6), 4-151 (Kapp, 17.2)

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Ismail 40-45.1, Saika 40-29.1, Sciver-Burnt 40-38.0, Pooja 40-20.1, Kerr 20-35.0, Matthews 20-23.1

MUMBAI INDIANS
Hayley Matthews c Capsey b Jonassen 29 (17b, 6v), Yastika Bhatia b Kapp 6 (3b, 1x4), Nat Sciver-Burnt b Shikha 5 (3b, 1x4), Harmanpreet Kaur c Radha b Kapp 6 (5b, 1x4), Amelia Kerr c

Jemimah b Titus 17 (20b, 1x4, 1x6), Pooja Vastrakar st Taniya b Radha 17 (22b, 1x6), Amanjot Kaur b Jonassen 42 (27b, 7v), S. Sajana (not out) 24 (14b, 3x4, 2x6), Humaira Kazi b Jonassen 6 (8b), Extras (w-11), 11; Total (for eight wickets): 163

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Yastika, 0.4), 2-12 (Sciver-Burnt, 1.1), 3-29 (Harmanpreet, 2.6), 4-54 (Matthews, 5.5), 5-68 (Kerr, 8.5), 6-116 (Amanjot, 15.1), 7-137 (Pooja, 17.4), 8-163 (Humaira, 19.6)

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 40-37.2, Shikha 30-27.1, Jonassen 40-21.3, Titus 30-23.1, Radha 30-23.1, Arundhati 20-23.0

Toss: Mumbai Indians. Player-of-the-Match: Jemimah. Delhi Capitals won by 29 runs. Wednesday's match: Gujarat Titans vs. Royal Challengers, 7.30 p.m.

Dubey's dismissal gives Vidarbha hopes of a late fightback

RANJI TROPHY

Abhishek Saini
NAGPUR

The promise of the second-wicket partnership between Yash Dubey (94, 212b, 10x4) and Harsh Gavali (67, 80b, 11x4) withered away in the wake of a meek middle-order display, leaving Vidarbha within reach of a victory against Madhya Pradesh in the first Ranji Trophy semi-final at the VCA Stadium here on Tuesday.

MP was still in contention under Dubey's watch but his fall in the penultimate over of the fourth day left the side at 228 for six, still 93 runs away from a victory.

The 106-run alliance between Dubey and Gavali was a course correction after Himanshu Mantri holed out at mid-on of Aditya Sarvate in the sixth over. While Dubey was content with the slap through point and the flick with which he flagged off the chase in Umesh Yadav's first over, Gavali set the side's counter in motion with three boundaries in as many deliveries off Yash Thakur. Gavali drew from his share of luck too, when his poke outside off against Thakur flew between second slip and gully, getting him to a 54-ball 50. But the bowler had the last laugh, inducing



The rock: Dubey's knock arrested a batting collapse for MP in pursuit of a tricky target. B. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

an edge to the wicketkeeper. Akshay Wakhare was aided by purchase as he accounted for Sagar Solanki and captain Shubham Sharma before tea. Just when Venkatesh Iyer brought hope with an assault, Wakhare's delivery jumped from a length, took the shoulder of Venkatesh's bat, and went to first slip. Dubey, who brought up a fifty in 84 balls, was desperate for support when Saransh Jain arrived. Their 32 runs for the sixth wicket came at a trickle but were steering the side closer.

However, an inside edge popped up for silly point

well his team's total past 400 runs. It was a slower one for Khejroliya, that foxed him on 141, taking his inside edge and ricocheting onto the stumps.

The scores: Vidarbha — 1st innings: 170. MP — 1st innings: 252.

Vidarbha — 2nd innings: Atharva Taidle lbw b Avesh 2, Dhruv Shorey c Mantri b Kartikeya 40, Akshay Wakhare c Gavali b Anubhav 1, Aman Mohd Ilyas b Kartikeya 59, Karun Nair b Khejroliya 26, Yash Rathod b Khejroliya 141, Akshay Wakhare c (sb) Kushabh v Anubhav 77, Aditya Sarvate c Venkatesh b Anubhav 21, Yash Thakur c Gavali b Anubhav 2, Umesh Yadav b Anubhav 0, Akshay Wakhare (not out); Extras (b-5, lb-14, nb-1); 20; Total (in 101.3 overs): 402.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-17, 3-80, 4-121, 5-161, 6-319, 7-377, 8-395, 9-385.

MP bowling: Avesh 19-3-73-1, Venkatesh 30-20-0, Anubhav 18-1-92-5, Khejroliya 15-3-64-2, Kartikeya 30-4-76-2, Saransh 7-1-28-0, Sagar 9-1-30-0.

MP — 2nd innings: Yash Dubey c Wakhare b Saravate 94, Himanshu Mantri c Thakare b Saravate 8, Harsh Gavali c Wakhare b Thakur 67, Sagar Solanki lbw b Wakhare 12, Shubham Sharma c (sb) Kale b Wakhare 6, Venkatesh Iyer c Karun b Wakhare 19, Saransh Jain (batting) 15, Kumar Kartikeya (batting) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-2); 26; Total (for six wickets): 712; 23.28. Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-128, 3-157, 4-165, 5-195, 6-227. Vidarbha bowling: Umesh 11-14-7-0, Saravate 25-51-2, Thakare 11-1-38-0, Thakur 9-0-48-1, Wakhare 17-9-38-3.

IN BRIEF



Shahbaz Nadeem retires from international cricket

Jharkhand left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem, 34, who featured in two Tests for India, has announced his retirement from international cricket to try his luck in franchise-based leagues as he does not foresee opportunities in the national team. "I realise I can't feature for Team India anymore, as there is a pool of talented youngsters waiting for their chance," Nadeem said. "I would have continued playing if there were opportunities for me in Team India. I don't foresee any chances in near future."

Delhi Toofans rally to beat Kochi Blue Spikers

Delhi Toofans came from two sets down to register a 9-15, 15-17, 15-10, 15-8 win over Kochi Blue Spikers in the third RuPay Prime Volleyball league in Chennai on Monday. While Delhi secured its fifth win in seven outings Kochi remains winless after seven games.



