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Sonia meeting: Ice breaks but the chill within remains

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE FIVE-HOUR-LONG meeting that Congress president Sonia Gandhi had Saturday with her colleagues, including the core team of 23 leaders who wrote to her seeking sweeping reforms within, may have helped break the ice but the chill is far from over.

The letter-writers remained firm on their demands that included internal elections at all levels and establishment of a "col-



Ashok Gehlot, Ambika Soni, A K Antony on Saturday. PTI

lective leadership mechanism." Former Congress president

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

| INN | WKS | RUNS | BATSMEN | OUT | B | RUNS | FALL OF | WKS |
|-----|-----|------|---------|-----|---|------|---------|-----|
| 1 | 7 | 4 | SHAW | B | 2 | 4 | 1 FOR 7 | 7 |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | BUMRAH | CB | 2 | 2 | 2-15 | 15 |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | PUJARA | CW | 2 | 0 | 3-15 | 15 |
| 4 | | | AGARWAL | CW | 3 | 9 | 4-15 | 15 |
| 5 | | | RAHANE | CW | 3 | 0 | 5-15 | 15 |
| 6 | | | KOHLI | C5 | 2 | 4 | 6-19 | 19 |
| 7 | | | SAHA | C6 | 3 | 4 | 7-26 | 26 |
| 8 | | | ASHWIN | CW | 3 | 0 | 8-26 | 26 |
| 9 | | | VIHARI | CW | 3 | 7 | 9-31 | 31 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | |

The scoreboard (not final) shows the fall of India's wickets at the Adelaide Oval, Saturday. AP

36/9: World didn't end but maybe new India needs an old lesson

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

INDIA WILL continue to wear masks and remain optimistic about the vaccine. Christmas will still be next week. And Indian cricketers will turn up at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on

Boxing Day hoping to square the series under a stand-in captain. What Boris Becker famously said in 1987, after the second-round loss at Wimbledon as the two-time defending champ, should give perspective to a nation in mourning. "I haven't lost a war, no one got killed, I just lost a tennis match."

The eight-wicket loss in Adelaide on Saturday was India's 168th in Test matches and 30th in Australia. And not for the first time, India, a country with a modest away Test record, is trailing after the opening game on foreign soil. This isn't a time for self-loathing but self-examination.

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EXPRESS NETWORK



'LOVE JIHAD': AFTER WIFE'S TESTIMONY, MAN, BROTHER RELEASED PAGE 8

RSS IDEOLOGUE M G VAIDYA PASSES AWAY PAGE 6

Bound for their homes, Tablighis talk of waiting children, fight for justice

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ON THE surface, the Tablighi Jamaat members appear content — looking forward to going home and meeting their loved ones. But a gentle prodding brings forth the

anguish, of spending nearly a year in a foreign land, while facing public vilification, accusations of spreading a pandemic, and a long court trial, before finally being exonerated.

"My mother suffered two brain strokes while I was stuck

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'GIVE US FIVE YEARS FOR SONAR BANGLA' Shah sets tone, slams Mamata: You will be alone by election time

Adhikari joins BJP with TMC MP, nine MLAs

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
MIDNAPORE, DECEMBER 19

WELCOMING TMC deserters into the BJP fold to set the tone for a bitter campaign in West Bengal where assembly elections are due next year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday targeted TMC leader and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, saying "this is just the beginning" and "you will be alone" by the time the polls start.

At a public meeting in Midnapore, the stronghold of former state transport minister Suwendu Adhikari who quit the TMC and joined the BJP along with Bardhaman Purba MP Sunil Kumar Mondal, nine MLAs and several others, Shah sought a 5-year mandate for the BJP and promised to turn the state into Sonar Bangla.

He also claimed that his party would form the next government with 200 seats — there are 294 seats in the state assembly.

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MORE REPORTS PAGE 6



Amit Shah with Suwendu Adhikari in West Midnapore district of West Bengal on Saturday. Partha Paul

To BJP from TMC, Cong and CPM: Meet the ones who have crossed over

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
MIDNAPORE, DECEMBER 19

JOLTING THE ruling party in West Bengal where Assembly elections are due before next summer, 10 TMC MLAs, an MP and a former MP joined the BJP Saturday at the public meeting in

Midnapore. Among them are former TMC heavyweight and MLA Suwendu Adhikari; Bardhaman Purba MP Sunil Kumar Mondal; another six MLAs of TMC; one MLA each of CPI, CPM and Congress; several TMC district leaders and councillors. While the TMC dismissed them as good riddance, their number,

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SUNDAY STORY

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TWENTY20 IN PREMIER LEAGUE

When Kerala's largest pvt sector employer joins panchayat democracy

JKCA 'MONEY LAUNDERING' PROBE

ED orders attachment of Farooq house, properties

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AS THE District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir drew to a close on Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate issued orders for provisional attachment of properties worth close to Rs 12 crore belonging to former chief minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah. The properties include the house on Srinagar's Gupkar Road where



Farooq Abdullah; Omar says ancestral properties

Farooq lives.

The orders were issued in connection with a money laundering probe into a case involving the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), from the time the NC leader headed it.

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KARNATAKA ANTI-CATTLE SLAUGHTER BILL WILL HIT FARMERS, TANNERS AND MORE

Karnataka's anti-cow slaughter legislation is likely to have far-reaching adverse economic implications on dairy farmers who are already facing agrarian distress. Industries like leather and hotels are also going to take a huge hit.

MOVIE REVIEW



PAAVA KADHAIGAL: A MIXED BAG

Watching Paava Kadhaigal, you feel a mix of emotions

EXPLAINED



TRUMP'S STOPGAP FUNDING BILL

Why President Trump signed the funding Bill into law

EXPRESS AUDIO

Decoding the great Indian batting collapse in Adelaide

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the Express Sports podcast, we discuss the scarcely-believable performance by Virat Kohli's 'New India', which was dismissed for 36 against Australia

FROM PAGE ONE

Shah sets tone

Urging the people to oust the TMC, he singled out Banerjee: "Today, under the leadership of Suwendu bhai, all good people from the Trinamool, Congress and CPM have joined the BJP... Didi says BJP engineers defections (dal-badal). Didi, I have come here to remind you: which was your original party?... When you left Congress to form Trinamool Congress, wasn't that defection?"

"Today, when Bhai Suwendu, opposing injustice and exploitation of people of Bengal, has left you to be with Modiji, you think it's defection, Didi? But Didi, this is just the beginning. By the time the elections come, you will be alone."

Suwendu Adhikari slammed the leadership of his former party. Addressing Shah, Adhikari said, "He is my elder brother. He has accepted me in the BJP Parivar. He has accepted me into the world's largest party. When I had Covid recently, the party I served for 21 years did not call me. But Amit Shah did. My association with Amit Shah goes back. In 2014, he was general secretary of BJP and was in charge of eastern UP. In a small room at the old party office on Ashoka Road, he gave me *darshan*."

"Everyone is being called out as an outsider. Who are outsiders? We are Indians first, and then Bengalis. I will save this pluralism. I am not here to be a boss. Suwendu will be a worker in the party. If the party asks me to put up flags, write graffiti on the walls, I will do it... From tomorrow, I will start working to oust the Trinamool Congress from power," he said.

Targeting Banerjee, Adhikari said: "You are calling me a traitor.

In 1998, you could not leave your house without the blessings of Bharat Ratna Vaipayeeji. Who entered into an alliance with who at that time? Who was an NDA partner at that time? Some people are saying that I am leaving my mother. My mother's name is Gayatri Devi. I consider her and the motherland my mother. I cannot call anyone else my mother," he said.

Crossed over

the range of their political affiliation and their experience. BJP leaders said, were straws in the shifting wind.

The inductees:

Suwendu Adhikari (TMC MLA, former state minister): A Congress Chhatra Parishad leader at the age of 20, he joined the co-operative movement in Midnapore in 1996. Three years later, he joined the TMC. During the Nandigram movement, Adhikari became one of the important lieutenants of Mamata Banerjee. According to a section of the TMC, he played a major role during the 2011 assembly elections when the TMC secured a majority for the first time. He was MP from Tamluk in 2009 and 2014. In 2016, he resigned as MP and became MLA from Nandigram. He was a key member of Banerjee's second cabinet.

Sunil Kumar Mondal (TMC MP): He started his political career in Forward Bloc, a Left Front partner, and was elected MLA from Galsi in 2011. As a Forward Bloc MLA, he voted for the Trinamool Congress candidate during the Rajya Sabha elections in February 2014. Subsequently, he joined the Trinamool Congress. He has been elected to Lok Sabha twice from Bardhaman Purba. He is known to be a close associate of Mukul Roy.

Shilbhadra Dutta (TMC MLA): Started his political career as leader of Congress Chhatra Parishad. He later joined the Congress. In 2006, he switched to TMC. He was made district youth president of TMYC (Trinamool Youth Congress) in 2009. Elected MLA from Barrackpore in 2011, he was re-elected in 2016.

Tapasi Mondol (CPM MLA): In the 2016 assembly elections, CPM district leader Tapasi Mondal was candidate of the Left Front from the Haldia constituency of Purba Medinipur district.

