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A paraveterinary worker with a 3-litre container of 'semen straws'. Express file

## In search of vaccine cold chain, some clues from dairy sector

**PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**

PUNE, NOVEMBER 24

AMID CONCERNS that a Covid-19 vaccine would require an efficient, countrywide cold chain infrastructure, the dairy industry could offer some answers to policymakers and public health professionals.

The industry records almost 8 crore artificial inseminations across the country annually. The process involves collection of semen from elite bulls in 56 bull stations, which is frozen in vials or 'straws', and transported in liquid nitrogen containers (at minus 196 degrees Celsius) to dairy farmers across the country.

"The most crucial aspect of the artificial insemination cold chain is its reliability (ensuring viability of the sperms from the point of semen extraction to insemination into a female bovine) and reach (to the distant interiors). I am sure this can be of some relevance to the national rollout of the Covid vaccine," said Rajiv Mitra, CEO of Prabhat Dairy based in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, which is part of the French Lactalis Group and does roughly

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### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

#### PROTECTING ARTICLE 32

**BY UPENDRA BAXI**

PAGE 10

## CALLS FOR STEPPING UP TESTING TO CHECK TRANSMISSION

# PM to states: start planning for vaccine rollout, maintain fatality rate below 1%

Says will work as a team on vaccine, 'rampant carelessness' behind surge

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & KRISHN KAUSHIK**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

AS THE race to find an efficacious vaccine against Covid-19 picks up, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged states Tuesday to build decentralised mechanisms, down to the block level, in the form of task forces for smooth administration of the vaccine, expected to take place early next year.

Interacting with Chief Ministers via videoconference, the Prime Minister, while underlining that there is no decision yet on which vaccine will be finalised and when, repeatedly emphasised the key role that states will play in vaccine administration. He urged states to provide individual plans for a final blueprint of the country's largest immunisation drive.

Cautioning against laxity in the fight against the virus and attributing the recent surge in positive cases to "widespread carelessness", Modi told Chief Ministers to work towards bringing the positivity rate under 5 per

#### WHAT STATES SAID

- In touch with Serum, have task force for vaccine: Maharashtra
- Will work with Centre, all stakeholders: Bengal
- Vaccine must in view of Kumbh: Uttarakhand
- Ready logistics for mass vaccination: UP

PAGE 7



Random testing on Tuesday evening of those entering Ghaziabad from Delhi. Prem Nath Pandey

## Delhi asks PM for 1,000 ICU beds, says schools may be shut till there is vaccine

**MALLICA JOSHI & ASTHA SAXENA**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DESCRIBING THE uptick in Delhi's mortality rate as "a matter of concern", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday to reserve 1,000 ICU beds in Centre-run hospitals, such as AIIMS and Safdarjung, to

#### BEHIND DEATH SPIKE, LATE ADMISSIONS, NO ICU BEDS

PAGE 4

tide over a shortage. And given the surge in Covid cases, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said schools are likely to remain shut till a vaccine is available.

At present, 88 per cent of

ICU beds with ventilators and 73 per cent of all ICU beds without ventilators are occupied, straining the capital's health-care system and leading to delays in critical care.

Besides, the city has recorded 2,110 deaths in November so far, and is set to overtake the 2,330 deaths recorded in June when the first surge was seen. On Tuesday, Delhi recorded 6,224

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Alibaba, dating apps among 43 more with China links banned by Govt

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

CITING "SOVEREIGNTY and integrity of India", the Centre on Tuesday banned 43 mobile apps with Chinese links, a move that follows the ban on 177 apps over two rounds in June and September this year.

The latest exercise, which comes amid India-China tension at the border, saw the ban of on-demand courier service Lalamove India, in addition to Alibaba Group's online retail service AliExpress. Various other apps related to the Alibaba Group and at least 15 dating apps have also been banned.

"Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, today issued an order under Section 69A of the Information Technology

**EXPLAINED** Reflects border tension

WITH THE latest order, India has banned a total of 220 mobile apps with Chinese links since June. The decision, which was also partially echoed by the US in its banning of popular video app TikTok, follows the standoff between India and China at the Line of Actual Control.

Act blocking access to 43 mobile apps. This action was taken based on the inputs regarding these apps for engaging in activities which are prejudicial to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## ED raids on Sena MLA who moved privilege motion against Arnab

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at 10 places in Thane and Mumbai, including the residences and offices of Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik and his sons, in connection with an alleged money laundering case.

Sarnaik, a three-time Shiv Sena MLA from Thane, had initiated a breach of privilege motion against Republic TV Editor Arnab Goswami for his remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and other ministers of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. He was also one of the first politicians in the state to seek a re-investigation into the Anvay Naik suicide case, for which Goswami was subsequently ar-



ED taking Sarnaik's son for questioning. Deepak Joshi

rested by the Raigad Police.

While the probe agency did not disclose details of the alleged money laundering case, it said searches were conducted on the promoters of Topsgroup, a security firm founded by Rahul Nanda, and "related members,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****TRP SCAM: 1,400-PG CHARGESHEET** PAGE 7

## Abdullahs infringed on land for offices, house: J&K probe

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24



Claims false, malicious: NC defends Farooq

**VOTE FOR PAGD TO RESTORE IDENTITY: FAROOQ** PAGE 6

carried out by the UT administration, in 1998, the Abdullahs allegedly bought three kanals from different land owners in village Sunjwan in Jammu's Bahu tehsil to build their

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Collective, volunteers: in Kerala local polls, no politics is new politics

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR****SHAJU PHILIP**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 24

A SOCIETY registered by former AAP volunteers; a group of professionals, businessmen and residents' associations backed by retired bureaucrats; a coastal collective based on a successful corporate model; a group of voters united by water scarcity.

Across Kerala, a state that is sharply divided along party lines,



Volunteers for V4Kochi in Kochi. V4Kochi Facebook

apolitical is the new political — at least at the grassroots level.

From state capital Thiruvananthapuram to commercial hub Kochi, unconventional

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

#### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



a marriage will be declared "shunya" (null and void) if the "sole intention" was to "change a girl's religion".

"Those getting the conversion done in violation of the provisions of the proposed law would have to face jail term of up to 10 years," said a government statement. If it is found that the conversion is done "forcibly, through atrocity or cheating", the offence will be non-bailable.

"The Cabinet has taken a big decision... it was necessary for maintaining normal law and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## To stem fraud, Centre sends list of dos, don'ts

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

PREPARE A list of doubtful or suspicious institutions and applications, use fraud detection software, conduct random checks and audits by an independent authority, use more indicators to identify schools on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), include more application data on the portal.

Taking note of an investigation by *The Indian Express* on how a nexus of middlemen,

#### THE SCHOLARSHIP SCAM

school staff and district officials were illegally diverting pre-Matric scholarships for poor minority students, these are the five key preventive measures listed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to be implemented "immediately for securing the process" for the academic year 2020-21.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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Why one vaccine candidate is particularly important for India

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



A 'PINK BLOOM' PHENOMENON IS DRAWING TOURISTS TO THIS KERALA VILLAGE

Spread over a vast area in Kozhikode's Avala Pandi near Perambra, this pink flowering plant, which belongs to the family of Cabomba furcata, has attracted widespread interests among social media users.

EXPRESS SPORTS



GLIMPSE OF TEAM INDIA'S NEW JERSEY

Jersey's similarity to the 1992 World Cup jersey pointed out by fans.

VIDEO



FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NK SINGH

On Express Adda, Singh shares his assessment of Indian civil service

## FROM PAGE ONE

### ED raids

including some politicians".

The agency later detained Sarnaik's son, Vihang Sarnaik.

The ED case against Nanda and Sarnaik is based on an FIR registered by the Mumbai Police after a magistrate court directed it to do so, based on a complaint filed by two senior employees of Topsgrup, whose services were terminated by the company on October 10 for alleged embezzlement of funds.

The two former employees have alleged that Nanda diverted money to an offshore trust and also alleged irregularities by Topsgrup in the acquisition of a firm in the UK in 2007. The complaint has also alleged that Nanda had a business relationship with Sarnaik.

Nanda told *The Indian Express* that Topsgrup filed an FIR in September against the two employees for siphoning funds from the company. "I settled in London 14 years ago and Topsgrup in India is being managed by professionals. I am just a shareholder. In 2019, I got to know that the company is defaulting on payments. The board initiated a forensic audit which showed money had been embezzled by the chief executive officer, Ramesh Iyer, and Director, Finance, Amar Panghal. Their employment was terminated. Now they have filed a complaint with the ED."

Nanda denied business dealings with Sarnaik. "I have known Pratap Sarnaik for 25 years and he has not invested even a rupee in my company," said Nanda.

The complaint has alleged foreign exchange violations in the acquisition of UK-based The Shield Guarding Co Ltd for Rs 140 crore by Topsgrup in 2007. The UK firm filed for bankruptcy in 2016. The complaint has also alleged that Nanda diverted money to a Mauritius trust that allegedly has a close relationship with Sarnaik.

Nanda has informed the ED that the Mauritius trust was created as per laws after consulting top law firms Khaitan & Co and Nishith Desai & Associates for transferring 66 per cent shares of Topsgrup. "No funds were ever transferred to the Trust. We had opened a bank account in Mauritius but this account was never used," said Nanda.

Leaders of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi hit out at the BJP and the Centre over the ED raids.

"The Centre is using government agencies against its political opponents," NCP Chief Sharad Pawar said. Shiv Sena MP and party's spokesperson Sanjay Raut called the raids political vendetta.

On Tuesday evening, Sarnaik met Raut at the *Saamana* office. "We are unaware of the ED investigation and are gathering information," Sarnaik told media-persons after the meeting.

### Abdullahs

residence. However, instead of taking possession of the three kanals of private land, they allegedly encroached on more than seven kanals of a nearby prime state and forest land.

"The market value of the encroached land is around Rs. 10 crore going by prevalent land valuation," a J&K official said.

Their names are part of a list of encroached land "other than Roshni", where the land is "physically encroached but not shown in revenue records". The list of "encroachers" also has names of businessman Mushtaq Chaya and Ashfaq Mir, who has been identified as the son of J&K High Court judge Justice (ret'd) Ali Mohammed Mir.

Denying the allegations, the National Conference on Tuesday said, "The news attributed to sources that Dr Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Act is completely false and is being

## PM to states: Start planning for vaccine rollout

mechanism."

"I request that you send a detailed plan soon on the vaccine front, and last-mile delivery. This will help us make decisions. The experience of states (on vaccine administration) is of utmost importance. Because everything moves from the state level. You have to proactively participate," he said.

He assured states that they would be consulted on the distribution of the vaccine once it is available. The "campaign for vaccine for every citizen is a national commitment" and "such a large-scale vaccination campaign should be smooth, systematic and sustainable as it will go on for a long time".

He said states should examine cold storage requirements, and possibilities of augmenting them. "States should start working on additional cold storage requirements and look where all new cold storage is possible. Directions have already been given by the Centre, but we have to be ready to implement it. We will ensure additional supplies. The detailed plan will be finalised and shared with states soon. Both state and central teams are having a dialogue," he said.

To queries from states on the pricing of different vaccines, the Prime Minister said pricing is still unknown. "You are well aware of the development of vaccines being reported internationally. We almost reached the final stages of the development of a vaccine. We are keeping a watch on these developments. We are in touch with everyone. There is still no decision on the number of doses; there is still no decision on the price of each of these vaccine candidates. We still don't have an answer to these questions," he said.

"There is competition among vaccine manufacturers. Different countries also have diplomatic interests. We also have to wait for the WHO. We have created a mechanism to have real-time engagement with global regulators, governments of other countries and multinational companies," he said.

"For us, safety is as necessary as speed. Whatever vaccine India will administer to its citizens, it will be a proven one, on all scientific parameters," he said.

The Prime Minister also requested states to examine the ground situation on the rise in infection rate in a decentralised

manner.

"Instead of discussing the national picture, we have to start discussing it in a localised manner; by this, we will be able to address the problem faster. The proportion of the RT-PCR tests have to increase. We have to monitor home-isolated patients in a better manner. Any complacency shown in home isolation can result in a patient arriving in a hospital in severe condition. In such circumstances, we cannot save lives," he said.

He urged states to ensure oxygen supply at the village level. "At the village level, the primary and community health centres have to be better equipped. Oxygen supply in the vicinity of these villages should be ensured. Our aim should be bringing down the fatality rate under 1 per cent. We have to minutely examine the reason for every death from the smaller towns. That should be the level of focus. Only then we will be able to control the situation," he said.

"Those who are working on the development of a vaccine are doing that; however, we have to focus on containment of the infection. We cannot be complacent... The trend in some

actively involved in local issues. Local issues demand people who are accessible and familiar to the common man," says Prof G Gopakumar, political scientist and former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kerala.

For instance, V4Kochi, which is registered as a society, has fielded candidates in all 74 divisions of the Kochi Municipal Corporation. Most of its leaders are young, and many have been AAP volunteers.

"Traditional parties have grown irrelevant and obsolete. We want to eradicate them from local developmental politics and take democracy directly to people. We are advocating for transparency in governance and eradication of corruption," says Nipun Cherian, V4Kochi campaign controller.

"V4Kochi is mobilising resources via crowdfunding through banks. There will be complete transparency in working. People are looking for an alternative to CPM, Congress and BJP. We are evolving as a political outfit of the 21st Century," says Cherian, 34, who is an engineer and entrepreneur.

Kerala has experimented with one such model before, when candidates put up by Kerala-based KITEK Group's corporate social responsibility wing Twenty20 won the local body polls in Kizhakkambalam panchayat on the outskirts of Kochi in 2015. This time, Twenty20 is gearing up to contest in four more village panchayats.

"When Twenty20 took charge in 2015, the panchayat was in debt of Rs 39 lakh. After five years, the panchayat has a surplus of Rs 13.57 crore. We have improved efficiency in functioning. There is zero corruption and we provide provisions at 50 to 70 per cent subsidised rate," says Sabu Jacob, KITEK managing director and chief co-ordinator of Twenty20.

Twenty20's success has spawned several similar models. At Chellanam, a coastal village panchayat in Ernakulam district, a group of voters has floated a separate "20-20" and hopes to address the perennial local issue of coastal erosion that displaces several families every monsoon.

"This movement began a few months ago. We are contesting in all wards as a mark of protest against all political parties that have neglected the development of this village. We have formed groups in all wards and picked candidates. Most of our members are youngsters who are looking for a change," says Pavizham Biju, a businessman who is one of those behind the movement.

In Kottayam municipality, there is another 20-20 contesting in five out of 50 wards. At Vadakurapathy panchayat in Palakkad, a local movement that emerged from a people's protest against water scarcity is contesting 10 out of 17 wards. At Kottur panchayat in Kozhikode, those who resisted a proposed mining project are now in the electoral fray.

In the state capital, noted technocrat and former state planning board Dr G Vijayaraghavan is one of the promoters of Thiruvananthapuram Vikasana Munnettam (TVM). With "development" as its main poll plank, TVM is contesting in 14 of 100 divisions of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation.

"Political parties do very little for the overall development of a city. In Thiruvananthapuram, issues of the middle class are neglected. A lot of people in the city do not vote during elections due to their disillusionment with politicians and the system. We would like to see such segments vote for our candidates," says TVM spokesperson S N Raghuchandran Nair, who is

## In search of vaccine cold chain, some clues

1 lakh artificial inseminations in a year.

Since the sperms lose their viability at normal room temperatures within 15 minutes of collection, about 5 ml of semen is first diluted to fill up to 250 'straws', each containing 0.25-0.5 ml solution. These 'straws' are then sealed, with details of the donor bull, date of collection etc printed on them, and frozen by immersing in liquid nitrogen containers.

The containers – typically about 35 litres or 48 litres capacity – are then transported from the bull stations to different parts of the country.

"Liquid nitrogen is the most important ingredient in our cold

chain. It ensures that the frozen straws are maintained at the required temperature even seconds before being used to inseminate the female animal," said Ashok Pande, Group Vice President (Scientific Research and Livestock Development) at BAIF Development Research Foundation.

With 300 active bulls at its two stations at Urulikanchan in Pune district and Dharouli in Jind (Haryana), BAIF produces around 45 lakh 'semen straws' every year. That makes it India's second largest after the National Dairy Development Board, which manages four stations at Bidaj (Gujarat), Salon (Uttar Pradesh), Alamadhi (Tamil

Nadu) and Rahuri (Maharashtra) that together supply about 380 lakh 'straws' annually.

The artificial insemination is carried out by paraveterinary workers, who transfer the 'semen straws' into 3-litre containers, thus ensuring easy portability to the interiors.

"The 3-litre container (which has about 720 straws) is the real reason for the success of India's artificial insemination and cross-breeding programme. Our paravets can carry these containers on two-wheelers, and reach remote villages," said Pande.

Before insemination, the paraveterinary workers thaw the frozen semen by using specially-made artificial insemination guns.

The coolant used – liquid nitrogen sourced from chemical fertiliser units or liquid oxygen plants which produce it as a by-product – and machines for filling it into straws are established technologies for dairy farmers.

"Each time the container is opened, liquid nitrogen escapes. We maintain a reserve stock of liquid nitrogen at our centres, from where it can be refilled. The process isn't very complicated," said Mitra.

That lack of complication may be of some assurance in the search for viable cold storage solutions for a Covid-19 vaccine.

signed by Aditya S Singh, Under Secretary, and sent to principal secretaries and secretaries of all states and Union Territories.

Referring to the findings of The Indian Express investigation, the letter states: "The report details instances as well as modus operandi adopted by unscrupulous elements in collusion with some school authorities, possibly related officials and the bank correspondents, to defraud the beneficiaries under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs."

It asks states to "thoroughly investigate the matter and furnish a report to this Ministry" and says that "further longer term measures are also proposed to be taken in due course".

As part of its investigation, The Indian Express matched entries on the NSP with beneficiary bank accounts in the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) to find cases of the scholarship being illegally diverted in Jharkhand and Bihar. It found that the scam roped in schools from Punjab and Assam as well.

The Ministry's list aims to address these loopholes. The five key measures it suggests are:

- Provide additional data on NSP: At present, the letter states, the NSP uses only one indicator to identify a school – the Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) code. "It is proposed that U-DISE data on other specific indicators pertaining to a school like total enrollment, class wise strength, gen-

der wise enrollment of students, strength of minority students in the school, etc., may be shared with the NSP," the letter states.

- List institutions from where doubtful applications have been received: The letter states that district and state nodal officers "will conduct mandatory physical verification of such institutions and furnish a declaration of having done so on the portal". It adds that "about 2%" of verified scholarship applications should be selected by the state officer "for random check/third party audit".
- Use fraud detection software: "The doubtful/suspicious applications identified by the NSP portal through 'Fraud Detection Software' will also be resent for reverification to the states," the letter states. It adds that all such applications must be reverified by the state officer "with the hardcopy of the application and supporting documents" obtained from the institute's nodal officer.
- Recheck verified applications: All applications already verified "as on date" should be sent for re-verification and crosscheck with school records. "Further, the NSP will also provide data on scholarship applications verified by the school this year, previous year. This will alert the INO (Institute Nodal Officer) in case there is an unusual spike in the number of applications," the letter says.

Besides, schools will maintain year-wise hard copies of certified lists of applicants and retain them for upto five years. These documents will be checked by nodal officers "physically on random basis".

- Verify nodal officers: The letter also asks for reverification of all district nodal officers who will ensure through the head of the school that the institute's nodal officers are "permanent/regular employees" and that they have not shared their User-ID and password with any other person.

The letter states that "in case of any incidence of fraud, the state is duty bound to thoroughly investigate the matter and ensure initiation of penal action against the culprits".

Under the pre-Matric scheme, poor minority students from Class 1 to 5 receive Rs 1,000 per year, and students of Class 6 to 10 receive Rs 5,700 a year if they are day scholars or Rs 10,700 if they are in a hostel. Most of the corruption is related to these last two categories.

### Kerala elections

non-political movements have fielded candidates for the local body elections to be held on December 8, 12 and 14. All of them depend on crowdfunding and hope to claim the electoral space available at a micro local level, where familiarity and accessibility matter the most.

"This is a new trend in Kerala. People have realised that traditional political parties cannot be

managing director of SI Properties Kerala Pvt Ltd.

### 'Love jihad' law

order in the state and to ensure justice for women, especially those from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes," said Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Sidharth Nath Singh, who is also the government spokesperson.

"More than 100 cases of forcible conversions have come to light. The way in which religious conversions are done using deceit, lies, force and dishonesty is heart wrenching, and it was necessary to have a law in this regard," he said.

Singh said the proposed law has provision for jail term of 1 to 5 years, and a minimum fine of Rs 15,000. However, in case the woman is from the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or a minor, the person can be jailed for 3 to 10 years, with a minimum fine of Rs 25,000.

In case of mass conversions done forcibly or through cheating, the jail term would range from 3 to 10 years, with a minimum fine of Rs 50,000.

"If someone wants to convert their religion after marriage, an application will have to be submitted to the district magistrate two months in advance. The conversion can take place if permission is granted," said Singh.

Last year, the UP State Law Commission had submitted a report on the subject to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with a draft 'Uttar Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019', proposing that "conversion done for sole purpose of marriage be declared null and void".

The BJP-ruled states of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have also sought to bring a law to check what they say is "love jihad". Last week, at least five Opposition-ruled states condemned the move as an encroachment on personal liberty, and an attempt to create a communal divide in the country.

### Delhi asks PM

cases and 109 deaths, with the 10-day mortality rate rising from 0.83 per cent at the beginning of the month to 1.89 per cent.

"The Delhi government increased sample collection in September to 60,000 per day. The third wave of corona is still going on in Delhi and it has seen the peak...with 8,600 positive cases. The rising mortality rate is a matter of concern. We hope that the mortality rate will also reduce along with the declining positivity ratio in the coming days," Kejriwal told the Prime Minister during the meeting with chief ministers, according to a statement issued by the Delhi government.

Later, speaking to *The Indian Express*, Sisodia said: "At present, it is an endless wait. We are not certain if we can even think of reopening schools before a vaccine (is available)."

Schools in the city have been shut since March 16. While they have reopened in other states, such as Haryana and Maharashtra, Delhi has resisted the move. Feedback sought from parents, officials said, has made it clear that they are not ready for children to return amid the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the overall mortality rate of 1.6 per cent was better than that in other cities such as Ahmedabad (4.2), Ludhiana (4), Mumbai (3.9) and Amritsar (3.8).

Doctors in Delhi have pointed towards late hospital admissions and fast-filling ICU beds as reasons for the increase in the number of deaths.

Kejriwal also said that pollution from stubble-burning in neighbouring states was a "significant contributor" in making the third Covid wave more "dangerous".

New Delhi



# 3 THE CITY

## Man held for duping bank of Rs 24 crore

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A 46-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for allegedly duping a bank of Rs. 24 crore by selling the stocks of his company which he hypothecated with the bank to avail various loans. Police said the accused, Pradeep Kumar Mittal, a resident of Pitampura who is director of the alleged company, was arrested on Monday and later released on bail as per the order of a Delhi court.

JCP (Economic Offences Wing) O P Mishra said the accused company availed various loans worth Rs. 24.13 crore from the bank in 2013 by hypothecating stock of raw materials, semi-furnished and unfinished goods lying in a factory belonging to the accused. "He agreed to submit the statement of stocks and book debts regularly to the bank but failed to do so. A probe was initiated against the accused company on a police complaint of the duped bank which was received in 2018. The bank alleged that in 2014, when the accused failed to submit the statement of stock and book debit to the bank, they visited the factory premises and found very negligible stock lying there and the unit was found non-functional," he said.

Police said the accused was the authorised signatory of the bank account of the alleged company. "During investigation, it emerged that Mittal is the main person looking after the company. The last stock statement was submitted to the bank in 2014 and there was a stock of Rs 11.43 crore in the company. Later, it was found there was merely stock worth Rs 12-15 lakh left. The directors of the alleged company have sold out the hypothecated stock and siphoned off the amount without the knowledge of the bank," the officer said.

## Man, aide held for 'extorting Rs 12 lakh from 45 women using morphed photos'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A 20-YEAR-OLD man and his accomplice were arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 12 lakh from 45 women across several states by threatening to post their morphed obscene pictures on social media.

DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya said the accused, Shoaib Akhtar, worked with a firm which provided loans to customers online. He also has a diploma in

### WEST DELHI'S VIKASPURI

## Gurdwara head shot dead by 2 armed men

**ASHNA BUTANI**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A 70-YEAR-OLD president of a gurdwara in West Delhi was shot dead Monday evening outside his house by two men on a bike. The incident took place at 5.20 pm, when Aatam Singh had just stepped out of his Santro car outside his Vikaspuri home.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said, "He received a bullet injury to his head and was rushed to Sehgal Hospital by his son, where he was declared dead on arrival."

The incident was captured on CCTV, and a 38-second video surfaced in which two men, wearing helmets, park their bike next to a car. The pillion rider walks up to the car, and the moment Singh steps out, he is shot at and can be seen falling down. The accused then walks back to the bike, hands over the weapon to his accomplice, walks near the car for a few seconds, before sitting on the bike.

DCP Purohit said, "The duo escaped after firing at Singh. A case under IPC sections of murder and relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered at Vikaspuri police station. Efforts are on to identify and nab them."

Singh, a sewadar and president of the Gurdwara Guru Hargovind Sahib Anandpur Dham in Karala, had driven home from the premises in the evening when the incident took place.

The DCP and Singh's family members confirmed that the victim also dealt with property sale.

Purohit said, "He did sale and purchase of property near the gurdwara and some of his recent deals are being looked into."



**Clockwise from top: Mourners gather at the residence of 70-year-old Aatam Singh (above); a CCTV grab of the incident**

Singh was an Afghani refugee who moved to India in 1992 when the Civil War broke out in Afghanistan. During the civil war, seven out of eight gurdwaras in Kabul were destroyed, forcing many Sikh families to escape from there - Singh was one of them. The victim's elder brother Tara Singh (80) said he used to run a grocery shop in Afghanistan.

Father of five children, his Vikaspuri house was shrouded in grief and shock a day after his murder. His granddaughter Surpal Kaur (27) told The Indian Express, "We did not see or hear anything. When we went out, we found him lying outside the house near his car... he was dead. My uncle (his son)

Kulpeed rushed him to the hospital. We have no idea who did this or why."

Minutes before he was shot dead, Singh had called his wife and asked her to keep hot water ready for his bath, said a family member. His nephew Manmohan said Singh "had no enemies, he was kind and well-respected in the colony and gurdwara... We don't understand why someone would do this." Inderjit Singh Monty, member of the Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, said, "He did not stop helping others even during the lockdown, despite his age. He would give ration to the needy and help prepare langar at the gurdwara daily."

light last Friday when a resident of Jahangirpuri registered a complaint against the accused: "The complainant, who works with a private airline, alleged the accused sent obscene pictures of her and threatened to make them viral on social media if she did not give him money. The accused were arrested after a raid at Gurgaon. Efforts are on to arrest the third accused."

"During questioning, the accused claimed they would download pictures of their targets from social media accounts, create ob-

scene images, and send them via WhatsApp. If the victim tried to avoid them, they threatened to upload the pictures on social media and send it to their relatives," said Arya.

Police have so far found the trio targeted 47 women, including a resident of UP's Allahabad who has filed a complaint against them.

"There are 45 complainants. We request all of them to register a case against the accused persons; many are ready," said an officer.

## SDMC to set aside space for e-vehicle charging

**ABHINAV RAJPUT**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

TO PROMOTE the use of electric vehicles in the capital, the South MCD passed a policy in its standing committee meeting Tuesday to provide space for charging and battery swapping stations in areas under its jurisdiction.

Leader of the House, South MCD, Narendra Chawla said energy operators shall be invited to set up charging and battery stations on land owned and managed by the civic body, including roads transferred to the Public Works Department for maintenance. In return, the concession-

aires will have to pay a fixed monthly sum to the SDMC. The number of stations will depend on the number of concessionaires who come forward and tie up with SDMC, said standing committee member Shikha Rai. The policy aims to establish stations after every 3 km. These stations will be equipped with EV supply equipment, charger management system, meter box, LED screens and CCTV cameras. "PSUs operating in this domain of installing and operating public electric vehicle charging stations, and discoms in Delhi, will only be permitted to install charging stations on land owned or managed by SDMC," reads the policy.

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## 'Pending DU results out by Nov 30'

**New Delhi:** Delhi University (DU) on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that all pending results in both regular postgraduate and undergraduate courses will be declared by November 30.

The submission was made

in response to an application filed before the court alleging the varsity had violated the court order dated October 12 where it had undertaken to adhere to the timeline for declaring the results on or before October 31. **ENS**

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

www.bankofbaroda.in

**NOTICE FOR EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) AND E-VOTING INFORMATION**

**[In respect of Election of One Shareholder Director]**

- NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Bank of Baroda General (Shares and Meetings) Regulations, 1998 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 that Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Shareholders of Bank of Baroda will be held on Wednesday, 23rd December 2020 at 11.00 A.M. through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with MCA General Circular number 33/2020 dated 28.09.2020, 22/2020 dated 15.06.2020, 17/2020 dated 13.04.2020 and 14/2020 dated 08.04.2020 and all other applicable laws and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to transact the business as contained in the notice of the meeting.
- In compliance with the above circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of the EGM have been sent to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Bank/Depository Participant(s). A copy of the same is available on Bank's website i.e. [www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in) and on website of e-voting Agency i.e. <https://evoting.kfintech.com>
- Shareholders holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the specified / cut off date i.e. 20.11.2020 may cast their votes electronically on the business as set forth in the Notice of EGM through the electronic voting system of KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd. ("remote e-voting").

Shareholders hereby further informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of the EGM will be transacted through remote e-voting and e-voting system at the EGM;
- The remote e-voting shall commence at 9:00 a.m. IST on Friday, 18th December 2020 and end at 5.00 p.m on Tuesday, 22nd December 2020;
- The specified / cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting system at the EGM shall be 20th November 2020;
- Remote e-voting module will be disabled after 5:00 p.m. IST on 22nd December 2020;
- Shareholders may note that:
  - The facility for voting will also be made available during the EGM, and those shareholders present in the EGM through VC facility, who have not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through the e-voting system at the EGM;
  - The Shareholders who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the EGM may also attend the EGM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again; and
  - Only persons whose name is recorded in the register of shareholders or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the specified / cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or e-voting at the EGM.
- The manner of voting remotely for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses is provided in the Notice of the EGM. The details will also be made available on the website of the Bank. Members are requested to visit [www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in) to obtain such details.
- Shareholders who have not registered their email addresses are requested to register their email addresses with respective depository participant(s) and members holding shares in physical mode are requested to update their email addresses with Bank's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Private Limited (formerly Karvy Fintech Private Limited), at [elward.ris@kfintech.com](mailto:elward.ris@kfintech.com) to receive Notice of the EGM, Instructions for remote e-voting and instructions for participation in the EGM through VC.
- In case of queries relating to remote e-voting, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members at KFin Technologies Private Limited's website or call the toll free no.: 1-800-3454001 or contact Mr. S. V. Raju, Deputy General Manager, KFin Technologies Private Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad - 500 032, Ph: 91 40 6716 1569 Email: [raju.sv@kfintech.com](mailto:raju.sv@kfintech.com)

The aggregate results of Remote E-voting and voting at the meeting will be announced within 2 days of the EGM by the Bank on its website, KFin's website and also informed to the Stock Exchanges.

The members who require technical assistance to access and participate in the meeting through VC may contact the helpline number: 1-800-3454001.

