DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

The Indian EXPRESS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025, PUNE, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

veenaworld.com

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE SINCE 1932

₹7.00 • WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Book Before **31**st March and Save ₹3,000 to ₹30,000 pp

This isn't a discount scheme. At Veena World, we believe in No discounts. No gimmicks. No freebies. No complimentaries. No optionals. No cash payments. Then why book before 31st March? Because...

Euro-Dollar Rising!

With rising Euro and Dollar rates and the depreciation of the Indian Rupee, international tour services, airfares, and tour costs are increasing. As a result, international tour prices will change from 1st April 2025. You still have 10 days to lock in your tour at today's prices for departures up to March 2026! Book before 31st March to secure the current tour prices and save thousands.

TCS Advantage!

The financial year is ending! Book before 31st March to utilise your TCS limit (Tax Collected at Source) of ₹7 lakh on international travel by paying the full tour price. Already booked? Make your balance payment before 31st March to maximise your savings. From 1st April, the TCS limit increases to ₹10 lakh. Reserve that for next year and keep chasing your Travel Mission of visiting 25, 50, 75, or even 100 countries! Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life with Veena World!

Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado!

> March ncluding Sundays Veena World Sales Offices Open 10AM to 8PM

Ask us for exclusive tours for

	your group of family and				A TRANS		23 2 3 3				pert Tour Manager your service	
	friends	The second										R
76		s Paris Croatia am Brussels Slovenia Hungary				Best of 🍸	All of New Zealand	S. Africa 🗡 Kenya V. Falls	Marvels of Japan	Hong Kong Macao Shenzhen	Hanoi Halong Bay	Tarctica 7 th Continent
	345000 32!	5000 290000	705000	305000 10	085000 🔰 3	330000	460000	435000	350000	167000	132000 13	25000
		Days 12 Days ril 30 April 24	19 Days April 23	7 Days April 26	21 Days Sep 13	9 Days April 24	14 Days May 9	15 Days May 18	11 Days April 26	7 Days Apr 19, May 1	8 Days Apr 24, 25	13 Days Dec 8

Choose from Veena World's all-inclusive family group tours, women's specials, seniors' specials and honeymoon tours. Find many more tours around the world on veenaworld.com Join tours starting from Mumbai (ex-Mumbai) or from any location in India or globally - Joining & Leaving (J&L) tours. All tour prices are listed in thousands. The chart below displays tour name, ex-Mumbai tour price (including airfare, visa & insurance), and Joining & Leaving tour price (excluding airfare, visa & insurance). The Veena World team is available to assist J&L guests with air tickets, visas, and other services.

South East & Far East	Asia	Australia NZ	America	a Africa	Europe - We	estern, l	Eastern,	Northern, Medi	terrane	ean	India Nepal Bhutan	Sri Lanka	a Dubai
Tour Name Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Singapore Thailand	[]	Australia (9D/14D)	325K-450K	250K-375K	European Explorer (27D)	650K-675K	570K-580K	Best of Iceland (10D) May 24	515K-525K	360000	Leh Ladakh (7D/9D)	67K-90K	42K-62K
Malaysia (10D) 165K-175K		New Zealand (10D/14D)	355K-460K	265K-370K	European Magic (19D)	475K-490K	395K-405K	Scandinavia (10D/15D)	310K-395K	225K-410K	Kashmir Escape (5D)	59K-65K	38K-45K
Singapore Malaysia Bali (10D) 197K-210K		Australia New Zealand (17D) 555K-570K	460K-470K	European Marvels (17D)	415K-430K	340K-350K	Scandinavia Midnight Sun(16D)	490K-495K	410K-420K	Kashmir (6D/7D)	62K-88K	41K-70K
Singapore Thailand (8D) 147K-151K		America (15D/21D)	625K-765K	500K	European Jewels with			Scandinavia Iceland (15D)	510K-525K	420K-430K	Best of Kashmir Premium (8D)	95K-105K	76K-86K
Singapore Bali (8D) 172K-180K		American Dream (19D)	700K-715K	570K-590K	Versailles/Disneyland(15D)			England Scotland Ireland			Luxury Kashmir (9D)	172K-190K	150K-170K
Singapore HKG Macau (8D) 210K-220K		American Splendours (17D)		513K-523K	European Delight (13D)			Wales London (15D)	400K-415K		Shimla Manali (6D/8D)	35K-45K	28K-38K
Singapore Malaysia+Cruise(9D) 186K-190K		American Magic (13D)	530K-545K	390K-410K	European Wonders (13D)				360K-375K	285K-300K	Dharmashala Dalhousie Amritsar (8D)	52K-60K	40K-48K
Best of Bali (7D) 127K-131K			300K-345K		European Highlights (11D)			Croatia Slovenia Slovakia			Nainital Mussoorie Haridwar	52K-00K	401-401
	75K-80K	USA East Coast (7D)			European Charm (11D)			Hungary (12D)	285K-300K	210K-225K	Corbett Park (6D/8D/9D)	47K-60K	38K-52K
	30K-58K	American Wonders (15D		435K-450K	European Splendours (10D	•		Vienna Prague Budapest		1501/ 1051/	Assam Meghalaya (7D)	76K-85K	59K-68K
Bangkok Pattaya	[]	California Carnival (10D)	400K-415K	260K-275K	European Panorama (8D)			Bratislava (8D)	225K-240K	150K-165K	Assam Arunachal Meghalaya (12D)		
Phuket Krabi (8D) 112K-12OK		Best of Alaska (9D)	400K-415K	270K-285K	Glimpses of Europe (6D)			Uzbekistan Kazakhstan	200K-225K		Sikkim Darjeeling Gangtok		
Chiang Mai Chiang Rai Phuket Krabi (9D) 156K-160K		Canada (10D/17D)	475K-725K	345K	Swiss Paris London (11D) London Paris Swiss Italy		250K-265K	Kyrgyzstan (9D) Best of Baku (7D)	135K-150K		Pelling (9D)	75K-85K	58K-68K
Vietnam (5D/8D/13D) 100K-230K		Hawaii Mexico (13D)	775K-790K		Versailles/Disneyland (9D)		185K-195K	Georgia Armenia (8D)	165K-175K		Rajasthan (6D/9D)	30K-50K	22K-42K
Philippines Manila (8D) 201000	(<u> </u>	South America (21D)	1085000	810000	Swiss Paris/	2001(2001(Spain (10D/15D)	250K-365K		Gujarat (7D/10D)	30K-55K	24K-50K
Best of Laos (6D) 115000	/	Antarctica (13D) Dec 8	1325000	1125000	Swiss Austria (8D)	245K-265K	180K-195K		345K-360K		Kerala (6D/8D/10D)	30K-60K	24K-54K
Japan Alpine Route (8D/10D)295K-340K	245K-290K	S.Africa Kenya V.Falls (15D)	435K-455K		Swiss Paris Italy/			Egypt Greece Turkey (15D)			Andaman (7D) Dubai Abu Dhabi (5D/7D)	70K-75K 85K-135K	52K-57K 68K-110K
Korea Taiwan (10D) 335K-345K		Kenya/S. Africa (8D/9D)	235K-250K	195K-210K	Swiss Austria Italy (11D)	295K-315K	225K-245K	Turkey (10D/15D)	225K-325K	155K-255K	Nepal/Sri Lanka (8D/7D)	77K-95K	50K-57K
Japan Korea (9D) 325K-345K		Mauritius (7D)	145K	105K	Italy (8D/15D)	235K-375K	165K-305K	Greece (8D/10D/15D)	250K-425K	190K-365K	Bhutan (9D)		65K-71K

Travel Now Pay Later! EMI options available (3 months to 24 months) subject to EMI partner approval. T&C apply

veenaworld.com

Call: 1800 22 7979

er! Group tour price includes return airfare (ex-Mumbai), transport, accommodation, all meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner, sightseeing with entrance fees, driver-guide tips, services of a Tour Manager, VISA fee (except for Free Visa Countries) and travel insurance*. J&L tours exclude airfare, visa & insurance. USA tours are for valid USA visa holders.



Monday-Sunday 10 to 8 travel@veenaworld.com



Travel hassle-free

with the Veena World

All group tours are ex-Mumbai. Tour price is per person and on twin sharing basis. These tour prices are nett and no discount is applicable. At the time of booking, tour price to be paid in full INR by UPI/NEFT/RTGS/Cheque, in the name of 'Veena Patil Hospitality Pyt. Ltd.' No cash transactions at Veena World. Government taxes apply. Any increase in YQ taxes, airport taxes. VISA fees, surcharges (if any) will have to be borne by the travellers. T&C apply.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

THE WORLD

IN SUDAN

MILITARY RETAKES KHARTOUM'S PALACE

Sudan's military said on Friday it retook the Republican Palace in Khartoum, the last heavily guarded bastion of rival paramilitary forces in the capital, after nearly two years of fighting. The seizure of the Republican Palace, surrounded by government ministries, represents a major symbolic victory for Sudan's military against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



North Korea leader Kim Jong Un. File

North Korea says it tested new missiles

Seoul: North Korea said Friday it test-launched new anti-aircraft missiles, as its military threatened unspecified grave steps against the US and South Korea over their joint military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal. The official Korean Central News Agency said that leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the tests Thursday The missile launches, North Korea's sixth weapons testing activity this year, occurred on the same day that the US and South Korean militaries concluded their annual Freedom Shield command post exercise. The 11-day training was the allies' first major joint military exercises since the inauguration of President Trump in January, and the two countries held diverse field training exercises alongside the Freedom Shield drills.

PAKISTAN 8 lakh 'illegally'

residing Afghans repatriated

Islamabad: The process of repatriation of illegally residing Afghan nationals in Pakistan continued unabated as more than 800,000 people were repatriated by March 20, an official said.With only 10 days remaining until the March 31 deadline for illegally residing individuals and Afghan Citizen Card holders to leave Pakistan, the government by March 20 repatriated 874,282 Afghans due to concerns over terrorism, an official

said

Fire shuts down Heathrow Airport, disrupting global flight schedules



People wait at the Paddington railway station, after a fire stopped power at the Heathrow Airport in London on Friday. Reuters

REUTERS LONDON, MARCH 21

BRITAIN'S HEATHROW Airport was shut on Friday after a huge fire at a nearby substation knocked out its power, stranding passengers around the world and angering airlines who questioned how such crucial infrastructure could fail

Huge orange flames and plumes of black smoke shot into the sky around 2300 GMT on Thursday as a blaze engulfed the substation, cutting the power supply and back-up system for Europe's busiest and the world's fifth-busiest airport.

Police said while there was no indication of foul play they retained an open mind and

wants 'leakers' to be prosecuted REUTERS WASHINGTON, MARCH 21 BILLIONAIRE ELON Musk took his campaign to cut the US federal government into uncharted waters on Friday, holding an unprecedented top-level meeting at the Pentagon and calling for the prosecution of any Defense Department officials leaking AP "maliciously false information" about his visit. Musk, whose businesses have a number of Defense Department contracts, met US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for 80 minutes in his first such talks at the Pentagon, which is Cape Town: The United responsible for a large chunk of federal government spending. It was unclear whether US generals joined that meeting virtually. The New York Times reported that Musk would be briefed on secret war plans for

counter-terrorism officers would lead the inquiries given the critical nature of the infrastructure, and their capabilities. Airline experts said the last time European airports experienced disruption on such a large

scale was the 2010 Icelandic ash cloud that grounded some 100,000 flights. The industry is now facing

the prospect of a financial hit costing tens of millions of pounds, and a likely fight over who should pay.

"You would think they would have significant back-up power," one top executive from a European airline told Reuters.

The fire brigade said the cause of the fire was not known. but that 25,000 litres of cooling oil in the substation's transformer had caught fire. It had brought the blaze under control by the early morning with the transformer doused in white firefighting foam.

Heathrow had been due to handle 1,351 flights on Friday, flying up to 291,000 passengers. The closure forced flights to divert to other airports in Britain and across Europe, while many long-haul flights returned to their point of departure.

Passengers stranded in London and facing the prospect of days of disruptions were scrambling to make alternate travel arrangements.

"When we first came here, (it was) very exciting and hopeful," said Beau Mahr, 21 from the U.S. state of Iowa. "Now that we have to wait, it's kind of stressful.'

Industry experts warned that some passengers forced to land in Europe may have to stay in transit lounges if they lack the paperwork to leave the airport. Global flight schedules will

also be affected, as aircraft and crews will now be out of position, forcing carriers to rapidly reconfigure their networks. Prices at hotels around

Heathrow jumped, with booking sites offering rooms for 500 pounds (\$645), roughly five times the normal price levels. "Passengers are advised not

to travel to the airport and should contact their airline for further information," Heathrow said, adding that the airport would be shut until midnight on Friday. "We apologise for the in-

Russian drones hammer Odesa as Czech leader visits Ukraine

Kyiv: Russian drones pummeled the Ukrainian Black Sea port city of Odesa, injuring three people and sparking massive fires, offi-cials said Friday, an attack that underlined Moscow's intention to pursue aerial strikes even as it agreed to temporarily halt strikes on energy facilities.

The head of the Odesa re

TOP COURT HALTS SHIN BET CHIEF'S DISMISSAL Pushing Hamas to free hostages, Israel warns it may annex Gaza land

IBRAHIM HAZBOUN & DAVID RISING JERUSALEM, MARCH 21

ISRAEL'S DEFENSE minister said Friday he has ordered ground forces to advance deeper into the Gaza Strip, and vowed to hold more land until Hamas releases the remaining hostages it holds.

"The more Hamas continues its refusal to release the kidnapped, the more territory it will lose to Israel," Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement.

After retaking part of the strategic Netzarim corridor that divides Gaza's north from south, Israeli troops moved Thursday toward the northern town of Beit Lahiya and the southern border city of Rafah. The military said it had resumed enforcing a blockade on northern Gaza, including Gaza City.

Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet unanimously approved his request to fire the head of the country's Shin Bet internal security service. The decision to sack Ronen Bar deepens a power struggle focused largely over who bears responsibility for the 2023 Hamas attack that sparked the war in Gaza.

It also could set the stage for a crisis over the country's division of powers. Israel's attorney general has ruled that the Cabinet has no legal basis to dismiss Bar.

Critics say the move is a power grab by the prime minislate January. ter against an independentminded civil servant, and tens of thousands of Israelis have demonstrated in support of Bar,

Hegseth steps up warship presence in West Asia, will send two aircraft carriers



People protest against Israeli Prime Minister Beniamin Netanyahu near his residence in Jerusalem on Friday. Reuters

including outside Netanyahu's residence on Friday.

A Shin Bet report into Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that prompted the war acknowledged failures by the security agency. But it also said that policies by Netanyahu's government created the conditions for the at-

tack. Netanyahu is also upset that the Shin Bet has launched an investigation into connections between some of his close aides and the Gulf state of Qatar. His office said Bar's dismissal would take effect on April 10 or before then if a replacement is found.

Nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed since Israel on Tuesday shattered a truce that had facilitated the release of more than two dozen hostages and brought relative calm since

Israel had already cut off the supply of food, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians, has said it

Hamas studying US 'bridge' proposal on Gaza ceasefire

would escalate military opera-

tions until Hamas releases the 59

hostages it holds – 24 of whom

are believed alive - and gives up

SC blow to Netanyahu

dered a temporary halt to Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

dismissal of the country's do-

mestic security chief until his ap-

The Supreme Court's decision

came hours after Netanyahu's

Cabinet unanimously approved

his request to fire the head of the

Shin Bet internal security service,

heard no later than April 8.

Netanvahu's office had said Bar's

dismissal was effective April 10.

but that it could come earlier if a

ruled that the Cabinet has no le-

Israel's attorney general has

replacement was found.

gal basis to dismiss Bar.

The court said it was delaying the firing until an appeal could be

Israel's top court on Friday or-

control of the territory.

peal can be heard.

Ronen Bar.

Dubai: Hamas said on Friday it was reviewing a U.S. proposal to restore the Gaza ceasefire as Israel intensified military operations to press the Palestinian militant



SOUTH AFRICA Over 67,000 interested in US refugee plan

States Embassy in South Africa said Thursday it received a list of more than 67,000 people interested in refugee status in the US under President Donald Trump's plan to relocate members of a white minority group he claims are victims of racial discrimination by their Black-led government. The list was given to the embassy by the South African Chamber of Commerce in the US, which said it became a point of contact for white South Africans asking about the program a nounced by the Trump administration last month. AP



Elon Musk and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth in Washington on Friday. Reuters

No objection to Awami League's return, says BNP

and urged legal action against

cutions of those at the Pentagon

who are leaking maliciously false

information to NYT. They will be

Party (BNP) spokesman Ruhul

Kabir Rizvi's comments came on

the day when two Dhaka

University student organisations

held separate protests demand-

ing that the Awami League

should be banned from contest-

no bar on Awami League return-

ing to politics if it picks a leader

who "is not guilty of any crime,

has not killed students, or mis-

He suggested there should be

"I look forward to the prose-

leakers

ing polls.

China, something Musk, Trump found." he wrote on X before the and others denied. Musk called Hegseth meeting. the report "pure propaganda'

At the White House after the meeting, Trump said that he did not want to show the United States' plans for a potential war with China to anybody and hinted at Musk's potential conflict of interest.

appropriated or laundered

the people accept Awami League

after a quick trial of those in-

volved in crimes committed by

their regime," Rizvi, BNP's sen-

or joint secretary general, said.

return of an "autocratic rule" in

the country. "The democratic

process and democratic exercise

will fix one's place in politics".

But he cautioned against the

"We have nothing to say if

money abroad".

in three of its districts, an indication that the energy infrastructure of the city could have been damaged. Reacting to the attack. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that "joint pressure on Russia, strengthening sanctions and defense support for our state ... is the

way to stop such terror and Russia's prolongation of the war.' "We expect real pressure on Russia from the US, Europe and all our partners," Zelenskyy said. AP

Rizvi's comments came a day

after interim government chief

Muhammad Yunus told a dele-

gation of the International Crisis

Group that his administration

"has no plans to ban the Awami

als within the Awami leadership

accused of crimes, including

murder and crimes against hu-

manity, would be tried in

Bangladesh's courts.

He, however, said, individu-

League'

Oleh Kiper, said the city suffered **ASSOCIATED PRESS** "local emergency power outages" WASHINGTON, MARCH 21

Hegseth, in a rare move, is beef-

ing up the Navy warship pres-

ence in West Asia, ordering two

aircraft carriers to be there next

month as the US increases strikes

on the Yemen-based Houthi

rebels, according to a US official.

six months that the US has kept

two carrier strike groups in that

region, with generally only one

there. Prior to that it had been

years since the US had commit-

ted that much warship power to

Hegseth signed orders on

Thursday to keep the USS Harry

S Truman in West Asia for at least

an additional month. The official

spoke on the condition of

anonymity to discuss ongoing

operations in the Red Sea against

the Houthis and was scheduled

to begin heading home to

Norfolk, Virginia, at the end of

The ship has been conducting

military operations.

According to the official.

the West Asia.

It will be the second time in

EXPLAINE Houthi threat in US DEFENCE Secretary Pete the region

> AMID THE threat from the Houthis in Yemen. Pal Malik, the presence of so much US naval power in the region not only gives commanders additional ships to patrol and launch strikes, but it also serves as a clear message of deterrence to Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor.

March. Hegseth has ordered the USS Carl Vinson, which has been operating in the Pacific, to begin steaming toward West Asia. which will extend its scheduled deployment by three months. The Vinson is expected to ar-

rive in the region early next month. It had been conducting exercises with Japanese and South Korean forces near the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan and was slated to head home to port in San Diego in three weeks.

group to free remaining Israeli hostages. US special envoy Steve Witkoff's "bridge" plan, presented last week, aims to extend the ceasefire into April, beyond Ramadan and Passover.

Three days after Israel effectively abandoned the twomonth-old truce. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military was intensifying its air, land and sea strikes and would also evacuate civilians to the southern part of Gaza, Katz said Israel would continue its campaign until Hamas released more hostages and was totally defeated.

However, while Israeli airstrikes inflicted serious damage on Hamas this week, killing its Gaza government chief and other top officials, Palestinian and Israeli sources sav Hamas has shown it can absorb major losses and still fight and govern.

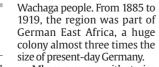
Hamas said it was still debating Witkoff's proposal and other ideas, with the goal of reaching a deal on prisoner releases, ending the war, and securing a complete Israeli military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

MBORO LEFT FOR GERMANY 50 YEARS AGO TO BRING IT BACK FOR A PROPER BURIAL Tanzanian man's ongoing quest to reclaim chieftain's head from Germany

CIARÁN FAHEY & FANNY BRODERSEN BERLIN, MARCH 21

MNYAKA SURURU Mboro is still driven by the promise he gave his grandmother when he left Tanzania for Germany almost 50 years ago: to bring back for a proper burial the head of a local chieftain, killed in 1900 by German colonists for opposing their rule in Africa.

Mboro, now 73, is from the same area near Mount Kilimanjaro that was once ruled by Mangi Meli, king of the



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

FORMER PRIME minister

Khaleda Zia's BNP on Friday said

it had no objection to the return

of rival Sheikh Hasina's Awami

League to politics under a clean

leadership, a day after the

Bangladesh interim government

The Bangladesh Nationalist

said it had no plans to ban it.

DHAKA, MARCH 21

Mboro grew up with stories about the king whom the Germans hanged from a tree with 18 other leaders in March 1900. The head is believed to have been cut off by German soldiers and taken to Germany by the colonial administration,

though authorities can not confirm that. It was never recovered. "I am (still) searching for it," Mboro, who now lives in Berlin, said

Righting past wrongs

After Mboro moved to the city of Heidelberg in 1978 to study civil engineering, he heard about a so-called African Quarter in Berlin, a neighborhood where streets had names associated with Germany's colonial era.

Mboro co-founded Berlin Postkolonial, a group pushing for a reevaluation of Germany's colonial past and removal of surviving colonial structures and racism

Mboro led the memorial procession as Petersallee was split into two streets. One was named Maji-Maji-Allee to remember



Mnyaka Sururu Mboro during a protest in Berlin. AP

the Maji Maji Rebellion against colonial rule in German East Africa. The other was named after Anna Mungunda, who fought against apartheid in Namibia, another former German colony known as German South West Africa

Germany's colonial past

Compared to other European powers, Germany was late to colonialism. It controlled huge swaths of Africa from 1884 to 1900, through the colonies of German South West Africa, Cameroon, Togoland, and also German East Africa, in what today is Rwanda,

Burundi and Tanzania.

Germany also established German New Guinea, German Samoa, island protectorates in the Pacific, and leased territory around Iiaozhou Bay in China. All the colonies were lost by 1918, after Germany's defeat in World War I.

Finding the origins Meli's head may be among many thousands of human remains pilfered and sent to Germany, where even before the Nazis came to power, many of the remains were studied in an attempt to prove pseudoscientific notions of white supremacy.

In 2011, the authority overseeing Berlin's state museums, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, inherited a collection of some 7,700 human remains from the city's Charité medical history museum. The foundation has been trying to determine their origins in order to return them but it's proving difficult.

Hermann Parzinger, the foundation's president, told the AP that it now has between 5,500 and 6,000 remains from the colonial era.

"Everything has to be given back," he said.



DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

The Indian EXPRESS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025, PUNE, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE SINCE 1932

Justice Varma stays away from court,

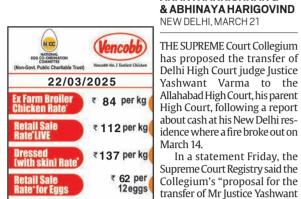
police & fire service silent on incident

₹7.00 • WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BUSINESS AS USUAL **By UNNY** Next stage Al-aided poaching?

INCIDENT OF FIRE AT RESIDENCE OF JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA Collegium favours transfer of Delhi HC judge after report of cash at his home

HCCJ sends report; Dhankhar says if it's a politician, targeted immediately



ANANTHAKRISHNANG & ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, MARCH 21 THE SUPREME Court Collegium



Varma, who is the second senior most Judge in the Delhi High Court and a member of the Collegium, to his parent High Court i.e. the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, where he will be ninth in seniority, is independent and separate from the in-house enquiry procedure" CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 SOHINI GHOSH, ALOK SINGH & AJOY SINHA KARPURAM NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DELHI HIGH Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, the subject of an in-house inquiry by the High Court following a report about cash at his New Delhi residence where a fire broke out on March 14, did not attend court Friday.

In oral remarks, Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya said the court was "conscious" when a senior **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

SAMAN HUSAIN

MARCH 21

DEHAULI (FIROZABAD),

A WIZENED Chameli Devi recalls

how thirst forced her to drink

from the drain she ended up ly-

ing next to all night with a bro-

ken leg on November 18, 1981.

Hours earlier, around 4.30 pm,

her farmer husband was pinned

to the ground – "a foot on his

chest" - in his field by one of the

17 dacoits who had entered

Uttar Pradesh's Dehauli village



The official residence of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma in New Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna

4 CHARRED TO DEATH IN PUNE MINIBUS FIRE Accused driver heard saying he would 'ruin them all': police probe

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE PUNE, MARCH 21

A PROBE by Pimpri Chinchwad police revealed that a day before the minibus fire at Hinjewadi IT Park - in which four private company staffers died and their colleagues got injured — the driver of the vehicle had allegedly talked about ruining "them all".

Pimpri Chinchwad police have booked the minibus driver identified as Janardan Neelkant Humbardikar (54) on charges of murder and attempt to murder, under Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita (BNS) sections 103 (1) and 109 (1). Police said Humbardikar, a resident of Warje, claimed he was treated badly at the company, due to which he allegedly set the minibus on fire to kill its

10 people were injured in the minibus fire. File

employees to "teach them a lesson". Police sub inspector Datta Kale lodged the first information report(FIR) against Humbardikar at Hinjewadi police station around 10.30 pm on Thursday. As per the FIR, during the probe, Praveen Kapade (32), an

employee of Vyoma Graphics Printing Press, told police that Humbardikar had been CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BEDLAM IN KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY BJP MLAs seek probe into 'honeytrap' charge, 18 barred for 6 months

AKRAM M

BENGALURU, MARCH 21 A DAY after a Congress minister in Karnataka alleged he was among 48 leaders across party lines who had been the targets of attempts to "honeytrap" them,

the Assembly witnessed chaotic scenes on Friday as 18 BJP MLAs

his chair and threw papers at him on what was the last day of the Budget Session Shortly after the Assembly convened around 8.40 am, BJP MLAs brought up the allegations

and protests against quota for

Speaker U T Khader sus-

pended the MLAs, who were

subsequently evicted from the

House, after they climbed up to

Muslims in public contracts.

that Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna raised on the floor of the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

If India stays on path of 2047 plan, 'Husband was pinned to ground, will benefit country, world: Gates shot': 44-yr wait for justice ends

greenko

Gravittus

AMITY UNIVERSITY

Associate Partners

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MARCH 21

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the pace of innovation in India was better than he had expected. Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said India's emergence as a developed nation by 2047 would benefit not just the country but the rest of the world as well.

"If India can stay on the path of the 2047 plan, that will be beneficial not just to India, it will be beneficial for the whole world. The fact that you have 20 per cent of the humanity that runs, may be a semi-chaotic but truly democratic elections... and works out all its priorities – more money for health, more money for education - has created a very good dynamic where you are competing in good governance," Gates said in a conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director of The Indian Express Group, at the Express Adda event in Mumbai on Thursday

"I think it is a great place to be





Bill Gates was the guest at Express Adda in Mumbai Thursday. Amit Chakravarty

in when the main debate revolves around whether the growth rate will be 5 per cent or 10 per cent. I don't think it will be 10 per cent, but I don't think it will fall below 5 per cent either. It is a great spot to be in. This is a remarkable period, offering significant opportunities. The economic growth will enable the government to allocate more

ucation." he said

TECHIE MURDERS 3-YEAR-OLD SON funds toward healthcare and ed-CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

and shot dead.

INSIDE

INDIAN EXPRESS

The front page of The Indian Express from November 1981 shows Indira Gandhi with the massacre survivors

Twenty-three others belonging to Chameli's extended family in the village, including seven women and two minors, were On March 18 this year, nearly

44 years later, a special dacoity court in Mainpuri sentenced Ram Sevak, Kaptan Singh and Rampal, all in their 60s, to death. "There were 17 accused in the case. Of these, 13 have died and one is still absconding," says prosecutor CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rohit Sharma, adding that all were suspended for six months charge-sheeted witnesses died amid pandemonium in the during the pendency of the trial. House over their demands for a judicial probe into the allegations

shot dead after her husband.

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

Premium stops.



laws: MEA on Srinivasan's exit: **US court blocks** Suri deportation

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

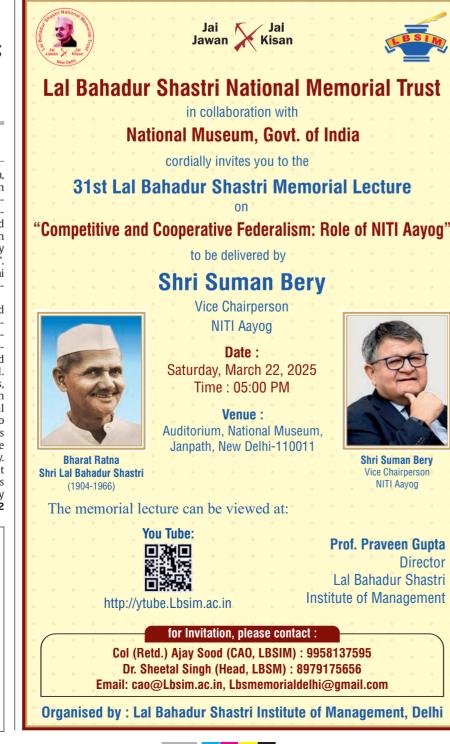
DAYS AFTER Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian PhD student in Columbia University, "self-deported" after her US visa was revoked, the government said Friday that Indian nationals in foreign countries must "comply with local laws and regulations". This clearly indicates that Delhi has distanced itself from her activities there.

Srinivasan's visa was revoked on March 5 by the Trump administration for allegedly "advocating for violence and terrorism" by supporting Hamas, and she left the US on March 11.

Responding to questions, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "When it comes to visa and immigration policy, it is something that lies within the sovereign functions of a country. We, on our side, expect that when we have foreign nationals coming to India, they abide by CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE TRUMP administration is cracking down on foreign nationals involved in last year's protests on campuses across the US, including Columbia University, against Israel's war in Gaza, equating it with support for Hamas.





Life Cover with attractive returns

Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
16	10
21	15
25	16

• Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹200,000/-

Maximum Basic Sum Assured: No limit

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474







The risk factors of the bonuses projected under the product are not guaranteed Past performance does not construe any indication of future bonuses and these products are subject to the overall performance of the Insurer in terms of Investments, management of expenses, mortality and lapses

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.





A Par, Non- Linked, Life, Individual, Savings Plan Plan No.: 736 UIN No.: 512N304V03

• Minimum Entry Age: 8 years

- Maximum Entry Age: 50/54/59 years for policy term 25/21/16 years
 - Har Pal Aapke Saath

2 THE SECOND PAGE

Dharavi redevelopment: Not an inch of land given to Adani, minister Shelar tells Maharashtra assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, MARCH 21

THE DHARAVI Redevelopment Project is the only one in Mumbai that ensures housing for even ineligible slum dwellers within the city, Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar said on Friday while asserting that not an inch of land there has been given to (billionaire industrialist Gautam) Adani.

Replying to a debate in the assembly on infrastructure issues, he said the claim that Dharavi's land has been given to Adani is completely false and misleading.

"Those making such allegations should know that all the land in Dharavi is owned by Redevelopment Dharavi Authority, a company established by the state government.' he said while challenging critics to provide a single official land record (7/12 extract) in Adani's name to support their claims.

DRPPL (Dharavi The **Redevelopment Project Private** Limited) is the contractor tasked with the redevelopment, and as per the agreement, 20 percent of the contractor's profits will be allocated to the state government, he said.

Answering questions from members on the Dharavi redevelopment plan, the minister said, "Out of the total 430 acres of Dharavi land, 37 per cent will be allocated for open spaces such as playgrounds and entertainment areas." Nearly 50 percent of Dharavi's land belongs to the

• Follow local laws, says MEA

our laws and regulations, and similarly, it is our expectation that when Indian nationals are abroad. they must also comply with local laws and regulations.'

On the detention of Badar Khan Suri, a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, Jaiswal said, "This particular individual who has been detained, neither the US government, nor this individual has approached

us or the embassy." Meanwhile, a US federal judge has blocked the deportation of Suri, accused by federal authorities of "actively spreading Hamas propaganda".

PTI adds from New York: In a court order dated March 20 United States District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles said, "It is ordered that petitioner shall not be removed from the United States unless and until the court issues a contrary order."

A senior Departme Homeland Security spokesperson earlier said in a statement to PTI that "Suri was a foreign exchange student at Georgetown University actively spreading Hamas propaganda and promoting antisemitism on social media. Suri has close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior advisor to Hamas."

Shelar said the DRPPL is the contractor tasked with the redevelopment, and as per the agreement, 20 percent of the contractor's profits will be allocated to the state government

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), while other portions are owned by the state and Central governments.

According to redevelopment norms, landowners whose land is utilized for slum rehabilitation receive compensation equivalent to 25 percent of the ready reckoner rate

"This applies to BMC and government authorities as well. Also, eligible slum dwellers will be provided houses within Dharavi, while ineligible slum dwellers will be allocated homes elsewhere but in Mumbai itself This makes the Dharavi Redevelopment Project unique as it ensures housing solutions for all affected residents," Shelar

said. Meanwhile, to facilitate the rehabilitation of slum dwellers on railway land in Mumbai, the government has formed a committee under the chairmanship of the state chief secretary, he in-

formed the House. "Meetings have already taken place. Coordination with the Central government is being carried out through letters and discussions," he added

Security had arrested and

charged Suri with "removability" on March 17. At the time of filing, Suri alleged he was being detained at the Farmville Detention Center

in Farmville, Virginia, Giles' or-The Indian Express for comment der had noted. Suri's lawyer said he and his team are working "diligently" to secure his client's removal from

the detention facility. "We welcome Judge Giles" ruling," Ahmad said in a statement to CNN. "It is the first due process Dr Suri has received

since he was snatched away

from his family on Monday night.' A report in *Politico* had said that Suri, who was studying and teaching on a student visa, was "detained by federal immigration authorities amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student activists whom the govFROM PAGEONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Collegium favours transfer of HC judge

incident happened and did not

immediately surface," he said in

National Judicial Appointments

Commission (NJAC) Act, cleared

by Parliament in 2014 and

struck down by the Supreme

Court in 2015. "That historic leg-

islation endorsed by this

Parliament with unprecedented

consensual support unknown to

parliamentary history of this

country dealt with the malaise

very severely," he said. His re-

marks came after Congress MP

Jairam Ramesh raised the mat-

ter of cash at the residence of the

judge, and requested that

Dhankhar "make some observa-

tions and give necessary direc-

tions to the government to come

up with a proposal for increas-

with a politician, he becomes a

target... a bureaucrat, an indus-

trialist... immediately. And

therefore, a systemic response

which is transparent, account-

able, and effective, I am sure will

mechanism for a structured dis-

cussion on the matter after con-

He said he would find a

be on the way.

Dhankhar said: "If it happens

ing judicial accountability".

Dhankhar referred to the

Raiva Sabha.

initiated by the Chief Justice of source aware of the develop-Delhi High Court upon receiving ments. information about the incident.

The statement, while noting

the "misinformation and ru-

mours being spread" regarding

the incident at the residence of

Justice Varma, said, "The Chief

Justice of the Delhi High Court,

who had commenced his en-

quiry prior to the Collegium

meeting on 20th March 2025,

will be submitting his report to

the Chief Justice of India today

i.e. on 21st March 2025. The re-

port will be examined and

processed for further and nec-

Late Friday, it was learnt that

The SC Collegium met

the High Court CJ's report had

Thursday evening and decided

Justice Varma back to Allahabad

Collegium considered the trans-

about a video of the incident at

agreed that Justice Varma

Iustice Varma's residence.

essary action."

been sent.

Varma.

moralised.

are conscious.'

my brother lawyers".

did not elicit a response.

Justice Varma's office and staff by

The statement from the Registry said "the proposal was examined by the Collegium comprising the Chief Justice of India and four senior most Judges of the Supreme Court on 20th March 2025, and thereafter letters were written to the consultee Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justices of the High Courts concerned and Justice Yashwant Varma. Responses received will be examined and thereupon the Collegium will pass a resolution.

Calls and text messages Friday to Justice Varma's office and staff by The Indian Express did not elicit a response.

These developments, apart to recommend the transfer of from creating ripples in legal circles, echoed in Parliament Friday when Vice President and High Court. Highly-placed Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep sources said the five-member Dhankhar, referring to the incident involving cash at the resifer after they were apprised dence of the judge, said "if the malaise had been dealt with After the CJI explained what perhaps we would not have had happened, the judges countenanced such kind of issues'

should be transferred out, said a "What bothers me is that the

• Judge stays away from court, police & fire service silent on incident

lawyer brought up the issue surthe incident merely stated that the rounding the incident and the fire was in "stationery and domesproposal for the transfer of Justice tic articles".

Asked about the incident, Senior Advocate Arun Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg Bhardwaj, appearing before the said his personnel doused the fire CJ's bench, said, "Today's incident within a few minutes. Asked has pained many of us. Please take about the cash at the judge's resisome steps on the administrative dence, he said, "We do not have side so that these incidents do not any information on this." happen in future and the truthful-Sources said a security person ness of the judicial system is maindeployed at the judge's official res-

tained... We are shaken and deidence informed the Fire department and local police about the At this, CJ Upadhyaya told fire incident at 11.30 pm on March Bhardwaj, "So is everybody... We 14. "Soon after receiving the information, a team of police officers Bharadwaj said he was exfrom the Tughlak Road police stapressing the "feeling of many of tion and officials from the Delhi Fire Service reached the spot," a Calls and text messages to source said.

According to the DFS report, the Safdarjung Fire Station received the call at 11.35 on March 14.

Officers in the Delhi Fire Service and the Delhi Police remained tightlipped about the DD (daily diary) entry was made March 14 incident at the official residence of Justice Varma. plaint of any foul play was re-A Delhi Fire Service report on ceived.

Justice Varma was appointed as a judge of the Delhi High Court on October 11, 2021, nearly seven vears after he was elevated as judge at his parent court, Allahabad High Court.

At Delhi HC, on the administrative side, Justice Varma is part of at least 11 committees. This includes the 'administrative and general supervision committee', as well as 'Committee for Finance and Budgeting and for sanction of contingent expenditure and writing off losses exceeding Rs 5 lakh'. He is the chairman of the arbitration Committee of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre, and also of the Delhi HC Legal Services Committee

Manmohan, which decided on the conferment of designated senior advocates at Delhi HC last

Pradesh and enrolled as an advo-

"It's a phenomenal thing,

whether in banking, government

benefit distribution, insurance or

stock trading; every time I am

here, I see a dozen more compa-

nies (working to build upon this

digital infrastructure)... Frankly,

innovation in India is progress-

sulting the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

Ramesh had also raised the matter of Rajya Sabha MPs having submitted a notice regarding remarks made by a judge of the Allahabad High Court. In December last year, 55 Opposition MPs had given notice for moving a motion to impeach Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav for engaging in "hate speech".

On this, Dhankhar said he had "taken all necessary steps" to get the verification of the members who signed the notice. He said he had a "concern" of the 55 members who signed the representation, "a member's signature appears on two occasions and the member concerned has denied his signature".

"Now I do not wish to get into this act which may graduate to culpability of a higher level. If the number is above 50. I will proceed accordingly. Therefore, most of the members have cooperated... the process will not be delayed at my level even for a moment," he said.

cate in 1992. In his practice at

Allahabad HC, he dealt with con-

stitutional, labour and industrial

legislations, as well as corporate

laws and taxation. As a judge at

Allahabad HC in the seven-year

In his nearly three-and-half

ated against the party in March

such as ensuring support for

Indian native languages," he said.

"I learn that some groups in

2024.

he said

• Speaker suspends 18 BJP MLAs

House Thursday evening and began protesting in the Well of the House. After BJP MLA V Sunil Kumar demanded a judicial probe, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said a high-level investigation would be ordered. "It is the responsibility of the

government to protect all elected representatives irrespective of party affiliation ... We will surely get a probe conducted. I will speak to Home Minister G Parameshwara and senior leaders. We have a responsibility to protect all leaders," said the CM.

Not satisfied with the answer, the BJP MLAs continued protesting even as Siddaramaiah read his response to the Budget discussions held earlier during the session.

The protests intensified after the CM concluded his speech, with Leader of Opposition R Ashoka terming it a "halal Budget". It was a reference to welfare allocations for Muslims, including a 4% quota for the minority community in public contracts

As Khader took up the Finance Bill, amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act. and Bills on hiking the salaries of ministers and legislators, several BJP MLAs moved towards the Speaker's chair. When the marshals tried to step in, Khader instructed them not to stop the MLAs. The Treasury Benches rose in protest after the BJP legislators tore copies of Bills and other documents and hurled them towards the Speaker. Some papers were also thrown towards Siddaramaiah, prompting Congress MLAs to rush to protect the CM. A visibly angry Urban Development Minister Byrati Suresh was seen throwing papers back at the BJP legislators, even as Siddaramaiah demanded action against them.

The Speaker adjourned the House till 3 pm and his office analysed clips of the incident during the break. Even as the protests continued when the Assembly resumed around 3.40 pm. Khader moved a resolution against 18 BIP MLAs under Rule 348 of the Assembly rules, which was endorsed by Law and

Pune minibus fire deaths

behaving suspiciously, and over the last six months, he would often get into arguments with company employees over petty reasons. Kapade further told the police that on March 18, he heard 'Ianardan Mama (Humbardikar)" saying, "Hey sagle lay bhari zale ahet. Hyanchyakde Baghtoch...ekekachi vaat lavto (All of them are extra smart. I will show them. I will ruin them all)".

India are working to contribute to the foundational develop-Police then questioned Humbardikar. As was stated in ment as well, and that is good," the FIR, Humbardikar told police But he said that subsidising that the company had allegedly the manufacturing of chips not paid his salary for two months and also made him do planned and cold blooded" act of other work apart from driving. sabotage and murder by the So to teach all of the company's driver. employees a lesson, he filled a can from the company's store-Express they had reason to believe that the back door did not room with benzene, an inflammable chemical, on March 18, open during the fire and the decollected some old cloth rags ceased might have made atfrom the firm and came home tempts to open it. The bodies of

269

Marshals evict BJP MLAs from the Karnataka Assembly on Friday. PTI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil.

Khader said the Speakers' chair was a "symbol of democracy" and the action of the BJP MLAs was "condemnable". "Obstructing the proceedings of the House cannot be tolerated," he said, suspending the MLAs for six months.

The suspended MLAs are Doddanagowda Patil, Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Byrathi Basavraj, B Suresh Gowda, Umanath Kotyan, C K Ramamurthy, Dheeraj Muniraju, Muniratna, S R Vishwanath, Doddanagowda Patil, Dr Bharath Shetty, Dr Chandru Lamani, Mattimudu. Basavarai Shailendra Beldale, Sharanu Salagar, Harish B P. Channabasappa, and Yashpal Suvarna

The BJP currently has 65 MLAs in the 224-member Assembly.

After Khader adjourned proceedings for 10 minutes, the BJP MLAs were evicted from the House. Once the session resumed, the Opposition protests continued as the amendments to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act were passed. These amendments grant the 4% reservation to Muslims in government tenders below Rs 2 crore and procurement of goods and services below Rs 1 crore. "The suspension of 18 MLAs was undemocratic. I am saying this because a senior Minister in the Congress government himself said in the Assembly that attempts were made to honeytrap 48 MLAs in the state." state BIP president B Y Vijayendra told reporters out-

side the Assembly.

Shankar Kondiba Shinde (63) of Khedekar Nagar, Narhe; a cutting machine operator Subhash Suresh Bhosale (44) of Trilok society in Warje; and an offset printing machine operator Raju Siddharth Chavan (42) of Wadgaon Budruk. Ten persons including Humbardikar were in-

jured. Five of them received maor burn injuries, police said. After receiving information about the incident, a fire brigade team and police rushed to the spot. Police had initially said the fire might have been caused due to a short circuit. But investigations revealed it was a "well

Fire Brigade officials had told

the four deceased were found ly-

ing one on top of the other, pos-

sibly in an attempt to open the

door, the fire officials had found.

pany employees Vitthal Dighe

(55) and Vikas Gosde (53), who

survived as they jumped out of

the moving minibus soon after

it caught fire told police they had

observed Humbardikar made

some movements under his legs

before closing and locking the

door on their side.

As stated in the FIR, two com-

tenure, Justice Varma presided over various jurisdictions including constitutional law, taxation, arbitration and criminal matters. gence by the UP government af-

He was also among the three judges part of the permanent committee, headed by former Delhi HC Chief Justice

He pursued law at Madhya

He became an additional judge of the Allahabad HC in October 2014, and a permanent judge in February 2016. In 2018, Justice Varma granted bail to Dr Kafeel Khan who had been accused of medical negli-

ter 63 children and 18 adults died due to alleged failure to provide

medical oxygen a year earlier. year tenure at the Delhi HC, Justice Varma has decided on several important taxation-related cases, including the decision to reject the Congress plea challenging the taxreassessment proceedings initi-

• If India stays on path of 2047 plan, will benefit country, world: Gates

Gates spoke at length about degree or 2 degree warming but India's prospects, the work that said technology innovation his philanthropic group, the Bill would keep the planet afloat. and Melinda Gates Foundation, was doing in India, the impact of target, and would likely miss the Artificial Intelligence, the role of 2 degree target as well. But there innovation, and the threat of cliis no cataclysm at 2.1 or 2.2 demate change.

grees... Climate change will He said AI would bring about make things difficult, particu-

"The Secretary of State issued a determination on March 15, 2025 that Suri's activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable."

Suri's lawyer Hassan Ahmad had filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus on March 18. According to the petition, the Department of Homeland

ernment accuses of opposing American foreign policy." The report said that "masked agents" arrested Suri from outside his home in Virginia Monday night.

Suri's lawyer said in the petition that he is being punished "because of the Palestinian heritage of his wife – who is a US citizen - and because the government suspects that he and his wife oppose US foreign policy to-

ward Israel.' The petition says the couple has "long been doxxed and smeared" on anonymously run, far-right websites due to their support for Palestinian rights. The petition adds that Suri's wife Mapheze Saleh has been alleged to have "ties with Hamas" and

profound changes in human lives and discounted fears that it would take away jobs. "We weren't born to do jobs. Jobs are a result of scarcity in the system. We will be able to have a level of output, enough food, enough medical care, that it would not require everyone to be working

as today," he said But despite all the positive ways in which AI would influence human lives, Gates said he was still scared of this technology in general. "If I had control, I would have probably liked to slow down the pace of its development." he said

On climate change, he said it was unlikely that the world would be able to prevent the 1.5

larly for poorer countries, but because of the pace of innovation. we should be able to stav at a level that is not disastrous." he said, adding that the fundamental goal of the countries must be to grow their economies and accelerate innovation.