I think it's a forced retirement: Ross Taylor on Wagner

New Zealand's former star batter Ross Taylor has suggested that fast bowler Neil Wagner's retirement was "forced", hinting at the possibility of unrest in the Kiwi camp. Told that he would not be picked in the XI in the series against Australia, Wagner recently announced his retirement during an emotional press conference before the start of the first Test. "I think it all makes sense a little bit now. There's no sugar-coating it. I think it's a forced retirement. If you listen to Wagner's press conference, he was retiring, but it was after the last Test match. So he did make himself available," Taylor said while speaking on ESPN's available. The Wicket podcaster.

Prajwal Dev crashes out in the first round in Kigali

S.D. Prajwal Dev lost to Thomas Fancutt in the first round of the Challenger, Kigali, Rwanda.

The results: \$41,000 Challenger, Kigali, Rwanda: First round: Thomas Fancutt bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-2, 7-5. \$15,000 ITF men, Kish Island, Iran: First round: Ishaque Edalat bt Savelly Ivanov 7-5, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Symon Krikan & Volodymyr Uzhylovskiy bt George Gregoriadis & Arjan Lakshminathan 6-3, 6-3.

Chahar bows out in World Olympic boxing qualifier

Lakshya Chahar (80kg) was the fourth Indian boxer to bow out of the first World Olympic boxing qualifier at Busto Arsizio (Italy) late on Monday. Up against Iranian Meysam Gheslghahi, Chahar, who lost the first round 3-2 and fought back to win the second 3-2, was knocked out with two seconds to go in the final period.

Chris Mackenzie shines for Rajnigandha Achievers

Chris Mackenzie scored four goals to help Rajnigandha Achievers to a 5-4 victory over Rajasthan Polo in the opening league match of the Sawan Man Singh Gold Vase polo tournament on Tuesday.

The results (league): Rajnigandha Achievers 5 (Chris Mackenzie 4, Hurr Ali) bt Rajasthan Polo 4 (Salvatore Jaureche 3, Jaisal Singh). Delta Polo 7 (Santiago Marambo 5, Shamsher Ali 2) bt Jindal Panther 5 (Siddham Sharma 3, Simran Shergill 2).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (semifinal), Jio Cinema App, 9.30 am. **Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka:** 2nd T20, FanCode, 5.30 pm. **PVL:** Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 pm. **PWL:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 pm. **ISL:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 pm. **Champions League:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 am. (Thursday)

Ruthless Arsenal shoots six past Sheffield United

Arteta's side is third with 61 points after 27 games, just one behind Manchester City, but with a much better goal difference than its title rival

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
SHEFFIELD

Arsenal matched its biggest Premier League away win with the 6-0 pummeling of Sheffield United on Monday after scoring five times in the first half when it tore the home side apart. The win helped Arsenal stay within two points of leader Liverpool.

Mikel Arteta's team is third with 61 points after 27 games, a point behind Manchester City but with a much better goal difference than its title rival.

The Blades remain rooted to the bottom on 13 points, 11 clear of the safety zone.

Arsenal was ruthless as it sliced through Sheffield's defence with ease from the start. Martin Odegaard opened the floodgates with his fifth-minute goal, firing home from the middle of the box after a cut-back from Declan Rice.

There was more misery to come for United goal-



Sublime form: Arsenal matched its record Premier League away victory set in the 6-0 rout of West Ham on February 11. AP

keeper Ivo Grbic on a night that saw six different names on the scoresheet.

Jayden Bogle put through his own goal in the 15th before Gabriel Martinelli struck two minutes later, sending scores of weary United fans to the Bramall Lane exits, while Kai Havertz (25th minute),

Rice (39), and Ben White (58) also netted.

The early fireworks from the Gunners had the 9-0 Premier League scoring record looking in jeopardy, but the Blades fans were spared partly due to Arteta's substitutions including forward Bukayo Saka heading to the bench

after an excellent 45 minutes.

The results: Premier League: Sheffield United 0 lost to Arsenal 6 (Odegaard 5, Bogle 13-og, Martinelli 15, Havertz 25, Rice 39, White 58). **La Liga:** Osasuna 1 (Budimir 76) bt Alaves 0. **Serie A:** Inter Milan 2 (Aclanti 30, Alexis Sanchez 38-pen) bt Genoa 1 (Vasquez 54).

Mizoram outlasts Kerala in sudden-death

SANTOSH TROPHY

Amitabha Das Sharma
YUPIA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Mizoram outlasted Kerala 7-6 in sudden-death in the final quarterfinal action of the 77th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy at the Golden Jubilee Stadium here on Tuesday.

Both the teams were locked goalless in regulation and extra-time. The deadlock continued even in the tie-breaker, where the teams were tied 5-5 before Sujith V.R. lost his nerve and sent his attempt wide to give Mizoram the ticket to the last-four stage.

For Mizoram M.C. Malsawmzuala, Malsawmela, F.C. Lalhmunmawia, E. Lalremthuan, L. Toch-bawng, Lalremruata and Lalchhanga were successful in their attempts for Kerala Sanjiv A, Arjun V, Mohamed Salim, Riswanal Edakkavil, Narang Prasanth K, Jithin Gopalakrishnan scored before Sujith's blunder.

The match saw box to box action, with both Kerala and Mizoram creating a lot of openings. But the goal-shyness of their attackers and some good goalkeeping at both ends kept the sides locked goalless.

Earlier, former champion Manipur gave a nice display of attacking football to score a resounding 7-1 win over Assam in the third quarterfinal match.

Sadananda Singh scored a hat-trick to have the biggest contribution in Manipur's massive win. While Phijam Sanathoi Meetei, Ngangbam Pacha Singh (penalty), Maibam Deny Singh and Imaron Meitei scored one apiece for the winner. Joydeep Gogoi produced the lone reply for Assam.

The results: Quarterfinals: Manipur 7 (Phijam Sanathoi Meetei 4, Wangkheimayum Sadananda Singh 11, 16, 70, Ngangbam Pacha Singh 13-pen, Maibam Deny Singh 52, Imaron Meitei 88) bt Assam 1 (Joydeep Gogoi 64); Mizoram 7 bt Kerala 0 (Mizoram won 7-6 via sudden-death).