Last date of receipt of Nominations from candidates will be upto **4.00 p.m. on 08th December 2020.**

**Place: Mumbai**  
**Date: 23.11.2020**

**For Bank of Baroda**  
**Sanjiv Chadha,**  
**Managing Director & CEO** (46/20-21)

## Cold wave prevails for 2 days straight as min temp drops to 6.7° C

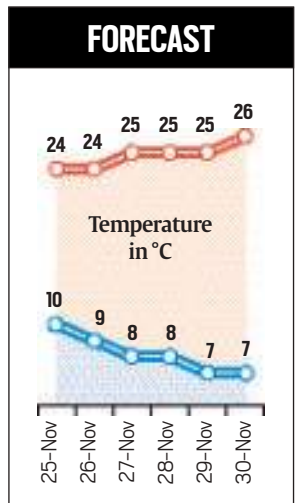
**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A COLD wave was recorded in Delhi over the last two days as minimum temperature dropped five degrees below normal. It was 6.7 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The minimum or night time temperature in the city has remained on a 17-year low for the month of November since Sunday when it was 6.9 degrees Celsius, and 6.3 degrees Celsius on Monday. The normal minimum temperature for this time of the year, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), is 11.3 degrees Celsius.

The IMD's criteria to declare a cold wave in the plains is that the minimum temperature should be 10 degrees or lower and the departure from normal temperature 4.5 degrees or less for two days. For the current month, the last time minimum temperature reached below the present levels at the IMD's Safdarjung observatory, which is representative of the city, was in November 2003 when it was 6.1 degrees Celsius.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre, said, "We are seeing a cold wave but Wednesday onwards there will be slight increase



in minimum temperature as wind direction over Delhi has changed. "Until Monday, we had cold northwesterly winds coming from states that have witnessed snowfall recently. The direction has now changed to easterly and will remain for the next two days," he said. The maximum temperature on Tuesday was 25.3 degrees Celsius. This would start dipping December onwards, Srivastava said.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) also deteriorated to very poor on Tuesday with a reading of 379.

**ICICI Bank**

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अब अखिल भारतीय सेवाओं के साथ-साथ केन्द्रीय सिविल सेवा (ग्रुप-ए सर्विसेज)

एवं R.A.S., R.P.S., R.Ac.S. अधिकारियों के लिए भी AIS RESIDENCY में आवास पाने का सुनहरा अवसर

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**स्ववित्त पोषित योजना के अन्तर्गत**  
**बहुमंजिले (B1+B2+12) कुल 192 फ्लैट**  
**पंजीकरण की अंतिम तिथि : 31.12.2020**

**पात्रता:** • अखिल भारतीय सेवा एवं केन्द्रीय सिविल सेवा (ग्रुप-ए सर्विसेज) के राजस्थान में सेवारत अधिकारीगण • राजस्थान के मूल निवासी अन्य प्रदेश/काडर में सेवारत अखिल भारतीय सेवा एवं केन्द्रीय सिविल सेवा (ग्रुप-ए सर्विसेज) के अधिकारीगण • राजस्थान में पदस्थ केन्द्रीय पुलिस सेवा (Central Armed Police Force) के अधिकारीगण • राजस्थान के मूल निवासी अन्य प्रदेश/काडर में पदस्थ केन्द्रीय पुलिस सेवा (Central Armed Police Force) के अधिकारीगण • राजस्थान प्रशासनिक सेवा, राजस्थान पुलिस सेवा एवं राजस्थान लेखा सेवा के अधिकारीगण

उपरोक्त पंजीकरण योजना में पूर्ववर्ती अंतिम तिथि 20.11.2020 तक आवेदन करने वाले आवेदकों को प्रथम वरीयता एवं उसके बाद 31.12.2020 तक पंजीकरण करवाने वाले आवेदकों को द्वितीय वरीयता दी जाएगी।



अधिक जानकारी एवं योजना में आवेदन के लिए विजिट करें आवासन मंडल की वेबसाइट

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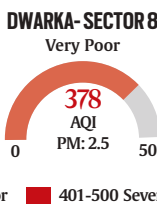
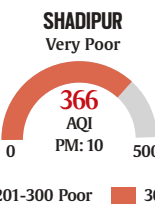
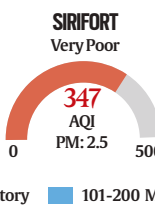
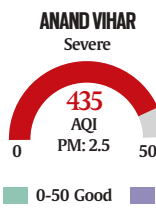
राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल की सहयोगी बैंक "आईसीआईसीआई" द्वारा प्रसारित



New Delhi







S K Y W A T C H

FORECAST

Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later

MAX: 24.0 MIN: 10.0  
2.5°C below normal | 1.3°C below normal

2,110 DEATHS SO FAR THIS MONTH

# Behind capital’s Covid-19 death spike: Steep peak, late admission, ICU crunch

Experts say patients in worse condition coming to hospital this time, as compared to first peak in June

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELAYS IN admission, dangerously low oxygen saturation levels at the time of hospitalisation and unavailability of ICU beds are some of the reasons behind a rise in the number of fatalities in Delhi over the last few days, experts in the capital have said.

The city, which saw 2,330 deaths in June — the highest in a month so far — has already reported 2,110 deaths in November, with over 100 each for the last five days. On Tuesday, Delhi reported 6,224 new cases and 109 deaths, taking the total number of cases to 5,40,541 and the death toll to 8,621. The death rate continues to stay on the higher side at 1.89% based on the last 10 days data.

Delhi’s Health Minister, Satyendar Jain, maintains the case-fatality ratio in the capital is the lowest among major cities. “Rapid addition of ICU beds and other medical facilities have helped us achieve this. We are doing our best to save each and every life,” he tweeted, along with a chart which said that the death rate in Ahmedabad was 4.2%, followed by Ludhiana at 4% Mumbai at 3.9% and Amritsar at 3.8%. In Delhi, according to Jain, it is 1.6%.

But with no let-up in the number of cases and a much higher peak this time round — November saw a high of 8,593 cases in a day as opposed to June when the peak hovered around the 4,000 mark — the healthcare setup and doctors at frontlines



Crematorium workers at Nigambodh Ghat. Amit Mehra

have found themselves more stretched than ever before.

Experts who have been monitoring the disease’s pattern feel that patients in a worse condition are being wheeled into hospital this time round. “Earlier, since the concept of home isolation was new, most patients rushed to the hospital even with minor symptoms. This time, we are getting relatively sicker patients. The concept of home isolation is playing two roles here — firstly, it helps reduce the burden on the healthcare system; however, many are reaching hospital in a severe condition,” said Dr D S Rana, chairman of board, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Many patients, doctors said,

are reaching hospitals with hypoxia — a condition in which the body or a region of the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply at the tissue level. The adequate oxygen saturation level is considered to be above 95%.

Said a senior doctor from GTB hospital, which falls under the Centre, “Patients are reaching the emergency department when the oxygen saturation levels are 50-60%. In such cases, there is not much scope left with the treating physician — and if the patient is elderly and has a pre-existing condition, the situation becomes even more severe.”


The crunch being faced in terms of availability of ICU beds has also meant many patients

who would be shifted there at the first sign of a deterioration in health are being kept in the wards longer. “Many patients are under home isolation and, when needed, are being shifted to ICUs. Unfortunately, ICUs in many hospitals are full, which is also leading to the increased fatality rate. It is important to monitor patients under home isolation,” said Dr Rana.

Data shared on Delhi government’s Delhi Corona App shows that 86% of ICU beds with ventilator are occupied at the moment, and even the facilities without ventilator are 74% full.

Dr Desh Deepak, the nodal officer for Covid-19 at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, said

## CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

	TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	5,40,541	HOSPITAL BEDS	18,135	8,685	
		VENTILATORS	1,414	166	
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Nov 23	4,454	7,216	121	37,307	
Nov 24	6,224	4,943	109	61,381	
Total	38,501*	4,93,419	8,621	59,14,659	
*Total active cases					

that hospitalisation “becomes tougher when cases are on the rise”.

“For instance, if everyone in the family is ill, it is not possible to reach a medical facility early, which then leads to delayed admission and can add to the severity of the disease. It is a natural corollary that whenever cases are high, the number of deaths are bound to increase,” he said.

Amid a festive rush and with people disregarding social distancing and mask hygiene, November has seen the worst of it. Between October 21 and November 1, Delhi’s case fatality ratio was 0.83%. On Monday, the ratio over the past 10 days stood at 1.83%. The city’s overall case fatality ratio is 1.59%.

Data shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday also showed that Delhi is at the top of 10 states and UTs that have reported 74% of new deaths in the past 24 hours, surpassing Maharashtra and West Bengal. “Delhi saw the maximum casualties (121) followed by West

Bengal and Maharashtra with 47 and 30 daily deaths, respectively,” the Ministry stated.

The government has meanwhile said higher Covid numbers are a result of increased testing — almost 60 lakh tests, both rapid antigen and RT-PCR, have been conducted in the city since March.

Dr Anjan Trikha from the department of anesthesiology and critical care, who is also chairman of the clinical managerial group at AIIMS Trauma Centre, also echoed the point of people reaching hospitals in a sicker state than before. “The patient profile coming to our centre has completely changed over the last few months. We are getting sicker patients with more comorbidities, needing ICU care... Patients with Covid and other diseases of liver, kidney and heart tend to remain in the hospital for a longer time, leading to shortage of beds and also more morbidity,” said Dr Trikha, adding that in the last two months, about 65% of patients who have died at the trauma centre have been above the age of 60.

## Vigilance unit to probe bribery claims against cops

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI POLICE’S vigilance unit of the West district is probing bribery allegations against some policemen, including senior officers, in connection with a raid conducted on an alleged gambler earlier this month, it is learnt.

According to sources, the ACP and personal staff of a senior officer arrested a man and recovered Rs 25 lakh — but allegations later emerged that they had demanded a bribe of Rs 15 lakh from the accused to release his father. It is also alleged that a man who came to help the accused was assaulted inside the senior officer’s office in Rajouri Garden.

Sources told *The Indian Express* the incident took place on November 10 after an informer told the ACP posted in West district that a man was running online betting for IPL matches. “A team was formed comprising Additional DCP (West) officer’s staff officer (SO) and two constables. At 8 pm, a raid was conducted in Subhash Nagar and a man and his father were detained. Three phones were recovered from the man’s possession and father-son were taken to ACP’s of-

fice for questioning,” the FIR states.

Sources said though they were detained on the night of November 10, a formal arrest was made 24 hours later after senior officers intervened. Only the son was arrested, sources said. “Senior officers at Delhi Police HQ had come to know of the raid, and were told the team allegedly demanded Rs 15 lakh to release the father. Since DCP (West) was on leave, DCP (Dwarka) was asked to verify the facts and file an FIR,” a source said. It was then that an FIR was filed based on the ACP’s complaint and investigation was given to the inspector (special staff).

Sources said there are allegations the raiding team recovered Rs 29 lakh but showed a recovery of Rs 25 lakh. “Allegations also emerged that a person who came to help the accused was assaulted inside the senior official’s office and forcibly asked by an SHO of nearby police station to sign a paper saying he had been called in for questioning,” a source said, adding that the district DCP has been told to conduct an independent vigilance enquiry into the allegations.

When contacted, DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said they are conducting an enquiry and probing the role of lower subordinates who went on leave.

## Woman alleges threat from kin, cops ‘recover’ her based on family’s FIR

SOMYA LAKHANI & HAMZA KHAN

NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 24

ON NOVEMBER 20, a 26-year-old IIM-Bangalore fellow working in Dholpur, Rajasthan, left for Delhi, alleging her family was planning to forcibly take her away and get her married without her consent. On Tuesday, Rajasthan Police took the woman back to Dholpur based on a complaint by the family that she had been kidnapped.

“Local police will be producing her in court, her statement under CrPc 164 will be conducted Wednesday. She is independent to give whatever statement she wants. Probe will be carried out accordingly. Nothing illegal will be done... after the statement I think she will be free,” said Inspector General (Bharatpur Range) Sanjib Kumar Narzary, under whose jurisdiction Dholpur falls.

On the evening of November 20, Sheena Choudhary, left Dholpur for Delhi. While she lived and worked in Dholpur, her parents live in Wazirabad in Delhi. On November 21, she met DCP (New Delhi) Dr Eish Singhal, and submitted a letter saying, “My family is forcing me to get married.

When I refused, they threatened they would take me away forcefully and stop my job and further studies. Due to the perceived threat, I left Dholpur of my own free will and contacted NFIW (National Federation of Indian Women) for protection. I would like to stress I am safe and do not wish to be sought after or traced by my family.” The DCP confirmed Choudhary had met him.

On November 23, Choudhary met DCW chief Swati Maliwal, and reiterated the threat from her family. Later, in an email to Maliwal, Choudhary sought a restraining order “to prevent my immediate or extended family from forcibly accosting me or contacting me against my wishes”.

The same day, an FIR was lodged at Dholpur’s Nihal Ganj police station based on a complaint by Choudhary’s uncle Praveen Kumar. In the FIR, he said, “My niece Sheena... has been missing since 10.40 am on November 20. We lodged a missing person’s complaint with Nihal Ganj police station on November 21. We suspect an unknown person is keeping her hostage near New Friends Colony (in Delhi).”

The FIR was lodged under IPC sections 363 (kidnapping), 366 (abducting or inducing woman to

compel her marriage) and 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement). “Following the registration of a criminal case, a police team went to Delhi to search for her. She was recovered with the help of local police and through call tracing. She is being brought to Dholpur where her statement will be recorded before a magistrate. How the case will be disposed depends on what she says,” said Dholpur SP Keshar Singh Shekhawat.

Social activist Shabnam Hashmi, who runs NGO ANHAD and who was with Choudhary Tuesday afternoon, minutes before she was taken away by the Rajasthan Police, said, “A few of us were near the ANHAD office and I went to meet someone when I got a call that she had been forcibly picked up by police... She clearly stated that she fears for her life, fears her family will harm her, yet police picked her up... She is an adult. How can they do this to her without her consent?”

Choudhary’s uncle Kumar, on whose complaint Dholpur police filed a kidnapping FIR, told *The Indian Express*, “Now everything is fine. There was a communication gap between the family and her... We spoke to her today.”

## Umar Khalid carried atheism as pretence: NE riots chargesheet

ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI POLICE in their supplementary chargesheet filed in the Northeast Delhi riots case have alleged that Umar Khalid carried his “atheism as a pretence” and instead believed that “violent political Islam must be blended with frontal political parties to take on the Indian State”.

These submissions were made in the supplementary chargesheet filed against Khalid, who has been called a “veteran of sedition”; JNU student Sharjeel Imam, a “detonator”; and Faizan Khan, accused of supplying of providing and activating a SIM card, which was used by the Jamia Coordination Committee, a group of students and activists who protested against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Police have alleged that Khalid “begudgingly accepted the idea of India in 2016”, with a plan to break up India in 2020 where “all relations were based on the concept of Ummah, with total decimation of secular, national identities”.

Imam and Khalid’s lawyers refused to comment on the allegations.

Police filed the chargesheet before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat under relevant Sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on Sunday. The three have also been accused of rioting, unlawful assembly, criminal conspiracy, murder, promoting enmity on grounds of religion, language, caste, etc and other sections of the IPC. The court took cognizance of the chargesheet on Tuesday.

The chargesheet stated that Khalid used his political acumen “knowing full well that Indian

Muslims will never subscribe to the perverted definition of Islam”. Police stated that “Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants were the easiest to locate and use because of their socio-economic disadvantages and ghettoised living in the national capital”.

It stated that Khalid was the “convergence point of the twin lines of Pan-Islamism and Ultra-Left anarchism which had incubated, nurtured and propagated the common conspiracy, all squarely aimed at violent subjugation of the Government”.

Police have said Khalid has two “mutually reinforcing lines of thought”. One in which he followed the “template passed on to him in legacy by his father” and the second “being the ultra-left ideological space where he was trying to match up and at times overshadow the likes of Yogendra Yadav”.

On Imam, the chargesheet said his withdrawal from Shaheen Bagh protest site was under the pretext of a “classical Maoist strategy i.e. keep the movement mass based and derive individualism”.

Police alleged that following his arrest, key conspirators started mass mobilisation of the press for “his release and to portray this communal seed as the flower of democracy”.

“It is no wonder then that the dawn of a new year saw Sharjeel Imam donning new clothes and embarking on a journey across many states which saw registration of six FIRs against him, primarily for sedition and inciting communal hatred and establishing the name of Sharjeel Imam true to what he had earlier boasted to his own brother when he had returned ‘Hum dono hai mastermind’,” the chargesheet read.



53 people were killed in the riots the broke out in NE Delhi in February. Archive

## DCAC introduces 3 courses without UGC nod, admits 75

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI COLLEGE of Arts & Commerce (DCAC) has introduced three new courses and admitted students to the same despite not getting financial sanction from the University Grants Commission. As a result, the fate of 75 first-year students hangs in the balance.

For the current academic session, DCAC introduced three new courses, Hindi, Computer Science and Maths, and admitted 32, 23 and 20 students respectively. However, this was done even as the principal did not receive UGC’s nod. Principal Anuradha Gupta had written to the UGC on September 7 to start three new courses, stating it would be done “without additional financial burden” on the body.

On October 9, Shrikant Pandey, associate professor in the Computer Science department, wrote to the UGC saying posts were being “illegally diverted” to start the courses.

“Our college has been sanctioned posts of assistant professors (34) under the OBC expansion scheme to restore teacher-taught ratio. The first tranche was distributed among existing departments as per the

government’s mandate. However, the second tranche has been utilised to open new courses, completely diluting the purpose of restoring teacher-taught ratio as per norms stipulated by the University/UGC (sic),” he wrote to the UGC Chairman, asking the body to intervene.

On November 11, UGC education officer Shalini responded to Gupta stating it could not grant approval for the three courses. “I am directed to inform you that the second tranche has been sanctioned to the college to meet teaching workload due to increase of student intake for implementation of OBC expansion scheme in existing courses.

“Therefore, these posts should not be considered for starting new courses. Hence, UGC regrets its inability to approve the proposal of the college for starting new courses with the posts sanctioned under the second tranche of OBC expansion scheme,” she wrote.

While Gupta did not respond to calls and messages, DU Dean of Colleges Balamram Pani said, “We will make sure students don’t suffer. Even when courses get approval from Academic and Executive councils, colleges need to seek approval from the funding agency before introducing them.”

## 2 wanted men nabbed

New Delhi: Two wanted criminals of the Sandeep Badwasni gang were taken by the Delhi Police Special Cell Tuesday, following an encounter in Rohini. **ENS**



New Delhi





India pledges aid to rebuild Afghanistan, commits to projects worth \$80 million

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

SIGNALLING LONG-TERM commitment to Afghanistan's future — be it under Taliban or other political forces — India Tuesday announced about 150 projects worth \$80 million (about Rs 592 crore) in the conflict-ridden country.

New Delhi also committed to build a new dam, which will provide drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul.

This new commitment was announced by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Afghanistan 2020 Conference, which he addressed through video-conferencing. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, UN and EU officials, besides representatives of other countries, attended the conference.

Since 2002, India has so far committed \$3 billion (about Rs 2,200 crore) towards rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. While India did not invest in Afghanistan during the Taliban years from 1996 to 2001, the government's decision now to invest in Afghanistan's future, where Taliban is set to play a dominant role, is being seen as a major departure from the past. It signals that India is finally shedding the hesitations of history.

New Delhi has had a bitter experience with the Taliban. Now, with their return after the US exiting Afghanistan, South Block is quickly trying to adapt to the changed circumstances and reach out to the Taliban.

Jaishankar said at the conference, "I am happy to announce today an agreement with Afghanistan for building the Shahtoot dam, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city. It builds on the 202-km Phul-e-Khumri transmission line of 2009, through which we provided power to the city. India will also launch phase-IV of high-impact community development proj-

REACHING OUT TO TALIBAN

SO FAR, there was a perception within the Taliban that New Delhi will not deal with it beyond ritualistic statements. But this additional financial commitment moves beyond statements at conferences, and with this, India has now shed its ambiguity about engaging with the Taliban. Earlier, in a carefully calibrated shift in India's position, New Delhi had participated in the commencement ceremony of the intra-Afghan talks in Doha on September 12. Indian attendance at the Doha event, where a 21-member Taliban team was present, reflects South Block's realisation of ground realities and shifting sands in Kabul's power structure.

ects in Afghanistan, which include around 150 projects worth \$80 million." Stressing that India has invested heavily in peace and development in Afghanistan, he said, "We strongly believe that the gains of the last two decades must be preserved and the interests of minorities, women and vulnerable sections must be ensured."

This is one of India's red-lines in the wake of the Taliban's rise in Afghanistan, as the Sikh community has faced attacks and hostility in the last few months.

He also flagged the issue of violence: "(The) increasing level of violence in Afghanistan remains a matter of grave concern. While we support all efforts to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, India calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire."

On Delhi going beyond statements on Taliban, a source told *The Indian Express*, "It shows India has put its money where the mouth is."

RAJIV ASSASSINATION

Stalin meets Governor for release of convicts

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 24

UPA ALLY and DMK leader M K Stalin met Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit Tuesday and sought the immediate release "on humanitarian grounds" of the seven persons sentenced to life in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

A decision by the Tamil Nadu government to release the seven, who have served nearly 30 years of rigorous imprisonment, is pending for approval before the Governor since September 2018.

DMK's move comes four days after the Centre told the Supreme Court that the CBI has nothing to do with a petition for remission of sentence filed by one of the seven, A G Perarivalan. The plea is an issue between the petitioner and the office of the Governor, it said.

Perarivalan was 19 when he was arrested in June 1991 and accused of having bought two bat-



Centre has told SC up to Governor to take call on Perarivalan

tery cells for Sivarasan, the LTTE member who masterminded the assassination.

Speaking to reporters, Stalin said: "Yet again, we have asked the Governor to take the decision immediately... Perarivalan's mother Arputham Ammal has been fighting for justice for more than 29 years. We have explained all these factors to the Governor. The Governor replied that he will take an appropriate decision soon."

"We have demanded that the Governor release all the seven convicts on humanitarian grounds, for having spent about 30 years in prison," Stalin said.

The DMK delegation, which included Dayanidhi Maran, also submitted a letter stating that the

Kerala approaches SC against move to lease Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani

New Delhi: The Kerala government has moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's decision to lease Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government has filed the appeal challenging the Kerala High Court which dismissed the plea on October 19 on the grounds that it was directed against the privatisation policy of the Centre and hence devoid of merits.

Seeking an interim stay of

the high court verdict, the plea, filed through lawyer C K Sasi, said that it has challenged the "arbitrary and illegal action" of the Airports Authority of India in attempting to prefer a particular private concessionaire, Adani Enterprises Ltd, for the operation, management and devel-

opment of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

Adani Enterprises had won the rights to run six airports including that of Thiruvananthapuram through the PPP model after a competitive bidding process in February 2019.

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The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://mitesbid.com/> and CPP portal <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

BJP set to get Speaker's post in Bihar

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 24

THE RULING NDA has fielded former minister and BJP MLA Vijay Kumar Sinha for the election to the Assembly Speaker's post, pitching him against RJD MLA Awadh Bihari Choudhary, the opposition Mahagathbandhan candidate.

With numbers in favour of the NDA, this would be the first time a BJP legislator will occupy the Speaker's post in the Bihar Assembly. Since 2005 polls, the JD(U) has been getting its MLAs to the post. While Uday Narayan Choudhary was Speaker for two terms (2005-2010 and 2010-

2015), Vijay Kumar Choudhary was the Speaker between 2015 and 2020.

While names of BJP veteran Nand Kishore Yadav and Prem Kumar, both ministers in the previous government, had been doing rounds, top BJP leaders decided to maintain social balance in representation of key posts and chose Sinha, a four-time Lakhisarai MLA from the upper caste Bhumihar community.

A BJP leader said: "After having given Deputy Chief Minister posts to Renu Devi, an EBC leader, and Tarkishore Prasad, who belongs to OBC, it was only fair to give the Speaker's position to an upper caste. Sinha is a veteran and has enough administrative

experience." Though the names of Nand Kishore Yadav and Prem Kumar were discussed, the party decided to give it to an upper caste candidate, the leader said.

The opposition RJD has decided to field five-time MLA Awadh Bihari Choudhary from Siwan. RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said: "Choudhary has vast experience. There is general precedence that the ruling party or alliance has Speaker and Opposition has Deputy Speaker. But the Deputy Speaker position was kept vacant in the last Assembly."

Deputy CM Tarkishore Prasad said: "We expect the Opposition to support the NDA candidate as Speaker belongs to all parties."

Lalu trying to topple govt: Sushil Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 24

BJP LEADER and former Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Tuesday accused RJD chief Lalu Prasad of making telephone calls from Ranchi jail to some NDA MLAs with the intention of "toppling" the newly formed NDA government in the state. He alleged that Lalu is of-

fering the NDA legislators "ministerial berths" in return for their support.

"Lalu Yadav making telephone call (\*\*\*\*\*\*) from Ranchi to NDA MLAs & promising ministerial berths. When I telephoned, Lalu directly picked up. I said don't do these dirty tricks from jail, you will not succeed," the former deputy CM tweeted.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tewari told *The Indian Express*:

"NDA leaders have been suffering from Lalophobia. They are trying to digress from real issues, which our leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has been reminding them of — such as fulfilling promises to give 19 lakh jobs as promised by the BJP in its manifesto." He did not react to Sushil Modi's allegation that he spoke to Lalu.

The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan has 110 MLAs, 12 short of majority.

**Oman** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sultanate of Oman

**ON THE** auspicious celebratory occasion of the 50th National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, the Board of Directors, CEO and all employees of Salam Air would like to take this opportunity to Congratulate **His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik** and the people of the Sultanate of Oman.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we take pride in representing the youthfulness and dynamic environment of the Sultanate and being part of its success story.

**SalamAir**

Celebrating renewed renaissance, setting further milestones

ON THE 18th of November, the Sultanate marked its 50<sup>th</sup> National Day anniversary. With firm resolve, Omani citizens continue to make more achievements under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who vowed to upgrade the march of nation building and enhance the pace of progress, striking a high note in Omani people's enthusiasm for an ambitious renaissance that covers all spheres of life. Yet, this year's celebration was impinged by sentiments of sour sorrow for the loss of Father of Omani renaissance, the Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour,



who sculpted this Arabian edifice from scratch, his vigilant eye not missing a flaw in any side of the monument.

SMOOTH TRANSITION OF POWER:

Despite the immense calamity that befell Oman, the Arab world and the

Royal Family endorsed, with unwavering certitude, the successor chosen by the Late monarch to take the helm, given

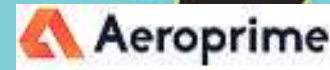
his proven wisdom and farsightedness.

To answer this wish, the Defence Council opened the letter of the Late Sultan who "recommended installing Haitham Bin Tarik as the Sultan of Oman due to (what the Late Sultan perceived as) traits that qualify him to shoulder the responsibility."

Omanis bade farewell to "the dearest and finest of men" (to quote HM Sultan Haitham), pleaded mercy on his soul and recalled his everlasting good deeds and the legacy of nation building that he left behind in 49 years during which Omani citizen were the means and mainstay of development.

On the auspicious occasion of 50th National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, we would like to sincerely congratulate the leadership and people of the Sultanate of Oman.

**Abhishek Goyal,**  
Executive Director,  
Aeroprime Group



H.E. HAMED SAIF ABDUL AZIZ AL RAWAHI, AMBASSADOR OF OMAN TO INDIA



Our friendly people and Government of India!

I convey greetings from His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the people of Oman as we celebrate our 50th National Day. May God bless our country and His Majesty with long and healthy life.

Yet this year's celebration is impinged by sentiments of sour sorrow for the loss of

Father of Omani renaissance, the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said. May God grant His Majesty eternal paradise. The Late Majesty fully dedicated his life, leadership and vision to serve his nation and the world. The Omani-Indian relations during his reign enjoyed an exceptional boom in all the fields, and the successor, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, committed to pursue the policy and legacy of his Late Majesty in strengthening the relations that already exists between the two countries.

India-Oman Treaty of Friendship, Navigation and Commerce was also the first of its kind between India and Arab Nations. India's strategic calculations is motivated by its critical maritime geographical location and its 1,200 miles long maritime boundary connecting it with the vital maritime routes that link up with Europe. In 1830, the Omani ship Sultana was built in the Mazagaon Shipyard in the Indian city of Bombay with a maximum load of 312 tons. It was built in the European style, and was equipped with 14 cannons, and had

square sails carried by three masts. Some modifications were later made to it in Bombay city, and Muttrah City, Muscat. It was a great piecework of craftsmen from both the countries. In fact, it also sailed to New York along with First Ambassador of Oman to US in 1833.

India's role is pertinent to its food security, which supplies wheat, rice, sugar and other food products to the Gulf. Oman and India enjoy warm and cordial relations and linked by geography, history and culture, which can be traced back to 5,000 years and historical maritime trade linkages. The diplomatic relations between the two countries were established and the relationship was further upgraded to strategic partnership.

The two countries stand committed to cooperate in various sectors inter-alia defense, maritime, security, space, cyber security, energy and renewable energy.

There are about 7,00,000 Indians living and working in Oman, as doctors and nurses, engineers, chartered accountants, teachers and businessmen.

The relationship and business interactions between the two countries have come a long way since they were first made during the Indus Valley civilization. Today the strength of the relationship could be rightfully attributed to the vision of His Majesty, Sultan of Oman HAITHAM BIN TARIK, and Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, as well as the harmonious people to people relations.

The world today is witnessing unprecedented global health and economic situations due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, at this stage a strong will and concerted efforts is needed to overcome this crisis, and to continue strengthen the joint relations between the two countries at all levels, especially at the economic, strategic and defence levels.

Besides expressing my thanks to all Indians, I wish to greet my colleagues in the diplomatic and foreign community in India and Oman as well as the Omani community studying, living or visiting India.

Thank you very much. Long Live India Oman Relationship!

Fly from 6 destinations in India with the first low cost airline of the Sultanate of Oman

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> National Day of Oman

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



**DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



## IDEA OUTSIDE THE BOX

LOKSABHA MP Karti Chidambaram on Tuesday sprang a surprise on the party, suggesting that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should contest the by-election for Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat in Tamil Nadu. The seat fell vacant with the death of party MP H Vasanthakumar. Karti says the Congress needs a bold move that will fire up imagination of the average party worker, and Priyanka's candidature would be such a move. But not everyone in the Congress agrees. Mohan Kumaramangalam, one of the working presidents of Tamil Nadu Congress, said Priyanka, when she does contest, should do so from a seat in Uttar Pradesh, or any other Hindi heartland state. He argued that that would fire up Congress workers — at a place the party needs them the most.

## FOR EXTENSION

CPI LEADER and Member of Parliament Binoy Viswam has demanded an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for six months — until till May 2021. The scheme, which was launched as a response to the coronavirus pandemic in March for three months — April, May and June — was extended up to November. However, no decision has been taken so far to extend it beyond November. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Viswam has written, "Over 80 crore Indians avail the benefit of this scheme and its sudden closure will cause great distress among them." He also made a case for universalisation of the public distribution system. Food Ministry sources indicated that the scheme is unlikely to be extended.

## ORDER IN, ORDER OUT

A CIRCULAR issued by the medical department of the Railways Ministry on Monday immediately created a controversy within the bureaucracy, especially at a time when Indian Railways and the Railway Board are reeling under Covid-19 infection. The circular said that railway hospitals should refer its employees only to other government hospitals, if needed — and only if government hospitals do not have facilities for treatment can the employees be referred to private hospitals. Within internal groups of officers, the order quickly started being described as "bizarre" and "ridiculous". Officers suspect the medical department had not consulted the powers that be before issuing it. So by Tuesday, another order was issued — this one said Monday's order stands withdrawn.

## Amarinder invites Sidhu to lunch meeting

**KANCHAN VASDEV**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 24

IN WHAT is being seen as a sign of thaw between Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and his former Cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu, the former has invited the latter to a luncheon meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting comes after almost three-month-long efforts of Congress general secretary and Punjab affairs in-charge Harish Rawat to bridge the gulf between the duo.

While all eyes are on the meeting, media advisor Raveen Thukral stated that the meeting will discuss national and state politics. "Punjab CM @capt\_amarinder has invited Navjot Singh Sidhu for lunch tomorrow (Nov 25). He & @shriyontopp are expected to discuss state & national politics over the luncheon meeting," he tweeted.