Ashok Dinda (CPI MLA): A former CPI leader, Dinda was elected MLA from Tamluk of Purba Midnapore in 2016. He was the face of the CPI in Purba Midnapore district.

Sudip Mukherjee (Congress MLA): Was elected MLA from Purulia in 2016 as a candidate of the Congress. Had a long association with the Congress.

Saikat Panja (TMC MLA): Was elected TMC MLA from Manteswar during the bye-election in November 2016 after his father and sitting MLA Sajal Panja passed away. Became a rebel in the last three-four months.

Dipali Biswas (TMC MLA): In the 2016 assembly election, Dipali Biswas contested from Gazole constituency as a CPM candidate. After Suwendu Adhikari became the party observer of Malda, Biswas joined the TMC in July 2016.

Sukra Munda (TMC MLA): MLA from Nagrakata in Alipurduar district. In 2011, the TMC had an alliance with Congress and the Nagrakata seat was won by Congress candidate Joseph Munda. But in 2016, TMC made Sukra its candidate and he

won.

Biswajit Kundu (TMC MLA): Two-term MLA from Kalna. Elected from Kalna in 2011, he won again in 2016. A close associate of Suwendu Adhikari, he was among the MLAs who held a meeting at Sunil Mondal's residence with Adhikari after he resigned as MLA.

Banashree Maity (TMC MLA): Represents Kanthi Uttar constituency of East Midnapore. She is said to be close to the Adhikari family. She won from Kanthi in 2011 and 2016.

Shyamprasad Mukherjee (former TMC MLA): Used to represent Bishnupur constituency in Bankura district. He was also a minister in the first cabinet of Mamata Banerjee. After his name came up in the chit fund case, he was removed from the cabinet. Lost the 2016 election from Bishnupur.

Dasrath Tirkar (former TMC MP): Joined TMC from RSP in 2014 and was elected MP from Alipurduar. He lost to BJP's John Barla in 2019. Was a three-term MLA (2001, 2006 and 2011) from Kumargram and Mos PWD during the Left Front rule.

Sonia meeting

Rahul Gandhi, it is learnt, indulged in some "plain speaking" but gave no indication on whether he was willing to return as Congress president. And apart from a few leaders — among them Ashok Gehlot, A K Antony, Harish Rawat, Ambika Soni and Ajay Maken — there was not exactly a chorus for his return either. The party is now thinking of a *chintan shivir* — on the lines of ones held in Pachmarhi and Shimla in 1998 and 2003 when it was in the opposition — for a wider brainstorming.

Sources said the group of 23, represented by Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, Prithviraj Chavan, Vivek Tankha, Shashi Tharoor and Bhupinder Singh Hooda, articulated their demands, even thanking Gandhi for calling the meeting for a dialogue.

Both sides said the meeting was just the beginning of a long process towards a roadmap to fight the ruling BJP. Sonia Gandhi said issues have to be discussed and resolved and the party has to be "one family." The letter-writers said they were neither dissenters nor rebels. Some of them later told *The Sunday Express* that the meeting itself was a recognition of the concerns they had raised. "The ice is broken," a senior leader said.

Significantly, P Chidambaram echoed some of the demands made by the letter-writers: establishment of a parliamentary board, election to PCCs and DCCs and the empowerment of state units in appointments. When Chidambaram said the Congress has a fighting chance in Tamil Nadu, Rahul retorted saying the Congress is just

an adjunct of the DMK. He also reminded former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, as also Gehlot, that the RSS was very well-entrenched in the bureaucracy in both the states.

Rahul said he was ready to do whatever the party wanted but sources in both the camps said that remark was not in the context of him returning to the helm.

The letter-writers underlined the challenges: two successive election losses and the movement of youth away from the party. They made it clear that there should be an election for the post of Congress president, to CWC and to posts at all levels.

Signs of a chill were evident when none of the letter-writers was willing to join in the briefing. Chavan, who was among the signatories, stepped out after Sonia asked him to do so along with Pawan Kumar Bansal and Rawat. "It was a free-wheeling discussion. Whatever anyone had to say, wanted to say, he took full time to say it," said Bansal. "Nobody was critical of Rahul Gandhi. Everybody supported him."

In the end, Rahul, sources said, spoke again saying he had the highest respect for the seniors. One of the letter-writers, without taking the name of Randeep Surjewala, referred to his remarks Friday that all issues in the party stood resolved with the announcement of the next election of the Congress president and said that "if there were no issues, what was the need for the meeting?"

Tablighis

in India. My old father and wife had to take care of her," says Jahedul Islam, 32, from Bangladesh. When he contacted the Bangladesh Embassy, he says, they told him their enquiries regarding his status were being stonewalled. "I get a sense that the Bangladesh government is miffed with the way we have been treated."

However, Islam hastily adds, he is not complaining. "Eta kintu abhijogna, apnake khali situation ta bolchilam (I am not complaining, I am just narrating the situation to you)... But I am happy that truth has prevailed," Islam, who runs a steel workshop in Munshiganj district, says.

On December 15, a Delhi court acquitted the last of the 36 foreign Tablighi Jamaat nationals, including Islam, charged with violating Covid guidelines when attending a gathering in the Capital in March. Of the 952 foreigners charged, 44 had chosen to stand trial rather than take a plea bargain, and eight had been acquitted earlier.

Acquitting the 36, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg pulled up the police and said "the prosecution has even failed to prove the disobedience of any of the directions" issued by the authorities.

Islam, a father of three, arrived in India on January 20. He was at the Tablighi Markaz in Delhi for a congregation till March 5, before moving to Mewat, the founding place of the Islamic spiritual movement. He was detained and kept in two different quarantine centres run by the Delhi government for over two months.

"At the Narela temporary detention facility, they locked us from outside, while providing what we needed, like food, medicines. At another place, we were kept in rooms that turned into furnaces during the summer, but at least we could move around," he recalls.

While on May 9 the Delhi government ordered the release of the Indian Tablighi members from quarantine centres, it directed that the foreigners be taken into police custody. On May 28, the Delhi High Court released them, allowing them to be shifted to alternative accommodations.

Irfan, 39, an Australian national, was picked up along with his wife from a friend's place, where they had been staying since March 22. They were at the Markaz for a couple of hours. The couple's three-year-old son has been back home in Brisbane all this while.

A mechanical engineer who left India in 2004, Irfan says, "My wife and I had registered our names while entering the Markaz building, and I guess that is where the police got our names and contacts from. We had come to visit Delhi, and Markaz was part of our itinerary. But we did not spend even a night there."

Irfan and his wife were in detention for 62 days before getting bail. "The government school where we were kept was filthy and we cleaned it ourselves. I could not even grasp what was happening with me," he says. They told their son, who studies in Class 3, that they were stuck due to the lockdown. "How else do you convince a child?" Irfan says.

A business development manager with a firm in Brisbane, he is worried about retaining his job given his long absence.

Afaan, 52, the owner of an advertising firm based in Indonesia's Sumatra that designs outdoor campaigns, says while the court verdict has left him "largely happy", a part of his heart would always be sad at leaving India, "a land where I learnt everything about life". Afaan fears he may not be able to return as the Centre has blacklisted his visa along with that of the 959 others.

"My wife and my staffers tried keeping the business afloat. But we have suffered huge losses... But you see, we are taught not to complain or be bitter," he adds, smiling.

Abdullah Ramadhan, 23, is from a village near Mount

Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, where he teaches Islamic scriptures and assists the family in farming. Explaining why he chose to fight rather than take a plea bargain, Ramadhan says, "It is simple. We firmly believed that the charges against us were wrong and unfair."

Senior advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, who led the legal defence of the Tablighis, says the court verdict "reflects the capacity, independence and competence of the Indian lower judiciary", and is not worried about the police appealing against the order.

On Friday, the petitioners told the Supreme Court that since they had paid bail bonds of six months (Rs 10,000 each), they should be allowed to leave. The hearing was held on a petition filed by them in June claiming denial of rights and challenging their blacklisting.

"We told the Supreme Court that 36 Indian nationals would stand guarantee that the foreigners will return if the law requires them to. The Court asked us to approach a nodal officer (of the Delhi Police) and the Solicitor General to get their passports and facilitate their return. The outlook circulars against them also need to be revoked and they need exit visas as their normal visas have been cancelled," a Tablighi Jamaat functionary said.

The complex web of legal intricacies means Islam still has no answer when his five-year-old son asks on the phone that single question: "Abbu tumi kobe ashba (Father, when will you return)?"

Old lesson

True 36-9, the new low for Indian cricket, hurts, but then sports has a habit of reminding everyone that even the best can have the worst of days. Nothing worked for India Saturday. There were no lucky breaks or even the rub of the green.

The day's first hour in Test matches is as much about balls beating the bat by millimetres and edges falling just short of fielders as it is about the fall of wickets. However, it turned out to be a miraculous day in Adelaide — the ball moved that we bit more to kiss the edge and travelled just that much longer to reach the fielders.

On Saturday, everything was edged to the "keeper" — "caught Tim Paine" was on the clipboard of all online scorers. Having slept with the whiff of a rare Test win in Australia, India woke up to watch the Baggie Green huddle ruffling the hair of its fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood (5/8) and Pat Cummins (4/21) on loop.

