



राजस्थान सरकार की गारंटी



इंदिरा गांधी गैस सिलेंडर सब्सिडी योजना

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सिर्फ राजस्थान में

महंगाई राहत कैंप में पंजीकरण करवाने के बाद
योजनाओं के गारंटी कार्ड जरूर लेकर जाएं।

PASCHIM GUJARAT VIJ COMPANY LIMITED
CUAMNAGAR CIRCLE OFFICE
Customer Care Centre Toll Free Nos.
1800 233 155 333 & 19122.

MOTILAL OSWAL HOME LOANS		Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opp. Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Tel: (022) 47189999 Website: www.motilaloswalhf.com, Email: hfquery@motilaloswal.com			
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)					
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Formally known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 9(1) of the Enforcement of Security Interest, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s(date of receipt of the said notice/s). The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited, for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.					
Sr No	Loan Agreement No. / Co Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged	
1	LKXAD00319-200074122 Rameshbhai Katubhai Radadiya & Nidhi Rameshbhai Radadiya	14-11-2022 for Rs. 1574029/-	24-04-2023	Flat No - 404, 4th Floor, Shreeji Palace In Amara Residency, Near Shreeji Lake City, Block No - 116, Nansad, Kamrej, Surat, Gujarat - 394180	
2	LXSUR00116-710029816 Bharatbhai Dhanuskhbhai Solanki & Shobhaben Bharatbhai Solanki	08-12-2022 for Rs. 830688/-	24-04-2023	78 Laxmi Residency, At Syadala, Rs No 271/3, Pakki 273, 305, 307, Tal-Olpad, Surat, Block No 161/A1, Chorasi, Surat, Gujarat 395010	
3	LXSUR00215-160010485 Balu Arjun Pradhan & Lili Bulu Pradhan	08-12-2022 for Rs. 803572/-	24-04-2023	Plot No 110, Kuvarada Rs No 352-2, 353, 354, Block No. 332-A, Ranchod Nagar Soc, Kuvarada, Surat Gujarat 394210	
4	LXBOT00217-180068175 Punit Rashikhbhai Indrani & Falguniben Punithbai Indrani	01-02-2022 for Rs. 1201639/-	26-04-2023	Gurukrupa Society Chikni Na Karkhana Pase Nr/ Tobacco Factory Botad Gurukrupa Society Bhavnagar Gujarat 364710	
5	LXKBH00418-190071057 Maheshbhai Nanjibhai Solanki & Sarojibai Maheshbhai Solanki	08-12-2022 for Rs. 587111/-	25-04-2023	Sainath Complex No.47/Final Plot, Flat No 206, Plot No 1 & 2, R S No 120/P1(Fulsar), Tulsi Park Society, Sidsar Road, Bhavnagar, Chhira, Sidsar Road, Bhavnagar, Gujarat 364001	
6	LXSUR00217-180055006 Rohit Nitin Chandras Deo & Shila Nitin Dewale	13-12-2022 for Rs. 1323768/-	25-04-2023	Flat No A/310, 4th Floor, Mark Point, R.S.No 128/1, 128/2, 129/1, R S Scheme No 69, F.P.173, Dindoli Kar Adva Road, Dindoli, Surat 394210 Surat Gujarat	
7	LXSUR00217-180052819 Jay Prakash Yamuna Prasad Pathak & Manjeet Jay Prakash Pathak	19-03-2022 for Rs. 921210/-	25-04-2023	R/O FLAT No. 307 R.S.NO.102/ 102/1 BLOCK NO.104 105 MARUTI RESIDENCY BUILDING NO. A KADDODARA SURAT 384327 PALSANA SURAT GUJARAT	
8	LXSUR00416-710032163 Sanjaykumar Bharatlal Yadav & Geeta Brijlal Yadav	13-12-2022 for Rs. 1355457/-	25-04-2023	Plot No.335,Sai Kutir Residency,Nr. Cannal Road,Bagumara ,Palsana, Rs.No.99 100/1 Block No.130/A,SURAT-392130 Surat Gujarat	
9	LXSUR00215-160019031 Satyavijay Sanjaykumar Singh &	08-12-2022 for Rs. 357231/-	25-04-2023	Flat No. 309, & 310, Soni Park, Hsg Soc-2, Shubhlaxmi Complex, New Block No.2, Plot No.95, 96, & 97, Nr. Essar Petrol Pump, Surat, Bardoli Road, Gujarat 394327	
10	LXSUR00216-710024637 Bipinkumar Rupsangbhai Mer & Nitaben Bipinbhai Mer	24-08-2021 for Rs. 760401/-	22-04-2023	Plot No - 368, R.R.Residency, R.S.No. - 376/P, 382/1, 377, 50 168 Sq.Mtr., Borasara, Kim Chowkid, Block No - 322,323, Near Panamates Village, Mangrol, Surat, Gujarat - 394125	
11	LXNAR00316-710047023 Shankarlal Bamesadavi Prapajati & Kamesadavi Prapajati	22-02-2021 for Rs. 935215/-	26-04-2023	Flat No - B - 9 - 303, Block No - C - 1, Green City, Inside Lane Of Locp, Petrol Pump, Rakanpur To Satej Road, Rakanpur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 380001	

ગુજરાત પાણી પુરવઠા અને ગટર વ્યવસ્થા બોર્ડ
૬૯૨૨ નોટીસ નં. ૧૮ સને ૨૦૨૨-૨૩ (બીજો પ્રયત્ન)
૬૯૨૨ આઇ.ડી. નં. ૫૮૮૯૧૭

કાર્યપાલક ઇજનેરશ્રી, જાહેર આરોગ્ય બાંધકામ વિભાગ, ગુ.પા.પુ. અને ગ. વ્ય. બોર્ડ, એલ. આર. સી. ઓફીસની સામે જળબળનું !! દાહોદ-૭૮૯૧૫૧ તરફથી સંભવિત અછત વર્ષ ૨૦૨૨-૨૩ માટે તથા અતિવૃષ્ટિ, સુનામી કે કુદરતી આપદની સ્થિતિમાં દાહોદ જિલ્લામાં પાણીની તંગી વાળા ગામોમાં તોફાંદની માંગને પહોંચી વળવા ગામમાં પાણી પહોંચાડવા અંગેનો ટ્રાન્સપેરન્ટ કોન્ટ્રક્ટ આપવા માટે ભાવો માંગવામાં આવે છે આ અંગેના અભિવાદન ઇ-૬૯૨૦૨૦ નં. ૧૦/૦૧૫/૨૦૨૦ યુક્તિમાં અભિવાદન ભરવાના રહેશે. દાહોદ જિલ્લા માટે આ કામમાં રસ ધરાવતા તથા કામગીરી કરી શકે તેવા સક્ષમ ટૂક/ટ્રેક્ટર/ ટેકર ના માલિકી/ કોન્ટ્રક્ટરોને આથી તેની જાણ કરવામાં આવે છે આ રીતે જે કોઈ બ્યક્તિ અથવા કોન્ટ્રક્ટર કામ રાખવા ઇચ્છતા હોઈ તે રીતે તેના ભાવો ઇ-૬૯૨૦૨૧ દ્વારા ઓબ્સોલન ભરવાના રહેશે. ૬૯૨૨ અંગેની વધુ વિગતો વેબસાઇ <http://gwss.gujarat.gov.in> ઉપરથી મળશે કોઈપણ કારણ દર્શાવ્યા વિનાયક કોઈપણ કે બધા ૬૯૨૦ રે અસવીકાર કરવાનો હક્ક કાર્યપાલક ઇજનેરશ્રીને અબાધિત રહે છે. ગ્રામ્ય વિસ્તારની પીવાના પાણીની સમસ્યા અંગે ગુ.પા.પુ. અને ગ. વ્ય. બોર્ડનો હેલ્પલાઇન નંબર-૧૮૧૬ ઉપર જનતાએ સંપર્ક કરવા અનુરોધ છે.

માહિતી/દાહોદ/૨૧/૨૦૨૩



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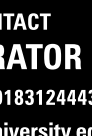
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Only authorized vendors with experience and expertise may apply through separate technical and financial bids in sealed offer letter to the **Registrar, K.L.E. Academy of Higher Education & Research, Belagavi.**

The envelope duly superscribed as “**IT Network Upgradation**” should reach the **Registrar, K.L.E. Academy of Higher Education & Research, Belagavi - 590 010**, on or before **19/05/2023.**

The interested vendors may make a survey of the UNIVERSITY site to understand the complete scope and can visit the UNIVERSITY website for technical specifications and terms.

The university reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offer letters without assigning any reasons.



FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
IT – ADMINISTRATOR

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Date: 28/04/2023

Sd/- Registrar

WR TO RUN SUPERFAST SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN VADODARA & HARIDWAR

Train No.	Originating Station & Destination	Dates of Service	Departure	Arrival
09129	Vadodara - Haridwar	06.05.2023 to 24.06.2023	19.00 Hrs. (Saturday)	14.30 Hrs. (Next Day)
09130	Haridwar - Vadodara	07.05.2023 to 25.06.2023	17.20 Hrs. (Sunday)	11.25 Hrs. (Next Day)

Halts: Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Kota, Gangapur City, Mathura, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Tapri and Roorkee Station in both directions.

Composition: AC First Class, AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

The booking for **Train No. 09129** will open from **28.04.2023** at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. The above train will run as Special Train on Special Fare.



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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

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FORM-A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT	
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF AGNI ALPHA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED	
1	Name of Corporate Person AGNI ALPHA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED
2	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Person 16/09/2021
3	Authority under which Corporate Person is Incorporated/Registered Registrar of Companies, (Gujarat) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
4	Corporate Identity Number/Limited Liability Identity Number of Corporate Person U67190GJ2021PTC125665
5	Address of the Registered Office & Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Person 1105, Alfa Plus, Opp. GSPC Gas, Nr. Raiya Telephone Exchange, Rajkot, Gujarat-360005
6	Liquidation Commencement Date of Corporate Person 25th April, 2023
7	Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number and the Registration Number of the Liquidator Name: Jitendra Gordhandas Unadakat Add : 702, King's Plaza, Astron Chowk, Sardar Nagar Main Road, Rajkot, Gujarat-360001 E-mail: cajgunadakat@gmail.com Telephone: 02812482702 Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P-02089/2020-2021/13502
8	Last Date for Submission of Claims 25th May, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the **AGNI ALPHA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED** has commenced voluntary liquidation on 25th April, 2023.

The stakeholders of **AGNI ALPHA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 25th May, 2023, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 28/04/2023 Mr. Jitendra Gordhandas Unadakat - Insolvency Professional
Place : Rajkot IP Reg. No. - IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P-02089/2020-2021/13502

**AFTER PIL BY BJP'S LEADER OF OPPOSITION**

In setback to Mamata government, Calcutta HC orders NIA probe into Ram Navami clashes

Court highlights that police did not invoke Explosive Substances Act

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, APRIL 27

THE CALCUTTA High Court Thursday ordered a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into violence that broke out during Ram Navami processions in several West Bengal localities, including Shibpur in Hooghly district, Shibpur in Howrah, and Dalkhola in South Dinajpur. The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Leader of Opposition, BJP's Suvedu Adhikari.

Adhikari has alleged that several bombs were used in the

violence, leaving many, including police personnel, injured.

A division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court T S Sivagnanam ordered: "The writ petitions are disposed of by directing the concerned police to ensure that all FIRs, documents, materials, CCTV footage, etc be immediately handed over to the authority of the NIA, who on receipt of all the entire materials shall commence investigation and proceed in accordance with the law."

The court gave the police two weeks to comply.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED
Boost to BJP attack on govt

THE ORDER will put further pressure on the state government, which has been facing opposition heat over its handling of the Ram Navami violence. It also comes as an indictment of the state police, and will provide fresh ammo to the BJP, which has been attacking TMC government of being partisan when it comes to dealing with perpetrators of violence.

Kaliaganj on edge after another death, police under scanner

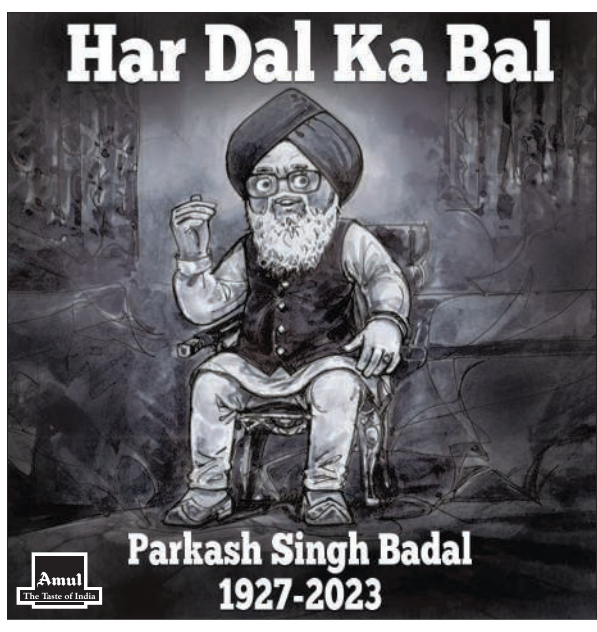
SWEETY KUMARI
RADHIKAPUR (KALIAGANJ), APRIL 27

A MAN was shot dead in Kaliaganj in West Bengal's North Dinajpur early Thursday morning, sparking a fresh war of words between the BJP and the ruling TMC. The village has been on edge ever since a 17-year-old girl died last week, and her family alleged she had been raped. Since then, protesters have clashed with police on two occasions,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Security personnel conduct a route march at Dhonkoil Hat near Kaliaganj on Thursday. Partha Paul

**WRESTLERS' PROTEST**

Vinesh asks why top cricketers, others silent: 'Are you so afraid of the system?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

POINTING TO the silence of star cricketers and other top sportspersons, World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat said she was "pained" to see that "they don't have the courage" to stand up to those in power. Vinesh, along with Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, is at the forefront of the ongoing wrestlers' protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief

and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Speaking at The Indian Express Idea Exchange programme on Wednesday (full

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'AGITATION IS NOT GOOD FOR SPORT'

Instead of going to the streets, they could have come to us.
PT USHA, IOA PRESIDENT



Modiji's govt has always stood with players. For us, sport and athlete is the priority.
ANURAG THAKUR, SPORTS MINISTER

REPORT, PAGE 12

Kharge says Modi 'like a poisonous snake', then clarifies remark; BJP hits back

AKRAM M
GOKAK (KARNATAKA), APRIL 27

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "like a poisonous snake", triggering sharp reactions from the BJP even as he sought to clarify that his remarks were against the BJP ideology, and it wasn't a personal attack on any individual.

Addressing an election rally in Ron, in Gadag district, Kharge

said in Kannada: "Modi is like a poisonous snake. Don't try to lick this snake to check whether it is venomous or not. If you taste it, you are dead."

He later issued a clarification, saying he meant that the BJP was like a snake. "I did not call him (Modi) that. I have said earlier that I do not make personal attacks. What I said was that the (BJP) ideology was poisonous. If you support the ideology and want to taste it, death is certain," he said, responding to media queries.

In a series of tweets, he also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



RAJNATH MEETS CHINA COUNTERPART

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers' meet in New Delhi, Thursday. Li's visit is the first by a Chinese defence minister after the Ladakh standoff began three years ago. ANI

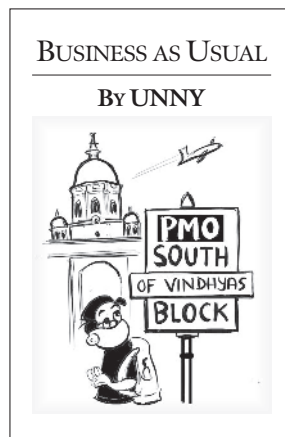
Maoist who gave up gun after 3 years to jawan enlisted last month: Chhattisgarh bids farewell

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
DANTEWADA, APRIL 27

AT THE Karli police lines in Dantewada Thursday, as Chhattisgarh bid farewell to the 10 personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and their driver killed a day earlier in an IED blast triggered by Maoists, Boti Ram Mandavi couldn't help recall how cousin Hariram Mandavi, one of the jawans killed, had abandoned Mao barely four years ago to emerge



Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel at the funeral of the security personnel killed in the Maoist attack in Dantewada. PTI

**THE WORLD**

RUSSIA: WELCOME ZELENSKY-XI CALL BUT OUR GOALS UNCHANGED **PAGE 10**



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Gadag, Thursday. PTI

What will Govt do for security, social welfare of same-sex couples: SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE SUPREME Court Thursday asked the Centre what it was willing to do to ensure conditions for the security and social welfare of same-sex couples and save them from ostracisation even if it was unwilling to grant legal recognition to marriage between such couples.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, heading a five-judge Constitution Bench hear-

ing petitions seeking legal recognition for same-sex marriages, said, "We take your point that if the court were to go into the legislative arena... we will be legislating. This is not your (court's) remit but of Parliament or state legislature. Short of that, our law has gone so far now. Now, what does the government want to do to ensure that these cohabitory relationships... must be recognised in terms of creating conditions of security, social welfare and by doing that we also ensure that for the future, these rela-

tionships cease to be ostracised in society."

The CJJ posed the query to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who reiterated that legally recognising same-sex marriages would impact personal law and throw up several other related issues which the court cannot foresee and, therefore, the issue should be left to Parliament.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli, and PS Narasimha, pointed to live-in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BBC film row: Delhi HC sets aside DU order debarring PhD scholar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday set aside the Delhi University (DU) order debarring a PhD scholar for a year for his alleged involvement in the bid to screen on the campus in January a banned BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A Bench of Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav said the DU order against the

PhD scholar Lokesh Chugh was in violation of the principle of natural justice.

It said the DU's administrative authority had not offered Chugh, who is pursuing his PhD from the Department of Anthropology and is also the national secretary of the NSUI, an opportunity to be heard and that there was no consideration on Chugh's submissions or explanation in the debarment order.

"The court is unable to sustain the impugned order dated

from the jungles and enlist with the police.

Hariram, his cousin said, was in the Maoist ranks for three years. Fearing death, he surrendered sometime after the 2018 Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh. Police said the 36-year-old from Dantewada joined the force in 2020.

"Death was always a possibility for him, never mind which side he chose to be on. He had joined the Naxals fearing that police would arrest him. He later

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'Relieved to be back home': Gujarat evacuees recall Sudan nightmare

ADITI RAJA
VADODARA, APRIL 27

"THE SCARIEST conflict so far" — that's how Vadodara native Nirmal Patel, who has been residing in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum for at least two years, describes the current unrest in the African nation. The 36-year-old sent his family back to India during the General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan-led military coup of 2021 but he decided to stay back in Khartoum.