Sources close to the CM said that the meeting will take place at



**Amarinder Singh, Navjot Singh Sidhu**

the CM's farm house near Chandigarh. The government as well as the party is tightlipped about what will transpire in the meeting but sources said it could lead to Sidhu's return in the Cabinet.

However, sources close to the CM said, "Tomorrow's lunch is about 'breaking bread to break ice'. There is nothing more to the meeting. It is too early to say anything. But the CM is firm that if Sidhu is willing to be reinducted into the Cabinet, he will not be handed Local Bodies Department."

The Cabinet has a vacancy that was not filled by the CM ever since Sidhu quit.

## Maharashtra to give rations, aid to Mumbai sex workers during pandemic

**TABASSUM BARAGARWALA**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

TO COPE with the effects of the lockdown, the Maharashtra government has decided to give financial aid and 5-kg ration to 5,600 sex workers of Mumbai every month till the Covid-19 pandemic is over.

But even as Maharashtra became the first state in October to issue a government resolution to this effect, NGOs have pointed that a larger share of sex workers — including some with no proof of identity like ration card, Aadhaar card or bank account — are missing from government's list of beneficiaries to get the financial aid.

Each sex worker will receive Rs 5,000 per month along with three kg of wheat and two kg of

rice. Children of sex workers who go to school will receive Rs 2,500 per month to support their online education.

Mumbai's vast community of sex workers are one of the worst hit by the pandemic. Physical distancing norms have forced their business to shut. In September, Durbar Mahila Samanvay Committee, a collective of sex workers, had approached the Supreme Court highlighting that the community was facing shortage of food and shelter as well as financial crisis.

On September 29, the SC had directed all states to provide dry ration to sex workers without insisting on proof of identity. The court asked the states to not only provide ration to those sex workers who had approached it but also to reach out to more.

The state women and child

## Farmers set for march, Haryana to seal borders, take 'steps to maintain order'

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 24

TWO DAYS ahead of the farmers' proposed march to the national capital to oppose the Centre's farm laws, the Haryana government Tuesday announced that it will keep the state borders sealed from November 25 to 27. As Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar declared that the "state will take every step required to maintain law and order", state police planned additional deployment and multi-layer barricading on highways leading in and out of state. Police also issued a detailed advisory urging commuters to modify their travel plans in view of the farmers' agitation.

"The state government has decided to seal the Haryana-Punjab border on November 25 and 26 and Haryana-Delhi border on November 26 and 27 in view of the proposed call of 'Delhi Chalo'... We will take every step required to maintain law and order... I appeal to farmers that the Delhi Chalo call given by some outfits has no meaning because the three laws which the Centre enacted are pro-farmer," Khattar said.



**Farmers associated with the BKU (Ugrahan) at Khanauri in Sangrur district, near the Haryana border.** *Express*

The farmers, however, said that they will start gathering on the Ambala-Delhi highway near Ambala from November 25.

A comprehensive travel advisory mentioned the commuters may face traffic blockages on roads at entry points from Punjab into Haryana on November 25 and November 26 and on entry points from Haryana into Delhi on November 26 and November 27. Officials said strictness along the

borders with Punjab will be imposed for three days beginning Wednesday.

The primary objective of these arrangements is to maintain proper law and order to prevent any kind of violence, facilitate functioning of traffic and public transport systems and to ensure public peace and order. The instructions in force due to Covid-19 pandemic situation have also been kept in mind," police spokesperson said.

### BENGAL POLLS

## 'Insider-outsider' to be key theme of TMC campaign

**DIPANKAR GHOSE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

BESIDES DEVELOPMENT, "insider vs outsider" will be one of the primary themes of the Trinamool Congress's campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, according to party leaders.

The party, they said, will push the idea that the BJP, which is being seen as its primary contender as it tries to retain power in the state for the third time, has brought in "people from outside" who do not understand Bengal.

Trinamool supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will address a public rally in Bankura on Wednesday, her first

public rally since the pandemic began, virtually beginning what is expected to be a fierce political contest.

Senior Trinamool leader said that over the next few months, the party will emphasise "lack of local leadership in the BJP".

On its social media handles, the Trinamool has already launched a campaign, likely to be a slogan through the election — "Banglar Gorbo Mamata (Bengal's pride Mamata)".

"Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is the pride of Bengal. Who does the BJP have to counter her? It is a point the TMC will make: look at the BJP team in Bengal. Amit Shah is leading the charge, the state in-charges are Kailash Vijayvargiya, Amit



**Mamata Banerjee in Bankura district.** *PTI*

Malviya and Arvind Menon. They do not understand Bengal. They are only pushing divisiveness while we will push development and the Bengali identity," a TMC leader said.

### ISSUES OF 'COMMON INTEREST' DISCUSSED

## US embassy envoys meet NC, Apni Party leaders in Jammu

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24

TWO ENVOYS from the US embassy in New Delhi called on representatives of two mainstream political parties and a security analyst in Jammu on Tuesday and discussed issues of "common interest" in the Union Territory after the withdrawal of special status and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources said minister counselor for political affairs in the US Embassy Graham Mayer and senior political adviser A Suresh held nearly an hour-long meeting separately with NC's provincial president Devinder Rana, Apni Party spokesperson Vikram Malhotra,



**NC's Devinder Rana with Graham Mayer and A Suresh**

and security analyst Brigadier Anil Gupta (retired).

The US envoys are likely to meet BJP leaders here on Wednesday.

Sources said discussions ranged on issues from 4G to post-Article 370 scenario, especially the mood of the people at large and the coming District Development Council (DDC) elections. They also discussed

## Farmer leaders held in night raids

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 24

AHEAD OF the farmers' protest march to Delhi, Haryana Police on Tuesday took as many as 72 farmer leaders into preventive custody in multiple night raids, inviting sharp reactions from the Opposition and the farming community.

Farmer leaders said that police conducted raids between 1 am and 3 am and in some cases even scaled walls of homes to detain sleeping members of farm unions. CM Manohar Lal Khattar confirmed that "some farmer leaders" had been taken into custody by police, a move that the Congress described as "shameful".

According to senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, farmer leaders including Karam Singh Mathana, Satyawan Kathura, Kala Kanoh, Satyawan Narwal and Prahalad Singh Bharukhera were arrested from

different parts of the state.

"All this shows how the government is afraid of the agitation of farmers," said a farmer leader.

"These are preventive arrests," Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava said Tuesday.

Police also conducted a raid at the Ratia residence of farmer leader Mandeep Nathwan in the midnight, but he was not at his residence that time.

Later, in a recorded video message Nathwan said, "The Khattar government is adopting an oppressive policy to stop farmers... Many of our leaders have been detained during raids that took place at 1 am. This agitation won't be allowed to be suppressed. The farmers will go to Delhi in every circumstance."

According to reports, police is also looking for Haryana Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni, who is the main face of the farmers' agitation in the state.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Sabha seats the BJP won in Bengal in 2019 are Bankura and Bishnupur, which cover 13 Assembly segments.

In the run-up to Banerjee's rally, the Trinamool has organised a press conference a day on various issues and addressed by a different leader or minister.

"Not only in Kolkata, we are also holding district-level press conferences regularly. This is also to show our bench strength as a party. While Mamata Banerjee is our leader, we have other Bengali stalwarts who are part of the TMC. Leaders Bengalis know and recognise. The issues being raised are also positive. One day on health-care, another day on what has been done for women," a senior party leader said.

## BJP targets Cong, NC over Roshni scam

**New Delhi/Jammu:** With the probe into the Roshni land scam showing many political leaders as alleged illegal beneficiaries, the ruling BJP on Tuesday stepped up its attack on Congress and National Conference leaders in J&K.

Addressing reporters, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad sought a thorough probe. Pointing out that the names of several top politicians, including NC leader Farooq Abdullah and former state ministers from his party and the Congress, have come to the fore, he said: "There was a conscious loot by powerful people of forest land and getting benefits under the Roshni Act, which has been declared unconstitutional by the high court."

Union minister Anurag Thakur described the leaders of Gupkar alliance as "gang of land encroachers". **ENS**

## Andhra to set up 4 harbours, 25 aqua hubs to promote fishing

**REENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 24

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government is set to begin work on four fishing harbours and 25 aqua hubs to encourage fishing activity, provide livelihood and employment to fishermen and to prevent them from migrating to other states in search of work.

The four harbours will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,510 crore at Juvvaladinne in Nellore district, Uppada in East Godavari district, Nizampatnam in Guntur district, and Machilipatnam in Krishna district. The aqua hubs, meanwhile, will be set up in each of the state's 25 Parliamentary constituencies.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stones for the fishing harbours



**Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy**

and aqua hubs virtually, and the construction work is scheduled to begin from December 15 after the bidding process is complete.

Jagan said that despite having the second-longest coastline in India, there is a large migration of fishermen from Andhra Pradesh to other states. He also noted that at times, fishermen from Andhra have been jailed in other coun-

tries — he pointed to the recent release of fishermen from Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, who were working in Gujarat and were caught in Pakistani waters and subsequently jailed in that country.

State Fisheries Minister S Appalaraju said that the enhanced facilities will boost marine catch by over 3 lakh tonne and will provide direct and indirect employment to 50-80,000 people.

The state will invest around Rs 3,500 crore to develop the four harbours and aqua hubs. The government will also encourage aqua culture, fresh water fish farming, aqua product bazaars, and storage and marketing facilities. Four other fishing harbours are proposed to be developed at a later stage and they will cater to over 7 lakh fishermen in the state.



**Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan**

## Kerala to bring in ordinance to withdraw social media legislation

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 24

THE KERALA government on Tuesday decided to bring an ordinance to withdraw the controversial amendment to the Kerala Police Act mandating a jail term for any "offensive" social media post.

The amendment had triggered protests from various quarters and left the CPM central leadership red-faced.

On Friday, Governor Arif Mohammad Khan approved the ordinance incorporating the new section of 118(A). The government had envisaged punishment up to a five-year jail term, but the Governor reduced it to three years. The government, however, announced on Monday that it would not go ahead with implementing the amendment.

As the protests continued and the Opposition questioned the intention behind freezing the amendment, the government was left with little option but to withdraw it.

After a meeting Tuesday, Chief Minister Vijayan said the cabinet had decided to recommend the Governor to issue an ordinance to withdraw the earlier one incorporating section 118(A) in the Act. The new ordinance would be brought as Kerala Police (Amendment) Withdrawing Ordinance, 2020.

He said the amendment was brought in against the backdrop of increasing instances of social media abuse against women and mounting protest from civil society against such harassment. The amendment was aimed at preventing circulation of fake and defamatory news, he said.

However, various quarters of society raised concerns and the government considered the opinion that the amendment would give excessive power to police and chances of misuse of the new law are high, he said.

Vijayan said that in this issue too, the government is sticking to its approach to lend ears to the opinions emerging from society. As concerns still linger about the amendment, the government is of the opinion that it is suitable to withdraw the ordinance, he said.

## Editors Guild urges Kerala CM to withdraw amendment

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE EDITORS Guild of India on Tuesday demanded that Kerala's Chief Minister must withdraw the Kerala Police Act 118 A amendment as it will "deeply hurt the cause of free speech".

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Guild said that it "urges the Chief Minister of Kerala to withdraw the disturbing amendment to the Kerala Police Act 118 A immediately, which provides for upto three years of punishment for publication of material with an intention to intimidate, insult, or defame any person through social media".

"Although the government has placed the amendment on hold until discussed by the state assembly and has given an assurance to the Kerala High Court that the state police will not take any adverse actions, but the ordinance is still in force and has the potential for grave misuse and should be withdrawn forthwith," the Guild stated.

It further mentioned that the amendment "would deeply hurt the cause of free speech and freedom of press as it gives unbundled powers to the police to target political opposition and the press in the name of monitoring content on social media" and again iterated it that be withdrawn immediately.



New Delhi





# EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY



The missile hit a target in Bay of Bengal. *Twitter*

### BrahMos land attack cruise missile tested

**Pune:** The Army Tuesday successfully tested its BrahMos supersonic land attack cruise missile from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, hitting a target in Bay of Bengal. The test comes over a month after the Naval version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer *INS Chennai*, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. **ENS**

### JAMMU & KASHMIR Pak man killed in infiltration bid in Samba sector

**Jammu:** A Pakistan national was killed Tuesday morning after BSF personnel foiled an infiltration bid through the international border in Samba sector. The deceased has been identified as Abdul Hamid of Chaman Khurd in Shakargarh area of Pakistan. The body was later handed over to Pakistani Rangers at a flag meeting. BSF troops are on high alert following the recent infiltration by four Jaish-e-Mohammad militants who were later gunned down at Ban Toll Plaza along the Jammu-Srinagar highway. **ENS**

### ODISHA Couple tries self-immolation outside House

**Bhubaneswar:** A couple from Nayagarh district in Odisha tried to immolate themselves outside the Assembly on Tuesday, alleging no action in the case pertaining to the abduction and murder of their five-year-old daughter. Security personnel took them into custody and sent them home, police said. The couple said that their daughter went missing on July 10 and her remains were found two weeks later. Though a police complaint, no action was taken, they alleged. "The main accused is a minister's aide. So no one has taken any action," the girl's father alleged. **ENS**

## From vaccine-readiness to need for funds: what states told PM

IN AN online interaction with Chief Ministers on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against any laxity in fighting the pandemic and called for measures to reduce the positivity and fatality rates. *The Indian Express* takes a look at what the states told the Prime Minister:

**MAHARASHTRA:** Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to instruct all the political parties to refrain from holding political protests and not to play politics with lives of people during the pandemic. "All our efforts may fail and it may invite the Covid wave," he said. Thackeray's request comes against the backdrop of the protests that the BJP organised across the state over the reopening of places of worship and on inflated power bills in Maharashtra. He said the government is working as per the Centre's instructions and a task force has been set up to manage vaccination in the state.

**KERALA:** Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan pointed to the financial crisis being faced by Kerala and demanded the Centre to allot funds to give financial assistance for the families of those who have died of Covid-19. He said the delay in allotting GST compensation to the state should be avoided and the demands of the states should be factored in the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, he said, according to a statement. The states should be given more freedom in the utilisation of the state disaster response fund, said Vijayan.

**WEST BENGAL:** Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the Covid



PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during the virtual meet with CMs Tuesday. *PTI*

situation is under control, urging the PM to send funds to tackle the pandemic. Lamenting the non-payment of Rs 8,500 crore in GST dues, she said the state has already spent around Rs 4,000 crore for Covid management but the Centre has only released Rs 193 crore. Participating in the video conference from Bankura, Banerjee said the country is looking forward to an early vaccination programme and assured that her state is fully prepared for it with adequate human resources and infrastructure. She said that despite massive rail movement and Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Chhath festivities, West Bengal has seen improvement in terms of the fatality, positivity and recovery rates.

**HARYANA:** Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said testing in Haryana has reached 1.24 lakh per million, higher than the national average. He said an analysis of data pointed to high case load from districts around NCR. After the meeting, the Chief Minister announced restrictions on gatherings across the state from November 26, especially in six

districts adjoining NCR. He also said that Haryana will not impose night curfew but "more strictness is being focused upon during the day hours when people tend to gather and crowds are formed".

**CHHATTISGARH:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the Covid situation was "under control" in the state. He said the positivity rate was 4 per cent in July, 8 per cent in August, 15 per cent in September, 10.5 per cent in October, reducing to 7 per cent in November. He said the fatality rate stood at 1 per cent in October-November. He said the state has enough testing equipment and beds.

**GUJARAT:** Chief Minister Vijay Rupani pointed to arrangements to deal with the post-Diwali spike in the number of cases. As per an official statement, the state government pointed to night curfew, weekend curfew and restrictions on gatherings, besides a number of vacant beds, increasing the effectiveness of ambulance services and the 104 fever helpline which 2.78 lakh people have sought help from.

He also mentioned heightened community surveillance. "I want to reassure the people of Gujarat that the situation is completely under control. There is no need to panic," he said. He said two committees have been formed to oversee the vaccination drive.

**RAJASTHAN:** Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot requested that each state should only use the RT-PCR method for testing, pointing out that Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu were the only states where 100 per cent of the tests were carried out this way. He said that due to the state's initiatives, the death rate is constantly below 1 per cent, and at present it is 0.89 per cent, said an official release from the Rajasthan government. He also spoke of increased capacity of hospital beds, ensuring more ventilators and strengthening the oxygen supply system.

**WITH ENS INPUTS FROM MUMBAI, KOLKATA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, RAIPUR, CHANDIGARH, AHMEDABAD AND JAIPUR**

**FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)**

## PM likely to visit Serum Institute over weekend

**SUSHANT KULKARNI & ANURADHA MASCARENHAS**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi is likely to visit the Serum Institute of India and Genovva Biopharmaceuticals — two institutes in Pune in various stages of producing and testing a vaccine against coronavirus — over the weekend to understand the process of vaccine production and distribution.

While Serum Institute is testing and manufacturing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine candidate, Genovva Biopharmaceuticals is all set to start Phase 1 human clinical trials of its own vaccine candidate.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Saurabh Rao said the local administration and police machinery were waiting for an official communication about the proposed visit of the Prime Minister. District Collector Rajesh Deshmukh also said the adminis-

tration was waiting for an official communication.

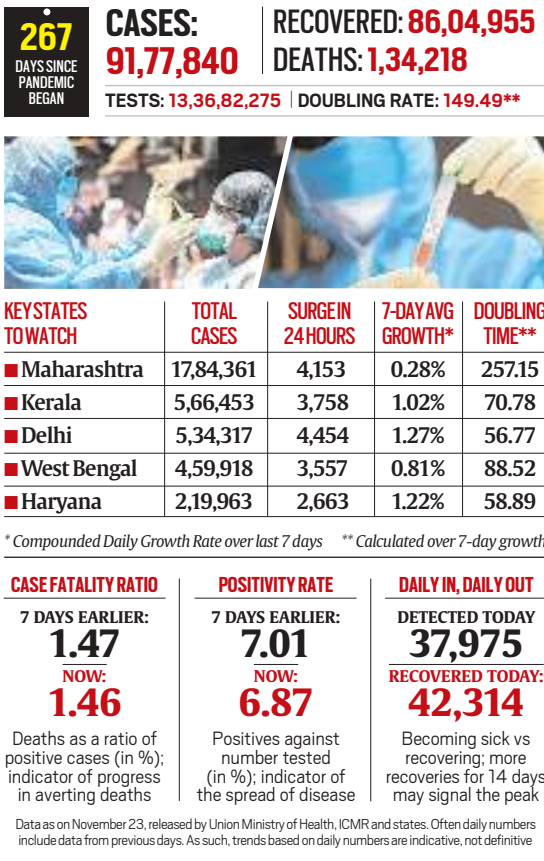
In view of this, a 'familiarisation visit' to Pune of foreign ambassadors and high commissioners on November 27 has been postponed to December 4. The foreign ambassadors and high commissioners are also expected to visit the Serum Institute of India and Genovva Biopharmaceuticals during their one-day visit.

Local administration officials, however, said they had started preparing the groundwork for the PM's visit. Top administrative and police officials from Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad have held meetings about various arrangements to be made for the visit of the PM and diplomats.

Meanwhile, in an email response to queries by *The Indian Express*, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute, said that Phase 3 trials of the Covishield vaccine were underway.

"While UK trial results have been released, we expect the data on the Indian trials to be out within a month or so," he said.

### TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



## In Uttarakhand, a festive attempt to check migration

**LALMANI VERMA**  
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 24

RESPONDING TO a call of Rajya Sabha MP from Uttarakhand Anil Baluni, many MPs, MLAs and state ministers are going to their villages to celebrate Igas, a folk festival held 11 days after Diwali and also called Budh Diwali in the hill-state's Kumaon region, on Wednesday.

Ajay Bhatt, BJP MP from Nainital-Udhm Singh Nagar, who will celebrate Igas at Dankhal village in Almora district, said: "Following migration, villages are getting deserted and I have raised this issue in Parliament as well. If people return to their native places to celebrate festivals and get connected to their roots, it may lead to a reverse-migration."

According to folklore, news of Ram's return to Ayodhya reached people in the hills of present-day Uttarakhand 11 days later, and thus Igas is cele-

### KERALA Customs arrests Sivasankar in gold smuggling case

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Customs, which is probing a case relating to smuggling of gold through diplomatic cargo, on Tuesday arrested M Sivasankar, former principal secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister. The suspended senior IAS officer has been in judicial custody after the Enforcement Directorate arrested him on October 28 in connection with alleged money laundering involved in the smuggling.

In the application submitted in the district sessions court in Emakulam, the Customs said they have been able to get "direct incriminating materials against Sivasankar of his involvement and being concerned in the smuggling of gold". The officials recorded his arrest at the district jail in Emakulam, where he has been lodged. Sivasankar was arrested two days before the court is slated to consider his bail plea in the ED case. The Customs on Wednesday would seek his custody for 10 days. **ENS**



Sivasankar

## Kerala woman takes back rape charge against health inspector

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 24

TWO MONTHS after she accused a junior health inspector of rape when she went to him to obtain a Covid-negative certificate — triggering outrage in Kerala — the woman on Tuesday told the High Court that it was consensual sex and that she filed the complaint at the behest of her relatives.

On Tuesday, the court granted bail to Pradeep Kumar, 44, after going through the woman's affidavit. The court also directed police to take appropriate action in accordance with law against the woman and her relatives, who were allegedly involved in making the false allegation.

The case, which emerged in early September, had snowballed into a major issue, denting the image of the state health department at the time of the pandemic. Kumar lost his job and spent 77 days in jail before he was granted bail.

Granting him bail, judge P V Kunhikrishnan said, "The crimi-

### The case had snowballed into a major issue, denting the image of the state health department at the time of the pandemic

nal justice delivery system cannot go on like this. Based on a false complaint, a person is in jail for about 77 days. This court cannot shut its eye in such situations."

"The Director General of Police should take this case very seriously and do the needful and file a report based on the inquiry before the court in three months," the judge said.

On August 30, the complainant, a home nurse in Malappuram, who had earlier tested positive for Covid, got in touch with Kumar, who was the health inspector at Kulathupuzha primary health centre in Kollam district, for inter-district travel. Next day, after testing negative, she contacted Kumar again to ob-

## TRP fraud case: Police file 1,400-page chargesheet

Republic media, News Nation owners named as accused

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE MUMBAI Police Crime Branch on Monday filed a 1,400-page chargesheet in the alleged fake Television Rating Points (TRP) case, naming six channels, including those of Republic Media Network and News Nation, as allegedly paying money to boost TRPs for around two years.

The owners of Republic media and News Nation have been named as wanted accused in the chargesheet. The police said they were likely to charge them in a supplementary chargesheet later. The police said that all named in the chargesheet were free-to-air channels and relied solely on advertisement revenue as a means of income.

The chargesheet comes a day before the Mumbai Police is set to submit its investigation report in a sealed cover before the Bombay High Court, which is hearing a plea by Republic media seeking that the FIR against it be quashed.

While in October, police had

said channels were paying money to intermediaries like employees of Hansa Research Group — which measures TRPs on behalf of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) — to boost it, the chargesheet talks about another manner in which TRPs were boosted.

Assistant Inspector Sachin Vaze from the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU), which is probing the case, said: "Apart from paying money to boost TRPs, we have found that Republic network took the help of dual Logical Channel Number (LCN) to boost TRP. Using LCN would show that a particular channel was not only being watched by people in the news channel section, but also by those watching the channels in the kids section. By showing the channel on two frequencies, its TRP increased."

"This is against TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) guidelines," he said, adding that they will also look into the role of cable operators.

In synopsis of the chargesheet, police said, "Hansa Vision Private Limited is the holding company of

Hansa Research Group. During investigation, it has come to light that the former had monetary relations with TV channels. It has been found that the company did not reveal this to BARC."

Of the 12 people charged in the case, five are former Hansa Research Group employees, owners of news channels and one Republic media employee — assistant vice-president (distribution) Ghanashyam Singh, currently behind bars. The statements of nearly 140 witnesses have been attached to the chargesheet.

The charges applied relate to cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence with the maximum sentence of 10 years.

"We have filed a chargesheet against 12 people today. The investigation against the rest continues and we will be filing further chargesheets," Vaze said.

He added that while the probe began after Hansa employees named India Today channel — which was mentioned in the FIR — "it turned out to be a bogus claim".

## Showik's friend, one other granted bail in drugs case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

ASPECIAL court on Tuesday granted bail to two men arrested by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with the drugs case following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik were also named as accused in the case.

The accused, Ankush Arneja and Suryadeep Malhotra, were arrested in September. The two, through lawyer Taraq Sayyed, submitted to the court that the NCB arrested them on the basis of statements of co-accused recorded under Section 67 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Sayyed submitted that after the Supreme Court order last month ruling that statements recorded under Section 67 cannot

be admissible as confessional statements, the NCB does not have enough evidence to continue to keep them in custody.

The NCB said Malhotra, a friend of Showik, was arrested on the basis of a statement of a co-accused. The defence submitted that there was no recovery from him. Against Arneja, the NCB said his name had cropped up in the probe into his links with co-accused Anuj Keshwani, from whom commercial quantity was alleged to have been seized.

The defence submitted that based on one statement alone, the accused cannot be kept behind bars, and also stated that WhatsApp chats cannot be the sole evidence to form the basis of the case.

The court allowed the bail applications of the two accused on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with conditions, including depositing their passports.

## Arnab urges SC to issue notice to Maharashtra Assembly Speaker

**New Delhi:** Journalist Arnab Goswami urged the Supreme Court on Tuesday to issue notice to the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to clarify his stand on the claim of a House official who said he sent a letter to the journalist in a matter of alleged breach of privilege motion at the Speaker's direction.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde initially observed that it might be "necessary in all probability to serve the Speaker" to know his version, but later adjourned the hearing on

Goswami's plea by two weeks saying that it has not gone through the reply of the assistant secretary of the Assembly.

The court had on November 6 issued a show cause notice to Vilas Athawale, Assistant Secretary of Maharashtra Vidhan Mandal Sachivalaya, asking him to explain as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against him for his letter to the journalist seeming to "intimidate" him for approaching the apex court on the issue of alleged breach of privilege motion. **PTI**

## Goa govt issues cess notice to JSW Steel, company moves HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 24

STATING THAT the company failed to respond to two reminders as well as a hearing, the Goa government has fined JSW Steel Limited more than Rs 156 crore towards unpaid cess under Goa Rural Improvement and Welfare Cess Act, 2001, for transport of coal.

According to a notice sent by the government on November 9, which emerged late Monday night, the company was given time up to November 24 (Tuesday) to pay the amount. JSW is among 19 corporates issued notices — in all, cess dues have been estimated at over Rs 200.73 crore, including JSW's purported liability of over Rs 156.34 crore.

In a statement on Tuesday, JSW said it has challenged the matter in High Court and it will come up for hearing on November 26. "JSW defended the challenge on maintainability of the petition by stating that the

constitutional vires of the Act was being challenged in the instant case, which did not require the issuance of any particular notice," the company said in a statement.

Under the 2001 law, owners of all "carrier transporting material" are supposed to pay a cess under schedule-I, with the amount going towards rural improvement. Goa government has estimated this cost at Rs 50 per ton for 3,12,69,986 metric ton of coal transported through Mormugao Port Trust to the JSW plant in Karnataka between July 2014 and July 2018, the notice stated.

According to officials, the first notice was issued on September 9 this year, and the second on September 29, both of which received no response from the company. The company also failed to appear in the hearing, and later, on October 13, sought more time citing Covid-19 restrictions, officials said. The letter was sent by South Margao office of Transport to JSW Steel Limited's Mumbai head office.



PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Plea in SC challenges selection process

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DAYS AFTER the Army made public results of a selection board — granting Permanent Commission to 422 women officers out of 615 applicants — an application was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the selection process.

The petition, filed by lawyers Archana Pathak Dave and Chitrangda Rastravara on behalf of Lt Colonel Ashu Yadav and 10 other petitioners, will be taken up in court on Wednesday.

According to the application, the process was conducted in a “prejudicial manner”. It says less than half the applicants have actually been granted Permanent Commission, and not 422.

“Denying PC (Permanent Commission) to scores of extremely meritorious and outstanding women officers based on unknown, undisclosed and surreptitious parameters, deviating from the settled norms as applied to gentlemen officers while granting them PC, smacks of gross arbitrariness,” says the application.

“If we compare this result of women officers with their male counterparts then, roughly 90% of the total optees for PC in a particular batch is granted Permanent Commission,” the application says.

It has been made part of a writ petition filed in the Supreme Court in October over “issues of procedural ambiguities and delays by Army in granting PC, promotion and consequential benefits”.

The Army made public the results of the selection panel on Nov 19. It set up the panel after the Supreme Court on Feb 17 ordered it to consider women officers for Permanent Commission in 10 non-combat branches.

The application says the “figure 422 does not only include those officers who are granted PC but is inclusive of officers found fit but non-optee for PC, which is 57, officers in temporary low medical categories being granted time for stabilisation of medical category, which is 42, officers whose result are being withheld due to non-receipt of requisite medical documents, which is 6, and officers whose results are being withheld due to administrative grounds, which is 40”. Therefore, the application says, “the actual number of officers who are granted PC out of 615 women officers is 277”.

Stubble burning cases up 46% in Punjab, down 28% in Haryana

ESHA ROY & ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA  
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 24

STUBBLE BURNING in Punjab increased by 46 per cent this year in comparison to last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

In a report on ‘Active Fire Events (AFE)’, the Ministry found that there were 76,537 incidents of stubble burning in Punjab between September 21 and November 22 as against 52,225 such events during the same period in 2019.

During the same period, AFEs in Haryana went down from 6,551 last year to 4,675 this year (a drop of 28.6 per cent), according to the report.

On possible reasons for the rise in stubble burning cases in Punjab this year, agriculture expert and former Punjab Director, Agriculture, Sutanantar Kumar Aeri, said harvesting started early with the early onset of winter.

The early start to harvesting this year could be one of the reasons for increased cases of stubble burning in Punjab, according to experts

“In 2019, we had rains in September. That was missing this year, making conditions ideal for early harvesting and sowing. So farmers didn’t wait for the stubble management machinery to reach them, and went ahead with wheat sowing immediately after harvesting paddy and setting the stubble on fire,” he said.

Another factor, said Aeri, could have been the protests against the Centre’s farm laws. “In some districts where farmer unions are strong, they instigated farmers to set stubble on fire as mark of protest against the Centre’s laws. Even those farmers who had earlier been managing stubble in eco-friendly ways burnt their stub-

ble this year,” he told *The Indian Express*.

Experts say that the rise in fires is surprising considering Punjab had less stubble to manage this year — production of stubble has gone down by 15% this year — and enough resources (74,000 stubble management machines this time) in hand.

According to the ministry, districts such as Sangrur, Bathinda and Firozpur in Punjab have the highest AFE (active fire events) counts, with their AFEs rising by 45.7%, 35% and 40.5% respectively over 2019.

The report said that this year, all districts of Punjab, except SBS Nagar, have shown an upward trend in their AFEs.

The Centre has blamed the increase in stubble burning in Punjab on “the lack of ground-level implementation of Centre-supported schemes”.

This year, there were 26 days in Punjab during which stubble burning contributed to more than 10 per cent of PM 2.5 levels while there were 21 such days in 2019.

Professor S N Tripathi of IIT-Kanpur, an expert member in the National Clean Air Programme, said he was surprised to find incidents of stubble burning in Punjab in August-September. “This was quite surprising as peak stubble burning takes place from the third week of October till November first week. But this year in Punjab, there were active fire events even by the end of August and early September. Also, the numbers were higher than last year by 100 per cent. The number of incidents also increased marginally in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, but those weren’t significant and wouldn’t have had an impact. In Haryana, active fire events have decreased. Of course, we don’t know why this increase (in Punjab) has taken place but it is definitely alarming and needs to be looked into,” said Tripathi.

Prof Tripathi added, “What has to be looked at is if the Central schemes rolled out in 2017-18 are being implemented by the state governments, and if not, then why.”