This was a rare batting collapse where the batsmen didn't throw their wickets or can be blamed for poor shot selection. Most of the top-order batsmen tried to get in line of the ball and gave the bowler the respect he deserved. Virat Kohli too can't be faulted — he was merely showing deserving disrespect to a rank bad ball.

The only batsman with suspect Test match skill and temperament was opener Prithvi Shaw but singling out a 21-year-old for this monumental loss would be unfair. There can be a case of replacing him for the second Test — he was bowled twice in the eight balls he faced in this Test. However, more than his play, it's the hype around him that made him a target of scorn.

In the past, coach Ravi Shastri, while talking him up, had said, "There's a bit of Sachin there, a bit of Viru in him and when he walks — there's a bit of Lara as well". At Adelaide, he looked like a heartbroken young man failing to clear the impossibly high bar.

More than a batting masterclass, this Indian team needs a reality check. Coach Shastri and captain Kohli can also do with

some sense of proportion, a history lesson and, hopefully, some humility.

Before the game, Kohli was gung-ho about his Class of 2020. "The new India takes up challenges and is filled with optimism and positivity. We make sure we are ready for any challenge that comes our way," he had said. Earlier too, he had spoken about how the "new India" is all about collective strength and not individual achievement. For a country that has historically had record-breaking run-makers and not too great a win-loss record abroad, this was a low blow to the "old India".

With no ICC World titles and Test series losses in South Africa and England, Kohli's team has potential but is still work in progress. A series win in Australia, India's first-ever, is the biggest ground-breaking result for this team but the architect of that historic win wasn't a product of these times.

Pujara, the Man of the Series during the last Aussie tour, doesn't have an IPL contract, he is an old-school Test batsman and not the strike rate-conscious true ambassador of this "new India".

Kohli and the new generation of fans who no longer watch cricket, but stream it, need a crash course about "old India". They took up challenges and were filled with optimism and positivity. They, too, were path-breakers. Tiger Pataudi gave India the conviction to win with spin, Sunil Gavaskar showed how to take on the West Indies pacers without a helmet and as for Sachin Tendulkar, he took on the world single-handedly in a dressing room infiltrated by match-fixers.

If the captain and coach believe this was the never-before-seen India, then on Saturday in Adelaide someone would have stitched together some resistance. If they are the best-ever, someone should have conjured an inspired feat. It needed something beyond mere skills, something more than just an expression of ambition or misplaced pride.

For a team so desperate to make history and yet so disdainful of it, 36/9 is an epic climb-down of cocky.

Farooq Abdullah

The attached properties include Farooq's residence on Gupkar Road, residential properties at Tehsil Katipora in Tangmarg and Bhatindi in Sunjwan, Jammu, commercial buildings in Srinagar's Residency Road area, and land at four places in J&K.

The Sunjwan property is also under the scanner in the investigation into the alleged Roshni land scam. A list of "encroached properties" published by the administration as part of the probe mentioned the Sunjwan residence, jointly owned by Farooq and son Omar Abdullah, and the ED reiterated this.

Refuting the allegations, Omar Abdullah said the properties were ancestral.

"The properties attached are largely ancestral dating from the 1970s with the most recent one built before 2003. There can be no justification for the seizures because they fail the very basic test of having been acquired as the proceeds of the 'crime' being investigated," Omar said in a tweet.

He added that the family was exploring legal options and "will fight all these baseless charges in the one place that matters — a court of law". NC sources said Farooq has 140 days to challenge the attachment.

The CPM said the ED action showed the BJP government was "unnerved" by the support the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration candidates in the DDC polls.

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - RWD/SD/GODDA/02/2019-20/RE

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

| क्र. सं. | कार्य का नाम | प्राककलित राशि | अग्रघन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि |
|----------|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | गोड्डा जिला के प्रखंड पथरगामा अन्तर्गत ग्राम-गुरेडीचक के पंचायत सोनारचक में सापीन नदी पर पुल निर्माण। | 235.58600 | 4.71200 लाख | 10,000.00 | 15 माह |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 26.12.2020

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 04.01.2021 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 05.01.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान - मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची

6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 06.01.2021 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा।

8. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं - 9431323435 (संबन्धित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैंकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

10. निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय को सुपूर्त अपलोड किये गये प्रपत्र को पुष्टवार अंकित करते हुए अग्रघन की राशि, परिमाण विपत्र की मूल्य के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

PR 237852 (Rural Development)20-21#D



| TOTAL CASES | HOSPITAL BEDS | | Total | | Vacant | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| | Daily cases | Recoveries | Deaths | Tests | | |
| 6,15,914 | 1,418 | 2,160 | 37 | 88,400 | 18,770 | 15,741 |
| | 1,139 | 2,168 | 32 | 87,330 | 1,523 | 792 |
| | 10,358* | 5,95,305 | 10,251 | 77,17,078 | | |

*Total active cases

OWNER ARRESTED, SAY POLICE

Factory collapse in Khyala kills 4 workers

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AROUND 10 am, the roof of a factory in Vishnu Garden's Khyala collapsed, trapping six labourers who were working inside. Four of them were dead by the time they were taken to the hospital. The factory owner, Mahendra Pal, a resident of Uttam Nagar, has been arrested, confirmed police.

A PCR call was received around 10 am regarding the falling of lantern and labourers being trapped. "Police reached the spot and found it to be an old factory of motor stamping work. The roof made for covering the area between the ground and first floors of the factory had collapsed. The injured were rushed to GGS and DDU Hospitals," DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said.

Atul Garg, the Delhi Fire Service chief, said the building was made of pieces of metal and other raw material, and was overloaded with material, because of which it caved in.

Guddi Begum (45), one of the victims, had left for work 10 minutes early that day, while her son Rizwan reached around half an hour after her. Her husband Mumtaz Shah (50) said, "By the time Rizwan reached the factory, a floor had collapsed. Neighbours told me about the incident and I rushed to see what had happened. My wife had been crushed by a false ceiling that had collapsed... I recognised her from her saree. I had to pull her out myself."

He added that the heavy materials were stored on the false ceiling. Guddi is survived by two sons and a daughter.

She hailed from Shahjahanpur



The street where the factory is located sealed by police. Chaina Devi (left) and Guddi Begum were among the victims

in Uttar Pradesh and had been working for eight years at the factory, where parts of a fan were manufactured. The family said they couldn't reach factory owner Mahendra Pal after the incident.

At 9 am, Chaina Devi (35) drank tea and left for work, her husband Nand Ram (38) said. "Our rented room is a few steps away from the factory. Around 9.30 am, I heard a loud noise. People were rushing to the spot. I left everything and ran... I realised she was no more."

Chaina had been working at the factory for around 2 years. She had gone home to her village in

Saharanpur in UP during the lockdown and returned to work three months earlier. With three children, aged 11, 8 and 6, Nand Ram worried how he would manage the household with a salary of Rs 7,000 a month. Chaina would earn Rs 6,500 per month, he said.

Both men said they would take the bodies to Uttar Pradesh for the last rites.

Two other victims were identified as Ramesh (35), who hailed from Bihar, and Twinkle (25). The two injured have been admitted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital and Guru Gobind Singh government hospital.

Third Covid wave under control: Kejriwal

Was advised by some to 'fraudulently improve Covid testing figures' but didn't, says Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Saturday said the third Covid wave in the capital was "under control", pointing to the dipping positivity rate, death count and fewer active cases as compared to November.

While active cases had touched 45,000 in the capital last month, triggering a crisis of beds for seriously ill patients, there are around 12,000 active cases currently, he said.

The December 19 health bulletin put the number of active carriers of the infection in Delhi at 10,358.

The CM attributed the "improved situation" to increased testing, which helped isolate patients and prevented the transmission of the virus. On Saturday, Delhi carried out 87,330 tests, including 47,460 through the more reliable RT-PCR method, which has a high degree of accuracy.

"In November, the positivity rate in Delhi was 15% which

means that if we were testing a hundred people then around 15 people would come positive. Today, if we are testing a hundred people then only around one person is coming positive and the positivity rate is 1.3%. In the month of November, there was a day when the number of active cases touched 45,000 and today we have just 12,000 active cases. Today, Delhi has a recovery rate of 96.5%," Kejriwal said, addressing a webcast.

Kejriwal said Saturday that the falling number of deaths was also a positive sign. "On November 19, at 131, Delhi had the highest number of deaths due to Covid and today there have been 37 deaths. This number will also go down and we are working on it," he said.

The CM claimed some people had advised his government to "fraudulently improve Covid testing figures". He also mentioned that Delhi was the "first state to announce Rs 1 crore financial assistance to the kin of frontline workers succumbing to the virus".

"The first wave of this pan-



Covid testing underway near Majnu Ka Tila. Praveen Khanna

dem came to Delhi in the month of June when the number of cases started increasing and the number of deaths also increased. In the month of August

and September, the national capital witnessed the second wave. Delhi witnessed the third wave of Covid pandemic in the month of October amid rise in pollution

due to stubble burning in the neighbouring states," he said.