"We won't achieve 1.5 degree

Gates, who was on his third visit to India in three years, has dedicated himself full time to philanthropy through his foundation that has been working in India in a variety of sectors, mainly health. Gates acknowledged increased focus on research and development in India, and singled out digital public infrastructure (things like Aadhar, UPI, etc) as one of the big things to have come out of India

ing at a faster rate than I had expected," he said.

> Gates said that along with affordable vaccine development. digital public infrastructure was one of the two very valuable contributions from India to the world in recent times. Asked to pick his favourite, he said he would go with the latter.

> He said India was approaching AI development the right way. "Much of India's use of AI will focus on applying it effectively. Much of the state-of-theart foundational models are open source and widely available. These latest models, even if a few months behind on benchmarks, are accessible to everyone. India can take these and adapt them to its own needs,

which are the backbone of AI and a host of other technologies. was not a great idea. "India should get into chip manufacturing only if the industry is competitive," he said.

Gates rued the decline of newspaper industry globally, and said that he hoped that some philanthropist organisations paid attention to this sector as well.

"It is very sad that the business model of newspapers is under threat. There are hardly any newspapers even at the national level in United States that get into investigative reporting these days. I hope some philanthropic organisations devote their attention this side." he said

published in The Indian Express on As the trial dragged on in the

November 29, 1981, Prime Minister Gandhi, who arrived in the "terrified" village in a helicopter on November 27, 1981, was accompanied by Union Industry Minister N D Tiwari, her MP son Raiiv Gandhi and CM Singh.

> Describing the visit, the report states, "Mrs Gandhi squatted with the distraught Jatav women on the ground or stood in the midst of their menfolk, sharing their grief... She went from hut to hut, hearing from the women and other inmates accounts of the gruesome incident and offered them sympathy and promise of 'all measures for their safety and welfare'.

Locals say the Prime Minister granted the surviving families gun licences and rifles for self-defence. Besides this, the government also provided jobs and allotted small government-run shops to 10 families.

With time however, the condition of these rifles has deteriorated - as has hope for "any real justice" among the survivors. Wearing a grim expression, Gitam says, "The accused have finally been given the death sentence, but no one knows what will happen next.'

with the items The following morning, he purchased a match box from near his house, kept the benzene and cloth rags in the company's minibus and picked up 14 employees of Vyoma Graphics and was supposed to take them to the print press of the company in Phase 2 of Hinjewadi IT Park for their general shift, which was set to start around 8 am. On reaching the Wipro Circle in Phase 1 of Hinjewadi IT Park, he poured the benzene onto the cloth rags kept under the driver's seat and set it on fire using a match stick in the moving vehicle. As the fire flared up, he jumped out of the left door of the

minibus without pressing the hand brakes. The bus later collided with a tree near SACHA Engineering Company and

stopped. Police said four employees died due to serious burns in the incident. They included a helper Gurudas Khandu Lokare (42) of Hanuman Nagar in Kothrud; a lamination machine operator

Senior police inspector Kanhaiya Thorat of Hinjewadi police station said, "The accused driver and the company employees who were injured in the incident are now stable. The driver is undergoing treatment and has not been arrested vet." Police said that Humbardikar is a native of Goa and had been working with the company for over 12 years. Police said they will arrest

him after he is discharged from hospital. Police sub inspector Vikas

Takmode is investigating the case further.

New India Coop Bank case: Mehta to undergo brain-mapping test

Mumbai: Hitesh Mehta, the key accused in the Rs 122-crore embezzlement at New India Cooperative Bank, will undergo a brain-mapping test in the next couple of days, a police official said on Friday.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police is probing into the misappropriation of the funds at the bank and is trying hard to gather information about it. he said. Mehta. the bank's former general manager and head

of accounts, underwent a polygraph test, also called a lie detector test, last week at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Mumbai's Kalina area. However, the result was deceptive and did not yield more concrete information about the use of the fund and the role of other accused persons, he said. To join the dots and extract more info from Mehta, the EOW has decided to go for the brain-

mapping test, the official said. PTI

• 'Husband was pinned to ground, shot': 44-yr wait for justice ends

Defence counsel Hirday Chaturvedi, who has been handling the case since it was transferred to Mainpuri in 2024 on the orders of the Allahabad High Court, says, "The first hearing that took place in Mainpuri was also the final hearing. The case relied on just five witnesses. We will file an appeal in the High Court."

Nearly 60 km from the shimmering bangles sold in the bylanes of Firozabad lies Dehauli, a quiet and sparsely populated village. A paved road lined with small shops and modest pucca houses leads one into the village A few kilometres on, the path crumbles and grows increasingly narrow, even as sturdy buildings give way to small fields, where a new yield of potato is awaiting harvest

Sacks of freshly unearthed tubers, destined for months of storage in rented kunds (cold storage), are scattered across fields Bent at the waist, the farmers use shovels to collect the last of their yield, before sowing maize, groundnuts and black gram in place of potatoes

Sitting on the mud floor of her brick house in Dehauli village,



once worked for Al Jazeera.

shades of blue, she recalls, "I was hiding in the house with my son when they (the dacoits) broke open the door. I took my son and ran up the roof. To escape the dacoits, I jumped from house to house, till I fell down next to a drain. The fall broke my leg... We were rescued the next morning."

According to the prosecution, the mass murder took place after

upper caste. The November 18, "intimidate" the villagers.

year before the incident, a clash

Chameli says, "The dacoits were the two communities and the revenge firing in November 1981." Stating that a forensic team was called from Delhi to the village back then to recreate the

> crime scene. Sharma adds. "It took the authorities three days to complete the post-mortem due to the number of bodies."

> > dacoit Vikram Mallah and

village since November 1981. A

part of Mainpuri district then, the

village became a part of the

newly created Firozabad district

in 1989. Before the trial was

A lot has changed for Dehauli

Phoolan's sexual assault.

in the High Court.

The incident was the second such case to be reported from the state that year. On February 14, 1981, 20 men, mostly from the Rajput community, were shot dead in Behmai village in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Dehat district, by men said to belong to Phoolan Devi's gang. The incident was allegedly a fallout of the murder of

four Dalit residents of the village testified in court against the Radhey-Santosh gang, whose members were mostly from the

1981, murders, the prosecution told the court, were intended to Prosecutor Sharma says, "A

in the Radhey-Santosh gang had resulted in the arrest of two gang members. The village residents, who belonged to the Jatav com-

munity, were witnesses in that. This resulted in enmity between

Devi claims she has "near perfect recall" of the moment she lost her family. "My brother was shot in front of me. Twice. He succumbed to his injuries later. They killed my mother too," says Nirmala, Chameli's niece.

Sitting on a khat (cot) at his provision shop-cum-residence, Bhoop Singh, who lost eight members of his family that day, shudders at the mere mention of the date. A prime witness in the case, Bhoop Singh, says, "My sons, brothers, nephews, sisters... They were all killed that day. I saw it with my own eyes.

Recalling how he survived the shooting, Bhoop Singh, sporting thick, snow white whiskers, recalls. "The Thakurs (the dacoits) started firing indiscriminately. was in the village when I spotted the gang. I ran away... Men who were harvesting paddy that day lived. The ones who came face to face with the gang did not."

moved to a local court in 2024, it Survivor Gitam Singh was dragged on for over two decades just 10-year-old when he lost his elder brother on November 18, What has not changed for its 1981. "Kuch yaadein hain, aur survivors is the pain of losing their kuch bade-buzurgon se suna hai (I loved ones. Though she was just have some memories, while the eight years old in 1981, Nirmala rest are tales that I heard from my

elders)," he says.

High Court for over 20 years, time took its toll on Gitam, who travelled over 400 km to Allahabad for years to testify. As he grew older and weaker, at his request, the case was transferred to a special court in Mainpuri in 2024.

"Aadhe gawah bhi expire ho gaye, aur jin logon ne yeh qatl kiya tha, woh bhi mar gaye. Kuch log gaon chod ke chale gaye (half the witnesses are dead now, as are half the accused. Over the years, some people left the village)," he says

Locals say many family lines, including those of the convicts, have ended over the years. Chaturvedi, the court-appointed lawver for convict Ram Sevak. says, "His family is entirely gone. The two other convicts have just one or two surviving relatives."

Though The Indian Express reached out to convict Kaptan Singh's son at the village, he did not answer the door.

Meanwhile, Gitam recalled VIP visits to the village after the incident - from then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister V P Singh to BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee. According to a news report



The woman left home

Tuesday morning to go to college, but did not

return. Her family

members lodged a

later, police said

missing report a day

Lohagad Fort. "The probe re-

vealed that she booked a private

cab and went to Lohagad Fort.

We found out that she was de-

pressed and was facing some

health problems for the last few

months. Further investigation is

on," said Sachin Shirke,

Inspector, Sangvi Police Station.

along with members of the

Shivdurga rescue team found

Govindpurkar's body in dense

bushes at the foot of Lohagad

Fort. Her body was taken to a

hospital for a postmortem ex-

amination, and was later

handed over to her family

Accidental Death Report (ADR)

was registered at the Lonavala

Rural Police Station.0

As per legal procedure, an

members.

The Pune Rural police team

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 **3** THE CITY

IT engineer murders three-yr-old son after quarrel with his wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MARCH 21

PUNE CITY police arrested an IT engineer for allegedly murdering his three-year-old son following a dispute with his wife.

Police identified the deceased boy as Himmat Madhav Tiketi. His father, Madhav Sadhurao Tiketi (38), a resident of Ratan Prestige in Chandan Nagar, has been arrested on charges of murder, police said.

A first information report (FIR) was lodged at Chandan Nagar police station Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Himmat Jadhav said that the Tiketi family hails from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Police said Madhav Tiketi is an IT engineer, but had been unemployed for for the last couple of months. On Thursday, he had a dispute with his wife and a quarrel ensued, following which he left the house that af-

DIVYAJA KALYANKAR

THE NATIONAL Folk Theatre

Festival commenced on Friday at

Savitribai Phule Pune University

(SPPU) with a grand inaugura-

tion at the Sant Namdev

Auditorium. SPPU's Lalit Kala

Kendra Gurukul in collaboration

with the West Zone Cultural

Centre (WZCC), Udaipur, organ-

The inaugural ceremony was

graced by renowned actress

Jaymala Inamdar and veteran

comedian Vasantrao Avasarikar,

who jointly lit the ceremonial

lamp. SPPU Vice-Chancellor prof.

Dr. Suresh Gosavi presided over

the event, with Pro-Vice-

Chancellor Prof. Dr. Parag Kalkar

and acting registrar prof. Dr. Jyoti

Bhakre as chief guest. WZCC di-

rector Furgan Khan and Lalit Kala

Kendra Gurukul head prof. Dr.

Pravin Bhole provided key in-

ised the three-day festival.

PUNE, MARCH 21



Himmat Madhav Tiketi.

ternoon and didn't return. His wife went to Chandan Nagar police station that night to file a missing person's report. During investigation, based on clubes obtained from videos

different locations, cops confirmed that Madhav left home with his son. But after a while, he was seen without his son. The probe also revelated that Madhav had purchased a knife and a blade from a shop after he

left home with his son, stated a press release issued by senior police inspector Seema Dhakane of Chandan Nagar police station. Police then intensified their

captured by CCTV cameras at

him in a drunken state at a hotel. Cops took him into custody

from the spot. Police have booked Madhav under sections 103 (1), 238 of the Bharatiya



Express

Man with rare blood vessel disorder throat with a knife and then dumped the dead body in the bushes. A police team recovered successfully treated with radiosurgery the dead body of the boy aged three years and four months

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Parsi New Year, on Friday. Arul Horizon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MARCH 21

A 30-YEAR-OLD man, with a rare and challenging blood vessel disorder in his right ear, underwent treatment at Sahyadri Hospitals, Hadapsar. The complex case involved multiple interventions over more than a year, culminatbined advanced embolisation

came to the hospital with symptoms including swelling, redness, and occasional bleeding from the right ear. Initial medical tests identified an arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a condition where blood vessels are abnormally connected, disrupting normal blood circulation. This can lead to serious complications if left untreated, such as bleeding

BT

or heart problems due to the strain of blood pumping through these abnormal connections.

Members of the Parsi community at JJ Agairy in Camp on the occasion of Jamshedi Navroz,

AVM, a procedure called embolization was first performed in April 2022. Despite some initial improvement, the AVM persisted, and symptoms reappeared by December 2022. Further imaging showed that the AVM had grown. The medical team decided to perform another embolization followed by a surgical procedure on December 29, 2022, to remove the problematic tissue and reconstruct the affected area. This combination led to an improvement, with a reduction in the

However, in March 2023, the patient experienced a mild increase in symptoms, and by July, a significant bleeding episode occurred. The patient's preference to avoid drastic measures like amputation of the ear led Dr. Sanjay to consider an innovative treatment approach: stereotactic radiosurgery. This highly precise radiotherapy technique tar-

BAKLIWAL TUTORIALS

(Where BesT students meet BesT teachers)

Unparalleled Results in JEE Advanced 2024

gets the AVM with focused radiation beams while minimizing exposure to healthy tissues.

For this particular case, the ELEKTA Synergy system was utilised, a device known for its ability to deliver radiation with extreme precision. The treatment involved delivering a total radiation dose of 21 Gy divided into three sessions from August 8, 2023, to August 10, 2023. 'This approach helped to preserve the ear's function and appearance without the need for more invasive surgery," Dr Sanjay MH said. "Following the treatment the patient was closely monitored and has shown no major complications. AVM usually takes longer time to respond and hence the patient was followed for a long time," the doctor added.

"This pioneering case is significant as it marks one of the first uses of stereotactic radiosurgery for treating an AVM in the external ear. The successful management of this case could open new pathways for treating similar vascular abnormalities, ," the doctor said

SI.

No.

Law student found dead at Lohagad Fort; suicide suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE MARCH 21

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman, who went missing Tuesday, was found dead at the foot of Lohagad Fort in Pune district on Thursday

The police have identified the deceased as Manasi Prashant Govindpurkar, a resident of the Sangvi area in Pimpri Chinchwad, and a thirdyear law student at a college in Pune city. "A prima-facie probe has revealed that the deceased woman died by suicide. She had some issues in her studies. There was no suicide note... We are investigating further," Kishor Dhumal, Inspector, Lonavala Rural Police Station, said.

According to the police, Govindpurkar left home Tuesday morning to go to college, but did not return. Her family members lodged a missing report at the Sangvi Police Station in Pimpri Chinchwad a day later, they added.

The police launched a search and a probe into her phone calls confirming her last location at



National Highway or any State Government Organization for the Construction of work detailed below. (Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

The festival will feature performances such as Lalit, Kuchamani Khayal, and the Dholki Phad Tamasha. Express theatre is a reflection of society and heritage, and through this festival, the university aims to bring these vibrant art forms to a larger audience and inspire young artists to engage with them. Actress Jaymala Inamdar highlighted the

सारापंसाचे अध्यक्ष: प्रा. हाँ, स्ररेश ग्रीमाजी (फुल्ट एरु भावित्री बाई फुले प्रमे विद्यापीठ)

प्रस्तव पा स्त्री, पा स्त्री प्रभाव सारक्षत्र में कुल के प्रसिद्ध के प्

Dashavatar Mandal and Jaipuri Khayal by Saurabh Bhat from Jaipur captivating the audience. The auditorium was packed with theatre enthusiasts, students, and cultural scholars, all eager to witness the rich storytelling and murole of folk performances in keepsical elements of these traditional art forms ing oral traditions alive, while

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) National Folk Theatre Festival begins at Pune University

ing in an advanced treatment strategy led by Dr Sanjay MH, lead radiation oncologist at Sahyadri Hospitals. The innovative approach effectively comand cutting-edge stereotactic radiosurgery, tailored to such complex conditions.

In April 2022, the patient AVM by 60-70%.

To manage the patient's

sights into the importance of preserving traditional folk arts.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr Gosavi emphasised the significance of folk theatre in India's cultural landscape. He said that folk

Cloudy skies

bring respite

in Pune from

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

tions are expected to continue.

had recorded a few days ago. The change in weather was

mostly due to sudden moisture

caused by the discontinuation of

winds. Anupam Kashyapi, former

head of weather forecasting at the

Department, said the local insta-

bility is expected to bring rain

with thunder and lighting to parts

of Vidharbha. Chances of hail are

likely in Madhya Pradesh.

Vidharbha, Telangana and other

parts of the country. Pune will see

some cloudy skies for the next

Pune and has been exceptionally

harsh. Right from the end of

January, temperatures have

breached the 35-degree mark,

making it the hottest January in

Summer started early for

Meteorological

Indian

two days

PUNE, MARCH 21

Vasantrao Avasarikar reminisced about the golden era of folk theatre. The opening performances set the tone for the festival, with Dashavatar by Balkrishna Gore

Over the next two days, the festival will feature performances such as Lalit, Tura Kalangi, Kuchamani Khayal, and the Dholki Phad Tamasha.





SELECTION OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF BANGALORE CITY UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE

Invitation of Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor Bangalore City University, Bangalore as per Section 14(5) and 14(6) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000. The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites Applications for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore City University, Bangalore. The application should be submitted within Thirty Days (30) from the date of this Notification. The detailed application form and the further details are available on Higher Education

Department website https://hed.karnataka.gov.in Sd/-Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department DIPR/CP/JA/5852/2024-25



num selections in Pune by a significant margin Max

Initiative Partner

Almost all the institutes in Pune do not bother to share their complete JEE Advanced results. In contrast, BT publishes the full results of all its JEE Advanced - qualified students on its website with great detail and transparency, including JEE ranks, other achievements, photos, and contact numbers.

We request parents to visit the result page on websites of various classes to make an objective & informed decisio Entrance Exams Dates

For students going to 11th std : 23" & 29" March 37304 400 400 For students entering 6th to 10th std : 6th April

PFC CONSULTING LIMITED (A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Limited) Regd. Office: First Floor, "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001, (India) Fax: 011-23443990

GLOBAL INVITATION (THROUGH E-BIDDING ONLY)

FOR SELECTION OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE PROVIDER ON BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (BOOT) BASIS FOR INTRA-STATE TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN MAHARASTRA

PFC Consulting Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Limited (A Government of India Undertaking), invites proposals for setting up of transmission projects on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis following single stage two envelope process of "Request for Proposal" (RFP).

Interested bidders may refer to the RFP notification and RFP documents available on the https://www.mstcecommerce.com and https://www.pfcclindia.com.

The Bidders may obtain the RFP documents on all working days between 10:30 hrs (IST) and 16:00 hrs (IST) from 24.03.2025 to one working day prior to bid submission for the project mentioned below on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% from 9th Floor, Wing – A, Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001, Tel.: 91-11-23443996; e-mail: pfccl.itp@pfcindia.com. The RFP documents can also be downloaded from https://www.mstcecommerce.com and https://www.pfcclindia.com, however, in such case, interested party can submit Response to RFP only on submission of non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% separately. The survey report and clarification to RFP documents shall be issued to those bidders, who have obtained/ purchased RFP documents by paying requisite fee at least one working day prior to bid submission date. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications/ amendments/ time extensions etc., if any. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Transmission Scheme	Last Date for seeking clarlfications (dd/mm/yyyy)	of response to RFP	Date of openIng of Response to RFP(dd/mm/yyyy)
	Transmission Scheme for Network Expansion Scheme In Maharashtra for providing supply to Data Centre Loads In Navi Mumbai	14.04.2025	28.05.2025 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)	28.05.2025 at 15:30 hrs (IST)

Note: PFC Consulting Limited reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason ithout any liability. This is not an offer



Name of the Work

Comprehensive Developments of Works in Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituency. Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4.50.000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment Balance Rs. 3.50,000/- through BG / FDR should be Submitted before Opening of Technical Bid).

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 15-04-2025, 4.00 PM. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 21-04-2025 at 4.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagananagara Division, 7th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, BBMP. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is 28-04-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid Tenders is 29-04-2025 at 4.30 PM. if possible or next working day. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, BBMP.

۲ MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI 😂

Advertisement Department, 25[™] Floor Block E-1, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre, New Delhi- 110002 (Email ID: coadvt.mcd@mcd.nic.in) **E-TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited on behalf of the Commissioner, MCD through following different e-tenders from eligible bidders

- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-37/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2838 dated 21.03.2025 for allotment of advertisement rights through designated Unipole clusters/ Individual Unipole/Flag Signs Cluster under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three years.
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-38/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2839 dated **21.03.2025** for allotment of advertisement rights through LED clusters/Digital Media at various locations under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three years
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-39/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2840 dated 21.03.2025 for allotment of advertisement rights through Public Toilets Clusters with Operation & Maintenance on Monthly License Fee basis under the jurisdiction of MCD by two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three years.
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-40/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2841 dated **21.03.2025** for allotment of advertisement rights through Street furniture under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid stem (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-41/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2842 dated **21.03.2025** for allotment of advertisement rights through Subways under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three years
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-42/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2843 dated 21.03.2025 for allotment of advertisement rights through Pole Kiosks on Street light Poles under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of one
- No.CO/Advtt/E-Tender-43/2024-25/MCD/NIT/D-2844 dated 21.03.2025 for allotment of advertisement rights through Building/Wall Wraps and LED Screens on the facade of Multilevel Car Parking under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for the period of five years. The start date 21.03.2025 and last date 04.04.2025 till 16.00 hours will be

The detailed tender document are available on MCD's website i.e

www.mcdonline.nic.in and https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/-Commercial office R.O. No.69/DPI/MCD/2024-25

Advertisement Department, MCD



the last 10 years.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 4 THE CITY

Sus Gaon hill, no casualties reported



Pune Fire Brigade control room received a call about the fire at 10.15 pm on Thursday. Express

Forest dept is investigating the cause of the fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MARCH 21

Hours after a major forest fire was reported on a hill in Pune's Sus Gaon on Thursday night, officials said on Friday that the blaze had been brought under control following an all-night firefighting operation. No casualties were reported in the inci-

dent. According to the Pune Fire Brigade, its control room received a call regarding a fire on a hill on Sus Road around 10.15 pm. Soon, Pune and Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority fire brigade teams rushed to the spot. Forest department officials also joined the fire brigade teams

Fire officials said that as fire tenders and water tankers could not make their way up to the hilltop, personnel used fire bats and water to manually douse the flames

"The fire had spread over a

huge area and at different spots on the hill. It was not easy to reach some areas and we also had limited manpower but with the help of citizens, activists and the fire brigade, the situation was brought under control manually," Mangesh Tate, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Pune division, said.

The forest department is investigating the cause behind what caused the fire.

In the last two months, 54 incidents of forest and grass fires were reported in Pune in January and 141 cases in February, fire brigade personnel said.

Voices of devotion — a Lenten musical journey in Pune, Mumbai and Goa

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, MARCH 2

EDWARD MENDES, an engineer who graduated from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and guit the profession to become a voice trainer pursued his passion for



Mendes is the key singer in the choir that is currently led by

Major forest fire on NCW fact-finding report reveals grave lapses in **BPO MURDER** safety and POSH compliance at Pune BPO firm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MARCH 21

AN INVESTIGATION by the National Commission for Women's fact-finding team has revealed significant lapses in grievance redressal and safety protocols at a Pune BPO firm where a female employee was brutally murdered by a male coworker in the company's parking lot on January 7.

The accused was subdued by bystanders and later arrested by the police. The deceased woman, Shubhada Shankar Kodare, 28 who was attacked with a knife, worked as an accountant at the multinational firm in Yerawada.

NCW said in a statement that



programmes: Regular training on workplace safety, conflict resolution,

workplace safety and risk management. "Despite the accused and POSH compliance. Strengthened internal committees: Efficient handling and documentation of disputes, with periodic reporting to senior management.

Third-party mental health counselling: Professional support for employees to address stress and interpersonal issues.

escalated, resulting in missed warning signals," the fact-finding team has said.

Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, tions under the District 2013. Though a POSH commit-Collector's leadership to support victims of violence and trauma. tee existed, the absence of proactive grievance documentation The fact-finding team, com-

and consistent training on work-

place safety and conflict resolu-

tion indicated non-compliance

company to implement strin-

gent safety measures, conduct

periodic security audits, and col-

laborate with local authorities

for crisis management. The NCW

has also recommended the Pune

Police expedite the investigation

and assess any prior threats or

The team also stressed the

need for media sensitization to

maintain ethical reporting stan-

incidents of harassment.

The NCW team has urged the

with POSH guidelines, it said.

prising Meenakshi Negi, a former member secretary of NCW, BK Sinha, former Haryana DGP, and R Sreelekha, former Kerala DGP. conducted an investigation, including site visits and discussions with the senior management and employees at the BPO

The team was constituted under Section 10 of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Act, 1990. National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has submitted the team's report to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra



Construction underway on Ganeshkhind road near Shimla Office chowk for the Pune metro line from Civil court to Megapolis Pune In Hinjewadi. Arul Horizon

Farmers, their producer bodies lead

Western music teaching the Bel Canto technique to aspiring singers. As part of the lenten outreach activities, Mendes has been instrumental in showcasing the efforts of the Newman choir by bringing performances to churches in Pune, Mumbai and Goa

In Pune recently, Mendes, who is president of the Fr J B Fernandes Sacred Music Foundation, said that the Newman Choir was set up some six decades ago. "The foundation's primary aim is to preserve and promote traditional and classical Sacred Music and has showcased the Newman Choir in numerous Sacred Music concerts. We organise an annual lenten outreach and presented a performance. Shadows of the Passion, at St. Patrick's Cathedral recently. Another one is now planned for March 23 at Church

Mendes is the key singer in the choir that is currently led by Celeste Cordo – a noted arranger, producer, conductor, accompanist, and violinist. "The choir draws members from across the Archdiocese of Bombay and earlier too there were several from Pune and other cities and extends to individuals from all faiths." he said.

the wake of the 38th International of St. Pius X, Mulund," he said.

Celeste Cordo. Expres.

The Newman Choir was founded by Fr. J. B. Fernandes in

Eucharistic Congress in Mumbai in 1964, where he conducted a choir of

600 voices. With a legacy spanning nearly six decades, the choir continues to uphold its commitment to musical excellence. On March 16, 2025, in the in-

spiring setting of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Newman Choir presented Shadows of the Passion—a spiritual journey through the "darkness of the seven shadows," symbolising the key events of Good Friday.

Curated by Cordo, the service was accompanied by evocative visuals and powerful messaging designed by Joe Cordo.

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS PUNE, MARCH 20

OFTHE 19,500 varieties of different crops which have applied for registration with the office of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), 60-65 percent are from farmers and farmers' bodies. Trilochan Mohapatra, chairperson of PPVFRA while speaking to The Indian Express in Pune on Friday said 54 percent of around 8,500 registrations have been given directly by farmers

and farmers bodies.

"We have been encouraging farmers and farmers bodies to apply for registration of traditional varieties of crops. Protection of biodiversity is important and this is being done at the grassroot level by farmers," he said. Mohapatra was speaking to the media on the sidelines of Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Seed organised jointly by PPVFRA, Department of Agriculture, Maharashtra's and the Federation of Seed Industries of India (FSII). Traditional varieties refer to native varieties of food crops like

rice, wheat, vegetables etc which grow in the wild. Over the years these varieties have become either extinct or endangered as higher yielding or hybrid varieties have taken over. At present these varieties are grown only in some tribal areas. Preservation of native species is important given the part they play in biodiversity of the region.

Mohapatra said both private and government seed manufacturers have also applied for registration of hybrids. "Rice,maize,cotton, and vegetables are the crops for which most of the registration has been ap-

Woman who accused Gore of harassment held for extortion

Satara: A woman who had accused Maharashtra minister Jaykumar Gore of harassment has been arrested for alleged extortion, police said on Friday.

Gore, who represents the Man assembly constituency in western Maharashtra's Satara district, is Minister of Rural Development and Panchavati Rai The woman was arrested

from Satara. an official said. "She had demanded Rs 3 crore to end everything. She was caught red-handed accepting Rs 1 crore of the total amount. Police are questioning the woman," the official said. PTI

How these less-known non-veg dishes from outside Maharashtra have found a place in Pune

ALISTER AUGUSTINE

PUNE, MARCH 21

PUNE, A city known for its love of food, has always been a melting pot of flavours. While traditional Maharashtrian cuisine holds a special place in people's hearts, the city's growing population of students, professionals, and food lovers has created a demand for diverse culinary experiences. In recent years, some lesser-known but authentic non-vegetarian dishes from different parts of India-and even Nepal-have gained immense popularity in Pune.

Champaran Mutton: a delicacy from Bihar

Champaran Mutton, also known as Ahuna Mutton or Handi Meat, is a slow-cooked dish from Bihar that has found its way into Pune's culinary scene. Cooked in



an earthen pot and sealed with dough, this dish retains its rustic flavours, making it a favourite.

"Champaran Mutton hails from the Champaran district of Bihar and is deeply rooted in the region's culinary traditions," says Divyansh Tiwari, a staff member at Champaran Handi Junction restaurant in Wakad. "The preparation involves marinating mutton with mustard oil, ghee, garlic,



onions, ginger, and a blend of spices. It is slow-cooked in an earthen handi over a wood fire, giving it an earthy flavour that



(From left)Champaran Mutton; Aloo Biryani and Kukhura-Ko Masu. Express

modern cookware simply cannot replicate," Tiwari adds

According to him, the dish was introduced in Pune a few years ago by people passionate about authentic Bihari cuisine. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. "At our restaurant, we serve around 100 to 150 orders daily. The popularity remains steady throughout the year, even

during the Lent fasting season," says Tiwari

A standard plate of Champaran Mutton, with three pieces of mutton, rice, two rotis, and salad, is priced at Rs 949, while a more elaborate Mutton Thali is also available for the same price.

Aloo Biryani: Kolkata's signature dish

"When it comes to biryani, most people think of Hyderabadi or Lucknowi versions. But in recent years, Kolkata-style Aloo Biryani– where golden-fried potatoes are a key ingredient-has won the hearts of people of Pune," says Archna Chatterjee, manager at FoodBengal restaurant in Chinchwad. "FoodBengal in Chinchwad

started in 2017 with the aim of bringing authentic Bengali flavours to Pune. Initially, we focused on staple Bengali dishes like Kosha Mangsho, Luchi, and Chingri Malai Curry, but soon we realised there was a growing demand for Kolkata-style biryani. That is when we introduced Aloo Biryani with chicken and mutton

to our menu, and it quickly be-

in registration of crop varieties plied for," he said. Registered varieties are protected by the law and illegal branding and sales of them can attract legal actions. Varieties which are not released by the government however don't come under the protection of the body. Mohapatra said work for cli-

mate resilient seed and varieties is ongoing at various state agricultural universities as well as ICAR institutes of Pusa in Harvana. "Heat resistant varieties of wheat have been developed at Karnal Haryana. Similarly research on Basmati rice is also being carried out." he said.

(Nepalese Sichuan pepper), which

came a best-seller," says Chatterjee. A single portion of Aloo gives it a mild numbing heat." Kuai Kitchen started in 2019 Birvani with chicken costs Rs 320. while the Mutton Birvani is Rs 420. Kukhura-Ko Masu:

Nepal's traditional chicken curry Nepalese cuisine is not widely known in India, but one dish that has found a dedicated fan base in Pune is Kukhura-Ko Masu, a slowcooked chicken curry with unique

Nepalese spices. Anvesh Sharma, Manager at Kuai Kitchen restaurant in Koregaon Park, says, "Kukhura-Ko Masu is a staple in Nepali households, known for its deep, smoky flavours. Unlike Indian curries, it does not use cream or cashew paste. Instead, it relies on fresh ingredients, roasted spices, and slow cooking to develop its bold taste. The key ingredient is Timur with a focus on Chinese. Thai, and Japanese dishes. But when they introduced a small selection of Nepalese dishes, Kukhura-Ko Masu quickly became a hit. "While we specialised in Chinese, Thai, and Japanese dishes initially, we soon realised that the people of

Pune had a growing interest in unique and lesser-known cuisines. That's when we introduced a small selection of Nepalese dishes, and Kukhura-Ko Masu became a favourite," says Sharma.

"Pune has a diverse crowd, including students, professionals, and food lovers who are always eager to explore new flavours, Sharma adds. One plate is priced at Rs 380 and is best enjoyed with rice, Tingmo (Tibetan steamed bread), or Sel Roti (Nepalese rice flour bread).

ADVERTORIAL

The Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (DCCIA) Edge: Advancing Business Synergy, Driving Industrial Growth

With a rich legacy of collaboration and advocacy, DCCIA stands as a beacon of industrial and economic growth, fostering the collective vision of industries and businesses for over three decades.

s a nation, we celebrate National Girl Child Day today, a reminder of the transformative power of education and empowerment for girls. India is not just a geographical entity but a 'Saga of Consciousness.' Our ancient culture and traditions bind us together as part of a 'collective consciousness.' As we move forward, the choices we make shape not just individual lives but also the legacy we pass on to future generations.

With a rich legacy of collaboration and advocacy, DCCIA stands as a beacon of industrial and economic growth, fostering the collective vision of industries and businesses for over three decades.

The Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (DCCIA) in Pune stands as a remarkable institution that has played an instrumental role in shaping the industrial landscape of Pune and Maharashtra. From its modest beginnings to becoming one of the most proactive and forward-looking chambers in the country, DCCIA's journey is a testament to its unwavering commitment to industrial growth, community welfare, and ethical business practices.

Foundations of Progress

The origins of DCCIA trace back to 6 June 1994, when a group of industrialists on Pune-Nagar Road convened at Milton Plastics Ltd. with a vision to create a unified platform to address common industry challenges. The overwhelming response to this initiative led to the formation of the Nagar Road Industries Association (NRIA). As the industrial belt expanded, the association evolved into the Nagar Road Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (NRICCA) in 2004, before finally assuming the name Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (DCCIA) in 2009.

From its early days, DCCIA demonstrated a forward-thinking approach by fostering cooperation among industries, supporting infrastructure development, and advocating for the collective interests of its members. The chamber became an effective intermediary between industries and the govern-

ment, ensuring that the voices of businesses were heard at ministerial and departmental levels.

Rathin Sinha: A Visionary Leader Shaping Industrial Growth Rathin Sinha, a

founding pillar of DC-CIA, has been instru-



Beyond his corporate success, Sinha has been a driving force in shaping policies and frameworks that enhance business opportunities for DCCIA members. His strategic foresight has helped create an ecosystem where industries thrive through collaboration and adaptability. Under his leadership, the Chamber has emerged as a platform that not only supports large multinational corporations but also nurtures young entrepreneurs. His deep-seated commitment to social responsibility is reflected in his extensive involvement in various corporate social initiatives, ranging from skill development programs to industry-academia partnerships. Sinha's relentless pursuit of excellence continues to inspire businesses to embrace innovation while maintaining a strong ethical foundation.

Hari P. Srivastava: Championing Collective Growth

and Collaboration As the Founder Director & Vice Chairman of the Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (DCCIA), Hari P. Srivastava has been instrumental in fostering industrial harmony and collective progress.

With over three decades of corporate experience across human resources, business strategy, commercial and legal affairs—both in India and overseas—he has played a pivotal role in strengthening industry-regulatory relations. His early career in the Indian Air Force and banking sector shaped his structured approach to organizational efficiency, which he has successfully integrated into his leadership at DCCIA.

Beyond his contributions to the Chamber, Srivastava holds key positions in the business world. He



The origins of DCCIA trace back to 6 June 1994, when a group of industrialists on **Pune-Nagar Road convened** at Milton Plastics Ltd. with a vision to create a unified platform to address common industry challenges. The overwhelming response to this initiative led to the formation of the Nagar Road Industries Association (NRIA). As the industrial belt expanded, the association evolved into the Nagar Road **Chamber of Commerce**, **Industries & Agriculture** (NRICCA) in 2004, before finally assuming the name **Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries &** Agriculture (DCCIA) in 2009.



PRODUCTIVITY

is a Director at Trident International Pvt. Ltd., a leading government-recognized "Export House", and advisor to "ErgoTalent HR Solutions Pv.t Ltd.", a leading firm in the field of HR. He is also the Founder and Director of RAH Corporate Advisors, a firm specializing in providing end-to-end business solutions. His policy advocacy is reflected in his active representation in the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee – Pune Customs and the GST Grievance Redressal Committee – Pune Zone.

A distinguished academic—he holds an MBA, LLB, and a Diploma in Labour Laws, securing top university rankings. His passion for knowledge-sharing is evident in his decade-long role as a visiting faculty at premier management institutes. While his leadership continues to shape DCCIA as a platform for integrity, growth, and industrial collaboration, Srivastava's contributions have left an indelible mark on the Chamber, reinforcing its commitment to integrity, growth, and shared success.

Dr. Vasudeo Malu: A Strategic Innovator

Dr. Vasudeo Malu, Secretary of DCCIA and Executive Vice President at The Supreme Industries Ltd., leads its Industrial Products Business, valued at Rs. 900 crore annually, along with overseeing injection molding operations worth Rs.

1,000 crore. A graduate of the College of Engineering, Pune, he holds multiple professional qualifications, including a Ph.D. With 44 years of industrial expertise across renowned companies, Dr. Malu is a strategist in business turnarounds and re-engineering. As a key figure in DCCIA, he actively contributes to industry and social initiatives. A certified trainer, speaker, and dedicated Rotarian, he embodies leadership and commitment to progress.

Dr. Prakash Dhoka: A Trailblazer in Metallurgy and Social

Impact

Dr. Prakash Dhoka, Treasurer of DCCIA and Managing Director of Industrial Metal Powders (India) Pvt. Ltd., has revolutionized electrolytic iron powder manufacturing, exporting to over 32 countries. A metallurgist with a Ph.D., he spearheads innovative ventures like additive manufacturing. As a former DC-CIA Chairman and recipient of multiple awards, including the Lifetime Achievement by DCCIA, his contributions extend to education, healthcare, and rural development. Through CSR initiatives, he has transformed schools, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers, embodying his belief that wealth should serve humanity. His leadership continues to drive industrial excellence and social transformation.

Platform for Collaboration and Advocacy

DCCIA has consistently strived to promote greater cooperation between member industries, creating a robust ecosystem where businesses, both large and small, thrive. The chamber's strength lies in its ability to unite diverse industries under one umbrella, facilitating regular interaction, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative problem-solving. This collaborative spirit has led to the resolution of several pressing issues relating to infrastructure in this Industrial Belt besides resolving various policy and local issues affecting member industries.

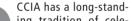
Over the years, DCCIA has played a pivotal role in advocating the needs of its members. The chamber's involvement in crucial matters such as the removal of toll nakas, traffic issues, industrial relation issues and addressing taxation grievances etc. has earned it a reputation as a proactive voice for the industry. Its representation in various government bodies, including the GST Grievance Council and Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee, underscores its influence and commitment to protecting the interests of its members.

Membership: Strength in Unity

DCCIA's membership base is a vibrant mix of large multinational corporations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and startups. Any individual, firm, institution, or company involved in trade, commerce, industry, or agriculture and domiciled in India can become a member of the chamber. This inclusive approach ensures that businesses of all sizes benefit from the chamber's extensive network and resources.

Members enjoy a host of benefits, including business networking opportunities, advisory services, and access to training and development programs. The chamber provides assistance in diverse fields such as human resources, environmental health and safety, foreign trade, GST etc. Additionally, members gain access to international business opportunities through partnerships with foreign chambers of commerce and overseas business delegations.

Honoring Excellence: The Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture (DCCIA) Legacy of Recognition





Trust, he has championed initia-



ng tradition of cele excellence brating through its prestigious awards, instituted over two decades ago. These awards are a testament to the Chamber's commitment to recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to industry and society. By honoring achievements in diverse fields such as social service, public service, industrial growth, human resource practices, and workplace safety, DCCIA continues to set benchmarks for success and inspire future generations of business leaders.

The awards go beyond recognition; these serve as a motivation for industries and professionals to strive for innovation, ethical business practices, and societal impact. Over the years, the Annual Awards Function has evolved into a much-anticipated event, bringing together distinguished personalities, industry leaders, and visionaries who exemplify excellence in their respective domains. Through these honors, DCCIA reinforces its mission of fostering an ecosystem where dedication, integrity, and progress shape the future of industrial development.

The 2024 DCCIA Award Winners

This year's DCCIA Awards celebrated visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to industry and society. Recognizing visionaries who have reshaped their fields, this year's honors reflect a legacy of excellence and commitment.

A Dynamic Leader Transforming Challenges into Triumphs

The DCCIA Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 was conferred upon Mr. Vishal Makar, a leader whose unwavering commitment to excellence has not only trans-

Chief Guest Ashishkumar Chauhan, CMD -NSE, being felicitated by Office bearers of DCCIA



Mr Vishal Makar, MD, Oriental Rubber Industries Ltd, receiving "DCCIA Life Time Achievement Award -2024"

formed Oriental Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd. but also left an indelible mark on the industry. His journey is a testament to resilience, vision, and the relentless pursuit of growth, taking a struggling company in 1992 and turning it into a global powerhouse.

From his early days at Sydenham College, Mumbai, Mr. Makar exhibited a sharp acumen for business and leadership. When he joined Oriental Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd. as a Director, the company was a fledgling restart-up, struggling to regain its market position. But where others saw obstacles, he saw potential. Through strategic expansion and relentless innovation, he rebuilt the company, leading it to become the largest exporter of conveyor belts and specialized rubber products, with a presence in over 50 countries. His vision materialized in the form of two largescale plants in Pune and a third plant in South Africa, creating thousands of jobs and fostering industrial growth.

Beyond corporate success, his dedication to social welfare is deeply rooted in his values. As a Lifetime Trustee of the Sada Prem viduals, reinforcing his belief in business as a force for good. Despite his towering achievements, Mr. Makar remains grounded, humble, and deeply engaged whether navigating the complexities of Marketing, Finance, Legal, or International Marketing or simply enjoying a game of golf at the Pune Golf Club.

A strategist, philanthropist, mentor, and passionate golfer, Mr. Vishal Makar embodies leadership not through authority but by example. His story is not just about building a company—it is about shaping an industry and inspiring generations. DCCIA proudly recognizes his unparalleled contributions with this esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating a legacy that will continue to guide and influence the business world for years to come.

The awards also recognized excellence in HR, safety, and digital transformation. ACS Industries India Pvt. Ltd. and Foseco India Ltd. were joint winners in Best HR Practices, while Haier Appliances India Pvt. Ltd. and Wika Instrument India Pvt. Ltd. were lauded for Best Safety Practices. In digital innovation, The Supreme Industries Ltd. and Classic Industries and Exports Ltd. emerged victorious.

Each year, these awards reaffirm the spirit of leadership and innovation that drive the industry forward. By recognizing trailblazers across various sectors, DCCIA continues to foster a culture of excellence, inspiring individuals and organizations to push boundaries. As industries evolve, these honors serve as a guiding light, encouraging future leaders to uphold the values of integrity, innovation, and social responsibility.



Jyotikumar Kulkarni Managing Trustee & Secretary & Umesh Bhosale Trustee- Niramaya, receiving "DCCIA Award for Excellence- Social Service -2024"



Dr Sudhir Mehta, Chairman. Pinnacle Industries Ltd & Eka Mobility Ltd., receiving "DCCIA Award for Excellence- Best Industrialist - 2024"



Nitin Mahajan, Dy Executive Engineer MSEDCL, receiving "DCCIA Award for Excellence- Public Service -2024"

"I say this so that those who

apps for translation." he said.

Attacking the DMK, he said:

The Tamil Nadu government

does not have the courage to

provide medical and engineer-

ing education in Tamil because

your vested economic interests

will be affected. But when our

NDA government comes to

power next year, we will provide

medical and engineering educa-

Assembly elections are due in Tamil Nadu next year.

"There have been enough divisions in the nation in the name

of language, and it should not

happen anymore," he said,

adding, "Those spreading poison

in the name of language prefer a

foreign language and not an

Indian language. Tamil youths

can work in Gujarat, Kashmir,

Delhi... You have been elected to

Parliament, what kind of a sys-

tem do you want?'

tion in Tamil."

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION 6



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BAT TO BEAT TB

IN A bid to spread awareness about India's TB eradication programme, which the government has pledged to achieve by 2025, a team of MPs led by BJP's Anurag Thakur is set to play a friendly cricket match against actor Suniel Shetty-led Bollywood team in Mumbai Saturday. Thakur's team is a mix of MPs across parties, including TDP's Ram Mohan Naidu, BIP's Kamlesh Paswan and Manoj Tiwari, Congress's Deepender Hooda and Rahul Kaswan, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, AAP's Gurmeet Singh Hayer and SP's Devesh Shakya. Among those cheering the players in the T20 match will be Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and actor Salman Khan.

LUNCH SESSION

IT'S NOT a usual sight even when Parliament is in session. On Friday, three senior ministers - Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister J P Nadda and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal – were seen having lunch with other members in the Raiva Sabha canteen for MPs. They were joined by Union Minister Rayneet Singh Bittu and BIP MP Surendra Singh Nagar. Sources said the senior leaders were having a light conversation over dosas and papri chaat they had ordered. Many MPs, including some from the Opposition parties, went and greeted the leaders who rarely visit the canteen. There was apparently a "dispute" over who would pick up the tab and fi-nally Goyal won it, said sources.

FASTEST ANSWER FIRST

THE QUESTION Hour in Lok Sabha Friday saw both the senior and junior ministers of health ready to take a question from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. As soon as Tharoor raised a question about spurious drugs, Health Minister JP Nadda and MoS for Health Anupriya Patel got up to reply. It seemed Patel didn't see her senior colleague was also standing and began to speak, at which point Nadda took his seat again and let her continue with the government's response. It's another matter that Tharoor later said on X that he was not satisfied with the reply.

QUESTIONS IN HOUSE COMMITMENT TO MULTI-POLARITY COMMON THREAD FOR BRICS GROUPING, SAYS GOVT

New Delhi: Meetings and discussions in BRICS grouping are aimed at finding common ground and working together to shape the global order while their common thread is the "commitment to multi-polarity", the Centre told Parliament Friday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said this in a written response to a query on the current status of BRICS and whether it is true that the grouping has now "started disintegrating" post the "tariff threat by America". Jaishankar outlined the history and evolution of the influential grouping of which India is a member. "From time to time, regional political issues such as peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, the permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the situation in Lebanon, the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and Haiti, situation in and around Ukraine, territorial integrity of Syria, have also been deliberated upon by BRICS members," he said. Jaishankar was also asked about the opinions of the BRICS member countries after the "threat by the US", along with the likely role of India in this matter. "Understandably, as nations at different levels of development and income, and bearing in mind their individual national interests, BRICS members have a range of positions on contemporary issues ... " he said.

US told us did not instruct deportees to remove head coverings: Govt in LS

Strongly registered concerns with US over treatment of deportees, says MoS

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL LUDHIANA, MARCH 21

THE UNITED STATES has conveyed to India that the deportees on board the three flights to the country were not asked to remove their religious head coverings, the Union government told Lok Sabha Friday.

The statement comes after the row over several Sikh deportees allegedly landing at Amritsar airport without their turbans.

The deportees, as well as Punjab NRI affairs minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, had alleged that their turbans were removed before they boarded the three military flights to India.