UP cane farmers look at pay hurdle as mills say crushing more, getting less sugar

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

SUGAR MILLS in Uttar Pradesh are worried about low recovery levels of the sweetener from cane in the 2020-21 crushing season (October-September), which, they say, will increase production cost and make it further difficult to pay farmers.

Mills in the state have so far crushed 86.187 lakh tonnes (lt) of cane and produced 8.018 lt sugar at an average recovery rate of 9.30 per cent in the current season.

For the corresponding period of 2019-20, they crushed 73.629 lt cane and produced 7.322 lt sugar at a recovery of 9.94 per cent.

“We are crushing more cane, but are producing 6 kg less sugar from every tonne. At existing sugar realisations of Rs 31/kg, that translates into a loss of almost Rs 19 per quintal of cane. How will we pay even the present, forget higher, cane price,” an official from the UP Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA) asked.

A meeting of the UP government’s cane price fixation committee is scheduled in Lucknow on Wednesday. The committee is expected to take a call on the state advised price (SAP) of cane payable by mills for the 2020-21 season. The cane SAP under the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government has been raised by only Rs 10/quintal (from Rs 305 to Rs 315 for general, and from Rs 315 to Rs 325 for early-maturing varieties) since 2016-17.

While there is pressure on the state government to increase cane price after a long gap, mills are, however, yet to discharge even

**EXPLAINED**

**Why higher cane price is a tough call**

CANE PRICES in UP have gone up by hardly 3.3% since 2016-17 and there is political pressure on the Yogi Adityanath government to raise it for the current season. But with mills already saddled with over Rs 5,700 crore dues to farmers, and lower sugar recovery from cane adding to their production cost, it is a tough call.

their past SAP dues. During the 2019-20 season, they crushed 1,118.02 lt of cane whose average SAP value was Rs 35,898.14 crore. But as of November 17, they had paid only Rs 30,164.69 crore.

“We have sought that the SAP for 2020-21 be maintained at last year’s level and also permission to make the cane payment in 2-3 installments. Further, the state should provide a cane subsidy of Rs 15/quintal to compensate for the lower sugar recovery,” the UPSMA official said.

The reduced sugar recovery is being blamed mainly on climatic factors. The early onset of winter is said to have affected sucrose accumulation in cane. But Dr Bakshi Ram, director of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research’s Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, said lower recovery could also be due to the extended crushing season in 2019-20.

He said most UP mills crushed cane through May and some even ran till early-June. The cane that mills are now crushing is the “ratoon” that springs automatically from the stubble of the 2019-20 plant-cane. The ratoon needs to grow for at least nine months to accumulate enough sugar.

“If mills are now crushing the ratoon from the plant-cane harvested after April, it is bound to impact sugar recovery,” Dr Ram told *The Indian Express*.

Avoid Plastic Save Rain Water Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

**Tiruchirappalli City Corporation**

**Re Tender Notice No: 154 /2020-2021**

The tenders willing to submit tenders for improving the existing source in River Cauvery to sustain water supply schemes in Tiruchirappalli City Corporation at the cost of **Rs.4509.62 Lakhs** to be executed under the Tiruchirappalli Smart City Mission are requested to submit tenders through E-Tendering procedure in <http://tntenders.gov.in> as well as through sealed hard copy on or before **3.00 p.m. of 29.12.2020**, which will be downloaded and opened at **04.00 p.m.** in the same day. If the date of receipt of tender happens to be holiday, then tenders will be received in the succeeding working day at the same time and venue.

Tender Conditions are available in the above said website.

(E1/7432/2020(Main) Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli City Corporation  
DIPR/4391/TENDER/2020

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD PARICHHA THERMAL POWER PROJECT PARICHHA JHANSI 1. E-Tender-T-03/O&MC-V/CHD-I/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Routine, preventive and breakdown maintenance of 06 Nos. BEML make bulldozers of CHP Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 26,79,065.00 & EMD Rs. 30,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 16.12.20 up to 14:00 Hrs.

**2. E-Tender-T-36/O&MC-I/CAMD / 2x250 MW/CTPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Round the clock routine & preventive maintenance of CW/ACW pump, induced Draft Cooling Tower and its associated system of 2x250 MW, PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 5,44,215.00 & EMD Rs. 10,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 12.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**3. E-Tender-T-20/BMD-I/O&MC-I/BTSPS/OH-4/2020-21** work of “Servicing, Maintenance and Replacement of HP/LP Valves of boiler during overhauling of Unit #4, 2x210MW, BTSPS, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 3,58,539.00 & EMD Rs. 7,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 12.12.20 up to 13:00 Hrs.

**4. E-Tender-T-11/SE/O&MC-I/ICAMD-BTSPS /PTPP/2020-21** work of “Overhauling of butterfly riser valves with gearbox & repairing of hatch doors of cooling tower cells including conditioning of riser pipe lines, hatch doors of cooling tower cells & railing surrounding of Cooling tower cells during Overhauling of Unit #4, 2x210MW, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 1,49,483.00 & EMD Rs. 3,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 30.11.20 up to 12:00 Hrs.

**5. E-Tender-T-13/SE(O&MC-I)/CAMD-BTSPS /PTPP/2021** work of “Maintenance, B/D maintenance of fixed fire fighting system (Fire water pump house, booster pump house, Foam pump house and its associated system) in 2x210MW, PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 2,02,764.00 & EMD Rs. 4,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 10.12.20 up to 12:00 Hrs.

**6. E-Tender-T-15/ EMD-I/ET/BTSPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Round the clock maintenance of complete 6.6 KV Station, Unit and Ash handling shuttlegears of 2x210 MW Unit 3&4, PTPP, Parichha Jhansi.” Estimated Cost Rs. 8,29,206.00 & EMD Rs. 17,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 02.12.20 up to 17:00 Hrs.

**7. E-Tender-T-48/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS/PTPP/2020** work of “Supply of 145 KV CT for 2x210MW PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 10,00,00,00 & EMD Rs. 12,00,00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**8. E-Tender-T-49/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS /PTPP / 2020** work of “Supply of spares of Wagon Tippler of Coal Handling Plant PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 4,36,000.00 & EMD Rs. 5,500.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**9. E-Tender-T-50/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS /PTPP / 2020** work of “Supply of HT Flexible cable for Coal Handling Plant 2x210MW PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 3,55,000.00 & EMD Rs. 4,500.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**10. E-Tender-T-51/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS /PTPP / 2020** work of “Supply of UPS for Coal Handling Plant 2x210MW PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 4,00,000.00 & EMD Rs. 5,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**11. E-Tender-T-52/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS/PTPP/ 2020** work of “Supply of LEDs, Fans & AC for PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 6,40,000.00 & EMD Rs. 8,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**12. E-Tender-T-53/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS/PTPP/2020** work of “Supply of spares of Wagon Tippler of Coal Handling Plant PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 2,55,000.00 & EMD Rs. 3,500.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**13. E-Tender-T-54/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS/PTPP/2020** work of “Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Slew Bearing, Plastic Grouting Material, Balancing Material and other allied works of Stack-Reclaimer for PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 86,500,000.00 & EMD Rs. 86,500.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 07.12.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**14. E-Tender-T-55/PD-I/MMC-I/BTSPS /PTPP / 2020** work of “Supply of Consumables for PTPP, Parichha.” Estimated Cost Rs. 14,00,000.00 & EMD Rs. 25,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 30.11.20 up to 16:00 Hrs.

**15. E-Tender-T-43/O&MC-I/BMD-II/ 2x250 MW/ CTPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Overhauling of Mill Reject Handling System and other associated work during overhauling of unit no. 6 of 250MW, CTPS, PTPP, Parichha, Jhansi.” Estimated Cost Rs. 6,05,420.00 & EMD Rs. 8,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 01.12.20 up to 13:00 Hrs.

**16. E-Tender-T-08/O & M C-I V/ EMD-I/CTPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Providing Preventive and Breakdown maintenance support for EOT and Hoist Cranes during O/H of unit #6 in different areas of 250MW units, PTPP, Parichha, Jhansi.” Estimated Cost Rs. 84,780.00 & EMD Rs. 1,500.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 09.12.20 up to 12:00 Hrs.

**17. E-Tender-T-09/O&MC-I/EMD-I/CTPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Providing assistance during O/H of U#6 for providing additional power supply/support to all working division for ease in O/H work and Repairing/installation of welding receptacle plate along with supply of required materials during O/H of U#6 of 2x250MW, PTPP, Parichha, Jhansi.” Estimated Cost Rs. 2,43,750.00 & EMD Rs. 4,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 09.12.20 up to 12:00 Hrs.

**18. E-Tender-T-12 /O&MC-I/EMD-I/CTPS/PTPP/2020-21** work of “Routine and breakdown maintenance of lighting illumination system and HT/LT cables systems of main plant, service building and BOP area including 250 MW Chimney of 2x250MW of Unit 5&6 of PTPP, Parichha, Jhansi.” Estimated Cost Rs. 15,46,584.00 & EMD Rs. 20,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 09.12.20 up to 12:00 Hrs.

**NOTE:** - Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal, undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on website [www.etenders.up.nic.in](http://www.etenders.up.nic.in) and [uprvnl.org](http://uprvnl.org). Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. “Save Electricity” PATRANK NO.303/T.S.D.-PR/PTPP DATED: 24.11.2020

Bank licence for corporates: Oppn slams move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

CALLING THE proposal to let corporates and business houses enter into the banking-sector a “completely retrograde” and “pernicious” idea, the Congress on Tuesday alleged that the government was “misusing” and “abusing” the RBI to push through its “dangerous agenda”.

The main opposition party asked all political parties and trade unions to come forward to oppose the proposal.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his CPI counterpart D Raja too opposed the idea.

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram said the proposal had the “fingerprints of the Modi government written all over it” and argued that it was “part of a deeper game plan to control the banking industry”.

“This is not the idea of the RBI. It cannot be the idea of the Internal Working Group (of the RBI) because everyone they consulted except one opposed the idea... RBI is being used or misused...,”

Chidambaram said.

“All over the world, especially in developed economies, three principles govern banking: Broad based shareholding reflecting shareholder democracy, strict separation of ownership and management: ownership with shareholders and management in professional hands; and prohibition of connected lending; building a wall between lender and borrower. All three principles will be thrown out of the window if corporates and business houses are allowed to set up banks,” he said.

**OFFICE OF THE PROFESSOR DIRECTOR LPS INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY, KANPUR**

Let. No: HRS/2020-21/4067 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 18.11.2020

The Eteniders (Separate tender to be submitted for each equipment) on prescribed tender form on two bid system (Technical & Financial bids) are invited from high quality Reputed Indian Manufacturing Firms or Reputed Distributors of Foreign Manufacturing Firms, for supply and installation of the various equipments/terms for the LPS Institute of Cardiology, Kanpur.

Sl	Tender No. & Date	Equipment	Qty	Tender Downloading and Uploading Date & Time	Tender opening Date & Time
1	HRS/2020-21/4063 dt: 18.11.2020	Anaesthesia Workstation	01		
2	HRS/2020-21/4062 dt: 18.11.2020	Computed Radiography System	04		
3	HRS/2020-21/4064 dt: 18.11.2020	Patient Air Warning System	05	30.11.2020 at 10:00 AM to 25.12.2020 at 5:00 PM	26.12.2020 at 1:00 PM
4	HRS/2020-21/4065 dt: 18.11.2020	Video Laryngoscope with Accessories	03		
5	HRS/2020-21/4066 dt: 18.11.2020	Surgical Instruments	---		

Tender forms can be Downloaded between the dates **30.11.2020 at 10:00 AM To 25.12.2020 at 5:00 PM** on online payment of tender fee (non-refundable) recorded against each equipment as mentioned in the under noted above mentioned table, from the office of the Director, LPS Institute of Cardiology, Kanpur. Tenders should upload/submit in the UP Govt. website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> up to date: **25.12.2020 till 5:00 PM**. The tender notice number & name of item quoted must be super scribed on the top of each envelope. Technical bids of the Eteniders received, will be opened by 1.00 PM on date **26.12.2020** in the office of the Director as aforesaid, in the presence of tenders or their authorized representative. If the due date falls on a holiday, the next working day will be treated as the due date. Late / Delayed tenders due to any reason, shall in no case be accepted. All the terms and conditions and technical specifications of equipment/job, mentioned in the tender documents, will be considered the integral part of this notice. In case of any legal dispute, the legal jurisdiction shall be court if law at Kanpur U.P. India. This tender notice can be viewed on DGME, UP, website: [www.updgme.in](http://www.updgme.in) & State govt. website: <https://etender.up.nic.in>

निविदा सूचना को DGME website: [www.updgme.in](http://www.updgme.in), Institute website: [www.lpscadiology.org](http://www.lpscadiology.org) & UP Govt. website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

UPID NO. 157151 Date- 21.11.2020 [WWW.upgov.nic.in](http://WWW.upgov.nic.in) Sd/- (Vinay Krishna) Director

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL DIVISION, P.W.D MATHURA Short Term E-Tender Notice**

Letter No.: 2755/A-7/2020-21 Date: 17.11.2020

1. The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D, Mathura on behalf of Government of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD, Road work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No	Dist.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of bid Documents	Times of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Mathura	Special Repair work of Khamini to Mora Link road in Distt. Mathura	18.00	1.80	860.00	03 Months	Ex. Er. Provincial Division PWD Mathura	Superintending Engineer Agrs Circle PWD Agrs	Chief Engineer Agrs Zone PWD Agrs	Class A to D
2	Mathura	Special Repair work of Khamini to Nagla Ghishta to Tosh Link road in Distt. Mathura.	19.00	1.90	860.00	03 Months	Ex. Er. Provincial Division PWD Mathura	Superintending Engineer Agrs Circle PWD Agrs	Chief Engineer Agrs Zone PWD Agrs	Class A to D
3	Mathura	Special Repair work of Rai to Tosh Link road in Distt. Mathura	31.00	3.10	860.00	03 Months	Ex. Er. Provincial Division PWD Mathura	Superintending Engineer Agrs Circle PWD Agrs	Chief Engineer Agrs Zone PWD Agrs	Class A to D

2. Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.

3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and <http://wms.upppwd.gov.in> (Prahari) From 07.12.2020 to 14.12.2020. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020/879(1y/23-7/2020/176) 06 Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt 21-12-2020. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 15.12.2020 at 12:30 hours.

4. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

5. Contractor should quote their rates without GST. Which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.

6. The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.-742/78-2-2018-42 I.T/2017 T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated- 03-12-2018 follows as:-

(1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable);

(2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.

Sd/- (Sansveer) Executive Engineer Provincial Division, PWD, Mathura

UPID NO.157133 DATE-20.11.2020 [WWW.upgov.nic.in](http://WWW.upgov.nic.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (IN RUPEES)	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSIDCO	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES IN SECTOR-45, 16 & 17 AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PHASE-III, DISTT. ROHTAK.	28.11.2020 22.12.2020	5541.23 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9917778129 <a href="mailto:ia.shardha@hsidco.org.in">ia.shardha@hsidco.org.in</a>
2	HSIDCO	UPGRADATION OF ROADS (INCLUDING 36 MONTHS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD) IN PHASE-III, SECTOR-34-35, 16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100 AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DISTT. ROHTAK.	28.11.2020 17.12.2020	602.22 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-2396418 <a href="mailto:ia.shardha@hsidco.org.in">ia.shardha@hsidco.org.in</a>
3	UDAS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	PURCHASE OF FEED GRADE CHEMICALS	28.11.2020 17.12.2020	42.30 LACS	<a href="https://www.udasahs.com/procurement-govt-in">https://www.udasahs.com/procurement-govt-in</a>	01662-256118
4	J.C. SINGH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	DR-07/SUPHS + 1 OTHER WORKS	22.11.2020 22.12.2020	100000/-	<a href="https://www.jcusofts.org.in">https://www.jcusofts.org.in</a>	01290210176,77, <a href="mailto:etenders@jcusofts.org.in">etenders@jcusofts.org.in</a>
5	GOVT. ENGINEERING COLLEGE, GURGAON	CONSTRUCTION OF 25 PWD CAPACITY OF WASTE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) AND MAIN PUMPING STATION (MPS) BASED ON SEQUENTIAL BATCH REACTOR (SBR) TECHNOLOGY ALONG WITH OPERATIONAL & MAINTENANCE FOR 36 YEARS INCLUDING 91 YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD AFTER STABILIZATION PERIOD OF 03 MONTHS ON 4 TURNKEY BASIS COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DISTT. ROHTAK.	23.11.2020 14.12.2020	61.74 LACS	<a href="https://www.geda.gov.in">https://www.geda.gov.in</a>	<a href="mailto:wanet@geda.gov.in">wanet@geda.gov.in</a>
6	HARYANA ASSAMBI	SALE OF NEW MACHINES, ROBS & SCRAP SUGAR, PRESS HUG, OLD & NEW BAGASSE, SALT, AUCTION OF UNUSABLE STORE ITEMS & SCRAP, PURCHASE OF CRANES, DISTRIUTMENT TRUCKS, CONVEYOR BELT, REPAIR OF 505 WOODWARD GOVERNOR, SUPPLY OF DATA FROM ONLINE MONITORING SYSTEM TO CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD NEW DELHI, PURCHASE OF STOCK	23.11.2020 03.12.2020	AS PER TENDER NOTICE/ DOCUMENTS	<a href="mailto:hafed.gov.in">hafed.gov.in</a>	9953268765 <a href="mailto:dpnhd@gmail.com">dpnhd@gmail.com</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**ODISHA COMPUTER APPLICATION CENTRE CORRIGENDUM**

Enq.No.: OCAC-CAD-02-2017-20041

The last date for submission of RFP documents of the above Enquiry for selection of Agency for providing Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance Services at OCAC Tower & Building, Bhubaneswar is extended up to **21.12.2020, 03:00 P.M.** and bids shall be opened on same day at 04:00 P.M. For details please visit websites [www.ocac.in](http://www.ocac.in) & [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in).

**General Manager (Admin), OCAC, Plot No.-N-17-D, Acharya Vihar, P.O.-RRL, Bhubaneswar-751013, Ph.: 0674 - 2567280/2567064/2567295**

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**ITI Road, Indranagar, Agartala - 799 006**

**Notice Inviting Tender**

e-Tender are hereby invited for providing Point to Point Leased Line Connectivity over Ethernet for Tripura State Wide Area Network (TSWAN) sites. Detailed tender document is available at <https://dit.tripura.gov.in> and <https://tripura.gov.in> and <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>.

The interested agency may submit tender online through <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> on or before 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2020 by 3 P.M.

ICA-C-2198-20 **Director, IT**

**WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION**

**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS, SUPPLY OF POTABLE DRINKING WATER AND PROVIDING RCC OVERHEAD TANK**

E-Tender Notice No. 22 of 2020-2021 Dated 20.11.2020

Sr. No.	e-Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate NIT Cost	EMD Cost
01	<b>DRM-ADI-182-2020-21</b>	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under	₹ 80,35,015.85	₹ 1,60,700.00
Jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way) South Mahesana for one year.				
02	<b>DRM-ADI-183-2020-21</b>	Fabrication/Assembly in situ G3 (L) type Glued insulated Rail joints	₹ 1,38,87,759.07	₹ 2,19,400.00
for broad gauge 60 Kg & 52 Kg under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (North)-Ahmedabad.				
03	<b>DRM-ADI-184-2020-21</b>	Radhanpur sub-division-Supply of potable drinking water	₹ 12851197.54	₹ 214300.00
by road tanker from Lakhpat to Lakadiya & various LCs (for two years.)				
04	<b>DRM-ADI-185-2020-21</b>	Radhanpur sub-division-Supply of potable drinking water	₹ 5133163.34	₹ 102700.00
by road tanker at Bhabhar, Devgam, piplee & various LCs bet. Miha (Excl) to Piplee (incl) for two years.				
05	<b>DRM-ADI-186-2020-21</b>	Samakhiali - Providing 1 lakh liter capacity RCC overhead tank at	₹ 2632176.62	₹ 52700.00
06	<b>DRM-ADI-187-2020-21</b>	Samakhiali - Gandhidham-New Bhuj-Kandla Port section- Welding of 60 kg UTS & 52 Kg 90 UTS rails in situ with single shot crucible fitted and supply of welding portions 60 Kg/52 Kg under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (NW) Ahmedabad.	₹ 24627193.10	₹ 273100.00
07	<b>DRM-ADI-188-2020-21</b>	Fabrication of 52 Kg/60Kg in situ Glued joints in the	₹ 8224735.20	₹ 164500.00
jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (NW) Ahmedabad.				
08	<b>DRM-ADI-189-2020-21</b>	Gandhidham-New Bhuj Section- Through Weld	₹ 26907422.40	₹ 284500.00
Renewal 9.00 kms by Mobile flash Butt Welding Plant.				

For above all tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 22.12.2020 at 15:00 Hrs., Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Nr. Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Nar



‘TWO ADULTS FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR PARTNER’

# Allahabad High Court calls 2 judgments on interfaith marriage ‘not good law’

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

QUASHING AN FIR that accused a Muslim man of abducting a Hindu woman and forcefully marrying her after converting her to Islam, the Allahabad High Court has said that “two adults are free to choose their partner” and that it is their right to freedom of choice as to whom they would like to live with.

The Bench of Justice Pankaj Naqvi and Justice Vivek Agarwal also said that the High Court’s judgments in two previous cases of interfaith marriages where it had observed that “conversion just for the purpose of marriage is unacceptable” were “not good law”.

The order assumes significance as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had cited one of the same High Court judgments to bring a law against ‘love jihad’.

“None of these judgments dealt with the issue of life and liberty of two matured individuals in choosing a partner or their right to freedom of choice as to with whom they would like to live. We hold the judgments in Noor Jahan and Priyanka as not laying good law,” the court said, referring to the previous orders of the High Court in two interfaith couple cases.

The court, however, added, “We clarify that while deciding this petition, we have not commented upon the validity of alleged marriage/conversion.”

The court made the observations on November 11 while hearing a petition filed by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka Kharwar (Alia), which sought quashing of the FIR filed by the woman’s father. The couple, who had got married in August last year after Kharwar converted to Islam, said in their petition that the FIR was “prompted by malice and mischief”.

The FIR, lodged in Kushinagar district, had booked Ansari, his mother and brother for kidnapping, inducing a woman to compel her to marriage, assault and criminal intimidation. Police had also invoked sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act against Ansari.

“We do not see Priyanka Kharwar and Salamat as Hindu and Muslim, rather as two grown-up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together peacefully and happily over a year. The courts and the Constitutional courts in particular are enjoined to uphold the life and liberty of an individual guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Right to live with a person of his/her choice ir-

respective of religion professed by them is intrinsic to right to life and personal liberty. Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals,” the High Court said in its order.

The court said that to disregard the choice of a person who is an adult will “not only be antithetic to the freedom of choice of a grown-up individual but would also be a threat to the concept of unity in diversity”.

“...we are quashing the FIR primarily on the ground that no offences are made out.... as also the fact that two grown-up individuals are before us, living together for over a year of their own free will and choice,” the court said.

It also referred to the Supreme Court’s 2018 order setting aside the Kerala High Court judgment annulling the marriage of Muslim convert girl Hadiya and Shefin Jahan. The Supreme Court had then said that “the right to marry a person of one’s choice is integral to Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution”.

“A perusal of the aforesaid judgment manifests that the Supreme Court has consistently respected the liberty of an individual who has attained the age of majority,” the Allahabad High Court said.

# AIMPLB vice-president Kalbe Sadiq dies at 82

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

ALL INDIA Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) vice-president and prominent Shia cleric Maulana Kalbe Sadiq died on Tuesday. He was 82.

In a statement, the state government said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences to Sadiq’s family. “He wished that his soul rests in peace and expressed condolences to the grieving family,” it said.

The cleric’s son, Kalbe Sibtain Noori, told *The Indian Express* that Sadiq breathed his last in ERA’s Lucknow Medical College & Hospital, where he was admitted on November 16. He was being treated in the hospital ICU for severe pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and septic shock. He was on assisted ventilation and vasopressor support.

The cleric was diagnosed with colorectal cancer three years ago, following which he underwent an operation in Delhi.

The Samajwadi Party tweeted, “The death of Shia cleric and Islamic scholar Maulana Kalbe Sadiq is very sad. Condolences to the grieving family and his followers...”

Shia cleric and All India Shia Personal Law Board Speaker Maulana Yasooob Abbas also expressed condolences to the family. “The gap that has been left



Shia cleric Kalbe Sadiq

due to the death of Maulana Kalbe Sadiq cannot be filled. He was a great scholar, and his work is there for the world to see.”

“He dedicated his life to working on amity between people and different groups in society. He knew as much about other religions as he knew about

Islam. He always spoke of unification. I have thousands of memories with Kalbe Sadiq sahab. He was always very particular about time and was never late by even a second,” Abbas said.

AIMPLB general secretary Maulana Mohammad Wali Rahmani said the cleric’s death was a loss for the organisation and people. “He was a very sharp personality who was blessed with extraordinary qualities. He always worked for unity between the Shia and Sunni communities,” Rahmani said.

“He was part of the AIMPLB and worked with a lot of vigour for the Board. He gave valuable advice to the Board and also through his speeches to the people. He was blessed with extraordinary oratory skills and he used to say the most simple things in the most beautiful manner. That was a great quality. He had great command over the English language as well, and hence would put forward his thoughts in a very articulate and forceful manner...” he said.

Prominent Sunni cleric and AIMPLB member Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali said Sadiq’s death had caused great pain to everyone.

“The whole country is familiar with the work and contribution of Maulana Sadiq for communal harmony. His work on unity and education will always be remembered,” he said.

**CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGINATION /DIVERSION OF TRAINS**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Partially Cancel / Short Terminate/Short Originate/ Divert following Passengers Special Trains / Festival Special Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)		
04624 Amritsar-Saharsa Festival Special	26.11.2020		
04623 Saharsa-Amritsar Festival Special	26.11.2020		
04652 Amritsar-Jaynagar Express Special	25.11.2020		
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Express Special	27.11.2020		
04654 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri Karambhoomi Superfast Clone Special	25.11.2020		

**PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
08237 Korba-Amritsar Spl.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020
08238 Amritsar-Korba Spl.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	26.11.2020
02407 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar Superfast Special	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	25.11.2020
02408 Amritsar- New Jalpaiguri Superfast Special	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	27.11.2020
02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Spl.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020
02358 Amritsar-Kolkata Spl.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	26.11.2020
02715 Nanded-Amritsar Exp.	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020
02716 Amritsar-Nanded Exp.	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	26.11.2020
02925 Banda Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Chandigarh	Chandigarh-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Express	from Chandigarh	Amritsar-Chandigarh	26.11.2020
05933 Dibrugarh-Amritsar Spl.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020
05934 Amritsar-Dibrugarh Spl.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	27.11.2020
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 24.11.2020

**DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas	of 24.11.2020
04674/04650 Amritsar-Jaynagar-Amritsar Express	Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas	25.11.2020
08215 Durg-Jammu Tawi Festival Spl.	Ludhiana Jn.-Jalandhar Cantt.-Pathankot Cantt.	25.11.2020
08216 Jammu Tawi-Durg Festival Spl.	Pathankot Cantt.-Jalandhar Cantt.-Ludhiana Jn.-	27.11.2020
04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Express	Beas-Tarn Taran-Amritsar	of 23.11.2020
02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Central Golden Temple Mail	Beas-Tarn Taran-Amritsar	of 23.11.2020
09026 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Clone Spl.	Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas	25.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Express	Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas	25.11.2020
02716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Exp.	Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Beas	25.11.2020

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

Security Helpline No. 182

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## MHA ordered ops against us: NSCN-IM

New Delhi: The NSCN-IM on Tuesday accused the Ministry of Home Affairs of issuing directives to the Assam Rifles for carrying out operations against it, claiming that this was in violation of the ceasefire between the government and the Naga insurgent

group. “When it comes to jurisdiction of ceasefire, GoI continues to speak in ambivalent terms even after more than 23 years of political talks.... The MHA issuing directive to the Assam Rifles to intensify operations... has come as rude shock,” it said. ENS

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security**  
(Jharkhand State Child Protection Society)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, F.F.P Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004  
Phone No.- 0651-2446174, E-mail ID-jharkhandjcscps2019@gmail.com

**Information**  
No.-298/J.S.C.P.S./2020-21 Date-24.11.2020

**Subject: ISO Certification of Homes Inhabiting Children in the State of Jharkhand.**  
Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand is operating about a dozen homes for children in the State of Jharkhand. Children who are either in need of Care and Protection or in Conflict with Law do inhabit in these homes. These Homes, the Observation Homes, Special Homes and the Children Homes as they are specifically called, are to be operated and maintained as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Jharkhand Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017. Accordingly, the Children are to be accorded the care and protection as per the given principles of care and protection and standard of care, as mentioned in the said Act and Rules. In order to bring all these homes to a level of operational performance consistent with the stipulated provisions, it has been decided to get these homes duly ISO Certified.