Kudashova ousts sixth seed Fanny

Sports Bureau

Daria Kudashova defeated sixth seed Fanny Ostlund 7-5, 7-6(6) in the first round of the Maha Yui \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Nagpur on Tuesday. In another match, Zeel Desai managed to eke out only five games against Akiko Omae of Japan.

The results: First round: Soha Sadig bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; Ekaterina Yashina bt Thasaporn Nikkilo (Tha) 7-5, 6-4; Rinon Okuwaki (Jpn) bt Humer Bahamus 6-2, 6-3; Daria Kudashova bt Fanny Ostlund (Swe) 7-5, 7-6(6); Sonal Patil bt Maithili Kohli 6-0, 6-1; Miriana Tona (Ita) bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; Akiko Omae (Jpn) bt Zeel Desai 6-3, 6-2; Dalila Jakupovic (Slv) bt Sejal Bhutada 6-0, 6-0. **Doubles, pre-quarters:** Yasmine Mansouri (Fra) & Diana Marcinkicela (Lat) bt Sonal Patil & Bela Tamhanakar 6-2, 6-1; Daria Kudashova & Anastasia Zolotareva bt Akanksha Nitire & Soha Sadig 6-4, 6-2; Yeomwoo Ku (Kor) & Justina Mikulskytė (Lit) bt Vaishwari Adkar & Ishwari Matere 6-2, 7-5; Shrivalli Bhamidipati & Vaidehi Chaudhan bt Sowjanya Bavisetti & Mei Hasegawa (Jpn) 6-2, 6-1.

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa tops skeet in National trials

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa topped the men's skeet with 59 out of 60 after shooting 121 in qualification in the third National shotgun selection trials in Patiala.

With the event doubling up as the Olympic trials for Paris, Angad, who has the world record 60 out of 60 in the finals, enhanced his chances.

Maheshwari Chauhan finished on top in the women's skeet beating Areeba Khan.

Darshna Rathore shot 123 out of 125 in qualification but was placed sixth in the final.

Maheshwari Chauhan finished on top, beating Areeba Khan 55-52, Sanjana Sood was third, ahead of Parinaz Dhalwail and Raiza Dhillion.

The results: **Trap:** Men: 1. Aravansh Tyagi 46(117); 2. Pritiviraj Tondaman 44(119); 3. Udayvir Singh Jaisie 36(117). **Women:** 1. Nuru 39(1) (107); 2. Rajeshwari Kumari 39(1) (112); 3. Shreyasi Singh 28(114).

Skeet: Men: 1. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 59(121); 2. Bhavesh Singh Gill 52(119); 3. Arjun Thakur 45(120). **Women:** 1. Maheshwari Chauhan 55(119); 2. Areeba Khan 52(118); 3. Sanjana Sood 43(109).

In women's skeet,

Pragg to face Firouzja; Gukesh meets Vidit

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa will take on Alireza Firouzja of France, while D. Gukesh will meet Vidit Gujrathi in an all-India encounter in the opening round of the Candidates chess tournament, to be held in Toronto from April 4.

Humpty vs Vaishali

In the Women's Candidates tournament too, the two Indians - Koneru Humpty and R. Vaishali - will come face to face in the opening round.

Both the open and wo-

men's events feature eight players each. They will play one another twice.

The winners will earn the right to challenge the reigning World champions - Ding Liren (open) and Ju Wenjun (women), both of China.

The field: **Open:** Fabiano Caruana (USA), Hikaru Nakamura (USA), Ngjat Albasov (Aze), Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus), Alireza Firouzja (Fra), R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, and Vidit Gujrathi.

Women: Koneru Humpty, Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus), Kateryna Lagno (Rus), Anna Muzychuk (Ukr), Nurgul Salimova (Bul), Le Tingjie (Chn), Tan Zhongyi (Chn), and R. Vaishali.

Sports Ministry revokes PCI's suspension

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry on Tuesday revoked the suspension on the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) after the body initiated the process for its long-pending elections in which multiple Paralympic medalist Devendra Jhajarhi is set to be elected president.

On February 2, the ministry terminated PCI's recognition for "intentional delay to elect a new Executive Committee" as per the National Sports Code. The PCI had postponed the elections, which should have been held before January 31, to March 28 because of the impending Pura Shooting World Cup from March 6 to 15.

Satwik-Chirag, Treesa-Gayatri win in their opening round

FRENCH OPEN

Press Trust of India
PARIS

Satwiksajir Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the doubles second round of French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a hard-fought 21-13, 24-22 win against Malaysia's Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi here on Tuesday.

Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also progressed to the long-pending final, after claiming a 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 victory over Ashwin Ponnapanna and Tanisha Crasto in the opening match of women's doubles event.

The two pairs are fighting to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

While Tanisha-Ashwini are ranked 11th, Treesa-Gayatri are placed at the 14th spot in the Olympic Games qualification ranking.

Ankita Raina and Riya Sachdeva power ONGC to women's final

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Saketh Myneni had to win his singles and doubles matches to help GAIL beat HPL 2-1.

Ankita Raina and Riya Sachdeva helped Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to a 2-0 victory over Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPL) in the women's semifinals of the 42nd PSPB inter-unit tennis organised by the Engineers India Limited (EIL) at the DLTA Complex on Tuesday.

Ankita and Riya won their singles matches without dropping a game against Darshna Hage and Sanya Khullar respectively.

In the final, ONGC will play Indian Oil, which eased past EIL 2-0, with Ri-

ya Bhatia and Prarthana Thombare winning their matches, dropping two games in all, against Neha Agarwal and Geethanjali Koppulu respectively.

In the men's section, Indian Oil had a bye, while ONGC, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) won their quarterfinals against EIL, HPL and Numalgarh Refinery Limited (NRL) respectively.

Saketh Myneni had to win his singles and doubles matches to help GAIL beat HPL 2-1, with Jitender Sharma supporting him in the doubles.



Riya Sachdeva and Ankita Raina in ONGC colours in the PSPB tennis on Tuesday. **PHOTOS: SRINIVASAN**

Antim given relief to compete in one final trial

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday decided to give the country's lone Olympic quota place winner Antim Panghal (women's 53kg) the relief of competing in only one final bout in the upcoming selection trials for Asian championships.

The trials will be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi on March 10 and 11.