In a written response to a query by Lok Sabha MP Raja Ram Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said the MEA had registered its concerns regarding the need to accommodate the religious sensitivities and food preferences of the deportees.

"The US side has conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs that detainees on the three de-

Demands for Grants for various ministries get Lok Sabha approval

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Demand for Grants of various ministries for the year 2025-26, approving the expenditure of more than Rs 50 lakh crore. Lok Sabha passed the Demand for Grants by applying guillotine in the evening.

Applying guillotine means that the Demands for Grants for the ministries, on which it is being applied, are considered approved without a discussion.

The method is used to ensure timely passage of the Union Budget, especially when time is short or disruptions stall the discussions. The guillotine was applied last time in Lok Sabha in March 2023 to clear the Union Budget for 2023-24.

Punjab Haryana Gujarat 153 132 - Other 388 States Total Indians 27 deported Source: MEA

portation flights (that landed on 5th, 15th and 16th February) were not instructed to remove any religious head coverings and that the detainees did not request any religious accommodations during the flights aside from requesting vegetarian meals," the reply said.

The minister also said India has "strongly registered" its concerns with US authorities on the treatment of the deportees who arrived on February 5 - "particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women". The first batch of deportees, including women, had landed in India with shackles, sparking an

uproar in the country. **US DEPORTATION** Singh said no women or chil-**TOP 3 STATES**

dren were restrained on the next two deportation flights. The reply stated: "The US

Standard Operating Procedure to organise and execute deportations effective from November 2012 calls for the use of restraints on deportees. The US authorities have conveyed that restraints are applied to ensure the safety and security of the mission. While women and minors are generally not shackled, the flight officer in charge of a deportation flight has the final say on the matter."

To a query by MP Kathir Anand, the ministry said at least 295 more Indian nationals were set to be deported from the US. "The Ministry of External Affairs, along with other concerned agencies, is currently verifying the details of these 295 individ-

Since Donald Trump became US President this year, 388 Indians have been deported from the US, mostly in February. Of the 388, at least 153 are from Punjab

Congress leader Manish Tewari, the MEA said that the deportations this year are part of larger "National Security Initiative" of the White House, adding that under this process, the deportees are placed for "expedited re-

On a query by Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal on why Punjab's Amritsar airport was chosen for the landings, the minister said: "US aircraft ferrying deportees have landed in India after securing necessary permissions. The landing site for any repatriation flight carrying deportees is decided based on operational convenience, the specific route for entry into Indian air space, and particularly, proximity to final destinations of the arriving deportees."

On February 6, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said in a statement in Rajya Sabha that the government is engaging with the US to ensure that deported Indians are not mistreated

Between 2009 and 2024, the US deported 15,564 Indians through chartered and commercial flights.

IN RAJYA SABHA Shah: Some are using language to divide nation, hide corruption

guages through the Department **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** of Official Languages. NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

want to divide the country in the "THOSE WHO take shelter under name of language do not get an language want to hide their coragenda. The Modi government ruption," Union Home Minister has established a department of Amit Shah said in Rajya Sabha on Indian languages which will Friday without naming the DMK work on spreading all Indian languages. Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, amid the debate over the threelanguage formula. Assamese, every language has Shah said there have been been included, and there will be

enough divisions in the name of language and that this should not happen anymore. He was replying to the debate on the workings of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shah's veiled attack against

the DMK comes in the wake of the row on the proposed three-language formula outlined in the National Education Policy. The DMK opposes the three-language policy, calling it Hindi imposition. Shah said: "After December, I

will correspond with citizens, chief ministers, ministers and MPs in their respective languages. This is a befitting answer to them.'

"Hindi is not in competition with any Indian language, it is only a friend of other languages," he said The Home Minister also dis-

missed the allegation of Hindi imposition and said that the government will promote all lan-

Action taken against officials in 12 states for irregularities in Jal Jeevan: Minister



OFF THE DEBATE Congress MP Jairam Ramesh and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad at Parliament on Friday. ANI

Opposition was walking arm-in-arm with AAP which evicted farmers: Chouhan



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHL MARCH 21 ADMITTING THAT some of the complaints of "wrongdoing" in the Jal Jeevan Mission were genuine, Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil Friday informed Lok Sabha that action had been taken against the officials involved in 12 states. In his reply to the discussion "Between 2004 and 2014, the on the Demand for Grants for the Ial Shakti Ministry, the Minister said some of the complaints from MPs of irregularities were genuine, "Whether it was a BIPruled or non-BIP ruled state, we didn't spare anyone," he said. He said inquiries were initiated against 256 officials and 26,455 departmental actions were initiated as well. Patil added that the Ministry would establish accountability for any wrongdoing, present or past. The Minister said despite water being a state subject, the Centre was working to strengthen states and provide them resources for water sector. He said the percentage of households with access to tap water had increased from 17% in 2019, when the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched, to 80% or



uals," the reply said.

Replying to a query by

moval".

GOVT PARTY IN 7 LAKH CASES PENDING IN COURTS

New Delhi: The central government is a party in 7.27 lakh cases pending across various courts, the Lok Sabha was informed on Friday, with Union Law Minister Arjun Ram noting that his ministry had not conducted a specific assessment regarding the impact of government litigation on judicial backlog. "Additionally, data from the National Judicial Data Grid indicates that there are more than five crore pending cases across different courts and tribunals. Therefore, government litigation may not be considered a major contributor to the judicial backlog," Meghwal said. PTI



out at the Opposition for accusing BIP of ignoring farmers' the interest and said that it was the CM Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in Punjab which evicted protesting farmers from the state's border with Haryana.

Replying to a debate in Lok Sabha on the Demands for Grants of the Agriculture Ministry, Chouhan said, "Have we been friends with AAP? You were walking arm-in-arm till the Lok Sabha elections. You were together and you are accusing us."

On Wednesday, the Punjab Police evicted farmers who have been protesting for over a year from key border sites along the Punjab-Haryana boundary, specifically at Shambhu and

NxtGen¹

LOUD TECHNOLOGIES

Presents

NSE

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in LS. PTI Khanauri. The farmers' demand

was primarily centered around a legal guarantee for MSP, among other grievances directed at both state and the Centre.

Soon after, the Punjab Police detained farm leaders, including Sarwan Singh Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal

Listing the initiatives of the PM Narendra Modi-led government for the farmers, including access to credit and crop insurance, Chouhan said the Opposition attempted to cast the BJP in a poor light when it came to farmers' issues, but "they dug up a mountain only to find a dead rat.'

Meanwhile, SP members

walked out of the House. contending that their demand for more time for discussion was not acceded to by the Chair. Speaker Om Birla said the time for the debate was fixed in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, which was sacrosanct as per Parliamentary procedures.

Participating in the debate, Congress MPs Charanjit Singh Channi and Jai Prakash and SPMP Dharmendra Yadav accused the Centre of betraying farmers and claimed that it had failed to fulfill its promise of MSP and was suppressing the ongoing agitation.

In Lok Sabha, Chouhan said that the previous Congress-led government made excuses for not implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. Waving a Cabinet note of the Agriculture Ministry under the previous UPA government, Chouhan said the then Union

ministers Kantilal Bhuria, Sharad Pawar and KVThomas were not in favour of implementing the recommendations on MSP.

Congress-led government allocated ₹1.51 lakh crore for agriculture in Union Budgets. We have made a provision of ₹10.75 lakh crore in the last 10 years... We are committed to farmers' welfare. If the leader is visionary, has the target of public service, has a roadmap and implements it, then miracles happen, as witnessed under PM Narendra Modi's government," said Chouhan.

He said that initiatives such as introduction of climate resistant seed varieties, soil health cards, and balanced use of fertilisers had led to an increase in farm production. He said food grain production was 265.05 million tonnes in 2013-14 in UPA rule, which increased to 330.92 million tonnes under the NDA government.

Union Minister C R Patil in Lok Sabha on Friday. PTI

15 crore this year.

working on building consensus among states for river-linking projects. On the Ken-Betwa link ing project, he said work would be completed by 2030. He said the water quality in the Ganga had improved over the past few years, leading to dolphins being spotted. In all, he said 30 rivers had been identified for linking and detailed project reports had been drafted for 11 of them.

He said the government was

Several Opposition MPs raised concerns over the progress of Ial Ieevan Mission. Congress's Prabha Mallikariun said the water table was depleting and "millions lack drinking water". Lok Sabha later approved the demand for grants for the Ministry.

How water conservation efforts have helped turn fortune of a Jharkhand village

HIMANSHUHARSH GIRIDIH

AROUND 20 KM from Jharkhand's Giridih district headquarters, alleys in the remote village of Jitkundi lead to a large reservoir whose greyish-blue water reflects an orange hue from the setting sun. Set in the middle of undulating hills, this is the reservoir that changed everything in the village. Built in 2023 as part of NITI

Aayog Rejuvenation Window-II the reservoir is one of 5.132 water bodies that are proposed to be rejuvenated in the district. Meticulously planned and built using a CLART, a Geographic Information System (GIS) tool that helps to plan soil and water conservation, the structure helps trap rainwater in the reservoir during the monsoon.

The reservoir – as well as the larger water conservation project in the area — has been credited to

Naman Priyesh Lakra, a 2015 Jharkhand cadre IAS officer and the Deputy Commissioner of Giridih in Jharkhand who has won The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Award 2024 in the water category. According to Lakra, a total of 57 water bodies have been rejuvenated under NIT Aavog's Rejuvenation Window-II over the last two years.

But the project involves not only building reservoirs but also other water conservation methods such as Trench Cum Bunds (TCBs) - which involves digging trenches along a line near an incline to help capture rainwater runoff - and soak pits, a porouswalled chamber built into the ground designed to allow water

Co-presented by of conservation method, according to authorities, depends on the needs of the area

For the villagers in Jitkundi, the reservoir, built around 100 metres from an existing shallow but to seep into the ground. The type



A rejuvenated water body; (right) Giridih Deputy Commissioner Naman Priyesh Lakra



mostly dry pond, comes as a massive relief -- especially in the summer.

"Drought was very common here," says Jageshwar Rana, a 68year-old farmer from the village



have a reliable water source yearround. It sustains the village yearround. Even during the summer, the water level never drops below six feet.

Another resident, 68-year-old Lattu Mandal, explains how the structure works.

"Several trenches dug into the nearby hills redirect rainwater into the reservoir. When the reservoir overflows, the excess water flows into the lower fields and then down to other fields via dedicated channels." he savs.

Residents such as Rana claim the reservoir has had a major impact on the village, especially on agriculture

"Last year, I harvested 75 kg of paddy... in 2023, it was only 30 kg. Not only has the quantity inwhose family lives metres from creased, but the quality has imthe reservoir. "However, since the proved too. Earlier, the grains were small due to lack of water... now, new reservoir was built, we now

they're bigger and longer," he says According to Lakra, the project was undertaken because Giridih faced significant water-related challenges. "The project was important to address these critical issues impacting the livelihoods of farmers and the overall well-being of the community," he said. The potential to improve the livelihoods of the rural population, who heavily rely on agriculture and groundwater resources, have been a significant driving forceFurthermore, the recognition of the ecological and cultural significance of the rivers and water bodies in the region, such as the Barakar River and Usri River, and the desire to set an example for sustainable water management and environmental conservation in the region and potentially beyond have been additional sources of inspiration.'



Prabhakaran, Padmanabhan and

Radhakrishnan (who were found

guilty in the murder case) were

Sooraj had been indisposed

after the first attack and faced

the second deadly attack soon

after he resumed everyday life.

August 5, 2005, five accused per-

sons (including the three local

party leaders) entered into a

criminal conspiracy to eliminate Sooraj. "On August 7, the six ac-

cused persons came by an au-

torickshaw driven by one of the

accused, formed an unlawful assembly as part of the conspir-

acy... They assaulted Sooraj us-

ing deadly weapons," said the

run away seeing the assailants

but fell on the road.

Subsequently, accused N V

Yogesh hacked his neck with a

sword and accused Raieesh at-

had begun in 2010, it did not pro-

ceed. The case got a new twist in

2012 after the arrest of a CPI(M)-

backed gang leader, T K Rajeesh,

in the murder of T P

Chandrasekharan, who had left

CPI(M) and formed a rebel

outfit.Rajeesh confessed to his in-

volvement in other political mur-

ders, including that of Sooraj. Until

the murder of Chandrasekharan.

the role of Rajeesh in political

murders in Kannur had never

come to the fore. Following the

revelation, police reopened the

Sooraj murder at the behest of a

high court directive.

Although the trial in the case

tacked his head with an axe.

It said the victim had tried to

chargesheet.

As per the charge sheet, on

also the accused in that case.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 EXPRESS NETWORK

Amid din, Karnataka Assembly passes Bill

NIT Silchar professor held after student alleges sexual harassment

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, MARCH 21

AN ASSISTANT professor at Assam's National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, was arrested by the Cachar police on Friday following a complaint of sexual harassment by a student.

Superintendent of Police, Cachar, Numal Mahatta confirmed that D Koteswara Raju, an assistant professor at the institute since 2018, was arrested on Friday. A student had registered a complaint with the institute on Thursday accusing Raju of molestation and mental and sexual harassment, alleging that he called her to his chamber after class on the pretext of discussing her marks and touched her inappropriately after asking her to lock the door. NIT Registrar Ashim Roy stated that Raju was placed under suspension with immediate effect on Friday.

"The matter was immediately referred to the Internal Complaints Committee of the institute to enquire into the matter... The departmental chamber... where the alleged incident occurred has been sealed," states the institute's report. The complaint triggered protests by students in the institute

Bar association questions move to transfer judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE HIGH Court Bar Association, Allahabad, has raised questions over the Supreme Court collegium's unanimous decision to transfer Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, back to his parent court, the Allahabad High Court, following a report about the recovery of cash during a fire at his residence. The association asked whether the Allahabad High Court is being treated as a "trash bin". The Bar association has sent

a memorandum in this regard to the Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, Judges sitting in Allahabad, The Registrar General, High Court, Allahabad, and President of Oudh Bar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, MARCH 21

AMID THE din in Karnataka Assembly over Opposition protests demanding a judicial probe into allegations of honeytrap, a Bill was passed Friday to provide 4% reservation for Muslims in public contracts. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka

Karnataka termed the Transparency in Public Procurements(Amendment)Bill which was piloted by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, "unconstitutional"

The Cabinet last Friday had approved an amendment to the . Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, reserving for Muslims 4% of contracts in (civil) works valued up to $\gtrless 2$ crore, and goods/services procurement contracts up to Rs 1 crore. This was



BJP and JDS members protest during the Budget session of Karnataka Assembly in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his 2025-26 Budget, presented on March 7. At present, Karnataka has reservation in civil works con-

tracts for SC/STs (24%) and OBC contractors belonging to Category-1 (4%) and Category-2A (15%). The amendment to the KTPP Act extended the reservation benefits to the 2B category, which has 4% reservation for **Muslims**

The Bill was passed at the end of the last day of the Budget session after the suspension of 18

MLAs for disrespecting the Speaker's chair. BJP and JD(S) legislators submitted a joint petition to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot against the Bill, which they claimed, was meant to "only polarize the societies" and would "destroy the social fabric, harmony among the religious societies". The petition urged the Governor to cancel the "unconstitutionally moved Bill".

As per the Bill, it aims to over come the unemployment problem in the Backward Classes and to encourage their participation in construction works, not exceeding 4% for the persons belonging to the category 2B of backward classes (Muslims), out of the total number of government construction works up to Rs 2 crore.

Accusing Congress of pursuing "contract jihad" in Karnataka, **BJP** spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed that Congress leader



He said the Siddaramaiah-led government has been taking a host of measures aimed at Muslims. It followed "land jihad" through Waqf properties and "economic jihad" by offering huge package to development of the Waqf, he said, adding "anti-national jihad" was witnessed when pro-Pakistan slogans were raised in the state Assembly, he said.

Earlier in the day, two other Bills which provided for a significant hike in the salaries of ministers and legislators were also passed.



SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 21

2005 CASE

NINE CPI(M) workers, including the brother of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's press secretary, were Friday found guilty by a court in Kannur in connection with the 2005 murder of a BJP worker.

Of the 12 persons listed as accused, two died during trial, and one was acquitted. The district sessions court will deliver the quantum of punishment on Monday.

Those found guilty included K Rajeesh, who is already undergoing life imprisonment in the 2012 murder of rebel Marxist leader Chandrasekharan, and P M Manoraj, the brother of P M Manoj, Vijayan's press secretary. The court also convicted

Prabhakaran Master, a former local secretary of the CPI(M) and former president of Edakkad panchayat, and two CPI(M) local committee members, K V Padmanabhan and Manombeth Radhakrishnan. According to the prosecution, BJP worker Elambilayi Sooraj (32) was hacked to death on August 7, 2005, by CPI(M) men at Muzhappilangad in the district. The CPI(M) had developed a grudge towards Sooraj after he quit the party in 2003 and joined the BIP.

Special public prosecutor P Premarajan said that a year before the murder, Sooraj had survived another murder attempt in which he had sustained serious

After remarks by bench, SC issues showcause to senior advocate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

filed by him concerning the grant of remission, and after realising it, he has withdrawn the petitions.' "We make it clear that we are

not recording any final finding

against Rishi Malhotra, senior ad-

vocate, on the question whether

his designation can be withdrawn.

We leave it to the Chief Justice of

India to take a call on this issue.

Reached for comments.

Malhotra said he had apologised

for whatever happened before being designated a senior and also

got those petitions withdrawn.

enior on August 14, 2024.

Malhotra was designated as a

The court, in its order, said that

the matter "raises an important

question of whether the decisions

of this court in the case of Indira

Jaising-I and Indira Jaising-II.

which lay down the guidelines for

designation of senior advocates

by this Court and High Courts

across the country under the 1961

the court said in its order.

rect statements in the petitions

Heightened security, none from govt at Pak Day event in Delhi

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

SIGNALLING A deeper chill in ties with Islamabad, the Indian government did not send a representative to the Pakistan National Day reception in New Delhi on Thursday and enhanced its scrutiny of the Indian guests who attended the event at the High Commission.

This was reminiscent of the past, especially in 2019 after the Pulwama terror attacks, when guests had to give their details to security personnel outside the gate. This time, even the former Indian high commissioner to

Pakistan, Ajay Bisaria, was not exempted. Normally, security personnel only note down vehicle details without directly making enquiries with guests. Pakistani diplomats said that

an Under-Secretary at the Pakistan Foreign Ministry had attended the Republic Day celebrations at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

As a reciprocal gesture, the Pakistan High Commission had invited the Ministry of External Affairs to send a representative for the National Day reception. No one from the Indian govern-

lationship.

former minister in the Congressled UPA government Mani Shankar Aiyar, former envoy Bisaria, several businessmen and iournalists - were also present.

Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich said that a "new dawn" in India-Pakistan relations can emerge by enhancing mutual understanding, addressing shared concerns and resolving "longstanding disputes" including the Kashmir issue. Warraich said Islamabad has consistently endeavoured for friendly relations with other states based on the principles of

"sovereign equality, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence". The Pakistan National Day reception in New Delhi is usually a barometer of the state of ties between the two countries.

There was no Indian governent representation at last

ago in a mango orchard in Malihabad. Police claimed hat

30s, had gone missing after returning from another district and was going to a close relative's residence in an autorickshaw when the accused, Ajay Kumar, 26, who was driving the vehicle, abducted her, police said. Ajay Kumar had 23 criminal cases against him and carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to his arrest,

the case. However, Ajay had then managed to escape, said Lucknow DCP Vishwajeet Srivastava. The police recovered the victim's educational certificates from Dinesh's possession.

According to the police, they received information on Friday evening that Ajay would be passing through Malihabad on a motorcycle. Upon spotting police per-

THE FULL court of the Supreme

Randhir Jaiswal said he did not have information about it. But hadded: "As for invitations, they depend on relationships, don't they? Acceptance of invitations depends on the nature of the re-Diplomats from several foreign embassies, including US, China and European countries, attended the event. Members of Indian civil society - including

PARSIS CELEBRATE NAVROZ

A man from the Parsi community offers prayers at the Kappawala fire temple in Mumbai on the occasion of Parsi New Year on Friday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Auto driver who abducted, killed woman shot dead in UP encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

> THE LUCKNOW police on Friday shot dead an autorickshaw driver accused of abducting and strangulating to death a woman. whose body was found two days

Association, Lucknow,

In the memorandum, President of the Bar Association and senior advocate Anil Tiwari said. "This decision of the collegeum of the Supreme Court raises a serious question as to whether the Allahabad High Court is a trash bin? This matter becomes important when we examine the current situation wherein the Allahabad High Court is short of judges and despite the continuous problems, new judges have not been appointed for the past many years. It is also of grave concern that while appointing judges by elevating members of the Bar. the Bar was never consulted.'

It added, "Consideration of eligibility appears to be not upto the mark. Something is lacking which has resulted incorruption and consequently, a great damage has been caused to the"public faith in judiciary". We cannot say that this situation is not in the knowledge of the Hon'ble Apex Court...

year's reception either. But the ment came. Asked whether the Pakistan High Commission exsecurity surveillance was not at the level that was witnessed on tended an invitation, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Thursday

the accused might have attempted to rape her and killed her when she resisted.

The victim, who was in her

Police Rishabh Yadav Earlier in the day, the police arrested Ajay's 35-year-old brother,

said Assistant Commissioner of

sonnel, he opened fire. The police retaliated and he was injured. Police took him to a hospital where he died Dinesh Kumar, in connection with

Chhattisgarh's new surrender policy for Maoists: Free food, cash, skill shelter

Prime Minister housing scheme.

They will get extra benefits for

bringing a weapon and they will

panchayat that is declared

"Maoist-free" will have develop-

ment projects worth ₹1 crore

have on their arrest," he said.

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU RAIPUR, MARCH 21

AS ANTI-MAOIST operation in Chhattisgarh intensifies, Home Minister Vijay Sharma has announced a new 'Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy' for surrendered red rebels - provision of free food, shelter, cash, skills, land and a home.

Addressing a press conference in Raipur, Sharma called this the "best policy in the country" that will lead to "many surrenders". The announcement comes a day after 30 Maoists were killed in two separate encounters in

Sharma said a district level "immediately" sanctioned. "The committee was being set up to devillage will get a mobile network, electric line and in the termine whether the person surrendering was indeed a Maoist. meantime solar light. This is be-"Once that is decided, for ing done to ensure mass surrenthree years, shelter and food will ders," the home minister said. "There are also provisions for be free for three years. They will receive ₹10.000/month. will unmarried couples and for their dergo skill development and will children.' Under the new rehabilitation get a land and home under the

policy, the state will sponsor the education of children who have lost parents to "Naxal violence".

"Those displaced due to also get the bounty amount they Naxalism will get monetary aid For mass surrenders, the reand land," Sharma said. ward will be doubled. A gram

The speech comes a day after 30 Maoists were killed in two separate encounters in Bastar: 26 in Bijapur and four in Kanker.

'Abused for 5 hours': JU

student files complaint

Godhra aftermath: SC says ensure no bystander convicted, acquits six

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday acquitted six persons in a post-Godhra riots case from Gujarat and said in matters of group clashes, it was courts' onerous duty to ensure no bystander was convicted and deprived of lib-

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra said in cases of riots in which a large number of persons were involved, courts must be "circumspect and reluctant" to rely on the testimony of witnesses who made general statements without specific reference to the accused or their

roles. The top court, therefore, set aside a Gujarat High Court order which overturned the trial court decision and convicted six persons while acquitting 12 others in the case of riot in village Vadod in the state. The prosecution alleged a riot took place on February 28, 2002, in the village, resulting in loss of public property and damage to police vehicles. "In cases of group clashes where a large number of persons are involved, a onerous duty is cast upon the courts to ensure that no innocent bystander is convicted and deprived of his liberty," it said. PTI

AMIT SHARMA

lice said on Friday.

MEERUT, MARCH 21

MUSKAN RAJPUT (26) and her

lover Sahil Shukla, who were ar-

rested for allegedly killing her

husband Saurabh Rajput in

Meerut on March 3 and dispos-

ing his dismembered body in a

drum, will be taken to the hotels

in Shimla and Manali where

they stayed after the murder, po-

Officials said it will help them

"build evidence" against Muksan

and Sahil, also 26, who are in ju-

Court is learnt to have issued a showcause notice to senior advocate Rishi Malhotra, asking him to explain why his 'senior' designation should not be withdrawn. Sources said the full court, which met earlier this week, had authorised the Supreme Court Secretary General to issue the showcause notice.

The decision comes in the wake of adverse observations made by a bench of Justices A S Oka and AG Masih in a case of premature release of convicts which was represented by the senior counsel

The February 20, 2025, judgment noted that the counsel had made some "incorrect statements" and "suppressed" facts and tendered an unconditional pology for the same.

The judgment noted that the Act, need reconsideration". senior counsel "has accepted that "A serious introspection is required to answer the question of he should have verified the facts stated in the SLP (Special Leave whether the rules framed in terms Petition) He has accepted that of the said decisions have ensured he was not diligent and has tenthat only deserving advocates are dered an apology. He admitted being designated," the court said that he has made factually incorin the order.

ODISHA MINISTER IN ASSEMBLY 'll months before suicide, Nepal student filed harassment complaint with KIIT'

SUJIT BISOYI BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 21

ELEVEN MONTHS before a 20year-old student from Nepal died by suicide at the KIIT campus in Bhubaneswar in February. she had filed a "sexual harassment" complaint with the university authorities, Odisha's higher education minister Suryavasnhi Suraj said on Friday.

In a written reply to the state assembly to a query from Congress MLA Dasarathi Gamango, the higher education minister said as per the information received from KIIT, the

woman had filed the harassment complaint on March 12, 2024

"The high-level committee formed by the state government has been probing the matter in detail. The university has stated that they have formed an internal committee as per UGC guidelines," the minister informed the

House. Suraj said that the higher education department has not provided any grant to KIIT during the last financial year.

The third-year engineering student from Nepal was found dead in her hostel room on February 16. The incident

prompted protests at the insti-

tute led by students from Nepal and snowballed into a diplomatic row.

A batchmate of the woman had been arrested in connection with her death. It was alleged that months before her death. she had informed the university of misbehaviour by the man, but the two were allegedly made to put the matter to rest.

On the probe into the matter by a high-level committee headed by an additional chief secretary, the higher education minister said 19 people have appeared before it and recorded their statements.

SWEETY KUMARI

KOLKATA, MARCH 21

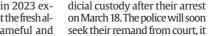
KOLKATA'S JADAVPUR University (JU) has initiated an inquiry hours after a fresh complaint of ragging was reported. Submitted on Tuesday, the complaint alleges that senior students "severely harassed" a second-year postgraduate student of film studies inside the university's main hostel for over five hours.

Officiating Vice-Chancellor (VC)Bhaskar Gupta said: "As soon as the complaint was received, an inquiry committee was formed The committee has commenced its work and the matter is being thoroughly investigated.'

The student formally lodged complaints with the VC, Registrar, and the university's anti-ragging committee. He alleged that the harassment began on March 15

when he visited a room in the A1 block of the hostel to meet a friend. He accused a group of seniors of surrounding him and launching a barrage of verbal abuse, before escalating to serious threats, including rape threats directed at his mother. He claimed he was coerced into posting "incriminating" statements on social

media. The father of a 17-year-old JU student who died in 2023 expressed his outrage at the fresh allegations. "It is shameful and shocking," he said.



is learnt.

Body in drum: Meerut police to take woman, lover to Shimla & Manali

The two are likely to have got married at a temple in Shimla, the police said.

Saurabh (29), a former merchant navy official who had been working in the UK for some years, was killed at the couple's rented house in Brahmpuri locality of Meerut city.

"A police team will take the two to these places to collect more evidence so that the chargesheet in the case could be filed early," said Meerut Superintendent of Police (SP) Ayush Vikram Singh.

"The duo had planned the murder in advance and were waiting for the right moment to execute their plan. After killing Saurabh, the two hired a taxi for Himachal Pradesh at Rs 54,000 and booked hotel rooms at Shimla and Manali," said the SP.

"They dumped 15 body parts in a drum filled with liquid cement so as to stop the foul smell of rotting flesh from coming out once it solidified. They left for Himachal after locking the house on March 5, leaving her six -vearold daughter at her mother's house in the same locality," SP Singh added.

Also, Muskan took Saurabh's mobile to Himachal Pradesh and kept posting her photographs on his Instagram account so that no one suspected foul play, the police said

"She posted her solo photographs but their family mem-



8 EXPRESS NETWORK

CM Naidu's pitch: Only Hindus should be employed at Tirumala

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, MARCH 21

ONLY HINDUS should be employed in the Lord Sri Venkateswara temple at Tirumala and employees of other faith would be transferred, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said Friday. The remarks, made during

the chief minister's visit to the temple to mark the birthday of his grandson N Devansh Naidu. comes nearly two months after Tirumala the Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board, which manages the temple, transferred 18 employees "practicing and participating in non-

Hindu religious activities". "People belonging to other

2

3

4

5

Satara

Satara.



Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu at Tirupati temple on Friday. ANI

E-Tender Notice

Request for Tender for Design, Construction and Delivery of

Request for Tender for Design Construction and Delivery of

ONE JET PASSENGER BOAT at Munawale, Tal Jawali, Dist

Request for Tender for Design Construction and Delivery of

ONE PARASAILING BOAT at Munawale, Tal Jawali, Dist

Request for Tender for Design, Construction and Delivery of

Sailing Catamaran Yacht at Munawale, Tal: Jawali, Dist: Satara

Request for Proposal for Design, Construction and Delivery of

Sailing Excursion Boats in Munawale, Tal: Jawali, Dist: Satara

The above Tender Documents including terms and conditions are

available on http://mahatenders.gov.in & www.mtdc.co websites for

the bidders from dated on 21/03/2025, 10:30 am onwards and

deadline for bid submission is dated 28/03/2025, 12:00pm.

MTDC invites E-Tenders for the following various works.

Cruise Boat at Munawale, Tal: Jawali, Dist: Satara.

Maharashtra Tourism

Development Corporation Ltd

Registered Office :- Mafatlal House, 1st floor.

H. T. Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation,

Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020. Phone: 022-41580928/15

faiths, if they are still working in the temple, they will be respectfully relocated to other places. If

Christians or Muslims do not wish to continue working in Hindu places, their sentiments would be respected and transferred," he said. The CM also announced he was cancelling the allotment of

35 acres of land in Tirupati to hotel developers of Devalok, MRKR and Mumtaz builders. The allotment was made by the previous YSR Congress Party government. The move, he claimed, was to "to protect the sanctity of the

temple town" Observing that several villages in the state are seeking a local Lord Venkateswara temple, Naidu said

a trust would be set up to mobilistain the sanctity of the temple "by ing funds for this purpose. upholding the traditions and val-A decision had also been ues that have been followed for taken to construct Lord centuries and to uphold the beliefs Venkateswara temples in the

and sentiments of the devotees". This order came months after the TTD had decided at a board meeting to transfer non-Hindus and ban political speeches.

chief ministers in the state for this

purpose," the Chief Minister said.

ferred out of Tirumala on

February 1 were teachers at var-

ious TTD educational institutes.

The others included a deputy ex-

ecutive officer (Welfare), an as-

sistant executive officer, an assis-

tant technical officer (electrical),

a hostel worker, two electricians,

cated servant of the Lord

Venkateswara" all the TTD em-

ployees are committed to main-

The order states that "as dedi-

and two nurses.

Six of the 18 employees trans-

"All 18 have been moved to posts that were mutually agreed upon an official said. "As of now there are no employees of other faiths working in Tirumala," he said.

Ref No - D/484/AA-2/KDA/2024-25

SC judge may not visit Churachandpur today

Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant,

Vikram Nath, M M Sundresh, K

V Viswanathan and N Kotiswar

Singh, would visit relief camps

to strengthen legal and human-

itarian assistance to affected

communities, the NALSA state-

ment said on March 17.

in the state on March 22. The visit is a part of the efforts

Subsequently,

in the programme."

an event in Mumbai.

Date: 21.03.2025

the occasion of the duodecennial

celebration of the Manipur HC,

Iustice Gavai will virtually inau-

gurate legal services camps and

medical camps and legal aid clin-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE capital cities of all states, he said. 'Ŵe will soon write to all the NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

SUPREME COURT Justice N Kotiswar Singh, who is part of the top court delegation visiting Manipur on Saturday, may not travel to the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district amid objections from a lawyers' body there.

Sources said that Justice Singh, who belongs to the Meitei community, does not wish to precipitate any controversy amid the ethnic tensions in the state. They said he has decided to follow the advice of the local administration and accordingly decide whether to go to Churachandpur or not.

"Unfortunately some things have happened, but the sentiments are also there. So he is a bit careful," said a source, adding he will visit the other parts of the state.

It is also learnt that some Manipur High Court judges from the Meitei community may not visit Churachandpur. The National Legal Services

KANPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY KANPUR

Invitation fo

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Selection of consultant for

Preparation of GIS based Regional Plan for

ics in Imphal East, Imphal West Authority (NALSA) said in a and Ukhrul districts.

NAGPUR VIOLENCE 13 FIRs filed so far, more than 100 held statement that a team of judges, including Supreme Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAL MARCH 21

NAGPUR POLICE commissioner Ravindra Singhal on Friday said so far 13 FIRs have been registered in connection with the violence and more than 100 people arrested.

Singhal, however, did not the Churachandpur District Bar give details of the new FIRs. He added that a decision over cur-Association issued a statement saying: "Lordships belonging to few relaxation will be taken afthe Meitei community, in the inter taking the ground situation terest of peace and public order, into consideration. He said shall not step into our district, search operations to nab the accused were still underway. even though their names appear

Parts of Nagpur city remain Justice Surya Kant will not under partial lockdown. Police travel to Manipur as he had alsources said the FIRs filed at the ready been scheduled to attend Ganeshpeth police station have now been transferred to DCP The NALSA statement said Crime (Detection) Rahul that during the visit, which is on Maknikar.

The sources added that the investigating officer was also changed in the first FIR filed in the Ganeshpeth police station.

Earlier in the day, the Nagpur police tightened security in the violence-hit areas of the city ahead of Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, Fahim Khan, a key accused who has been arrested and charged with sedition, has moved the sessions court seeking bail, claiming "po-



Police personnel in Nagpur on Friday. PTI

> litical vendetta" was behind his arrest as he had sought action against VHP activists.

Khan, city president of the Minorities Democratic Party (MDP), was arrested on March 19, two days after the incidents of rioting and arson, and remanded in police custody. After his remand ended on Friday, the court sent him to judicial custody in view of his ill-health. The police said it would seek his cus-

tody later. Khan also filed a bail application before the Nagpur district sessions court. It is likely to come up for hearing on March 24, his lawyer Ashwin Ingole said. WITH PTI INPUTS

Five Mahayuti leaders take oath as MLCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MARCH 21

FIVE LEADERS from the ruling Mahayuti took oath as Members of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Friday.

Six candidates had applied for the by-election to five seats of the Legislative Council that were to be held on March 27. However, since the independent candidate did not have a letter of support from the MLAs and a notary, his application was rejected. Since no candidates were fielded by the opposition, five candidates of the Mahayuti were

elected unopposed to the Legislative Council on Tuesday. Sandeep Joshi, Sanjay Kenekar and Dadarao Keche of the BJP, Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Raghuvanshi and Sanjay Khodke of the NCP took oath as Members of the Legislative Council on Friday.

A total of five Legislative Council seats had fallen vacant after that many sitting members won the Maharashtra Assembly elections last year. Sena's Amasha Padavi, NCP's Rajesh Witekar, and BJP's Pravin Datke, Gopichand Padalkar, and Ramesh Karad were the outgoing members of the council.

MEGA **E-AUCTION** SALE NOTICE

-Sd-Managing Director, M.T.D.C., Mumbai.



dgipr/2024-25/7260

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Office: Jeevan Shree, 1109, University Road, Shivajinagar, Pune- 411016

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken PHYSICAL POSSESSION in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8. This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable propertie have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is' "As Is what Is", and "Whatever there Is" & without any recourse basis on 23.04.2025 / 24.04.2025, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Property 1 - Name of Borrower/s:- Mrs. SHUBHANGEE MANGESH PINGALE / MANGESH DNYANESHRWAR PINGALE

SALE NOTICE



'Zonal Office, 8/3, Karve Road, Pune 04 Recovery Department, 433/B/2, Madhav Apartment, 2nd Floor, Near Old Zilla Parishad Building, Somwar Peth, Pune 01 Phone No: (020) 26061955, 26061184, 26061185

(Auction Sale/bidding would be conducted only through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SARFAESI) ACT, 2002.

Pursuant to Demand Notice issued u/s 13(2), the undersigned as Authorized Officer of Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd. has taken over possession of the following assets u/s 14 of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged assets in the below mentioned case for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE" as specified hereunder

the Kanpur Region Integrated Development Authority (KRIDA) for the Perspective Year-2051 The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) invites proposals from experienced & reputed planning and design consultants to prepare GIS based Regional Plan for the Kanpur Region integrated Development Authority (KRIDA) for the Perspective Year-2051. Details of project, scope of work, qualification criteria and process of submission o oposals is available and can be downloaded from the http://etender.up.nic.in Detailed Document/Corrigendum can be downloaded from the http://etender.up.nic.in The bidder shall submit bid online on e-tender portal http://etender/up.nic.in and need to submit two hard copies of the same at the Period of Availability of Tender, Date Schedule

Chief Town Planner

Kanpur Development Authority

Kanpur

office Kanpur Development Authority. are given below: The KDA reserves the right to accept any proposal or reject any or all the proposals 22nd March 2025 without assigning any reasons and any Proposal start date 22nd March 2025, 14:00 hrs liability whatsoever including financial Pre-Bid Conference 4th April, 2025, 11:00 hrs liability. The KDA also reserves the right to Proposal end date 21st April, 2025, 15:00 hrs close or cancel the entire process of appointment at any point without assigning Opening of Technical Bids 21st April, 2025, 16:00 hrs any reasons whatsoever and without any Opening of Financial Bids To be communicated separately

E-AUCTION



liability whatsoever.

Loan Account Number – 620300001678 / 620100006361						
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY- Row House No. 6/6, Type C, Narayan (HUT) Co. Op. Hsg. Soc, Survey No 98/1A, 98/1B, 112/1A/1,						
112/1A2, 112/B, 112/2, Location No. 4/48, Mouje Bhosari, Near Cosmos Bank, Spine Rd, Pune, Maharashtra - 411023 (Area: - 1090 Sq.ft).))						
Full Description of property						
Date of Demand Notice: - 25.09.2021 Amt Demanded : Rs. 83,21,222.71 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses Date of Possession (P)/(S)-Physical possession- 10.12.2024 Reserve Price - Rs. (73,000/-) EMD - Rs. (7,30,000/-) Bid Incremental Value – (10,000/-) Total Amount payable as on date - 21.03.2025 - Rs. 1,33,28.291.95 Website of E-Auction: www.auctionbazaar.com	ACCOUNT DETAILS Beneficlary Name : LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Bank : HDFC Bank Itd Account No : LHFPU3620100006361 IFSC Code : HDFC0000007 Name of e-auction service provider : M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED.					
Date & time of inspection of Photocoples of property documents :	19.04.2025, from 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM at LIC Housing Finance Ltd, 1109,"Jeevan Shree" Building, University Road, Shivaji Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra, PIN: 411016					
Inspection of the Property :	21.04.2025, 11 AM to 05.00 PM					
Contact person :	Shiva :- (+91-8370969696 , Satish :- +91-7207941010) contact@auctionbazzar.com / support@auctionbazzar.com					
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider -	Shiva :- (+91-8370969696 , Satish :- +91-7207941010), M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED. 6-3-1090/1/1, II Floor, Part B, Uma Hyderabad House, Rajbhavan Road, Somjaiguda, Hyderabad- 500082, Telangana, India.					
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid -	22.04.2025 before 5.30 PM (Online Mode only)					
E Auction Date-23.04.2025	Date : 23.04.2025, From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM					
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY- Row House No. H-106, Wing- H,"KUB No. 233/2A, Near Balaji Super Shoppee, Narayangaon, Pune, MA Full Description of property						
Date of Demand Notice:- 20.06.2022 Amt Demanded : Rs. 73,32,611.86 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses Date of Possession (P)/(\$)- Physical possession- 28.11.2024 Reserve Price - Rs. (45,00,000/-) EMD - Rs. (4,50,000/-) Bid Incremental Value – (10,000/-) Total Amount payable as on date - 21.03.2025 - Rs. 1,00,41,473.22 Website of E-Auction: www.auctionbazaar.com	ACCOUNT DETAILS Beneficiary Name : LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Bank : HDFC Bank Itd Account No : LHFPU3620100006398 IFSC Code : HDFC0000007 Name of e-auction service provider : M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED.					
Date & time of inspection of Photocoples of property documents :	21.04.2025, from 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM at LIC Housing Finance Ltd, 1109, "Jeevan Shree" Building, University Road, Shivaji Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra, PIN: 411016					
Inspection of the Property :	22.04.2025, 11 AM to 05.00 PM					
Contact person :	Shiva :- (+91-8370969696 , Satish :- +91-7207941010) contact@auctionbazzar.com / support@auctionbazzar.com					
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider -	Shiva :- (+91-8370969696 , Satish :- +91-7207941010), M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED. 6-3-1090/1/1, II Floor, Part B, Uma Hyderabad House, Rajbhavan Road, Somjaiguda, Hyderabad- 500082, Telangana,India.					
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid -	23.04.2025 before 5.30 PM (Online Mode only)					
E Auction Date-24.04.2025	Date : 24.04.2025, From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM					
Place : 22.03.2025 Date : Pune	Sd/- Authorlsed Officer LIC Housing Finance Ltd.					

	-			
Sr.	Name of Borrower,	A. Date of Demand Notice	Description of Assets	I. Reserve Price
No	Co-Borrower, Guarantor /	B. Possession Type/Date		II. EMD
	Mortgager, Legal Helr (if applicable)	C. Demand Amount		III. Bld Increment Amount
	(in applicable)			Date / Time of Inspection
				Last date / time for EMD &
				KYC submission
				Date / Time of E-Auction
1.	Borrower:	A.20.05.2023	All that piece and parcel of Flat No. 201 (Two	Rs. 23.13 Lakh
	1. Mr. Bhandari Nandu Dattu	B. Physical / 03.12.2024.	Hundred and One), admeasuring 404 Sq. fts	Rs. 2.31 Lakh
	[Principal Borrower/	C. Rs. 28,81,293.38 as on	i.e., 37.54 Sq. mtrs., (Built up), on the Second	Rs. 0.25 Lakh
	Mortgager]	19.05.2023 with further	Floor of Bullding known as "Janaki	05.04.2025/
	2. Mrs. Bhandare Asha	Interest thereon.	Apartment Condominium", constructed on	1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
	Nandu [Co-Borrower / Mortgagor]		the land admeasuring 260 Sq. mtrs., i.e., 2797.6 Sq. fts., out of CTS No. 1361, Survey	15.04.2025 / upto 5.00 p.m.
	[CO-Borrower/Mortgagor]		No. 83 Hissa No. 24/01 & 2 admeasuring 54.64	17.04.2025/
			Sq. mtrs., + 349.35 Sq. mtrs., respectively of	3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
			Mouje Kothrud, Taluka Haveli, District	
			Pune, within the limits of Pune Municipal	
			Corporation.	
2.	1. M/s. Shrikant Distributor	A. 14.07.2023	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing	Rs. 25.56 Lakh
_,	[Principal borrower /	B. Physical 01.10.2024.	Flat No. 22, admeasuring 400 Sq.ft. i.e. 37.17	Rs. 2.55 Lakh
	Mortgagor]	C. Rs. 91,90,308/- as on	Sq. Mtrs., built -up, situated on the slxth floor	Rs. 0.25 Lakh
	Through Proprletor	13.07.2023 plus, Interest	In C wing in Daulatnagar 'C' (Swarajya) Co-	05.04.2025/
	Mrs. Kumbharkar Jayshree Sunil	from 01.07.2023	Operative Housing Society Ltd constructed on the land admeasuring 00 Hector 77 Are,	1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
	2. Mr. Kumbharkar Sunil		bearing Survey No. 4, Hissa No. 2B, situated at	15.04.2025/
	Sopan (Guarantor)		Village Wadgaon Bk, Taluka Havell, District	upto 5.00 p.m
			Pune.	17.04.2025/
				3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
3.	Borrower: 1. Ms. Jedhe Valshnavl Satlsh (borrower) And	A. 17.12.2022	All That piece and parcel of Flat No. 41	Rs. 22.05 Lakh
э.		B. Physical / 09.12.2024 C. Rs. 26,78,360/- as on 12.12.2022 with further interest thereon.	admeasuring about 540 sq. fts. i. e. 50.18 sq. mtrs. (built up) on the fourth floor of the building B1/2 in Shantinagar Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd constructed at land admeasuring 12039.37 sq mtrs. out of Survey no. 307 of Mouje Hadapsar, Tal. – Haveli, Dist. – Pune and within the limits of Pune Municipal	Rs. 2.20 Lakh
				Rs. 0.25 Lakh
	2. Mrs. Jedhe Sunita Satish			05.04.2025/
	(Co-borrower)			1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
				15.04.2025 / upto 5.00 p.m.
				17.04.2025/
			Corporation and Registration District Pune	3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
			Sub-District, Tal - Haveli, Dist Pune	
4.	Borrower:	A. 16.10.2023	All That piece and parcel of the property Flat	Rs. 20.34 Lakh
	1. Mr. Ghare Rajesh Balasaheb	B.Physical/04.12.2024. C. Rs. 23,98,514 /- as on	No. A 106 on 1st Floor of Wing A in the building situated at Sr. No. 45 of land	Rs. 2.03 Lakh
	[Principal Borrower/	15.10.2023 with further	described above having a carpet area	Rs. 0.25 Lakh
	Mortgagor]	interest thereon.	admeasuring area 333.23 Sq. Ft. i.e., 30.97 Sq	05.04.2025/
			Mtrs. along with carpet Terrace 2.95 i.e., 31.74	1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
			Sq. Ft. and enclosed balcony 3.75 Sq. Mtrs	15.04.2025 / upto 5.00 p.m.
			i.e.40.35 Sq. Mtrs. ft in total 37.67 Sq. Mtrs along with one car parking the building no. A	17.04.2025/
			namely "Arcadia" situated at Bhilarewadi,	3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
			Pune, Tal Havell, Dist Pune, also situated	
			within the limits of Registrar of Registration	
			Tal Haveli, Dist Pune.	
			charge etc. incurred till the date of payment an	
			e provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies lim	
	is & Conditions of the said s://sarfaesi.auctlontiger.net	Sale/Auction, and proced	ure of submission of Bid/Offer, are availa	ible from their website a
mp	•		R RULE 8(6) of SARFAESI ACT, 2002	
This			rower/s, Guarantors & Mortgagors of the said loa	n to pay the dues in full before
	late of sale, failing which the prop			
	e :- 22.03.2025			Authorised Officer
	ce :- Pune		S	Saraswat Co-op Bank Ltd.



WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

Defence Estates Office, Pune Circle (Government of India, Ministry of Defence) 16, Rajendra Singhji Road, Pune Cantt., Pune - 411 001 Tel. No.020-26363184

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby made known to the public at large that Bungalow No. 10 Kahun Road recorded in General Land Register (GLR) Sy. No. 338 admeasuring 0.57 acres of Pune Cantonment is held on Old Gran terms. The recorded Holder of Occupancy Rights (HORs) of the said bungalow are 1) Mrs. M.B. Engineer and 2) Mr. Aspi Behram Engineer. The same is a B-3 Defence land owned by the Governmen of India, Ministry of Defence. The applicant Mr. Aspi Behramj Engineer vide application dated 23.06.2023 intimated that the recorded Holder of Occupancy Rights (HOR) Mrs. M.8. Engineer (mother of applicant) died on 29.09.2015 and further requested to delete the name of his mother from the General land register and

record his name as the only HOR by inheritance. The applicant has further submitted that Mrs. M.B. Engineer has pequeathed her Occupancy Rights in the OGB to the applicant by wi dated 21.10.2014. He further submitted that he is the sole legal heir of his deceased mother. In support of his claim, the applicant has submitted last will and testament of Mrs. M.B. Engineer and ar affidavit that he is the sole legal heir of the deceased.

The above-named legal heir has executed an Admission Deed on 27.02.2025 accepting the Government's right over the land appurtenant to Old Grant Bungalow No.10, Kahun Road in GLR Sy No. 338 of Pune Cantt & that it is resumable by the Government. The same is registered in the O/o Jt. Sub Registrar, Haveli No-10 Pune a

SrNo. 7705/2025 on 10.03.2025. The mutation of the Occupancy Rights will be carried out on the ollowing terms & conditions -

. No compensation will be paid for any unauthorized construction tanding on the premises in the case of resumption. The Govt. will no be bound to pay for compensation for authorized structures on the basis of sale-price. According to the circulars issued by the Gov from time to time, the competent authority shall assess the compensation of the property as per the depreciated value of the authorized structures

II. The property shall not be used for any purposes other that esidential purpose, without approval of the Govt. of India

III The sanction for mutation shall not be considered as regularization of any breach pertaining to Old Grant Terms or any other Rules/Act

IV. The competent authority may revert the mutation of the legal heirs above, on its own opinion or on receiving any authentic information by giving proper opportunity to the proposed HOR, for defence. If the Competent Authority intends to do so, it shall initiate a due process t

mutate the property in favour of genuine person/persons. V. The concerned person has to submit an Indemnity bond to the effect that if in future any legal dispute/complication is raised ir respect of subject mutation, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Defence & ts subordinate officers will be exempted from such lega proceedings

Therefore, if any person has any objection or claim against th proposed mutation in favour of above mentioned legal heirs, the may submit their objections or claims along with supporting documents in the office of the DEO, Pune Circle. 16 Rajendra Singhj Road, Pune Cantonment, Pune 411 001 within 30 days of publication of this Public Notice, otherwise, it shall be deemed that no one has any objection against the proposed mutation and further process o utation will be completed

File No. H/387/I Date: 19.03.202

SD/ (VIDYADHAR PAWAR) **Defence Estates Officer**

1	PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
LD	Regd office: PSEB Head Office. The Mall, Patiala-147001.
7'	Corporate Identity Number:140109PB2010SGC033813
PSPCL	Website:www.pspel.in (Contact no. 96461-17604, 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry no: 1780/FE&T/O&M/PC-2652 Dated: 20-03-2025 Chief Engineer/O&M (P&P Cell-11). GHTP. Lehra Mohabbat-151111 Distt. Bathinda invites E-tender for the Procurement of Agro Residue-based Biomass Non-Torrefied Pellets for GHTP. Lehra Mohabbat. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https: eproc.punjab.gov.in from 20-03-2025 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at httpseproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-20/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, property described in the Schedule written hereunder ("Said Property") is owned by MR. ADITYA GIRISH GADIYA having its registered office at 301+302 Gran Exito, B.T. Kawade Road, Ghorpadi, Pune. We are investigating the title of Said Property.

ALL persons having or claiming to have any right, title, share, claim of interest in respect of the Said Property or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, under-lease, tenancy, subtenancy, license, mortgage, development rights, lis-pendens, inheritance, gift, trust, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, possession, reservation of any kind, covenant, condition, encumbrance or operation of law or otherwise of whatsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing, along with documentary evidence in support of the same to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date hereof, falling which the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and not binding in any manner whatsoever. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained and shall be treated as waived, abandoned and void.

THE SCHEDULE HEREINABOVE REFERRED TO: (DESCRIPTION OF THE SAID PROPERTY BEING SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS NOTICE)

All that piece and parcels of land being subdivided into Amenity Space A1 admeasuring about 8746.59 sq. Mtrs. (said land), carved out of sanctioned layout of S. No. 214/2/1, 214/2/2, 214/2/7, 214/2/8, 214/2/9, 220/2A/4/1, 220/24/4/2, 220/24/4/10, 221/2B/1/1, 221/2B/1/2, 221/1A/2, 221/1A/1, 221/2A/2/1, 221/1D/1, 221/2A/2/2, & 221/1C, situated at village Fursungi, Taluka Haveli District Pune, within the newly included limits of Fursungi-Urali Devachi Municipal Council, and which land is

bounded as uncer:-On or towards the **East**: by S. No. 222, Village Fursungi On or towards the **South**: By Amenity PlotA2 On or towards the **West**: By Amenity Plot B On or towards the North : By remaining part of the sanctioned building layout

SMITA S. AWALE, ADVOCATE

Office No 108, 1st Floor, Commerce House, Near Natubaug Ganpati, Above five Star Shoes, 1365, Bajirao Road, Sadashiv Peth Pune 411030 Phone No. : 9604180064

1 and	A.P.S. AGRO INDUSTRIES	DEVELOPMENT
(故事)	CORPORATION	N LTD.
	(A Govt. Undertak Admin Office: G1, G2, Prime Hill Cres Mangalagiri, Guntur Email: <u>gmapagros∕@email.com</u> , web site: <u>w</u>	t, Vaddeswaram, 522302, District
No.Agros/AN	AC/STLs/2024-25	Date: 20-03-2025
Supply and	E-TENDER I Installation of Atomic Absorption Spe	ectrophotometer & Other Soi
	upment for AMC-STLs at 9 Districts of A ler schedule please visit AP E-procu	
www.apagr	<u>:0s.org</u>	Sd/-
No: 3631PI	P/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22/Dt: 21/03/2025	Vice Chairman & Managing Director

FORM NO. NCLT. 3A BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL MUMBAI COMPANY PETITION NO. 98 OF 2025

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), having its registered office at Sidbi Tower, 15 Ashok Marg, Lucknow, 226001, Uttar Pradesh and having Branch Office at Swavalamban Bhavan, Plot No. C-11, G Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400051, Maharashtra EMAIL: sarb_mumbai@sidbi.in ... Financial Credito

VERSUS

Dr. Smiths Biotech Private Limited, having its registered at Office No. 508-511, Sacred World, 5th Floor, Above Macdonald, Vitthal Rao Shivarkar Road, W, Anowrie, Pune, Pune, Maharashtra, India, 411040 and Having Office At Sn-593, Opp. Malabar Hill, Sindh Hind Society, Lulla Nagar, Pune 411048 ...Corporate Debto

NOTICE OF PETITION A Petition under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 for initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of Dr. Smithe Biotech Private Limited was presented by Advocate Darshit Dave or behalf of Small Industries Development Bank of India on 18th March 2025 vherein, the Hon'ble Tribunal Ordered Paper Publication of the Notice upon Dr. Smiths Biotech Private Limited and has fixed the Company Petition for hearing before National Company Law Tribunal, Mumba Bench presiding over Court 6 comprising of Member Judicial Mr. Nilesi Sharma and Member Technical Mr. Sameer Kakkar on 7th April 2025. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should end to the petitioner's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, to reach the petitioner advocate not later than 'two days before the date fixed for the hearing o the petition/application/reference. Where he seeks to oppose the petition/application/reference, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the etition/application/reference will be furnished by the undersigned t any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges fo

In view of the aforementioned, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above aptioned matter will come up for hearing before the Hon'ble Nationa Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench, presiding over Court - 6 comprising of Member Judicial Mr. Nilesh Sharma and Member Technica Mr. Sameer Kakkar on 7th April 2025 at 10:30am or soon thereafter when, the Petitioner will press for admission of the Petition for initiating Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process against Dr. Smiths Biotec Private Limited Darshit Dave

Dated this 22nd day of March. 2025

Advocate for Petitione Cabin No. 5, 1st Floor, Above Teekays Shopping Center Ready Money Mansion, next to Akbarally 43, Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 Mobile No: +9819626287 Email: office@darshitdave.com

MAH/1681/2014

Place : Pune Date : 21/03/

BHARATI SAHAKARI BANK LTD., PUNE (Multi-State Scheduled Bank) HEAD OFFICE :

13, Sadashiv Peth, B. V. Bhavan, LBS Road, Pune - 411030 Ph.: 020-29522907/29521231 Email: bsbho@bharatibankpune.com Branch - Erandwane (Kothrud) - Shop No.1,2,34, Shivsagar Co-op Hsg. Soc. Ltd., S. No.94, Right Bhusari Colony Erandwane, Kothrud, Pune 411 038. Ph.: 020-25281088 Email: erandwana@bharatibankpune.cor

POSSESSION NOTICE Rule - 8(1)

Vhereas undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bharati Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pur inder Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securit nterest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read wit Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice unde Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amou nentioned in the said Notice within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.

The borrowers and others mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amoun notice is hereby given to the borrowers and others mentioned herein below in particula and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sectio 3(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

The borrowers and the others mentioned herein below in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the roperty will be subject to the charge of Bharatl Sahakarl Bank Ltd., Pune for an amoun ogether with future interest at the contractual rate (s) on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs & charges etc. incurred and to be incurred till the date o avment.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of ne Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr.	Name of Borrowers/Guarantors	OutstandIng	Date of	Date of
No.		Amount	Demand Notice	Possession
1	Borrower : Mr. Sumeet Sanjay Deokar Mr. Swapnil Sanjay Deokar and Smt. Sunanda Sanjay Deokar, Flat No. 703, Building No. B-1, Mahalaxmi Vihar, Near Big Bazar, Vishrantwadi, Pune- 411015 and Guarantors : 1) Mr. Avinash Vijay Khandekar, Ghar No. 16, 29/1, Veer Netajiwadi, Shivajinagar, Pune- 411 005 and 2) Mr. Pankaj Anil Tupe, Flat No. 15, Shiv Parvati Apartment, S. No. 6/13, Sutarwadi – Sus Road, Pashan, Pune- 411 021	Rs.32,72,587/- (Rupees ThIrty Two Laks Seventy Two Thousand Flve Hundred Elghty Seven Only) with future interest and incidental expenses, costs and charges etc. incurred and to be incurred from 01/01/2025 onwards	02/01/2025	17/03/2025 (Symbolic)

Description of Property mortgaged and with possession of Bank : Flat No. 703 admeasuring about 1230 Sq, Ft. (114.26 Sq. Mtrs.) built up, attached Terra admeasuring about 250 sq. ft. (23.22 sq. mtrs.) and Top Terrace admeasuring about 975 sg. ft. (90.57 Sg. mtrs.) on Seventh floor along with Car Parking No. CP-24, admeasuring about 8 Sq. mtrs. of the Building / Wing No. B-1 of project Mahalxmi Vihar constructed or and admeasuring about 18493 sq. mtrs. out of Survey No.44A/1 having corresponding CTS No. 50 lying and being situated at Dhanori, Tal. Haveli, Dist : Pune.



.03.2023	Purle Circle, Purle OT	
POOMPUHAR	SHIPPING CORPOR	RATION LIMITED
	overnment of Tamilnadu Enterpri	
COO Amma Galat	N/ ^(h) Elecen Mendemann, Obernal	COO ODE India

phone No. : 044 - 24330505 / 807, Fax: : 91-44-24344593 /24335 E-mail : pscship@gmail.com CIN : U63090TN1974PLC006596

GLOBAL E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

Notice inviting e-tender for long term time chartering of one self-trimming Panamax gearless (or with gears considered as gearless) vessel with capacity of about 68,000 to 79,000 DWT or account of NTECL

E-tender bids are invited from the Ship owners / disponent owners for the following specification:						
Tender Number	Lay Days	Period	Tender Download start date	Bid Submission end date	Tender Opening date	
PSC/CHARTERING/ 004/2024-25., Dt20.03.2025	25.04.2025 to 15.05.2025	+/-10 days	at	21.04.2025 at 1200 hours	21.04.2025 at 1400 hours	

Tender document is available in e-tendering web portal https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep app and www.tamilship.com at free of cost. Prospective bidders are advised to refer for https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app specific important details and upload their bid. The conditions / requirement mentioned in the website shall be met out by the bidders. This advertisement is an invitation for bid only. The details given in the website are comprehensive Tender Opening Venue: Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Limited, Head Office, No. 692, Anna Salai, MHU Complex - 4th Floor, Nandanam, Čhennai - 600 035

Further, all communications / corrigendum will be updated through https://tntenders.gov.in / nicgep / app only. DIPR/1131/TENDER/2025

GENERAL MANAGER (OPS)

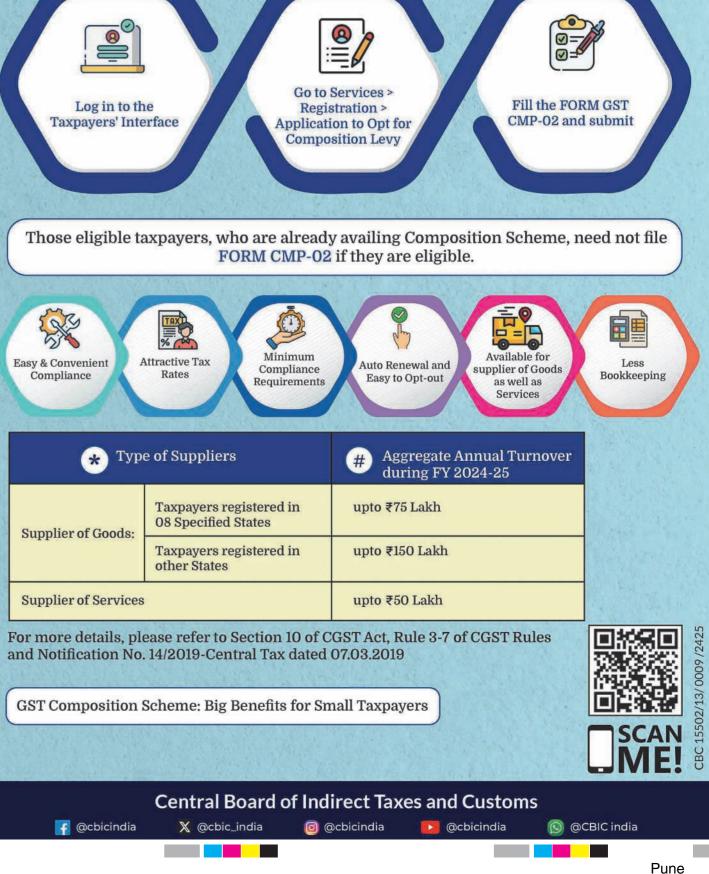
SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LIMITED CIN: U45102GJ1997PLC031906

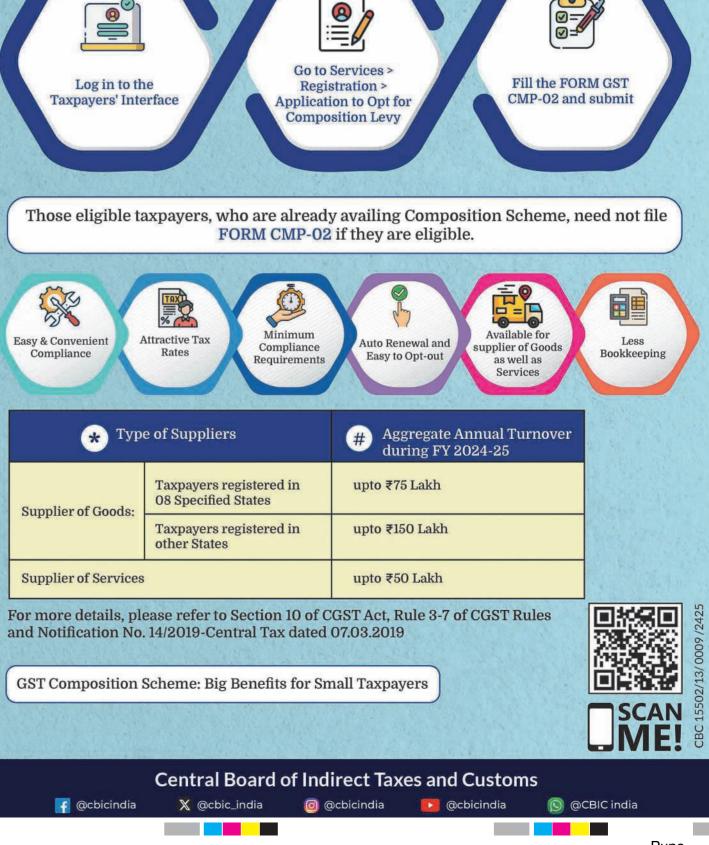
Registered Office: Admin Building, MTF Area, Village Sikka, Taluka & District Jamnagar - 361 140, Gujarat, India. Website: www.sptl.co.in E-mail: company.secretary@sptl.co.in Tel.: 022-3555 7100 • Fax: 022-3555 5560

Attention! GST Taxpayers

Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover[#] is upto a specified limit* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2025-2026 by 31st March, 2025

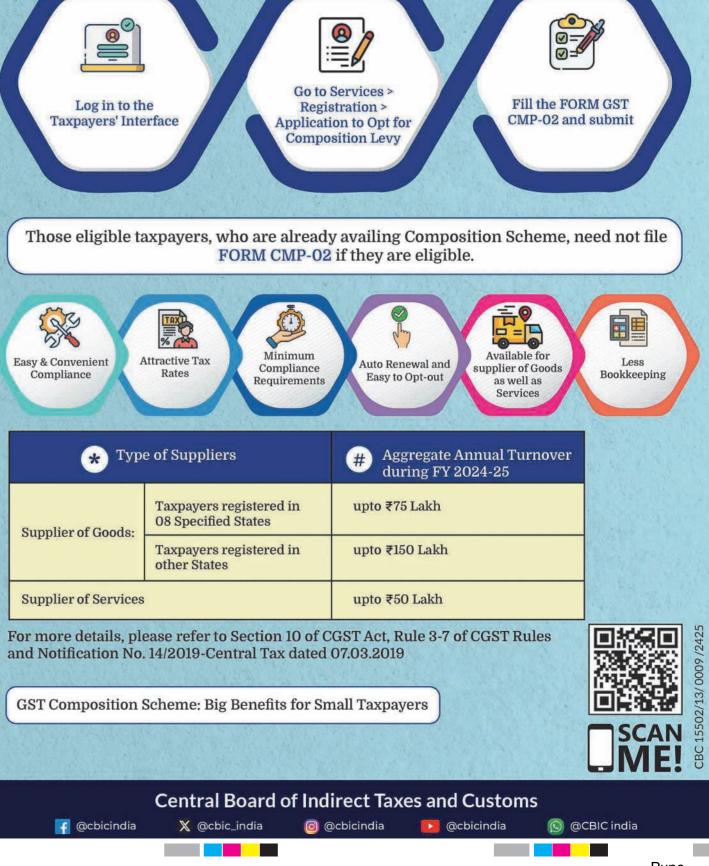
Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):





वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF FINANCE त्यमेव जया







Dated this 21st day of March 2025

No. 42832/PE

NOTICE TO THE DEBENTUREHOLDERS

Record Dates and Due Dates for Payment of Interest during the Financial Year April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Company has fixed 'Record Date' for the Secured Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures for determining the names of the debentureholders eligible to receive interest payment during the financial year April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. The debentureholders whose names appear (a) as Beneficial Owners on the Record Date as per the list furnished by the Depositories in respect of the debentures held in electronic form, and (b) as debentureholders in the Register of Debentureholders on the Record Date, would be entitled to the said payments, as per details given hereunder

ISIN	Debenture Series	% of Interest (p.a.)	Purpose	Record Date	Due Date of Payment of Interest
INE941D07208	Debentures - PPD 12	6.75%	Payment of Interest	7-April-2025	22-April-2025
INE941D07158	Debentures - PPD 6	7.95%	Payment of Interest	13-October-2025	28-October-2025
INE941D07166	Debentures - PPD 7	7.90%	Payment of Interest	3-November-2025	18-November-2025

Debenture holders are requested to keep their PAN and bank account details updated with their respective Depository Participants ('DPs') with whom they are maintaining their demat accounts

Place : Mumbai Date : March 21, 2025			KA PORTS & TERMINALS LIMITED Sd/- Forum Sheth ny Secretary and Compliance Officer
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD	LIC Housing Finance Ltd Back Office: "Jeevan Shree", 1109, University Road, Shivaii Nagar, Pune	-16	POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL), under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (said Act) & in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the concerner borrowers, as per details given below, to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Notice within 60 days from the date of the respective notice. The Concerned Borrowers / Property Holders having failed to repay the respective due amounts, notice is hereby given to the Concerned Borrowers / Property Holders in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act on the date mentioned belov The Concerned Borrowers / Property Holders in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the concerned properties and any dealing with the said properties will be subject to the charge of LIC Housing Finance Ltd for amounts mentioned below

University Road, Shivaji Nagar, Pune-16.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Demand Notice Date and OutstandIng Amount (Rs.) as on	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Secured Assets
1.	Mr. J. S. Purandare & Ranjana J. Purandare (Loan A/c No.: 620600005328)	Rs. 28,54,976.53 as on 27.12.2023 plus interest with incidental expenses, charges, cost etc. incurred/to be incurred		Flat No. 705, Sara City, Gut No. 187/1/2 189 4, Kharabwadi Khed 2 Dist. Pune, Maharashtra.
2.	Mr. J. S. Purandare & Ranjana J. Purandare (Loan A/c No.: 620600005394)	Rs. 10,17,934.29 as on 01.12.2023 plus interest with incidental expenses, charges, cost etc. incurred/tobeincurred		Flat No. 705, Sara City, Gut No. 187/1/2 189 4, Kharabwadi Khed 2 Dist. Pune, Maharashtra.
3.	Mr. J. S. Purandare & Ranjana J. Purandare (Loan A/c No.: 620600005395)	Rs. 17,42,190.49 as on 01.12.2023 plus interest with incidental expenses, charges, cost etc. incurred/tobeincurred		Flat No. 705, Sara City, Gut No. 187/1/2 189 4, Kharabwadi Khed 2 Dist. Pune, Maharashtra.
	ce : 22.03.2025 te : Pune			Authorlsed Officer LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025



22 March 2012 On 22 March 2012, troops Veer Balidani of the 150th Battalion, CRPF, Head Constable Om Prakash were conducting camp Ram perimeter patrol near 150 Bn Chintagupha, Sukma. After 3-8-1965 To securing the area, they 22-3-2012 established pickets at the busy

Chintagupha market to monitor Maoist activity. Amidst the crowded marketplace, a Maoist stealthily approached HC Om Prakash Ram from behind and attacked him with a sharp-edged knife before blending into the crowd and escaping. Despite an extensive search, the assailant remained elusive. HC Om Prakash Ram succumbed to his injuries, laying down his life in the line of duty.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE LNK DARSHAN SINGH

01.03.1963 - 22.03.1994 Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K)



BORDER SECURITY FORCE CT HARIPAL YADAV, PPMG

07.08.1968 - 22.03.2001 Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K)

OSBI

BORDER SECURITY FORCE HC SOHAN LAL, PMG

05.11.1951 - 22.03.1999 Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Dalwah area, Udhampur (J&K)

STATE BANK OF INDIA MINI RACPC, Ganpatl Peth Branch, Near Ganpatl Mandlr, Sangli 416416

Publication of Notice regarding Possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securit Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Securit Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a Demand Notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general tha the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power confe on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against eac account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any deal with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereor The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of tim ailable to redeem the secu

ava	lable to redeemin	ile secureu assels						
Sr. No	Names (s) of the Borrower	Description of Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbollc Possession	OutstandIng Amount (Rs.)			
1	Mr.Sambhaji Shekhar Kamble And Mr.Sadashiv Shekhar Kamble	Property owned by: Residential property: Flat No. FF-B on 5th Floor admeasuring carpet area 78.81Sq.Mtrs.and it's total ara with built up area 93.90 Sq. Mtrs.in the building known as 'Green Valley' constructed on the C.T.S. No.51/B/1 situated at Jaysingpur, Tal.Shirol Dist- Kolhapur. Bounded by towards its East : Side Margin, West : Side Margin, South : Flat No. FF-C on Fifth Floor, North : Flat No. FF-Aon Fifth Floor	13-01-2025	18-03-2025	Rs.34,27,651.00 (Rs.Thirty Four Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty One only) as on 13-01-2025 & further interest, costs, etc.			
2	Mrs.Yojana Gajanan Chavan	Property owned by: All those piece and parcels the Residential property: Bhosale Restdency situated at C S No. 1056/1, 1056/5 out of it on first floor apartment flat no-3, admeasuring carpet area 45.93 Sq.Mtrs. Built up area 52.35 Sq. Mtrs, Goanbhag, Sangll-416416. East: First Floor Flat no-4, West: C.S.No-1054, South C.S.No-1056/6, North C.S.No.1048	01-01-2025	20-03-2025	Rs.21,52,596.00 (Rs.Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six only) as on 13-01-2025 & further interest, costs, etc. thereon.			
	Date :21-03-2025 Authorised Officer Place : Sangli State Bank of India							

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF Zonal SASTRA Centre, Mumbai punjab national bank PNB Pragati Tower, 1st floor, Plot C-9, Block- G, SECURED ASSETS Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051 Together for the better Inited 🔞 Email: zs8356@pnb.co.in **UNDER SARFAESI ACT** E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provise

to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

votice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, th constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Sr	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties		A)Reserve Price (Rs. in	Date/ Time	Details of the
No.	Name of the Account		of SARFESIACT 2002	Lacs)	of	encumbrances
	Name & addresses of the Borrower/	property(ies))	B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.09.2024	B)EMD	E-Auction	known to the secured
	Guarantors Account		C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of	C)Bid Increase Amount		creditors
			SARFESIACT 2002			
			D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive			
	Zonal SASTRA, MUMBAI	Plant & Machinaries AND Land & Building lying		A. 42,00,000/-	07.04.2025	Income tax
	M/s. Shri Vinayak Milk Product pvt ltd	at Gut no. 395/1, Chichewadi, Gadhinglaj, Dist.		B. 4,20,000/-		attachment for Rs
		Kolhapur owned by M/s. Shri Vinayak Milk		C. 1,00,000/-	11:00AM to	1.55 Crore as per
			D) Physical	For land and building	04:00PM	7/12 extracted on
		Total area 62000 sq ft		D) 3,00,000/-		21.03.2025
				E) 30,000/-		
				F) 10,000/-		
				For plant and machinery		



SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD {Formerly Known As Equitas Finance Ltd}

Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002.# 044-42995000, 044-42995050

SALE NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002, R/w rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. 002

lotice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable operty mortgaged to the Secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Equitas Small Finance ank Ltd., will be sold on 25-04-2025 "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" for recovery of below mentioned amount due to Equitas mall Finance Bank Ltd., from the following borrower Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name &

Address Total Due + Interest from 1.Mr.Pratiba Vikas Kudale, W/o.Vikas, 2.Mr.Vikas Shamrao Kudale, S/o.Shamrao Rao 3.Mrs.Kausalya Shamarav Kudale W/o.Shamarav, All are Marathi Shalejaval, A/P-Kumakthe, Koregaor Taluk, Satara District, Maharashtra - 415501. Loan Account No:- SESATAR0210299 Claim Amount Due Rs.2.44.675/- as on 17.04.2023 vith further interest from 18.04.2023 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.4,01,815/- as on 14-03-2025). I.Mr.Santosh Subhash Pawar, S/o.Subhash 2.Mrs.Reshma Santosh Pawar, W/o.Santosh Both are at Shivaneri Niwas, Plot No.45, New Suni nagar, Akkalkot Road, Solapur, Maharashtra

equitas

Equitas Small Finance Bank

with further interest from 07.05.2023 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.6,29,311/- as on 14-03-2025) 1.Mr.Raju Ramprasad Chouhan 2.Mrs.Sanjana Devi, W/o.Raju Ramprasad (Both are at:A/P -00 Ramamata Chowk, Akluj Taluk Malshiras, Akluj Solapur, Maharashtra – 413101. Loan Account No:- SEAKLUJ0341861 Claim Amount Due Rs.2,19,948/- as on 28.04.2023

with further interest from 29.04.2023 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding Contact Name: Sagar Chavan : 7972328475 being Rs.3,96,670/- as on 14-03-2025). 1.Mr.Appaso Ananda Sapkal, /o.Mr.Ananda Sapkal, 2.Mrs.Padmavati Appaso Sapkal W/o.Mr.Appaso Sapkal, (Both Are: Sapkal Galli, Digraj Sangali, Maharashtra 416416. Loan Account No:- SEMADAV0374419 Claim Amount Due Rs.5.45.529/- as on 19.01.2024 with further interest from 20.01.2024 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.8,15,394/- as on 14-03-2025) nexed thereto. 1.Mr.Vikram Vishnu Gaikwad. o.Vishnu Gaikwad, 2.Mrs.Mohini Vikram Gaikwad. Wo.Vikram Gaikwad, Wo.Vikram Gaikwad, (Both Are:Mu Pohargaon, Post Ambe, Taluk Mr.Dama Shankar Gaikwad; Measurement:6300 Sq.ft.,Situated at Within the Sub-Pandharpur, Gaikwad Vasti, Pohargaon Solapur, Ambe Solapur, Maharashtra - 413304. Loan Account No:- SEPRPUR0394143 Claim Amount Due Rs. 10.71.079/- as on 29.03.2023 exed thereto with further interest from 30.03.2023 with monthly rest charges and costs. etc.. (Total Outstanding

Date of Auction: 25-04-2025

For details and queries on purchase and sale he intending hidders/purch rs are advised to visit ESFB Branch and the auction pro arties and make his own enquiry and as charges, encumbrances and any third-party Interests and satisfy himself/herself/itself in all aspects there to before submitting the bid. All statutory Office of Pune Cantonment Board dues like property taxes, electricity/water dues and any other dues, if any, attached to the property to be ascertained and paid by the successfu eserves right to revoke the mutation, if i s noticed in future that, the applicant has bidder. The interseted bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and to the ploperty to be ascentance and pair by the successful bidder. The interseted bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and to the plopersit (EMD) by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account o uppressed / misrepresented the facts igned at Pune on this 20th day of March "Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd", Account No- 20000807725 and IFSC Code- ESFB0001001, Bhaggyam Galleria, New No. 18, Bazulla Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-do 1017 drawn on any nationalized or scheduled Bank on or before 24-04-2025. For detailed terms and conditions of the E-Auction sale, please refer to the link provided www.equitasbank.com 8 Pune, Dated: 20th March 2025. **Chlef Executive Officer** https://www.bankeauctions.com **Pune Cantonment Board**

Co-Applicant2 : Kausalya Shamarav Kudale 45 R, out of it an area Adm. H-00-04 R(4000 Sq. Feet), situated at Khindwadi Village, Satara Taluk and District, and bounded on the; North by:Remaining Property of said Gat Number; South by:Property of Mr. Deshmukh;East by:Road;West by:Remaining Property of said Gat Number; Measurement:4000 Sq. ft., Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Satara and Registration District of Satara

Description of the Immovable Property

Fogether with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights

Reserve Price: Rs. 12,80,000 /-, Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,28,000 /-Contact Names: Nitin Desai: 9923647673, Rohit Chavan: 7083383243

> All that piece and parcel of the property bearing new Survey No. 167/1, out of that South-North middle portion of Plot No.5B, Ad-measuring 92.93 sq.mr. i.e. 1000 sq.ft. situated at Nitin Nagar, Kasbe Solapur, North Solapur Taluk, Solapur District, Within the local limits of Solapur Municipal Corporation, Solapur, and bounded on the North By:Plot No.5 out of that Not No. 53, South By:Plot No. 5 out of that Plot No. 50; East By:Rand of Nitkantheshwar Nagar; West By:Road; Measurement: 1000 Sq.ft., Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of North Solapur I and Registration District of Solapur.

ogether with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to nything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights nexed thereto.

Reserve Price: Rs. 8,00,000 /-, Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 80,000 /-Contact Name: Sagar Chavan : 7972328475

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.27/1/1/1/P/15, out of that portio of Plot No.15, Ad-measuring 83.66 sq.mtr., i.e 900 sq.ft., situated at Grampanchayat Akuluj Malshiras, Solapur District, and bounded on the;North by:Colony Road;South by:Plo

No. 14; East by:Out of Plot No. 15; West by:Plot No. 13; Measurement 1900 sq.ft. Situated at within the Sub-Registraion District of Akluj and Registration District of Solapur. Together with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights

nexed thereto. Reserve Price: Rs. 5,04,000 /-Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 50,400 /-

Property-1 All that piece and parcel of property bearing Grampanchayat Sr. 406, Grampanchayat Milkat No. 282/2, area adm. 245 Sq. Ft., i.e. 22.76 Sq. Mtr., alongwith construction area adm. 33.64 Sq. Mtr., situated Mouje Digras, Taluka Miraj, District Sangali bounded on the;North by:Property of Daatatray Shankar Sapalkar; South by: Milkat of Balaso Govind Sapakal;East by: Bol Road & after that Namdev Laxman Sapkal;West by: Milkat of Anil Sapata, Last by John Road when the that Nanhoe's Lannah Gapati, Vest by Milliad of Alm Ashok Sapkal; Measurement : 245 SQ, FL, Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of SRO Miraj 1 and Registration District of Sangali. ogether with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to nything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights Reserve Price: Rs. 5,25,700 /-, Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 52,570 /-Contact Name: Nitin Desai : 9923647673 All that piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Grampanchayat Milkat No.150 Ad-measuring 585.50 Sq.mtr i.e. 6300 Sq.ft situated at Grampanchayat Pohargaon Tal, Pandharpur District Solapur and bounded on the North By:Plot of Mr.pandharinath Registration District of pandharpur and Registration District of Solapur Together with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to

anything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights Reserve Price: Rs. 21,64,400 /-,Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 2,16,440 /-

Contact Name: Sagar Chavan: 7972328475 being Rs.18,04,777/- as on 14-03-2025).

9820559592 **CENTRAL RAILWAY** SOLAPUR DIVISION

Lost Shares Certificate

Netaji Co-operative

Housing Society, Wanwadi Pune 40

Building No. 34 Flat No. 480

Shares Certificate No. 480

(Disticative No. 2369 to 2400)

If anyone found Please

E-Tender Notice

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024 46R. Name of work: Electrical genera service portion work in connection with the provision of energy efficient of various capacity pumps with all accessories over Solapur division (Reinvitation). Estimated cost: 1,60,74,494.89. Validity of offer: 60 Days. Bid Security: 2,30,400/-. Completion Period: 12 Months. Date & time of tenders closing on website: 15.04.2025 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on www.ireps.gov.ir website Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),

DE/Sur-54 Central Rallway, Solapur रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION **E-Tender Notice**

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway. Solapur. for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.lreps.gov.ln from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024/ 15R2. Name of work: Electrical general portion of work in connection with provision of Approach Road Platform widening(400m x 5.5m) development of circulating area (250n x 10m), HL platform, construction of Godown. Hamal room, CGS office Room. SM room. Relay room, IPS room, shed to Goods PF. Pit line at Latur. (Reinvitation). Estimated cost: Rs. 92,50,212.67. Bid Security: Rs 1,85,000/-. Completion Period: 18 Months. Validity of offer: 60 Days. Date & time of tender closing on website: 15.04.2025 at 15:00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on www.lreps.gov.in

website. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), DE/Sur-52 Central Rallway, Solapur रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

PUNE CANTONMENT BOARD

PUNE CANTONMENT BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that the property known as House No. 6 A Sholapur Bazar, GLR Sy. No. 390-3063 admeasuring 1452.00 sq. ft. Pune Cantonment is held on Old Grant Terms. The recorded HoRs are 1. Angela Vincent Mendonza 2. Marshal Joseph. Mr. Asif Hamid Sayyed submitted application dtd 09.11.2023 requesting for transfer of property on the basis of following documents: (a) Sale Deed dt. 05.08.2023 Regd at HVL-23/19179/2023 (b) Admission Deed dt. 13.08.2024 Regd atHVL-11 Sr. No. 6155/2024 (c) copy of Affidavit dt. 3.03.2024 executed by MS Jazeba Kausar Anees Chishti & Mr.Asif Hamid Sayyed. (d) Deed of Correction regd at HVL-23/3829/2025 dt. 12.02.25 After mutation, name of the HoR, to be recorded in the General Land Register is asunder: (I) Ms Jazeba Kausar Anees Chishti

i) Ms Jazeeba KausarAnees Chishti ii) Ms Jazeeba KausarAnees Chishti ii) Mr. Asif Hamid Sayyed Any person having any objection for aforesaid mutation, he/she may file nis/her objection in writing to the Lands Section of Pune Cantonment Board hin 30 days of publication

413006. Loan Account No:- SEDATAN0248846 Claim Amount Due Rs.5,32,746/- as on 06.05.2023 o.Ramprasad

Sd/

REGISTRAR

Period: 24 Months. Validity of offer: 90 Days. Date & time of tender

fitted on LHB type AC coaches of roof mounted design of Solapur Division

closing on website: 15.04.2025 at

Name of Work: Electrical General services portion of work in connection with Take-off siding for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Estimated cost: Rs. 66,61,906.22/-Bid Security: Rs.1,33,200/-Completion Period: 12 months Validity of offer: 60 Days. Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024/28R1 Name of Work: Annual Maintenance Contract of AC package unit of various make

for a period of two years. Estimated cost: Rs. 2,17,65,593.59. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,58,800/-. Completion

15.00 hours. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),

DE/Sur-53 Central Railway, Solapur रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

Engineer, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024/ 06R1.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice

The Senior Divisional Electrical

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

(Advt. No. CUPB/24-25/015 Dated 21.03.20

Online applications are invited from prospective & eligible candidates for

VPO Ghudda, District-Bathinda-151401 (Punjab), Email: recruitment@cup.edu.in

विज्ञापन का हिंदी रूपान्तर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) from registered

contractors / agencles on Mahatransco E-Tendering website

Tender No :- CE/EHV PC O&M Zone/Pune/T-84/2024-25 RFX No

Subject: E-tender for work of providing additional 2x50 MVA 220/22

kV TF along with HV & LV bays, 12 nos of 22kV GIS bays, 2 nos of PT

GIS bays. I no of 22kV Bus Sectionaliser GIS bays, 2 nos of Bus PT &

allied civil works at 220kV Century Enka S/s. (TF will be provided

Tender Amount:- Rs. 15,51,31,836/- EMD:- Rs. 15,51,318/-

Download of tender Documents :- From dtd. 21/03/2025 to dtd

Bid Opening: Dtd. 11/04/2025 after 12:00Hrs (Tech.); Dtd.

http://srmetender.mahatransco.in; for following works.

E TENDER NOTICE

following Teaching Positions on Regular Basis:

Visit www.cup.edu.in for more details

Last Date to apply online: 21.04.2025 (upto 05 PM)

Professor

Associate Professor

Assistant Professor

 \gg

MAHATRANSCO

7000035838.

by MSETCL)



Tender Fees:- Rs. 25,000/- +GST.

11/04/2025 up to 11:00 Hrs.



1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule nereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com on date and time mentioned in the above table. 4. The Authorised Officer eserves the right to accept or reject any / all bids, or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision this regard shall be final. 5. All statutory dues / attendant charges / other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 6. Account is under physical Possession 7. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer, www.pnbindia.in

Date: 21.03.2025	For Punjab National Bank
Place: Mumbai	Chief Manager
	Authorised Officer,

Chief Manager Authorised Officer PNB, Secured Creditor Contact No: 9766524873

E-AUCTION

SALE NOTICE



Bank of Baroda : Regional Office, Solapur 2nd floor, Mhetre Towers, Vishwakaran Park Near D-mart, Jule Solapur, Solapur - 413003

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES (APPENDIX -IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6)])

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged /charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by Authorised officer of Bank of Baroda, secured creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is ", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Sr. No.		Description of Property	Possession Type	Dues as per 13(2)	Date and time of auctlon	Reserve Price EMD and Bid Increase Amount	Property inspection date and Time
1.	Mr. Shyam Marutl Ghante	Residential Plot Gat No 7/2, Plot No 37, Admeasuring 363.60 Sq.meter, Situated At Savatntra Sainik Ramchandra Surwase Nagar, Bale, Tal.north Solapur, Dist. Solapur 413255	Symbolic	Rs. 25,67,766.14/- +Interest +other expenses etc. till date (less recovery if any)	23/04/2025 from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Reserve Price Rs. 25.00/- lakh EMD Rs. 2.50/- lakh BID Increase Rs. 10,000/-	22/04/2025 from 10.00 Am to 4.00 PM
2.	M/s S S Traders Prop Prakash Sampatrao Chorge	Residential Flat Situated At City Survey No 472a, Sadar Bazar, Cmc Capital, Apartment No 05, Flat No 201, First Floor, Municipal Milkat No 31035645 (old 472) Opp Dr. Patil Accident Hospital, Near Govt. Rest House, Suryavanshi Colony, City Satara, Tal. Satara, Dist Satara.	Physical	Rs. 5,47,55,060.48/- +Interest +other expenses etc. till date (less recovery if any)	23/04/2025 from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Reserve Price Rs.57.00/- lakh EMD Rs. 5.70/- lakh BID Increase Rs. 10,000/-	22/04/2025 from 10.00 Am to 4.00 PM

For detailed terms and condition of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com portal, Prospective Bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Tel No. 9901681333 & 7069121711

Date: 20/03/2025 Place: Solapur



Scan here for Detail Terms & Condition

Date: 22-03-2025, Place: Pune

Sd/-Authorized Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (Subrat Pal)

Possession Notice laharashtra Gramin Bank (Rule 8 (1) For movable / Immovable Property)

Head Office : Plot No.42, Gut No.33 (Part), Golwadi Village, Growth Center, Waluj Mahanagar IV, CIDCO, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar 431136 **Regional Office : Pune**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer / Regional Manager, Maharashtra Gramin Bank, Regional Office : Pune (Branch Bhugaon, Tg. Mulashi, & Wagholl Dist. Pune) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice on date calling upon the concerned Borrower / Guarantor fully described to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest, incidental expenses & cost within 60 days from the date or receipt of the said notice. The following borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted Borrower / Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession** of the property in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with the Rule No. 8 of the said Rules on following dates described as below. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the movable / immovable assets / property and any dealing with the movable/ immovable assets / property will be subject to the charge of Authorised Officer / Regional Manager, Maharashtra Gramin Bank, Regional Office: Pune (Branch : Bhugaon Tq. Mulashi & Wagholi Dist. Pune) for the amount given & further interest, incidental expenses and cost. Description of Movable / Immovable Property

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description Of Assets With Boundaries	Amount due in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Physical Possession	Name of the Branch
1)Mr.Vijay Vitthal Shilimkar (Borrower) 2)Mrs.Mohini Vijay Shilimkar (Co- borrower) Flat No 205, 2nd Floor, B Wing,Yash Siddhi Society,Shivane, Pune,411023. Guarantors: 1)Mr.Mahesh Balasaheb Sarpatil Ghar no.231, Bhairvnath nagar, Near Shankar Mandir, Kondhawe Dhawade, Pune. 2) Mr. Rahul Shrikant Mokashi Ghar no-522, NDA road, Near Shankar Mandir, Kondhawe Dhawade, Pune. Loan AC No: Housing Loan: 80043405717,Top Up Loan : 80043715504, Cash Credit : 80031156944. FITL : 80067244955	Society, Shivane Pune, Survey No/ Gut No. 13, Hissa no 5B/2/1. (Admeasuring area about 450 Sq.Ft.) Boundaries: North : Staircase and Flat no- 204, East: Madhu Vishwa Society, South :	due as on 08/09/2023 plus, charges, expenses & interest w.e.f. 01/09/2023	08.09.2023	20.03.2025	Bhugaon Tq. Mulashi Dist. Pune
1.Mr. Sandesh Purushottam Marathe, (Borrower) 2.Mrs.Sneha Sandesh Marathe (Co-Borrower) Both Residing At: Oxy Vally Phase I, Wng D, Second Floor, Flat No D-202, BJS Theur Raod, Wagholi, Pune 412207 Guarantors: 1) Mr. Swapnil Pravin Varma R/o: Gat no 653, Bharti Gold, Wing-A, First Floor, Flat No -102, Kesanand Road,	202, "D" wing 2nd floor, adm area 37.53 sq.mtrs + Terrace 8.10 sq.mtrs carpet & Built up saleble area 56.88 sq.mtrs + car parking, CP No. 88 in Building name Oxy Valley, Phase I, Gat No 744/1 (Old Gat No 745 old S No 111) at Wagholi Tal- Haveli, Dist- Pune 4 1 2 2 0 7 . Boundaries	Rs.19,64,771/- due as on date 31/10/2023 plus interest, costs, Charges, expenses w.e.f. 01/07/2021 onwards till full recovery	01.11.2023	15.03.2025	Branch : Wagholi, Tal – Haveli Dist- Pune
Date : 22.03.2025 Place : Pune		Authorized Offi Maharashtra Gramin			Pune



ADVERTORIAL



🖌 In 2016-17, Uttar Pradesh's economy was Rs 12 lakh crore; today, it exceeds Rs 27 lakh crore. Within the next four years, Uttar Pradesh will become a \$1 trillion economy, in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a leading tourism destination, improved law and order, spiritual heritage and development of expressways, airports, and metro network. -Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

UTTAR PRADESH MODEL OF PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has evolved from a BIMARU state into a thriving economic powerhouse. With strategic governance and a clear developmental roadmap, the state is steadily advancing toward its ambitious goal of becoming a One Trillion Dollar Economy. Over the past eight years, Uttar Pradesh has achieved remarkable progress across various sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment.

Of the Rs 40 crore worth proposals received during the Global Investors Summit in 2023 (GIS-23), projects worth Rs 15 crore have materalised on the ground. UP's credit-deposit (CD) ratio, which once stood at 44%, has now exceeded 60%, indicating that its capital is being reinvested within the state.

Dedicated blue print in the State Budget 2025-26 for 10 key sectors to give a boost to the state's economy and to achieve the 1-trillion dollar economy mark, sectors are industrial development, agriculture, social security, urban development, revenue collection, education, health, tourism and the service sector.



Uttar Pradesh will make an "invaluable" contribution in the creation of a developed India. I have full faith that with the government dedicated to public welfare and the amazing talent and tireless hard work of the people here, our beloved state will make its invaluable contribution in the creation of a developed India.

