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GROUP

**ASTRAZENECA ADMITS TO 'ERROR'**

Oxford vaccine viable even at 60-70% efficacy: Serum Institute

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, NOVEMBER 26

THE ASTRAZENECA-OXFORD vaccine candidate, even at the lowest efficacy of 60-70 per cent, is a viable one against the novel coronavirus, the Serum Institute of India (SII) said on Thursday.

SII has partnered with the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca for the manufacture and distribution of the vaccine candidate.

"Even though the lowest efficacy results are at 60-70%, it is a viable vaccine against the virus. That said, varied age groups with different dosage forms will result in slight variations and efficacy. We must be patient and not panic," SII said in a statement.

The statement — a couple of days before PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the company — comes amid an acknowledgment on Wednesday by AstraZeneca of a key error in the dosage received by some of the study participants of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate AZD1222 (named Covishield in India).

According to partial results

EXPLAINED**India trial results not in**

THE EFFICACY results of AstraZeneca were based on trials being conducted in the United Kingdom and Brazil. It does not include the trials of the same vaccine being conducted by the Serum Institute in India. The results of the Indian trials are expected to come out in December.

announced on Monday from ongoing trials in the UK and Brazil, the vaccine showed a striking difference in efficacy, depending on the amount delivered. A regimen of two full doses given a month apart was 62 per cent effective while participants who received half a dose of the vaccine in the first round and then

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**EXPLAINED****SIMPLY PUT**
TAKEAWAYS FROM OXFORD ERROR
PAGE 15

Protesting farmers at the Punjab-Haryana border, in Shambhu, Patiala, on Thursday. Harmeet Sodhi

'DELHI CHALO' AGAINST FARM LAWS

Farmers cross barricades, water jets; Tomar, Rajnath offer talks

Protesters take over roads to Delhi; Amarinder, Khattar spar on Twitter

SUKHBIR SIWACH, RAAKHI JAGGA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

ASTHOUSANDS of farmers from Haryana and Punjab took over national and state highways leading to Delhi on Thursday. Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Rajnath Singh appealed for calm and invited them for talks.

After braving water cannon and lathis, and casting aside barricades, protesters on the march

against the three new central farm laws were camping for the night on the highways.

A large group of farmers, mainly from Haryana, were at Panipat toll plaza, some 65 km from the Delhi border on the Delhi-Ambala highway; another group of mainly farmers from Punjab was camping at Karnal, 100 km from the Delhi border on the same highway.

A third, smaller group was moving on the Delhi-Sirsa highway, and had reached Hansi in Hissar district, some 115 km from the Delhi border. Swaraj India

president Yogendra Yadav was detained at Bilaspur village in Gurgaon while leading a group of protesters on the Delhi-Jaipur highway.

As they converge on Delhi from multiple directions, the farmers are prepared for the long haul. Their tractor trolleys are laden with rations and bedding. They are also on trucks, buses, and jeeps; many are marching

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**MORE REPORTS**

PAGES 3, 7

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



Foreign Secy meets Nepal PM as Delhi moves to repair ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

IN THE first high-level diplomatic visit to Nepal since the slide in ties after the boundary row this summer, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla reached Kathmandu Thursday and met the country's leaders including Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

Sources said that Foreign Secretary's discussions with Oli — they had a one-on-one meeting, apart from the delegation-level talks — included a "candid review of the state of the bilateral relationship", and the potential for bringing India and Nepal closer.

Oli, Indian sources said, conveyed Nepal's desire to build on the momentum in the bilateral



Harsh Vardhan Shringla

EXPRESS NETWORK**RAJNATH: TALKS ON WITH CHINA, NO NATION SHOULD BE EXPANSIONIST** PAGE 7

relationship and enhance the level of engagement.

Sources said the special relations between India and Nepal, and the importance of "respecting each other's sensitivities" were noted during the meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tech reliance during Covid has led to new inequality, says CJI

Unfair criticism of Constitutional bodies: Justice Ramana

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

CHIEF JUSTICE of India S A Bobde said Thursday that the "pandemic has been the biggest challenge in delivering unhampered justice to the common man", and urged the government to look for solutions for a "new kind of inequality" that has emerged from justice becoming "technology dependent".

The CJI was speaking at an event organised by the Supreme



CJI spoke at an event to mark Constitution Day

Court to commemorate Constitution Day that was attended by President Ram Nath Kovind and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

In his welcome address, Justice N V Ramana, the second most senior judge in the apex

court, spoke of the "unfounded criticism" that Constitutional institutions were facing and said the only answer was to work hard to fulfill Constitutional duty.

"There is a trend of unfair and unfounded criticism against our Constitutional institutions. Such criticism destroys the public trust, which harms the foundation of democracy. The only answer for this criticism is to work hard to fulfill our Constitutional duty. Nothing should deter us," Justice Ramana said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Cracks widen in Trinamool after minister Adhikari quits key office

ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 26

RUMBLINGS WITHIN the ruling TMC in West Bengal came to the fore Thursday when minister Suwendu Adhikari resigned as chairman of the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC), and party MP Kalyan Banerjee was named to the post with immediate effect.

Minister for transport, irrigation and water resources, Adhikari has been distancing himself from the TMC for several months now, organising programmes without the party banner. Posters of 'Amra Dadar Anugami' (We are the followers of Dada) have been put up by his supporters at several places, and there's intense speculation that he may leave the TMC for BJP ahead of the Assembly elections in West Bengal next year.

Adhikari was not available for comment Thursday, but a close aide, who is also a TMC leader,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Police cars, campaign crunched, a candidate steps out of J&K cold



Choudhary Mohammad Yaseen Poswal, an independent candidate, campaigns in Tral. Shuaib Masoodi

NAVEED IQBAL
ARIPAL (PULWAMA), NOVEMBER 26

AT 10 AM, Choudhary Mohammad Yaseen Poswal emerges from the security blanket over the EDI building in Pampore on the outskirts of Srinagar. A candidate in the first ever District Development Council elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Poswal is the only civilian in the mini-convoys of two vehicles with armed policemen.

With two days to go for the first phase, and criticism from the mainstream PAGD alliance of being kept away from the electorate, the candidates are flanked by secu-

rity personnel and chaperoned to their constituencies.

This is the first step in the Central government's bid to restart the political process in the newly created Union Territory with elections to 280 constituencies — 140 each in Kashmir and Jammu — starting November 28. But

on the ground, there are no posters, no party flags, and very little talk about the polls.

The only sign of an election are security vehicles passing by. Moving swiftly, they take 44-year-old Poswal, an independent candidate, to Aripal tehsil in the Tral area of Pulwama, about 70 km south. Off the main road, is an open field of boulders, after which the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Two Armymen killed in J&K firing, hunt on for gunmen

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26

TWO SOLDIERS of the Army's Quick Reaction Team succumbed to bullet injuries Thursday afternoon after two militants opened indiscriminate fire at a convoy deployed on the road at Zainakote in Srinagar's suburbs, less than 2 km from the headquarters of the counter-insurgency Kilo Force.

J&K Police sources told *The Indian Express* that a joint search operation has been launched to nab the gunmen who were armed with automatic weapons, wearing combat fatigues and travelling in a Maruti car in the high-security zone. Police suspect that the attackers were Pakistani terrorists from the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

"Terrorists fired indiscriminately at the Quick Reaction Team of Indian Army in Aban Shah Chowk, HMT, Khushipora, Srinagar today afternoon. Two soldiers were critically injured and were evacuated to the nearest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**EXPRESS NETWORK****MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE: COX & KINGS PROMOTER HELD**
PAGE 8**WORLD****TRUMP PARDONS FORMER NSA MICHAEL FLYNN**
PAGE 16**PAGE 1 ANCHOR****PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**
PUNE, NOVEMBER 26

THE COVID-19 lockdown couldn't have come at a more inopportune time for Amol Gorhe, who was in the middle of expanding his Greenfield Agro Limited business. Eventually, Gorhe proved the best man at the worst time, as he kept his business of delivering fresh supplies from Nashik fields to doorsteps in Thane and Navi Mumbai running through those days — not just helping many prevent unnecessary Covid risks, but also averting job and other losses



for many.

Every year since 2016, *The Indian Express* has been marking the 26/11 terror attacks on Mumbai with stories of strength and a public event showcasing the spirit of the survivors. This year, the ones who most powerfully epitomise that spirit are the corona warriors, women and men at the frontlines against Covid-19.

Nashik-based Gorhe started



A Greenfield team in Navi Mumbai during the lockdown. Express

Greenfield Agro in 2012. "As a third-party auditor for export houses, I realised that scientifically grown and healthy vegetables were not easily available to our domestic consumers. Such produce

would mostly leave for overseas markets," he says.

Gorhe found success early, building a dependable value chain, and a business with annual earnings of around Rs 70 lakh.

"As the next step, we were planning an app-based service which would allow consumers to pre-order, which would help farmers grow their produce accordingly," he says.

Then came the lockdown in end-March. "As the supply chain for essentials stopped abruptly, firms like ours were asked by the state government to step in. The challenges were immense but the

government trusted us due to our experience and goodwill."

Gorhe's primary concern was ensuring the safety of delivery boys, drivers, etc going to doorsteps at a time when Covid was new and Mumbai and its suburbs among the worst-hit. Masks, sanitisers and gloves became a part and parcel of Greenfield Agro's delivery SOP, along with packed water bottles and tiffins to ensure the employees didn't have to stop for anything on the way.

"Our people would go right into buildings where there were suspected cases. There were instances of societies not disclosing they had patients on their prem-

ises," he says.

On average, Greenfield Agro managed to deliver three-four tonnes of essentials like fruits, vegetables, pulses daily.

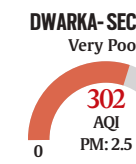
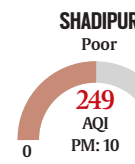
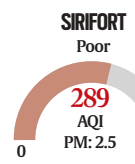
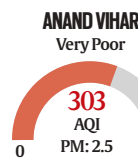
Realising that daily wage earners like newspaper delivery boys were out of work, Gorhe, whose orders had shot up, decided to hire them. "We trained them and now they are getting calls from other players needing them."

The 40-year-old is grateful that not a single person in his team contracted the infection. He is also grateful for the lesson the experience taught him, he says. "Re-look at the way we live and concentrate on what I call the essentials".



New Delhi





0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKY WATCH
FORECAST
Mainly clear sky.
Mist in the morning

MAX: **25.0** MIN: **8.0**
0.6°C below normal 1.9°C below normal

PROTEST AGAINST NEW FARM LAWS

At Delhi borders, police wall manages to slow down marching farmers

SAKSHI DAYAL,
JIGNASA SINHA &
ABHINAV RAJPUT
GURGAON, DELHI,
NOVEMBER 26

HEAVY POLICE deployment was seen at several borders of the national capital through Thursday as farmers from Haryana and Punjab moved towards Delhi to join the protest against the new farm laws.

To slow their commute, Metro services from NCR areas to Delhi were also suspended after police asked that entry be restricted at stations.

And Friday promises more of the same.

"Update for tomorrow (Friday). As advised by Delhi Police, Metro services will be available only from Delhi towards the NCR sections. However, services from the NCR stations towards Delhi will not be available due to security reasons till further notice," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) tweeted.

Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava visited the borders in the afternoon. "Due to Covid-19, public gatherings are not permitted here. The farmers' request was rejected. If they still make an attempt, we have deployed personnel at the borders to not let them enter the national capital. We are also in contact with Punjab and Haryana Police," he said.

"Since farmers have blocked the highway, there are going to be some problems. We will try to sort it out," he said of traffic snarls at border areas.

Barricades, boulders and barbed wire were used by police to keep the farmers out. At Singhu border, hundreds of personnel from the Rapid Action Force, Central Reserve Police Force and Delhi Police were deputed, along with a



Police deployed at Singhu border on Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

small group of farmers from Haryana entered Delhi last night and planned to protest in Delhi but we can't allow that."

In North Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila, police detained several farmers protesting near gurdwaras and on the main roads.

At the Delhi-Sirhaul border, where over 100 police personnel had been deployed, the entire carriageway was barricaded and vehicles were allowed to pass through in a single lane. "Security has been

heightened from our end and in Delhi as well, so there is a backlog of traffic. Traffic has been slow moving but there has not been any situation of traffic jams," said DCP (west) Deepak Saharan.

Meanwhile, Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav was taken into "preventive custody" by Gurgaon Police as he tried to march towards the capital in the morning. "We have taken him and 10-12 others into preventive custody from near Rathiwas village, just off NH-48," said DCP (Manesar) Nitika Gahlaut.

Speaking to the media, Yadav claimed that other protestors who were meant to assemble at Bilaspur from adjoining districts of Rewari and Nuh at 11.30 am had been stopped by police near Dharuhera and the Tauru road. "We were joining our friends at the Bilaspur toll plaza but police intercepted us... We had decided to not indulge in any clashes with police at any cost; we would stop where we were stopped and do a peaceful demonstration there," he said.

"On this Constitution day, the minimum decree of the Constitution is being broken and farmers are not being allowed to raise their voices in the capital of this country," he said.

Avil Saha, national convenor of the Jai Kisan Andolan, said farmers will reach Jantar Mantar quietly: "They have taken an oath and will complete it — which is that the government should take back this Act. They can delay this march but not stop it."

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MAMC to reopen for students by Dec 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

FOLLOWING THE Union Health Ministry's directives, the Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) under the Delhi government has initiated the process of reopening the medical institute by December 1. All educational institutions in the country have been closed since March in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

A notice issued by the dean of the medical college on November 26 states that the institute is working out the implementation plan for phase-wise rejoining of students. In a letter sent on November 25 to states and UTs to reopen medical colleges, health secretary Rajesh Bhushan advised that sufficient number of Covid beds be available in medical college hospitals to facilitate undergraduate medical training. The Union Health Ministry has asked state governments to initiate steps to reopen medical

A notice issued by the dean of Maulana Azad Medical College on November 26 states that the institute is working out the plan to implement phase-wise rejoining of students

colleges from December 1 or before.

"As the college has to follow the SOPs and guidelines issued by the Central and state governments with regards to protection to be taken for the prevention of Covid-19 infection, the college is working out on the plan," the notice stated.

The medical students of MAMC who work at its associated hospitals such as Lok Nayak, GB Pant and Guru Nanak Eye centre have been requesting authorities to begin their medical education.

Ghazipur landfill fire: Summons issued to EDMC commissioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE DELHI assembly committee on environment has summoned East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) commissioner over the fire that broke out at the Ghazipur landfill site Wednesday. It took almost 24 hours to control the fire at the site.

Committee chairperson Atishi said the committee will hold its sitting Friday. The committee will also visit the landfill site after its sitting, Atishi said in a statement.

"The sitting has been called to know the reason behind the poor waste management of the EDMC, why garbage continues to be dumped on the landfill site, and who is responsible for the fire that broke out at the site. Stringent action must be taken against the authorities responsible for the fire," she said.

"The pollution levels in Delhi go up in October and November due to stubble burning in the neighbouring states, which leaves people in the city choking. The air quality of Delhi has improved in



It took over a day to control the fire. Praveen Khanna

the last five-six days, mainly since the incidents of stubble burning have decreased in the neighbouring states," she claimed.

BJP, meanwhile, called the summons a gimmick.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "AAP government has failed Delhi on pollution control. It first tried to blame stubble burning in other states for pollution in Delhi and is now trying to shift the blame on accidental fire at Ghazipur for the last 2 days of poor air quality."

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With the help of live streaming/telecast of re-draw proceeding on youtube live. Due to ongoing situation of Covid-19 pandemic, restriction were imposed by Ministry of Home Affairs, over public gathering in order to prevent spreading of corona virus disease.
As per MHA/ DTCP Haryana Guidelines re-draw shall be conducted with maximum strength of 50 persons including re-draw committee and staff at site, remaining applicant shall participate in re-draw online after login into below provided link on YouTube live.
YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SignatureGlobal>
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Water supply may be affected today

New Delhi: A spike in ammonia levels in the Yamuna could affect water supply in parts of the capital Friday, including Central, South and New Delhi areas, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said Thursday.

A statement issued by the DJB said the level of ammonia was increasing at the Wazirabad pond, which is expected to affect production at Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants.

"Water may be available at low pressure Friday morning and evening and so on till the ammonia level in the river reduces to treatable levels," the statement said.

DJB officials said ammonia level at the Wazirabad pond was 0.7 ppm at 9pm but was about 12ppm upstream of the river near North Delhi's Palla, against the acceptable level of 0.5 ppm. The DJB has the capacity to treat 0.9 ppm of ammonia. **ENS**

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The candidates desirous to take admission in the university school and its affiliated institutes for the regular academic programme - **MBA (Code-101)** are informed that the admission in the programme will be given on the basis of **Common Admission Test (CAT) 2020**. The desirous candidates seeking admission in the MBA programme of the university and its affiliated institutes for the session 2021-22 are advised to apply for the **CAT 2020**.
Online registration for MBA programme for the academic session 2021-22 will start from **08th December 2020**. For further details in this regard, kindly visit the university website www.ipu.ac.in
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From 26/11 to Covid-19 INDIA FIGHTS BACK
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Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences
Chief Guest
Shri Uddhav Thackeray
Chief Minister of Maharashtra
Featuring
Shri Amitabh Bachchan
A musical tribute by
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4 THE CITY



		Total		Vacant
TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		9,227
5,51,262		VENTILATORS		1,475
		Deaths		203
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Nov 25	5,246	5,361	99	61,778
Nov 26	5,475	4,937	91	63,266
Total	38,734*	5,03,717	8,811	60,39,703

Total active cases

3-STOREY BUILDING TO BE CONVERTED

Rajiv Gandhi hospital to double up as Covid vaccine storage centre

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

A THREE-STOREY building in the premises of the Delhi government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital will be converted into a Covid-19 vaccine storage centre, hospital director Dr B L Sherwal told *The Indian Express* Thursday.

Dr Sherwal said the centre, which will occupy a space of about 5,000 square metres, is likely to be made functional by mid-December. The decision was taken following a review of the building by a team of the National Health Mission.

The hospital is located in Tahirpur, near East Delhi's Dilshad Garden.

Dr Sherwal said the three-storey utility block of the hospital, which has 500 beds for Covid-19 patients, has been found suitable to be used as a vaccine storage facility by the Centre: "They require about 5,000 square metres of space. The entire building will be used and is likely to be made operational by December 15-16."

The building's electricity feed will be modified to meet the requirements of refrigerators that will be used to store the vaccine. While the ground and first floors will be initially used by the National Health Mission, the second floor is also likely to be utilised by them, Dr Sherwal said.



The centre is likely to be made functional by mid-December

The Centre had recently asked states and union territories to review cold storage and refrigerated vans used for the already existing universal immunisation programme. Under the programme, around 28,000 cold chain points are used, along with 700 refrigerated vans.

Five vaccine candidates are in various stages of trial in India under the Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech, Zyudus Cadila, Russian Sputnik - V in collaboration with Dr Reddy and Biological E respectively.

Serum Institute of India, which is testing and manufacturing the Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate, has said it will apply for emergency marketing authorisation of the vaccine in a little over a month. The vaccine being manufactured by them can be

stored at temperatures between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius.

The Centre has also drawn up a plan under which the first dose of vaccine, whichever candidate is available, will first be administered to 1 crore healthcare workers across the country.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also made a similar suggestion recently. "The distribution plan is being drafted by the Centre. If they seek my suggestion, I would say everyone is equal and every life is important. Corona warriors should be

picked for the first dose so that they continue to fight the pandemic with courage. Then, vulnerable segments like senior citizens should be covered followed by those with co-morbid conditions," he had said at a media conclave.

'GOVT TO DECIDE ON NIGHT CURFEW, OTHER MEASURES WITHOUT LOSING TIME'

Delhi ramped up RT-PCR testing after prodding, many lives lost: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE DELHI High Court Thursday said it took pushing and prodding from the court to make the Delhi government ramp up RT-PCR Covid testing in the national capital, but it has come at the cost of people's lives. The court said it was for the Delhi government to take a call whether night curfew is required to be imposed in Delhi or some parts, or if some other measures need to be adopted.

The capital Thursday reported 91 new deaths, taking the toll to 8,811, and 5,475 cases, taking the total case count to 5,51,262.

"At what cost? Take the number of deaths that have taken place this month and you will see the cost that people have paid for you to bring up your number of testing through RT-PCR," observed the division bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad, in response to a government submission that more than 40,000 samples were taken on Wednesday for RT-PCR testing.

When the state attempted to compare figures of other cities, the court said, "What solace is it for those who have lost their family members and loved ones that the comparative rate of death is lower in Delhi as compared to other states."

On whether Delhi was taking any cue from other states, which are imposing night curfew or weekend lockdown, senior advocate Sandeep Sethi submitted that the government was considering what kind of curfew could be imposed. "We are taking a holistic view," submitted the government,



Covid testing underway at New Delhi railway station, Thursday. Amit Mehra

adding it would come to a conclusion in the next couple of days.

However, when the court asked if the government was proposing to impose the curfew as recommended by the Centre, it submitted: "We are still actively considering it. There is no decision to impose or to implement it."

The court asked, "as active as the Covid spread?", to which the government counsel responded that there has been a substantial improvement and it is only a matter of taking up the challenge on a day-to-day basis and passing appropriate orders. The Centre submitted that it was for the Delhi government to take a call on imposing night curfew.

In the order, the court, with regard to night curfew or other measures required to be adopted to contain the virus, said, "Delhi government shall take a decision on this and implement the same

without losing further time."

The court also asked it to take concrete steps in each district to involve market associations and RWAs to spread the message about maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and taking other necessary measures to prevent Covid infection.

It also questioned the state on measures being taken for random checking of weddings to ensure there is no violation of the order limiting the number of guests to 50. "What is your protocol? This is the season where several marriages are being conducted and are in the pipeline. To make sure such marriage venues don't become super spreaders, you have to have protocol in place," said the court.

It asked the state to place on record data regarding complaints received and inspections carried out which revealed violations, after the government said

a procedure has already been laid out for enforcement.

The court asked the state and Delhi Police to inform it about fines collected under different heads from violators of Covid norms, and steps taken to utilise them for Covid facilities and fighting the infection.

It also said that in today's time, handing over of cash is to be avoided and suggested that there should be an online mode for collection of fines from violators. "If you don't have a portal, you should create one," said the court.

The bench further said it would be appropriate that names and numbers of Grade-I officers posted in the 33 major private hospitals, along with senior nursing officers, be made available at reception centres of hospitals for any person to approach them for assistance, besides help desks that hospitals have been directed to set up by the state.

BRIEFLY

Constable fires at ground to stop angry crowd, 1 injured

New Delhi: A 40-year-old woman was injured after a Delhi Police constable, who was surrounded by locals, allegedly fired four bullets inside a locality in Rohini. The constable, Punit Sharma, had received a call Wednesday about a fight between neighbours and went to resolve it. However, police said locals surrounded him and started to misbehave, following which he allegedly fired four bullets on the ground, one of which hit the woman, Madhu (40), on her foot. Police said Sharma fired in self defence. A case has been filed against neighbours for harming Sharma while on duty.

2 held for fraud

Noida: Two persons were arrested for alleged fraud over installation of a telecom network tower. According to police, the accused allegedly duped Rs 1 lakh after promising rental money from a tower that would be installed in the complainant's house. **ENS**

1,300 issued challans in Noida

New Delhi: Nearly 1,300 people were issued challans across Noida and Greater Noida Thursday for not wearing face masks in public places, Gautam Budh Nagar police said.

Drones to track leopard

Ghaziabad: Ghaziabad administration has deployed drone cameras to trace a leopard which disappeared in the campus of Ingraham Institute, an educational institute, three days ago. The leopard vanished in the forested campus after injuring a gardener. **PTI**

Notice to CPWD over tree removal, transplanting in non-designated area

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

A SHOW cause notice was issued to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Thursday by the Delhi forest department to explain why trees removed for construction of the new Parliament building and approved for transplantation in the Central Vista area were planted elsewhere, forest officials said.

The CPWD was given permission by the department in October to remove 404 trees from the site of the new Parliament building, adjacent to the current Parliament House, and transplant them in eight pockets in the Central Vista area. Forest officials said it was brought to their notice that some of these trees — aged 5 to 50 years — were transplanted in an eco-park being developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation in Badarpur, close to Delhi's border with Haryana.

A forest department official, on condition of anonymity, said, "We have asked CPWD to confirm this violation and explain the circumstances under which it happened... We will take action as required under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994."



Trees uprooted from near Parliament being taken away for replantation. Anil Sharma

A senior CPWD official, connected with the Central Vista redevelopment project, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that "some large trees" removed from the site of the new Parliament building were transplanted in the eco-park.

The official said on condition of anonymity, "The decision was taken after a lot of deliberations with experts and exploring all other options. The site is ultimately an eco-park and we decided to transplant some trees there because there are space constraints in the Central Vista complex."

"We transplanted some

smaller trees within the Central Vista complex and some larger trees in the eco-park because they need more space and here they will be in an 800-acre park, which is also a Government of India project. We will send a clarification about this to the forest department," the official said.

According to permission granted to the CPWD, it was also asked to plant 4,040 tree saplings of indigenous species and of 6-8 feet height as compensation for the 404 trees removed for building the new Parliament. These 4,040 trees were also required to be planted in eight pockets in the Central

Vista area.

The senior CPWD official said about compensatory plantation, "It may have to be done there (eco-park) as no technically suitable and adequate land is available around (Central Vista). We will decide appropriately."

A forest official said, "Under the Act, there is fine on the death of a tree. At present, there appears to be a violation... The CPWD should have informed us before changing the area for transplantation. We will hear the circumstances under which they changed the area and inspect the site to see if transplantation has been done in the proper manner."

The number of trees removed for transplantation is also higher than what was mentioned to the Central Environment Ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) in seeking environmental clearance for the project.

A letter from the Ministry dated June 17, which communicated the grant of environmental clearance to CPWD, mentioned, "Project proponent has also informed the EAC that 333 trees exist at plot number 118 (New Parliament building plot). Out of these, 100 trees to be retained and 233 trees to be transplanted and no trees will be cut."

'Confession leak': Court tells police not to brush it aside

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE DELHI High Court Thursday gave a week's time to Delhi Police to submit a status report on the vigilance inquiry conducted into the alleged leaking of a confession statement of an accused in a Northeast Delhi riots case. It also asked police to indicate further steps they propose to take.

Delhi Police counsel Amit Mahajan earlier submitted before the bench of Justice Vibhu Bakhrui that the vigilance probe, with regard to leaking of confessional statement from the case diaries, has concluded. The court asked police to make sure the report is not "something brushed under the carpet" or it will have to pass a direction.

"What is the next step after vigilance inquiry? It can't be that

a document got leaked," observed the court during the hearing of a petition filed by Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, against leaking of the "disclosure statement" of his alleged confession by police to the media. Tanha has been in judicial custody since May. In its previous hearings, the court had asked Zee News to disclose the source from where it got the statement, after police asserted that none of its officials had leaked the same.

Advocate Siddharth Aggarwal, who represents Tanha, Thursday submitted that the damage, by publishing such a statement when his bail was pending, has been done. "I cannot undo that but it is for this reason that the punishment and penalty is the only way for future deterrence," he argued, adding that the publication could not have been done even at post-chargesheet stage.

However, the bench observed that it is a double-edged sword to look into as in some judgments, courts have said you require full reporting, even when the prosecution has been against reporting. "Reporting in some cases would be necessary... the trial has to be an open trial, except in circumstances requiring otherwise," it said.

Aggarwal submitted, "An open trial inside a courtroom, but not in the realms of studios where they are going to talk about taking my name, saying that I have made (a) confession, reading that confession as if that is the only part of the chargesheet."

He added that an inadmissible document was touted on national television as a by-product of investigative journalism, and argued that the state owes a duty to the court as to what they have done and found after their probe.

Ye gundagardi hai: Court to Rajasthan police for forcibly taking away woman

SOFIA HASAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE DELHI High Court Thursday termed Rajasthan Police's action of taking away a 26-year-old woman from Delhi against her will as "gundagardi" and directed the state government to take appropriate action in the matter after conducting an enquiry.

A team of Rajasthan Police had Tuesday forcibly taken away Sheena Choudhary from Delhi's Jamia Nagar, purportedly to record her statement in a case registered there by her father alleging her kidnapping, abduction to compel for marriage and wrongful confinement. Choudhary had earlier told Delhi police her family was forcing her to get married and she left home because of it.

On Thursday, in accordance

The court asked the woman's family not to contact her

with court orders, she was produced before the division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar.

Addressing a team of Rajasthan police during a virtual hearing of the petition seeking her release, the court questioned them for taking her away like an accused and reminded them the statement could have been registered in accordance with the law in Delhi. "She was not a minor. She is educated," the court said, adding, "*Ye gundagardi hai; police ka kaam nahi hai*".

Calling police action of forcibly taking her away from

NGO ANHAD's office in Delhi as unjustified, the court said appropriate action would have been to produce her before a local magistrate here.

Choudhary told the court that when she saw her uncle and police officials Wednesday, out of fear she started running in the by-lanes of the locality where she was, and was suddenly pushed into a car by a male police officer when she reached the main road. She told the court the officer came with open arms and was not in uniform. She further said her phone was taken away and the police team consumed liquor on the way to Dholpur.

The court said if the allegations are true, they raise very serious issues with regard to the working of the police force, and called for an investigation and appropriate action. The court said it

was not open for the male police officer to forcibly push a woman into the car: "She was not an accused but is stated to be a victim."

She also told the court that she wants to keep in touch with her family on her own terms. Her father earlier told the court that everyone in their family is well educated and they have encouraged their children to pursue higher studies. His daughter has not been able to communicate properly to them about the issue of marriage, he said.

However, Choudhary told the court she has said it hundred times. The court told her father she is a responsible daughter and they cannot use force against her.

The court directed Delhi Police to drop her at the residence of an activist, as per her wishes, and also asked her family not to contact her.



Devangana Kalita

not grant bail if the perusal of the case diary or report... is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds to believe the accusation against such person is not a conspiratorial allegation per se but allegation of conspiracy backed by facts on such persons is prima facie true," Pujari told the court.

He also told the court that there were discrepancies in the chargesheets filed against Kalita: "In this chargesheet, police is quite clear in saying that our plan was to do a *chakka jam* and we completely blocked Jafraabad road under the Metro. The interesting point is that the chargesheet which relates to blocking of Jafraabad Metro has nothing to do with blocking of entire road..." Pujari told the court that he

will "actually admit to a pre-planned conspiracy to protest against CAA and to hold dharnas. Because there still has to be a causal nexus between the dharna and the violence. Have I given any incendiary speeches?"

He went on to argue that police failed to establish a credible link between Professor Apoorvanand and Kalita: "This big brouhaha created on the aspect that the Pinjra Tod girls are agents of Mr Apoorvanand. I would request with folded hands to the SPP to indicate one call between Apoorvanand and Devangana..."

Pujari further told the court, "This is a chargesheet where sentences are written as if they are pleadings. They are saying Umar Khalid, the veteran of sedition... It cannot be that when my bail application is considered on such pleadings and flowery words, to deny me the opportunity of bail."

Police had earlier questioned Apoorvanand, a DU professor, after the Special Cell (New Delhi Range) claimed to have found links with Pinjra Tod. He has also been named in a supplementary chargesheet filed in connection with the riot probe.



AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

FORM L-1A-A-RA REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 - Policyholders' Account (Technical Account) (₹ in Lakhs)

Particulars	For the Half Year ended September 30, 2020							For the Half Year ended September 30, 2019						
	Total	Non-linked			Linked			Total	Non-linked			Linked		
		Individual		Group	Individual		Group		Individual		Group	Individual		Group
		Life	Pension		Life	Pension			Life	Pension		Life	Pension	
PREMIUMS EARNED - Net														
(a) Premium	222,200	152,864	5,582	21,841	41,635	67	211	221,318	143,758	2,382	27,005	47,840	93	240
(b) Reinsurance ceded	(9,890)	(2,537)	-	(6,857)	(496)	-	-	(7,509)	(1,871)	-	(5,146)	(492)	-	-
(c) Reinsurance accepted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	212,310	150,327	5,582	14,984	41,139	67	211	213,809	141,887	2,382	21,859	47,348	93	240
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS														
(a) Interest, dividends and rent - gross	72,069	59,831	928	2,952	7,763	51	544	61,883	50,136	676	1,926	8,551	78	516
(b) Profit on sale / redemption of investments	25,848	2,066	-	78	22,920	269	515	30,244	6,049	-	-	23,679	427	89
(c) (Loss on sale / redemption of investments)	(14,081)	(354)	-	-	(13,649)	(57)	(21)	(9,473)	(709)	-	-	(8,656)	(83)	(25)
(d) Transfer/Gain on revaluation/ change in fair value	77,865	(386)	-	-	77,506	734	11	(22,548)	-	-	-	(21,720)	(457)	(371)
(e) Amortisation of premium/discount on investments	888	(439)	(6)	(51)	1,369	2	13	3,229	193	12	42	2,973	2	7
OTHER INCOME	881	841	6	18	16	-	-	1,146	1,105	1	28	10	-	2
Contribution from the Shareholders' account	4,990	4,674	310	-	-	6	-	2,475	-	-	429	2,046	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	168,460	66,233	1,238	2,997	95,925	1,005	1,062	66,956	56,774	689	2,425	6,883	(33)	218
TOTAL (A)	380,770	216,560	6,820	17,981	137,064	1,072	1,273	280,765	198,661	3,071	24,284	54,231	60	458
COMMISSION	11,209	9,204	94	663	1,248	-	-	11,768	8,780	36	1,022	1,930	-	-
OPERATING EXPENSES RELATED TO INSURANCE BUSINESS	44,683	35,175	398	2,777	6,322	4	7	44,722	30,653	130	3,736	10,183	9	11
Goods and Services tax on Charges	2,129	-	-	-	2,118	1	10	2,183	-	-	-	2,170	1	12
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bad Debts written off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provision for Income Tax	1,856	1,837	-	19	-	-	-	1,946	1,925	-	21	-	-	-
Provisions (other than taxation)														
(a) For diminution in the value of investments (net)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Advances & Recoveries	169	111	5	32	22	-	(1)	44	31	1	9	2	1	-
TOTAL (B)	60,046	46,327	497	3,491	9,710	5	16	60,663	41,389	167	4,788	14,285	11	23
BENEFIT PAID (Net)	105,149	34,816	279	10,437	58,514	493	610	104,420	29,614	228	6,956	65,711	1,341	570
Interim Bonuses Paid	199	196	3	-	-	-	-	153	149	4	-	-	-	-
Change in valuation of liability in respect of life policies in force														
(a) Gross	151,866	140,873	5,191	5,328	474	1	(1)	135,046	120,528	2,114	12,678	(273)	-	(1)
(b) Fund Reserve	67,479	-	-	-	66,323	573	583	(27,014)	-	-	-	(25,477)	(1,358)	(179)
(c) Amount ceded in Re-insurance	(19,047)	(15,581)	-	(3,272)	(194)	-	-	(6,510)	(6,233)	-	(262)	(15)	-	-
(d) Amount accepted in Re-insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (C)	305,646	160,304	5,473	12,493	125,117	1,067	1,192	206,095	144,058	2,346	19,372	39,946	(17)	390
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) (D) = (A) - (B) - (C)	15,078	9,929	850	1,997	2,237	-	65	14,007	13,214	558	124	-	66	45
Balance of previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APPROPRIATIONS														
Reserve for lapsed unit linked policies unlikely to be revived	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Shareholders' account	4,187	-	-	1,885	2,237	-	65	2,528	2,411	6	-	-	66	45
Balance being funds for future appropriations	10,891	9,929	850	112	-	-	-	11,479	10,803	552	124	-	-	-
Total	15,078	9,929	850	1,997	2,237	-	65	14,007	13,214	558	124	-	66	45

FORM L-2A-A-P&L

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Shareholders' Account (Non-technical Account) (₹ In Lakhs)

Particulars	For the Half Year Ended September 30, 2020	For the Half Year Ended September 30, 2019
Amounts transferred from the Policyholders Account (Technical Account)	4,187	2,528
Income From Investments		
(a) Interest, dividends and rent - Gross	4,974	4,621
(b) Profit on sale/redemption of investments	81	147
(c) (Loss on sale/ redemption of investments)	(80)	-
(d) Amortisation of premium/discount on investments	(131)	(37)
Other Income	-	-
TOTAL (A)	9,031	7,259
Expense other than those directly related to the insurance business	591	2,837
Contribution towards Remuneration of Managing Director & CEO	139	139
Transferred to Policyholders' Account	4,990	2,475
Bad debts written off	-	-
Provisions (Other than taxation)		
(a) For diminution in the value of investments (Net)	-	-
(b) Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
(c) Others	-	-
TOTAL (B)	5,720	5,451
Profit/ (Loss) before tax	3,311	1,808
Provision for Taxation	482	141
Profit / (Loss) after tax	2,829	1,667
APPROPRIATIONS		
(a) Balance at the beginning of the year.	(70,176)	(79,454)
(b) Interim dividends paid during the period	-	-
(c) Proposed final dividend	-	-
(d) Dividend distribution on tax	-	-
(e) Transfer to reserves/ other accounts	-	-
Profit / (Loss) carried to the Balance Sheet	(67,347)	(77,787)

Notes:
1) This disclosure is made in accordance with IRDAI Master Circular No.IRDAI/F&A/CIR/232/12/2013 dated December 11, 2013.
2) The audited accounts for the half year ended September 30, 2020 have been taken on record in the meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 23, 2020.
3) Prior period amounts have been reclassified/regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to current period's presentation.
4) *The persistency ratios are calculated in accordance with IRDAI circular no. IRDA/ACT/CIR/MISC/035/01/2014 dated January 23, 2014.The persistency ratio for the half year ending 30th September have been calculated using policies issued in April to September and for the quarter ending 30th September have been calculated using policies issued in July to September of relevant period.

PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited, Registered office: Unit No. 701, 702 & 703, 7th Floor, West Wing, Raheja Towers, 26/27 M G Road, Bangalore -560001, Karnataka. IRDA of India Registration number 117. CI No. U66010KA2001PLC028883. The marks “PNB” and “MetLife” are registered trademarks of Punjab National Bank and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, respectively. PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited is a licensed user of these marks. Call us Toll-free at 1-800-425-6969, Website: www.pnbmetlife.com Email: indiaservice@pnbmetlife.co.in or write to us at 1st Floor, Techniplex -1, Techniplex Complex, Off Veer Savarkar Flyover, Goregaon (West), Mumbai - 400062. Phone: +91-22-41790000, Fax: +91-22-41790203. AD-NF/2020-21/078.

FORM L-3A-A-BS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (₹ In Lakhs)

Particulars	As at September 30, 2020	As at September 30, 2019
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS:		
Share Capital	201,288	201,288
Reserves and Surplus	444	-
Credit/[Debit] Fair Value Change Account	(45)	(47)
Sub-Total	201,687	201,241
Borrowings	-	318
POLICYHOLDERS' FUNDS:		
Credit/[Debit] Fair Value Change Account	6,769	(299)
Policy Liabilities	1,712,233	1,386,850
Insurance Reserves	-	-
Provision for Linked Liabilities-Non Unit	5,570	4,954
Provision for Linked Liabilities-Unit	534,024	558,412
Sub-Total	2,258,596	1,949,917
Funds for discontinued policies		
- Discontinued on account of non- payment of premium	60,347	68,542
- Others	-	-
Funds for Future Appropriation		
- Linked Business	-	-
- Others	55,117	40,753
TOTAL	2,575,747	2,260,771
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
INVESTMENTS		
-Shareholders'	132,393	121,916
-Policyholders'	1,760,193	1,413,843
Assets Held to Cover Linked Liabilities	594,371	626,954
Loans	6,600	5,272
Fixed Assets	12,028	10,371
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Balances	8,045	17,842
Advances and Other Assets	98,176	86,988
Sub-Total (A)	106,221	104,830
CURRENT LIABILITIES	98,705	96,669
PROVISIONS	4,701	3,533
Sub-Total (B)	103,406	100,202
NET CURRENT ASSETS (C) = (A – B)	2,815	4,628
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (to the extent not written off or adjusted)	-	-
DEBIT BALANCE IN PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT (Shareholders' Account)	67,347	77,787
DEBIT BALANCE IN REVENUE ACCOUNT (Policy-holders' Account)	-	-
TOTAL	2,575,747	2,260,771

FORM L-22A

ANALYTICAL RATIOS

Sl. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter September 30, 2020	Upto the Quarter September 30, 2020	For the Quarter September 30, 2019	Upto the Quarter September 30, 2019
1	New business premium income growth rate - segment wise				
	- Participating policies	8.8%	-6.1%	6.3%	0.4%
	- Non-participating policies	7.7%	-18.8%	20.3%	41.5%
	- Pension	40.1%	15.1%	-15.8%	-16.3%
	- Non- Par Annuity	1008.9%	869.6%	173.7%	-9.2%
	- Non Par Pension	-32.6%	24.2%	-21.4%	16.9%
	- Health	-98.9%	-99.3%	-57.8%	-54.6%
	- Group - linked	-14.7%	-12.4%	136.0%	49.8%
	- Individual Life - Linked	-55.6%	-31.7%	29.7%	1.5%
	- Pension - linked	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%	0.0%
	Net Retention Ratio	96.7%	95.5%	97.0%	96.6%
2	Expense of Management to Gross Direct Premium Ratio	21.6%	25.2%	23.19%	25.52%
3	Commission Ratio (Gross commission paid to Gross Premium)	5.1%	5.0%	5.22%	5.32%
4	Ratio of policyholders' liabilities to shareholders' funds	1767.2%	1767.2%	1668.0%	1668.0%
6	Growth rate of Shareholders' Fund	8.8%	8.8%	9.0%	9.0%
7	Ratio of surplus to Policyholders' Liability	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.7%
8	Change in net worth (₹ in Lakhs)	10,885	10,885	10,206	10,206
9	Profit after tax/Total Income	-0.5%	0.7%	-0.7%	0.6%
10	(Total real estate + loans)/(Cash & invested assets)	1.2%	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%
11	Total investments/(Capital + Surplus)	1850.6%	1850.6%	1751.2%	1751.2%
12	Total affiliated investments/(Capital+ Surplus)	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
13	Investment Yield (Annualised)				
	A. With unrealised gains				
	Shareholders' fund	2.8%	10.6%	10.2%	13.2%
	Policyholders' fund				
	Non linked				
	Participating	2.4%	11.3%	6.8%	15.5%
	Non Participating	1.6%	10.5%	8.0%	16.1%
	Linked				
	Non Participating	26.4%	39.9%	-3.5%	0.0%
	B. With realised gains				
	Shareholders' fund	7.9%	7.9%	8.2%	8.4%
	Policyholders' fund				
	Non linked				
	Participating	8.4%	8.1%	8.2%	9.3%
	Non Participating	7.9%	7.8%	8.4%	8.8%
	Linked				
	Non Participating	10.8%	5.8%	5.7%	8.7%
14	Conservation Ratio				
	- Linked	72.8%	60.0%	69.7%	71.3%
	- Non Linked	92.7%	82.3%	84.3%	84.2%
	- Pension (both Linked and Non Linked)	92.3%	68.9%	69.4%	71.9%
	- Health	91.7%	87.3%	88.0%	89.5%
15	Persistency Ratio (policies)*				
	For 13th month	76.2%	77.4%	72.1%	74.6%
	For 25th month	60.8%	61.7%	59.5%	62.0%
	For 37th month	53.6%	54.7%	49.2%	52.1%
	For 49th month	45.5%	47.4%	43.5%	45.1%
	For 61st month	36.9%	37.2%	30.0%	30.2%
16	Persistency Ratio (premium)*				
	For 13th month	76.0%	77.9%	72.8%	75.0%
	For 25th month	60.7%	60.6%	62.7%	65.2%
	For 37th month	56.1%	57.2%	50.5%	53.4%
	For 49th month	46.9%	48.7%	43.2%	44.4%
	For 61st month	34.7%	34.6%	29.4%	30.2%
17	NPA Ratio				
	Gross NPA Ratio	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%
	Net NPA Ratio	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
Ashish Kumar Srivastava
Managing Director & CEO
(DIN : 00355075)
Place : Mumbai
Date : November 23, 2020



New Delhi



6 GOVT & POLITICS

PM: Need deep study, discussion on 'One Nation, One Election'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 26

SAYING FREQUENT elections impeded development and reiterating his call for 'One Nation, One Election', Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a deep study and discussion on the subject. The PM also advocated a common voter list for all elections.

Addressing the All India Presiding Officers' Conference at Kevadiya in Gujarat on the occasion of Constitution Day, Modi, speaking through video conference from Delhi, said, "One Nation, One Election *sirf ek char-cha ka vishay nahin hain, balki ye Bharat ki jaroorat hain. Har kuch mahine me Bharat me kahin na kahin chunav ho rahe hote hain. Isse vikas ke karyon par jo prabhav padta hain, use aap sab bhali-bhanti jaante hain. Aise me One Nation One Election par gahan ad-hyayan aur manthan avashyak hai* (One Nation, One Election is not just a subject of discussion, but the need of the nation. Every few months, elections are being held in some place or the other in India. You are all well aware of the effect of frequent elections on development work. In such a situation, it is necessary to have a deep study and discussion on One Nation, One Election)."

On the need for a common voter list, the PM said, "*Lok Sabha ho, Vidhan Sabha ho, ya panchayat chunav ho, iske liye ek hi voter list kaam me aaye, iske liye hamein sab se pehle raasta banana hoga* (First, we have to make way for a common voter list, whether it is Lok Sabha, Assembly or panchayat elections). Today we have separate voter lists for every election. Why are we spending? Why are we wasting time?."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the All India Presiding Officers' Conference on Thursday. PTI

He was addressing the concluding session of the two-day conference held on the theme of 'Harmonious coordination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary – Key to a Vibrant Democracy'.

In his speech that lasted around 30 minutes, Modi invoked Mahatma Gandhi while stressing on the need for citizens to perform their duties as prescribed in the Constitution. "Friends, our Constitution has many special features. But one very special feature is the importance given to duties. Mahatma Gandhi himself was very keen about this. He saw a close link between rights and duties. He felt that once we perform our duties, rights will be safeguarded," Modi said.

Modi also called for a campaign to popularise the Constitution of India among the youth, tweaking the common 'KYC to Know Your Constitution'. "Friends, our attempts should be such that common citizens have a wider understanding of the Constitution. For that, it is very important to know and understand the Constitution. Nowadays, we hear 'KYC'. It is a very common word that means Know Your Customer. It has been a very im-

portant aspect of digital security. Similarly, KYC in a new form: Know Your Constitution," Modi said.

Urging presiding officers to take the lead in popularising the Constitution among the youth, the PM called for campaigns to spread awareness about the document, especially in schools and colleges.

Modi said that the language used in the Constitution is often beyond the reach of the common citizens for whom it is framed. He said the language should be simple and urged Speakers to help with that task.

Later, speaking to the media after the conference, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said a committee has been set up under the chairmanship of CP Joshi, Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, to discuss financial autonomy for state legislatures. "A number of legislatures have expressed their opinion that they should also have financial autonomy, the way it exists in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha... After this committee submits its report, we will discuss the issue with chief ministers and try to see if all legislatures can have financial autonomy on the lines of Parliament," Birla said.

End of an era: Farewell, Gogoi, Patel

Ahmed Patel laid to rest in ancestral village; top Congress leaders present

KAMAAL SAIYED
PIRAMAN (BHARUCH DISTRICT), NOVEMBER 26

TOP CONGRESS leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi, were among those who attended the burial of party veteran Ahmed Patel at his native Piraman village at Ankleshwar in Gujarat's Bharuch district Thursday morning.

The body of Patel, who died of multiple organ failure post-Covid on Wednesday at Gurgaon hospital, was flown to Vadodara on a chartered flight. From the airport, the body was taken to the Ankleshwar-based Sardar Patel Hospital and Heart Institute which he helped set up.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath and Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala were present at the burial. So were Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil, Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Paresh Dhanani, party leaders Arjun Modhwadia, Siddharth Patel, Madhusudan Mistry, Hardik Patel and Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani. Former Congress leader Shankersinh Vaghela was also present.

Tight security had been deployed in the village, especially near Patel's residence. Seating

arrangements for the VVIPs were made at the parking area of HMP health care centre, a few steps from the Congress veteran's residence.

Around 11 am, Rahul arrived and met Patel's son Faisal, daughter Mumtaz Siddiqui and his three sisters.

The pall was lifted by youths dressed in PPEs. The body was then taken near Patel's residence for family members and relatives to pay their last respects.

From there, the body was taken to an open field near the burial ground where many offered namaz-e-janaza.

Leader of Opposition Dhanani said, "Not only Gujarat, but our country has lost such a dynamic person whose human nature and behaviour attracted many young political leaders. The pandemic has taken the life of a great person and left many young leaders without a mentor."

"He had identified many sons of farmers from different corners of the country and groomed them into national leaders. We wish his soul rests in peace."

Late on Thursday afternoon, Patel's son Faisal said in a video message, "I am thankful to all the well wishers of Ahmed Patelji, our father. We must remember Ahmed Patelji, a fine example of morals, ethics, values and culture. He was a gentleman, a gentle soul, and we miss him immensely."



Rahul Gandhi with Ahmed Patel's son Faisal and daughter Mumtaz, in Piraman village. PTI



Tarun Gogoi's body makes its final journey in Guwahati on Thursday. AP



Patel's three sisters watch his body leave the home, in Bharuch district. Hanif Malek



Gaurav Gogoi near his father's body as members of the Christian community pay respects. Dasarath's Deka

'Assam's history won't forget Gogoi's contribution to public life'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 26

ASSAM'S LONGEST-SERVING Chief Minister, Tarun Gogoi, was cremated Thursday with full state honours after an emotional farewell journey that slowly passed through the roads of Guwahati, lined with thousands of residents waiting to pay their final respects.

Stopping at a church, a

Namghar (Vaishnavite prayer hall), a mosque, a temple, and a Bihu field – in accordance with Gogoi's wishes – the procession finally made its way to the city's Nabagraha crematorium where the three-time chief minister's body was consigned to the flames by his son, Gaurav.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, senior ministers, including one-time protegee Himanta Biswa Sarma, senior Congress leaders, leaders of op-

position parties and DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta were among those who laid wreaths on the Congress leader's body.

Massive crowds gathered outside the cremation ground and all along the way through which the popular leader's cortege passed, showering petals and capturing the moment on cameras. Large television screens were also installed outside Nabagraha.

At the cremation ground,

Gaurav Gogoi said his father had a final wish of travelling through the state once. "We have decided that his ashes will be taken to Titabor (his constituency) first, and then across the state," he said.

The three-time chief minister, two-time Union minister and six-time Lok Sabha MP died on Monday at the age of 84 following a nearly four-month battle with Covid-19 and related complications.

Since Tuesday afternoon, his

body had been placed at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, a cultural institution in Guwahati, for people to pay their respects.

The state government had also declared a half-day holiday on Thursday.

"It is the end of an era... A long era of Assam's politics came to an end today... Assam's history will never forget Tarun Gogoi's contribution to Assam's public life," Sarma said.

TMC wants Bengal Governor booked for 'obstructing money laundering probe'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 26

THE TRINAMOL Congress on Thursday requested Kolkata Police to book Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar for allegedly obstructing investigation into a money laundering case.

Dhankhar termed the allega-

tion "untenable" lacking knowledge of "elementary constitutional and legal aspects".

A day after one Govinda Aggarwal was arrested by Kolkata Police in a 2018 case registered at Hare Stree police station here, Dhankhar on November 22 termed the arrest "politically inspired" and said that it was aimed at impeding in-

vestigation against cattle and coal smuggling.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said, "Those who obstruct a criminal investigation can be prosecuted under Sections 186 and 189 of the IPC. So, I will request the Kolkata Police to file a case against him for the way he is tweeting to intimidate public servants."

AIMIM's 'inroads' in Bihar elections leave Congress jittery in Rajasthan

DEEPA MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 26

WITH THE AIMIM putting up a good electoral show in the Bihar polls, the political milieu in Congress-ruled Rajasthan is abuzz with speculation of the party making inroads in Rajasthan.

The probable entry of the AIMIM in Rajasthan has also prompted a response from the Congress, which has accused its chief Asaduddin Owaisi of being an "agent"

of the BJP.

Some Congress leaders feel that several factors, such as discontent amongst the Muslim community over the recent mayoral elections in Jaipur, have resulted in an environment fit for the AIMIM to cultivate a support base.

"Owaisi is seen working as an agent of PM Narendra Modi and the BJP, for the purpose of weakening the Congress...", Congress MLA and party Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PROHIBITION AND EXCISE
EZHILAGAM, CHEPAUKU, CHENNAI – 600 005.

TENDER FOR PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF POLYESTER BASED HOLOGRAM EXCISE LABELS
TENDER NO. 1/2020 CORRIGENDUM NO. 4 TO THE TENDER
CORRIGENDUM ISSUED - TO THE NOTICE INVITING TENDERS PUBLISHED IN 'THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS' ENGLISH DAILY AND 'THE DAILY THANTHIRI TAMIL DAILY' DATED 20.09.2020 AND CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 PUBLISHED ON 29.10.2020, CORRIGENDUM 2 & 3 PUBLISHED ON 05.11.2020 AND UPLOADED IN GOVERNMENT WEBSITE www.tenders.in.gov.in.

THE LAST DATE FOR THE RECEIPT OF TENDER FOR THE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF POLYESTER BASED HOLOGRAM EXCISE LABELS IS EXTENDED UPTO 01.00 P.M. ON 11.12.2020.

THE TENDER APPLICATION WILL BE OPENED ON 11.12.2020 AT 02.00 P.M. AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THE CLAUSES / CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER DOCUMENT.

THE CORRIGENDUM NO.4 HAVE BEEN UPLOADED IN GOVERNMENT WEBSITE www.tenders.in.gov.in

Joint Commissioner - II /
Place: CHENNAI
Q/o the Commissioner, Prohibition and Excise and
Tender Inviting Authority.
DATE: 26.11.2020

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यंत्रिकीय विभाग, खण्ड-गुना (म.प्र.)
क्रमांक 3906/व.ले.लि./2020-21/कार्य./लो.स्वा.यं.वि/गुना, दिनांक 18/11/2020

निविदा विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक 31/व.ले.लि./2020-21

निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदाएं ई-टेंडरिंग यन्त्रि से पोर्टल <http://www.mptenders.gov.in/> nicgep/app पर गुना जिले के विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत आर.सी.सी. ओवर हेड टैंक, पाइप लाइन, धरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं विद्युत संयोजन कार्य हेतु निविदाएं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित है।

क्र.सं.	निविदा क्रमांक/दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकास खण्ड	ग्राम	निविदा की कुल लागत रु. (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि (EMD) निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टेंकदार की श्रेणी
1.	31/18.11.2020	2020_PHED_114826_1	गुना	4	410.50	रु 15000/-	6 माह वर्षा काल छोड़कर सहित	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली

निविदा में संशोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाइट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि : 03.12.2020 17:30 बजे

ऑनलाईन निविदा दर डालने की अंतिम तिथि : 03.12.2020 17:30 बजे

ऑनलाईन निविदा दर खोलने की तिथि : 05.12.2020 11:00 बजे

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दक्षिण वेबसाइट पर (online system) क्रेडिट कार्ड या ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा एवं उससे संबंधित जानकारी ऊपर दर्शाई गई वेबसाइट पर देखें।

हस्ता./-
सदस्य

सचिव जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन तथा कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यंत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड-गुना जिला-गुना

G- 15864/20

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।

Jharkhand Government Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department

NOTICE

Pursuant to the order dated 16.10.2020 of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare, Jharkhand invites eligible research institutions to indicate their Interest in completing a comprehensive assessment of tobacco use, prevalence, pattern and behaviour in the state as well as the implementation of the ban on the Pan Masala. Interested organizations may submit "Expression of Interest" in detailed technical and financial proposal in two separate sealed envelopes on or before **15th December 2020 before 16.00 hrs. IST.**

Detail information regarding the EOI can be seen at the official website of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department of www.jharkhand.gov.in.

Sd/-

Chandra Kishore Oraon
Special Secretary

PR 236345 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare (20-21)_D

Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No.: 09/JREDA/LED/SSL/20-21 Dated: 25.11.2020

1	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 795 nos. of Solar Street Lighting Systems (SSLs) with 7 W LED Light, 40 Wp Module and Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery on Turnkey basis at Goriyakarma Cluster of Barhi Block in Hazaribagh District under Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban Mission in the State of Jharkhand.
2	Total quantity (Nos.)	795 Nos.
3	Estimated cost (Rs.)	1,06,92,750/-
4	Completion period	04 (Four) Months
5	Period of Contract	12 (Twelve) Months
6	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	27.11.2020 (Friday)
7	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	04.12.2020 (Friday) at 2.00 P.M.
8	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	21.12.2020 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
9	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	21.12.2020 and 22.12.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
10	Technical Bid Opening Date	23.12.2020 (Wednesday) at 03:00 P.M.
11	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) 3 rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)
12	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61
13	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director, JREDA, Ranchi

PR 236291 (Energy)20-21*D

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS
NOTICE INVITING
e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer (E), Postal Electrical Division, Tenth floor, Meghdoot Bhawan, New Delhi-01 invites on behalf of President of India percentage rate e-tenders on two bids system for following works.

Name of work: SITC of 2x500 kVA indoor dry type substation at Meghdoot Bhawan, New Delhi;
NIT no: 40/EE/PED/ND/NIT/2020-21 **dated:** 25.11.2020;
Estimated Cost: ₹ 62.88,193/-;
EMD: ₹ 1,25,764/-

Last date and time of submission of bid is 09.12.2020 up to 15:00 hours. Bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com>

Kerala local elections: Officers to collect votes from Covid-positive patients

Thiruvananthapuram: Ahead of next month's local body elections in Kerala, the state election commission on Thursday issued guidelines for voting by those who have tested positive for Covid-19 and those in quarantine. The elections to the three-tier local bodies would be held on December 8, 12 and 14.

According to the guidelines, the health department will compile a list of Covid-positive voters and those in quarantine. Those figuring in the list – till the day prior to polling – would be issued special postal ballot papers. Others who test positive after 3 pm on the day prior to the day of voting would be allowed at polling stations during the last hour of voting.

On the day of voting, polling officers would visit each Covid-19 patient with postal ballot papers and collect these papers with the vote in the same visit. These voters would be informed about the visit in advance through SMS and or calls.

ENS

7 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



VOCAL ON GLOCAL

ON A mission to repair ties with Nepal, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Thursday landed in Kathmandu and spoke to the local media in fluent Nepalese. His mother is from the Himalayan neighbour, and Shringla knows the language quite well. The Foreign Secretary's proficiency in the local language is expected to be an asset in striking a rapport with the Nepalese leadership.

PANDEMIC POLITICS

AFTER BIHAR elections, the BJP has pledged free Covid-19 vaccine and tests for all in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls as well. The promise in the party's manifesto for the Hyderabad civic elections comes just after Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against politicisation of the coronavirus vaccine. During his meeting with chief ministers over the pandemic on Tuesday, Modi, without taking names, said that some people were trying to politicise the vaccine issue. Earlier, the BJP had made a similar promise in its vision document released before Bihar Assembly polls, drawing criticism from opposition parties. But BJP leaders pointed out that the Election Commission had rejected those objections.

DIFFERENT HOMECOMING

THE COMMEMORATION of Constitution Day organised by the Supreme Court saw the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind, besides the Chief Justice, other Supreme Court judges and senior advocates and members of the Bar. For the President, it seemed like a homecoming of another kind. Speaker after speaker, such as Attorney General K K Venugopal, Justices N V Ramana and R F Nariman, and Supreme Court Bar Association president Dushyant Dave, referred to Kovind's long stint at the Bar, while the President himself recalled the pro bono work he did as a lawyer. In his welcome to the President, CJI S A Bobde said he would alternatively like to address the President as "the most famous advocate in India."

BETTING BIG

WHILE IT is not unusual for politicians to announce big projections, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday made what, at least at present, appears to be a grand prediction. Asked about the next big elections – in West Bengal – Singh said that the BJP will not just win there but can even win with a two-third majority. "(I) cannot rule out the possibility that BJP will be in a position to form the government with a two-third majority. It (BJP) will definitely get the majority; I am confident," he said at the *Hindustan Times Leadership Summit*.

ODISHA GIRL FOUND DEAD

Oppn seeks minister's ouster after couple's immolation bid

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 26

TWO DAYS after a couple attempted self-immolation outside the Odisha Assembly, Opposition parties Thursday cornered the BJD government in the House over alleged police inaction in the killing of their 5-year-old daughter. The parents have alleged that Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo shielded one of the prime suspects in the case from arrest, derailed the police investigation.

On Thursday, members of the Opposition parties including BJP and Congress intensified their demand for Sahoo's resignation, twice forcing the adjournment of the Assembly.

According to the parents, the girl had gone missing from near their house on July 10. Her remains were found two weeks later.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi said that they are not satisfied with the decision to transfer the case to the Crime Branch as the minister could still influence the investigation.

Sahoo Thursday said he welcomes a fresh probe in the matter.

The statement came even as an audio-clip of a purported conversation between the minister and the sarpanch from the girl's village, in the aftermath of the suicide attempt by the parents, spread on social media. In the clip, a voice alleged to be Sahoo's is heard chiding the sarpanch for "instigating" the parents.

CBI files FIR against former J&K minister for 'forest land grab'

New Delhi: The CBI has booked former Jammu and Kashmir minister Taj Mohiuddin in connection with alleged illegal regularisation of encroached forest land in his name under the Roshni Act, officials said on Thursday.

Along with Mohiuddin, a former Congress minister in the erstwhile state, the agency has also booked Mohammed Ramzan Thakur, former Deputy Commissioner of Shopian; Mohammed Yousuf Zargar, then Additional Deputy Commissioner; Hafizullah Shah, then Assistant Commissioner (Revenue); and Ghulam Hassan Rather, the then Tehsildar. **PTI**

SLPs filed in top court against scrapping of Roshni Act

New Delhi: A bunch of special leave petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court against a Jammu and Kashmir High Court order scrapping the Roshni Act that gave proprietary rights to occupants of state land, with the petitioners pleading that they never encroached on government land and were never made a party in the case.

The SLPs moved by former bureaucrats, businessmen and retired judges challenged the October 9 order of the high court which declared the Roshni Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable" and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of the land under this law. **PTI**

DELHI MOVE TO BOOST INDIAN OCEAN SECURITY

Doval to visit Lanka, Jaishankar Seychelles

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

AT A time Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region is evident, New Delhi is moving in fast to strengthen maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval will be in Sri Lanka on Friday to hold discussions with key security and defence ministers of Sri Lanka and Maldives, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is headed to Seychelles.

Doval will be in Colombo on Friday, where he will hold a NSA-level trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation with Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Maj Gen (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne and Maldives Defence Minister Mariya Didi.

This mechanism is being revived after six years – past meetings were held in Maldives (2011), in Sri Lanka (2013), and in India (2014).

"The NSA-level Trilateral Meeting has served as an effective platform for cooperation



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval

among Indian Ocean countries," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement Thursday.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for discussion on issues pertaining to cooperation in maritime security, it added. On the sidelines, the NSA is also expected to have other bilateral engagements, it said.

Jaishankar will travel to Seychelles on Nov 27-28 November, after visiting Bahrain and the UAE.

He will call on newly-elected President Wavel Ramkalawan and discuss the priorities of the new government and avenues for further strengthening relations. He will also hold consulta-

tions with newly-appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Sylvestre Radegeonde.

His visit assumes significance as India is developing infrastructure at the Assumption island, a key strategic project. Developing infrastructure on Assumption island in Seychelles is a key piece in India's proactive maritime strategy as it counters China's moves in Indian Ocean region.

But President Ramkalawan opposed the project in the course of his political campaign.

Jaishankar's visit is the first in-person visit to Seychelles since the Covid pandemic. Seychelles, which is under strict quarantine norms, has made an exemption to allow the visit. "To the best of our knowledge, no other high-level visit has taken place since the new President took over. Hence, the External Affairs minister will be the first high-level visitor he will be receiving," a source said.

Jaishankar, it is learnt, is carrying a letter from Prime Minister Modi to the newly elected President.

'BJP ruling indirectly... should seek votes on what it has done'

J&K PEOPLE'S Conference chairman and People's Alliance For Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) spokesperson SAJAD LONE spoke to NAVEED IQBAL on the coming together of mainstream parties and the alliance's preparations for the upcoming local polls. Excerpts:

What were your (PAGD) motivations to contest the DDC elections?