As per a WFI circular, the winner of the 53kg weight category will fight with World championships and two-time World under-20 champion Antim, who is reportedly nursing an injury, in a final trial which will be held in March end.

The wrestlers selected

in Olympic weight classes will represent the country in both the Asian championships (April 11-16) and the Asian Olympic Games qualifier (April 19-20) to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

A case filed by the protesting wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Satyavrat Kadam, challenging the trials is still pending in the Delhi High Court.

SGM on March 29 Meanwhile, the WFI, which is still "suspended" by the Union Sports Ministry even though the United World Wrestling (UWW) has lifted the suspension, has decided to hold its special general meeting (SGM) in Noida on March 29.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
 PH: 9820350726
 selvakumar@thehindu.co.in

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
 or write to us at
 customerservice@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline
 PRINTLINE SPORTS

H. P. P. W. D. TENDER

Sealed item rates on the form 688 are invited by the Executive Engineer Dehra Division HPWD, Dehra on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors (C&D Clause) as detailed in HPWD.

TENDER SCHEDULE - 1

1. Date and time of receipt of application for tender form:	11.03.2024 upto 4.00 PM
2. Date and time of issue of tender form:	12.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders:	13.03.2024 upto 11.00 AM
4. Date and time of opening of tenders:	13.03.2024 at 11.30 AM

The tender forms will be issued against cash payment (non-refundable). The earnest money in the shape of NSC/DF/Deposit of call of any Post Office Bank in H.P. only pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer, Dehra Division HPWD Dehra must accompany each tender.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIHAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through e-tendering process:-

Sl. No.	NAME OF WORK	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost	Time Limit	Cost of tender form
1.	Augmentation of various Water Supply Scheme under Manali Town Tehsil Mandi Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH-CO Type-I Quarter at Mandi).	Rs. 18,79,722/-	Rs. 62,700/-	Six Months	400/-
2.	AR & MIO WSS Manali Town in Tehsil Mandi and Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH-CO wire core work to protect the approach road at RD 6.82.086A/13645A)	Rs. 1,36,28,086/-	Rs. 1,36,28,086/-	Two Months	250/-

155 days of time for updating the tender through e-tendering 12-03-2024 up to 11.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://www.hp.gov.in>

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Katrain
 HIM SUCUNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

"Inviting Online Bids"

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, invites tenders on short time basis on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through e-tendering process:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of completion (months)	Cost of tender form
1.	Providing sewerage system to Banjar town in Tehsil Banjar Distt Kullu H.P. (SH-CO 1.00 Molding Sewerage Treatment plant based on SBR technology & CO Retaining wall, Demolishing of existing desludging tank and Construction in another place)	5,53,54,467/-	5,53,545/-	12 Months	2500/-

155 days of time for updating the tender through e-tendering 12-03-2024 up to 11.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://www.hp.gov.in>

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Katrain
 HIM SUCUNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Floriculture (C&P) Department Kashmir
 Tel: 0194-2474234 Fax: 24820206 email: kashmir@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension No.01.

In view of its response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.07 of 2024 dated, 10.02.2024 for Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Badamgarh Park, Jammu is hereby extended as per the details given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.03.2024 from 03:30 PM to 16.03.2024 upto 02:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	02.03.2024 from 04:00 PM to 16.03.2024 upto 02:00 PM
3. Bid submission End date	16.03.2024 upto 02:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	18.03.2024 at 02:00 PM

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

No-DOPK-6501NDR/12024-4-7371649F-19
 Date: 02.03.2024
 DIPK-17380/23
 Accounts Officer (Member Secretary)

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Dehra Division HPWD Dehra on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering mode from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPWD CPWD/PWD of neighbouring states for the works as detailed in the table. The cost of tender and earnest money will be accepted only online mode.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of State of Art I.T.I. Industrial Institute/ Nagroa Bagwan at Balbar in Tehsil Nagroa Bagwan, District Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) (SH-Construction of building portion, including water, including water supply & Sanitary Installation, Rain Water Harvesting System Septic Tank, Fire Fighting and Sprinkler System etc.)	148292574.4	12.03.2024	2885550/-	28.03.2024
2.	Construction of Lecture theatre Complex under EWS Scheme in Dr. Rajendra Prasad College, Dehra, District Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) (SH-Construction of building portion including water supply & Sanitary installation, Site Development, boundary Wall, Gate and rain water Harvesting System etc.)	14396816/-	12.03.2024	1487750/-	28.03.2024

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website: www.hp.gov.in

Executive Engineer, H.P.W.D. Division, Dehra
 Tando Anj Nagroa Bagwan (On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)
 HIM SUCUNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (H2) HAMIRPUR

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bid No.HM-16-47/WA/Tender/Notice/CRP/CH/2024/19324-1380 Dated 02.04.2024

Construction of 30.10 metre long bridge over Saha River at Abhiyan in Distt Bhaspur (H2) (SH-CIO Sub Structure super structure including approach road 645 metres between chainage 0/0 to 0/42.0) and between chainage 0/721 to 0/946, under centre road & Infrastructure fund / Job No CRP-109-2022-2316.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer H2 HPWD Hamirpur is engaged in the development of National Highways and State Highways as part of this Enclosure, it has been decided to undertake Construction of 30.10 metre long bridge over Saha River at Abhiyan in Distt Bhaspur (H2) (SH-CIO Sub Structure super structure including approach road 645 metres between chainage 0/0 to 0/42.0 and between chainage 0/721 to 0/946, under centre road & Infrastructure fund / Job No CRP-109-2022-2316.

Through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract. Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department through Chief Engineer H2 HPWD Hamirpur now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following work:

Sl. No.	Tender Package	Name of Work.	Estimated Civil Cost (Rs.)	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
1.	Himachal Pradesh CRP-109-2022-2316	Construction of 30.10 metre long bridge over Saha River with 10' Clear Width	Rs.59,41,000/-	30 months	10 years

The bid should be quoted as per Bidding inclusive of GST.

