



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight – news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**



INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP



The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE
SINCE 1932

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

₹6.00 (₹8 BIHAR & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Inauguration by



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
(11.00 am - 12th December, 2020)



Inspired India

93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

12th & 14th December, 2020 (9.00 am onwards)

For detailed programme, visit:
<https://registrations.ficci.com/agmfic/programme.pdf>

UNION MINISTERS



Shri Rajnath Singh
Hon'ble Minister for Defence



Shri Nitin Gadkari
Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSME



Shri Piyush Goyal
Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways



Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice, Electronics & IT and Communications



Dr S Jaishankar
Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs



Shri R K Singh
Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy

CHIEF MINISTER



Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha

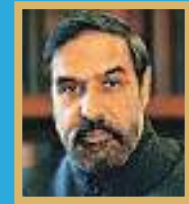
GOVT. DIGNITARIES



Dr V K Paul
Member NITI Aayog



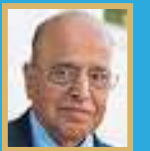
Shri Amitabh Kant
CEO NITI Aayog



Shri Anand Sharma
Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION (RS)

KNOWLEDGE & INDUSTRY LEADERS



Dr K Kasturirangan
Chancellor of Central University of Rajasthan and NIT University



Lord David Prior
Chair NHS England



Mr N Chandrasekaran
Chairman Tata Sons



Mr Satya Nadella
CEO Microsoft



Dr Peter H Diamandis
Founder & Executive Chairman, XPRIZE Foundation and Executive Founder & Director, Singularity University



Mr Azim Premji
Non-Executive Chairman Wipro Ltd.



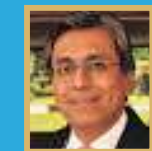
Mr Ruchir Sharma
Head of Emerging Markets & Chief Global Strategist, Morgan Stanley Investment Management



Mr Mark Machin
President, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board



Dr Prathap C Reddy
Chairman Apollo Hospitals Group



Dr Anish Shah
Deputy MD & Group CFO Mahindra Group



Dr Eric Schmidt
Ex-Chairman, Alphabet and Chairman, National Security Commission on AI (NSCAI)



Prof Karim R Lakhani
Charles Edward Wilson Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School



Mr Ritesh Agarwal
Founder & Group CEO OYO Hotels and Homes



Mr Manish Sabharwal
Chairman of the Board of Directors TeamLease Services Ltd.



Mr Sanjay Nayar
Partner & CEO KKR India



Mr Ashwani Bhatia
MD State Bank of India



Mr Sudhir Jalan
Chairman, Neo Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Past President, FICCI



Dr Habil Khorakiwala
Chairman, Wockhardt Ltd. and Past President, FICCI



Mr Rajan Bhatti Mittal
Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises and Past President, FICCI



Mr Harsh Puri Singhania
Vice Chairman & MD, J K Paper Ltd. and Past President, FICCI



Dr Jyotsna Suri
Chairperson & MD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group and Past President, FICCI



Mr Rakesh Shah
Chairman & CEO Edelweiss Group and Past President, FICCI



Mr Pankaj Patel
Chairman, Cadila Healthcare Ltd. and Past President, FICCI



Dr Krishna Ella
CMD Bharat Biotech International Ltd.



Mr Mayank Kumar
Co-Founder & MD upGrad



Mr Ashish Dhawan
Founder & Chairman Central Square Foundation



Ms Nivruti Rai
Country Head, Intel India and VP, DPG, Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr Raja Koduri
Chief Architect Intel Corporation



Mr Sunil Vachani
Chairman, Dixon Technologies India Ltd.



Mr Bhargav Dasgupta
MD & CEO, ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Chairman, FICCI National Committee on Insurance



Mr Hemant Malik
Divisional Chief Executive, Food Business, ITC Ltd., ITC Green Centre



Mr Sunil Sanghai
Founder & CEO, NovaDruva Capital Pvt. Ltd. and Chairman, FICCI National Committee on Capital Markets



Mr Subhrakant Panda
MD, Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd. and Chairman, FICCI Manufacturing Committee



Mr Gagandeep Singh
Country President AstraZeneca



Mr S Sridhar
MD Pfizer India Ltd.



Mr Michael Fernandes
Partner LeapFrog Investments

FICCI LEADERSHIP



Mr Sandip Somany
Immediate Past President, FICCI



Mr Uday Shankar
President - Elect, FICCI



Dr Sangita Reddy
President, FICCI



Mr Sanjiv Mehta
Vice President, FICCI



Mr Dilip Chenoy
Secretary General, FICCI

December 12, 2020

(Sessions)	(Time)	(Sessions)	(Time)
"The Future is Now"	9.00 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.	"Economic Diplomacy & Atmanirbhar Bharat"	2.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
"AI & the New World Ahead"	9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	"Could this be the Decade for the Emerging Markets?"	3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
"Inspired India: A Business Leader's Perspective"	10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.	"Vaccine Magic & Reimagining Healthcare in a Post COVID World"	3.45 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Inauguration of the FICCI Annual Convention	11.00 a.m. - 11.50 a.m.	"Aspiring Odisha for Inspired India"	5.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.
"Atmanirbhar Bharat - Manufacturing"	11.50 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	"CAPITAL - funding India's US\$ 5 trillion Economy"	5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.
"The Building Blocks of the New India"	1.00 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.		

December 14, 2020

"Leveraging ICT for Economic Revival in Post COVID-19 Era"	9.00 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.	"Inspired India" : Session with Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha	11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
"Quest for Sufficiency & Sustainability of Indian Power Sector"	9.30 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.	Valedictory Session	12.00 noon - 12.30 p.m.
"Edu-volution and the Future of Jobs"	10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.		

For Registration: <https://registrations.ficci.com/agmfic/online-registration-invitee.asp>

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, SantI Devi, W/o Mithalesh Singh R/o, Gram-Ratana, PO-Karubigha PS-Chabillapur, Nalanda, Bihar-803116, have changed my name to Chanda Devi for, all purposes.

I, Puneet Sidhu, Spouse of, Sartaj Singh Sidhu R/o-H.NO-22396-A, Shant Nagar, Bathinda, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Puneet Sidhu to Punit Kaur Sidhu Vide Affidavit dated 10/12/2020, Notary Public Delhi.

I, No.14843263K, Sep M. Srinivasan, S/o M. Mallesham, R/o Village-Ramsagar, Post-Dacharam Teh/PS-Bejjenki, State-Telangana, Declare that my wife's name has been wrongly mentioned in my service-record as Pantham Sravanthi, the correct-name of her is Mengani Sravanthi, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Mithlesh Singh S/o, Lt. Mukhan Singh R/o Gram-Ratana, PO-Karubigha, PS-Chabillapur, Nalanda, Bihar-803116, have changed my name to Mithalesh Singh for, all purposes.

I, MOHD ANISUDDIN, S/O. BUNDU, R/o-26-D, DDA FLATS, MATA-SUNDRY ROAD, NEW DELHI-110002, changed my name to ANISUDDIN, permanently.

I, Kunal Sachdeva S/o, Naresh Sachdeva R/o-A-32/C, Hastals Vihar, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, inform that My Father, and My Mother Name has been wrongly-written as Sh.Naresh Sachdeva, and Smt.Lakshmi Sachdeva in my 12th-Certificate No.AINO NO.210670. The actual name of My Father, and My Mother is Sh.Naresh Kumar Sachdeva, and Smt. Laxmi Devi, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Joginder Kumar S/O-Har Bhagwan R/O-House No-293, Ward.No7, Near-Food Supply-Office, Gohana, Dist-Sonapat, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Joginder Pal, For All, Future Purposes.

I, Harjeet Singh, S/o Avtar Singh Kalsi, R/o-WZ-26A, Plot.No-15, Street.No-1, New-Sahib Pura, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed the name of my minor son Gagan Deep Singh Kalsi aged-17 years and he shall hereafter be known as Gagandeep Singh.

I, Bhavna Vasudeva, W/o Venu Pushkar R/O-440-E, Block, Astha-Kunj, Sector-18, Rohini Delhi-110089, inform that my name Bhavna Prabhakar and Bhavna Vasudeva is same person.

I, Vishal Agarwal, S/o Sh. Dinesh Chandra Agarwal, R/o 51/3C, Sector 2, Kalibari Marg, New Delhi-110001. I have changed my name to Vishal Aggarwal.

I, Varun Pawar S/O-Vijay Pawar R/O-222, First-Floor B-1-Block, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, Have Changed My Name To Varun Pawar, For All, Future Purposes.

I have changed my name from Bhuvanesh R. to Bhuvanesh Ravindran Thevar as per Affidavit Dt: 8/12/2020.

I, Surender Kumar Jain, S/O-Late Shri Sunalmal Anchalika, R/O-Pocket-22/88, 2nd floor, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Surender Jain.

I, Sunita Kumari Goel D/O Subhash Chand Goel, R/o 159/160, Pocket-3, Near D P S, Sector-24 Rohini, Rithala, North, West Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sonakshi Aggarwal

I, Simrit Pal Kaur W/o Goldi Singh Kalsi, R/o-H-1201, Ajnara Daffodil, Sector-137, Noida, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Simrit Pal Kaur Kalsi.

I, Shamim Jahan, W/o Abrar Hussain, R/o-WZ-1214, Badial, Palam-Village, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name, from Shamem Jahan to Shamim Jahan, for all purposes.

I, Satya Prakash Gupta S/O Jadoram Gupta, R/o Mohalla Pasra, Near Jain Mandir, Ambetha, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247340, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satya Prakash.

I, Dalip Singh S/o Late Kunwar Singh R/o 11-C, Z-Block, Gali No.6, Shyam Vihar Phase-1, Near Dev Garden, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name from Daleep Singh to Dalip Singh for all purposes.

I, Iqbal Ahmad S/O, Furkan Ahmad R/o Mohalla-muslim Choudhriya, Seohara, Bijnor, UP-246746 have changed my name to Iqbal Ahmad for all purposes.

I, Ashu Verma S/O-Krishan Kumar R/O-H.No.753, Kherakhand, Delhi-110082 have changed my name to Ashish Verma for all purposes.

I, Harjeet Kaur alias Harjeet Kaur Arora W/O Charanjit Singh Walia R/o F-15-A, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur Walia for all purposes.

I, CHANDER SHEKHAR BALODI, S/O DHARAM DUTT SHARMA, R/O-D-364, DELTA-1ST, GREATER-NOIDA. GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR-201308, U.P., HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHANDER SHEKHAR.

I, Beenben Ketan Vora W/O Ketanbhai Vora R/o off F-226, Gaur Grandeur, Sector 119, Noida have changed my name to Bina Ketanbhai Vora for all future purposes.

I, SURESH GUPTA, S/O RAMBABU GUPTA, R/O-B-125, GALLI.NO-10, KANTI NAGAR-EXTN, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to SURESH CHAND GUPTA.

I, SIMMERJEET KAUR, W/O. TALVINDER SINGH, H.NO.1/9991, ST.NO.3F, WEST GORAKH-PARK SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, changed my name to SIMMERJEET KAUR, permanently.

I, SHWETA, W/O Mrityunjay Kumar, R/O C/O: Dr.V.Singh, Behind Denobill School, Jaipurkash nagar, Dhanbad, Jharkhand have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHWETA KUMAR.

I, Ratna, W/o Late Sh. Sohan Singh Rawat R/o H.No.338-C, DDA Flats, Ghazipur New Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Ratna Rawat for all future purposes.

I, Raju Hajam S/O Indradev Hajam R/o Village-Angwali (North Angwali), Post-Angwali, Thana-Petarwar Angwali, Dhoni-Petarwar Bokaro, Jharkhand-825102, have changed my name to Raju Thakur

I, RAJEEV KHURANA S/O-MANO HAR LAL KHURANA R/O-C-1762 4TH-FLOOR SUSHANT LOK-1 GURGAON HARYANA-122009, changed my name to RAJIV KHURANA.

I, Puldeep, R/O-JG-II/116-A, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, inform that in my Son's (Kunik DOB-02.01.2002) my name has been wrongly written as Paldeep instead of Puldeep.

I, Prabhjot Kaur R/O-B-18, Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, N.Delhi-27, have changed my minor son's name Muktyar Singh Bhatti to Mukhtyar Singh Bhatti.

I, Pooja Rani D/o Naresh Pal Singh R/O-48, Saga Habitat, NH-58, Gram-Khadoli, Meerut-City, Meerut, U.P.-250002, have changed my name to Anika Singh.

I, Mukesh Kumar Goyal S/O Sh. Vijay Kumar R/O H.No. 1247, Sector-7D, Faridabad, Haryana-121006 changed my name to Mukesh Kumar for all purposes.

I, Mrs.Raj Bala, W/O Mr. Shri Bhagwan Solanki R/O: SRS-168, Nasirpur Village Dwarka, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Raj Bala Solanki

I, Maninder Kaur D/O Gurjeet Singh, W/O Rohit Rajeev Marwah, R/O Narayanpur Dohariya, Barairi, Udham Singh Nagar, Narayanpur Dohariya, Uttarakhand-263152, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Maninder Marwah.

I, Jyoti Krishan alias Jyoti Krishan Tiwari S/o Sh. Jata Shankar Tiwari R/O 817 B Ward No.6, Mehrauli, New Delhi 30 have changed my name to Jyoti Krishan Tiwari for all my future purposes.

I, Jaswinder Kaur Kalsi, W/o Harjeet Singh, R/O-WZ-26A, Plot.No-15, Street.No-1, New-Sahib Pura, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Jaswinder Kaur.

I, Harjeet Singh Kalsi, S/o Avtar Singh Kalsi, R/O-WZ-26A, Plot.No-15, Street.No-1, New-Sahib Pura, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Harjeet Singh.

I, HITENDRA KUMAR SHARMA, S/O-TRIBHUWAN NATH SHARMA, ADD-B-46/G-1, BLOCK-B, DILSHAD-GARDEN, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110095. Changed my name to HITENDRA SHARMA, permanently.

I, Gyan Rattan S/o H. Lal R/o-MG-14A, Ground Floor, Eldeco Mystic Greens, Omicron-1, Greater Noida U.P., have changed my minor, Son's name from Ekaansh Rattan to Ekaansh Chaudhary for, all future purposes.

I, Ashu Verma S/O-Krishan Kumar R/O-H.No.753, Kherakhand, Delhi-110082 have changed my name to Ashish Verma for all purposes.

I, Harjeet Kaur alias Harjeet Kaur Arora W/O Charanjit Singh Walia R/o F-15-A, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur Walia for all purposes.

I, Iqbal Ahmad S/O, Furkan Ahmad R/o Mohalla-muslim Choudhriya, Seohara, Bijnor, UP-246746 have changed my name to Iqbal Ahmad for all purposes.

I, Ashu Verma S/O-Krishan Kumar R/O-H.No.753, Kherakhand, Delhi-110082 have changed my name to Ashish Verma for all purposes.

I, Harjeet Kaur alias Harjeet Kaur Arora W/O Charanjit Singh Walia R/o F-15-A, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur Walia for all purposes.

I, Iqbal Ahmad S/O, Furkan Ahmad R/o Mohalla-muslim Choudhriya, Seohara, Bijnor, UP-246746 have changed my name to Iqbal Ahmad for all purposes.

I, Ashu Verma S/O-Krishan Kumar R/O-H.No.753, Kherakhand, Delhi-110082 have changed my name to Ashish Verma for all purposes.

I, Harjeet Kaur alias Harjeet Kaur Arora W/O Charanjit Singh Walia R/o F-15-A, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur Walia for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Sh. Hari Chand s/o Late Sh. Sukh Dew and Smt. Kamlesh W/o Sh. Hari Chand both R/o Kharsa No. 3694, Kadka Colony, Kuthak Road No.2, Swarnop Nagar, Delhi-110042 have disowned and debarred their son Sunil Kumar, his wife Monu s/o Manoma from their all movable and immovable properties due to their disrespectful behaviour, disobedience and out of control of my clients. My clients have also severed all their relations with them. If anybody deals with them, he/she shall do so at his/her own risks, costs and consequences. My clients shall not be liable or responsible for the same in any manner. Sd/- Pradeep Kumar Anand (Advocate) 8153, Deena Nath Road, Roshanara Road Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that my client Sh. Pradeep Kumar Anand (Advocate) 8153, Deena Nath Road, Roshanara Road Delhi-110007 has severed all kinds of relationship with his son Shri Indrajit Singh Bhargava & her wife Smt. Simran alias Kulkarni Kaur (2) and his daughter-in-law Mrs. Manjira Arora, aged 53 years and son Kartik Arora, aged 20 years from all his movable and immovable property. Due to their bad behaviour and misconduct as he has broken all the relations. Any body dealing with them shall do so at his/his/their own risk, cost and consequences. My client will not be responsible for any act. Sd/- Pradeep Kumar (Advocate) Office: Shop No.6, Plot No.7A, DDA Building, District, Centre, Jarak Plot, New Delhi-52 Enroll No. 04/28/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Smt. Kuldgeet Kaur wife of Late Shri Malik Singh resident of H-183 & 84, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110016 has severed all kinds of relationship with his son Shri Indrajit Singh Bhargava & her wife Smt. Simran alias Kulkarni Kaur (2) and his daughter-in-law Mrs. Manjira Arora, aged 53 years and son Kartik Arora, aged 20 years from all his movable and immovable property. Due to their bad behaviour and misconduct as he has broken all the relations. Any body dealing with them shall do so at his/his/their own risk, cost and consequences. My client will not be responsible for any act. Sd/- Pradeep Kumar (Advocate) Office: Shop No.6, Plot No.7A, DDA Building, District, Centre, Jarak Plot, New Delhi-52 Enroll No. 04/28/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Mahesh Kumar Arora S/o Late Sh. Om Prakash Arora R/o-226 A/1, Prakash Mohalla, Gurgaon, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 has disowned and debarred her wife Smt. Manjira Arora, aged 53 years and son Kartik Arora, aged 20 years from all his movable and immovable property. Due to their bad behaviour and misconduct as he has broken all the relations. Any body dealing with them shall do so at his/his/their own risk, cost and consequences. My client will not be responsible for any act. Sd/- Pradeep Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. D-209, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Prem Ballabh Upreti S/o Late Sh. Lal Mani Upreti R/o House No.165, Block-E1, Gali no.9, Kharsara No.5303, Pradhan Enclave, Barati, Delhi-110084 Near Fauji Builder, have severed all his relations with his son Sh. Manoj Upreti as he is not under the control of my client and also due to his unsocial behaviour, activities & attitudes. Considering his above said act and deed, my clients have severed all of his relation with him and hereby debar/dismown him from all of his movable and immovable properties. My client and his family members shall not be held responsible in any manner for any of his acts, deeds and things from today onward. Sd/- ANIL KR. THAKUR (ADVOCATE) E.No. DRT106/2003 Office: 284, Western Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that my client Mrs. Chandar Prabha Taluja, w/o Bhupinder Kumar Taluja, R/o 395, Indra Vihar Colony, Delhi have disowned and debarred her daughter Mrs. Bhumika Rawal w/o Sh. Smit Rawal D/o Bhupinder Kumar Taluja mentally incompetent and suffering with schizophrenia and has been debarred by Psychiatrist Dr. Rupali P. Shivakar not fit to understand the nature of any documents. Any legal documents signed by her shall be considered invalid and illegal for all purposes. Sd/- (Shashank Ahuja) Adv. 289-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54-9911945076

PUBLIC NOTICE The Public at large is hereby notified that my client is intending to Purchase the Entire Built-up Property No. D-34, Plot Measuring Area 270.83 Sq.Yds. Situated in the Layout Plan of the Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092, from (I)ASHWANJ KUMAR SARWAL & (II) SANJEEV KUMAR SARWAL BOTH SONS OF LATE JAGJEE SINGH SARWAL, who represented himself as the sole owners of the above said property. It is therefore notified that anybody claiming any rights, share, claim, title, interest or lien over the aforesaid property may file such claim or objection to the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, otherwise it will be presumed that the said property is free from all encumbrances, charges and/or lien etc. and my client is free to purchase the said property from the above named Sellers. Sd/Rakesh N.D., Advocate #Office No.107, First Floor, M.S. Chamber, C-1/A, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notified that my client (1) SHRI SURENDER KUMAR S/O LATE SH. KISHAN CHAND & (2) SMT DEEPIKA WADHWIA W/O SH. SURENDER KUMAR, BOTH R/O HOUSE NO. U-60, LAMPUR ROAD, WALI GALI VIJAY NAGAR, NARELA, DELHI-110044, have sever all relation from their son CHIRAG WADHWIA. Due to his cruel and harassing behaviour towards my above named clients, they have debar and disowned him from their all movable & immovable properties. Any person dealing with him will do at his/her own cost & risk and my clients shall not be responsible for the same, if any. SURENDER KUMAR (Advocate) Enrt. No. DT/5298

LOST & FOUND Lost Sale Deed, Property Documents of Property No.47-A, Area 200 Sq. Yds, Part of Kharsa No.125, 126, 128 situated at Block-A, Gali No.5, Rajgarh Colony in area Ghaundilli illaqua, Chandara, Delhi-110031 dated 25/04/1972 owned by Smt. Prem Kaur D/o Sohan Singh W/o Late Singh R/o-B-29, Rajgarh Colony, Delhi-31 in favour of Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Krishan Lal Chugh R/O-331/33A, Rajgarh Colony, Gali No.4, Delhi-110031, FOUNDER MAY INFORM #9986295150

LOST & FOUND Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreement with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

LOST & FOUND Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreement with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

LOST & FOUND Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreement with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

LOST & FOUND Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreement with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

LOST & FOUND Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreement with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE 1 Pankaj Sethi S/O Sh Mukhi Ram Sethi R/o V-38 2nd Floor, Rajouri Garden, Tagore Garden, West Delhi-110027 declares that due to the ill conduct of my son Vabhav Sethi, I have disowned him from my movable and immovable property. Any body dealing with him will be doing on his own peril. We shall not be responsible for any liability for his acts. Sd/- Prevedra Kumar Advocate 109, Lawyers Chambers, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 01 Mobile: 9311873655/955014865

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Praveen Singh, s/o Late Sh. Late Singh and Smt. Raji Kumari, w/o Sh. Harshana Singh, both r/o B-1674, Block-1, Sector-3, Gurgaon, have severed all their relations with their son named Sh. Gaurav Singh, their daughter-in-law, Manjira Kaur and their grandsons named Master Kushdeep Singh, vide publication, published in Newspapers JANGIT-TTA AND INDIAN EXPRESS, both dated 09.03.2020. Now on turning of Undertaking dated 10.12.2020 by their son Sh. Gaurav Singh, and on making grave promises of him to them that he shall be obedient and sincere towards their parents, my clients, their publication in the same Newspapers towards my daughter-in-law Smt. Manjira Kaur shall be invalid. They have dealt with their said daughter-in-law, the they shall do so at their own cost & risk. My clients shall never be responsible for that in any manner. Sd/- DINESH KUMAR AGGARWAL ADVOCATE CHAMBER, 453-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Praveen Singh, s/o Late Sh. Late Singh and Smt. Raji Kumari, w/o Sh. Harshana Singh, both r/o B-1674, Block-1, Sector-3, Gurgaon, have severed all their relations with their son named Sh. Gaurav Singh, their daughter-in-law, Manjira Kaur and their grandsons named Master Kushdeep Singh, vide publication, published in Newspapers JANGIT-TTA AND INDIAN EXPRESS, both dated 09.03.2020. Now on turning of Undertaking dated 10.12.2020 by their son Sh. Gaurav Singh, and on making grave promises of him to them that he shall be obedient and sincere towards their parents, my clients, their publication in the same Newspapers towards my daughter-in-law Smt. Manjira Kaur shall be invalid. They have dealt with their said daughter-in-law, the they shall do so at their own cost & risk. My clients shall never be responsible for that in any manner. Sd/- DINESH KUMAR AGGARWAL ADVOCATE CHAMBER, 453-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari courts, Delhi-110054

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi: 110 001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of O.A. No. 226/2019 Axis Bank Ltd. Applicant AJAY KUMAR AND ORS Defendants

D-1 Ajay Kumar, S/O Chandra Kishore Shaw, F-94, 2nd Floor, Room No. -301, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110006. Also AT-Honda Motor Cycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. 152C-3, IMT Manesar Gurgaon. D-2 Pratibha Kumari, W/o Ajay Kumar, F-94, 2nd floor, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-1100016. D-3 KST Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., 257 Atma Ram Street, Main Market Badarpur South West Delhi-110044 Also At-C-307, First Floor Shopping Arcade Block-B, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon-122009.

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 22/12/2020 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 will 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 of this Tribunal on this the 05th day of Nov., 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001. OA No. 69/2017 ICICI Bank Limited Applicant Versus Sh. Amit Kumar & Ors. Defendants

To, 1. Sh. Amit Kumar S/o. Sh. Naresh Kumar Sharma R/o: House No. G-92, Gali No. 22, Rajpuri, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. And also at: Flat No. A-161, 16th Floor, Tower-A, Skywalks, Plot No. GH-02C, Sector-12, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Noida-201307. 2. Smt. Suman Devi W/o. Sh. Amit Kumar R/o: House No. G-92, Gali No. 22, Rajpuri, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. And also at: Flat No. A- 161, 16th Floor, Tower-A, Skywalks, Plot No. GH-02C, Sector-12, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Noida-201307. 3. M/s. Value Infrabuild India Pvt. Ltd. Having Its Registered Office At: 715, Naurang House, 21 kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. And Corporate Office At: H-198, 2nd Floor, Sector-63, Noida-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 17,37,885/- (Rupees Seventeen lacs Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred And Eighty Five Only) 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 before Id. Registrar on 24.03.2021 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in Phone Number: 011-23748473.)

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. 011-23748473. Given under my hand and seal of the tribunal on this 27th November of 2020

By order of this Tribunal Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE 1 Pankaj Sethi S/O Sh Mukhi Ram Sethi R/o V-38 2nd Floor, Rajouri Garden, Tagore Garden, West Delhi-110027 declares that due to the ill conduct of my son Vabhav Sethi, I have disowned him from my movable and immovable property. Any body dealing with him will be doing on his own peril. We shall not be responsible for any liability for his acts. Sd/- Prevedra Kumar Advocate 109, Lawyers Chambers, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 01 Mobile: 9311873655/955014865

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Praveen Singh, s/o Late Sh. Late Singh and Smt. Raji Kumari, w/o Sh. Harshana Singh, both r/o B-1674, Block-1, Sector-3, Gurgaon, have severed all their relations with their son named Sh. Gaurav Singh, their daughter-in-law, Manjira Kaur and their grandsons named Master Kushdeep Singh, vide publication, published in Newspapers JANGIT-TTA AND INDIAN EXPRESS, both dated 09.03.2020. Now on turning of Undertaking dated 10.12.2020 by their son Sh. Gaurav Singh, and on making grave promises of him to them that he shall be obedient and sincere towards their parents, my clients, their publication in the same Newspapers towards my daughter-in-law Smt. Manjira Kaur shall be invalid. They have dealt with their said daughter-in-law, the they shall do so at their own cost & risk. My clients shall never be responsible for that in any manner. Sd/- DINESH KUMAR AGGARWAL ADVOCATE CHAMBER, 453-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Praveen Singh, s/o Late Sh. Late Singh and Smt. Raji Kumari, w/o Sh. Harshana Singh, both r/o B-1674, Block-1, Sector-3, Gurgaon, have severed all their relations with their son named Sh. Gaurav Singh, their daughter-in-law, Manjira Kaur and their grandsons named Master Kushdeep Singh, vide publication, published in Newspapers JANGIT-TTA AND INDIAN EXPRESS, both dated 09.03.2020. Now on turning of Undertaking dated 10.12.2020 by their son Sh. Gaurav Singh, and on making grave promises of him to them that he shall be obedient and sincere towards their parents, my clients, their publication in the same Newspapers towards my daughter-in-law Smt. Manjira Kaur shall be invalid. They have dealt with their said daughter-in-law, the they shall do so at their own cost & risk. My clients shall never be responsible for that in any manner. Sd/- DINESH KUMAR AGGARWAL ADVOCATE CHAMBER, 453-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari courts, Delhi-110054

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi: 110 001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of O.A. No. 226/2019 Axis Bank Ltd. Applicant AJAY KUMAR AND ORS Defendants

D-1 Ajay Kumar, S/O Chandra Kishore Shaw, F-94, 2nd Floor, Room No. -301, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110006. Also AT-Honda Motor Cycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. 152C-3, IMT Manesar Gurgaon. D-2 Pratibha Kumari, W/o Ajay Kumar, F-94, 2nd floor, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-1100016. D-3 KST Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., 257 Atma Ram Street, Main Market Badarpur South West Delhi-110044 Also At-C-307, First Floor Shopping Arcade Block-B, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon-122009.

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 22/12/2020 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 will 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 of this Tribunal on this the 05th day of Nov., 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001. OA No. 69/2017 ICICI Bank Limited Applicant Versus Sh. Amit Kumar & Ors. Defendants

To, 1. Sh. Amit Kumar S/o. Sh. Naresh Kumar Sharma R/o: House No. G-92, Gali No. 22, Rajpuri, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. And also at: Flat No. A-161, 16th Floor, Tower-A, Skywalks, Plot No. GH-02C, Sector-12, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Noida-201307. 2. Smt. Suman Devi W/o. Sh. Amit Kumar R/o: House No. G-92, Gali No. 22, Rajpuri, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. And also at: Flat No. A- 161, 16th Floor, Tower-A, Skywalks, Plot No. GH-02C, Sector-12, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Noida-201307. 3. M/s. Value Infrabuild India Pvt. Ltd. Having Its Registered Office At: 715, Naurang House, 21 kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. And Corporate Office At: H-198, 2nd Floor, Sector-63, Noida-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 17,37,885/- (Rupees Seventeen lacs Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred And Eighty Five Only) 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.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LANKA LESSONS IN KASHMIR

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN PAGE 10

EC looks at e-voter ID from next state polls

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

IN A move to assist voters and help cut printing and distribution costs, the Election Commission is keen to make the Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC) available in electronic form to be downloaded and stored on smartphones, tablets and computers, like the e-boarding pass for air travel.

The move is currently at the proposal stage, and needs to be approved by the full Commission: Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the proposal may come up for consideration before the next set of Assembly elections, when West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will vote in early summer 2021.

Currently, EPIC is only available in hard copy, and has to be produced in original by voters on election day.

To avail the digital facility, eligible voters will have to provide their mobile number or email address to the Commission at the time of applying for enrolment in the voters' list.

Once the names are included in the roll, voters will be intimated through SMS or email. The new voters can download the Voter Card as a PDF file through OTP (One Time Password) authentication.

Existing voters may have to reverify their details with the EC — similar to the bank KYC process — and provide their email or mobile phone number

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT ANTI-TRUST SUIT AGAINST FACEBOOK PAGE 14

'NEARLY 80% FARMERS SMALL & MARGINAL, DESERVE NEW BENEFITS'

Continue talks, Govt committed to hear farmers, address issues: Law Minister

'We agreed on legal points over dispute resolution and registration of traders'



HARIKISHAN SHARMA & APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

TWO DAYS after farmer unions rejected concessions offered by the Centre on the new farm laws, Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad appealed to farmers Friday to continue discussions with the government.

"After all, in discussions if they had any point which we thought we need to address, we addressed. On legal points on the dispute resolution mechanism and registration of traders in the Act, we agreed," Prasad told *The Indian Express*.

"Our hope is that more and more persuasion will make them (farmers) realise that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and ultimately it is in their interest," he said.

While he did not specify the modalities of how and when the government will act on the proposal made to the farmers protesting at the borders of Delhi, Prasad underlined that the government's collective commitment is to "hear

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



A group of farmers at the protest site at the Singhu border, in New Delhi on Friday. Abhinav Saha

Govt ignored Opp on farm laws, now don't test farmers: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11

WITH THE farm protests spilling over to the third week and no end in sight to the deadlock, former Union agriculture minister and NCP chief Sharad Pawar Friday slammed the Centre for not heeding the advice of Opposition parties and hurrying the new agriculture laws through Parliament — and cautioned it against testing the pa-



'If quick decision not taken, protests can spread'

tiency of farmers.

Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Pawar also warned that the farmers' agitation may spread from Delhi's borders to other parts of the country if the Government does not take a decision soon.

"When these Bills were tabled before Parliament, it was conveyed to the Government that even though it was possible for them at that moment to clear these important Bills without any discussion, there was bound to be a reaction from the farmers at a later stage. But the Government did not pay heed to this and cleared these Bills with a nominal discussion of 15-20 minutes," Pawar said.

