

SC ruling on state minerals tax could impact govt oil cos

Dues From Crude Extraction Over ₹4,500Cr, Assam Tells Court

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New Delhi: Decision of Supreme Court's nine-judge Constitution bench on states' legislative competence to levy tax on mineral-producing land could impact central oil companies, as Assam, one of the three major inland crude and natural gas producing states, has told court that state tax due from crude extraction runs to more than Rs 4,500 crore till July 31, 2022.

Prior to commencement of hearing before a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, A S Oka, B V Nagarathna, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish C Mishra and Augustine G Masih, Assam govt had tendered a statement indicating dues both towards tax and interest under Assam Taxation (On Specified Lands) Act 1990 as amended in 2004.

Assam had said that the principal tax amount between Aug 2007 and March 2022 was Rs 1,454 crore and interest, computed at the rate of 2% per month, stood at Rs 3,068 crore. The total outstanding payable to state by oil companies was Rs 4,522 crore as on July 31, 2022.

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Appearing for Odisha and Jharkhand, latter having a demand of Rs 10,558 crore as tax on mineral bearing land, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi with advocate Sansriti Pathak told the bench that Entry 49 of List II empowered states to levy tax on lands and buildings, subject to provisions of Entry 50 in List II, which enabled Parliament to impose limitations on taxes on mineral rights.

Dwivedi said PM Narendra Modi's pet slogan of "double-engine govt" must translate to fiscally empower states under the federal scheme of governance man-

dated by the Constitution. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said, "The Constitution provides for two Lists, one for Parliament to legislate and the other for Assemblies, clear evidence of cooperative federalism. The Centre is tasked to ensure overall development of the country, irrespective of how mineral rich or poor a state is."

CJI Chandrachud said Goods and Services Tax (GST) has taken cooperative federalism to a different level. "But it is the duty of court to ensure that states' taxation power is not whittled down even though in our federal scheme of governance, power balance leans slightly towards the Centre," he said. Dwivedi said imposition

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of tax on mineral-bearing land may increase price of minerals but that is no ground to deny states their right to legitimately exercise powers conferred upon them by the Constitution under the federal structure.

For a special area development authority in UP, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria argued that Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act is a legislation only to provide for "development and regulation of mines and minerals" and does not deal with taxation. Hence, states were free to levy tax on mineral bearing land.

Appearing for Andhra Pradesh, senior advocate S Niranjan Reddy said the Union's power to impose limitations on state's power to tax mineral bearing land cannot be construed to mean that only the central govt had power to levy cess on mineral rights.

Any agency can arrest Shahjahan, says Cal HC

Kolkata: Calcutta HC on Wednesday said an elected public representative could not be permitted to evade law and it would be open to any agency — state police, CBI or ED — to arrest Sheikh Shahjahan, accused in Sandeshkhali case, reports Subrata Chatteraj.

HC reiterated that its Feb 7 order only stayed formation of a CBI-state police joint special investigation team (SIT) and should not be interpreted "to be an impediment to arrest Shahjahan".

A division bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya did not agree with state advocate general Kishore Datta's argument that HC's Feb 7 order staying investigations in Jan 5 FIRs prevented state police from arresting Shahjahan. HC said there were old cases against Shahjahan in which he had not only been chargesheeted by police as an accused but shown to be absconding. TNN

Uniform levy of royalty levels playing field: Centre

Continued from P1

It gave a detailed spread of important mineral reserves: iron ore reserves in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha (accounts for more than 50% of production annually), and Karnataka; 82% of manganese ore are found in Karnataka, Odisha (these two states accounting for 59% of total mineral reserve), Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; 73% of bauxite concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh; 96% of chromite resources in Odisha; and, 84% of tungsten reserves are concentrated in Karnataka, Rajasthan & AP.

The ministry said, "To drive development across the nation in a streamlined and equitable manner, availability of mineral-based raw materials (including iron ore and steel) across the country at competitive prices is essential, which involves legislatively addressing the effects of concentration of mineral resources in a few

states." "Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was enacted by Parliament in public interest to place regulation and development of major minerals within Union's control. Under MMRDA, Union has the power coupled with the duty to advance the national public interest by ensuring harmonised mineral development (and consequent economic development) across the nation, rather than creating localised pockets of mineral resource driven growth," it said.