"The citizens of Delhi took the situation very seriously and fought this battle against Covid as a war, and today I am very happy to say that due to their efforts, the third wave of Covid pandemic in the capital has also come under control... We never did any fraud for this. I want to salute the doctors, nurses and other Covid warriors," he said.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the bed occupancy has come down to 32.39, against 95.22 on November 22. "Active cases are continually decreasing for a month. Though the third wave is going down, be careful and observe all precautions," Jain tweeted.

SIGNATURE GLOBAL Proxima I

LICENCE NO.: 89 OF 2019 DATED 02.08.2019
HREERA NO.: 77 OF 2019 DATED 31.12.2019
HTTPS://HARYANARERA.GOV.IN/

SIGNATUREGLOBAL PROXIMA I
AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

List of application numbers of successful applicants in the re-draw of flats in SignatureGlobal Proxima I, Residential Apartments, Sector-89, Gurugram held on Thursday, 17th of December 2020, at The Pllazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

2BHK TYPE-01 (581.396 Sq. ft.)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 217 | 4506 | 5961 | 6000 | 50352 |
| 3568 | 5704 | 5965 | 7711 | 50380 |
| 4439 | 5725 | 5973 | 7718 | 50391 |
| 4440 | 5910 | 5991 | 7764 | 50399 |
| 4444 | 5942 | 5995 | 7782 | 50446 |
| 4445 | 5958 | 5999 | 7793 | |

2BHK TYPE-01 (581.396 Sq. ft.) WAITING LIST

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. 5709 | 2. 7794 | 3. 4429 |
|---------|---------|---------|

2BHK TYPE-03 (598.220 Sq. ft.)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 211 | 5951 | 5994 | 7765 | 50392 |
| 5905 | 5956 | 5998 | 7766 | 50402 |
| 5960 | 5974 | 7747 | 7797 | |

2BHK TYPE-03 (598.220 Sq. ft.) WAITING LIST

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. 5701 | 2. 5705 |
|---------|---------|

2BHK TYPE-04 (590.169 Sq. ft.)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 5708 | 5768 | 5967 | 5969 | 5970 |
|------|------|------|------|------|

2BHK TYPE-05 (588.263 Sq. ft.) MQ

| | |
|------|------|
| 5736 | 5763 |
|------|------|

2BHK TYPE-02 (588.586 Sq. ft.)

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 918 | 4486 | 4597 | 5964 | 7724 | 50396 |
| 1915 | 4495 | 5719 | 5968 | 7726 | 50397 |
| 1917 | 4504 | 5760 | 5971 | 7753 | 50398 |
| 3507 | 4513 | 5795 | 5975 | 7769 | 50400 |
| 3559 | 4515 | 5911 | 5978 | 50377 | 50428 |
| 4436 | 4530 | 5924 | 5983 | 50379 | 50447 |
| 4456 | 4568 | 5926 | 5987 | 50383 | 50450 |
| 4461 | 4593 | 5953 | 5989 | 50389 | 50451 |
| 4481 | 4595 | 5960 | 7029 | 50394 | |
| 4483 | 4596 | 5962 | 7723 | 50395 | |

2BHK TYPE-02 (588.586 Sq. ft.) WAITING LIST

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. 4569 | 3. 50448 | 5. 4482 | 7. 4485 |
| 2. 4484 | 4. 7773 | 6. 4533 | 8. 4462 |

2BHK+STORE (645.345 Sq. ft.) MQ

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4556 | 5742 | 5748 | 5762 | 5770 | 5777 |
| 5734 | 5743 | 5749 | 5764 | 5771 | 5778 |
| 5735 | 5744 | 5750 | 5765 | 5773 | 5779 |
| 5737 | 5745 | 5752 | 5766 | 5774 | 5780 |
| 5738 | 5746 | 5753 | 5767 | 5775 | |
| 5740 | 5747 | 5761 | 5769 | 5776 | |

1sq.ft. = 10.7639 sq.ft.

Disclaimer:

• The re-draw of flats of SignatureGlobal Proxima I was held under the supervision of DTCP officials as per the guidelines laid down in Affordable Group Housing Policy. • Confirmed Allotment List is in ascending order (Top to bottom)

For more details visit www.signatureglobal.in where the list of successful applicants with names and flat nos. is available.

SIGNATUREGLOBAL (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70100DL2000PTC104787

Regd. Off.: Unit No. 1304 at 13th Floor Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customer@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624

BRIEFLY

2 steal phones worth Rs 1 crore from warehouse

Gurgaon: Two men who used to work at the warehouse of an e-commerce company in Gurgaon have been arrested for allegedly stealing 78 mobile phones worth Rs 1 crore a month ago. "A total of 38 stolen phones have been recovered from them," police said

Coldest morning so far this season

New Delhi: Minimum temperature in Delhi dropped to 3.9 degrees Celsius on Saturday, coldest for the season so far this year, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The dip in mercury was in line with a steady reduction noted since December 16, when minimum temperature was 5.8 degrees Celsius.

Man gets bail in riots case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted bail to a person accused of being part of a mob which allegedly killed a 48-year-old man during a pro-CAA demonstration at Jafrabad earlier this year. "It is not in dispute that there is no CCTV footage or CDR in the present case. DVRs from two cameras were sent to FSL, however, no data could be retrieved," said Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, while granting bail to the accused on Friday.

Satyendar Jain holds review meet with DJB

New Delhi: Water minister Satyendar Jain Saturday directed Delhi Jal Board officials to install ozone-based units to treat high ammonia levels at two water treatment plants at Chandrawal and Wazirabad in Delhi on priority basis. ENS

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MEMBER

Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. tchpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Coloniser/Developer | Sternal Buildcon Private Limited |
| 2. Project Approval | Licence No. 21 of 2020 dated 13.08.2020. Building Plan Approved on 20.10.2020 Memo No. ZP-1426/AD(RA)/2020/18570, Haryana RERA Registered No: 42 of 2020 Dated 09.11.2020. |
| 3. Location | Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana |
| 4. Provisions Project Area | 1061 no. of apartments available out of total 1061 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 7.325 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-croche of 2000 sq.ft. |

5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms

| Apartment details | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Category (Type) | No of Units | Carpet Area sqft(approx) | Balcony Area sqft(approx) | Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)* | With application Booking amount 5% | on allotment 20% |
| 2BHK TYPE-01 | 264 | 585.174 | 87.511 | 23,84,452 | 1,19,223 | 4,76,890 |
| 2BHK TYPE-02 | 474 | 594.517 | 84.928 | 24,20,532 | 1,21,027 | 4,84,106 |
| 2BHK TYPE-03 | 240 | 585.562 | 87.511 | 23,86,004 | 1,19,300 | 4,77,201 |
| 2BHK TYPE-04 | 30 | 595.637 | 84.928 | 24,25,012 | 1,21,251 | 4,85,002 |
| 2BHK+STUDY-05 MQ | 53 | 645.786 | 99.998 | 26,33,143 | 1,31,657 | 5,26,629 |

(ii) Balance 75% of the amount in six equated 6 monthly installment spanning over a period of three years. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017.

| | |
|--|---|
| 6. Parking | Two-wheeler parking with each apartment |
| 7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment | • Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles. • Windows: Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC / Steel • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & White Wash Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper / White Wash • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations. |
| 8. Applications Timelines | (i) Applications can be procured & submitted at: Sternal Buildcon Private Limited, Corp. Office - Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, 0124-4908200 by paying an application form fee of Rs 1,000/- starting from date 11.11.2020. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 20.12.2020. The project had been opened for general public on 11.11.2020 for booking & closing date for the submission of application form was 20.12.2020, which is further extended up to 04.01.2021. (iii) The list of Distribution and Collection centers is available on www.signatureglobal.in (iv) Application Forms & Facility of applying Online is also available at www.signatureglobal.in . |

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law. 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats. 3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat. Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned. 2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued. 3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tchpharyana.gov.in).



STERNAL BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70109DL2009PTC195052

Regd. Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

Corp. Office: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001 | www.signatureglobal.in

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Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and therefore, request to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. The images shown here are indicative of design and for illustration purposes only. Further, the actual design may vary in fit and finished from the one displayed above. Project details/specifications can also be accessed at the office of Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website <http://haryana.rrera.gov.in>. Journey time shown, if any, is based upon google maps which may vary as per traffic at relevant point of time. *Rate mentioned above does not include GST and other statutory charges, if applicable. T & C Apply. 1 Sq. mt. = 10.7639 sq. ft. *The subsidy differs as per the eligibility of the client's profile and the loan amount. This is the max amount of subsidy that a client can receive and the same goes with the loan amount too for availing the subsidy. Please note that the loan can be sanctioned more than 12 lacs but subsidy can be availed only till 12 lacs of loan amount.