However, things are different this time around. Nirmal almost had a near-death experience after he found that a bullet had hit the backside of his office chair while he was away. An executive with an export trading company based in Khartoum, Nirmal was among the more than 40 Non-Resident Gujaratis, who arrived in Mumbai on an Air Force C-17 aircraft from Jeddah after the Indian Navy evacuated them



Indians evacuated from Sudan arrive in Mumbai airport on Thursday. PTI

from Port Sudan.

"I have been working with my company for 16 years now and have lived in other African countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya with my family. But when I moved to Sudan about two years ago and there was a military coup in 2021, I realised that my daughter (now aged six years) would have interruptions at school. So, we decided that my wife and daughter would move back to India while I continued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, APRIL 27

A DAY after she vacated her office and surrendered her official vehicle, Congress' Bhanu Sorani, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC), arrived at the RMC headquarters on Thursday in an autorickshaw and set up office in the civic body's garden, where she met people under a tree.

Sorani, Congress' leader in the RMC, arrived at the civic body in the morning and headed straight to red champa (plumeria) tree in the garden.

Viral Bhatt, her secretary, tied

a banner that read 'Congress Karyalaya' to the tree under which Sorani sat.

On Wednesday, Sorani's office and car — allotted by the RMC in 2021 — were taken away. This was a day after Rajkot Mayor Pradip Dav instructed that Sorani's office and car services be withdrawn.

Subsequently, the commissioner instructed the estate branch to take possession of the LoP office and the chief fire officer to take possession of Sorani's car. However, Sorani herself went on to handover the car and the possession of her office on Wednesday morning.

The decision comes on the heels of the mayor, other office-



Bhanu Sorani at the RMC garden on Thursday. Express

bearers and BJP corporators meeting Chief Minister Bhupendra

Patel at the latter's official residence in Gandhinagar on Tuesday.

Hours after the meeting over lunch, the mayor had ordered that the services to the LoP be withdrawn.

When contacted, Mayor Pradip Dav didn't give any specific reason for withdrawing the services to Sorani but underlined that Congress has only two members in the 72-member RMC general board.

"Congress had won only four of the 72 seats in RMC and thus, did not have the required numbers to get these services. Nonetheless, we provided the party office space and car services. Now, the number of Congress corporators has shrunk to just two and it was felt that there is no need

to provide the party with such services anymore. So, we ordered that the services be withdrawn," Dav said.

"In the past, the BJP had provided such services to Ladhahbhai (Borsadiya) despite him being the lone Congress member in the RMC general board. But you must also note that there is no LoP in Gujarat Assembly now," he added.

Maintaining that the closure of the LoP office won't affect the common people, Dav said, "Residents of the city won't be affected in any manner by this order. We are there to listen to their grievances."

On Thursday, Sorani sat under the tree from 11 am to 1 pm and

heard grievances of the people even as members from the RMC's vigilance department and personnel of the 'A' Division police station hovered around.

"We protested against the police presence, eventually, they allowed us to sit in the garden," Bhatt said.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Sorani had claimed that the ruling BJP had withdrawn the facilities, as she had cornered the saffron party on many occasions by raising people's issues.

Sorani vacating the LoP office and surrendering her official vehicle marks the first time in the history of the 51-year-long RMC when the civic body doesn't have

a recognised LoP. Nor is the Opposition represented in the RMC standing committee — a long-standing convention in the civic body.

Irrespective of the party in power, it has also been a convention in the RMC to make two Opposition councillors members of the standing committee. But that convention was broken when the BJP didn't offer Congress a spot on the committee after the February 2021 election.

Withdrawal of Sorani's services also comes a day after the BJP withdrew services to the LoP in Junagadh Municipal Corporation, where Congress had won only three of the 60 seats.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

● Karge on Modi

said that he was talking about the BJP's "hate politics". "My comments were not a personal attack on Prime Minister Modi or any other individual, but on the ideology represented by them," he said, adding that the Congress's fight "was not personal (but) an ideological battle". "My intention was not to hurt anyone's feelings and if, knowingly or unknowingly, someone's feelings were hurt, then it was never my intention," he tweeted in Hindi.

The BJP lashed out at the Congress chief, accusing him of crossing the boundaries of civil discourse. Union Minister and BJP in-charge for Karnataka polls, Dharmendra Pradhan, said the Congress has a tendency to call Modi by various names.

"He might have used this abuse to please his political masters. Anyone with political experi-

ence does not use such words," Pradhan told reporters. Modi, he said, had always shown respect towards Karge.

While saying that there should always be arguments and counter-arguments in politics, Pradhan said: "But we expect everyone to keep this exchange within limits. Leaders of the party from which Karge comes from sometimes call Modi 'maut ka saudagar', sometimes 'Duryodhan', sometimes 'gutter ki keeda', sometimes a 'common chaiwala'. Using such words is not acceptable in a democracy," he said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said such statements reflected "Congress culture". "Is it appropriate to use such words about the Prime Minister," he said, adding that past comments about the PM had led to the decline of the Congress party.

● In Kaliaganj, police under scanner

including on Tuesday when 17 personnel were injured and the local police station set on fire.

The victim, Mrityunjay Barman (30), was a resident of Chandgaon, a village adjacent to the Bangladesh border that comes under the Radhikapur gram panchayat in Kaliaganj. According to his family, he was shot dead right outside his home between 2 am and 2.30, allegedly by a policeman who was part of a raiding team.

Police, though, remained tight-lipped on the incident — calls and messages to ADG (North Bengal) Ajoy Kumar, DIG (Raiganj) Anoop Jaiswal, and SP (Raiganj) Md Sana Akhtar did not yield a response. Internet services have been suspended for at least three days in Kaliaganj, where CRP Section 144 was already in force.

Speaking to The Indian Express, the victim's father, Rabindranath Barman (65), said: "Is this what you call politics?

Killing innocent people? Police shot my son and left him bleeding. They came in five vehicles but didn't help us take him to the hospital."

Barman had been working at a construction company in Siliguri since 2011 and would often visit his village.

Mrityunjay's wife Gauri (30) kept losing consciousness while trying to speak. She told *The Indian Express*: "We reached on Sunday for a wedding in the family. After having dinner on Wednesday night, we were sleeping when we heard people shouting. My husband stepped out and soon someone told me that he had been shot dead. He received a bullet injury to his chest. He was just lying motionless at the gate."

The death came a day after police started a crackdown on those they believed were involved in Tuesday's arson at the Kaliaganj station.

Calcutta HC orders NIA probe into Ram Navami clashes across state

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court has time and again dealt with the issue under what circumstances the investigation can be transferred from the state investigating agency to any other independent investigating agency like CBI. It has been held that the power of transferring such investigation must be in rare and exceptional cases, where the court finds it necessary in order to do justice between the parties and to instil confidence in the public mind, or where investigation by the state police lacks credibility and (where transferring the probe is) necessary for having 'a fair, honest and complete investigation', and particularly when it is imperative to retain public confidence in the impartial working of the state agencies," the court said.

It added: "In the cases on hand, we prima facie find that

there has been a deliberate attempt on the part of the concerned police not to register any offence under the provisions of the Explosives Substances Act."

Several vehicles, including those belonging to the police, were torched as violent mobs went on a rampage and ransacked shops in Howrah's Shibpur on March 30.

The clashes had sparked a political slugfest between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had accused the BJP of trying to stoke communal tension during the Ram Navami procession. She had alleged that the BJP hired goons from other states to orchestrate communal riots.

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee Thursday alleged that the BJP had approached the High Court seeking a probe by the NIA, a central body, as they want to

avoid being investigated in the state to "escape action".

Clashes over three days were reported from Hooghly and Dalkhola district as well. In Rishra, the mob allegedly hurled crude bombs at local trains and police vehicles. The court noted from a report by the police that the situation in Rishra had deteriorated to such an extent that internet services had to be suspended.

The BJP welcomed the court's decision, with state president Sukanta Majumder tweeting, "These riots were pre-planned and instigated with the support of TMC govt. It was triggered by the inflammatory speech of the CM."

BJP's state co-incharge Amit Malviya tweeted: "Let us not forget that communal violence broke out on Ram Navami after Mamata Banerjee delivered a provocative speech. She then ab-

solved the minority community of transgression, prejudicing the law enforcement agencies. However, no violence was reported on Hanumanotsav, after central forces were deployed. Mamata is burning down Bengal to further her regressive politics of appeasement."

Adhikari, the petitioner, said that "the Guardian of the Constitution had instilled confidence in the public once again".

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, meanwhile, said that "central agencies always safeguard the BJP".

Earlier, too, the NIA has taken over probes in the state. An investigation by the agency was ordered into the Mominpur riots in October last year. The Home Ministry had also ordered an NIA investigation into a bomb attack at Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh's house in September 2020.

● 'Relieved to be back home': Gujarat evacuees recall Sudan nightmare

to stay there. But today, I have returned as this conflict is unpredictable. Both the sides are strong and heavily armed with weapons," Nirmal, who was en route to Vadodara from Mumbai, told *The Indian Express*. The evacuees who arrived in Mumbai will travel to their hometowns in Gujarat on their own.

Nirmal, who was based in Khartoum — about 900 kms from Port Sudan — said he was unsure how long it would take for him to return to Sudan. "I am glad to be back to meet my family... I had been assisting the Indian Embassy to coordinate the evacuations and I had planned to stay back in Sudan until the Embassy officials decided to leave after calling the evacuations complete. But after coordinating with nearly 1,000 Indian evacuees and due to family pressure, I decided to leave."

Anand resident Chirag Patel who has worked for seven years as a procurement manager in Sudan arrived in India Thursday on the IAF C-21 aircraft. Chirag, who, along with the group of

evacuees had to wait for nearly 72 hours until the plane was given a green signal for take-off from Jeddah due to heavy air traffic clogging to various countries evacuating their nationals, said, "There has been tension in Sudan for the past three years with frequent tear-gas shelling, instances of firing and looming unrest. But the full-blown civil war, with military tanks and artillery, did come as a surprise to us... It began on April 14 around 9 am when air-borne jets began bombing Khartoum and military tanks invaded the residential cities. Although the air bombing stopped in about three days, the tanks continued to destroy electricity stations and water supply, leaving thousands of civilians at threat."

He added that it was when a bomb "missed his apartment building by a whisker" that he realised it was a "scary situation". "My temporary home in Khartoum was on the third floor and the fourth floor was taken over by the Indian Embassy to coordinate the evacuations... On

April 21, a bomb came right in the direction of our building and we saw it miss the building by a whisker. That's when I decided, it was not worth the risk," he explained.

Although the embassy was coordinating the evacuations, Chirag, with the help of his company, travelled by himself to Port Sudan where the naval ship INS Sumedha was to arrive for the evacuations. "I took the risk and travelled on my own because it would have taken longer to be evacuated otherwise... I am lucky I was among the first batch of Indians to be evacuated. I want to thank the Indian Embassy for helping citizens in crisis."

Like Nirmal, Chirag is also unsure of a timeline of his return to Sudan. "I do not know if this conflict will end soon and if we will be able to return to work in the near future. Although there is risk involved in settling abroad, the financial benefits of working in African countries cannot be ignored. Jobs in India cannot match the salaries... Such problems arise

mostly in countries that do not follow a democratic system," he said.

However, several Non-Resident Gujaratis, who are settled in Sudan for generations, have chosen to stay back. "There are many Indians, especially Gujarati families, that have stayed back in Sudan as they have lived through generations and it is their first home... But now with the local government warning the civilians to evacuate Khartoum, things are looking bleak for the country. Omdurman is also under attack like Khartoum," said an evacuee from Rajkot who landed in Mumbai.

He said they faced many troubles before the evacuation as the malls and stores had shut down. "There was barely any food to eat and the water supply had been disrupted. It was one of the worst nightmares one could have gone through. We had only seen it on TV during the Ukraine war and though the country had been tense due to its internal conflict, we never imagined it would come to this," he said.

● Chhattisgarh bids farewell

fought with the Naxals and surrendered to police. He joined the force and was with the DRG (the state anti-Naxal force) for three years," Boti Ram said.

At the police lines where the force gave the last salute to the slain personnel, Hariram's wife was inconsolable. He leaves behind a daughter and two sons.

The story of Raju Ram Kartam, a 24-year-old also killed in the Maoist attack, is quite similar. Kartam surrendered to police in 2021 and joined the force a year later. A family member said Kartam used to run a general store in his village Kawasipara under the Badegudra panchayat in Dantewada.

"There were allegations that he was helping the Naxals. On the other hand, there were whispers that he was a mukhbir (police informer). He felt threatened, that he would be killed if he continued to live in the village. He left his parents and came to Dantewada city where he surrendered. His parents still live in the village. He married last year and has a son," Raju's uncle Gangaram Sodi said.

Another jawan, Joga Sodi, 33, who died in the attack, had joined the DRG in 2017. His brother is in jail for allegedly taking part in Naxal activity. Joga is survived by his wife, twin sons born earlier this year, and two

daughters of age 6 and 3.

Joga's brother, a graduate, is in jail. "A few months ago, police caught Somda in Sukma and said he bought some products online which were used by Naxals," his uncle Hirma Sodi said.

Among the dead was a civilian driver, Dhaniram Yadav. The 35-year-old had driven vehicles carrying police personnel multiple times in the past. Bhojraj Yadav, his uncle, said, "He was the sole breadwinner. He is survived by his wife, a 12-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter. We hope the government grants a job."

Another jawan, Dulgo Mandavi, 22, joined the DRG on March 6 this year. Married three

years ago, he leaves behind his wife and son.

Thirty-four-year-old Santosh Tamo is survived by his wife and a two-year-old son. He had been with the DRG since 2017. "He studied till SSC. He had told his parents he would get married only after he gets a job," recalled cousin Ranjeet Tamo.

Twenty-three-year-old jawan Jagdish Kowasi, also killed in the attack, had joined the force in March last year. "We were to celebrate his birthday on May 10. We were also thinking that we should get him married. He is survived by his parents and two brothers," his relative Rakesh Kowasi said.

● BBC documentary controversy

form part of the impugned order. The reasons are necessary to be assigned by the administrative authority," the HC observed.

Appearing for DU, Attorney General R Venkataramani said Chugh had approached the HC with "unclean hands" and had made a "completely false" statement that he was not present at the time of screening.

He said a committee was constituted to look into the incident and Chugh was served with a show-cause notice and also given an opportunity to explain his conduct.

Appearing for Chugh, senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted that the debarment order cannot

be sustained on account of non-compliance with the principles of natural justice and that DU cannot "supplement" reasons behind it at this stage.

The AG further said that to say the DU acted in an arbitrary manner was "untenable" and there was already a notice mandating prior intimation to the university proctor if a protest is to be held.

Previously, the HC had orally observed that the DU order "must reflect reasoning".

On Thursday, however, the HC clarified that since the debarment order was set aside for a lack of adherence to the principle of natural justice, the university was free to take action against the peti-

tioner in accordance with its own procedure.

In his plea, Chugh said he was neither present at the protest near DU's Faculty of Arts (Main Campus) on January 27 nor had he participated in the screening in any manner. He said as the protest was being held, he was only giving a live interview during a media interaction outside the Faculty of Art.

According to Chugh's petition, the police, which had detained certain students for disturbing peace in the area during the protest, had never detained him nor charged him for any sort of incitement or violence.

Chugh said that on February

16, the DU issued him a show-cause notice and that he had responded to it on February 20. But on March 10, the petition added, the DU Registrar issued a memorandum imposing a penalty of debarment from taking any university, college or departmental exam for one year.

In its reply over Chugh's petition, the DU had said it constituted a committee, including the Proctor and other senior academicians, to inquire into the protest and initiate disciplinary proceedings against those responsible for it.

The committee, the DU said, had found that Chugh was the "mastermind of the agitation".

Baghel vows to intensify fight against Maoists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DANTEWADA, APRIL 27

CHHATTISGARH CHIEF Minister Bhupesh Baghel said Thursday that the sacrifice of the 10 personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and a private driver will not go in vain as he vowed to continue the fight against Maoists with more intensity.

Chief Minister Baghel made the remarks as he attended the final salute ceremony for the DRG personnel and the driver, who were killed in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast carried out by Maoists Wednesday. The 11 people were returning to the

Dantewada district headquarters after conducting an anti-Maoist operation when they were killed in the IED blast on Aranpur road, around 50 km from the headquarters. Around 40 to 50 kg of explosives were used and the impact shattered the vehicle leaving a 20-foot-wide crater on the road.

The final salute ceremony was held at the Karli police lines where Baghel along with other officials carried the coffin of one of the jawans on his shoulders and placed it in an ambulance to be taken to his residence. The family members, including the wives and over a dozen children, of the deceased jawans were also present during the ceremony.

Group of ex-judges, officers write to President, PM, CJI opposing same-sex marriage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

SAME-SEX INSTITUTIONS are "not accepted" by the Indian society and are offensive to its "values, besides being irrational and unnatural", a group of 16 retired judges and 104 former bureaucrats stated in a letter to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The Supreme Court proceedings on the petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex mar-

riages has emerged as a rallying point for "pseudo-liberals who are already divorced from Indian values", states the letter, released on Thursday.

In the letter, the signatories expressed their "shock" in what they termed as a "continuous onslaught against our basic cultural traditions and religious tenets", including in the form of attempts to legalise same-sex marriage. Among the 120 signatories are former Home Secretary and CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, former Foreign Secretary Shashank, former NIA director general YC Modi and former Jammu and Kashmir DGP SP Vaid.

● What will you do to ensure security, social welfare of same-sex couples: SC

relationships being recognised in law and wondered if similar rights can be extended to same-sex couples.

"Legislation has gone this far as to recognise live-in relationships, right to residence. So, there can be situations where a person in a live-in relationship may get the same house. There is a recognition and all the rights around it. So it's not as if things are working in their own silos. That too has linkage with family law," Justice Bhat said.

Justice Narasimha asked, "When we say recognition, should it always mean marriage?" and added that it can mean any association which entitles them to certain benefits.

Mehta said people were free to have any sexual orientation or cohabit but the issue was only about legal recognition of a relationship.

"They have the right to have their own sexual orientation and enter into relationships. They can cohabit, they can have and express their sexual preferences depending on their sexual orientation. But there is no fundamental right to seek legal recognition of that relationship as marriage or by any other name," he said.

The CJ, however, said that once the right to cohabitation is accepted, there is a corresponding duty on the State to recognise all the incidents of that cohabitation.

"Once you recognise that there is a right to cohabit, in other words (recognise that) homosexual relationships are not really one-off incidents in the life of a person (but) may also be symptomatic of a sustained social, emotional, physical relationship... once you recognise that the right to cohabit itself is a fundamental right... once we accept the fact that same-sex couples have a right to cohabit, then there is a corresponding duty on the State to recognise that cohabitation, all the social incidents of that cohabitation, must find recognition in the law," the CJ said, adding he was not touching on the issue of marriage at all at this stage.