The complete Bid document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of e-procurement portal of HPWD (<https://www.hp.gov.in>) from 02.04.2024 (11:00 Hrs. IST) to 08.04.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Technical Bid & Financial Bid (<https://www.hp.gov.in>) and also mandatory to submit the Technical Bid, on or before 08.04.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs. IST), it is also mandatory to submit the Technical Bid on <https://www.hp.gov.in>. Bids received online shall be opened on 08.04.2024 (at 11:30 Hrs IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, Documents, receipts are accepted shall be deposited through online mode only. Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 08.04.2024 (at 11:00 Hrs IST). Please note that the Chief Engineer, H2, HPWD, Hamirpur reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Office Engineer, Superintending Engineer, H2 HPWD, Hamirpur
 For and on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
 Chief Engineer, H2, HPWD, Hamirpur, Ph: 01972-22265, Fax 01972-22297
 Email: ceh2am@hp.gov.in

THE HINDU OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DVAANGAN)
 (Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India
 Mathukada, East Coast Road, Kozhikode (P.O. Chembar) 690 112, Tamil Nadu - India
 Phone: 944 - 2742704, 2742111, 2742743
 Accredited by NAAC - ISO 9001:2015

Employment Notice No. (02/2024 & 02) (R)/2024

NEEPMD invites applications from Indian Nationals, who fulfil the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling the following sanctioned regular posts, as per the details given:-

Associate Professor in Speech Pathology & Audiology	01
Associate Professor (Medical Science)	01
Lecturer in Clinical Psychology **	01

** The previous advt. notification No.SF/2023 published in Employment News dated 08.11.2023 is void. 12,2003 stands cancelled due to administrative reasons. For detailed advertisement, essential/ desirable qualifications, age limit, format of application and the recruitment fee details etc., please visit our website: www.niepmdd.in. The last date of receipt of applications and necessary documents is 30 days from the date of publication of employment news.

Sd/-
 DIRECTOR

JSS MEDICAL SERVICE TRUST JSS HOSPITAL
 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mysuru - 570 004, Karnataka, Ph: 0821-2548212 Fax: 0821-2548218
www.jssonline.org

REQUIRED

No: MED-DIV/SIST/01/2010-11 Date: 15.02.2024
 JSS Medical Service Trust, a sister concern of JSS Mahavidyalayepetha, Mysuru is running an 1800 bedded hospital in Mysuru. It also has one of the biggest critical and emergency care facilities with 260 beds, to provide the world class healthcare to all sections of the society. Applications are invited for the following leadership positions in the administration.

Position	Qualification	Experience
Director	MBBS with MD in Hospital Administration	Minimum 12 years in any 500 bedded Hospital, atleast 5 years as Head of the Hospital
Chief Administrative Officer	MD Hospital Administration / MBA (Hospital Administration)	Minimum 10 years in any Multi Speciality Hospital as an Administrator

Salary is on par with the market standards. Please send your Bio-data to the Director, Medical Education Division, JSS Mahavidyalayepetha, Mysuru or to med@jssonline.org within 15 days from the date of this notification.

Sd/-
 Executive Member

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE

An Autonomous Body under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and a Deemed to be University's 3 of the UGC Act, 1956] Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032

Call for Applications/ Nominations for Appointment of Director

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata, an autonomous grant-in-aid institution of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India invites applications from highly motivated professionals, who are Indian nationals, for the position of Director. Those who are dynamic leaders with a clear vision for an established Institution dedicated to this field of research in the country may apply for the post.

Applications received in response to this advertisement as well as nominations received from eminent fellows of prestigious national science and engineering academies, Directors of national R&D laboratories and Vice-Chancellors of universities will be considered by a Search-cum-Selection Committee. Based on the recommendations of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, the Director will be appointed after obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority.

The incumbent will be appointed on Direct Recruitment/Deputation including Contract/Re-employment basis for a period of 3 to 5 years or on attaining the age of superannuation (62 years at present), whichever is earlier.

Pay scale: Pay Level 15 HAG Scale (Rs. 1,82,200-2,24,100) plus admissible allowances as per 7th CPC.

The applicant's age should not exceed 58 years on 01.01.2024.

Applications/nominations should be sent by post to "The Registrar, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, 2A & 2B, Raja Subodh Chandra Mallick Rd, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal-India", in the prescribed form along with self-attested photocopies of certificates in support of Age, Qualifications and experience so as to reach the above mentioned address latest by 15th April, 2024. Detailed Advertisement is available at the website of IACS viz. <http://iacs.res.in>. Registrar

GENERAL

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुर्कुश्चेर
 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KURUKSHETRA
 (An Institute of National Importance)
 KURUKSHETRA - 136119 (HARYANA)

Advt. No.01/2024

RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF REGISTRAR

National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra invites applications in the prescribed form from the Indian Nationals for filling up of the post of Registrar in the Institute on deputation (including Short Term Contract) basis. The prescribed Application Form and other details can be downloaded from the Institute Website www.niitkr.in and Applications filed in all respects along with self-attested photocopies of certificates and online fee payment receipt should send through proper channel so as to reach on or before 10.04.2024 by Speed Post/Registered Post. Applications received after the last date to postal delay or by any other means will not be considered.

Registrar is:-
 Nalco Bhanuwan, Nagarpalli, Bhubaneswar - 751 013, Odisha
 CN : L27202019181000920

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATE ENGINEER TRAINEES (GETs) THROUGH GATE-2023

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna Centre PSU is one of the largest integrated Alumina- Alumina Refining and Bauxite based, Graduate Engineer Trainee (GETs) through GATE-2023, as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Discipline	No. of Posts
01	Mechanical	127
02	Electrical	100
03	Instrumentation	20
04	Metallurgy	10
05	Chemical	13
06	Chemistry	10
Total		277

Candidates willing to apply in NALCO may visit career section of NALCO website www.nalcoindia.com for further details.

IMPORTANT DATES :

1. Opening of online submission of application	04/03/2024(10 AM)
2. Last date of deposit of application/processing fees through SSC collect.	02/04/2024(4 PM)
3. Last date of submission of online application.	02/04/2024(4 PM)

Adv. No.10240206, Dt. 21.02.2024 General Manager (H&P) HR&P

MOIL LIMITED
 (Formerly Mangalore Ore India) Ltd.
 Bhavanamangaluru, T-4, Kato Road, NAGPUR-440013
 Website: www.moil.in / Fax: 0712-2397073

APPOINTMENT

MOIL Ltd. Miniratna category 4, schedule 'A' CPSE under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites eligible applications as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1.	Graduate Trainee (Mining)	13
2.	Graduate Trainee (Mechanical)	05
3.	Graduate Trainee (Electrical)	04
4.	Management Trainee (Geology)	01
5.	Graduate Trainee (Process)	03
6.	Management Trainee (Materials)	05
7.	Management Trainee (Contract Mgmt.)	01
8.	Management Trainee (Purs/Wal)	05
9.	Management Trainee (Fin. & Accts.)	05
10.	Manager (Survey)	02

For details log on to our website www.moil.in on the link "Recruitment". Any amendment/clarification relating to this advertisement will be notified on MOIL's website only.