"Today, the farmers have taken an extreme position that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



MORE REPORTS PAGES 5, 7

New convoy of over 1,500 vehicles makes way from Punjab to Delhi

RAAKHI JAGGA LU DHIANA, DECEMBER 11

OVER 1,500 vehicles, including about 1,300 tractor-trolleys, from nearly 1,000 villages in seven districts. This is the size of a new convoy of protesters from Punjab that is expected to reach the Delhi border over the weekend,

according to the Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee (KMSC), which launched the first major protest in the state against the Centre's farm laws with the rail blockade from September-end.

KMSC leaders told *The Indian Express* that the convoy, in multiple groups, will replace the first batch of protesters that reached the border along Kundli on 100

tractor-trolleys two weeks ago. "There is a huge gathering already at Delhi's borders, but we will find a way. If we don't get space, we will stop wherever we can. Besides, we already have a stage at Kundli. We will replace those already there, who will return home," said Satnam Singh Pannu, president, KMSC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Govt readies 3D printing policy for local firms to join new global market

AASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

EYEING AN emerging global market, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will soon come up with a policy aimed at promoting 3D printing on an industrial scale and helping domestic companies "overcome technical and economic barriers" so that they can build supportive and ancillary facilities for world leaders in the technology,

such as the US and China. The policy will help develop a "conducive ecosystem for design, development and deployment" of 3D printing and additive manufacturing, Government officials told *The Indian Express*.

"3D printing and a viable industry around it is mostly in the shape of additive manufacturing, wherein companies make specific products for projects where there are very specific demands such as lightweight equipment, etc. Our aim for now is to build around that requirement," a sen-

ior IT Ministry official said. A draft policy paper on the subject will soon be sent out to experts in the domain to seek their opinion on the way ahead. The global market for additive manufacturing is expected to reach \$ 34.8 billion by 2024, which is growing at a compound annual growth rate of 23.2 per cent, according to the IT Ministry's estimates.

3D printing or additive manufacturing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED Eye on the world

THE FOCUS on 3D printing is one of the ways the Government is looking to set up industries that can contribute to the gross value addition of specific precision products that are in high demand internationally. Being a new technology, it will also enable the Government to gain market share in Asia by collaborating with world leaders such as the US and China.

In TN, 100 kg gold missing from CBI custody, HC orders police probe

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, DECEMBER 11

IN A major embarrassment to the CBI, the Madras High Court Friday ordered the Tamil Nadu Police to probe the disappearance of 103 kg gold (amounting to more than Rs 43 crore) from the agency's custody, rejecting its plea that "the prestige of the CBI would come down if investigation is done by the local police". Asking the CB-CID to register an FIR, the court said: "It may

be an *agni pariksha* (trial by fire) for the CBI, but that cannot be helped. If their hands are clean, like Sita, they may come out to face the music."

On the CBI Special Public Prosecutor asking for a probe by the CBI or National Investigation Agency instead of the state police, Judge PN Prakash said, "The court cannot subscribe to this view, because the law does not sanction such an inference. All policemen have to be trusted and it does not lie in the mouth

of one to say that the CBI have special horns, whereas, the local police have only a tail."

The CBI had seized the gold in connection with cases dating back to 2012 filed over allegations that officials of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) in Chennai had shown undue favours towards Surana Corporation Limited, which dealt in import of gold and silver. The gold, amounting to 400.47 kg, and in the form of bars and ornaments, was seized

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ATTACK ON NADDA'S CONVOY

Bengal says no to Centre summons; addressing issue: chief secy to MHA

After Gov report, Home Secy calls top state officers to discuss law and order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE CHIEF secretary of West Bengal has written to the union home secretary providing details of the security arrangements made for BJP president J P Nadda, and asked the central official to "kindly dispense" with state officials at a meeting he has called to discuss law and order in the state.

Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay wrote to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla after the Home Ministry summoned him and Director-General of Police Virendra to be present in North Block for a meeting on Monday.

The Centre issued the summons on the basis of a report sent by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday morning about law and order in the state, where Nadda's convoy was attacked with stones and sticks, allegedly by supporters of the



BJP chief J P Nadda's convoy was attacked Thursday. Express

Trinamool Congress, on Thursday. Ten BJP workers and leaders, including national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and national vice president Mukul Roy, suffered minor injuries.

"I am to inform you that as requested... the incidents regarding certain Z category protectees are already being examined at our end," the chief secretary wrote to the union home secretary.

"We have indeed made elaborate arrangements for security

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cong lost political focus after I became President, Pranab wrote in memoir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE LATE Pranab Mukherjee believed that the leadership of the Congress lost political focus after he became President, and that Manmohan Singh's preoccupation with saving the UPA coalition impacted governance, according to excerpts from Mukherjee's forthcoming memoir that were released by the book's publisher, Rupa, on Friday, his birth anniversary.

According to Mukherjee, some leaders of the Congress believed that had he become Prime Minister in 2004, the "drubbing" of 2014 may have been avoided. Narendra Modi's style is "autocratic", Mukherjee believed, as per the extracts.

"Some members of the Congress have theorized that, had I become the PM in 2004, the party might have averted the



President Ram Nath Kovind pays tribute to Pranab Mukherjee on Friday. PTI

2014 Lok Sabha drubbing. Though I don't subscribe to this view, I do believe that the party's leadership lost political focus after my elevation as President. While Sonia Gandhi was unable to handle the affairs of the party, Dr Singh's prolonged absence from the House put an end to any personal contact with other MPs," Mukherjee has written.

The Presidential Years, the fourth volume of the former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Effect of new slaughter laws: cattle numbers fall in BJP-ruled states

HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

KARNATAKA HAS become the latest BJP-ruled state to put a stringent anti-cattle slaughter Bill in motion. On Friday, the state government said that it would bring in an ordinance to implement the provisions of the Bill, which was passed by the Assembly on Wednesday but could not be approved by the Legislative Council before the session got over. The striking feature of this Bill is its definition of 'cattle'. It includes not just cows, bulls, bullocks and calves, but

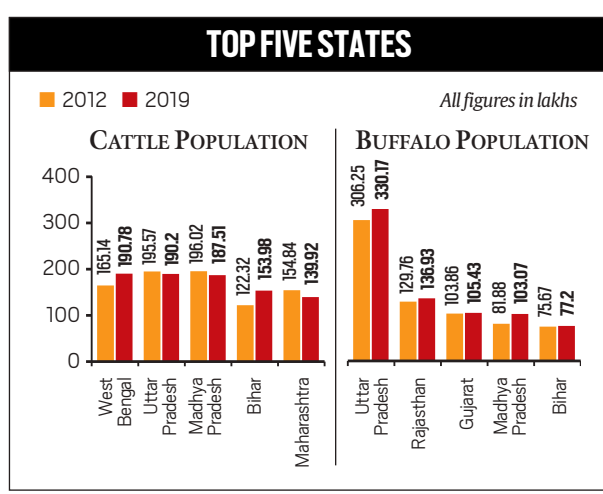
also male and female buffaloes. That makes it a comprehensive anti-bovine slaughter Bill.

This is unlike the laws in other states, whose scope is restricted only to the *Bos taurus* species. The latter include cows, bulls, bullocks and calves, but not buffaloes, that belong to a separate *Bubalus bubalis* species. 'Cattle' in animal taxonomy covers just *Bos taurus*. Cattle and buffaloes are together termed 'bovines'.

Prior to Karnataka, it was Maharashtra, under the previous BJP-led government of Devendra Fadnavis, which had enacted the most rigorous anti-slaughter leg-

islation. The Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act of 2015 made slaughter of bulls and bullocks a crime, punishable with a jail term of up to five years. Previously, the ban on killing was limited to cows and only attracted six months' imprisonment.

The B S Yediyurappa administration's Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill goes beyond Maharashtra's. For the first time, any person who slaughters or offers for slaughter even buffaloes can be accused of committing a cognizable offence and jailed for not less than three and extending to seven years. No other state



— including Yogi Adityanath's Uttar Pradesh and Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Madhya Pradesh — has so far made buffalo slaughter illegal.

The only concession that the Karnataka Bill makes is to define cattle as bovines "below the age of thirteen years". In other words, both cattle and buffaloes that are aged beyond 13 years can be culled. But from a dairy farmer's standpoint, that isn't particularly helpful.

A typical crossbred cow takes 17-18 months to come to puberty and be ready for insemination. Adding 9-10 months of pregnancy, it will deliver its first calf

and start producing milk at 27-28 months. Subsequent calvings, after factoring in three-four months post-partum rest, happen every 13-14 months. Farmers usually don't keep a cow beyond five-six calvings, when milk yields fall and the returns don't justify the costs of feeding and maintenance. By then, the animal is seven-eight years old.

The same goes for buffaloes, which take even longer (3.5-4 years) to calve first and have 15-16 months inter-calving period. Their productive age, too, isn't beyond 9-10 years. No farmer can afford to wait for 13 years, by which time the animal ceases to

even have any salvage value. The small amount that the farmer may receive is more than offset by the cost of feeding during the animal's unproductive years.

The impact of anti-slaughter laws — and more so, their aggressive enforcement — can be seen in the official Livestock Census data. Between 2012 and 2019, UP, MP, Gujarat and Maharashtra (which, till a year ago, was a BJP-ruled state) saw their cattle populations dwindle. These same states, however, registered increases in their buffalo numbers. UP, Gujarat and Haryana — and also Punjab and Andhra Pradesh — today have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DOWNLOAD APP

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express
★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



WHAT DOES FDA ADVISORY PANEL'S APPROVAL FOR PFIZER/BIONTECH VACCINE MEAN?

An advisory panel of the US's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended that the regulator provide emergency use approval for Pfizer/BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what that means.

MOVIE REVIEW: DURGAMATI



UNINTENTIONALLY HILARIOUS
There are zero thrills or chills in Hindi remake of Bhaagmathie

WEB INTERVIEW



'ENCRYPTION CENTRAL TO TRUST'
Noelle de Guzman of Internet Society on traceability

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why sportspersons speaking in support of farmers matters

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Express Sports podcast, we talk about the reason why farmers are getting support from sportspersons, and why it matters.

Attack on police: Court allows UP govt plea to drop case against BJP leader, others

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 11

A LOCAL court in Rampur has allowed the Uttar Pradesh government's application to withdraw a case in which policemen were attacked and a police jeep was set on fire by protesters following a road accident that claimed the lives of eight people in Rampur in 2007.

Among the 16 accused in the case are BJP leader and former Milak Nagar Panchayat chairman Deeksha Gangwar and her husband, Narendra Singh Gangwar. The couple had joined the BJP in 2014.

"The state government's plea for withdrawing the case was filed in a local court on December 3. Additional District and Sessions Judge Rashmi Rani allowed the application on Monday," said Rampur District Government Counsel Dalvinder Singh.

The state government issued an order for the withdrawal of the case in July this year, but due to some confusion, it could not be moved in the court, he said.

Defence counsel S S Kapoor said the court was hearing the final arguments.

"The case was politically motivated. Our opponents got us framed. My husband and I were sent to jail in the case," said Gangwar.

Moradabad BJP president Raj Pal Singh Chauhan said Gangwar's husband does not hold any position in the party.

Two months on, missing woman and 3 kids found hanging; suicide case lodged

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11

NEARLY TWO months after they went missing, the decomposed bodies of a 30-year-old woman and her three children were on Thursday found hanging from a tree in a forest at Umberkhanda in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi taluka.

The deceased have been identified as Ranjana Bangari and her children Darshana (12), Rohit (9) and Rohini (6).

The Padgha police has registered a case of harassment and abetment to suicide against Ranjana's husband Sripath (35) and his second wife Savita (28). They are yet to be arrested, as they are currently admitted at JJ hospital in Mumbai after they drank pesticides and tried to die by suicide after discovering the bodies.

Sripath had married Savita on October 16 without divorcing Ranjana and brought her home, said a police officer. "Ranjana stayed with them for four days... but on October 20, following an altercation with Sripath, she left the house with their three children," said Thane Rural police SP Vikram Deshmane.

When she could not be traced, Sripath approached the Padgha police station, where a missing complaint was filed.

Some villagers on Thursday went to the jungle to collect wood and found four decomposed bodies hanging from a tree. They were identified with the help of their clothes, police said. "We have ascertained that it is a case of suicide. Now, we will be investigating how the woman killed her three children before hanging herself - whether she hanged them directly or poisoned them before hanging them," said Deputy SP Dilip Godbole.

FROM PAGE ONE

Pranab memoir

President's memoirs, published by Rupa, will go on sale next month. Mukherjee passed away on August 31 at the age of 84.

"I believe that the moral authority to govern vests with the PM. The overall state of the nation is reflective of the functioning of the PM and his administration," Mukherjee has written, according to the excerpts.

"While Dr Singh was preoccupied with saving the coalition, which took a toll on governance, Modi seemed to have employed a rather autocratic style of governance during his first term, as seen by the bitter relationship among the government, the legislature and the judiciary. Only time will tell if there is a better understanding on such matters in the second term of this government."

In the third volume of his memoirs, *The Coalition Years*, Mukherjee had revealed that he believed he could have been the Congress's choice for Prime Minister even in 2012.

He recalled that Sonia Gandhi had told him on June 2, 2012 that he was most eminently suited for the high office of the President, but he should not forget the crucial role he was playing in the functioning of the UPA government. In fact, Sonia asked him to suggest an alternative name as the UPA's presidential nominee.

"The meeting ended and I returned with a vague impression that she might wish to consider Manmohan Singh as the UPA presidential nominee. I thought that if she selected Singh for the presidential office, she may choose me as the prime minister. I had heard a rumour that she had given this formulation serious thought while on a holiday in the Kaushambhi hills," Mukherjee had said in his book.

At the release function of Mukherjee's memoir, Singh had said: "He (Mukherjee) had every reason to feel a grievance that he was better qualified than I was to become the Prime Minister (in 2004). But he also knew that I had no choice in the matter... He had every reason to believe that he should be the Prime Minister, that didn't happen. But that didn't affect our relationship and that relationship of thick and abiding friendship will last, will last as long as we both are living."

Cattle numbers

more buffaloes than cattle.

The 2019 Census, in fact, saw West Bengal overtake UP as India's No. 1 cattle state. The irony is that the state permits slaughter of all animals. It merely has an animal slaughter "control" law. Under it, any animal -- be it cattle or buffalo -- can be slaughtered. All that is required is a certificate from a veterinary officer stating that the animal is "fit for slaughter".

If the stated objective behind enacting an anti-slaughter legislation is "preservation of cattle", that message is clearly not being heeded by farmers. They seem more inclined towards rearing animals that can be easily disposed of once their useful life is over.

New convoy

"The convoy has protesters from Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Taran Taran, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepur and Moga. Coordinating with each other, they gathered at Doraha in Ludhiana on National Highway 1 at about 5 pm. They will move ahead in smaller groups so that the highway doesn't get congested," said Pannu, who is from Piddi village in Gurdaspur. KMSC leaders estimated that the convoy is carrying about 30,000 protesters on tractor-trolleys, with another 1,000 in cars. District officials said they

were not keeping a count of protesters and vehicles headed to Delhi.

Baljinder Singh Sandhu, KMSC press secretary, said the new convoy will dig in for the long haul. "We are going with rations, quilts, clothes, LPG cylinders, buckets, etc. Our trolleys are covered with waterproof sheets and we are prepared for the adverse weather expected in Delhi," said Sandhu, who is from Talwandi Nepal village in Ferozepur.

Pannu said the convoy will stop over at Shahbad Markanda in Haryana before the first batch reaches the Delhi border by Saturday afternoon. "This journey is unstoppable now. The Centre should have listened to us in June-July. Ab Delhi dur nahin (Now Delhi is not far)," said Pannu.

The *Indian Express* spoke to several protesters from the convoy, who described the agitation as a "fight to keep private companies away" from their land.

"I am a small farmer with 3 acres of land. My father passed away a few years ago, and my two brothers farm on their share of the land. The farm laws are a death warrant for us. What if contract farming by private companies ultimately turns me into an employee on their land? That's why I am going to lodge my protest in Delhi," said Amandeep Singh, 31, from Kachhar Bhana village of Ferozepur.

"What if these fields will not remain mine? I have to fight for myself and my future generations. The fields are our mother. The farmer has a lot of affection for his land. These laws are not good," said Dharam Singh Sidhu, from Lalchehian village in Ferozepur.

With police deployment minimal, state government officials said they would not prevent the movement of farmers. "We are not keeping any check on the movement of tractors. The Constitution of India allows free movement of people anywhere in the country," said a senior official in Ludhiana.

"The movement of tractors is routine now. Many people go and many come back as well," said a senior police officer.

Centre summons

cover for the protectees yesterday. The West Bengal Police has provided a bulletproof car and pilot to Sri J P Nadda, which was in addition to the escort (vehicle by State, personnel by CRPF) and PSOs (CRPF) he is entitled as Z category protectee.

"The DIG (Police) of the range was stationed in the area to personally supervise the police arrangements, while four Additional SPs, 8 DySPs, 14 Inspectors, 70 SIs/ASIs, 40 RAF personnel, 259 constables and 350 members of auxiliary forces were deployed on the route and at the venue at Diamond Harbour."

Bandopadhyay made the point that the "tagging of many vehicles to the protectee convoy made the situation unwieldy, because typically security authorities are to handle a protectee convoy of a few vehicles only". Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had asked on Thursday why the BJP president needed a "50-car convoy, apart from 30 press vehicles and 40 motorbikes".

The police have registered three cases relating to the incident, including two on the vandalism that left several vehicles in Nadda's convoy damaged, and arrested seven people, Bandopadhyay wrote to Bhalla.

"While further reports are being obtained and compiled, in the circumstances, I am directed to request you to kindly dispense with the presence of the state officials in the meeting, considering that the state government is already addressing the issue with

Continue talks, Govt committed to hear farmers, address concerns: Law Minister

the farmers and address their concerns."

"But we are equally keen that what we have adopted is the right way for their future. Mainly, that they have to be freed from the clutches of the mandis, and they have to be given new opportunities," he said.

"Nearly 80 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers. Should they not be allowed the benefits of technology? Should they not be allowed the benefits of the new opportunity? Should they not be allowed the discretion to interact with the purchaser of their produce? This is the fundamental issue," he said.

Asked about the way forward if farmers continue to refuse government concessions and push for repealing the laws, Prasad said "democracy is ultimately dialogue, persuasion and reaching out. And that will be the only way out."

ANTI-SOCIALS PLOTTING, SAYS TOMAR

New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Friday that "anti-social elements" were "conspiring to spoil the atmosphere of the farmers' movement". In a Twitter post

in Hindi, he urged the farmers to be "vigilant" and not provide their platform to "anti-social elements". He reiterated that the government was ready for discussions with farmers.

"The Prime Minister very beautifully put it yesterday in a different context -- kuchh kahiye, kuchh suniye. This kahiye suniye (discussion) is going on for last 20 years."

Referring to the protests in Delhi, he said nobody must be allowed to settle personal political battles through the farmers.

"I am only apprehending that those who have a different agenda, and are facing legal consequences of their separate agenda on issues including sovereignty and integrity of India, are seeking to penetrate

there," he said. "Let them fight their own battle. The legal process is going on. Farmers' issue is more important. We have all our sympathy for the farmers," he said.

Stating that there were consultations before the legislation of the three farm laws, Prasad said, "I can safely say there has been almost a bipartisan consensus for the last close to 20 years about basically three things: liberalise the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act; open the trade

Govt ignored Opp on farm laws, now don't test farmers, says Sharad Pawar

if the state wants a solution out of this present agitation, it needs to first withdraw these Bills," he said.

"The Centre, however, does not seem to be receptive to this demand and this struggle will be prolonged for a few more days... The farmer is the food provider of our country. It is my request to the Centre that it should not test their patience anymore," said Pawar, whose party is part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra.

The political veteran also said that given the Centre's stance, the deadlock may continue and even spread. "I have got information that 700 tractors full of farmers have joined the protests today. If a quick decision is not taken, these protests can spread," Pawar said.

Asked about Union Minister Raosaheb Danve's comment about the alleged involvement of China and Pakistan in the farmers' agitation, he said: "Some people do

not have the sense of what should be said where and how. We should not pay attention to such comments."

The last five rounds of talks between the Government and farmers have remained inconclusive. The last scheduled round of talks, on December 9, was cancelled after a meeting between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and representatives of farm unions.

The Centre then extended a new set of proposals to resolve the crisis, including a

written assurance on continuation of minimum support price (MSP)-based procurement and parity in transactions inside and outside Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis.

But farm leaders rejected the proposals and said that they would escalate their protests if the laws were not fully repealed. On Thursday, the Centre issued a fresh call for farmers to end their agitation and join a new round of talks.

sectors. "Any new technology, which is not understood easily, faces a tough time. In our initial meetings on the subject, there was a lot of resistance on whether this technology would eat into the jobs of highly-skilled workers in the medical equipment or aerospace technology sectors. 3D printing may not lead to an increase in net employment, but this technology is something we can push ahead with," the official said.

Other key areas of focus include the auto and ancillary auto and motor spare part business, such as engines, interior and exterior parts of luxury vehicles, or landing gear, complex brackets, and turbine blades. "There can be some application of it in consumer electronics, printed circuit boards, clothing, toys and jewellery as well. Only after we get some feedback from experts, both in India and the world, can we start to define the industries where it can be more viable and useful than others," the official said.

Asia leads the world in 3D printing, and about 50 per cent of its market is cornered by China, followed by Japan at 30 per cent, and South Korea 10 per cent. But globally, the US remains the leader, with more than 35 per cent market share. "At most places domestically, we are at the research and development stage. There is considerable interest, but it is at a very nascent stage. It has not yet evolved for strategic industrial integration in sectors like aerospace, which require utmost precision," one of the officials said.

Another key challenge, an official said, is to convince the industry and ministries to push for its adoption in their respective

sectors. "Any new technology, which is not understood easily, faces a tough time. In our initial meetings on the subject, there was a lot of resistance on whether this technology would eat into the jobs of highly-skilled workers in the medical equipment or aerospace technology sectors. 3D printing may not lead to an increase in net employment, but this technology is something we can push ahead with," the official said.

Other key areas of focus include the auto and ancillary auto and motor spare part business, such as engines, interior and exterior parts of luxury vehicles, or landing gear, complex brackets, and turbine blades. "There can be some application of it in consumer electronics, printed circuit boards, clothing, toys and jewellery as well. Only after we get some feedback from experts, both in India and the world, can we start to define the industries where it can be more viable and useful than others," the official said.

Asia leads the world in 3D printing, and about 50 per cent of its market is cornered by China, followed by Japan at 30 per cent, and South Korea 10 per cent. But globally, the US remains the leader, with more than 35 per cent market share. "At most places domestically, we are at the research and development stage. There is considerable interest, but it is at a very nascent stage. It has not yet evolved for strategic industrial integration in sectors like aerospace, which require utmost precision," one of the officials said.

Another key challenge, an official said, is to convince the industry and ministries to push for its adoption in their respective

sectors. "Any new technology, which is not understood easily, faces a tough time. In our initial meetings on the subject, there was a lot of resistance on whether this technology would eat into the jobs of highly-skilled workers in the medical equipment or aerospace technology sectors. 3D printing may not lead to an increase in net employment, but this technology is something we can push ahead with," the official said.

Other key areas of focus include the auto and ancillary auto and motor spare part business, such as engines, interior and exterior parts of luxury vehicles, or landing gear, complex brackets, and turbine blades. "There can be some application of it in consumer electronics, printed circuit boards, clothing, toys and jewellery as well. Only after we get some feedback from experts, both in India and the world, can we start to define the industries where it can be more viable and useful than others," the official said.

Asia leads the world in 3D printing, and about 50 per cent of its market is cornered by China, followed by Japan at 30 per cent, and South Korea 10 per cent. But globally, the US remains the leader, with more than 35 per cent market share. "At most places domestically, we are at the research and development stage. There is considerable interest, but it is at a very nascent stage. It has not yet evolved for strategic industrial integration in sectors like aerospace, which require utmost precision," one of the officials said.

Another key challenge, an official said, is to convince the industry and ministries to push for its adoption in their respective

In the meantime, the SBI initiated proceedings against Surana over non-payment of dues -- the firm had pending loans amounting to Rs1,160 crore -- and moved the Special CBI Court seeking the seized gold.

In its order on Friday directing a probe against the CBI, the high court noted, "Thus... all of them, like the famous character Colorado played by the late Omar Sharif in the Hollywood blockbuster *Mackenna's Gold*, went on a gold hunting expedition to the Special Court. Like Colorado entering into an agreement with Monkey, the Apache, to share the spoils of gold, the SBI and Surana entered into an agreement and filed a compromise memo before the Special Court... to hand over the gold weighing 400.47 kg" for settlement of dues.

The CBI opposed Surana's petition, backed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (under which the DGFT falls). Finally, in December 2019, the National Company Law Tribunal, which had been approached by the SBI, ordered that the gold be handed over for distribution to the six banks owed money by Surana.

However, when the CBI opened the vaults in the presence of the bank representatives in February this year, the gold was found to be 103.864 kg short -- "to the great shock and surprise of all", as the high court noted.

The CBI told the high court that they had used a weighing machine at Surana's office to arrive at a figure of 400.47 kg for the gold after the seizure, and the seals affixed by it on the vaults were intact, hence arguing that the agency could not be held liable for the missing gold. The Special Public Prosecutor said that there could be a discrepancy in the weight because gold chains were weighed collectively at the time of the seizure, while in February, each item was weighed individually, using more sophisticated machines.

Rejecting these arguments, the court said it was "unable to fathom as to how there could be a discrepancy of more than 100 kg... Gold will not diminish in weight like ganja by efflux."

Coming down heavily on the CBI, the high court said that had the gold been physically entrusted to the CBI Special Court, and gone missing from there, "the CBI would have cried foul from the rooftops and demanded the scalp of the Special Judge and his Property Clerk. The Special Judge and the Property Clerk would have been placed under suspension and would have even been arrested..."

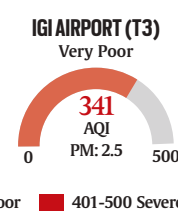
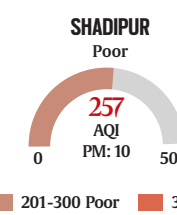
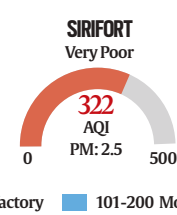
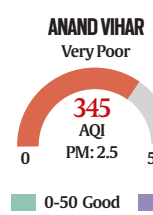
Noting that "Caesar's wife should be beyond suspicion", the court directed the CB-CID's Metro Wing in Chennai, which comes under the state government, to register a regular FIR for theft and entrust the investigation to an SP-rank officer to complete the probe in six months.

E-voter ID

to get the card in electronic form. The digital voter card is not expected to look too different from its physical form. But the soft copy may also have a QR code that will carry the voter's enrolment details such as name and date of birth and address.

With about 90 crore registered voters in the country, electronic cards will also help the EC save costs on printing and distributing hard copies of EPIC -- each card costs about Rs 10-15 to print, said sources.

The EC feels that voters, too, will find it useful to have the PDF file of the card on their phones, which will do away with the necessity of producing voters' slips on the day of voting.



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

S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Dec 12
Partly cloudy sky with very light rain/drizzle

MAX: 26 | **MIN: 13**
2.8°C above normal | 4.4°C above normal

OVER 17,000 PEOPLE AT PROTEST SITE, NEED TIME TO FIX THIS: AUTHORITIES

Toilets too few, too filthy, farmers stare at health crisis

JIGNASA SINHA & ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

"WE CAN'T take a shower. There's no place for women to take a bath or change their clothes. It's been two weeks here and most of the toilets can't be used. People are compelled to use the fields and footpaths. It is unhygienic but the farmers don't have an option." Gurmeet Singh, a property dealer from Amritsar who has joined the protest at Singhu border along with his family, summed up what many have been struggling with at Singhu and Ghazipur borders, where thousands are gathered to protest against the farm bills.

Over the past two weeks, protesting farmers have had to tackle dirty toilets and drains. And with the crowd becoming bigger by the day, the situation is fast turning into a health hazard. At Singhu border, only 20-25 porta toilets have been set up — far less than what the crowd requires — and most are too filthy to be used.

Farmer groups have hired workers to clean the washrooms, but given the footfall, it is a near impossible task. Rakesh Bais, a member of the Bharatiya Kisan Union from Haryana, said, "We called in workers to clean the nearby 10 porta cabins but it didn't work — in less than a day, we ran out of water and the toilets were again filled with garbage and filth."

Several farmers walk to hotels and shops to look for alternatives, but most of these places are more than 10 km from the protest site. And not every place is willing to welcome them.

In the afternoon, a group of women farmers, aged around 45-50, walked towards a mall near the Singhu border. One of them said that women have it toughest here when they are on their periods. "We have no washroom to take a bath and wash our clothes... There are four ladies toilets near our tent. All of them are dirty. We go to malls but these places are mostly shut," said one of them.

District authorities in Haryana have placed more mobile toilets near Sonapat but farmers said these too are unclean. A senior official from Kundli said, "There are more than 500 toilets at the protest



Temporary toilets for men and women at the Singhu border protest site. Abhinav Saha

site. We have deployed workers to collect garbage and clean the washrooms. We are trying to help the farmers but there are more than 17,000 people there. We need time to fix this."

At Ghazipur, a number of portable washrooms have been set up by the Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam and the Nagar Palika Parishad, Khora-Makanpur. Here, too, the same issue persists.

At the spot, there were five washroom vans comprising 26 toilets — 12 for women, eight for men, three were unisex, and two dedicated to specially abled persons. While some were clean, others gave off a stench and were flooded with dirty water. A constable who used the washroom said, "I use it sometimes. It is cleaned but not too often."

Narendra Chowdhury (48), a farmer from Baghat, said the washrooms are not cleaned often and occasionally run out of water. So he and others from his district walk to the petrol pump 500 metres away to use the washroom there. "A public washroom is located a kilometre away. We have to pay Rs 5 to use the toilet and Rs 10 for a bath. Since we are not farming, we are making losses back there. Here too, we are forced to spend money."

At Ghazipur, protesters tackle mosquitoes — with some help

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

LOCATED CLOSE to the Ghazipur landfill, the Ghazipur farmer protest site has been teeming with mosquitoes, prompting the Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam to carry out fogging in the area. Protesters, too, have been trying to address the issue themselves.

Balwinder Singh (50), a se-wadar from Gurdwara Gaidikhata in Haridwar, swept parts of the protest site in the afternoon. He said, "It is very difficult for everyone around here as there are many mosquitoes. We do our bit to clean the area and keep spraying mosquito repellent through the day. We are all from farming backgrounds; my parents were farmers too. So there's no reason we should not assist farmers when they need help."

Balwinder, one of many se-wadars to have travelled to the border from afar, said he is linked to the Kar Sewa Bhuri Wale in



Fogging at the Ghazipur border. Gajendra Yadav

Amritsar. He said his work ranges from serving langar to keeping the surroundings clean. Another volunteer, Gora Singh (56) from Amritsar, said, "I came here four days ago. It does not matter what kind of work we have to do, we are here to serve. Even though using repellants is not as useful as fogging, we do what we can."

While some volunteers have been here since the protest began, many have poured in over the past few days. Nirmla Singh, a gurdwara pradhan from Bijnor, said, "In our hometowns, farmers come and give us ration. In turn, we cook

POLICE CHIEF VISITS TIKRI SITE

New Delhi: Delhi Police chief S N Shrivastava visited the Tikri border at 9.30 pm Friday and met staff deployed at the protest site. He tweeted: "Visited Delhi's border with Bahadurgarh to interact with Delhi Police officers/men and CAPF personnel deployed in view of kisan agitation. They are doing commendable duties during harsh winter with full appreciation of work expected out of them." ENS

food and serve those who need it. So most of our raw material has been donated by farmers."

Meanwhile, the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee has prepared thousands of kits for farmers, which include mosquito repellent, toothpaste, brush, soap and shampoo.

Now available: Gyms and foot massage machines for elderly

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

AMID HEATED protests, makeshift gyms and massage centres have been opened by protesters at Singhu and Tikri borders.

Several volunteers and farmers have bought machines and set up mini-gyms and massage centres to maintain their health. At the Singhu border, elderly farmers lined up outside a camp set up by Khalsa Aid. The organisation installed 'calf and leg massage machines' at the site Friday and invited farmers to a 10-minute session each.