We are part of a collective mechanism. Any decision made collectively is binding on all the members. I was part of the consensus to go ahead and contest these elections... The elections are being rushed through, certainly with motives other than empowering people at the grass-root level...

I personally support participation in all elections, irrespective of any hostile conditions or political compulsions. My debut in politics was as a part of the boycott ideology... And I can say that it is an infertile concept... Boycott disempowers people and creates space for the very people who you want to keep out.

What did it take for all parties in PAGD to come together?

I honestly feel that no one needed to be persuaded... Everyone felt we should come together. There was an onslaught and there was no other option...

How would you respond to the Home Minister terming the alliance the "Gupkar Gang"?

I honestly think that they should have desisted from the word "gang" under all circumstances. There are three former chief ministers in this alliance... There are members of Parliament, central ministers. There are so many former cabinet ministers... and most importantly there are thousands of po-



“
THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
SAJAD
LONE
J&K PEOPLE'S
CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

litical workers of these parties...

Did you, during your detention, reflect on your association with the BJP?

Yes I did... Let me explain my point of view. When the 2014 elections were held, there was no ideological mandate. All parties have an ideological agenda and a development agenda. No single party secured seats beyond the 50 per cent mark to pursue an ideological agenda. In the absence of that, I thought that the developmental agenda is something that we can work on...

...The government broke midway and that was the end of our alliance with them. We fought Parliamentary elections on our own, with a tag that we had allied with them. That was a mere tag... A new Union govern-

ment was elected which moved very fast to implement its ideological agenda... My ideological preferences were made clear on August 4 when I joined the alliance meeting. Nobody forced me to ally with BJP... and nobody could have forced me to not be a part of the alliance... But retrospectively, I regret my foolhardiness and naivety.

One of the allegations the BJP makes is that these are District Development Council Elections and PAGD is not discussing development, but speaking of special status and the larger questions concerning Kashmir. What is your take on that?

We are aware that DDC elections are for basic grassroots democracy and development. But no election anywhere in the country is devoid of politics. You can't de-link politics from elections...

What about the criticism aimed at development done by the popular governments in J&K until 2018?

...If you are going to compare us with London or New York, we pale in comparison. But you compare us with an Uttar Pradesh or a Chhattisgarh or a Bihar, I would say we are doing very well... We have not been a

China talks on, but no nation should be expansionist: Rajnath

Defence Minister says nearly impossible to execute another 26/11-style attack, India not shy of cross-border action on terror

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

STATING THAT no country should harbour "expansionist" ambitions, and each should develop within its boundaries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that China has "said another round of talks will take place, but the dates have not been finalised" yet.

"Talks are going on, and more talks are going to happen soon," he said.

Speaking at the *Hindustan Times Leadership Summit*, Singh said India is not shy of taking action across the border against terrorism any longer, and that it is nearly impossible to execute another 26/11-style terror attack on Indian soil today.

Referring to the ongoing standoff with Chinese PLA at the LAC in Ladakh, Singh said: "Like Pakistan, we have another neighbour who keeps raising disputes about the border."

He said there are "perceptual differences between India and China on the border," but there



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

are "some agreements, protocols that are followed by armies of both countries to patrol" the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Problems, however, occur "when agreed protocols are ignored, he said.

Singh said: "We cannot allow PLA to act on the LAC in an unilateral way under any circumstances. We do not want war with anyone, but to ensure war does not take place, it is necessary that we should always be ready for war. We want peace. Historically, India has never attacked any nation or captured an inch of any other nation. We prepare for war to prevent war.

"But I want to reiterate: nobody can occupy an inch of India's land."

Singh also stated that India's forces have been given a free hand to "strongly oppose any change on LAC".



Police personnel use water canons on farmers near Ambala on Thursday. **PTI**

No one can stop us, say thousands at capital's borders

SUKHBIR SIWACH & RAAKHI JAGGA

CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 26

THE SAMYUKT Kisan Morcha and All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), in a joint statement said more than 50,000 farmers were expected to be at Delhi's borders by Thursday evening, and that their "numbers are expected to swell through the night as thousands of tractors and trolleys are carrying farmers, women and children from interior areas of Punjab".

The statement criticised the "inhuman, anti-people, RSS-BJP Haryana government" for using force against the farmers. It said "massive protests have been reported from farmers and industrial workers in East UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra", as well.

Protesters including women and children, gathered at the Shambhu barrier near Ambala, told *The Indian Express* that the governments in Haryana and at the Centre would not be able to stop them from reaching Delhi.

"It is a huge mistake on the part of the Haryana government. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar should have understood our plight and allowed us to peacefully march... Nobody can stop us," a protester said.

Another protester added: "We have enough supplies to camp in Delhi for at least six months. We are ready to spend all winter in the

capital, until the Centre listens to our legitimate demands and withdraws the farm laws."

Among the participants of the "Delhi Chalo" march at Shambhu barrier was Sukhbir Kaur, 51, who had come from Mangat village of Dasuya along with her young daughter Gursimrat. There was also retired FCI manager Gumam Singh Dhumma, and 15-year-old schoolboy Sachin Sharma.

"Khattar should not have stopped us, he should know that you can't cow down a Punjabi," Rajinder Singh, leader of the Kirti Kisan Union from Mansa, said. Rajinder and a large group of about 2,000 protesters broke through the barricades on the Sardulgarh-Sirsa road around 1 pm. "Haryana Police stopped us, but Haryana villagers served us langar at Hanspur village," Rajinder said.

Police accused the farmers of violence. "They threw stones when the police stopped them from moving into Haryana (from Punjab). The police asked them to leave their tractors at the border and move on foot. Legal action will be taken against those who have broken the law," Hisar range IGP Sanjay Kumar said.

Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava said protesters from Punjab had pelted nakas at Dabwali (Sirsa), Dhanori (Data Singhwala), and Tohana with stones. "They dismantled the police nakas by using unlawful force. They have tried to travel towards Delhi. We have delayed their movement a lot by installing nakas at multiple places. They are trying to jam the capital, which shouldn't be allowed," Yadava told *The Indian Express*.

If asked to, will march with farmers in Delhi: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 26

HOURS AFTER Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh criticised police action against farmers marching peacefully towards Delhi against the contentious farm laws, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced that if in-

vited, she will join them.

"The farm laws have snatched the rights of farmers. The laws will pave the way for middleman and corruption... The way peaceful farmers were treated is highly condemnable. They (Centre) cannot snatch the democratic rights of farmers. I fully support their protest and if invited, I can also join (them)," she said at a press conference.

BRIEFLY



Kufri received fresh snowfall on Thursday. *Pradeep Kumar*

HIMACHAL

Several areas inaccessible after wet spell

Shimla: Most parts of Himachal Pradesh, including tourist hotspots Kufri and Manali, received light to moderate snow and rain over the last 24 hours, with some higher reaches receiving several feet of snow. Remote areas such as Dodra-Kwar, Pangri and Spiti turned inaccessible as mountain passes were blocked and are likely to remain cut off for the rest of the winter season. The wet spell, which began Monday and continued Thursday, has also led to closure of roads and disruption in power supply in some parts of the state. **ENS**

RAJASTHAN

Wife sets self on fire, man sends video to in-laws

Jaipur: A woman died after allegedly setting herself on fire in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district, and the act was video-recorded by her husband, who sent the clip to his in-laws, police said on Thursday. Six people — the husband, his parents, brother, uncle and aunt — have been detained, and a case registered against them, police said. The incident took place on November 20, and the woman was referred to a hospital in Jaipur where she died on November 22. **PTI**

WEST BENGAL

Minister volunteers for vaccine trial

Kolkata: West Bengal Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim has expressed his wish to be a volunteer for the Covaxin Phase III trial scheduled to be held at the Kolkata-based National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED). The 62-year-old minister of the Mamata Banerjee-government has also spoken to the NICED officials and expressed his desire to be part of the programme. "I want to help people. If my contribution helps in the treatment of people then I will be more than happy. I am keen to be part of the programme," Hakim told PTI when contacted on Thursday. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA

Toddler falls to death from seventh floor

Thane: A two-year-old boy fell to his death from the balcony of a flat on the seventh floor of a building in Ambemath town of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, when the toddler got out of the sliding door of the room, an official said. The boy allegedly slipped from the parapet of the balcony and fell down, the official said. A case of accidental death has been registered. **PTI**

FIRM OWES Rs 5,500 CR TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

ED arrests Cox & Kings promoter in PMLA case

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar, the promoter of bankrupt travel firm Cox & Kings Limited, in connection with its money laundering probe against the company.

Cox & Kings owes Rs 5,500 crore to banks and financial institutions and it was one of the top borrowers of Yes Bank Limited when co-founder Rana Kapoor was heading it. Yes Bank has an exposure of more than Rs 2,267 crore to Cox & Kings Group. The listed travel firm was sent to bankruptcy court last October, after it defaulted on payments.

Cox & Kings came under the scanner after the ED initiated an investigation into allegations of kickbacks taken by Kapoor in lieu of granting loans to several companies that have now defaulted on repayments. Kapoor, who is currently under arrest, has denied these allegations.

In April, *The Indian Express*, in a series of stories, reported that a forensic audit found the travel firm did related party transactions worth Rs 21,000 crore over four years (2015-2019) to siphon funds. It also found that Cox & Kings had falsified records, booked sales worth Rs 9,000 crore to over 160 customers who are bogus or do not exist and inflated bank balances.

Last month, the ED had arrested the firm's chief financial officer, Anil Khandelwal, and its internal auditor, Naresh Jain, in connection with the case.

The audit conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers has found that the company has recorded related party loans and advances of Rs 9,494 crore during the same period, of which about Rs 4,008 crore was loaned to 11 overseas entities connected to Cox & Kings. Of these offshore transactions, transfers of Rs 581 crore was allegedly done in violation of the Reserve Bank of India norms.

The forensic audit also found the company did not take board approvals for Rs 6,071-crore loans

extended to at least 20 related parties between 2014 and 2019.

The audit revealed that Cox & Kings gave Rs 1,100 crore to Alok Industries, a stressed firm that went bankrupt in 2017, even as the travel firm did not have any business relationship with the company. Significantly, Khandelwal is the brother of the CFO of Alok Industries.

The ED has found that Cox & Kings sold its UK subsidiary — Holiday Break Education Limited — for Rs 4,387 crore and "siphoned majority of the money". Out of the sale proceeds, at least \$15.34 million was allegedly transferred to Kuber Investment Mauritius Private Limited, a firm controlled by Kerkar.

Ezeego Travel and Tours, another subsidiary of the group, is accused of diverting Rs 150 crore to Redkite Capital Private Limited, a company promoted by CFO Khandelwal and auditor Jain. This fund was used to buy controlling stake in Tourism Finance Corporation of India Limited, a listed NBFC.



Bandh supporters stage a demonstration in Kolkata on Thursday. *Partha Paul*

Union strike affects Kerala, Bengal, Assam; banking and transport hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

A NATIONWIDE strike by trade unions in protest against the Centre's economic policies on Thursday hit normal life in Kerala, parts of West Bengal, Assam and Telangana as public transport went off road and banking services were disrupted.

All government offices and major business establishments remained closed across Left-ruled Kerala, where public transport also went off the road. West Bengal witnessed sporadic clashes in several parts as Left unions took out rallies, disrupting vehicular movement and forcing shopkeepers to down the shutters.

The strike also partially affected normal life in Odisha, Puducherry, Assam and Telangana.

With bank unions joining the stir, banking operations in Kerala, West Bengal and north-eastern states were hit. Operations such as cash deposits and withdrawal and cheque clearances were impacted.

In other parts of the country, the strike had little effect, but reports suggested that several bank branches witnessed a limited impact.

Bank unions claimed that in the clearing grids, about 20 lakh cheques worth about Rs 18,000 crore could not be sent for clearance due to the strike. Even ATMs in some parts of the country went dry. However, the country's largest lender State Bank of India and private sector banks were functional.

The daylong strike was called by a joint platform of 10 central trade unions to protest against the central government's new

farm and labour laws, among other worker-related issues, as well as to raise various demands. Apart from trade unions such as INTUC, AITUC and Hind Mazdoor Sabha, various independent federations and associations are part of the joint platform.

BJP-aligned Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh did not participate in the strike.

"The states of Kerala, Puducherry, Odisha, Assam and Telangana reported complete shutdown. Tamil Nadu reported complete shut down in 13 districts, while the industrial strike continues in the rest of the districts. Punjab and Haryana reported that the state road transport buses have not left their depots in the morning," a joint statement issued by the trade unions said. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh reported 100 per cent strike, the statement said.

'RS 70,000 CR STUCK IN ARBITRATION CLAIMS'

Aiming to boost road sector, NHAI drive looks to settle disputes with contractors

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE NATIONAL Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will soon begin a drive to settle with its contractors all existing disputes — worth Rs 70,000 crore and stuck at various levels of arbitration for years — within weeks and save around Rs 50,000 crore in potential payout, giving a fillip to the road construction industry.

Contractors have on various occasions taken disputes to the available fora over the years, seeking claims from the country's premier highways maker through clauses of the contract. Arbitration and litigation in such cases typically take years, and also keep that much liquidity notionally tied up. The NHAI has decided to reach out to all such contractors — big and small players — to settle the disputes "amicably", and hopefully



NHAI Chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

within a few weeks.

"Around Rs 70,000 crore is stuck in arbitration claims. Although much of that is exaggerated claim, we believe something in the range of Rs 20,000 crore will happen. Through courts and arbitration they will take five to 10 years to get that money. So, we are asking all contractors to come to our conciliation committees instead, through which they get the money within three-four weeks. So companies get that much liquidity, early," Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Chairman, NHAI, told *The Indian Express*. "We are going to start a drive."

The move is aimed at giving thrust to the pace of highways construction in the country, which the NDA government has highlighted as one of the major infrastructure sectors to bring traction back into the post-Covid recovery of the economy. The NHAI has this year awarded contracts for 60 projects with capital cost of around Rs 70,000 crore so far for a length of 1,790 km — highest in the past three years.

The Authority has formed three Conciliation Committees of Independent Experts (CCIE) of three members each. The CCIE is headed by retired officials from judiciary, besides experts from public administration and finance and private sectors. Till now, 131 disputes have been referred to these CCIEs and

Air pollution rising faster in south than in Gangetic India, finds study

Increase in PM2.5 levels cuts across urban-rural divide, says CPCB-IITD survey

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

WHILE THE Indo-Gangetic Plain continues to be the most polluted region in the country — in fact in the whole world — in terms of PM 2.5 levels, the rate of increase in pollution levels in southern and eastern India is far greater than the Gangetic plain between 2000 and 2019, a study commissioned by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has found.

The study, jointly carried out by IIT-Delhi and CPCB, has also found that air pollution in rural areas has increased at par with urban India, a phenomenon that is rarely discussed with air pollution policies continuing to focus on urban centres.

On PM2.5 levels cutting across the urban-rural divide, the study cites the example of Delhi, where PM2.5 increased by 10.9 per cent between 2001 to 2015. During the same period, it notes, PM2.5 exposure in rural India rose by 11.9 per cent.

The study, conducted on the basis of satellite data, is the first of its kind to look at air pollution spatially. It found that the rate of increase of PM2.5 over eastern and

STATES WITH HIGH PM 2.5 INCREASE

State	Urban	Rural
Kerala	24.2%	21.9%
Goa	36.4%	37.3%
Andhra Pradesh	20.1%	18.9%
Maharashtra	24%	21%
Odisha	28%	28%

* Data from 2000-2019; source: CPCB-IIT Delhi study

southern India is more than 1.6 per cent per year during this period, and less than 1.2 per cent annually in the Gangetic plain.

The study also found that 436 cities/towns with a population of more than 1 lakh in 2019 exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 40 micrograms per metric cube (µg/m3).

"We are currently in the process of collating and analysing the 2020 data as well. Over the next few years, we expect the data to show that a decrease in pollution levels, especially in rural areas, due to the Ujjwala scheme, as a major contributing factor (to air pollution) here is household emis-

sions," the study's author, Sagnik Dey of IIT-Delhi, said. Dey said spatial mapping of pollution will be vital for the government to form its future policies under the National Clean Air Programme.

Fine particulate matter — or PM2.5 — is a major pollutant affecting the environment, human health and the climate. According to the study, population-weighted 20-year averaged PM2.5 over India is 57.3 µg/m3, with a larger increase observed between 2010 and 2019 than in the 2000-09 period.

"Poor air quality across the urban-rural transect suggests that this is a regional scale problem, a fact that is often neglected," says the study. The study reports that ambient PM2.5 exceeds the annual NAAQS of 40 µg/m3 in every state except Jammu and Kashmir (now UTs of J&K and Ladakh), Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. As of 2019, 99.5 per cent districts in India did not meet WHO's air quality guideline of 10 µg/m3. The PM2.5 level in the Gangetic plain, which has a population of more than 70 crore, and the western and region is more than double the annual NAAQS, the study notes.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED Seeing red in grey horizon

IN ODISHA and Chhattisgarh, which have reported among the highest increase in air pollution in eastern India, this is due to mining activities and thermal coal power plants. In southern India, high urbanisation in and around cities such as Bengaluru or Hyderabad has led to increased emissions, says Sagnik Dey of IIT-Delhi, author of the study. Unfavourable meteorological conditions in eastern and peninsular India, along with increase in emissions, has led to an overall increase in PM 2.5. A steady air pollution rise in rural India is due to high reliance on solid fuel for domestic use, with the study putting household sources as the "largest contributor to ambient PM2.5 in India".

BJP MLA who 'got call' from Lalu lodges FIR

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 26

TWO DAYS after senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi accused Lalu Prasad of calling up a BJP MLA to allegedly make him "go absent" during Wednesday's election for Bihar Assembly Speaker, the legislator from Pirapati, Lalan Paswan, on Thursday lodged an FIR against the RJD chief at Patna's Vigilance Police Station.

Based on Paswan's complaint, Vigilance police lodged the case against Lalu Prasad under provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act.

In Ranchi, from where Lalu allegedly called up Paswan, the jailed former Bihar CM was shifted from the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences director's bungalow to its paying ward.

Lalu is in jail after he was convicted in the fodder scam cases. On Wednesday, the Jharkhand government had ordered a probe into Sushil Modi and Lalan Paswan's allegation that he had called up the latter and asked him to abstain from voting in the Speaker's election.

The JD(U) on Thursday demanded that the RJD chief be shifted from jail in Ranchi to Delhi's Tihar Jail. The party also asked the government in neighbouring Jharkhand to thoroughly probe into alleged violation of jail manuals, with Lalu ostensibly "meeting people for political discussions and keeping a third aide, against provisions of keeping only two aides or sevadars" while in jail.



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in the Assembly on Thursday. *ANI*

In his complaint to Vigilance police, Paswan maintained that "Lalu Prasad tried to buy" the vote of an MLA of a political party by trying to allure him with the offer of a minister post in the event the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan forms the government after toppling the Nitish Kumar government in the Speaker's election.

JD(U) spokesperson Meeraj Kumar told reporters here: "We request the Supreme Court to take cognisance of the matter and request the authorities concerned to shift the RJD chief first to Ranchi's Hotwar jail from the sprawling Kelly's bungalow meant for residence of RIMS director."

Kumar later told *The Indian Express* that Lalu meeting multiple visitors and engaging in political discussions with them were a violation of Jharkhand jail manual. "We want the Jharkhand Prisons department to find out how a person called Infaq Ansari has access to Lalu Prasad. As per rule, Prasad is allowed to keep only two aides. The jail police should also seek call details of the

mobile number from which he called Lalan Paswan," he said.

Kumar also sought the status of a similar probe by Jharkhand I-G (Prisons) Virendra Bhushan in August 2020. Bhushan has ordered a fresh probe into the latest "tape controversy".

Neeraj Kumar said, "Lalu Prasad will continue to violate jail manual. He should (therefore) be shifted to Tihar Jail."

Lalu is undergoing treatment at Ranchi's RIMS Hospital for multiple ailments. In August, he was shifted to the RIMS director's bungalow to protect him from exposure to Covid-19.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari told *The Indian Express*: "Lalu Prasad is suffering from several health complications and it is inhuman for the NDA to demand that he should be shifted from Ranchi hospital to elsewhere. In fact, the JD(U) has been in awe of his persona — the RJD is still the largest party in Bihar." As for the "tape controversy", Tiwari said investigations are under way.

WITH INPUTS FROM
ABHISHEK ANGAD IN RANCHI

Nivar makes landfall: 3 killed in TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 26

SEVERE CYCLONIC storm Nivar made landfall in Tamil Nadu early on Thursday, killing at least three people, uprooting trees, snapping power lines and inundating some low-lying areas.

After making landfall near Puducherry, Nivar, with winds of up to 130 km per hour, weakened into a cyclonic storm and further into a deep depression as it entered Andhra Pradesh, said officials of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Several districts in Andhra Pradesh witnessed heavy to extremely heavy rainfall Wednesday evening, leading to the death of one person.

In Tamil Nadu, three people, including a woman, were killed in rain-related incidents such as tree and wall collapses in Ponneri and Villupuram, officials said. They said 1,086 trees were uprooted. At some places, overhead electricity cables snapped as heavy trees fell on them.



NDRF personnel carry out rescue work in Chennai. *PTI*

Chief Minister K Palaniswami visited Cuddalore, close to Puducherry, and took stock of the damage in the district. He inspected paddy crops damaged by the cyclone and reviewed the situation along with senior state officials. He also visited the Devanampattinam relief camp, and spoke to the people sheltered there.

Later, he told reporters that due to adequate precautionary measures taken by the government, there was no major damage. While 4,233 relief camps were ready to accommodate

about 13 lakh people, "right now, about 2.30 lakh of them are in 2,999 camps", he said.

Low-lying areas in Chennai, including those in suburban Irumbuliyur, Mudichur and Urapakkam, witnessed flooding and water entered the houses of many residents. Rescue personnel ferried cooked food to the people using inflatable boats and while some chose to shift to the homes of their relatives, others stayed put. In Puducherry, which witnessed heavy rain, CM V Narayanasamy said no loss of life was reported.

Cheat devices:
SC junks Skoda
Volkswagen plea
to quash FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a plea by car-makers Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited to quash an FIR against it in Uttar Pradesh over a customer's complaint alleging use of "cheat devices" – which manipulate emission figures – in Audi cars he bought.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramaniam said the question whether such devices were installed and whether the customer had made any representation in this regard to the company are all questions of fact which cannot be gone into at this stage.

According to the complainant, he bought seven Audi cars from authorised dealers of the company. At the time of purchase and taking delivery, he claimed, he got it clarified from the company that no such device was installed in its vehicles sold in India. However, authorities subsequently found this was not true and that there was higher emission of nitrogen oxide in the company's models.

Hearing two other applications, the NGT had in March last year concluded that cheat devices were "in fact used" and directed the manufacturers to pay Rs 500 crore as damages. An appeal against this is pending in the SC.

The car maker had earlier moved the Allahabad HC seeking quashing of FIR on the ground that the complaint was lodged more than two years after purchase and that, as per the VAHAN Portal of the government, the complainant had purchased three and not seven vehicles.



26/11 TRIBUTE

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and others arrive to pay homage at the 26/11 police memorial site in Mumbai on Thursday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

12 years on, nearly half of India's fishing vessels still without transponders

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

TWELVE YEARS after the 26/11 attack exposed wide gaps in India's coastal security, senior sources in the security establishment said that nearly 60 per cent of India's nearly 3 lakh fishing boats are smaller than 20 meters, and most of them are yet to have transponders that can help the authorities track them, but several government departments are looking to fix the issue.

In 2009, the Centre had mandated that all fishing vessels over 20 metres long should have AIS transponders. However, this left out the smaller boats – the 26/11 attackers had used inflatable motor boats to reach Mumbai's shores.

Transponders on sea-faring

vessels help national and international authorities track their movement, and also to check all relevant information including routes, ports, ownership, nationality and history. In the absence of transponders, or Automatic Identification System (AIS), the vessels are tracked either through specific intelligence inputs, or through satellite monitoring.

The Navy's proposal to create a National Maritime Awareness Center is under consideration by the Cabinet Committee on Security, and the center will be a multi-agency body including the Navy, Coast Guard, intelligence agencies, state maritime police forces, ministries of shipping, ports and fisheries, among others, for an integrated approach to maritime security, sources said.

According to an official, "sev-

eral options are being considered" but finding a solution is a bit tricky since "the responsibility dilutes between the Centre and state governments" and the owners of these small vessels need to be compensated for installation of any transponders.

"The Fisheries Ministry is considering certain vessel operations," said the security establishment official, and added that so is the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which, he said, shares pictures of fishing vessels around the Indian coastline with the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC).

Established in November 2014, IMAC is the nodal center for maritime security information collation and dissemination.

In the absence of a large number of Indian boats still without

AIS, which can potentially be used by adversaries, the senior official from the security establishment said that compared to 26/11, the IMAC and other systems are a lot more robust now. "Adversaries are aware that we are watching and monitoring, and that creates deterrence," he said.

The government, the official asserted, "wants to ensure that every boat" should transmit some information. For the "dark ships" in the IOR, but beyond India's international waters, agencies have to work on "satellite monitoring".

Any commercial ship with gross tonnage (GRT) of over 300 is mandated to have AIS internationally. The official said that some large ships too "do not transmit on AIS" and are called dark ships. He stated that "these gaps are exploited by the subversive elements".

Stan Swamy seeks
bail again: Targeted
due to 'nature of work'

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

FATHER STAN Swamy, a Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the Elgaar Parishad case, on Thursday filed a bail application before a special court, saying no purpose was served by "keeping a sick 83-year-old incarcerated". Swamy was arrested on October 8 in Jharkhand and produced in a Mumbai court the following day. The NIA, however, did not seek his custody for investigation and filed a chargesheet against him and seven others the same day. He has since been lodged in Talaja Central Jail after his interim bail application on medical grounds was rejected last month.

Calling the arrest "uncalled for" and "malafide", the bail plea says that the fact that his custody was not sought over two years after the FIR was filed shows that he was not considered a flight risk or someone who would tamper with evidence.

The 31-page bail plea, filed through his lawyer Sharif Shaikh, says Swamy has been targeted by the investigating agency due to the "nature of his writings and work" about "caste and land struggles of the people in India...". "Through his literature, he has raised questions and holds the state authorities responsible for the injustice against the marginalised persons of society... it is due

Plea for return
of straw, sipper
from NIA junked

Mumbai: The special court on Thursday rejected an application filed by Stan Swamy, seeking return of straw and sipper which he said was seized after his arrest. The plea filed earlier this month sought access to the straw and sipper as he suffers from Parkinson's disease and was unable to hold a glass. The NIA submitted that it had not seized any such sipper during the arrest, after the plea was rejected. Swamy's lawyers filed another application seeking directions from the court to instruct jail authorities to permit them to provide winter clothes and straw and sipper to Swamy in jail. The court has called for a report from Talaja jail. The matter will be heard on December 4. **ENS**

the bail plea says there was nothing incriminating to show his involvement in any terrorist activity.

"Nowhere have they been able to establish that the applicant himself is a member of the banned organisation. Working for the undertrials who could or could not have been Maoist does not make the applicant himself a Maoist," it says.

Swamy is the founder of Bagaicha, an organisation working with tribals in Jharkhand. He is also a member of Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PPSC), which the NIA claims is a frontal organisation of the banned CPI(Maoist) group.

In its chargesheet, the NIA had said: "Since from the maximum part of the country, party members (of CPI-Maoist) were arrested and the party was not having any face, so it gave responsibility to Stan Swamy as he was against the government. Stan Swamy is having his own identity. Stan Swamy is having his own NGO in Jharkhand." Swamy's bail plea says the NIA failed to bring on record anything that shows he was supporting the banned organisation through PPSC.

The bail plea also says that Swamy was not connected to the organisation of the Elgar Parishad event on December 31, 2017, which the NIA claims was linked to the violence in Bhima Koregaon the next day. Asking the NIA to file its reply to the bail plea, the court fixed December 4 as the next date of hearing.

New guidelines in UP,
Bihar to curb Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, PATNA,
NOVEMBER 26

THE UTTAR Pradesh and Bihar governments have brought new guidelines to arrest the spike in Covid-19 cases.

In Uttar Pradesh, as per the new guidelines, if a single Covid-19 case is found at a location, the area within a radius of 50 m will be marked as a containment zone. At a location where a cluster of cases is found, the area within 100-m radius will be marked a containment zone.

If multiple cases are reported from the same house, the containment zone will be the area within a 50-m radius.

Recently, the state government capped the number of people in group activities like marriage ceremonies and religious functions at 100.

As per the instructions, attendance at such events outside containment zones has to be not more than 50 per cent of the to-

tal capacity of the closed premises – the maximum number of people cannot exceed 100.

At open spaces like grounds and parks, such events need to have attendance less than 40 per cent of total capacity. Face mask, distancing, thermal scanning, sanitisers and handwashing will be mandatory at such events.

In Bihar, where there has been a 10 per cent spike in Covid positivity cases in Patna and some other districts over the last few days, fresh guidelines on attendance at social gatherings have been put in place.

The cap on attendance of employees in government offices – except those in essential services – in Patna, Vaishali, Begusarai, West Champaran and Saran has been reduced from 50 to 30 persons. Buses and other commercial vehicles plying in Patna and plying from Patna to other districts and states can now have passengers up to 50 per cent of their seating capacities. These rules would be applicable from November 26 to December 3.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

269 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 92,66,705
RECOVERED: 86,79,138
DEATHS: 1,35,223
TESTS: 1,35,931,545 | **DOUBLING RATE: 148.63****



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGEIN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	17,95,959	6,159	0.31%	232.59
■ Kerala	5,78,363	6,490	0.99%	72.91
■ Delhi	5,45,787	5,246	1.17%	61.50
■ West Bengal	4,66,991	3,528	0.79%	90.85
■ Haryana	2,24,489	2,197	1.16%	61.92

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days ** Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.47 NOW: 1.46	7 DAYS EARLIER: 6.97 NOW: 6.82	DETECTED TODAY: 44,489 RECOVERED TODAY: 36,367
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on November 25, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

KERALA ANNOUNCES 2-DAY MOURNING IN SPORTS SECTOR

Kannur to Kolkata, fans pay tribute
to Maradona in their own ways

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NOVEMBER 26

FROM WEST Bengal to Kerala, football fans in the country Thursday mourned the passing of Diego Maradona, widely regarded as one of the greatest players of the sport.

Tributes poured in from politicians, sports personalities and fans. While West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condoled his death with a Facebook post, the Kerala government announced two-day mourning in the state's sports sector and appealed to everyone in the fraternity to join as a mark of tribute.

The Argentine player had a massive fan following in both Kerala and Bengal. He had visited Kolkata twice—in 2008 and 2017—setting off scenes of mass jubilation during his appearances.

He also came to the southern state's Kannur for two days in October 2012 for a private event. Here, too, he had received a hero's welcome, with fans converging at the stadium three days prior to the event.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan



Fans pay tribute to Maradona in Kolkata on Thursday. *Partha Paul*

expressed grief over the death and said his fans around the world would miss the football legend.

Banerjee posted: "My deepest condolences to his family, friends and countless fans around the world. The entire football family has lost one of its greats."

CPM leader Shamik Lahiri recalled his interactions with Maradona when he had visited the player's residence in Argentina.

"Three of us went to meet him to invite him to Kolkata. He hugged all of us in such a way that we are like his old acquaint-

ances. Instead of five minutes, our meeting lasted for an hour," said Lahiri.

Maradona, who wore his Communist leanings on his sleeve and idolised Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, had also met former West Bengal Chief Minister and CPM leader Jyoti Basu in 2008.

"I remember I had told him that we also have a Communist legend, Jyoti Basu, and he is like Fidel Castro for us. He immediately expressed interest in meeting Basu. The time slot was only for 10 minutes for the meeting. However, the meeting extended

for an hour," said Lahiri.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly tweeted a photograph of him with Maradona during his second visit to Kolkata.

"My hero no more... my mad genius rest in peace. I watched football for you," wrote Ganguly. Football clubs in Kolkata held prayer meetings and garlanded the footballer's statue in the city.

In Kannur, a hotel suite where Maradona had stayed during the 2012 trip has been maintained as a museum since then.

At room 309 of the Blue Nile Hotel, all items touched or used by the footballer have been preserved in display boxes. These include a bouquet he was given during his reception, balls with his signature and plates he used to dine during the stay.