In this process a preliminary online consultation is proposed to be scheduled with the Organizations/Firms/Agencies, who take-up the assignment for ISO Certification of similar nature. In this context, the Organizations/Firms/Agencies who are willing to participate in the said on-line consultation may submit the following information about themselves:  
1. Name of the Organization/Firm/Agency.....  
2. How many ISO Certification assignments have been completed by them as on date: .....  
3. List of a maximum of three assignments along with the respective clients for whom the ISO Certification has been done: .....  
4. E-mail address for communication about on-line consultation: .....  
5. Name and designation of the authorized person who would participate in the consultation: .....  
The details as mentioned above may be made available by 5:30 pm on 06.12.2020 at the following e-mail address:  
[jharkhandjcscps2020@gmail.com](mailto:jharkhandjcscps2020@gmail.com)  
PR 236179 (Social Welfare, Women and Child Development)20-21#D

FORM NO.15

**BEFORE, THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**

Wing : A, B & F (2nd Floor), Karpur Thakur Sadan, Kandiyia Kamchari Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digra Road, Patna - 800025  
O.A No.: 250 OF 2020  
Applicant..... State Bank of India, SARB, Patna  
Vs  
Respondent defendants... M/s Balaji Ingot India Pvt. Ltd.  
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VI) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

To,  
1. Sri Additya Kanodia S/o Sri Nirmal Kanodia, Hunger Fort Street, Orbit Enclave, Flat No.3/C, 12/3A, Picasso Bldg, Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700017.  
2. Sri Nirmal Kanodia S/o Late Subhakaran Lal Kanodia, Hunger Fort Street, Orbit Enclave, Flat No.3/C, 12/3A, Picasso Bldg, Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700017.  
3. Sri Ramesh Kumar Daruka S/o Sri Ratan Lal Daruka, Naya Bazar, Pachna Road, Near Telephone Exchange, Ward No. 22, Lakhsarai-811311.  
4. Sri Awadhesh Agrawal S/o Sri Gopal Agrawal, Ramkela Bhawan, Swaraj Path, Puri Tikar Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna-800020.  
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for the Recovery of a sum of Rs. 7,45,49,184/- (Rupees seven crores forty five lacs forty nine thousand one hundred eighty four only).  
The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defense to show Cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 24.12.2020 at 10.30 A.M (forenoon) as to why reliefs Prayed for should not be granted.  
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the Proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.  
Give under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 9th day of Nov., 2020,  
Registrar  
Debts Recover Tribunal, Patna

## “IMPORTANT”

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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), Mortgageor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Punjab National Bank**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" as on date as under for recovery of dues, as mentioned below due to the **Punjab National Bank**, Secured Creditor from the below mentioned Borrower(s), Mortgageor(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder. A short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any, are mentioned as under.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Name of Mortgageors/ address	Date of Demand	Description of mortgage property(ies)	Reserve Price
			Date of Possession		Earnest Money (EMD)
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS					Bid Increment Amount
1.	Sh. Kundan Kumar S/O- Vijay Kumar At-Inday, Ps-Sheikhpura, Dist-Sheikhpura-811105	Sri Kundan Kumar and Smt Sumitra Devi. At-Inday Ps-Sheikhpura, Dist-Sheikhpura	05.09.2019	EM of property covered under deed no.1244,dated 16.03.2017, Khata no -70, Khesra no.-425, Thana no.-190, area-1.0 Acre located at, mauza-Indai, P.S+Dist-Sheikhpura in name of Sri Kundan Kumar and Smt Sumitra devi. Boundary: N-Ganga yadav S- Niz, E-Kapil yadav, W-Niz.	₹74,00,000.00
			28.11.2019 Rs. 24,03,800.20 as on 06.04.2019 +intt & other charges w.e.f 01.04.2019		₹7,40,000.00 ₹10,000.00
2.	M/S- Yashpal Rice Mill Pro-Yashpal Sharma S/O- Jagdish Singh, Vill-Chandinawan, Po-Kashichak, Dist-Nawada	Sri Jagdish Singh and Ramashish Singh. Vill-Chandinawan, Po-kashichak, Dist-Nawada	16.07.2019	Registered Morgage deed no. 4152 dt. 04.04.2018, Khata No. -108. Khasra No. - 1801, Thana No.-519, Area- 6.00 decimal located at Mauja-Chandinawan, Distt-Nawada in the name of Sri Jagdish Singh and Ramashish Singh. Boundary: N- Gali Then Naval Singh, S-Ramanand Singh, E-Mukesh Singh, W-P.C.C road.	₹15,75,000.00
			11.11.2019 Rs. 27,96,544.28 as on 12.07.2019 +intt & other charges w.e.f 29.05.2019		₹1,57,500.00 ₹10,000.00
3.	M/S Patel Enterprises Pro-Sri Binod kumar Patel S/O- Sri Sureshwar patel At-Chandi,Ps-Chandi Distt-Nalanda	Sri Binod kumar Patel S/O- Sri Sureshwar patel At-Chandi,Ps-Chandi Distt-Nalanda	17.07.2018	Registered Morgage deed no. 1775 dt. 15.03.2014, Khata No. - 137. Khasra No.- 258, Thana No.-294, Area- 10.0 decimal located at Mauja- Bhagwanpur in the name of Sri Binod kumar Patel S/O- Sri Sureshwar patel Boundary: N-Rajpal Prasad, S-Anil Kumar Patel, E-lakhan mahto, W-Pain	₹14,60,000.00
			25.10.2018 Rs. 48,53,483.14 as on 11.01.2018 +intt & other charges w.e.f 01.01.2018		₹1,46,000.00 ₹10,000.00
				Registered Morgage deed no. 1775 dt. 15.03.2014, Khata No. - 93. Khasra No.-663, Thana No.-294, Area- 11.5 decimal located at Mauja- Bhagwanpur in the name of Sri Binod kumar Patel S/O- Sri Sureshwar patel. Boundary: N-Lakhan mahto, S-Anil Kumar Patel, E- Sukhdeo mahto, W-Chandradeo Prasad.	₹12,15,000.00
					₹1,21,500.00 ₹10,000.00

1. All the above secured assets are under symbolic possession. 2. Last date for submission of EMD Online is 08.12.2020 upto 5.00 p.m. **Date & time of E-auction:- 10.12.2020, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** 3. For further details and terms & conditions, please visit website- [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in), <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>, [www.msccommerce.com](http://www.msccommerce.com), & <http://www.ibapi.in> and / or contact the respective Authorized Officer Sri Atulya Kumar Mob:-9264499301.

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**  
The borrower/ guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 18.11.2020

Place : Biharsharif

Authorised Officer  
For Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, Biharsharif

New Delhi





## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## OPEN CAUTIOUSLY

Banking sector needs more competition. But allowing corporates in without strong regulation could heighten systemic risk

DESPIITE REPEATED CALLS for liberalising entry into the banking sector in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has until now been conservative in its approach when it comes to granting bank licences. Under both the 2001 and the 2013 licensing guidelines, only a few new private sector banks were allowed to enter the sector. Calls for allowing in big corporate houses have until now been firmly resisted by the central bank. But going by the report of the internal working group (IWG) of the RBI, released on Friday, a fundamental shift in the thinking on this contentious issue appears to have taken place. The IWG has recommended allowing large corporate/industrial houses to promote banks in the country, despite most experts cautioning against such a move. While there can be no argument against the need to usher in greater competition, and the need for greater private capital, especially at the current juncture, this recommendation calls for a vigorous and open debate on the issue of corporate ownership of banks before implementation.

The risks associated with allowing large corporate houses to promote banks are well known. As the former Governor and Deputy Governor of the RBI, Raghuram Rajan and Viral Acharya, have warned, doing so could lead to “connected lending”, wherein depositors’ money could easily find its way into the kitty of the corporate promoters and their connected businesses, heightening systemic risk. Given the questionable standards of corporate governance in Indian companies — numerous examples of crony capitalism have come to light in the recent past — questions over conflict of interest are bound to arise. As the report itself mentions, “it will be difficult to ring fence the non-financial activities of the promoters with that of the bank”. There is also the fear of the more politically connected business houses obtaining these licences. And coming at a time when many large corporates are consolidating their position in sector after sector, allowing bigger, muscular, and well-connected business houses entry into banking could lead to further concentration of power. This, as Rajan and Acharya have cautioned, could “exacerbate the concentration of economic (and political) power in certain business houses”.

It has been argued that such concerns can be addressed by strong supervision and well thought out regulation. However, recent episodes such as the collapse of IL&FS, the Nirav Modi scam at the Punjab National Bank, and the implosion of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, don’t inspire confidence in the regulator’s supervisory capabilities. Financial skulduggery is a reality. Creative ways of circumventing regulations are likely to crop up. Thus the importance of first beefing up regulatory and supervisory capabilities can’t be stressed enough. While there is a strong case for liberalising entry into the banking sector, and to encourage the creation of big private banks capable of meeting the financing needs of the economy, a system of stringent checks and balances will need to be put in place before the central bank contemplates any such step.

## BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT

India will need to build an adult vaccination system virtually from scratch. There is no time to lose

IN THE PAST three weeks, late-stage trials for a COVID-19 vaccine have shown encouraging results, even as many parts of the world, including India, grapple with a new surge of infections. Particularly heartening for India are the interim data from the trials of the vaccine jointly developed by Oxford University and the pharma major, AstraZeneca. The Pune-based Serum Institute of India, a collaborator in the project, reportedly anticipates the preventive “to be available in the country very soon”. But it’s also evident that the immunisation drive will be a long-drawn affair and the first lot of the vaccines will have to be rationed. The government has reportedly created a database of one crore healthcare workers who will get the first shot. The next challenge will be to create an infrastructure for storing and distributing the vials of the preventive and mobilising a workforce to undertake the inoculation drive.

The Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine can be stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius. This is good news for India because the country does not have the cold storage infrastructure required by the other frontrunner candidate, the Pfizer vaccine, which must be stored at freezer temperature. Much work will still need to be done to brace up refrigeration amenities at multiple points in the vaccine supply chain, including medical stores at the district and village levels and the ill-equipped PHCs. Transporting the vaccines from the laboratories to the centres where they will be administered will require coordination between pharma companies, healthcare and transport authorities and administrative agencies at different levels. Tracking each vial as it moves across the supply chain will be important for patient safety. A network of health workers will have to be trained and deployed to ensure that people don’t have to travel long distances to get themselves vaccinated.

India does not have much experience of vaccination programmes across all age groups. The country’s immunisation drives, by and large, target children and pregnant women. Unlike the US, which has an influenza inoculation programme, India will have to build an adult vaccination system virtually from scratch. The challenge of inoculating a substantial chunk of the country’s 130 crore population in about two years against the coronavirus can be gauged from the fact that less than 20 crore children have been vaccinated against polio in 25 years. It’s imperative that the country puts a system in place for the purpose.

## CONSENSUS BUILDER

As chief minister, Tarun Gogoi led Assam’s recovery after the insurgency years

WHEN TARUN GOGOI became chief minister for the first time in 2001, Assam was reeling under the aftereffects of two decades of violent agitations and insurgencies. Gogoi had two battles to win: Rebuild Assam from the wreckage of the past and rebrand the Congress as an inclusive party. He was successful in doing both — he won the next two elections to become the state’s longest-serving CM and repaired Assam’s fractured society and crumbling economy.

Gogoi was successful because he recognised the importance of maintaining social peace even in the face of grave provocations. He engaged with different insurgent groups — ULFA, Bodo parties — and many militants joined the mainstream. He also skillfully negotiated with the Centre for financial support. Assam did see bomb blasts and communal violence under his watch, but Gogoi presented himself as a leader with a healing touch. Under Gogoi, the Congress managed to overcome the perception that it was inimical to regional and ethnic interests, the legacy of its political positioning during the Assam Movement. Gogoi championed the Assam Accord and believed that a National Register of Citizens offered a solution to the state’s longstanding complaint about illegal migration. He had a nuanced position on the matter and refused to frame it in religious terms. Gogoi was in the forefront when Assam took to the streets against the amendment to the citizenship Act.

Long years in politics and government — Gogoi joined the Congress under Indira Gandhi, served in the Narasimha Rao ministry, and was trusted by both Sonia and Rahul Gandhi — had, perhaps, convinced him that aggressive measures are unlikely to resolve problems that stemmed from the legacies of colonialism and Partition. Gogoi’s method was to let wounds heal and build on the positives. Assam, and the country, benefited from this approach.



UPENDRA BAXI

THE LEARNED CHIEF Justice of India, Justice SA Bobde, is reported to have stated during the hearing of journalist Siddique Kappan’s bail matter, that the Court was trying to “discourage” recourse to Article 32, the fundamental right to constitutional remedies. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, in a scathing article (‘Their Lordships & Masters’, IE, November 18) says that the CJI has “unwittingly let the cat out of the bag”, demoting the fundamental right to a mere matter of organisational adjudicative leadership. For him, this is “a perfect metaphor for our times”, because such discouraging involves episodic suspension of Article 32. Apart from recalling philosopher Walter Benjamin’s thesis that there is “no document of civilisation which is not at the same time a document of barbarism”, I do not engage the wider aspects of his analysis but here focus narrowly on the analytic of Article 32.

The cat was out of the bag a long while ago. The apex judicial process shows clearly that the Court regards Article 32 as a judicial power subject to the fundamental principles of administration of justice. It has already extended rules and doctrines such as laches (delays) or res judicata (a matter already decided by a competent court) or any other principle of administration of justice. CJI M Hidayatullah in *Tilokchand* (1970) said that what Article 32 does is to keep open “the doors of this court” and requires the state not to “put any hindrance” to a person seeking to approach the Court. But this does not mean that “the Court must ignore and trample under foot all laws of procedure, evidence, limitation, res judicata and the like”. Justice MP Thakkar (and Justice BC Ray) in *Kanubhai Brahmabhatt* (1987) went even further: Speaking of the “alarming proportions” of judicial delays, they observed that “time for imposing self-discipline has already come, even if it involves shedding of some amount of institutional ego” and to “inspire confidence in the litigants that justice will be meted out to them at the High Court level, and other levels”. True, faith “must be inspired in the hierarchy of Courts and the institution as a whole” and not “only in this Court alone”. So, even if there is a constitutional right to

Right to constitutional remedies is the Constitution’s soul. Surely apex court is mindful of that

remedies it remains subject to the discipline of judicial power and process.

But the Court has also discovered new facets of Article 32. As early as 1950, it has ruled that powers under Article 32 are not limited to the exercise of prerogative writs; in 1987 the Court ruled that it has powers to rule for compensation of violation of fundamental rights; and in 1999 it said that this power extended to the rectification of its own mistakes or errors. Thus, it is simply unworthy to attribute or impute any insidious motive from a stray remark: Does CJI Bobde at all wish to cancel all these norms, and more?

Many further questions are raised. First, can the CJI or the Court as a whole suffer from epistemic collapse so as to receive sharp reminders and rebukes from citizen commentators? How may we ever forget that justices swear an oath to protect the “constitution by law established” and that they inherit judicial worlds and wisdom? Second, justices usually come to the Supreme Court not as Alice enters the Wonderland; rather they emerge as judicial beings after long years at the bar and the bench, and many have served as chief justices of one or more high court. Are they then likely to suffer from amnesia of the constitutional fact that Article 32 does not merely confer wide powers on the Court but also the judicial duty to provide constitutional remedies?

Third, do lawyers and justices not know that what distinguishes Article 32 from Article 226 is the very dimension; the high court’s vast jurisdiction technically casts no duty on them to enforce fundamental rights. They have the discretion to act or not to; in contrast, the Supreme Court must.

Fourth, Article 32 is not absolute, no constitutional right is. Of course, the Supreme Court decides on what “appropriate proceedings” should be for it to be so moved. But the Court may not prescribe any process as it likes but only that process which preserves, protects and promotes the right to constitutional remedies.

Article 33 clearly says that the right will not extend to the members of armed forces, those members of armed forces “charged

with the maintenance of public order”, those “employed in any bureau or organisation established by law” for “intelligence or counter intelligence”, and “employed by any State bureau or organisation established by any Force” for (or in connection with) “telecommunication system”. Article 32 may not restrict or abrogate the “maintenance of discipline among them”. The Court has also upheld (in 1997) the 50th amendment enlarging the scope of this article against a challenge of the basic structure of the Constitution. And the power may validly be delegated to the rule-making competence of the executive, provided that such rules “are necessary for ensuring the proper discharge of duties by the Armed Forces”.

Justice AK Patnaik, editing further DD Basu’s *Shorter Constitution of India*, rightly doubts the state power to amend a law under Article 33, and particularly Article 34, authorising Parliament to indemnify particular persons “for any act done... in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area within the territory of India”. But even such a power, Justice Patnaik rightly maintains, will not eclipse the right of a “person... detained without the authority of law... to move for habeas corpus”.

The just demand for an expeditious and effective bail system stems from manifest discrimination in bail where one case is fast tracked whereas others are consigned to slow moving judicial action, even when rights to life and health are endangered. Scandalous judicial delays, measures of decongestion and diversion, and a bold resolution of “who watches the watchman” syndrome now demand urgent apex response.

As the Yale historian Rohit De reminds us vividly, Article 32 makes the apex court into a “people’s court”. And future historians should not be able to conclude that the Court deliberately dealt deathblows to this “soul” of the Constitution, as Babasaheb Ambedkar described Article 32.

*The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick, and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi*



SWARNA RAJAGOPALAN

THE NATIONAL Commission for Women sounded an alarm in early April that domestic violence cases had spiked in just the first week of the COVID-19 lockdown, as had distress calls. This was echoed by the UN Secretary-General who used the term “shadow pandemic”. Since then, across the world, police, shelters and helplines have confirmed that although the incidence of domestic violence was always higher than we liked to admit, there was an alarming increase in its frequency during the pandemic. Women, and gender and sexual minorities were confined indoors with their abusers and even making a call or stepping out for shelter were likely to be very challenging.

To those working in victim support services and advocacy against gender-based violence, this is no surprise. Had the state, society or media paid any attention to decades of feminist studies or reports, we would have known how to brace for such a spike. But when the pandemic hit, whole societies took cover with zero social protection in place, triggering a humanitarian crisis to equal the impact of COVID-19.

Till date, public discussion of the pandemic’s impact on gender violence is confined to domestic violence. But violence cannot be categorised in airtight boxes—domestic violence; rape and sexual assault; street sexual harassment; workplace sexual harassment; custodial rape; conflict-related sexual violence; communal violence; war; drone strikes; caste violence. Violence is the short-hand language we use to communicate power play and, as such, different kinds and contexts of violence lie on a spectrum which is defined by unequal

## THE INVISIBLE PANDEMIC

Gender-based violence was predictable, and preventable, fallout of lockdown

ity and the desire to control.

The only real trickle-down effect we know of is proliferating brutalisation. Structural violence, as in the deep-seated inequalities of Indian society, creates a climate where state violence is tolerated because we are conditioned to granting others power over us and condoning its abuse. Those who are instrumental in carrying out the state’s coercive orders internalise that sense of entitlement. When the constable who is rewarded for brutality with undertrial goes home, the only language he has mastered is that of coercive force. The child witnesses daily violence and understands it to be the normal language of human interaction. The male child who gets everything he reaches for knows he is entitled and that he can grab with impunity—because every other authority figure, political, social and economic, does.

While we have been focused on domestic violence, as in every other crisis, we could anticipate a rise in other kinds of violence too. Most rapes are perpetrated by people known to the victim; now lock them together in a small joint family home and imagine the terror. Remember that the lockdown made access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, very difficult. The tedium of lockdown is the new context of marital rape, with frustration over income uncertainty proffered as justification.

The lockdown rendered hundreds of thousands jobless and homeless. People fainted and died on that brutal walk home. What happened to their children? How many were raped or trafficked? We will not know how many girls were

married forcibly and early in desperation to see them safe and fed. We can only imagine the plight of women and girls with disability, left alone to fend for themselves in the aftermath. As the streets emptied out, how many women selling vegetables or tea—allowed to work a few hours a day—were made more vulnerable to harassment by passers-by or police? With “work-from-home”, how many new forms of workplace harassment have emerged? We will know only with time, how many new kinds of violence have emerged as products of this extended period of desperation, tedium and “no one is looking” impunity.

Violence is the ominous, omnipresent, obvious reality in the lives of girls, women, sexual and gender minorities and many, many boys. What we know from every complex emergency in history is that sexual and gender-based violence is both early warning of a crisis as well as one of its most brutal consequences. Far from shadowy or surprising, sexual and gender-based violence was the most predictable consequence of the lockdown. Systematic creation of a support infrastructure (easy access helplines, secure shelter services with enabling cultures), bystander intervention awareness and gender violence sensitisation of the police and administration especially for crisis contexts, would have mitigated the epidemic of violence. But the truth is we simply do not care enough.

*The writer is an independent scholar and founder of Prajnya, which has worked for gender violence awareness since 2008*



## NOVEMBER 25, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### 5 KILLED IN ASSAM

FIVE PERSONS WERE killed and several injured while troops were called in at two places to restore order on the first day of the state-wide indefinite non-cooperation movement in Assam, launched by central and state government employees. Of the five dead, three were killed in police firing in the industrial town of Tinsukia and the others was stabbed to death at Kalapahar and Maligaon area of Guahati city. Troops were called in to support civilian authorities. The movement is in support of a charter of demands, including an immediate solution to the foreigners issue and meeting the seven demands of secretariat employees.

Work in all central and state government offices was completely paralysed in almost all the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley as employees did not turn up despite the government’s stern warning.

### MANDATE FOR CMs

THE CONGRESS-I CHIEF ministers of Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan won massive mandate as results in the Assembly by-elections gave the party a marginal gain. With results for all but three of the 15 seats declared, the Congress-I got eight seats and the opposition won four. The chief ministers who won landslide victories are J B Patnaik, A R Antulay and Jagannath Pahadia, all of

whom shifted to the states from the Centre after the June Assembly elections. Of the remaining four seats, two went to the Lok Dal and one each to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Party.

### CHARLES IN DELHI

PRINCE CHARLES, HEIR apparent to the British throne, was accorded a warm welcome at Palam airport. He is in India on a 12-day state visit and was greeted by dignitaries, including ambassadors, Union ministers and heads of missions. He was greeted by External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao and the other ministers present included P C Sethi, N D Tiwari and Pranab Mukherjee.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## The power of two

From Mookerjee-Upadhyaya to Vajpayee-Advani, the BJP has valorised teamwork. How will history judge Modi-Shah?



VINAY SITAPATI

A JUGALBANDI IS a concert featuring two musicians with separate styles and often distinct instruments. Yet, they somehow manage to make music together. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are only the latest in a long line of *jugalbandis* in the Bharatiya Janata Party. The first was from the early 1950s during the early years of the Jana Sangh — the precursor party to the BJP. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the youngest vice-chancellor in the history of Calcutta University, was the erudite voice in Parliament. His partner was Deendayal Upadhyaya, deputed from the RSS to provide the organisational chords to Mookerjee's rhetorical flourishes. This choice of Mookerjee and Upadhyaya was deliberate social engineering. Hindu nationalism always knew it was both a movement seeking to shape society as well as a party pursuing power. It needed an orator as well as an organiser.

The *jugalbandi* that embodied this most was the 60-year-long partnership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. Both had separate styles and distinct instruments. Vajpayee grew up in a poor Gangetic Brahmin family and joined the RSS because of his caste and because his Gwalior was also Marathi-speaking. Advani came from the cosmopolitan Karachi of the 1930s. He spoke English before he learnt Hindi, and his wealthy family owned a horse-driven Victoria carriage (a luxury even in Karachi) and possessed a lavish home with a room just for games. Had it not been for the cataclysm of Partition — which turned the prosperous Advanis into penniless refugees — Advani might never have joined the RSS. He was, and this is the irony, too much of a "Macaulayputra".

What accentuated these social divergences was — as is well known — ideological postures that seem the reverse of their backgrounds. Vajpayee was the "moderate" who knew how to seduce Parliament; he was the greatest political orator India has produced. Advani was the "hardliner" who could divine the mood of the cadre and of the RSS. More than Parliament, he cared what the party headquarters at Ashoka Road in Delhi and RSS basecamp at Hedgewar Bhawan in Nagpur thought. There was an element of acting in both these outlooks; Vajpayee and Advani knew the role they had to play. But there was also much authenticity to the act.

Yet, despite these differences, Vajpayee and Advani worked together to control their party from 1968 (after Deendayal's murder) all the way till 2004 (when the BJP lost the national elections). Their partnership enabled the first bloom of the lotus. And even when the love from their political marriage evaporated (which it did from 1998 to 2004) they remained united. Divorce was not an option.

This ability to stick together through thick and thin was based on three entwined strands. There was personal chemistry of course — their shared love for Bollywood films and their matching emotional quotients. The second strand in their bond was

professional compatibility, the ability for one to handle party and the other to manage Parliament. But the third and most important reason for the strength of their relationship was the teamwork embedded into their political ideologies. Right from their youth, the RSS tells its own account of history. This version has Hindus losing battles and being invaded by foreigners because of backstabbing and in-fighting. The veracity of this history is beside the point. What matters is that its lessons have been converted to an ethic of organisational unity — what I call "Hindu Fevicol" in my recent book on the BJP before Modi. It is an ethic demonstrated by Vajpayee and Advani's ability to see each other through.

In a country as hierarchical as India, professional rankings formulated early tend to persist. Diplomats, bureaucrats, and generals from "senior batches" would rather resign than serve under a "junior". To work under someone who has once worked under you is considered a loss of face. One of the few exceptions is the example of cricketer Virat Kohli who first reported to captain M S Dhoni, then one day became Dhoni's captain. It goes to Dhoni's credit that he continued serving despite this demotion. Team-building mattered more than ego-massages.

Now consider this: From 1968 to 1986, Vajpayee was the leader of his party, and Advani served under him. But in 1986, the RSS forced the "Gandhian socialist"

There was personal chemistry of course — Vajpayee and Advani's shared love for Bollywood films and their matching emotional quotients. Both were sensitive men, capable of crying or laughing at the drop of a hat. The second strand in their bond was professional compatibility, the ability for one to handle party and the other to manage Parliament. But the third and most important reason was the teamwork embedded into their political ideologies.

## Leader with a healing touch

Tarun Gogoi had the ability to disagree without upsetting colleague or foe



PRADYOT MANIKYA BIKRAM DEBBARMA

GROWING UP IN the northeast of India in the Nineties was not easy. There would be frequent bandhs, especially on January 26 and August 15, when insurgent groups would "request" us to avoid joining the celebration of the "Indian colonial state". It would be unimaginable to venture out after sunset without your parents worrying about you and almost all business establishments would shut before dusk.

Assam was no different when Tarun Gogoi assumed responsibility as chief minister of the state. It was a time when people were trying to migrate from the state for a better life. An incompetent administration had pushed the state to the brink of bankruptcy. The shadow of ULFA and SULFA (a state-backed insurgent outfit of surrendered militants) loomed large over the most prosperous and populated state in the Northeast.

The Assamese people, who had emerged after agitations in the 1970s and '80s, were in desperate need of hope. An alternative emerged in Tarun Gogoi, who was not your traditional crafty politician but a leader who provided the state with a much-needed healing touch. It is not that he did not have adversaries, but his ever-smiling

face and approachable nature endeared him to all. In an age of showmanship, power and arrogance, Gogoi's biggest strength was to make everyone feel loved and wanted. Even his biggest detractors will agree that he was not a vicious person.

As an administrator, Gogoi was more of a delegator. This ensured the emergence of a group of second-rung leaders in the party under his tutelage, among them Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pradyut Bordoloi and Rockybul Hussain. Detractors often criticised him for being soft on religious minorities. The truth is he inherited this problem. In fact, one of the factors that helped the Congress win consecutive elections under Gogoi's leadership was his subtle rejection of an alliance with AIUDF leader, Badaruddin Ajmal. It is said there was tremendous pressure on Gogoi from the Congress central leadership to "accommodate" Ajmal before the 2006 assembly elections. But to his credit, Gogoi defied the leadership and this open defiance proved to be a decisive factor in the Congress winning the election. The people of Assam saw his stance as a commitment to preserve the heritage and culture of the state.

Not many leaders from the Northeast

have been able to hold their own in the so-called national parties. The slogan Indira is India, coined by D K Baruah, is an example of the sycophancy leaders from the region could stoop to. Gogoi was different. He belonged to a generation of leaders like William Sangma, Hiteshwar Saikia, Santosh Mohan Dev, Bibhu Devi, G G Swell and S C Jamir, who held sway on their own and were not seen as the voice of "Delhi" in the Northeast. This is an important aspect missing in today's Congress — the absence of strong regional leaders who echo the sentiments of the region to Delhi.

The demise of Tarun Gogoi marks the end of an era. As chief minister of Assam, he rebuilt the state and its economy. Millennials may not remember, but if their lives are significantly better than ours, some credit goes to Gogoi. He was a man who appreciated ordinary party workers and never failed to acknowledge their contribution (I have personally witnessed this from my Youth Congress days). His biggest strength was his humility, something hard to spot among our current leaders.

I did not always agree with him when we were in the same party. In hindsight, as a younger person, I was more forceful than

Vajpayee to step down. For the next nine years, Vajpayee might have sulked on mute, but he continued to be part of the BJP, serving under Advani as the party moved in a more radical direction. Cut to 1995, when Advani — who was the RSS's choice for prime minister — announced Vajpayee as prime ministerial candidate. Advani realised that, in the coming elections, the BJP could not win a majority and the coalition allies it needed would recoil from his blunt image. The rest is history, as Vajpayee became prime minister thrice — in 1996, 1998, and 1999 — and Advani served wordlessly under him. For a duo to switch positions once (like Dhoni and Kohli) is noteworthy. To have them switch places twice has no precedent anywhere in the world.

A *jugalbandi* is a concert revelling in difference. But it is more than that. Both performers have the same status; no musician is the accompanist of the other. They are both playing an equal music. What to make, then, of the music being played in today's BJP? Narendra Modi is currently Amit Shah's boss. But if their party requires, are they capable of one day switching places? Vajpayee and Advani, for all their many many foibles, were driven by something larger than themselves. How will history judge today's *jugalbandi*?

Sitapati is the author, most recently, of *Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi*. He teaches at Ashoka University

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"While many are thrilled by the prospect of immunisation .. the unusual speed with which these products have been developed and tested has prompted anxiety among others, including those normally sanguine about vaccines."  
— THE GUARDIAN

## Pulling off the pandemic poll

Bihar affirmed Election Commission's ability to conduct elections that are free, fair — and safe



ASHISH KUNdra

THE DUST HAS settled on the polling fields of Bihar. A new government has assumed office. The "masked" swearing-in ceremony was a sobering reminder of these difficult times. The run-up to the elections, amid a pandemic, turned the spotlight on the Election Commission. A quotidian affair became an extraordinary challenge.

Democracies around the world were equally confounded. It was a Hobson's choice — to conduct elections in time or to defer them to an uncertain future. A few nations dithered, while others like South Korea went ahead. On September 25, the Chief Election Commissioner, while announcing the schedule of elections, proclaimed that it was a "leap of faith and not a leap into the dark."

The numbers were staggering. Bihar, with more than 73 million electors, outstrips the entire population of the United Kingdom. A state which was bequeathed a proud legacy of having given the world its first republic is no ordinary state. A constellation of factors forced it to demonstrate leadership yet again. The die was cast and elections had to be held in time. A niggling doubt remained. Would voters shy away from turning up at the polling booth? Global experts raised a red flag on the possibility of low turnout. A mammoth preparation exercise followed. Consultation with political parties, government machinery and other stakeholders was set into motion. Detailed instructions and advisories spelt out safety and health protocols. The results were astounding. People of Bihar belied all expectations. The numbers were higher than what they had been five years ago. More than 57 per cent voters exercised their franchise in a three-phase poll. It was a reaffirmation of their unwavering faith in democracy. Equally, it was a testimony to the abiding trust in the Election Commission to conduct elections which are not only free and fair, but safe as well.

A few things stand out from the massive electoral exercise, which deserve special attention. First, in a state with the highest population density, voters even in remote rural hinterland demonstrated resolve and discipline. For the most part, they queued up as prescribed, maintaining the etiquette of social distancing. Managing crowds during campaigns was a tougher proposition. Cases were registered in instances of egregious violations.

Second, the messaging of safe protocols resonated with the masses. People, who were ordinarily unaccustomed to wearing masks even during times of contagion,

came masked up or wrapped their traditional gamchha or sari as a measure of protection. Gloves and protective gear hitherto associated with hospitals became embedded in the election process with ease.

Third, even when afforded a choice to use the postal ballot, an overwhelming majority of the aged and the infirm preferred to use the EVM at the polling station. The much-maligned machine won over the paper ballot. This is a tribute to the belief of Indian people in the robustness of the electronic machine, political rhetoric notwithstanding.

Fourth, the entire administrative machinery of the state, which willy-nilly gets involved in elections one way or the other, worked as a team united towards a common goal. The health department of Bihar delivered not only the kits to be used by over 7,00,000 polling personnel, but also made precise arrangements for safe disposal of bio-medical waste. Police and excise authorities stepped up their vigil, especially along the borders, making record seizures of cash and liquor.

The Election Commission plays the pre-eminent role of superintendence, direction and control of elections, unlike some other democracies. The Constitution arms it with the necessary heft to enforce order. Each election has seen an incremental improvement over previous ones. The commission has embraced the use of technology on a much greater scale than far more advanced nations. The entire cycle of voting, from registration of voters to counting, is a part of an integrated digital framework. Candidates and political parties secure permissions online and file nominations digitally. People with disabilities are able to voluntarily make requests for wheelchairs and special assistance. Deployment of the electronically transmitted postal ballot for members of the armed forces and diplomatic missions abroad has helped in increasing their participation in elections. A crowd-sourcing of time-stamped photos and videos alert the authorities on violations of the model code of conduct, prompting quick action. A national election management body has helped in the standardisation of rules of the game and defining uniform processes for registration, voting and counting. The utility of this institution was also brought in sharp relief, given the timely and orderly declaration of results. Trenchant critics also raised a toast to the immaculate arrangements for Bihar elections.

Waves of pandemics, by their very nature, take time to abate. Some early signals of development of a vaccine have raised hope of humanity beating the vexatious virus. Democracy, which defines the soul of our nation, cannot be held hostage to the invisible enemy. Even a force majeure cannot shake the democratic compact which binds our country.

The writer is Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India. Views are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TOO MUCH POWER

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Allowing corporates to own banks a potential risk' (IE, November 24). The proposal to open up bank licences for corporates will exacerbate the concentration of economic and political power in business houses. It will increase the importance of money power in our political system, and will lead to authoritarian cronyism. The potential contagion risks of this uncalculated-for move will lead to corporate defaults rising significantly. The country will do better if professional management is brought into PSBs, and sell stakes to the broader public, for energy and efficiency in them.