Last Date for Submission of On-line Applications: 21-03-2024
 Sd/- General Manager (HR&P)

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
 (A Navratna Company)
 (CN: L33399K1954000078)

Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navratna & India's leading Professional Electronics Company has the following requirements for its Kolkata Unit on permanent basis:

1. Executive Post

S. No.	Post	Qualification	Minimum Experience	No. of Posts	Grade & Pay Scale
1.	Medical Officer	MBBS	2 Years	2	Z-1UR & 1-ORC-NCL / Rs. 40,000/- to 44,000/-

Last Date for Submission of Application is: 27.03.2024. For details visit www.bel-india.in

MANAGER(HR&P)
 Phone - 03121 - 236440

"Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam"

ALL INDIA SPEECH INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING
 (Autonomous body of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India)
 New Delhi, India. Phone: 011-26100000, 26100001
 Email: director@aiishs.org.in Website: www.aiishs.org.in

ADVERTISEMENT No. 03/2024 Dated: March 01, 2024

AIISH, Mysuru invites applications for the post of Stores & Purchase Officer to be filled on deputation basis at the Institute. The detailed advertisement and applications for the same has been included in our Institute website i.e. www.aiishs.org.in

Interested candidates who meet the requirement, may fill the online application through E-Samarth Portal. The link for online application is <https://aiishs.org.in>. samarth.edu.in/index.php/aiishslogin. The prefix of online application along with all necessary documents mentioned in the detailed advertisement should be sent through proper channel to the Officer in Charge Administrative Office, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mangasagahalli, Mysuru - 570006 - on or before 15.03.2024 at 5.30 PM. Applications received after the above mentioned time will not be entertained. For details and hindal version, you may visit our website <https://www.aiishs.org.in>
 Sd/-
 Director

NIELIT National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Calicut
 (Autonomous Institute under the Government of India)
 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

Walk-In-Interview - 14.03.2024

नागरिक कौशल, केंद्र में परामर्शदाता नियोग
M.Tech ADHOC Faculty at NIELIT Calicut, Kerala

वर्क-इन-इंटरव्यू - 14.03.2024
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW - 14.03.2024

NIELIT Calicut invites applications for M.Tech Adhoc Faculty recruitment at NIELIT Calicut from eligible and interested candidates.

For details and hindal version, you may visit our website <https://nielit.gov.in/calicut/index.php>
 Phone : 0495 - 2282766

30 YEARS OF
FUELLING DESIRE
IN INDIA

DYNAMIC ALL THE WAY

The new GLA

No time like now to drive home
the perfect blend of comfort and character.



Mercedes-Benz



Scan the QR code
to connect with us
on WhatsApp.

Silver Arrows: Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad: Tel: 0-9999200500 (CIN: U50200DL2012PTC234354) | **T&T Motors:** Delhi: 0-9654252588, Gurugram: 0-8588865744 (CIN: U34300DL1997PTC089072)
Global Star: Green Park, Delhi: Tel: 0-9971300600 (LLP: AAQ-0687) | **Panjab Motors:** Mohali: Tel: 0-7307173071 (CIN: U50300PB2013PTC037840) | **Joshi Autozone:** Chandigarh: Tel: 0-9878622222
Ludhiana: Tel: 0-8146644044, Jalandhar: Tel: 0-9779944444 (CIN: U50101CH1997PTC019747) | **Berkeley Motors:** Karnal: Tel: 0-8607970606, 0-8222880606, Dehradun: Tel: 0-7088078606, 0-7088378606
(CIN: U50300CH2011PLC033395) | **SRM Star:** Lucknow: Tel: 0-7408403793, 0-8189004408 (CIN: U74120UP2012PTC049618)

Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd. (CIN: U34102PN1994PTC083160) Toll Free no.: 0008000501888. Email: cs.ind@cac.mercedes-benz.com, Website: mercedes-benz.co.in
Accessories, colors and fittings shown may not be a part of standard specifications. For technical specification of the model available in India, please refer to the product brochure or contact the nearest Mercedes-Benz Franchise Partner. Terms and Conditions apply. Finance is at the sole discretion of the Financier, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly known as Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd). The GLA meets Bharat Stage VI emission norms. CIN: U67190TN2010FTC077890.

From bylanes of Hyderabad to the Olympics in Paris – Sreeja’s journey

The 25-year-old two-time National champion is part of the Indian women’s team which made it to the Games and the first paddler from Telangana to achieve this feat



THE GIST

Sreeja wants her coach Somnath to be present during her individual event at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games

She says the focus will be on consistency and playing more international tournaments to improve her ranking

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

It has been an inspiring journey for Sreeja Akula as she made it to the Paris Olympic Games from the by-lanes of Naveenagar in the City, where she once trained in the one-room Global Table Tennis Academy under the tutelage of Somnath Ghosh with just one table available!

The 25-year-old two-time National champion is part of the Indian women’s

team which made it to the Games and is also the first paddler from Telangana to achieve this feat.

“It’s a testament of the dedication and synergy between a coach and an athlete,” said Sreeja, expressing gratitude to Somnath for his unwavering support.

Sreeja wants her coach Somnath to be present during her individual event at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, underscoring the importance of his presence and guidance.

Both Sreeja and Somnath are ready to

make their mark on the world stage thanks to the support of Dream Sports Foundation, CRI-S, Raheja and the UTT.

“I am also lucky to have my parents, who went out of the way to support me and grateful to TTFI, Government of India and PWC.