Blue Nile managing director V Raveendran said: "The remains of the seafood which he had consumed are also preserved for display. The Maradona suite is allotted only to those who are ready to ensure that all artefacts would be kept intact. We get bookings from football fans who come with the dream of staying in a room used by the legend."

— WITH PTI INPUTS FROM KOLKATA

IMPORTANT NOTICE				
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised due to operational constraints/speed enhancement as under:-				
Revised Timings of 01107/01108 Gwalior - Manduadih - Gwalior Special Train (Daily)				
Train No. 01107		STATIONS	Train No. 01108	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
---	20:55	Gwalior	08:30	---
21:30	21:32	Dabra	07:07	07:09
22:00	22:02	Datia	06:42	06:44
22:40	22:45	Jhansi Jn.	06:15	06:20
23:18	23:19	Niwari	04:37	04:38
23:48	23:50	Mau Ranipur	04:06	04:08
00:13	00:15	Harpalpur	03:30	03:32
00:35	00:36	Belatal	02:51	02:52
00:49	00:50	Kulpahar	02:37	02:38
01:08	01:10	Mahoba	02:17	02:19
02:25	02:30	Banda Jn.	01:18	01:23
02:55	02:57	Atarra	00:29	00:31
03:23	03:25	Chitrakoot	00:01	00:03
04:35	04:37	Manikpur Jn.	23:33	23:35
05:31	05:32	Shankargarh	22:13	22:14
06:19	06:20	Naini	21:39	21:40
06:55	07:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:55	21:20
07:30	07:31	Prayag	20:33	20:35
08:13	08:14	Phul Pur	19:34	19:35
08:43	08:45	Janghal Jn.	18:36	18:38
09:04	09:05	Suriawan	18:09	18:10
09:18	09:20	Bhadohi	17:38	17:40
---	---	Chaukhandi	16:59	17:00
11:05	---	Manduadih	---	16:30
Revised Timings effective from : 01107 Ex. Gwalior from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 01108 Ex. Manduadih from 28.11.2020 to till further advice.				
Revised Timings of 01841/01842 Khajuraho - Kurukshetra Jn. - Khajuraho Special Train (Daily)				
Train No. 01841		STATIONS	Train No. 01842	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
---	18:25	Khajuraho	08:30	---
18:57	18:59	Chhatarpur	06:38	06:40
19:21	19:23	Ishanagar	06:14	06:16
19:47	19:49	Khargapur	05:48	05:50
20:37	20:39	Tikamgarh	05:03	05:05
21:00	21:02	Udaipura	04:39	04:41
21:50	22:10	Lalitpur	03:45	04:05
23:45	00:05	Jhansi Jn.	02:05	02:25
01:36	01:38	Gwalior	00:36	00:38
02:58	03:00	Dhaulpur	22:43	22:45
03:50	03:55	Agra Cantt	21:30	21:35
05:20	05:30	Mathura Jn.	20:40	20:45
05:59	06:00	Chhata	20:15	20:16
06:10	06:12	Kosi Kalan	20:02	20:04
06:24	06:25	Hodal	19:49	19:50
07:13	07:15	Palwal	19:26	19:28
07:37	07:39	Faridabad	18:52	18:54
08:16	08:18	H. Nizamuddin Jn.	18:31	18:33
08:45	09:00	New Delhi	18:00	18:20
09:14	09:16	Subzi Mandi	17:30	17:32
09:47	09:49	Sonipat	16:51	16:53
10:14	10:16	Samalkha	16:15	16:17
10:32	10:34	Panipat Jn.	16:00	16:02
11:19	11:21	Karnal	15:34	15:36
11:42	11:44	Nilokheri	15:19	15:21
12:15	---	Kurukshetra Jn.	---	15:10
Revised Timings effective from : 01841 Ex. Khajuraho from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 01842 Ex. Kurukshetra Jn. from 28.11.2020 to till further advice.				
Revised Timings of 01803/01804 Jhansi Jn. - Lucknow Jn. - Jhansi Jn. Special Train (Daily)				
Train No. 01803		STATIONS	Train No. 01804	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
---	06:15	Jhansi Jn.	22:35	---
06:55	06:56	Moth	21:04	21:05
07:20	07:21	Ait	20:35	20:36
07:40	07:42	Orai	20:10	20:12
08:12	08:13	Kalpi	19:41	19:42
08:27	08:29	Pokhrayan	19:24	19:26
10:06	10:07	Govindpuri	18:38	18:40
10:25	10:35	Kanpur Central	18:15	18:20
10:57	10:59	Unnao Jn.	17:36	17:38
12:00	---	Lucknow Jn.	---	16:40
Revised Timings effective from : 01803 Ex. Jhansi Jn. from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 01804 Ex. Lucknow Jn. from 28.11.2020 to till further advice.				
Revised Timings of 04185/04186 Gwalior - Barauni Jn. - Gwalior Special Train (Daily)				
Train No. 04185		STATIONS	Train No. 04186	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
---	12:00	Gwalior	20:35	---
12:36	12:38	Dabra	19:11	19:13
13:04	13:06	Datia	18:37	18:39
13:40	14:00	Jhansi Jn.	17:55	18:15
15:38	15:40	Orai	15:28	15:30
16:10	16:12	Kalpi	14:38	14:40
16:30	16:32	Pokhrayan	14:00	14:02
18:40	18:50	Kanpur Central	12:40	12:50
19:28	19:30	Unnao Jn.	12:02	12:04
20:35	20:45	Lucknow	10:50	11:00
21:28	21:30	Barabanki Jn.	09:43	09:45
21:54	21:56	Burhwal	09:02	09:04
22:25	22:27	Colonelganj	08:32	08:34
23:05	23:10	Gonda Jn.	08:02	08:07
23:32	23:34	Mankapur Jn.	07:08	07:10
23:48	23:50	Maskanwa	06:53	06:55
---	---	Babhan	06:35	06:37
00:34	00:37	Basti	06:07	06:10
01:01	01:03	Khallabad	05:38	05:40
---	---	Sahjanwa	05:19	05:21
02:00	02:10	Gorakhpur Jn.	04:35	04:45
03:20	03:25	Deoria Sadar	03:10	03:15
03:50	03:55	Bhatni Jn.	02:44	02:49
04:20	04:22	Bankata	---	---
04:31	04:33	Mairwa	02:01	02:03
04:55	05:00	Siwan Jn.	01:40	01:45
05:15	05:17	Duraundha Jn.	---	---
06:20	06:30	Chhapra	00:30	00:40
07:26	07:28	Dighwara	23:11	23:13
08:00	08:05	Sonpur	22:50	22:52
08:15	08:20	Hajipur Jn.	22:35	22:40
08:39	08:41	Bhagwanpur	22:04	22:06
09:20	09:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:30	21:35
09:46	09:48	Dholi	20:12	20:14
10:08	10:10	Khudiram Bose Pusa	19:58	20:00
10:50	10:55	Samastipur Jn.	19:36	19:41
11:17	11:19	Dal Singh Sarai	19:12	19:14
12:50	---	Barauni Jn.	---	18:45
Revised Timings effective from : 04185 Ex. Gwalior from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 04186 Ex. Barauni Jn. from 29.11.2020 to till further advice.				
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				
Security Helpline No. 182		Integrated Helpline No. 139		
Please join us on		NORTHERN RAILWAY		
Your Convenience - Our Concern		Visit us at : www.northernrailways.gov.in		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of a) 33KV 800A (Conv.) Double Break AB Switches with insulators (b) 11KV 400A (Conv.) DB AB Switches with insulators, (c) 11.0 Mtrs/365 Kgs PSCC Poles to Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Medak, Ranga Reddy & Siddipet Circles, (d) LT GI Pins, (e) LT Metal Parts and (f) 11 KV Metal Parts (C&T) on e-procurement platform.
 For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.auction.telangana.gov.in
 Phone: 040-23431319, 1026, 1033. Sd/- (U.Bala Swamy), R.O. No.: 1161-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Chief General Manager (P&MM)

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LTD., VADODARA
 2nd Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan,
 Race Course, Vadodara - 390007
 Phone: 0265-2334751, Fax: 0265-2344543
 Web: www.guvnl.com

GUVN, a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of **500 MW RTC** power for the period **15.03.2021 to 30.06.2021** at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Gol Guidelines dated 30.03.2016.

RFP will be available at www.msctcecommerce.com from 02.12.2020. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

Date: 27th November 2020 **General Manager (Commerce)**

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
PRESS NOTICE FOR NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No: EE-Project South-4/SZ/TC/2020-21/9 Date: 26.11.2020.
Name of work: Supply & Installation of Machineries/Equipments for Setting up of Technical Laboratory for Engineering Department at R.K. Puram, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (Phase-I). **Estimated Amount:** Rs. 103.70 Lacs, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,07,500/-, **Time of Completion:** 04 months, **Tender Cost:** Rs.2,500/-, **H/A:** G-110-301-1. **Date & time of Pre-bid Meeting:** 10.12.2020 02:00 P.M. **Last date of submission of bids:** 29.12.2020 03:00 P.M. For tender documents, online tendering time table and the details of the work please refer www.tenderwizad.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER. All details of Revision, Clarification, Corrigendum/Addendum, Time Extension etc. (if any) in respect of the above tender will be uploaded on the above mentioned website only and no press notice of any kind shall be issued. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated in respect of these tenders.
Ex. Engineer (Project)-I
Ro. No. 53/DPI/South/2020-21 **South Zone**

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
T.C.-3V, Vibhuti Khand, Gombi Nagar, Lucknow-226 010 (U.P.) REGIONAL OFFICE
 Phone No.: 0522-2720063, 4109238, 2720063, E-mail: gump.fci@gov.in, agmcontup.fci@gov.in
CONTRACT SECTION E-TENDER NOTICE
 On line tenders under two bid systems are invited from experienced/-in-experienced/ Sole Proprietary concern or Registered Partnership Firm or a Private Limited Company or a Public Limited Company incorporated in India for appointment of HTC/RTC/CTC at various depots/Centres in UP Region. The terms and conditions and other details are available at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and FCI website <http://www.fci.gov.in>. Critical dates involving in the tender enquiry are illustrated below in tabular manner.

Tender document Download Start date & time	Tender document Download End date & time	Online Bid submission Start date & time	Online Bid submission End date & time	Online Technical Bid opening date & time	Pre-bid Meeting
27.11.2020 09:00 AM	21.12.2020 03:00 PM	27.11.2020 09:00 AM	21.12.2020 03:00 PM	22.12.2020 03:00 PM	01.12.2020 12:00 Noon

Further, any corrigendum in this regard will be published on CPP portal or on the FCI website <http://www.fci.gov.in>, if necessary.
General Manager (UP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
 The Divisional Railway Manager (Medical), Northern Railway, Moradabad for and behalf of the President of India, invites open E-Tender for the under noted work:-

N.I.T. No.	146 Med/CN/DDN/2020 Dated: 25/11/2020
Name of work	Cleaning and De-Slitting work of Drains/Nallahs in Railway colonies, Dehradun on A.M.C. basis for three years.
Approximate Cost	Rs. 18,70,025.04 Paise (Including GST & Dumping charge)
Earnest Money	Rs. 37,400/- Online Payment mode www.ireps.gov.in
Completion period	Three years.
Date & Time of opening of Tender	E-Tender shall be opened on Dt. 16.12.2020 at 15:00 hrs. If date of opening happens to be a holiday the tender shall be opened on the same time on next working day.
Indian Railway Website	Additional relevant information may be checked on the Website: www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of E-Tender document	0.00

Note: Payment of Tender document cost (TDS) and earnest money deposit (EMD) in respect of E-Tendering shall be accepted IREPS Portal through net banking Debit and credit card only. 2649/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE JAL SHAKTI DIVISION CHADOORA
 Fax Phone: 01951-257482 E-mail: dsphedc20@gmail.com
Corrigendum
Reference:- This office EOI No.03 of 11/2020/PHEDC of 11/2020 (2020-21) issued under endorsement No:PHEDC/5075-5105 dated: 17.11.2020.
 The below mentioned clarifications/changes are hereby made to this office above referred EOI. It is enjoined upon all prospective bidders to read carefully and upload the tenders accordingly.
 I. Please read Rs.5000/- in the form of Demand Draft pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora instead of Rs.10000/- mentioned at page No.12 (EOI processing fee).
 II. The word etc is withdrawn as pointed out at page no.04 Para ii as the "similar project" shall mean project related to third party monitoring of **PHE/Hydraulic/Sewerage Sectors** only and no other sector. This will effectively apply to page 04-05 point (xi) (B) as row.
 III. The certificate mentioned at page no. 04 (vii) is qualifying certificate as per format given on page no.07 and 08 (under eligibility criteria) of engineering exports only.
 All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
 No: PHEDC/5225-61 s/d- Executive Engineer,
 Dated:25-11-2020 Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
 Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
 CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER/MECH.MTC. CIRCLE-I G.H.T.P., LEHRA MOHABBAT, DISTT. BATHINDA (PUNJAB) PIN-151111
 Phone: 0164-2756434, Fax No. 0164-2756255
 E-mail: se-mmct1-lehra@pspcl.in, GSTIN 03AAFCPS120Q12C
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Enquiry No. 18/MM-B/MC-335(XI)/O&M/GHTP/2020
Short Description: Routine, preventive, breakdown maintenance and overhauling jobs (Mechanical works) of Pressure Parts, Wind Box and Burners, Air Pre-Heaters, SCAPHs, ESPs, Aux. PRDS, Ducts, Dampers & Gates, Coal Pipes, Soot Blowers, Safety Valves, HP/LP Piping and Manual Valves, Fuel Firing System (including Fuel Oil Pump House) etc. of Boilers of 2x210 MW and 2x250 MW BHEL make Units of GHTP, Lehra Mohabat.
Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.4,10,000/- (Four Lakhs Ten thousand only).
Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: 28.12.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Techno Commercial Stage Bid: 30.12.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
Detailed NIT and tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 26.11.2020 onwards.
NOTE:
 1. The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specifications from this office. For registration of digital signatures and uploading of tender, information may be sought from M/s GePNIC, Contact No. 91-120-4001002/5.
 2. It is informed that in case the tender process is not completed due to any reason no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL official website i.e. <https://pspcl.in>.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, Mechanical MTC. Circle-I/O&M, GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabat, Distt. Bathinda-151111 (Punjab)
 GHTP-56/2020

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G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT (NIHE)
 (Formerly Known as G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development)
 Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263643, Uttarakhand
TENDER NOTICE No. - GBPNIHE/Central Lab/Equipment/VA/2020-21/14
 Please refer to Institute Tender notice No GBPNIHE/Central Lab/Equipment/VA/2020-21/14 published in "Indian Express" (Delhi edition) dated 15.10.2020 for supply of Rotary Evaporator under Institute Central lab. The last date of receiving of Tender for equipment is hereby extended up to 10.12.2020 at 3.00 P.M. The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.euniwizarde.com>
 The full details of equipments and documents are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpihed.gov.in>.
Administrative Officer
Email: ao@gbpihed.nic.in

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
 (Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
 (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
Notification Inviting Tender (through e-Procurement)
Tender Enquiry No. BESCOM/CGM (Proj)/OFC/BC-14/20-21/19 Date: 26.11.2020
 Bangalore Electricity Supply Company invites tender for **Technical Advisory Assistance Services for Optical Fibre Cable business**. The bid documents can be downloaded from 30.11.2020. The necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal website:<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the **Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects**, 2nd Block, 4th Floor, Corporate office, BESCOM, Bangalore. Contact Person: **Chief General Manager (Ele), Projects**, Corporate Office Contact No: **+91 94498 44885** and **Deputy General Manager (Ele), DAS**, Corporate office, BESCOM, Contact No: **+91 94498 44627**.
Sd/-
Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects, BESCOM, Bangalore.
 For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
 Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

SEARCH FOR MISSING
 General public is hereby informed that a boy **Md. Masiullah @ Massi S/o Md. Shoib, R/o H.No. 11147, New P-153, Gali Swarn Wali, Motia Khan, Sadar Bazar, Delhi** has been missing since 02.11.2020 from the area of PS Sadar Bazar, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 54A dated 09.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing boy is as under: **Name:** Md. Masiullah @ Massi, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Strong, **Identification:** Mentally weak and dumb, **Wearing:** Blue colour t-shirt and black colour trouser. If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/ Sadar Bazar, Delhi.

Md. Masiullah @ Massi

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
 Fax : 011-24368639 **P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi.**
 DP/726/N/2020 **Ph. No. 011-23512411, 23512412**

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
 2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503
 email : apmhdc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com
Tender Notice No.15/APMSIDC/2020-21. Dated: 25.11.2020
 APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform for **Equipment Wing:** 1. Procure and supply of Medical Equipment and other activities under NHM Fund. 2. Identification of Service Provider for providing Tele-Radiology services in APVVP Hospitals under PPP Mode 3.Procure and supply of dental equipment to Vijayawada. 4. Procure and supply of Equipment of Audiometric Rooms. 5. Procurement of lab Items to DHs under IDSP Scheme 6. Balance items under 2 HDUS/9HDUs 7. Medical Equipment under DME Plan Budget 8. Medical Equipment under APVVP up-gradation/other schemes.
Drugs Wing: 1. T.No.84/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2020-21, Dt.25.11.2020- Procurement and supply of Surgical Consumables 2.T.No.85/APMSIDC/ Medicine Wing/2020-21, Dt.25.11.2020 - Procurement and supply of Medicines.
Civil Wing: 1. Establishment of Multi Specialty Hospitals at 1)Seethampeta in Srikakulam District 2) Parvathipuram in Vizianagaram District 3) Rampachodavaram in East Godavari District 4) Buttaigudem in West Godavari District and 5) Dornala in Prakasam District 2. Construction of New OPD Block in the premises of District Hospital at Nandyal in Kurnool District (Balance works) (2nd call)
Sanitation Wing: 1.Sanitation Services under the control of APVVP Hospitals & DME Hospitals & institutions Under Package-1 (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam & East Godavari Districts) Package-2 (West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam & Nellore Districts) Package-3 (Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool & Anantapur Districts) 2. Security Services in pending packages under DME and APVVP institutions.
 APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons. **Sd/- Managing Director**
DIPR No.465PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2020-21, Dt: 26/11/2020

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
 Office of the Executive Engineer,
 Bengaluru South Division, Amruth Nagara,
 Konanakunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-62.

No: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/11/2020-21 Date: 26.11.2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
SINGLE & TWO COVER TENDER (Standard Tender Document KW -1,2,3,4)
 (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Bengaluru South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru-62 invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/ Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward Nos.	Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)	No. of Works	Cate-gory
1	192	10.00 to 52.00	25,000/- to 1,04,000/-	02	Others
2	192	3.00	3,750/-	01	ST
3	192 (3rd Call)	50.00	1,00,000/-	01	Others
4	194	10.00 to 100.00	25,000/- to 2,00,000/-	13	Others
5	194	5.00 to 20.00	6,250/- to 25,000/-	02	ST
6	194	50.00	50,000/-	01	SC
7	197 (2nd Call)	10.00	25,000/-	01	Others
8	197	51.00 to 70.00	1,02,000/- to 1,40,000/-	03	Others
9	185 (2nd Call)	10.00	25,000/-	01	ST
10	185 (2nd Call)	35.00	70,000/-	01	Others
11	185	7.50 to 10.00	9,375/- to 12,500/-	02	SC
12	184	55.00 to 100.00	1,10,000/- to 2,00,000/-	05	Others
13	196	51.00 to 100.00	1,02,000/- to 2,00,000/-	06	Others
14	195	100.00	2,00,000/-	01	Others
			Total No. of Works	40	

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 21.12.2020 at 4:00 pm. (2) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: 21.12.2020 by 4.00 PM. (3) Date of Technical Bid opening of Tenders is on 22.12.2020 by 4:30 pm. (4) Opening of Financial Bid will be done after Technical Bid approval. (5) Pre bid meeting will be held in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division, Amruth Nagara, Konanakunte Main Road, Soudhamini Layout, Bengaluru - 62 on 07.12.2020 between 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. (6) Item No 11 to 27, 29, 30, 33 to 40 is Two Cover Tender System and Item No 01 to 10 & 28, 31 & 32 is Single Cover Tender System. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> **Sd/-**
Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
 **Wear Mask**  **6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing**  **Maintain Hand Hygiene**

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
 (Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)
TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited for the supply of following item.
 (1) Turnkey Project of Repairs / Reconditioning of 100MVA, 110/33KV Power Transformer,
RE-INVITED E-TENDERS
 (2) 68959, (3) 69029.
Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
PRO/AAM(M)/77/2020. GENERAL MANAGER

SUPPLYCO
THE KERALA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
 MAVELI BHAVAN, P.B.NO.2030, GANDHINAGAR, KODI-682020 Ph.No.PABX- 0484-2206775, 2206795 Purchase Section- Ph No: 0484-2207924, 2206786, 2206782. FAX - 0484-2206782, 0484-2206799. E-Mail: agmp@supplycoam.com, Website: www.supplycoerala.com.
 No.P/10/33482/2020 Date:25.11.2020
TENDER NOTICE
(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDERING SYSTEM/E AUCTION)
 The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd (Supplyco) intends to purchase Pulses and Sugar through e-auction and e-tender. The e-tender will be accepted upto **12.00 noon on 02-12-2020**. For details visit our website www.supplycoerala.com or www.tenderwizad.com/KSCSC. Only suppliers possessing digital signatures will be permitted to participate in the e-tender. **For e-auction please visit <https://market.neml.in>**.
Sd/-
Manager (Purchase)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN
 General public is hereby informed that two child namely **Vivek and Vipin S/o Shri Deepak** both are R/o Hansi, Haryana have found in abandoned condition in the premises of ISBT, Kashmir Gate, Delhi on 05.11.2020. In this regard, a case vide **DD No. 90 A dt. 05.11.2020** has been registered at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. The description of the children are as under.
 1. **Vivek - Age:** 10 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 3', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Checkdar Blue and yellow Shirt, Grey payjama, Hawal Slipper in feet. 2. **Vipin - Age:** 9 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 3', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Shirt and Blue Payjama and hawal slipper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out their identity but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about these children then please inform P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Sd/- S.H.O.**
P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi
Ph: 011-23968730
DP/718/N/2020

Office of the Member Secretary, Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society & Superintendent, Sir Padampat Mother & Child Health Institute, J.L.N. Marg Jaipur.
No -----/Acctt/SPMCHV/MRS/2020/8231-32 dated: 23.11.2020
E-TENDER NOTICE
 Tenders are invited rate contract for supply of Surgical/disposable & consumable items for hospital use & life line drug store. Tender Document will be available on the net. The tender notice and other details can be downloaded from the website <http://eproc.rajabasthan.gov.in> No separate hardcopy will be given from this office. any technical difficulty please contact the Office.
Bidding Schedule

1. Estimated Cost	Rs. 2.00 Crore (Rupees Two Crore only)
2. Tender Fees	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only)
3. RISEL Processing Fees	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only)
4. Earnest Money	Rs. 4.00 Lacs (Rupees Four Lacs only)
5. Publishing in newspaper Date & Time	24.11.2020
6. Publishing in e-Tender Dated & Time	24.11.2020 upto to 4.00 PM
7. Document download start date & Time	25.11.2020 from 10.00 AM
8. Document Download end time & date	16.12.2020 till 4.00 PM
9. Online Bid submission start date & Time	25.12.2020 from 10.00 AM
10. Online Bid submission end date & Time	16.12.2020 till 4.00 PM
11. Submission of Tender Fees, Tender processing fees & Earnest Money Last Date & Time	15.12.2020 till 04: PM
12. Tender opening date & Venue	17.12.2020 At 2.00 PM at Account Office, SPMCHJ, Jaipur

Note-
 1. Earnest money and tender fees (in the form of Bankers Cheque/Demand Draft in favour of Member Secretary Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society, Sir Padampat Mother & Child Health Institute, J.L.N. Marg Jaipur. payable at Jaipur) and RISEL processing fees (by way of bankers Cheque/Demand Draft in favour of MD, RISL) to be submitted physically at the office of Member Secretary Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society, Sir Padampat Mother & Child Health Institute, J.L.N. Marg Jaipur on or before of 15.12.2020 at 4.00 PM
 2. Bidders who wish to participate in this tender will have to register on <http://eproc.rajabasthan.gov.in>
 3. To participate in online tender, bidders will have to procure digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act.2000.
 The Member Secretary Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society, Sir Padampat Mother & Child Health Institute, Jaipur reserves the right to reject all/any application received from the firm without assigning and reason thereof.
 NIB- SMS2021A0189
 UBN-SMS2021GLRC00370
Sd/-
Member Secretary & Superintendent
DIPR/C/9177/2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK MAHANADIBIHAR; CUTTACK-753004
 Telephone:0671-2441619, e-mail: eervssctc1@nic.in
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice Bid Identification No. rwssect- 05/2020-21
 According to norm of e-procurement.
 1. **Nature of work :** Rural Piped W/S Schemes.
 2. **No. of tenders :** 5 Nos.
 3. **Tender Paper Cost :** Rs.10,000/-
 4. **Value of Work :** Rs.82.93 Lakh to Rs.147.83 Lakhs
 5. **Class of Contractor :** "B" & "A" Class
 6. **Date and time of availability of bid document in portal :** 11 hour of 02-12-2020 to 14-12-2020 upto to 17 hours
 7. **Date & time of seeking tender clarification :** 11-12-2020 upto to 17 hours
 8. **Date & time of opening of tender :** 15-12-2020 at 11:30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack
 9. **Time of completion :** 180 to 270 days.
 10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, CUTTACK
OIPR-25022/11/0012/2021

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR TENDER Tender Notice No. 16 Year 2020-21

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF RCC COMPOUND WALL AT SURVEY NO. 341 AT MAHARASHTRA JUDICIAL ACADEMY UTTAN THANE.	Rs. 4,12,23,416/-

Date of E-Tender Downloading 04.12.2020 to 28.12.2020 Time 10.30 to 17.30 PM.
Date of Pre-bid 21.12.2020 Time 02.30 PM.
Date of E-Tender Opening 31.12.2020 Time 12.30 PM (If Possible).
 1. Tender form Condition of Contract Specification and Contract drawing can be downloaded from e-tendering portal of Public Work Department of Maharashtra i.e. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
 2. Tender Notice can be seen also on web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & www.Mahapwd.com
No./TD/Tender/
Office of the Executive Engineer P.W. Division No. 1 Thane, Station Road.
Date : . .
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W. Division No. 1 Thane
 DGIPR/2020-2021/1297

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO. 1 THANE STATION ROAD, THANE (W.)-400601

www.mahapwd.com	Fax- (022) 25377240	email- thane1.ee@mahapwd.com
04Ward No. 4835	Tel. Thane- 25369293	Date: 25.11.2020

E-Tender Corrigendum No. 3 (Time Table)

WORK NAME :-	PROVIDING WATER PROOFING TREATMENT TO W.C. & BATH, BALCONY SIDE RENOVATION OF DOWN TAKE DRAINAGE, RAINWATER PIPE, WATER SUPPLY LINE, DOORS & WINDOWS TO POLICE TOWN (SURYA, ADITYA, ARUN AND RAVI) AT COURT KANA, THANE.
Ref:-	1. E-Tender Notice No. 116/1 (Second call) letted Dated No. This Office Letter No. Tender/4354 Date 23.10.2020. 2. E-Tender Corrigendum No. 1 (Second call) letted Dated No. This Office Letter No. Tender/4532 Date 06.11.2020. 3. E-Tender Corrigendum No. 1 (Second call) letted Dated No. This Office Letter No. Tender/4712 Date 17.11.2020.

Sr. No.	Tender Selling Date	Before Publish Date	Now Publish Date
1	29.10.2020 to 27.11.2020	29.10.2020 to 07.12.2020	
2	Pre Bid Mitting	--	01.12.2020</

Skeletal remains of animals from Peshwa era found in Pune

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, NOVEMBER 26

WORKERS DIGGING at the Pune Metro site near Mandai have discovered skeletal remains of animals dating back to when the Peshwas ruled Pune. This is possibly the first time such remains have been found within city limits. The remains belong to an elephant and some bovine animals and are between 200 and 300 years old, experts said.

After stumbling upon some elongated bones, metro workers carefully removed them and alerted experts at Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute.

A four-member team from the archaeology department visited the site on Thursday. Preliminary examination has revealed that the bones are of mammals, which could have been buried between 200 and 300 years ago.

"The bones were found at a depth of about 10 feet. One bone was identified as the lower limb



Experts check the animal remains found at the site. Arul Horizon

of an elephant," said Sachin Joshi, an archaeo-chemist from Deccan College, who led the inspection team.

According to experts, as this was an accidental discovery, only one of the bones was intact whereas the others suffered minor damages and crumbled.

Experts said the bones were not ancient and linked them to the Peshwa era. Local historians trace back the presence of a 'Hatti Mahal', which literally translates to Palace of Elephants,

located in the vicinity of the present-day site suggesting that elephants were commonly found in the locality.

"Back in those days, areas around Mandai were not thickly populated and, hence, could have been used for burials," said Joshi, adding that the area around the site must be scientifically excavated and bone samples studied in detail.

Joshi also said these bones were much lighter and fresh, ruling out fossilisation.

L&T awarded contract worth Rs 24,985 cr for bullet train project

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

India's bullet train project formally awarded Larsen and Toubro (L&T) a contract worth Rs 24,985 crore—one of the largest contracts in the infrastructure sector in the country—for the construction of 237 km of viaduct and other installations in Gujarat.

The company will finish this job in four years, L&T's CEO and managing director S N Subrahmanyan said at the contract-signing ceremony Thursday.

Japanese Ambassador to India Satoshi Suzuki, Railway Board chairman V K Yadav and National High Speed Rail Corporation MD Achal Khare were also present at the ceremony.

"I'm quite confident it would be completed in the defined timeframe," Yadav said. "With this the work for the bullet train has started."

The construction involves making the viaduct between Vapi and Vadodara. It includes four stations and a depot.

Govt seeks to formalise registration, use of vintage vehicles

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE GOVERNMENT is seeking to formally come out with rules to govern the registration and use of vintage vehicles, namely cars or motorcycles that are at least 50 years old. The proposed rules have been published for comments and suggestions.

As per the proposal, vehicles more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration will be called Vintage Motor Vehicles. The restriction in the definition—no substantial overhaul of the vehicle, including modification in chassis, body shell, and/or engine.

The government proposes to levy a registration fee of Rs 20,000 for registering such vehicles and then Rs 5,000 for subsequent renewal of registration. Such vehicles will carry special number plates starting with the initials "VA".

JCO killed in Pak shelling along LoC

Jammu: A junior commissioner officer (JCO) of the Army was killed and a civilian injured on Thursday after Pakistan troops resorted to mortar shelling and small arms fire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Identifying the deceased as Subedar Swatantra Singh, sources

said that he was critically injured when Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire around 1.30 pm. The Army retaliated befittingly.

The injured JCO was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to injuries, sources said. A civilian, identified as Mohammad Rashid, was also injured in the Pakistani shelling.