When the Solicitor General said the government also shares the concern, the CJ said, "That's why we thought this should come from you. Ultimately, we want some element of a broad sense of coalition. Because we are also conscious about the fact that there is so much representative democracy must also achieve in our country."

He said, "It was the impact of British Victorian morality that we had to forsake much of our cultural ethos. You go to some of our finest temples which reflect the architecture. Even if you look at it, you will never say it is lurid... It shows the depth of our culture. Look at the profound nature of our culture down the ages. What happened unfortunately was from 1857 and thereafter and you got

the IPC, we imposed, as it were, a code of Victorian morality on a completely different culture. Our culture was extraordinarily inclusive and broad. Probably one of the reasons why our religion survived the foreign invasions was the inclusion, tolerance and the profound nature of our culture."

"The reason I am saying is this... We also understand our limitations as a court. There is no doubt about it. But there are so many issues in which... on the administrative side, you can find real solutions to the problems. Maybe we can be acting as facilitators to achieve these," he said.

The relationship of the court with the government, the CJ said, is not really adversarial, especially on socio-economic issues where it keeps pushing the government, asking it to come back with suggestions.

"We may not have a model within us. And it may not be appropriate for us to devise that model. But we can certainly tell the government, 'look our law has gone so far now' and can't something be done within what our law has recognised," he said.

Mehta assured that he "will speak to (the authority) at an appropriate level and come back".

Justice Bhat said that with same-sex relations decriminalised "and there is some sense of identity, how do you handle as a democratic government, as a system?"

The CJ praised the vision behind the Transgender Act and said "despite the government's stated position on affidavit before us, we have a law as far reaching as the Transgender Act. It is of 2019 and look at the vision of that legislation".

Justice Kaul sought to know if at the level of the ministries, any exercise was done post decriminalisation of same-sex relations to resolve issues of day-to-day existence of same-sex couples.

"With the decriminalisation that took place — obviously it was indirectly recognition that such a status can prevail — once such a status can prevail, logically I would think that different social ministries would have possibly... gone into a study of how to tackle these very other problems which would arise from a continuation of such status. After all, when you say live-in relationships, that's also not given any other sanctity, but the social legislation took into account that aspect. So, when you talk about homosexual relations, decriminalisation and people coming out of the closet, the next question would have been: how will different legislation areas where interests would be involved of two people or more than two people... would have logically to my mind (been) given a thought in the ministries... Has such a thought process prevailed?" he said.

● Vinesh asks why top cricketers, others silent: 'Are you so afraid?'

transcript will appear on Monday, May 1). Vinesh said: "The entire country worships cricket but not even a single cricketer has spoken up. We aren't saying that you speak in our favour, but at least put up a neutral message and say there should be justice for whichever party. This is what pains me... Be it cricketers, badminton players, athletics, boxing..."

She cited the example of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, which began in the US but saw sportspersons from across the world unite to fight racism and discrimination. "It's not like we don't have big athletes in our country. There are cricketers... During the Black Lives Matter movement in the US, they showed their support. Don't we deserve even that much," she asked.

Vinesh said she and Bajrang had written open letters and posted videos, requesting sportspersons to speak up. "But we don't know what they are afraid of. I understand that they may be concerned that this could affect their sponsorship and brand endorsement deals. Maybe that's why they are afraid to associate themselves with athletes who are protesting. But it pains me," she said.

"You do come forward to congratulate us when we win something. Even the cricketers tweet when that happens. Abhi kya hogaya? (What has happened now?) Are you so afraid of the system? Or maybe there's something fishy going on there too. (Unke dal mein bhi kaala hai, yeh maan ke chale hum?), she said.

Saying that the responsibility of "cleaning up the system" lies with the country's leading athletes, for the benefit of the next generation, the two-time World Championship medalist said the "entire system will collapse if all the athletes sit here in protest" and those running it "won't be able to sleep peacefully".

"But if the big athletes remain silent, then what's the point of anything at all? Every sports federation has a problem and many athletes are my friends as well. But there should be no pretensions. I go for their matches, they come for mine, we get a photo clicked together, congratulate each other upon winning a medal, put up nice messages like 'onwards and upwards'. Athletes need to get out of the social media bubble and express real-world emotions. They should look beyond their personal gains and ask their conscience," she said.

"Log kehte hai wrestlers ka dimaag ghutno mein hota hai (People say wrestlers are not intelligent). But I'll say our dil (heart), dimaag (brain)... everything is in the right place. Other athletes need to check where their brain is. Dil toh unke paas hai hi nahi (They don't have a heart)," she said.

She said that sportspersons who don't have the "courage" to make themselves heard now should not "congratulate" them if they win a medal in future.

"You put photos, you put brand collaborations... can't you put one post saying there should be justice for us. That's all we request," she said.



5 GUJARAT

Behaviour of govt should be such that people consider it a friend: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, while virtually addressing an event in Gujarat on Thursday, said the "behaviour" of a government should be such that citizens consider it a "friend" and are able to "share their thoughts".

"The behaviour of the government should be such that common people are able to share their thoughts, consider it (government) a friend," Modi said at the event organised by the state government to mark 20 years of State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT).

"It is a common saying that when a person gets the chair, everything changes. People also change. I used to hear this. But I had decided beforehand that I will remain the same; the way people made me. I will never become a slave to the restrictions of the chair. I will stay among the people and I will stay for them," Modi said to an audience largely consisting of past beneficiaries of SWAGAT and government officials.

He maintained that the Union government's PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform was based on Gujarat's online grievance redressal system SWAGAT.

"In Delhi, for reviewing government works, we had created a system called PRAGATI. In the last nine years, PRAGATI has played a big role in the country's rapid growth. This concept is based on the idea of SWAGAT. As the Prime Minister, I have reviewed Rs 16 lakh crore worth of projects through PRAGATI. It has helped speed up many projects in the country," he said.

Narrating his experiences with technology when he became the chief minister of Gujarat, Modi said, "The success of any democracy is dependent on its public grievance redressal system."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a programme marking 20 years of completion of SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat via video-conferencing on Thursday. PPT

Modi, who introduced SWAGAT when he was the Gujarat CM, added, "I personally benefited a lot from SWAGAT. When I used to interact directly with the people, I used to get clear feedback from the people at the bottom of the pyramid – whether they benefited from the government, if they are adversely being affected by government policies, if they are being troubled by some local official or entitled benefits are reaching the masses. I began getting this feedback easily."

The PM said that his government in Gujarat used to analyse the information gathered through SWAGAT.

"The strength of SWAGAT increased so much that a common man who was not being heard by officials had the option to approach me through SWAGAT. I used to get direct information about people's problems and complaints. I used to analyse these complaints. Is there a department or an official against whom frequent complaints are coming, is there sector full of complaints. Are the complaints due to policies or an official. We used to analyse everything. If needed, we used to change laws

and policies. If there a problem due to a particular person, then that too was handled. So, the people began to trust SWAGAT," he added.

Modi remembered former IAS officer A K Sharma, who used to handle the SWAGAT programme. Sharma is currently a minister in the Uttar Pradesh government. "This model of governance of Gujarat has received global recognition. The International Telecom Organisation had described it as an example of e-transparency and e-accountability. The United Nations also praised SWAGAT and it received UN's public service award. In 2011, when the Congress government (was at the Centre), due to SWAGAT, Gujarat had won a Government of India's gold award in e-governance," he said.

19 Board exam aspirants found involved in malpractices in Surat: DEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, APRIL 27

THE SURAT District Education Officer (DEO) Thursday forwarded the names of 19 students who were found involved in alleged malpractices in Class 10 and 12 examinations for further action to the Education Department.

Of the 19 students involved in malpractices, there are 13 Class 10 students of which seven were from a single classroom. Two Class 12 science students and four students from the Commerce batch were also allegedly found cheating.

"We have taken statements from the students who were found cheating. All the students first denied the offence. Later we showed them the CCTV footage after which they admitted to the act and apologised. We have also taken the statements of the classroom hall supervisor. It is up to the state education department to decide (further course of action) and we will implement the instructions," Surat DEO Dr. Deepak Darjee said.

The report was prepared after examining CCTV footage submitted by different schools. The DEO had summoned all the students and hall supervisors for inquiry.

Around 1.62 lakh students from Surat had appeared for Class 10 and 12 exams conducted by the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Board that was held between March 14 and March 29. Surat had the highest number of students appearing for board exams in the state. The exams were conducted across 540 examination centres.

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VogueStar

Beauty Pageant cum

Fashion Show 2023

Mrs. Preeti Tyagi D/o Hira Singh recently become winner from Gujarat of VogueStar 2023 under Mrs. VogueStar beauty Pageant category. It was her hard work to achieve these heights. VogueStar is an inclusive platform for women and by the women supporting them create their distinctive identities, was organize at all-India fashion week cum beauty pageant in Jaipur. The event which was hosted at Le Meridien Hotel on 14th to 16th of April 2023 is set to spread a message around unity in diversity. Conceptualized by Alison, the grand finale of the VogueStar beauty pageant and Fashion Week will witness state-level winners trained by Kavita, walk the ramp donning designer masterpieces crafted by emerging designers from across the country.

Divided into two categories, the pageant will crown three national winners under Miss VogueStar India and Mrs. VogueStar India. Mrs. VogueStar India is further categorized into two groups where in the group will be for married women from the age group of 18-35 while group 2 will be for women who are between 36-50 years. The idea behind this categorization is to ensure fair competition and inclusion of women across the age groups and relationship status to perform with best of their abilities.

VogueStar team comprises all female members abiding by its motto of creating a safe space for women. During the scanning rounds, VogueStar received registrations from 1200 passionate women from 28 states and eight union territories who wanted to create a mark in the society. With this VogueStar also invited budding and emerging fashion designers from all over the county to represent their state in the fashion week. The 30 selected designers are in the process of employing their imagination on fabric, embellishments, and embroidery to create an exquisite collection with a unique Indian appeal for the grand finale.

Out of 1200 registrations 200 were called for the finale at Le Meridien Jaipur and further reduced to 15 in each category after elimination.

Disclaimer: This Advertorial is released by Preeti Tyagi, D/o. Hira Singh

To address issues faced by people, Cong to launch 'Jan Manch' platform from May 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 27

THE GUJARAT Congress on Thursday said it will launch a 'Jan Manch' platform from May 1, wherein people can bring forth their problems faced in the BJP-ruled state and the party will help in highlight and address the same.

Amit Chavda, leader of Congress in the state Assembly, told mediapersons, "The state government is busy organising events and festivals. It has no time or po-

litical will to listen to the problems of common citizens. During such a situation, the Congress plans to provide a platform for the problems, suggestions and complaints of the masses."

"On May 1, which is the foundation day of Gujarat, we will start a Jan Manch platform," he added.

The announcement comes on a day the Gujarat government is celebrating 20 years of SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology) – an online grievance redress system of the chief

minister. This system was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was the chief minister of Gujarat.

"Be it youth, women, traders, workers or anyone else, they can approach this platform and highlight their problems. It could be civic issues or related to corruption, law and order, health and agriculture. Congress will not only fight for your rights, but we will get results for you," Chavda said.

For an entire year starting next month, Congress leaders will travel to each taluka to listen

to the problems faced by the people. "At a time when corruption in Gujarat has reached its pinnacle, when liquor and drugs are sold openly, we will present these issues to the appropriate authority. If needed, we will approach the courts," Gujarat Congress president Jagdish Thakor told mediapersons.

"When Prime Minister Narendra Modi is busy tell his 'Mann Ki Baat', the Congress in Gujarat wants to hear the 'Mann Ki Baat' of the common man and women on the streets," he added.

SVNIT students bag second rank in all-India drone competition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, APRIL 27

A TEAM of budding engineers from Surat's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Institute of Technology (SVNIT) bagged the second prize in the UDAAN 1.0 All India Drone challenge event 2023 held at IIT-BHU in Varanasi.

Somya Gupta from the department of electronics engineering, Atul Dhamija from department mechanical engineering and Prabhakar Jaiswal from department of electrical engineering – all final-year students – partici-

ated in the competition with their 'SUN drone', a custom flight controller based on STM32F103C8T6 drone.

Somya said, "The drone specialises in tracking the presence of humans, directly sending messages to the command centre."

"We built our custom flight controller at a cost of Rs 2,500. The same thing is available in the market for Rs 20,000. While our drone costs Rs 25,000, similar drones available in the market costs over Rs 50,000," she added.

Jaiswal said, "Participating in the competition gave us a great learning experience. It was an ex-

cellent opportunity to connect with drone enthusiasts and industry experts."

Their mentor, SVNIT Professor Dr Shweta Shah, said, "There were three rounds in the competition. In the first rounds, a report has to be presented on what drove the team to make such a drone and how it operates. The second round consist of presentations on how it detects human existence and the third round comprises practical session on using the drone in a no-man area."

Jaiswal said, "Participating in the competition gave us a great learning experience. It was an ex-

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCIENCE, (NCCS) PUNE
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DIRECTOR,
NCCS

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Badaruddin Mayiuddin Syed, S/o Late Mayiuddin Syed, R/o Noorani Mohalla, Aazwah Road, Vadoodara Gujrat** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case FIR No. 36/2014 U/s 489B/489C/120B IPC P.S. Special Cell, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Badaruddin Mayiuddin Syed** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Badaruddin Mayiuddin Syed** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Badaruddin Mayiuddin Syed of Case FIR No. 36/2014 U/s 489B/489C/120B IPC P.S. Special Cell, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.05.2023**.

By Order
Sh. Sanjay Khanagwal
Additional Sessions Judge-02,
Room No.15,
Patiala House Court, Delhi

DP/4441/Spl.Cell/2023(Court Matter)

APPENDIX IV A
([See proviso to Rule 8(6)])

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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 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 Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029]** ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on **30.05.2023** from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 74,20,613/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen only)** pending towards Loan Account No. **HHLMEH00359296**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 19.04.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 20.04.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **NIKHIL CHANDRAKANT SHAH and ADITI NIKHIL SHAH**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 1,05,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 10,50,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY BEING PLOT-1, SR. NO. 5, HAVING BUILTUP AREA ADMEASURING 112.00 SQ. MTS AND ADJOINING OPEN MARGINAL AREA ADMEASURING 108.00 SQ. MTS, HENCE TOTAL MARGINAL LAND IS 220.00 SQ. MTS. ALONG WITH UNDIVIDED SHARE OF LAND WHICH IS INCLUSIVE OF ROAD, COMMON PLOT ADMEASURING 67.415 SQ. MTS. TOTAL ADMEASURING 287.415 SQ. MTS. ON NON AGRICULTURAL LAND BEARING REVENUE SURVEY NO. 1995/57 WHICH IS INCLUDED IN T.P. SCHEME NO.-2, FINAL PLOT NO. 69 AS PER APPROVED LAY OUT PLAN. PLOTS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE THE SAID PROPERTY IS REGISTERED IN CITY SURVEY OFFICE VIDE SHEET NO.-200 AND CITY SURVEY NO. 2423/A/5, IN MOUJE GAM MEHSANA, MEHSANA NAGARPALIKA AREA, IN REGISTRATION SUB DISTRICT AND DISTRICT MEHSANA, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:

NORTH : AFTER LEAVING MARGIN ADJOINING LAND OF FINAL PLOT NO. 66 SOUTH : PROPERTY OF ADJOINING PLOT NO. 6

EAST : AFTER LEAVING MARGIN ADJOINING LAND OF FINAL PLOT NO. 70 WEST : AFTER LEAVING MARGIN INTERNAL ROAD OF 7.62 MTS. WIDTH

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Challenge in Poonch: terror push in Jammu, Bakherwal alienation

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 27

THE ONGOING manhunt in Poonch for the perpetrators of the April 20 ambush on an Army truck that killed five soldiers highlights the importance of securing the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri to the overall terrorist challenge in Jammu & Kashmir.

The attack and the subsequent search operation involving soldiers, drones, and sniffer dogs, recalls the October 2021 ambush on the Army in the same area, and the search that stretched over nearly two months. More soldiers were killed before the search came to an end after failing to trace any of the perpetrators of that attack.

Same area, several incidents

The October 2021 attack was followed by three other major incidents in the same area.

■ On August 11, 2022, five soldiers were killed after terrorists attacked an Army camp in Rajouri district. Two terrorists were shot

dead; it is not clear if these two were the only attackers.

■ On December 16, 2022, two civilians from Phaliana village were killed outside the gates of an Army camp in Muradpur near Rajouri town. Local people and the families of the men alleged the sentry at the gate fired at them; the Army said it was a militant attack. A magistrate's probe is ongoing.

■ On January 1, 2023, terrorists killed seven people at Dangri, barely 2 km from Phaliana, apparently because they were Hindus. The assailants could not be caught.

All these incidents, including the ambush on the Army truck at Bhimber Gali on April 20, took place within kilometres of each other in the Rajouri-Poonch area. Two things are signalled.

One, that after a gap of almost two decades, cross-border terrorists have set their sights on Jammu once again, perhaps in the hope of exploiting its openly communal atmosphere. Two, their ability to carry out these attacks and melt into the forests indicates support from local communities, which had been

hostile to the presence of both foreign and Kashmiri militants from about 2000 onwards.

2 decades of peace in Jammu

In the late 1990s, as security forces were wearing down the militancy in Kashmir, cross-border terrorists turned their attention to Jammu, entrenching themselves in Doda and Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley, and in the hinterland of the two border districts — Rajouri, which has a 60-30 Muslim-Hindu population, and Poonch, which is Muslim-majority. Most of the Muslims belong to the Gujar and Bakherwal communities.

From 1998 to early 2003, cadres of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, HuJI, HuM, al-Badr, and others had turned Hilkaka, a Bakherwal village in Surankote tehsil, into a terrorist fortress. They had dug themselves in, and virtually ran a parallel administration.

It took the Army's massive 'Sarp Vinash' operation, involving some 15,000 troops and aerial bombing, in April-May 2003 to flush

out the terrorists. But the Army could succeed also because something else had changed — the local Gujar-Bakherwal population had turned against the terrorist cadres.

In December 2000, the first Muslim village defence committee came up in Kot

Charwal in response to HuM cadres harassing Bakherwal women. And in 2002, a man called Tahir Fazal Hussain, who had returned to his village Marrah in Surankote from Saudi

Arabia, helped set up a civilian village force called Pir Panjal Scouts, which played a vital under-

discover role supporting the Army and police during Sarp Vinash. Peace prevailed from 2004 onward, largely because the people had decided to stand up to the terrorists.

Indications of change again

"When was the last time you heard about Surankote before all this? Until a few years ago, there was never a question that a terrorist group could establish a base in Jammu,

because they knew that the local communities would immediately inform us if they saw any suspicious strangers," Lt General Deependra Singh Hooda (retired) told *The Indian Express*.