Rajiv Boolchand Jain, Zirakpur

### NO PLAN

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'SC seeks status report from states, Centre' (IE, November 24). The Supreme Court's consternation over the COVID spike despite its suo motu intervention in June is evident from the direction to states and the centre to file status reports in two days. It may be recalled that this court had earlier rejected a PIL for formulation of a national plan to combat COVID-19. Moreover, it is not clear how the SC is going to assess or audit these reports to its satisfaction. The key to success in disaster management is preparedness. Inadequacies in terms of logistics, human resources, and lack of a well-coordinated plan are evident from impromptu measures across states.

L R Murmu, Delhi

### KASHMIR AND GURU

IN THE EIGHTIES in Kashmir; my fam-

### IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● CRITICISM THAT GOES TOO FAR:  
HITESH JAIN

● A HEALTH PLAN FOR BIHAR:  
PIA SEN

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ily would travel to far away Delhi, to visit Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib. My grandfather explained the significance of this pilgrimage. In the last quarter of 17th century, our country saw its rights and liberties being snatched away by the rulers. Pandit Kripa Ram Dutt from Martand, Kashmir, brought this to the notice of Revered Guru Teg Bahadur at Anantpur Sahib in May 1675. The Guru raised his voice for the countrymen and soon was imprisoned and tortured at Delhi and finally beheaded at Sis Ganj at Chandani Chowk on November 11, 1675. In 1783, Baghel Singh built the Gurdwara Sis Gunj. The indebted Nation gave the title of "Hind-di-Chadar" — the Shield of Bharat — to the revered Guru. Since 1979 on Republic Day, the Sikh Regiment salutes twice — once to the President and the second time to Gurdwara Sis Ganj. Sikh history and its link with Kashmir is little known and should be made part of the school curriculum.

Reapan Tikoo, via email

The writer is chairman, Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance



New Delhi





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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

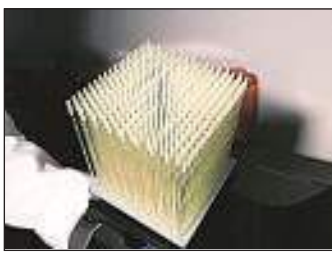
### 3D printed swabs now in use worldwide: developers

IN SEPTEMBER, researchers published the results of clinical trials on an innovation: 3D printed nasal swabs as an alternative to commercial swabs to test for Covid-19 (reported in *The Indian Express* on September 28). Since then, hospitals worldwide have used the original files to print swabs in tens of millions. Next week, the results of the trial, first published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, will now be presented at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) next week.

Researchers at University of South Florida (USF) Health designed, tested and produced the 3D printed nasal swab prototype. The large-scale clinical trial began in late March at three sites: Tampa General Health (Florida), Northwell Health (NY), and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (Philadelphia). Other sites joined later. The swabs were found to work as well and as safely as the standard commercial nasal swabs. The only adverse reaction was a few instances of slight nasal bleeding. The cost of materials per 3D-printed nasal swab ranges from 26 to 46 cents; commercial swabs cost about \$1 each, the authors said then.

By now, "USF Health has printed more than 100,000 3D NP swabs, and hospitals around the world have used our 3D files to print tens of millions more swabs for point-of-care use," Dr Summer Decker of USF Health said in a statement issued by RSNA.

After researchers designed and tested the 3D printed alternative, Tampa General Hospital (affiliated to USF) adopted the swab as its standard of care and began printing more



**3D printed nasopharyngeal swabs developed by University of South Florida.** *Radiological Society of North America*

than 300 swabs a day for the hospital and its affiliated care centres. The hospital's six printers continue to print about 9,000 swabs per week. The 3D printing process takes up to 15 hours depending on the printer. The printed swabs are rinsed in isopropyl alcohol, cured and hand-inspected for defects. Each swab is then sterilised in an autoclave and packed in a test kit.

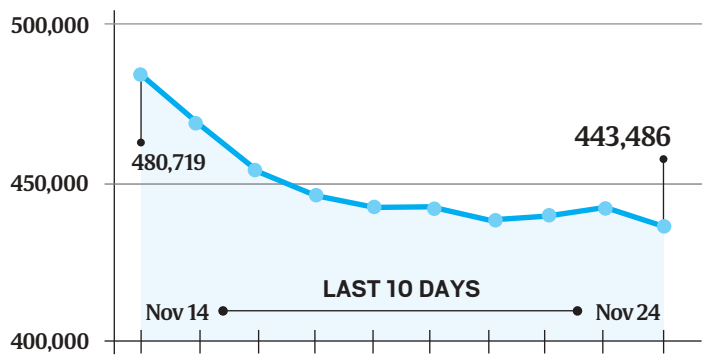
USF filed for a provisional patent on the 3D swab and provided the design files and clinical data at no cost to hospitals, clinics and licensed medical device companies around the world.

"Medical 3D printing is housed in the field of radiology, and RSNA and the 3D Printing Special Interest Group give us a voice. This project shows novel ways that radiology departments around the world can directly impact hospitals and clinical care during a crisis like Covid-19," Dr Decker said.

*Source: Radiological Society of North America*

## INDIA ACTIVE CASES

**443,486**



*Note: The Nov 23 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Nov 24*

**INDIA TOTAL CASES**  
**9,139,865**

*Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Nov 24*

**WORLD TOTAL CASES**  
**59,401,413**

*Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Nov 24*



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## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Corporates as banks: key issues

A recent RBI report has recommended that large corporate and industrial houses should be allowed ownership of private banks. What led to this recommendation, and why has it come in for criticism?

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A RECENT report by an Internal Working Group of the Reserve Bank of India has attracted a lot of attention as well as criticism. The IWG was constituted to "review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks" and submitted its report last week.

The IWG submitted several recommendations, but one, in particular, has raised a lot of concern. This had to do with allowing large corporate/industrial houses to be promoters of private banks.

In a joint write-up published on LinkedIn, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and former RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya severely criticised the suggestion by the IWG, describing it a "bombshell". "It would be 'penny wise pound foolish' to replace the poor governance under the present structure of these (public sector/government-owned) banks with a highly conflicted structure of ownership by industrial houses," Rajan and Acharya wrote.

**Why was the IWG constituted and what were its recommendations?**

The banking system in any country is of critical importance for sustaining economic growth. India's banking system has changed a lot since Independence when banks were owned by the private sector, resulting in a "large concentration of resources in the hands of a few business families".

To achieve "a wider spread of bank credit, prevent its misuse, direct a larger volume of credit flow to priority sectors and to make it an effective instrument of economic development", the government resorted to the nationalisation of banks in 1969 (14 banks) and again in 1980 (6 banks).

With economic liberalisation in the early 1990s, the economy's credit needs grew and private banks re-entered the picture. As *Chart 1* shows, this had a salutary impact on credit growth.

However, even after three decades of rapid growth, "the total balance sheet of banks in India still constitutes less than 70 per cent of the GDP, which is much less compared to global peers" such as China, where this ratio is closer to 175%.

Moreover, domestic bank credit to the

## PRIVATE BANKS VERSUS OTHER BANKS, OVER THE YEARS

CHART 1: BANKING SECTOR CREDIT (% TO GDP)

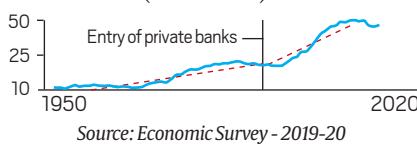


CHART 4: STAFF EXPENSES TO TOTAL INCOME

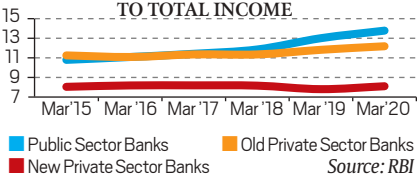


CHART 2: BANK GROUP-WISE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DEPOSITS IN %

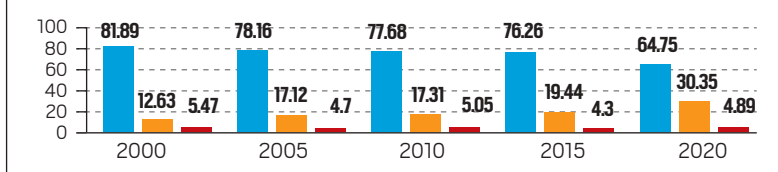
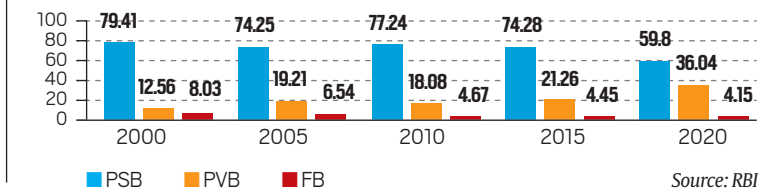


CHART 3: BANK GROUP-WISE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ADVANCES IN %



private sector is just 50% of GDP when in economies such as China, Japan, the US and Korea it is upwards of 150 per cent. In other words, India's banking system has been struggling to meet the credit demands of a growing economy. There is only one Indian bank in the top 100 banks globally by size. Further, Indian banks are also one of the least cost-efficient.

Clearly, India needs to bolster its banking system if it wants to grow at a fast clip. In this regard, it is crucial to note that public sector banks have been steadily losing ground to private banks as *Charts 2, 3 and 4* show. Private banks are not only more efficient and profitable but also have more risk appetite.

It is in this background that the IWG was asked to suggest changes that not only boost private sector banking but also make it safer.

For the most part, the IWG's recommendations are unexceptionable in that they bolster prudential norms so that the interests of the depositors are secure and banks and their promoters are not able to game the system.

**Why is the recommendation to allow large corporates to float their own banks being criticised?**

Historically, RBI has been of the view that the ideal ownership status of banks should promote a balance between efficiency, equity and financial stability.

A greater play of private banks is not without its risks. The global financial crisis

of 2008 was a case in point. A predominantly government-owned banking system tends to be more financially stable because of the trust in government as an institution.

Moreover, even in private bank ownership, past regulators have preferred it to be well-diversified — that is, no single owner has too much stake.

More specifically, the main concern in allowing large corporates — that is, business houses having total assets of Rs 5,000 crore or more, where the non-financial business of the group accounts for more than 40% in terms of total assets or gross income — to open their own banks is a basic conflict of interest, or more technically, "connected lending".

**What is connected lending?**

Simply put, connected lending refers to a situation where the promoter of a bank is also a borrower and, as such, it is possible for a promoter to channel the depositors' money into their own ventures.

Connected lending has been happening for a long time and the RBI has been always behind the curve in spotting it. The recent episodes in ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, DHFL etc. were all examples of connected lending. The so-called ever-greening of loans (where one loan after another is extended to enable the borrower to pay back the previous one) is often the starting point of such lending.

Unlike a non-bank finance company or

NBFC (many of which are backed by large corporates), a bank accepts deposits from common Indians and that is what makes this riskier.

Simply put, it is prudent to keep the class of borrowers (big companies) apart from the class of lenders (banks). Past examples of such mingling — such as Japan's Keiretsu and Korea's Chaebol — came unstuck during the 1998 crisis with disastrous consequences for the broader economy.

In the past, RBI has always frowned upon this suggestion. In fact, when the IWG reached out to its set of experts, it found that barring one, all of them "were of the opinion that large corporate/industrial houses should not be allowed to promote a bank".

**Then why recommend it?**

The Indian economy, especially the private sector, needs money (credit) to grow. Far from being able to extend credit, the government-owned banks are struggling to contain their non-performing assets.

Government finances were already strained before the Covid crisis. With growth faltering, revenues have plummeted and the government has limited ability to push for growth through the public sector banks.

Large corporates, with deep pockets, are the ones with the financial resources to fund India's future growth.

Of course, choosing this option is not without serious risks.

# 5 reasons why Oxford-AZ vaccine scores

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE 70% overall efficacy readout notwithstanding, the AstraZeneca-Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, AZD1222, could come as better news than that of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, despite both having earlier reported much higher protection of up to 95%. Here are five reasons why the AZD1222 preliminary results hold more promise, both in medical terms and for markets such as India.

## The half-dose boost

THE analysis issued by Oxford-AZ on Monday showed a striking difference in efficacy, depending on the amount of vaccine delivered — two full doses given a month apart looked to be just 62% effective while, intriguingly, participants who received a lower amount of the vaccine in a first dose and then the full amount in the second dose were found to be 90% less likely to develop Covid, compared with participants in the placebo group.

While the reasons for this are still being

examined, the half dose giving higher protection is really good news — as the manufacturers will have more doses available, making it possible to cover more of the population, especially in the initial months when supply will be constrained.

Also, the overall 70.4% efficacy is still higher than for most flu jabs, which offer 40-60%.

## Wider efficacy

THE Oxford-AZ vaccine, from the preliminary results, shows that it works across all age groups — including the elderly. Plus, there's a really interesting hint in the preliminary data that the regimen is also able to reduce asymptomatic infection. Both these aspects are being seen as big advantages over the initial trial results put out by the Pfizer-BioNTech combine and Moderna.

Crucially, if the Oxford-AZ vaccine is better at tackling symptomatic spread, it might allow countries to get to a point where authorities can stop the virus in its tracks, and it can't transmit from person to person. There's going to be a lot more data to come and over the next month or so on these aspects.

Also, there were no severe cases in the

23,000 people who got the shot.

## Easier storage & distribution

UNLIKE the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, which must be stored/transported at -20-80°C, the Oxford-AZ candidate can be stored at closer to normal fridge temperatures, which means it can be distributed and administered cheaper and faster.

The vaccine can be transported under normal refrigerated temperatures of 2-8°C. AZ said Monday. By comparison, Pfizer has to distribute its vaccine using specially designed "thermal shippers" that use dry ice to maintain temperatures of -80°C.

The Oxford-AZ vaccine can be supplied using the usual supply chain for vaccines currently in use across countries such as India, especially to rural areas where cold chain logistics are weak.

## Much cheaper

ASTRAZENECA, which has pledged it won't make a profit on the vaccine during the pandemic, has reached agreements with governments and international health organisations such as GAVI that pegs its cost at

about \$2.50 a dose.

In contrast, Pfizer's vaccine costs about \$20 a dose, while Moderna's is upwards of \$25. There is a theoretical possibility that the Oxford-AZ vaccine could get even cheaper, given the finding that a smaller initial dose is more effective than a larger one.

## Made in India

SERUM Institute of India's Covishield, which the Pune-based company has been producing "at risk", is a variant of AZD1222 and is currently undergoing late-stage human trials. This could be among the first vaccines that could be used to inoculate Indians once the bridging study being conducted in India is cleared by the drug regulator.

Plus, the results of the Oxford-AZ vaccine could be extremely positive news for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, which uses a technology similar to AZD1222. The Russian vaccine is also under trials in India, with the involvement of Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Labs.

India doesn't really have any firm tie-ups for either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine — both of which use the novel mRNA technology — at present.

# Why settlement of Bru tribals has triggered violent protests in Tripura

DEBRAJ DEB

AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 24

PARTS OF North Tripura have witnessed violent protests recently over the proposed resettlement of Bru tribals. One person was killed in police firing on Saturday, a Fire Service personnel died of injuries in hospital, and 23 people including 15 police personnel were injured.

## What are the protests about?

In 1997, 37,000 people of the Bru (or Reang) tribe fled to Tripura from Mizoram, on account of ethnic clashes there. Since then, 5,000 have returned to Mizoram while 32,000 remain in camps in Tripura. In January this year, an agreement was signed by the Centre, the two state governments and Bru representatives to allow the remaining 32,000 to permanently settle in the state.

This led to protests from Bengali and Mizo groups in Tripura. They claim that settling thousands of migrants permanently in

Kanchanpur sub-division of North Tripura district would lead to demographic imbalance, exert pressure on local resources and potentially lead to law and order problems.

## Who are the Brus?

They are a community indigenous to the Northeast, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group. In Mizoram, they were targeted by ethnic organisations who demanded that the Brus be excluded from electoral rolls.

## How did the protests in Tripura develop?

It started with memoranda, demonstrations and press conferences of a newly formed organisation called Nagarik Suraksha Mancha. These escalated to highway blockades and violent clashes with police.

The Mizo Convention, a Tripura-based organisation, has teamed up with the Mancha on a platform called Joint Movement Committee (JMC) and announced that not more than 1,500 Bru families would be al-



**A vehicle burnt during the protests in North Tripura.** *Express*

lowed to settle in Kanchanpur.

## Do the Brus have any support in Tripura?

The Indigenous Progressive Regional

Alliance (TIPRA) chaired by Pradyot Deb Barman, scion of the erstwhile Tripura royal family and formerly a Congress leader, has thrown its support behind the Brus. Pradyot has demanded action against the killers of the fireman, and called for peace.

The opposition Congress and CPM, on the other hand, have criticised the police firing.

## What is the resettlement plan?

Over the last 10 months, the state has planned 12 resettlement spots across six districts with 300 families each. Under the agreement, the Centre has announced a special development project with funding of Rs 600 crore. Each resettled family will get an estimated 0.03 acres (1.5 *gandas*) of land for building a home, Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance, and Rs 4 lakh as a one-time cash benefit for sustenance, a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 and free rations for two years from the date of resettlement.

## If it was agreed, why the protests?

JMC convener Sushanta Baruah said the

agitation was started to save "ancestral lands" from Bru migrants. "Though opposed to the whole idea of having more people permanently settle within limited resources of the area, we honoured the agreement signed by central and state governments and agreed to it. But now the district administration has proposed to set up six of 12 resettlement sites in Kanchanpur alone and settle 5,000 families here," Baruah said. He alleged that 650 Bengali families from around Kanchanpur and 81 Mizo families from Jampui Hill range, who fled due to "atrocities" by Brus, were yet to be resettled two decades on.

## What is the government stand?

The Revenue Department has stressed that Bru migrants would be settled in various locations identified in six districts. The government has clarified that concerns about the migrants being settled in one place are false, and appealed to people to refrain from sharing such content on social media.

Kanchanpur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chandni Chandran denied having received

any policy decision regarding settling 5,000 migrant families within her jurisdiction. The selection of families of resettlement is still in progress and no figure can be cited now, she told *The Indian Express*.

A letter from the North Tripura District Magistrate to the Officer on Special Duty of the Revenue Department, dated October 28, reads that the district administration had estimated the fund requirement for permanent settlement of 6,000 Bru migrants in the district. The figures in the letter show that 5,000 Bru families were estimated to be resettled in six locations in Kanchanpur sub-division.

## How have the Brus reacted?

Mizoram Bru Displaced Peoples Forum general secretary Bruno Msha said the agitation has left migrants in fear and uncertainty. "We are suffering an economic blockade due to this movement. We haven't received food-grains as per our relief package this month and if this strike continues, we don't know how long we can put up," he said, urging the government to ensure law and order.



TOPOF THE  
WORLD

David Dinkins

## USA

## NYC's first Black mayor, David Dinkins, dies

DAVID DINKINS, who broke barriers as New York City's first African-American mayor, but was doomed to a single term by a soaring murder rate, stubborn unemployment and his mishandling of a riot in Brooklyn, has died. He was 93. Dinkins died Monday, the New York City Police Department confirmed. The department said officers were called to the former mayor's home in the evening. Initial indications were that he died of natural causes. Dinkins, a calm and courtly figure with a penchant for formal wear, was a dramatic shift from both his predecessor, Ed Koch, and his successor, Rudolph Giuliani — two combative and abrasive politicians in a city with a world-class reputation for impudence and rudeness. **AP**

## PAKISTAN

## Imran appoints his lawyer as chairman of PTV

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan has appointed a lawyer, who led his legal team in the Panama Papers leak case, as the head of the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV), media reports said on Tuesday. The appointment of lawyer Naem Bukhari was made in apparent haste as the federal Cabinet had in its meeting last week considered a brief for his appointment but did not endorse his induction as PTV chairman, *Dawn* newspaper reported. The notification read: "The Federal Government is pleased to appoint Shahzada Naem Bukhari as Independent Director of Pakistan Television Corporation Board." **PTI**

## TAIWAN

## Tsai aims to guard sovereignty with new submarines

TAIWAN PRESIDENT Tsai Ing-wen on Tuesday vowed to defend the democratic island's sovereignty with the construction of a new fleet of domestically-developed submarines, a key project supported by the United States to counter neighbouring China. Taiwan has been for years working to revamp its submarine force, some of which date back to World War Two, and is no match for China's fleet. **REUTERS**

## STILL NO CONCESSION, BUT PRESIDENT RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS

## Trump admin clears way for start of formal transition to Biden presidency

Another court setback for Trump in Pennsylvania; Michigan certifies Biden's win

## REUTERS &amp; NYT

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 24

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden on Tuesday began a new phase in his transition to the White House after the Trump administration gave the Democrat access to critical resources that will enable him to take the reins of power in January.

The General Services Administration's announcement on Monday that it would formally recognise Biden's transition came after weeks of the president falsely claiming that the Nov. 3 election had been marred by widespread voter fraud.

Trump, in a post on Twitter, offered support for the move.

Critics have said the President's refusal to accept the results undermined US democracy and undercut the next administration's ability to fight the novel coronavirus.

While Trump stopped short of conceding, it was the closest he has come to acknowledging that it is time to hand over power to Biden, who will take office on January 20.

The GSA announcement will allow the president-elect to access millions of dollars in funds and focus on putting together a leadership team.

The move followed a key court decision in Pennsylvania, where

The president-elect will now receive federal funding to start the transition. **AP**

**The election is over. It's time to put aside the partisanship and the rhetoric designed to demonise one another. We have to come together."**

## JOE BIDEN

U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT

the state's Supreme Court ruled against the Trump campaign and the President's Republican allies, stating that roughly 8,000 ballots with signature or date irregularities must be counted.

In Michigan, the statewide

canvassing board, with two Republicans and two Democrats, voted, 3-0, to approve the results, with one Republican abstaining. It officially delivered to Biden a key battleground state, and rebuffed the President's legal and political efforts to overturn the results.

While Trump on Monday said he backed GSA Administrator Emily Murphy's decision, he and his advisers vowed to continue fighting the election results.

"The election is over. It's time to put aside the partisanship and the rhetoric designed to demonise one another. We have to come together," Biden tweeted on Tuesday.

## China Defence Minister's Nepal visit: Cooperation between armies is main agenda

## YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 24

GENERAL WEI Fenghe, China's Defence Minister and a member of its Central Military Commission, will spend a substantial amount of time in the headquarter of the Nepal Army during his 12-hour-long "working visit" to Nepal on Nov 29.



General Wei Fenghe

Officials said security, defence and military-to-military co-operation would be one of the main agendas when the two sides meet. General Fenghe is the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Nepal after President Xi Jinping's visit last year.

Apart from meeting both Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Gen Fenghe is scheduled to meet Nepal's Chief of Army Staff General Purna Chandra Thapa.

The visit comes at the end of a series of three high-level visits from India — R&AW chief Samant Goel, Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla — within a span of six weeks.

## EXPLAINED

## Biden team to finally get access to key resources

WITH THE head of the General Services Administration designating Biden as the apparent winner of the US election, the president-elect's transition team gets access to these key resources from the federal government under the Presidential Transition Act:

- \$6.3 million in federal funds for the transition.
- Office space provided by the federal government.
- Security clearances for members of the transition team.
- The opportunity for the Biden team to work with the heads of federal agencies in order to ensure a seamless transition of power.
- Regular briefings on security threats to the US as well as on ongoing military operations.

## Biden set to name Yellen as Treasury secretary

## REUTERS

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 24

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden is expected to nominate former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as US Treasury secretary, breaking a 231-year gender barrier and putting a seasoned economist and labour market expert in charge of leading the country out of the steepest downturn since the Great Depression.

Yellen, 74, brings Biden decades of economic policy experience and is respected by



Janet Yellen

Congress, international finance officials, progressives and business interests alike. She has called for opening fiscal spending taps to revive an economy wracked by the coronavirus pandemic and would be the first person to head the Treasury, the Fed and the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

## Bernstein says 21 GOP senators expressed contempt for Trump

*New York:* Former Watergate sleuth Carl Bernstein took to Twitter to list the names of 21 Republican senators who he says have "repeatedly expressed contempt" for Donald Trump and his fitness to be President.

Bernstein's post was condemned Monday by some of those involved. It was an eyebrow-raising modern twist on journalism from the former *Washington Post* reporter who, with Bob Woodward in the 1970s, penned

scoops that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

Bernstein said he learned of the politicians' supposed private feelings through conversations with their colleagues, staff members and lobbyists.

Senators Chuck Grassley, Rob Portman, Todd Young and Tim Scott, who were all in Bernstein's list, denied the journalist's claims. Mitt Romney was also on the list, but he has publicly criticised Trump in the past. **AP**

A Long March-5 rocket carrying the Chang'e-5 lunar mission lifts off at the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in southern China's Hainan province, early on Tuesday. **AP**

## China hails successful launch as robotic spacecraft heads to Moon

## MARTIN QUIN POLLARD

WENCHANG, NOVEMBER 24

CHINA HAILED as a success its pre-dawn launch on Tuesday of a robotic spacecraft to bring back rocks from the Moon in the first bid by any country to retrieve lunar surface samples since the 1970s, a mission underscoring Chinese ambitions in space.

The Long March-5, China's largest carrier rocket, blasted off at 4.30 am Beijing time (2030 GMT on Monday) in a launch from Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern Chinese

island of Hainan carrying the Chang'e-5 spacecraft.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) called the launch a success and said in a statement that the rocket flew for nearly 37 minutes before sending the spacecraft on its intended trajectory.

The Chang'e-5 mission, named after the ancient Chinese goddess of the Moon, will seek to collect lunar material to help scientists understand more about the Moon's origins and formation. The mission will test China's ability to remotely acquire samples from space, ahead

of more complex missions.

State broadcaster CCTV, which ran live coverage of the launch, showed images of CNSA staff in blue uniforms applauding and cheering as they watched the spacecraft climbing through the atmosphere, lighting up the night sky.

If the mission is completed as planned, it would make China only the third country to have retrieved lunar samples, joining the US and the Soviet Union.

The probe is due to be on the lunar surface for about two days, while the entire mission is scheduled to take 23 days. **REUTERS**

## Roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan kills at least 14

## RAHIM FAIEZ

KABUL, NOVEMBER 24

ROADSIDE BOMBS exploded in central Afghanistan on Tuesday killing at least 13 civilians and a traffic policeman, officials said, even as government negotiators and the Taliban meet to try to end decades of war.

Tariq Arian, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said 45 people were also wounded in a late afternoon blast in Bamiyan city in Bamiyan province. Several shops and vehicles were destroyed or damaged.

Mohammad Reza Yusuofi, spokesman for the provincial police chief in Bamiyan, said there were two bombs that exploded in quick succession.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, said the group was not involved.

Violence and chaos have increased in Afghanistan in recent months even as government negotiators and the Taliban are meeting in Qatar to find an end to decades of relentless war. The two sides have made little progress.

Also on Tuesday, Norway's Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soeride said the Scandinavian country will provide around 650 million kroner (\$72.1 million) in development assistance and humanitarian aid in 2021 to Afghanistan.

"Our support and further level (of assistance) will be assessed on the basis of the authorities' efforts against corruption," Soeride said in a statement. **AP**

## Bangladeshi man who 'planned to fight in Kashmir' held in Singapore

## GURDIP SINGH

SINGAPORE, NOVEMBER 24

SINGAPORE SAID on Tuesday that its security agencies arrested a Bangladeshi man, who was plotting attacks against Hindus in his own country and planning to fight in Kashmir, after they investigated the suspicious activities of 37 people as part of heightened security measures in the city-state following recent terror attacks in Europe.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said counter-terrorism investigations into the suspicious activities of 37 people in Singapore were carried out after most of them posted on social media, inciting violence or stoking communal unrest in the aftermath of the attacks in France.

One Bangladeshi man under investigation — identified as 26-year-old Ahmed Faysal — was arrested over "terrorism-related activities", the ministry said. He had bought foldable knives, which he claimed he would use for attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh, it said, adding that he was also willing to travel to Kashmir to fight against "perceived enemies of Islam".

Preliminary investigations showed that Faysal was radicalised and harboured the intention to "undertake armed violence", Channel News Asia reported, citing the statement issued by Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs. **PTI**

## SCIENTISTS WERE SCEPTICAL THAT A MUTATION MADE THE CORONAVIRUS MORE CONTAGIOUS. BUT NEW RESEARCH IS CHANGING MINDS

## Evidence builds that an early mutation made pandemic harder to stop

JAMES GLANZ, BENEDICT CAREY & HANNAH BEECH  
NOVEMBER 24

AS THE coronavirus swept across the world, it picked up random alterations to its genetic sequence. Like meaningless typos in a script, most of those mutations made no difference in how the virus behaved.

But one mutation near the beginning of the pandemic did make a difference, multiple new findings suggest, helping the virus spread more easily from person to person and making the pandemic harder to stop.

The mutation, known as

614G, was first spotted in eastern China in January and then spread quickly throughout Europe and New York City. Within months, the variant took over much of the world, displacing other variants.

For months, scientists have been fiercely debating why. Researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory argued in May that the variant had probably evolved the ability to infect people more efficiently. Many were sceptical, arguing that the variant may have been simply lucky, appearing more often by chance in large epidemics, like Northern Italy's, that seeded outbreaks elsewhere.

But a host of new research — including close genetic analysis of

outbreaks and lab work with hamsters and human lung tissue — has supported the view that the mutated virus did in fact have a distinct advantage, infecting people more easily than the original variant detected in Wuhan, China.

There is no evidence that a coronavirus with the 614G mutation causes more severe symptoms, kills more people or complicates the development of vaccines. Nor do the findings change the reality that places that quickly and aggressively enacted lockdowns and encouraged measures like social distancing and masks have fared far better than the those that did not. But the subtle change in the virus's genome appears to

A Covid-19 intensive care ward in Bergamo, Italy, early in the pandemic. **NYT**

have had a big ripple effect, said David Engelthaler, a geneticist at the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Arizona.

"When all is said and done, it could be that this mutation is what made the pandemic," he said. The first outbreaks of the

virus would have spread around the world even without the mutation, believe most researchers, including Engelthaler. The original variant spotted in Wuhan in late 2019 was already highly contagious, he said. But the mutation appears to have made the pandemic spread farther and faster than it would have without it.

One study found that outbreaks in communities in the United Kingdom grew faster when seeded by the 614G variant than when seeded by its Wuhan ancestor. Another reported that hamsters infected each other more quickly when exposed to the variant. And in a third, the variant infected hu-

man bronchial and nasal tissue in a cell-culture dish far more efficiently than its ancestor.

In one of the new studies, a British team of researchers had an advantage shared by no one else: They were able to draw upon the largest national database of coronavirus genome sequences in the world. The researchers collected new evidence that, at least in the United Kingdom, the variant took over because it indeed spreads faster. "When we look at clusters, the G variant grows more quickly," said Erik M. Volz, a researcher at the Medical Research Council Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College London and the leader of

the study.

The data collected by the Covid-19 Genomics UK Consortium allowed the team to observe the growth of infected clusters as a kind of horse race. Side by side, did clusters of 614G infections grow faster than infections involving the ancestral variant?

The 614G variant clearly won the race, the analysis found. The precise rate remains uncertain, but the most likely value gives 614G roughly a 20% advantage in its exponential rate of growth.

The virus will continue to change, and while most of those changes will be mere typos, some may be more meaningful, Engelthaler said. **NYT**



## NIFTY50 CLOSES ABOVE 13,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME

## Vaccine boost, record FPI inflows propel markets to life-time highs

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

BUOYED BY sustained foreign fund flows, domestic markets on Tuesday hit an all-time record high with the NSE Nifty index crossing the 13,000 level as successful vaccine trials boosted the sentiment. Ignoring the recent spike in Covid cases, the Sensex jumped 446 points to 44,523.02 and the NSE Nifty index gained 129 points at 13,055.15.

The bull run is being fuelled foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) who have made the highest monthly buying in November in the last two decades. Foreign investors have pumped in around Rs 53,167 crore in November and invested Rs 1.01 lakh crore in Indian equities in calendar year 2020, aiding Nifty to touch the 13,000 levels.