ENS

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-045-2020-21 **Dated: 26.11.2020**

Name of work with its location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract and Repair of DG sets installed over Delhi Division for one year.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	14,27,091/- only
Earnest Money Deposit(₹)	28,600/-only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 23.12.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
	2651/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeeva Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
In the matter of **O.A. No. 490/2019**
State Bank of India Vs **Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh & Anr.**
Applicant Defendants
To, D-2 **M/s Anrapalli Centurian Park Pvt. Ltd.**
Through its Managing Director / Authorised Signatory
Regd. Office at: 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Tower, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **16.12.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates / Litigants shall download the **Cisco Webex** application / software.
(ii) **Meeting ID and Password** for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar / Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23748469**.
Given under my hand and seal on the Tribunal on this **13.11.2020**
By Order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
NBCC Complex, Office Tower-1, 8th Floor,
Plate-B, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023
OFFICE CARS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Three numbers of office cars owned by SEBI are available for immediate sale on “as is where is basis”. The complete details are available in SEBI’s web site “www.sebi.gov.in” under the head “Tenders” and on Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP) Portal@<http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp>. The offers should be submitted on or before 3:00 p.m on the 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in newspapers.

davp 15204/11/0222/2021

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
सिज कोड- 249404
संख्या: 642/70/01/डीओआर(भा/शिज)/सेवा-01/2019-20
दिनांक 26 नवम्बर, 2020
विज्ञापित

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड विशेष अधीनस्थ शिक्षा (प्रवक्ता संकी) परीक्षा 2020 हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या-A-1/5-1/2020 दिनांक 09 अक्टूबर, 2020 एवं विज्ञापित संख्या: 622/70/01/डीओआर(भा/शिज)/सेवा-01/2019-20 दिनांक 29.10.2020 द्वारा ऑनलाइन आवेदन एवं दिनांक 30 दिसम्बर, 2020 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक) आमंत्रित किये गये हैं। केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार द्वारा अन्तर्गत की प्रक्रिया लागू किये जाने एवं समय-समय पर सरकार द्वारा कोडिड-19 के संबंध में दी गई गाईडलाईन के अनुसार विभिन्न आयुक्तों/संस्थाओं द्वारा प्रारम्भिक/स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षाओं का सफल आयोजन किये जाने को सुनिश्चित रखते हुए प्रश्नपत्र परीक्षा में भी सर्वप्रथम स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) का आयोजन करने के पश्चात स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा में पाकल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों को विषयवार लिखित परीक्षा (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) कराये जाने का निर्णय लिया गया है। स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) का पाठ्यक्रम आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

02- उक्त के अतिरिक्त ऑनलाइन आवेदन-पत्र में जिन अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा त्रुटिपूर्ण आवेदन किया गया है, उसे निरस्त करने हेतु आयोग की वेबसाइट पर एक "CANCEL OPTION" उपलब्ध करवाया जा रहा है। त्रुटिपूर्ण ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने वाले अभ्यर्थी अपने द्वारा ऑनलाइन आवेदन को निरस्त करते हुए पुनः शुल्क सहित नवीन ऑनलाइन आवेदन उपर्युक्त उल्लिखित अंतिम तिथि 30.12.2020 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक) कर सकते हैं। ऐसे अभ्यर्थी नवीन ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र की प्रती के साथ समस्त अभिलेखों की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रतियाँ आयोग कार्यालय में दिनांक 15.01.2021 तक उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा निरस्त किये गये आवेदन पत्र के सापेक्ष जमा किया गया शुल्क अभ्यर्थी को वापस नहीं किया जायेगा। **विज्ञापन की अन्य शर्तें** बंधावस्त रहेंगी। "CANCEL OPTION" संबंधी एवं अन्य विवरण आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(सई-
(कॉन्टैक्ट सिंग) सचिव।

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging
An autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

ADMISSIONS OPEN

INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE (ITC) IN PACKAGING
Course Duration 3 Months Full time Course
Commences From 4th January 2021 at Mumbai.

Eligibility: 12th Pass /ITI/ Diploma / Degree in any branch and a zest to make a career in the field of packaging.
Admission: on first-come-first served basis. Application form and prospectus can be obtained from IIP Mumbai by paying Rs. 100/- in cash or by DD in favour of Indian Institute of Packaging payable at Mumbai.

DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING
26th Batch (2021-2022) Through Correspondence
(Accredited by The Asian Packaging Federation) • Course Duration 18 Months

Eligibility: Graduate in Science, Engineering, Technology, Commerce and Arts from UGC recognized University / Diploma from recognized technical board in Engineering / Technology are eligible for the course. Candidates should have minimum one-year industrial Experience in the operational areas like Production, Purchase, Marketing, Quality Control etc. Application form and prospectus can be obtained from IIP Mumbai by paying Rs. 250/- in cash or by DD in favour of Indian Institute of Packaging payable at Mumbai.

Last date for receiving filled application form is 31st December, 2020.

Candidates can visit IIP website www.iip-in.com and submit application form through online.

Indian Institute of Packaging
E-2, Road No. 8, MIDC Area, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 093.
Tel : 91-22-2821 9803, Ext.: 108/301/303/304/310.
Fax : 91-22- 28328178 / 28375302
Web: www.iip-in.com Email: infoiip@iip-in.com / rnelip@iip-in.com
For Details Contact
Dr. Babu Rao Guduri : +91 7208119238 Mr. Bhushan Surpur : +91 9821022112
Mr. A. S. Ravi : +91 9869620990 Mr. Nitin Raibole : +91 8692943727

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Development Department (RWA)
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004

Invitation of Expression of Interest from reputed Consultant/ Firms for Empanelment of Traffic Survey of PMGSY Road.

- Jharkhand State Rural Road Development Authority (JSRRDA) is an Authority under RDD (RWA), Government of Jharkhand engaged in construction and Maintenance of road and bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) in the State of Jharkhand.
- Expression of interest (EOI) is invited in two envelope system (Technical and Financial bid envelopes) from reputed DPR Consultants / Firms for conducting Traffic Survey of PMGSY roads in different districts of Jharkhand.
- Consultants / Firms having minimum qualification as mentioned below are only eligible to apply:-
 - (i) Annual turnover of Rs. 20.00 lacs in any one of last 3 years.
 - (ii) Successfully completed as a prime consultant/ firm Traffic Survey of minimum 3 roads under State Govt./ Central Govt. / PSU with a total minimum length of 10 Km. Having at least 3 graduate Civil Engineer and 6 Nos. of sub-technical personnel on its roll.
 - (iii) DPR consultants / firms who are / were engaged in JSRRDA during the last three years (From Financial Year 2016-17) are not eligible to participate in this EOI.
- The EOI should be submitted in hard copies only, with a demand draft of Rs. 25000.00 only as earnest money in favour of “**Chief Engineer, JSRRDA**” payable at Ranchi. The earnest money of unsuccessful consultants / firms; shall be refunded after award of the work to the successful consultant / firm.
- Selection of consultant / firm will be made as per the evaluation criteria of JSRRDA. The work may be allotted to one or more consultant / firms as per the need.
- The consultant / firm should submit an affidavit that they are not blacklisted / debarred by any Govt. body. They should also submit the affidavit that no criminal or fraudulent case is pending against them.
- Financial bids of bidders found non responsive in technical evaluation shall not be opened.

Detailed EOI can be viewed on www.pmgstyendersjhr.gov.in.
EOI with complete details in the prescribed format only should be submitted in hard copies (in one envelope containing two separate envelopes clearly mentioning “Technical bid” and “Financial bid” separately) to the office of **Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, 3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi (Jharkhand)– 834004** on or before 07.12.2020 upto 3.00 PM.
EOI received after the stipulated date and time will not be entertained. No separate TA/DA will be paid for the work or attending the meeting at JSRRDA.
Before submitting the proposal the consultant should verify that their proposal is complete in all respects. The decision of JSRRDA will be final and binding on all JSRRDA reserves the right to accept / reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.

Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 236343 Rural Work Department (20-21)_D

राष्ट्रीय कोशिका विज्ञान केन्द्र, पुणे
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCIENCE, PUNE
(An Autonomous Institution of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India)

NCCS/Adv't./Academic/JRF-PHD/March-2021 **Dt. 23.11.2020**

NCCS Ph.D Admission-March-2021

National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, invites application for Admission as Junior Research Fellow to the Ph.D Programme for **March-2021** session. **Students with a post-graduate degree and having valid fellowship from CSIR/UGC/DBT- (Category I)/ICMR/ BINC, are eligible to apply.**


DST-Inspire qualified students with NET-LS or GATE are also eligible to apply

Students with post graduate degree, who do not have a fellowship but have qualified JGEEBILS examination conducted by NCBS/TIFR held on **08th December, 2019** are eligible to apply. However, candidates those are shortlisted by NCCS criteria will only be called for interview.

All shortlisted candidates will have to appear for an online interview during **27th, 28th & 29th January, 2021.**

The complete application form (download from NCCS web site) along with the copies of M.Sc. marks statement and Fellowship certificate/admit card should be sent by e-mail to phdadmission@nccs.res.in (One PDF file containing application in prescribed format along with certificates) **on or before 24.12.2020**

Dean
Academics

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
Government of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

Section 22 of the PC-PNDT Act, 1994 **prohibits any advertisement in any form, including on internet relating to preconception and prenatal determination of sex or sex selection**

Any contravention is punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years and with fine up to ₹10,000/-

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, keeping in view the provisions of the PC-PNDT Act, 1994 by order dated 16.11.2016 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.341 of 2008, directed the Union of India to constitute a Nodal Agency, as an interim arrangement to regulate and remove the E-advertisements, relating to preconception and prenatal determination of sex or sex selection on internet.

Nodal Agency accordingly has been constituted by Government of India under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as below:

NODAL AGENCY

For monitoring E-advertisements related to Pre-conception and Pre-natal determination of sex or sex selection prohibited under PC&PNDT Act, 1994

Contact: 011-26107773/26166441/26165959/26185696
E-mail: pcpndtcomplaints@nihfw.org

As directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, anyone (any person) who comes across anything that is/has the nature of an advertisement related to preconception and prenatal determination of sex or sex selection or has any impact in identifying a boy or a girl in any method, manner or mode by any **search engine or website (eg. Google, Yahoo, Bing, or any other search engine)** shall bring it to the notice of the **Nodal Agency**. The information may be sent to the **Nodal Agency** through e-mail or phone on the contact details given above.

dcm 171021/1/0044/2021

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-54

Public Notice for Drawing a panel of Guest teachers for the posts of TGT (Maths, Science and English), PGT (English, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Commerce and Economics), EVGCs and Special Educators for Engagement in Delhi Government Schools

Ref. No.- DE.18.2(15)/E-V/2017/835 **Dated: 25.11.20**

Online applications are invited on behalf of Director (Education), GNCT of Delhi for drawing a panel of Guest Teachers for the posts of TGT (Maths, Science and English), PGT (English, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Commerce and Economics), EVGCs and Special Educators for Engagement in Delhi Government Schools. The complete details of the process to be followed are uploaded on the website of the department i.e. <http://www.edudel.nic.in>. Reservations and age relaxation to the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Disabled persons etc. would be as per Government Rules. Submission of applications other than online mode shall be summarily rejected. Applicants are strictly instructed not to send any hard copy of the application to this department.

For any change/amendments made in this regard information will be available on the above mentioned website.

Start Date of inviting application: from 01.12.2020 (11:00 AM)
Last date and time for submission of applications: 10.12.2020, upto 6.00 PM

Sd/-
Joint. Director of Education
Admin. Branch

DIP/Shabdarth/0451/20-21



WORDLY WISE

TO SEE THE BALL, TO RUN AFTER IT, MAKES ME THE
HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

— DIEGO MARADONA

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE RED LINES

V-P cherry-picks a few verdicts to suggest judicial overreach when the larger pattern says quite the opposite

On the theme of “harmonious coordination between legislature, executive, and judiciary”, at the two-day 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference at Kevadia in Gujarat, the President, Vice President and Prime Minister sent out some high-minded and mostly unexceptionable messages. Speaking on the concluding day, also the 71st Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the “maryada” (adherence to boundaries), separation of powers, and checks and balances built into the constitutional design, which also offers the corrective if these are disturbed. He drew a link between efforts to harmonise the working of the three organs of the Constitution and the “people’s trust”. And of the need to find newer ways of connecting the people with the Constitution they gave themselves (“jan bhagidari”) and popularising the constitutional ethos and language, especially for the “yuva peedhi” or the young. President Ram Nath Kovind spoke of the importance of the role of the Opposition, the necessity for meaningful deliberation with the ruling party. And Vice President Venkaiah Naidu talked of the “excesses” of the executive and legislature — “violation of rights and liberties of citizens by the executive at times is too visible. At times, the legislature too has crossed the line ...” Naidu also touched upon a mounting unease about the constitutional balance between institutions, or its unsettling.

Naidu spoke of judicial “overreach” and disrespect of the “jurisdictional sanctity enshrined in the Constitution” and pointed to court interventions on matters ranging from fireworks on Diwali to denying the executive a role in the appointment of judges. These, he said, have resulted in “avoidable blurring of contours demarcated by the Constitution”. While each of the specific instances cited by the VP may spark a separate debate on the scope and limits of judicial power, there is a problem with his broader formulation and the way he cherry picked a few verdicts. In fact, the disquieting pattern is an inversion of his real worry. In the last several years, the growing concern has been about the political executive weaponising its majority mandate and the judiciary not stepping up to its role to keep the balance. In other words, while there may well be instances of the judiciary’s overreach, the larger disquiet in recent times is caused by the judiciary’s reticence — its unwillingness or inability to talk back to the executive, to point out the limits of its powers vis a vis other institutions and to uphold the rights and freedoms of citizens against a transgressing state.

There is, indeed, as the vice president suggested, a need to pause and reflect on a disturbed constitutional balance, but not quite in the way he meant it. The executive must ask itself if the majority or majoritarian principle can be used in all domains and whether it is doing a disservice to its mandate by wielding it like a blunt instrument. And the judiciary must turn the gaze within in order to retrieve a sense of institutional self and purpose that sometimes appears to be lost or receding.

BATTLE FOR A CITY

BJP’s high-voltage campaign may be turning Hyderabad municipal polls into a high stakes — and polarising — contest

LECTIONS TO THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have always seen fierce political battles. However, the BJP has ratcheted up the competition this time to a level hitherto unseen. Sensing an opportunity to establish itself as a major player in a state where it has had only a nominal presence until recently, the party has assembled a battery of heavyweight campaigners — Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party chief J P Nadda are among those scheduled to campaign in the city before polling on December 1. With Bhupender Yadav, who played a role in strategising for the Bihar assembly election, in charge of the GHMC campaign, the BJP offensive has acquired a new edge.

The BJP’s hopes for the GHMC, which encompasses 24 assembly seats across four districts, ride on expectations born of its recent electoral success in Telangana. In the 2019 general election, the BJP won four of the 17 Lok Sabha seats in the state — one seat more than the Congress — and got nearly 20 per cent votes. It won an assembly by-poll earlier this month in chief minister K Chandrasekhara Rao’s home district — the party’s vote share rising from 13.75 per cent in 2018 to 38.5 per cent. The Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat, which falls in GHMC, has been electing BJP candidates. The BJP calculates that it is poised to replace the Congress as the main opposition in Telangana. A win in Hyderabad could become a launch pad for the party to expand in that state, and thereafter, increase its footprint in southern India, where its success has so far been limited to Karnataka.

The BJP has proposed an ambitious welfare agenda for GHMC, where the TRS is on the backfoot after the recent floods. Along with the welfarism, it is also raising the pitch on polarising issues — Hyderabad has a 30 per cent Muslim population and is the home turf of Asaduddin Owaisi and his party, the AIMIM. BJP leaders such as Tejaswi Surya have accused the TRS and AIMIM of sheltering Bangladeshi while Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani has claimed that thousands of Rohingya were illegally residing in the city. The party has also started a campaign to celebrate September 17, the day the Indian Army concluded its operations against the Nizam’s forces, as Hyderabad Liberation Day instead of remembering it as Telangana Merger Day. Hyderabad has come a long way since Operation Polo in 1948 and emerged as a software and education hub. It would be unfortunate if the competing visions for the cosmopolitan city’s future end up harking back to old fault lines and contested histories.

BALL LOSES FOOT

Through a turbulent life and career, Diego Maradona never failed his partner in a hypnotic tango

GROWING UP IN a Buenos Aires slum, the precocious chico, Diego Maradona, befriended his most loyal friend very early — a football, or whatever he could fashion into one. An orange, a crumpled newspaper or anything spherical that accompanied him to school in keepy-uppies — juggling without letting the ball touch the ground. First, a damaged fence and then umpteen defenders and goalkeepers bore testament to how inseparable the boy and ball could be, until the last moment when he let go for a goal, and it was all too late. He never lost his hypnotic hold over the ball — once aiming it accurately to flick Ruud Gullit’s dreadlocks en route the top corner.

Diego Maradona died on Wednesday aged 60. In his TV show *The Night of the Ten*, he’d mused that his gravestone be inscribed “thanks to the ball”. But like his Peter Pan glee when tossed a ball, he never lost the rawness, spontaneity and individual brilliance of the street-footballer. Through a life that fell apart with the onset of addiction, ageing and obesity, the ball when at his left foot didn’t seem to lose shape or go astray. He urged his legions to believe that no matter what happened in his life outside the ball orbit, his partner in a tango, the football, would remain honourable and unstained.

Blessed with an exquisite left foot and a low centre of gravity, the 5-foot-5 tall legend humiliated his opponents by twisting and turning, dribbling and dodging. The selfless love for the ball never diminished even as a fan at a game. In his passing away, the ball lost its better half — the divine foot.



M A BABY

THAT MAGICIAN, DIEGO Maradona, has left us without giving any notice. There have been times when we saw him teetering at the edge of death. If he had recovered this time, he would have shrugged off the latest scare with a smile and quoted Mark Twain: “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”

The genius of Maradona can be interpreted in manifold ways — foremost is the football magician who the world marvelled at. The sorcery he was capable of with his feet created legions of football fanatics around the world, including me. My son was only beginning to learn the nuances of the game, when Maradona failed a drug test and was forced to leave the 1994 World Cup midway. It was a personal loss for all of us. Maradona later put that incident beautifully: “They chopped my legs.” There is a poet in him, we realised.

The world got acquainted with the poet in Maradona during the 1986 World Cup quarter-final against England. That match revealed his divine and mortal selves. Memories of that match, which I watched on a black and white TV set, are vivid. When asked about the first goal — the infamous Hand of God goal — he remarked with an equal ounce of mischief and cheek: “A little with the head of Diego and a little with the hand of God.” There was a measured poetic beauty to the line. Diego in local parlance meant god or messiah.

Then, in the 55th minute, he scored a goal of sheer brilliance — every move and movement that led to the goal was forged in grace and beauty, power and precision. He danced, slithered and slipped past several defenders to score the most beautiful goal ever in a World Cup. The sequence of the goal continues to intoxicate every football lover on the planet. That the Aztec Stadium in Mexico erected a bronze statue of Maradona is a testament to that goal’s immortality. There are thousands of statues celebrating footballers and sportsmen, but is there one to commemorate a goal?

There are several lingering memories of his game, some of which have fallen off the Maradona myth. For instance, a through ball to Claudio Cannigia against Cameroon in the 1990 tournament opener. It started like this: A ground ball from the Argentina half reached Maradona, who was hovering around the centre line. A sturdy Cameroon

Diego Maradona was a magician on the field, and a charmer off it

defender tried to body-block him, cut out his channels, and prevent him from tearing away. Maradona stopped, as if reconciled to the tackle. The defender too stopped, thinking the Argentine would retreat. But Maradona had scripted a different plot in his mind. He took off, like a little bubble of energy. The defender stood frozen, as Maradona swished past him. What amazed me most was his control, the ball was drifting out of the corner line, but Maradona with the faintest of touches and turns, kept it in play, cut back and flung a well-weighted goal to Cannigia, who inexplicably spilled it. If that had been a goal, it would have been the greatest World Cup assist of all time.

Maradona always answered his critics on the field. Before the pre-quarters against Brazil in the 1990 World Cup, Cannigia burst out, “Maradona needs just Maradona”, implying that he was selfish. His words disturbed me, but in that match, Maradona served Cannigia a delicious pass that the latter converted and won the match for Argentina. It was so good a delivery that even I could have scored, I used to joke. Legend has it that Cannigia wept and hugged Maradona in the dressing room.

I liked his roughishness, like in the 1986 final against West Germany. Argentina gets a free-kick near the centre circle, Maradona surveys the field clumsily, drifts and prances as if he’s disenchanted. Then he belts an accurate cross to Jorge Burruchaga, who nets the match-winner.

He was such a spontaneous creator of the outrageous — a prince of the outrageous. His power to imagine was stupendous. At the same time, he was given to revelry. In that, he was like Mozart, another genius. Mozart’s creativity had the efficiency of a computer, because he could compose even when he was preoccupied with non-musical tasks. Mozart, it is said, could rewind and fast forward the composition in his mind and reproduce the notes later. Talents like Maradona and Mozart make us, non-believers, think that god might actually exist.

It used to be said of Mahatma Gandhi that he could make leaders from clay. So did Maradona — he made even the most modest player around him a world-beater. I be-

lieve that the brilliance of Lionel Messi, my favourite contemporary player, is because of Maradona: A Messi could have been born only in the land of Maradona.

Another endearing aspect of Maradona was his political conviction. Politics is woven into the heart and soul of Latin America. However, those who benefitted from the market economy of the West, rarely take political positions. But Maradona did, emphatically and powerfully. His political beliefs were unshakable. I remember a 2005 free trade summit in Buenos Aires that involved the then US president George W Bush and many Latin American leaders. They had assembled to sign a free-trade treaty that would isolate Cuba. But Maradona organised a protest. He wore a “War Criminal” T-shirt to an anti-Bush “counter-summit” that drew protesters from around the world. Eventually, the summit failed.

Maradona used to host a television programme, in which he interviewed the likes of Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. He had the presence as well as the knowledge to engage them in serious conversation. Once a presenter sceptically asked him who he learned his politics from? Maradona replied: “I have read Che Guevara, he is my compatriot. I have tried to understand Cuba. Why are other Latin American countries not like Cuba, I always analyse and try to learn. I talk to Castro. This is how I learn.”

I have no embarrassment in admitting that I was mad about Maradona. So, when he visited India in 2008, I travelled to Kolkata. A meeting was arranged in Jyoti Basu’s house. When I showed him a photograph of Basu with Castro, his eyes glowed. He told me: “Fidel, your friend. Fidel, my friend. We are friends.” Later, I showed him a watch that had a tiny picture of Che embossed inside it. It was given to me by Maradona’s friend and famous actor, Sergio Corrieri. He was excited: “Che Guevara, Che Guevara,” he kept saying. I wished that he showed me the Castro tattoo on his leg or the Che one on his bicep. A few minutes later Maradona left, leaving me convinced that there was no one quite like him.

The writer, a member of the CPM politburo, is a former education minister of Kerala

LESSONS FROM THE COMPANY

Our past should teach us how to resist new colonial designs framed by a pandemic



MEETA RAJIVLOCHAN

ONCE MET a researcher from JNU at a social event. In the course of our conversation, I found out that she was pursuing a doctorate and I made the mistake of asking her what the doctorate was about. She looked at me with some pity and told me kindly that the subject was a difficult one; only an initiate could understand it. I looked at the clock and saw that we had another two hours to kill. So I asked her to tell me nevertheless — perhaps I might understand. It turned out that she was studying the culture and politics of a little-known tribal group in central India as part of a larger study of oppression. She seemed to have known the dimensions of oppression before she began the study. I wondered why she did the study in that case but decided that such a question could be a conversation stopper.

Later, while reading the marvellous *The History of India, as Told by Its Own Historians* (1867), edited by Elliott and Dowson, I came across an episode that demonstrates that such overweening conceit is, and has been, a besetting sin of Indians, for a few hundred years at any rate. Khafi Khan, the historian of Mughal times, was railing against the English East India Company and its depredations on Indian shipping. He says, “the total revenue of Bombay, which is chiefly derived from betelnuts and cocoa-nuts, does not reach to two or three lacs of rupees. The profits of the commerce of these misbelievers, according to report, does not exceed twenty lacs of rupees.

What every Indian child should remember is that from the last decade of the 16th century, various European companies began to arrive in India. We interacted with them while doing business for well over 150 years before the Battle of Plassey. And yet, no one seems to have realised that the Europeans brought with them a fundamentally different attitude to business, with no compunctions about using coercion and state power to further the ends of trade.

The balance of the money required for the maintenance of the English settlement is obtained by plundering the ships voyaging to the House of God, of which they take one or two every year.” Evidently, to Khan, the company was a set of puny peddlers who, in their ignorance and foolishness, had dared to challenge the Mughals. Within three decades of his fulminations, the Mughal empire had crumbled and the puny peddlers were on the way to becoming the new masters of India.

So what is it about Indians that leads them to conceit or an abject self-abnegation of the kind that we routinely see today? Indians behave today as though all true knowledge must come from the West, and a degree from any Western university is worth far more than any Indian degree. Yet, barely 200 years ago, Indians showed massive arrogance and unconcern about the West.

What every Indian child should remember is that from the last decade of the 16th century, various European companies began to arrive in India. We interacted with them while doing business for well over 150 years before the Battle of Plassey. And yet, no one seems to have realised that the Europeans brought with them a fundamentally different attitude to business, with no compunctions about using coercion and state power to further the ends of trade. Make no mistake, the East India Company beat Indian businessmen at their own game much before it came to power af-

ter the Battle of Plassey. This was an India where a banker of the house of Jagat Seth thought nothing about paying the English company to dislodge Siraj-ud-Daulah in Bengal — they may well have thought that one ruler was as good as another. Within five years of the company coming to power, the house of Jagat Seth went into an irreversible decline.

Current events show that this is no mere historical anecdote. As the pandemic threatens the foundations of global order, some writers point out that a modern-day colonialism based on the monopoly of data is very possible and that India could become a colony of the West once again. That it takes a pandemic to bring this home to us is a matter of serious concern. For, it shows that India has learnt little from 200 years of colonial rule.

Irrespective of what evil the British did, the one thing the East India Company showed consistently was great sensitivity to its surroundings, an ability to learn from competitors and, above all, the ability to test beliefs against reality. These are qualities that we would do well to learn. For making money is not so much about access to capital but about the ability to imagine the future, to learn recursively and to constantly test your beliefs against reality.

The writer is an IAS officer and author of Making India Great Again: Learning from our History

NOVEMBER 27, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

V P SINGH’S STAND PIQUED BY THE criticism of his government by Congress-I MPs from Uttar Pradesh, the state chief minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is likely to step down when he meets the prime minister. Singh is likely to accompany Indira Gandhi to Rae Bareilly and Allahabad during her two-day UP visit beginning November 29. Referring to the criticism by his party colleagues, he said “they are elected representatives and their views must be given due importance”. He said if somebody, even the CM, is an obstacle to the progress and development of UP, he should be removed. Singh said he did not want to answer the allegations made against him.

However, he defended the charges of casteism.

JUDGES’ TRANSFER THE GOVERNMENT is deliberately delaying its decision on a proposal to transfer judges from one high court to another because it wants a national debate on the issue. This was stated in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister P Shiv Shankar while replying to a debate on the High Court and Supreme Court (Conditions of Service) Bill, which the House later passed. He rejected the charge that the government was delaying appointments till “suitably committed” judges are found nor had it disagreed with the recommendations

made by high court judges.

FARMERS PROTEST FARMERS OF BHANDRA district, the “rice bowl” of Maharashtra are on the warpath, close on the heels of protests by cotton growers in Vidarbha. At a meeting organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, the farmers decided to boycott government procurement centres on December 7-8.

‘GANDHI’ FILMING THE OPENING SHOT of the film on Mahatma Gandhi by Richard Attenborough was taken at an especially organised set in Gurgaon. Ben Kingsley, who plays Gandhi in the film, featured in the shot.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

A capital mistake

Permitting industrial houses to own and control banks would be a grievous error, one that could undermine both economic growth and democracy



SHANKAR ACHARYA, VIJAY KELKAR AND ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN

AN INTERNAL WORKING group of the RBI has recently made a far-reaching recommendation: To permit industrial houses to own and control banks. We believe that this step would be a grievous mistake, one that would seriously set back Indian economic and political development. Accordingly, we urge that this proposal be shelved.

Why do we have such serious misgivings? One clue is given in the report itself, which acknowledges that it ignored the experts the group had consulted. The report states that all the experts except one “were of the opinion that large corporate/industrial houses should not be allowed to promote a bank.”

Experts hold this view because allowing industrial houses to own banks has few benefits and many risks. According to the report, the main benefit is that industry-owned banks would increase the supply of credit, which is low and growing slowly. Credit constraints are indeed a real problem, and creating more banks is certainly one way of addressing the issue. But this is an argument for encouraging more banks and more types of financial institutions, generally. It is not an argument for creating banks specifically owned by industry. The other powerful way to promote more good quality credit is to undertake serious reforms of the public sector banks.

The problem with banks owned by corporate houses is that they tend to engage in connected lending. This can lead to three main adverse outcomes: Over-financing of risky activities; encouraging inefficiency by delaying or prolonging exit; and entrenching dominance. Consider each.

First, lending to firms that are part of the corporate group allows them to undertake risky activities that are not easily financeable through regular channels. Precisely because these activities are risky, they often do not work out. And when that happens, it is typically taxpayers who end up footing the bill.

In principle, connected lending can be contained by the regulatory authority. Indeed, Indonesia tried to do this: It banned the practice. But as the authorities there found to their dismay, no matter how often they tightened the definition of connected lending, conglomerates were always able to find loopholes to exploit. Experiences in other nations have been similar, convincing most advanced countries that regulating connected lending is impossible; the only solution is to ban corporate-owned banks. It is also why Indian policymakers over seven decades have consciously and wisely drawn a lakshman rekha between banking and industry.

Crossing this lakshman rekha looks particularly unwise in India's current circumstances. After all, the RBI has encountered enough difficulty in dealing with banking irregularities at Punjab National Bank, Yes Bank, ILFS and Lakshmi Vilas Bank. Expecting the RBI or other institutions to effectively regulate the practices of corporate houses-turned-banks is to ask the impossible. Regulation and supervision need to be strengthened considerably to deal with the current problems in the banking system before they are burdened with new regulatory tasks. Equally, the fiscal position needs to be



C R Sasikumar

repaired after the considerable damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic before the government takes the risk of assuming an enormous future cost.

Second, the Indian economy today suffers from a serious lack of exit. The economic landscape is littered with failed firms, kept alive on life support, making it impossible for more efficient firms to grow and replace them. While some progress in clearing the landscape was initially made under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), this had stalled even before the pandemic, largely because existing promoters and owners mounted a stiff resistance. If industrial houses get direct access to financial resources, their capacity to delay or prevent exit altogether will only increase.

Finally, crossing this lakshman rekha will mean that the existing patterns of industrial dominance will become ruinously entrenched. The Indian economy already suffers from over-concentration. We not only have concentration within industries, but in some cases the dominance of a few industrial houses spans multiple sectors. The COVID-19 crisis is aggravating this picture because those with deep pockets will not only more easily survive the crisis, they will be able to take over small, medium and large enterprises that have not had the resilience or resources to weather the COVID-19 gale. After all, if large industrial houses get banking licences, they will become even more powerful, not just relative to other firms in one industry, but firms in another industry. For example, one can imagine a corporate house trying to assume dominance in the payments space and using that to dominate the e-commerce space. Getting the rights to own a bank could facilitate the former, thereby enabling the latter.

Moreover, the power acquired by getting

But the real problem is much deeper and broader. Indian capitalism has long been stigmatised because of the murky two-way relationship between the state and industrial capital. If the line between industrial and financial capital is erased, this stigma will only become worse. Corporate houses that are already big will be enabled to become even bigger by having access to raise and redirect resources, allowing them to dominate the economic and political landscape.

banking licences will not just make them stronger than commercial rivals, but even relative to the regulators and government itself. This will aggravate imbalances, leading to a vicious cycle of dominance breeding more dominance.

For more than a quarter of a century, Indian financial sector reforms have aimed at improving not just the quantity, but also the quality of credit. In other words, the goal has been to ensure that credit flows to the most economically efficient users, since this is the key to securing rapid growth. If India now starts granting banking licences to powerful, politically connected industrial houses, allowing them to determine how credit is allocated, we will effectively be abandoning that long-held objective.

But the real problem is much deeper and broader. Indian capitalism has long been stigmatised because of the murky two-way relationship between the state and industrial capital. If the line between industrial and financial capital is erased, this stigma will only become worse. Corporate houses that are already big will be enabled to become even bigger by having access to raise and redirect resources, allowing them to dominate the economic and political landscape. A rules-based, well-regulated market economy, as well as democracy itself — already shaky and ravaged by broader trends in India and also internationally — will be undermined, perhaps critically.

The conclusion is clear. Mixing industry and finance will set us on a road full of dangers — for growth, public finances, and the future of the country itself. We sincerely urge policymakers not to take this path.

Kelkar is former Finance Secretary and Acharya and Subramanian are former Chief Economic Advisors

A statue, an occupation

New Vivekananda statue at JNU is an installation in a power project — that demands obedience and piety rather than critical engagement



JANAKI NAIR

NO INDIAN city is exempt from the competitive assertion of rights to public spaces by hitherto dominated groups. Statues and flagpoles at street corners serve as a reminder of new urban collectivities, of auto drivers and their cinematic heroes, of Dalits and their radical political forebears, of poets who remind us of a rich linguistic and cultural heritage. They announce a new political presence in a segmented and hierarchical public arena, but dominant groups and ideologies are not far behind in “occupying” space with sometimes gigantic symbols of power. This rich economy of symbols is an inseparable part of our public life.