Ranjeet Singh (60) sat in the massage chair next to his friend Manraj (56). Both of them put their legs in the machine and smiled at each other.

"When I looked at it, I was scared. But I am happy now. We have been walking for days and are tired. We sleep in our trolleys, which isn't comfortable either. Today, when my friends told me about this centre, we rushed here and waited for 20 minutes outside the camp. This machine is amazing. I want to fall asleep here," said Singh.

Khalsa Aid volunteers said they bought 25 machines from a store in Delhi Thursday.

Amarpreet Singh, director at Khalsa Aid, said they wanted to



Foot massagers set up by Khalsa Aid, Friday. Abhinav Saha

help elderly farmers who have been protesting at the borders for two weeks.

At Tikri border, the organisation sent volunteers who gave foot massage.

"We wanted to do the same at Singhu but there are a lot of people here. We thought it would be better to buy machines for the farmers. They are liking the experience. The heat and vibration helps with the leg pain. We have also bought generators. People can charge their phones and light bulbs," said Amarpreet.

By 4 pm, more than 500 people had used the massager and many more lined up outside the camp for the experience.

Near the camp, there is a makeshift gym set up by professional weightlifters and sportsmen. Aman (25), a transporter from Amritsar, bought dumbbells and weight training bars from Punjab for the protesters.

"The Centre should repeal the laws or we will open a gym and kabaddi ground here. I want people to concentrate on their health — play sports and exercise. I bought the equipment on the way to my house. There are a lot of young players who come and lift weights here," said Aman.

The weight training equipment at the mini-gym can host up to seven people at a time.

BRIEFLY

2 smugglers arrested

Noida: Two men wanted in four Western UP districts for allegedly smuggling cow carcasses were arrested by Noida Police Thursday. Police said the accused, Gulzar and Rizwan Qureshi, had a bounty of Rs 25,000. They have been sent to judicial custody, police said.

Tractor trolley hits auto, woman dies

Noida: A 55-year-old woman died Friday after a tractor trolley hit the auto she was travelling in. Police said the accident occurred near the underpass in Sector 37. The auto driver has sustained injuries. The woman, a resident of Greater Noida, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

3 arrested for cheating 20 of Rs 20 crore

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly cheating over 20 people of Rs 20 crore. Police said they had received a complaint from a woman saying the accused promised her huge returns on her investment in a housing project. She was then cheated of Rs 5.4 crore. ENS



RE-DRAW OF FLATS

General public is hereby informed that re-draw of flats under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 of SignatureGlobal Proxima II, Sector - 89, being developed by M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited shall be conducted on 17/12/2020 at 05:00 PM onwards at The PIlazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

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 applicants shall participate in re-draw online after login into below provided link on YouTube live.

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SignatureGlobal>

Note: If any applicant wants to check his/her name in the list he/she may contact to STP Office, Gurugram as well as the office of colonizer before draw of lots.

SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U71001DL2013PTC104767
Regd. Off.: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customercare@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624



RE-DRAW OF FLATS

General public is hereby informed that re-draw of flats under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 of SignatureGlobal Proxima I, Sector - 89, being developed by M/s SignatureGlobal (India) Private Limited shall be conducted on 17/12/2020 at 04:30 PM onwards at The PIlazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

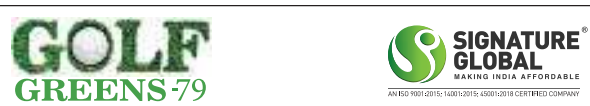
With the help of live streaming/telecast of re-draw proceeding on youtube live. Due to ongoing situation of Covid-19 pandemic, restriction were imposed by Ministry of Home Affairs, over public gathering in order to prevent spreading of corona virus disease.

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 applicants shall participate in re-draw online after login into below provided link on YouTube live.

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SignatureGlobal>

Note: If any applicant wants to check his/her name in the list he/she may contact to STP Office, Gurugram as well as the office of colonizer before draw of lots.

SIGNATUREGLOBAL (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U71001DL2000PTC104787
Regd. Off.: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customercare@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624



RE-DRAW OF FLATS

General public is hereby informed that re-draw of flats under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 of Golf Greens-79, Sector-79, District Gurugram, being developed by M/s SignatureGlobal (India) Private Limited shall be conducted on 17/12/2020 at 04:00 PM onwards at The PIlazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

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 applicants shall participate in re-draw online after login into below provided link on YouTube live.

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SignatureGlobal>

Note: If any applicant wants to check his/her name in the list he/she may contact to STP Office, Gurugram as well as the office of colonizer before draw of lots.

SIGNATUREGLOBAL (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U71001DL2000PTC104787
Regd. Off.: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customercare@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624



COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)

Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001
Advt. No. 03/2020

CSIR is looking for Director, CSIR-SERC, Chennai; CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad and; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of DIRECTOR of CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai; CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 03/2020 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/ nominations may be sent alongwith bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email on email ID drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before 15.01.2021.

davp 36202/11/0021/2021

TO FULFILL YOUR INDUSTRIAL AMBITIONS...

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, U.P.

Satish Mahana
Minister of Industrial Development, U.P.

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS

SALIENT FEATURES

- Residential sectors, Educational institutions in the Vicinity • World-class amenities
- Serene and green environment • Good connectivity for Delhi-NCR and other cities

Scheme Code : ONLIND 2020-01

Sizes between 2000 and 80940 sq. mtr. (20 Acres) in Industrial Sector ECOTECH-X

Plots clear from all encumbrances | Lease plans are ready | Possession after 30% payment

How to Apply

- The scheme brochure can be downloaded from the website www.niveshmtra.up.nic.in, and may be submitted online through www.niveshmtra.up.nic.in along with processing fee, registration amount and required documents.
- Processing Fee: Non-refundable and non-adjustable processing fee Rs. 17,700/- (including GST).
- For more information, details, terms & conditions, please refer to the brochure, which is available on Authority's website www.greaternoidaauthority.in.

Scheme Open (Open ended) : 11.12.2020	Allotment will be made on "as is where is basis"
Application Form Opening Date : 11th of every month	The numbers of plots may increase or decrease
Application Form Closing Date : Last date of every month	No interview for the allotment of industrial plots up to 4000 sqmt
Tentative date of draw of application received each month: On 5th or next working date of forthcoming month	Applicants who want to buy an industrial plot larger than 4000 sqmt will be interviewed

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
Plot No. 01, Knowledge Park-04, Greater Noida 201308, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.
Helpline Center No.: 0120-2336046, 2336047, 2336048, 2336049
Ph.: 0120-2336030-33, E-mail: authority@gnida.in, Website: www.greaternoidaauthority.in

Follow Us On
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube
/OfficialGNIDA

www.bankofbaroda.in

NOTICE

Extraordinary General Meeting - Election of One Shareholder Director

List of Valid Candidates

Notice is hereby given in respect of EGM Notice dated 28th October 2020 convening an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bank for the Election of One Director from amongst Shareholders other than the Central Government, that after scrutiny of nominations and determination of their 'Fit & Proper Status', the nominations of the following candidates have been found to be valid and in order:

Sl. No.	Name & Address	Age (Years)	Educational / Professional Qualifications
1	Shri Nitish Gupta A-14011, Oberoi Splendor, JVLR, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 060.	50 yrs	B.E., MBA (Finance)
2	Smt. Soundara Kumar B2/5, Gem Nirmalyam, Kattabomman St, Ganapathy, Coimbatore 641 006.	66 yrs	B.Sc., CAIIB
3	Shri Ramesh Chandra Agrawal S-203, Prayagkunj, Ansal Apartments, 3 Strachey Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj 211 011 UP.	66 yrs	B.Com., ACA
4	Smt. Rekha Somani 50, Tagore Nagar, Sector 4, Hiran Magri, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan.	45 yrs	M.A. (Economics), M. Phil. (Economics), ACA
5	Shri Neelam Damodharan Flat No. 806, Building 13, Sky1 Songbirds, Bhugaon, Mulshi, Pirangut, Pune 412 115.	61 yrs	B.Sc. (Agri.), CAIIB, Diploma in Financial Management

Accordingly, the election of One Shareholder Director will be held at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bank scheduled to be held on 23rd December 2020 through VC / OAVM and Remote E-voting / e-voting at EGM will be held as per the schedule already announced in the Notice. Shareholders attending the meeting through VC / OAVM, who have not cast their votes through Remote E-Voting shall be able to cast their e-votes at the Meeting.

Any of the aforesaid candidates desirous of withdrawing his candidature may do so by sending a letter in writing duly signed addressed to Chief General Manager (Operations), Bank of Baroda, 7th Floor, Baroda Bhawan, R.C.Dutt Road, Opp. Centre Point, Alkapuri, Vadodra 390 007 OR The Company Secretary, Bank of Baroda, 7th Floor, Baroda Corporate Centre, C-26, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051 or sending scanned and signed letter over e-mail at gm.ops.ho@bankofbaroda.com OR / alternately - companysecretary.bcc@bankofbaroda.com so as to reach before 4.00 p.m. on 17th December 2020.

For Bank of Baroda
P K Agarwal,
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai
Date: 11.12.2020

(53/20-21)

		Total	Vacant
TOTAL CASES	6,03,535	18,853	13,957
HOSPITAL BEDS		1,525	568
VENTILATORS			
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths
Dec 10	1,575	3,307	61
Dec 11	2,385	2,402	60
Total	18,676*	5,74,925	9,934
			70,77,155

*Total active cases

98 design entries for 'iconic' New India Garden structure

CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT

Ticked off for breach, CPWD seeks nod to transplant trees near Badarpur

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

CLAIMING THAT the transplantation of trees from the Parliament complex to the Central Vista Avenue location would have disturbed the proposed Central Vista redevelopment project, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has sought permission from Delhi government's forest department for the trees to be transplanted at the NTPC Eco Park in Badarpur.

The CPWD was given permission by the department on October 21 to transplant 404 trees from the site of the new Parliament building, adjacent to the current Parliament House, to eight pockets in the Central Vista area, and was directed to do additional compensatory afforestation of 4,040 tree saplings of indigenous species of 6-8 feet height in the same area.



Forest dept granted permission for transplantation on Oct 21

The trees were however being sent to the National Thermal Power Corporation in Badarpur, close to Delhi's border with Haryana, in violation of the conditions. After this was brought to their notice, the forest department threatened to act as per Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

In a reply to the forest department on December 3, CPWD said that a "comprehensive scheme for redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue including plantation scheme with selected species... is being finalised. Carrying out transplantation at this moment in Central Vista Avenue without finalising the plan will disturb the

EXPLAINED
The plan so far

THE CPWD has to transplant 404 trees from the site of the new Parliament building to eight pockets in the Central Vista area. It was also directed to do additional compensatory afforestation of 4,040 tree saplings in the same area.

transplant the trees to their holding nursery at Vanasthali, near Simon Bolivar Marg, but it was not found suitable "due to hard or rock surface encountered in the area", as per the CPWD's reply. The NTPC Eco Park was also seen as the possible location for the compensatory afforestation of the 4,040 trees, even though the direction had been to do so at eight pockets in the Central Vista Area.

Around 130 trees have been transplanted to the existing Parliament complex, and 274 trees to the NTPC Eco Park.

The CPWD has asked permission to transplant the 4,040 trees to the NTPC Eco Park and asked for an extension of the deadline from January 31, 2021 to January 31, 2022.

"We will study their proposal, and also do the field visits to determine the number of trees that have been transplanted elsewhere," said an official from the forest department.

proposed scheme."

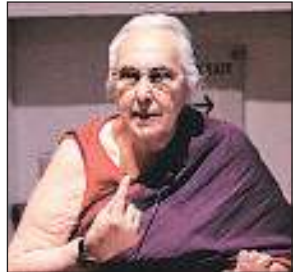
The *Indian Express* reported in July that trees in the Rajpath area will be brought back to Lutyens' original design of planting jamun and ficus (Peepal, Banyan and the Wild Ficus) trees only, and that other trees of the area shall be replaced as per this design.

The CPWD initially sought to

'Those speaking of developing quality institutions behind destruction of JNU'

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Romila Thapar was among the speakers at the event

AT A book launch Friday, former University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Sukhdeo Thorat said that those speaking of creating "quality institutions" were the ones responsible for the "destruction" of Jawaharalal Nehru University (JNU). Historian Romila Thapar also said what made the university "exceptional" did not exist any longer.

They were speaking at the online launch of the book, *JNU Stories: The First 50 Years*, published by Aleph Book Company. The book has contributions from former students, teachers and V-Cs, and has been edited by five faculty members of JNU's Centre for Historical Studies, including Neeladri Bhattacharya, Kunal Chakrabarti, S Gunasekaran, Janaki Nair and Joy L K Pachau.

Thapar said, "It was an exceptional university, which makes it all that much more sad to see that that exceptionalism doesn't exist any longer. Maybe it will come back."

Thapar recalled her hesitation in joining JNU as faculty in 1970 leaving behind the "well-established" Delhi University, and her conversation with then Vice-Chancellor G Parthasarathi. When asked how he envisaged JNU, his response was that it would be "intellectually vibrant and therefore open to a range of ideas" which "meant asking questions, and investigating answers and taking knowledge forward", Thapar recalled.

"We all know of course, alas, that there are Vice-Chancellors and faculty who lack vision and commitment and who disallow the right to think and speak freely. Such people can put together a good teaching shop but this never makes for a unique university of excellence. If we speak of a university of excellence, we must know what it means," she said.

Thorat called JNU a "unique experiment" and "miracle" for primarily two reasons — its high academic standards and its admission policy which gave it an inclusive character.

"I have my doubt that the glory that we see in the book may not be there, already we see a decline. At least this document will

serve as a memory of what JNU was... I feel extremely sad that those who speak of developing quality institutions every morning, are the ones who are engaged in the destruction of JNU," he said.

"My worry is that we may lose this glorious experiment altogether. The building will be there, but the academic structure I'm not sure of," he added.

Swaraj India leader and former JNU student Yogendra Yadav spoke of how the January 5 violence in the university, in which students and teachers were brutally attacked, changed his "uneasy relationship" with JNU.

Yadav said that when he joined JNU he felt both overqualified as he had already studied Karl Marx and underqualified because of his lack of English skills, and that uneasiness with JNU continued till he witnessed the January 5 incident.

"The public campaign against JNU has been a campaign against the very idea of a university, against intellectualism and against building a more humane country. I recalled that but for this institution, I would not have known India... But for JNU, I would not have been in public life," he said.

Speaking of the book, editor Neeladri Bhattacharya said, "The essays are not just a nostalgic return to the past but a reflection on experiences which helps us to know what happens within an institution and how people come to be what they are and how the self is fashioned over time through these everyday encounters and social interactions."

Janaki Nair said, "We see this only as a modest first step of a project that has to be much longer and detailed."



HANGING OUT

Children play outside their home near Red Fort in Old Delhi. Tashi Tobgyal

Safdarjung staffer stabbed 27 times after argument over job, two held for murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

A 31-YEAR-OLD contractual employee working with Safdarjung Hospital was stabbed 27 times leading to his death, allegedly by a group of people who got into an argument with him near the hospital. Two of the victim's friends were also stabbed several times. The incident took place in Safdarjung Enclave.

Police said two persons have been arrested and a juvenile apprehended, and initial investigation has revealed that the argument took place because one of the accused felt the victim had taken his job.

DCP (south-west district) Ingit Pratap Singh identified the victim as Neeraj Kumar (32) and injured as Mukesh Kumar (30) and his elder brother Rakesh Kumar (33).

"We have registered an FIR and arrested the accused Krishna, Ravi Pawa and apprehended a juvenile. Further investigations are on," he said.

According to police, the incident took place on December 9 when Neeraj and Mukesh were consuming alcohol after work outside the hospital. "They had a heated argument with Krishna and got into a scuffle. They were beaten up but managed to escape," said an officer.

Police said that after a while, Krishna returned with his associates while Mukesh called his

The accused told police that they used to work for a private company which had hired contractual employees, thereby affecting their employment

elder brother. "Rakesh reached with some security guards and the two groups got into a fight. That's when the three were stabbed," an officer said.

"The accused managed to escape and a PCR call was made around 7 pm. Police rushed to the spot and the victims were taken to the hospital where Neeraj succumbed to his injuries during treatment, while the other two are recuperating," the officer said.

"A team led by SHO of Safdarjung Enclave police station, Umesh Barthwal, gathered local intelligence about the attackers and came to know that Krishna and Ravi, who were earlier arrested on the charges of robbery, were allegedly behind the attack. A raid was conducted and they were arrested, following which the juvenile was also picked up. Five more assailants have been identified," the officer said.

During questioning, the accused told police they used to work for a private company which had hired contractual employees, thereby affecting their employment.

As Jain targets North MCD, Delhi BJP chief meets L-G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

DELHI HEALTH minister Satyendar Jain Friday alleged that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation has misappropriated Rs 2,400 crore of funds given by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, even as the Delhi state BJP president Adesh Gupta held a meeting with L-G Anil Bajjal over the Delhi government "not releasing Rs 13,000 crore to the MCDs".

Over the past five days, may-

ors of the three civic bodies have been staging a sit-in protest in front of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, demanding that the Delhi government release over Rs 13,000 crore they claim is owed to the MCDs. On Friday, BJP workers held protest demonstrations outside the residence of several Delhi ministers.

The issue of money owed to the MCDs was raised by the BJP mayors during protests by the doctors of North MCD-run hospitals in late October as well. At the time, it was rebuffed by



Satyendar Jain (left); North MCD Mayor Jai Prakash

Kejriwal as "false" — he had said that the BJP was mismanaging the funds for MCDs and that the



Delhi government had paid all dues they are legally obliged to. Jain said at a press conference

on Friday. "I have directed officials of the urban development to inquire into the matter of how over Rs 2,400 crore of funds given to the North MCD by the South MCD were misappropriated."

Jai Prakash, BJP-elect mayor of the North MCD, told *The Indian Express*, "Since we have been trying to protest over the past few days, demanding Rs 13,000 crore owed to the MCDs by the Delhi government, this is a new tactic to divert the attention from that. All budgets are approved by the House — this

(Jain's) claim is not true."

He added that North MCD health professionals and staff are due two months' salary, and other workers of the North MCD are due four months' salary. He said, "The Delhi government owes us Rs 6,355 crore, and the East and South civic bodies are owed Rs 2,985 crore and Rs 4,132 crore — which amounts to more than Rs 13,000 crore."

According to a press release by the Delhi BJP, the L-G assured Gupta that he would get a response from the Delhi government on the matter.

HC seeks Delhi govt reply on plea challenging RT-PCR price cap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE DELHI High Court Friday sought a reply from the Delhi government on a petition challenging the price cap of Rs 800 on RT-PCR tests by private labs in the national capital, even as the Delhi government clarified that its order does not extend to cartridge-based CBNAAT and TrueNat methods.

While issuing notice to the government for February 25, Justice Navin Chawla asked the state to respond to the argument of Association of Practising Pathologists that the price fixed by the authorities is unreasonable.

While the petitioner also argued that the state is not making timely payment of the bills, the court declined to entertain the prayer regarding processing of payments of private labs for the Covid-19 tests done by them

for the government.

The association in the petition argued that the continuance of the "unreasonable price cap" would force the labs to compromise the quality of kits and testing standards and such action would be counter-productive in the fight against Covid-19.

It has also said that while charges have been capped for the RT-PCR tests, the government has not capped the charges for testing kits, PPE kits and other equipment sold by manufacturers at variable prices.

"The impugned order has been passed as a populist measure to propagate itself as common man's government whereas on a careful and closer examination, it is clear that the said measure is actually anti-common man and infringes the sacrosanct and fundamental right of every patient to avail the best medical services avail-

able, both in terms of quality and faster turnaround time," the plea contends.

It has also argued that the government order does not provide any reason for such drastic lowering of charges from Rs 2,400 to Rs 800 and the same has been done without any consultation with the stakeholders. "By capping the charges for the samples collected even by the labs themselves, the government has ensured that private labs do not earn a single penny in any Covid-19 tests and rather invest from their pockets and drain all their finances," it states further.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Delhi recorded 2,385 new Covid-19 cases and 60 fatalities, taking the total number of cases to 6,03,535 and the death toll to 9,934.

A total of 71,679 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours as the positivity rate reached 3.33%.

Mufti raises concern on Jamia online exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

AMPLIFYING CONCERNS of students, former chief minister of J&K and chief of Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti Friday said Jamia Millia Islamia's decision to conduct 'proctored online exams', demanding students to arrange for laptops and internet connection, was "deeply problematic" for students from Kashmir.

In its guidelines Thursday, the Controller of Exams Nazim Hussain Jafri said students will need to make arrangements for laptop or computer, and ensure "uninterrupted power and good internet connectivity". The guidelines add that students would be responsible for "any lapses" on this front.

"Jamia University's decision to hold exams in proctored online mode which requires laptops & high speed data for 3 hours is



Mehbooba Mufti

deeply problematic for students hailing from J&K. Request them to look for alternatives so that these bright minds don't suffer," Mufti tweeted Friday.

Sometime later, however, she tweeted, "Spoke to Jaffrey sahab. He assured to make necessary changes & suggested that students unable to take these exams email @mjmu_official."

Jafri said he had told Mufti and students to write to him. "We will take what they have said into consideration," he said.

Riot-accused says not given food in jail

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday sought the reply of the Mandoli Jail authorities after allegations were made by a man, accused in the northeast Delhi riots, that he was not given food and the police were threatening him to enter into a compromise over a complaint. The court also asked jail officials whether he can be shifted to another jail.

The accused, Tanveer Malik, had alleged that he was assaulted on December 8 and was not taken to the hospital for medical examination. Jail authorities replied that he was taken to a hospital and was given treatment.

During Friday's hearing, Tanveer further alleged that he has not been given any food since Thursday and added that officials have been threatening him to enter a compromise. The court directed the Jail Superintendent to conduct an inquiry and asked to check if the inmate can be transferred to another jail. **ENS**

7 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OPEN SUGGESTION

BJP GENERAL secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh has in the past left his followers amused with some of his tweets. But on Friday, he surprised many with his directions to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on social media. Santhosh tweeted that the minister "should initiate an exercise of documenting all small, big clinical experiments in and around Covid 19 related ICUs & wards". Pointing out that pulmonologists, physicians, diabetes and other experts will have a wealth of knowledge, he said the unpredictability of the diseases would make the knowledge more valuable. "These documents will be India's contribution to humanity at large. The documentation should be open sourced, tech driven, unbiased, duly monitored to weed out repetitions & unsubstantiated claims," he said in a series of tweets. Although the suggestion is positive, many in the party wondered why the general secretary was doing it on his Twitter handle.

FLOATING IDEAS

NCP CHIEF Sharad Pawar on Friday dismissed as "false news" media reports that he may take over the leadership of UPA alliance from Congress president Sonia Gandhi. This came a day after the Congress denied any such development. While laughing off the reports, some Congress leaders, however, did suggest that Pawar should be made convener of the opposition alliance since he has the political heft to effectively coordinate with leaders of opposition parties, which used to be Ahmed Patel's forte. But the Congress leaders were unsure if Pawar would accept to work as convener of the alliance headed by Gandhi.

KOCHI CALLING

ON THE 5th anniversary of the Paris agreement on Saturday, French Ambassador Emmanuel Lenain, German Ambassador Walter Lindner and the Ambassador of the EU to India Ugo Astuto will visit Kochi. During their visit, the three envoys will see Kochi's low carbon transport network. They will board the water metro financed by a German investment bank and visit the Cochin Shipyard, where the construction of a 100-seat boat is underway, and will ride e-buses and e-rickshaws. They will also visit the Kochi Metro, which has received both financial as well as technical support from France, Germany and the EU.

PM says inspired by poet Bharati's vision for women empowerment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 11

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday hailed Tamil poet-writer Subramania Bharati on his birth anniversary, saying his government is inspired by his vision for women empowerment.

Modi was addressing the International Bharati Festival 2020, virtually organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of the poet. Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and was also present.

Bharati "believed in a healthy mix between the ancient and the modern" and "he saw wisdom in staying connected with our roots as well as looking towards the future", the Prime Minister said. "He (Bharati) sang songs of the greatness of ancient India, the great-



PM Modi on Friday

ness of the Vedas and Upanishads, our culture, tradition and our glorious past. But at the same time, he also warned us that simply living in the past glory is not enough. We need to develop a scientific temper, a spirit of enquiry and march towards progress."

He said the poet's definition of progress had a central role for women. "Mahakavi Bharati wrote women should walk with their head held high, looking people in the eye. We are inspired by this vision and are working to ensure women-led empowerment," Modi said, listing out a number of his government's projects meant for women empowerment.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

INDIA HAS not caused the climate change crisis and, unlike developed nations, it is meeting its obligations under the Paris Climate Accord, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said Friday.

Speaking on the eve of the Climate Ambition Summit, which will mark five years of the Paris agreement, Javadekar said that historically, the developed nations have been the highest carbon emitters and, thus, were responsible for global warming.

The Climate Action Summit will be hosted jointly by the UK COP26 Presidency along with the UN and France, in partnership with Italy and Chile. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other leaders, will address the



Javadekar on Friday

summit via a video message. A day ahead of the meet, Javadekar said: "Historically it's the developed countries that have been major contributors to carbon emissions with the United States with the highest historical emissions at 25 per cent, followed by the EU at 22 per cent and China at 13 per cent. Historically India has a low carbon emission contribution of only 3 per cent. Even presently, our carbon emissions remain restricted at 6.8 per cent of global emissions and the per capita emissions is only 1.9 tonnes per capita. Thus, our historic, as well as present contribution to green-

'Strengthen APMC, new laws our ruin': BKU faction moves SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

CONTENDING THAT the new farm laws would "lead to corporatisation of the entire agriculture market" and "prices can be driven up or down" by corporates, the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) faction has approached the Supreme Court saying what's needed is "strengthening the existing APMC system by infusing more capital, and effective management of minimum support price".

In an application seeking the top court's permission to implement in pending writ petitions on the matter, BKU (Bhanu) president Bhanu Pratap Singh

said the new laws are "unconstitutional, anti-farmer" and will "dismantle" the APMC system which ensures fair prices for farm products.

A clutch of petitions challenging the new farm laws are already before the Supreme Court — the petitioners include RJD MP Manoj Jha and DMK MP Tiruchi Siva and some residents of Chhattisgarh. On October 12, the Supreme Court had issued notice to the Centre on these petitions.

Describing the new laws as an "attack" on "the agriculture fabric of the nation", Bhanu Pratap Singh said the "farmers are very much scared" since the "illegal and arbitrary" Acts will "pave the way for cartelisation

and commercialisation of agricultural produces and if allow(ed) to stand, we are going to completely ruin our country as the corporates can, with one stroke, export our agricultural produce without any regulation, and (this) may even result in famines".

He said "these laws were passed without having adequate discussion" and their "implementation in ... current form will spell disaster for (the) farming community by opening a parallel market" which will be "unregulated" and will result in "exploitation of the Indian farmers".

The application, filed through Advocate A P Singh, stated that "without the

Agriculture Produce Market Committee acting as a protective shield around the farmers, the market would ultimately fall to the corporate greed of multinational companies".

It contended that the farmers, most of whom are illiterate, would not know how to negotiate with a private company, and this would put them in an "unequal bargaining position".

It said the BKU, in a representation, had urged the Prime Minister to constitute a Farmers Commission which alone should decide the price of crops.

The union also wants the government to announce waiver of all bank loans, and payment of outstanding dues on crops within 10 days.

'Ultimately, democracy is about persuasion, dialogue, reaching out'

LAW AND Justice Minister RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD spoke to HARIKISHAN SHARMA and APURVA VISHWANATH on the new farm laws, the protests they have triggered, and the way out of the current impasse.

The protesting farmers have rejected the government's proposal to amend certain provisions in the new agricultural laws. What is the way forward?

The Congress in its 2019 election manifesto promised to repeal the APMC Act. Even before that, the Congress-led UPA government was discussing reforms in the agriculture market. The Planning Commission recommended in 2011 itself a need to amend the APMC Act. Who was the Chairman of the Planning Commission? Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh... The 2003 Model (APMC) Act came when Mr (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee was in power. For 14 years they were promoting the need to deregulate this sector, facilitate trade, and liberalise the market, the mandi.

This consultative process is very important... The high-power committee of the NITI Aayog, which included Chief Ministers Amarinder Singh, (then CM) Kamal Nath, Naveen Patnaik, Manohar Lal Khattar and Yogi Adityanath, emphasised the need to accelerate the food processing sector, draw more investment in agriculture... (and) stressed upon amendment in the APMC and Essential Commodities Act. Therefore, there has been almost a bipartisan consensus for close to 20 years — liberalise the APMC Act; open trade for farmers; give choices to farmers; and bring in private investment...

In an interview in 2005, then Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar was asked when he saw the APMC Act being abolished. Pawar answered, "It will take six months maximum... Until and unless you are ready to amend the market Act and allow the private sector in this area, there will



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
UNION MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

not be any financial support from the government of India to states." He went to this extent.

The UPA had many components — the Congress, SP, RJD, CPI, CPM, TDP, Mamata di (Banerjee)... Therefore, the first issue is that the real interests of farmers must be rescued from the political interests of Opposition parties.

The new laws require disputes to be routed through officials like sub-divisional magistrates. Was it a proposal from the Law Ministry?

I don't see any problem. There are so many laws where the district administration is involved.

But the government has now offered to make a change in this provision...

(It's) just to enable a congenial atmosphere to talk... How is this (emerging), that 'no talk, unless you repeal'. The whole thing started with MSP, an assurance on that, from the dharna in Punjab... It's now repeal the laws.

What is the way out?

Democracy is ultimately dialogue. Democracy is ultimately persuasion. Democracy is ultimately reaching out. The Prime Minister very beautifully put it yesterday (Thursday) in a different context — *kuchh kahiye, kuchh suniye* (speak and listen). This *kahiye, suniye* is going on for the last 20 years.

Some of the farmers' concerns had been raised by the Opposition in Parliament. Why didn't the government send the Bills to standing committees?

Was scrutiny done or not?... The finest minds, from Dr (M.S) Swaminathan and the Planning Commission, to Manmohan Singh, the economist Prime Minister, and Sharad Pawar, the farmers' interest protector, to so many CMs. Did they elaborately discuss or not?

Why was the government in a hurry to pass these laws in the middle of a pandemic?

Should the country stop during a pandemic?

The last Modi government had backtracked over an ordinance in the Land Acquisition Act, 2013. Why can't the government repeal the farm laws?

The PM took the position (then) that instead of the Central government coming with a central law, it was advisable to leave acquisition to the discretion of states. Many states took that position... (In this case), the reform is part of the overall process of empowering farmers... Where is the denial of the rights of states?

Will the government take steps to amend the farm laws?

The Agriculture Minister has appealed to the farmers to come and discuss... Our hope is that more and more persuasion will make them realise that there is light at the end of the tunnel and ultimately it (the change) is in their interest.

house gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century.

Javadekar said that besides India, only Bhutan, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Morocco and Gambia were complying with the accord.

Currently, China has the highest greenhouse gas emissions (30 per cent) while the US contributes 13.5 per cent and the EU 8.7 per cent.

"Critically insufficient" countries with a 4 degrees Celsius increase include US, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Ukraine. Other "insufficient countries" include China, South Korea and Japan.

The minister said India's Nationally Determined Contributions lays down eight targets for 2021-2030 which include reduction of emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35% by 2030 over 2005 levels.

No-confidence motion: Hooda asks Governor to convene House

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11

STATING THAT he intends to move a no-confidence motion against the BJP-JJP government in Haryana, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has written to Governor

SN Arya requesting him to convene an "emergent" session of the Vidhan Sabha.

"I will move the no-confidence motion on very first day of the session. If the government is ready (with numbers), it must agree to the floor test," Hooda said.

Hooda, also the Leader of Opposition in Haryana Assembly, said he was yet to hear back from the Governor. "Several JJP MLAs are vociferously criticising the government and are standing in support of the farmers," he said.

Rly alert to zone offices: Farmers' unions united, stir may intensify

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

In view of the palpable aggressive posturing of farmer leaders on their core demands, expression of solidarity from various sections of society, and further intensification of protests in the coming days, farmers and their supporters... may attempt to resort to road and rail blockades.

Protesting farmer unions are united and emboldened by the claimed success of their "Bharat Bandh", political support from different political parties, non-farming organisations, Left pressure groups and others. However, they had been making conscious efforts to keep their agitations peaceful.