Lt Gen Hooda, who commanded the Nagrota-based 16 corps from 2012 to 2014, and was the Northern Army commander from 2014 to 2016, said the incidents that took place in Jammu earlier were restricted to the Line of Control. "There were hardly any incidents in the hinterland of Rajouri and Poonch," he said.

The fact that none of the perpetrators of the last five big incidents in the Rajouri-Poonch area has been traced is a sign that much has changed. Since 2018, the Gujar-Bakherwal community has felt the hard edge of the communal power play in Jammu & Kashmir.

It may have begun with the rape and murder of a little Bakherwal girl in Kathua. BJP members rallied under the national flag in support of the accused, and a Gujar leader who mobilised support for justice for the victim and her family was arrested in a rape

case, bringing out the communally polarised politics in the erstwhile state. The fake encounter of three Gujar men from Rajouri in Shopian where they had gone to look for work, set up by an Army officer and two informers for monetary rewards, was another shock to the community.

According to Lt Gen Hooda, the abolition of the Roshni Act, and the subsequent demolition of the Bakherwals' *dhokas* as "encroachments", has added to the unease in these communities, as has the government's inclusion of 'paharis' in the state's list of Scheduled Tribes.

"My sense is that we need to have an outreach to these communities again. Only six or seven individuals may be supporting the terrorists. At the end of the day, if you want to defeat militancy, it cannot be done without the support of the local population. We have to get the Gujar and Bakherwal population on board again," Lt Gen Hooda said.

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WHERE IS THE RISK OF RISING HEAT HIGHEST? STUDY HAS UNIQUE ANSWER

GLOBAL WARMING is making dangerously hot weather more common, and more extreme, on every continent. A new study by researchers in Britain takes a unique approach to identifying which places are most at risk.

The new study focuses on one simple reason societies might be especially vulnerable to an extreme heat wave: because they haven't been through one before.

Whether it's heat or floods or epidemics of disease, societies are generally equipped to handle only the gravest disaster they have experienced in recent memory. Right after a catastrophe, people and policymakers are hyper-aware of the risks and how to respond, said Dann Mitchell, a climate scientist at the University of Bristol in England and an author of the study. "And then, as the years go on, you sort of forget and you're not so bothered," he said.

Dr. Mitchell and his colleagues looked at maximum daily temperatures around the world between 1959 and 2021. They found that regions covering 31 per cent of Earth's land surface experienced heat so extraordinary that, statistically, it shouldn't have happened. These places, the study argues, are now prepared to some degree for future severe hot spells.

But there are still many areas that, simply by chance, haven't yet experienced such extreme heat. So they might not be as prepared.

According to the study, these include economically developed places like Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, plus the region of China around Beijing. But they also include developing countries like Afghanistan, Guatemala, Honduras and Papua New Guinea, that are more likely to lack resources to keep people safe.



Receding waters in the Jialing river, Chongqing, China. AP



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Other areas at particular risk include far eastern Russia, northwestern Argentina and part of north-eastern Australia.

The study was published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Significance

The new study shows that hot spells that fall outside the range of statistical possibility have occurred all over the world throughout the past few decades. This suggests they could happen again, anywhere. Human-caused climate change isn't helping.

The bigger picture

The study looks only at maximum temperatures, which aren't the only factor that can make heat waves devastating. Humidity is also important, as are sweltering overnight temperatures, which eliminate opportunities for people to cool down from oppressive daytime conditions.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

TEN PERSONNEL of the Chhattisgarh Police District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the civilian driver of their vehicle were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack by Maoists in Dantewada district on Wednesday.

The attack took place two years after the April 2021 ambush by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, in which 22 security forces personnel were killed.

Why have the Maoists carried out this attack at this time?

The timing fits with the Maoist strategy of heightened military activity and more attacks on security forces every summer. The CPI(Maoist) carries out Tactical Counter Offensive Campaigns (TCOCs) every year between February and June, focussed on inflicting casualties on security forces.

This period is chosen because with the onset of the monsoon in July, it becomes difficult to conduct offensive operations in the jungles. "There are overflowing *nullahs* that can't be crossed, and tall grass and shrubs reduce visibility. As the rains come, both the Maoists and security forces return to their camps," a security establishment officer said.

Almost all major attacks by Maoists on security forces, including the 2010 Chintalnar massacre of 76 CRPF personnel, have taken place during the TCOC period. This year, until April 15, Maoists had carried out 34 IED attacks in Bastar, sources said. This figure was 28 for 2022 and 21 for 2021.

What is the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) situation in the country now?

Maoist influence and associated violence has been falling consistently due to vigorous action by security forces in their strongholds, roads and civic amenities reaching the interiors to a greater extent, and disenchantment with Maoist ideology among the youth.

According to the Home Ministry, Maoist violence is down by 77% since 2010, and resultant deaths of security forces and civilians came down by 90% from the all-time high of 1,005 in 2010 to 98 in 2022.



Mangled remains of the vehicle at the site of the attack on Wednesday. PTI

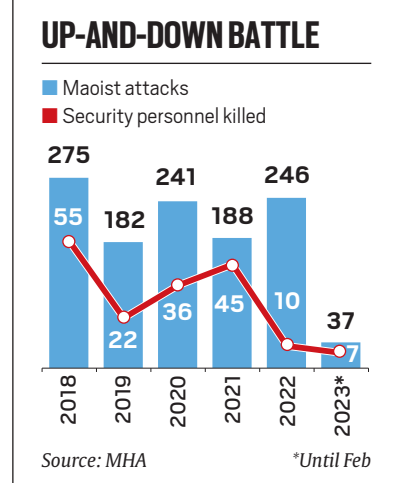
The government has cut the number of districts designated as Naxal-affected to 90 from more than 200 in the early 2000s, and says that violent incidents have been reported from only 45 districts. Also, 90% of the LWE violence is concentrated in just 25 districts. The Naxal presence in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar is said to be near zero.

What is the situation in Chhattisgarh?

It is the only state where Maoists continue to have a significant presence and retain the capability to mount big attacks.

According to government data provided to Parliament, in the last five years (2018-22), 1,132 "violent incidents [were] perpetrated by Left Wing Extremists", in which 168 security forces personnel and 335 civilians lost their lives. Chhattisgarh accounted for more than a third of all Maoist-related violence in this period — worryingly, however, its share of deaths was 70%-90%.

The number of violent incidents in the state during this period has varied from 182 to 275, according to Home Ministry data. The numbers of deaths of security personnel have varied from 55 in 2018 to just 10 in 2022 (see chart). Until the end of February, Maoists had killed 17 people in the state this year, including seven security force personnel, in 37 attacks.



Over the 2018-22 period, security forces killed 328 Maoist cadres in more than 400 planned operations.

So why does Chhattisgarh continue to remain troubled?

It is widely accepted that the war against Left Wing Extremism can only be won by the state police and not central forces. It is the state police who understand the language, and have the local knowledge and networks that are essential for intelligence-gathering.

It is by putting local police in the leading role that states such as Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand ended their Maoist problem. All these states formed special units of their police forces with personnel and officers drawn from the state, gave them special training, and won the battle with concerted security and development efforts.

This process, security establishment sources say, started late in Chhattisgarh. By this time, police of neighbouring states had pushed Maoists from their states to Chhattisgarh, making it a concentrated Maoist zone. The special unit of the Chhattisgarh Police, the DRG, was raised from the local tribal population and trained to fight Maoists only a few years ago.

"It is a measure of their activity that in all recent attacks, it is the DRG personnel who

have been targeted by the Maoists. We are consistently pushing into Maoist strongholds and conducting intelligence-based operations," a Chhattisgarh Police officer said.

The absence of roads in the interiors of Bastar has stymied the operations of security forces. Minimal presence of the administration in the interiors of South Bastar has ensured that Maoists continue to have influence and claim local support through a mix of fear and goodwill.

How has the Centre responded?

Apart from supporting LWE states through Security Related Expenditure (SRE), which focuses on equipping security forces to fight Maoists; the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), which aims to strengthen local police and intelligence set ups; and Special Central Assistance for building infrastructure such as roads in LWE districts, the Centre has maintained a massive presence of the CRPF in the affected states for almost two decades.

In Chhattisgarh, the CRPF has been consistently enlarging its footprint by opening new camps deeper in the jungles of South Bastar. Over the past year, close to 20 forward operating bases have been set up in Bastar, sources said.

Two years ago, the CRPF raised a Bastariya Battalion, the recruits for which were taken from the local population, who knew the language and terrain, and could generate intelligence. This unit now has 400 recruits and regularly conducts operations in Chhattisgarh.

The Centre is pushing for the erection of mobile towers in the interiors, which would help the local people connect with the mainstream, and also generate technical intelligence. Since 2014, as many as 2,343 mobile towers have been erected in LWE zones.

The Centre has also unleashed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate on CPI(Maoist) cadres, leaders, and sympathisers with the aim to choke their funding. The central agencies have registered several cases, conducted hundreds of raids, and confiscated property worth several hundred crores of rupees so far.

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50 YEARS OF BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE

Basic structure only safeguard against majoritarian govt: Ramachandran

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

ON THE 50th year of the "basic structure" doctrine that restricts the power of Parliament to alter the fundamental features of the Constitution, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran told *The Indian Express* the doctrine is the only safeguard against a majoritarian government.

Ramachandran, former Additional Solicitor General of India, was once a critic of the doctrine. Now a "qualified critic", Ramachandran said changes to secularism, federalism and equality will be the next aspects tested against the basic structure doctrine.

What does the basic structure doctrine mean today?

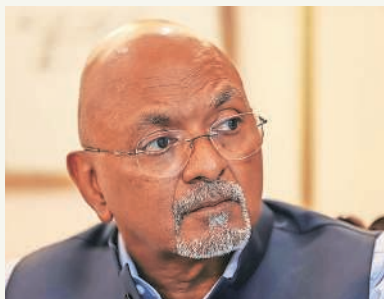
Today, the basic structure doctrine, which I have earlier criticised on grounds of pure theory, is the only safeguard against amendments that could do away with the secular nature of the Constitution. Also, with politics becoming increasingly presidential in style, the doctrine could stand in the way of a wholesale switchover to a pres-

idential form of government.

Why have your views changed?

You can call me a qualified adjacent critic of the doctrine now. Let me explain that. In 2000, the era of strong majorities seemed to have decisively ended. So in that context, I felt that the days of brute majoritarianism were over. Major constitutional decisions and major constitutional questions would henceforth be settled only through consensus and so, 50 years after the Constitution, the country should be given an opportunity to put the lessons of economics and politics into practice by amending the Constitution in whatever way the political class thought of it.

But even then I had argued that the basic structure doctrine, in spite of its conceptual inelegance, had served a purpose in the context of the Emergency, Mrs [Indira] Gandhi's election case. It reminded a still-fledgling democracy of the perils of brute majoritarianism and those days were over. But 23 years after that critique of mine, we seem to be back to the era of overwhelming majorities. And so it seems that that doctrine acts as a protection. And I'm sure you



Raju Ramachandran, former Additional Solicitor General, at his residence in New Delhi. Chitral Khambhati

will agree with me that 23 years is a long enough period in a person's life for him to say that he's lived a bit, he's learnt a bit.

Why do you say it is conceptually inelegant?

It is counter-majoritarian in nature and that power is exercised, after all, by unelected judges. That is something which the judges also need to caution themselves

about and I must say, to their credit, considering the few instances where they have interfered, that this is at the back of their minds when they apply the doctrine. I use the word "majoritarian" in a different sense from how you would normally understand majoritarian. I mean the will of the people as broadly expressed through the people whom they vote into power. So considering that, the court has been very restrained and if the court takes the view that the interdependence of the judiciary and its powers of judicial review are non-negotiable, no one can seriously have a problem with it.

Even the government's criticism is that unelected judges exercise this power...

There's no doubt that it's a judicial invention. And it does depend on the subjective perception by judges of what the basic structure could be. Even in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case, you notice that different judges, in their enumeration of basic features, had differences. But I must say 50 years down the line, the imperfections of the doctrine have not led to judges running amok.

After all, ultimately, the number of cases

after *Kesavananda Bharati* where constitutional amendments have been struck down is only six. While in those 50 years, there have been about 76 amendments to the Constitution.

So it is not, firstly, that every amendment gets challenged. And even if it is challenged, it is not that the court freely applies this doctrine. And therefore, the apprehension that the political class is prevented from carrying out important changes which they think may have a popular backing, those apprehensions are not justified. Even those few instances where the court has intervened, let's remember, have been in the context of judicial review and independence of judiciary.

What according to you are the basic features of the Constitution?

The basic of basics would be sovereignty, which would also then mean for instance, if there's an organisation like the European Union...if India were to be part of a regional economic union of that level, then there could be a challenge on the ground of sovereignty. Then, a republican form of government, as against a monarchy, would be ba-

sic. Secularism would be basic. Democracy would be basic.

But then a moot question would be, between a presidential form of government and a Westminster system, is there a major difference? I think there is, because our Constituent Assembly made a conscious choice in the context of the accountability of the executive. The parliamentary form afforded a greater degree of accountability on a day-to-day basis. So within the democratic system itself, parliamentary vs presidential can pose a problem and even, within the parliamentary system, suppose we move from the first-past-the-post system to a system of proportional representation, would that fail the basic structure test? That's a moot question but I would think that these are some of the very broad basics.

What facets of the Constitution do you see being tested against the doctrine?

Now if you look at the challenge to the Citizenship Amendment Act, that would involve issues of equality and of secularism. If you look at the challenge to the watering down of Article 370, it would raise issues of federalism.

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB

Smt. Vasumati is legally wedded spouse of No. 1556428X, Rank Ex-Hav Name Pawar Arunkumar Tukaram, Presently Residing at D-304, Om Residency, B/h Vaishno Park Society, Dabhoi Road, Soma Talav, Vadodara Pin-390025, That I have changed my Name from **VASUMATI to PAWAR VASUMATIBEN ARUNKUMAR & Date of Birth from 26.07.1966 to 06.02.1965.** for all purposes.

Affid.No. IN-GJ51194087108547V Dated 25.04.2023

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

PROVISION OF COVERSHED

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 029 OF 2023-24

Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. **Sr.No.1: Tender No. DRM BRC 029 of 2023-24, Name of Work: Vadodara Division :- Provision of covered over uncovered area of Important NSG-2 to NSG-6 category stations Vadod, Kanli, Gohaji and Balwa stations. Approximate Cost of the work (in ₹): 94.47,828.35, Bid Security to be deposited (in ₹): 1.89,000.00. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 15-05-2023 before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4.**

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WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACTS OF 'PAY & PARK' CONTRACT

LETTER NO. Comm/BRC/E-Auction/23
Ref. : RB's Letter No. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dtd 13-06-2022
With reference to above, e-Auction for the contracts of "Pay and Park" Contract. will be held on 10-05-2023. The e-auction will start at 10:00 hrs. on 10-05-2023. The catalogue has already been published on www.ireps.gov.in website. The details are furnished as under:-

Catalogue No.	Type of Contract	Lot No.	Contract Period
C481-BRC-1005	Pay & Park	PARKING-BRC-ANND-MX-13-23-1	03 Years
		PARKING-BRC-VLYN-TW-2-22-2	03 Years
		PARKING-BRC-MHD-TW-19-23-1	03 Years

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

E-Tender Notice No. 2 Year 2023-24

Sealed Online E-Tenders are invited by the Office of The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND (Ph No. 02692-263972) from Contractors registered in R & B, Railway, Military Services, GEB, GIDC, Irrigation so as to reach to this office through RPAD / SPEED POST only on or before Dt. 22/5/2023 up to 16.00 hrs. The tenders and details can be downloaded from www.au.nprocure.com or available to see on web site www.aau.in Tender received without name of work on cover or send without RPAD/SPEED POST will not be accepted. Commercial offer will not be opened In case of lapse of tender fee, EMD, Valid Registration, Solvency, 3A forms for RCC works etc.
Date : 27.4.2023



SURAT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CENTRAL STORES

Tender Notice (On line) No. DMC / CS / 02 / 2023-24

The Tender invited for various works On-Line on web site <https://smc.nprocure.com> from Manufacturer with following schedule.

Sr. No.	Name of the Department	No. of Works	Total Estimated Amt. Rs. (In Lacs)
1	Central Store	05	389 Lacs

The Detail tender Notice will be made available on website (Visit Us www.suratmunicipal.gov.in)
No. P.R.O./45/2023-24 **Deputy Municipal Commissioner**
Date: 26/04/2023 **Surat Municipal Corporation**

District Panchayat (R.&B.) Division, Gir Somnath, Tender Notice No. 1/2023-24

The Tenders are invited On Line by Executive Engineer, Jilla Panchayat (R.&B.) Division, Gir Somnath. Phone No.02876-285352 for the Total-2 works of Rs.6967.61 by E-Tender From the Eligible and Approved Registered Contractor with R & B. Department Gujarat for Further Particulars contact above office/or visit us on web sites www.nprocure.com and should be submitted online in www.nprocure.com Detail Tender Notice also view on Information Dept. website www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in

Online submission last Date	Dt.15/05/2023 18.00 Hrs.
Pre Bid Meeting Date.	Dt.09/05/2023 12.00 Hrs.
Submission of Tender fee. EMD & other documents. (By R.PAD. Only)	Dt.22/05/2023 18.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender (online) (Technical Bid)	Dt. 16/05/2023 11.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender (online) (Financial Bid)	Dt.19/05/2023 11.00 Hrs.

INF/JUNA/Advt./97/23



Canara Bank Rajkot-2 Branch
Abbasi Chambers, Ground Floor, Nr. Para Bazar, Dhebar Road, Rajkot

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated 13.12.2022 calling upon the **Borrower Mr. Rakesh Vithalbhai Kava** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") and **Mrs. Sejalben Rakeshbhai Kava** (hereinafter referred to as "Co-Borrower") to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 2,79,946.73/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six and Paise Seventy Three Only) + further interest from 01.10.2022** in Housing Loan within 60 days from the date of receipt of the 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 powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **25th day of April of the Year 2023.**
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Bhachau Branch** for an amount **Rs. 2,79,946.73/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six and Paise Seventy Three Only) + further interest from 01.10.2022** in Housing Loan.