The need to install and unveil a statue of Vivekananda at the JNU campus came from such symbolics of “occupation”. As his tumultuous term as vice-chancellor (VC) of the prestigious university comes to a close, will Mamidala Jagdish Kumar look back with satisfaction at having not only undermined almost all the statutes of this institution but “occupying” it with a statue and flags? Flanking the entrance to the administration block, the statue had been under (saffron) wraps for well over two years, before being finally unveiled on November 12.

Kumar engaged with the symbolics of “occupation” throughout his tenure. He mounted, in 2017, a Wall of Heroes to 21 decorated soldiers, making JNU the first university to comply with the ministry of human resources and development (MHRD)’s “Vidya Veerta Abhiyan”. In the name of restoring purportedly “defaced” walls, he wiped clean JNU’s magnificent mural art. And in response to the illuminating discussions on nationalism that JNU teachers mounted in the turbulent months after February 2016, Kumar asked for a tank to be rolled on to the campus to “instill” nationalism. A statue may not have the looming bulk of a tank, but it serves several purposes — of planting a flag in “enemy” territory, and sacralising it.

JNU had long nurtured the tradition of a social realism that engaged with contemporary and historical issues in its expressive mural traditions, heartfelt songs and theatrical productions. The installation of the statue comes as its obverse, of a theatre of power heralding a new reality, presided over by the Prime Minister himself at his alliterative best (invoking “confidence, conviction, character”). Who better than Vivekananda, repurposed as the poster boy of the Hindu right, to be at the centre of this occupation game? So, we only recently learned that the statue, whose provenance was shrouded both literally and figuratively, was proposed by an alumnus, Manoj Kumar, to the VC for its “pleasing look”, funded by one Vipul Patel in the US, and executed by one Naresh Kumawat.

It bears all the marks of a brazen “occupation”, and like our former British rulers who implanted statue politics in our midst, makes a very literal point of triumphing over the

“enemy”. Here the “enemy” is Jawaharlal Nehru, whose statue was publicly sculpted by the renowned artist Biman Das in 2004-05, in an atelier just below the administration block. There was nothing mysterious about its making. Anil Bhatti, in his contribution to our forthcoming book titled *JNU Stories: The First Fifty Years*, has this to say: “The statue is, of course, a statement. But it is different from the statues in other universities because of this oblique, eccentric location slightly off-centre with the age-old Aravalli rocks behind it. And because the motto at the base of the statue itself gives the construction an emblematic structure demanding interpretation.”

Nothing could be a starker contrast to the Nehru statue than the new outcrop on the JNU horizon. Its furtive existence was enhanced by its prolonged shrouding in tattered orange cloth. By positioning the statue squarely at the entrance to the administration block, by purposely making it “three feet taller” than the Nehru sculpture, and, above all, by sacralising it, the stolid but domineering Vivekananda is a symbol of all that the university has become over the last five years. Unencumbered by any commitment to critical reason, to connecting past and present, it demands obedience and piety rather than engagement.

Are we being thrown back to a worshipful past, or to a time before the messy but exhilarating democracy and the opportunities it has offered to reconfigure the university? Or are we invited to engage with the Vivekananda who saw through “sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism”, which had “filled the earth with violence, drenched it often with human blood, destroyed civilisation and sent whole nations to despair”? The one who roiled against any one religion claiming to be self-sufficient, and therefore denouncing any claim to religious superiority of any kind?

The strategy of “occupation” allows only for a pious engagement. We are no wiser about what Vivekananda had imagined higher education would become in independent India, or about what he would have thought of the plural, inclusive, and yet questioning space that the Indian public university has already become. His call to “manliness” as a gospel of our times would be grotesquely inappropriate given the unbrikkled and entitled masculinity that is now on display in most parts of India. We are already thrown into the already overheated mythology around Vivekananda, including videos — entitled “Real Voice of Swami Vivekananda”, “The Original Voice of Swami Vivekananda”, etc., — claiming to purvey the original voice of Swami Vivekananda. (The unfortunate popularity of these fakes led the Ramakrishna Math and Mission to issue a clarification that “there is no voice recording of Swami Vivekananda, let alone of his speeches at the World’s Parliament of Religions, available to us today”).

Which Vivekananda is at stake? But, above all, whose university is at stake? Fervid cries to change the name of JNU have already begun. Thankfully, opposition to such change has come from the ABVP, fearful of what might be thrown out with the bathwater: The great reputation of a university to which they yearn to belong, but cannot, alas, build.

The writer is former professor of history, JNU



SALMAN KHURSHID

THE PASSING of Ahmed Patel, known to all as Ahmed bhai, is a deep personal tragedy for those who have known him closely and a monumental setback for the Congress. The go-to person for any personal or institutional crisis, he leaves behind innumerable known and anonymous beneficiaries of his generosity and sagacity. We will, of course, get accustomed to the grief and sorrow — that is human nature, after all. But it seems that things for us in the Congress will never be the same. It felt that way when we gathered at his house to bid him goodbye, alas in the absence of mortal remains due to the strict COVID-19 restrictions, surrounded by masked familiar faces that have been part of the world he sustained and nurtured unnoticed.

The complex relationships that form the body of the party were known to Ahmed bhai like the palm of his hand. How many times and where he might have intervened to help, counsel, encourage or reassure would be known to him and the person concerned only. He had his favourites, like we all do, but that fact was never re-

Leading from behind

Ahmed Patel’s silences ran deep. Congress will miss its go-to person

sented or complained of. Instead, generations of aspirants hoped to become his favourite. It was not something sought to be measured in worldly benefits, just the comfort of knowing that he thought of you favourably.

When our top leadership says that it will be difficult to replace Patel for the many remarkable things he was and for his devotion to the cause of the party, it is not just hyperbole caused by grief and a sense of loss. After all, from being a young party leader under Indira Gandhi to being an indispensable adviser to Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao, Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi, the late leader had acquired an institutional stature. Having donned an understated political personality with an arms-length approach to the media, he was nonetheless a confidant of innumerable top journalists, civil servants and politicians from across the party. But the understated demeanour and quiet confidence on the surface, like still waters, ran very deep. There was so much, perhaps all there was to know, that he kept discreet. Some short-sighted people might think that

his kind of politics was fast becoming a thing of the past but in truth we needed him now more than ever.

Patel will be missed by our leaders as indeed by loyal party workers. The Congress party will miss Ahmed bhai in whom we saw the invincibility and sustenance of our ideological beliefs and secrets of our organisational strength. We are all much diminished in the untimely demise of the gentle giant of our times.

Having come from Ankleshwar in Gujarat, Ahmed bhai, who grew up to all but rule the capital of India, has quietly returned home. In recent years, he did sometime talk about returning to Ankleshwar but each time, we knew it could not be and that he surely knew so as well. But the ways of god are mysterious and unpredictable. Thousands of Ahmed bhai’s admirers and well-wishers who constantly prayed for him would have not for a moment thought that their prayers would not be answered.

COVID-19 has been very harsh to the whole world and every life lost to the pandemic has reminded us of the insignificance

of the human being when confronted by the wrath of nature. But amongst others, the loss of Pranab Mukherjee and Ahmed bhai has deprived not just the Congress alone but the country of a unique combination of head and heart that will need another lifetime to replace — if at all, a replacement is possible. Both were very different and yet alike: One being comfortable at the frontline as indeed at private conferences; and the other content to guide matters from behind the lines. One never diffident about words in public, but the other communicating with silences. What they shared was a deep knowledge of the Congress party. Dada wrote about it with a flourish but sadly Ahmed bhai did not get the chance to record his part of the story, leaving us impoverished in knowledge even as the sinking thought reminds us: *Bare shavq se sun raha tha zamana/Hum hi so gaye dasta keh te keh te* (The world was listening in rapt attention/ But we dozed off while telling the tale).

The writer is a senior Congress leader, and former Union Minister

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HONESTY OF BIGOTS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Law of unfreedom’ (IE, November 26). The discussion on “love jihad” castigating the BJP and its affiliates for bringing a law against it can’t be faulted in terms of a polity guided by their ideology of Hindu Rashtra. Why blame the BJP for mainstreaming its fringe through legislative route, if it suits them? At least the BJP is mockingly transparent compared to the opposition parties’ muted reactions and lack of a counter-narrative. For instance, madrasas were blamed for holding back Muslims from modern education, and a breeding ground for fundamentalism, but if one gets modern education and cracks the competitive Indian civil services examination, and is still blamed for “UPSC jihad”, it is a manifest bigoted paradox. In essence, the right-wing politics of polarisation will keep churning anti-Muslim sentiments.

LR Murmu, Delhi

WAIT AND SEE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘New Old America’ (IE, November 26). It is maybe true that “America is back”, but how much is this beneficial for India is the important question. How the US responds on trade towards China post January must also be seen. Policies can’t disappear in one night and the people of

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America still want their jobs to be secured and a limit on migration.

Yash Sinha, Vadodara

UP’S APARTHEID LAW

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Roll it back’ (IE, November 26). The UP ordinance on inter-faith marriages undermines personal liberty and incentivises hooliganism. The draconian law not only contradicts BJP’s long-stated view on Uniform Civil Code. It is similar to apartheid, which had put legal obstacles for inter-ethnic marriages among its citizens.

Rajiv Boolchand Jain, Zirakpur

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Darshita D/o Sh. K.K. Shah W/o Sh. Arpit Mody R/o 3rd-D/18, Near Holy Child School, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001 have changed my name to Darshita Shah Mody for all purposes.

0040556100-7

It is for public information that I, Chimmam Lal S/o Lt. Sh. Raghuraj Singh R/o B-306/ A1, Gali No.25, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-93, have changed my minor son name from Gagan Singh to Gauransh singh for all future purposes.

0040556101-1

I, hitherto known as Vijay kumar verma, S/o Late. Chander Bhan verma, R/o B-157, Nirman vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vijay Kumar.

0040556110-4

I, Surajpal S/O Shri Narayan Singh Rana R/O H.No-415, Jalpura, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh-Nagar, UP, have changed my name to Surajpal Singh Rana.

0040556141-8

I, Sunita Gupta, D/O-Shri Satya Narain Garg, R/O H-34/97, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that Sunita Garg and Sunita Bansal both are my names. Sunita Garg is my maiden name and Sunita Bansal is my Post Marriage name and, I do not use any of these names in any of the documents after the divorce. Sunita Gupta is the sole name which is being used in all government records.

0040556141-4

I, Shyam Sharma S/O-Shri D.K. Bhusal R/O-S-9, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name to Lekha Nath Bhusal for all, future purpose. My correct Date-of-birth is 12.12.1980, and wife name is Mrs. Manrupa Bhusal.

0040556141-9

I, Shashi Bala W/O-Kewal Rishi R/O-D-313, GC Centrum-7 Mall-Road Ahinsa Khand-2 Inrapuram-Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014, Have Changed my name to Shashi Rishi.

0040556110-2

I, Shahbuddin, S/O Shajaddin R/O-1513 Sarai Khalil Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Mohammad Shahbuddin, for all Purposes.

0040556139-2

I, Sanyukta wife of Raj kishore jaiswal and mother of pulkit jaiswal & resident of 8/115, sector-3 rajender nagar ghaziabad hereby declare that i have added surname jaiswal to my name, henceforth i shall be known as Sanyukta jaiswal.

0040556139-3

I, Sandhya Aggarwal, W/O Sh. Pawan Aggarwal, R/o-533, Sector-4, Panchkula, Haryana-134112, have wrongly-written my name as Sandhya and Sandhya Goyal in my documents. My correct-name is Sandhya Aggarwal.

0040556139-5

I, Rahmat W/o, Chand Mohd Khan, R/o, E-13,25, Fata Road, Shri Ram Colony, Rajiv Nagar, Khajoori Khas, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rehmat Begum for, all purposes.

0040556140-1

I, Purshotam Saini S/O-Babu Ram Saini R/o B-129, Brijvihar, P.O. Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Purshotam Lal Saini.

0040556141-3

I, Mobeen S/O Ghulam Rasul, R/O-R-125, Ramesh Park, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Mobeen Parvez, for all purposes.

0040556110-1

I, Jayanti W/o-Ramesh Kumar, H.O.No.419 Sector-9 R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, have changed my minor daughter's name, NIDHI to NIDHI KUMAR.

0040556141-10

I, JONU w/o-Mr. Rohit Tomar, R/o 26/203, Tejas Enclave, Vayu Sena Vatika, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, have changed my name, from JONU to JONU KUMARI, vide- Affidavit, Date-25-11-2020.

0040556139-6

I, Isha Chopra W/o-Hitesh Chawla R/o A-3/82, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63, have changed my name to Isha chawla, for all future purposes.

0040556141-1

I, hitherto known as Radhey Shyam alias Shyam Singh, S/o Gokul Prasad, R/o A-80, Chander-Vihar, Mandawali-Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shyam Singh

0040556110-8

I Renu Gupta W/O, Parveen Singhal R/O 100, 2nd Floor, Kalyan Vihar Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Renu Singhal after marriage for all purposes

0040556136-1

I Kanchan D/o Sh. Naveen Sharma R/o D-159, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Kanchan Sharma for all purposes.

0040556100-4

LOST & FOUND

It is Notified for the information that my original qualifying-certificate of main secondary-Examination of year-1987 and Roll.No.430497 issued by CBSE has been actually lost Name- Rajinder Singh Address-3- B/67, Vishnu-Garden, New Delhi-110018, Mob-9599115590.

0040556141-7

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To be Known to all that I, Ved Parkash Gullati Son of Manohar Lal R/o CA-25-A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 have Lost my Original Property Documents ie Possession Letter and NOC issued by DDA in respect of the Property No. CA-25-A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088. An FIR on this effect has been lodge vide LR No. 757911/2020 Dated 25-11-2020. Any Person found these Documents may please Contact Phone No. 9818355250 or Write to Dy. Director (LAB) Residential, C-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-23 Sd/- Narendra Kumar Sharma (Advocate) Enrt No. ID-D/1987/2019 Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my client SMT. MANITA TAYAL, wife of Sh. Lalit Tayal, resident of B-11/19, Upper Ground Floor (Ground Floor) & First Floor, Maniwali Nagar, Paschim Nagar, Delhi-110092, who is negotiating with Sh. Deepak Kumar Chawla, being father & SPA of Neha Chawla, to purchase the Entire Property bearing No. 24 (Bottom to top) with its total area of 200 sq. ft. in Block B-1, land area measuring 254.18 sq.yds, situated at Manwari Nagar, Rohini-1, Delhi-110088, who is the absolute owner of the said property. All persons having any claim or demand or rights in respect of or against the above said property or any part or portion thereof by way of Agreement to sell, inheritance, share, sale, transfer, assignment, private mortgage, gift, exchange, pledge, loan, covenant, easement or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make his same known in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned at my office within seven days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the said property or client(s), if any, will be treated as null and void and will not have any legal & any other sanctity and not binding on my client(s) and the proposed transaction of purchase of the said property shall be completed without any reference to such claim(s).

Parveen Garg (Advocate)
Enrt.No.D/71396
Shop No.26, RU-Block Market, Pitampura, Delhi-34 Mob.9810039884

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold Property No. 69, G.P. Porton without Road Rights, Plot-59, Area measuring 90 Sq.Mtrs. Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi at present lying owned by my client(s) i.e. (1) Sh.Nitin Sharma S/o Sh. Jagdish Prasad Sharma & (2) Smt. Saroj Sharma W/o Sh. Jagdish Prasad Sharma by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regt. No. 10876, dated on 09.10.2009. It is submitted that initial complete original chain of title documents containing 28 documents are reported as missing & detailed lost report filed with Delhi Police vide LR No. 756975/2020, dated 26.11.2020 with P.S. Crime Branch Delhi. 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 said documents mentioned above or otherwise and/or objection to thereof, he/she/they may lodge/notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of Publication.

Mihlesh Kumar (Advocate)
Ch. No. 717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned on the behalf of my client Shriprakash Dwivedi S/o K. K Dwivedi R/O 283 H. No-413/1, Flat No-B-5, 2nd Floor, Lal Dora, Shiv Apartment, Khanpur, South Delhi-110062 have severed all their relation with his son Sahil Dwivedi disowned and disinherited him from all his movable and immovable properties. Henceforth anyone dealing with him on their own risk and consequences.

Hemlita Sharma (Advocate)
Enrollment No. D/3564/2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re- Entire First Floor, without road rights, (the said floor, part of Property No. 193, area measuring 250 sq yds, situated in State Bank Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, has been referred to as "the said property". Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that our client Mrs. Heena Kalia W/o Mr. Sandeep Kumar Kalia R/o B-307, Pitampura North West Delhi-110034 (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mrs. Kavita Aggarwal W/o Sh. Sushant Aggarwal R/o Resident of A-3/777, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that the said floor is owned by her by virtue of Sale Deed registered as Document No. 5704, Book No. 1, Volume No. 3751 on pages 155-162 on 07.12.2019 in the office of SHO-34, New Delhi-110004. The said floor is being sold by her to the Purchaser in favour of Mr. Praveen Sikka and after his death in favour of Mr. Praveen Sikka. Thus, consequently, the death of Mr. Praveen Sikka, the property was inherited by Shri Praveen Sikka, As per Surviving Member Certificate also, Mr. Praveen Sikka is the only legal heir of late Mr. Praveen Sikka.

Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever info or upon the above said floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by Registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein before within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received by the notice, the floor of the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind on said purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

Anil Kumar Khurana, Advocate
My Inclusive Law Offices A-74,
LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This is for the information of general public that my client Sh. Anurag Singh S/o Late Sh. Surjeet Singh R/o Flat No. 71, Third Floor, C.G.H.S. Neel Kamal Apartment, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 was fraudulently made to sign notary documents in respect of Built up Property No C-12-A, Land Area measuring 200 Sq. Yds. out of Khajura No. 27/5, situated in the area of Village Niloti, Delhi State Delhi, Colony known as Rajeev Vihar, Block-C, Niloti Extn., New Delhi-110041 by Sh. Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Parag Chand Sharma R/o A1A, Rajeev Vihar, Niloti Extn, New Delhi-607/2019. That my client has cancelled all those documents and nobody should deal with this property without his consent."

VIRENDER KUMAR (Advocate)
227, Transport Building, OC, Jansapuri, NO-58

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VIRENDER KUMAR (Advocate)
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कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल धनबाद।

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-03 / 2020-21

- विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पदनाम :- कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
- परिमाण विषय विक्री की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-11.12.2020 को 1.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-12.12.2020 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-12.12.2020 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।
- निविदा विक्री का स्थान :- (i) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

(ii) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन अंचल, हजारीबाग का कार्यालय।

(i) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

(ii) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन अंचल, हजारीबाग का कार्यालय।

(i) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

(ii) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन अंचल, हजारीबाग का कार्यालय।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रपन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विषय का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के रघुनाथपुर पेक्स में 30 M.T. समता वाले कोल्ड रूम का निर्माण कार्य।	32,19,705.00	64,400.00	5,000.00	छ: माह।
2	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत तोपचाणी प्रखण्ड के कोरकोड़ा पेक्स में 30 M.T. समता वाले कोल्ड रूम का निर्माण कार्य।	32,19,705.00	64,400.00	5,000.00	छ: माह।
3	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत दुखड़ी प्रखण्ड के दुखड़ी पेक्स में 30 M.T. समता वाले कोल्ड रूम का निर्माण कार्य।	32,19,705.00	64,400.00	5,000.00	छ: माह।
4	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत बरियापुर प्रखण्ड के कलानी पेक्स में 30 M.T. समता वाले कोल्ड रूम का निर्माण कार्य।	32,19,705.00	64,400.00	5,000.00	छ: माह।
5	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत निरसा प्रखण्ड में वाणिज्य-कर आयुक्त, धनबाद के आवस का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	15,24,700.00	30,500.00	5,000.00	चार माह।
6	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत संयुक्त वाणिज्य-कर आयुक्त, धनबाद के आवस का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	17,94,800.00	35,900.00	5,000.00	चार माह।
7	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत संयुक्त वाणिज्य-कर आयुक्त, धनबाद के आवस में स्वच्छता अ विद्यापन एवं जलापूर्ति कार्य का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	8,29,400.00	16,600.00	1,250.00	दो माह।
8	धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत संयुक्त वाणिज्य-कर आयुक्त, आवस, धनबाद के चाहरदीवारी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	9,83,250.00	19,700.00	1,250.00	तीन माह।

निविदा की शर्त :-

www.iprdjharkhand.in/iprd123@gmail.com/iprd@sify.com/jharkhandiprd@yahoo.com एवं सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता

भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

PR 236340 Building(20-21)D

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 08/JREDA/GCRR/RC/20-21 Dated: 25.11.2020

Online bids are invited for Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand (JREDA). The details are as follows:-

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand
2	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 40,00,00,000/-
3	Tentative quantity (kWp)	05 MWp
4	Period of completion	09 (Nine) Months
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	02.12.2020 (Wednesday)
6	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	10.12.2020 (Thursday) at 1.00 P.M.
7	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	19.12.2020 (Saturday) upto 05:00 PM
8	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	19.12.2020 and 21.12.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
9	Technical Bid Opening Date	23.12.2020 (Wednesday) at 3.00 P.M.
10	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA), 3 rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
11	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61
12	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com

Sd/-

Director, JREDA, Ranchi

PR 236288 (Energy)20-21#D

HIMACHAL PRADESH

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

- The Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD department

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible Class of Contractors	Time Limit
1.	Construction of Additional Hostel Accommodation for Nursing students at Zonal Hospital Mandi Distt.Mandi HP (SH: C/O building portion, WS & SI installation, Rain water harvesting system)	Rs. 18010530/-	Rs. 212605/-	Rs. 5000/-	"B & A"	One Year
2.	Availability of Bid Documents and Mode of Submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website http://hptenders.gov.in bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: http://hptenders.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.					
3.	Key Dates:					
1	Date of online publication	28.11.2020. at 10.00 AM				
2	Document download and end date	28.11.2020 at 10.00AM up to 13.12.2020 at 5.00 PM				
3	Bid submission start and end date	28.11.2020 at 10.30AM up to 13.12.2020 at 5.00 PM				
4	Date of technical bid opening	16.12.2020 at 11.30 AM				
5	Physical submission of original documents i/c original EMD & cost of tender documents etc	Upto 16.12.2020 at 11.00 AM				

- Tender Details:-
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in 2 covers:
i) Cover 1 shall contain Scanned Copies of all "Technical Documents Eligibility Information".
ii) Cover 2 shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids" where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.
- SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents with this office as specified in key dates at Sr. No. 5, failing which the bids will be declared nonresponsive.
- BID OPENING DETAILS: he bid shall be opened on 16.12.2020 at 11.30 HRs in the office of Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- he bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer,

Mandi Division No. II

HPPWD, Mandi.

4575/HP

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA PANCHSULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 2 NOS. 1.5 TON CAPACITY FREIGHT ELEVATORS AFTER DEMOUNTING OF EXISTING 2 NOS. FREIGHT ELEVATORS IN HARYANA COMPLEX AT PASCHIM KOSLI, KILSE.	27.11.2020 10.12.2020	1.37 LACS	www.haryana.gov.in	(0172)-2500120-26 hated@hry.nic.in
2	DEENBANDHU CHHOTU SAM UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, HATHHAI, SONBET	E. TENDER ARE INVITED FOR SUPPLYING MANUFACTUREE/ SUPPLIERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ITEMS AS PER TENDER DOCUMENT	23.11.2020 15.12.2020	-	d.gan@dcuuttm.org	Acad. Registrar
3	HSHCO	CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER BRICK BOUNDARY WALL FROM VILLAGE LAHRI TO 132/225 KV SUBSTATION IN PHASE-III AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BAOH DISTT., SONBET.	01.12.2020 09.12.2020	63 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	(9001222009) tenders@hry.nic.in
4	HARYANA	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER/AGENCY COMPANY FOR DISCUSSION OF DURATIVE AND NON-DURATIVE TREATMENT OF ROAD CASH STUCKS.	26.11.2020 11.12.2020	As mentioned in the tender documents	www.haryana.gov.in	0172-2500520-20 hated@hry.nic.in

040320hry

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.harvanyaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in



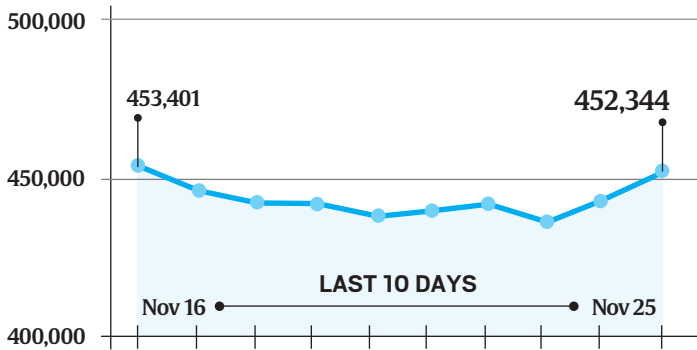
@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

452,344



Note: The Nov 25 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Nov 26

INDIA TOTAL CASES
9,266,705

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Nov 26

WORLD TOTAL CASES
60,641,673

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Nov 26

Similar symptoms in Covid, lung injury caused by vaping

LUNG INJURIES caused by Covid-19 and its manifestations are similar to those caused by e-cigarettes and vaping, a new study has underlined. Published in *SAGE Open Medical Case Reports*, the study presents a case series of three teenagers who presented with breathing problems at University of California-Davis (UC Davis) Health during the pandemic. Eventually, they turned out to be Covid-negative, but each had a history of vaping.

Medical professionals use the acronym EVALI to describe e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury. The study authors underlined that EVALI and Covid-19 share many symptoms but have very different treatment plans. They stressed that healthcare providers caring for paediatric patients with unexplained respiratory failure should also consider EVALI and ask for relevant smoking/vaping history.

Common symptoms between EVALI and Covid-19 include fever, cough, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. With the pandemic, it is easy to miss EVALI diagnosis, the researchers said. In the case series described in the study, the patients showed up with fever, nausea and cough. They had fast heart rate, rapid breathing and low oxygen levels in their blood. Their test results pointed to inflammation commonly seen in Covid-19, but their SARS-CoV-2 testing returned negative. When the patients shared information about recent vaping, doctors could diagnose EVALI and treat them successfully with corticosteroids.

Vaping shift

Another connection between vaping/substance use and the pandemic is



Chest X-ray image of patient with lung injury due to vaping. UC Davis Health



NEW GUIDELINES

highlighted in a different study, published in the same journal. A survey by Mayo Clinic researchers found shifts in vaping use among young adults after the pandemic began. These study, too, stressed the importance of screening for vaping and substance use during the pandemic.

The study covered patients visiting the outpatient departments across Mayo Clinic locations. Of 1,018 respondents, 542 reported vaping, or using marijuana, tobacco or alcohol, during the pandemic. The shifts observed:

- Nearly 70% increased alcohol consumption.
- Vaping decreased in 44% of people, and increased in 27.9%.
- Tobacco product use decreased in 47.3% of people, while 24.1% of people increased use.
- Of the 140 people who described a change in marijuana use, 39.2% increased use and 36% decreased use.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

AN ERROR in the trials of the AstraZeneca-University of Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, AZD1222, has called into question the way vaccine clinical trials during the pandemic have been handled. This is why it matters, and what needs to be done now.

What was the error?

On Monday, Oxford and AstraZeneca said AZD1222 could have an efficacy up to 90% — when administered in a half-dose followed by a full dose a month later. What they did not disclose initially was that these findings were the result of a mistake. The nearly 3,000 participants in the UK on whom this result was based were never supposed to be given a lower dose in the first place.

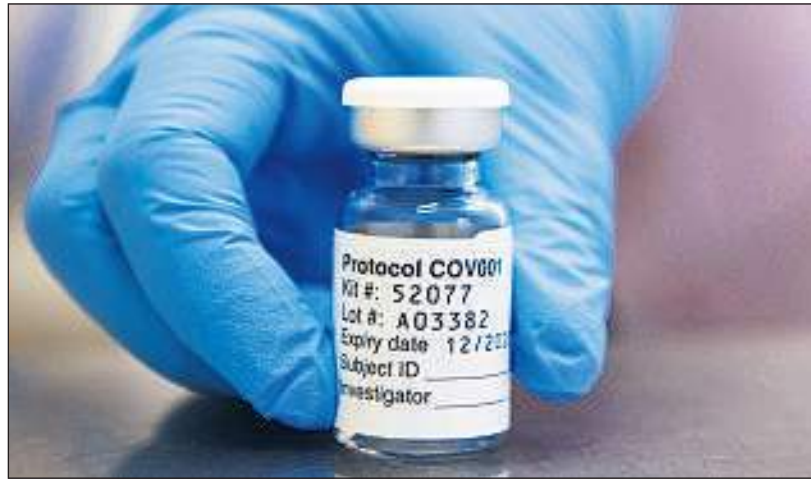
The revelation has added to doubts about the way AstraZeneca and Oxford have been conducting these trials, with some scientists flagging the lack of transparency in the entire process.

“With the exception of the US-based trial, I am not aware of details on how these trials are being monitored. Is there a centralised DSMB (Data Safety and Monitoring Board)? Are they combining the accrued data? They seem to have combined events across Brazil and UK. Why not the other countries?” Natalie E Dean, biostatistician at the University of Florida, tweeted on Wednesday.

“And reporting out a secondary analysis that was not pre-specified (since it seems to be based on a dosing error) is not desirable. If they seek to get the half-dose approved, they should wait until they have a compelling result. Otherwise, we can land in ‘evidence limbo’,” she tweeted.

The development makes it uncertain whether regulators like the US Food and Drug Administration would authorise emergency use, with confidence in the development programme having been “damaged”, according to a report in *The New York Times*.

“We have to see how much of this data (from the low-dose group) is potentially usable for regulatory submissions in the strictest sense, because, my understanding is you cannot use data that is not specified in the protocol. It is likely they notified the regulators, but this is not exactly a ‘per protocol’ or an ‘intention to treat’ analysis, which is the way clinical trial analyses are usually done,” vaccine scientist Prof Gagandeep Kang told



Half a dose followed by a full dose was not the intended regimen. Univ of Oxford via AP

The Indian Express on Thursday.

Why did the error happen?

Oxford says that due to a “difference in the manufacturing process” for the vaccine batches used for the phase 3 trials in the UK initially, the doses given to 2,741 UK participants were overestimated, resulting in a half-dose being administered as the first dose.

“We have different ways of measuring the concentration of the vaccine and when it was apparent that a lower dose was used, we discussed this with the regulator, and agreed a plan to test both the lower dose/higher dose and higher dose/higher dose, allowing us to include both approaches in the phase III trial,” the university said. “The methods for measuring the concentration are now established and we can ensure that all batches of vaccine are now equivalent.”

“There are two reasons why these errors could have crept in,” said Dr Amar Jesani, an independent consultant, researcher and teacher in bioethics and public health, co-founder of the Forum for Medical Ethics Society and editor of the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*.

“One is the haste with which the Covid vaccine trials are being conducted during the pandemic... they are trying to compress various stages of vaccine development. The second is that companies are vying with each other to capture the market at the earliest,” he said.

What checks and balances are in place

For instance, Article II, Section 2 of the US Constitution says all Presidents “shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment”.

Further, the power only applies to federal crimes and not state crimes — those pardoned by the President can still be tried under the laws of individual states.

Pardons by Trump, others

The Flynn pardon is not the first by Trump to raise eyebrows. In 2017, Trump pardoned former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was found guilty of being in contempt of court for ignoring a federal judge’s order to stop arresting immigrants solely on the suspicion that they were residing in the US illegally.

Others include right-wing commentator and convicted campaign fraudster Dinesh D’Souza, and Michael Milken, a financier convicted of securities fraud.

Yet, Trump happens to have used his pardon powers less than any president in modern

for such errors?

In this case, the mistake brought about a potentially positive finding that AstraZeneca intends to study further in the US arm of the trials, but it could have ended badly if the dosing was the other way around.

“In this case, the direction in which the error went was not a tragedy. Overdose has the potential to cause harm. Underdose usually does not,” Dr Kang said.

“In clinical trials, everything is precisely protocolised, and it has to be uniform across all participants in the trial. Normally, you don’t see this level of error happening,” said Dr Jesani.

But protocol deviations are still common in clinical trials, Dr Kang said.