A non-harmonised fiscal regime, varying from state to state, would force states not richly endowed with mineral wealth to procure raw material at higher prices from mineral-rich states which will put the latter category of states at a significant economic advantage that would come at the cost of national interest in maximising economic development for all from the nation's mineral

wealth, it said. "A uniform levy of royalty prescribed by the Union under MMRDA levels the playing field, thereby promoting domestic industry across the nation in a manner which is equitable, while at the same time ensuring revenue generation for the states," the ministry said.

It said the royalty is fixed keeping in view international price of minerals so as to keep the cost of these and the finished product using such minerals competitive in the international market to boost exports and shrink trade deficit.

"Ensuring that the power to impose fiscal levies on minerals is reserved for the central government is therefore fundamental to ensuring rapid and flexible responses at national level to international developments in the mineral markets. This national imperative cannot be permitted to be stultified or distorted by an overlay of state levies," the Centre said. TNN

Plea against Teele Wali Masjid nixed

Ravi Singh Sisodiya | TNN

Lucknow: A district court in Lucknow rejected on Wednesday a revision petition filed by the Muslim side against a civil judge order whereby he had decided, on Sep 6, 2023, to hear civil suit in Teele Wali Masjid case after rejecting plea that the suit cannot be heard on grounds of non-maintainability.

The civil suit was filed in 2013 by Lord Sheshnagsh Teeleshwar Mahadev Virajman through friend Dr VK Srivastava, contending that during Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's reign, a Hindu religious structure, Laxman Teele, was demolished to make way for Teele Wali mosque, and, therefore, the original Hindu religious structure must be restored at the site.

IDBI BANK IDBI BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai- 400 005
CIN No: L65190MH2004G01148838 Cuffe Parade, Mumbai- 400 005

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Centre eyes bumper wheat crop, 23% hike in procurement

Dipak Dash
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt on Wednesday estimated wheat procurement to be around 300-320 lakh tonne during the rabi marketing season, starting March 1, amid projection of a bumper winter crop this year. This will be around 23% more than the quantity procured last year and will be enough to meet the food security requirement and for future market interventions.

TOI learnt that food ministry estimated procurement after long deliberations with state food secretaries on Wednesday. Govt also estimated wheat production to be around 1,110 lakh tonne this year, slightly lower than last estimate. "We will keep reviewing the progress regularly with states. Additional procurement centres will be opened in

FIELD REPORT

Govt wheat procurement & open market sale (in lakh tonnes)

Year	Procurement	Open market sale
2019-20	341	36
2020-21	390	25
2021-22	433	70
2022-23	188	33
2023-24	260-320*	94
2025-26	300-360*	NA

*Estimated procurement



states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan to buy more wheat at MSP from farmers," an official said.

The increase in wheat procurement will bolster stock of Food Corporation of India (FCI), which has plummeted to an eight year

low of around 100 lakh tonne because of less procurement during past two years because of a fall in production. Sources said two major wheat producing states — Punjab and MP — are estimated to procure around 130 lakh tonne and 80 lakh tonne respectively.

PM Modi slams DMK rocket advertisement with Chinese flag

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: PM Narendra Modi accused Tamil Nadu's governing party DMK on Wednesday of neglecting India's achievements in the space sector after an advertisement placed by a state minister in a local newspaper showed a rocket with a Chinese flag on its nose cone.

"DMK is a party that doesn't do much work, but is always ready to take false credit. We all know that DMK tries to take credit for our schemes. This time, they've crossed all limits," he said, addressing a public gathering in Tirunelveli.

His remarks followed his participation in the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a new space



PM Modi with K Annamalai in Tirunelveli on Wednesday

vehicle launch complex at Kula-sekarapattinam in Tuticorin district. "DMK's advertisement today is hilarious. They have insulted Indian science and Indian space sector, for which they must apologise," the PM tweeted later.

State fisheries minister Anitha Radhakrishnan, who represents Tiruchendur constituency where the space complex is coming up, had placed the advertisement on the event. It showed images of Modi and CM MK Stalin against a backdrop of rockets. One of the rockets prominently displayed a Chinese flag, while others featured Chinese lettering. Radhakrishnan could not be reached for comment.

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunaidhi attributed the mistake to artist responsible for artwork. She also referenced Modi's 2019 meeting with Chinese premier Xi Jinping in Mahabalipuram. "And, moreover, China was not declared our enemy," she said.

BJP likely to field Shivraj, Scindia for LS elections

Continued from P1

BJP recently held 'informal' meetings with leaders from UP and other states. Besides, central office-bearers have completed the review of states the party expects decent pickings from.