Description of the Immovable Property
EMT of Smart House - 2, Flat No. C-709, West Zone, Ward No. 11, TP Scheme - 28, FP Scheme 49/C, B/h Speedwell Party Plot, Opp. Syamal Sky Life, Rajkot, Gujarat - 360005
Allotment No. EWS-316 (Awass Yojna Vibhag, Rajkot Municipal Committee)
DATE : 25.04.2023, PLACE : Rajkot. Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



INVESTMENT & PRECISION CASTINGS LTD

Nari Road, Bhavnagar, Gujarat 364 006.
CIN : L27100GJ1975PLC002692
Phone : 0278-2523300, e-mail: direct1@ipcl.in

STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH,2023 (Rs. In Lacs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		For the Quarter ended on		For the Year ended on			For the Quarter ended on		For the Year ended on		
		31.03.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	4,447.37	4,221.42	3,593.76	17,010.61	13,202.65	4,447.37	4,221.42	3,593.76	17,010.59	13,202.65
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	403.68	270.48	(117.93)	775.55	23.72	403.20	270.32	(117.58)	775.14	23.02
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period Before Tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	403.68	270.48	(117.93)	775.55	23.72	403.20	270.32	(117.58)	775.14	23.02
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period After Tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	289.81	193.48	(82.71)	556.08	17.86	289.32	193.32	(82.36)	555.66	17.16
5.	Total Other Comprehensive Income for the period Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	(1.77)	1.37	7.11	2.35	5.49	(1.77)	1.36	7.12	2.35	5.50
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- per share)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited balance sheet of the previous year				7,353.15	6,807.23				7,338.80	6,793.29
8.	Earning Per Share (EPS)										
a)	Basic	5.80	3.87	(1.65)	11.12	0.36	5.79	3.87	(1.65)	11.11	0.34
b)	Diluted	5.80	3.87	(1.65)	11.12	0.36	5.79	3.87	(1.65)	11.11	0.34

Note:
1. The above financial results are reviewed by the Audit Committee and taken on record at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26th April, 2023. The Statutory Auditors have carried out audit of the same and have expressed unmodified opinion.
2. The Company has, in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 108 - Operating Segments, identified Investment Casting Activities and Power Generation Activities as its segments and financial details thereof are disclosed in a separate annexure attached herewith.
3. The statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent Applicable.
4. The complaints from investors/shareholders for the quarter ended on 31st March,2023 : Received -0, Resolved - 0 , Unresolved - 0.
5. Previous period's figures have been reclassified, wherever necessary, to correspond with those of the current period.
6. Board has recommended dividend of 10% i.e. Rs.1/- per equity share on equity shares of Rs.10/- each.

Place: Bhavnagar
Date : 26th April, 2023

By Order of the Board of Directors
Mr. Piyush I. Tamboli
Chairman & Managing Director



Reach of AIR FM RADIO expanding in remote areas

91 New AIR FM Transmitters

- AIR FM Radio with its increased reach to provide accurate information and wholesome entertainment to many Aspirational, Remote, Border and Left Wing Extremism affected districts of the country for the first time
- With these new stations, 2 crore people will be connected to AIR FM Radio
- Coverage of AIR FM Radio ensured in new 35,000 sq km area of 84 districts in 18 states and 2 UTs
- Along with good governance and development, local languages, folk culture and folk art to get a boost

Inauguration

By
Prime Minister
Narendra Modi

28th April, 2023, at 11:00 am
(Through Video Conferencing)

In the august presence of

Anurag Singh Thakur
Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports

L. Murugan
Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Be it at home, during journeys and otherwise, the radio remains an integral part of people's lives. It is an amazing medium to connect people.
-Narendra Modi

Live Telecast of the programme on AIR and DD News



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

MAOIST REMINDER

The movement is in decline but killings in Dantewada suggest that there can be no lowering of the guard

THE MAOISTS HAVE struck in Chhattisgarh after a lull of two years. Ten jawans of the District Reserve Guard, a special unit of Chhattisgarh police recruited locally, and their civilian driver were killed Wednesday when the extremists triggered a blast using an improvised explosive device in Dantewada district. The security forces will track down the killers for sure, but the deaths are a reminder of how any deviation from the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in Maoist-affected territories is fraught. Complacency can extract a heavy price. The Dantewada incident is of a piece with previous Maoist attacks on security forces — the same season, terrain, and a similar pattern of attack, wherein a convoy tracking intelligence information is targeted with precision and a prior plan.

By all accounts, the Maoist movement in India is shrinking. From being “the greatest internal security threat to our nation” — as the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described it in 2009 — the Maoist movement is now restricted to pockets, mainly in Chhattisgarh. As per Home Ministry records, Maoist violence has come down by 77 per cent since 2010, and deaths of security forces and civilians have declined by 90 per cent. The number of Naxal-affected districts has come down from more than 200 in the early 2000s to 90, with violence mostly reported from 25 districts. The Maoist movement is hardly a force now in states such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar, once its strongholds. However, the Maoists have taken advantage of the Southern Chhattisgarh geography, a forested terrain bordering Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana with poor transport and communication facilities, to build a base. In recent years, security operations have turned the heat on the movement and impaired its ability to recruit and operate freely. With the emphasis on violence, the Maoist movement has also hollowed out as a political project and seems hardly in a position to expand its cadre base. At the same time, the state has not only expanded its security muscle but has also built both physical and social infrastructure in left-wing extremism-affected districts and worked on development projects.

The combination of policing, rehabilitation packages and welfare succeeded in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other states, where Maoism had peaked in the 1970s and 80s. Chhattisgarh has been a late entrant in anti-Maoist operations. It wasted precious time on civilian militias like Salwa Judum before course correcting to train its police force and expand the welfare outreach. This is the right path as evident from the sharp decline in Maoist attacks and killings. The task is to pursue with the strategy — without lowering the guard.

CARE AND CURE

Move to increase nursing colleges is the right step. Efforts must also be made to enhance skill sets of these professionals

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION to set up 157 nursing colleges is a step in the right direction. Despite the proven capabilities of the country's nurses, the profession hasn't always received its due. The move will add more than 15,000 nursing seats. More than 40 per cent of the country's nursing colleges are located in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. With Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh getting a major share of the new nursing colleges, the skew towards the southern states will be addressed to an extent. Much more will, however, need to be done to equip the country's healthcare facilities with the caregiving expertise they regularly fall short on. The government has rightly been giving emphasis on setting up hospitals and medical colleges, including AIIMS, in places that are in desperate need of such infrastructure. The private sector has also been increasing its footprint in the healthcare sector. These hospitals will require a regular supply of nurses.

The WHO recommends three nurses for a population of 1,000 people. According to official estimates, India currently has less than two nurses for 1,000 people. But this is a conservative figure. A FICCI-KPMG report last year reckoned that the number of allied healthcare professionals needs to go up eight times to meet the country's needs in the next 25 years. Increasing the number of nursing professionals is, however, just one part of addressing this imperative. An equally important requirement is equipping these caregivers with the skill-sets required in a medical set-up which keeps throwing up new challenges even as old problems remain unresolved. For instance, a lot of the acrimony between patients and healthcare professionals, that keeps surfacing every now and then, can be resolved if the nursing cadre is given proper communication training. Equipping caregivers with knowledge of the rapidly changing technologies in medical care is another imperative. Of course, addressing many of these challenges is part of on-the-job training. But given the pressure on frontline workers in the country's hospitals, it is important that nurses are taught to work autonomously of physicians in several aspects of patient care. Experts believe that institutes in the country currently do not provide nurses with adequate training to take up leadership positions.

Migrant nurses — most of them from the Southern states — have been, for many decades, a major source of remittance. These professionals are much sought after in hospitals in Europe, the Americas and West Asia. Investing in nursing education will only enhance the revenue-generating capacity of potential migrants. The new colleges announced by the government on Wednesday should be seen as a beginning in this endeavour.

BELAFONTE’S LEGACY

The singer and actor's commitment to activism only burnished his stardom, adding credibility to glamour

IN 1956, HARRY Belafonte made history when his album 'Calypso', featuring hits like *The Banana Boat Song (Day-O)* and *Jamaica Farewell*, became the first ever to sell a million copies. No eyebrows would have been raised if he had decided to solely refine his art and pursue professional success. That Belafonte, who died this week at 96, instead chose to fight larger political battles from the late 1950s onwards, ensured a rich legacy that went beyond the musical.

The distance afforded by time might make it hard to remember how groundbreaking Belafonte's stardom, in music and later, in cinema, was. America, in the 1950s and '60s, was a place where even those who enjoyed a rousing rendition of *Man Smart (Woman Smarter)*, might object to a fictitious mixed-race romance, such as the one featuring Belafonte and Joan Fontaine in the 1957 movie *Island in the Sun*. In 1960, a television special saw controversy when singer Petula Clark touched Belafonte, leading to objection from one of the sponsors. In this environment, the outspoken activist in Belafonte trumped the gifted performer — famously, he turned down the film adaptation of the hit George Gershwin opera *Porgy and Bess*, citing its troubling attitude to race and publicly criticised friend Sidney Poitier, another actor of colour, for taking it on.

Belafonte was the first Black actor to win an Emmy and a Tony, but increasingly, it was his political consciousness that drove him. He marched with Martin Luther King Jr and helped fund the civil rights movement. Over the decades, other battles found in him a staunch backer — he supported Nelson Mandela, brought together some of the era's biggest stars for the 1985 charity single *We Are The World* to raise money for famine-struck Ethiopia. Despite the occasional controversy — like when he referred to then US president George W Bush as a “terrorist” — Belafonte's commitment to activism only burnished his stardom, adding credibility to glamour.



SANJAYA BARU

A STANDARD TOPIC at college debates in the 1970s, when I was a student, used to be 'Population: Bane or boon'. The almost celebratory manner in which many reacted to the news that India has now become the world's most populous nation, overtaking China, stands in sharp contrast to a widely-shared view in our student days that rapid population growth was India's biggest problem. Certainly a bane, not boon.

From institutions like the Population Council to the World Bank, from the erstwhile Planning Commission to politicians of all hues, from western aid agencies to religious bigots, everyone was convinced that if only successive governments had stepped in to arrest population growth, India would have been better off. During the Emergency years, an attempt was even made to force compulsory sterilisation. From Rotary and Lions Clubs to Congress Party politicians, everyone was running a vasectomy or tubectomy camp in the larger interests of the nation.

When China declared its One Child policy, many among the Indian elite campaigned in favour of such a policy at home. While the government of the day rejected the “one-child” policy, it launched “Do Ya Teen Bas” followed by “Hum Do, Hamarey Do” campaigns. Communal politics thrived on blaming the Muslim community for India's population growth. Mass poverty, it was declared, was a consequence of excessive breeding by the poor. The latter view was pervasive till studies showed that families of the poor are larger because each child brings in additional income that may be marginally more than the food and other necessities consumed. So larger families are a response to poverty, not the cause.

The change in the population discourse began when both fertility and birth rates began to fall in the socially-advanced states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Research related the decline with literacy, education and health status of women, among other factors. If the rest of India can mimic Kerala, it was argued, then India's population problem will become manageable. Indeed, that has begun to happen.

In May last year, it was reported that the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) had shown that the total fer-

A country that cannot offer proper education to all will forever find population growth a bane

What we are left with is a skewed educational system that on the one extreme produces pupils for the global market and, on the other, puts out poorly educated, linguistically limited, bigoted and chauvinistic youth who have to be retrained to be employed. Into the vacuum created by inadequate public investment in school education, the private sector is rushing in and now boldly demanding a change of policy that will allow for-profit educational institutions.

tility rate (TFR) — an average of the number of children that would be born to any woman in her lifetime — had declined to 2.0 in 2019-21. This was marginally below what is called the “replacement level fertility rate” — of 2.1 — that is, the level at which a given population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, and so results in zero net growth of population.

The pattern of population growth has had many consequences for economic policy, including for trade policy, internal and external migration, political demographics, demand for public services, the use of natural resources and inter-regional variations in growth. Almost all these challenges were addressed within the wider framework of population growth being a bane rather than a boon. India's multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral trade agreements have been demanding access to overseas jobs, employment visas and so on, in the relentless pursuit of overseas employment opportunities. India remains a strong advocate of out-migration, even as the present political dispensation opposes in-migration.

So, where does the celebratory response to India's new status as the world's most populous come from? Clearly from the feeling that in a world of declining population growth, especially among the developed economies, Indians would spread out and remain the diaspora over whom the sun would never set. Without doubt, out-migrating Indians have become assets for many developed economies — from the US to Australia, from Portugal to Japan. The question is when would all Indians become assets for their homeland?

The Nobel Prize-winning economist, Milton Friedman, answered that question in a 1955 note to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru had invited Friedman to study the Indian approach to planning and offer his views. Friedman was not in favour of public investment in manufacturing, but strongly advocated public investment in education. Titled “A Memorandum to the Government of India 1955”, Friedman said, “the present writer is convinced that the fundamental problem for India is the improvement of the physical and technical quality of her people, the awakening of a sense of hope, the weak-

ening of rigid social and economic arrangements, the introduction of flexibility of institutions and mobility of people, the opening tip of the social and economic ladder people of all kinds and classes.”

Friedman's key observation, based on his study of American economic history, was that “in any economy, the major source of productive power is not machinery, equipment, buildings and other physical capital; it is the productive capacity of the human beings who compose the society. Yet what we call investment refers only to expenditures on physical capital; expenditures that improve the productive capacity of human beings are generally left entirely out of account. In the United States, for example, only about one-fifth of the total income is return to physical capital, four-fifths to human capital.”

Hence, Friedman wrote to Nehru, invest in human capital. Convert people from being liabilities into assets. An ill-educated, ill-equipped, socially and culturally backward people are an economic liability. Educated, healthy, productive and capable people are a national asset. Indeed, an asset to humanity.

Yet, even today we do not have a socially and economically relevant education policy except in patches. The best schools are increasingly putting out students into the global market. Out-migration of students has risen sharply over the past decade. If this is one end of the spectrum, at the other end provincial and communal politicians are obsessed about history and language, not worried about basic learning skills and the creation of a knowledge-based economy and society.

What we are left with is a skewed educational system that on the one extreme produces pupils for the global market and, on the other, puts out poorly educated, linguistically limited, bigoted and chauvinistic youth who have to be retrained to be employed. Into the vacuum created by inadequate public investment in school education, the private sector is rushing in and now boldly demanding a change of policy that will allow for-profit educational institutions. A nation that cannot offer proper education to all will forever find population a bane rather than a boon.

The writer is a policy analyst



IRENA AKBAR

IN AN INTERVIEW published in *The Indian Express* on April 22, Tabassum Shaik, the Arts stream topper of the Class XII exam held across pre-university colleges in Karnataka, said, “Between education and hijab, I chose education. We will need to make some sacrifices to accomplish bigger things.”

In January 2022, the Karnataka government prohibited the wearing of the Muslim headscarf across government PUCs (pre-university colleges) after protests erupted over a group of Muslim students being barred from their classroom for coming in their hijabs. Within a month, the Karnataka High Court upheld the ban. Tabassum, who till then would wear a hijab to school, had to decide what to prioritise — wearing her hijab, or going to college. “I decided to give up the hijab and pursue my education,” the 18-year-old said in the interview.

Tabassum's “choice” was not born out of privilege, but circumstance. The ban on the hijab forced her into making a choice. When circumstances force you to make a choice, is it really a choice? Is it a choice made out of “free will”, or against it? In Tabassum's own words, her “choice” involved “sacrifice”, that is, sacrificing the hijab, a symbol of religious identity for many Muslim girls and women. She would wear a headscarf till the gate of her college, and then had to remove it in a room before she could enter the classroom.

Choices that involve sacrifices or compro-

A FORCED CHOICE

Tabassum Sheikh succeeded despite the hijab ban, not because of it

mises are a coping mechanism that help you survive difficult situations. Tabassum did not just cope and survive, she came out an inspiring winner, scoring 593 out of 600, with a perfect 100 in Hindi, Psychology and Sociology.

Tabassum's success, however, does not mitigate the failure of the state in providing unhindered access to education to all students. The hijab ban was a hindrance and Tabassum had to work her way around it to continue her education. It's a telling example of inequality, given that no non-Muslim student or no non-hijabi Muslim student had to go through the checkpoint of removing a piece of harmless clothing in another room before being allowed to enter the classroom or write an exam.

Many Muslim students could not even reach the checkpoint. Some dropped out of government PUCs, enrolling in private colleges instead. Some lost an academic year, as students of all PUCs have to write their annual exams in a government PUC, where wearing the hijab is illegal. They now await the Supreme Court's verdict on the matter. Last October, the apex court delivered a split verdict, effectively maintaining the status quo.

One may ask: Why didn't other Muslim students follow Tabassum's example? But here's a clutch of counter-questions: Why should a Muslim student be burdened with such difficult choices? Why should their right to practise their faith be pitted against their right to study? Why does a Muslim student

have to be exceptionally brilliant and strong, and make it to the headlines? Why do they not have the freedom to be average, to not be strong enough to “sacrifice” a symbol of their faith, their identity in tender teenage years?

Tabassum's parents are visibly Muslim: Her mother wears a burqa, and her father a thick beard and topi. But the parents advised their daughter to suspend her visible religiosity at college to follow the “law of the land”.

In the last two years, the BJP-led state government has passed laws that are designed to put Muslims in the dock: The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act 2020 to “fight cow slaughter”, the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act 2021 to “fight love jihad” and the 2022 hijab ban rule under the Karnataka Education Act. As Karnataka heads for elections next month, there have been increasing calls by Hindu right-wing groups to ban halal meat and azaan and boycott Muslim shops near temples. In this larger picture of anti-Muslim politics, it's important to question why Tabassum had to make a choice at all. Even as her success story is worthy of celebration, it must not be used to disprove the discriminatory nature of the hijab ban or worse, justify it. Tabassum's feat is her own, and she achieved it despite the hijab ban, not because of it.

Akbar is an entrepreneur and freelance writer



APRIL 28, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

SETHI TO AKALIS

HOME MINISTER P C Sethi, made a fervent appeal to the Akali leadership to shun violence and to hand over terrorists, like the Khalistan protagonist Balbir Singh Sandhu and the assassin of the DIG of Police, A S Atwal. The home minister was responding to an adjournment motion on the failure of the government to ensure that places of worship like the Golden Temple are not used to aggravate the law and order situation.

FISCAL CONCESSIONS

FINANCE MINISTER PRANAB Mukherjee, an-

nounced fiscal concessions amounting to Rs 50.15 crore in his taxation proposals for 1983-84, while moving the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha. Bulk of the concessions — as much as Rs 40 crore — has been given in the sphere of direct taxes, while marginal adjustments have been made in indirect taxes.

J&K WEALTH TAX

THE JAMMU AND Kashmir High Court has quashed the levy of Central wealth tax to the state. A division bench consisting of Chief Justice Mufti Behauddin Farooqi and Justice I K Kotwai observed in its judgment that Parliament had enacted the Wealth Tax Act in

1957 under a constitutional provision not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. About 230 writ petitions had been filed in court challenging the operation of the Act to the state.