Protesting farmers' unions were resolute to intensify their stir if their core demands were not considered through resumption of talks; a prolonged agitation may give opportunities to other non-farming entities to get associated with protest.

THESE ARE the messages sent by the Railway Ministry on Friday in a confidential letter to

KARNATAKA CATTLE ANTI-SLAUGHTER BILL

After roadblock in Council, govt plans Ordinance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 11



BS Yediyurappa

THE BJP government in Karnataka may promulgate an Ordinance to bring the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, 2020 into force after the legislation, which was cleared by the assembly on Wednesday, hit a roadblock in the legislative council on Thursday.

The government had deferred tabling the Bill amid apprehensions that it may be defeated or referred to a select committee on the demand of a combined opposition. It sought to table the Bill on Friday but council

Chairman Prathapchandra Shetty adjourned the winter session Thursday evening itself, as decided in legislative business advisory committee meetings held earlier.

"We plan to bring an Ordinance for the cattle slaughter Bill since the Chairman of the council did not cooperate yesterday," Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Friday after his family conducted a cow puja at his official residence to celebrate the passage of the Bill in the assembly.

Yediyurappa also said that BJP members of the council would approach the Governor to complain against Chairman Shetty against whom a no-confidence motion was moved by the ruling party ahead of the winter session but was not taken up. "We have decided to hold a session of the Council next week and have requested the Governor to intervene since the Chairman should not have adjourned the session," Yediyurappa said.

A delegation led by BJP leader in the legislative council, Kota Srinivas Poojary, met the

Governor on Friday to complain against the Chairman.

The BJP deferred tabling of the Bill in the council following apprehensions that it may get defeated by the combined opposition of the Congress and JD(S), who together have 42 members as compared to the ruling party's 31 members in the 75-member upper house. While the Congress has 28 members, the JD(S) has 14.

The Congress and JD(S) have opposed the Bill on the grounds that it does not take into consideration the economics of cattle rearing while imposing a blanket ban on slaughter.

"The BJP does not consider economic and social consequences but makes decisions aimed at stirring emotions for political gain. This is a sign of a fascist regime. Analysis through a social and economic perspective will reveal the pain it will cause people," Congress leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday.

"The BJP made no effort to study the issue and its socio-economic consequences before creating the Bill," he said.

A small farmer and his family earning around Rs 72,000 a year will have to set aside Rs 36,500 per year to look after unproductive cattle if the new law comes into force, he said, quoting NSSO data. KPCC president D K Shivakumar said, "BJP leaders must buy cattle from farmers when the cattle grow old and must look after them in their homes and fields."

Yediyurappa said the state would create gaushalas in all districts to look after aging cows once the Bill becomes a law.

India didn't cause climate change: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

INDIA HAS not caused the climate change crisis and, unlike developed nations, it is meeting its obligations under the Paris Climate Accord, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said Friday.

Speaking on the eve of the Climate Ambition Summit, which will mark five years of the Paris agreement, Javadekar said that historically, the developed nations have been the highest carbon emitters and, thus, were responsible for global warming.

The Climate Action Summit will be hosted jointly by the UK COP26 Presidency along with the UN and France, in partnership with Italy and Chile. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other leaders, will address the



Javadekar on Friday

summit via a video message. A day ahead of the meet, Javadekar said: "Historically it's the developed countries that have been major contributors to carbon emissions with the United States with the highest historical emissions at 25 per cent, followed by the EU at 22 per cent and China at 13 per cent. Historically India has a low carbon emission contribution of only 3 per cent. Even presently, our carbon emissions remain restricted at 6.8 per cent of global emissions and the per capita emissions is only 1.9 tonnes per capita. Thus, our historic, as well as present contribution to green-

Reduction in India's emissions

A UN report released earlier this year stated that India's per capita emissions are actually 60% lower than the global average. Also, emissions in the country grew 1.4% in 2019, much lower than its average of 3.3% per year over the last decade, the Emissions Gap Report said. The Environment Ministry says several measures including the switch to BS VI and the increase in the capacity of renewable and solar energy, assisted in cutting CO₂ emissions by 164 million kg.

house gas emissions, is low. Despite the fact that India has not been the reason for climate change, we have responsibly addressed the issue and have taken strong measures to curb our carbon emissions and to meet goals set by the Paris Agreement."

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international

treaty on climate change and was adopted by 196 countries at COP21 in Paris in December 2015 with a goal to limit global warming to well below 2° Celsius, and preferably limit it to 1.5° Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of green-

BRIEFLY



Lalu Prasad

JHARKHAND HC defers Lalu bail hearing by six weeks

Ranchi: The Jharkhand High Court on Friday deferred RJD chief Lalu Prasad's bail plea hearing in a fodder scam case by six weeks, in keeping with the request of his lawyer. The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of over Rs 3.13 crore from Dumka treasury, when Prasad was the chief minister of undivided Bihar. Devarshi Mandal, Prasad's counsel, said he needed six weeks to respond to a supplementary affidavit filed by the CBI on Thursday, and collate verified documents on the RJD chief's judicial custody. The CBI counsel, too, agreed to the proposal. **PTI**

J&K

Civilian hurt in militant attack in Pulwama: Cops

Srinagar: A civilian was injured after he was fired upon by suspected militants in the Wasura area of the Pulwama district on Friday, J&K police said. A statement from the police identified the injured civilian as Mushtaq Ahmad Dar. He was taken to a nearby hospital after the attack, police said. "Preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists had fired upon on civilian at Wasura in Pulwama. The injured civilian has been evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment," the statement said, adding that they were carrying out searches in the area to look for the culprits. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Actor Sanjiana Galrani gets bail in drugs case

Bengaluru: Kannada film actor Sanjiana Galrani was on Friday granted bail by the Karnataka High Court in a drug case, over three months after her arrest. Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar allowed her plea with a direction to furnish a personal bond of Rs three lakh with two sureties. She was arrested on September 8 by the Central Crime Branch, probing drug abuse in the Kannada film industry, on charges of possessing and supplying narcotics and later remanded to judicial custody. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA

Remo D'Souza in hospital after heart attack

Mumbai: Filmmaker-choreographer Remo D'Souza was admitted to a hospital here on Friday after he suffered a heart attack. According to sources close to the family, the 46-year-old director is in the Intensive Care Unit of the Kokilaben hospital. "He had a heart attack. There was a blockage. For now, doctors have done angiography and he is currently in the ICU," sources told PTI. "He's stable now and under observation," sources added. D'Souza is one of the leading choreographers working in Bollywood. **PTI**



DOCTORS PROTEST

Doctors protested in Thane on Friday, joining a protest call by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) against the Centre's move to allow post-graduate Ayurveda practitioners to be trained to perform surgical procedures. In a statement, the IMA said a large number of doctors at various hospitals across the country responded to the call and withdrew services, which affected patients. Deepak Joshi

Kerala HC allows minor rape victim to abort 21-week pregnancy

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 11

THE KERALA High Court on Friday allowed the medical termination of 21-week pregnancy of a minor rape victim. A bench of Justice P V Asha gave the direction on a plea filed by the mother of the 14-year-old girl.

"If the child is born alive, despite the attempts at medical termination of the pregnancy, the doctors shall ensure that everything, which is reasonably possible and feasible in the circumstances and in contemplation of the law prescribed for the purpose, is offered to such child so that he/she develops into a healthy child," the judge said.

The mother had approached the court pointing out that the girl is not mentally prepared to accept the pregnancy and that there is high risk of obstetric complications in the event of continuation of her pregnancy as she had been subjected to sexual assault.

The mother had approached the court saying the girl is not mentally prepared to accept the pregnancy

When the matter came up before the court on December 9, the court ordered the government medical college, Kannur, to form a medical board, including a psychiatrist. The board was asked to look into various aspects of the issue, including considering the advanced stage of pregnancy, the risks involved, and the medical process best suited to terminate the pregnancy and the possibility of the child being born alive in the process.

The medical board in its report observed, "We may have to resort to surgical methods which involves anaesthesia and surgical risks. There is a possibility that the child may be born alive, however the chances of survival is remote."

3 more infants die at Kota hospital, Oppn hits out

Jaipur/Kota: Three more newborns died at the state-run JK Lon Hospital in Kota on Friday, bringing the number of such fatalities to 12 in the last two days at the facility, officials said.

Nine newborns, all of them between one and four days old, died at the hospital on Thursday, a year after the same facility hit national headlines over deaths of an unusual number of infants.

On Friday, three more newborns died at the hospital, said its Superintendent Suresh Chand Dulara.

Kota-Bundi MP and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla directed authorities to improve the condition of the hospital.

Dulara said a newly constructed 12-bed NICU level-3 ward was made operational on Friday with 10 nursing staff.

Meanwhile, the government has constituted a four-member probe committee, said officials on Friday.

The opposition BJP has slammed the state government over the deaths, with deputy leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore terming the incident as a 'gross negligence' of the health department. **ENS & PTI**

Dumka: Woman says at least 10 people raped her

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, DECEMBER 11

THE 35-YEAR-OLD woman, who was gangraped on Tuesday night in Jharkhand's Dumka district, is learnt to have said in her statement to a magistrate that at least 10 people raped her.

She has also alleged that one of the accused sexually assaulted her a month ago during an altercation, it is learnt. The police said one accused has been arrested.

Jharkhand DGP M V Rao said Thursday, "Investigation is on. It will not be appropriate to say how many accused were involved."

The woman has told police that the incident took place a few kilometres away from Dumka town when she was returning from a weekly market with her husband. "One of the accused shoved a towel into my mouth. I was threatened that if I screamed, I would be murdered. They

LAC standoff result of China's actions: India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

INDIA ON Friday blamed China for the military standoff in eastern Ladakh, insisting that this was a result of the actions by the neighbouring country to effect a "unilateral change" in the status along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The assertion by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Anurag Srivastava, came a day after the Chinese foreign ministry again held India responsible for the border situation in eastern Ladakh.

Referring to China's comments that it "strictly" observes bilateral agreements and is committed to resolving the border issue through dialogue, Srivastava said New Delhi expects Beijing to match its words with actions.

He also rejected China's claim that it had to cancel a joint launch of a commemorative stamp with India as New Delhi did not give its feedback on the matter within the agreed time-frame.

"Our position has been very clear... The situation that we have seen since the last six months has been a result of the actions of the Chinese side, which has sought to

effect a unilateral change in status along the LAC in eastern Ladakh," Srivastava said at a media briefing. He was replying to a question on China again blaming India for the border standoff.

"These actions are in violation of the bilateral agreements and protocol on ensuring peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the India-China border areas," he said.

On Thursday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson blamed India again for the border standoff while reacting to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's comments that bilateral ties have been "very significantly damaged" following violation of various border pacts by China and that it has given India "five differing explanations" for its actions.

"We have taken note of the Chinese side's statement that it observes 'strictly' the agreements between the two sides and is committed to resolving the border issue through dialogue and safeguarding peace and tranquillity... We expect that the Chinese side will match its words with actions," Srivastava said.

The armies of India and China are locked in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since early May. Both sides have held multiple

rounds of military and diplomatic talks. However, no breakthrough has been achieved yet. "It is our expectation that the further discussions will help both sides to achieve an agreement on a mutually acceptable solution for ensuring complete disengagement in all friction points along the LAC in the Western sector," he said.

He said the core issue remains that both sides need to strictly follow the various bilateral agreements and protocols in their entirety, including the 1993 and 1996 agreements on maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the LAC.

Asked about China's comments that it had to cancel the joint launch of the commemorative stamp with India to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties, Srivastava said, "Joint release of commemorative stamps... was one of the activities agreed with the Chinese side last year. However, there had been no discussion on any launch date."

"We have also seen the Chinese embassy's tweet suggesting this event was cancelled on account of no feedback given by the Indian side before the launch time agreed by both - this is factually incorrect," he said.

Agreement reached on Shahtoot dam, pact to be signed soon: MEA

Hits back at Pakistan over disinformation accusations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

INDIA AND Afghanistan are likely to sign an agreement on building the Shahtoot dam soon, the government said on Friday.

Responding to a question on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's announcement at the Geneva Donors Conference recently that India will be constructing the Shahtoot Dam, MEA's official spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the minister had made the announcement that India and Afghanistan have reached an agreement on the dam. The agreement is expected to be signed shortly, he added.

When asked when would the

Nepalese foreign minister visit India, Srivastava said he is expected to be in India shortly for the next joint commission meeting, but the dates for it are yet to be worked out.

New Delhi also slammed Pakistan over its accusations about spreading disinformation.

Responding to questions on Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan quoting an EU disinformation lab report to accuse India of subversive activities, the MEA spokesperson said that as a responsible democracy, India does not practice disinformation campaigns. "In fact, if you are looking at disinformation, the best example is the country next door which is circulating fictional and fabricated dossiers and purveys a regular stream of fake news," he said.

Disinformation is practised particularly by those who have records to hide such as sheltering international wanted terrorists including Osama bin Laden, and seek unsuccessfully to cover up their own tracks such as on the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Srivastava said, hitting out at Pakistan.

An investigation by EU DisinfoLab this week has found that several defunct organisations were resurrected and used alongside at least 750 fake media outlets in a vast 15-year campaign to serve Indian interests. The network was designed primarily to "discredit Pakistan internationally" and influence decision-making at the UN Human Rights Council and European Parliament, the report said.

Railways to conduct tests from Dec 15 to fill 1.4 lakh posts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE INDIAN Railways will conduct computer-based tests to fill 1.4 lakh posts after observing all Covid-related protocols, including minimum travel time to centres for the 2.44 crore candidates and mandatory use of face masks, the Railway Ministry said Friday.

The first round of the exams will be held from December 15 to December 18. The next phase will be held tentatively from December 28 till March 2021, and the third round will be till the end of June 2021, an official statement said. "While it is not possible for candidates to provide a negative certificate for the disease, they will have to provide a declaration that they are fit to sit for the exam and are not Covid-positive. The pro forma will be provided to the candidates," Anand S Khati, Director General, Human Resources, Railway Board, said.

"On coming to the centre, a candidate will be tested with a thermo gun. If the temperature is beyond the mandated limit, the candidate's exam will be rescheduled... Candidates have largely been accommodated either within their states or at centres that require minimum travel," Khati said.

Links for downloading the e-call letter will be made live four days prior to the exam date on the official websites of all Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs).

Khati said the Railways would be running special exam trains to cater to the travel requirements, wherever required and feasible.

Chief secretaries of state governments concerned have also been requested to extend support, the statement added.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID VIRE

284 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 97,96,769 **ACTIVE CASES: 3,63,749**
DEATHS: 1,42,186
TESTS: 15,16,32,223 **RECOVERIES: 92,90,834**

DEC 10	CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
	29,398	414	37,528	8,72,497


STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES

	ACTIVE CASES	RISE IN LAST WEEK
Uttarakhand	6,675	934
Chhattisgarh	19,346	46
Assam	3,519	11

STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING

	ACTIVE CASES	DECLINE IN LAST WEEK
Maharashtra	71,910	13,625
Haryana	2,456	13,060
Delhi	18,753	10,367

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES

	ON DEC 10	TOTAL
Kerala	4,470	6,54,041
Maharashtra	3,824	18,68,172
West Bengal	2,801	5,13,752

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS

	ON DEC 10	TOTAL
Maharashtra	72	49,063
Delhi	61	9,874
West Bengal	49	8,916

Data as on December 10, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments. Often, the numbers released every day contain data from previous days as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive.

24% of Punjab infected by Covid, 96% asymptomatic: serosurvey

Chandigarh: Just over 24 per cent of Punjab's population has been infected by Covid-19 and nearly 96 per cent of them are asymptomatic cases, a second serosurvey conducted in 12 districts of the state has found.

The survey, involving a sample of 4,678 people, was conducted among randomly se-

Roshni Act: J&K HC adjourns hearing in admin review plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 11

THE JAMMU and Kashmir High Court on Friday adjourned to December 16 the hearing in the UT administration's review petition against the court's October 9 judgment declaring the Roshni Act "void ab initio", cancelling land transfers done under the law and directing a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the land transfers.

As the matter came up before the court, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Sanjay Dhar ordered the court's registry to list all the review petitions and applications filed up to December 15 for December 16 so that all the matters are heard together.

Sheikh Shakeel, counsel for Prof S K Bhalla, who originally challenged encroachment on state and forest land by influential people, said the CBI filed its status report in the sealed cover before the court which perused it. Advocate Ankur Sharma, who had challenged constitutional validity of the Act and sought handing over all the cases of irregularities to the CBI, said, "Desperate, insincere attempts of the government in getting the matter decided today bore no fruits."

Parra to remain in NIA custody for 9 more days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 11

SPECIAL JUDGE for NIA cases Suneet Gupta on Friday extended the remand of PDP youth wing leader Waheed Parra in NIA custody for nine more days.

This followed a request by the NIA, which sought the extension as his questioning was in progress. On November 27, the court had remanded Parra in NIA custody for 15 days.

Parra was arrested by the NIA on November 25, three days after he filed his nomination paper for the DDC elections from Pulwama in South Kashmir. According to the NIA, his name surfaced during investigations in connection with the Naveed Babu-Davinder Singh case.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during a virtual conference Friday. PTI

of the past two decades. "We agree that the restoration of peace in Afghanistan requires a process that itself is led, owned and controlled by Afghanistan," he said.

During the talks, Modi and Mirziyoyev strongly condemned terrorism and reaffirmed determination of their countries to combat it by "destroying" safe-

UP cabinet clears proposal for Rs 250-cr incentives for Samsung's Noida unit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 11

THE UTTAR Pradesh Cabinet on Friday cleared a proposal to give Rs 250-crore incentives to Samsung Display Noida Private Ltd for a manufacturing unit for mobile phones and IT display products.

The government said it would be the South Korean multinational's "first high-tech" project in India after relocating from China, and India

will become the third country in the world to have such a unit. As per the UP Electronics Manufacturing Policy, 2017, the company would get stamp duty exemption worth Rs 250 crore in transfer of land, said a government spokesperson.

Besides, the company will receive Rs 460 crore as a financial incentive under the Central government's "Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing Electronic Components and Semiconductors" (SPECS).

The spokesperson said

Samsung Display Noida Private Ltd intends to invest Rs 4,825 crore in the Noida unit, and with \$2.7 billion of exports in the last financial year, it is UP's largest exporter. According to the state government, the company has set an export target of \$50 billion in the next five years. The government said the project will establish UP as an export hub and help the state receive more foreign direct investment (FDI).

In another decision, the state Cabinet also approved a proposal to expand the Ayodhya

Development Region (ADR) by including another 343 revenue villages in Ayodhya, Gonda and Basti districts. ADR comprises the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, the Nagar Panchayat of Bhagrasa and the Nawabganj Nagar Palika of Gonda.

The Cabinet also cleared a Central government's proposal for establishing a vocational training centre of CIEPET in Ayodhya and making available free Secondary Education Department's 10 acres of land to the MSME department.

Rakul Preet Singh plea against news channels: HC seeks status report from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE DELHI High Court on Friday sought a fresh status report from the Centre after it was told the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) has taken action with regard to the complaints filed by actor Rakul Preet Singh against various news channels, which allegedly broadcasted "fake reports" about her purported role in the drugs case against actor Rhea Chakraborty and others.

The Centre earlier treated her

petition as a representation but forwarded it to NBSA for action. On Thursday, Singh's counsel Aman Hingorani submitted NBSA is a self-regulatory body but ultimately, the statutory framework puts the obligation on the Centre to take action. The NBSA has taken action against broadcaster Zee, and the rest have been let off with a warning, he submitted.

"There is a finding that there was a slander campaign against me," Hingorani submitted before the court, adding it was for the Centre to now inform what action it was taking after receiving the NBSA report.

Following the submission, the court orally asked Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma to file a status report regarding the action being taken by Centre, before the next date of hearing. However, Sharma submitted that he would do so but asked that the aspect of taking action may be excluded from the order.

"If I don't give you that direction, then no one will do it also. no one will look into it," observed the court. The case was adjourned for next hearing to March 4.

TRP case: Republic TV COO granted anticipatory bail

Mumbai: A sessions court granted anticipatory bail to the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Republic TV in the TRP case. Priya Mukharjee was allowed pre-arrest bail by the court on Friday with directions including that she must give attendance before the Crime Intelligence Unit once a week. Other conditions include she must not tamper with evidence including witnesses.

Mukharjee had submitted in her application that she had cooperated with the probe and said that the channel was not named in the FIR. **ENS**

HC stays CIC order directing IAF to furnish details of PM entourage on his foreign trips

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE DELHI High Court Friday stayed a Central Information Commission (CIC) order directing the Indian Air Force (IAF) to disclose under RTI Act the details regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's entourage accompanying him on his foreign visits.

The CIC, in a July 8 order, had directed the Central Public Information Officer of Air Headquarters, IAF to provide certified copies of available and relevant SFR-II (Special Flight Returns - Part II, which contains the flight manifest) to applicant Commodore Lokesh K Batra (ret'd) "after severing the names and other relevant identifying particulars of the security/SPG personnel figuring therein".

The IAF had earlier this week moved the High Court against the order, citing a potential threat to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

On Friday, Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to Batra and asked him to file a reply within four weeks. "There shall be a stay on the operation

of the impugned order till further orders," said the court.

The court earlier observed that passengers may also include officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting or even journalists. "I can understand you don't give him the security details but you can always give him the details that... there were 50 passengers along with the Prime Minister and maybe one or two you could disclose or you could not disclose," it added.

However, the court also said that the CPIO will be able to disclose only the number of passengers from SFR-II.

It also said it was the job of the CIC to be "very clear" about what information can be exempted from disclosure, after Batra's counsel argued that there are private persons and other people not connected to the security apparatus who accompany the Prime Minister.

"According to me, SPG is already exempted there... names etc have gone. It's only then the number," Justice Chawla said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

THE REVERED MASS LEADER...

Dr. Manmohan Singh during his time as the Prime Minister used to seek Pawarsaheb's counsel on any important topic or a crisis. Senior circles that were functional in Delhi during that time are privy to the fact that if the Prime Minister wished to give any important messages to the MPs or talk to certain senior leaders about something Pawarsaheb would be the go to person for him.

Praful Patel, MP



Sharad Pawar went to Delhi and assumed the centre-stage of national politics. He strengthened his position as the 'front rung' leader of the Congress party in very little time. He was surely cut off for a Prime Ministerial role however the durbar politics of Delhi put a spanner in the works. This was definitely a personal loss for him however a greater one for the party and the country.

When I first met Sharad Pawar at our Mumbai residence, I was only twelve years old. My father was a legislator in Central Provinces and Berar which formed a part of the 'Madhya Bharat' region before the Samyukta Maharashtra movement. The people elected him again when Vidarbha was made a part of the Maharashtra state. He had very cordial relations with the maker of Modern Maharashtra and the first Chief Minister of the state Yashwantrao Chavan. Vasant Naik who became the Chief Minister after Yashwantrao was a great personal friend as well as an ally in politics. He was also the treasurer of the Congress party's state division. Pawarsaheb had visited our house once with Yashwantrao Chavan in 1967-68. That is the first time when I saw Pawarsaheb.

A few years after my father passed away our family's involvement in politics of the state greatly reduced. However, our bond of mutual liking was re-established in 1978 when he became Chief Minister for the first time. Chedilal Gupta, a leader from our hometown Gondia was a great friend of my father and a minister in Pawarsaheb's 'Pulod' ministry. My father enjoyed good relations with Minister Gupta. Once I went to meet Chief Minister Pawar with Guptaji. When I narrated to him our family's relation with Guptaji he narrated a lot of memories and anecdotes about my father. He also spoke a lot about Gondia. In just one meeting I cultivated a feeling of affection and respect for him. It changed my outlook to look at him. I was not in active politics. However, I continued to be in touch with him.

The 'Pulod' government was dismissed in the 1980. Following the elections Mr. Antulay became the Chief Minister and Pawarsaheb became the leader of the opposition. Since, he was no longer the Chief Minister Pawarsaheb was relatively less occupied. Hence, meeting him more often was easier. We were meeting more often and coming closer to each other. I was not in politics however was quite active in the Bhandara-Gondia region and in touch with everyone. Pawarsaheb observed this and convinced me into entering politics. My political journey started due to him and he encouraged me on many occasions. Pawarsaheb was in Congress(S) in those days and it was only due to late Rajiv Gandhi in 1987 that he entered the Congress party. It was only then that we started working more closely and expeditiously. I was the President of the City Council of Gondia. I was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991. Pawarsaheb also got elected to Lok Sabha during that period and went on to become the country's Defence Minister.

One thing that was responsible for this is the 'engineered revolt' in 1989 in the Maharashtra unit of the Congress party and cabinet. I am calling it an 'engineered revolt' as it was clear that Congress leaders sitting in Delhi like R.K. Dhavan, Mahanlal Fotedar had a role to play in it. It was a part of the usual conspiracy of weakening mass leaders by propelling opponents from within the party, forging trouble and not letting the leader function in a normal fashion. However, due to Pawarsaheb's firm grip over his party colleagues in the legislature the revolt failed and Pawar continued as the Chief

Minister.

During the 1991 Lok Sabha polls campaigning, Rajiv Gandhi was murdered in an unfortunate and a brutal way. The whole country was shattered and shocked including the Congress party and figuratively speaking there was darkness all around us. There was a strong thinking among the workers as well as the leaders of the Congress party that Sharad Pawar should be made the President of the Congress party. However, the 'durbar' coterie in Delhi was once again opposed to the idea of a strong leader and hence they hatched a plan and made P.V. Narsimha Rao the President of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Actually speaking Narsimha Rao was ill and aging and he had not even contested the Lok Sabha elections. He had made up his mind to retire from politics and had shifted his base from Delhi to Hyderabad. However, Rao was convinced and made President only in a bid to oppose Pawar's candidature.

The election results were out and Congress was very close to a majority. There was a big group in the party that believed that the Prime Ministerial candidate should be a young, dynamic person like Pawar who also had a good grip on the administration. Even the Congress party leadership in various states had the same opinion. However, the scheming coterie in Delhi again united and used or rather misused Sonia Gandhi's name to anoint Narsimha Rao as the Prime Minister. Pawarsaheb was entrusted with the important responsibility as a Defence Minister.

I am a witness to many such conspiracies hatched against Pawarsaheb from Delhi right from the revolt of 1989. I was quite actively involved as his supporter from 1991 and have seen from close quarters as to who played a role in ensuring that Pawarsaheb didn't get the Prime Minister's post.

Narsimha Rao always nursed a certain animosity against Pawarsaheb as his name was considered for the AICC President's as well for the Prime Minister's chair. He always kept on thinking about how one could reduce Pawar's influence in the cabinet and how he could be weakened in the system. The 1992 bomb blasts in Mumbai and the riots were a potent reason to implement his intentions. He wanted to unseat Chief Minister Sudhakarrao Naik. Hence, in a very clever fashion designed a plan to publicly show respect to Pawar and send him to Mumbai to once again become Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The situation was also such that you required someone to take responsibility of Mumbai and Maharashtra. Hence, Pawarsaheb left Delhi immediately and came to Mumbai to take charge of the state of Maharashtra.

In the 1996 Lok Sabha polls, 145 MPs of Congress won the elections. H.D. Devegowda, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mulayamsingh Yadav and the left leaders had agreed to a single point agenda that, 'Sharad Pawar should take the lead and ask Rao to step aside. If this happens, then we are willing to support a government led by the Congress party.' However, Narsimha Rao didn't flinch at all and Congress was forced to support the Devegowda government from outside. I can talk about these developments with conviction as most of them were happening from my house.

Congress party lost an opportunity to form the government and the Devegowda government was formed. In a few days after that the interparty elections for the Congress party took place. In the elections I, Bhupinder Hudda, P.C. Chacko, Girija Vyas and others came together and defeated the panel that was

supported by Narsimha Rao. He had to resign from the Presidency of the Congress party. However, he forwarded the name of Sitarum Kesari to ensure that Pawar was not selected for the President's post. Sitarum Kesari became the President of the Congress party. After eleven months Kesari unilaterally withdrew support to the Devegowda government. All the MPs became extremely restless. Around 125 of them gathered at Pawarsaheb's residence in just two hours. Even the most 'loyal' MPs from the Congress party were also a part of this delegation. There was a unilateral decision taken at the meeting to select Pawarsaheb as the leader of the parliamentary party and request Kesari to step aside from the Congress President's chair. More importantly, while the meeting was on, PM Devegowda himself had send a message requesting a few days more and he will resign on his own accord and support a Congress government under Pawar's leadership. However, looking at the overall condition to avoid a split in the party Pawarsaheb withdrew from the proposal. He killed his ambition and took a softer stand in the interest of the party. Even then Kesari was unwilling to support Devegowda. Finally, the party asked Devegowda to resign and supported Inder Kumar Gujral as the Prime Minister. We were watching in front of us as to how Pawarsaheb once again missed the opportunity to become the Prime Minister of the country.



Further, despite Pawarsaheb being the parliamentary party leader, the party President was creating worries for him. He was purposely taking contrary stands on the parliamentary strategies. The mass leaders in the party couldn't bear to see this and were opposed to it. Finally, it was decided that Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pawarsaheb should go to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and explain the situation to her. Accordingly, both the leaders met Sonia Gandhi and explained the pressing need to become President of the party to further avoid any damage to the party. She was also convinced and this is how in 1998 Sonia Madam for the first time became the Congress President.

Pawarsaheb almost performed a miracle in the 1998 Lok Sabha polls. R.S. Gavai, Jogendra Kavade, Ramdas Athavale and Prakash Ambedkar all four leaders of the Republican Party were elected from constituencies meant for 'Open' candidates. From Maharashtra alone more than 43 Congress MPs were elected however the party performed badly on the national stage. Hence, the Vajpayee government was formed at the centre. The government was formed however it collapsed in only 13 days. It collapsed also due to Pawarsaheb.

ADVERTORIAL

The lone vote due to which the government collapsed belonged to Mayawati. Even Pramod Mahajan who was monitoring the outings on behalf of the party and Vajpayee and Advani had taken that one vote for granted which Pawarsaheb managed to swing in the favour of the Congress party. The government fell and BJP still holds Pawar responsible for what happened during the trust vote. Despite all this Pawarsaheb never got the free hand in the Congress that he deserved. In the later days as the leader of the parliamentary party there were many decisions in the party about which Pawar was kept in the dark. As if it was a mere compulsion that the party had made him the leader of the parliamentary party. The so called leaders in the party left no stone unturned or opportunity unanswered to publicly humiliate and insult him. In the capacity of the parliamentary party leader Pawarsaheb use to take certain positions and used to apprise of his stand to the speaker. However, the party whip P.J. Kurien used to take contrary positions. Even his recommendations of MPs for appointment on parliamentary committees used to be changed without his knowledge. While insults were meted out to him from the 'Delhi Durbar' even his opponents within the Maharashtra state unit of the party were being appointed on important positions. When all this became too much to bear he decided that enough was enough. What followed was the birth of the 'Nationalist Congress Party'.

In politics, in spite of keeping patience one has to unwillingly take harsh and extreme decisions. However the speciality of Pawarsaheb is that he never harbours any personal ill will, animosity or vengeance against any one. Hence, even after NCP got resounding success after our party was launched we could form an alliance with the Congress which is still intact. When in 2001 I had visited Vajpayee to invite him for Pawarsaheb's 61st birthday as the organiser he had spontaneously said, "It would be doing gross injustice to our friendship if I decline to attend Sharadji's birthday. Sharadji has the gift of a great nature. I will definitely attend the function."

Leaders of all the parties had made it a point to come to Mumbai...and how can I describe the response to his 75th birthday celebrations held in Vigyan Bhavan? Even today all the known people in the country remember the scene on the stage. Party leaders of all ideological hues and all the senior leaders in the country had come to felicitate Pawarsaheb. As an organiser I can vouch for the fact that no leader expressed their inability to attend. Everyone spontaneously accepted the invite and came for the programme. Even till date in the parliament right from our respectable Prime Minister to senior leaders of many parties from every nook and corner of the country come to chat with him in a kind and loving fashion. How many leaders in our country enjoy such respect? At least, I don't see any other leader of his stature in the country.

Dr. Manmohan Singh during his time as the Prime Minister used to seek Pawarsaheb's counsel on any important topic or a crisis. Senior circles that were functional in Delhi during that time are privy to the fact that if the Prime Minister wished to give any important messages to the MPs or talk to certain senior leaders about something Pawarsaheb would be the go to person for him.