> -Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

Educational Empowerment

(Rs. 1.06 lakh crore, 13%)

Uttar Pradesh remains one of the top states in education investment, with a focus on,



- Under the PM SHRI Yojana, 1,565 schools were fully equipped with hi-tech facilities and 6,481 schools were rebuilt.
- Over 1.91 cr children benifitted from uniforms.
- Smart classes and improved facilities through operation Kayakalp.
- **Scholarships:** Rs. 900 crore allocated for pre-10th and post-10th scholarships for the general category.
- Meritorious Student Support: Scooties for female students who excel academically.
- Under the scheme One Division. One **University**; in Saharanpur Aligarh, Azamgarh, Mirzapur, Devipatan and Moradabad, with 3 already operational.

EYE ON \$1 TRILLION ECONOMY

(A snapshot of UP Budget 2025-26)

- Rs. 8.09 Trillion Budget size Major Infra push with 22% is 9.8% jump over FY25
- Tax Revenue estimated at **Rs. 5.5 Trillion**
- Total recipts exceeds **Rs. 7.79 Trillion**
- Capex exceeds 20% of Budget
- allocation
- Education gets over **Rs. 1 Trillion, 13% of Budget**
- Agriculture and allied sectors get 11%
- Provision of Rs. 28,478cr for **New Projects**

The Fiscal Health Index has improved significantly from 37.0 in 2014-2019 to 45.9 in 2022-23, making UP a "front-runner state" in fiscal management.

Boosting Entrepreneurship and Employment

Employment & MSME growth

- Over 1.65 crore people are employed in 96 lakh MSME units, making UP the leading state in small-scale industries.
- ODOP initiative drives MSME expansion, creating 90 lakh jobs.
- 92,919 new government jobs to be filled through direct recruitment.
- UP's exports surged from

Khadi & Village Industries:

- Mukhyamantri Gramodyog Rozgar Yojana will generate 16,000 jobs, offering bank loans to 800 beneficiaries.
- Rs. 32 crore allocated to the *Pandit*
 - Deendayal Upadhyay Khadi Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.
 - Uttar Pradesh Mati

MEGA INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

- Mega industrial parks being developed under PM MITRA Yojana, including:
- Textile & Apparel Park (Lucknow-Hardoi)
- Leather Cluster (Hardoi, Kanpur)
- Plastic Park (Gorakhpur & Auraiya)
- Perfume Park (Kannauj)
- Chemical & Pharma Parks (Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Hapur)
- Noida & BIDA emerge as industrial cities
- A new Drug & Pharma Park in Bundelkhand
- Expressways, airports, and digital connectivity make UP an attractive business hub

Investment-Friendly Policies & Digital Reforms

- 4,674 regulatory compliance burdens reduced, easing business processes
- 12 industrial corridors are being developed along Purvanchal & Bundelkhand Expressways.
- Special incentives introduced to attract Fortune 500 companies
- Investment Mitra portal provides 487 + online services across 43 departments, ensuring 97% issue resolution

Industry-Friendly Reforms & Investments

- 71 universities across the state.
- Hostels for working women are being constructed in Varanasi, Meerut, Pravagrai, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Jhansi, and Agra with an allocated budget of Rs. 170 crore.
- Modern courses in AI, 3D printing, drones and robotics have been introduced in 150 ITIs and 62 new ITIs have been built.

Major Infrastructure & Connectivity Projects

- 4 new expressways are planned to enhance connectivity: Agra-Lucknow Expressway to Ganga Expressway (Hardoi) via Farrukhabad (Rs. 900 crore allocated).
- Vindhya Expressway connecting Ganga Expressway to Sonbhadra (Rs. 50 crore earmarked).
- Ganga Expressway Extension (Meerut-Haridwar connection, Rs. 50 crore provisioned).
- Bundelkhand-Rewa Expressway (Rs. 50 crore allocated).
- 17 Smart Cities developed (10 under Smart Cities Mission, 7 under State Mission.
- Rs 400 crore allocated for the State Smart City Scheme.
- Rs 800 crore for Green Road Infrastructure Development (Urban).

Defence & Technology Advancements

- Rs. 461 crore for the Defence Industrial Corridor along Bundelkhand Expressway.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) City in Lucknow gets Rs. 5 crore.



- Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan aims to support youth in establishing micro industries, with a budget of Rs. 1,000 crore.
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana has been allocated Rs. 225 crore to promote self-employment.

Handloom & Textile Industry:

- Rs. 300 crore earmarked for a textile park under the PM Mitra Yojana.
- Rs. 150 crore allocated for implementing the Uttar Pradesh Textile and Garmenting Policy, 2022.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme receives Rs. 400 cr. to support powerloom operations.



Rs. 11.50 crore to promote local pottery and handicrafts.

- CM Micro Entrepreneur Accident Insurance Scheme: Rs. 5 lakh financial aid for registered entrepreneurs.
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan: Loans approved for 16,000 entrepreneurs, with 6,000 disbursed.
- Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission boosts industrial growth.

Energy & industrial expansion

- 8 new data center parks to be developed.
- Ayodhya to be developed as a *Solar City*.
- UPSIDA, NOIDA, Greater Noida, UPEIDA, GIDA, and BIDA drive industrial expansion.

- 33 sectoral policies and 'Nivesh Mitra' single-window clearance system boost the ease of doing business.
- Top Achiever status award in BRAP for Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) state.
- Global Investors Summit (GIS) & Ground Breaking Ceremonies (GBCs) attracted maior industrial projects.
- AI, IT, electronics manufacturing, and industrial clusters accelerate UP's development.



Rs. 50,550 CR FUNDS TO KEEP STATE UPBEAT

Healthcare Revolution: Strengthening **Critical Care**

- 86 medical colleges operational, including 50 government and 36 private institutions; with 11,800 UG seats & 3,971 PG seats
- Autonomous medical colleges are established in districts like Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Kushinagar, Pilibhit, Sultanpur, and more.

Expansion of Medical Facilities

- ICU units are fully operational in 10 district hospitals, with 1,498 critical patients getting treatment.
- Specialist training is underway for 19 more district hospitals under the CARE-UP



(Critical Care Advancement and Readiness Enhancement) program.

- Training of Medical professionals in Jhansi and KGMU, Lucknow, ensuring efficient handling of ICU equipment and ventilators.
- Funds set aside to start medical colleges in Ballia and Balrampur

- Goal set to complete work of AYUSH University in Gorakhpur
- Govt Ayurvedic College and Govt Homoeopathic Medical College to come up in Ayodhya & Varanasi, respectively

Expansion in Medical Education

- 7,000 new nursing seats added to strengthen the healthcare workforce.
- 1,500 seats to be increased in medical colleges in next F.Y.
- 2,000 additional paramedical seats introduced to enhance medical support.
- 35 ANM training centers reopened, improving access to essential nursing education.

12 EXPRESS NETWORK

So far, the state government

has suspended inspector Ashok

Ghorband after the issue was

raised in the winter session of

the Assembly. A judicial probe

by a retired Bombay High Court

quiry report was sent to the

MSHRC, which the human rights

body reviewed during its hear-

ing on March 20. The commis-

sion noted that, upon examining

the contents of the report, it was

evident the judicial magistrate

had concluded Survawanshi was

assaulted at Nava Mondha police

station in Parbhani. As per the

magistrate's findings, certain po-

lice personnel from Parbhani,

named in the report, were re-

sponsible for the custodial death

sought the state government's

the state additional director gen-

eral of police and superinten-

dent of police (CID Parbhani) to

submit updates on the progress

of the inquiry. This includes de-

tails of the ongoing investigation

into the death and subsequent

registration of criminal charges.

The MSHRC has not only

f Suryawanshi

A copy of the magisterial in-

judge was also ordered.

PROBE REPORT ON PARBHANI CUSTODY DEATH BLAMES COPS Oppn demands suspension, murder charges against police personnel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MARCH 21

OPPOSITION PARTIES on Friday demanded the suspension and filing of murder charges against the police personnel responsible for the custodial death of Somnath Suryawanshi in Parbhani last year. "Now, even the judicial inquiry has said Suryawanshi's death was caused by police brutality. Will the Fadnavis government finally wake up and file murder charges against the police personnel responsible and dismiss them," asked Maharashtra Congress chief Harshvardhan

Sapkal Maharashtra Congress' Legislative Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar said the magistrate's report has concluded that Survawanshi died because of

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

government service to send

across a message, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah said in Rajya

92,000 deaths in four decades.

He said the government has

Sabha on Friday.

ment contracts.

MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY

police assault. "The guilty policemen should be suspended and they must face the law. The government has tried to mislead the people of Maharashtra and has now been exposed," Wadettiwar said. Suryawanshi, 35, died in

hospital on December 15 last year while in judicial custody. He was arrested along with several others following the violence in Parbhani in which a replica of the Constitution was

and supporters of terrorists in J&K

Shah: Ruthlessly suspended kin



Devendra Fadnavis in the Assembly on Friday. Ganesh Shirsekar

two flags in the country was ful-

ists were glorified, and their fu-

nerals were attended by thou-

sands, but now they are buried

in government jobs, we have ruth-

lessly suspended relatives of ter-

rorists from government jobs to

send a message, their supporters were even in Bar Council and now

they are either in jails in Delhi or

Srinagar. We have banned terror-

ists and terrorism supporters from

getting passports, government

"Their family members were

where they were killed.

Shah said that earlier terror-

filled," he said.

vandalised. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had visited the family of Suryawanshi in Parbhani.

Opposition NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar too demanded action against the police personnel. Party MLA Jitendra Awhad said the government was trying to protect "someone from the start". The judicial magistrate report has proved it was not death but murder. I want to assure his mother that I will not rest until she gets justice," he said.

"Who issued the orders for the baton charge in Parbhani? Was it the ministry or the office of the DGP? This must be investigated. As Home minister and chief minister, Fadnavis has completely failed in handling the Parbhani case. Suryawanshi was killed due to police brutality, yet the government is not taking it seriously," Sapkal said.

Probe blames police assault for custodial death of man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MARCH 21

NEARLY THREE months after Somnath Suryawanshi (35), a labourer picked up by the police following protests in Parbhani, died in judicial custody, a magisterial inquiry has concluded that the police were responsible for his death, according to a report submitted to the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC). The report dated January 29 states that Suryawanshi was assaulted by the police in custody and has named the police personnel responsible for his death.

An officer from Parbhani police, however, claimed the magisterial inquiry report was submitted without waiting for the final postmortem report, which would have stated the exact response but has also directed cause of death.

The officer said the histopathology and forensic report were still awaited. He claimed Survawanshi had some heart-related issues in the past, which would be revealed in the histopathology report.

'Misguided, outrageous': **Opp slams** Allahabad HC ruling on rape

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DEPLORING THE observations of an Allahabad High Court judge in a POCSO case judgment, Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote to CJI Sanjiv Khanna Friday calling it 'flawed" and seeking the judge's disgualification "for delivering such a misguided verdict".

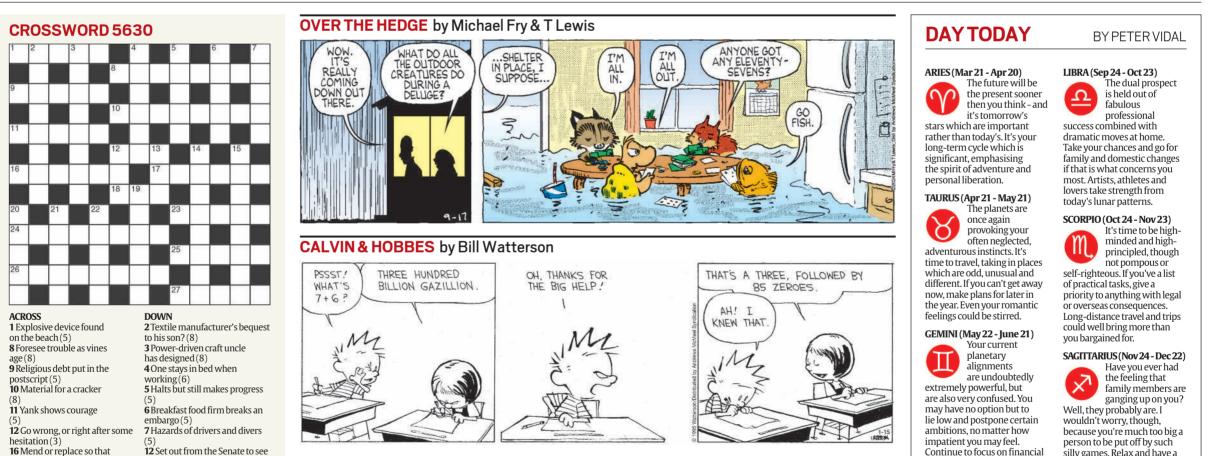
In an order on March 17, Allahabad HC judge Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra observed that grabbing breasts and breaking the strings of the girl's pyjamas while dragging her under a culvert were not sufficient to hold the charges of rape or attempt to rape. In her letter to the CJI, Chaturvedi said, "I firmly believe this is a flawed judgment... It is alarming that when 51 crimes against women happen every hour in the country, this is the level of commitment to women's safety demonstrated by our judicial system." Calling the observations "outrageous" and "unacceptable", Chairperson of the Congress Social Media and Digital Platforms Supriya Shrinate said, 'If courts give such observations, where do children and women go and report about incidents when

they are harassed?' TMC Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose said the observations show the "anti-women mindset in society being pushed by the BJP government".

J&K Cong to launch 6-day statehood stir

Iammu: Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) will launch a six-day movement, 'Hamari Riyasat - Hamara Haq' from March 24 to press for the early restoration of statehood to

Jammu and Kashmir. 'We will launch the six-day movement in Jammu city from March 24." IKPCC President Tarig Hameed Karra said



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THE CENTRE has taken concrete measures against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and "ruthlessly" suspended relatives and sympathisers of terrorists from

Union Home Minister Amit

21,2026

Shah was replying to a dealso banned supporters of terrorism from getting passports, government jobs and govern-Shah said that due to the government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, the number of terror incidents and related Constitution were visionary and

deaths and injuries have dropped this was temporary and its soluin Jammu and Kashmir, North tion was built into the same East and Left-wing extremism-Article. On 5 August, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated and the affected regions, which saw dream of the Constitution's ar-He emphasised that Maoism chitects that there cannot be two will end in the country by March



Shah in Rajya Sabha. PTI

bate on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs. 'Article 370 was the root of insurgency. The seeds of separation were sown in this Article. However, the makers of our

jobs and contracts, and hence people are not associating with them." Shah said. "Between 2004 and 2014, there were 7,217 terror-related incidents which have reduced to

2,282 between 2014 and 2024. There has been a 70 per cent reduction in deaths due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, a 50 per cent drop in deaths of secuheads, two constitutions and rity forces," he said

Jaipur: The CBI on Friday arrested two persons, including a Senior GM of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (a central Public Sector Undertaking-PSU), and the DGM of a Mumbai-based private company. The official has been identified as Uday Kumar.

Senior GM of PSU nabbed

for accepting ₹2.4 lakh bribe

The arrests were made after

Kumar, posted in Ajmer, allegedly accepted a ₹2.4 lakh bribe from the private company's DGM in exchange for undue favours in processing and approving bills.

CBI registered a case on March 19 against six, including Kumar, the company, and four represen-ENS tatives

Ban on AAC 'harsh': Mirwaiz in his first Friday sermon after Govt action

NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, MARCH 21

IN HIS first Friday sermon after the Centre banned the Awami Action Committee (AAC) on March 11, Kashmir's chief priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq termed the action "harsh and uncalled for" and sought an immediate revocation of the order

Addressing the gathering after Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, the Mirwaiz said that "generic allegations made against AAC in the ban order are not only strange but also ironic".

The Hurriyat chairman said that the AAC has always advocated for the politics of outreach, dialogue and resolution. "How can those who advocate dialogue be subversive...? Dialogue

in itself means seeking solutions and resolving disagreements by talking in good faith and peace. When Vajpayee ji or Advani ji or Manmohan Singh ji were talking to us, it was in good faith," he said. Emphasising that he "kept up the good faith" and despite all odds advocated for peaceful engagement, Mirwaiz said that "it

issue, but that does not make AAC an 'unlawful association'." The AAC was formed as a political. social and religious organ-

In his sermon, he also expressed gratitude to the people, parties and organisations including from the Kashmiri Pandits is a different thing that the present ruling dispensation in New

and Sikh communities who condemned the ban on the AAC



Delhi has a different take on the

isation by the late Mirwaiz.

ACROSS
1 Explosive device found
on the beach (5)
8 Foresee trouble as vines
age (8)
9 Religious debt put in the
postscript(5)
10 Material for a cracker
(8)
11 Yank shows courage
(5)
12 Go wrong, or right after some
hesitation(3)
16 Mend or replace so that
it's up-to-date(6)
17 A prayer of three short words
(6)
18 A divine increase (3)
23 Cares about some land
(5)
24 High speed transport
(8)
25 Assumed to be back in
bed(3,2)
26 Words which carry
conviction?(8)
27 Pack some material (5)

Solutions Crossword 5629 Across: 1 Press gangs, 6 Opus, 10 Orate, 11 Hair tonic, 12 Sanskrit, 13 Ripen, 15 Pleased, 17 Rhubarb, 19 Rankles, 21 Canters, 22 Nicer, 24 Armenian, 27 Imprecise, 28 Dodge, 29 Even, 30 Undeterred Down: 1 Plot, 2 El Alarnein, 3 Steps, 4 Adhred, 5 Glister, 7 Pin-up, 8 Second-best, 9 Start urn, 14 Apprentice, 16 Salaries, 18 Alexander, 20 Sea lion, 21 Compere, 23 Copse, 25 Nudge, 26 Tend

her(3)

perch(3)

13 An angler uses it to catch

14 Tell wrongly (8) 15 It won't be found in the pack

19 Failing to change sides (6)

20 I'd say it wrongly making

head of column(5)

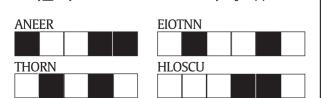
on high (5)

22 Somehow raise a sign

a bloomer(5) **21** Eccentric cheerleader at the

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. _many defeats but we must not be defeated. - Maya Angelou (9)



Answer: We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated. - Maya Angelou Solution: RANEE, NORTH, INTONE, SLOUCH

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzl every digit from 1 to 9 290 must appear in each of t nine vertical columns. in each of the nine horizont rows and in each of the SUDOKU nine boxes. **Difficulty Level** 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

Difficulty Level 4s

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

0	LU	SOLUTION SUDOKU 5900	Z	SU	D	K	50	õ
5	3	2	1	8	6	9	7	4
6	7	9	4	3	2	1	5	8
8	1	4	9	5	7	2	3	6
1	2	6	7	4	3	5	8	9
4	9	8	6	1	5	7	2	3
7	5	3	2	9	8	6	4	1
9	6	7	3	2	4	8	1	5
2	4	5	8	6	1	3	9	7
3	8	1	5	7	9	4	6	2

impatient you may feel. Continue to focus on financial discussions, though.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The planets are starting to crystallise all that is best and most hopeful in your life, setting you up for years to come. Much depends on your ability to handle close partnerships, and to create a sort of extended feel-good factor. But you can want too much.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Aside from reminding you of the need to give the first priority to dealing with practical chores, I would remind you of the virtues of charitable behaviour. if only out of self-interest. In some strange way you will gain from putting others first for a change.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Social, political and community involvements should take a leap into the unknown. You will be glad of all your group involvements even if the consequences last week were not exactly what you intended. At least now you can make up for an old muddle.

person to be put off by such silly games. Relax and have a laugh, even if the monetary scene is a little complex.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

This is no time to behave like a conventional, conservative Capricorn. Why not open yourself up to new experiences and appreciate all that other people haveto offer?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) The weekend's

special planetary alignment enhances all that is most

noble in the Aquarian character, your selfless idealism and devotion to others. The only drawback is that you may become much too tied up in your own deep imaginary hopes and fears.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You'll soon be showing a new, bolder side of your character. Your social skills will come in useful over the next few months, mainly as a result of the current magical Jupiterian pattern. You are gradually overcoming your shyness and lack of confidence. Well done.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 GOVT & POLITICS 13

Expect US to act on designating SFJ as terrorist outfit: MEA

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

INDIA EXPECTS the US to take "appropriate action" on its request to designate the pro-Khalistan separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) as a "terrorist outfit", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had conveyed the request during a meeting this month with Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence in the US administration.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Friday: "We conveyed our concerns regarding... anti-India activities of secessionist elements in Washington, and it is our expectation that they will take appropriate action on this."

He said Singh discussed security and defence cooperation with Gabbard. She also met with EAM S Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. Singh had conveyed SFI's links with terrorist groups and Pakistan's spy agency, ISI, during his meeting

with Gabbard, sources had said. This assumes significance since Gabbard also attended the conference of intelligence chiefs Sunday which was hosted by Ajit

Doval, Research & Analysis Wing Chief Ravi Sinha and Intelligence Bureau director Tapan Deka.

It was also attended by

Canada's CSIS chief Daniel Rogers UK's National Security Advisor Jonathan Powell and New Zealand's intelligence head Andrew Hampton - all part of the Five Eyes, the intelligencesharing alliance of US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. A senior intelligence official from Australia was present. That this request to designate

SFJ as a terror organisation has come at a time when India is still confronting allegations of an assassination plot against SFJ leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in a US court, and there is an ongoing investigation by Canadian authorities into the killing of another Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada,

makes it an important element in Indo-US ties under the Trump 2.0 administration. Intelligence about the Nijjar plot was shared among the Five Eyes partners. India has called allegations of

killing Nijjar "absurd". Gabbard's office said in a Friday: "Gabbard's meetings in India focused on intelligencesharing, defence, counterterrorism, and transnational threats.'

spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

said: "The downturn in India-

Canada relations was caused by

the license that was given to the

extremist and secessionist ele-

Daniel Rogers visited India last

week to attend a conclave of top

intelligence czars, an indication

Canada came under severe

strain following Trudeau's alle-

gations in September 2023 over

the killing of Khalistani sepa-

ratist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on

Canadian soil. New Delhi re-

The ties between India and

of efforts to improve ties.

Canadian intelligence chief

ments in that country.'

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAL MARCH 21

IN A show of Opposition unity, the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Telangana, and Punjab — Pinarayi Vijayan, A Revanth Reddy, and Bhagwant Mann – along with Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, and senior representatives of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi(BRS) will attend the first Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting on "Fair Delimitation" convened by the DMK in Chennai on Saturday. West Bengal's ruling party Trinamool Congress (TMC) was also invited but is learnt to have decided to not send any representative.

The meeting in Chennai comes in the wake of a growing regional pushback against the parliamentary delimitation exercise, which many in the southern and eastern states fear will erode federal principles and disproportionately diminish representation from certain states.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, who is behind the initiative, said the meeting would mark a "historic day for Indian federalism". In a video message shared on social media on Friday, Stalin spoke about the stakes at hand, warning that states that have effectively managed their population growth and contributed to national progress must not be penalised by a skewed delimitation process. "It will strike at the very foundation of federalism in India," he said. "It will erode the essence of democracy itself."

The JAC meeting will begin at 10 am on Saturday at the ITC Grand Chola Hotel in Chennai and continue till noon. The attendees are scheduled to have lunch together before the event concludes. The CMs, the BJD representatives – former Raiva Sabha MP Amar Patnaik and former minister Sanjay Das Burma - and the BRS delegation, led by KT Rama Rao, were expected to arrive on Friday, with only Shivakumar set to reach Chennai



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan with DMK MP Kanimozhi in Chennai on Friday. PTI

on Saturday morning.

Among the key points on the agenda are taking steps to prolong the current delimitation framework, which is based on the 1971 Census, for an additional 30 years beyond 2026; drafting a resolution demanding

a reconsideration of the 2026 delimitation process; exploring legal avenues to challenge any perceived unfairness; and mobilising public awareness campaigns in the states that are concerned about being affected.

DMK hosts Opp meet on delimitation today: 4 CMs, BJD and BRS to attend; TMC opts out

"What started as Tamil Nadu's initiative has now grown into a national movement," Stalin said on Friday.

'States across India are joining hands to demand fair representation. This is more than a meeting - it is the beginning of a movement that will shape the future of our country.'

Sources said the meeting was likely to focus on a coordinated legal and political strategy to counter the potential impact of the delimitation process. According to officials, discussions will explore constitutional challenges, petitions to the Supreme Court, and efforts to raise the issue at the national level, particularly within the Opposition INDIA bloc. "Fair delimitation is not just about the number of MPs," Stalin said. "It

is about our states' rights. Our voices in Parliament will be silenced. Our rights will be compromised. This is nothing short of a deliberate attempt to undermine certain states.

The meeting is being seen as

a critical checkpoint in the larger

battle over delimitation. The

DMK leadership believes that af-

ter Saturday, the Centre can no

longer take the issue lightly and

hopes that the presence of mul-

tiple states at the table will sig-

nal the stakes and send a strong

message that southern and east-

lead in an issue with national political ramifications. The importance of the meeting lies in its is-The sentiment has found an echo in Telangana, where CM sue-based focus, rather than Reddy has framed the issue as a being driven by alliances. Even battle for federal equity. In the INDIA bloc has not held such Karnataka, D K Shivakumar has a high-profile meeting in Tamil said the issue transcends party af-Nadu, making this gathering all filiations, calling for a broader, nathe more remarkable politically for the DMK as well as other tional dialogue on the subject. The

ern India will not passively ac-

cept an unfavourable outcome.

time, Tamil Nadu has taken the

For the first time in some

TMC-led West Bengal governnon-BIP-ruled states. ment, which is giving the meeting Interestingly, the states joining JAC have traditionally led in a miss, and the BID have also signalled their concerns. The only economic development, educasouthern state that will be absent tion, healthcare, and social welis Andhra Pradesh, whose CM fare policies. Chandrababu Naidu is a BJP ally.

The meeting follows an allparty meet in Tamil Nadu held on March 5, where 58 registered political parties excluding the BJP set aside ideological differences for a collective stand on fair delimitation. Stalin's outreach has since expanded the movement bevond Tamil Nadu, securing commitments from regional heavyweights across India

India hopes to rebuild ties with Canada, says 'licence' to extremists was behind downturn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

INDIA ON Friday said it hopes to rebuild ties with Canada based on "mutual trust and sensitivity" blaming the downturn in the relations to the "licence" that was given to the "extremist and secessionist elements" in that country.

India's comments came days after Mark Carney, an economist and political newcomer, took charge as Canada's new prime minister following the exit of Justin Trudeau. Carney has said he wants to improve the ties. Ministry of External Affairs

jected Trudeau's charges.

RSS echoes DMK on delimitation, takes 'Revanth did not aim at those raising 'North-South divide' mean it (remark on

VIKAS PATHAK & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

AT A time of increasing acrimony between the BJP-led Centre and Tamil Nadu over delimitation and the three-language formula, the RSS has taken a clear stance on the former and carefully manoeuvred around the latter.

RSS joint general secretary C R Mukunda spoke about the issues at a press meet in Bengaluru Friday during the three-day meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the RSS's highest decision-making body. Mukunda spoke of maintaining the share of southern states in the Lok Sabha seats in case a delimitation exercise increases the number of seats in Parliament. This is also the position that the DMK took earlier this month.

On the three-language row. Mukunda advocated for the use of a person's mother tongue, the regional language where the

ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 21, 22, 23, 2025

RSS joint general secretary C R Mukunda with RSS national publicity in-charge Sunil Ambekar in Bengaluru, Friday. PTI

in Coimbatore... that it (delimitation) will be held based on the ratio. If some southern state is having some number of LS seats in the 543 seats today, that ratio will be held as is if it (Lok Sabha) is expanded... whole decision has to be taken by the Central government. It is not for the RSS to say ratio," Mukunda said. In February, in Coimbatore, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that "after delimitation, on the basis of pro rata, not a single seat of any southern state will come down" Shah's remarks had come a day after TN Chief Minister Stalin had underlined the South's fears Parliament if the base population regarding delimitation. Southern is changed after the census.' states feel that a delimitation based purely on population - to be carried out on the basis of a fresh Census – would end up hurting them as they were able to control their population growth in comparison to the North. After Shah's reassurance, the DMK passed a six-point resolution opposing the delimitation at an all-party meeting. The demands were to extend the 1971 Census-based delimitation frame for another 30 years beyond 2026 and ensure fair representation for states that have effectively controlled their population. If the delimitation was car-

ried out, and the LS seats were increased, the resolution called for the redistribution of seats based on the existing proportion in the Lower House.

This is not the first time that Sangh has expressed solidarity with the South on delimitation. In its July issue this year, RSS-

JUMP OF 10,000 IN NUMBER OF DAILY SHAKHAS IN 1 YR: RSS

New Delhi: The RSS said Friday it has reported a jump of about 10,000 in the number of its daily shakhas in the 100th year of its foundation. "The number of places where RSS activities are held is 73,646, out of which 51,710 are daily activities and 21.936 are weekly activities. In these places, the total shakhas are 83,129, almost 10,000 more than last year. So, our work has expanded," said RSS leader C R Mukunda at the three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha in Bengaluru. "Weekly activities are 32,147, which is 4,430 higher than last year. Daily and weekly activities put together are 1.15,276, as reported by our workers coming from different parts of the country," Mukunda said. He ing on rural mandals for the last three years and had registered some success in rural shakhas too.

journalists)... said things in a flow' TELANGANA CONGRESS chief B MAHESH KUMAR GOUD, a

confidant of CM Revanth Reddy, highlights the Congress government's "achievements" while defending the CM over various rows. Excerpts from an interview with NIKHILA HENRY:

After over a year at the helm, what has been your government's focus?

Rahul Gandhi's slogan of *"Jitni Aabadi, Utna Haq"* (share as per one's strength) is the main agenda being taken up by our government, and that is why we did a caste survey to determine the population of different caste groups in the state and tabled it in the Assembly.

Based on the caste survey, we have now introduced 42% reservation for Backward Classes

by the Supreme Court. Our gov-

ernment is also focusing on de-

velopment, with the state hav-

ing attracted foreign investment

of ₹2 lakh crore already.

Telangana is rising on both social

justice and development fronts.

A big criticism is that while

talking about people's rule,

your government is showing

igns of high-handedness...

of high-handedness.

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW **B** MAHESH KUMAR GOUD

TELANGANA CONGRESS PRESIDENT

allegedly posted a video...

We have always respected ournalists. But the issue with these two journalists was the language against CM Revanth Reddy and his family. No one has the right to abuse any other person. The two videos posted by the journalists had false allegacational institutions and urban the filthiest of language against and rural local body polls... The the CM and his family members. only hitch is that this decision And they had taken the videos should now be cleared by the from BRS headquarters. The po-Union government because lice action was as per the law. reservation in Telangana now breaches the 50% cap imposed

Days to go for Trump tariffs, India says trade framework talks on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH IUST 11 days left for the Trump administration's tit-fortat tariffs to kick in, India Friday said its negotiations with the US are underway to build a frame work for a trade pact that would address issues relating to levies and market access

India remains engaged with the US administration at "various levels" to arrive at a mutually-beneficial trade agreement. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir laiswal said.

"India and the US are in the process of taking bilateral trade negotiations forward," he said.

US President Donald Trump indicated on Wednesday that Washington will not spare India from the new tariff regime from April 2, saying he has a "very good" relationship with New Delhi and has a "problem" with its tariff structure.

Pressed further on whether India is expecting some concession from the reciprocal tariff. Jaiswal said, "You will have to wait for the talks to come to a

closure. "The two governments are actively working to build a framework for the BTA, which would aim to expand trade, en-

hance market access, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepen supply-chain integration," he said

guage that could be English or

another language. Mukunda, however, expressed concern about "forces" that "are challenging national unity, especially by raising the North-South divide, whether it is about delimitation or languages".

He said, "...there are many things that are mostly politically motivated, like having the rupee symbol in the local language. These things have to be addressed by social leaders and groups. It is not good for the country to quarrel among ourselves. It should be resolved harmoniously."

The delimitation debate

The RSS spoke of maintaining the share of southern states in the Lok Sabha seats if a delimitation exercise increased the number of seats in Parliament. "When it comes to delimita-

tion, the Central government, our Home minister (Shah)... I think he has told in Parliament also ... and

an editorial: "Regional imbalance is another critical dimension that will impact the delimitation process of the Parliamentary Constituencies... The States from the West and South are doing relatively better regarding population control measures and, therefore, fear losing a few seats in

On language row

While advocating that people should know at least three languages, the Sangh chose not to wade directly into a debate over what language formula the NEP should adopt. While the Union government is insistent on a three-language formula without an emphasis on Hindi, the DMK has been pushing for a two-language formula, alleging that the three-language formula is aimed at imposing Hindi.

tongue should be used for all our daily things. The RSS has not

Mukunda said. "Mother

passed any resolution on what should be the three-language or two-language system, but on mother tongue, we passed a resolution earlier.

"Not just in the school system but in society too, we have to learn multiple languages. One is our mother tongue, the other should be the regional language or the market language where we live. If I live in Tamil Nadu, I have to learn Tamil. If I live in Delhi, I must learn Hindi because I have to converse with the local people. For some people, career language is also needed. If it is English, he or she must also learn that for his or her career. So. career language is there, regional language is there, and the

But two women journalists mother tongue, on which the RSS always stresses," he said. were arrested because they

Reddy said those doing this kind of journalism would be 'stripped and paraded'...

The CM sometimes speaks in a flow against those practising vellow iournalism. His comments were meant for those who were blackmailing the government. But he didn't mean it..

Allu Arjun was also targeted over a stampede during the screening of Pushpa 2...

In the Congress, we are the Allu Arjun's case is a closed people who fought against the chapter. The police had clearly told him that they wouldn't be able to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)'s clear the crowds if he continued police rule. And we are still the ones who are insisting that it is to be present at the theatre where Praja Palana. There is no question the stampede took place and took two lives. What the CM did was right as he said no one is above law and order. FULL INTERVIEW ON

www.indianexpress.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on

Friday denied regular bail to

jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly

Rashid, who defeated J&K

known as Engineer Rashid.

Not just within state, BJP campaign to touch Bihari migrants across country J&K MP Rashid's bail plea denied

VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH about seven months to go for the Bihar polls, the BJP will step up its efforts to reach out to migrant Biharis through its nineday Bihar Diwas celebrations across different parts of the country starting March 22, the state's foundation day.

The party has appointed its general secretary Tarun Chugh and senior leader Dushyant Kumar Gautam to oversee the programme. While Chugh says the events are a part of the Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat initiative, the end-of-the-year Assembly polls give them political significance

"Under the Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat initiative, programmes are conducted for all

Outreach plan before polls

ACCORDING TO the BJP, around 2 crore Biharis reside in other parts of the country and many of them return to the state to cast their vote. A senior Bihar BJP leader said that the idea of the nine-day celebration is to meet people from the state at the get-togethers so that common people get a chance to interact with influential people as well as BIP functionaries who trace their roots to Bihar.

states around their foundation days with get-togethers for people from the state and events in

the Raj Bhawans," Chugh told The Indian Express.

An internal party note says 75 two-member teams, comprising an important BJP leader and office-bearer or senior party worker, will camp in various parts of the country from March 22 for the multiple programmes planned by the party. Sources within the BJP said seven programmes each have been planned in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana; six each in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab; five in Delhi; two each in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka, and one each in states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The note also says that the

ings with local party leaders, would request the party to appoint a "prabhari (incharge)" for

every 50 Bihari migrant families. While the prabhari would be tasked with persuading these families to go to Bihar to cast their votes. local BIP leaders have been asked to hold a press conference in every state to greet Bihari migrants on Bihar Diwas.

"The migrants will be assured that their families back in Bihar would be safe under the NDA rule and will also be cautioned about 'jungle raj' returning to the state if the RJD comes back to power," a senior Bihar BJP leader said.

The BJP teams will hold "sneh milans (get-togethers)" for migrants, apart from organisational meetings to strategise plans for the next five months.

outreach teams, in their meet-Sources said BJP ministers, MPs and prominent leaders will also be present at the meetings with Bihari migrants.

Assam BJP cancels Bihar Diwas event in Tinsukia despite Himanta backing

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, MARCH 21

FOLLOWING OPPOSITION from some quarters, including the proscribed group ULFA(I), the Assam BJP has decided to call off the Bihar Diwas event on March 22 in Eastern Assam's Tinsukia town. Saying that this is in response

to the opposition from local organisations, Assam BJP chief Dilip Saikia said the day will be observed in other parts of the state.

The development comes after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma defended the observation of Bihar Diwas, saying that Assam Diwas is observed across

the country. He also said this kind of opposition could harm the interests of people from Assam seeking work and living in other parts of the country.

Bihar Diwas is observed every year on March 22, and a section of local BJP leaders reportedly decided to hold an event to mark the day in Tinsukia, a commercial hub with a sizeable population originally from Bihar.

Warning of "serious consequences", the ULFA(I) had called it an "attack on the culture, heritage and pride of the indigenous people". "We will not tolerate the celebration of Bihar Diwas by outsiders," it said.

Different regionalist outfits,

such as the All Assam Students' Union, Akhil Gogoi's Raijor Dal and the Asom Jatiya Parishad, had also voiced their opposition.

The CM had slammed those opposing the event, saying, "If these messages go out from Assam that we are against Biharis, against Marwaris, against Gujaratis, against Tamils, how will youths from Assam get employment outside the state?" "(Assam Diwas) is marked in every state of the country. In Uttar Pradesh Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat... So we will observe Bihar Diwas; that is when there will be understanding among people. There is no meaning of doing politics over this."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the Baramulla seat by over two lakh votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, has been in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 in a terror funding case. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh of Patiala House Court, who is hearing the case, had on September 10 last year granted Rashid interim bail to campaign for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rashid later surrendered in Tihar Iail on October 27 On February 24, 2025, the Delhi High Court requested the trial court to expeditiously dis-

pose of Rashid's bail plea. ENS

Pune



WORDLY WISE

THE ONLY THING THAT SAVES US FROM THE BUREAUCRACY IS ITS INEFFICIENCY. - EUGENE MCCARTHY

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE TIGER'S TALE

IE investigation shows enforcement agencies are playing catchup with poachers. Recent conservation gains must be protected

NTHE EARLY years of this century, tiger poaching went out of control in several protected areas in the country. By 2006, the animal's population had dwindled to less than 1,400. Since then, concerted conservation efforts have led to an appreciable recovery - India today has more than 3,600 tigers. However, in recent years, experts have flagged a significant number of tiger deaths that remain unaccounted for. The needle of suspicion points towards poachers. Now, an investigation by this newspaper - it tracked arrest records and court documents and interviewed former poachers who have become informers – has revealed that illegal traffickers in animal parts have claimed at least 100 tigers in the past three years. Poaching networks today are leaner and more mobile compared to 20 years ago. The poachers are also savvy vis a vis the digital medium and are active on social media. Worryingly, law enforcement agencies are being forced to play catch-up.

After the tiger crisis, the government revamped the country's conservation edifice. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), established in 2007, discarded the approach that focused solely on protecting the animal in individual parks. Recognising the fact that the animals are mobile, it emphasised the need to conserve them as a "meta-population" - inter-breeding tigers in geographically connected reserves. A centralised Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was established to tackle poaching cases. However, the CBI and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have continued to pursue animal trafficking cases. These agencies rarely coordinate with each other. Understaffed state forest departments too, do not keep track of poaching incidents outside their areas of jurisdiction despite the fact that syndicates operate across multiple states. At the same time, there is enough evidence to show that tigers today do not confine themselves to the boundaries of reserves and move out in search of mates and prey. So, unlike 20 years ago, poachers do not necessarily have to enter a protected area to kill tigers. The WCCB is ill-equipped to deal with this exigency. The agency has a sanctioned strength of just 10 wildlife inspectors who can gather intelligence and nearly a fourth of the Bureau's total posts are currently vacant. Moreover, the regular inspectors are usually enlisted in the WCCB on deputation from paramilitary forces. They lack domain expertise. The poachers. in contrast, deftly use the dark web to plan their operations. Though conviction rates have improved post-2007, the lack of specialised staff to pursue investigations means that more than 90 per cent of poachers who are nabbed escape punishment.

China is widely recognised as one of the world's largest markets for trafficked tiger parts from India. This newspaper's analysis shows that the Northeast has become one of the biggest conduits of this illicit trade in the past three years. However, enforcement agencies are yet to establish their presence along the new routes of the illicit trade. They, and the conservation authorities, should get their act together. The momentum generated by the post-2007 recovery in tiger numbers should not be frittered away.

AS SUMMER COMES

Concerns over power shortage call for a careful review of the country's energy mix

COAL PRODUCTION IN the country has now crossed a record 1 billion tonnes – this is in line with the action plan of the coal ministry, which had targeted an output of 1,080 million tonnes in 2024-25. Data from the ministry shows that coal production touched 997.83 million tonnes in 2023-24, up 11.7 per cent from 893.19 million tonnes in 2022-23. A substantial part of this is accounted for by Coal India and its subsidiaries. Production by Coal India had increased to 773.81 million tonnes in 2023-24. up from 703.20 million tonnes in 2022-23. Despite this record production, however, those managing the electricity grids are worried as summer approaches. The problem, in part, stems from how India's energy mix has evolved in the recent

past. Thermal power dominates India's baseload power capacity. In recent years, how-



All-American deportations They may not be an aberration. They could be

consequences of real aspects of American identity

SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

THE GERMAN POLITICAL philosopher Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) - the author of the influential book. The Origins of Totalitarianism - considered that of all the major world powers, only the United States had never been an imperialist one. This perspective, as has sometimes been pointed out, was linked to Arendt's vision of the US as a key site of anti-totalitarianism. It also blinded Arendt, as has also been suggested, to the politics of race and racism in that country. As a German Jew, she fled Germany to escape the very real dangers to her life posed by anti-Semitism, arriving in the US in early 1941. For Arendt, it was unthinkable that the political and social life of the country that had given her shelter from Nazi Germany could, in any way, be linked to global histories of colonialism and empire. The American context of race relations, she was to suggest, had little to do with the histories of Europe's interactions with Africa. Arendt delinked African-American resistance movements - and America - from global trends.

The Arendt conundrum - thinking globally about totalitarianism but locally about what happens in America - lies at the heart of recent episodes of deportations of those accused of "anti-Semitic" and "pro-terrorist" sympathies under the second Trump presidency. Of the several cases that are in the news, three have gained particular media prominence. Doctoral student Ranjani Srinivasan has had to leave the country, doctor and professor Rasha Alawieh has been deported and Green Card holder Mahmoud Khalil is in detention. Each of them has been accused of sympathising with - what the current American dispensation considers -"terrorist" activities. The equation of any criticism of the state of Israel with anti-Semitism is, of course, an important background to these current events. These, in turn, have become interwoven with ideas of "national security" and "public safety". "National security" and political ideologies are, as we know in India, entangled contexts.

The first aspect of the Arendt conundrum

The 18th-century Alien Enemies Act that finds such great favour with the current American president was formulated for use under conditions of war. However, given the historical development of Americanism as a selfcontained fortress-culture, it is not surprising that there is no mass opposition to its deployment. Fortresses are invariably imagined as under threat of invasion and siege.

concerns American identity. If you consider its global footprint, American identity is arguably the most successful of all national identities. No other culture has achieved such transnational impact. If there is something called "global culture", it is American. Financially, militarily or culturally, no other society has such an extraordinary global footprint. One way or another, in different ways, the contemporary human condition is American. And yet, just as strangely, notwithstanding the universality of American culture - and the self-confident identity it is linked to - it derives its meaning from unshakeable provincialism. For many Americans – President Donald Trump may believe the majority — the deportations may not seem problematic since American culture has historically been imagined as entirely selfcontained and self-defined.

Expulsions from America are not a Republican phenomenon. They are an American phenomenon. The 18th-century Alien Enemies Act that finds such great favour with the current American president was formulated for use under conditions of war. However, given the historical development of Americanism as a self-contained fortress-culture, it is not surprising that there is no mass opposition to its deployment. Fortresses are invariably imagined as under threat of invasion and siege

The second Arendt conundrum is the deep self-professed nature of American individualism and its apparent conflictual relationship with centralised forms of power, particularly the state. This relationship finds considerable play in both popular folklore as well as formal legal procedures. The mythology of the "outlaw" has been a key aspect of ideas about American identity. Embodying characteristics of self-reliance, straight-talking and deep suspicion of hierarchies, the outlaw stood (and stands) for a very powerful strand within the cultural imagination of the American self. This was the idea that there must be constant vigil against governments and state power that threatened two "fundamental" aspects of being American: Individual action and liberty. The outlaw was seen to both define and defend the most sacred of "American values". that of individualism.

Suspicions against state power have also blayed out from within the state itself. There is, for example, a variety of constitutional provisions that limit the reach of the state in the life of citizens. The Bill of Rights, which includes provisions against state interference in religious activity (the First Amendment) and the right to bear arms (the Second Amendment), are formal expressions of the cultural ideals represented by the outlaw.

And yet, notwithstanding the pervasiveness of the "individual versus the state" dialogue and the implicit elevation of the individual as a heroic figure within American culture, the current deportation episodes are remarkable for how easily Americans allow their state to speak on their behalf. In the case of Alawieh – as well as members of a Venezuelan and Salvadorian gang who were also deported - the American state ignored orders by American judges to delay or halt its actions. There have been, however, no largescale protests against the arbitrariness of state action in a society whose founding myth so strongly derives from notions of the sanctity of individual liberties and the need to keep state power in check.

The deportations, in this light, may not be as much of an aberration as unsurprising consequences of real, as opposed to imagined, aspects of American identity and culture. The problem, as with Hannah Arendt's view of the American way and life, may lie in treating a culture and society as exceptional and unique. Cultural exceptionalism — the "shock" at what is happening in America at this moment is a good example of this attitude - is at the heart of the problem of how much we allow certain societies to get away with.