NAM MEET

THE TWO-DAY MINISTERIAL meeting of 11 non-aligned countries will begin in New Delhi to discuss strategy to persuade developed nations to take emergency action to meet the serious international economic crisis and revive global negotiations. External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao hopes it would lead to North-South issues receiving adequate attention at the later meeting to be held in the US.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

The sleeping state

Lack of action in sexual harassment complaints against former WFI president despite protest by decorated sportspersons sends out a discouraging message

JAGMATI SANGWAN AND
INDU AGNIHOTRI

THE FACT THAT the SC had to issue a notice this week to the Delhi police for refusing to lodge an FIR on the complaint of sexual harassment by seven women wrestlers — including a minor — against the former WFI president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for over three days is extremely telling of the present scenario. The lack of response compelled a galaxy of top national- and international-level wrestlers to once again sit on a protest dharna at Jantar Mantar in the heart of the capital. This sequence of events underscores a point the women's movement in India has been making for decades now: The State and its agencies are the biggest violators of the law, especially the laws enacted to ensure the rights of women, and the obstacles faced in initiating the process of seeking justice are so daunting that the majority opt out after their initial foray. Today this is compounded by the blatant misuse of official position and use of muscle power by the accused to intimidate and silence those speaking up.

The main factor underlying this state of affairs is the utter lack of political will to implement the law on the part of the state. This ensures that justice is neither certain, nor speedy and almost routinely denied. The result is that perpetrators of violence against women are never punished, nor are those responsible for implementing the law held accountable for their actions and inactions.

The on-going protest at Jantar Mantar highlights the state of affairs in the institutional set up of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). In January 2023, a set of wrestlers first protested against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the chief of the WFI citing incidents of sexual harassment, while also drawing attention to other irregularities. The government sought to defuse the situation by setting up an Oversight Committee which was to submit its report by the end of February. Until the wrestlers resumed their dharna on April 23, the findings of this report had not been shared with the complainants. A physiotherapist, Paramjeet Malik, has now said that three junior women wrestlers had confided in him about their ordeal and he had shared the information with the then women's coach, Kuldeep Malik, but no action was taken. If raising their voices by some of the most high-profile sportspersons meet with such a fate, the message that goes out to those not-so-powerful is loud and clear: Never speak up. It is this that the intervention by the Supreme Court may hopefully challenge.

Interestingly, in January, the protestors appeared keen to not "politicise" the issue. This is itself ironical, given that the top sports bodies in India are dominated by politicians or their scions, the most notable being the BCCI. The violators, both in the WFI case and that of the Haryana athlete who complained against BJP MLA and former Haryana minister, Sandeep Singh, in December, are themselves visible political faces and continue to hold positions in the party and the legislatures. As per reports, they continue to use their political clout to bully the complainants into silence,



C R Sasikumar

with several speaking of threats to life, character assassination and everyday harassment and disrespect in their place of work. This is in clear violation of the 2013 POSH Act and was taken cognisance of by the Supreme Court as far back as 1997 when the Vishaka Guidelines were issued. Undoubtedly, the establishment, with all its might, stands behind the accused in such cases.

Some of these aspects become clear from the trajectory of the complaint made by the Haryana athlete against Sandeep Singh: In his defence, the Chief Minister of Haryana went on record to state that such "allegations" do not make a person guilty; in the Assembly the Speaker observed that allegations are made only to be followed up with a compromise; while the Chairperson of the State Women's Commission said the charges appeared "unbelievable". All this while the Chandigarh police was still in the midst of its investigations! The media silence failed to register that after the accused minister publicly announced that he would probe the complainant's character, the DGP Haryana, on December 24, on the basis of a complaint received from the accused himself, constituted an SIT. Further, what remains hidden from the public is the daily harassment — amounting to re-victimisation — that a victim undergoes at her workplace and in her

When complaints lodged by top-level national and international players who have won laurels for the country meet with such a fate, the signal that goes out to other women who suffer such violation of their rights is to remain silent. If this is not to happen, the issues raised by the wrestlers need wider support, failing which the few who have spoken up may once again be silenced and marginalised.

daily life, subsequent to lodging a complaint of sexual harassment. Is all this being done as per POSH 2013? The nation truly needs to know.

When complaints lodged by top-level national and international players who have won laurels for the country meet with such a fate, the signal that goes out to other women who suffer such violation of their rights is to remain silent. If this is not to happen, the issues raised by the wrestlers need wider support, failing which the few who have spoken up may once again be silenced and marginalised.

As political leaders show up at Jantar Mantar in their support, it is time to realise that the battle for women to live and work in dignity is as critical to the idea of India as that at the hustings.

Will the women sportspersons seeking justice in India witness a show of solidarity as displayed by the Iranian footballers who protested the death of Mhasa Amini and stood with their sisters in struggle, against the imposition of the veil?

Sangwan, a Bhim Awardee and former international volleyball player, is vice-president, AIDWA. Agnihotri retired as director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It should be noted that since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the US and Western public opinion has thrown a lot of mud on China. As time goes by, those accusations are self-defeating, and the image of China as a peaceful builder is becoming clearer and clearer."
—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The good fight

In asking for marriage equality, queer Indians are not demanding special rights, only what other citizens already enjoy



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O'BRIEN

EVEN BEFORE I became a Member of Parliament, I was a signatory to a petition in 2006 seeking to strike down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Among the 100-plus signatories of that document were Jhumpa Lahiri, Shyam Benegal, Vikram Seth, and Kaushik Basu, to name a few. In 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously decriminalised consensual sex among adults of the same sex.

The story of Vikram and Alok: Last week, while the hearings on same-sex marriage (or more correctly "marriage equality") were on in the Supreme Court, I spoke with many friends from the gay community. Among them were Vikram Doctor, a keen quizzard and journalist, and his partner Alok Hisarwala, a lawyer.

This is their story. "When we met, being gay was illegal and we couldn't imagine an India where we could live openly as a couple, pretty much fully accepted by our families. Twenty-four years later, that's what we're doing in Goa. It's both so amazing, yet also seems so normal, we have to keep reminding ourselves of where we were when we started and how lucky we are to be here.

In all this, marriage never seemed even a remote possibility, so it was never something we contemplated. But we're well aware that this doesn't and shouldn't apply to queer people today. Why on earth does a young queer person have to do the slog we did for 18 years to come to the point that we are at now? The whole point of decriminalisation was never special rights, but just the normal rights that everyone enjoys, which should include marriage rights for those who want them.

Perhaps the silliest of all the arguments presented against marriage equality was that homosexuality will mean the end of the human race because we won't have children. The lawyer raising that seemed oblivious that he was doing so in the same week when India became the most populous nation in the world!

We respect the fact that many queer people genuinely want to raise children, and again this underscores the normality of this urge. It seems obvious that adoption is an answer, with the safeguards that should apply in adoptions of any kind — and yet adoption is what seemed to get people on the opposing side charged up.

The one thing that also seems totally bogus is the government's contention that this was a matter for urban elites. In our experience, it is exactly the opposite. Over the years we were fighting for decriminalisation, the demand for marriage always came from the less economically privileged people. Those with the means can always take care of themselves, but it is exactly those who cannot who need the legal protections."

Not about urban elites: This is not about urban elites. Far from it. Take the well-

documented story of Leela and Urmila. They were two policewomen stationed in Bhopal, who decided to get married in 1987. They were immediately suspended and also locked up for 48 hours. This is emblematic of the prejudice and persecution that LGBTQ+ people have to face in society. Even today, reports of couples from the community committing suicide are widespread, mainly due to emotional or physical violence inflicted on them, and the inability to lead a life with the person they love.

Nivedita Menon, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, adds, "the stories of violence against inter-caste/religious marriage and lesbian suicides" are not part of separate histories of inter-caste marriage and lesbianism in India, but a common "history of compulsory heterosexuality and [with] marriage as the institution that best represents it".

Extend Special Marriage Act to queer Indians: The petitions for same-sex marriage are not demanding special rights. They are only asking for the right to marry for those who want it. Using the word "spouse", instead of "husband" or "wife" in the Special Marriage Act of 1954, will be a promising first step.

Siddarth Dube, writer and development expert, and a gay friend of mine who has fought for these rights along with countless others told me, "I know with certainty that same-sex marriage will become the law across India very soon. I say this because we have genuine jurists still. They know what justice means and will override unvarying and obscurantist bigotry. And I say this also because at my age of 60-plus, I know that the overwhelming majority of Indians are resolutely decent-hearted and not bigoted. They want an India where all Indians can love and live freely as equal citizens". I take heart from his optimism.

The legislature in any democracy is the pulpit which is supposed to echo the voice of its citizens. But politics often prevents legislatures from upholding the essential rights of the people. In the 1960s in the USA, interracial marriage was a vote loser. So the courts had to step in to repeal the ban on interracial marriage. A similar scenario can be seen playing out in India. This is why the Supreme Court has had to step in.

An important fall-out of this debate is that a section of India's LGBTQ+ individuals, who cling on to the hope that they could flourish in an India ruled by the Sangh Parivar, have woken up to a harsh reality. They were deluding themselves. It's foolish to imagine that a party that thrives on demonising all kinds of Indians — whether Christians, Dalits, Muslims, free-thinking women or others — will somehow act humanely towards any minority. Of course, they should have realised this from the outset but then some people are fooled until it becomes a matter of self-interest.

I can also sense the simplicity of "loving". My wife Tonusa and I, a Bengali Hindu and an Anglo-Indian Roman Catholic, were married under the Special Marriage Act in 2006, an impossibility were it not for this radical piece of legislation to which we cannot wait to be extended to queer Indians.

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha)



NANDITESH NILAY

Apple and its gravitational pull

Steve Jobs sought his spiritual self in India. What would he make of today's queues?

IF AN APPLE showed Newton the power of gravity, the gravitational pull of Apple with an upper-case 'A' is there for all of us to see — on full display as Tim Cook dropped by. When our identities are fused with the phone we carry and defined and shaped by our feeds and posts on social media, groups and messages, from Good Mornings to Pearls of WhatsApp wisdom, the device is a powerful instrument of expression.

For one, it's slick, efficient, pricey. When Siri, Alexa, and ChatGPT are learning faster than us, when a person is a product and a product resembles a person, the Apple Store is our Garden of Eden where the forbidden fruit is available, even if some of us have to take it on EMI.

That's why the gravitational force led to long lines snaking around the malls in Mumbai and New Delhi. In our country, given that we are now the most populous, there are lines and there are lines but this line is comforting. This isn't the line of people at the bus stop during the lockdown, this is also not the line of angry passengers at New Delhi's T3 tweeting to the Civil Aviation Minister to come and fix their problem — this is the line of people, with money to spend, with a desire to upgrade, standing politely, no chaos, no hustle-bustle. These are not the poor who have slipped into the mall to catch the air conditioner — it is safe to assume that almost everyone in that line has an AC at home.

Let's not judge anyone, because, at one level, this marks a visible, tangible empowerment. People looked happy and emotional. It was a proud moment. Now India will not be just a growing market but also a manufacturing place for Apple products. It will be Made in India. In a market where smartphones range between a few thousand to a lakh plus, such lines are the emblem of aspiration. The variables of high cost, purchasing power, need, desire and the dream to be part of a resourceful and resource-full class is ubiquitous. To buy an Apple phone or a laptop is to prove a point to ourselves as much as to others.

As for Steve Jobs and his legacy, it's secure under Cook's watch. An empowered community which lives, talks, walks, sleeps, and feels, with the brand is brand commitment at its highest.

Technology is a leveller. Infosys's N Narayana Murthy once talked about the power of anonymity when a domestic worker and her employer both use their ATM card to withdraw cash. There is no bank teller who will discriminate. That's technology as a means. A smartphone can help flatten many inequities of class, caste, community as the user, riding on 4G or 5G, can access websites that teach, and links that inform. Of course, the circumstances of the user define her use. However, today, while opportunity may still be skewed in favour

of the well-off it is flatter than it ever was. That's technology as means.

Commitment to a brand is when technology becomes an end in itself. The fact is that howsoever disruptive technology can be or will be, whether through machine learning or AI, the one brand that marks us out is humanity. Our empathy, the ability to think beyond self-interest, is what distinguishes Brand Human from any other. But when Brand Human becomes so defined and shaped by a product; when it needs a product to prop it up, are we letting technology become an end in itself?

Let's not forget that long before Cook, Steve Jobs, as a backpacker barely out of his teens, visited India. Not as a market but as a place to seek his spiritual self and to meet Neem Karoli Baba. He used to walk seven miles every Sunday to find a free meal at one of the ashrams of Hare Krishna. In his biography of Jobs, Michael Moritz wrote about how "the hot, uncomfortable summer, made Jobs question many illusions he had nursed about India. He found India far poorer than he had imagined." Later, in his biography of Jobs, Walter Isaacson talks about how Jobs was struck by an insight from India: Intuition and "experiential wisdom," the art of slowness and the capability to comprehend the big picture were all more common and powerful than intellect or the power of reason that is so celebrated in the "craziness"

of the Western world.

Part of what Jobs was saying is part of the cliché of the Western view of the Orient. But there's no escaping the fact that the Apple Store in India will, because of the world outside the store, be a different space from the one in Times Square in New York or Covent Garden in London. For, at walking distance from the Saket mall are countless homes where the cost of an iPhone will be more than the monthly household income.

So, looking down at the Saket store, what would Steve Jobs have made of it, what would he have told Tim Cook? Perhaps, he would have told him to visit Apple's manufacturing facility in India and maybe get the cameras there. So that he could stand in line, along with the women and men, who line up for their shifts to assemble Apple products.

The gleaming Apple store with aesthetic designs of Mughal-era gates makes for a vivid photo-op or Insta reel, but Tim Cook taking a selfie with the workers on the shop floor in a Tamil Nadu manufacturing unit may also have been a good visual. Compassionate capitalism shot on an iPhone!

Nilay is the author of Being Good, Aaiye, Insaan Banaen and Ethikos: Stories searching happiness. He teaches and trains courses on ethics, values and behaviour.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRIBUTE TO BADAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Leader & Healer' (IE, April 27). With the passing of Prakash Singh Badal, an era in the contemporary political history of Punjab has ended. The secret to his political legacy is his solid grassroots connection with ordinary workers. He was liked by all the political parties irrespective of their ideology. His contribution towards the welfare of the people of Punjab will be remembered for years to come.

Bal Govind, Noida

FOR DEMOCRACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'It's about hearts, not votes' (IE, April 27). There is no provision in the Constitution that states the duties or responsibilities of elected representatives. The EC should consider the recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee. In particular, the Right To Call Back, which will empower people, allowing them to make decisions about their representatives. This will uphold the principles of democracy.

Ismail Wafa, Malegaon

GREEN SOLUTIONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Keeping it cool in summer' (IE, April 27). A heat action plan is the need of the hour in Indian cities today. Ahmedabad's example should be followed to reduce heat wave-related illnesses. Global organisations have also pointed out changing urban micro-climate which causes the "urban heat island" effect. Long-term solutions like increasing urban canopy and having white rooftops would help reduce the impact of urbanisation on cities need coordinated plans built on sustainability to protect the environment. The environment is also part of urban development and has multifaceted effects on sustainable development.

H Upadhyay, via email

PEOPLE'S LOSS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'It's about hearts, not votes' (IE, April 27). The writer should introspect on what caused his party's disconnect with the voters, instead of downplaying its loss of its national party status. The CPI was once a dominant player in the political life of the nation. Communists led kisans and students in anti-imperial movements in the colonial period. It is electoral performance that gives a party the chance to raise pro-people issues with renewed zeal. A party gets the opportunity to serve the toiling masses thanks to an electoral victory. The EC must rein in muscle power and hate speech, the issues raised in the article and CPI must course correct.

SH Quadri, Bikaner

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

10 The World



AFTER 20 YEARS ABROAD

YA YA PANDA WELCOMED HOME

Ya Ya the panda landed Thursday afternoon in Shanghai after departing from the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee, where she spent the last two decades, marking end of a 20-year loan agreement. **AP**

TOPOF THE WORLD



Joe Biden and South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol *Reuters*

SOUTH KOREA

US to share nuke planning to deter North Korea

Washington: The United States on Wednesday pledged to give South Korea more insight into its nuclear planning over any conflict with North Korea amid anxiety over Pyongyang's growing arsenal of missiles and bombs. The announcement, which included a renewed pledge by Seoul not to pursue a nuclear bomb of its own, emerged from White House talks between US President Joe Biden and South Korean leader Yoon Suk Yeol that covered issues including North Korea, semiconductor chips and trade, and the Ukraine war. **REUTERS**

DAY AFTER THEIR FIRST CONTACT SINCE WAR BROKE

Kremlin welcomes Xi-Zelenskyy call, but says its Ukraine aims remain same

Communication between two nations is their sovereign matter, says Peskov

REUTERS

MOSCOW, APRIL 27

The Kremlin said on Thursday it welcomed anything that could bring the end of the Ukraine conflict closer when asked what it thought of a phone call a day earlier between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

But the Kremlin said it still needed to achieve the aims of what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was familiar with the details of what the two leaders had discussed and said their stances on the conflict were well known.

"We are ready to welcome



Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov

anything that could hasten the end of the conflict in Ukraine and Russia achieving all the goals it has set itself," Peskov said of the call.

"...That they communicated—that is a sovereign matter for each of these countries and a question of their bilateral dialogue."

The Chinese and Ukrainian leaders on Wednesday spoke for the first time since Russia sent its troops into Ukraine in February last year, fulfilling a longstanding goal of Kyiv which had publicly sought such talks for months.

NATO allies have delivered 1,500 combat vehicles, 230 tanks to Ukraine in aid so far

LORNE COOK

KYIV, APRIL 27

NATO COUNTRIES have delivered more than 98% of the combat vehicles promised to Ukraine amid its war with Russia, the military alliance's chief said Thursday, giving Kyiv a bigger punch as it appears poised to launch a counteroffensive.

Along with more than 1,550 armored vehicles, 230 tanks and other equipment, member nations have sent Ukraine "vast amounts of ammunition" and also trained and equipped more than nine new Ukrainian brigades, NATO Secretary-

General Jens Stoltenberg said.

More than 30,000 troops are estimated to make up the new brigades.

"This will put Ukraine in a strong position to continue to retake occupied territory," Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels.

Stoltenberg said the 31 NATO allies were committed to shoring up Ukraine's military.

He said taking back land occupied by the Kremlin's forces would give Kyiv a stronger negotiating position if peace talks take place at all.