"The FPI inflow increased considerably especially after the end of the election in the US and weakness in the dollar index. Another major reason behind such a large



An Oxford Vaccine Group researcher in a laboratory in England works on the coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. John Cairns/University of Oxford via AP

inflow was the expected stimulus worth trillions of dollars from central banks to revive economies that are hit hard by the Covid-led lockdown," said Hemang Jani, Head-Equity Strategy, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Indications are in favour of the prevailing bullishness to extend

further but the pace could be gradual, said an analyst.

Nifty touched another milestone as it crossed the 13,000 level for the first time and settled around the day's high.

The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 74.01 against the US dollar on Tuesday.

## Dow hits record 30K on economic recovery hopes

## Brent at highest level since March

REUTERS

NEW YORK/LONDON, NOV 24

THE DOW Jones Industrial Average breached the 30,000-mark for the first time on Tuesday, as optimism that Covid-19 vaccines will open the way to economic recovery next year fuelled Wall Street's rebound from a pandemic-driven crash this year. The go-ahead for President-elect Joe Biden's transition to the White House also boosted sentiment.

By 12:01 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1.69 per cent at 30,092.53. The S&P 500 was up 1.57 per cent and the Nasdaq Composite was up

0.99 per cent.

European markets tracked gains in Asian and US equities, with the broad-based STOXX 600 index opening 0.8 per cent higher.

Safe-haven asset gold fell to a four-month low on Tuesday and looked set to dip below the \$1,800 level as progress on vaccines and hopes for a quick transition in the White House drove investors towards riskier assets.

Brent crude futures rose 45 cents, or 1 per cent, to \$46.51 a barrel to add to a more than 20 per cent surge this month, while US West Texas Intermediate crude added 46 cents, or 1.1 per cent, to \$43.52. Brent crude is trading at its highest level since March.

Meanwhile, Bitcoin moved within a whisker of its all-time high, after hitting \$19,000 for the first time in nearly three years.

## Monthly rise in procurement and payments to MSMEs: Govt

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE MINISTRY of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Tuesday said that there has been a monthly rise in procurement and payments to MSMEs, alongside a fall in the ratio of pendency of payments. The pending payments to MSMEs are around one-fifth against the procurement and within the 45-day window, it said.

Total procurement and transactions from MSMEs has gone up almost two-and-a-half times in October to Rs 5,000 crore com-

pared to Rs 2,300 crore in May, the ministry said, adding that payments to MSMEs have also gone up in the same proportion from about 76 per cent in May to about 80 per cent in October.

On Monday, *The Indian Express* had reported that the pending dues to MSMEs, as shown on the ministry's dashboard, rose to Rs 969.19 crore in July, higher than Rs 561.64 crore of pending dues in May and continued to be elevated in August at Rs 830.36 crore. The Ministry clarified that total dues at the end of a month "have to be seen against total procurement and transactions at the end of the same

month and the payments made".

The proportion of pending payments as part of total transactions has reduced to about 20.65 per cent in October from 23.9 per cent in May, as reported by 26 ministries and 100 CPSEs in October as against 25 ministries and 79 CPSEs in May, it said.

The procurement data, however, is not reflected in the Ministry's dashboard. The MSME Ministry's Samadhaan portal accounts for only a part of the total dues to units. The corporate sector and states and state government enterprises owe MSMEs, in addition to dues reflected on the portal.

## Sputnik V maker says vaccine to be priced under \$20 per person

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SPUTNIK V Covid-19 vaccine, set to be tested in mid- to late-stage human trials in India, is expected to be priced at less than \$20 for two doses, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said Tuesday. This could mean that the vaccine could be up to three times more expensive than Covishield, the Serum Institute of India (SII) candidate which is currently the frontrunner in the Indian race for a vaccine.

The Russian sovereign wealth fund also said preliminary data from volunteers collected 42 days after the first dose indicated that Sputnik V had an efficacy of above 95 per cent. The efficacy of a vaccine indicates its ability to produce a desired result which, in the case of Covid-19 vaccines, includes parameters like their ability to reduce the number of severe symptomatic cases in those inoculated.

Sputnik V's efficacy information, like most vaccine candidates for which the information has been announced so far, is still preliminary in nature and yet to be published in a scientific journal or peer reviewed.

At less than \$10 a dose, the Sputnik V vaccine would be much cheaper than other candidates like those by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna-NIAID, according to RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev. At the same time, Sputnik V, like most of the frontrunners in the global Covid-19 vaccine race, is given in two shots, with the second dose given 21 days after the first.

In India, Covishield — currently in phase 3 clinical trials — will be priced at \$3 a dose. SII — which is conducting the trials for this vaccine, developed using the "master seed" from the candidate developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca — plans to apply for emergency use approval soon.

While RDIF did not specify how many volunteers it had based its 95 per cent efficacy read-out on, its interim analysis of data obtained from 18,794 volunteers seven days after they received both doses of the vaccine showed an efficacy of around 91.4 per cent.

## Ban on Karvy Broking confirmed

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday confirmed the ban on Karvy Stock Broking from taking new clients and directed exchanges and depositories to take appropriate action against the entity and directors. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) declared Karvy Stock Broking (KSBL) a defaulter and expelled it from the membership of the exchange for non-compliance with various regulatory provisions.

Karvy has also been prohibited from alienating any of its assets, except with prior permission of the NSE till the settlement of claims of investors.

On November 22, 2019, Sebi banned Karvy from taking fresh business for allegedly misappropriating money and securities belonging to its investors in order to fund its real estate arm Karvy Realty. The directions in the ex-parte order passed in November 2019 are operating against it till date, Sebi said. Karvy neither filed any reply for revocation of interim order nor to confirm the interim direction nor availed opportunity of hearing, it said. In various letters seeking adjournment, Sebi said KSBL made submissions that it is transferring securities and funds to its clients. "Such letters and conduct of KSBL show it admits wrongdoing, as alleged in the ex-parte order and therefore, has been taking the steps to remove the effects of its wrongdoing such as requesting more time so as to return the funds/securities to its clients whose securities were unauthorisedly pledged by KSBL," it said.

## What is the case against Karvy and what next for its clients?

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, NOV 24

A YEAR after misappropriation of money and securities belonging to investors by Karvy Stock Broking Limited (KSBL) came to light, both the exchanges and the regulator have taken action against the brokerage firm.

While Sebi had initially estimated that Karvy had transferred Rs 1,096 crore to its real estate business, last week the National Stock Exchange said that funds and securities worth Rs 2,300 crore belonging to about 2.35 lakh investors of KSBL have been settled so far. The NSE also said that in coordination with other market infrastructure institutions and under the guidance of Sebi, it transferred securities to respective clients, invoked bank guarantees deposited with clearing corporations and liquidated securities held by Karvy Group companies.

## What is the case?

The case pertains to Karvy unauthorisedly transferring securities of clients into one of its demat accounts by misusing the PoAs (Power of Attorney) given by its clients.

In November 2019, when the case came to light, Sebi moved against Karvy for violating norms, including transferring client shares to itself and pledging client shares to raise money, which it diverted to its real estate arm. Many of Karvy's over 2.40 lakh clients had complained to the regulator about money and securities not coming to their trading accounts. Karvy allegedly misused client accounts without informing them, or reporting to the depository or the stock exchange.

Securities lying in Depository Participant (DP) accounts belong to clients and can only be pledged to meet the obligations of the re-

spective clients and KSBL had no legal right to create any pledge on those securities.

In its report submitted to Sebi, the NSE had then said that KSBL misused the power of attorney given by its clients to clandestinely sell client securities through entities controlled by it, and used the funds for its own purposes. To hide this, KSBL did not report the DP account (No. 11458979) in its submissions to the NSE from January to August 2019 and this was detected only during inspection, the NSE said.

## How much money was involved?

The Sebi order in 2019 said that a net amount of Rs 1,096 crore was transferred by Karvy Stock Broking to Karvy Realty. However, as per the latest figure released by NSE last week, the exchange had settled those funds and securities

worth Rs 2,300 crore belonging to about 2.35 lakh investors of KSBL. Sources say that some amount may still be there to be settled because of disputes but the majority of the amount has been settled.

While customers were looking at the stock exchanges for the money and securities allegedly siphoned off by Karvy from their accounts, Sebi started investigating similar diversions of funds from the clients' accounts by other broking houses.

## What happens to the clients?

As NSE has now expelled KSBL from the membership of the exchange and Sebi in its final order has banned the firm from taking fresh business, the existing clients can't trade through KSBL. Stock exchange officials say that all the existing clients of KSBL would have either got their securities back and transferred it to another brokerage firm or would have received the value of their securities into their bank accounts.

## AMID COVID-19

## 'Hiring activity improves, led by recruitment in non-tech sectors'

Even though competition for jobs was lower compared to several months ago, recruitment activity in India witnessed an uptick in September, LinkedIn's 'Labour Market Update' said

**30%:** Hiring recovery recorded in September, over a year ago

**Recovery in non-tech sectors:** With hiring activity rising and the digital divide is narrowing, a recovery is being seen in hiring for the non-tech sectors

**4.2x** Likelihood of job seekers in badly-hit sectors, like recreation & travel, searching for employment in a different sector, lower than 6.8 times as of June

Source: LinkedIn/PTI



Year-on-year hiring activity recorded in previous months

■ April: -50% ■ July: >0% ■ August: 12%

## Tesla mkt value tops \$500 bn; Musk net up \$100 bn since Jan

REUTERS

BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 24

TESLA INC crossed \$500 billion in market value on Tuesday as investors lapped up its shares in the run-up to its addition to the S&P 500 index, extending a meteoric rally that has seen the stock gain more than six times this year. Shares of the EV maker have risen nearly 28 per cent since the S&P Dow Jones Indices decided to add the company to the benchmark index from December 21.

Its shares rose as much as 3.9 per cent to a record high of \$542.35 in early trading, valuing the company briefly at \$514 billion.

The recent rally also boosted CEO Elon Musk's net worth by \$7.2 billion to \$127.9 billion, helping him go past Bill Gates to become the world's second-richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Musk, who was ranked 35th in January, has added \$100.3 billion to his net worth so far this year, according to the index.

Tesla has become by far the world's most valuable automaker, despite a produc-



Elon Musk is now the world's second richest person, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Reuters file

tion that is a fraction of Toyota Motor Corp, Volkswagen AG or General Motors Co.

Shares of other electric vehicle makers have also risen in the last few months as President-elect Joe Biden made boosting EVs a top priority during his campaign.

"One of the core underpinnings of the Biden platform will be around pushing clean energy and zero-emissions vehicles with hopes of accelerating the deployment of electric vehicles and public charging outlets by 2030," Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives said in a note.

## Soon, 'O' prefix to call mobiles from landlines

New Delhi: Callers will soon be required to add 'O' prefix for making calls from landlines to mobile phones in the country, with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) asking telcos to make necessary arrangements by January 1 to implement the new system. The DoT has accepted Trai's recommendation for having the 'O' prefix for such calls, to create sufficient numbering space for telecom services. **ENS WITH PTI**

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
TO/TM/GEN-225 (Vol-III)/20/3073, Dtd. 18.11.2020  
Name of the work : "Allotment of 08(Eight) nos. of Manual Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots". License Fees : Rs. 2,33,40,636/-. Wharfage Fees : Rs. 6,13,707/-. Last date & time of submission of bid : 08.12.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 09.12.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/> eprocure/app.  
Traffic Manager  
PPT/PPR/309/20-21 Date :20.11.2020

**CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
Sealed bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

- CRRT - Phase 1 - Package 25- Supply and laying of 750mm dia CI force main from Tondiarpet 'B' pumping station to Tondiarpet 'F' New sewage pumping station Bid security Rs.5.75 Lakhs
- CRRT - Phase I - Package 43C - Supply, fixing, testing and commissioning of Class IP 55 Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) including pre wired control panel and allied civil works for submersible pumps in various Sewage Pumping Stations in Areas IV, V & VI - Tender No. CNT/SEW/NCB/CRRT/Phase I/085/2020-21 - Bid Security - Rs.3.25 Lakhs.
- CRRT - Phase I - Package 43D - Supply, fixing, testing and commissioning of Class IP 55 Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) including pre wired control panel and allied civil works for submersible pumps in various Sewage Pumping Stations in Areas VII, VIII & IX - Tender No. CNT/SEW/NCB/CRRT/Phase I/086/2020-21 - Bid Security - Rs.2.89 Lakhs.
- Availability and Cost of Bid document in the form of CD : 27.11.2020 to 28.12.2020, Grievances Redressal & Facilitation Officer, CMWSS Board, (Telephone: 044-28451300 Extn:217) for Rs.5,900/- (including GST) Through Website: [www.chennaietmwater.tn.nic.in](http://www.chennaietmwater.tn.nic.in) & [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)
- Date of Pre-Bid meeting : 15.12.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
- Bids will be received upto 03.00 PM and opened after 3.30 P.M on 29.12.2020.
- For all other details refer bid document in the website from 27.11.2020

DIPR/4375/Tender/2020 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)**  
NIT No. HSCC/AIIMS-Kalyani/Wooden wardrobe/Fur/2020 Dated: 24.11.2020  
Online item rate bids are invited by HSCC (I) Ltd. as an executing agency of MoHFW for the works: "Wooden Wardrobe and Over Head Storage for Hostel & Residential Block at AIIMS, Kalyani (W.B.) (2nd Call)" Estimated project cost: Rs. 5.32 Cr and Completion period: 03 Months. Tender available online from 25.11.2020 and Last Date of submission of Bids is 10.12.2020. The detailed NIT will be available on e-tender portal [www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC), HSCC website [www.hsccltd.co.in](http://www.hsccltd.co.in) and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published. **CGM (PG-I)**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A State Government Undertaking)  
Block No. 16 & 17, 30A Commercial Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9 (Himachal Pradesh) (India). P: 011-2621563, Email: [hmaprind@gmail.com](mailto:hmaprind@gmail.com)  
**GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global Short Term E-Tenders for the procurement of **FORTIFIED SOYA REFINED OIL for three months supply/six months supply (as the case may be)**. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of sample, earnest money deposit tender document fee, processing fee and on-line tenders shall be till 17.12.2020 upto 5:00 PM. The tenders of Fortified Edible Oils shall be opened on 30.12.2020 at 11:00 AM. **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**  
Buildings Department  
B.D.C.No.B1/1790/2020  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer (Buildings) for the following work as per details furnished below  
Proposed construction of Burial ground in Kodungaiyur Dumping ground campus separately for Hindus, Muslims and Christians at Chinandimadam in Dn-37, Zone-4.  
For more information see <http://tntenders.gov.in> & [www.chennaiacorporation.gov.in](http://www.chennaiacorporation.gov.in)  
Pre bid meeting held on 17.12.2020  
Tender Works Value approx. Rs.5,38,63,346/- EMD Amount Rs.5,38,700/-  
Tender Date and Time: 05.01.2021 upto 3.00 P.M  
Tender open Date and Time: 06.01.2021 at 3.30 P.M  
DIPR/4387/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer (Buildings)

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028. CIN: L31300TG1958GOI001674  
**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**  
Tender Enquiry No. : HO(Contracts)/NISP/Maint/Inst/763 Dated : 25-11-2020  
NMDC Limited, A 'NAVARATNA' Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for **Maintenance of Instrumentation Installation of RMHS, Coke oven, By-product, Sinter plant and respective auxiliaries for a period of 2 years for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur, Chattisgarh state**.  
The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>, Central Public Procurement portal (CPP PORTAL) <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> and MSTC portal <https://www.mstccommerce.co.in> from 25-11-2020 to 24-12-2020.  
For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search **Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/69/20-21/ET/665**.  
The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.  
For further clarification, the following can be contacted :  
Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. : +91-040-23534746, Tel No. : +91-040-23532800, Email : [steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in)  
**Chief General Manager (Contracts)**



# 16

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

I,Barun Kumar S/o Sh.Dhruv Narayan Lal R/o GH-3/123, LIG ,DDA Flats, Milap Apartment, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Ananya to Ananya Lal for all purposes.

0040555905-3

It is for General information that I,Mohd Anis Qureshi,S/o Mohd Idris,R/o-B-8/4 DDA-Flats,Sarai-Khalil,Sadar-Bazar,Delhi-06,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Mohd Naseem aged 59 years in my Birth Certificate the actual name of mine is Mohd Anis Qureshi.

0040555958-7

I,VED Prakash verma,S/o Tilak ram verma,R/o-259,Giranta and keshav nagar teshil mankapur distr ghonda,U.P-27132 have changed my name,from Ved prakash to ved prakash verma,for all,future purposes.

0040555958-5

I,Swati D/o Surendra Singh Negi R/o-370/E-4,Camero-Complex Subroto-Park New Delhi-110010,Have Changed My Name From Swati to Swati Negi Vide-Affidavit,Dated-24/11/2020Before NCT-Delhi.

0040555964-9

I,Shalu Choudhary,D/O-Shri Sanjay Kumar,R/O-H.NO-510,Opp. Senior Secondary School, Karala,Mohammad Pur Majri,North West Delhi, Delhi-110081,have changed my name to Shalu Chaudhary.

0040555958-2

I,Sanjaya Kansal S/o-Daya Chand Kansal R/o-R-13/117, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Sanjay Kansal.

0040555969-5

I,Sandeep Kumar Tyagi S/o Devvrat Tyagi R/o-H.No-C-49, Paramount Golf-Foreste,Site-C, Surajpur,Greater Noida,U.P.,has changed my name,from Sandeep Kumar Tyagi & Sandeep Kumar to Sandeep Tyagi for all,future purposes.

0040555954-3

I,SIDRA NAZIR,D/O NAZIR AHMED WANI,H.NO-11/A, TWINKLE-Nursery school-savitri nagar,Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Sidrah Nazeer,for all,future purposes.

0040555964-6

I,SARVESH Kumar verma,S/o Ram prakash verma,R/o-X-4/9, chaudhri fatesh singh marg Brahmpuri garhi mendu,Delhi-53,inform that name of my minor daughter has been mentioned as Vanshika verma in her school-record.The actual name is Vishruti verma which may be amended Accordingly.

0040555958-6

I,Radha Kumar W/o Late.Sunil Gupta R/o -H.No.B-89 Gali No.2,Subhash Mohalla,North Ghonda,Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Radha Gupta,for all purposes.

0040555946-3

I,Pankaj Kumar Mittal S/o Late Sh Jagdish prasad Mittal R/o A-106 Vivek Vihar Phase I New Delhi-110095, I have chenged my name from Pankaj Kumar Mittal to Pankaj Mittal for all future purposes.

0040555932-1

I,Oinam Beerjitra Singh,S/O-Oinam Thoiba Singh,R/O-1498,Wazir Nagar,Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi-110003,have changed my name to Oliver Oinam for all purposes

0040555958-1

I,Bhateri w/o Hari Bhagwan R/o 131 kishan garh Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070 ,have changed my name to Ram Bhateri

0040555926-1

I,Naresh Kumar S/o Jagan Ram R/o-173-A Pocket-J&K, Dilshad Garden,Delhi-110095,have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Yadav,for all purposes.

0040555946-2

I,Mahouria Ummi,D/o Abdul Rashid Khan,R/o-35/36,Block-R3-A2,Mohan-Garden Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to UME Akhter,for all purposes.

0040555946-1

I,MONIKA DHAWAN,W/O RAJESH DHAWAN R/O-A-1/168, SECTOR-16, ROHINI,DELHI-89,have changed my name to MONICA DHAWAN.

0040555958-3

I,DPESH TECKCHANDANI,S/O ISHWAR TECKCHANDANI,R/o-B-159,FIRST-FLOOR,STREET.NO.2, MAJLIS-PARK, ADARSH-NAGAR,NEW DELHI-33,have changed my name to DIPESH TECKCHANDANI.

0040555958-4

I,Aashini,W/o Akhtar Hussain,R/o Village-Aterna, Post Off(Jawan),Sub Teshil-Mohna,Distt. Faridabad,Haryana-121004,that my father and mother-name was wrongly-mentioned in my passport is Subhan Khan and Munni that their actual name is Subhana and Punni.

0040555946-7

I,hitherto known as Vikram Saharan S/O Jai prakash saharan, R/o Flat-366,DDA flats, Manglapuri, Dwarka, Palam-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vickram Saharann .

0070721797-1

I,AMBAR AHMAD,S/O.MOHD NAUSHAD,ADD-162/A,GALI.No.20, B-BLOCK NR ID GAHA ZIAUDDINPUR NEW-MUSTAFABAD,DELHI-110094, Changed my name to AMBAR AHMED.

0040555946-6

I,ABHISHEK KUMAR YADAV,S/O.JITENDRA YADAV,ADD-RZF-8178,SECOND-FLOOR, LAL BAHADUR SHASTRY-MARG RAJ-NAGAR-26,PALAM-COLONY BAGDOLA-SOUTH WEST/DELHI-110077,changed my name to ABHISHEK YADAV,

permanently.

0040555969-1

I,Sudesh Dua alias Jai Sudesh Dua D/o Late Sh. Bali Ram W/o Late Sh. Anil Kumar Dua R/o WZ-66/20, Ground Floor, Manohar Nagar, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Sudesh Dua For all purposes.

0040555905-1

I,Rahul S/O, Mohan Lal R/o Vpo-Dhigawa Jattana, Teh-Joharu, Dist-bhiwani, Haryana-127201 have changed my name to

Rahul Sharma for all purposes

0040555991-1

I,Manisha Chopra D/o Sh.Naresh Chopra W/o Sh. Manan Mahendru R/o House No.337, Sector-28, Faridabad, Haryana-121008 have changed my name after marriage to Manisha Chopra Mahendru for all purposes.

0040555905-2

I,Gyan Chand S/O, Late Jageshwar Prasad R/o F-82, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Gyan Chand Prasad for all future purposes.

0040555910-1

### व्यक्तिगत

एस.बी.आई. शास्त्री N/A/c 56335008652 मैं मेरा नाम भूलवश कान्ता देवी व LIC पालिसी 252340839 में कान्ता रानी दर्ज हो गया है । जो दोनों नाम गलत है । ये दोनों नाम एक ही महिला के है सही नाम आचार कर्षा केन कार्ड, पहचान पत्र में कान्ता पाली पुनल सिंह इन्दर गढ़ी थाना मसुरी गा.दाह है ।

### LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original LIC Bond Document, Policy No 115337699 has been lost. Name of Person: Om Pal, if found please Contact-8750045651

0040555927-1

It is notified for information that I,Krishna Madhav Prasad Yadav(Owner),S/o Sh.Raj Kishor Yadav,have lost the original chain documents i.e. GPA,Agreement to Sell, Affidavit,Receipts,Possession letter and Deed of Will executed in favour of Sh.Ram Kishor,S/o Chandu by Smt.Krishna,W/o Sh.Jagdish of property bearing plot.No.-126, Khasra.No.25/2/4,Pankaj-Garden,Goyla-Dairy,New Delhi-110071.If found-please call me on-9213996438.

0040555946-10

I,Amrit Thapa,have lost my original MarkSheet of Main-Secondary School Examination,Year-2016,Roll.No.8727809 and main Senior-School Certificate- Examination, Year-2018, Roll.No.9706486 issued by CBSE. Finder-please contact:C-30, Chirag-Enclave,New Delhi-110048,'7838181147.

0040555969-7

### RECRUITMENT

### SITUATION VACANT

MULTIPLE VACANCIES  
INS Advertising Agency Required (FRESHER/EXPERIENCED) Manager (Event, Hoarding, Digital Media) Clerk, Field Boy with D.L. # 9315933605, 9354854020.

0040555714-2

### PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY IT BE KNOWN TO GENERAL PUBLICS NOTICE That my client Smt Jasvinder Kaur wife of Late Kuldesh Singh, residents of 211, 2nd Floor, Gopal Park Chander Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-50, do hereby severe all her social relations with her daughter, namely Mandeeep Kaur, aged about 19 years residing at R/o 51, Chawla Park, Ground Floor Chander Nagar, Delhi-51, debar her from all her relations, movable and immovable properties, as she is disobedient, disrespectful & unpresonal in nature and got married with Shubham Singh without the consent of my client. Whosoever will deal with them, whether personally or professionally shall do so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client will not be liable for any of their acts, commisions, dealings, transactions etc. with immediate effect.

Sd/- (Ankit Batra) Advocate

398, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

I,JOYNIXON WILLIAM S/o N N William R/O A-9,D.T.C Colony,Model Town,North West Delhi-110009 Have Changed my Name to JOY NIXON WILLIAM.

0070721762-1

I, Inder Jeet Singh S/o Late. Shri Ram R/o-8/56, Mehrman Nagar, New Delhi-110010,have changed my name to Inderjit Singh.

0040555954-2

I, Hoshiyar Singh S/o Gazay Singh R/o 10/3 Railway Colony Sarojini Nagar, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi have changed my name from Hoshiyar Singh to Hoshiyar Singh for all purposes. Hoshiyar Singh and Hoshiyar Singh are same and one person.

0040555942-1

I, Harshita D/o Ajay Kumar R/o 502/10, Chhotu Ram Colony, Narwana, Jind, Narwana,Haryana-126116, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Harshita Sharma.

0070721793-1

I,Arpana D/o Trilok Singh Lakra R/o-435 A, Ward-No.3, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030,have changed my name to Arpana Lakra for all purposes.

0040555954-1

Public in general is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Shabnam (Divorcee) Dio Mohammad Ali aged about 38 years R/O 349, Third Floor, Katra Bughra Rai, Bazar Delhi Gate, Daryaganj-110002 have dis-ownwed their daughter namely Shama aged about 23 yrs from all their movable and immovable properties/assets and severed all relations because of her misconduct and misbehaviour towards them. In future my client shall not be responsible for any other acts, deeds, etc.

Bhawna Jakhelia, Advocate

Enrl. No. D/447/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE  
My client Meena Sharma wife of Shri Kishan Avatar Sharma Resident of 662, Handi Pana Chowk, Alipur, Delhi -110036 has disowned and debarred her son Suraj Sharma and his wife Chanchal Sharma from her all movable and immovable properties in Delhi or elsewhere on wards and also severed her relationship with them with her free own will due to they beyond the control of my client and if any one deals with them at his/her/ their own risks and costs and my client will not be responsible.

VIRENDER SINGH (ADVOCATE)

CH.NO.711, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Rohini District Court, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE  
General Public is hereby informed that my client Shri Vijay Jolly S/o Late S.K. Jolly R/o. H.No. E-800, C.R. Park, New Delhi-110019 and his wife Smt. Deepika has severed all their relationship with their son namely Sh. Chetan Jolly and his wife Smt. Surbhi Jolly, R/o. H.No. K-2049, C.R. Park, New Delhi who they become disobedient and no longer in their control, they are living separately from 2016. My client has decided to remove him from their immovable and movable properties. Any one dealing with his/her at his own risk and my client shall not be held resible for any of their dealing. Call my third party in any transaction whatsoever.

YOGESH SHARMA (ADVOCATE)

CH. NO. 711, 7th Floor, Lawyers Block, Saket Court, Delhi - 110017

PUBLIC NOTICE  
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENT SH. MAHENDER SINGH (ADHAR NO.2289534448) S/O LATE RAM SAWROOP MEHTO, R/O A-366, MANGLAPURI PHASE - II, PALAM-110045, HAS DISOWNED AND DEBARRED HIS SON NAMELY UMESH KUMAR FROM ALL MOVABLE AND IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BECAUSE HIS BEHAVIOR IS NOT GOOD TOWARDS MY CLIENT. MY CLIENT HAVE SEVERED ALL RELATIONS WITH HIM. ANYONE DEALING WITH HIM MAY DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK, COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES. MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT OR OMISSION DONE BY HIM.

MAYANK SHARMA-ADVOCATE

CH. NO. 748, DWARKA COURTS, NEW DELHI-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Public at large are hereby informed that my client Smt. Sai Developers through their directors Mr. Harish Gautam son of Sh. Ram Khilari Gautam R/o WZ-126, On Vihar Ph. I, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 intend to sell their property with roof rights in the property bearing No. WZ-5 (known as WZ-38), Khasra No.-328, OM Vihar Phase I, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 owned by Mr. Lucky Jainman son of Sh. Mahender Prasad Jaman & Ms. Hemvati wife of Mr. Lucky Jainman, both residents of H.No. 92221 1st Floor, Gali No.-10, Kalash Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi 110031 (Buyer), against consideration of Rs. 1,03,09,040.42/-, and from the date of their documentary evidence at below address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that the said Property in entirety is free from all such claims, interest, charges, encumbrances etc.

Ravi Sachdeva (Advocate)

JRS Associates, B-38, Sector 40, Noida-201301 Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP)

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given that my client, Sanjeev Rajpal, s/o N D Rajpal is purchasing property number 773, Gali number 9, Shalimar Village, Delhi. along with the land underneath measuring 175.56 sq mtrs. with the right of upper stories construction up to 16 storeys in the sky (said property) from Mrs. Renu Jain w/o Sh. Surendra Jain & Sh. Manish Jain s/o Sh Surendra Jain, who have represented themselves to be the joint, absolute and exclusive owners of the said property and have further represented that the said property is free from all sorts of encumbrances (registered or unregistered) included but not limited to prior sale, mortgage, charge, lien, claim, dispute etc. Any other person(s) having any claim against, into it upon the said property, or any part there of by virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement, contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc or otherwise whatsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in writing with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days, from the publication of this notice, failing which the sale shall be concluded and any claim and /or objection, if any, shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client.

Advocate,

Sabyasachi Bhaduri

Enrno CD 282817

"Santwana" Shubham Vihar

Mungell Road, Bilaspur (C.G)

Mob : 9584150000

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold Entire Thery floor with entire terrace rights over and above ground floor alongwith space for one utility room & common W.C. in Still Area & Two Car Parking Space in Still Area, Plot No. 7, Block No. F, Measuring Area 210 Sq.Yards, Situated in the residential colony known as Green Park Extn, Delhi along with 22.5% undivided shareable & impartible ownership rights at present i/s are owned by my clients i.e. (1) Sh. Sumit Bhattacharya & (2) Smt. Kalpana Bhattacharya by virtue of Sale Deed duly Regd. vide Regd. No. 2922 dated on 28.05.2017. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, Firm / Company, Bank, Financial Institution having claim any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above are otherwise and/or objection there of, shallthey may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/Court Judgement within 15 days from the day of publication. Mithlesh Kumar (Advocate)

Ch. No. 711, District Courts Station, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE  
THIS IS for the information of general public that my client SMT. PRAGSHI RAI W/O LATE SHAMANGT RAI R/O C-192 HARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110064 has disowned and debarred her daughter, namely SANGEETA SHARMA W/o. LATE NARESH SHARMA and her both children ADITI SHARMA and AHIRI SHARMA from all her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect because of their constant fighting at home and outside and loss of my client mental peace, harassment, torture, cruelty, molesties committed by them against my client. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibilities thereon. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same. HK\_BABBAR-Advocate

Sd/-

Manish Dutt

Advocate

CHAMBER NO.1421

LAWYERS CHAMBER BUILDING,

ROHINI COURTS COMPLEX,

DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE  
"SH. ANAND KUMAR KHATRE, S/O SH. NARESH KUMAR, R/O 741, DHAGAD BHODU ROAD, BALANAGAR, NEW DELHI-110048 have sold the vehicle bearing no. DL-1UR-189453 to Mr. MAYANK KUMAR, CHASIS NO. MAT456818NBN4615. MAKE: S/O PREM RAY R/O HOUSE NO-A-29622, GALLI NO.24, PHASE-1, NEW MOUNT ROAD TO RAMPAL NAGAR DELHI-110094, through a sale affidavit dated 15/05/2020, bearing no. IN-DL4568151179060 and from the date of execution of sale my client is not responsible/liable for the chain of title and all other cases till date and in future i.e. from the day of registration of said affidavit and the said purchaser will be fully liable for tax, accident, insurance, any court cases etc.