“Wrong labelling of samples, issues with data quality, your freezer breaking down — these are all bound to happen. Even though errors or deviations may or may not make a difference, you would want to stop the study, investigate what is happening and then proceed,” she said.

“Errors happen. The point is that the study protocol is a guidance document that lays out what to do and how and monitoring is an approach to prevent as many errors as possible. In any kind of clinical trial, despite best efforts, it is likely that you will have protocol deviations. You have to record that,” she added.

Should these participants have been removed from the trial?

Given that the error was that of administering a lower first dose of the vaccine, it

might be considered unethical to remove these participants from the ongoing trial, according to Dr Kang. “You have recruited these people telling them that your volunteering, in a spirit of altruism, will benefit the public at large. Can you afford to then say, ‘Sorry, but all your effort is wasted because we made a mistake so, now, we are going to stop?’” she said. “You actually don’t know what the right dose is (for this vaccine yet), and this might be turned into an opportunity to understand more about the vaccine,” she said.

Yet, she said, “I do wish that there was way more transparency — maybe that’s too much to ask from Big Pharma, but, in this emergency situation, with misinformation and contention everywhere, being absolutely open by publishing protocols and papers and sharing information in detail, would be much more helpful.”

Does this raise questions for India’s Covishield, which is based on AZD1222?

It shouldn’t call the capability of the vaccine completely into question, according to some experts.

“The fact that the arms in the UK and Brazil are coming up with an efficacy above 60% means that this vaccine is working... and we were aiming for 50% in the guidance from WHO, the FDA and the DCGI,” said Dr Kang.

“But we will have to wait until regulators review the data and are convinced this is a vaccine worth having, because it is important to understand that regulators will get much more detail than scientists can read in a scientific journal,” she said.

What is required now is for Serum Institute of India (SII), which is testing Covishield in India, to “quickly” submit a protocol for additional studies that can test this vaccine using half a dose to start with.

“Serum should ask for all of the data from the AstraZeneca study to share with the DCGI and do very quick immunogenicity studies on Covishield to decide on an appropriate dose that it can go ahead with — a low dose would mean we could have double the doses,” said Dr Kang.

At the same time, this incident should also be a wakeup call for more transparency in the way even Indian companies conduct trials.

“We don’t even know at what dosage Serum Institute is testing Covishield over here... I can read the full protocol of AstraZeneca’s clinical trial and make a judgment about an error. Can you do that for Serum Institute of India’s protocol?” said Dr Jesani.

President’s powers to pardon — in US, India

OM MARATHE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

WITH LESS than two months of his tenure remaining, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday exercised his powers under the Constitution to pardon Michael Flynn, his former National Security Advisor, who had twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

What is the extent of the US President’s power to pardon?

How US President pardons

The President of the US has the constitutional right to pardon or commute sentences related to federal crimes. The US Supreme Court has held that this power is “granted without limit” and cannot be restricted by Congress.

Clemency is a broad executive power, and is discretionary — meaning the President is not answerable for his pardons, and does not have to provide a reason for issuing one. But there are a few limitations.

history, Pew Research data show. In his four years, Trump has granted pardons to 29 people (including Flynn) and 16 commutations.

In contrast, President Barack Obama had, during his eight-year tenure, issued 212 pardons and 1,715 commutations. The only other President who can be compared with Trump for infrequent use of the power is George H W Bush, who granted 77 clemency requests during his one-term tenure.

The highest number of clemency grants by a US President (3,796) came during Franklin D Roosevelt’s 12-year tenure, which coincided with World War II.

Unlike the US President, whose powers to grant pardons are almost unfettered, the President of India has to act on the advice of the Cabinet.

Under Article 72 of the Constitution, “the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence where the sentence is a sentence of death”. Under Article 161, the Governor too has pardoning powers, but these do not extend to death sentences.

The President cannot exercise his power of pardon independent of the government. Rashtrapati Bhawan forwards the mercy plea to the Home Ministry, seeking the Cabinet’s advice. The Ministry in turn forwards this to the concerned state government; based on the reply, it formulates its advice on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

In several cases, the SC has ruled that the President has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers while deciding mercy pleas. These include *Maru Ram vs Union of India* in 1980, and *Dhananjay Chatterjee vs State of West Bengal* in 1994.

Although the President is bound by the Cabinet’s advice, Article 74(1) empowers him to return it for reconsideration once. If the Council of Ministers decides against any change, the President has no option but to accept it.

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Term insurance: splitting your plan can optimise both cover, cost



SANDEEP SINGH

FEAR OFTEN pushes people to buy insurance. Over the last six to eight months, as the pandemic severely impacted the economy and forced individuals to restrict spending, the insurance sector saw a sharp rise in demand for term insurance plans and premium collections. In October, the first-year premium of private insurers grew 23.56% to Rs 7,227 crore, and that of LIC grew by 36% to Rs 15,548 crore.

Four different announcements on the success of Covid-19 vaccine candidates over the last two weeks have lifted market sentiments and fuelled hope that the virus may be about

to be defeated, and life could soon return to normal. Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Sputnik V have announced an over-90% efficacy for their candidates, and Oxford-AstraZeneca has said early results of phase 3 trials show its vaccine to be “highly effective”.

While Covid-19 has increased awareness about insurance, it is important for everyone to understand that it should not require a global pandemic for individuals to be nudged to buy a policy. A term insurance plan is a fundamental requirement and forms the base of an individual’s financial planning, providing cover against the most critical risk — that of life itself.

Who in the family should buy term insurance?

The primary earning member of the family must have a term insurance cover. It should be taken as a protection instrument that is able to take care of his/her family’s financial needs after he/she is not around. The key to remember is that anyone who has a family to

take care of, and has liabilities such as a home loan, car loan etc., must have term insurance.

It is also important to note that you should not wait to hit a certain age to buy a term plan. You may do so after you start working, and keep adding to the cover based on additional requirements. Starting early means a lower premium for the same cover. For example, if you are 30 when you buy a Rs 1 crore term plan up to age 70, your annual premium would be around Rs 12,000. The premium for the same plan will be around Rs 21,000 if you buy at age 40, and over Rs 32,000 at age 45.

How much should your insurance cover be?

Typically, a term plan should cover all your liabilities and major expected future expenses such as higher education of children, their wedding, and the living expenses for your family. Suppose you have a home loan of Rs 50 lakh, with principal outstanding of Rs 40 lakh; a car loan outstanding of Rs 3 lakh; and you need Rs 20 lakh for your

child’s higher education, then your term plan should cover for all this until you turn 60. This should be apart from the cover amount that would provide for your family’s household expenditure needs after you.

One must ideally have term insurance cover until the age of 60, and can have a separate plan to provide for one’s spouse’s financial independence till the age of 70-75. Breaking your term plan into two — one until age 60, and the other until age 70-75 — would not only help you optimise your cover, but also optimise the cost. It is important to note that if you live beyond 60, you won’t be needing the cover against home loan, children’s education and marriage, as you would have already met those goals.

How long should you take the cover for?

Ideally, the cover should be for the years when you build and have liabilities and see additions in the family. The term plan should provide cover for the period till your kids complete their education and turn inde-

pendent, and you have built your retirement corpus that is good enough to sustain you and your spouse’s financial needs for the remainder of your lives. If you think you can do all of that by age 60, you don’t need a term plan beyond 60.

One must not confuse the need for a term plan with the need for health insurance. While term insurance starts to lose relevance after you have met all your liabilities, health insurance becomes more important after retirement, and should be taken for as long as it is available.

It must also be noted that alongside the term plan, retirement planning should also continue — if you have saved optimally for your post-retirement life, you don’t need a term plan beyond 60.

If you think you need to provide some additional financial cover for your spouse’s financial needs should something happen to you between ages 60 and 70, you can take a separate term plan of a smaller amount that provides cover until 70-75.

How can this optimisation help you save money?

Suppose you are 35 now, and are looking for a Rs 1.5 crore term plan till the age of 75 — your premium may come to around Rs 21,000 per annum for the next 40 years, aggregating to Rs 8.4 lakh.

Now, if you take a term plan for Rs 1 crore till the age of 60 and another plan of Rs 50 lakh till the age of 75, you will pay premiums of around Rs 11,000 (25 years; Rs 1 crore) and around Rs 8,000 (40 years; Rs 50 lakh) respectively — adding up to a total premium outgo of around Rs 5.95 lakh.

In both cases, you will get a cover of Rs 1.5 crore till the age of 60. After that, since the need of a term plan is reduced and is limited to some cover for spouse’s needs, by splitting the plans, you reduce your premium outgo significantly post-retirement. Also, since your post-retirement income is limited, and you are in most cases living on your savings, it is important to optimally spend from your limited monthly income.

PANDEMIC
WATCH

Bilawal Bhutto

PAKISTAN

Bilawal Bhutto tests Covid positive, in self-isolation

Islamabad: Pakistan opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Thursday that he has tested positive for the coronavirus. The Pakistan Peoples Party chief and son of former PM Benazir Bhutto went into isolation after being infected with the virus. Bilawal has recently returned to Karachi after running almost a month-long election campaign prior to the November 15 election in Gilgit-Baltistan. He also attended a massive anti-government rally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement in Peshawar on November 22. **PTI**

TURKEY

475 jailed for life over 2016 coup attempt

Istanbul: A Turkish court sentenced 475 accused ringleaders of the failed 2016 coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to multiple life terms on Thursday, Turkish media reported, culminating one of the most important mass trials of nearly 500 defendants accused of involvement in the plot. The trial focused on a group of senior military officers and civilians who gathered in the Akinci air base outside the capital, Ankara, on the night of the coup and ordered warplanes, helicopters and army units to attack and seize key targets. **NYT**

AUSTRALIA

10 soldiers to be sacked over Afghan killings

Sydney: Australia has issued termination notices to at least 10 special forces soldiers after the release of a report that found credible evidence of unlawful killings in Afghanistan, the *ABC* said Thursday. An independent report published last week in redacted form said there was evidence that 39 unarmed Afghan prisoners and civilians were killed by 19 Australian soldiers. **REUTERS**

FRANCE

Police watchdog to probe 'beating of Black man'

Paris: France's IGP police watchdog is investigating allegations a Black music producer was physically attacked and racially abused during a police check, said French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on Twitter on Thursday. The incident was captured on CCTV footage which was circulating online. "I have asked the head of the police force to provisionally suspend the police concerned," wrote Darmanin. The alleged victim said he had been walking without a facemask — against Covid protocols — and upon seeing a police car, went into his studio to avoid a fine. However, the police followed him inside and started to physically attack him and racially abuse him. **REUTERS**

Biden urges unity: 'We're at war with virus, not with one another'

ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joseph R Biden Jr on Wednesday delivered a raw but optimistic address to Americans in his first nonpolitical speech since winning the election, pleading with the nation to "hang on" and have hope even with the number of coronavirus cases spiking across the country and a hard winter on the horizon.

"Looking back over our history, you see that it's been in the most difficult circumstances that the soul of our nation has been forged," Mr. Biden said.

In an implicit repudiation of Mr. Trump, who has dismissed the coronavirus as the flu and mocked people who wear masks, Mr. Biden urged Americans to see it as their patriotic duty to fight the pandemic together by taking the proper precautions. "I know the country has grown weary of the fight," he said. "We need to remember we're at war with the virus, not with one another, not with each other."

As he urged 3 Americans to wear face masks, practice social distancing and limit the size of group gatherings, especially around the holidays, he noted: "None of these steps we're asking people to take are political statements. Every one of them is based on science, real science."

He said he hoped the good news about effective vaccines would "serve as an incentive to every American to take these simple steps to get control of the virus. There's real hope, tangible hope. So hang on."

Mr. Trump, in the early days of the pandemic, had tried to brand himself a "wartime presi-



A medical staffer in Monza, Italy sanitises her colleague after treating a suspected Covid-19 patient inside an ambulance. **AP**

dent," before claiming, inaccurately, that the country had "rounded the curve." Mr. Biden on Wednesday appeared to pick up the wartime mantle, describing the coronavirus pandemic as "a nearly yearlong battle" that has "devastated this nation."

"America is not going to lose this war," he said, reminding people, "Don't let yourself surrender to the fatigue."

Mr. Biden also tried to paint an optimistic vision of the future, despite the current crisis, and asked Americans to "dream again."

"We're going to lead the world by the power of our example, not just the example of our power," he said. "We're going to lead the world on climate and save this planet. We're going to find cures for cancer and Alzheimer's and diabetes. I promise you." **NYT**

German Covid-19 curbs set to last into 2021

REUTERS

BERLIN, NOVEMBER 26

GERMANY WILL probably have to stick with measures to dampen the coronavirus pandemic into January, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday, while her chief of staff suggested that restrictions might be needed until March.

"Given the high number of infections, we assume that the restrictions which are in place before Christmas will continue to be valid until the start of January, certainly for most parts of Germany," Merkel told parliament.

Merkel agreed with leaders

of Germany's 16 federal states late on Wednesday to extend and tighten the coronavirus lockdown until December 20, but ease rules over the Christmas holidays to let families and friends celebrate together.

"Given the high number of infections, we assume that the restrictions which are in place before Christmas will continue to be valid until the start of January, certainly for most parts of Germany," Merkel told parliament.

Merkel's chief of staff said rules limiting social contact might be needed for longer. "We have difficult winter months ahead of us. This will continue until March," Helge Braun said.

US TOP COURT BACKS CHALLENGE TO NEW YORK CURBS ON RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Washington: The Supreme Court late Wednesday night barred restrictions on religious services in New York that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo had imposed to combat the coronavirus.

In an unsigned opinion, the majority said Mr. Cuomo's restrictions violated the First Amendment's protection of the free exercise of religion.

The measures were prompted in large part by rising coronavirus cases in Orthodox Jewish areas but covered all "houses of worship." **NYT**

PUTIN OPENS COVID DRUG PLANT, RUSSIA REPORTS RECORD FOR CASES, DEATHS

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday inaugurated a pharmaceutical plant in Siberia that will manufacture drugs to treat Covid-19.

"People need these drugs," he said. "They need them literally every day."

Russia reported a record high of 25,487 new coronavirus infections on Thursday and 524 deaths in the last 24 hours, the highest numbers it has reported since the start of the pandemic. **REUTERS**

British-Australian scholar freed in Iran prisoner swap

FARNAZ FASSIHI

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 26

IRAN RELEASED a British-Australian scholar, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, detained since 2018 on charges of spying for Israel, in a prisoner swap conducted Wednesday for three Iranian men described by Iran's official media as businessmen who had been held abroad.

Iran did not reveal the identities of the three citizens swapped for Ms. Moore-Gilbert nor the identity of the country or countries where they had been held. But social media channels affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps in Iran identified the three as Saeed Moradi, Mohammad Khazaei and Masoud Sedaghat Zadeh, all detained in Thailand since 2012 on charges of having planned to bomb Bangkok, and assassinate Israeli diplomats there.

Mr. Moradi lost both legs in a botched bombing in Thailand as Thai police, apparently acting on a tip from Israeli intelligence, broke up a plot eight years ago.

Television footage from the prisoner swap shown on state television in Iran on Wednesday



Kylie Moore-Gilbert

showed one of the men in a wheelchair.

There was no immediate comment about the swap from either Thailand or Israel. Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia said he was "thrilled and relieved" at Ms. Moore-Gilbert's release but provided no details on how it had been arranged.

Ms. Moore-Gilbert was a lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Melbourne when she went to Iran in 2018 to attend a conference. Agents of the Revolutionary Guards arrested her at the airport as she was leaving on charges of spying for Israel.

She had been serving a 10-year sentence, much of it in Iran's notorious Evin Prison, **NYT**

UK PM appoints business consultant as new chief of staff

REUTERS

LONDON, NOVEMBER 26

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson appointed Dan Rosenfield, a business consultant and former treasury official, as his new chief of staff on Thursday.

Johnson is reshaping his senior team of advisers following the dramatic departure of Dominic Cummings earlier this month. Cummings was seen as the driving force behind Johnson's strategy on Brexit and most other policies, and his exit has been billed as a chance for a 'reset' for the British leader.

"The Prime Minister has today appointed Dan Rosenfield as his chief of staff," a statement from Johnson's office said. He will begin work in Downing Street on December 7 and officially take up the Chief of Staff role on January 1.

Rosenfield previously worked at Bank of America as a managing director of investment banking, and spent over a decade working in the finance ministry where he served as a senior aide to former finance ministers Alistair Darling and George Osborne.

PM: Ethiopia to begin 'final phase' of offensive in Tigray

REUTERS

ADDIS ABABA, NAIROBI, NOVEMBER 26

THE ETHIOPIAN military will begin the "final phase" of an offensive in the rebellious northern Tigray region, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Thursday, hours after an ultimatum for Tigray forces to surrender expired.

The government gave the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) 72 hours on Sunday to lay down their arms or face an assault on Mekelle, the regional capital of 500,000 people.

Rights groups raised concerns for civilians caught up in military operations.

Reuters was not immediately able to reach the TPLF for comment. Claims by all sides have been impossible to verify because phone and internet connections to the region are down and access to the area is tightly controlled.

"The 72-hour period granted to the criminal TPLF clique to surrender peacefully is now over and our law enforcement campaign has reached its final stage," Abiy tweeted, adding that civilians would be spared and that thousands of fighters had already



Women who fled the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region at a refugee camp in eastern Sudan. **AP**

surrendered. The TPLF has denied its fighters are surrendering.

"The last peaceful gate which remained open for the TPLF clique to walk through has now been firmly closed," Abiy said.

Abiy, who won the Nobel peace prize last year for ending a long-running stand-off with Eritrea, called on the people of Mekelle to "disarm, stay at home and stay away from military targets."

"Our National Defence Forces have carefully devised a strategy to bring the TPLF criminal clique to justice without harming innocent civilians, heritage sites, places of worship, development institutions and property," he

Trump pardons ex-adviser Flynn, who pleaded guilty in Russia probe

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday pardoned his former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who had twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump's pardon, which could be the first of several after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden, drew condemnation from Democrats and other critics.

A retired Army general, Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about interactions he had with Russia's ambassador to the United States in the weeks leading up to Trump's inauguration in January 2017.

He has since sought to withdraw the plea, arguing that prosecutors violated his rights and duped him into a plea agreement. His sentencing has been deferred several times.

"It is my Great Honor to announce that General Michael T. Flynn has been granted a Full Pardon. Congratulations to @GenFlynn and his wonderful family, I know you will now have a truly fantastic Thanksgiving!" Trump wrote on Twitter, a day before the US holiday.

Flynn's attorney who told a court in September she personally asked Trump not to pardon her client, said the pardon was "bittersweet" because Flynn was innocent.

Trump's move was the highest-profile pardon he has granted since he took office. Among others, the Republican



US President Donald Trump and former national security adviser Michael Flynn

EXPLAINED **E** Pardon blitz before Trump exit?

THE END of any presidential administration is a time for intense lobbying related to pardons.

But in Trump's case, it extends to his own personal and political considerations, his bitterness over the Russia inquiry and his transactional approach to governing.

The sheer number of people in the president's circle to have gotten in trouble with the law has also made the question of pardons especially fraught.

president has pardoned Army personnel accused of war crimes in Afghanistan and Joe Arpaio, a former Arizona sheriff and hard-liner against illegal immigration.

"This pardon is undeserved, unprincipled, and one more stain on President Trump's rapidly diminishing legacy," House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler said in a statement.

Four students charged over Paris teacher's beheading

AGENCIES

PARIS, NOVEMBER 26

FOUR STUDENTS have been charged over the killing of a Paris teacher last month, French media reported on Thursday.

In October, an Islamist terrorist murdered Samuel Paty and beheaded him after the teacher showed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which were taken from the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, to his students.

Three of the students charged were reportedly accused of "complicity in a terrorist murder" by allegedly pointing Paty out to the killer. The three are aged between 13 and 14 years old, news agency *AFP* reported.

The fourth suspect is the daughter of the man who led an online campaign against Paty, *AFP* reported. She has reportedly been charged with "slandering denunciation" of Paty.

The new suspects come in addition to the two other students who were charged in relation to the murder earlier this month. Those two suspects, aged 14 and 15, were indicted for "complicity in terrorist assassination" and have been placed under judicial supervision.

EQUIPPED WITH ULTRASOUND, X-RAY, OPERATING AND RECOVERY AREAS

Mobile hospital for hurt Australian wildlife hits road

REUTERS

SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 26

A MOBILE hospital for injured wildlife such as koalas and kangaroos began a journey on Thursday to its new base in Byron Bay, on Australia's east coast.

Custom-built by Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital in a 16-metre (52.5-feet) semi-trailer truck, the mobile clinic will treat and rehabilitate native animals hurt and traumatised during wildlife crises across the country.

Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital founder and CEO Dr. Stephen Van Mil said the project was con-



A volunteer holds a kangaroo rescued from bushfires in Australia's Blue Mountains region. *Reuters file*

ceived of two years ago, but the devastation of Australia's disas-

trous bushfire season last year underscored the need.

"Seeing dozens of injured koalas sitting in laundry baskets waiting for care was heartbreaking," Van Mil said in a statement.

Since then, a crowd-funding campaign, philanthropic donations, and help from conservation groups have turned the \$700,000 (\$515,600) mobile hospital into a reality.

The self-sufficient vehicle has been fitted with veterinary equipment, including ultrasound and X-ray machines, operating and recovery areas, water storage, satellite communications and solar power.

"Being able to work in a mobile hospital means that I can actually help these animals quickly.

I can get there and I can give them the treatment that they need," said wildlife specialist Dr. Bree Talbot, who will be aboard the mobile clinic along with a small team of volunteers and veterinary staff.

"I can give them the medicine and the pain relief and the fluid therapy ... and get them back out hopefully sooner rather than later," she said.

Ongoing costs of \$250,000 to maintain the clinic will be partly borne by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Australia (WWF), said Darren Grover, the head of the WWF's Healthy Land and Seascapes group.

New Zealand to declare climate emergency to combat global warming

REUTERS

WELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's government is to declare a climate emergency in a symbolic step to increase pressure for action to combat global warming.

The government will put forward a motion to declare the emergency next Wednesday, the government said as parliament reconvened after a general election won by Ardern's party.

"We've always considered climate change to be a huge threat to our region, and it is something we must take immediate action



New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern

on," Ardern said, according to state broadcaster TVNZ.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to progress a motion around a climate emergency in parliament in the last term, but now we're able to."

If a climate emergency is passed, New Zealand would join countries like Canada, France and Britain that have taken the same course to focus efforts on tackling climate change.



GOLD

₹48,257



RUPEE

₹73.88



OIL

\$47.87



SILVER

₹59,513

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2230 IST

SENSEX: 44,259.74 ▲ 431.64 NIFTY: 12,987.00 ▲ 128.60 NIKKEI: 26,537.31 ▲ 240.45 HANG SENG: 26,819.45 ▲ 149.70 FTSE: 6,359.13 ▼ 31.96 DAXS: 13,286.38 ▼ 3.42

International market data till 1900 IST

OCT POLICY GUIDANCE EMPHASISED NEED TO SEE THROUGH TEMPORARY INFLATION PRESSURES

Stronger-than-expected pick up in recovery, Covid rise a downside: Das

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the economy has exhibited stronger-than-expected pick up in momentum of recovery but cautioned about the “sustainability of demand”.

The recovery has come after witnessing a sharp contraction in GDP by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 and a multi-speed normalisation of activity in the second quarter, he said.

Das said the global economy has also witnessed a stronger-than-expected rebound in activity in the September quarter. The IMF has accordingly revised its assessment for global growth in 2020 to a less severe contraction than what was assessed in June 2020, he said. “Even as the growth outlook

EXPLAINED

Need to be watchful of demand

RBI GOVERNOR Shaktikanta Das has emphasised on the need to be watchful about the sustainability of demand after festivals and a possible reassessment of market expectations surrounding the vaccine. However, the resilient external balance position may bring in some comfort.

has improved, downside risks to growth continue due to recent surge in infections in advanced economies and parts of India,” Das said in his address at the Annual Day of Foreign Exchange Dealers’

Association of India (FEDAI). The Centre is likely to release the September quarter GDP data on Friday. “We need to be watchful about the sustainability of demand after festivals and a possible reassessment of market expectations surrounding the vaccine,” he said. The monetary policy guidance in October emphasised the need to see through temporary inflation pressures and also maintain the accommodative stance at least in the current financial year and into the next financial year, he said.

According to Das, a key source of resilience in recent months has been the comfortable external balance position of India supported by surplus current account balances over two consecutive quarters, resumption of portfolio capital inflows on the back of robust FDI inflows, and sustained build-up of foreign exchange reserves. “The govern-

ment’s recent policy focus to enhance India’s participation in global value chains, including through production linked incentives for targeted sectors, can leverage on the strong external balance position of India,” he said. He assured that the Reserve Bank “remains committed to fostering orderly functioning of financial markets and will continue to evaluate incoming information having a bearing on the financial markets and act, as needed, to mitigate any downside risks”.

Das said domestic financial market conditions which were benign at the start of the year witnessed severe stress and dislocation as the pandemic unfolded.

“The RBI acted proactively and nimble-footedly to ease financial market conditions and mitigate risks with a slew of conventional and unconventional measures,” he said.

‘Capital account convertibility is a process’

Mumbai: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has said capital account convertibility of the rupee will continue to be approached as a process rather than an event, taking cognizance of prevalent macroeconomic conditions. “A long term vision with short and medium term goals is the way ahead,” he said at a FEDAI event.

“Today, the capital account is convertible to a great extent. Inward foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed in most sectors and outbound FDI by Indian incorporated entities is allowed as a multiple of their net worth,” Das said. **ENS**

Paytm, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, others now NPCI shareholders; may get more say in UPI future

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE NATIONAL Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Thursday raised nearly Rs 82 crore by way of private placement of 4.63 per cent of its equity shares to 19 new banks, non-banking entities and the parent companies of payment systems aggregators.

“This broad basing exercise was done to further diversify and distribute the NPCI shareholding to a larger set of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) regulated entities and categories of payment industry participants. NPCI made an offer for the private placement to 131 RBI regulated entities, out of which 19 evinced interest and were allotted shares in NPCI,” the not-for-profit initiative, which runs and manages the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), said.

Though traditional banks such as the State Bank of India, Union

NPCI has raised nearly ₹82 crore via private placement of 4.63% of its equity shares

Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank remain the bigger players for now, other older players such as Standard Chartered Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank, and IDFC First Bank have found seats at the expanded table. New entrants to the banking system such as Suryoday Small Finance Bank and Capital Small Finance Bank are also in the expanded list of NPCI, which now has 67 shareholders.

The entry of non-banking and parent companies of digital payment companies such as Paytm Payments Bank, One Mobikwik Systems Private, Amazon Pay Indian Private, PhonePe Private and Pine Labs may give these play-

ers a shot at deciding the future shape of UPI and digital payments in India.

This comes at a time when the NPCI and digital payment companies have disagreed with each other on several key policy issues, with the latest being the cap on the total volume of payments that can be done by any one player on the UPI platform.

Earlier this month, even as Facebook-owned WhatsApp got the nod to roll out its UPI payments service to its 400-million strong user base, the NPCI issued a directive asking third party UPI providers to cap the total number of transactions on their platform to 30 per cent of the total volume of transactions. The move came a week after the total number of transactions on the UPI platform had crossed 2 billion a month in October. In a statement, NPCI said the move was aimed to help address the risks to the UPI platform and protect the ecosystem.

AMAZON-FUTURE COUPONS CASE

Future Retail: Not every development ‘material event for disclosure’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

STEPPING UP its attack on global e-commerce giant Amazon, Future Retail (FRL) on Thursday said every development in its arbitration with the former would not be “a material event for disclosure under” under section 30 of the listing obligations and disclosure requirements (LODR) regulations of the Sebi.

FRL was, however, making the disclosures “out of abundant caution” as Amazon, the other party in the arbitration had adopted a media strategy of “having every development reported and converted into a line of communication with stock exchanges”.

In its disclosure on Thursday, Future Retail said though it was not a party to the arbitration agree-

ement, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) had made it a party to the agreement through an order. FRL had, therefore, “raised jurisdictional objection to its inclusion as party to the arbitration”. On Wednesday, the SIAC had dismissed plea of FRL to be excluded from being a party to arbitration.

In August, Kishore Biyani’s Future Group entered into an agreement with Reliance Retail — an arm of Reliance Industries — to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing assets to the latter. However, the Rs 24,713-crore deal ran into trouble with Amazon claiming its “contractual rights” have been violated. Last year, FRL had signed another deal worth Rs 2,000 crore with Amazon, as part of which Amazon had acquired 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons, the promoter of FRL.

AMID COVID-19

‘CFOs seek to balance short-term results, long-term value’

Majority of CFOs feel that achieving a balance between short-term results and creating long-term value will become a priority post the pandemic, an EY survey said

>800 Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), Financial Directors (FD) and senior finance executives of large organisations covered under the EY survey, with 40 per cent of the respondents from EMEA (Europe, Middle East, India and Africa)



THOSE WHO SAID THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THEIR ORGANISATION TODAY WHILE ENABLING FUTURE GROWTH:
■ 79% in EMEA
■ 86% globally

Source: EY/PTI

‘India to offer incentives for solar modules’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

DEMAND FOR domestic solar cells and modules will grow to around 36 giga-watt (GW) in the next three years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, underscoring the need for India to be a global manufacturing hub for



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

renewable energy. Incentives

would be given for local production of these products, he said.

Modi said, as per a PTI report after the success of Production Linked Incentives in electronics manufacturing, “we have decided to give similar incentives to high-efficiency solar modules”. He was addressing the third edition of RE-Invest, an annual renewable energy investor meet. **FEWITHPTI**

LVB shares suspended from bourses

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

LEAVING 93,000 shareholders stuck with worthless paper, stock exchanges have suspended the shares of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) following the RBI decision to merge the bank with DBS Bank on November 27.

The stock is likely to be delisted from the stock exchanges on Friday.

Shares of LVB had risen by 4.8 per cent to Rs 7.65 on Wednesday amid hopes that the RBI will announce some scheme to compensate shareholders. However, the final scheme announced on Wednesday didn’t

The final scheme announced on Wednesday did not offer any bailout for equity shareholders whose shares have been written off

offer any bailout for equity shareholders whose shares have been written off.

“The investors who bought in hope of revival, on an expectation of healthy gain got stuck. In this merger, shareholders of LVB will not get any benefit. The entire capital of the bank will be

written off post the merger with DBS Bank India,” Jaikishan Parmar, Senior Equity Analyst, Angel Broking.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the moratorium imposed on Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will be lifted on November 27, resulting in depositors being able to withdraw their funds without any limits.

“All the branches of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank will function as branches of DBS Bank India with effect from this date. Customers, including depositors of LVB will be able to operate their accounts as customers of DBS Bank India with effect from November 27,” the central bank said.

HC refuses to stay merger

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

THE BOMBAY High Court on Thursday refused an interim stay on the Union Cabinet-approved merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd with DBS Bank.

The decision was challenged by promoters and shareholders of the bank, including Kare Electronics & Development Private Ltd, Pranava Electronics Private Ltd and KR Pradeep and its investor, Indiabulls Housing Finance.

PNGRB simplifies gas pipeline tariff to make it more affordable

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE PETROLEUM and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) on Thursday released a unified tariff structure for over a dozen pipelines, including GAIL’s network of seven pipelines, with the aim of making natural gas more

affordable to users far from the source of natural gas or import terminals. The move is part of the government’s efforts to boost gas consumption in the country.

According to experts, the move, which sets a fixed tariff for the first 300 km distance from the source of gas and a fixed tariff for distances over 300 km on the same integrated pipeline network,

will lead to significantly higher usage of gas in areas far from LNG terminals and sources of natural gas clustered on the west coast of the country.

“These regulations have set the ground for gas consumption to go up for people in far flung areas of the country,” said Vivekanand Subbaraman, analyst at Ambit Capital.

US Fed weighs boosting bond

ASSOCIATEDPRESS
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

AT THEIR meeting earlier this month, US Federal Reserve officials discussed possible future adjustments to the central bank’s monthly bond purchases to boost the economy. The Fed released minutes of its November 4-5 meeting revealing that while officials believed no changes were needed to the bond purchase program at that time, “they recognised that circumstances could

shift to warrant such adjustments.”

The Fed since June has been buying \$120 billion in bonds each month to keep downward pressure on long-term interest rates as a way of giving the economy a boost as it struggles to emerge from a deep recession. The purchases have included \$80 billion a month in Treasury bonds and \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities.