7053-121-121

98308 95266

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EN 14605:2005+A1:2009
EN ISO 13982-1:2004+A1:2010
EN 14325:2004
EN ISO 13688:2013
IS 17423:2020

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IS 2925:1984

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EN 388:2016 + A1:2018
EN 374-1:2016
EN 374-5:2016

SAFETY GOGGLES:

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EN 166:2001
Optical class I

SUPPORTED GLOVES:

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EN 388:2016

SAFETY SHOES:

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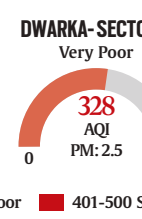
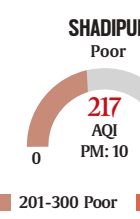
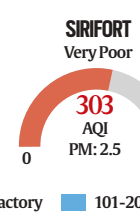
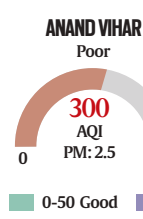
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0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKY WATCH
FORECAST: Dec 20
Generally cloudy sky.
Mist/shallow fog in the morning.
MAX: 22 | MIN: 5
0.5°C below normal | 3°C below normal

SINGHU, TIKRI PROTEST SITES

Gurdwaras to volunteer groups to NGOs: Who's feeding protesters at the borders

SUKRITA BARUAH & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ALONG THE several-kilometre-long stretches of tractors and protesters at Singhu and Tikri, the site of food being prepared and served is ubiquitous. From farmers of a particular village cooking by their tractor-trolleys to feed themselves and share with the public, to large-scale langars — sewa through feeding runs throughout the protests. And some of the largest langars give an idea of the organisations involved.

■ The largest support set-up at Singhu border appears to be by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee. With their tents close to the stage at the very front of the protest, at any point of time, over a hundred people can be seen lined up to receive cooked food. They have also set up separate night shelters for men and women with a total area of 6,000 square feet, medicine distribution, and other essential supplies such as tarpaulin sheets.

■ At Tikri border, the langar organised by the Baba Kashmir Singh ji Bhuriwale sect, located on the Rohtak highway, seven kilometres from the border, is among the largest, catering to thousands every day. While tea is available round the clock, the volunteers, including many who have flown in from abroad, also serve breakfast, lunch and dinner at the tent. The organisation had made news during the lockdown after the Amritsar administration praised it for feeding hundreds of people daily. Anand Jot Singh, a high school graduate from Canada who has been volunteering at Tikri, said supplies are sourced from districts across Punjab, where the organisation has a large presence. While the tent was already overflowing with vegetables and grain supplies, more freshly-arrived items were being offloaded from a mini truck. A senior member of the organisation said donations are all be-



Photo: Abhinav Saha



Photo: Praveen Khanna

ing made voluntarily.

■ While other organisations have been focusing on cooked meals, at both sites, international organisation Khalsa Aid has been focusing on providing daily essential items from toothpaste to blankets. "We have not yet sought donations for running protest-related initiatives. In our

case, money donated for a particular cause is spent only towards that cause. For example, funds collected to help the Rohingya in Bangladesh will not be used here," said Gurcharan Singh, in charge of its makeshift centre at Tikri. At Singhu, they have created a timetable for distribution of items throughout

the day — with separate time-slots for essential items such as toothbrushes, soap, mosquito repellent, undergarments and warmers; for tarpaulin sheets; for shawls; for vegetables. They have also, famously, installed foot massaging machines and have set up a night shelter with a capacity for 350 people

Langars at Singhu; farmers can be seen cooking by their tractor-trolleys to feed themselves and share with the public while several large-scale langars have also come up

equipped with fire extinguishers for safety. Professionals are available at its Tikri centre to apply joint pain relieving oil to the elderly.

■ A few kilometres into the Singhu border protest, a massive langar has been set up by Dera Baba Jagtar Singh of Tarn Taran and its various branches. According to Baba Joga Singh, a Jatheedar of the organisation, supplies have been arriving at all three borders, including Ghaziabad, from various centres of theirs such as in Shahabad Markanda in Haryana's Kurukshetra district, Gurudwara Jamni Sahib in Punjab's Ferozepur district, Panjokhra Sahib Gurudwara in Ambala and their primary centre in Tarn Taran. "Everything that is being sent from the cen-

tres has been donated in large quantities by people of villages surrounding them. Everyone involved in the donation, transportation, cooking and serving are all performing kar sewa," he said. Spread around their tent are piles of bags of vegetables, vessels of milk, and even bags of supplies such as nail-clippers.

■ At Tikri, the Jamindara Student Organisation, which claims to be active in Haryana and parts of Delhi, is running one of the biggest langars and medical centres. Mann, who identifies himself as the general secretary of JSO, said they are receiving a steady supply of vegetables, milk, rice, flour and pulses from rural Haryana. A portion of the JSO's sprawling tent, near the main stage at Tikri, also doubles up as a night shelter for many protesters. Mann, who claims to have been associated with the ABVP as well as the SFI during his college days, says JSO has over 25,000 registered members.

■ Smaller but still substantial langars have been set up by individual gurdwaras, such as the langar set up by Gurudwara Head Darbar Kot Puran in Ropar, Punjab, who have been at Singhu border since December 4. "Everything we have, we are getting in donation from villagers and city dwellers. We have 25 people from our side on the site at all times, and fresh supplies of ingredients keep coming from our centre. We are here not because anyone has asked us to but because it is our moral duty. We are completely tied to them. We eat from what they give us which is why it is our duty to be with them," said Avtar Singh, who was overseeing the langar.

■ Also running a large centre, with a night shelter, two medical desks and a langar at Singhu border, is International Panthic Dal, a Sikh volunteer organisation which claims to be aligned to Dandami Taksal, which has branches in the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia and the Middle East.

4, including South Korean, held for 'conversion bid'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, DECEMBER 19

FOUR PERSONS, including three women, have been arrested by Gautam Budh Nagar police for allegedly trying to convert people to Christianity. Police identified the accused as Seema, Sandhya, Umesh and South Korean national Anmol, and said this is the first such case in the district filed under the newly promulgated anti-conversion law.

"We received a complaint from a housewife in Malakpur village that a group was asking people to convert to Christianity. It was further alleged that they were offering money to lure people. Three of the accused hail from UP while one is a foreign national. People started to suspect their activities and an FIR was filed. The accused are currently in police custody and will be sent to judicial custody once presented before the court," said Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, SHO, Surajpur. Police said Seema, Sandhya

and Umesh hail from Prayagraj and had shifted to the area a few months ago. Anmol (55) hails from Dobong-gu in South Korea's Seoul and is currently residing in Greater Noida. She lives alone while her family is in South Korea, police said.

As per the complaint, the four people would allegedly urge families in Malakpur to preach Christianity, including by offering money and ration.

Police say they are not members of any registered society and had set up a small place of worship in Malakpur village itself.

An FIR has been filed under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020 at Surajpur police station. Police said the maximum sentence under the law is five years in prison.

Police are probing how the four knew each other, as well as their bank details and other possessions. Police said the three from UP had recently converted to Christianity.

Kathak Kendra guru had faced student complaint earlier too

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

PAKHAWAJI PLAYER Pt Ravi Shankar Upadhyay, who was sent to judicial custody after a 23-year student of the Kathak Kendra accused him of molestation and registered an FIR at Chanakyaपुरी police station, had been warned by a former director of the institute after another complaint from the same student two years ago. Pt Rajendra Gangani, a senior guru at the institute, corroborated this.

The woman, meanwhile, claimed Saturday that she had made the complaint about Upadhyay, which was taken to the then director by a teacher. It was on December 14, after Upadhyay allegedly misbehaved with the woman again, that she filed the police complaint.

Upadhyay is currently lodged in Tihar Jail while police have completed the process of speaking to other gurus and students at the Kendra.

Kathak Kendra, a constituent unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi, was initially established as the Kathak wing of Sriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra. Here, legendary Lucknow gharana exponent Shambhu Maharaj began by being the Head of the Department. In 1964, the institute became a part of Sangeet Natak Akademi.

"Earlier, if there was a complaint, and this is a time when there were no CCTVs, they would just dissuade the person, tell them that their career would get spoiled, convince them by saying that the guru would lose his reputation and snuff out the issue... Now, no one tolerates this," Gangani, a Kathak exponent and



Pt Ravi Shankar Upadhyay was arrested after a student accused him of molestation

guru of the renowned Jaipur gharana, who has been teaching at Kathak Kendra for 30 years, claimed.

Kathak exponent Nisha Mahajan, who learned at the Kendra from 1980 to 1985 and taught yoga thereafter till 2000, said there was "something tremendously wrong" with the system. "There was this notion that in order to be able to present bhaav or abhinaya, if you don't go through certain experiences, it does not work. This was considered a part of the mentorship, of course informally... There was this aura of hero-worship and personality cult. And not all students were compelled. Either the students gave in, some others who really wanted to dance were willing to make the compromise. Then there were others who just left," said Mahajan.

Mumbai-based Kathak exponent Uma Dogra was one of those who left. She was around 14 at the time. On Saturday morning, she tweeted: "This is not news, the film is old and going on for a long time (sic)."

The director of the Kendra, Suman Kumar, said this is the first time in the centre's history that a guru has been suspended.

To combat fake news, 'IT Cell' launched by protesters

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AT SINGHU, farmer organisations have designated an 'IT cell' which they say is to counter any misinformation online about the protests. Comprising over 25 online and 35 'offline' volunteers, the cell works round the clock, monitoring online discussions and "fake news" about farmer protests. The cell has also created the handle — Kisan Ekta Morcha — across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube, reaching lakhs within three days of inception.