The period 2004 to 2014, is considered as a golden period for the rural India. Experts will vouch for the fact that it was during this period that the rural economy received a new found fillip during this period. Any farmer or person involved with agriculture mentions this period of 10 years with great gratitude. Agriculture and rural development is like a mission for Pawarsaheb. The powers that be in Delhi have witnessed his styles of how he discusses with experts in the field of Agriculture, takes the senior administrative officers in confidence and brings out the efficiency in them. He is always curious about new things, changes and research in any field and makes it a point to be abreast with it. All of us are surprised to see the kind of efforts that he takes to meet his curiosity even at this age. I think it is this hard work which is the secret of his ever overflowing seamless energy and his desire to work endlessly.

It is our sheer fortune that we have a leader like him. I only pray to God on his 80th birthday to bless him with a long and healthy life which will allow him to work for the country and the society.

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0087/20-21



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CENTRE'S VISTA

PM makes eloquent and soaring case for democracy as he flags off new Parliament project — there was also the sound of a silence

LAYING THE FOUNDATION stone of the new Parliament building on Thursday, the centrepiece of the Central Vista redevelopment project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke eloquently about democracy — a fuller and stronger articulation of the democratic principle and practice than he has made before. He spoke of its ancient rites in India and many successes despite the naysayers and the odds, its living presence as culture, value and samvad (conversation), not just as formal procedure or process. He also spoke about Parliament's role in consecrating democracy by linking past and future, "nootan" and "puratan", new and old. We, the people, together own this Parliament, and we will construct the new one, "hum Bharat ke log, mil kar...". he said. If the old Parliament gave direction to post-Independence India, the new Parliament would embody the aspirations and optimism of Aatmanirbhar India. It was a soaring speech, apt for the momentous occasion. But its very capaciousness also served to draw attention to an absence. Leaders of Opposition parties were missing at the foundation-laying ceremony. And the bhoomi puja rituals, followed by inter-faith prayers, were conducted by the sole figure of the Prime Minister, imprinting his persona on what should have been a more inclusive and encompassing national moment of a multi-religious and diverse country.

As the PM rightly said, the Parliament, old or new, is more than just a building. Its "pran pratishtha", or life force, is infused by the people's representatives, who may differ with each other in their politics, but who participate in a shared ethos of speaking and listening to each other. Surely, for the foundation stone-laying of a new high-tech and modern house for this old institution, all efforts should have been made to encourage and ensure the presence of parties and politicians across the political spectrum. During the pandemic, the Prime Minister has been able to hold quite a few meetings with states and other parties. Surely, it wouldn't have been difficult to avoid the impression of a one-man show. For, in a sense, Thursday's ceremony framed a narrowing of the parliamentary spirit that has been visible for some time now. In too many decisions and moments, it has seemed that the BJP-led government, having won a large mandate not once but twice, is not taking the next step to reach out and draw in the Opposition and civil society in its projects and policies.

The Modi government's argument — that it is the Opposition that has not yet reconciled to its electoral marginalisation and is always looking for an opportunity to bite back — may well be true. But what is also undeniable is this: The government, which has the power and the platform, is not showing the large-heartedness and generosity, or even the democratic humility, to engage those who are less powerful or in a minority. The 'we, the people' that the PM invoked on Thursday is an abstraction that must be constantly imbued with meaning in a democracy, especially by the government, else it becomes a hollow piety. On a historic occasion on Thursday, it fell short of doing that.

POLITICS OF VIOLENCE

West Bengal's politics needs an overhaul — the ruling party must own the responsibility, take the lead

THE ATTACK ON the motorcade of BJP president J P Nadda near Kolkata on Thursday, allegedly by cadres of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), is shocking. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called the incident a "drama" and blamed the BJP for the violence. Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has accused the bureaucracy of ignoring his warning about a potential threat to law and order and warned the chief minister "not to play with fire". The central government has waded into the issue, with the Union Home Ministry asking for a report from the administration. These events are disturbing, especially since political competition is set to intensify ahead of next year's assembly elections.

It is true that the Centre seems to be showing undue interest in matters that fall in the domain of the state government. And that Governor Dhankhar, formerly a BJP leader, has invited the charge of partisanship in the positions he takes on major issues. It is also the case that local BJP leaders such as state chief Dilip Ghosh have conducted polarising public campaigns. None of this, however, takes away from the fact that the primary responsibility of upholding law and order lies with government. As CM, Mamata Banerjee is responsible for keeping the peace in the state and ensuring the right of Opposition parties to organise and campaign. If any outfit crosses the limits of constitutional propriety, the government can take legal recourse and suitable administrative action. Unfortunately, the CM is seen to turn a blind eye to her party leaders and cadres, who are accused of unleashing violence against the Opposition, especially the BJP. In the past, the CPM and Congress, too, have blamed the ruling outfit of attacking their workers. In fact, an unusual number of TMC candidates were elected unopposed in the 2018 panchayat polls because opposition nominees allegedly withdrew from the contest fearing violence. This year, at least two dozen people have died in political clashes.

The TMC did not pioneer the use of violence to achieve political dominance — the Congress and the CPM have a record of suppressing the Opposition voice during their time in office. However, this vicious cycle and template of the capture by the ruling party of all spaces and institutions needs to be broken. A "normal" politics, which allows space for the Opposition as well, is essential in West Bengal. And for this course correction, the ruling party must take the lead and be seen to do so too.

HIS TWINKLING FEET

Like most greats, Paolo Rossi showed that it was possible to rise again from the ashes

FOOTBALL HAS LOST another World Cup hero. Paolo Rossi was no Maradona but the final ledger of the two departed superstars would certainly have some common lines. Rossi, like Maradona, ensured that Italy could always go back to his iconic goals while following the notoriously inconsistent Azzurri. Four years before Maradona single-handedly gifted the World Cup to Argentina, Rossi, in 1982, had six history-changing strikes in three Cup games. This was the reason, Rossi, despite his flaws, enjoyed uncritical reverence in his country.

Two years prior to his World Cup high, Rossi was embroiled in a match-fixing scandal. Repeated pleas of innocence, brought down the three-year ban to two — just in time to be eligible for the World Cup. He faced relentless pressure to not only redeem his name but also justify the shortened ban. Like most greats, he rose from the ashes. During that magical summer of '82, the fall guy would turn into a national treasure. He won the Golden Boot, the Golden Ball and later even the Ballon d'Or.

While Italy will continue to relish each of his goals, the world will always remember him for his hat-trick against that captivating Brazilian Dream Team at the '82 World Cup. For football fans of a certain vintage that result still raises a lump from within. The Tele Santana coached team of ball-players with twinkling feet — remember Socrates, Zico, Eber, Junior, Falcao, Cerezo — would regale the fans with their graceful feints and daring flicks. They were easily the people's choice to win the Cup. But Rossi killed the joga bonito dream. As Socrates would later lament, the result hastened the Europeanisation of Brazilian football. Making Brazil more organised happens to be Rossi's less-celebrated achievement.

Lanka lessons in Kashmir



NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

District Development Council elections in J&K recall an unsuccessful experiment in Sri Lanka four decades ago

THE ONGOING DISTRICT Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu & Kashmir call to mind a similar exercise in Sri Lanka four decades ago, when that country's political leadership tried to stanch Tamil demands for regional political autonomy with almost exactly the same kind of local government for which J&K is voting now.

The parallel is especially striking because Delhi wants Sri Lanka to settle the still unresolved Tamil question through an elevated form of devolution. Specifically, it wants Colombo to implement provincial devolution along Centre-State lines under the provisions of an amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution resulting from the 1987 Indian intervention, at a time that it is downgrading its own devolution in J&K to district level local government, a near replica of what Sri Lanka tried but had to give up under Indian pressure.

Sri Lanka offered DDCs as a solution at a time when the Tamil polity was already radicalised. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had come into existence, and the predominant mainstream Tamil party had started getting sidelined because of its failure to extract any concessions from a centralised Sinhalese-dominated polity. Two agreements on devolution remained unimplemented because of competitive politics between the two main national parties, the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLP).

The Federal Party, the main Tamil political entity, remained hopeful of accommodation with the government, but by 1975, separatism had entered Tamil political language. The Federal Party became the Tamil United Liberation Front. In 1976, in what came to be known as the Vaddukoddai Resolution, the TULF adopted the goal of a separate, sovereign Tamil nation, and also outlined the map of Tamil Eelam. It asked Tamil youth "to throw themselves into the sacred fight for freedom".

Nascent Tamil militancy took that as a green signal. A new, violent Tamil nationalism was born. The TULF fought the 1977 general election on the strength of the Vaddukoddai Resolution, sweeping the parliamentary seats in the north and east, and became the main opposition party in Parliament.

The same election also brought J R Jayewardene (JRJ) to power. He first changed the constitution, centralising political and executive power under an executive presidency

so powerful he would joke that the only thing he could not do was change a man into a woman or vice versa. In 1979, Sri Lanka enacted the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act, put the police and still largely ceremonial military to tackle Tamil militancy. Politically, JRJ offered TULF the DDCs.

It could be just coincidence that the J&K DDC is almost a replica of the 1980 Sri Lanka model. In the Sri Lankan experiment, other than the directly elected members, the district MPs were nominated to the DDC. A cabinet minister from outside the district headed it. He was appointed by the president, and answerable only to him. In Kashmir, the councils will include MPs MLAs, and chairpersons of Block Development Councils falling in the district. The elected members will elect a chairperson of the council. The additional district commissioner, who answers to the Union Home Ministry, will function as its chief executive officer.

Just as is being envisaged for J&K, the DDCs in Sri Lanka were meant to decentralise the work of "development", by drafting annual development plans for the district, and taking up local public works.

The big difference is that the June 1981 DDC elections in Sri Lanka were held in the whole country to show it was not about setting up a separate political system for the Tamil districts.

The TULF, under pressure from the expectations it had created, was divided on the issue of participation in the election, but eventually chose to take part. The LITE called for a boycott. In Jaffna, events in the run-up to voting day on June 4 were an inauspicious augury of what was to come. The candidate of JRJ's UNP was assassinated on May 24. The government responded by flooding Jaffna with police and army. Two policemen were shot dead a week later in contested circumstances.

Policemen and mobs in civilian clothes went on a retaliatory rampage. Shops and homes were ransacked and torched. The home of Jaffna MP V Yogeswaran was burnt down even as men in uniform stood guard around it. The office of a Tamil newspaper was burnt down. On June 1, there was more violence. Jaffna Public Library, home to an invaluable collection of Tamil literature including original documents and manuscripts, was burnt down. The UNP's top two Tamil baiters of that period, Cyril Mathew and Gamini

Dissanayake, who had been dispatched by the party to Jaffna, were named by witnesses as instigators of the violence.

Despite the violence, the turnout was huge in the Tamil districts. People voted to keep the UNP out (the SLP was boycotting) just as in J&K, people have said they are voting to keep the BJP out. In the rest of Sri Lanka, the response was lukewarm. The Sinhalese majority was simply not interested in DDCs.

The DDCs became a reality but they did nothing for Sri Lanka's relations with its Tamil citizens. The experiment bumbled along until the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom brought India into the equation.

Attempts thereafter by JRJ to dress up and re-offer the DDC proposal in talks brokered by India between the government and Tamil parties went nowhere. Sri Lanka had to bury the DDCs. In 1987, under the India-Sri Lanka Agreement, the Sri Lankan parliament adopted the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, with provisions for the creation of provincial councils. This remains the only concession on devolution that the country has made to date. But it failed to implement this in letter and spirit in the Tamil north and east. What followed is well known.

Less than three months ago, on September 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the recently elected Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa held a virtual summit that ended with a joint statement reiterating India's wish for "equality, justice, peace and respect within a united Sri Lanka" for Tamils and specifically, for the implementation of the 13th Amendment.

Around the same time, the Centre was drawing up plans to hold direct elections to the DDC in its own troubled J&K, a year after stripping the state of its special status, bifurcating it into two Union Territories, and bringing it under the direct control of the Union Home ministry. Two senior ministers in the Modi cabinet have the inside track on why the DDC experiment failed to meet Sri Lankan Tamil aspirations, having been closely involved in the Indian intervention at the time.

Call it double irony, or just another coincidence — Sri Lanka now wants to scrap the 13th Amendment and return to its own 40-year-old DDC proposals.

nirupama.subramanian@expressindia.com



KHALED AHMED

TARGET: THE MESSENGER

In Pakistan, the media is intimidated by both state and non-state actors

ON NOVEMBER 9, Pakistan's Supreme Court granted bail to the owner of the country's largest media group, the GEO, after a 10-month-long detention condemned by the rights groups as suppression of the press. The country's not-so-legally-immaculate National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had accused Mir Shakilur Rehman of illegally leasing government land in 1986 and of having ownership rights transferred to himself in 2016 when ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ruling Pakistan.

Normally, it doesn't take that long for NAB to step back and let its inadequately challenged victim go. The courts were reluctant to touch his case till the Supreme Court thought the man had rotted in a NAB cell for too long without being convicted for a crime he was supposed to have committed 34 years ago. The NAB, of course, didn't care; nor did Pakistan. In the World Press Freedom Index for 2020, Pakistan ranked 145 out of 180 countries.

Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf — the last word meaning "justice" — looked the other way as if it actually enjoyed Rehman's maltreatment. Deeper in the state, Rehman's journalists had been roughed up over time, as in the case of Hamid Mir, a popular anchor in Rehman's GEO TV, who was shot at in Karachi in 2014. In 2018, investigative journalist Ahmad Noorani was trailed for miles before being attacked with an iron rod on a busy street in Islamabad.

before being attacked with an iron rod on a busy street in Islamabad.

Then in 2020, Radio Free Europe reported that a prominent Pakistani journalist Matiullah Jan had been abducted in July from Islamabad by several men, only to be released after the kidnappers were satisfied that he had "learned his lesson". In June 2018, a British-Pakistani woman journalist and columnist, Gul Bukhari was abducted for "a few hours" by "unknown personnel" in Pakistan. In February 2020, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) reported that "a Pakistan law enforcement agency" had threatened to slap terrorism charges on one of the country's most prominent government critics, journalist Gul Bukhari. The CPJ said: "The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has asked Gul Bukhari, a columnist and democracy activist, to appear before an inquiry probing online propaganda against the government, national security organisations, and the judiciary."

As if in response, the Imran Khan government urged the British government to take action against Bukhari for using "British soil for her nefarious activities" against Pakistan while abusing "freedom of speech rules and western values". It went further: "Her venomous social media activities promote divisive tendencies and incitement of violence."

TV anchor Hamid Mir's top-rated show,

Capital Talk, is popular among those trying to know the underside of Pakistan's real politics. Declan Walsh, in his book *Nine Lives of Pakistan* (2020), tells us he was shot at in 2014 while going to Karachi: "As Mir was being driven from Karachi Airport, a gunman stepped onto the road. Bullets thudded into the vehicle. Mir dived onto the back seat. As the car zigzagged through the Karachi traffic, Mir speed-dialled his producer. 'They're killing me! They're killing me,' he cried. The car made it to a hospital where Mir was rushed into surgery. He had been shot six times — in the pelvis, bladder, legs, and shoulders."

There are many "parties" working as "non-state actors" who may dislike your reports and come after you. In the interior of the province of Sindh, a journalist can be kidnapped and killed by an offended landlord called "wadaro". In 2011, Saleem Shahzad, a freelance journalist, was brutally murdered. Instead of its mandated six weeks, it took the five-member inquiry commission on his death six months, 23 meetings, and 41 depositions to present its findings. As expected, in its 146-page report, which was forwarded to Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani, the commission said it still didn't know who had killed Shahzad.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan



DECEMBER 12, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDO-SOVIET AMITY SLURRING OVER POSSIBLE divergences on Afghanistan, India and the Soviet Union today came out with a joint declaration voicing their opposition to all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of the countries in South West Asia. The declaration issued at the end of President Leonid Brezhnev's visit to India does not mention Afghanistan but stresses that a negotiated political settlement alone can bring peace to the region. The document stresses on friendship between the two countries and suggests areas of cooperation between the two countries on international affairs including making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

POLICE STRIKE

THE CENTRE HAS made available battalions of the BSF to Bihar following the strike by the state's police officers against the suspension of those involved in the Bhagalpur blindings. Union Home Minister Giani Zail Singh is not happy with the justification of the blindings by some quarters in the Bihar government.

BIHAR HOUSE UPROAR

THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY witnessed a stormy debate over the blinding of undertrials in Bhagalpur culminating in a walkout by Opposition members protesting against the unsatisfactory response by Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra. The debate shed

very little light on the ghastly incident. While Opposition leaders demanded the resignation of the chief minister, the treasury benches demanded that the suspension orders against the 16 policemen be revoked on the ground the undertrials were blinded by people in their "rightful indignation" over the heinous crimes of the "undertrials".

HIDDEN IN JAIL

The city police in Muzaffarpur has uncovered a godown for stolen goods in the Central Jail premises. An investigation by the city's police showed that some jail staff employed prisoners to undertake loot and dacoity and the booty was then dumped in the jail.

Socialism for rich farmers

A minuscule minority of farmers is protesting against the farm laws. They don't want an end to the system that has benefited them



BY SURJIT S BHALLA

THERE IS AN old saying — no one ever went broke under-estimating the intelligence of the American public. If you think about it further, it probably works better with over-estimation. If you think about it more, it fits almost all democracies. And if you are patient enough, and think some more, it fits best if the word American is switched with the word Indian. Especially, now with all the "debate" around the long awaited, long argued, and vastly overdue farm bills.

A little detail on these bills: The old farm produce laws (the creation of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) came into existence almost 150 years ago to feed the colonial masters raw cotton for their Manchester mills. The output of these mills was then sold to the "natives" for a hefty profit. The farmer was obligated, required, forced to sell to the masters in a regulated market whose regulation was set by, you guessed it, the colonial masters. It is very likely that the people blindly supporting the "poor" farmers (who were recently seen distributing expensive dry fruit freely to all those coming to their "protest") are unaware of some simple facts. By supporting these very (relatively) rich farmers, the protesters are in fact arguing for the perpetuation of colonial rule.

Some steps further in this historical lesson. The corporate monopoly power held by the APMCs has been recognised by almost all political parties and farmer unions (for example, the Bharat Kisan Union took out a protest in 2008 arguing for the right of farmers to sell produce to corporates). The Congress party had these very same laws in its 2019 election manifesto.

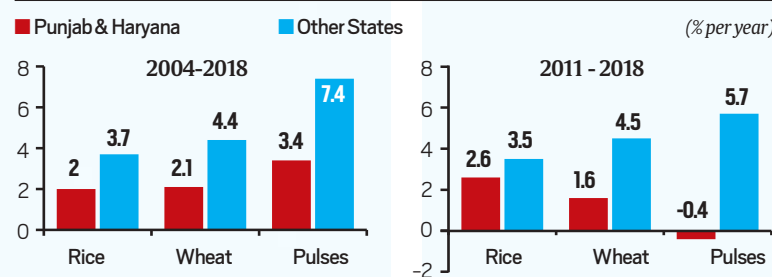
Let us further follow this chain of logic of the farm protest supporters. In 1991, the government freed industry from its cage and the results are there for everybody to see, and applaud (except, of course, the wilfully blind). GDP growth in India doubled to an average of 6 per cent over the next 30 years, from the previous average of less than 3 per cent.

For reasons best known to the "political" economists, agriculture was not freed in 1991, or thereafter — until now. Farmers are forced to sell their marketable produce only through a mandi regulated by the government. The new reformed law allows the farmer to sell through the APMC, and to sell outside the APMC. It is her choice. The government procures all of its food through APMCs — only about 6 per cent of the farmers in India sell through the APMCs to the government. These 6 per cent are all large farmers, primarily residing in the two states of Punjab and Haryana. These two states typically account for close to 60 per cent of wheat procurement and close to a third of rice procurement. The government procures from these farmers in order to re-distribute the food via ration shops to the bottom two-thirds of the population. But there are leakages. This leakage was first openly discussed by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985 when he stated that only 15 per cent of the food procured by the government reached the poor.

There are no more than two million farmers — total — in Punjab and Haryana and less than



RICE, WHEAT AND PULSE PRODUCTION GROWTH



Notes: 1) Other states for rice: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
Notes: 2) Other states for wheat: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
Notes: 3) Other states for pulses: Same as other states for rice or wheat

5 per cent have holdings above 10 hectares. A rough back of the envelope calculation suggests that the protesting farmers from Punjab and Haryana total no more than 200,000 — that is two hundred thousand so there is no confusion with numbers. The number of all farmers in India, very small, small and large is 100 million. So about 0.2 per cent of all farmers in India have "reason" to protest. And what are they protesting for? Likely the licence to remain the richest farmers in India or the world because in addition to the exclusive APMC largesse, the income of these farmers is not taxed. The non-taxation of agricultural incomes does not benefit the poor farmer because she does not have enough income to be taxed.

Be honest — how many of you know a law in any of the 195 out of 200 countries in the world that prohibit an individual from selling her wares in the market? Count the countless street vendors in the world, in both developing and developed markets. Are they prohibited from selling who they want to sell to? Then why the demand that the APMC be the sole buyer for all farmers?

All these facts are well known, except to large elements of the ideologically motivated domestic and international media. "News" is making the rounds that the largest demonstration in the world has taken place in India and/or that 250 million workers have participated in that. Fake news can only be "influential" if there is some plausibility in the fakeness. What we are being asked to believe is that the richest 2,00,000 farmers are being supported by the considerably poorer 100 million farmers and all those who earn considerably less than the rich untaxed farmers! Remember the opening paragraph?

The political economy of the protest is also illustrated by the following comment from the former chief economic adviser to the government of India and former chief economist of the World Bank, Kaushik Basu. He recently tweeted: "I've now studied India's new farm bills & realise they are flawed & will be detrimental to farmers. Our agriculture regulation needs change but the new laws will end up serving corporate interests more than farmers. Hats off to the sensibility & moral strength of India's farmers."

The sensibility part is understandable — the rich do not want to let their richness go, es-



C.R. Sasikumar

pecially if such richness is undeserved. The moral part is not obvious but maybe some digging will illustrate. Let us abstract from moral philosophy and examine what India's unreformed markets have done to the farm economies of Punjab and Haryana. These two states were the pioneers of the Green Revolution. Electricity to these farmers is subsidised (so that they can destroy the water table), as is their extensive use of fertiliser (so that they have a license to over-use and destroy the environment). But maybe the rich Punjab-Haryana (PH) farmers have provided agricultural growth at a faster rate and thereby helped the state, the country, and the poor.

A comparison of growth in output in states other than Punjab and Haryana indicates a much lower growth in these two states. Output growth for three important crops — rice, wheat and pulses — and two time-periods — the last 15 years (2004 to 2018) and the last eight (2011 to 2018) are presented in the table. Neither APMC, nor subsidies, nor "favouritism" has resulted in higher output growth in Punjab-Haryana. No matter which crop, or which time-period, the results are a sad reflection on the misguided policy. For both periods, output growth of wheat in other states was more than double the growth achieved in Punjab and Haryana; ditto the case for pulses (between 2011-2018, pulses production growth in Punjab and Haryana was at a -0.4 per cent per annum, compared to 5.7 per cent per annum in 10 other states). In rice, the other states do much better than Punjab and Haryana, but the excess growth is not double that of the two states; however, it is nearly double for 2004-18 — two per cent for Punjab and Haryana, and nearly double (3.7 per cent) for nine other states.

All the above facts have been known, and discussed, by learned people for decades. Which is precisely why the intellectual gymnastics played by many learned people defending the farmer protests is so shocking. The "demand" by intellectuals that the farm bill should have been discussed before being passed is well beyond the bounds of conventional dishonesty.

Bhalla is Executive Director IMF representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the IMF, its Executive Board, or IMF management



A bitter harvest

Farm laws alter bargaining landscape in favour of corporate players

AADIL BOPARAI AND SALMAN KHURSHID

THE THREE RECENTLY enacted farm laws assented to by the President Ram Nath Kovind on September 27 have led to a showdown between the peasantry and the Union government. It is an undisputed fact that there was no consultation undertaken by the central government at the time of promulgating the ordinances, and subsequently, while pushing the bills through the Parliament despite repeated demands of the Congress to refer the farm bills to the standing/select committee for reconsideration and necessary consultation with all stakeholders. Clearly, the present dispensation believes that its shock-and-awe methods are to be the main medium of governance.

Notwithstanding the several pro-corporate and perceived anti-farmer provisions in the farm laws, the Union government has bypassed the federal structure by legislating on subjects that exclusively fall within the domain of the state government under the state list of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The legality of this will hopefully be expeditiously decided by the Supreme Court to halt the central government's repeated encroachment on states' rights.

The global experience across agricultural markets demonstrates that corporatisation of agriculture without a concomitant security net in the form of an assured payment guarantee to the farmers results in the exploitation of farmers at the hands of big business. This poses

a significant challenge to small and marginal farmers who constitute 86 per cent of our agricultural class. The asymmetric negotiating matrix between the farmers and corporates will invariably lead to negation of their rights. The present laws alter the bargaining landscape in favour of the corporate players to the detriment of the farmers. The fact that farmers believe this to be so cannot be shrugged away.

The primary cause for concern is the systematic dismantling of the APMC mandis which have stood the test of time and have provided farmers the remuneration to keep themselves afloat. The farm laws open the field to an alternate set of markets/private yards, where the buyer will have no statutory obligation to pay the minimum support price (MSP). Since the said markets/private yards will not be charged any market fee/levy; the agricultural sector will see the gradual shifting of trade from the APMC mandis to these private yards. It is necessary to indicate that the market fee collected by the APMC mandis is used for development of rural infrastructure, link roads and storage facilities. The shifting of trade to avoid payment of any levy/market fee by private players and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will eventually witness the redundancy of the APMC mandis, leaving the farmers at the mercy of the corporate sharks.

The present farm laws expressly exclude the jurisdiction of the civil court, leaving the

farmers remediless and with no independent medium of dispute redressal mechanism. The farm laws empower the Sub-Divisional Authority (executive) to adjudicate on disputes between the farmers and traders. This provision effectively shuts the doors on the farmer to approach the judicial system for resolution of claims and disputes. The increased bureaucratic control over the adjudication of disputes between the farmers and corporate players will open the floodgates for corruption and rent-seeking.

The Union government has repeatedly asserted that the farm laws will usher in an era of increased freedom of choice and enhanced income for the farmers. This begs the question: If it is certain that the new farm laws will increase the income of the farmers, then it should readily agree to have a floor price that shall not be less than the MSP and be applicable for all the markets. This will also be a crucial confidence-building measure by the Narendra Modi administration that will allay the concerns of the farmers. The government's opposition to this reasonable demand puts their sincerity to the cause of farmers under serious cloud. Experience shows that a free market alone does not lead to higher farm income. The entire edifice of MSP is founded on the imperfections of the market. Therefore, the spiel given by the government that free markets will serve as a panacea for the farm-

ers and their woes is furthest from the truth.

Moreover, the paltry increase in the MSP over the past few years fails to cover the input cost. The government must urgently put in place a robust system to annually re-calculate the MSP keeping in mind the rising input costs of diesel, fertilisers, etc to make farming a viable and lucrative vocation. The MSP must ensure incentives for agriculturists and not push them into a debt trap. A statutory regulator in the field of agriculture akin to regulators in other fields would fill the gap to address information access and market distortions.

Lastly, the recent trend of the incumbent government to label and discredit genuine, public protests and agitation as some form of a vile conspiracy needs to be strongly deprecated. Dissent is the safety valve in any democracy; attempts to stifle or muzzle it by using unwarranted labels do a disservice to the cause of democracy. Instead of engaging with the protesting farmers, several senior functionaries of the government resorted to name-calling to delegitimise a peaceful pan-India farmer movement. With vents sealed shut, discontent can become debilitating for the polity. The three legislative nails in the farmer's aspirations might lead to a bitter harvest.

Boparai is spokesperson for Indian National Congress; Khurshid is former minister, government of India

Five years after Paris

Not all countries are in a position to commit to substantive action on climate change. They should make pledges that are credible and fair



LAVANYA RAJAMANI

THE CLIMATE AMBITION Summit, co-hosted by the UK, France and the UN, on the fifth anniversary of the 2015 Paris Agreement, comes at the end of a harrowing year. The world is craving for a return to normalcy, yet it is "normalcy" that has brought humanity to the brink. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere are at record levels, with the global lockdowns only having resulted in a temporary 4.2-7.5 per cent reduction in GHGs. Meanwhile, climate impacts, crowded out by COVID reportage, have continued unabated, with unprecedented wildfires, storms and cyclones raging through the pandemic.

Five years from Paris, are we inching closer to stabilising the climate? While all states have submitted their national contributions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, these contributions are radically insufficient to reach the "well below 2 degrees Celsius" limit and are even further from the "1.5 degrees Celsius" temperature limit identified in the Paris Agreement.

This initial shortfall was expected — the logic of the Paris Agreement relied on iterative scaling up of national targets over time to bridge the gap. The first of these moments for scaling up is 2020. Although 151 states have indicated that they will submit stronger targets before December 31, only 13 of them, covering 2.4 per cent of global emissions, have submitted such targets. Many are expected to submit their updated contributions or make other pledges at the Climate Ambition Summit. While states have been slow to update their national contributions for 2025-2030, several have announced "net zero" targets in the recent past. All G-7 states (except the US) and 11 G20 members have mid-century (2050 or 2060) net zero targets (carbon dioxide or other GHGs). These include Argentina, Mexico, UK, Japan, Canada, Germany, France, the Republic of Korea, Italy, China, and the EU. The Joe Biden administration is also expected to join this group.

While this is a heartening trend, net zero targets need to be subject to credibility, accountability and fairness checks before being applauded. First, the credibility check — are these long-term net zero goals aligned with short-term actions, policies and measures? It is crucial for updated national contributions to reflect targets and actions in 2030 that will take these states to their 2050 or 2060 net zero target. The IPCC 1.5 degrees Celsius Report indicated that to stay within a reasonable chance of achieving 1.5 degrees Celsius, global carbon dioxide emissions have to fall by 45 per cent from the 2010 levels by 2030. Current national contributions are not on track for such a fall. It is also important for short-

term actions to be demonstrably integrated into COVID economic recovery plans. For many there is a mismatch between short-term actions and long-term commitments. Further, there is a significant "overshoot" in terms of GHGs in the short and medium-term, and a reliance on negative emissions (such as carbon dioxide removal) technologies to get there in the long-term.

Second, the accountability check — is there accountability for the long-term net zero goals and short-term national contributions? Many net zero goals have not yet been embedded in national contributions and long-term strategies under the Paris Agreement. In any case, accountability under the Paris Agreement is limited. States are not obliged to achieve their self-selected targets. There is no mechanism to review the adequacy of individual contributions. States are only asked to provide justifications for the fairness and ambition of their targets. The most commonly used metric by states (110 of them) is that their emissions are a "small share of global emissions". Needless to say, this does not work for a collective action problem. The transparency framework does not contain a robust review function, and the compliance committee is facilitative and limited to ensuring compliance with a short list of binding procedural obligations. Accountability, therefore, has thus far been generated by non-state actors outside the UN regime rather than in the regime.

Third, the fairness check — are the spreads of goals and commitments across states fair and equitable? Is every state doing its fair share? The issue of equity and fairness, side-stepped in the Paris Agreement, is emerging in climate litigation before national and regional courts. In the landmark Urgenda case (2019), the Dutch Supreme court considered "fair shares" when identifying benchmarks against which the Netherlands' national effort could be judged in the context of a collective action problem. "Fair shares" are also an issue in the ongoing case filed by six Portuguese youngsters, including two children, in the European Court of Human Rights against 33 European states for inadequate climate action. Issues of fairness and justice, both between and within generations, are "unavoidable". Are net zero targets, and pathways to net zero, fair? How much are states doing in comparison to others and relative to how much they should? How much are they doing now, and how much are they leaving for the "regeneration"?

Net zero pledges need to be credible, accountable and fair to get us to a stable climate. Not all states will be in a position to pledge net zero targets, nor should they be expected to. All states, including India, can, however, pledge actions that are credible, accountable and fair. Credible short-term commitments, with a clear pathway to medium-term decarbonisation, that take into account the multiple challenges states face, such as on air pollution, and development, might well be the more defensible choice for some.

The writer is professor of international environmental law, Oxford University and visiting professor, Centre for Policy Research

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRUEL WORDS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Reform, the Indian way' (IE, December 11). The author appears to have used the word "consultation" in the Orwellian sense of the word. The acquiescence of the farmers would have been fait accompli had there been an iota of consultation. Moreover, arguing for the democratisation of the "opportunity structure" in a market with no opportunity is a cruel play on words.