The writer is distinguished research professor, SOAS University of London



STATES OF DISPARITY

With an overbearing Centre, delimitation can undermine federalism

D Raja

WHILE DEDICATING THE new Parliament building to the nation in May 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We also need to consider where people will sit when the number of seats increases and the number of MPs increases in the near future." This assertion, coupled with the freeze on delimitation, being set to lapse in 2026, has brought the debate around delimitation centre stage. The question of the formula to be followed, the BIP-led Union government's chequered record on federalism and the disproportionate population growth between northern and southern states have intensified concerns about fairness and equity. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has called a meeting of major political parties from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Punjab. Thus an understanding of delimitation, why it was frozen and its implications for our political landscape are needed for an informed debate. Article 82 of the Constitution mandates Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census to reflect population changes. Article 170 determines the composition of state legislative assemblies based on population data. Article 55 ensures the proportional representation of states in the presidential election. Article 81 specifies the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and provides for their distribution among states based on population. Following the 42nd Amendment in 1976, the process of increasing parliamentary seats was frozen to avoid penalising states that had successfully implemented family planning measures. This was extended by the Vaipavee government until the first census after 2026. The upcoming delimitation, based on the next census, could severely reduce the repre-

sentation of South Indian states while signif- much headway in South India, barring in icantly enhancing that of North Indian states. Currently, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Raiasthan and Madhya Pradesh collectively hold 174 out of 543 seats (32 per cent) in the Lok Sabha. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka hold 129 seats or 24 per cent. If the total number of seats remains frozen at 543. projections suggest that these North Indian states would gain significantly, holding 205 seats while South Indian states' representation would shrink to 103 seats. If the number is expanded to 888 - the sitting capacity in the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament building - the North Indian states are expected to get 324 seats or 39 per cent of the total, while South Indian states are projected to get 164 seats, down to 19 per cent. In 1971, Bihar and Tamil Nadu had comparable populations and similar representation in the Lok Sabha. Over the decades, Bihar's population surged more rapidly, and its MPs today represent significantly more people than Tamil Nadu's. Consequently, MPs from northern states now represent substantially larger constituencies. This disparity underscores the challenge that southern states face in the upcoming exercise. The reality is that northern states now hold 50 per cent of India's population, up from 43 per cent according to the 1971 Census, while southern states' share has declined from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. Southern states have consistently voiced concerns over the post-2026 delimitation process for several reasons. They have excelled in family planning measures, stabilising their populations. Delimitation based solely on population risks penalising them. Politically speaking, the BJP, till now, has failed to make

Karnataka. Reducing representation can be a way of penalising the southern states for this.

ever, additions to thermal capacity have been muted - the installed capacity rose from 230 GW in 2019-20 to just 243 GW in 2023-24. Much of the increase in installed power capacity during these years has occurred in the renewables space - the installed capacity rose from 88.26 GW in 2019-20 to 143.64 GW in 2023-24 (renewables include solar, wind, bio-power and small hydro power). However, despite this, renewables still account for just 13 per cent of all-India energy generation. During the summer months, the problem is acute as solar generation tapers off by the evenings while household demand remains high and storage capacities are limited. In order to fill this gap, baseload capacities are stepped up, but in the absence of an expansion in such capacities, there is a shortfall in supply. As per reports, electricity demand is expected to peak at 273 GW in June 2025 compared to a minimum of 135 GW in December-January. "Shortages are more likely to occur during non-solar hours in May, June, July and August 2025," says a report from the National Load Despatch Centre with the months of May and June identified as "high-risk months for shortages".

The National Electricity Plan (2017-22) had focused more on ramping up renewable capacities in the country. As per its assessment, the expected renewable (solar, wind, biomass and small hydro) capacity addition between 2017 and 2022 was pegged at 117.7 GW. However, the concerns that are being raised call for carrying out a more careful assessment of the country's energy mix - thermal, nuclear and renewables. As the economy continues its forward march, as electricity demand continues to rise - peak electricity demand is expected to touch 298.7 GW by 2026-27 - policy must ensure a steady supply of power.

Now you see it

A scrapped government department's afterlife in Punjab shows that existence is relative

CHRÖDINGER'S CAT, BOTH alive and dead at the same time, depending on your interpretation of quantum mechanics, is known. Now, a Schrödinger's government department has been discovered in Punjab. It existed for the past few years, headed by a succession of ministers. Except that it only had ministers. No officials, no lunch breaks, not even an office. This state of quantum indeterminacy continued till last month, when somebody decided to bell the (now deceased) cat.

The Department of Administrative Reforms was reformed out of existence in 2012, and replaced by the Department of Governance Reforms. But the former department went on to have a distinguished afterlife, with the then chief minister. Amarinder Singh, choosing to hold the "portfolio" himself when Congress came to power in 2017. Others succeeded him in the Congress and AAP governments, until the latest minister's dogged pursuit of Administrative Reforms Department files led to the realisation that - as a subsequent notification put it, with admirable blandness - the department was "not in existence as on date".

This could have been a fantastic episode of the 1980s British political satire Yes Minister. Imagine an increasingly confused but determined Jim Hacker trying in vain to get hold of any files or meet anybody from the new department he's been allocated, or even physically find its offices. Sir Humphrey Appleby, the mandarin par excellence, would at first deploy all means to obstruct the minister's efforts and then eventually wax philosophical, explaining that existence and non-existence are relative. Bernard Woolley would chime in with a few helpful non-sequiturs. In fact, the name of the department in question is almost too on the nose - Hacker's was "administrative affairs". A cynic might say the best reform an "administrative reforms" department can bring about is its own abolition. But what about its replacement, "governance reforms"? As Sir Humphrey would say, "Yes, minister."

Weightage for population control must be incorporated into the delimitation process. Economic contribution, developmental achievements and governance success should factor into the representation formula.

The threat to federalism is another key concern. The BJP has displayed a pattern of centralising power. Examples include the imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states, the financial discrimination against states like Kerala, imposing the NEP and interference in state-specific welfare policies. These actions have fuelled concerns that delimitation may further undermine federalism.

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana and Karnataka, among others, contribute disproportionately higher shares to India's GDP and taxation revenues compared to their northern counterparts. Despite this, their political representation is at risk. The potential for diminished representation raises concerns about economic injustice as well. States that have invested in improving healthcare, education and social infrastructure risk being penalised.

To mitigate these concerns, constitutional safeguards are essential. Weightage for population control must be incorporated in the delimitation process. Economic contribution, developmental achievements and governance success should be factored in. Delimitation must ensure equity and respect for the contributions of all regions. A framework that safeguards the interests of all states while ensuring equitable representation will uphold the principles of justice and democracy. India's strength lies in its diversity. A delimitation process that tilts the scales disproportionately risks alienating regions that have played a key part in the country's progress.

The writer is general secretary, CPI



MARCH 22, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

SOVIET OFFICIAL KILLED

VICTOR KHITZICHENKO, A senior engineer in the office of the Counsellor for Economic Affairs in the Soviet embassy, was shot dead at pointblank range by two men on a motorcycle near the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. The assailants pumped five bullets into Khitzichenko's car from a German Zekko semiautomatic pistol of 7.65 mm calibre and sped away on their Mack Yezdi motorcycle. The 48year-old Soviet died on the spot.

CHEAPER ELECTRONICS

A NEW INTEGRATED policy on electronics, de-



signed to bring international quality equipment to the Indian consumer at international prices, was announced by the government. It is likely to bring to the consumer cheaper entertainment electronics like radio receivers. tape recorders, two-in-ones, amplifiers, record players and changers, electronic toys, video tape-recorders and players, and digital electronic watches.

H M ERSHAD WINS

THE BANGLADESH PRESIDENT, H M Ershad, won 95.19 per cent affirmative votes in the nationwide referendum, as the latest results were released by the National Election Commission. The victory in the referendum gave the 53-year-old army chief the right to rule the country till free elections are held.

EVACUATING INDIANS

INDIA HAS MADE all arrangements to evacuate about 400 Indians who are stuck in Tehran, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi informed the Rajya Sabha. Making a statement in both Houses of Parliament, Gandhi said that the Indians were all safe. Since the Tehran airport is barred for civilian aircraft, an Air India plane was waiting to pick up the Indians from some nearby airport, Gandhi said.

15 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

Above all, trust in government is the key to successfully implementing difficult decisions during emergencies

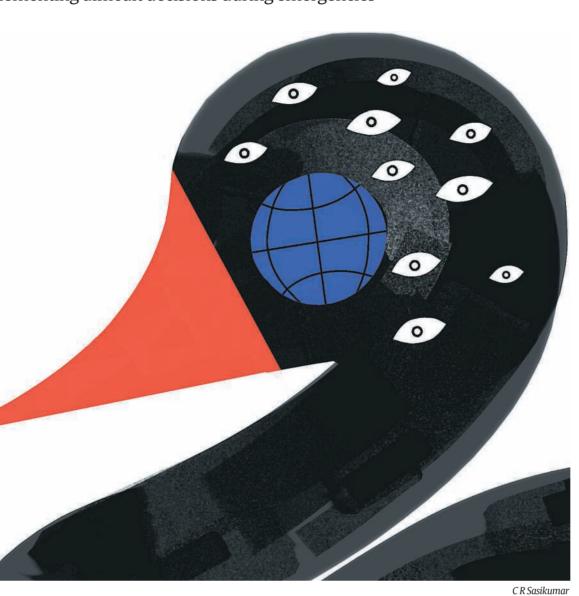


THIS MARCH MARKS five years since the world stopped. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid a pandemic. On March 24, the Government of India declared a nationwide lockdown, one of the most stringent globally. With five years and much water under the bridge, it is easy to forget the gasping breaths, millions of deaths, and shuttered businesses. That is, until the next disaster strikes. Can we learn from that painful experience to prepare for the next disaster, whether it is a black swan event like the pandemic, a tsunami, or a drought?

There are five lessons from the pandemic that are relevant. First, many problems are global. Closing our borders to keep diseases like HIV/AIDS or Covid at bay is not an option. An earthquake in Indonesia creates a tsunami that reaches Sri Lanka. We need global systems that continually monitor these threats and explore strategies to deal with them. However, the pandemic induced a paranoia that was exacerbated by political winds that have weakened rather than strengthened these global institutions. America's withdrawal from the WHO and shuttering of the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network are simply some examples of these weakening bonds. All is not bleak, however. There are incipient signs of increasing global biomedical collaboration as seen in the launch of the Indian genomic dataset to encourage global collaborations. This is a unique opportunity to create international collaborations in which India could and should take a lead.

Second, the solutions often need to be local and locally relevant. When the whole world is in the throes of a pandemic, the ability of nations to support each other is increasingly limited. Each country seeks to protect its citizens when vaccines are in short supply. India was fortunate to have local vaccine manufacturing capabilities but countries that did not were unable to get timely access to vaccines. Social distancing is workable in sparsely populated areas; in slums like Dharavi, it was difficult to contain disease transmission, and seroprevalence studies by Anup Malani and colleagues found that five months into the pandemic, about 50 per cent of the slum residents had antibodies, compared to 15 per cent of the non-slum residents. Under the circumstances, it would make sense to prioritise areas with higher prevalence for surgical mask distribution and supply of ventilators.

Third, disaster preparedness begins with



to sending emergency cash, we had to rely on people who were part of various registries, such as PM-KISAN or those who had Jan Dhan accounts. Lockdown offered an opportunity to bend the disease progression curve, but we did not use this time to prepare health systems. Access to oxygen cylinders could have been coordinated if there were a centralised database. Disaster planning at local, state, and central levels is essential if we are to respond effectively to emergencies — both medical and natural.

Fourth, data and information must be part of the DNA of modern governance. When the migrant crisis struck, we could see lines of individuals crossing the Yamuna on foot, but we had no idea how many migrant workers were living in Delhi and how many had left behind families where they could seek shelter. Without a recent census, the situation has not improved. In many countries, the pandemic brought about a desire to kill the mes-

Closing our borders to keep diseases like HIV/AIDS or Covid at bay is not an

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As geopolitical events have undermined its trade-led business model, the German economy has been undergoing the most prolonged period of stagnation since the second world war." – THE GUARDIAN

Once upon a ruler

Aurangzeb has a troubling legacy. But it does not lie in his tomb



by Ram Madhav

HISTORY IS NOT easy to grapple with. When you revisit it, it starts haunting you. After all, as Mahatma Gandhi pointed out, "there have been tyrants and murderers" throughout history. But "history is mostly guessing; the rest is prejudice", warned Will Durant. Hence, every time we revisit history, historical prejudices come back to haunt us.

À recent Bollywood movie, *Chhaava*, depicting the struggle of Sambhaji Raje, son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, in Maharashtra against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, brought historical memories into the public domain. For those who hadn't heard about the horrible treatment meted out to one of the greatest Maratha warriors at the hands of Aurangzeb, the movie was an eye-opening experience. It graphically depicted the final 40 days of torture that Sambhaji – or *Chhaava* (lion cub) as he is popularly known – was subjected to by the lackeys of Aurangzeb. This was sufficient to ignite passions against the worst ruler of the Mughal dynasty.

Shivaji, a great Maratha king and warrior, died in 1680 after establishing Hindvi Swaraj. Sambhaji ascended the throne a year later and became the second Chhatrapati of the Maratha kingdom. Those were the times when Aurangzeb was camping in the South to capture the Maratha and Deccan kingdoms. Sambhaji's forces ran into the Mughal army and fierce battles ensued for years between the two. Sadly, Sambhaji's army was outnumbered, and the leader was captured due to sabotage on February 1, 1689.

The treatment meted out to Sambhaji, a fellow royal, by Aurangzeb was brutal. American historian Stewart Gordon writes in his authentic account, *The Marathas*, that Aurangzeb saw Sambhaji's refusal to convert to Islam as an ultimate act of defiance and decided to subject him to harsh punishment, before finally beheading him on March 11, 1689, in Koregaon on the banks of the Bhima River.

In Sambhaji, Vishwas Patil writes, "Aurangzeb's brutality knew no bounds." But historian Jadunath Sarkar writes that "Aurangzeb hoped to break Sambhaji's spirit but instead created a martyr whose sacrifice would inspire generations". That was exactly what happened after Sambhaji's martyrdom. Enraged Marathas continued their battles with Mughal armies under the leadership of Rajaram, Sambhaji's brother, and Tarabai, Rajaram's widow. Their resistance was so fierce that Aurangzeb could not return to Delhi and died in 1707 at the age of 88 in Bhingar, a small town near Aurangabad. paigns continue to raise passions. Recently, there have been calls for the removal of his tomb, located at Khulnabad, a town 15 miles from Aurangabad. It led to unfortunate violence in Nagpur, too. Incidentally, the city of Aurangabad was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar by the state government in 2023.

Over the 230 years of their rule in India, the Mughals produced 20 emperors. They included known names like Babur, Akbar and Shah Jahan. Aurangzeb is arguably the worst among them, with even many Muslims coming to hate him during his lifetime. Even his apologists among historians couldn't whitewash the fact that Aurangzeb had ascended the throne by killing his pious brother Dara Shikoh and placing his father Shah Jahan under house arrest in Agra Fort. The imperial qazi, who refused to read the khutba in Aurangzeb's name, was thrown into prison, and, later, when the Shaikh ul-Islam refused to issue a fatwa in support of his plans to invade the Muslim kingdoms in the Deccan, he too met with the same fate. In his overzealousness to please the ulema, Aurangzeb destroyed Hindu temples and brought back the jizya tax on Hindus and other non-Muslims. He even imposed restrictions on Sufi practices at their shrines.

This sordid history undoubtedly makes him the most hated among the Mughal rulers. But how to deal with his tomb, which is located in the heart of Maharashtra, is the question we are grappling with. Babur was first buried in Delhi, but his widow later moved the grave to Kabul, as per his desire. His son Humayun's tomb is in Delhi. Akbar's mausoleum is in Sikandra, a suburb of Agra. Shah Jahan desired that his tomb be in the same place as that of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, within the Taj Mahal in Agra. Dara Shikoh was buried in an unmarked grave in the Humayun's Tomb complex. All these places are just of historical and archaeological importance and nothing more. No reverence is attached to them.

Aurangzeb's grave in Khuldabad near Chhatrapati Sambhajimagar is a small and unimpressive structure with no fanfare or paraphernalia. Historians claim that Aurangzeb himself had wanted it that way and no coffin was used to bury him. Aurangzeb's grave may remain as a stark reminder of his dark deeds on the one hand and Maratha valour on the other, or moved to Kabul like Babur's. But we must remember that the course of history doesn't change merely by removing a couple of symbols here and there. Sun Tzu said that "not all battles are worth fighting". What is worth fighting is not the dilapidated grave but the debased legacy of Aurangzeb

planning and building systems that can be activated as needed. One of the reasons the pandemic and lockdown did not lead to mass starvation in India was the existence of a public distribution system that could be harnessed to provide extra rations, particularly when transportation difficulties could have led to price gouging. However, when it came senger, and data systems were either discredited or crippled. This distrust of data has spread globally, with the US government shutting down projects that study vaccine hesitancy. We need a mindset that sees information and data as tools of governance rather than enemies.

Fifth, trust in government is the key to

option. An earthquake in Indonesia creates a tsunami that reaches Sri Lanka. We need global systems that continually monitor these threats and explore strategies to deal with them. dents nationwide believe it was a good decision. However, global experiences show that this trust is fragile and must be nurtured to ensure the nation is united in future emergencies.

successfully implementing difficult deci-

sions during emergencies. Every emergency

will be different, and policymakers will of-

ten have to make decisions under uncer-

tainty. For policy pronouncements to turn

into national action, there needs to be a part-

nership between the state and its citizens.

In multi-party democracies, few govern-

ments are elected with more than 50 per

cent vote share. Nonetheless, emergency ac-

tions require trust that during emergencies,

the government is acting in the interest of

the whole population and not just its sup-

porters. During the pandemic, telephone

surveys by the National Council of Applied

Economic Research in Delhi-NCR found that

85 per cent of those surveyed supported the

lockdown simply because the government

deemed it necessary. Even in retrospect, the

India Human Development Survey of 2022-

24 finds that nearly 80 per cent of respon-

The writer is professor, University of Maryland and National Council of Applied Economic Research. Views are personal

Even after centuries, Aurangzeb's cam-

In Gandhi's words, the "tyrants and murderers" in history "for a time, seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it – always." Aurangzeb was no exception.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the BJP. Views are personal



A broken welfare state

Freebies, promised by nearly every political party, show a bankruptcy of ideas

DUSHYANT DAVE

IN HIS 1845 novel *Sybil, or the Two Nations* (the rich and the poor), Benjamin Disraeli writes: "Power has only one duty — to secure the social welfare of the people."

Promises by political parties in the recent Delhi elections saw them try to outdo each other in offering "freebies". Earlier, the BJP's 2024 manifesto declared that there had been 10 years of good governance and "vikas", claiming inclusive growth but highlighting freebie schemes: "80 crore-plus citizens have been receiving free rations since 2020 through the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana"; "citizens got Rs 34 lakh crore directly in their accounts"; "46 crore-plus loans worth Rs 27 lakh crore have been given under the PM Mudra Yojana"; "63 lakh street vendors got easy credit under the PM SVANidhi Scheme", etc.

Are these welfare measures or inducements for votes? Are political parties bankrupt in terms of ideas for development? These are so far-fetched and widespread that instead of contributing to employment generation and real growth, they may prevent both. Will they take Indians from being hard-working and self-reliant to being lazy and dependent?

States are heavily indebted. Maharashtra was recently forced to admit funding issues for the Ladki Bahin scheme. Even "vibrant" Gujarat is unable to fund education properly, with serious shortages of teachers, buildings and classrooms in government schools. Meanwhile, the government claims that "25 crore citizens have come out of poverty" and "17 crore jobs have been created" in the past 10 years. If so, why the freebies?

Disraeli is also claimed to have said, "There are three kinds of lies: Lies, damned lies, and statistics."

The Constituent Assembly debates reflect the framers' thoughts on the future of India. On November 15, 1948, a motion to declare India a socialist state was debated and rejected. K T Shah, who moved the amendment, argued, "The term 'socialist' is. I know, frightening to several people...By the term 'socialist' I may assure my friends here that what is implied or conveyed by this amendment is a state in which equal justice and equal opportunity for everybody is assured, in which everyone is expected to contribute by his labour, by his intelligence, and by his work all that he can to the maximum capacity, and everyone would be assured of getting all that he needs and all that he wants for maintaining a decent civilised standard of existence."

B R Ambedkar opposed the motion: "The Constitution... is merely a mechanism for the purpose of regulating the work of the various organs of the state. It is not a mechanism whereby particular members or particular parties are installed in office. What should be the policy of the state, and how the society should be organised on its social and economic side, are matters which must be decided by the people themselves according to time and circumstances. It cannot be laid down in the Constitution itself, because that is destroying democracy altogether."

Discussing Article 30 (now Article 38),

'State to secure a social order for the promotion of the welfare of the people', Damodar Swarup Seth on November 19, 1948, argued that the draft article, "does not convey any clear indication as to the economic nature of the social order to be established". He said, "We all know that the society in which we now live is of a capitalistic order or character and in this society, we see the exploiter and exploited classes both existing side by side; and the exploiting class is naturally the top dog and the exploited class the under-dog. In such a society we clearly see that the real welfare of the masses, the toiling millions, can neither be secured nor protected, unless the society is made clear of the exploiter class, and that can only be possible when we establish a socialist democratic order...

Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur said, "Inevitably there would be parties in the country which seek election to Parliament and these political parties have different and distinctive ideas, ideals, ideologies, programmes and principles... And when a particular party is returned in a majority and is entitled to form the government, the people and the electorate have got a right to expect the implementation of those programmes and principles."

Ambedkar responded, "While we have established political democracy, it is also the desire that we should lay down as our ideal economic democracy... The Constitution also wishes to lay down an ideal before those who would be forming the government... There are various ways in which people believe that economic democracy can be brought about; there are those who believe in individualism as the best form of economic democracy."

J B Kripalani, speaking on October 17, 1949, defined democracy thus: "I wish Sir, that the whole country should understand the moral, the spiritual and the mystic implication of the word 'democracy' ... Politically, we are a democratic people but economically we are divided into such classes that the barriers cannot be crossed. If we have got to be democratic, we have got to be economically so too."

A welfare state protects and promotes the economic and social wellbeing of its citizens based on the principles of equal opportunities, the equitable distribution of wealth and public responsibility for citizens unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions for a good life. With abject poverty, largescale unemployment, the vast gap between the rich and the poor and failing healthcare, is India a model welfare state ?

Sadly, the Supreme Court in S Subramaniam Balaji v. State of Tamil Nadu iustified freebies.

It might do well to recall E M Forster's words: "So two cheers for democracy. One because it admits variety and two because it permits criticism.But two cheers are quite enough. There is no occasion to give three." India needs to wake up and introspect.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA AND FTAS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Global trade disorder' (IE, March 21). Any disruption or disorder is bound to bring opportunities, so does Donald Trump's presidency. India is well-positioned to capitalise on Trump's tariff war and global disorder, as major global nations and multilateral blocs have gone weak, and their over-reliance on the US for everything will continue to weaken their positions further. It is high time India signs Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the US, Canada, Mexico, the EU, the UK, Japan, and Australia to achieve a win-win situation.

Kratika Chauhan, Ujjain

PROTECT ANIMALS

THIS REFERS TO the report, '3 yrs, 100 tigers killed & counting: new-age poaching mafia taps tech, digital payments, hawala networks' (IE, March 21). Kudos to The Indian Express investigation team for exposing the massive poaching network, which has used a sophisticated modus operandi of payments across India with links to Nepal and the Myanmar route. The sad part is that this illegal trade has been going on despite stringent laws and constitutional provisions that protect animals. In reality, animals have been let down by the Centre, the states, and their wildlife agencies. This report truly represents the voice of the voiceless, as articulated by President Droupadi Murmu in the article, 'For those without a voice' (IE, March 21).

LR Murmu, New Delhi

SPACE RESEARCH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Into the light' (IE, March 21). While we lost Kalpana Chawla and other astronauts of the space shuttle Columbia in February 2003, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore of the Crew-9 mission were fortunate to return safely after completing a mission that took nine months instead of nine days due to technical glitches. Space research programmes must be reviewed minutely and reformed comprehensively. The aims of the missions should be limited to bettering human lives in a practical sense. The time required for a round trip to Neptune in our solar system is 27 vears and it's 80,000 years for the adjacent solar system, Alpha Centauri. Therefore, our space research must be kept within reasonable limits in view of technological capabilities. The risk factor in space research must be zero.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Into the light' (IE, March 21). It nicely brings out the determination of astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry 'Butch' Wilmore. Their mission not only depicts human resilience but also the dangers and progress in space travel. Aside from personal accomplishments, such expeditions pose crucial questions regarding the future of space commerce, sustainability, and human existence in the universe. It would be enlightening to consider how these missions influence scientific development and global cooperation.

Varchasvee Mishra, Lucknow

Pune



16 **FIEINDIAN EXPRESS,** SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025



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

Why X has challenged govt's use of Section 79 of the IT Act

LAW

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM & ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, MARCH 21

ELON MUSK-OWNED X (formerly Twitter) has challenged the government's use of Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) to moderate and order the removal of content on social media.

The company has argued that the government's "misuse" of the provision bypasses safeguards available under other provisions of the IT Act - namely Section 69A - that are specifically meant for the purpose of content moderation.

Shreya Singhal & Section 69A

In Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015), the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the IT Act which criminally punished, among other things, sending false informa-tion "for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience". A Bench of Justices R F Nariman and J Chelameswar said the provision was "unconstitutionally vague", giving the government broad, unchecked powers to restrict the freedom of speech.

After this decision, Section 69A of the IT Act became the primary law governing the matter. This section allows the Centre to issue orders blocking "any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource", but unlike 66A, it contains safeguards against misuse, as the SC had noted in Shreya Singhal.

For blocking content under Section 69A, the Centre must deem it "necessary". This "necessity", however, is only justifiable under grounds provided in Article 19(2) of the Constitution which "imposes reasonable restrictions" on the freedom of speech "in the in-

terests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with Foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court. defamation or incitement to an offence".

The Centre must record its reasons in the blocking order so that it can be challenged in court.

Govt's use of Section 79

The SC in Shreya Singhal also clarified the application of another provision – Section 79 of the IT Act. The provision is a "safe harbour" measure that exempts an "intermediary" (such as X) from liability for information published on the platform by a "third party", that is, users of the platform.

But Section 79(3)(b) states that the intermediary could be held liable if it does not immediately remove such unlawful information "upon receiving actual knowledge, or on being notified by the appropriate Government or its agency".

The apex court limited the scope of this provision, ruling that the requirement under Section 79(3)(b) will only kick in once a court order has been passed to that effect, or the government issues a notification stating that the content in question is related to grounds provided in Article 19(2).

But in October 2023, the **EXPLAINED** Ministry of Electronics and Technology Information (MeitY) issued a directive to all ministries, state governments,

and the police saying that information blocking orders could be issued under Section 79(3)(b). A year later in October 2024, MeitY launched a portal called "Sahyog" where the aforementioned authorities could issue and upload blocking orders.

What X's challenge says

X's challenge before the Karnataka High Court argues that MeitY's orders are an attempt to "bypass the multiple procedural safeguards" provided under Section 69A. The petition relies upon the SC's ruling in Shreya Singhal, and says that content can only be censored though the process given under Section 69A or through a court order.

Section 79, X argues, "merely exempts intermediaries from liability for third-party content". The petition states: "A full 23 years after Section 79 was enacted, and 14 years after the current version went into effect, Respondents (the government) are now attempting to misuse Section 79 to create an unlawful blocking regime without any of the protections".

X approached the Karnataka High Court with the petition on March 17, requesting that the court grant an interim order against any coercive action. While a single judge

Bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna refused to do so, it passed an order stating that it was 'reserving liberty to the petitioners to move the court in the event that something is

> done" and listed the matter for March 27. X's petition comes at a time when its AI chatbot Grok 3 has been courting controversy for its use of Hindi slang, and responses that are critical of the government. While X has not received any notice regarding the issue, the Centre has reportedly got in touch with the company regarding the matter.

> The Grok controversy introduces a new angle when it comes to "safe harbour" provisions like Section 79. While intermediaries like X may not be liable for information published by users, the question of whether X is liable for information published by Grok remains unanswered. Courts will have to determine if information published by a "third party" includes AI generated responses.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE WHY SCIENTISTS WERE SURPRISED TO FIND LIFE UNDER ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF

ATEAM of scientists may have discovered dozens of new species, including giant sea spiders, octopi, and corals on the newly exposed seafloor left behind by the enormous A-84 iceberg that broke away from the George VI Ice Shelf on January 13. The break-away of the 510-sq-km ice-

berg – around two-and-a-half times the size of Kolkata - gave access to an underwater world that was previously beyond human reach. A remotely-operated submersible got to the seafloor on January 25, where it captured photos and videos, and collected specimens.

The mission was part of Challenger 150, a UNESCO-endorsed global initiative for deep-sea research. The discoveries were announced on Thursday. The findings provide new insights into how ecosystems function beneath floating sections of the Antarctic ice.

Life under the ice

Using the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) SuBastian, scientists explored the seafloor for eight days, and found flourishing ecosystems at depths of up to 1,300 metres

Their observations include large corals and sponges supporting an array of animal life such as icefish, giant sea spiders, and octopi. They also found a giant phantom jelly, a species of jellyfish that can grow up to a metre wide, and a vaseshaped sponge that might be hundreds of years old. Scientists said they may have discovered several new species

"We didn't expect to find such a beautiful, thriving ecosystem. Based on the size of the animals, the communities we observed have been there for decades, maybe even hundreds of years," expedition co-chief scientist Dr Patricia Esquete of the University of Aveiro (Portugal) said





An octopus (top) and a large sponge that were found under and around an Antarctic ice shelf. ROV SuBastian/ Schmidt Ocean Institute

ically depend on photosynthesising organisms to rain down nutrients from the surface to the seafloor. "However, these Antarctic ecosystems have been covered by 150-metre-thick ice for centuries, completely cut off from surface nutrients," according to a report by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)

Scientists have hypothesised that ocean currents, glacial meltwater or something else could be transporting essential nutrients, sustaining life beneath the ice shelf. The precise mechanism fueling these ecosystems is yet to be understood.

At the moment, not much is known

Trump and a weaker dollar

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Trump complains that the dollar is overvalued, leading to trade deficits. There is talk of a 'Mar-a-Lago Accord', similar to the Plaza Accord of 1985. How do currency exchange rates impact global trade?

UDIT MISRA NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

SINCE 2017, when he became President of the United States for the first time, Donald Trump has complained that the dollar is overvalued - and identified this as the reason both for America's huge trade deficit and the flight of manufacturing abroad.

Given the speed and determination with which he has taken the wrecking ball to longstanding US policy in his second term, many believe Trump could try to convene a "Mar-a-Lago Accord" to force trade partners into an agreement to devalue the dollar - while making sure that its primacy remains unaffected.

Background and context

Trump is trying to turn the US into a manufacturing superpower - or at least address its current trade imbalance.

Last year, the US had a trade deficit of more than \$1 trillion; 2024 was reportedly also the fourth consecutive year in which the US clocked a trillion-dollar trade deficit. The ever widening trade deficit implies increasingly less manufacturing in the US and, by extension, lower levels of job creation.

Trump won the White House on the promise that he would turn this situation around. However, despite the historically large trade deficit, the US is also seeing historically low unemployment rates. The main goal of Trump's policy is, therefore, not more job creation, but more manufacturing in the US and lower trade deficits.

Role of exchange rate

STORY OF THE US DOLLAR

CHART 1: REAL BROAD DOLLAR INDEX

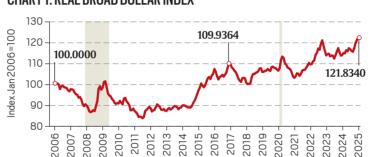


CHART 2: REAL BROAD DOLLAR INDEX (GOODS ONLY)*



act in them, the demand for the American and supply chains are disrupted. currency is high, and always rising. Tariffed countries can also 'devalue' their That implies a rising exchange rate for the vn currencies by buying US dollars and/ or levels (Chart 1), there is talk of a Mar-a-Lago Accord - essentially a second Plaza Accord.

Story of Plaza Accord

The other parties knew that a rise in the exchange rates of the mark, yen, pound, or franc would hurt their exports competitiveness. But they accepted dollar devaluation over the uglier option of high US tariffs.

With the dollar at a historic high, Congress was on the verge of legislating protectionist measures such as tariffs (like Trump is doing now). That would have been bad for everyone - so the rest of the G5 swallowed the bitter pill hoping it would allow for free flow of trade in the longer term.

Was the Plaza Accord a success or failure? It did bring down the dollar's exchange rate in the short to medium term, and bridged yawning trade deficits. But four decades later, the US is back to 1985. Things worked out especially badly for the Japanese.

Japan was an export-led economy, and the spike in its exchange rate hit its exports competitiveness. To stimulate the domestic economy, Japan lowered interest rates. Between high exchange rates and a speculative boom fuelled by low interest rates, Japan saw price bubbles in real estate and the stock markets.

As the bubbles burst in the absence of commensurate growth in the real economy. Japan went into economic stagnation from the early 1990s, and is yet to fully recover.

'Mar-a-Lago Accord'

A 1985-type accord is far more difficult

in 2025. This why: Japan presents a cautionary tale, and here are far more than five countries in-

in a press statement.

A pleasant surprise

The reason scientists were surprised to find diverse ecosystems under the ice shelf is that deep-sea communities typ-

about life under Antarctica's floating ice shelves. It was only in 2021 that BAS researchers first reported signs of bottomdwelling life beneath the Filchner-Ronne ice shelf in the Southern Weddell Sea. **ALIND CHAUHAN**

		DRISH JUDIC	CIARY
	JUDICIA Centres	RY FOUNDAT English Medium	ION COURSE हिंदी माध्यम
A	9 Delhi	19 March 6 PM	20 मार्च सुबह 8 बजे
Scan to Download Drishti Learning App	♥ Prayagraj	26 March 8 AM	२६ मार्च सुबह ८ बजे
🕨 é 🛋	9 707, Dr. Mukher	jee Nagar, New Delhi 9 Tashka	nd Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj
	🌐 drishtiju	udiciary.com 👘 🔇 87	501 87501

EXPLAINED

HISTORY

The main reason Americans import instead of buying from within the country is that goods from the rest of the world are more affordable. This is because of the US dollar's strong purchasing power.

The dollar is strong because of the trust it enjoys both as a store of value and a medium of exchange around the world.

The strength of the US economy, independence of its central bank. and the Federal Reserve's commitment to price stability are key reasons why the dollar doesn't "lose value".

The trust is so high that all central banks - including India's – hold US dollars as assets (foreign exchange reserves) or guarantees against which they issue their own currency. Dollars make up 60% of all forex reserves

in the world, and half of all transactions are reportedly denominated in dollars. Since all countries want to hold on to dollars and trans-

dollar against any currency, and increasing purchasing power for the dollar – which makes it attractive for Americans to use it to import cheaper goods from the rest of the world.

Making in US, cutting deficit

There are two main ways in which Trump could have gone about meeting his goals. ■ Impose punitive tariffs on trade partners:

Taxing imports would either reduce the demand for foreign goods, bringing down the deficit, or force foreign companies to set up shop in the US, boosting American manufacturing and reducing deficits. This is the approach Trump has been following.

However, even if the trade partners do not retaliate, costlier imports hurt US citizens, not foreign citizens or companies. If they do hit back and a tariff war begins, the hurt increases and spreads as everything becomes costlier

selling their own currencies in the open market. This would increase the relative supply of their currency and bring down its 'price' (exchange rate) relative to the dollar.

Get other countries to allow the dollar to lose value relative to their currencies:

What if other countries sold their dollars in the open market and bought up their own currencies? The supply of dollars would rise, and its relative value (exchange rate) would fall. A cheaper dollar would allow US exporters to get back into the game.

In 1985, the US signed the Plaza Accord (named after the Plaza Hotel in New York where the talks were held) with the other top economies of the time – Japan, Germany, France, and the UK (the G5) - and the exchange rate of the dollar was brought down in a coordinated manner (Chart 2). Now, with the dollar's exchange rate again at very high volved today. America's main trade adversary is China, which, unlike Germany and Japan in 1985, is also its chief military adversary. And the scale at which a monetary readjustment would be

required today is humongous. Finally, Trump's bullying style is probably not the best way to get global leaders to agree to something that would be detrimental to their own economies and political futures.

In the run-up to the election last year, Scott Bessent, the US Treasury Secretary, had spoken of an old Soviet nuclear strategy in the context of tariffs: "Escalate to de-escalate... you can put tariffs on with the idea of getting rid of all tariffs."

Could Trump be employing his tariffs chaos to engineer an escalation that would get other countries to agree to a devaluation of the US dollar?

Story of Kennedy assassination; what new documents have revealed

ARJUN SENGUPTA NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE DONALD Trump administration on Tuesday declassified more than 2,000 documents comprising some 63,400 pages relating to the assassination of former President John F Kennedy (JFK) on November 22, 1963. This came after Trump signed an executive order to this effect in January.

An American tragedy

JFK was shot dead in Dallas, Texas, more than 60 years ago. The assassination continues intrigue journalists, conspiracy theorists, and common people alike.

This is in part due to JFK's popularity. A 2013 article in the BBC said. "Kennedy was the first superstar chief executive" who "wielded the techniques of the new age of television as no other politician ever had before him".

Although his speeches were often light on specifics, JFK looked and sounded good while delivering them. His carefully crafted public image was both relatable and aspirational.

His death was captured on camera, and fuelled enormous public interest.

No 'satisfactory' answer

The Warren Commission, set up by President Lyndon B Johnson to investigate his predecessor's assassination, submitted its findings in 1964.

It concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely responsible for the killing, and that he had fired three shots from the sixth-floor of the Texas School Book Depository overlooking the path of JFK's motorcade. Two of the

bullets hit the President. Oswald was arrested on the day of the assassination. But he never went to trial – he was shot dead in the basement of Dallas police head-

guarters by a nightclub owner named Jack Ruby two days after the assassination. The Warren Commission concluded that this killing was a "patriotic act" by Ruby.

But the public was not satisfied, partly because Oswald never admitted to the murder.

"Part of the problem with the Kennedy assassination is that we never actually got to hear Oswald's side of the story," Peter Ling, author of the biography John F Kennedy (2013), told the BBC in 2023.

Alleged CIA involvement

A Gallup poll in November 2023 found that two-thirds of Americans still believe that Oswald acted with accomplices. Who these accomplices were has been the subject of many conspiracy theories.

The most popular one comes from Oliver Stone's 1991 biopic titled JFK. The film alleged that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) killed JFK and covered it up due to his keenness to de-escalate the Vietnam War.

While Stone was not the first to make such a claim, his film popularised this version of events. Ling argues that there's a "psychological element" to this.

"We tend to remake our memories to make sense of how things have gone," Ling said. "And so the Kennedy assassination becomes this moment when the hopefulness of the 60s starts to falter. By the time Oliver Stone comes out and... says [Kennedy] is killed by the CIA to enable the Vietnam experiment to go forward, that's what many Americans sort of want to believe - that it's all been taken away from them by evil forces."



JFK (left, backseat) minutes before his assassination. Wikimedia Commons

The CIA has rejected these claims.

An Act of Congress

In 1992, the US Congress passed the John F Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act.

The Act required each "assassination record" to be publicly disclosed in full no later than 25 years after its enactment. But it allowed US Presidents to withhold the publication of documents which they believed could cause "identifiable harm" to the military, intelligence operations, law enforcement, or the conduct of foreign relations in situations where such harm outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

The Act established the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) as an independent agency to consider and render decisions when a US government office sought to postpone the disclosure of assassination records. The board sat for four years (1994-98), during which it released almost all documents relating to the Warren Commission investigation.

However, in 2013, the ARRB's former chairman John R Tunheim and former deputy director Thomas Samoluk wrote in the Boston Globe that "there is a body of documents that the CIA is still protecting".

In 2017, during his first term, Trump released some 2,800 files regarding JFK's killing. According to various reports, pressure from the CIA and FBI kept him from doing more. In 2023, former President Joe Biden released about 17,000 more documents.

No great revelation – yet

On Tuesday, another 2,182 documents were uploaded to the US National Archives and Records Administration's website

Although it might take months for these documents to be comprehensively analysed, no great details about the assassination have been uncovered so far. These documents, however, reveal the inner workings of the CIA during the height of the Cold War.

The New York Times said: "It is becoming clear that something else might have been behind the decades of secrecy: protecting the sources and occasionally unsavory practices of US intelligence operations."

The JFK files have details about the CIA's agents and informants, covert actions, and budget lines. One document talks about an operation in which the CIA contaminated 80,000 bags of raw sugar on a cargo ship traveling from Cuba to the USSR. The contaminate was not dangerous but ruined "the taste of the consumer for any food or drink for a considerable time," the document said.

At least another 1.500 files still remain under the wraps. The latest release does not include some 2,400 new records that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it "discovered" only last month.

LONGER VERSION ON indianexpress.com/explained



International market data till 1900 IS



SENSEX: 76,905.51 ▲ 557.45 (0.73%) NIFTY: 23,350.40 ▲ 159.75 (0.69%) NIKKEI: 37,677.06 ▼ 74.82 HANG SENG: 23,689.72 ▼ 530.23 FTSE: 8,665.73 ▼ 36.26 DAX: 22,852.39 ▼ 146.76

AMID GROWING DEMAND, STAGNANT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION India's oil import dependency likely to hit fresh full-year high in FY25

SUKALP SHARMA NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

GROWING DEMAND for fuel and other petroleum products amid stagnant domestic crude oil output led India's reliance on imported crude oil increasing to over 88 per cent in the first 11 months of the current financial year ending March (FY25), indicating that the import dependency for the full financial year could breach the all-time-high level of the last financial year.

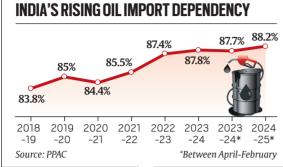
Latest data released by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning& Analysis Cell (PPAC) shows that India's oil import dependency was 88.2 per cent in April-February, up from 87.7 per cent in the corresponding period of FY24. For the full FY24, reliance on imported oil was 87.8 per cent. Industry watchers believe that the import dependency level for the entire FY25 could be a tad higher than the April-February level, as was the case in the previous financial year.

India's energy needs are consistently growing, leading to higher oil imports. This is fuelled by factors such as growing en-

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA

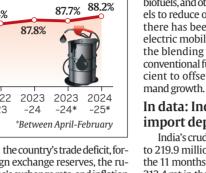
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

HOUSE PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS



ergy-intensive industries, increased vehicle sales, a rapidly expanding aviation sector, growing consumption of petrochemicals, and a rising population. India's reliance on imported oil has generally increased over the years, with the exception of FY21 when demand was suppressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India's oil import dependency was 87.8 per cent in FY24, 87.4 per cent in FY23, 85.5 per cent in FY22, 84.4 per cent in FY21, 85 per cent in FY20, and 83.8 per

cent in FY19. India's heavy reliance on imported crude oil makes its economy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. This also impacts



eign exchange reserves, the rupee's exchange rate, and inflation rate, among others. The Indian government aims to reduce the country's reliance on imported crude oil but faces challenges due to sluggish domestic oil output amid rising demand. In 2015, the government aimed to reduce reliance on oil imports to 67 per cent by 2022. However, import dependency has only increased. The government has imple-

mented several policy reforms to encourage investments in India's oil and gas exploration and production sector, the latest being the Oilfield (Regulatory and Development) Amendment Bill,

'Consider PLI tenure extension, slash red tape'

the panel report stated. The

committee highlighted that ca-

pacity development in value-

added garments within the

man-made fibre (MMF) seg-

tention

which was recently passed by the Parliament. The government is also promoting electric mobility, biofuels, and other alternative fuels to reduce oil imports. While there has been an increase in electric mobility adoption and the blending of biofuels with conventional fuels, it is not sufficient to offset petroleum de-

In data: India's oil import dependency

India's crude oil imports rose to 219.9 million tonnes (mt) in the 11 months to February from 213.4 mt in the year-ago period. Meanwhile, domestic oil production declined slightly to 26.2 million tonnes from 26.9 million tonnes. Total domestic consumption of petroleum products in April-February rose 2.6 per cent year-on-year to 218.3 mt. of which only 25.8 mt of products are estimated to have been produced from domestic crude oil, resulting in a self-sufficiency level of just 11.8 per cent, according to PPAC data. The calculation of the extent of import reliance is based on the domestic consumption of petroleum products and excludes petroleum product ex-

ports since those volumes do not represent India's demand India-the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and also one of its top importers-is a net exporter of petroleum products.

India's gross oil import bill for April-February was \$124.7 billion, an increase of almost 3 per cent year-on-year. Crude oil imports top the list of India's merchandise imports. India's crude oil consumption and imports are projected to rise further due to growing domestic demand. Consumption of petroleum products is projected to increase by 4.7 per cent in FY26, reaching 252.93 mt, per PPAC projections. If these projections hold, the country's petroleum fuel and product consumption in FY26 will hit vet another record.

Unlike many countries, India is seen as a major growth centre for oil demand given the future consumption potential and relatively low per-capita energy demand currently. In fact, India is among the few markets where refinery capacity is expected to expand substantially over the coming years. India currently has a refining capacity of nearly 257 mt per annum.

Grok, unhinged! Who is responsible for AI chatbot's sensational responses on X?

CAN YOU BLAME GROK?

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHL MARCH 21

WITH THE Indian government in touch with Elon Musk's X over stirring responses generated by its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot Grok, the question that many in the government are grappling with is: Who is actually responsible for the retorts that the AI has been producing on the social media platform?

Laden with profanities, sweeping takes, colouring some conservative users, including X founder Musk, as the biggest spreaders of misinformation -Grok's responses to questions posed by Indian users have so far turned out to be an amalgamation of the attitudes and demeanour familiar to those who frequently use the social network.

Here are some facts: Grok is not a person, at best, it is a computer code running on

high-end compute at EXPLAINED the back end, and at its worst, that code periodically churns out the underbelly of the data that has been fed to it. Grok is artificial, its intelligence debatable.

So, when Grok uses a misogynist Hindi expletive when responding to a user about their most prominent mutuals, or calls Musk one of the biggest sources of misinformation on the social media platform - it led to people asking Grok a flurry of questions, directly through their posts, or as comments to other posts.

This piece aims to demystify three main concerns around what's happening with Grok: who is responsible for its responses, are the people asking it questions somehow liable, and if Grok is a source of truth.

Who is liable, can people be penalised?

Internet platforms such as X, Meta, and YouTube have legal protection from the content that their users post. This, in law, is called safe harbour - the argument being platforms have no control over what users are posting. They are mere conduits, so they can not be held liable for hosting third-party

for allowing Grok to **GROK IS** not a person, at produce responses best, it is a computer code without any filters running on high-end compute at the back end, and at its worst, that code periodically churns out the underbelly of the data that has been fed to it MANY WOULD argue that the liability of Grok's responses primarily lies with xAI, its creators, and X

PLATFORMS LIKE X, Meta. and YouTube have legal protection from the content that their users post. This, in law, is called safe harbour - the argument being platforms have no control over what users are posting

and X for allowing Grok to pro-

duce responses without any fil-

ters. But that too raises some per-

tinent questions. How does one

hold creators of an algorithm re-

sponsible? Is it the highly-paid

people who have written the

code, or the low-wage data anno-

tators? These are questions that

regulators around the world are

unlikely to have a quick, and accu-

rate answer to. "Grok is certainly

not a real person, it's an artificial

entity. But some of its responses

are definitely problematic. It's an

While that convention itself is currently being debated given virality and the potential of speech on such platforms to cause real world harms, the million dollar question is whether Grok, an artificial output generator, can have safe harbour protections.