"Many senior farmer leaders were having a discussion and we

came to the conclusion that we need to tackle misinformation on the internet. There is a concerted effort to malign our movement and show it in a bad light," said Baljeet Singh (30), who heads the IT cell.

The cell doesn't have a dedicated 'war room' since most members work from home, while at the border protest site, Singh and two others have two laptops they use. Most of the online volunteers hail from Punjab, while some are from Delhi.

The members handle individual social media accounts, putting out information about the protests through the day, including posters and logos of the day's events. Members also dis-



At the Singhu protest site, Saturday. Amit Mehra

ussed and put out counters to videos or posts showing protesters in a bad light.

"Fake news is spreading faster

than ever. Most recently, images of Khalistani posters from a foreign country had been photographed to make it appear like

they were being used in our protests. Immediately, we put out a clarification exposing the lies. This is very important to do as the reach of these posts is high and they can derail the movement," said Singh, who has a background in information technology.

"Offline volunteers' handle tasks such as recording speeches made during the day. At 8 am, the agenda for the day is decided, which includes the topic on which speeches will be made. Volunteers on the ground also handle the tech required behind streaming events online.

Members of the cell have also rented a leased line for better internet connectivity. "All of us are volunteers, we are not paid a sin-

gle penny. We do it because we are also farmers. And this movement must not be weakened by rumours and wrong information," said Singh.

The IT cell was officially launched at a press conference three days ago in the presence of senior farmer leaders, who said it was an important platform to relay authentic and official information about the protests.

"By launching this, we have shown that we are also digital. Baljeet Singh and other youngsters will give a fight to the IT wings created by the government themselves. This will help the movement immensely," said Manjit Singh of BKU (Doaba) during the launch.

Member of DU's NEP panel resigns

New Delhi: As the Delhi University committee appointed to look into the implementation of the New Education Policy mulls starting another four-year undergraduate programme from next year, one of its members has resigned, stating that focus should instead be on providing "multi-disciplinarity" within the three-year programme.

In his letter to NEP Implementation Committee (NIC) chairman Vivek Suneja Friday, Rajiv Jha, who teaches Economics at the Shri Ram College of Commerce, also said many students would not be able to afford the extra fourth year of education.

Suneja did not respond to calls and texts.

When contacted, Jha said: "Our (DU's) entire structure has been undergoing change again and again in the last 3-4 years. I don't see why we should keep experimenting in this way." ENS

Elderly couple suffocate to death in fire at Noida home

ANANYA TIWARI
NOIDA, DECEMBER 19

AN ELDERLY couple suffocated to death after a fire broke out at their home in Noida; Sector 29 Friday night, with police suspecting a short circuit sparked the blaze. Brigadier RP Singh (ret'd), 84, and his wife Malti Singh, 78, lived on the first floor of a bungalow at Vijayant Enclave, an area for veterans of the armed forces. The couple are survived by four children.

A PCR van rushed to the spot after getting a call about a fire and helped break open the door to the house. Rakesh Kumar Singh, SHO of Noida's Sector 20 police station, said, "We arrived at 8 pm and tried to open the locked door... and found the two lying unconscious. There was a lot of smoke. Without waiting for an ambulance, we took them to Kailash Hospital in Sector 27. There was a short cir-



Brigadier RP Singh (ret'd) (84), his wife Malti Singh (78)

cuit, which set off the blaze."

They were declared dead on arrival at 9.10 pm, said hospital spokesperson V B Joshi. The family claimed the bodies on Saturday and carried out the cremation in the afternoon.

Fire service officer Sanjeev Kumar Singh said, "By the time we reached at 8 pm, the two victims had already been taken to the hospital. The fire broke out due to a short circuit in one of the rooms; it was largely confined to

this room, the other rooms were damaged due to the heat."

The couple's youngest daughter, Kiran Sharma (49), a marketing professional working in Noida, lives in the same colony with her family. She said: "Around 8 pm, I tried to call my mother on her mobile but could not get through... Then the guard checked and told us that smoke was coming out of their house."

Kiran's husband Vikas Sharma (53), who runs an advertising agency, said, "We ran to the flat, but the iron-steel doors were locked from the inside. A few of us tried to open it... we then managed to open the second entrance at the back. We couldn't see anything because of the smoke... the fire was raging inside the two rooms by then."

The family found the couple near the front door. Kiran said, "Maybe my mother was trying to open the door, but she must have collapsed..."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

MAYORS AND leaders of the civic bodies Saturday called off their dharna outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence after 13 days. The protesters, who were on an indefinite hunger strike since Thursday, were offered juice by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

"These mayors and leaders were not on protest for themselves or the party. They were protesting because dues of Rs 13,000 crore has not been given and salaries of sanitation workers and other employees of municipal corporations are affected..." said Puri, expressing regret that Kejriwal did not meet the protesters even once. The agitation will continue in other forms, he said, and hoped "Kejriwal will have a change of heart" and find a solution to the problem.



The protesters were offered juice by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Saturday. Express

The decision was taken as the health of the protesters, including mayors of South and North MCDs Anamika Mitthales and Jai Prakash, deteriorated as they were protesting in the open, said Delhi BJP media cell head Navin Kumar. Three women councillors, including former South Delhi mayor Sunita Kangra, were hospitalised Friday. The mayors also

fell sick and were recommended hospitalisation Saturday, he said.

On Friday, the Delhi High Court had said authorities, including Delhi Police, need to pass orders asking the mayors and councillors to vacate the spot outside the CM's home, and take action in accordance with the law in case they do not comply. Police Saturday also sent a notice

EXPLAINED
AAP-BJP standoff

BJP-ruled MCDs and AAP-ruled Delhi government are at loggerheads over the issue of funds. While the MCDs have accused Delhi government of not paying Rs 13,000 crore due to them, the government has maintained it does not owe any dues and that corruption in the MCDs is behind their poor financial condition.

to the North Delhi mayor, asking him to end the strike.

Reacting to the move, senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said BJP is indulging in "drama" to "divert attention of citizens of Delhi from their Rs 2,500 crore scam".



Voters at a polling booth in Bandipora district. Shuaib Masoodi

51% vote in J&K DDC polls in last phase; clashes in Poonch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SRINAGAR, DEC 19

AROUND 10 people were injured in clashes between supporters of rival candidates at several places in Poonch district's volatile Mendhar tehsil on Saturday as the eight-phase J&K District Development Council elections concluded there on a violent note, sources said.

In the final phase, the UT recorded nearly 51 per cent voting, with three districts in the Valley recording under 10 per cent voting. In all districts of the Jammu division, voting averages remained above 60 per cent with Poonch noting the highest — 83.5 per cent. The highest voting average recorded for the 10 districts of the Valley was 40.6 per cent which dropped to 29.9 per cent in the final phase of the polls.

Jammu averaged above 60 per cent voting in all phases, noting its highest voting average of 72.7 per cent on Saturday.

Those injured in clashes in Poonch include a Congress candidate, Parveen Sarwar Khan, and her two PSOs, who faced stone-pelting at Sakhi Maidan. This is the same place where the election commission for the Union Territory ordered repolling owing to reports of irregularities during polling in the 7th phase.

At Shajla, meanwhile, two people suffered injuries after a clash between rival supporters.

A National Conference Student Union leader was among five people injured in another clash, this time between supporters of PAGD and an independent candidate at a polling station in Salwah. There were also reports of violence from Kasbalari and Kalaban areas, sources said.

Poonch Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav, said that of the 80 polling stations across Mendhar and Mankote, there had been reports of stray incidents of violence from three places. Yadav said only two people had sustained minor injuries.

Ahead of BMC polls, Cong picks Marathi face to head Mumbai unit

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

A FACTION-RIDDEN Congress on Saturday decided not to project a single face ahead of the crucial 2022 BrihanMumbai Municipal Council (BMC) polls to lead the party in Mumbai. While naming sitting party legislator Ashok (Bhai) Jagtap, a Marathi face, as president of Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) on Saturday, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) appointed former Mumbai Youth Congress president and ex-legislator Charan Singh Sapra as working president of the Mumbai unit.

Former state ministers Naseem Khan and Suresh Shetty were named chairpersons of the election campaign committee and manifesto committee, respectively, while Mumbai Congress's current vice-president Dr Amarjit Manhas was named the head of the coordination committee.

Sources confirmed that all of them were interested in running

EXPLAINED
New team has task cut out

THE FIRST task of the new team will be to decide whether to go into the civic polls solo or in alliance with Shiv Sena and NCP. Anticipating regional pride to be a major poll plank, the party has appointed Jagtap as president, but its key task will also be to win back its North Indian support base, which has substantially shifted allegiance to BJP since 2014.

for the Mumbai Congress president's post, which Jagtap eventually won. The new organisational model is being seen as the party's attempt to rid factionalism within in the run-up to the 2022 Mumbai civic polls. It is also an attempt to get the caste and community balance right. The party on Saturday

also created a new position, appointing former minister Chandrakant Handore as Maharashtra Congress's Mumbai in-charge.