Sd/-

Manish Dutt

Advocate

CHAMBER NO.1421

LAWYERS CHAMBER BUILDING,

ROHINI COURTS COMPLEX,

DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE  
To be known to all that I Rajiv Chaturvedi S/o Sh. D.C.Chaturvedi, R/o Flat No. 15, G.F. Block- C2C, Pkt-2, Pankha Road, Jarak Puri, New Delhi 110058, purchaser of flat No. 15, Floor GROUND, Block C2C, Category MIG in the scheme (area of Pankha Road, Jarak Puri, New Delhi) have applied for the Conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold vide application No. Dated 23.11.2020 in DDA. The original documents i.e. (i)ment-cum-Demand letter, (ii)Assession letter, NOC for electric and water connection and site Possession slip of the above flat have been lost. As per to this effect has been lodged in Police Station (LR No. 7517/2020) dated 23-11-2020.

Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No. 9516451015 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right/interest objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director L&S (Housing) or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Sd B.B.N.DEJO, ADVOCATE

RZJ/7233, West Sagar Pur, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE  
My client Sh. Sanjay Khanduja S/o Late Sh. Prem Kumar R/o U-52, Pitampura, Delhi severe all relations & debar his brother Girish Khanduja & his wife Smt. Vansha Khanduja from all movable-immovable property(s) due to their misbehaviour & indifferent attitude. Anybody deals with them shall do at his/her own cost & risk. My client will not be responsible for their any acts in present & future.

Sd/- RAHUL KADIAN

ADVOCATE

CH. NO. 333, 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR,

ROHINI COURTS, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE  
To be known to all that I Rajiv Chaturvedi S/o Sh. D.C.Chaturvedi, R/o Flat No. 15, G.F. Block- C2C, Pkt-2, Pankha Road, Jarak Puri, New Delhi 110058, purchaser of flat No. 15, Floor GROUND, Block C2C, Category MIG in the scheme (area of Pankha Road, Jarak Puri, New Delhi) have applied for the Conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold vide application No. Dated 23.11.2020 in DDA. The original documents i.e. (i)ment-cum-Demand letter, (ii)Assession letter, NOC for electric and water connection and site Possession slip of the above flat have been lost. As per to this effect has been lodged in Police Station (LR No. 7517/2020) dated 23-11-2020.

Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No. 9516451015 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right/interest objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director L&S (Housing) or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Sd B.B.N.DEJO, ADVOCATE

RZJ/7233, West Sagar Pur, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is made known to all public/ concerned that in addition to Press notification dt.14.05.2003 published in Veer Arjun and Affidavit dated 31.10.2011, my client Inder Paul Aggarwal, S/o Late R.K. Aggarwal, R/o CSD/69A, Janakpuri, New Delhi and all his relatives do hereby disown both major children Jayant Aggarwal and Radhika Aggarwal from their all relations and disinhernt both the above named children and their mother Uravshi from all types of moveable/ immovable properties, cash/bank balance, jewellery, terminal benefits etc., for past, present and future including all nominations. As despite serious efforts children are not ready to live/meet my client Inder Paul Aggarwal and are acting against my client and his family members in all advice of their mother/Uravshi and maternal family. Anybody deals with them at his/her own risk. My client or their relatives are not at all responsible for their acts.

Sd/-

ANIL KUMAR JHA

ADVOCATE

Chamber at- 117,

Second Floor,

Western Wing,

Tis Hazari Court

Contact- 9555902470

Email- aniljh@gmail.com

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



The CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorist outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:	
1. Name of Work with Its Location	Part-B: Electrification of left out sidings by RE in DLI-ROK-BTI section.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 52,85,892.19
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,05,700/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.12.2020 (00.00 Hrs.) to 17.12.2020 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.12.2020 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	EBR
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.iireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.: 19-TRD-NDL-S20-21 Dated 24.11.2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:	
1. Name of Work with its location	Part-A: Electrification of left out sidings by RE in TKD-PWL section
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,03, 09,040.42/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,01,600/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.12.2020 (00.00 hrs.) to 17.12.2020 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.12.2020 (15.00 Hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	EBR
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.iireps.gov.in">www.iireps.gov.in</a>
No.: 18-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated: 23.11.2020	
2626/2020	
Serving Customers with a Smile	



CROSSWORD 4285

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ACROSS

1 Tom sent round one in the club for cheese (9)

8 Rascal with a strange love urge (5)

9 Music hall medley (7)

10 Time when the hands come together (6)

11 Wizard flier (6)

12 Late find wildly exaggerated (8)

15 An enclosed place might be costlier (8)

18 Move that shortens the game a little? (6)

20 Toiler disposed to belie his nature (6)

21 Left in a state of wretchedness or very near (7)

22 Point to weak track of an animal (5)

23 A theatrical entrance (5,4)

DOWN

2 Saw notice on time (5)

3 Be idle perhaps but ready to eat (6)

4 Broke in to stab a plant expert (8)

5 A scoop for the gardening correspondent? (6)

6 Nimbleness of soldier in Italy on manoeuvres (7)

7 Protect a worker who is accused (9)

11 Lacking a game to play - or rivals (9)

13 Doing without because working (8)

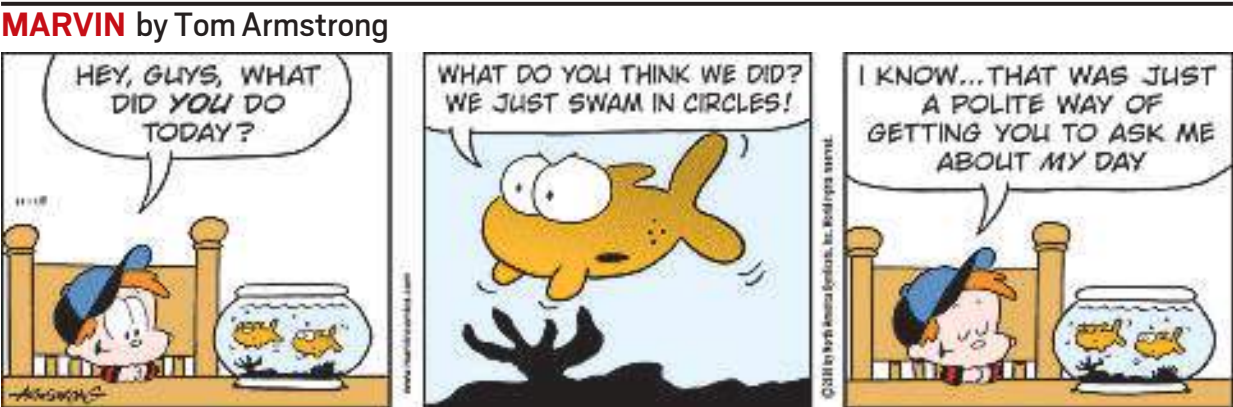
14 Computer screen helps teachers (7)

16 Cattle drives (6)

17 Threaten a devil with something conclusive (6)

19 See I go round a house in the north (5)

Solutions Crossword 4284: Across: 1 Get away, 4 Floor, 7 Turn, 8 Assuages, 10 Shake hands, 12 Sherry, 13 Capone, 15 Schooldays, 18 Partaken, 19 Hal, 20 Dowse, 21 Trinket. Down: 1 Gates, 2 Threaten, 3 Yes-man, 4 Found fault, 5 Orgy, 6 Respite, 9 Depreciate, 11 Tomhawk, 12 Slipped, 14 Honest, 16 Split, 17 Grow.



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

We secure our friends not by accepting \_\_\_ but by doing them. - Thucydides (7)

GVYAR

CRSYFU

KOPOS

AANTUV

Thucydides

Answer: We secure our friends not by accepting enemies but by doing them.

SUDOKU 4303

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4302

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

1 4 3

1 7 8 9

9 7 7

3 6 8

5 7 4

6 1 2

9 3 4 5

5 3

1 8 4 2 6 5 3 7 9

9 7 5 1 4 3 6 8 2

2 6 3 7 8 9 5 4 1

7 2 9 5 3 1 4 6 8

5 1 8 6 7 4 2 9 3

4 3 6 8 9 2 1 5 7

6 9 1 4 2 7 8 3 5

3 4 2 9 5 8 7 1 6

8 5 7 3 1 6 9 2 4

WATCO

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO.

Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,

H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India

C-224

Telefax: - +91-674-2391444

E-mail - mail@watcoodisha.in, md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

Bid Identification No. WATCO (W)-13/2020-21 Dtd. 23.11.2020

WATCO No. 3947 Date: 23.11.2020

1 Name of the work

- "Construction of Training -cum- Demonstration Center and development of Park at Septage Treatment Plant Basuaghai, Bhubaneswar."

2. Estimated cost

- Rs. 385.00 Lakh

3. Period of completion

- 6 (Six) Months.

4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal

- From 11.00 AM of Dt. 03.12.2020 to 5.00 PM of 17.12.2020

5. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal

- 5.00 PM of 17.12.2020.

6. Date & time of opening of technical bids

- 12.30 PM of 18.12.2020.

7. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid

- Managing Director, WATCO Telefax:- 0674-2391444. E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in, md@watcoodisha.in

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersodisha.gov.in."

(Managing Director)

WATCO

OIPR/13083/11/0015/2021

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No.: JHS/ELG/W/T-12/2020-21/RT

Dated: 20.11.2020

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General)

North Central Railway, Jhansi

Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), North Central Railway, Jhansi invites Open Tender through Online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

Description	Tender No.	Tender Value	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Closing date of tender
Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract for 02 nos. heavy duty Auto meters Alliance Ltd., (AAL) make escalators installed at Jhansi Railway Station on Platform no. 1 in Jhansi division for a period of three years i.e. 36 months.	JHS/ELG/W/T-12/2020-21/RT	3563658.72	71300/-	NIL	Three Years (36 months)	14.12.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.

Note:- (1) Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 14.12.2020 on 15.00 hrs. (2) Complete details & for submission of tender can be seen in Indian Railways website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

North central railway [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @ CPONCR

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII

SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI-110075

PRESS N.I.T. No. 5/EE(SDW)VIII/ (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost In Rs.	E/Money In Rs.	Tender fee In Rs.	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Construction of 15 MGD Effluent pumping station for water body/ lake at Pappankalan Dwarika	2,67,25,873/-	5,36,000/-	1500/-	Tender ID 2020_DJB_196887 Date: 23.11.20	15.12.2020 at 03:05 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 234/2020-21

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII

CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(विश्वकौशल कला औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

अद्वयार, चेन्नै, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, Tamil Nadu

दूरभाष Telephone : 91 - 44 - 24437162, 24437193, 24437420. ई-मेल Email : spo@clri.res.in

No. 2(312)/2013/Pur NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

25th November, 2020

CSIR-CLRI has advertised for Supply, installation and commissioning of Preparative Fast Pressure Liquid Protein Purification System with Multi wavelength detection and automatic Fraction Collector (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_61701\_1), Disc Stack Separator (Continuous Centrifuge) With Accessories (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62863\_1), High Pressure Homogenizer (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62868\_1), on CPP portal. Please visit [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) for further details. Details are also available on [www.clri.org](http://www.clri.org). A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 3.00 p.m. on 2nd December, 2020 at Heritage Hall, CLRI Chennai.

Stores & Purchase Officer

For & on behalf of COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(विश्वकौशल कला औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

अद्वयार, चेन्नै, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, Tamil Nadu

दूरभाष Telephone : 91 - 44 - 24437162, 24437193, 24437420. ई-मेल Email : spo@clri.res.in

No. 2(312)/2013/Pur NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

25th November, 2020

CSIR-CLRI has advertised for Supply, installation and commissioning of Over-Head Chain Conveyor for Drying of Leathers (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62769\_1), Conveyor drying unit (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62770\_1), Double Width Hydraulic Shaving Machine (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62771\_1), Reversible Semi-Hydraulic Sam-Set Machine (Tender ID - 2020\_CSIR\_62772\_1), Sammaying cum spray applicator machine (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62773\_1) Hydraulic plating / embossing machine (Tender ID-2020\_CSIR\_62774\_1) on CPP portal. Please visit [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) for further details. Details are also available on [www.clri.org](http://www.clri.org). A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 2nd December, 2020 at Heritage Hall, CLRI Chennai.

Stores & Purchase Officer

For & on behalf of COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)

CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (CSTS), BHUBANESWAR

8-3/79, Sector -A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-75

Phone No.: +91-0674-2588203/25887874, FAX : 0674-2588807

Email: cipetsa@gmail.com/mctci@cipet.gov.in, Website: www.cipet.gov.in

CPJET-CSTS/BBSR/Mould Base/2020-21/ 06

Date: 25.11.2020

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors/ Authorized Dealers for the supply of Injection Mould Base at CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar. Interested bidders may submit their quotation on or before 07.12.2020 at the above address. The other details are available at CIPET website - [www.cipet.gov.in](http://www.cipet.gov.in).

Dy Director & Head, CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar reserves right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.

Dy. Director & Head

नीलामी सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सचित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा परिवहन पब्लिक सर्विस बस स्टैण्ड पलवल/होडल/हथौन को दुकानों व साईकिल स्टैण्ड तथा स्कूटर/ मोटरसाईकिल एवं कार पार्किंग को नीलामी 01.01.2021 से 31.03.2022 तक की अवधि के लिए दिनांक: 18.12.2020 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे महाप्रबन्धक कार्यालय पलवल बस स्टैण्ड पर होनी निश्चित हुई है। नीलामी की शर्तों का विस्तृत व्यौरा रूप 500/- में दिनांक 07.12.2020 से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में भवन शाखा से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निम्नलिखित दुकानों, साईकिल स्टैण्ड तथा स्कूटर/मोटरसाईकिल एवं कार पार्किंग को लेने के इच्छुक सज्जन समय पर पहुँच कर बोली में भाग ले सकते हैं। दुकानों व साईकिल स्टैण्ड तथा स्कूटर/मोटर साईकिल एवं कार पार्किंग नीलामी दिनांक 18.12.2020 प्रातः 11:00 बजे स्थान बस स्टैण्ड पलवल।

बस स्टैण्ड पलवल/होडल/हथौन

क्र. सं.	दुकान का नाम	बेचे जानी वाली वस्तुएँ	बोली में शामिल होने के लिए अग्रिम राशि	समय अवधि
1	चाय-कॉफी कोल्ड ड्रिंक	चाय-कॉफी, विस्कुट, केक, मार्टी, समोसा, डेड पकोडा, बर्गर।	25000/- रु.	01.01.2021 से 31.03.2022
2	फास्ट फूड, फल-फूट एवं जूस	बर्गर, हाट-डॉग, पिज्जा, डोसा, चाय, कोल्ड ड्रिंक आदि।	25000/- रु.	01.01.2021 से 31.03.2022
3	साईकिल स्टैण्ड एण्ड पार्किंग	स्कूटर, मोटर साईकिल, कार, साईकिल आदि।	25000/- रु.	01.01.2021 से 31.03.2022
4	बन बजान टी स्टाल (उचित स्थान)	चाय, बिरिज्ज, आलू चिप्स व नमकीन।	25000/- रु.	01.01.2021 से 31.03.2022
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## 18 SPORT

## KOHLI, ASHWIN NOMINATED FOR PLAYER OF THE DECADE AWARD

The talismanic Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin were on Tuesday nominated for the coveted ICC Men's Player of the Decade Award with the Indian captain featuring in all five men's categories for his incredible run in the last 10 years. Kohli and veteran off-spinner Ashwin are the two Indians among seven players nominated for the most prestigious award. Besides the Indian duo, Joe Root (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Steve Smith (Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa), and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) are the other contenders in this category.

## Given option of picking kit, Team India goes for '92 World Cup look

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE INDIAN cricket team will go retro for the limited-overs series in Australia by donning the iconic dark-blue team kit from the 1992 World Cup, hosted jointly by Australia and New Zealand. The jersey with broad-coloured stripes across the shoulder has great recall value as it marked the introduction of coloured clothing, white balls and floodlights at a 50-over World Cup.

The Indian team had to do away with the lighter-blue jersey, various versions of which have been worn for nearly two decades, because a new kit sponsor has signed a three-year deal.

When India play Australia in the first One-Day International in Sydney on Friday, old-timers from the team of 1992 will cherish seeing the dark-blue kit back on the field. Former India wicketkeeper Kiran More, a

member of the '92 World Cup team, has preserved the jersey, which stands out because of its clean look in the absence of multiple sponsor logos and 'India' written across it in yellow.

More was pleasantly surprised and turned nostalgic when he heard the current generation of players, captained by Virat Kohli, opted for this kit when the BCCI consulted them before they left for the tour.

## Down memory lane

"I come across many people who agree that this was the best jersey of the Indian team. The colour is amazing and it is still fresh in people's minds. It was the first time we played a World Cup in coloured clothing and with the white ball. Ask any cricketer from my generation and they will say the 1992 World Cup jersey is the best. We had played in coloured clothing earlier but not at a World Cup," More told *The Indian Express*.

The Indian team will wear the retro kit



Kiran More poses with his 1992 World Cup jersey; The team captained by Azharuddin before a photoshoot; Opener Shikhar Dhawan tweeted a picture of him in the jersey from Sydney on Tuesday. Credit: Kiran More/Twitter



for the three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals before switching to whites for the Test series.

Opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan tweeted a picture of him in the jersey with the caption: "New jersey, renewed motivation, Ready to Go."

Last week, MPL Sports, the merchandise

brand of online gaming company Mobile Premier League, bagged the rights for three years after Nike decided to end its long-term association in September. A top BCCI official confirmed the new kit sponsor could not copy the 'design' used by Nike.

To avoid copyright violations, the BCCI and MPL offered the players different op-

tions. The players opted for the 1992 kit, which reached them in Australia on Tuesday.

"As MPL is a new sponsor, they cannot use a design similar to what the previous sponsor had. The MPL had sent us a few designs for the one-day kit, including the design from 1992. We asked the cricketers to give their opinion. They chose the one which was worn

by our players during the 1992 World Cup," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal said.

## Short-lived affair

The tryst with the 1992 kit for the current players won't be long term as the new sponsors will eventually come up with their own design, the BCCI official said. "As a new sponsor (MPL Sports), they will eventually have to come with a design of their own. They will have to use their own technology (for creating fabric)," Dhimal added.

The Indian team finished seventh in the round-robin stage winning just two games. More is remembered for riling up Pakistan's Javed Miandad with his appeals from behind the wicket, which saw the batsman jump up and down to mock him.

The below-par finish of the team does not take away any emotion attached to the jersey for More. "Other than the jersey, I even have the sweater," More said. "It is very precious to me."

## SHORT STORIES

Tracing the rise of talented game changers who are primed for their time in the sun during this Australian summer

## Ok Tested

Chahal has become a virtuoso in white-ball cricket, but his evolution suggests the leggie deserves a crack at the five-day game

SRIRAM VEERA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

YUZVENDRA CHAHAL captures our imagination because of what has captured his imagination. At the moment of the release of the ball, a spinner narrows the various geometric options available to him by instinct and imagination. The choices reveal the character and the skill. With Chahal, the question always was: is his art restricted to a clever response to an attack from a batsman? Can he induce mistakes in a batsman not looking to hit out? Or in other words, can he transcend from a limited-overs virtuoso to Tests? Does he have the nous, the patience, the skill, the craft, the temperament, and the fitness for it?

"I have only one big wish left: to play for India in whites, I am ready for Tests," Chahal voiced his desire to this newspaper last year. His own sparse first-class turnout doesn't help but increasingly, evidence suggests that he has grown enough to at least be tried.

Watching him bowl in recent times has been a brain-teaser. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Chahal uses the traditional leg-spinner's skillset to tackle the demands of modern-day cricket.

"He is ready for Tests," says Narendra Hirwani, former India leg-spinner and the spin coach at the National Cricket Academy. "He is at the last stage of evolution as a spinner. Ab improvement kya bacha hai? He is doing everything. He is reading the batsmen and the conditions. It's not about his foot, head, shoulder, elbow anymore. He is smart, and he is aware of what he can do. Shaana hai (he's shrewd)".

There was enough evidence, during the IPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore and over the past year, of Chahal's ability to produce the most effective ball from his repertoire against a batsman he wants to fox.

## The ego buster

Take the last over of the chase to Chris Gayle when he had to defend three runs against Kings XI Punjab. Gayle doesn't usually consider the arc from cover point to wide long-off as places to plunder runs against a leggie. He doesn't binge on inside-out lofted cover drives either. So, Chahal shifted his line to well outside off, from around the stumps. There was



Yuzvendra Chahal has the ability to produce the most effective ball from his repertoire against a batsman he wants to fox.

Suvajit Dey

neither drift nor dip, but Gayle was dragged out of his comfort zone. He watched the first ball turn into him from a length and without the pressing need to hit every ball, jabbed it to short midwicket. The second and third balls were things of beauty: full of imagination, dare, impishness. They were tossed up high, rather slowly and dangerously wide. And just about spinning back into legal boundaries. Gayle just gapes at the first one that nestles into the 'keeper's gloves and drags the other to the leg-side for a single. That line has been attempted by leggies before, but not the pace or trajectory; they are usually fired across, flat, fast, and away from the batsman. Not like this.

This was a tease to Gayle's ego, presented

in an out-of-comfort-zone framework. That combination is Chahal's speciality. The instinct of a limited-overs bowler, the vocabulary of a Test leg-spinner.

In that same over, there were two dot balls at KL Rahul as well, again tailored to perfection. Two slow heavily-side-spun leg-breaks, starting from middle stump. Chahal must have realised Rahul wouldn't think of coming down to him nor has the tendency. The only plausible alternative was slog-sweeping, but Chahal raised the risks with his off-stump line. So, Rahul tried cutting and both times, ended up chopping it to short cover. It was left to Nicholas Pooran to do what most batsmen loathe to do against Chahal: rush down the track for the

lofted hit to settle the issue. Even then, the final delivery was a magnificent rarity: a tossed-up loopy one, just that the left-hander was brave enough to charge out.

## The 'wider' one

Batsmen hesitate in rushing out to Chahal after they see others try it out disastrously. Like what happened to Wriddhiman Saha this IPL. He often uses his feet but it's not easy against Chahal as he can drift it further away from the off-stump. Sunil Gavaskar, on air, let out a deep-rooted appreciative cry of "beauty" when replays revealed the sensuous leg-break had rapidly dipped and turned after drifting away, beating Saha's expansive ambitions.

That outside-off line continues to be Chahal's most recognised feature. He has even named it a 'wider'. He doesn't merely push it wide as some spinners have done in the past; he drifts it away. A significant difference and the reason why batsmen fail to nail it.

Usually, the drift that a right-hander is used to is the one that comes in the air towards him, sometimes alarmingly drifting further down, opening him up and then suddenly turning sharply across him. This one is different. Right from the moment of its release, it's going the other way but because of the drift (as opposed to being thrown out wide) the batsmen seem to think they can reach it before it gets too far away from them. A fatal mistake.

Good batsmen end up being lured in. Like Sanju Samson this IPL. Just a little more contortion at the release, a slight opening up perhaps, but otherwise there was no real give-away. The cocked wrist uncoiled to the left, to the off-side, at release (rather than to the right or straight down) and the ball drifted away with furious revolutions. Samson started to adjust his downward bat swing, the ball kept drifting away, upsetting the timing and the point of impact on the bat, and slicing out as a miscued hit.

MS Dhoni was also similarly taken out. The drift makes the batsman wait that bit longer, a tough demand especially on the front foot as they start to stutter into tiny movements to balance themselves as the wait for the ball stretches. So, Dhoni took the other approach, in total contrast to Samson, to hit a similar ball. He chose to go down on his back knee to hold balance even as he reached out. But the drift isn't an easy beast to tame. In the end,

Dhoni was forced to lunge out a lot more than he had bargained for and couldn't get enough behind the hit, holing out to long-off.

It's a ball Chahal typically uses against big hitters, drags them away from their hitting positions, away from their comfort zones.

## The orthodox line

He pings the leg- and middle-stump line to batsmen not that good against leg-spin. "Those who have doubts in them, na, he uses that line," observes Hirwani. Doubts leads to stuttering steps as they gingerly open up and prod at it unsure of the extent of venom in the ball. In his six-for at MCG in January 2019, couple of Australians are swallowed up thus: Marcus Stoinis embarrassed and Jhye Richardson owned.

"Woh Handscomb ka wicket dekha?" Chahal asks. Of the six, he cherished that one. It's the moment Peter Handscomb, past his fifty and considered good against spin, ended up on a banana peel, stuttering and slipping as the ball skidded rapidly to trap him lbw.

It drifted in from well outside off-stump and swerved in towards middle. "I have always had that drift, that's key for me," Chahal says. Handscomb just about leaned forward when the drift made him stop and the left foot started to stutter out as he tried to hold balance. He did it reasonably well but the subsequent speed of the skidding ball that straightened was too much for him.

Or the time Chahal stumped Sam Billings, another batsman with a good reputation against spin, in 2018. It was a classic humiliator: big drift, sharp dip, and rapid turn. Billings was stranded way down the track, done in the air, desperately waving his bat across the line.

Off the field, Chahal is the kind of man who makes the accompanying photographer ask him to hop on to a suitcase placed on a dressing-table mirror and sit cross-legged after an interview. Without either an inhibiting self-consciousness or flagrant showmanship, Chahal wordlessly hopped on it and smiled. There is a level of maturity that only those capable of childishness can reach, critic Clive James wrote, and Chahal's Instagram moods reveal enough impishness while his bowling art showcases that increasing maturity. His time has come in Tests. Are the selectors tuned in?

## BRIEFLY

## NFL makes history with all-Black officiating crew

*Tampa (US)* : An all-Black officiating crew worked an NFL game for the first time in league history when the Los Angeles Rams faced the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Referee Jerome Boger led the crew, which also included umpire Barry Anderson, down judge Julian Mapp, line judge Carl Johnson, side judge Dale Shaw, field judge Anthony Jeffries and back judge Greg Steed. When the NFL announced the crew was being assembled last week, league executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent hailed the move a "testament to the countless and immeasurable contributions of Black officials to the game, their exemplary performance, and to the power of inclusion that is the hallmark of this great game."

## EPL: Fans to return from next week

*London* : Supporters are set to return to English Premier League games next week for the first time since March. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is allowing a return of spectators to sports stadiums as part of an easing of coronavirus restrictions when the national lockdown ends on December 2. A maximum of 4,000 fans will initially be allowed into venues in the areas with the lowest COVID-19 infection rates and up to 2,000 in the areas placed in the next tier of restrictions. The highest-risk areas still won't be allowed fans. Plans for the return of spectators in October were put on hold due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

## Griezmann denies rift with Messi

*London* : Barcelona forward Antoine Griezmann has dismissed talk of a rift with team mate Messi and said he had nothing to do with recent comments about the Argentine forward from his former agent and his uncle. Earlier, Griezmann's former agent Eric Olhats said Messi's "reign of terror" also, had made life difficult for Griezmann, while the French forward's uncle said it was not easy to play in the same club as the six-time Ballon d'Or winner. **AGENCIES**

## [ ISL WRAP: Rd 1 ]

## Youngest manager sets tone for the season

THE MASTERMIND of the biggest upset in the opening round of matches in the Indian Super League (ISL) is just 35 years old. 'Just', because he is a manager and not a player.

Grard Nus, the globe-trotting Spaniard who joined NorthEast United in August is the youngest manager ever in the ISL. And it did not take long for the former Ghana assistant coach, who started his career as the coach of Liverpool's academy, to make an impact.

NorthEast were the whipping boys of the last ISL season – winning only two out of the 18 matches and conceding twice the number of goals they scored. It was widely expected that they'd be rolled over in their opener by Mumbai City FC, one of the favourites this season who not only have a star-studded squad, but in Sergio Lobera they have a manager who has had success in India and abroad.

But Nus and NorthEast showed they wouldn't care about reputations. NorthEast played within their limitations but Nus organised them in such a way that Mumbai found it hard to break them despite dominating the first half.

A red card to Mumbai playmaker Ahmed Jahouh helped NorthEast's cause, but the fact that Mumbai did not manage a



Grard Nus, 35, took over the mantle at NorthEast United in August. NEFC/Twitter

single shot on target showed how disciplined NorthEast were and the precision with which they executed Nus's game-plan.

Incredibly, Nus is younger than the player who scripted an improbable comeback over the weekend for FC Goa.

Igor Angulo's goal-scoring reputation precedes him. He came to India after scoring nearly a hundred goals in the last four

years in Poland's top division. But the Spaniard had to fill the big void left at FC Goa with the departure of Ferran Corominas, one of the finest strikers to have played in India.

Angulo, 36, showed his class in the space of three second-half minutes against Bengaluru FC in the battle of the two title contenders. His goals in the 66th minute – a neat left-footed shot across the goal to beat Gurpreet Singh Sandhu – and the 69th minute – using his chest to score from a close-range – salvaged an otherwise average evening for Goa.

Given that almost one-third of the foreign players and seven out of 11 managers in the ISL this season are from Spain, it is hardly surprising that they had the biggest impact in the opening round.

And if first impressions are anything to go by, then a 35-year-old manager and a 36-year-old player will be the ones to watch out for this season.

**ROUND 2 FIXTURES:** Nov 25: FC Goa vs Mumbai City; Nov 26: Kerala Blasters vs NorthEast United; Nov 27: SC East Bengal vs ATK Mohun Bagan; Nov 28: Bengaluru vs Hyderabad; Nov 29: Jamshedpur vs Odisha

## Thapa, Brandon shine

Amidst the focus on the much-improved foreign signings across all teams, it is easy for an Indian player to go missing. But 22-year-old Anirudh Thapa reminded everyone why he is tipped to be one of the flag bearers of Indian football in the days to come.

Thapa, who has been one of the consistent performers for the last couple of seasons, became the first Indian goal scorer of the season – a stat that matters even now because the Indian players don't routinely find the back of the net. Thapa looked sharp in Chennaiyin's 2-1 win over Jamshedpur on Tuesday, and scored after only 47 seconds – a low, right-footed drive from just inside the box to find the bottom right corner.

Thapa's India teammate Brandon Fernandes was another Indian player who impressed. The FC Goa midfielder did not start the match for FC Goa due to a niggles he carried coming into the season, but his introduction against Bengaluru in the 57th minute turned out to be game-changing as he initiated the moves that led to both Goa goals

**MIHIR VASAVDA**

## BCCI asks CA to relax quarantine for Rohit, Ishant

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 24

ROHIT SHARMA and Ishant Sharma could play a part in the Test series in Australia as the BCCI is now in talks with Cricket Australia (CA) as regards to a relaxation in the quarantine rules for the players. According to a BCCI official, if the rules are relaxed, then Rohit and Ishant might reach Australia in time to be available for India's second and final tour game, against Australia 'A' in Sydney from December 11 to 13. As per the Australian government's general Covid protocol, a 14-day quarantine period is necessary upon reaching Australia.

"BCCI is in talks with CA, which in turn is negotiating with the Australian government about a relaxation in the quarantine rules (for the two players). If the rules are relaxed, then both Rohit and Ishant could be available for the (second) tour game," a BCCI official told *The Indian Express*.

Although the Australian government mandates a 14-day quarantine period for incoming travellers, there's a provision for exemption which is listed in the 'exemption category'. The Australian government's health advisory, as put out on the government website, says:

"The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) recognises some other travellers should be exempt from quarantine requirements as long as they take steps to mitigate risk. These travellers must apply for a quarantine exemption in line with state and territory requirements."

The BCCI and CA understandably are trying to take the 'exemption' route for Rohit and Ishant, as the Australian cricket body negotiates with the Australian government. During the Indian Premier League (IPL) also, the BCCI successfully negotiated with the government authorities in Abu Dhabi to relax the quarantine period for the English and Australian cricketers who went to United Arab Emirates (UAE) after playing a limited-overs series in England.

Rohit had suffered a hamstring injury during the IPL, while a ribcage injury ruled Ishant out of the tournament.

Both are doing their rehab at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) at the moment. The BCCI medical team is assessing the players and it is learnt that as of now, Rohit's fitness level is "70 per cent".

On Sunday, the Indian team head coach Ravi Shastri had spoken about how it was important for the two players to fly out to Australia in the next "three to four days".