“But for them, it would have been very difficult,” said the Commonwealth Games mixed gold medalist (partnering A. Sharath Kamal). Special thanks to my coach Somnath who has been working with me for 13 years now. I will try to play

my best game and create a few upsets in the Olympics. “The focus will be on consistency and playing more international tournaments to improve my ranking and be ready for the biggest challenge of my career,” Sreeja said.

“It has always been a dream, not just for me but for every athlete, to participate in the Olympics.”

Reflecting on the journey so far, Somnath said: We’ve poured our hearts and souls into this journey, overcoming obstacles and challenges along the way.”

Art deco style posters prop up Paris as it gets ready for the Games

Associated Press
PARIS

Vibrant colours and striking landmarks illuminate posters for the Paris Olympic Games in an art deco style inspired by the city’s flamboyant past.

The posters were unveiled on Monday at the Musee d’Orsay – a former railway station transformed into an imposing museum stretching along the Seine River – in the presence of Paris 2024 director of design Joachim Roncin and the artist behind them, Ugo Gattoni.

Telling a story
“I don’t want it to be something dull like only a poster with only a logo and a date on it, which they usually are. I want to tell a story,” Roncin said.

“I want it to be something very happy, because it’s going to be a huge party. I want it to be very joyful. Hopefully people will be inspired by these posters.”

There are many eye-catching images to absorb.

Among the most striking is the Eiffel Tower piercing through the Stade de France. As if forming a giant cake mixing together two crucial ingredients: Paris’ most famous landmark and its national stadium.

Spectators on the posters have expressions on their fresh faces that are perfectly captured. It’s like they are frozen in time, enjoying a giant and timeless party somewhere. On a balcony admiring ballroom dancers, or guests at a grandiose fête thrown by the Great Gatsby himself.

“It’s the art deco style,” Roncin said. “I wanted something very flamboyant, very rich, very colourful. It’s typical of Paris, when you look at various restaurant styles, you can see the art deco style. When



GETTY IMAGES

you look at the entrance on the subways, you can see the art nouveau style.”

No coincidence
No coincidence that it has this feel, perhaps, since these Games mark the centenary of the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

Everywhere you look, even amid a blur of colours, the details are intricate and precise.

In the background you can see the Olympic flame arriving on a three-mast tall ship into the French port of Marseille, having sailed from Greece, and the high-rolling waves representing surfing events in Tahiti. Closer up, some of Paris’ monuments which will be used during both Games.

Les Invalides, which holds former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte’s tomb; the imperious Grand Palais; the Arc de Triomphe, and the Chateau de Versailles, whose resplendent gardens will host

equestrian and pentathlon events.

The posters will also appear on billboards all over Paris from Tuesday.

It will be a relief to purists that no AI (artificial intelligence) was used to design the posters, which is part of the reason why Roncin selected Gattoni.

“It was very important to work with Ugo because he’s a manual artist, he works with his hands. Nothing is digital assisted. Today we live in the world where there is a lot of AI,” Roncin said.

It took six months to decide which colours to use and Gattoni has spent more than 2,000 hours working on the posters.

“It has this fresh feel ... an atmosphere of good vibes,” said Gattoni, whose work also included studying all the previous Olympic posters. Just like the 1924 poster, this poster has to work in 100 years’ time. For me this is super important.”

Smriti Mandhana hopes Delhi matches Bengaluru’s ‘crowd energy’

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday said she is looking forward to seeing how the crowd in the national capital embraces the Women’s Premier League, after playing in front of a packed stadium in Bengaluru during the tournament’s first leg.

The second season of the WPL is being held at two venues. The Bengaluru leg, comprising of 11 matches, concluded with RCB defeating UP Warriorz by 23 runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday night. The caravan now rolls to New Delhi from Tuesday.

The fans in Bengaluru not only turned up in large numbers for RCB’s matches but also for the other teams.

“We’ll see if the Delhi crowd can

match the energy of the Bangalore crowd. We have seen men’s cricket here, I had come in 2016 to watch a match and the crowd was similar and the atmosphere was like this. The way people have supported me has been great to see,” Mandhana told *Ijo Cinema*.

Mandhana said looking at the reception in the first leg of WPL got and the massive turnouts at the Brabourne Stadium and D.Y. Patil Stadium in Mumbai which hosted the league last year, it seems that women’s cricket is winning.”

“As a women’s cricketer, at that moment, I think women’s cricket has won. I am saying this not just about Smriti Mandhana or RCB, I feel like women’s cricket is winning.

“Last year, Mumbai had a good turnout. Bangalore was crazy, especially for our matches. It was great watching people come and

support not just the home team but also the others (teams).

“They call RCB the most loyal fanbase. We saw it this time. We couldn’t even step out in Bangalore for the last 15 days – it’s that good. It’s a win for women’s cricket and the entire fraternity,” Mandhana added.

Mandhana also heaped praise on her opening partner Sabbineni Meghana, whose 164 runs in five games at a strike rate of 120.58 places her second after the RCB skipper in the list of highest run-getters this season.

Mandhana said she cannot take the credit alone in Meghana’s success. “I can’t take any credit; the way she has come back is amazing. I discussed this with her after the auction and told her that I had full faith in her, after what she had done on the domestic circuit,” she said.



K. MURALI KUMAR

SCIENCE

AI has a big and growing carbon footprint, but algorithms can help

Training GPT-3, the precursor AI system to the current ChatGPT, generated 502 metric tonnes of carbon, which is equivalent to driving 112 petrol cars for a year. GPT-3 further emits 8.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually due to inference. The requirements of large language models which are behind ChatGPT have gone up by a factor of 300,000

Shirin Dora

Given the huge problem-solving potential of artificial intelligence (AI), it wouldn't be far-fetched to think that AI could also help us in tackling the climate crisis. However, when we consider the energy needs of AI models, it becomes clear that the technology is as much a part of the climate problem as a solution.

The emissions come from the infrastructure associated with AI, such as building and running the data centres that handle the large amounts of information required to sustain these systems.

But different technological approaches to how we build AI systems could help reduce its carbon footprint. Two technologies in particular hold promise for doing this: spiking neural networks and lifelong learning.

The lifetime of an AI system can be split into two phases: training and inference. During training, a relevant dataset is used to build and tune—improve—the system. In inference, the trained system generates predictions on previously unseen data.

For example, training an AI that's to be used in self-driving cars would require a dataset of many different driving scenarios and decisions taken by human drivers.