Noel Therattil, Delhi

COMPROMISE NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Don't close the door' (IE, December 11). The leaders representing the farming community must not adopt an "either my way or the highway" approach. With the government bending backwards now, a way to end the protests can be reached, provided the farmers abandon their stubbornness. Their apprehensions regarding the agricultural reform laws are being addressed. Prudence demands that the farmers adopt a give and take approach to break the impasse.

Kamna Chhabra, Gurgaon

BROADER REFORMS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The cruelty camera can't see' (IE, December 11). The recent directions given by the Supreme Court making installation of CCTVs

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● STEPPING UP ON NUTRITION: VINCENT PALA

● LESSONS FROM ANTI-CAA PROTESTS: KANISHK BHAWSAR

www.indianexpress.com

mandatory in police stations deserve applause. However, the groundwork that remains to be done for the prevention of custodial deaths, cruelty and torture meted out to the victims in the secret and dark corners of prisons cannot be ignored. Other issues such as tampering of CCTV footages, monitoring of cameras by police authorities, non-availability of CCTVs at every spot where torture takes place and many other concerns require broader reforms. Only effective implementation and speedy remedies can prevent human rights violations occurring in the form of police brutality and torture.

Sarachana, Delhi



Martyr of CISF on 12th December
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

**SI/Exe V. P. TIWARI
DSP DURGAPUR
12-12-1983**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice (E-Tender)**

Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name of Work with location, cost of work and Earnest money	Annual zone for maintenance & repair of Bridge including desilting of riverbed under Br. No. 225 in the jurisdiction of SEE/W/KUN & SSE/W/KDE under ADEN/KUN. Approx. Cost: 49,99,965.48/- Earnest Money: Rs. 84,500/- Completion Period: 12 Months Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note : FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-ICT/51 dated 31.08.2016.
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 05.01.2021 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 05.01.2021.
Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Note: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XIII is compulsory.

No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/20-21/W-4(NIT-16) Dated: 10.12.2020 2768/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
अद्वयार, चैन्नई, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, Tamil Nadu
दूरभाष Telephone : 91 - 44 - 24437162, 24437193, 24437420. ई-मेल Email : spo@clri.res.in

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER 9th December, 2020

CSIR-CLRI has advertised the following rate contract tender on www.clri.org and published on www.epublish.org. The tender is only open for local suppliers as per Public Procurement Preference to Make in India, Order No. P-45021/2/2017-PP (BE-II) dt 16th September, 2020. The tender should be submitted in the Tender Box kept in Security at Main gate.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref No.	Description of Items	Pre-Bid conference date and time
1.	9(37)/2020/Pur/T-76	Rate contract for laboratory chemicals including biochemical and fine biochemical	15th December, 2020, 11.00 a.m Venue - Heritage hall
2.	10(17)/2020/Pur/T-77	Rate contract for Plasticware, Filtration Products and Other Lab Consumables	18th December, 2020, 11.00 a.m Venue - Heritage hall
3.	10(18)/2020/Pur/T-92	Rate contract for Glassware	

STORES & PURCHASE OFFICER
(For & on behalf of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

**CENTRE FOR CONVERGING TECHNOLOGIES
UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR**

REENVISION TECH EDUCATION
CCT will empower graduates with more than just a deep understanding of science and technology.

Focus on self & leadership for creating impact to nurture critical thinkers. Experiential & blended learning. Our B.Tech-M.Tech degrees intended to create ethical leaders who will leverage technology to impact organizations and society by developing the necessary technical depth with the cross-disciplinary knowledge.

Admission Notice 2020-21

On-line applications are invited for admission in the following courses:
(a) Five year Integrated **Dual Degree B.Tech.-M.Tech.** Course for XII Pass students (Maths and Bio streams are eligible to apply). Admission will be based on Merit of Board Examination scores / JEE (Main)/NEET.
(b) Two year **M.Tech. Course** for B.E./B.Tech./M.Sc. pass students. Above courses are available in four streams of converging technologies, namely:

- (i) Nanotechnology
- (ii) Biotechnology & Bioinformatics
- (iii) Information & Communication Technology (iv) Cognitive & Neuroscience

Admission will be based on merit. Minimum Eligibility for above courses: 55% in the qualifying examination.

Last Date for Online Applications: **December 20, 2020**
Online Application Fee: **Rs. 500/-**
How to Apply: Online application form link and other details of courses are available on our website <http://www.uniraj.ac.in/cct> and <http://earxiv.uniraj.ac.in/cct>

Online Interaction sessions with students and their parents will be organized on 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec, 2020 from 03:00 PM onwards through Google meet.

Director, CCT
Tel. No. 0141-2700370 Email: cct.uniraj@gmail.com

Converging Technologies in Synergy with emerging areas of Millennium

**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, Jaipur (North)		
1.1	Procurement of Fire Tenders at RIICO Unit office Jaipur (North) VKIA Jaipur. UBN-RDC2021WLOB01010	1325.00
1.2	Development works at Industrial Area vishwakarma, Jaipur UBN-RDC2021WLOB01014	764.91
2. Sr. Regional Manager, Boranada		
2.1	Upgradation of water supply lines at Ind area Boranada Ph-IV UBN-RDC2021WSOB01031	341.76
2.2	Upgradation of Infrastructure at industrial area jaisalmer UBN-RDC2021WLOB01033	248.02
3. Sr. Regional Manager, Jodhpur		
3.1	Construction of Govt. girls college building at Tinwari - Mathania Jodhpur UBN-RDC2021WLOB01028	677.00

Udyog Bhawan, Tikal Marg, Jaipur-302 005, Phone : 0141-2227751, 4593201 Fax : 0141-4593210 E-Mail : riico@riico.co.in Website : www.riico.co.in
Raj.Samwad/C20/7638

**E-Tender Notice
DAHOD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**

Dahod Smart City Development Limited (DSCDL) invites online E-Tenders "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing (SITC), Operation & Maintenance of Instrumentation & Smart Water SCADA System for Existing Filtration Plant, Bulk Water Supply & Distribution Network for Dahod Smart City Development Limited." Tender ID: 438330

Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Rs. 7.7 Cr/-
EMD (In Rs.)	Rs. 38,00,00/-
Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Rs. 18,000/-
Last Date for online Submission of Tender Document Date/Time	06/01/2021 upto 17.00 Hrs

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: (1) The tender document for this work can be downloaded from website www.nprocure.com. (2) Other Details of NIT shall be seen on website. (3) Copy of Technical Bid including all drawings, data sheets and duly filled up formats excluding the Financial Bid along with original Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer (DSCDL), Room No : 15 Jilla Sewa Sadan, Chhapri, Dahod 389151, by RPAD/ speed post only on or before Date: 16/01/2021 up to 17.00 Hrs. Chief Executive Officer, DSCDL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. This Tender notice shall form a part of contract document.
Tender No. waterSCADA/DSCDL/01/DEC-2020-21
Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 9724209485 Email: thead@dahodsmartcity.in

DEMAND: STOP NON-TRIBALS FROM CONTESTING

Mob torches govt offices in Arunachal's Vijaynagar over panchayat elections

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 11

VIOLENCE BROKE out Friday in Arunachal Pradesh's Vijaynagar, the remote easternmost inhabited area of the country, over issuance of rights to retired Gorkha soldiers settled there since 1960s to contest the panchayat elections.

Changlang DC Devansh Yadav told *The Indian Express* that government buildings in Vijaynagar were ransacked and vandalised. "The Extra Assistant Commissioner's (EAC) office and a post-office were set on fire. The mob was around 500-odd strong," he said. Local reports said the mob was armed with daggers and sticks.

Yadav said investigations were on to identify those who indulged in the violence through audio and video clippings.

In the 1960s, the families of over 200 retired Assam Rifles personnel from the Gorkha community were settled in Vijaynagar by the Centre. The Gorkhas and indigenous people belonging to the Yobin tribe comprise the major-

ity of residents here. According to officials, the Friday's violence stemmed from a persistent demand to prohibit participation of non-tribal and non-indigenous people in the panchayat and municipal elections. Following the protests, the State Election Commission deferred the polls in Vijaynagar, scheduled to be held on December 22 across the state.

The government order mentioned that student organisations had deputed their members to "prevent filing of nomination by any non-tribal". Yushiy Yobin, joint secretary of the Yobin Welfare Society, the apex body of the community, told *The Indian Express* that the Yobin Students' Union was instrumental in Friday's protest.

"The underlying cause of the protest was that despite continuous demand by the Students' Union and other pressure groups that non-tribals and non-indigenous people should not be allowed to participate in panchayat elections, no specific step has been taken by the government - there has been an assurance but nothing concrete," Yobin said.



**कैलाश मानसरोवर
चारधाम एवं कांवड़ तीर्थ यात्रियों
को समर्पित**

कैलाश मानसरोवर भवन

(इंदिरापुरम्, गाजियाबाद)

का

लोकार्पण

मुख्य विशेषताएं

- 14,869 वर्गमी. में भूमितल सहित भूतल एवं तीन तलों का निर्माण • समस्त सुविधाओं सहित 46 कक्ष (4 सीटर) एवं 48 कक्ष (2 सीटर) का निर्माण • कुल 280 यात्रियों को एक साथ ठहरने की सुविधा
- कुल लागत रु. 70 करोड़

• मुख्य अतिथि •

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

• गरिमावयी उपस्थिति •

जनरल (से.नि.) डॉ. वी.के. सिंह

राज्यमंत्री, सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग भारत सरकार

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना

मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं वित्त, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. नीलकंठ तिवारी

राज्यमंत्री, पर्यटन, संस्कृति, धर्मार्थ कार्य (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) एवं प्रोटोकॉल (MOS), उत्तर प्रदेश

अतुल गर्ग

राज्यमंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य परिवार कल्याण, मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह

सदस्य, विधान परिषद, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. सत्यपाल सिंह

सांसद, बागपत

डॉ. अनिल अग्रवाल

सांसद, राज्यसभा

दिनेश कुमार गोयल

सदस्य, विधान परिषद, उत्तर प्रदेश

सुनील कुमार शर्मा

विधायक, साहिबाबाद, गाजियाबाद

अजीत पाल त्यागी

विधायक, मुरादनगर, गाजियाबाद

नन्द किशोर

विधायक, लोनी, गाजियाबाद

डॉ. मंजू शिवाच

विधायक, मोदीनगर, गाजियाबाद

आशा शर्मा

महापौर, गाजियाबाद

दिनांक : 12 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय : सायं 5:00 बजे | स्थान : शक्ति खण्ड-4, इंदिरापुरम्, गाजियाबाद

कोरोना संबंधी जानकारी हेतु संपर्क करें

चिकित्सकीय हेल्पलाइन: **1800-180-5145**

दो गज़ की दूरी, मास्क है ज़रूरी



धर्मार्थ कार्य विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Suwendu urges CBI to probe Saradha accused's allegations against him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 11

REBEL TMC leader and former West Bengal transport minister Suwendu Adhikari has written to the CBI, asking the agency to conduct a detailed inquiry into Saradha chit fund case accused Sudipta Sen's allegations against him.

Sen, who was arrested by the police in connection with the case in 2013, wrote to the CBI on December 1, accusing Adhikari of taking Rs 6 crore from him. The businessman also accused other leaders such as Mukul Roy (BJP), Sujan Chakraborty (CPM), Biman Bose (CPM) and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Congress) of accepting money from him, suggesting that proceeds from the scam went to these leaders. In the letter, Sen said he was pained to see those who took the money were "now joining the BJP", and asked the CBI to investigate the matter.

Questioning the timing of the letter, and dismissing the allegations, Adhikari wrote on Thursday, "Needless to state that apart from politicians from the Opposition parties in West Bengal, I have been also named in such purported letter that was purportedly written at a time when I just resigned from the cabinet... It is relevant to state that I resigned from the Cabinet on 27.11.2020 and the said letter purportedly written on 01.12.2020."

He added, "As your good office is investigating this widespread scam meticulously, it is humbly requested that your good office may also kindly take into consideration such a letter purportedly written by the said Sudipta Sen and immediately look into every aspect of the letter, including backdrop and the prevailing circumstances at the time of writing thereof."



Suwendu Adhikari

Kim Ki-duk demise causes ripples of anguish in Kerala

VISHNU VARMA
KOCHI, DECEMBER 11

THE DEATH of South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-duk on Friday caused ripples of anguish in Kerala where he has a huge fan base, especially among youngsters.

According to reports, the 59-year-old filmmaker died of Covid-19 complications in Latvian capital of Riga where he was scouting for a home.

Every year, the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) would witness long queues of movie buffs for the screenings of Kim Ki-duk's films. The filmmaker visited Thiruvananthapuram in 2013 to be chief guest at the film festival's closing ceremony.

"Kerala is a beautiful place...I was out for a walk in the morning and being a first-timer, I was overwhelmed by the response of the people. People were waving at me from buses and cars," he had told a reporter then.

Actor-director Madhupal, a former member of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy which organises IFFK, recalled interacting with the filmmaker about cinema when he visited Thiruvananthapuram. "He didn't know English so we spoke through a translator. The first time I saw him was on the street when he had stepped out of his hotel for a walk. He enjoyed Kerala," he said.

Lijin Jose, a Malayalam film director, said the first film of Kim Ki-duk that he saw was the 2003 release *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring*. "That film was a visual experience. To bring the narrative of a film on an emotional, philosophical plane, the kind of which we have not explored before, is not easy. For me, that was the aspect of his films that attracted me," said Jose.

THE WORLD

**AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR
KIM KI-DUK DIES AT 59**
PAGE 15

Online registration mandatory to organise weddings in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 11

THE GUJARAT government has started compulsory online registration for marriage functions across the state in view of the pandemic. A notification issued Friday by KK Nirala, additional secretary (law and order), home department read: "The state government has decided to initiate online registration for upcoming marriages in the state in the view of the ongoing pandemic... The National Informatics Centre has come up with a software on the government website www.digitalgujarat.gov.in wherein people can apply online for upcoming marriage ceremonies and can take a print of the registration slip or

save a PDF file. If asked by any police or administrative official, the registration slip can be shown by the applicant (sic)." Nirala told *The Indian Express*: "It is compulsory to get online registration for upcoming marriages in Gujarat... We took the decision after considering the issues faced by the applicants in the past. Under this system, the applicant will get the slip within two minutes of submitting their application... there is no need to get permission from local police."

As per a state government advisory, the number of guests at a wedding should not be more than 50 per cent of the capacity of the venue, and not exceed 100. Ahmedabad police has prohibited marriage functions during curfew hours. Similar guidelines have been issued in Vadodra, Rajkot and Surat.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 11

TWO MEN were arrested for allegedly attacking a journalist when he tried to pacify two clashing groups under the Kalyanpur police station limits in Kanpur Nagar on Thursday night. The journalist, Ashwini Nigam, works for R9 TV channel.

Nigam was attacked with a rod and suffered injuries on his head, said the police. He was being treated at a hospital and was stable, they said.

Kanpur Additional SP (West) Anil Kumar said, "A case has been lodged under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Three persons have been named in the FIR, of whom, two have been arrested. Strict action will follow."

The arrested accused have been identified as Akhilesh Soni and Bireesh Soni and were presented before the magistrate on Friday.

Fresh anti-CAA protests in Assam

Guwahati: Fresh protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act was launched by 18 organisations in Assam on Friday, demanding repeal of the law and release of KMSS leader Akhilesh Gogoi, who was taken into custody during the protests last year. Rallies were taken out across the state by the organisations, including Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti. PTI

Recruitment Notice - Advt. No. NID-H/2020/04 Dt. 10.12.2020

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

The National Institute of Design, Haryana (Kurukshetra), an Institute of National Importance invites applications from eligible and competent candidates for filling up various Teaching and Non-Teaching positions on Regular/Deputation / Contractual basis. For further details please visit www.nidh.ac.in. Last date for receipt of application is 02.03.2021.

CHEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Debbarna tests positive

Agartala: Tripura's erstwhile royal scion Pradyot Debbarma on Friday tested positive for COVID-19 here and was isolated. He posted that doctors advised him to take extra caution since he has an underlying heart condition. He asked those who came in contact with him recently to take precautions. ENS

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)	
1	Name of Work Provision of C&W examination infrastructure facilities required at Farukh Nagar for the examination of BCACBM (Automobile Loading) Rakes under ADE/ENDE. Similar nature of work: Any civil work other than track work.
2	Approx. Cost of work Rs. 6673412.98
3	Earnest Money (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-1/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 1335500.00
4	Completion period of the work 4 Months
5	Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 08.01.2021 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs on 08.01.2021
6	Website particulars Notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. www.tenders.gov.in
No. 128-W/280/OET/2020-21/W/NIT-31 Dated : 10.12.2020 2767/20	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit
Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Project in Tamil Nadu
No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai 600 005, Tamil Nadu. Tel No: +91-44-29862122
Email: tncsbprocurement@gmail.com; web site: www.tncsb.org

Invitation for Bids No: IRSHUP/NCB/02

ADB Project No. and Title: P53067-004-IND, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor (IRSHUP) Project in Tamil Nadu.

Contract Package Number & Name: IRSHUP/RED/02, Construction of 876 Nos of housing units adopting Type Design No. 03/2020 Type - B, C & D (G+3) with associated infrastructure works at Reddiarpatti (Phase-II) in S.No. 194/77, Reddiarpatti Village, Palayamkottai Taluk, Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.

The Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board ("the Employer") invites bids from eligible bidders for the contract package named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

- Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (IFB) and the Bid document for above package would be available at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tncsb.org starting from 11.12.2020. Deadline for bid submission is 16:00 hours on 12.01.2021. All required information's are provided in the bid document.
- Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting will be held at 14:00 hours on 29.12.2020. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
- Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the www.tncsb.org website and will not be published in Newspapers.
- Bidders may contact Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, TNSCB for any other information on bidding process.

Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, IRSHUP, TNSCB, Chennai - 600005

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Festival Special trains as under:-

Train No. & Name	Already Notified Upto	Extended Upto
03019 Howrah-Luckow-Kathgodam Special	31.12.2020	31.01.2021
03020 Kathgodam-Luckow-Howrah Special	02.01.2021	02.02.2021
02323 Howrah-Delhi Jn.-Barmer Special	25.12.2020	29.01.2021
02324 Barmer-Delhi Jn.-Howrah Special	30.12.2020	03.02.2021
02331 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Special	29.12.2020	30.01.2021
02332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah Special	31.12.2020	01.02.2021

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in>

Security Helpline No. 182 **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : nr.indianrailways.gov.in
Please join us on

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
Zonal office, Budh marg, Patna, Bihar-800001, E mail: zopatna@indianbank.co.in, PH:0612-2508237

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 28.12.2020, due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the undermentioned borrowers/Guarantors. The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below.

SI No. Branch	Name of the Account & Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Details of Immovable Properties	Reserve Price (In Rs)	Secured creditor's Out-standing Dues	
01 Sultanganj	M/S KASHYAP FOOD & ALLIED INDUSTRIES 1. Shri Rajshankar S/o Shri Vishnu Swaroop Gupta 2. Smt Suman Shekhar W/o Shri Rajshankar R/O Gai Ghat, North lane, P.S.-Alamganj, P.O.- Gulzarbagh, District- Patna, Bihar-800007	In the name of Mr. Rajshankar S/o Mr. Vishnu Swaroop Gupta, area measuring 12-Kadi i.e. 1.32 Decimal, Sale Deed No.1086 dated 23.03.2006, bearing Book No.1, Volume No.62, Page No.117-135, Circle No.81, Holding No.40/80(O), 23/44(N), Ward No.17/23/42, Sheet No.167, M. Plot No. 1796(P), Situated at-Gaighat, Utrri Gali, P.O.-Gulzarbagh, PS-Alamganj, District-Patna, Bihar, bounded as under (as per deed): North-Vendee Mr. Rajshankar thereafter Awadhesw Singh, South-Shri Gandeshwar Prasad, East-Shri Gandeshwar Prasad, West-Gali Corporation.	₹36,36,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs thirty Six thousand only) ₹3,63,600/- (Rupees Three lakhs Sixty three hundred only) 1,000.00	₹63,18,513/- (Rupees Sixty three lakh eighteen thousand five hundred thirteen only) as on 23.11.2018 and interest, cost & Charges thereon IDIB20202101 Not Known	
02 Kankarbagh-2	MEENA DEVI & KAMAL KUMAR 1. Smt. Meena Devi W/o Shri Tulsi Prasad 2. Shri Kamal Kumar S/o Shri Tulsi Prasad, Regd. Address: C/o Shri Ram Briksh Prasad, Professor Colony, Gali no-18, Munna Chak, P.O.-Lohia Nagar, P.S.Patnakar nagar, Distt.-Patna-800020	All that part and parcel of land & building situated at Mauza-Kurthol, Survey Plot No.629 (Part), Tazui No.5184, Khata No.50, Thana No.110, PS-Phulwarisharif, District-Patna measuring 591 sq.ft (1.3569 Decimal), Sale Deed No. 28674 dated 03.12.2010, standing in the name of Smt. Meena Devi W/o Mr. Tulsi Prasad, Book No.01, Volume-466, Pg 203-210 registered with SRO Patna. Boundary (As per Deed): North-Smt. Rita Devi, South-Present Purchaser, East-Mr. Banarsi Rai, West-7½ ft wide Road.	₹15,10,000/- (Rupees Fifteen lakhs Ten thousand only) ₹1,51,000/- (Rupees One lakh Fifty one thousand only) 1,000.00	₹13,32,019/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Thirty two thousand and nineteen only) as on 06.03.2019 and interest, cost & Charges thereon IDIB20202102 Not Known	
03 Patna City-2	M/S Samar Footwear 1. Md. Saqlain 2. Md. Qamar Rizvi 3. Md. Umar Rizvi 4. Ladli Parween/W/o Md. Saqlain All resident of Barakat khn Ka Akhara, Mogalpur, Jhauganj, Patnacity, Patna, Bihar-800008	All that part and parcel of the land and building along with present/future construction thereon: (I) In the joint name of Md. Saqlain, Md. Qamar Rizvi & Md. Samar Rizvi all are S/o Md. Badshah, area measuring 12 Dhur, Sale Deed No.462 dated 01.02.2006, Book No.1, Zild No.27, Page No.129-150, Comprising in Ward No.22/28(O), 47(New), Sheet No.214, M.S. Plot No.3132(P), Circle No.121, Holding No.229/2192, Situated at-Mohalla Mogalpur, Barkat Khan Ka Akhara (Katra Kalbe Ali Beg), Patna City, P.S.-Khajekala, PO-Jhauganj, District-Patna, Bihar and bounded as under (As per Deed) North-Md. Salim, South-Md. Ashraf, East-Md. Bashir, West-06 Feet Wide Common Pass. (II) In the name of Smt. Ladli Parween W/o Md. Saqlain area measuring 4 Dhur, 18½ Dhurki, Sale Deed No.2997 dated 19.06.2008, Book No.1, Zild No.54, Page No.229-237, Comprising in Ward No.22/28(O), 47(New), Sheet No.214, M.S. Plot No.3132(P), Circle No.121, Holding No.292/2192, Situated at-Mohalla Mogalpur, Barkat Khan Ka Akhara (Katra Kalbe Ali Beg), P.S.-Khajekala, PO-Jhauganj, District-Patna, Bihar and bounded as under (As per Deed) North-M.S. Plot No.3132(P), South-M.S. Plot No.3132(P), East-Gali, West-M.S. Plot No.3132(P).	₹44,14,000/- (Rupees Forty four Lakhs Fourteen thousand only) ₹4,41,400/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty one thousand Four hundred only) 1,000.00	₹57,07,429/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs seven Thousand Four Hundred And Twenty Nine Only) as on 28.02.2019 and interest, cost & Charges thereon IDIB20202103 Not Known	
04 Hanuman nagar	M/S VAIBHAV ENTERPRISES, 1. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh S/o Sri Daya Shankar Singh 2. Smt. Deep Mala W/o Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Both R/O- Flat No.504, Deo Siddhi Plaza, Kankarbagh, Colony More, Near Jalan Shop, District- Patna, 800020	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building along with present future construction thereon; in the name of Smt. Deep Mala W/o Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, a). Area ad-measuring 2-Katha (6.25- Decimal), Sale Deed No.6218 dated 10.07.2015, bearing Book No.1, Volume No.148, PageNo.221-231, Khata No.115, Khesra Survey Plot No.2360(P), Thana No.129, Tazui No.Bihar Sarkar, Situated at- Mauza- Kandapur, Survey Thana-Phulwari Sharif, Hal Thana- Gauri Chak, District- Patna, Bihar, bounded as under (as per deed): North- Paras Nath Singh, South- Kharidar Smt. Deep Mala, East-Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, West-Aahar Va Paine. b). Area ad-measuring 10-Dhur (1.5625- Decimal), Sale Deed No.6217 dated 10.07.2015, bearing Book No.1, Volume No.148, PageNo.210-220, Khata No.115, Khesra Survey Plot No.2360(P), Thana No.129, Tazui No.Bihar Sarkar, Situated at- Mauza- Kandapur, Survey Thana-Phulwari Sharif, Hal Thana- Gauri Chak, District- Patna, Bihar, bounded as under (as per deed): North- Kharidar Smt. Deep Mala, South- Number Haza Niz Lekhakari, East-Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, West-Aahar Va Paine	₹21,09,375/- (Rupees Twenty one lakhs nine thousand three hundred seventy five only) ₹2,10,937/- (Rupees Two lakh ten thousand nine hundred thirty seven only) 1,000.00	₹29,21,927/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Only) as on 11.06.2019 Not Known	
05 Patna City-2	M/S Maa Vaishnavi Oil Mills (Prop.-Smt. Soni Kumari) 1. Smt. Soni Kumari, Jamunagar, Malsalami, Madhomilli, Patna City, Distt.- Patna 2. Smt. Soni Kumari W/O Rajesh Kumar Raushan at Chutkiya Bazar, Jamunagar, Malsalami, Madhomilli, Patna City, Distt.- Patna 3. Rajesh Kumar Raushan S/O Sahdev Prasad Verma Chutkiya Bazar, Jamunagar, Malsalami, Madhomilli, Patna City, Distt.- Patna	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building along with present/future construction thereon:- In the name of Smt. Soni Kumari W/O Mr. Rajesh Kumar Raushan, area ad-measuring 15.75 Karies, vide Registered (Simple) Mortgage Deed No.4436 dated 27.05.2014, Book No.01, Volume No.77, Page No.196-203, Holding No.274(Old)/1111(New), Circle No.218, M.S. Plot No.940 & 579, Sheet No.282, Ward No.32/37(Old)/71(New), Tazui No. Bihar Sarkar, Thana No.38, Situated at Mohall-Jamunapur, Chutkiya Bazar, Mauza-Simil Murapur, PS-Malsalami, District-Patna, Bihar, bounded as under (as per deed): North-Mehta Ram Narayan Prasad, South-Bajju Mahto, East-The Heir of Chhotu Sao, West-PMC Lane.	₹3595000/- (Rupees Thirty five lakhs ninety five thousand only) ₹359500/- (Rupees Three lakhs fifty nine thousand five hundred only) 1,000.00	₹2045582/- (Rupees Twenty lakhs Forty Five thousand Five Hundred Eighty two only) as on 23.01.2019 and interest cost & Charges thereon IDIB20202105 Not Known	
06 Phulwari-sharif	M/S RISHI PLAST Prop: Mr. Shringi Rishi (Since Deceased) Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1. Smt. Nayantra Devi W/o Late Shringi Rishi legal heir of Late Shringi Rishi. 2. Sri Ashok Kumar Santhaliya S/O Radhey Sham Shanthaliya. 3. Sri Sanjay Kumar S/O Shrimath Prasad, Add-Rikabganj, Katra Bazar, Patna City.	A) All that part and parcel of the land and building along with present/future construction thereon: In the name of Mr. Shringi Rishi (Since Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Sinhasan Muni, area measuring 2½ Decmil, Sale Deed No.5845 dated 02.09.2009, Bearing Book No.1, Zild No.84, Page No.304-313, Comprising in Tazui No.5188, Thana No.37, Khata No.6, Survey Khesra Plot No.720, Situated at Mauza-Kothwa, Pargana- Phulwari, PS- Danapur, District-Patna, Bihar and bounded as under (As per Deed): North- Sri Vishwajit Singh S/O Lt. Shiv Dhari Singh, South- Part Plot No.720 meh aaj Kharidar Smt. Manjusha Devi dastave meh, East-Siwana Hardaspur, West- Sri Jai Kishore Singh. B) All that part & parcel of Land & building with present/ future construction thereon of area admeasuring 3-Katha, 2-Dhur, Sale Deed No. 12626 dated 22.08.2009, Bearing Book No.1, Zild No.261, Page No.510-517, Comprising in Tazui No.18165, Thana No.69, Khata No.51, Survey Khazra Plot No.450, Situated at- Mauza-Ismailpur, Dhibra, P.S- Phulwari, District- Patna, Bihar and bounded as per Deed: North- Ramesh Prasad, South- Aahar, East- 5 ft wide Rasta & ors. West- Banwari Singh & ors.	₹17,64,000/- (Rupees Seventeen lakhs sixty four thousand five only) ₹1,76,400/- (Rupees One lakh seventy six thousand four hundred only) 1,000.00	₹67,70,203/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Three Only) as on 30.07.2018 and intt., Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization IDIB20202106 Not Known	
07 Phulwarisharif	Mr. Sunil Kumar Chaudhary S/o Shivbali Chaudhary, R/O- Adarsh Nagar, Road No.01, Phulwari Sharif, District- Patna, Bihar-801505 Smt. Aarti Kumari W/o Sunil Kumar Chaudhary R/O- Adarsh Nagar, Road No.01, Phulwari Sharif, Patna, Bihar, 801505. Sri Gupeshwar Chaudhary S/o Ram Prasad Chaudhary R/O- Adarsh Nagar Colony, Road No.01, Phulwari Sharif, District- Patna, Bihar, 801505 Also at Constable Employee No.00013657, Home (DGP Office), Patna, Bihar, 800015			₹17,40,000/- (Rupees Seventeen lakhs forty thousand only) ₹1,74,000/- (Rupees One lakh seventy four thousand only) 1,000.00	₹13,83,658/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight Only) and interest ,cost & Charges thereon IDIB20202117 Not Known
08 Kurtha	M/S BHOLA BRICKS COMPANY (Prop: Shri Santosh Kumar), Kurtha, Fulwariya, P.O- Fatuha, Dist- Patna, Bihar- 803201, Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Sh Ramashray Singh, Smt Kameshwari Devi W/o Sri Ramashray Singh, Shri Ramashray Singh S/o Late Shivam Singh, All R/O Vill- Mosimpur, P.O+ P.S- Khusrupur, Patna-803202			₹39,61,000/- (Rupees Thirty nine lakhs sixty one thousand only) ₹3,96,100/- (Rupees Three lakhs ninety six thousand one hundred only) 1,000.00	₹25,85,676/- (Rupees Twenty five lakhs eighty five thousand six hundred seventy six only) as on 29.07.2019 and intt., Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization IDIB20202108 Not Known
09 Kankarbagh-2	M/S. NIHARIKA TEXTILES (Prop: Shri Sanjay Pandey S/o Shri Surendra Nath Pandey), At Zero Mile Main Road, Sahara Colony, Agam Kuan, Patna City-800008, BIHAR Shri Sanjay Pandey S/o Sh. Surendra Nath Pandey, Smt. Jayanti Devi @ Jayvanti Pandey W/o Shri Sanjay Pandey both resident of Badi nagla, Malsalami, Patna City, Near Hilsa Mill, P.O- Madhav Mills, Patna-800008, BIHAR			₹26,52,000/- (Rupees Twenty six lakhs fifty two thousand only) ₹2,65,200/- (Rupees Two lakhs fifty five thousand two hundred only) 1,000.00	₹21,07,561/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty One Only) as on 19.10.2019 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 20.10.2019 till realization of bank's dues IDIB20202110 Not Known
10 Kankarbagh-2	M/S. UPHAR READYMADE GARMENTS (Pro- Shri Uma Shankar), Regd. Adt: Vachaspatinagar, Mauza-Sandalpur, Kumhrar, Patna, Bihar. Shri Uma Shankar s/o Late Raghunath Singh, resident of Near-Gaygath Checkpost, Shanidevmandir, Baijranpuri, Sandalpur, P.S- Alamganj, Distt- Patna, Bihar, Pin-800007			₹39,21,000/- (Rupees Thirty nine lakhs twenty one thousand only) ₹3,92,100/- (Rupees Three lakhs ninety two thousand One hundred only) 1,000.00	₹32,29,721/- (Rupees Thirty two lakhs twenty nine thousand seven hundred twenty one only) as on 31.08.2019 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 01.09.2019 till realization of bank's dues IDIB20202111 Not Known
11 Exhibition Road	M/S Ezee Air Travel Pro- Shri Shivendra Kumar BPCL Road, Mahavir Nagar, Saristabad, Patna-800002, Shri Shivendra Kumar S/O Shri Brjji Bihari Singh & Shri Brjji Bihari Singh S/O Bansh Ropan Singh ward no-43, Anaiti , Arrah, Dist- Bhojpur, Pin-802301			₹24,80,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lac Eighty Thousand Only) ₹24,80,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty eight thousand only) 1,000.00	₹20,79,511/- (Twenty Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Only) and Intt and Charges from 11/09/2018 to till date of realization of dues. IDIB20202107 Not Known
12 Patna University	ADITYA ENTERPRISES (Pro- Sri Ajit Kumar S/O Sri Ramjee Sharma) Shop Address: 103, Yashoda Enclave, Daud Bigha Road, Kankarbagh, Patna, Bihar, Pin-800026. Shri Ajit Kumar S/O Sri Ramjee Sharma Smt Laxmi Sharma W/O Sri Ajit Kumar Both C/O Sri Kaushal Kishore Prasad, Pramila Sadan, Bhagwat Nagar, Opp Bhagwati Banquet Hall, Bahadurpur Housing colony, Kankarbagh, Patna, Pin-800026. Permanent Address: At P.O- Nagar Nausha, Near Kali mandir, Distt- Nalanda, Pin-801305.			₹21,34,800/- (Rupees Twenty One lakhs Thirty Four thousand Eight Hundred only) ₹2,13,480/- (Rupees Two Lacs Thirteen thousand Four Hundred and eighty only) 1,000.00	₹73,49,545/- (Rs. seventy three lakh forty nine thousand five hundred forty five only) with up to date interest and Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization IDIB20202113 Not Known
13 Patna University	NAGESHWAR AUTOMOBILE (Pro- Shri Vidhya Nand Kumar Verma) at machariyawan, near Primary School, fatuah, Patna, Bihar Pin-800009 Shri Vidhya Nand Kumar Verma S/O Nageshwari Kumar Smt Manju Kumari W/O Sri Vidyanand Kumar Verma, Both at At C-22, Nitya sadan, Keshri nagar, Ajanta Colony/Rajiv Nagar, Patna-800024, Md. Irshadul Haque S/O Md. Izharul Haque, Khalilpura, P.O- Phulwarisharif, Distt- Patna, Bihar, Pin-801505			₹18,70,200/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Seventy Thousand Two Hundred only) ₹1,87,020/- (Rupees One lac Eighty Seven thousand Twenty only) 1,000.00	₹43,90,836/- (Rs. Forty three lacs ninety thousand eight hundred thirty six only) with up to date interest, plus int Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization which has to be realized by sale of the said properties. IDIB20202114 Not Known
14 Budh Marg, Patna	M/S Jai Mata Dee Enterprises Prop.: Ranjan Kumar S/O Mr Ashok Prasad, House of Mr. Ramnath Singh, Near Bhutnath Shiv Mandir, Rukanpura, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar. Mrs. Meemla Gupta (Guarantor & Mortgagor) W/O Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Flat No-403, Rajnath Enclave Rukanpura Bailey Road			₹15,50,000/- (Rupees fifteen lakhs fifty thousand only) ₹1,55,000/- (Rupees One lakh fifty five thousand only) 1,000.00	₹20,73,301/- (Rupees Twenty lakh Seventy three thousand three hundred and one only) with interest at agreed rate wef 01.08.2019 till the date of repayment. IDIB20202115 Not Known

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapi@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapi@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and www.mstcecommerce.com.
Date : 10.12.2020
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

Face shields no match for sneeze droplets, scientists at work to improve them



Sneeze droplets from nearby can quickly reach the top and bottom edges of a face shield, study finds. Express Archive

THE FACE shield is an intriguing part of healthcare workers' personal protective equipment (PPE): Although it is meant to protect the face from airborne particles that may contain the novel coronavirus, it has a prominent opening at the bottom edge. Indeed, that is why medical staff often wear a mask beneath the shield. If someone wore a face shield but no mask, and if someone infected with Covid-19 sneezed in the vicinity, would the face shield offer enough protection on its own?