The minutes of the meeting show that while no decision was taken on what to do or when, Fed officials were keeping their options open.

RIICO E-TENDER NOTICE

RIICO invites tenders/bids costing more than **Rs. 200 lacs** through **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** from registered, reputed and experienced contractors for under mentioned works. As such, this is to inform all the prospective bidders/contractors registered in appropriate class in any department or public undertaking of any state in India/GOI, that they may download & submit online tenders/bids for following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)
1.	Sr. Regional Manager, Bhilwara	
1.1	Construction of Cement concrete Roads at Industrial Area Nimbahera, District-CHITORGARH UBN-RDC2021WSOB-00986	389.40

Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302 005,
Phone : 0141-2227751, 4593201 Fax : 0141-4593210
E - Mail : ricro@ricco.co.in Website : www.ricco.co.in
Raj,Samwad/C/20/7111

UTTARAKHAND MEDICAL SERVICE SELECTION BOARD
Near Medical Health And Family Welfare, Danda Lakhnau, Sahasrardhara Road, Dehradun
Website: www.ukmsssb.org, E-mail: ukmsssbun@gmail.com, Ph. 0135-2898569

Advertisement No. 50/2020-21 Date : 26.11.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

UKMSSB invites e-tender for following work:

Tender No. and Date	Description of work	Cost of tender document Excluding tax (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Start Date & Time of online request for tender and submission of tender.	Last Date & Time of online request for tender and submission of tender.	Date of Opening of Technical bid.	Date of opening of Financial bid.
02/2020-21, Dated 27.11.2020	A- Pre & Post Examination Work of UKMSSB fy 2020-21 B- Creation of facilities at designated examination center.	₹5000.00+ GST (18%)	₹1,50,000.00/- (Rs. One lakh Fifty thousand only) In Favor of Secretary, Uttarakhand medical service selection board, Dehradun.	1 st December 2020, (03:00 PM).	14 th December 2020 (04:00 PM).	15 th December 2020 (01:00 PM).	To be announced after Technical Bid.

For further details, please visit website **www.ukmtenders.gov.in**
Garima Raunkaly
Secretary, Uttarakhand Medical Service Selection Board, Dehradun

SBi
Marketing & Communications Department, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, 9th Floor, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021.

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer RFP for empanelment of Video Making Agencies (RFP No. CC/M&C/2020-21/04), the same was published on 10.11.2020 in this newspaper. **Corrigendum** details are available on our website: **https://bank.sbi** under ‘Procurement News’.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager
(Marketing & Communications)

Date: 27.11.2020

TIRUPPUR SMART CITY LIMITED
TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE
CORRIGENDUM TO THE BID DOCUMENT

Date of issuance of this Clarification 24.11.2020
SELECTION OF SYSTEM INTEGRATOR TO DESIGN, SUPPLY, IMPLEMENT, OPERATE AND MANAGE AN INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE IN TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.
Invitation for Bid No. E/1/6630(XI)/2017

Sl. No.	Reference to Bid document	As given in Bid Document	To be Read as
1.	Important Dates Sl.No. 3	Date and Time for submission of Bids : 30.11.2020 at 3.00 PM	Date and Time for Submission of Bids : 17.12.2020 at 3.00 PM
2.	Important Dates Sl.No. 4	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid : 30.11.2020 at 3.30 PM	Date and Time for Submission of Bids : 17.12.2020 at 3.30 PM
3.	Section 1.3 RFP Fact Sheet Sl.No. 7	Date and Time for submission of Bids : 30.11.2020 at 03.00 PM, at O/o. Tiruppur Municipal Corporation	Date and Time for submission of Bids : 17.12.2020 at 03.00 PM, at O/o. Tiruppur Municipal Corporation

DIPR/4404/TENDER/2020 Managing Director, Tiruppur Smart City Limited

NMDC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Thane Bhawan, 10-3-311(A), Conde Hills, Mahab Tark, Hyderabad-500088
CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674.

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No. HC/Contracts/NS/508/M/RMHS/A2 Dated: 27/11/2020
NMDC Limited, A “NAVARATHNA” Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for “Operation & Maintenance of Ore, Flux, Sinter and Slag area (A2) at Raw Material Handling System (RMHS) of 3 MTPA ISP at Nagarnar”.

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>, Central Public Procurement portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.in> and MStC portal <http://www.mstccommerce.co.in> from 27/11/2020 to 18/12/2020.

For Accessing the Bid document from NMDC website, the bidder has to register as ‘New User’ in Bid section at NMDC’s website link <http://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdctender/default.aspx>

For Accessing the Bid document from Central Procurement Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.in>, the Tenderer has to click on “Latest active tenders”.

For Accessing the Bid document from MStC, bidders to visit website link http://www.mstccommerce.co.in/eprocure/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp and search Tender No. NMDC/HO/2/20-21/ET/2. Bidders are requested to register as ‘New Vendor’ for downloading the tender document. For further help refer to ‘vendor guide’ given in MStC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids through online mode and details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT.

The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC’s website/CPP Portal/ MStC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, CGM (Contracts), NMDC Limited Hyderabad can be contacted through Fax no. +91-040-23534746, Tel No. +91-040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

हृद एक याम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरादा

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

27 NOVEMBER 2008



On this auspicious day, we pay homage to Maj Sandeep Unnikrishnan,AC, of 7BIHAR, who led a NSG commando team to flush out terrorists from Hotel Taj, Mumbai. With utter disregard for his own safety, he advanced from room to room, rescuing numerous hostages. When one of his team members was grievously injured, he pinned down the terrorists with accurate fire and rescued the injured commando. In the ASHOK CHAKRA process, he was mortally wounded, but continued to fight till the terrorist threat was eliminated. Your gallant actions will inspire us for generations. We, the fraternity of The Veer Biharis, salute you.

THE BIHAR REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



NAIK K.C. ROY
SBSS SALAKATI
27-11-1996

MARTYR OF CISF ON 27TH NOVEMBER
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with the ULFA militants. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum Walk in interview for engagement of CMPs for COVID Isolation wards Northern Railway Central Hospital on Contract basis

Essential Educational Qualification:-

Para (iii) (B) Post graduate degree in the concerned specialty or superspeciality mentioned in section A of schedule VI from recognized institute i.e. Doctor of Medicine (Microbiology) or Diplomate National Board (Microbiology) or MSC (Medical Microbiology) with doctor of Philosophy (Medical microbiology/Virology).

No. 752-E/CMPI/Corp/Gaz./CH/20 Dated : 26.11.2020

2647/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK (A State University Established under Haryana Act No. 25 of 1975) NAAC Accredited 'A+' Grade							
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE							
Sr. No.	Letter/Memo No. & Date	Name of Dept./ Board/Corp./Auth	Old Reference/ NIT/Tender No.	Nature of Corrigendum	Opening Date (Closing Date) (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Dept./ Board/Corp./Auth
1.	No. PRO/MDU/ 2020/826 Dated: 12.11.2020	Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak	PRDH/83812		Last Date was 24.11.2020 which has been extended upto 03.12.2020	24 Lacs	www.mdu.ac.in
				Director, UIET, MDU Mobile No. E-mail: dir.uiet@mdurohtak.ac.in			

84033/HR/

STAMP AND SIGNATURE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE				
Sr. No.	LETTER / MEMO. No. & DATE	NAME OF DEPT./ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT/ TENDER No.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM
1.	PRDH/2020/1005/STY can OP dated 12-11-2020	Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, Haryana, Chandigarh	eTENDERMANUSCRIPT DEVELOPED 021.	Corrigendum (Technical Bid) Regarding for the Purchase of Kraft Paper Cloth Lined Central Envelopes with Printing (Director) For the Year 2020-21
				www.maharshidayananduniversityrohtak.org
				(Rajpal Sharma) Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, Haryana, Chandigarh

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

"A State Government Undertaking"
"e Tender Notice"
(E-tendering mode only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on turnkey basis (Two Part Bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla - 4 for the following work:-

Sr. Tender No.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Documents	Completion Period	Online Sale of Tender Documents	Last date of Receipt of Tender	Opening of Techno commercial bid
1	SOP to Super Specialty Block IGMCI at Chamyana Shimla in Shimla Elect. Division No. II under Operation Circle, HPSEBL Shimla	Rs. 110 Lac	Rs. 2.75 Lac	Rs. 5900.00	04 Months	From 02.12.2020 to 14.12.2020 (Upto 5.00 PM)	15.12.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	16.12.2020 (at 03.00 PM)

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/ downloaded free of cost from the website https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/ amendment shall be uploaded on the above web site. For further details on e-tendering, please contact on these Contact No:- 0177-2601745

(Er. Sanjeev Maria),
Chief Engineer (OP) South,
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla - 4

Energy Saved is Energy Generated

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi - 110003 invites sealed tenders from war widows/widows of Defence personnel martyred while on duty; disabled soldiers, widows/spouses of Ex- serviceman, Ex- servicemen and from citizen of India having sound financial status in order to run at this station for the following regimental shop at Race Course Camp, Old Willingdon Camp, Sekhon Vihar for the period commencing w.e.f. 01 Jan 21 to 31 Dec 21 extendable with mutual consent for maximum period of five years.

2. The following SI Regimental Shops are on offer against Rebate (in Rs. Per month for SI) at persent. The Rent and Allied Charges fixed for each shop will be charged as per scale laid down by Government and requirement from time to time :

(a) Location at Race Course Camp (RCC)			
Sl. No	Shop's Name	Sl. No.	Shop's Name
01	Shoe Shoppe	02	Ladies Tailor Shop
03	Frozen Food Shop-I	04	Frozen Food Shop-II
05	High End Bakery Shop		
(b) Location at Old Willingdon Camp (OWC)			
06	Tailor Shop	07	Vegetable Shop
08	Provision Shop		
(c) Location at Sekhon Vihar			
09	Garment Shop		

3. The Tender forms/ RFP can be obtain from the OIC SI, SI Fund Office, Air Force Station, Race Course New Delhi - 110003 on all working days from 0900h to 1300h (Mon- Friday) from on 27 Nov 20 to 04 Dec 20 on cash payment of Rs. 500/- each (**non-refundable**). A sum of Rs. 5,000/- is to be deposited as Earnest Money Deposit (**refundable**) in the form of Cash/ POS/ Demand Draft/ Pay Order in favour of “ **OIC SI Fund,AFND**”.

4. Tender forms/ RFPs duly completed in all respects together with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) receipts are to be dropped/ deposited in the Tender Box kept in C Adm O's Conference Hall, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi- 110003 addressed to “**OIC SI Fund, Air Force Station, New Delhi-03**”. All details concerning Rent and Allied charges documents are to be attached, last date and place of dropping/ depositing of tenders/ RFPs in tender box will be mentioned in the tender forms itself. In case of any bidder of bidding for more than one shop, only one shop will be considered for allotment, if all other criteria for allotment are being met. No bid below benchmarking and MRP will be accepted. Benchmarking will be done based on Reasonable rates as per last rebates offered by shop owners in earlier contract., documents attached, filling up all particulars/ details, financial status of bidders, rates of items proposed to be sold in shops, character verification, welfare of troops and other parameters as mentioned in the tender form/RFPs.

5. AOC/ Station Cdr is the overall trustee for SI Fund, C Adm O is the President of Service Institute. All correspondence/ claim concerning bidding are to be addressed to C Adm O will be fixed and binding . No correspondence on the subject will be entertained on completion of binding and allotment of shops. All ex-servicemen / dependents and civilians are expected to follow service norms and ethos in all communication and follow laid down channels.

6. Tenderers may visit the shops before applying on any working day. **Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station New Delhi** has the right to accept or reject any tender or application without assigning any reason.

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पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या:-73/2020-21/वि०वि०म०/मेरठ, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय, मेरठ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड प्रथम, मलियाना के अधीनस्थ 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र मलियाना पर स्थापित 04 नग एवं वेदव्यासपुरी पर स्थापित 01 नग वीसीबी की ओवरहालिंग एवं मरम्मत कार्य एवं कन्ट्रोल पैनल, सी०टी० की वायरिंग करना एवं तसम्बन्धी कार्य करने हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे http://etender.up.nic.in पर प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि 30 दिन है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रुपये 2,00,000.00 है। सन्दर्भित निविदा हेतु धरोहर राशि रुपये 2000.00 है। ऑनलाईन निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 11.12.2020 (12:00 बजे तक) है। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या:- 74/2020-21/ वि०वि०म०/मेरठ, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय, मेरठ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड तृतीय, भोला के अधीनस्थ 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र भोला पर स्थापित 04 नग एवं रघुनाथपुर पर स्थापित 01 नग वीसीबी की ओवरहालिंग एवं मरम्मत कार्य एवं कन्ट्रोल पैनल, सी०टी० की वायरिंग करना एवं तसम्बन्धी कार्य करने हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे http://etender.up.nic.in पर प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि 30 दिन है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रुपये 2,00,000.00 है। सन्दर्भित निविदा हेतु धरोहर राशि रुपये 2000.00 है। ऑनलाईन निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 11.12.2020 (12:00 बजे तक) है।

कार्य की मूल मात्रा, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। अघोहस्ताक्षरी की बिना कारण बताये अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई होगी, केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखे ।

‘राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये’

विद्युत चोरी की सूचना 1800-180-3002 पर दे।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-मेरठ।

पत्रांक 3529/वि.वि.म./मेरठ दिनांक 25/11/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief materials manager, Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders for supply of the following items:-

Tender No.	Description	Tender Due Date	Tender invited by
82200924A	Tablets Epalrestat 25 mg.	15.12.2020 at 11:00 hrs.	Dy. CMM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2652/20

JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Phone/Fax No. : 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr)
: 0191-2459029/2459255 (Jmu)

Website: www.jkpolice.gov.in
E-mail: phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE
Due to administrative reasons, last date and online opening dates of NIT No. 34 of 2020 dated 18.08.2020 floated by Police Hqs. &JK to procure Total Containment Vessel (Truck Bomb) is extended as follows:
1. Last Date for Online Tender Submission = 28.11.2020
2. Online Opening of Technical Bids = 01.12.2020
However, all the conditions of the tender shall remain un-changed.
Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on &JK State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in.
Sd/-
(Rayees Mohammad Bhat): IPS
AIG of Police (Provision/Tpt)
For Director General of Police, &JK, Jammu.

No. Prov-III/Sec-62-19/20/48888-99
Dated: 18.11.2020

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 47/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Haurz Khas, New Delhi-110016, Ph.- 011-49857894
E-mail: engg.cwhc@cewacor.nic.in, Website: www.cewacor.nic.in
WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE

No: CWC/CO-ENGG./PRESS NOTE/2020-21/ Dt.25.11.2020

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CWC invites online tender from the contractors for the following work:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Last date of on line Submission & Opening of Tender
1.	Roof replacement with galvalume sheets from godown 6 to 19 at CW BD Barnaheri Muzaffarnagar (UP)	344.50	18.12.2020

Detailed Tender Notice along with conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC website www.cewacor.nic.in or e-tender website www.cwceprocure.com or CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>. Further Corrigendum/ Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on the above mentioned websites only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same. **CHIEF ENGINEER(I)/c**

पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ।

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
निम्न निविदायें ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से दिनांक 15.12.2020 को अपरान्त 2.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिनके निविदा नाम- प्रथम, उन्नीस दिन सायं 4.30 बजे खोले जायेंगे:
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या- 62/ वि. कार्यशाला मं./ मेरठ/ 2020-21 {नि.मू. रु. 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)}, धरो. रा. रु. 20,000} के द्वारा विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मुरादाबाद के अधीनस्थ विद्युत कार्यशालाओं पर स्थापित मशीनरी/ उपकरणों एवं अई.नि.सं.- 63/ {नि.मू. रु. 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)}, धरो. रा. रु. 12,000} के द्वारा विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मेरठ के अधीनस्थ विद्युत कार्यशालाओं पर स्थापित मशीनरी/ उपकरणों के सुचारु रख-रखाव हेतु एक वर्ष के लिये अनुसूचणु/ स्थायीय मरम्मत के कार्य।
निविदा हेतु वांछित धरोहर राशि व निविदा शुल्क (अप्रतिदेय) को विभागीय खाते में जमा कराये जाने एवं निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य समस्त विस्तृत विवरण/ जानकारी/ संशोधन/ तिथि विस्तार इत्यादि हेतु वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> लॉग इन करें।
“राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचाये”,
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल, मेरठ
पत्रांक 2655/ वि. कार्यशाला मं./ मेरठ, दिनांक: 26.11.2020

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Financial Services
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171

PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 425 OF 2019
(SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME OF TIME)

Dy No. 510 Date: 20.11.2020

Punjab National Bank Vs M/s Raj Enterprises & Ors.

To,
1. M/s Raj Enterprises, through its Proprietor Irsar, Mohd. Parvez & Satish Raj First Address: C/o Jatinder Gill Kharsa No. 220, Vill Charba, Langa Road, Sahaspur, Second Address: Behind SBI Salgaui, Dehradun.
2. Irsar S/o Ishrad, Partner M/s Raj Enterprises R/o Padai Gujar, Hardwar, UK, 247666.
3. Mohd Parvez S/o Anwar Ali, Partners Raj Enterprises, R/o 132b Daudpur Govindpur, Bahadradab, Hardwar, UK.
4. Satish Raj S/o Gyan Singh, R/o Laxmipurchanchak, Shaspur, Dehradun, UK 248197.
5. Gyan Singh S/o Ram Singh, R/o Laxmipurchanchak, Shaspur, Dehradun, UK.
6. Ishrat W/o Parvej, R/o 132/8 Dadpur, Govindpur, Hardwar.
7. Mohd. Asif S/o Naseem Ahemad House No. 287/8 Lala wali Gali, Purani Tehsil, Roorkee, Hardwar, UK.
8. Hasnain S/o Ishaq, Village Nara PO Mansoorpur, Tehsil & District Muzaffarnagar.
Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted O.A. No. 425 of 2019 against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 32,53,950/- in which** Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 19.11.2020.
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **31.12.2020**. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Note: For appearance in person or through legal representative on the next date of hearing through V.C., contact the Registrar on Mobile No. 95600-72676 or through e-mail on the official e-mail ID of the DRT registrar-drtndn@gov.in, at least three days in advance along-with details of e-mail ID as well as whatsapp enabled mobile number. So that V.C. link could be provided in advance to participate in the hearing through V.C.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **20th day of November, 2020.**
By order of Tribunal
Registrar (IC),
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun, (M): 9560072676, (O): 0135-2720854

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No. ACE-I/RHB/JPR/2020-21/537 Date : 19.11.2020

NIB: ACE-I/2020-21/18

Bids for (1).Construction of EWS (G+10) flats 340 Nos. under CMJAY Scheme, GH-3, at Sector-07, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. (2).Construction of EWS (G+10) 104 flats & LIG (G+10) 144 Nos. flats Zone-I, in GH-4 under CMJAY at Indira Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. (3).Construction of LIG (G+12) flats 208 Nos. at Block-C, under CMJAY Scheme at Sector-03, Zone-32, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (4). Construction of LIG-192 Nos. flats (G+11) under CMJAY Scheme (Block-A) at Sector-28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (5).Construction of LIG-192 Nos. flats (G+11) under CMJAY Scheme (Block-B) at Sector-28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (6). Construction of LIG-192 Nos. flats (G+11) under CMJAY Scheme (Block-A1+B1) at Sector-28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (7). Construction of EWS (G+12) flats-256 Nos. at Block-A, under CMJAY scheme at Sector-03, Zone-32, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (8). Construction fo EWS (G+12) flats 248 Nos. at Block-B under CMJAY Scheme at Sector-3, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur. (9). Construction of EWS (G+10) 240 Nos. flats under CMJAY Scheme, (Block-C) at Sector-28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (10). Construction of EWS (G+10) 240 Nos. flats under CMJAY Scheme (Block-D) at Sector-28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (11). Construction of EWS-38 Nos., LIG-165 Nos. & MIG-A 39 Nos. Houses at Newai Housing Scheme, Phase-II, Tonk Road, Newai. (12). Construction of HIG-54 Nos. & MIG-B 21 Nos. Houses at Newai Housing Scheme, Phase-II, Tonk Road, Newai. (13). Construction of LIG (G+10) flats 144 Nos. Zone-II under CMJAY Scheme, GH-4, at Sector-07, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. (14). Construction of LIG 82 Nos. & MIG-A 34 Nos. houses, Phase-I in Block-G at Mahala Scheme, Jaipur. (15). Construction of EWS 78 Nos. houses, Zone -I in Block-D at Mahala Scheme, Jaipur. (16). Development work of Shopping Center (Rana Sanga Market) Rana Sanga Marg at Sector -28, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur. (17). Repair and maintenance work of parks and remetalting & carpeting of internal roads including repairs in Sector-03, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM, 16.12.2020. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajjasthan.gov.in/rhb> department website.
UBN : RHB2021WLOB00237, RHB2021WLOB002035, RHB2021WLOB00226, RHB2021WLOB00225, RHB2021WLOB00227, RHB2021WLOB00228, RHB2021WLOB00229, RHB2021WLOB00230, RHB2021WLOB00231, RHB2021WLOB00232, RHB2021WLOB00233, RHB2021WLOB00234, RHB2021WLOB00236, RHB2021WLOB00219, RHB2021WLOB00220, RHB2021WSOB00222, RHB2021WSOB00221
Samwad/C/7/115/2020-21 Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD

GOVT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI

Notice regarding extension of Advertisement date

To fill up One post of Member (Finance) on deputation basis in DUSIB, an advertisement was published in four English News Papers i.e. Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Hindu & Indian Express and Four Hindi leading News papers i.e. Dainik Jagran, Nav Bharat Times, Hindustan & Amar Ujala on 06.06.2020 for which the last date for submission of application form was 10.06.2020, which is now extended upto 20.12.2020.

Intended applicants may apply with detailed bio-data, in prescribed proforma-along with requisite documents by 20.12.2020 to Director (Admn), Room No 10, Punerwas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.

For details, log into our website: <http://delhishelterboard.in>

Sd/-
(Abdul Dayyan)
Director (Admn)
Ph No. 011-23378957

DIP/Shabdarth/0454/20-21

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of Automatic fire suppression for more than 400 route station of Delhi Division
Approximate cost of the work	₹2.04,30,214/- only
Earnest Money Deposit	₹2,52,200 only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexure-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055
Date & Time for upload the tender/ closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 23.12.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See The Northern Railway website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1351 Date: 26.11.2020 2650/20

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BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

Notice Inviting E-Tender Dated: 26.11.2020

E- NIT No: 05/2020-21
Name of Office: Sr. Executive Engineer, O&M Division, BBMB, Panipat.
Name of Work: Supply and Delivery of three nos. manageable Ethernet switch having 16 Nos. Fiber Optic ports and 2 Nos. RJ 45 ports, IEC 61850 compliant at 400kV substation BBMB, Panipat

Document downloading	26.11.2020 From 17:00 hrs onwards
Prequalifying Document submission	17.12.2020 upto 15:00
Receipt of Bids online	18.12.2020 upto 11:00 hrs.
Opening time	18.12.2020 at 15:00 hrs.

For detailed NIT including Pre-Qualifying conditions and EMD, please visit BBMB website www.bbmb.abcpcore.com or www.bbmb.gov.in

1258-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that one girl **Namely: Sanjna, D/o Rajeev, R/o A481 Phase-II, Metro Vihar Holambi Kalan, Delhi Age: 18, 16ro 6 months, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit and Salwar,** has been missing since 07.11.2020 at 11:30

AM form her house.
In this regard a vide DD No. 88A, dated 09.11.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27787592, 27787593**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/615/ON/2020

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD

GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Divine feet, humane touch

Manner in which Maradona impacted people's lives off field best explains his popularity across the world

SANDIP G

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

A JEWELLERY shop in Kerala is perhaps the last place one would expect to find Diego Maradona. But for several years, he has been the shop's ubiquitous face. He even visited the state to inaugurate a branch of the jewellery chain in the football-crazy northern Kerala city of Kannur in 2012. Thousands flocked to catch a glimpse of him, so that they could brag that they have seen Maradona in flesh and blood.

When he died on Wednesday, the state declared two days of mourning. From the chief minister to celebrities and sportsmen, everyone was busy rattling out their best memory of Maradona.

As if he is one of their own. As if they owed him something. A debt of gratitude for the football he played? Or just pure, spontaneous love?

It's the transcendental charisma of Maradona — to be deified, mourned and loved in a part of the world so different from his own Buenos Aires or Naples.

It's the emotional resonance Maradona always struck with people — the power to move even his sworn enemies or cast a spell over his fiercest critics. A people's champion, he remained till his last breath.

Nothing symbolises his charisma more than the support he coaxed from the Naples crowd in the 1990 World Cup semifinal against hosts Italy. Until that juncture, Italy's stroll through the World Cup had taken place in front of overwhelming home support, but the Argentina match took place in a muted, almost respectful atmosphere.

When Argentina won on penalty kicks, a large chunk of the 80,000 crowd were said to be secretly happy that it was Maradona's team that had qualified for the final.

A few months before the World Cup, he had made an evocative speech in Naples, home of his then club Napoli, reminding the fans that the mainstream Italian society had always ignored them, and hence they were not obliged to cheer for the country. It's hard to imagine too many other figures in world



Members of the Argentina fan club at Ganguly Bagan in South Kolkata pay tribute to Diego Maradona on Thursday. Partha Paul

football with the guts to take such a bold step, much less pull it off.

Three years later, when he was playing a World Cup qualifier in Sydney, the 45,000-odd were all cheering for Maradona, so much so that the crashing of Australia's dream was ringed in with thunderous applause. "The whole of Australia really got behind football for one of the first times because of the interest in Diego Maradona," remembered former striker Graham Arnold in an interview to socceros.com.au.

Winning them over with words

Years later, he landed in South Africa and won them over with his words.

Maradona lavished praise on everything from South African fans to the organising committee to the city of Pretoria. He cast himself as a defender of the host nation against those who doubted whether it could organise a competition like the World Cup. "Today South Africa answers the sceptics,

'yes, it can!'" he said during an event. Between training sessions, he squeezed in time to visit slums and promote football. He was left in tears when he visited a disadvantaged school in Pretoria. "I have received many welcomes in my football career across the world, but the warmth you have shown me will make me not to forget this day in my lifetime. With each kiss and every hug, I felt I had a friend," he later said.

The inherent compassion drove him to Mexico to manage a second-division club, Dorados de Sinaloa, in 2018, based out of the drug-dragged city of Culiacán. He made it his home, and later recollected his stay with fondness. "They said I only came here for a holiday. No, I came to get us promoted. But my footballing commitment here is not only about the ball. It's about people who are in need, who've also lost many things," he told the press.

He departed as a hero, like he was to Naples, Argentina, South Africa, Mexico and

well, Kerala. An unusual geographic circuit, bound by the magnetic force Maradona was.

Friends of all kinds

He counted among his vast canvas of friends the powerful and mighty, the religious and communists, premiers and dons, the dark and the deluded, writers and thinkers. He wore Fidel Castro on his calf and Ernesto Che Guevara on his bicep, he endorsed the politics of Eva Morales and Hugo Chavez, dined with the dreaded Giulianos of Naples mafioso and had friends in the Camorra. He inspired Peruvian novelist and Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa to scribble beautiful essays on him. "He was one of those living deities that men created to be able to worship in them. To admire such a champion is to admire poetry, abstract art, without any rational content," he once wrote.

Maradona met two Popes. After meeting the first, Pope John Paul II, he told the press: "I was in the Vatican and I saw all these golden ceilings and afterwards I heard the Pope say the Church was worried about the welfare of poor kids. Sell your ceiling then, amigo, do something!"

To the next, the Argentine Pope Francis, he expressed gratitude for his reconversion to the Catholic faith in 2016. Maradona travelled to Rome several times to take part in several benefit games called 'Matches for Peace' whose proceeds went to a papal charity for education in developing countries and for victims of the 2016 earthquake in central Italy. At the same time, he defended Gaza, even saying: "In my heart, I'm Palestinian." There were rumours that he would coach their football team.

It's this gift of personal affinity that one could strike with Maradona that distinguished him from other footballing giants. Whereas Maradona is not alone in footballing genius — the debate whether he was the best or not will rage on for ages — he was alone in the personal resonance he struck with the masses. Be it in Pretoria or Palestine, Naples or Kannur, Mexico or Buenos Aires, Sydney or Riyadh.

He was the hero they loved, and a hero that seemed to love them back.

IND IN AUS: SERIES OPENER

Lack of clarity on Rohit injury... playing the waiting game: Kohli

VISHAL MENON

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

VIRAT KOHLI didn't hide his disapproval at the Rohit Sharma's injury saga, saying that "confusion and lack of clarity" has led to the Indian team playing a "waiting game" on his availability for the series in Australia.

Kohli was forthright in stating that Rohit and Ishant Sharma should have travelled with the Indian team to Australia after IPL, like Wriddhiman Saha did and continued their rehab with the team. Currently, Rohit is nursing a hamstring injury and Ishant Sharma has an abdominal tear. They are completing their rehab at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. Even if they fly to Australia eventually they will have to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

Despite his hamstring injury during the IPL, the selectors retained Saha in the Test squad after they received the nod from the BCCI medical team. There was no such clarity in case of Rohit though.

"Before the selection meeting in Dubai, we got a mail stating that he is unavailable and that he has picked up an injury during the IPL. It said that the pros and cons of the injury were explained to him and he understood and he was unavailable," Kohli added.

"After that he played in the IPL and we all thought he would be on that flight to Australia and we had no information on why he is not travelling with us. There has been no information, there has been a lack of clarity. We have been playing the waiting game," Kohli said in a virtual press conference on the eve of Team India's 3-match ODI series opener against Australia in Sydney.

Kohli compared the Rohit scenario with Saha. "Saha had an injury during IPL and has been doing his rehab with the team. We are aware of his progress and he is on the right path to make sure he is fit and available in time to play the Test series; same would have



"After that he played in the IPL and we all thought he would be on that flight to Australia and we had no information on why he is not travelling with us."

VIRAT KOHLI

been the case with Rohit and Ishant. It would have given them a chance to get themselves fit and be available before the start of the Test series," Kohli said.

Rohit had picked up an injury on October 18. Consequently, Rohit was not selected for any of the squads for the Australia tour. Curiously, after BCCI president, Sourav Ganguly had cautioned Rohit against focusing on the short term at the expense of his career, he walked out for toss in a seemingly inconsequential league encounter.

As things stand, the NCA has informed the team management in Australia that Rohit's condition would be assessed on December 11. Kohli is clearly not impressed. "And after that the only other information officially we have received on mail is that he is in the NCA and he's been assessed and he'll be further assessed on December 11. So from the time that the selection meeting happened to the IPL finishing now, when this email came about his assessment at the NCA, there has been no information," he explained.

1st ODI: Live on Sony Network: 9:10 am



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CENTRAL DELHI	T.R. Sawhney (LP Station)	Magi Auto (Karol Bagh)	Competent (C.P)	Competent (Dwarka)	Magi Auto (Palam Dabir Road)	TR Sawhney (Naraina)	Competent (Shivaji Marg)	Rana Motors (Janakpuri)	D.D. Motors (Mayapuri)	Magi Auto (Sec-20, Dwarka)	T.R. Sawhney (Rajouri Garden)	Competent (Najafgarh)	Magi Auto (Dwarka Sec-13)	AAA Vehicleleads (Mundka)	EAST DELHI	Magi Auto (Preet Vihar)	Fairdeal (Bhajanpura)	Fair Deal Cars (Shahdara)	Competent (Gazipur)	Bagga Link (Patparganj)	T.R. Sawhney (Gokulpuri)
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NOIDA	Fairdeal Cars (Sec-10)	Rohan (Sec-1)	Vipul (Sec-18)	Vipul (Sec-63)	Rohan (Udyog Vihar)	Pasco (Sec-18)	Competent (Subhash Chowk)	Rana Motors (SCO Plot No-322 Sec-29)	Pasco (Silverton Sec-50)	Competent (Sec-12)	Prem Motors (32nd Milestone)	Rohan (Sec-54)	Prem Motors (JMD Sikanderpur)	Vipul (UdyogVihar)	FARIDABAD	Fairdeal Cars (Plyall Chowk)	Vipul (Mathura Road)	TCS Autoworld (Neelam Chowk)	Auto Natlon (Mathura Road)	Vipul (Ballabgarh)	Rohan (Palwal)
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