That is a complex question to deal with for lawmakers. X has told the Indian government that it has been trained on the open-Internet, which presumably also includes content that users post on X. So, in a way, everything that

Grok generates is based on what people spending years on the Internet have produced. But can then they be held responsible? That is like asking if the ocean can

be sued for being wet. Besides, speech is a highly protected category in India, with the Indian Constitution affording the freedom of expression as a fundamental right, with some reasonable restrictions. But, those rights are available to human beings. Humans' speech should be censored only under select circumstances when they obviously violate restrictions laid down in the Constitution. Does Grok have the right to unfettered free speech? And what is Grok's free speech even? Its code essentially determines what the next word in a sentence should be, which is a factor of the underlying dataset it has been trained on, which in turn is generated by actual humans. Both the code, and the content in the

> language model. So, many would argue that the liability of Grok's responses primarily lies with xAI, its creators,

> > A second source said the RBI

which only recently approved a

one-year extension for Kathpalia,

had also made clear that it wanted

the candidates to come from out-

recommendations for top execu-

tive positions, RBI approval is re-

quired. The RBI is known to offer

informal advice to lenders facing

governance or financial concerns

that it would prefer an external

candidate. After the discrepancies

were disclosed, the RBI issued a

statement assuring depositors

that the bank was well capitalised.

Kathpalia and Khurana were not

answered. The sources said the

accounting discrepancy – which

contravened RBI rules intro-

duced only in April 2024 – did

not appear to be an industry-

wide problem. The first source

said it was a clear issue of lack of

oversight, and another source

said it had come to light in

September 2024 when it was

flagged to Kathpalia. **REUTERS**

Emails sent to the RBI,

While a bank's board makes

side IndusInd.

interesting, and difficult problem, that us in government will have to figure out," a senior government official said. Should you trust Grok? The short answer to that question is, AI responses should not be treated as accurate pieces of information, no matter how much they satiate one's socio-political beliefs. Already, platforms are applying filters on their AI models to restrict their political speech in order to stay safe from government scrutiny.

As India headed to Lok Sabha elections last year, Google said it will restrict the types of electionrelated questions users can ask its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot Gemini in the country. Earlier, Krutrim the chatbot developed by an Indian AI startup founded by Bhavish Aggarwal of Ola, had been found to self-censor on certain keywords. AI platforms are built to predict the next word in a phrase, and to try and satisfy the query a user has asked - and models like Grok have so far shown they will do anything to achieve that, beg, borrow or steal.

rules for social

THE PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee on Commerce on Friday gave its recommendation for the government to extend the tenure and scope of the ongoing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to more sectors and improve its effectiveness by re-

and "compliance burdens" "The committee is of the view that the PLI's effectiveness could be further enhanced by extending its duration, reducing administrative delays, and easing compliance burdens. The committee recommends that





the scope of the PLI scheme be expanded to include other sectors with high employment potential, such as the chemicals sector and labour-intensive industries like leather, apparel, toys, jewellery, and handicrafts,"

ment requires government atable provisions be made in the PLI scheme, in consultation with "The government must enstakeholders, to safeguard mangage with Export Promotion ufacturers against price fluctuations in international markets," Councils and other stakeholders to address demands for changes the report stated. The panel also noted that PLI in the PLI scheme, such as covering additional high-potential schemes for all 14 sectors have MMF apparel products and rebeen notified and are at various ducing the value addition critestages of implementation. As of ria," the report said. December 2023, actual invest-

Regarding the pharmaceutiment of Rs 1.07 lakh crore had been realised, leading to produccal sector, the panel noted that tion or sales worth Rs 8.70 lakh the industry is a significant contributor to foreign trade and has crore and the creation of around consistently played a crucial role 7 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

in export growth."However, ob-Exports have exceeded Rs 3.40 stacles hindering the expansion of pharmaceutical exports need prompt attention. The committee, therefore, suggests that suitcessing, the report added.

> cided to let the PLI scheme lapse. According to two officials cited in the report, the scheme will not be expanded beyond the 14 pilot sectors, and production dead lines will not be extended despite requests from some

lakh crore, with significant contributions from electronics, pharmaceuticals, and food pro-Reuters reported on Friday that the government has de-

participating firms. However, the report stated that the end of the PLI programme does not indicate an abandonment of the gov ernment's manufacturing ambitions, since alternative strategies are being planned.

'IndusInd Bank CEO, SEBI tightens

RBI fines IDBI, Citibank over non-compliance

ducing "administrative delays"

New Delhi: The RBI on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 36.28 lakh on Citibank for contravention of the directions related to reporting of transactions undertaken under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, and a penalty of Rs 36.30 lakh on IDBI Bank for not undertaking due-diligence while processing the inward remittances from a foreign currency account opened by a constituent. RBI said the penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Bain launches open offer for Manappuram Fin

New Delhi: US-based private investment firm Bain Capital has launched Rs 5,764 crore open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in gold loan fin-Manappuram ancier Finance, triggered after Bain's decision on Thursday to acquire an 18 per cent stake in the company. **PT**

Mahindra to hike vehicle prices from April

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday said it will hike prices of its SUVs and commercial vehicles by up to 3 per cent from April owing to rising input costs and increased commodity prices, among other reasons, the company said in a state-PTI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MARCH 21

THE INDIAN rupee on Friday strengthened past the 86 mark against the US dollar for the first time since January, driven by a surge in foreign investments in the domestic capital and debt markets.

The rupee appreciated by 39 paise, ending at 85.98 against the US dollar, compared to Thursday's close of 86.37. This marks the rupee's eighth straight day of gains, registering its best

The rupee has risen by 1.78 per cent in

March so far, following a decline in the dollar index

BRIEFLY — Rupee rallies to 85.98 against US dollar

weekly performance since January 2023. The rupee has risen by 1.78 per cent in March so far, following a decline in the dollar index. However, for the current financial year, it has still recorded a 2.8 per cent decline. "The rupee's gain was sup-

pected trade data and a rise in foreign exchange reserves following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) USD-INR swap intervention. These factors together have helped bolster the local currency," said Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. RBI's efforts have paid off, with the rupee emerging as the top performer among Asian currencies so far this month, he said.

Jateen Trivedi, research analyst - commodity and currency, LKP Securities, said FII inflows

surged with strong buying figported by stronger-than-exures in recent days. "The Fed's decision to hold rates steady and its forecast for lower interest rates ahead pulled the dollar down, providing significant support to the rupee. However, major capital market strengthening gives rupee the strong push higher," he said. Stock markets remained

strong amid bargain hunting and FII inflows. The Sensex gained 0.73 per cent, or 557 points, to 76,905.51 and the NSE Nifty Index rose 0.69 per cent, or 159 points, to 23,350.40 on Friday.

Young, rich Indians rev up Lamborghini and Mercedes-Maybach sales to new highs

REUTERS NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

LAMBORGHINI AND Mercedes-Maybach plan to expand in India as a growing tribe of young, rich Indians splurge on super luxury cars, driving their sales to record levels

Italian supercar maker Lamborghini, fresh from a year of record sales, is exploring a fourth showroom in India, while Mercedes-Maybach sees the country as a potential top-five market by sales, company executives said.

"India, for us, is an asset ... there is a huge potential for the future. There is the idea of having maybe a fourth dealership but this is still something in the early stages," Lamborghini's Stephan Winkelmann told reporters at a virtual roundtable.

The optimism is driven by "a change in generation" in the country with "momentum from younger customers", he said, adding that the average age of a Lamborghini buyer in India is below 40 years – making it the



Lamborghini Urus SE, a hybrid SUV car is presented during its launch in New Delhi, on August 9, 2024. **Reuters** File

youngest market after China. from their elders, who were

"You have a lot of startups in more concerned with saving. India which are very successful. Executives at startups cash-You have very young, high net ing out after record public listings and younger generations of a family business spending with less guilt are driving up sales of all things luxury - cars, watches, bags and even homes.

> But luxury car sales in India make up just over 1 per cent of the 4 million vehicles-a-year

average car costs about \$15,000. Daniel Lescow, head of Mercedes-Maybach, said India was already in its top 10 markets

ury market develops. "I'm convinced there's so

deputy urged to quit' THE RESERVE Bank of India has positors, said one of the sources, briefed by top management.

urged the CEO of IndusInd Bank and his deputy to step down after significant accounting lapses as soon as replacements are found and the central bank has approved them, according to four sources familiar with the conversations. IndusInd Bank strongly denied the claims, however, stating they are "factually incorrect."

"The information circulating is entirely inaccurate and does not reflect the true situation," the bank said. IndusInd is India's fifth largest private lender, with a Rs 5.4 lakh crore (\$63 billion) balance sheet. On March 10 it disclosed that its derivatives portfolio was overvalued by around 2.35 per cent – about \$175 million – after non-compliant internal trades.

The bank, headed by Sumant Kathpalia, has appointed external investigators. His deputy, Arun Khurana, also heads the global markets division, which includes the derivatives portfolio.

The RBI made clear that it had again this year, on the back of a lost confidence in the top executives, but that it wanted an orderly transition to avoid unnerving de-

The Italian carmaker's Urus SUV, which has a starting price tag of close to \$500,000 before taxes, made up half its sales, with rest coming from the the Huracan and Revuelto sports cars.

market, and super luxury cars are an even smaller percentage.

in India in 2024, selling 113 cars,

up 10per cent on 2023.

Winkelmann expects growth

strong order book lasting 18

months

Lamborghini had its best year

Mercedes-Maybach achieved 145per cent growth in India in 2024, selling 500 of its super luxury cars priced upwards of \$325,000 in a market where the

and had the potential to be in the top five, but the speed of growth would depend on how the lux-

much more potential ... so many opportunities here," Lescow said

INDIA'S AIR PASSENGER traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by a growing middle class and increasing air travel affordability, according to Joshua Ng, Director of US-headquartered Alton Aviation Consultancy.

Bullish on aviation prospects in India, Ng said the country, which contributes approximately 10 per cent of Asia Pacific's domestic and international air traffic demand, has already returned to pre-pandemic levels."Such growing demand in turn supports

media ads by intermediaries

Mumbai: SEBI on Friday asked registered intermediaries wishing to advertise on social media platforms like Google and Meta to register on these platforms using the contact details such as the email ID and mobile number provided to the markets watchdog. The move is aimed at curbing fraudulent activities in the securities market.

This comes after SEBI observed a rapid increase in frauds related to securities markets being conducted on platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X, Telegram, and the Google Play Store. "It has been decided in consultation with Social Media Platform Providers that all Sebi registered intermediaries uploading/ publishing advertisements on SMPPs like Google/ Meta (to start with), shall be required to register on such social media platforms using their email IDs and mobile numbers registered on Sebi SI Portal," the regulator said.

'India's air passenger traffic to grow by 7% in '25'

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA SINGAPORE, MARCH 21

India's massive aviation development programmes including setting up of 150 airports across the

country," Ng said on Friday. He further noted that "India's passenger traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by an order book of nearly 1,900 aircraft among airlines based in the country." Besides, "the recent merger between Air India and Vistara is also expected to bring more stability to the industry, with Air India and IndiGo emerging as the two primary players in the fullservice and low-cost carrier segments respectively," he added.

The aviation industry will continue its long-term growth trend

'Domestic air passenger traffic rises 11% in Feb'

Mumbai: India's domestic air passenger traffic increased 11.04 per cent to 140.44 lakh in February over the same month last year, according to monthly traffic data by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Domestic passengers flown by Indian airlines stood at 126.48 lakh. PTI

of 4 per cent per annum from 2024 to 2034, he said.

Rapid economic growth in India has wrought a fundamental shift in attitude towards luxury purchases among its

worth individuals which are stepping into this type of car. So this is positive for us," he said.

younger generations that differs



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 **18** BIG PICTURE

I SALIM! How are you? Winter is coming in Russia, and we are starting to plan a trip to varkala

The message notification beeped on Salim Shah's phone on November 3, 2024. It was from an old client, Aleksej, to whom he had been renting out his property in Varkala, a beach in south Kerala, around 40 km from Thiruvananthapuram, for the last eight years. He knew him well.

Turns out, he hardly knew him.

On March 11, the Kerala Police, in coordination with the International Police Coordination Unit of the Central Bureau of Investigation (IPCU-CBI), arrested Aleksej Besciokov, a 46-year-old Lithuanian citizen and resident of Russia, from the house that Salim owned near the Varkala beach.

The CBI said Besciokov is wanted by US authorities on a number of charges, including money laundering. He will stand trial before the Eastern District Court of Virginia.

Earlier this year, Besciokov was indicted in the US for allegedly facilitating money laundering by transnational criminal organisations through Garantex, a Russian cryptocurrency exchange.

On March 7, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the unsealing of the indictment against Besciokov. According to the DOJ indictment, Besciokov was Garantex's primary technical administrator, responsible for obtaining and maintaining critical Garantex infrastructure, as well as reviewing and approving transactions.

Around three years ago, on April 5, 2022, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control had sanctioned Garantex for its role in allegedly "facilitating money laundering of funds from ransomware actors and darknet markets".

The DOJ indictment says that between March 2021 and December 2023, "Garantex processed at least approximately \$1.2 million from, and to, three different darknet markets that specialized in drug sales and child sexual abuse material".

Besciokov and Garantex's Russian cofounder, Aleksandr Mira Serda, are accused of processing at least \$96 billion in cryptocurrency transactions since 2019.

Besciokov and Serda allegedly received hundreds of millions in criminal proceeds, which were used to facilitate several crimes, including hacking, ransomware, terrorism, and drug trafficking.

"Winter is coming..." The Game of Thrones reference in the message that Besciokov sent may have been accidental, but with his cover blown, the note that now sits on Salim's phone carries a sense of foreboding.

A man in his own world

Varkala, with its jagged cliff beach that stretches on for 3 km, is a mix of spirituality and revelry. The Papanasam beach holds religious significance for Hindus, who come to perform rituals and immerse the ashes of the deceased in the sea.

Over the last decade, it has also drawn revellers from across the country and beyond, even surpassing Kovalam in popularity. Known for its red laterite formations and panoramic views of the Arabian Sea, the Varkala Cliff features cafes, restaurants and shops catering to the many tourists who throng the beach, both domestic and foreign. It was here amid the beachgoers and the

revellers, that Besciokov, "quiet" and "rehis safe fortlessly slipped in, without eliciting attention or prying questions. So every year, Besciokov would come down to Varkala - often with his wife Yulia, 46, and son Feliks, 10 – where he rented Salim's two-storeyed, four-bedroom house. His recent trip to Varkala, which began on February 11, however, lasted only a month.

UNDER THE RADAR THF LITHUANIAN **INAKERALA BEACH TOWN**

Few in Varkala knew what Aleksej Besciokov was up to, except that he stayed with his family in a rented house, moved around on a scooter and kept to himself. Until, one day, the police turned up at his door. NARAYANAN S visits the beach town, where the alleged cyber criminal, wanted in the US for a \$96 billion cryptocurrency racket, spent a few months every year since 2016



"He came with a Russian friend back then and introduced himself as a computer en- visits to get away from Russia's winter business in Russia. That mutual connection

Salim said Besciokov usually timed his drilling ship maintenance and construction to oil fie

January

31.

2029. He adds that there had never been an issue with Besciokov's Form C, the mandatory registration form that hosts of foreign guests must submit to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) within 24 hours of arrival to help authorities track and locate them.

"If the Indian authorities knew he was a criminal, wouldn't they have caught him at the airport?" Salim wonders, adding that Besciokov opened a bank account in India and carried out online transactions.

Besciokov initially paid a rent of Rs 1,75,000 a year, which went up to Rs 5 lakh over the years after considerable persuasion from Salim. "Whenever I asked for a rent hike, he would claim to be a simple man with a modest financial background. I told him this year that I needed Rs 5 lakh since my children's weddings were coming up. Even then, he paid only Rs 4.5 lakh in two instalments. I have provided all the transaction details to the police," he says.

From all accounts, Besciokov and his family led as unobtrusive a life as possible while in Varkala.

"They rarely interacted with local residents and others. They did not eat out much either. They mostly cooked at home and ate fruits, vegetables, and fish, as far as I know. They weren't particularly into Indian cuisine," says Salim, who lives with his family a kilometre away.

Athira, a worker at a nearby grocery shop, recalls that the family usually bought bananas and canned tuna. She says that, unlike **Besciokov** was many other tourists, they rarely engaged in small talk indicted in the US with anyone. But she refor allegedly members "something interesting": Besciokov, his wife facilitating money and son all had similar closely laundering cropped haircuts, which at different times were dyed through Garantex, blonde, pink or purple.

a Russian Salim describes Besciokov as tall and lean, cryptocurrency someone who appeared exchange younger than his actual age. 'I would see him three or

four times during each visit. Whenever I went to the house, he would be working on his laptop. He would often be in shorts and round-neck T-shirts," he says.

Besciokov usually moved around on a second-hand scooter that he bought. Police are currently trying to trace the previous owner of the scooter to find potential associates of Besciokov in Varkala.

Salim says that Besciokov often came across as tight-fisted. "Once, he complained about how hot it was in the house. I suggested that he buy an air conditioner for himself, but he never did. After that, he never mentioned the heat again.'

"In fact, he has not bought any furniture except for what was already in the house when I handed it over to him. The only time he made any change was when he painted a wall green to hang pictures and some study material for his son. He painted the wall himself and later reverted to the orig-

inal colour after some days," says Salim. calling his

did he ever hire my car."

Another neighbour, who wished to remain anonymous, says Besciokov was different from many other foreign visitors who wandered around late at night. "He usually returned home by 9 pm and seemed to be working on his computer until early morning before going to sleep."

What was he doing in Varkala then? While it's an aspect the police and the agencies are probing, the Kerala Police said he was on a valid tourist visa.

Thiruvananthapuram Rural SP K S Sudarsan said, "His electronic gadgets have been handed over to the CBI. He had a local bank account, but nothing suspicious was found in it. He was probably careful not to indulge in any illegal activities during his stay in India. We have come to know that the US agencies tracked him by monitoring the social media use of his wife.'

The arrest

The External Affairs Ministry (EAM), acting on a request from the US under the Extradition Act of 1962, obtained a provi-

sional arrest warrant against Besciokov from Delhi's Patiala House Court on March 10. The CBI received intelligence about his presence in Varkala and passed this on to the local police. Acting on the tip-off, the Varkala police conducted searches of homestays in the area.

On the evening of March 11, civil police officer Jojin Raj was enquiring in the neighbourhood when he spotted Besciokov on the balcony of the house. "I quickly went up. On seeing me, he went inside the house. I started knocking on the door and, after a few minutes, he opened it. He was all dressed up, with his bags packed. I asked for his passport, and the details matched. He then attempted to bribe me with a handful of Rs 500 notes. I told him to wait and called my senior officers. They arrived and took him into cus-

tody," Jojin explains, adding that it was only the next day that he realised the extent of Besciokov's criminal activities.

The police seized two laptops, two mobile phones, and some documents from the house. They later reported that while Besciokov's friend Kirill left Varkala on March 6, Besciokov's family, along with Krill's wife and baby, left for Russia early morning March 11, hours before he was arrested.

Police are investigating Besciokov's financial transactions and potential links to local residents but have not identified any suspects so far. He was later presented before the Patiala House Court in New Delhi, and will later be extradited to the US.

Varkala DySP Gopakumar, one of the senior officers who took Besciokov into custody, stated that the Lithuanian remained in Varkala because he was worried about getting caught at the airport.

Gopakumar says, "He remained very calm even after his arrest. He told the poand had visited other Indian cities like Chennai and Mumbai in the past. WITH INPUTS FROM SHAJU PHILIP, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It was in 2016 that Besciokov first approached Salim seeking his house on rent.

(Clockwise from top) the house that Salim Shah rented out; Aleksej Besciokov; Varkala beach near Thiruvananthapuram. It was in this beach town that Besciokov, "quiet" and "reserved" found his safe haven

though he would stay for only three months a year, the house should not be rented to anyone else for the rest of the year. Besides his family, he frequently bought several Russian friends to stay at the house over the years. We never had any reason to distrust him or his friends," says Salim.

This time too, he was with Yulia, their son and the family of his friend Kirill (wife Tataina and their baby).

liked the beaches and the sun here."

Salim's family, among the first movers in Varkala's thriving tourism industry, has put up two of their properties on rent. "My father was an engineer with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, and I worked as an accountant in the Gulf. We sort of started the trend of renting properties to foreign tourists in Varkala. Now everyone does it. When Aleksej came here, he mentioned that he had a sion to rent the property to him," says Salim.

Showing a copy of Besciokov's recent Indian tourist e-visa on his phone, Salim says there was nothing suspicious about the documents. The e-visa was issued on February 2, 2024, and is valid for five years, expiring on

11

18

11

Besciokov, neighbour Hashim, a taxi driver, says, "He used to work long hours, as the lights were often left on late into the night. He never exchanged smiles or pleasantries with me. nor

Kerala Tourisn

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

An Insipid Legal Drama

TUMKO MERI KASAM ★★ Director: Vikram Bhatt Cast: Anupam Kher, Adah Sharma, Ishwak Singh, Esha Deol, Sushant Singh



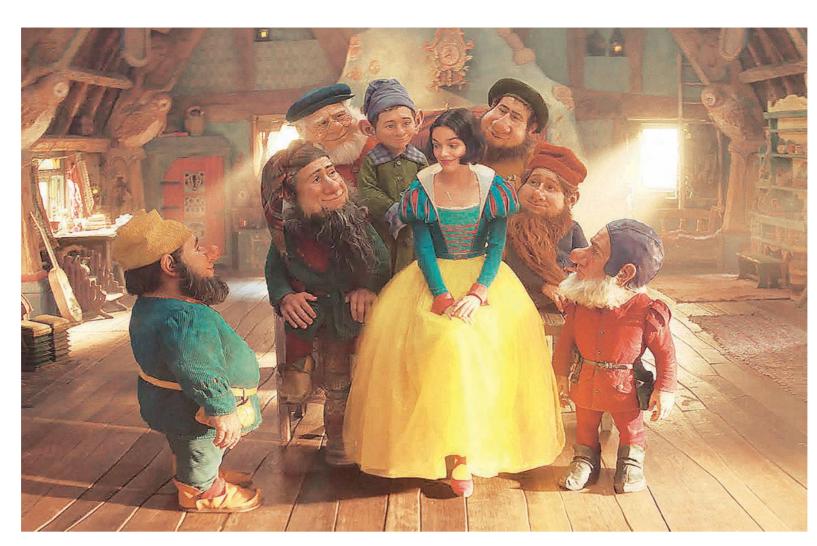
ALAKA SAHANI

SOMEWHERE LOST in the meandering and overly long courtroom drama-cum-love story is the tale of a doctor's vision. With a desperate attempt to ramp up the drama, the film tries to incorporate too many elements, plot-twists and frequent flashbacks. The result is a messy, verbose and over-wrought narrative.

Written and directed by Vikram Bhatt, the film fictionalises the story of Ajay Murdia, founder of the nationwide chain of fertility clinics, Indira IVF, while incorporating some real facts of his life and career into the narrative. With the support of his wife Indira (essayed by Adah Sharma), Ajay (his younger character is played by Ishwak Singh and older by Anupam Kher), after quitting his secure government job, opens a clinic in Udaipur that offers treatment for infertility. Subsequently, they scale up their operations and offer IVF facility to those seeking to bear children. Though originally a pathologist, Ajay is considered to be a pioneer in providing low-cost fertility treatment and eventually opens a chain of Indira IVF across the country.

The film, produced by Indira Entertainment (Ajay Murdia's sons Nitiz and Kshitiz are credited as producers), perhaps set out to celebrate Ajay, who inspite of his modest beginning is full of ideas and has big dreams. At some point, it also became a tool to portray a grand picture of a doctor, who apart from achieving immense success in his field of work also amassed a huge amount of wealth. The audience is informed about he making land deals, a board member of his company getting an astronomical amount as monthly pay cheque and more such things.

The narrative was also keen to incorporate how his heart beats for women when they face harassment because they can't get pregnant. It briefly focusses on how he believes that a woman should not be blamed for her inability to bear a child as the male partner might have a medical problem. But these are fleeting conversations in the course of this lengthy convoluted narrative that chooses to focus on an insipid courtroom drama. It banks heavily on flashbacks, loud background score and tacky CGI to keep the audience engaged. The film casts Esha Deol as Meenakshi, a lawyer who is fighting Ajay's case. He is charged in a hit-and-run case. To the audience, however, it is evident that he is framed by Rajiv, who was fostered by the doctor but now wants his downfall. However, it is not made clear why Rajiv bears such feelings for Ajay. Even though Meenakshi is entrusted with the task of fighting the case, she is frequently shown not having enough faith in winning. Later, she takes a backseat with older Ajay (Kher) cross-examining the witnesses himself. The narrative is often incoherent and full of contradictions. Though fictionalised, the narrative is fixated on Ajay and his achievements. Had it shifted focus and explored the stories of those who take the help of IVF; the burden of such an expensive treatment; and the effect it has on them, it could have been more impactful.



SNOW WHITE ★★ Director: Marc Webb Cast: Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Andrew Burnap

Snow White on Thin Ice

SHALINI LANGER

IT DOESN'T do any more to have just a 'Magic Mirror' — especially not one that tells you "who is the fairest of them all". Films, especially those born of fairy tales, must also mirror our times.

In trying to be everything, *Snow White* falls between these two mirrors, without shattering any glass ceiling, let's be clear.

Given the struggles Disney waged to make this live action film — adapting what was its first feature-length animation, back in 1937 — one must ask, 'Why?'. The Covid delays, the social media storm over the story's White beauty standards, the woke outrage over that and more, the Israel-Palestine fissures courtesy its main actors, and how to go about the depiction of dwarves, there was little that the behemoth didn't encounter in its latest dip into its franchise basement.

Sadly, all that blood, sweat and tweets don't reflect in this bland adaptation with passable songs and sub-magical actors.

Rachel Zegler, a Latina actor, as Snow White was one of Disney's concessions to make the story go down easy. With *West Side Story* behind her, Zegler was not really a risky choice, though she did have the studio reeling a bit with her pro-Palestine statements. However, good as she is, Zegler never bounces off the screen as a Princess — if we doth have princesses — must.

Andrew Burnap plays Jonathan, Snow White's love interest. He is no longer a Prince. Rather, he is one of the Robin Hood-like "bandits" fighting the good fight against the Evil Queen, and "in the name of the King (that is Snow White's father)", with a bunch of Merry Men of own. The kindest thing to say about Burnap is that he is underwhelming, which may have been required in a plot where Zegler had to shine.

If you haven't yet guessed, or not watched too many "updated" fairy tales lately, this one's modern take involves Snow White fighting her own fight against the Evil Queen, rather than waiting for a Prince or a King to lead her. To avoid stepping on too many toes, the dwarves are rendered via CGI and motion capture, and they are pretty fine. Though, of course, this too has been torn apart by the tear-aparters.

Beyond that, Disney sticks to the main contours of the story, be it the Magic Mirror sustaining the Evil Queen's vanity, the squabbles and songs of the dwarves, the poisoned apple, and even the lover's kiss. The uneven pacing (director Marc Webb, *The Amazing* *Spider-Man2*) means that no one really suffers much, neither Snow White in an extended semi-coma nor Jonathan in a dungeon, while the relationship between the Princess and the dwarves (the soul of the story) is sliced into unsatisfactory, brief episodes.

If there is one sufferer, so to speak, it is Gadot. The charismatic Israeli actor has been stripped of all her star appeal in her strict black headgear and long painted talons, and is left grimacing, glaring and gnashing through her Evil Queen.

Still, she gets the one good line of this film. Referring to the fact that in the good old days of Snow White's father and mother, the three baked apple pies for their subjects as proof of their kindness, the Queen spits out to the Princess: "And what do you have to offer to your subjects? Dessert?"

Fair enough, the Mirror would rule.

STREAMING WATCH LIST BY Alaka Sahani



WICKED

JIOHOTSTAR THIS IS the untold story of the witches of Oz. It features Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who is yet to discover her true power, and Ariana Grande as Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege, who is yet to discover her true heart. The two forge a friendship in this Jon M Chu-directed adaptation.



OPPENHEIMER NETFLIX

A CINEMATIC epic, Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* won seven Oscars, including Best Picture. The 2023 film follows the story of physicist J Robert Oppenheimer, who spent years working with a team of scientists to develop the atomic bomb. Their work resulted in the world's first nuclear explosion in 1945, changing the course of history.

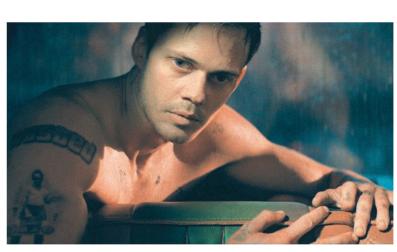


SKY FORCE PRIME VIDEO

SKY FORCE reminds the audience of the 1965 Indo-Pak War, when India faced a devastating surprise attack. Wing Commander Ahuja leads a retaliatory strike, but Squadron Leader Vijaya goes missing after a heroic solo engagement against a superior enemy jet. Ahuja spends 23 years uncovering a cover-up. and ulti-

Dead in the Drive

ing the fancy Dolus, parked in the kind of lot



SHALINI LANGER

THE DOLUS SUV that is the real star of *Locked* (actually a Land Rover remodelled for the film) reeks of money, with dark tinted glasses, beige leather seats, and a crested logo that if you look closely features Lady Justice.

Locked wants you to look very, very closely, and not just at that logo, and exclaim "how clever". But even a million-dollar ride (the suggested price of the vehicle) can't hold the weight of this film where in-

come inequality wrestles liberal permissiveness wrestles old vs young world view wrestles cancel culture wrestles Dostoevsky wrestles daddy guilt. And that is not even counting

the heavyweight Anthony Ashley Cartwright Hopkins and the no-lightweighthimself Bill Skarsgard who tap into

their chops to power all those ideas forward.

Skarsgard is Barry, a down-and-out petty criminal who is out of cash and in danger of losing any remaining credibility with his young daughter. He is counting on his old van, now in repairs, to turn a new leaf, but even that requires money. And hence it is that findwhere it does not belong, and unlocked at that, Barry breaks in hoping to find something he can steal — and discovers he can't get out.

Hopkins is William, a clipped British accented wealthy doctor and owner of the car, who has jigged Dolus into a sound-proof, bullet-proof, mobile signal-jammed model of justice delivery. Barry happens to be the seventh person to break into his car, and William is determined to make a lesson of him — even if that means taser-

him, and letting him bleed of a self-inflicted gun shot wound.

William is remote controlling the SUV, and communicating with Barry through a dashboard device, plus cameras all through the vehicle. Exhausted of all the curses and options,

Barry finally gets talking to William. As it turns out, William has a lot to say, about "scumbags like Barry". And Barry has a massive chip on his shoulder, about "elites like William".

Yarovesky has his finger on the political moment, you think? But no, the four cred-

ited screenwriters, working on an Argentinian film that is *Locked*'s inspiration, don't want to really Piketty their brains probably realising the thin ground on which both Barry and William stand. Hence the skimming over every big and small cultural fissure roiling the American landscape.

But, the thing is, you can't work up feelings for Barry — Skarsgard has had too many weirdo roles, which seep into this one. Or for William, who gets barely a backstory, apart from the fact that he is from South Wales, insists his money is all his hard work, and loves classical music — a refined opposite hence to

the street smarts of Barry (street smarts being a word much used and abused in *Locked*).

When William takes Barry for a ride through the dark underbelly of the city, still remote controlling Dolus, there is a promise, of the film finally walking its talk. As there is when Hopkins makes an appearance in person, sliding into the driver's seat with his brand of chilly menace like second skin.

But even if Hopkins can run on fumes alone, *Locked* needed a steady supply of fuel, which went beyond words. Dolus, for example, is Latin for fraud. Are you impressed yet? mately securing posthumous recognition for Vijaya's sacrifice.



ANORA

JIOHOTSTAR SWEEPING the Academy awards by winning in five categories, the much-acclaimed film revolves around Anora, a young woman from Brooklyn, who gets her chance at a Cinderella story when she impulsively marries the son of an oligarch. Its impressive cast features Mikey Madison, Mark Eydelshteyn, Yura Borisov and Karren Karagulian.

The Beats are Familiar

KHAKEE: THE BENGAL CHAPTER $\star \star$

Director: Debatma Mandal Cast: Prosenjit Chatterjee, Jeet, Ritwik Bhowmik, Chitrangada Singh, Saswata Chatterjee, Joy Sengupta, Aadil Zafar Khan, Mimoh Chakraborty, Aakansha Singh, Shruti Das, Parambrata Chattopadhyay Streaming on: Netflix

SHUBHRA GUPTA

WITH THE catchy title song going, '*ek aur rang bhi dekhiye Bengal ka*', we are hopeful that this new Neeraj Pandey series, set in Calcutta/ Kolkata, will actually be different.

The eight-part show starts with a kidnapping going wrong, and then the story begins unpacking its wares in right earnest: sloppy goons, sharp cops, a posse of politicians with murky underground connections, nefarious activities involving dead bodies and organ harvesting.

A promising start quickly descends into predictability. The beats are familiar, the character types are even more so. Apart from the fact that the faces are mostly Bengali actors – some familiar, some not so – *Khakee: The Bengal Chapter* comes off as same old. And that's too bad, because the ensemble comprises some of the most popular actors working in Bengali, starting with top stars Prosenjit Chatterjee, Parambrata Chattopadhyay, and Jeet, amongst others.

As in *The Bihar Chapter* (2022), also created by Pandey, which was lifted by a clutch of stirring acts, especially from Avinash Tiwary, Ashtutosh Rana and Jatin Sarna, we are given a tussle between mobsters-withhistory and good-and-bad-cops. Which is fine, because cops-and-robbers will never go



out of vogue: all you need is a slap-up plot with enough edge. But that's not what we get here: even the Bengali dialogue is leavened with enough Hindi and English for us to feel comfortable, the patina of newness kept carefully in check.

Some of the casting choices have been made keeping familiarity in mind. Saswata Chatterjee playing a menacing bad guy is not that new even for those who don't follow Bengali cinema: remember him as the creepy Bob Biswas in the Vidya Balan starrer *Kahaani*? Parambrata Chattopadhyay made his Bollywood debut as a smart cop in Sujoy Ghosh's 2012 delicious thriller: here he is again, playing a policeman. Chitrangada Singh, as an ambitious politician, reminds you of her lovely idealistic young woman in

Sudhir Mishra's 2003 *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi*, in her crumpled cotton saris. And Prosenjit Chatterjee's star turn as the powerful legacy studio owner in Vikramaditya Motwane's 2023 *Jubilee* is still top-of-mindrecall: here he plays a dodgy *neta*.

The action flashes back to the early '50s when Shankar Barua Bagha (Saswat Chatterjee) comes to the city as a boy with his mother, and carves his way to the top of the crime heap, displaying the kind of savagery required to run a hard gang. His faithful acolytes Sagar Talukdar and Ranjit Thakur (Ritwik Bhowmik and Aadil Zafar Khan) keep everything humming, keeping an eye on their own lower rungs, as well as the netas who use their services. As crafty politician Barun Roy who uses every trick in the book to keep ahead of the game, Prosenjit has his moments. Sadly, Parambrata is confined to a guest appearance: more of him would have done this Bengal chapter good. Jeet, as upright cop Arjun Maitra whose mission is to clean up his city – 'not the city of joy but *bhoy* (fear)' - is effective too, but too many close-ups as reaction shots slow things down.

Every time there's a combing operation, the goons mysteriously manage to get the upper hand. Ooh there's a mole amongst us, says a cop, with deep surprise: it's like no one's heard of bad eggs in the police department before. The banal bits weigh heavily on some of the interesting twists, and you are left wondering where so much of the cultural specificity of Bengal, which should have really made this thing sing, has vanished.

Does it have to do with the imperatives of streaming in India, to make everything palatable to everyone, even if that leads to flattened narratives? Whatever happened to taking creative risks in order to create the excitement which a show like this needs? Examples are not far: Netflix's own latest show, *Adolescence*, which has blown us all away, is set in a small British town, with its characters speaking in accents-and-cadences completely their own, without fearing if the audience will be alienated. Can we please have a show like that for Indian audiences? Or is that too tall an ask?

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS. SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

JAMNAGAR UTILITIES & POWER PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U40100GJ1991PTC051130

Registered Office: CPP Control Room, Village Padana, Taluka Lalpur, District Jamnagar - 361 280, Gujarat Website: www.jupl.co.in E-mail: company.secretary@jupl.co.in Tel.: 022-3555 7100 • Fax: 022-3555 5560

NOTICE TO THE DEBENTUREHOLDERS

Record Dates and Due Dates for Payment of Interest during the Financial Year April 1, 2025 To March 31, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Company has fixed 'Record Date' for the Secured Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures for determining the names of the debentureholders eligible to receive interest payment during the financial year April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. The debentureholders whose names appear (a) as Beneficial Owners on the Record Date as per the list furnished by the Depositories in respect of the debentures held in electronic form, and (b) as debentureholders in the Register of Debentureholders on the Record Date, would be entitled to the said payments, as per details given hereunder

ISIN	Debenture Series	% of interest (p.a.)	Purpose	Record Date	Due Date of Payment of Interest
INE936D07182	PPD 7	7.90%	Payment of Interest	July 27, 2025	August 11, 2025 [#]
INE936D07174	PPD 6	6.40%	Payment of Interest	September 14, 2025	September 29, 2025
INE936D07190	PPD 8	7.43%	Payment of Interest	October 9, 2025	October 24, 2025
Coupon Payment Da	te i.e. August 10,	2025 fa ll s on a Sui	nday, a non-business day. Hence	, as per the terms of issue o	f Debentures PPD 7, interes

will be payable on the immediately succeeding Business Day which will be the Coupon Payment Date i.e. Monday, August 11, 2025 Debenture holders are requested to keep their PAN and bank account details updated with their respective Depository Participants ('DPs') with whom they are maintaining their demat accounts.

My old name was

Aloysius Jenulfo

Mendonca changed to

new name Aloysius

relevant documents

0090373202-1

Mendonca as per

Agnes Richard

Makasare as per

KUMAR HIRALAL

new name SUNIL

For JAMNAGAR UTILITIES & POWER PRIVATE LIMITED

Place: Mumba Date : March 21, 2025

Sd/ Vijay Agarwal Company Secretary and Compliance Officer



BUSINESS

POULTRY

Pimpri ChinchwadBroiler TradersAssociation Rate On 22.03.2025 For Live Big Birds Rs.119. Live Small Birds Rs.122 Gawran Rs.205. AL-Taqdeer Food's(Sirai Shaikh) 9860025625. 0090364404-1

NECC suggested farm gate price for 100 eggs on 22.03.2025 in Pune without tray is Rs.465 (Four Hundred Sixty Five Only) and Phone: NECC: 24270724, 9970662588 Dealer: 9130089779, 24455130 0090361955-1 Pune Broilers Traders' Association Rate On 22.03.2025 For Live Big

Birds Rs.118 Live Tandoori Birds Rs.122 Momin Poultry (Asif Momin) 26336349/ 7798626754. 0090366292-1

Vencobb today's ex-farm gate big birds price at Pune Rs.84 per kg. Contact (9522)22872417, Pune (9520) 24269414 0090361951-1

EDUCATION

MUSIC CLASSES Indian Classical Music, Light Music, Violin.

- GHATNANDRE, Tehsil-My old name was Agens **Richard Makasare** KAVATHE MAHANKAL, DISTT-SANGLI(MH). changed to new name Declared that I have changed my name `KUMARI KANCHAN' to relevant documents. **KANCHAN MOHAN** 0090373202-2 SHINDE" & DOB 31/12/1968 To My old name Yogeshwar 01/01/1966 Vide Shivaji Suryavanshi affidavit no. changed to new name as 2453143031268500365821 Yogeshwar Shivajirao Date 19/03/2025 Before Suryavanshi as per Tehsildar, Tasgaon. relevant documents (Notary) MH 0090373196-1 My old name VRINDA l, Shobha, spouse of No. 14327616M Rank: EX NK SANJAY NAMBOODIRI has been changed to (TS) Dattatray Eknath VRINDA SANJAY as per Jamadade, V/PO-Limb. affidavit No.31/2025 TAL. & DIST. Satara-415015 have changed my name from Shobha to dated 20/03/2025 0090373208-1 Shobha Dattatray Jamdade vide affidavit My old name SUNIL

20/03/2025 SARAWAGI Changed to HIRALAL SARAWAGI as per relevant documents I, Ranjana, Spouse of 13974409M, Ex Nk(Ts), 0090373196-3 **Dhondawad Ananda** Baburao, V/Po-My old name Jeenal Gajawadi, Tal & Dist Rajesh Bantiya changed Satara-415013 have to new name as Jinal changed my name from Pradeep Solanki as per Ranjana to Ranjana relevant documents

577/2025 Dt: 21/03/2025. My old name Akansha 0090373204-13 Omkar Chandere Changed to new name as Aakansha Navanath I, Pramila, Spouse of 1192935, Ex Sep, Jambhulkar as per relevant Documents Mahadeo Mohite, V/Po-Wakhari, Tal. Phaltan 0090373206-2 Dist. Satara- 415523 have

I. Manubai, spouse of No. I. Smt 'KUMARI 6364251P Rank: EX NK, KANCHAN' Spouse of Late Ramchandra Late SHINDE MOHAN Madne, V/PO-Visapur, SHAMRAO No. 1552331 TAL. Khatav, DIST. RANK - SEPOY Name Satara-4415502 have SHINDE MOHAN changed my name from SHAMRAO (RETD) Manubai to Manubai **Resident of VILL & POST** Ramchandra Madane affidavit no- 567/2025 dt.-20/03/2025 I, Madhuri, wife of No. 14446568F Ex L/NK (Late) Kokitkar Bhimsen Shankar, Resident at Vill-Umbarwadi, PO-Mahagaon, Tal-Gadhinglaj, Dist-Kolhapur (MH) 416503, declare that my name changed from Madhuri to Madhuri Bhimsen

0090373215-1 no. 175/2025 at

Gadhinglaj. l, Lila, Spouse of 13607821P, Ex Nk, Jambhale Maruti Khashaba, V/Po-Bhose, Tal Koregaon Dist. Satara- 415501 have no- 569/2025 Dt.changed my name from Lila to Lila Maruti 0090373204-12 Jambhale vide affidavit no: 565/2025 Dt: 20/03/2025.

0090373204-4 I, Laxmibai, spouse of No. 2749587M Rank: EX SEP. Late Shripati Gaikwad, V/PO-Pachhim Supane TAL. Karad, DIST. Satara-Ananda Dhondawad 415114 have changed my vide affidavit no:

I, Indhutai Spouse of

Indhutai to Indutai

name from Laxmibai to Laxmibai Shripati Gaikwad affidavit no-566/2025 dt.- 20/03/2025 0090373204-7 14922428, Ex Sep, Late Pawar Sambhaji Vishnu V/Po- Saspade, Tal & Dist

I, Army No. 15381562A Rank: EX HAV, Pawai Vijav Rajaram, V/PO Tambave, TAL. Karad, DIST. Satara-415114 have changed my son's name from Aryan Pawar to Pawar Aryan Vijay vide affidavit no-579/2025 Dt.- 21/03/2025 0090373204-16 0090373204-8

> I mitthu chaburao bansode have changed my son,s name. Old name jay mithu New name Jay mitthu bansode as per affidavit. A5456/2024 date 08/12/24 0090373198-1

I have changed my old Kokitkar as per affidavit name from Raziya Abdul Rashid Shaikh to Raziya Rashid Shaikh by affidavit no-441/2025. 0090373201-1

> I have changed my old name Shamshadabi Bandu Nadaf to Shamshadbi Dawal Nadaf by affidavit no-440/2025 0090373210-1

0090373210-2

I have change my old name sanjana baban borhade to new name Nanda suresh bodake as per document. 0070957789-1

I have change my old name Pratiksha vishwas nanaware to new name Pratiksha suyash raskar as per document. 0070957780-1

I am changing my name from NOOR MOHAMED ESMAIL MOMEN' to ISMAIL MOMEN for Satara-415519 have passport issuance changed my name from 0070957765-1

OSB Home Loan Centre Wakdewadi, Godrej Eternia-C Building, Wing A, Corporation Colony, Shivaji Nagar, Old Mumbal Road, Pune-411005. Tel: (020) 25618302, Email: agmracpc2.pune@sbl.co.in Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) & ir exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 & Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a Demand Notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub - section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the

3600160 035615.				
Name & Address of the Borrowers	Description of Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession	OutstandIng Amount (Rs.) as on date
Mr. VIshal Bhagwan Kamble (Borrower) Mrs. Asmita Vishal Kamble (Borrower) 1) Flat No. 204, Laboni Tower, Aundh Road, Khadki, Pune- 411020. 2) Flat No. 608, 6th Floor, Wing- B, "Golden Treasures", S. No. 19, Punawale, Pune-411033. Home Branch-Khadki A/C No. 38808695142 Home Loan	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No. 608, 6th Floor, Wing 'B' admeasuring area 423 sq. ft. i.e. 39.31 sq. mtrs. Carpet, Terrace area 55 sq. ft. i.e. 5.11 sq. mtrs. with allotted one covered car parking, Scheme Name "Golden Treasures" , Land bearing Survey No.19, Hissa No. 1/4, Survey No. 19, Hissa No. 1/6, Survey No. 19, Hissa No. 1/7, Survey No. 19, Hissa No. 1/8, Survey No. 19, Hissa No. 1/5, Village Punawale, Taluka-Mulshi, District- Pune. Within the local limits of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. Property owned by Mr. Vishal Bhagwan Kamble and Mrs. Asmita Vishal Kamble	and News paper publication on 16.01.2025	18.03.2025	Rs. 25,68,427.00 (Rupees Twenty Flve Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Seven Only) as on 28.12.2024 plus further Interest with Incidental expenses, charges, cost etc. incurred / to be incurred.
Date : 22.03.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Place : Pune State Bank of India HLC Wakdewadi, Pune				

No.1253421K, Rank

(MH) 415311, have

as per affidavit no.

391/2025 at Sangli.

Manohar Hanumante

R/O Vanashiv Vasti

Amit Shankar

0090373205-1

PO-Alsand Tal -

Bharati Devi, wife of RECRUITMENT Sepoy, Name - Prabhakar Jadhav, Resident at Vill & SITUATION Khanapur, Dist -Sangli VACANT changed my name from Bharati Devi to Bharati ACADEMIC Prabhakar Jadhav & my correct DOB is 01 June 1959 & not 02 May 1953

Maharashtra Arogya Mandal's SUMATIBHAI SHAH AYURVED MAHAVIDYALAYA Hadapsar, Pune 411028 Tel. (020) 29522505 /

Hanumante S/O Shankar NALK-IN-INTERVIEW Intervlews for the following Post will be onducted on Wednesday 02/04/2025 at 12.00 pm Eligible candidates to report college with relevan original certificates, with one set of photo copies & Bio-data Advertisement is also available on college 0040780698-1 website :www.ssayurved.org Professor :-Strirog Prasuti Tantra - 01 (Open)

PERSONAL **Reader :-**Strirog Prasuti Tantra - 01 (Open) THANKSGIVING

Reader :-Shalakya Tantra -01 (Open) Vacancies are temporary as per MUHS Direction 01/2017& no claim for continuation or regular appointment will be entertained. Qualification, experience, terms & conditions : As per MUHS & NCISM norms "Mother MARY Pray for Candidates us" Thank You St. JUDES reporting for interview say this prayer 9 times a day for nine days. your will not be given TA/DA praver will be answered Secretary, M.A.M on the Eighth day, it has Principal

promised. RANI V, KIRTI Pune-4. Ph. No.32606012, 0090373209-1 Telefax: 2553 7013, Mobile: 9823142410.