It would not. In a study published in the *Physics of Fluids*, journal of the American Institute of Physics, researchers from Japan's Fukuoka University examined the flow of air around a face shield when someone nearby sneezes. They found that sneeze droplets travel very quickly to the edges of the face shield, and may be inhaled by the wearer if she happens to breathe in at that very moment.

The researchers are now working on creating face shields safe enough to be worn on their own.

The science...

When fluid is ejected instantaneously from a circular orifice, it generates a "vortex ring" — a doughnut-shaped vortex. "It might be easier to understand it as a bubble ring made by dolphins," lead researcher Fujio Akagi said, by email.

Vortex rings have the ability to transport microscopic particles. Akagi and colleagues carried out simulations of an infected person sneezing and ejecting a vortex ring from 1 m in front of a person wearing a face shield. The leading vortex ring reached the top of the face shield; trailing vortex rings

reached the lower end as they broke down. Sneeze droplets could reach the shield within a half-second to a second, and enter. "In this case, if the time when the droplets enter the inner surface of the shield is close to the time of the user's inhalation of the breath, the apparent probability that the user will inhale the droplets is high," Akagi said.

... and the shield

Face shields are effective in preventing infection in the eyes, Akagi explained. "Don't misunderstand us — wearing a face shield can help prevent infection... what we are saying is that we have scientifically shown that there is an increased risk of infection

if only a face shield is worn," Akagi said.

Although medical staff wearing a face shield also wear a mask, usually a surgical mask with a high filtering effect, such masks have the disadvantage of being difficult to breathe through. "We thought if the face shield is approved as sufficiently preventive, the

medical mask can be replaced with a standard mask... For this reason, we have tried to clarify the flow around the face shield," Akagi said.

Akagi described another situation: medical personnel treating deaf patients. To explain to the patients how the mouth moves, the medical staff need to remove the mask altogether. "If staff are only allowed to wear a face shield, this problem can be solved," Akagi said.

The team is now developing improved shields, so that medical workers will be able to prevent infection using only a face shield and a regular mask — or, ideally, only a face shield.

KABIR FIRAQUE

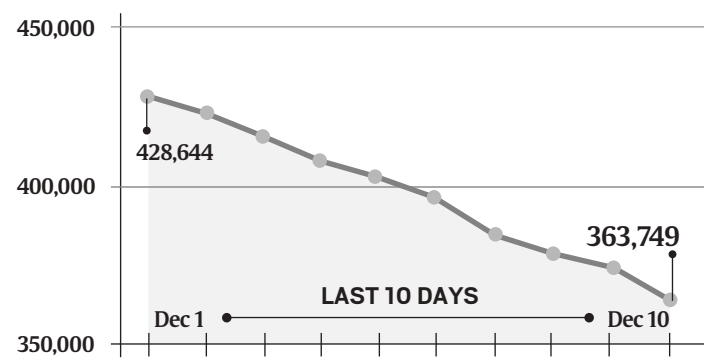


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

363,749



Note: The Dec 10 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Dec 11

INDIA TOTAL CASES
9,796,769WORLD TOTAL CASES
69,788,140

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

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Dec 11

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Antitrust suit against Facebook

The US government and 48 states and territories have sued Facebook for illegally crushing competition, and are seeking to break up the company by overturning its acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp.

SHRUTI DHAPOLA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11

TWO LAWSUITS filed by the United States federal government and governments of 48 US states and territories have put under the scanner the acquisition by Facebook of Instagram and WhatsApp — and therefore, the present structure of the giant social media company.

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC)'s lawsuit accused Facebook of eliminating competition with the acquisitions — even though the FTC itself had approved the deals.

"Facebook's actions to entrench and maintain its monopoly deny consumers the benefits of competition. Our aim is to roll back Facebook's anti-competitive conduct and restore competition so that innovation and free competition can thrive," Ian Conner, director of FTC's Bureau of Competition, has said in a statement.

Facebook has called the lawsuits "revisionist history", and said the FTC has "seemingly no regard for settled law or the consequences to innovation and investment".

What is the antitrust case against Facebook, and why does it pose such a big threat to the company as it exists today?

What does the FTC's lawsuit say?

The FTC has alleged that Facebook "is illegally maintaining its personal social networking monopoly through a years-long course of anticompetitive conduct". The lawsuit followed a "lengthy investigation" by a "coalition of attorneys general" of 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

The case has been filed under Section 2 of the Sherman Act, which the FTC enforces through Section 5 of the FTC Act. Section 2 of the Sherman Act prohibits companies from using anti-competitive means to acquire or maintain a monopoly.

Facebook's 2012 acquisition of Instagram for \$1 billion and the 2014 acquisition of WhatsApp for \$19 billion are being cited as attempts to illegally eliminate competition.

The FTC has also accused Facebook of imposing "anti-competitive conditions on software developers". It says Facebook's practices have harmed competition and left "consumers with few choices for personal social networking, and deprives advertisers of the benefits of competition".

The lawsuit cites how Facebook restricted its "third-party software developers' access



Facebook acquired Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. Reuters/File

to valuable interconnections to its platform" by exercising strict control over its application programming interfaces or APIs.

It gives the example of Twitter's short video app Vine, which was introduced in 2013. Facebook shut down API access for Vine, effectively restricting its ability to grow.

Facebook's monopoly over social media has resulted in "staggering profits" for the company, the lawsuit says.

And what does the FTC want?

The lawsuit seeks "divestitures of assets, including Instagram and WhatsApp". So if the FTC wins, Facebook might be forced to sell Instagram and WhatsApp, two products that are more appealing to younger users and in new geographies, and are therefore crucial to driving the company's growth.

The FTC also wants to "prohibit Facebook from imposing anti-competitive conditions on software developers". This means Facebook will have to "seek prior notice and approval for future mergers and acquisitions".

What does the lawsuit say specifically about Facebook's acquisition of Instagram and WhatsApp?

The FTC has noted that the acquisition of Instagram came at a time when users were switching "from desktop computers to smartphones" and "increasingly embracing photo-sharing".

"Facebook executives, including CEO Mark Zuckerberg, quickly recognized that Instagram was ... an existential threat to Facebook's monopoly power." And when Facebook was not able to compete with Instagram, it "ultimately chose to buy" the app to eliminate the threat.

With WhatsApp, Facebook did the same, the FTC says. When it realised that WhatsApp was "clear global 'category leader' in mobile messaging," it bought out the competition.

According to the complaint, Facebook acquiring WhatsApp also meant that "any future threat will have a more difficult time gaining scale in mobile messaging". This has largely been true. WhatsApp dominates the mobile messaging space, and currently has over 2 billion users globally; more than 400 million in India alone. No other messaging app comes even close, except perhaps Facebook's own Messenger.

The accusation about Zuckerberg seeking to buy out competitors isn't new either. When a rising Snapchat was seen as a potential competitor to Facebook, the company made an unsuccessful attempt to buy it. Later, it copied Snapchat's most popular feature Stories in Instagram, followed by Facebook and WhatsApp. Instagram now has more than a billion users; Snapchat has around 250 million daily active users.

But FTC had approved the Instagram and

Plasmodium ovale & other types of malaria

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, DECEMBER 11

A NOT very common type of malaria, *Plasmodium ovale*, has been identified in a jawan in Kerala. The soldier is believed to have contracted it during his posting in Sudan, from where he returned nearly a year ago, and where *Plasmodium ovale* is endemic.

Types of malaria

Malaria is caused by the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito, if the mosquito itself is infected with a malarial parasite. There are five kinds of malarial parasites — *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium vivax* (the commonest ones), *Plasmodium malariae*, *Plasmodium ovale* and *Plasmodium knowlesi*. Therefore, to say that someone has contracted the *Plasmodium ovale* type of malaria means that the person has been infected by that particular parasite.

In India, out of 1.57 lakh malaria cases in the high-burden states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh in 2019, 1.1 lakh cases (70%) were cases of *falciparum* malaria, according to a statement by

the Health Ministry on December 2. In 2018, the National Vector-borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) estimated that approximately 5 lakh people suffered from malaria (63% were of *Plasmodium falciparum*); researchers writing in the *Malaria Journal* of BMC felt the numbers could be an underestimate. The recent World Malaria Report 2020 said cases in India dropped from about 20 million in 2000 to about 5.6 million in 2019.

Cases in India

According to scientists at the National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), the Kerala case could be an isolated one and there are no recorded cases of local transmission so far. Previously, too, isolated cases were reported in Gujarat, Kolkata, Odisha and Delhi. However, no local transmission has been recorded — which means these cases have been acquired.

Plasmodium ovale

Scientists said *P. ovale* rarely causes severe illness and there is no need for panic because of the case detected in Kerala. Dr VS Chauhan, emeritus professor at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, said *P. ovale* is very similar to *P. vivax*, which is not a killer form. Symptoms include fever for 48 hours, headache and nausea, and the treatment modality is the same as it is for a person infected with *P. vivax*. *P. ovale* is no more dangerous than getting a viral infection, he said.

It is termed *ovale* as about 20% of the parasitised cells are oval in shape. Distinguishing between *P. vivax* and *P. ovale* may be tricky, Dr

Chauhan said, but a good-quality lab should be able to differentiate between the two.

Cases in India

According to scientists at the National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), the Kerala case could be an isolated one and there are no recorded cases of local transmission so far. Previously, too, isolated cases were reported in Gujarat, Kolkata, Odisha and Delhi. However, no local transmission has been recorded — which means these cases have been acquired.

The jawan had returned to India from Sudan in January this year and was in Delhi. A month ago, he went to Kerala and shortly after, he began experiencing fever and other symptoms. After Covid-19 tests returned negative, he was tested for malaria.

"And on the slide, we could see the parasite inside the red blood cell sample. In Kerala, we usually see malaria types like *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*. So we did a rapid antigen test to detect the strain and we found that it was negative for both types. When we investigated further, we diagnosed it as *Plasmodium ovale*," said Dr Rajeevan, medical superintendent at the district hospital in

Kannur where the jawan was treated. Dr Rajeevan said it was possible for the parasite to remain in the spleen or liver of the body for a long time, even years, after the mosquito bite, and the person could become symptomatic later.

Africa and elsewhere

P. ovale malaria is endemic to tropical Western Africa. According to scientists at NIMR, *P. ovale* is relatively unusual outside of Africa and, where found, comprises less than 1% of the isolates. It has also been detected in the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, but is still relatively rare in these areas.

In a 2016 study on the China-Myanmar border, it was found that *P. ovale* and *P. malariae* occurred at very low prevalence, but were often misidentified. In another study, carried out in China's Jiangsu Province, indigenous malaria cases decreased significantly over 2011-14, but imported cases of *P. ovale* and *P. malariae* had increased, and were often misdiagnosed.

INPUTS FROM VISHNU VARMA IN KOCHI & ENSIN NEW DELHI

Declare exotic pets, avoid prosecution: how one-time scheme works

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11

ON NOVEMBER 22, the Supreme Court upheld an Allahabad High Court order granting immunity from investigation and prosecution if one declared illegal acquisition or possession of exotic wildlife species between June and December. This was under a new amnesty scheme announced by the Centre. The High Court had said that whoever declares the stock of exotic species and submits to registration under the amnesty scheme, "shall have immunity from any inquiry into the source of licit acquisition or possession of the voluntarily declared stock of exotic species".

What is the government's voluntary disclosure scheme?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has come out with an advisory on a one-time voluntary

disclosure scheme that allows owners of exotic live species that have been acquired illegally, or without documents, to declare their stock to the government between June and December 2020. With this scheme, the government aims to address the challenge of zoonotic diseases, develop an inventory of exotic live species for better compliance under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and regulate their import. In its current form, however, the amnesty scheme is just an advisory, not a law.

What kind of exotic wildlife are covered?

The advisory has defined exotic live species as animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the CITES. It does not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. So, a plain reading of the advisory excludes exotic birds from the amnesty scheme.

CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that interna-



A civet rescued in Delhi. Civets are sought after as exotic pets. Express Archive

tional trade in wild animals, birds and plants does not endanger them. India is a member. Appendices I, II and III of CITES list 5,950 species as protected against over-exploitation through international trade. Many of these animals, such as iguanas, lemurs,

civets, albino monkeys, coral snakes, tortoises, are popular as exotic pets in India.

What is the process for disclosure under the scheme?

The disclosure has to be done online

through MoEFCC's Parivesh portal. The owner of the animal(s) will have to declare the stock as on January 1, 2020 to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of the concerned state or Union Territory. This will be followed by a physical verification of the animals. The CWLW will have to issue an online certificate of possession of exotic live species within six months of the date of the voluntary disclosure. After the registration, it is mandatory for the owner to allow the CWLW with free access to the exotic species declared on any day for verification.

Apart from this, the CWLW has to be informed about any new acquisition, death or change in possession of the animals within 30 days. The scheme has also specified guidelines for surrender of such animals to a recognised zoo. The owner will also have to provide the details of the species acquired, their numbers, and the address of the facility where they are housed.

How big a problem is illegal trade of

exotic animals in India?

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which enforces anti-smuggling laws, says India has emerged as a big demand centre for exotic birds and animals with an increase in smuggling of endangered species from different parts of the world. Most of this exotic wildlife is imported through illegal channels and then sold in the domestic market as pets.

"The long international border and air routes are used to source consignments from Bangkok, Malaysia and other top tourist destinations in South East Asia, as well as from Europe from where they are sent to Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Cochin," said the DRI in its 2019-2020 annual report. In the last one year, the DRI has seized black-and-white ruffed lemur endemic to Madagascar, the endangered hoolock gibbon and palm civet, albino monkeys, crocodiles, pygmy falcons, kookaburras, scarlet macaws, arcarais among several others, the annual report said.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Brandon Bernard

USA

Rare execution amid presidential transition in US

THE TRUMP administration Thursday carried out its ninth federal execution of the year in what has been a first series of executions during a presidential lame-duck period in 130 years, putting to death a Texas street-gang member in the slayings of a religious couple over two decades ago. Four more federal executions, including one Friday, are planned in the weeks before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. One was carried out in late November. The case of Brandon Bernard, who received a lethal injection at a US prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, was a rare execution of a person who was in his teens when his crime was committed. Several high-profile figures had appealed to Trump to stop the execution. AP

NETHERLANDS

Hezbollah man gets life in Hariri assassination

A UN-BACKED tribunal sentenced a member of the Hezbollah militant group to life imprisonment Friday for his involvement in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri. The defendant, Salim Ayyash, has never been arrested and was not in court at the Special Tribunal for Friday's sentencing hearing. The tribunal convicted Ayyash of being a co-perpetrator in the truck bombing in Beirut in 2005. The huge blast killed Hariri and 21 others. AP

ETHIOPIA

Refugees who fled Tigray brought back

IN A development the UN calls "disturbing," Ethiopia on Friday said it is returning thousands of refugees who ran from camps in its Tigray region as war swept through, putting them on buses back to the border area with Eritrea, the country the refugees originally fled. The news came as the US said it believes Eritrean troops are active in Ethiopia, which it called a "grave development." AP

FDA panel clears Pfizer vaccine, US could start getting shots next week

Health workers, nursing home residents 1st on priority list

THE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 11

PFIZER'S COVID-19 vaccine passed a critical milestone on Thursday when a panel of experts formally recommended that the US Food and Drug Administration authorise the vaccine. The agency is aiming to issue the authorisation by Friday evening (local time), deciding to move faster after having originally planned to finalise the move on Saturday.

Health care workers and nursing home residents will be first on the priority list to begin receiving the first shots early next week.

The FDA's vaccine advisory panel, composed of independent scientific experts, infectious disease doctors and statisticians, voted in favour of emergency authorisation for people 16 and older. Although the FDA does not have to follow the advice of its advisory panel, it usually does.

With this formal blessing, the nation may finally begin to slow the spread of the virus just as infections and deaths surge, reach-



A man receives a Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine shot in London on Tuesday. Britain, Bahrain and Canada have already authorised the vaccine. Reuters

ing a record of more than 3,000 daily deaths on Wednesday.

The FDA's decision to move faster in approving the vaccine comes after US President Donald Trump lashed out at the agency in a tweet on Friday morning, attacking the its commissioner, Dr Stephen M Hahn for not approving a Covid-19 vaccine faster.

The initial shipment of 6.4 million doses will leave warehouses within 24 hours of being cleared by the FDA, according to federal officials. About half of those doses will be sent across

Sanofi, GSK to delay vaccine

Paris: Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline said clinical trials of their Covid-19 vaccine showed an insufficient immune response in older people, delaying its launch to late next year and marking a setback in the global fight against the pandemic. The announcement on Friday hinders efforts to develop the multiple options that experts say the world needs to counter the pandemic. The news is also a blow for many governments that have booked millions of doses of the shot. The companies said they planned to start another study next February, hoping to come up with a more effective vaccine by the end of 2021. REUTERS

the country, and the other half will be reserved for the initial recipients to receive their second dose about three weeks later.

Australia stops vaccine trials due to false HIV positives

Sydney: Australia cancelled the production of a locally made vaccine against Covid-19 after trials showed it could interfere with HIV diagnosis, with the government instead securing additional doses of rival vaccines.

Antibodies generated by the vaccine being developed by the University of Queensland and biotech firm CSL, one of four candidates contracted by the Australian

government, were found to lead to some false positive HIV test results, the makers said.

While the vaccine had elicited a "robust" immune response to the novel SARS-COV-2 virus in a Phase 1 trial with 216 participants, re-engineering a fix could take another 12 months, they said. CSL and the Australian government had together decided to stop Phase 2 and Phase 3 trials. REUTERS

AstraZeneca to test combining its vaccine with Russian shot

ASTRAZENECA WILL start clinical trials to test a combination of its experimental Covid-19 vaccine with Russia's Sputnik V shot aimed at boosting the efficacy of the British drugmaker's vaccine, Russia's sovereign wealth fund said on Friday. Trials will start by the end of the year and Russia wants to jointly produce the new vaccine if it is proven to be effective, said the RDIF wealth fund, which funded Sputnik V.

AstraZeneca said it was considering how it could assess combinations of different vaccines, and would soon begin exploring with Russia's Gamaleya Institute, which developed Sputnik V, whether two common cold virus-based vaccines could be successfully combined. It did not give further details. However, its Russian arm said it would start to enrol adults aged 18 years and older to the trial. REUTERS

Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai charged under national security law

VIVIAN WANG
HONG KONG, DECEMBER 11

JIMMY LAI, a publishing tycoon and a prominent critic of the Chinese Communist Party, was charged with colluding with foreign forces under Hong Kong's national security law, the police said on Friday, as Beijing intensified its efforts to smother the city's faltering pro-democracy movement.

Lai is the most high-profile person to be formally charged under the security law. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison.

Lai, 73, was arrested in August on suspicion of violating the sweeping security law, which Beijing imposed on Hong Kong in June. The police also raided the headquarters of Lai's newspaper, *Apple Daily*, one of



Jimmy Lai

the last remaining anti-Beijing publications in the city.

Lai has pushed other countries to punish China for its erosion of freedoms in Hong Kong. He travelled to the US last year to meet officials including Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. And he has called for sanctions on Chinese officials.

It is not clear what the police say he did specifically to violate the security law. NYT



ARGENTINA CLOSER TO LEGAL ABORTION

People celebrate the passing of the Bill to legalise abortion, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Friday. Lawmakers in Argentina's Lower House on Friday passed a Bill that would legalise elective abortions to the 14th week of pregnancy, a proposal from President Alberto Fernández in response to long-sought demands from activists in the homeland of Pope Francis. The Bill still needs approval from the country's Senate in a debate expected before the end of the year. Reuters

European leaders clinch deal on tougher 2030 climate goal

KATE ABNETT
BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 11

EUROPEAN UNION countries agreed a new climate change target for the bloc on Friday after haggling through the night in Brussels, pulling the political trigger on a policy revamp to make every sector greener.

Leaders of the 27 member states agreed to cut their net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% from 1990 levels by 2030, substantially toughening an existing 40% target.

Deal overcomes EU's East-West divide

THE WEALTHIER nations of Western Europe and the relatively poorer, more conservative nations of Eastern Europe have clashed repeatedly in the EU regarding various reforms and budgeting decisions. During the discussions on deciding the 2030 emissions target, Eastern European countries, particularly

Poland, held out for guarantees of more funding for poorer countries and GDP-based emission targets for individual nations. Despite all the differences, the target of 55% emissions cut by 2030 was reached after compromises from both sides, although activists had called for a more ambitious goal.

The EU wants to reach "net zero" emissions by 2050, a deadline that scientists say the world must meet to avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

European Council President Charles Michel, who chaired the talks, called the EU the leader in the fight against climate change, and said the target had been hard-fought, but was "credible".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it would put the bloc "on a clear path towards climate neutrality in 2050". The EU will present its target at a UN global virtual summit on Saturday.

The proposals will speed a shift to electric vehicles and aim to mobilise investments in the huge low-carbon infrastructure that will now be needed — including a requirement for extra energy sector investments of 350 billion euros (\$420 billion) a year this decade.

The "at least 55%" target is as good as final, but will need approval from the European Parliament, which supports a more ambitious 60% cut. REUTERS

THE SOUTH KOREAN FILMMAKER HAD FALLEN ILL WITH COVID-19

Award-winning director Kim Ki-Duk dies at 59

JAN MOLSSEN
COPENHAGEN, DECEMBER 11

SOUTH KOREAN director Kim Ki-duk, who has won the top award at the Venice Film Festival in 2012, has died in Latvia. He was 59.

The Baltic News Service cited Latvia-based Russian documentary filmmaker Vitaly Mansky, president of an international documentary film festival in Riga, as saying Kim died after falling ill with Covid-19. Mansky was not immediately reachable for comment.

Kim's death was indirectly confirmed by the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, which said that a "South Korean male in his 50s died while being treated for Covid-19 at a hospital in Latvia during the early hours of Dec 11 local time." It declined to identify the director due to privacy concerns.



Kim won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival with his 2012 film *Pieta*. He also won prizes for best director at festivals in Venice and Berlin, and secured another award at the 2011 Cannes festival for his movie *Arirang*. AP

Kim came to Latvia on Nov. 20 in order to buy a house in Jurmala, the country's seaside resort near Riga, the capital, and apply for a residence permit, the Lithuanian public

broadcaster said. Kim won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival with his 2012 film *Pieta*, a brutal mother-and-son tale of revenge and redemption. He also won

prizes for best director at festivals in Venice and Berlin, and secured another award at the 2011 Cannes festival for his movie *Arirang*.

While his movies often garnered critical acclaim, many moviegoers, especially women, considered them to be disturbing because of excessive violence and depictions of rape and castration.

Kim has faced allegations at home of hitting an actress and trying to force her into shooting off-script sexual scenes while making a movie. He has vaguely denied the allegations, saying there had been a misunderstanding, although he acknowledged he might have hit the actress while instructing her in acting.

The actress dropped out and the movie, *Moebius*, a dark and violent story about an estranged family, was finished with a replacement.

Kim was fined 5 million won (\$4,570) over assault charges in 2018. But prosecutors eventually decided not to pursue charges of sexual abuse against him, citing insufficient evidence.

Kim's career in South Korea effectively ended in 2017-18 after three actresses made new accusations on investigative news show "PD's Notebook", which was broadcast on Korean public broadcaster MBC. Kim later launched criminal and civil suits against MBC and the original *Moebius* actress, accusing them of defamation, but his claims were dismissed in courts.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry said its embassy in Riga was contacting the man's family and offering help in arranging a funeral. The ministry said it cannot release specific details about the man to anyone who isn't family. AP

Indian-American among 18 in NASA's manned Moon mission

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 11

RAJA JON VURPUTOOR Chari, an Indian-American US Air Force colonel, is among 18 astronauts, half of them women, who have been selected by NASA for its ambitious manned mission to the Moon and beyond.

The modern lunar exploration programme will land the first woman and next man on the Moon in 2024 and establish a sustainable human lunar presence by the end of the decade, the American space agency said. NASA on Wednesday named the 18 astronauts who will train for its Artemis moon-landing programme.

Chari, 43, a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and US Naval Test Pilot School, is the only Indian-American in the list.

He was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels Friday. Reuters

EU chief: No-deal Brexit is now the most likely outcome

GABRIELA BACZYNSKA & GUY FAULCONBRIDGE
BRUSSELS, LONDON, DEC 11

BRITAIN IS more likely to leave the European Union's orbit on Dec 31 without a trade deal than with an agreement, an EU official quoted the head of the European Commission as telling the bloc's 27 national leaders on Friday.

Britain quit the EU in January but remains an informal member until December 31 — the end of a transition period during which it has remained in the EU single market and customs union.

Both sides say they want to agree arrangements to cover nearly \$1 trillion in annual trade, but talks are deadlocked and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday there was "a strong possibility" an agreement would not be clinched.

"The probability of a no deal is higher than that of a deal," the EU official, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as saying during an EU summit in Brussels.

Johnson and von der Leyen have given negotiators until Sunday evening to break the im-

passer over fishing rights and allowing Britain to be punished if in the future it diverged from the bloc's rules.

"Situation is difficult. Main obstacles remain," the EU official said of von der Leyen's message. "To be seen by Sunday whether a deal is possible."

Sterling tumbled, stocks fell and implied volatility surged as investors started to price in the risk of a chaotic finale to the five-year Brexit crisis. The pound fell 0.8% against the dollar to \$1.3190 before recovering somewhat.

A no-trade deal Brexit would damage the economies of northern Europe, send shockwaves through financial markets, snarl borders and sow chaos through the delicate supply chains which stretch across Europe and beyond.

While some EU diplomats have cast Johnson's rhetoric as theatrics intended to wrench out a deal and please his domestic Brexit supporters, British officials say London cannot accept the EU's demands and caution that a no-deal exit is on the cards.

British Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said there was still a chance of an agreement but no British leader could accept the EU's demands. REUTERS

Biden, Harris jointly named *Time's* 'Person of the Year'

US-Indian among 'Heroes of 2020'

REUTERS & PTI
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 11

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly named *Time* magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year" on Thursday, chosen from a list of finalists that included the man Biden vanquished at the polls — President Donald Trump.

The Democratic former vice president and his running mate, a California senator whose election broke gender and racial barriers, together "offered restoration and renewal in a single ticket", *Time* said in a profile of the pair.

Following the most tumultuous US presidential campaign in modern times, waged in the throes of a deadly pandemic, economic devastation and a strife-torn national reckoning with racism, Biden and Harris prevailed in an election that drew the highest voter turnout in a century.

Time editor-in-chief and CEO



Edward Felsenthal credited the victors with succeeding in "an existential debate over what reality we inhabit."

Meanwhile, Indian-American Rahul Dubey, who had opened the doors of his Washington DC home to over 70 people demonstrating against the killing of George Floyd, has been hailed among the "Heroes of 2020" by *Time*, honouring those who "went above and beyond the call of duty" this year.



Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is a US Air Force colonel

Candidate Class.

He reported for duty in August 2017 and having completed the initial astronaut candidate training is now eligible for a mission assignment.

"My fellow Americans, I give you the heroes of the future who will carry us back to the Moon and beyond: the Artemis Generation," Vice President Mike Pence said at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Wednesday.

"It really is amazing to think that the next man and the first

woman on the Moon are among the names that we just read... We started today reflecting on a great hero of the past. The Artemis Generation are the heroes of American space exploration in the future," Pence said after he introduced the members of the Artemis Team during the eighth National Space Council meeting.

NASA will announce flight assignments for astronauts later, pulling from the Artemis Team. Additional Artemis Team members, including international partner astronauts, will join this group, as needed.

The selected astronauts will help NASA prepare for the coming Artemis missions, which begin next year working with the agency's commercial partners as they develop human landing systems; assisting in the development of training; defining hardware requirements; and consulting on technical development. They also will engage the public and industry on NASA's exploration plans. PTI

SHORT STORIES

Immersive tales of eager rookies and established headliners waiting to swallow up Test glory this Australian summer.