The Kremlin gave a lukewarm response to the call between Xi and Zelenskyy. **AP**

Russians pound Bakhmut 324 times in 24 hrs

Kyiv: Russian forces pounded city of Bakhmut, the months-old focal point of their bid to capture the eastern Ukrainian industrial region of Donbas, and head of Russia's Wagner force said Ukrainian troops were pouring in ahead of an "inevitable" counter-offensive. Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesman for Ukraine's eastern group of forces, told national television on Wednesday that in the past 24 hours, Russian forces had attacked 324 times using artillery and multiple rocket launchers. **REUTERS**



Damaged car and buildings at a market during clashes between two warring factions in Khartoum. *Reuters*

Gunfire back in Sudan's capital as US pushes for extending truce

KHALED ABDELAZIZ & NAFISA ELTAHIR

KHARTOUM, APRIL 27

THE UNITED States and African nations raced to secure an extension of a ceasefire in Sudan on Thursday, with the Sudanese army saying it had given an initial nod to an African proposal calling for talks even as heavy fighting continued.

Hundreds of people have been killed in nearly two weeks of conflict between the army and a rival paramilitary force — the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) — which are locked in a power struggle threatening to destabilise the wider region.

An RSF statement accused the army of attacking its forces on Thursday and spreading "false rumours", making no reference to the proposal which the army said came from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an African regional bloc.

The sound of air strikes and anti-aircraft fire could be heard in the capital Khartoum and the nearby cities of Omdurman and Bahri, witnesses and *Reuters* journalists said.

The existing three-day ceasefire brought about a lull in fighting, without completely halting it, but is due to expire at midnight. The army late on Wednesday

said its leader, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, had given initial approval to the plan to extend the truce for another 72 hours and to send an army envoy to the South Sudan capital, Juba, for talks.

The military said the presidents of South Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti worked on a proposal that includes extending the truce and talks between the two forces, whose conflict derailed a transition to civilian democracy after a 2021 military coup.

"Burhan thanked the IGAD and expressed an initial approval to that," the army statement said. IGAD reaffirmed an earlier call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, de-escalation and a return to the negotiating table. A statement by the bloc made no mention of Juba talks.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat discussed working together to create a sustainable end to the fighting, the State Department said on Wednesday.

At least 512 people have been killed and close to 4,200 wounded by the fighting since April 15. The crisis has sent growing numbers of refugees across Sudan's borders. The UN refugee agency has estimated 270,000 people could flee into South Sudan and Chad alone. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

Seven killed in fire on passenger train in Sindh

Karachi: At least seven people were killed after a car on a moving passenger train caught fire overnight in southern Pakistan, officials said Thursday. Railways official Mohsin Sial said the train caught fire in Khairpur, a district about 500 kilometers north of Karachi, the capital of Sindh province. He said six people were killed in the blaze while a woman died when she jumped from the window of the moving train. The blaze also badly damaged several other cars in the train, he said, and the cause remained unclear. **AP**

SRI LANKA

Governor gets US sanctions for violation of rights

Colombo: The US has sanctioned former senior Sri Lankan Navy Commander Wasantha Karanagoda for "gross violation of human rights during the brutal conflict with the LTTE, evoking a strong reaction from Colombo which said the "unilateral" move was "counter-productive". The 70-year-old ex-Navy commander from 2005-2009 is second defence official of such stature to be sanctioned by US for human rights violations during the battle with LTTE in 2009. He was appointed country's Ambassador to Japan and presently is a governor of a province. **PTI**

THAILAND

Second Uyghur detainee dead, says rights group

Bangkok: Human rights organisations urged Thailand on Thursday to improve conditions in its immigration detention facilities after a second asylum seeker from China's Muslim Uyghur minority died in custody within two months. Human Rights Watch called for an end to Thailand's "inhumane and counterproductive" policy of indefinitely detaining people accused of violating immigration law after Uyghur rights groups reported. Mattohti Mattursun, 40, died last Friday of suspected liver failure shortly after being taken to a hospital. **AP**

Philippines confronts China over disputes in South China Sea water

JIM GOMEZ

APRIL 27

A CHINESE coast guard ship blocked a Philippine patrol vessel steaming into a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, causing a frightening near-collision in the latest act of Beijing's aggression in the strategic waterway.

The high seas face-off Sunday between the larger Chinese ship and the Philippine coast guard's BRP Malapascua near Second Thomas Shoal was among the tense moments it and another Philippine vessel encountered in a week-long sovereignty patrol in one of the world's most hotly contested waterways.

The Philippine coast guard had invited a small group of journalists, including three from The Associated Press, to join the 1,670-kilometer patrol for the first time



A Chinese Coast Guard ship blocks a Philippine one as it enters the sea. *AP file*

as part of a new Philippine strategy aimed at exposing China's increasingly aggressive actions in South China Sea, where an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade transits annually.

In areas occupied or controlled by China, the Philippine patrol vessels received radio warnings ordering them to leave Beijing's "undisputable territories". **AP**



ROYAL HEIRS IN WAX

Studio assistants retouch a new waxwork representation of Britain's Queen Consort Camilla as it stands next to a waxwork representation of Britain's King Charles as part of the new attraction ahead of The Coronation celebrations, at Madame Tussauds in London. *Reuters*

Pak PM Sharif secures vote of confidence in Parliament

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 27

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday secured a vote of confidence from the National Assembly, with 180 lawmakers expressing "full confidence" in his leadership, in a surprise development amidst a rising confrontation between the government and the top judiciary.

The National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, ordered voting which was conducted with lawmakers rising from their seats in favour of adopting the resolution.

The resolution was supported by 180 lawmakers in the 342-member National Assembly. The prime minister needed 172 votes to become the leader of the house. **PTI**

FIRST APPEARANCE SINCE QUITTING NETWORK

Ex-Fox star Tucker re-emerges, targets American media, politics

DAN WHITCOMB

APRIL 27

FORMER Fox News star Tucker Carlson surfaced publicly on Wednesday for the first time since abruptly leaving the network this week, releasing a video statement in which he criticized the state of public discourse on US television.

Carlson in the statement did not address his departure from Fox, where he hosted the highest-rated news program in the key age demographic on the most-watched US cable news network.

Instead, he took aim at American media and the US political system.

"Both political parties and their donors have reached consensus on what benefits them and they actively collude to shut down any conversation about



Screengrab from the roughly two-minute clip Carlson posted on his Twitter handle

it," Carlson said. "Suddenly the United States looks very much like a one-party state. That's a depressing realization, but it's not permanent," he said.

Despite signing off the roughly two-minute clip with the words "see you soon," Carlson did not give any hints of his next move. **REUTERS**

FOX TO HAND OVER FILES FOR 2ND POLL LAWSUIT

New York: Fox News agreed Wednesday to hand over thousands of documents to voting machine company Smartmatic, which is suing the network for defamation in a case similar to Dominion Voting Machines' just-settled lawsuit. Smartmatic says Fox bears financial responsibility for airing false allegations that the company rigged the 2020 presidential election against ex-President Donald Trump. Last week, Fox agreed to pay Dominion nearly \$800 million to avert a trial, although the ultimate cost to media company is likely to be much lower. Smartmatic wants a \$2.7 billion judgment, which far exceeds the \$1.6 billion Dominion sought in its suit. **AP**

CAMERA WHEN FOUND STILL HAD ORIGINAL TAPE INSIDE IT; ITS CONTENTS WERE SCREENED AT HANDING-OVER EVENT

Camera surfaces 15 years after killing of journalist in Myanmar

JERRY HARMER

BANGKOK, APRIL 27

A VIDEO camera that had been missing for more than 15 years after it was dropped by a Japanese journalist who was fatally shot during a street protest in Myanmar was handed over Wednesday to his sister at a ceremony in Bangkok.

Kenji Nagai was recording the demonstration on Sept. 27, 2007, in downtown Yangon — part of a peaceful anti-military uprising known as the Saffron Revolution — when soldiers arrived, dispersing the crowd with

gunfire. The 50-year-old journalist, who was working for Japan's APF News, a small video and photo agency, was hit and mortally wounded. He was one of about 10 people killed that day.

Nagai's sister Noriko Ogawa received the small Sony Handycam from Aye Chan Naing, head of the Democratic Voice of Burma, a Myanmar media organization which was involved in its recovery.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart," she said. "This is a great surprise and joy for me, as I hadn't even had any information about the camera until now."

The handover of the camera

comes as Myanmar is in the grip of upheaval far worse than that of 2007. A widespread, determined armed resistance has sprung up in response to the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government by the military in 2021.

According to tallies kept by journalists in Myanmar, three of their local colleagues have been killed by the authorities since the army takeover and more than 150 detained. A handful of foreign journalists were also detained and later deported.

The camera when found still had the original tape inside it. Its contents were screened at Wednesday's event.



Aye Chan Naing (left), of Democratic Voice of Burma, hands over the video camera of slain Japanese scribe Kenji Nagai to his sister Noriko Ogawa, in Thailand. *AP*

The images showed protesters and monks in the street close to Yangon's ancient Sule Pagoda, singing and chanting, with police blocking their way. Trucks full of soldiers then arrived, prompting Nagai to turn the camera on himself.

The images then appear to show people scattering. The video cut off before the fatal moment.

However, video recorded by the Democratic Voice of Burma caught the moment of Nagai's death, as he fell down and was then apparently shot at close range by a soldier. A photo of the incident taken by Adrees Latif of

the *Reuters* news agency won a 2008 Pulitzer Prize.

Exact details of when and how Nagai's camera was found and where it was kept in the intervening years remain vague. Aye Chan Naing said only that it had gone through a series of people before getting out of Myanmar.

Nagai's sister said she hoped an analysis of the tape would disprove the Myanmar government's claim that he had not been deliberately targeted.

I hope I can reverse the Myanmar military's claim that my brother's death was an accident," she said. **AP**

11 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 60,649.38 ▲ 348.80 (0.58%) NIFTY: 17,915.05 ▲ 101.45 (0.57%) NIKKEI: 28,457.68 ▲ 41.21 HANG SENG: 19,840.28 ▲ 83.01 FTSE: 7,833.25 ▼ 19.39 DAX: 15,787.66 ▼ 8.07

International market data till 1900 IST

RS 2,825-CRORE DEAL

Godrej set to buy Raymond's consumer biz

Raymond to sell brands such as Park Avenue deo and Kamasutra condoms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

GODREJ CONSUMER Products Ltd Thursday said it has signed an agreement to acquire the FMCG business of Raymond Consumer Care Ltd for Rs 2,825 crore.

Raymond Consumer Care primarily operates in the deodorant and sexual wellness categories with two key brands — Park Avenue and Kamasutra.

It is selling its FMCG business to Godrej Consumer along with the trademarks of Park Avenue (for the FMCG category), KS, Kamasutra and Premium through a slump sale, Godrej said in an exchange filing.

"This acquisition allows us to complement our business portfolio and growth strategy with under-penetrated categories that offer a long runway of growth," Godrej Consumer's Managing Director and CEO Sudhir Sitapati said.

Per-capita consumption (USD) of deodorants in India is 0.4x that in Indonesia, 0.05x that in Brazil and 0.04x that in the

USA, he said.

"Having brought these brands at the forefront of consumer recall, we believe that Godrej Consumer Products will provide the requisite impetus to further drive the growth of these brands," Raymond Group's Vice Chairman Atul Singh said.

Raymond Chairman Gautam Singhania said the sale will turn it debt-free and reduce the number of business lines.

Raymond Consumer reported sales of Rs 622 crore in the fiscal ended March 31, 2023 compared to Rs 522 crore in FY22.

Godrej Consumer has brands such as Cinthol, Protekt, Hit, Ezee and GoodKnight.

Shares of Godrej Consumer closed 2.3 per cent lower ahead of the announcement, while Raymond rose 6.4 per cent.

Raymond's core business will now be real estate, along with its investments in engineering and denim, the company said.

The deal will lead to Raymond Lifestyle — currently an unlisted entity — becoming a listed company in the next 12-14 months, the company added.

Looking at banks' models more closely: Das

'Over-aggressive growth strategies a precursor to future problems'

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

IN THE wake of the banking crisis in the US and Europe, the Reserve Bank of India has begun closely monitoring the business models of banks and financial institutions, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

An inappropriate business model, he said, can create risks in parts of balance sheets and spark crises for financial entities.

Addressing the Global Conference on Financial Resilience, organised by the College of Supervisors, Das said the recent developments in the US banking sector, in particular,

have raised questions over the business models of individual banks that have faced challenges.

"These business models sometimes can create risks in certain parts of the balance sheets of banks which, going forward, can blow up into a bigger crisis. Therefore, we are focusing now on the business models adopted by banks," he said.

Last month, the collapse of two US-based lenders — Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank, and one European bank — Credit Suisse, raised concerns over the health of the financial sector across the globe, including India.

He said financial resilience is



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

closely linked to a bank's business model and strategy.

"Many-a-times vulnerabilities arise from inappropriate business models adopted by banks and other financial entities. Over-aggressive growth strategies or mindless pursuit of bottom lines, for instance, are often precursors for future problems," Das noted.

The RBI has put in place various prudential regulatory frameworks including capital adequacy requirements, asset classification, provisioning requirements and liquidity management framework and the

gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks have declined to 4.41 per cent as of December 2022, down from 5.8 per cent as on March 2022 and 7.3 per cent as on March 31, 2021.

The macro stress tests for credit risks indicate that domestic banks would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under severe stress situations and policymakers in India have maintained a position so far that there will not be a spillover of the crisis unfolding in the US and Europe.

Das said the recent events in the banking landscape of the US and Europe suggest that risks for an individual bank could crop up from segments of its balance sheet which might have been considered relatively safer.

"We expect the management and board of directors of each

bank to continually assess the financial risks and focus on building up adequate capital and liquidity buffers even beyond the minimum regulatory requirements. This is required for continual resilience and sustainable growth of each individual bank and financial entity," the Governor said.

Das said the RBI does not interfere with the business decision making of any bank or any regulated entities, he said. It only emphasises that the regulated entities must demonstrate the adequacy of internal controls and loss absorption capacity to match the risk that their business models may generate.

"Our approach is to flag deficiencies in this area to the senior management or to the board of directors of individual institutions for remedial action," he said.

HUL earnings margin in Q4 shrinks on cost inflation

REUTERS
CHENNAI, APRIL 27

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER Thursday reported a drop in fourth-quarter earnings margin after increased commodity costs overshadowed sales growth.

A sharp rise in commodity costs through last year has cast a cloud over FMCG makers even as they sought to shrug off the effects via price increases and reduced package sizes.

The Indian unit of UK consumer giant Unilever reported a nearly 11 per cent jump in expenses to Rs 11,708 crore for the quarter ended March 31, with gross margin dipping to 48 per cent from 49 per cent a year earlier.

"The decline is basically a reflection of two years of cumulative inflation that commodities have seen," Chief Financial Officer Ritesh Tiwari said in a conference call with media.

The margin decline came as growth in product prices slowed to its lowest in more than a year to 7 per cent, while sales volumes expanded 4 per cent, down from 5 per cent at the end of December. Still, the price increase and volume expansion drove the sale of products 11 per cent higher to Rs 14,638 crore.

The price growth "will tail-off further," the company said in a presentation. HUL has already lowered prices of its soaps, detergents and tea as prices of some raw materials eased, which it believes will drive the gross margin higher in the quarters ahead.

The Dove soapmaker's profit rose about 10 per cent to Rs 2,552 crore in the March quarter.

Axis Bank sees Rs 57 cr Q4 loss

New Delhi: Private sector lender Axis Bank on Thursday reported a net loss of Rs 57 crore for the March 2023 quarter on account of the acquisition of the retail consumer business of Citilinda.

The bank earned a net profit of Rs 4,118 crore on a standalone basis in the same quarter the previous year.

During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 28,865 crore from Rs 22,000 crore a year ago, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

PTI

India wants non-financial assets included in OECD info exchange framework

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

INDIA IS pushing to widen the scope of the common reporting standard (CRS) at the G20 grouping to include non-financial assets like real estate properties under the automatic exchange of information among OECD countries, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said Thursday.

At present, the OECD's Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework provides for sharing of financial account details among signatory countries with an aim to check tax evasion. In August 2022, the OECD also approved the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) which provides for the reporting of tax information on transactions in Crypto-Assets in a standardised manner, with a

view to automatically exchanging such information.

Addressing the meeting of the 'Asia Initiative of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes', Malhotra said there is also a need to broaden the scope of AEOI so that the information could be used not only to check tax evasion, but also for other non-tax law enforcing purposes. "We would also like expansion of the CRS from financial to new other non-financial accounts and assets, because the risks are not only in financial assets... there is a risk of tax evasion in non-financial and real assets, properties etc... these will be our priorities as part of the G20," Malhotra said.

Flow of information has helped us in increasing tax collection and revenue buoyancy has increased, he added.

JioCinema new home of HBO, Warner Bros

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

WARNER BROS. Discovery and Viacom 18 Thursday announced that JioCinema would be the new streaming home of HBO, Max Original and Warner Bros. content starting May 1. The partnership includes exclusive content rights across digital and linear and under this arrangement, HBO Original, Max Original and Warner Bros. Television series will premiere on JioCinema on the same day as in the US.

HOTSTAR'S LOSS, JIOCINEMA'S GAIN

■ Disney+Hotstar announced last month that it was dropping HBO content beginning Mar 31.

■ JioCinema is already the streaming partner of IPL. Analysts say it is attempting to disrupt the ecosystem

JioCinema is already the streaming partner of IPL. Viacom has deep pockets and they are trying to disrupt the ecosystem, say analysts. "This partnership goes to show that JioCinema has emerged as a serious player in the OTT business in India," said

Karan Taurani, senior VP, Elara Capital. "They already have the IPL, which is the most expensive sporting property in the country at the moment, and JioCinema has 10-12% of the OTT market in India. They can potentially become the largest video player af-

ter Youtube."

India's OTT market size stands at \$2 billion (AVOD or advertisement-based video on demand + SVOD or subscription-based video on demand). Pureplay SVOD market leader is Netflix with 35% of the market. Till IPL moved addresses, Hotstar was the AVOD market leader primarily because of IPL, which could have been 50-60% of its revenue in India as per analyst estimates. The Jio-Warner deal includes current and future seasons of HBO's globally acclaimed shows such as *The Last of Us*, *Succession* and *The White Lotus*.

FE

Wipro expects sequential drop in IT services revenue

REUTERS
BENGALURU, APRIL 27

IT SERVICES provider Wipro Ltd said on Thursday revenue from its mainstay IT Services unit would drop sequentially in the current quarter, after rising expenses offset deal wins in the three months ended March.

Wipro is the latest among major IT services exporters to warn about a drop in future performance as clients in western countries either delay, rethink, or cancel deals.

Net profit for Wipro fell 0.4 per cent to Rs 3,075 crore for the quarter ending March.



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE FINANCE Ministry is considering differential tax treatment for online gaming for the categories of games of chance and games of skill.

Online games in the nature of betting or gambling are likely to attract 28 per cent GST while those involving some amount of skill will likely be taxed at a lower 18 per cent, an official said.

The matter is expected to be taken up for discussion by the GST Council in its next meeting, which is likely either in the month of May or June.