After the training phase, the AI system will predict effective manoeuvres for a self-driving car. Artificial neural networks (ANN), are an underlying technology used in most current AI systems.

They have many different elements to them, called parameters, whose values are adjusted during the training phase of the AI system. These parameters can run to more than 100 billion in total.

While large numbers of parameters improve the capabilities of ANNs, they also make training and inference resource-intensive processes. To put things in perspective, training GPT-3 (the precursor AI system to the current ChatGPT) generated 502 metric tonnes of carbon, which is equivalent to driving 112 petrol powered cars for a year.

GPT-3 further emits 8.4 tonnes of CO₂ annually due to inference. Since the AI boom started in the early 2010s, the energy requirements of AI systems known as large language models—the type of technology that's behind ChatGPT—have gone up by a factor of 300,000.

With the increasing ubiquity and complexity of AI models, this trend is going to continue, potentially making AI a significant contributor of CO₂ emissions. In fact, our current estimates could be



AI systems make huge demands on energy resources. NAT/UNFLASH

lower than AI's actual carbon footprint due to a lack of standard and accurate techniques for measuring AI-related emissions.

Spiking neural networks

The previously mentioned new technologies, spiking neural networks (SNNs) and lifelong learning (L2), have the potential to lower AI's ever-increasing carbon footprint, with SNNs acting as an energy-efficient alternative to ANNs.

ANNs work by processing and learning patterns from data, enabling them to make predictions. They work with decimal numbers. To make accurate calculations, especially when multiplying numbers with decimal points together, the computer needs to be very precise. It is because of these decimal numbers that ANNs require lots of computing power, memory and time.

This means ANNs become more energy-intensive as the networks get larger and more complex. Both ANNs and SNNs are inspired by the brain, which contains billions of neurons (nerve cells) connected to each other via synapses. Like the brain, ANNs and SNNs also have components which researchers call neurons, although these are artificial, not biological ones. The key difference between the two types of neural networks is in the way individual neurons transmit information to each other.

Neurons in the human brain communicate with each other by transmitting intermittent electrical signals called spikes. The spikes themselves do not contain information. Instead, the information lies in the timing of these spikes. This binary, all-or-none characteristic of spikes (usually represented as 0 or 1) implies that



AI could also help us in tackling the climate crisis. However, when we consider energy needs it becomes clear that the technology is as much a part of the problem as a solution

neurons are active when they spike and inactive otherwise.

This is one of the reasons for energy efficient processing in the brain.

Just as Morse code uses specific sequences of dots and dashes to convey messages, SNNs use patterns or timings of spikes to process and transmit information. So, while the artificial neurons in ANNs are always active, SNNs consume energy only when a spike occurs.

Otherwise, they have closer to zero energy requirements. SNNs can be up to 280-times more energy efficient than ANNs.

My colleagues and I are developing learning algorithms for SNNs that may bring them even closer to the energy efficiency exhibited by the brain. The lower computational requirements also imply that SNNs might be able to make decisions more quickly.

These properties render SNNs useful for a broad range of applications, including space exploration, defence and self-driving cars because of the limited energy sources available in these scenarios.

Lifelong learning

L2 is another strategy for reducing the

overall energy requirements of ANNs over the course of their lifetime that we are also working on.

Training ANNs sequentially (where the systems learn from sequences of data) on new problems causes them to forget their previous knowledge while learning new tasks.

ANNs require retraining from scratch when their operating environment changes, further increasing AI-related emissions.

L2 is a collection of algorithms that enable AI models to be trained sequentially on multiple tasks with little or no forgetting.

L2 enables models to learn throughout their lifetime by building on their existing knowledge without having to retrain them from scratch.

The field of AI is growing fast and other potential advancements are emerging that can mitigate the energy demands of this technology. For instance, building smaller AI models that exhibit the same predictive capabilities as that of a larger model.

Advances in quantum computing—a different approach to building computers for AI at a much larger scale.

The climate change challenge requires that we try to find solutions for rapidly advancing areas such as AI before their carbon footprint becomes too large.

(Shirin Dora is lecturer, computer science, Loughborough University. This article is republished from The Conversation.)

THE GIST

An AI system's life can be split into two phases: training and inference. During training, a relevant dataset is used to build and tune the system. In inference, the trained system generates predictions on previously unseen data

Spiking neural networks (SNNs) and lifelong learning (L2) have the potential to lower AI's ever-increasing carbon footprint, with SNNs acting as an energy-efficient alternative to ANNs

Advances in quantum computing will also enable faster training and inference using ANNs and SNNs. This could allow us to find energy-efficient solutions for AI at a much larger scale

BIG SHOT



Toralf Mjoeen places an Arctic fox in a box for transport early this February. The fox will make a 500-km trip south, where it will be released into the wild in Opdøl, Norway. As part of a state-sponsored programme to restore Arctic foxes, Norway has been feeding the population for nearly 20 years, and the programme has helped to boost the fox population from as few as 40 in Norway, Finland, and Sweden to around 550 across Scandinavia. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

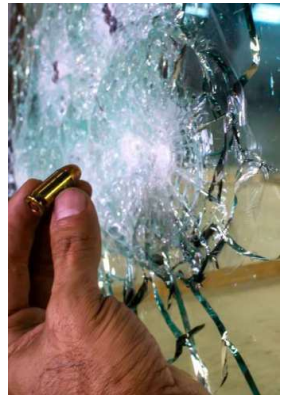
Transparent yet impenetrable

Q: What constitutes bulletproof glass?

A: High-strength ceramics such as silicon nitride, dual hardness steel, and layers of heavy nylon fabric make up bulletproof glass. The hard ceramic stops the bullet abruptly, dissipating its energy as it destroys the first layers of the glass at the point of impact, and entangles it in a coarse mesh.

A textile bulletproof vest is fashioned of 16-24 layers of nylon cloth of heavy weave. The layers are stitched together like a quilt.

Such vests, also known as full-torso protectors, can be worn undetected under regular clothing. A vest of 16 layers will stop regular handgun and submachine-gun bullets, while those of 24 layers will stop the more powerful magnum bullets from the same weapons.



Bulletproof glass uses a variety of materials that make it difficult to breach. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'