Horse for the course

Batting on concrete has solidified Shubman Gill's backfoot play but has raised other challenges

SRIRAM VEERA
DECEMBER 11

CONCRETE WAS the ground beneath Shubman Gill's cricketing feet in his formative years. It cemented his batting technique, made him what he is. It will present him with a few challenges in the near future, but has already given him the soundtrack of his childhood: Thwack, thwack; he is intimate with the sound of ball bouncing off it.

Rarely has an Indian batsman shown such preference for backfoot play. There have been exceptions but for most, it comes at a later stage of their evolution, often forced by necessity. Not with Gill. It's not an exaggerated back-and-across movement like some Australians of the past, but he likes to retreat, build a strong base, and react from there. He isn't someone one would see leaning into his drives too often. Instead, it's the balance and in particular, the arm-extension he trusts, to punch even full-length deliveries on the up.

It's tempting to mix this back-foot preference with bouncy and relatively non-seaming tracks of Australia, and conclude that Gill is going to be an unqualified success. It will suit his game but there are a few riders.

The backfoot play was one of the first things noticed by Kolkata Knight Riders' assistant coach and former Mumbai player Abhishek Nayar, who has forged a close bond with Gill over the last three years with time spent at the KKR academy and then at IPLs.

"When the KKR academy started, his father came to Mumbai for four days and I wanted to understand what went into the making of Gill the batsman. Where is this backfoot mastery coming from?"

To understand it, we have to fade out to 17 years ago to village Chak Kherewala in Punjab's Fazilka district.

Gill is four, the sun has barely broken out when he stirs, picks up his bat that is carved off a peepal tree and hence light on his un-wrinkled hands, and goes to the verandah ("three pitches ka size", he recalls).

The father, a landlord who had already seen the son's love for cricket a year ago, hurls the ball and Gill thwacks it. The father hurls a little quicker, Gill starts to press back and hits it.

He is eight, it's 3.30 am in Chandigarh where the family has moved for his cricket to flourish, and Gill would bat for two hours before school. More cricket in the afternoon, on concrete. The technique solidified a bit more. "What I understood from his father was that he batted a lot on concrete, he liked fast bowlers and he got a cousin who fired re-



Suvajit Dev

ally fast throws at him for a decade now," Nayar says. It's the powerful shoulders of his elder cousin Kushpreet that has moulded Gill's technique. For hours, day after day, Kushpreet hurled the ball at rapid pace at Gill, who found a way to tackle the challenge. Press back. Retreat. Build a strong base. And then punch.

"He can throw really fast and from 8 to 16, he helped me a lot in my training. Without him, I couldn't have reached this stage," Shubman says. Without him, perhaps, the backfoot play too wouldn't have solidified to the extent it has.

"On concrete, the backfoot becomes natural, an instinctive shot. And the front foot becomes something you have to develop," Nayar says. "He isn't someone who will see leaning into drives as that is not something that comes naturally, but he has scored a lot of runs with the red ball on the front foot. I think he has an all-round game."

Likely challenges

Batting is about transferring weight and being still when playing a shot. At the top level one needs to be strong on the back foot but still have the balance and skill to play under the eyes, and be in a position to transfer

the weight forward.

Gill's first move is to step back, then the front foot side-steps to his right and often opens up a little, before he presses down into his stance, crouches a little – for balance, ready to spring out to action according to the demands of the ball. But here is where it gets interesting.

Even when the ball is relatively full, he doesn't move forward that much. Sometimes, one gets the impression he could transfer the weight further when he goes forward. It raises the concern that he can occasionally push his hands at the ball without actually transferring his weight forward.

The Australians would know this, and it would be interesting to see the lengths they attempt, if the youngster makes his Test debut on the tour.

Would they keep it short of length and surprise him with a fuller one now and then, or go the other way? It will come down to how judiciously they mix it up but in theory, Gill's game should make his chances of success in Australia higher.

It's the moving ball in England or New Zealand where he would be tested more – and it would come down to his problem-solving skills and temperament.

It's tempting to mix this back-foot preference with bouncy and relatively non-seaming tracks of Australia, and conclude that Gill is going to be an unqualified success. It will suit his game but there are a few riders.

That's one area that Nayar knows Gill is up to the task.

"He has a great deal of understanding about his own game and about the complexities of his skill sets. Lot of cricketers spend a lot of time trying to understand their games. He is someone who has that deep understanding at a young age. He is someone who relies very highly on his technique. And he wants to make sure that is always spot on, at a level where he wants it to be as it gives him confidence. He has practised for hours and hours every day and is really aware of his game."

With most young batsmen, it is temperament and attitude that mentors and coaches fret about. "Shubman isn't someone who you tinker too much with, he is switched on all the time," Nayar says. "He is not someone who requires advice around mental aspects; he needs and looks for guidance around his skill." Jacques Kallis, who was KKR's coach last year, agrees. "There is no shot or option he (Gill) does not have as a batsman but his decision-making and ability to think clearly under pressure is equally impressive," Kallis wrote in a column in The Times of India. "He has a bright future with a mature head on his shoulders."

"He is aware that he is good," Nayar says. "And that comes from confidence and hard work. Shubman is someone who is humble even with the potential he has. People have been talking him up for so long now but he knows the game is bigger than him. Lot of people have talent and are aware of it, but they take it for granted. Not him. He works his back off to make sure the god-gifted talent is utilised."

There is just one thing that Nayar is waiting to watch in Australia. "I would like to see how he handles international-match pressure. Knowing him, he will crack it. He just needs that one good knock that will kickstart his career. Such players come few and far between – this kind of talent who also have excellent demeanour and work ethic."

Pink-ball warm up: 20 wickets fall in a day

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
DECEMBER 11

IF THE first day of the day-night tour game between the Indians and Australia A in Sydney is a precursor to what might follow in Adelaide – the venue for the first Test under lights – in about a week's time, batters better be prepared to endure adversity. Twenty wickets fell on the day, with the Indians scoring 194 and Australia A bundled out for 108 in reply. The ball moved in the air and off the deck, jumping awkwardly at times as well. Jasprit Bumrah's maiden first-class half-century (55 not out) gave India's total some respectability.

He swung the bat and added 71 runs with Mohammed Siraj (22) for the last wicket. A straight drive from him struck Cameron Green on the head on his follow-through, forcing the all-rounder to sub out of the game with a "mild" concussion. Overall, though, India's batting, without Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, didn't fare well against the pink ball.

Mayank Agarwal: During his brief stay, Agarwal was playing from the crease and as he tried a forcing shot off the backfoot to a back-of-a-length delivery from Sean Abbott, he edged to first slip. Agarwal's approach was tentative and his body wasn't in the right position to play the shot.

Prithvi Shaw: Shaw played to his strengths, all-out attack. When Australia A bowlers offered width, he slapped the ball square of the wicket. A scorching drive past bowler Harry Conway barely allowed the fielders to move. Then again, Shaw's game is fraught with risk as well, and an outside edge from an attempted drive flew past third slip. He scored 40 runs off 29 balls, hitting eight fours. But his footwork, at times, didn't inspire confidence. He was dismissed, leaving a big gap between bat and pad.

Shubman Gill: During his 58-ball 43, Gill oozed class. Gill made the most of run-scoring deliveries. A six over long-leg off a short ball from Abbott was excellent. Gill got out to a very good ball from Green. But the youngster showed enough mettle.

Ajinkya Rahane: Rahane played a gorgeous pull shot against Jack Wildermuth. He got out next ball, trying to play another forcing shot. But the positivity in Rahane's approach was refreshing.

Hanuma Vihari: He hit two fours but fell prey to a misjudgement.

Rishabh Pant: Australia A bowlers set him up with short deliveries before Wildermuth bowled a full one on the stumps



Jasprit Bumrah hit a fifty and took two wickets on Day One. File

and trapped him leg-before.

Wriddhiman Saha: His scored a match-saving half-century in the first tour game. On Friday, he got a good ball from Abbott. However, Saha didn't keep when Australia A batted. Pant took the gloves instead.

India's bowling

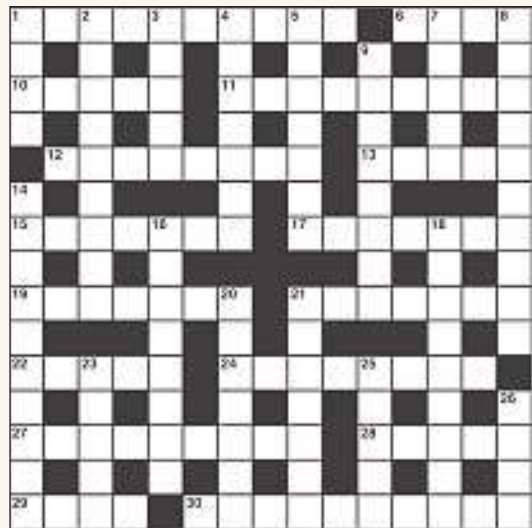
The team would be happy to see that despite an elongated long-form hiatus, both Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah hit their straps straightaway. They had the advantage of bowling under lights and the two quicks sent down some unplayable deliveries. Bumrah bowled a beauty to dismiss struggling opener Joe Burns, giving the Aussie selectors more headaches when it comes to selecting the opening pair for Adelaide. Shami dismissed Marcus Harris and Ben McDermott inside six deliveries to turn the game in India's favour. Shami returned with three wickets, while Bumrah bagged two. Siraj (2/33) and Navdeep Saini (3/19), too, enjoyed bowling in favourable conditions.

BRIEF SCORES: India 'A' 194 in 48.3 ovs (J Bumrah 55, P Shaw 40, S Gill 43; S Abbott 3/46) vs Australia 'A' 108 in 32.2 ovs (M Harris 26, A Carey 32; M Shami 3/29, J Bumrah 2/33, N Saini 3/19)

Rohit fit, to fly out on December 14

New Delhi: Senior India batsman Rohit Sharma on Friday cleared an eagerly-watched fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and will leave for Australia on December 14, three days before the start of the marquee Test series against the world's number one team. Rohit had sustained a hamstring injury during the IPL, which led to him missing the white-ball leg of the on-going tour. PTI

CROSSWORD 4300



- ACROSS**
1 Not the impressive result one was led to expect (10)
6 Size of field for a medley race? (4)
10 Out of gear (5)
11 It gives time for music (9)
12 Poor Latin for a pressing need (8)
13 It's not clear it's changing in my case (5)
15 Slipped away, unusually pleased (7)
17 Not a subject put on in advance (7)
19 To look one's years requires nobility (7)
21 Remains at home to prevent wrongdoing (5,2)
22 They have a central meeting place (5)
24 A particular form of dislike (8)
27 A short romance (9)
28 Excuse offered for absenteeism (5)
29 Learning Heather goes out to work for a living (4)
30 It makes a topping sweet (5,5)
- DOWN**
1 Wild swan seen in a field of barley (4)
2 Accept a holiday and say goodbye (4,5)
3 Acted as a beginner (5)
4 Shut up! (7)
5 Many not able to provide a word of opposite meaning (7)
7 Whips corps into shape (5)
8 Ring they've formed, none being omitted (10)
9 Order duck for a serviceman (8)
14 A sober habit (10)
16 Painless treatment for animals (8)
18 Bringing back a building's splendour, or doing nothing about it (9)
20 Cat lies injured, stretcher required (7)
21 A spot of illicit drinking (7)
23 First of the drinkers finished the port (5)
25 Remains to give support (5)
26 Structure ripe for repair (4)

Solutions Crossword 4299: Across: 1 Reckons, 5 Chief, 8 Direction, 9 Sue, 10 Iron, 12 Imposing, 14 Raffle, 15 Intact, 17 Tappers, 18 Lees, 21 Lei, 22 Nectarine, 24 Sugar, 25 Side up, Down: 1 Radix, 2 Cur, 3 Once, 4 Sigma, 5 Confound, 6 Instigate, 7 Freight, 11 Offspring, 13 Listener, 14 Rattles, 16 Precis, 19 Sleep, 20 Ward, 23 Ire.

JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Joint undertakings stand a better chance when they benefit _____ - Euripides (4,5)

RSEIO CEKODT

 AGRSS G MUUBH

Answers: Joint undertakings stand a better chance when they benefit both sides - SOLUTION: OSIER, GRASS, DOCKET, HUMBLE

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

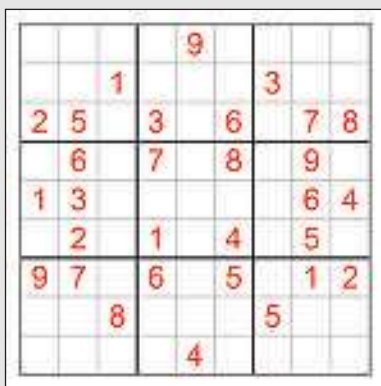


Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4319



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You definitely now need the full support, goodwill and co-operation of partners or close companions. This advice applies as much to your personal affairs as to your ambitions at work. Actually, the best backing could come from distant, far-away places.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Six planets offer you their support and assistance. So this should be a positive period. If you run into difficulties, this is a message that someone you are doing something radically wrong and failing to make the most of your many personal advantages.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There's a little-known point in your horoscope known as the north node. This factor is now due to be responsible for increasing good fortune from secret matters and discreet connections. It will also show you the way forward in your closest family relationships.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There may be some slight emotional stress, as family members are thrown together in unexpected circumstances. You have a perfectly free choice as to whether you get involved or stand to one side as they slug it out. The choice, as ever, is yours, and yours alone.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Mars is still agitating the financial sector of your solar horoscope, so don't complain if you have been cut short, or if a financial matter is more costly than you expected. The situation will soon become more stable, enabling you to salvage a major achievement.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Hopefully many parts of the jigsaw will now fit into place. You've worked hard enough over the past few weeks, and every single piece of good luck that comes your way will be thoroughly well-deserved. Continue to check out a financial offer.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Social stars are ideal, mainly thanks to the continuing varied and helpful alignments of Mercury, Venus and Mars. There is little pressure to finalise transactions and agreements or to meet social deadlines, so you can afford to set your own pace and stick to it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

There are emotional hurdles to be cleared and individuals to be put in their place. However, you don't know the full picture and a little tolerance and humility would not come amiss. What seems most likely at the moment, is that you will be able to persuade a partner that you meant well, even if it didn't seem like it at the time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You have probably encountered so much aggravation in the past that nothing can surprise you now. You must plan a relaxing weekend, especially if you're recovering from professional battles. Find whatever way you can to soothe your troubled brow.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It would be extremely unwise to be complacent about current partnership problems just because other people seem to be happier than usual. Now is the time to clear up a few long-standing difficulties. Mind you, while a number of facts are still secret, there may be no final solution.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Although you are by nature an outgoing person, circumstances have reduced you to a somewhat secretive, private frame of mind. Other people have no automatic right to intrude on your personal affairs, so why let them? You'd probably do best to throw them some small morsels of comfort, while keeping what is really important to yourself.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Jupiter is now taking up a position that urges you to be more self-disciplined and determined. You want to attain your dreams, but to do this you must finally get to grips with the practical details. Actually, you're often better at dealing with such matters than you imagine, or than other people expect.

Breaking into the Olympics

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11

THIS WAS an unprecedented week for the Olympics, with breakdancing included as a medal event for the 2024 Paris Games. As expected, the prospect of seeing B Girls and B Boys — that's what breakdancers are called — in the company of elite athletes triggered mixed reactions. While the old school hasn't stopped rolling its eyes, the regulars on the breaking circuit vouch for this new Olympic discipline's faster, higher and stronger fundamentals.

How did Breaking make it?

Around 2016, the idea that Breaking could neatly fit into the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) was floated by the World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF). Sensing how dynamic, creative and urban it inherently was, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) drafted it into the YOG to be held at Buenos Aires in 2018, where the first of the 'Battles' took place in front of a massively smitten audience.

Huge vocal crowds at the venue, and encouraging figures backing the sport from the broadcasting Olympic Channel and social media, helped Breaking leapfrog over several other sports. In December 2018, organisers of the 2024 Paris Games told WDSF they were very receptive in including Breaking provisionally in the Paris Games programme and a full inclusion was announced this December.

What will it look like at Paris?

The likely format at Paris will see 32 breakers (16 B-Boys and 16 B-Girls) compete over two days of 1vs1 competitive duels in hip-hop freestyle called 'Battles'. Preliminaries on Day 1 and Finals on Day 2, similar to the World Urban Games last year, will be judged under the 'Trivium Value System'. Six criteria are considered: technique, variety, performativity, musicality, creativity and personality. In duels, two breakers face-off and are judged directly against each other. Dancers typically do not choose their music and are expected to



Carlos Cruz, a breakdancer, at a kiosk in Alameda Park in Mexico City. AP

react and adapt to bears in real-time.

DJs, an emcee, well-respected judges, and members of the local Breaking community stand encircling the dancefloor as the Battlers go three rounds back and forth between them to the same music.

EXPLAINED

How does Breaking qualify as a sport?

"There are those who have trouble associating it with a sports competition," says Jean-Laurent

Bourquin, senior advisor World Dance Sport Federation, who helped steer Breaking's charge for Olympic inclusion. "But in any Breaking performance, there is always an athletic dimension. Breaking features different types of movements, including foot movements performed from a standing position, floor-based moves performed with the body supported on the

hands and feet, holding positions and acrobatic performances, all of which require great coordination, strength and endurance. It is definitely a combination of both sport and art," he said.

BBoys and BGirls who compete professionally are known to lead extremely healthy lifestyles, eat the right foods, undertake extensive workouts for strength training, perfect techniques — never mind the casual, baggy tracks, baseball caps and a chill vibe.

"For me, the most satisfying part of this Olympic journey was seeing some of the doubters do a 180 in Buenos Aires. They went from being sceptical to becoming some of the loudest proponents of Olympic Breaking. That was a pivotal moment," Bourquin said.

Is it similar to gymnastics, figure skating in how it's judged?

No. In Breaking, nothing is codified and breakers do not receive a number of points

for performing a certain move like you have in figure skating, for example. "In a battle, we compare two performances, one of which may be better in terms of pure technique but not in terms of musicality, interpretation, or physical explosiveness. This is why we created the Trivium judging system: it is holistic in that it ensures that physicality (body), artistic ability (mind) and interpretative quality (soul) are all considered in real time by the judges," explained Borquin.

What's the scope of its reach?

The WDSF conducts its own official events though Breaking has a wider reach with cult competitions like Red Bull BC One, Outbreak Europe and the Silverback Open.

What started out in the Bronx in the 1970s is now popular worldwide with South Korea, Russia, France and Japan, showing exponential growth in its BBoying and BGirling numbers. The 32 breakers who qualified for the World Urban Games last September, came from 21 different countries, including Venezuela, Egypt and Bulgaria. The 24 dancers at the Youth Olympic Games represented 18 countries (with nine different countries from three continents winning medals), while 66 countries took part in the 2019 WDSF World Breaking Championship in Nanjing including dancers from Bhutan, Cameroon, El Salvador, India, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Laos and Rwanda.

Why is Breaking's reach its strongest suit?

In an Olympic first, the WDSF held online video qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games that was open to any breaker around the globe between the ages of 15 and 18 — a requirement to compete in Argentina. Close to 1,000 people submitted one-minute videos of themselves in action, and the best were selected by a panel of judges.

"It was at this stage that we realised how popular Breaking was around the world, with entries coming in from all continents, and a number of countries we perhaps weren't really expecting, like Nepal, for example. The biggest surprise was the actual skill levels of the young dancers. We realised that Breaking is being practiced in all four corners of the world to a very high standard," Borquin said.

Dementia: Rugby stars set to file a lawsuit

SHAHID JUDGE
DECEMBER 11

THE CALL for increased safety measures across sport has been gaining steam over the past few years. But now there's a group of former ruggers set to take legal action against World Rugby, Rugby Football Union (governing body in England) and the Welsh Rugby Union for negligence in promoting safety. The BBC reported that a group of eight former players, including England's 2003 World Cup winner Steve Thompson and former Welsh flanker Alix Popham, are suing the unions. There are, however, reports that around 70 former players from around the world, including former All Black Carl Hayman (according to The New Zealand Herald), that will file a lawsuit.

Head injuries

The early onset of dementia has been the most telling consequence of a career in the sport for former players. Thompson, now 42, who played in each of England's matches at the victorious 2003 World Cup campaign, claims he cannot remember those games.

"It's like I'm watching the game with England playing and I can see me there — but I wasn't there, because it's not me," he said to the BBC. "It's just bizarre. People talk about stories, and since the World Cup I've talked to the lads that were there, and you pick up stories, and then you can talk about it. But it's not me being there, it's not me doing it, because it's just gone."

Meanwhile, 41-year-old Popham, who had a 14-year professional career, claims the biggest tell-tale sign for him that something was wrong came during a bike ride on a route he had taken hundreds of times in the past.

"I got lost on the bike ride and had a black-out moment," he was quoted by the BBC. Eventually, he had to use an app on his phone to find his way home.

"I haven't got memories of large chunks of my career," he added. "During lockdown, they repeated the 2008 game against England, when we won at Twickenham. I have no recollection of being on that pitch.

CHRONIC TRAUMATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

Each of the eight players who have come forward to sue the three governing bodies have been diagnosed with CTE — which was the subject of a Hollywood flick starring Will Smith, *Concussion*. The condition is a consequence of the brain being "subjected to numerous small blows or rapid movements — sometimes known as sub-concussions," as reported by the BBC. Memory loss, depression and progressive dementia are a few symptoms of the condition. Former England footballer and West Bromwich Albion legend Jeffrey.

We played in South Africa and I met Nelson Mandela before the game. I've got the picture on the wall, but I can't remember meeting him."

Heavy-tackling sport

The highly physical nature of rugby — which involves meaty tackles and head-to-head collisions (especially during scrumming plays) — makes the sport susceptible to long-term head injuries.

Popham recalls being told early in his career that if he enters a tackle without giving it his all, there's a high chance he'd come out injured. This meant that he'd have to tackle at full capacity three times a week during training in the United Kingdom, and four times a week during his three-year stint at French club Brive.

His doctors estimate that he would have experienced no less than 1,00,000 sub-concussions during his career. Thompson, meanwhile, remembers one brutal practice session. "There was one session when the scrumming hadn't gone quite right and they made us do a hundred live scrums. When it comes to it, we were like a bit of meat, really," he said. "When we first started going full-time in the mid-1990s, training sessions could quickly turn into full contact."

Reformation of society is a relay race, through time, without a finish line! Elective politics and social reform, apparently, seem to be ideas that conflict with each other. The reason being that, in order to achieve or retain power, it is important to keep people pleased; whereas, in order to reform the existing practices that are hurdles to the progress of the nation, one has to swim against the current. This ultimately means facing dissent of people. The challenge lies in balancing both! Sometimes, one has to be ready to make a choice between staying in power or living the principles that are necessary for the true good of society.

It is very commonly said that women make half the society, and at the same time, they are the ones who actually nurture the other half. It, therefore, is reasonable to assume that only empowered women can make an empowered society. Isn't this exactly what Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had implied when he had said,

"Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother"

This undeniable truth seems to have, unfortunately, always been negated by individuals, families and society as a whole.

The baton for social transformation, through the empowerment of women, with the goal to take the nation forward, has been passed on by great people through several centuries; from Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule-Savitribai Phule, to Mahatma Gandhi, to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. This baton, in current times, is being upheld by Shri. Sharadchandraji Pawar.

Resistance to change is an integral part of human nature. The wisdom of Sharad Pawar, in the pursuit of empowering the nation, through the empowerment of women lies first and foremost, in the identification and empowerment of women, who themselves are receptive to change and who possess the approval of families, who believe in empowering these women and are willing to support them. The paradoxical truth is that the very families who desire to take the benefit of transformation in society, to empower themselves, are hardly inclined to empower the woman in the family and give her control over her own free will. Most of them would go in for a "shadow empowerment" of women, as a means to empower themselves! I consider myself fortunate to be one among such innumerable women and such families, who have been identified and empowered by Shri. Sharad Pawar!

I met Hon'ble Shri. Sharadchandraji Pawar for the first time ever, on 21 February 2002, at Silver Oak, his residence in Mumbai. This was the day that I was nominated as the Member of the Legislative Council. This was the day he gave me the vision and direction to my own path. His directions to me were clear and specific. I was clearly told that I was nominated as a representative of women, minorities, and the weaker and deprived sections of society.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Gateway to Development

The baton for social transformation, through the empowerment of women, with the goal to take the nation forward, has been passed on by great people through several centuries; from Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule-Savitribai Phule, to Mahatma Gandhi, to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. This baton, in current times, is being upheld by Shri. Sharadchandraji Pawar.



In 2006, I called on Pawar Saheb with a request that I wanted to arrange a "Mahila Melawa" in Parbhani, in which I wanted to invite 40000 women and I requested him to preside over the function. He questioned me as to what was the purpose of such a programme. To be honest, I had not given this much thought. He, however, told me that simply arranging a programme without any concrete consideration of the long-term good that it will do for women, would be a futile exercise. Instead, he advised me to go back home and return with a proposal that would concretely empower women. He took care to give me specific directions on how such a programme could be conceptualized and promised to extend all help.

Thus, a three-day programme entitled PARIVARTAN 2006 was organized. This was attended by over one lakh women from all over the state; 500 stalls for the sale of goods produced by women self-help groups were set up. Competitions, cultural programmes and training workshops for women were organized on all three days. Along with Sharad Pawarji, over a dozen ministers, several IAS officers, vice chancellors and experts from the non-government sector participated.

The highlight of the programme was the direct interaction of Shri. Sharad Pawar, the Union Minister for Agriculture, with more-than-a-lakh women from across the state. The interaction ignited the required encouragement and confidence in the minds of those who had so far considered themselves voiceless and powerless. This interaction made the women cognizant that they



possess wings of their own and can take their own flight into the limitless skies!

The women carried back a power that they had never imagined they possessed within themselves!

He instilled in their minds something like what Arunadhathi Roy had said,

"There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. They are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard"

This programme gave a big boost to the women self-help group movement in Maharashtra and led to several important decisions by the government towards the economic empowerment of women.

This aroused in me the curiosity to understand the impact of the provisions of The Women's Policy, that had been brought forth by Hon'ble Shri. Sharad Pawar in 1994 in Maharashtra, when he was the Chief Minister. It led me to undertake a small effort to study the implementation by the various ministries. This Gateway to Development was subsequently brought out as the National Women's Policy after his active intervention and persuasion at Pan India level as well.

With this intention, I visited the ministers of several departments and discussed the decisions taken by the government with the gender perspective. The meeting with the then-Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. R. R. Patil endowed me with a new perspective and insight. I had a book in my hand on the LETTERS BETWEEN PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND DR B R AMBEDKAR CONCERNING THE HINDU CODE BILL. Aaba, as

ADVERTORIAL

Shri. R. R. Patil was fondly called, glanced at these books in my hand and commented, "Don't you see the seeds of the Hindu Code Bill in the Women's Policy?" These very words provided a kind of revelation! Indeed, there is great parallel between both! The Hindu Code Bill was nothing but a roadmap to the liberation, upliftment and empowerment of the women of India, the half of its population! The journey between the Hindu Code Bill and The Women's Policy 1994 and the subsequent milestones brought out later, are important milestones on the route to social reformation through the empowerment of women. And in this, I adore the unparalleled foresight of the vision of development of Shri. Sharad Pawar!

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar faced such intense resistance when he introduced the Hindu Code Bill in the Parliament as the Law Minister of India that he had had to tender his resignation, as the Minister for Law, in protest. Similar resistance was also faced by Shri Sharad Pawar during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, when he brought the Women's Policy proposal to the Maharashtra Cabinet for approval. After a series of meetings under his Chairmanship with various stakeholders, he could get the policy approved and this set a landmark in history. This would not have been possible without his sagacity and innate political acumen. Thus, an official, government policy was laid out for the social, educational, economic and political empowerment of "the half of the nation that actually raises the other half" and was handed over to the concerned mechanism for effective implementation.

Decision after decision cascaded down the hills of time; Be it the making of a special Women and Child Development Ministry in 1994, headed by the then-Chief Minister of Maharashtra; providing 50% political reservation to women in the Local Self Government or the 30% reservation to girls in education or in government services; incorporating women into the Airforce; presenting a gender responsive budget; framing various commissions, committees, laws, rules for the welfare of women and the innumerable decisions that have been taken and are being taken by the governments in this direction.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had once commented, "I measure the progress of community with the degree of progress women have achieved"

Shri. Sharad Pawar believes that this is indeed the benchmark to measure the development of a nation. At every decision, at every step, at every point of time, in his half-a-century long political career, Shri. Sharad Pawar has been unrelentingly implementing the principles of the Supreme Constitution of India!

I salute the great vision of Shri. Sharad Pawar and wish him a long, long, happy, healthy and successful life on his eightieth birthday!

FOUZIA KHAN
Member of Rajya Sabha

AJNARA
PEACE OF MIND

EVERYONE DESERVES THE OPPORTUNITY

OF LUXURY HOME

Avail
Discount
On Spot
Booking

BOOKING AMOUNT **10% ONLY**

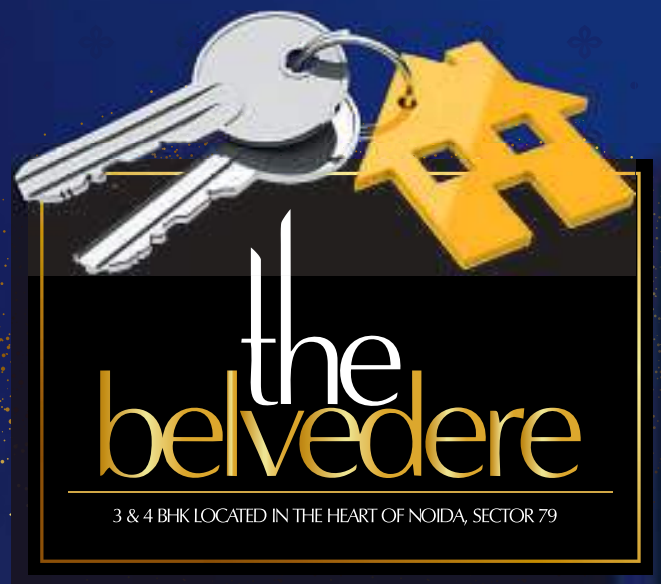
**LUCRATIVE PAYMENT
PLAN**

20:20:20:20:20

Price Starting From ₹68.52 Lakh* Onwards



OPERATIONAL METRO
STATION AT 200 METERS



3 & 4 BHK LUXURY APARTMENTS
SECTOR - 79, NOIDA

SPECIFICATIONS THAT SPELL PERFECTION

- Low Density Project
- Conceptualized by Hafeez contractor
- Floor to ceiling height - 11" ft.
- Golf cart facility • Double height in lobbies

— **Get Limited Period Offers** —



COVERED CAR
PARKING



CLUB
MEMBERSHIP



EEC/FFC
FREE



WATER
PURIFIER



NO LEASE
RENT



FIRST
TRANSFER FEE

Location Features

Close Proximity To Sector 79 Metro Station | 10 Minutes Drive From Sector 18 Noida
15 Minutes Drive From South Delhi - Kalindi Kunj | 15000+ Families Residing In Vicinity
Reputed Schools & Hospitals In Proximity | Shopping Malls & Commercial In Proximity

T&C APPLY*

RERA Reg. No.: UPRERAPRJ4397/UPRERAPRJ4480 • Building Sanction Plan: NOIDA/BP-IV-1419/778/DATED13-03-2015

EXCLUSIVELY MARKETED BY:
PROPSHOP
THE WAY TO FULFILL YOUR DREAMS...
RERA No.: UPRERAAGT10129



9071 760 760

HOUSING LOAN PARTNER:
ADITYA BHASKAR CAPITAL

BANKING PARTNER:
L&T Housing Finance Limited

AXIS BANK

f /ajnaraindialimited t /ajnaraindialtd i /ajnaraindialtd/

Sequel Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. (A Subsidiary of Ajnara India Ltd. Corporate Office: D-247/26, Sector-63, Noida-201301)

29 YEARS OF TRUST & DEDICATION • 64 PROJECTS DELIVERED • 24,000+ UNITS DELIVERED • 4,000+ UNITS TO BE DELIVERED IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

This advertisement is not a legal offering & does not form a part of any agreement or legal binding on part of the company. The images, designs, features, plans, areas, specifications, infrastructure etc., are illustrative, tentative and indicative only and the company reserves all rights to withdraw, vary, modify and amend all/any of these without any notice. 1 acre=4840 square yards or 4046.873 square metres. 1 square metre=10.76 square feet. *Terms & Condition apply.

New Delhi