The review, an exercise comprising on-the-spot assessment, feedback from local units and findings of surveys commissioned by the party, involved weighing the prospects of winners from last round against strengths of potential replacements.

Core group members from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Goa, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu had brainstorming sessions with Shah, Nadda and general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh.

Sources said former MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was present in the meeting to review probabilities for his state, is among the likely candidates from a prominent seat. Besides, Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and senior party member Kailash Vijayvargiya could also be fielded.

Sources said election committee of Delhi BJP has submitted a list of 25-30 probabilities to the national leadership for the seven seats in the capital.

The names of foreign minister S Jaishankar, housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri and late leader Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri were among the probabilities for the New Delhi seat apart from sitting MP Meenakshi Lekhi, a senior Delhi BJP official said. "The list of probabilities was discussed in a meeting of national leaders, including Nadda, Shah and state president Virendra Sachdeva, at the party headquarters," he said.

Rejecting Senthil's bail, HC asks PMLA to fastrack trial

Chennai: Madras HC on Wednesday denied bail to former Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji, who was arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 14, 2023, on charges of money-laundering, reports Sureshkumar K. Justice N Anand Venkatesh directed special court for cases under PMLA to complete the trial in three months.

Asserting that the former minister remained influential and apprehension still subsisted that he would tamper with evidence and influence witnesses, the judge said: "The petitioner resigned from the post of minister without a portfolio just one day prior to hearing of this bail petition."

The fact that the petitioner continued to hold the position as a minister for nearly eight months after his arrest, that too without a portfolio, when he was inside the jail, shows the tremendous influence of the petitioner and the importance that is given to him by the state govt, the judge said.

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board

मत्स्यपालन विभाग/Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय /Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
भारत सरकार /Government of India

सम्भ संख्या-235, पी.डी.एन.आर एक्सप्रेस वे, डाक-एस.डी.पी.एन.पी. ए. हैदराबाद- 500052
Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500 052
फ़ोन/ Phone No. 040- 24000201; फ़ैक्स/ Fax No: 040-2401 5568; ईमेल/ Mail: info.nfdb@nic.in

NFDB/Division XI (Administration)/Engagement of M&E Expert/Assistant/2020-2021 Date:28-02-2024

WALK IN INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION

Walk-in-Interview will be held at 9:30 AM on date(s) mentioned below for engaging Monitoring & Evaluation Expert and Monitoring Assistant on contractual basis at National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad and Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, New Delhi.

Sl. No.	Division	Name of the Position	No. of Posts	Place of Posting	Date of Walk-in Interview
1	PMU-FIDF	Monitoring & Evaluation Expert	01	NFDB, Hyderabad	08.03.2024
2		Monitoring Assistant	02	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, New Delhi	
3		Monitoring Assistant	01		

For details/eligibility criteria for the post and application proforma, please visit NFDB's website i.e. <http://nfdb.gov.in>.

(Sd/-)
Senior Executive (F&A)

M.P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT
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Ph. No. : 0731-2426354, Fax No. : 0731-2423300

No. MD/WZ/01/HR/2024/3250 Indore, Date : 28.02.2024

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) ON CONTRACT BASIS

Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. Ltd. Indore, is the successor company of M.P. State Electricity Board that has been incorporated to undertake activities of distribution and retail supply of electricity in the jurisdiction of Indore & Ujjain commissionaries.

The company intends to recruit Assistant Engineer (Electrical) on Contract Basis in the Company on the basis of valid GATE score merit as on date of advertisement and invites online applications from the eligible candidates.

Further details regarding vacant positions, minimum qualification, age limit, application fees and other details are available in detailed advertisement on company's website : www.mpwz.co.in. The application can be submitted online through the link provided on Company's website only from 06.03.2024 to 05.04.2024. The application through any other channel will not be accepted.

M.P. Madhyam/114028/2024 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR&A)**

राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान, रुड़की
(जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की सोसायटी)
जलविज्ञान भवन, रुड़की-247667, उत्तराखंड

संख्या: 5(XIV)/2023-24/NIH/Pur-01 दिनांक: 27.02.2024

राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान रुड़की "हिंदी में तकनीकी पुस्तक लेखन पुरस्कार योजना" के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2023 के दौरान प्रकाशित मौलिक तथा अनूदित पुस्तकों के लिए प्रविष्टियाँ आमंत्रित करता है।

उक्त पुरस्कार योजना की पात्रता सम्बन्धी शर्तों एवं अन्य विवरण को विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कृपया संस्थान की अधिकारिक वेबसाइट www.nihrooelg.gov.in देखें।

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

ANNA UNIVERSITY 100
SARDAR PATEL ROAD, CHENNAI - 600 025.

NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CERTAIN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS & CENTRES

Notification No.001/RC/UD-FR/PR10&20/2024, dated: 23.2.2024

Applications are invited only through online mode, from Indian Nationals possessing excellent academic background and commitment to quality in teaching and research, for the vacant positions of Assistant Professor in certain University Departments & Centres of Anna University. For more details please visit the University website www.annauniv.edu.

Important Dates

Date of Online Registration commencement	05.03.2024 (10.00 Hrs IST)
Date of Possession of Qualification, Experience and other requirements	29.02.2024
Last Date for Submission of online application	01.04.2024 (17.30 Hrs IST)
Last Date for receipt of hardcopy of online application	05.04.2024 (17.30 Hrs IST)

REGISTRAR

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1147 / RDSS

Dy. CE/TL (Design), PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for 7 Nos. Packages under RDSS on Full Turnkey Basis work related to 66kV Sub-Stations and 66kV transmission lines, as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1147 / RDSS. For detailed NIT and Bidding Document, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.02.2024 (11.00 AM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C/17024, DPR/PB. : 76155/12/2763/2023/92974

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
[Set up by an Act of Parliament]
ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002

Notice Inviting Tender

Empanelment of Service Providers for production of highly engaging advanced video content for Self-paced Online Modules of CA Course

ICAI invites unconditional and sealed proposals from reputed and experienced Service Providers for empanelment for production of highly engaging advanced video content for Self-paced Online Modules of CA Course. The last date for submission of the sealed bids is **21st March 2024 up to 05.00 P.M.** The tender document along with detailed terms and conditions is available at ICAI's website www.icaai.org.

Secretary, ICAI

Form II (Form of Public Notice)
PACHORA POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED
2 nd Floor, Novus Tower
Plot No. 18, Sector-18 Gurugram, Haryana-122015
NOTICE

(Under sub-section (2) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003)

1. PACHORA POWER TRANSMISSION LTD., having its Registered Office at CORE-4, SCOPE COMPLEX, 7, LODHI ROAD, DELHI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI, 110003, which is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of transmission license in respect of the transmission lines, sub-stations and other assets, the details of which are given:

Sl. No.	Name of the line/ Sub-station (location)	Line length Capacity	Estimated Completion Cost or Levelised Transmission Charges (If applicant is selected in accordance with guidelines for competitive bidding)	Commissioning Schedule	Estimated cost by CTUIL
Transmission Line					
1.	Pachora PS-Ujjain (MPPPTCL) 400 kV D/c line (Quad ACSR/AAAC / AL59 Moose equivalent)	60.461 Kms, 400kV D/C Line			Rs. 540 crore (Price level, 2022)
Sub-Stations					
2.	400/ 220 kV, 3x500 MVA ICT augmentation (4th, 5th & 6th) Pachora PS District of MP	a) 400/220 kV, 500 MVA ICT bays 3Nos b) 400 kV ICT bays 3 Nos c) 220 kV ICT 3 Nos d) 400 kV line bays 2 Nos e) 220 kV line bays 4 Nos f) 400 kV Bus Sectionalizer -1 set g) 220 kV Bus Sectionalizer -1 set h) 220 kV TBC bay -1 No i) 220 kV BC bay -1 No	levelized transmission charges being INR 419.74 million per year	24 months from the Effective Date	
3.	2 no. of 400 kV line bays at Ujjain (MPPPTCL) for Pachora - Ujjain 400 kV D/c line	a) 400kV line bays - 2 Nos			

The application can also be inspected at the office of the Company at 2nd Floor, Novus Tower Plot No. 18, Sector-18 Gurugram, Haryana-122015 with Mr. Vivek Pratap Singh or Office of the Commissioning in accordance with the procedure specified by the Commission.

3. Objections or suggestions, if any, be filed before the **Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi- 110001**, with a copy of the objection(s)/suggestion(s) to the applicant or its authorized agent, within 30 days of the publication of the notice.

Place: Gurugram
Date: 27.02.2024

Vivek Pratap Singh
Assistant General Manager