In 2017 Mumbai civic polls, the party had slumped to its worst ever electoral performance in the city, winning only 31 seats out of 227. The party had gone without a full-time president in Mumbai since last July, when former Union minister Milind Deora had stepped down. Former MP Eknath Gaikwad was filling in. On Saturday, the AICC appreciated Gaikwad's role as the stand-in president, but party sources admitted there were complaints that he hadn't been very active.

Meanwhile, signalling that the party is reviewing organisational changes in other districts as well, AICC office-bearers, on Friday, held discussions with senior ministers.

The party, on Saturday, appointed Maharashtra Congress's general secretary Prithviraj Sathe as AICC's secretary in charge of Assam.

As Sonia reaches out to leaders, Rahul confidante quits

MANOJ GUPTA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ON A day Congress chief Sonia Gandhi met its top leadership in a reconciliation effort, a Rahul Gandhi confidante who was in charge of the student wing put in her papers.

Sources said Ruchi Gupta— who was brought to the AICC secretariat as a joint secretary in charge of the NSUI by Rahul—was

upset with the AICC general secretary in-charge of organisation, KC Venugopal. Venugopal is said to have been hindering her attempts to reorganise state NSUI units. Gupta could not be contacted for comment. She did put out a message on a WhatsApp group of the NSUI's national office-bearers. "I am writing to announce that I have resigned. As you know important organisational changes have remained pending for very long. The na-

tional committee took one year and three months. State presidents' orders have remained pending for months.... These continuing delays by the GS(O) are damaging the organisation but in the present circumstances it is not possible to escalate repeatedly to Congress president..." she wrote.

Venugopal refused to comment. Many leaders who wrote to Sonia in August seeking sweeping changes, too, had been upset with Venugopal.

Assam: BJP wins big in Tiwa council polls

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

THE BJP Saturday virtually swept the polls to the 36-member Tiwa Autonomous Council in Assam, with rival Congress winning only one seat and ally AGP sweeping up the remaining two.

The BJP's 33-seat victory comes ahead of the state elections early next year—and days after the party, along with two local allies, took control of another key autonomous body, the Bodoland Territorial Council.

Ranjit Dass, state BJP president, told *The Indian Express*: "Yes, it is an important victory. In the last TAC polls (in 2015), we had got only three seats. But this time we have swept it."

Despite winning just three seats in the last Tiwa council polls, the BJP had still wielded influence — the former Chief Executive Member (CEM), Paban Manta, is now a BJP member. On Saturday, Manta won from the Damal constituency. The CEM before Manta, Ramakanta Deuri, is now a BJP MLA.

In 2015 council polls, the Congress had won 15 seats and the AGP two.

The Tiwa council is a statutory body constituted under the State Act and comprises parts of Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon, Nagaon and Hojai districts.

The polls were held on December 17.

Removed from Cong dist chief post, Assam MLA may join BJP

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

ASSAM CONGRESS has removed Ajanta Neog, the sitting MLA from Golaghat, from the post of district Congress committee president amid speculation that she will join the BJP soon.

"Ajanta Neog is in talks with the BJP leadership. She will talk to state BJP president Ranjit Dass soon. She is also expected to have a conversation with senior Amit Shah when he visits Assam on December 26," a senior Assam BJP leader told *The Sunday Express*.

Neog reportedly met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and the BJP's key leader in the Northeast, Himanta Biswa Sarma, recently.

Neog's speculated move comes at a time when the Congress is going through a challenging phase in Assam after the death of veteran leader and three-time CM Tarun Gogoi.

Neog did not respond to calls and text message for a comment.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In continuation to the Public Notice published in various newspapers on 15.12.2020 & 19.12.2020 regarding Cancellation/Partial Cancellation and Frequency Reduction of special trains due to fog, it is notified for the information of rail passengers that special train no. 02549/02550 Kamakhya - Anand Vihar (T) - Kamakhya Express Special will run four days a week and remain Cancelled rest of three days of week as per following detail :-

| Train No. | Train Name | Running Days | Dates of Resumption from originating station | Days of Cancellation | Dates of Cancellation from originating station |
|-----------|--|--------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 02549 | Kamakhya - Anand Vihar (T) Express Special | Mon, Tue, | 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31.12.2020, 02, | Wed, Fri, | 20, 23, 25, 27, 30.12.20, 01, |
| | | Thu, Sat | 04, 05, 07, 09, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28 & 30.01.2021 | Sun | 03, 06, 08, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 & 31.01.2021 |
| 02550 | Anand Vihar (T) - Kamakhya Express Special | Wed, Thu, | 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31.12.2020, 02, 04, | Fri, Sun, | 22, 25, 27, 29, 12.2020, 01, 03, |
| | | Sat, Mon | 06, 07, 09, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30.01.2021 & 01.02.2021 | Tue | 05, 08, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31.01.21 & 02.02.21 |

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways' website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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 physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to bank of India from the below mentioned borrower(s) & guarantor(s). The reserve price and the Earnest money deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Details of Borrower/Plant & Machinery/Mortgaged Property/Inspection Date/Date E-auction/Reserve Price & EMD.

Date, Time of E-auction:- 21/01/2021 at 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM. Followed by three extensions of 10 minutes

Inspection Date & Time of the Property: Till 13/01/2021 from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM in consultation with the Authorized Officer of Patna Zone (Bihar)

Last Date of acceptance of bids for E-Auction on: 18/01/2021

| Sl. No. | Borrower/Guarantors | Description of the Asset/Property | 1. Reserve Price & 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 01. | M/s Sheo Shakti Industries (Lalan Prasad, Ajay Prasad, Smt. Renu Devi & Sudha Devi) Branch: Bihia Total Due: ₹ 2,33,44,522.37 (Rupees Two Crore, Thirty three lakh, forty four thousand, five hundred twenty two and thirty seven paise) plus interest as mentioned in notice issued dated 28.08.2018 under rule 13(2) & interest accrued there on along with 'cost & Charges'. | (1) Owner of property: All the part and parcel of Property in the name of M/s Sheo Shakti Industries , Situated at: Mauza-Bihia, Khata No.- 375, Plot No.- 2069, Thana No.- 147, Sub Registrar- Jagdishpur, Dist.- Bhojpur. Admeasuring- 22.95 Decimal. Boundary of Property—North-Industrial Plot No.- B/3, South- Industrial Plot No.- B/6, East- Industrial Plot No.- A/9, West- 40' wide P.C.C. Road. (2) Hypothecated Plant & Machinery. * P&M and land will be sold in a single lot. | ₹ 146.30 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 14.63 Lakhs |
| 02. | M/s. Maasarda Grain Food Products Pvt. Ltd. (Akshay Kr. Singh, Rai Bahadur Singh, Shivji Singh, Sujit Kr. Singh, Dilip Kr. Singh & Ranjit Kumar) Branch: Mohania Total Due: ₹ 6,21,87,766.10 (Rupees Six Crore twenty one lacs eighty seven thousand seven hundred sixty six & ten paise) plus interest as mentioned in notice issued dated 04.06.2018 under rule 13(2) & interest accrued there on along with 'cost & Charges'. | (1) Owner of property: All the part and parcel of Property in the name of Maa Sarda Grain Food Products Pvt Ltd , Situated near Toll plaza, Mauza- Pipariya, Survey Plot No.-88, 89, 90, 91, Khata No.- 66, 191, 213, Thana No.- 41, Sub Registrar- Mohania, Dist.- Kaimur. Admeasuring -182.00 Decimal, vide sale deed 931 dated 18.02.2014. Boundaries: North- Chhawar (Presently Kaccha Rasta), South- Plot No. 112 & 113, Sharda Prasad Singh & Kamal Singh, East- Plot No. 92 & 93, Sharda Prasad Singh & Arun Singh, West- Plot No. 87, Dinanath Singh. (2) Hypothecated Plant & Machinery. * P&M and land will be sold in a single lot. | ₹ 497.47 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 49.75 Lakhs |
| 03. | M/s Sai Rice Mill (Prop- Santosh Kumar Singh) Branch: Arrah Total Due: ₹ 30,53,321.16 (Rupees Thirty Lakh fifty three thousand three hundred twenty one and sixteen paise) plus interest as mentioned in notice issued dated 01.07.2016 under rule 13(2) & interest accrued there on along with 'cost & Charges'. | Owner of property: All the land and building of Rice Mill in the name of Sri Santosh Kumar Singh , s/o Sri Radheshyam Singh, Situated at: Survey Khesra Plot No.-3039, Khata No.- 598, Thana No.-263, Mauza- Bichala Jangal, PS- Jagdishpur, Distt.- Bhojpur, total area admeasuring 62 Decimal, Boundary: North: Madan Pandey & Chandra Pandit, South: Black Top Village Road, East: Haridwar Pandey, West: Chandra Shekhar Pandey Type of Property: Freehold | ₹ 48.15 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 4.82 Lakhs |

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of India, Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://ibapi.in>

Place : Patna
Date : 19.12.2020

Authorized Officer
BANK OF INDIA

SIGNATURE GLOBAL Proxima II

LICENCE NO.: 121 of 2019 dated 14.09.2019
HRERA NO.: 02 OF 2020 DATED 06.01.2020
<https://haryanarera.gov.in/>

SIGNATUREGLOBAL PROXIMA II AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