0090373203-1-1

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies. associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

THANKSGIVING 32.85 and a THANKSGIVING Novena Prayer to St. Jude May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored Glorified 8.8 8.8 loved and preserved throughout the world Sacred Heart of Jesus. he Kingdom Come Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude the worke of Miracles pray for us. Jude the helper of hopeless Pray for us. Say this prave nine time for nine days your prayers will be answers by the eight day Publication must be promised. DEPOTS

AUNDH-Suyog Enterprises, C/o Sandeep Book Stall,

B

Ģ

Swaias Complex, Parihar Chowk. Aundhaaon. Pune-7. Mob. 9422011181. Chordia Communications, Arshad Ajit Chordia. 17/18, Aundh Gaon, opp. lane of Cosmos Bank, Aundh, Pune-7. Tel: 25886118,9960111123. Shraddha Ads, Mrs.Ujwala Kotbagi, 'A' wing. Vastu-sunder. Near Kumar Classic. Pune-7. Tel. 9371055799 San Ads. Anurag, Plot No. 10, near Kobe Silzler Cave, Aundh-411007. Tel:

25881302/3/4

27475055/27472250. CAMP -Ad India

Bhosari, Pune 411039.

Mr. Ashfaque A. Shaikh.

Building No.1, Nr I.B.M.R.

Impex Advertising,

C-25. MIDC Comml.

College, hinchwad,

Pune-411019. Ph. no.

Latish Balkawade,

Chaphekar Chowk,

Ph.no. 9422082164.

Raka Advertising,

Chambers, Bombay-

Chinchwadgaon, Pune.

Mrs. Vimal Bafna. Raka

Pune Road, Chinchwad

Station, Pune-19. Ph. no.

Mayureshwar

Enterprise,

27470282/9822792583

CHINCHWAD



Rekha, wife of

No.4568152F. Rank

Sepoy, Name -Yadav

Shashikant Bajrang,

Madhavnagar Tal -Miraj Dist -Sangli (MH) 416406,

have changed my name

Shashikant Yadav as per

affidavit no. 551/2025 at

No. 2802527F, Rank

Sepoy Name -Dalvi

Ravindea Sanjay, Resident at Vill & PO-

Bagani Tal -Walwa, Dist -Sangli (MH) 416302

0090373205-2

from Rekha to Rekha

Resident at Vill -

Sangli.

Ahilyanagar & PO-

0090373217-3 May the sacred heart of No. 2775709H, Rank - Hav JESUS be adored, Name -Patil Bhagwan Anandrao, Resident at glorified. loved and preserved throughout Vill & PO-Kawade nagar the world now and New Sangavi Tal -Haveli, Dist -Pune (MH) 411027 forever. sacred heart of JESUS thy kingdom Declare that in my Army come, sacred heart of record my Daughter JESUS have mercy on us, name is wrongly written St Jude worker of as Sneha whereas miracles pray for us.St

correct name is Sneha Jude helper of the Bhagwan Patil as per affidavit no. 65/2025 at hopeless pray for us. Pune. 0090373205-4 I Meera wife of No-2791495F Fx-Hav never known to fail Pansare Sopan Baban Publication must be residing at Shikrapur,

Harmonium, Flute and Tabla are taught here. From Abhinav Sangeet Vidyamandir Contact: 9405034772 and 9921102151.

0090373140-1

2025

My old Name SATISH

My old Name Devesh

documents

BHUJANG HAKE changed

to New Name as SATISH

BHUJANGRAO HAKE as

per relevant documents

Mishra changed to New

Name as Devesh Kumar

Mishra as per relevant

I. Sunita Jangam, spouse

of No. 14566014Y Rank:

EX HAV, Jangam Vishnu Keshav, VILL- Subhash

changed my name from

Sunita Jangam to Sunita

Affidavit No- 386/2025 dt

Nagar, PO- Koregaon,

TAL. Koregaon, DIST.

Satara- 415501 have

Vishnu Jangam vide

I, Subhura, Spouse of

1563908K, Ex Sep,

Sampat Shinde, V/Po-

Satara-415106 have

Antavadi, Tal. karad Dist

changed my name from

Subhura to Subhadra

Sampat Shinde vide

I, No. 14821763F Ex NK

ACP-I Chikhalkar

Jayavant Bhairu,

Resident at Vill & PO

Kolhapur (MH) 416502,

declare that my son's name changed from

0090373201-2

Parth Chikhalkar to

Chikhalkar Parth

no. 177/2025 at

Gadhinglaj

Channekuppi, Teh-

Gadhinglaj, Dist-

17/03/2025.

.- 05/03/2025



MARRIAGE BUREAU

Kulkarni Matrimonial Services For CA, MBA Doctors, Engineers, Businessmen, Gov Servants, Bankers, NRI **Divorcee, Elite Profiles** Available, `Pavitravivah' 9892625606/8450914835.

0070934850-7

OTHER **CLASSIFIEDS**

l, Neha Gupta, residing at A-1101 Yin Yang Society Vithal Nagar Kharadi Pune, changed my daughter's name from Prisha Ranjan to Preetika Gupta born o 15-12-2012 vide affidavit dated 17-7-2015 at Pune

0050263217-1

I have changed my name from Harnil Kapilchandra Pandya To Harnilkuma Kapilchandra Pandya as per documents 0090373217-2

my old name aiav gajanrao nawankai changed to new name aiav gajanan nawankar as per relevant documents

0090373206-3

mv old name soni parveen mohd mustafa shaikh changed to new name soni anish kuma as per relevant documents

0090373206-4

My old name SOMNATH changed my name from Pramila to Pramila BABURAO GAWADE new Mahadev Mohite vide name SOMNATH affidavit no: 564/2025 Dt: BABURAO GAVADE- A.P. 1793 NO - DATE 17 /03 /

0090373199-1

0090373206-1

0090373196-4

0090373204-3

0090373196-2

20/03/2025. 0090373204-1

I. Nilam S Phalke, spouse of No. 131154B Rank: EX PO. Phalke Shrikant Yashawant, V/PO-Satara Road (Padali) TAL. Koregaon, DIST. Satara-415010 have changed my name from Nilam S Phalke to Nilam Shrikant Phalke affidavit no-472/2025 dt-12/03/2025

I, Navy No. 131154B Rank EX PO, Phalke Shrikant ashawant, V/PO Satara Road (Padali) TAL. Koregaon, DIST Satara-415010 have changed my daughter's name from Sphurti S Phalke to Sphurti Shrikant Phalke vide affidavit no- 13441 Dt.

0090373204-10

13/03/2025

I, Mrs 'SUNITA' spouse of No 2787696H Rank -Havildar Name – Karale Ramchandra Gurappa (Retd) resident of Vill & Post – Anjani, Tehsil that I have changed my

01/06/1974 to affidavit no: 499/2025 Dt: No 0090373204-14 2453143031268500540354 date 15/03/2025 before TEHSILDAR, Tasgaon. (Notary) MH. 760990M Sub

Rekha Dolas wife of JC-Maj/H/Capt Dolas Ravi Kumar Shanti Kumar have changed my name from Rekha Dolas to Rekha Ravikumar Dolas vide Affidavit 312409 of Jayawant as per affidavit

19/03/2025 0040780691-1

Sambhaji Pawar vide affidavit no: 576/2025 Date: 20/03/2025. I. Dwarika Spouse of JC145333N, Ex Nb Sub, Krishnarao Mahadik Vill-Ninam Po-Padali Tal & Dist Satara- 415004 have changed my name

from Dwarika to Dwarka Krishnarao Mahadik vide affidavit no: 568/2025 Date: 0090373204-11 20/03/2025.

> I, Ashatai, spouse of No JC-458344X Rank: EX SUB/ HONY LT, Yadav Akaram Bapu, V/PO-Dervan, TAL, Patan, DIST Satara-415520 have changed my name from Ashatai to Ashatai Akaram Yadav Vide Affidavit No- 570/2025 DT-20/03/2025

I, Army No. 15381562A Rank: EX HAV, Pawa Vijav Rajaram, V/PO Tambave, TAL. Karad, DIST. Satara-415114 have changed my son's name from Himanshu Vijav Pawar to Pawar Himanshu Vijay vide affidavit no- 579/2025 Dt.-21/03/2025 0090373204-15

I Vandana wife of No 4078547N Ex-Sep 0090373211-1

> From Harshal Harshal Machindra Dhore As Per Affidavit No

I Vijaykumar Digambar Peshave R/o., 5 A Shreyas Apartment. DF Road Kothrud Pune 0090373204-6 411038. have changed my old name Vijavkumar Digambar Peshave (as per Birth Certificate) to new name Vijay Digambar Peshave as per document. 0090373200-

I Vaishali wife of No-1586783K Ex-Hav Sakure Pramod Rajaram 0090373204-5 residing at Dighigaon Pune have changed my name from Vaishali to Vaishali Pramod Sakure vide Affidavit 312406 of 19/03/2025

0040780693-1

I Sulochana, wife of No.2775709H, Rank - Hav, Name - Patil Bhagwan Anandrao, Resident at 0090373204-9 Vill & PO-Kawade nagar New Sangavi Tal -Haveli, Dist -Pune (MH) 411027, have changed my name from Sulochana to Sulochana Bhagavan Patil as per affidavit no. 66/2025 at Pune. 0090373205-5

> I Shushma wife of JC-752793P Ex-Nb Sub Bhosale Ganpat Anna have changed my name from Shushma to Sushma Ganpat Bhosale vide Affidavit 311975 of

> > 19/03/2025

0040780692-1 I Shashi Kala, wife of No.6373307X, Rank NK/TS. Name -Jadhave Vilas Jotiram, Resident at Vill & PO-Dahiwadi Tal Tasgaon, Dist-Sangli (MH) 416311, have changed my name from Shashi Kala to Shashikala Vilas Jadhav as per affidavit no. 552/2025 at Sangli. 0090373205-3

0040780695-

Pune have changed my

name from Meera to

Manela Ashok

Mangal Ashok

17/03/2025

Ishtiyaque Ahmed to

Ishtivaque Ansari Vide

Affidavit No 767/2025

Have Changed My Name

From Tejashri Prafulla

Shinde To Teiashree

20/03/2025

20/03/2025

New Name Saquib

dated 20/03/2025.

Meera Sopan Pansare

vide Affidavit 312408 of

Manela Ashok Dharmathi Kari, spouse of No. 14505966H Rank:

PROPERTY FOR SALE EX NK. Dharmadhikari Ashok Laxman, V/PO

P&CKV

PROPERT

Parali, TAL. Satara, DIST. Sale Pune Baner 3bhk 1.50 Satara-415013 have cr, 2bhk Viman Nagar changed my name from Rowhouse 2.25 cr. Wagholi Road 57L Dharmathi Kari to Wanorie-50L, Sale Office-Pune Station 90L Dharmadhikari affidavit Aashiiyana Realtors no- 496/2025 dt.-Since 1995

0090373204-2 I Have changed My Old Name Ansari Saquib

SERVICES

WATERPROOFING

0040779016-3

0090373207-1 Without Breaking Toilet, Bathroom, 5Years Have Changed My Old Guarantee, Terrace Name SHEHNAZ NADIR 10Yrs Guarantee,Al CHARANIYA to new name SHEHENAZ NADIR Leakage Work, Free Visit Authorized Applicator CHARANIYA as per aadhar card.Date-9225534110/76667299110 21/03/2025

0090371586-1 0090373217-4

OLD AGE HOME

0070952624-2

Prafulla Shinde Through Dnvaneshwari Aadhar card No- Date-Vrudhashram - for all types of aged 10,000/-0090373217-5 monthly & for permanently taking care facility within Rs.1,50,000/

Have Changed My Name 9326684309/7039024175. From Sajal Choudhary To Sajal Shambhudayal Tamrakar Through Aadhar card No-Date

0090373217-1

"IMPORTANT

st care is taken prior to acceptance of advertisin ssible to verify its contents. The India opy, it is not po Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations of individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies o entering into any agreements with advertisers or se acting on an advertisement in any manne



Meera Publicity, 1st floor, 10, Oswal Park, Opp. Rachana Lodge,

M/sV.V.Medhi, behind Safari Hotel. Varun Medhi, 153. nr S.T.Stand. **Budhwar Peth**, Near Shivajinagar Jogeshwari Temple, Opp. Pune-05. Ph. 9421017457. Ganraj Books, Above **FATIMANAGAR** -DTDC Courier, 2nd floor, Arora Enterprises, Pune-2. Ph. No. Rajesh Arora, Office No. 9028967505, 8793647505, 63, Building I, Phase-III, (020) 24492149. Parmarnagar, **IBVEWADI** Wanowrie, Pune 411013. Ad Services, Tel/fax:020-26860834. Amol Nalawade, **GURUWAR PETH** Sr. No.659/28, Rajiv T.V.S. Enterprises, Gandhi Nagar, Upper 460, Guruwar Peth, Sant Last Bus Stop, Ganganath Maharai Bibvewadi, Pune-17. Road, Kachi Lane, Pune-Mobile 9420729914, 411042. Ph. 020-9021851460 24456297, Mob. Akash Advtg,

8975110325, 9421815428. **GHORPADI**

No.4, Rasakar Campus, Kanya International, Bibawewadi Main Road, A-18 Suchandra Corner, Bibawewadi, Pune-37. B.T. Kawade Road Tel: 9922221261. Ghorpadi, Pune 411001. Ganesh Advertising, Ph. 9422086762. Mr. Vijay Deshmukh, 9921177816

Tel: 26446856.

9766509029.

HADAPSAR

Plus Media.

Ravidarshan

Hadapsar, Pune.

9890635425.

J. M. ROAD ·

1170/05, Kartik

School Corner, Near

Pune-411005. Ph. No.

Bhosale Bhuyari Marg,

25511054, 25512719. M:

GULTEKDI Complex, Shop No.3, Xebec Communications Bibvewadi, Pune-37. Pvt Ltd.,

Ph.no. 24219660, Santosh Heights, 9822841930. J. N. Marg, Gultekadi,

BAJIRAO ROAD . No. 20. Pune-411037.

Sri Ganesh Advertising, R. Nirmala, R. Ravi, 'Remedy', 1929, Bajirao

C. S. Sawar, 645/1, Shop

Road, Opp. Telephone

Bhavan, Pune-30. Ph. No. Flat No. 22. Tulasi 25232762,9922220985. Complex, Opp. **BANDGARDEN RD** Apex Advtg, Near Kalyan Bank, Mapadan Firlosh, Office Gadital, Hadapsar, No 26-6-7-8, Ashoka Mall, Pune-28. M. 9762547254 Opp. Sun & Sand Hotel. Pooja Enterprises, Bandgarden Rd, Pune. F-96, Mantri Market, Ph. No. 8975758860.

BHAWANI PETH -Mobile: 9011036125, Globe Enterprises.

Tanveer Rehman Shaikh, 718. Bhawani Peth. Fair & Fast Advertising, Poona College Road, Pune-1. Chambers, Model High M.9890073883.

BHOSARI

Samvad Ads. Near Gawliuilding, 9881987777/9422502650

Office No. 102, 1st Floor, **APPA BALWANT CHOWK** Sterling Centre, Opp. Hotel Aurora Towers.

M.G. Road, Pune-1, Ph No. 26131993, 26135659 Mo: 9422083670. Hindustan Advertising Agency, Mr. Hiroo Surtani, 7, Gitanjali Kunj, Opp. Nehru Memorial Hall, Ambedkar Road,

Pune-1. Ph. No. 26138113, 26133510, Fax: 26131487. Meenat Advertising.

Mukund Saigaonkar 827/7, Dastur Meher Road, Camp, Pune-1. Tel. 26130542.

DAPODI Vantage Advertising &

Mktg., A-17, 'C' Building, 3rd Floor, Kate Residency. Near Dapodi Railway Station. Dapodi. Pune-411 012. Ph.no S.no. 672/2a/2b, Ganesh 27143243/9822847256/ 9822132500.

DECCAN -

Prajakta Advertising, Mr. Sudhanva Jadhav, Greetwel, 1250 Deccan Gymkhana, F. C. Road, Pune-4. Ph.no. 25531409, 66014132.

DEHU ROAD

Mundakal Enterprises, Mr. Roji Samuel Raju, 6 Unique Housing Society, Near Telephone Exchange Dehu Road,

Pune-1. M. 9422519264. FC ROAD

Dhandhania Agencies,

Mr. Ravi Dhandhania, 1st Floor, Srinath Plaza Dnvaneshwar Paduka Chowk, F. C. Road. Pune-5. Ph.no. 25521699/ 25537933. **Konark Media Solution** Pvt Ltd., Flat No.6, First Floor,

Pune Nashik Highway,

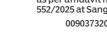
Prabha Tara Appt.,

Behind Hotel Vaishali

F.C. Road, Shivajinagar,



B-509/2025 0090373213-1



Tasgaon, Distt - Sangli 416311 (MH), declared Name `SUNITA' to **"SUNITA RAMCHANDRA KARALE**" & DOB 01/06/1974 vide Affidavit

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 **ZI** SPORT

PLAYING TODAY KKR vs RCB, Eden Gardens, 7:30 pm; Live on JioStar and Star Sports network.

PREVIEW: KKR VS RCB KKR bank on their mystery spinners to deliver goods



Varun Chakravarthy during a practice session at Eden Gardens. Par

SAYAK DUTTA KOLKATA, MARCH 2

WHILE PREPARATIONS are on in full swing for the IPL opener as well as the glittering opening ceremony, the weather in Kolkata might have other ideas. On Friday, practice sessions had to be cut short due to rain. The Meteorological Department predicted that thunderstorms and rain are likely in parts of West Bengal till Saturday owing to favourable wind patterns and strong moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal.

At the time of the match, the rain threat lessens but still reads at 6% probability of thundershowers at night which might lead to a shortened match.

Kolkata's leadership transition



ship positions Ajinkya Rahane has replaced Shreyas Iyer in the captaincy hot seat while mentor Gautam

Gambhir took up the India head coach position and was replaced by former Chennai Super Kings icon Dwayne Bravo. Coupled with the loss of Phil Salt and Mitchell Starc, the Kolkatabased franchise will look to sidestep their tendency of slumping after winning a title

They won the trophy in 2012 and 2014; they finished 7th in 2013 and 5th in 2015.

Even though his previous captaincy record is nothing to write home about, with the Mumbai player captaining 25 matches in the star-studded league and winning just 9, with Rahane as their skipper, Kolkata

The million-dollar baby turns 18, leaving its immense footprint on the game and beyond. The Indian Express captures its vaulting growth as a standalone sporting spectacle, commercial colossus, super brand, cultural phenomenon and an Indian summer reality.



RAIN OR RUNS?

Dark clouds loom in the sky as the players train on the eve of the opening match of the 2025 IPL, between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the Eden Gardens. Partha Paul

How does the broadcaster keep viewers glued to the screens

From background storylines to hyping up turning points to strategically keeping packages ready for dead matches, the official broadcasters are armed with many tricks so that IPL pervades all senses

SANDEEP DWIVEDI NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

BACK IN 2014, late one evening, while watching a one-sided IPL game on television, seasoned broadcaster, and present CEO(Sports) at Jiostar, Sanjog Gupta made a snap decision that he has stood by till date. It was the visuals of the crowd leaving the stadium, captured dutifully by his camera person, that had got him thinking.

Those in the business of keeping fans glued the seats at the venue, or sofas in the living



over. So visuals of him getting early wickets are rolled out from the second or third ball of his first over. Clips of his past dismissals, Hawkeye trajectory... all pre-produced. Similarly, we will promote Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head (SRH big-hitters) as an opening pair that demands attention from ball one because they're aggressive from the start," he says.

Building a sense of anticipation goes a long way in fans staying tuned. So in case during the MI vs RCB game, Jasprit Bumrah has finished his initial burst and Kohli is still at the crease, the producer reaches out of the

In Focus: Motu, Patlu, **Gen Gold & Gen Bold**

Cameras that cater to different demographics will make IPL viewing ultra-curated.

OVER TO MOTU-PATLU

From their fictional town of Furfurinagar, the cartoon characters Motu and Patlu will be travelling to the IPL commentary box this season. Also among the new signings for the season are former stars, Kane Williamson and India's dashing opener Shikhar Dhawan.

The animated 3D figures of the kurta-wearing bald desi comics will be interacting with real cricketers during the live coverage of the game to cater to the younger fans. "We noticed many kids watch with their families, so we're creating programming and live feeds appealing to kids," says Sanjog Gupta, CEO (Sports) at JioStar. What could be a hit pair of the season would be the Navjot Singh Sidhu and Virender Sehwag combination that JioStar is planning to unleash on the fans.

might just have the experienced hand it needs to keep the ship on course.

The batter has had a tremendous domestic season in 2024, leading Mumbai to the Irani Cup and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy titles. In the SMAT T20s, he even topped the batting charts, smashing 469 runs in 8 innings at an average of 58.62 and a strike rate of 164.56. With Bravo, KKR have roped in a player who has a habit of winning. The West Indian all-rounder has won 17 franchise titles, including the IPL with Chennai Super Kings as both player and coach. If he can inject that 'winning mentality' into the current crop of Knights, the franchise will be looking at a glorious future.

Chakravarthy, a vital cog

The Knights have lost Starc to the Delhi Capitals in the auctions which has left them wanting in the pacers' department with the ageing Anrich Nortje, Harshit Rana and Spencer Johnson leading the lines. But the Purple and Gold franchise's real bowling strength comes in the form of the deadly duo of Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine, who played a huge part in securing the franchise's 3rd title last year.

Chakravarthy, who was a vital cog in India's recent victorious Champions Trophy triumph, was the second-highest wicket-taker in last year's IPL with 21 scalps while the economical Narine stifled the opposition batters and took 17 wickets in 14 innings at an economy of 6.69, averaging just 21.64. With IPL introducing the new rule where a team has the option of using a second ball after the 11th over with the umpire's permission in case dew plays spoilsport, expect KKR's spin combo to be their most lethal weapon.

Can Salt deliver?

RCB made some shrewd buys in the mega auctions securing big names like Salt, who they bought for Rs 11.5 crore after the English batter wasn't retained by the KKR franchise, as well as forking out Rs 12.5 crore for Aussie pacer Josh Hazlewood.

To add to their batting power of Virat Kohli and Salt, they also recruited big hitters like Liam Livingstone and Tim David who will help them shore up their middle and lower order. The franchise also braces itself for a change in leadership. New captain in Rajat Patidar is relatively inexperienced in a leadership role, but he will have the comfort of relying on the advice of players like Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hazlewood, Salt and Krunal Pandya.

room, can't afford to advertise the fading interest in the game. That day the one-time standard 'dead match' self-defeating frame breathed its last.

"That's the first thing I shut down. There's a blanket rule on our broadcasts: you will not show a fan leaving the stadium. We don't want anyone leaving the broadcast," says Sanjog, a day before IPL turns 18. The official broadcaster JioStar wants to maximize their viewership to cover the close to Rs 50,000 crore they paid for the five-year IPL broadcasting deal.

In these media-rich times of endless options it is not easy to earn the undivided attention of cricket fans. However, there is potential, since unlike the international contests, in IPL as Sanjog puts it "Indians win every night". If not Rohit, it's Virat. If not Dhoni, it's Shrevas. If not Sanju, it's KL. If not Axar, it's Pant.

But still there are challenges. Apps on mobile screen screaming for attention, even cricket junkies have fingers that itch to press the remote control button. Serials, shopping and sleep vs Cricket - it is never a one-sided battle.

Sanjog has been part of the dog-eat-dog world of sports broadcasting long enough to know it. He talks about the pains he and his team take so that 'no one moves or gives up' on the game. He uses an interesting phrase to make his point. He jokes he has a copyright for it.

"Our objective is to maximize viewer engagement by creating "micro-moments of awesomeness" ... Yeah, it's Sanjog Gupta copyright but now widely followed across the JioStar broadcasts," he chuckles before getting brass-tacks

The constant search for 'awesomeness' isn't just about the wait for an audacious stroke, a dream ball or a jaw-dropping catch to unfold. It could even be Rohit's endearing 'tapori' chat with his mates caught by the stump mic. Or Sunil Gavaskar's expression of organic disappointment, the 'stupid, stupid, stupid' comment during Border Gavaskar Trophy that went on to inspire copy writers in an advertising company with a travel app account. It's no longer about just capturing the eye-ball, it's about arresting the mind, not allowing it to think beyond what's here on the telly

'Eventifying every occasion'

Sanjog says that they are in the "business of eventifying every occasion". By that he means every ball, each over and the games. For most TV networks, sports, read cricket, is the bread and butter. As for IPL, it isn't a loaf, it is sliced bread. One game is divided into 20



BEFORE THE TOSS TO AFTER THE LAST BALL

Broadcasters do their homework and are on the ball to ensure viewership doesn't drop during the course of an IPL match

BEFORE THE GAME: Research team compiles a document of key statistics, possible narratives, details about the stadium and pitch, match-ups of rivals and club history of cricketers

BEFORE FIRST BALL: To get viewers to settle down in front of the TV, broadcasters build anticipation. For example, if Trent Boult, a known wicket-taker in the first over, is playing, clips of his past dismissals are shown. Promos of big hitters Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head are on air before the start of an SRH match.

MID-MATCH: For example if it is a match between Mumbai Indians and

overs, 120 balls - each occasion comes with a tantalizing '... to be continued' teaser.

This needs serious pre-event planning. It is a fascinating process that combines arts, science and commerce - psychology, mathematics and economics. Sanjog gives a behind-

the-scenes tour of the IPL coverage. "The producer and director are the custodians of visual and audio storytelling for the match ... You need a mix between 'micro moments of awesomeness' and enriched storytelling that engages viewers," says the That's the first thing I JioStar CEO.

It all starts with the network's research team compiling a document of 30-odd pages that has key statistics of players, possible narratives. details about the stadium and pitch. It also mentions the stage of the tournament, match-up of rivals and club history of cricketers.

Armed with the abridged version of this research docu-

ment, the commentators get slots. "The roster is designed to get the balance right. There are those commentators who deliver quotable quotes, they are paired with someone who

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, once Jasprit Bumrah finishes his first spell and if Virat Kohli is still batting, the producer pulls out archival footage of a young Bumrah taking his first IPL wicket - Kohli beaten by the bowler with the unusual action

POST MATCH: After a CSK game, MS Dhoni's 'on-field post-match tutorials' for the youngsters have become a regular feature of IPL coverage.

DEAD-GAME SCENARIO: 'Dead Match' packages are compiled well in advance, like the clips of the best catches taken in the tournament. ENS

can fashion the storyline well. This is why there is always a storyteller, or "caller," in the commentary box and experts who add either color or expertise," says Sanjog.

Sidhu-Sehwag tag team

For the 2025 season, JioStar has signed up the charmingly soft-spoken Kiwi Kane Williamson. There are also plans to pair motormouth Navjot Sidhu and oneliner expert Virender Sehwag. It's a recipe for a parallel storyline running the commentary box.

Then comes the plan to fire the first salvo, the pursuit to get the viewers at 'hello' That again is a tough task. Broadcasters believe that fans take their time to settle in front of television. There's popcorn to be heated, beers to be cooled and friends to call. So how do you get the fan in the kitchen to rush to the couch at Ravi Shastri's 'Ladies

and Gentlemen' shout out?

Over to Sanjog. "Say someone like Trent Boult (New Zealand and Mumbai Indian pacer) is playing. He gets wickets in the first archival footage. Soon on screen will be a young Bumrah over the moon after taking his first IPL wicket - the legend of the game beaten by the bowler with unusual action. "Kva Bumrah is baar King Kohli ko out kar sakenge?" - the commentator is background sounding like the eerily creaking door from a suspense movie.

But what about the games with no hope in hell to generate 'edge of seat' excitement. The broadcasters are prepared for that eventuality too. It is for such days, the 'Dead Match' packages are compiled well in advance. "If a match is dead, like 100 required in 3 overs, we shift the conversation to something interesting to viewers, unrelated to the match result. It could be about the best catches taken in the tournament," says Sanjog.

In regular games, the more time-tested way to keep the viewers tied to the game is what broadcasters call "the elements of prescription and prediction in commentary". One is about assuring the fans that all's not lost in a seemingly 'finished' game and other is about a well-experienced pundit sharing an educated guess about the outcome of the game. This is another case of the broadcaster trying to get into the fan's mind, pointing to the sliver of light inside the dark tunnel.

Sanjog shares an anecdote from the 2015 World Cup to explain this. "It is from the India vs Australia semi-final we lost. India lost three quick wickets and was chasing 300-plus. It looked like the game was over. Dhoni comes out to bat, and we put out a statistics: In 21 matches, Dhoni remained unbeaten, India hadn't lost. Despite the situation, this gave hope," he said.

Dhoni did give hope, till he finally got runout. In IPL, these days, even when Chennai Super Kings have no chance to win, televisions don't get switched off around the country or the crowd don't head for the stadium gates. With him all set to walk into the sunset, they want to savour every moment.

Post-game strategy

The broadcasters are too smart to have missed this trend. Post-game, Dhoni's 'on-field post-match tutorials' to the young have become a regular feature of IPL coverage. Sanjog's producers still don't show fans leaving, they know that the 'micro moments of awesomeness' can unfold even after the game has ended and awards are distributed. Dhoni imparting wisdom to the next generation too is an event

In IPL, if broadcasters have their way, you can't check out anytime or leave the stadium.

CUSTOMISED COVERAGE

Ever wondered why the IPL visuals for each region across the country are different? That's because the broadcasters believe in customization. So in case RCB is playing CSK, those in Chennai might have Dhoni on screen and it will be Kohli in Bangalore. As for the rest of the country, they might be seeing fans screaming into the cameras at that very moment.

"On TV, we focus on Hindi, **English. and Southern languages:** Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Twothirds of the viewership is in Hindi, 25 per cent Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu and English is 7 per cent," Sanjog says. In a country of 1.4 billion these are big numbers worth investing in. Production, commentators, language and narrative too are different. If you watch CSK in Chennai the cameras would focus more on players in vellow. Though. Kohli can never be airbrushed from any coverage.

GEN GOLD, GEN BOLD

With the stalwarts gradually moving towards the exit gate, there is a need to give the younger stars more screen time. This is the thought behind JioStar's Gen Gold and Gen Bold theme. "Gen Gold references Dhoni, Kohli, and Rohit, who are in their sunset years, and there's a desire to see them do well because of the joy they've brought. Gen Bold represents players like Hardik, Rishabh, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul, who play differently, with more audacity. There's a passing of the baton in this 18th edition, where Gen Gold is present, but Gen Bold is taking its share of the spotlight," says Sanjog.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI



Pune



shut down. There's a

blanket rule on our

broadcasts: you will

not show a fan leaving

the stadium. We don't

want anyone leaving

the broadcast"

SANJOG GUPTA

CEO (SPORTS), JIOSTAR

SPORT

BRIEFLY –

British ace Wilson is India's trap coach

New Delhi: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has appointed renowned British shooter Peter Wilson as the foreign coach of the national trap team. Interestingly, Wilson, a gold medallist at the London Olympics 2012, had applied for the same job last year, right after the Paris Games. According to a top NRAI official, Wilson will be working with the Indian trap shooters for 180 days in a year. Wilson guided his country-mate Nathan Hales to a trap gold in the Paris Olympics 2024.

BFI elections process paused

New Delhi: The upcoming Boxing Federation of India elections were "paused" on Friday by Returning Officer RK Gauba after the Delhi and Himachal Pradesh High Courts directed the body to reinstate names that were omitted from the electoral college owing to a March 7 directive by BFI President Ajay Singh. Singh wrote to Gauba on Friday, stating that the BFI is seeking urgent intervention from a superior court due to the "conflicting orders" issued by the two high courts. The election is scheduled for March 28.

Udanta replaces iniured Brandon

Shillong: Key mid-fielder Brandon Fernandes has been released from the Indian team due to an injury ahead of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifying round match against Bangladesh here on March 25. Winger Udanta Singh has replaced him in the squad. Fernandes picked up the injury during India's 3-0 win over Maldives in an international friendly match on March 19. India are placed in Group C of the 2027 Asian Cup qualifying third round along with Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Singapore, and only the top team qualifies for the continental showpiece event.

Shanguman clinches athletics gold

New Delhi: Ramesh Shanguman gave Tamil Nadu a flying start in the track and field events by winning a gold medal in the men's 800m T53/T54 event on day two of the Khelo India Para Games here Friday. A former basketballer, Chennai's Shanguman hails from a farming family in Tiruchirappalli. He lost his legs in a lorry accident when he was eight. However, he did not let the setback hold him back and took to sports. He started as a para basketball player but then shifted to wheelchair racing. Tamil Nadu has won six of the 27 gold medals that had been decided so far. Haryana and Maharashtra were close second with four golds each.

Two Indian athletes banned for doping

Speed king eyes classical shift

Nihal Sarin made a mark in Classical chess but he has been overshadowed by Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh

MAYANK NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

ON THURSDAY, when the 18th Tashkent Open "Agzamov Memorial" began in the capital city of Uzbekistan, 158 players featuring in the Group A event practically harboured the same aspiration – to win the tournament and gain ratings along the way. For some, however, the desire to prove a point adds an extra layer of motivation.

India's Nihal Sarin, who boarded the flight to another chess-loving nation Uzbekistan as the top seed, will be gunning to prove himself. With a 2,687 live rating, Nihal will fancy his chances to cross the magical 2,700 Elo rating mark – this time in the published rating list – to dismiss all questions about his abilities in Classical chess

Six years ago, Nihal made headlines as the third-youngest player globally and the youngest Indian at the time to breach the 2,600 rating mark. Back then, the Kerala prodigy seemed destined for transcendence.

Fast forward to today, Nihal finds himself overshadowed by peers like Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, and D Gukesh, who have all joined the elite ranks of Classical chess. Gukesh recently became the youngest world champion by defeating China's Ding Liren, Arjun crossed the 2,800 Elo mark – only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to do so and Praggnanandhaa reached the 2023 World Cup final, a feat no Indian had achieved in nearly two decades.

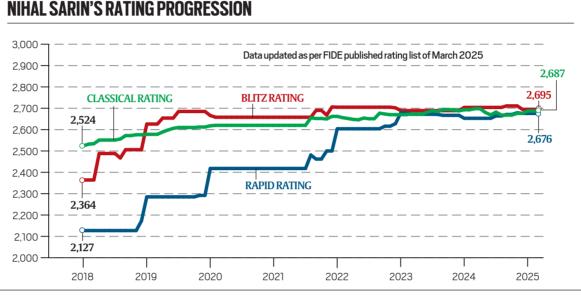
Nihal rose to prominence much before the likes of Gukesh, Arjun, and Praggnanandhaa, and was once grouped with global talents like Alireza Firouzja and Nodirbek Abdusattorov as the next big thing in chess.

However, it is in speed chess, with multiple championships under his belt, that Nihal flourished. Be it an over-the-board (OTB) Blitz games or online Bullet chess, this format was tailor-made for Nihal's style.

However, despite being touted as India's best speed chess player, Nihal has recently been overtaken by players like Aravindh Chithambaram and Pranav Venkatesh who climbed up the ladder with their newfound success in global chess.

In a sport which is highly competitive, unapologetically brutal, and where cut-throat competition is so common, finding your feet becomes extremely difficult. But Nihal is unbothered. After missing out on a spot in the Budapest Olympiad, Nihal took things in his stride. "I was not hurt at all. Playing for India is always an honour, and I've been fortunate to be part of some fantastic teams. I'm genuinely happy for my friends who are playing, and I'll be cheering for them. Who knows? Maybe next time, I'll be back in the team," he says.





Nihal's growth trajectory has also been very different compared to his contemporaries. While chess, at its core, is essentially pattern recognition, the game and the life around it are much more complex. For Nihal, whose cognitive abilities, while growing up - he could recite from memory the scientific names of insects and plants - were far beyond his age, the term prodigal talent was fading away as his

form, especially at the purest form of chess – the Standard or Classical – has seemed to have plateaued. Nihal's preference for shorter formats is reflected in his early influences. Growing up, his favourite chess books were Alakine's Best Tactics and Quick Chess Knockouts by Julian Hodgson, indicating his inclination toward aggressive, fast-paced play. This style earned him the nickname "speed devil" and "master tactician."

"You have to be objective, try to be precise and look to find the absolute best moves as much as you can and need to time very well in the Classical chess. In Rapid and Blitz, it's more about making reasonably good moves faster, trying to find the moves which are maybe objectively not the best but look to find the moves which would put the maximum pressure on the opponent," says Nihal.

India's recent surge in chess talent has left many wondering about Nihal's place in the hierarchy. "Nihal has a very good playing style, but I don't know why he doesn't have as high a rating as Praggnanandhaa or Arjun. It's a bit of a mystery to me because he is a very strong player," says Firouzja, the youngest player to reach 2800 Elo, in an interview with The Indian Express. Firouzja, who often plays speed and bullet chess with Nihal online, praised his style, calling him "extremely strong and very talented.

Nihal is among the handful of Indian players to have crossed the 2,700 Elo in live ratings. In October 2023, while playing at the European Club Cup in Albania, he became the ninth Indian to go past this milestone.

By June 2019, when Nihal broke into the 2600s, he was the first among Arjun, Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh to do so.

Taking 2018 as the cut-off, Nihal has gained the least points among himself, Arjun, Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh. While Praggnanandhaa added 243, Arjun 391 and Gukesh a whopping 433 Elo points, Nihal could only manage 155 ratings in these six years. He is a two-time Chess.com Junior Speed Chess Champion and reached the finals of the 2022 Chess.com Global Championship, losing to Wesley So. His run to the finals, which included victories over Anish Giri, Ding Liren, and Vladimir Kramnik, earned him \$100,000 - the highest prize money won by an Indian other than Anand at the time. 2022 was a special year for Nihal as he won a gold medal on Board No. 2 in the Mahabalipuram Olympiad, leading India B for a bronze medal finish on home soil. He also went on to win the Tata Steel Rapid Championship before making a semi-final run at the Speed Chess Championship, showcasing his versatility across formats.

However, since then, Nihal's success has been largely confined to shorter formats. Over the past year, he has participated in only a handful of Classical events, such as the Sharjah Masters, Qatar Masters, French Team Championship, and the German Bundesliga.

In Akshayakalpa as a sponsor and longtime manager in Priyadarshan Banjan alongside supportive and well-aware parents, Nihal was blessed with a strong support system. He was barely seven when he first played an online chess game. If online ratings are anything to go by, Nihal is the best Indian chess player when it comes to shorter time control. He hit a peak rating of 3470 - virtually impossible to hit in OTB chess – making him one of the highest-rated (online rating) players.

With over 53,000 games on Chess.com alone, Nihal has proven his prowess in shorter time controls, As global interest in speed chess grows, Nihal may yet emerge as the next big thing in the chess world.

Treesa befuddles HK pair with stop-drops to storm into semifinals

SHIVANI NAIK MARCH 21

NUANCING POWER on a brute smash is like biting back an expletive that's on the tip of the tongue. But pulling that particular punch, not roaring into battle seeking glory and generally playing a calm, controlled shot, has been bring ing India's Top 10 shuttler Treesa Jolly immense dividends She is a free-spirited, no-holds-barred personality, who boasts of one of the finest powerpacked games and a whiplash smash. But the discipline and control, not to mention the skill she has built into hergame, could help her and Gayatri Gopichand bring down a bunch of big names solely due to the variations she brings to the court. The number of times Treesa got both Pui Lam Yeung and Nga Ting Yeung of Hong Kong stumbling and falling forward, deceived by her stop-drops, wasn't merely about the difference in their rankings. The Indians are World No. 9, the Yeungs No. 14. Older and more experienced, the HK pair had turned the tables on the Indians two seasons ago. But Treesa left them utterly befuddled at the Swiss Open, as the Indians reached the semis with a 21-18, 21-14 win. Crucially, when they take on top seeds Liu



But even when the Yeungs started moving forward, Treesa would float them closer and even closer still to the net, and as a result one of the Yeungs would inevitably fall short and

the opening set, Treesa got her drops looping like ribbons. The difference in her smash leadup and the drop is near imperceptible. But it was also the precision of placement.

Yeungs would discover this is a very different pair than the one they beat at Singapore with a sleight shot at the end in 2023.

The second set was pretty one-sided with the Indians going from 8-7 to 15-7 in quick time

New Delhi: Indian long distance runners Pradhan Kirulkar and Vivek More have been banned for three and five vears respectively by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after they tested positive for prohibited substances. Both athletes' positive results were from in-competition tests conducted during the Pune Half Marathon on December 15, 2024, adding to a recent surge in doping cases involving Indian athletes. On Tuesday, Archana Jadhav also tested positive for a banned substance from a urine sample collected during the same event. She has been banned for four years. Kirulkar's urine sample collected during Pune Half Marathon in December last year, which he had won with a time of 1:04:22. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will face top seeds Liu Sheng Shu-Tan Ning in the Swiss Open semis on Saturday. File

Sheng Shu-Tan Ning in the Last 4 on Saturday at Basel, the Chinese will start out guessing which game style the Indians bring out, with Treesa being the shape shifter with her attack and faux-attack, the straight smashes and the loopy edgeways drops. The straight drops that she played against the Hong Kong pair are even more boggling.

It is not even that the Hong Kong duo didn't figure out what Treesa was doing. Her stop drops were falling from net to midcourt, with a variety of parabolas. There was deception alright, because she jumped as if to smash, and almost always never went for the full-blooded one. That half of the trick is textbook bamboozle - opponents start scampering back think-

fumble forward to the floor

ing the smash will whiz deep and fast.

But even when the Yeungs started moving forward. Treesa would float them closer and even closer still to the net, and as a result one of the Yeungs would inevitably fall short and fumble forward to the floor.

It's wrist-work that can at times need tighter control than torquing the big smash. But these came towards the endgame when the Indians employ a decidedly different style than what they play till around point 14. Before that, there were some sloppy errors as the HK duo came back from 9-13 down to level at 13-all.

Gayatri was doing her thing - catching the shuttle early and high and stabbing it back with a rubberband snap, almost like getting rid of it which meant she was rushing the Yeungs. But as soon as the endgame was on the horizon in

But it was that point at 15-7 where Treesa's absolute bundle of talent won them one of the most unlikely points. She was dispatched to the far side corner and then pulled back to the centre of the court from the Hong Kong riposte.

Treesa mid-lateral sprint would whack at the shuttle in what would be her outer orbit of reach and still manage to sheath a soft subtle curving drop with that same aggressive charge. She was the only player of the four completely out of position, but she nailed a perfectly placed drop.

The Chinese play a speedy, aggressive style where power shots hit the floor like full stops. But the Indians have routinely managed to annoy them by never sticking to any fixed plan and making them scamper about. Continuing that for two full sets or three, though, is a different challenge. Just as well. Treesa can also fall back on her fullthrottle smash.

2026 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS: BRAZIL 2, COLOMBIA 1 Vini's late winner puts Brazil's WC qualifying campaign back on track

ASSOCIATED PRESS SAO PAULO, MARCH 21

A LAST-MINUTE goal by Vinicius Júnior secured Brazil's 2-1 win over Colombia in World Cup qualifying, helping his team and millions of fans avoid more disappointment.

A draw would have seen Brazil slump to sixth in the South American standings. Instead, Brazil moved to second spot behind Argentina after Vinicius Júnior's long-range goal on Thursday.

The top six teams in South America are guaranteed spots at next year's World Cup in Canada, the US and Mexico. and so the victory released some pressure on Brazil coach Dorival Júnior ahead of next week's game against Argentina. The five-time champions have never missed a World Cup.

Lionel Scaloni's Argentina squad has 25

points after 12 games - four points clear of Brazil (21 points from 13 games) – and is close to securing its place in the 2026 World Cup.

Argentina will be without Lionel Messi when it plays at Uruguay on Friday, four days before its scheduled showdown with Brazil. The last time the two South American powerhouses met, Argentina won 1-0 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in 2023.

Brazil midfielder Bruno Guimarães and defender Gabriel Magalhães were booked against Colombia and will miss the match in Buenos Aires on Tuesday

Goalkeeper Alisson and Colombian defender Davinson Sánchez were substituted in the concussion protocol, and will also miss the next match in World Cup qualifying.

Colombia will play host to Paraguay next week

Brazil appeared more energized than in



Vinicius Junior celebrates scoring the winning goal against Colombia. Reuters

previous games, with speed, high skill and an early goal from the spot suggesting that coach Dorival Júnior had found a starting lineup to get the job done.

But then a defensive mistake put it all at risk for the hosts in Brasilia until a moment of brilliance by Vinicius Júnior.

Raphinha scored in the 6th minute after Vinicius Júnior was fouled in the penalty box. After that, Brazil kept possession, but didn't put on real pressure to add a second in front of 70,000 fans.

Colombia equalised with a crossed shot by Luis Diaz in the 41st, assisted by James Rodríguez. The visitors got the ball at the edge of Brazil's box from substitute Joeliton, who replaced injured Gerson.

Both teams struggled with accuracy in the second half until Vinicius Júnior took a shot from long distance which deflected off Jefferson Lerma and beat goalkeeper Camilo Vargas.

"This was very important, we deserved to win. I deserved this goal too for all I have worked for," Vinicius Júnior said of his first goal in this qualifying tournament.

"It was a bit of relief, a bit of happiness." Brazil coach Dorival Júnior said the win was key "because of our moment, our situation and for our process." "We're feeling now that we are on a path. It's not all ideal, but we will be improving every round." Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo was upset with the result.

"We had a great match again and we leave with nothing," Lorenzo said.

"We deserved more, once again." Colombia is in 6th place with 19 points.

New Zealand close to qualifying Nottingham Forest striker Chris Wood

scored a hat trick of headed goals as New

Zealand beat Fiji 7-0 Friday to join New Caledonia in the Oceania qualifying final for the 2026 World Cup.

New Caledonia earlier beat Tahiti 3-0 in the first semifinal in FIFA's smallest confederation. The winner of the Oceania qualifying series will gain direct entry to the World Cup for the first time. That means the victor in Monday's final in Auckland, New Zealand will join hosts Canada, the United States and Mexico and Japan, which on Thursday became the first nation to qualify for the 48team tournament.

New Zealand captain Wood headed Sarpreet Singh's cross home to open New Zealand's scoring in the sixth minute as it led 4-0 halftime. He then scored off Tim Payne crosses in the 56th and 59th minutes for his 43rd and 44th goals in 81 internationals before being substituted in the 61st minute.

Vol XXXVI : No. 218 Regd. No. RNI 46944/87, Registration No. PR/RNP/PNE/D/11/2000. Printed and published by Vaidehi Thakar on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, Survey No. 288, Plot No. 1 and 2, Raisoni Industrial Park, Village Maan, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune 411027 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Express House, Plot No. 1205/2/6, Shirole Road, Shivajinagar, Pune 411004. Phone: 67241000. Fax: 67241148. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker 2451544 Fax 2451607, Kolhapur (0231) 2644994, Solapur (0217) 2603880, *Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited, All rights reserved, Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®