"All online games are not games of chance and are not in the nature of betting or gambling. Many options are being considered, nothing is off the table. We

ANGEL TAX: I-T DEPT TO SOON NOTIFY RULES

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department will soon notify rules specifying the class of investors and norm of valuation for implementation of the Budget provision of taxing foreign investment in unlisted companies. The modified valuation rules would provide for ascertaining the fair market value (FMV) of shares of unlisted companies to levy tax on non-resident investments, an official said.

PTI

are also going through the rules for online gaming brought out by MeitY. The Finance Ministry will be presenting its view before the council," the official said, adding

First CXO-level exit after A-I privatisation: Engineering head to join SpiceJet as COO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

AIR INDIA'S Chief Technical Officer (engineering head) Arun Kashyap will return to SpiceJet as chief operating officer, about a year after he left the no-fills carrier for the Tata group airline. Kashyap will join SpiceJet on June

12, the airline said in a release. This is the first CXO-level exit at Air India since the airline returned to the Tata fold in January 2022.

According to sources, Vistara's head of engineering Sisira Kant Dash is likely to take charge as Air India's chief technical officer from June. The Tata group is in the process of consolidating and streamlining its air-

line business, which includes merging Vistara into Air India and AIX Connect (AirAsia India) with Air India Express.

Kashyap had joined Air India in May 2022. Prior to that, he was serving as SpiceJet's chief program and transformation officer.

Air India did not comment on Kashyap's exit and Dash's appointment.

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R.O. No.: 99-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No. : SE/PHC/KKD/11/2023-24 AMRUT - 2.0 - Augmentation of CWSS to Bathery Noolpuzha and Muttill - Providing FHTCs in Sulthan Bathery Municipality- Pipeline work. EMD: Rs. 500000 Tender fee: Rs. 16540 + GST (2978) Last date for submitting Tender: 29-05-2023 04:00:pm Phone: 0495-2371046 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

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232423 000294	Liquid Poly Aluminium Chloride (Low basicity) for Wastewater treatment plant in TNPL Unit - II	15.05.2023
Email	232433000027 - purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in 2324230000294 - purchase.rm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Tender & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our website: www.tnpl.com / www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

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NIB Code: SML2324A0001 अस्वकार्वालीन विनिर्देश सूचना NIB Ref. No.: RRS/M/Te-Tender/2023-24
मुद्रणालय द्वारा वर्ष २०२३-२४ (३१.०३.२०२४ तक) की अवधि के लिये सम-समय पर आवश्यकतानुसार विभिन्न प्रकार के कागज कचरे हेतु निम्नानुसार (दृ. बिंदु पद्धति द्वारा) पुनः निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
क्र. विवरण निविदा प्रक्रिया अनुमानित राशि बोली प्रतिभूति राशि बिंदु शुल्क फोरेस फीस बिंदु प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि
१ विभिन्न प्रकार के कागज का कचरा ऑनलाइन रु. २००० लाख रु. ४०.०० लाख रु. १००० रु. २५०० ०८.०५.२०२३
१. ऑनलाइन निविदाओं हेतु बिंदु शुल्क रु. १०००/- एवं बोली प्रतिभूति राशि राजस्थान राज्य सहकारी मुद्रणालय लि, जयपुर के नाम पर प्रोसेसिंग फीस रु. २५००/- MD RSL के नाम से डीडी जमा करवानी होगी। २. बिंदु/निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण व शर्तें निविदा प्रश्न में तथा वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं मुद्रणालय की वेबसाइट www.thecooparativepress.com पर उपलब्ध है। ऑनलाइन बिंदु/निविदा वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर अपलोड की जाती है। ३. बिंदु / निविदा के सम्बन्ध में अन्य जानकारी इस कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में ली जा सकती है। ४. कागज कचरे वर्ष भर सम-समय पर मुद्रणालय की आवश्यकतानुसार किया जायेगा। ५. बिलम्ब से प्राप्त निविदाओं पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। ६. चिन निविदादाताओं द्वारा उक्त निविदा के लिए पूर्व में (वर्ष २०२३-२४) बोली प्रतिभूति राशि जमा कर्माई हुई है, उन्हें पुनः बोली प्रतिभूति राशि जमा नहीं करानी है। (संक्षिप्त खण्डेवलाल) राजस्थान राज्य सहकारी मुद्रणालय लि.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No. : Re-E-Tender No 17/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN
Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) WSS to Kuttampuzha Panchayath - package III Providing FHTCs in ward VI.X of Kuttampuzha Panchayath -General Civil Work EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/- Tender fee : Rs. 19517.2 Last date for submitting Tender : 10-05-2023 03:00:pm Phone : 0484-2360645 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
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RFP No. SBI: CCOD-OB-01/2023-24 DATED: 28.04.2023
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for procurement of SIP Trunk for outbound contact centre services. Bidders, who are interested to submit bids, visit Procurement News at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/sbi>. For bid participation, please visit <https://etender.sbi/sbi>
Commencement of download of RFP: From 28.04.2023 at 10:00 hrs
Last date and time for submission of bids: 30.05.2023 up to 16:00 hrs
Contact Centre Operations Department

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Any further corrigendum or amendment shall be notified directly to the interested agencies.
Last date and time for submission of EOI is 15th May 2023 by 4.00 pm.
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Dondaicha Municipal Council invites e-Tender for the work of Aug. to Dondaicha Water Supply Scheme (Phase-II) at Dondaicha Tal. Shindkheda Dist.Dhule in the State of Maharashtra, Valued at Rs.36.14 Cr. The E-Tender Details are available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in All Relevant Dates will be as per the tender published in web portal www.mahatenders.gov.in visit for detailed information.
Date : 25-04-2023/2023-24 Sd/-
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PLAYING TONIGHT

Indian Premier League: PBKS vs LSG at 7:30pm,
Live on: Star Sports Network and Jio Cinema

Multi-starrer after solo show

Roy's joyful knock and Suyash's googly-dazzle highlight KKR's 21-run away victory over RCB

SYNOPSIS

All-round effort helps Kolkata Knight Riders defend par score after Roy makes the opening statement with bat.

TUSHAR BHADURI

APRIL 27

TILL THIS game, Kolkata Knight Riders were banking on cricketing miracles to get victories—the exploits of Shardul Thakur and Rinku Singh getting them their two victories. But that can't be a viable strategy in sport. Having lost their last four games, they needed to get back to the drawing board, and the whole team pulled together for a 21-run win against Royal Challengers Bangalore, that may just revive their campaign.

Par score too much for RCB

For a while, it seemed as if Nitish Rana's presence in the middle was working more for the opposition than his own team, judging by the number of times RCB fielders refused to take the chances he offered. But from a time the innings seemed to be going nowhere, the KKR skipper finally came to life with a flurry of boundaries. His innings of 48 off just 21 balls was just the shot of adrenaline the team needed, and though Rana and Venkatesh Iyer got out in the same over and Andre Russell continued his disappointing season, a few big hits from Rinku Singh and David Wiese took them to 200.

But that score was no more than par for the course in Bengaluru, and KKR needed regular wickets to stay in the game as they knew RCB would keep coming. Three wickets inside the Powerplay—including those of Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell—gave them a foothold. But with Virat Kohli still in the middle, the home team felt they were in with more than a shout. And with Mahipal Lomror finally pulling his weight, they were always up with the required run rate.

Kohli looked intent on taking his team home. His fifty came off 33 balls but soon after Lomror departed, the prize wicket came courtesy a stunning catch on the boundary by Iyer as Andre Russell returned for his second over.

Spin has been the go-to option for KKR for a long time, and was so again on Wednesday, but they needed something from their pacers, especially given that Sunil Narine is not the bowler he was in his



KKR's Venkatesh Iyer breaks the stumps in an unsuccessful attempt to run out RCB's Dinesh Karthik. AP

prime. But luckily for KKR, the other bowlers made up for the West Indian's dismal day. Russell (2/29) came to the party when the team needed him. Given that he isn't getting many runs, it could turn around his season as he contributed in some way to the team's success.

Roy fires opening salvo

In a team where most players have either seen better days or still to reach their peak, Jason Roy is one player who can inspire Kolkata Knight Riders to turn around their campaign. A 50-over World Cup winner with England, he is the batsman with the best pedigree in the line-up. He forced a couple of boundaries in the first over bowled by Mohammed Siraj, RCB's prime threat in the Powerplay, but the shot that really caught the eye was a nonchalant flick for six off compatriot David Willey.

But that was just the beginning. After surviving a few anxious moments against Sri Lankan leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and just as concerns started to surface that they were going too slowly for the high-scoring venue that is the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Roy roared with four sixes in the last over of the Powerplay bowled by left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, the first one no more than a check-drive that landed beyond the long-on boundary.

Even as opening partner Narayan Jagadeesan consumed deliveries, slowing

STANDINGS

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Pts	NRR
CSK	7	5	2	10	0.662
GT	7	5	2	10	0.580
RR	7	4	3	8	0.844
LSG	7	4	3	8	0.547
RCB	8	4	8	8	-0.139
PK	7	4	3	8	-0.162
KKR	8	3	5	6	-0.027
MI	7	3	4	6	-0.620
SRH	7	2	5	4	-0.725
DC	7	2	5	4	-0.961

the momentum when it needed to be maintained from both ends. Roy took just 22 balls to reach a second successive fifty. Jagadeesan tried his best to hit out or get out, but it seemed RCB preferred to have him out in the middle. His torturous knock of 27 off 29 balls finally ended with a catch on the boundary, and KKR may have been the happier side at the wicket which fell with the team score at 83 and brought in the in-form Iyer. Why wasn't he sent to open the batting is anybody's guess.

But the slowdown and frustration had already taken its toll as Vijaykumar Vyshak got his second wicket of the over when Roy walked too far across his stumps and saw his leg-stump being hit by a pinpoint yorker. It seemed that with the Englishman's dismissal, the air also went

out of the KKR balloon for a while.

No fear

There's something about Suyash Sharma, everyone who has seen him this IPL season would agree. And it begins with his big heart, being unfazed regardless of the task assigned to him.

So, with 30 smashed in the first two overs, and Kohli and du Plessis making the target seem like 25 runs too few, the leg-spinner was called upon and got the South African immediately.

He got Ahmed in his next over, even as the scoreboard kept rollicking. A look at the bowling figures will suggest Varun Chakravarthy (3/27) was the better bowler on the day, but two of his wickets came off rank long hops. It was Suyash who kept KKR in the game when they were under the pump.

With long hair and a bandana, he exudes attitude and fearlessness. He has a good googly and his figures of 2/30 were worth the weight in gold.

His RCB counterpart Wanindu Hasaranga returned figures of 2/24, but it was Suyash who had the lasting impact, as the designated Impact Player.

BRIEF SCORES: Kolkata Knight Riders 200/5 in 20 overs (J Roy 56, N Rana 48; Hasaranga 2/24) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 179/8 in 20 overs (V Kohli 54, M Lomror 34; V Chakravarthy 3/27, A Russell 2/29, S Sharma 2/30) by 21 runs.

Protesting wrestlers hurting country's image, says Usha

ANDREW AMSAN

NEW DELHI, APRIL 27



discipline and were tarnishing the image of the country. This came after Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had insisted that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govt has always stood with players" and "sports and athletes are their priority".

Speaking to reporters after the IOA's Executive Committee meeting that nominated Wushu Association of India president Bhipendra Singh Bajwa, former shooter Suma Shirur and a retired High Court judge to run the wrestling body and hold elections, Usha said: "The IOA has an athletes' commission. Instead of going on the streets, they could have come to us. The wrestlers themselves suggested an ad-hoc committee and we have formed one."

The IOA president said the protesting wrestlers should have approached the IOA before escalating the matter. "They should have come to us. If they didn't get a solution, they could have gone everywhere. Straightaway going to the streets is not good for sports. We don't want any problems with our sportspersons. We want our athletes to participate in the Asian Games.

"This kind of agitation is not good for the country's image and amounts to indiscipline. This negative publicity is not good for the country. We want to be with any athlete who has represented India, but under the rules, regulations and law of the land."

Sports minister Thakur said the government has always stood with athletes. "We wanted an independent probe. Anyone who wanted to speak in front of the oversight committee, was given the chance to speak. There was no restriction. The time period of the probe increased because of them, we allowed that. There were 14 meetings of the oversight committee. Police has said it will do a preliminary

enquiry before lodging FIR," he said.

The statements made by the former sprint queen didn't go well with the wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar. "I am extremely disappointed with PT Usha making such statements, being a woman and former athlete. It's unfortunate that as a woman she is not able to understand the pain these women are undergoing," Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia said.

Rio Olympics medalist Sakshi Malik too sounded disappointed by Usha's comments. "I have always looked upto to PT Usha ma'am and idolised her, but today I feel disappointed and let down by her statements. It is unfortunate that she couldn't understand the feelings of fellow women athletes. As athletes, we don't have an iota of indiscipline in our blood. We win medals and bring honour to the country only because we are disciplined," she said.

World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat said that instead of chastising the wrestlers, the IOA should have come to them to listen to their grievances. "We are not on the streets, we are on the soil of India. It is our democratic right to protest. If you feel it is "indiscipline" or insulting, why don't come here and solve our problems?" she asked.

When asked about the findings of the committee to look into the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey, who addressed the media along with Usha, said the investigation was still on.

"The ad-hoc committee has got a list of witnesses, who will be invited to depose before it," he said.

Vinesh responded by saying that the list with the IOA would include those who Singh would want. "They didn't talk to us all this while, before we sat in on our protest. Brij Bhushan's people have been made witnesses. We also have witnesses, athletes and coaches, please make them witnesses too. We only trust the Supreme Court."

Chaubey said the probe panel formed with boxing legend MC Mary Kom as its head was a "very good committee". "It has very dependable and renowned individuals. If we can have a little patience, because these are very serious allegations... We cannot make any decisions in haste. We have to see what comes out of this committee."

Arsenal's title dreams fade as City deliver blow with De Bruyne brace

REUTERS

MANCHESTER, APRIL 27

A KEVIN De Bruyne-inspired Manchester City struck a hammer blow in the Premier League title race as they outclassed leaders Arsenal 4-1 with an electrifying display in a seismic clash of the top two at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

Pep Guardiola's relentless side ran riot as they made it 12 successive league wins against Arsenal with a masterful De Bruyne scoring twice and Erling Haaland also on target as City seized control of their destiny.

De Bruyne fired City ahead in the seventh minute from Haaland's pass and the hosts bombarded Arsenal's goal before John Stones deservedly doubled their lead with a header in first half stoppage time.

Arsenal, who began the clash five points clear but having drawn three successive games, looked powerless to stop the onslaught and when De Bruyne struck again early in the second half it became a damage-limitation operation for the leaders.

Rob Holding grabbed an 86th-minute consolation but it was too little too late for Mikel Arteta's side and City now look firm favourites to claim a fifth title in six seasons.

Haaland finally got on the scoresheet in stoppage time for his 49th goal of the season in all competitions -- the most by a top-flight player in England since Clive Allen in 1986-87.

City's seventh successive league win left them with 73 points to Arsenal's 75, but crucially they have played two fewer games than the Londoners whose hopes of a first title since 2004 now look forlorn after four games without a win.

Guardiola's City have trailed Arsenal for almost the entire season but will go top if they beat Fulham at the weekend.

"We know what people will say but it's so hard and a lot of things can happen," De Bruyne told *BT Sport*.

"It's seven games still to go, lots of points, and we are still two points behind Arsenal. Our schedule is hectic, there are a lot of things going on we have to prepare for Sunday."

A damaging April took the wind out of



Any breach of the code might result in fine or even termination of the contract.



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne (centre) celebrates after scoring his team's third goal with Jack Grealish (right) and Ruben Dias. Reuters

Arsenal's sails but a first league win over City since 2015 would have put them put them back in charge of the race.

Unlike against bottom Southampton in Friday's frenetic 3-3 draw they got through the opening minute without conceding. But the writing was on the wall as Haaland and De Bruyne began to combine to devastating effect. Haaland showed great strength to control a high ball and send De Bruyne racing away with a neat pass and the Belgian advanced before nonchalantly curling a shot into the post.

Arsenal fragility

City sensed Arsenal's fragility and went for the jugular, tearing through the visitors lines at will.

De Bruyne looked poised for a carbon copy of his opener as Arsenal's high-line defence was again caught out but this time his shot was blocked. Minutes later Ramsdale denied Haaland as the Norwegian bullied his way through more flimsy defending.

Haaland forced another sharp save from Ramsdale before Arsenal finally threatened with Thomas Partey shooting wide.

anyone to their rooms, they need to inform the IPL team integrity officer and submit a photo identification to the team management in advance.

The Delhi Capitals are having an ordinary season so far, winning only two of their first seven games, resting at the foot of the points table. They started their campaign with five defeats in a row, after which several players' kit bags were also stolen in transit from Bengaluru to Delhi. The equipment was recovered after a few days.

While not referring to any particular incident, the Code of Conduct says that for each member of the Delhi Capitals squad - players, support staff and management - the team's vision and objective should be given utmost priority.

Delhi Capitals has also made it mandatory for all its players to attend franchise functions, and they will have to inform the team staff if they are late. The franchise had earlier verbally told its players that they need to be punctual as the franchise can't afford them reaching their scheduled destinations late.

The team can ill-afford any off-field distractions if it has to keep alive its slim hopes of a playoff spot. They have had a recent upturn in results, winning their last two games and host Sunrisers Hyderabad in their next game on Saturday.

BRIEFLY

Prannoy advances, Srikanth bows out

Dubai: India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy battled his way into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for compatriot Kidambi Srikanth in the men singles of the Asia Badminton Championships here on Thursday. While Prannoy, seeded eighth, had to battle it out for an hour and two minutes to prevail over Indonesian Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 16-21 21-5 18-21 in a round of 16 match, Srikanth was shown the door by fourth seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka 14-21 22-20 9-21. Prannoy will next play Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan. In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy entered the quarterfinals after the fourth seeded Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae Chae Yu Jung handed the Indians a walkover. **PTI**

Slovakian Martin fails dope test

London: Slovakian tennis player Andrej Martin has been suspended for 14 months for failing a doping test, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said on Thursday. The 33-year-old Martin, who reached a career-high ATP singles ranking of 93 in 2020, tested positive for an anabolic agent at the Bratislava Open in June. Martin's ban was reduced from the stipulated period of four years after he satisfied an independent tribunal that the offence was not intentional. "The player asserted that he had played in a floorball tournament... and that the presence of the substance was caused by mistakenly drinking from a team mate's water bottle, identical in appearance to his own," ITIA said in a statement. "Martin's floorball team mate admitted that he added ostarine drops to his water bottle. The Independent Tribunal considered Martin's statement to be plausible." **REUTERS**