List of application numbers of successful applicants in the re-draw of flats in SignatureGlobal Proxima II, Residential Apartments, Sector-89, Gurugram held on Thursday, 17th of December 2020, at The Pllazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

| 2BHK TYPE-01 (581.396 Sq. ft.) | | | | | | 2BHK TYPE-02 (588.586 Sq. ft.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2003 | 2377 | 2493 | 3061 | 3647 | 3738 | 4016 | 2004 | 2085 | 2385 | 2474 | 3359 | 3750 | 50235 | | | | | |
| 2010 | 2476 | 2533 | 3062 | 3730 | 3790 | | 2007 | 2088 | 2386 | 2634 | 3587 | 3778 | 50237 | | | | | |
| 2017 | 2477 | 2543 | 3099 | 3737 | 3794 | | 2008 | 2094 | 2387 | 2635 | 3590 | 3783 | 50239 | | | | | |
| 2BHK TYPE-03 (598.220 Sq. ft.) | | | | | | 2BHK TYPE-03 (598.220 Sq. ft.) WAITING LIST | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1309 | 2039 | 2059 | 2531 | 2930 | 3786 | 50217 | 1. 2018 | 2. 2479 | | | | | 3. 3776 | | | | | |
| 2005 | 2050 | 2091 | 2929 | 3733 | 50203 | | 2BHK+STORE (645.345 Sq. ft.) MQ | | | | | | 2BHK TYPE-02 (588.586 Sq. ft.) WAITING LIST | | | | | |
| 1533 | 2696 | 3125 | 3704 | 5984 | 50226 | 1. 2913 | 5. 3789 | 9. 50243 | | | | 13. 3788 | | | | | | |
| 2453 | 2700 | 3376 | 3892 | 7861 | 50227 | 2. 2044 | 6. 50212 | 10. 2926 | | | | 14. 2068 | | | | | | |
| 2454 | 2804 | 3387 | 3893 | 50024 | | 3. 3777 | 7. 50219 | 11. 50280 | | | | 15. 2955 | | | | | | |
| 2652 | 3101 | 3601 | 5439 | 50225 | | 4. 2919 | 8. 2967 | 12. 50205 | | | | 16. 50263 | | | | | | |

1sq.mt. = 10.7639 sq.ft.

Disclaimer:
• The re-draw of flats of SignatureGlobal Proxima II was held under the supervision of DTPC officials as per the guidelines laid down in Affordable Group Housing Policy. • Confirmed Allotment List is in ascending order (Top to bottom)

For more details visit www.signatureglobal.in where the list of successful applicants with names and flat nos. is available.

SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70100DL2013PTC247676
Regd. Off.: Unit No. 1310 At 13th Floor Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road New Delhi 110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customer-care@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624

GOLF GREENS-79

LICENCE NO.: 33 OF 2018 DATED 26.05.2018
HRERA NO.: 15 OF 2020 DATED 23.06.2020
[HTTPS://HARYANARERA.GOV.IN/](https://haryanarera.gov.in/)

GOLF GREENS-79 AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

List of application numbers of successful applicants in the re-draw of flats in Golf Greens-79, Residential Apartments, Sector-79, Gurugram held on Thursday, 17th of December 2020, at The Pllazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram.

| 1BHK TYPE-01 (356.169 Sq. ft.) | | | | | 1BHK TYPE-02 (355.610 Sq. ft.) | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 1513 | 5562 | 6419 | 7390 | 52070 | 6437 | 52041 | 52044 | 52078 | | | | |
| 1550 | 5565 | 6436 | 52037 | 52074 | 1BHK TYPE-02 (355.610 Sq. ft.) Waiting List | | | | | | | |
| 1551 | 5671 | 6440 | 52040 | 52075 | 1. 52077 | | | | | | | |
| 1656 | 5679 | 6456 | 52042 | 52076 | 3BHK TYPE-01 (638.477 Sq. ft.) MQ | | | | | | | |
| 1683 | 5699 | 6457 | 52043 | | 518 | 5142 | 6471 | 6474 | 6490 | 7292 | | |
| 5313 | 6262 | 6487 | 52048 | | 549 | 5655 | 6472 | 6475 | 6491 | | | |
| 5509 | 6282 | 6488 | 52058 | | 4926 | 5821 | 6473 | 6480 | 7291 | | | |
| 5515 | 6284 | 7283 | 52063 | | 3BHK TYPE-03 (642.406 Sq. ft.) MQ | | | | | | | |
| 5535 | 6415 | 7290 | 52065 | | 650 | 5137 | 5782 | 6950 | 7385 | | | |
| 1BHK TYPE-01 (356.169 Sq. ft.) Waiting List | | | | | 2B386 | | | | | 5138 | 5854 | 7381 |
| 1. 6453 | 3. 5688 | 5. 6439 | 7. 52051 | | 4963 | 5139 | 6283 | 7384 | | | | |
| 2. 1682 | 4. 52066 | 6. 52068 | 8. 7281 | | | | | | | | | |

1sq.mt. = 10.7639 sq.ft.

SignatureGlobal (India) Private Limited | CIN: U70100DL2000PTC104787
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: customer-care@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that in addition to already announced some trains whose Arrival/Departure time has been revised, the timings of the following Special Trains will also be revised as under:-

REVISED TIMINGS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

| Spl. Train No. | Station From | Dep. Time | Station to | Arr. Time | Revised Timings Effective From |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 08311 | Hatiya | 19:35 | Ranchi | 19:50 | 23.12.2020 |
| 04672 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 09:55 | Bandra Terminus | 16:00 | 30.12.2020 |
| 04671 | Bandra Terminus | 11:00 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 17:40 | 01.01.2021 |
| 04676 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 09:55 | Gandhidham BG | 17:40 | 31.12.2020 |
| 04675 | Gandhidham BG | 09:10 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 17:40 | 02.01.2021 |
| 04678 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 09:55 | HAPA | 18:30 | 04.01.2021 |
| 04677 | HAPA | 08:30 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 17:40 | 06.01.2021 |
| 04680 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 09:55 | Jamnagar | 18:45 | 03.01.2021 |
| 04679 | Jamnagar | 08:15 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 17:40 | 05.01.2021 |
| 04609 | Rishikesh | 17:20 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 07:00 | 30.12.2020 |
| 04610 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 16:30 | Rishikesh | 08:35 | 31.12.2020 |
| 02779 | Vasco-Da-Gama | 15:00 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 06:25 | 23.12.2020 |
| 02780 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 14:50 | Vasco-Da-Gama | 07:25 | 23.12.2020 |

NORTHERN RAILWAYS TRAVEL ADVISORY TO RAIL PASSENGERS IN VIEW OF REVISED TIMINGS

In order to provide better train services and due to operational reasons, the timings/stoppages of some trains have been revised from 01.12.2020 and onwards. Therefore, rail passengers are advised to:-

- 1) Please check and verify the revised train timings pertaining to your rail journeys well before commencement of journeys, either with integrated Enquiry No. 139 or Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App or by approaching authorized person in the nearby reservation counters/railway station.
- 2) Passengers advised to please mention their own mobile number only while filling the Reservation Requisition Form. It will help Railways to provide the important information such as 'Change in train timings' or 'Train Cancellation' etc. to the bonafide passengers through S.M.S.

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.

Security Helpline No. **182**

Integrated Helpline No. **139**

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6 GOVT & POLITICS



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Want peace, but won't tolerate harm to India's self-respect: Rajnath

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 19

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India's handling of the border standoff with China showed that the country was not weak and could give a befitting reply to any kind of transgression, aggression or unilateral acts.

With the two countries having held several rounds of talks to resolve the issue, Singh said "we don't want conflict, but peace. But we will not tolerate any harm to the country's self-respect."

In his address at the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal on the outskirts of the city, Singh also said China's "attitude reflected that country's intentions" during the Covid-19 crisis. "But we have shown that India is not weak. This is new India that will give a befitting reply to any kind of transgression, aggression or any unilateral action," he said.

Singh, who visited the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex here during his two-day visit to the city, also inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility here, making India the third country after the US and Russia to have such a facility.

XI APPOINTS NEW GENERAL

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed a new General as the Commander of the People's Liberation Army's Western Theatre Command which oversees the China-India border, amid the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

President Xi, who heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high-command of the two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA), appointed Gen Zhang Xudong as the Commander of the Western Theatre Command, according to the official media here.

Xi has promoted four senior Chinese military and armed police officers. Besides Gen Zhang, the other officers who were promoted include Guo Puxiao, Political Commissar of the Logistic Support Department of the CMC; Li Wei, Political Commissar of the PLA Strategic Support Force and Wang Chunning, Commander. PTI

Shivpal Yadav will join Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, says Rajbhar

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
BALLIA, DECEMBER 19

SUHELDEV BHARATIYA Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Saturday said that Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Singh Yadav will join the front floated by him.

"Two days ago I met Shivpal Singh Yadav, and yesterday I met Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh," Rajbhar said, adding that his meeting with the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president was "positive". Soon, Yadav will meet AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, who had earlier announced joining the front, he said.

"After the meeting, the announcement of Yadav joining the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha will be made," said Rajbhar, a former ally of the BJP.

Buoyed by his party's show-



Om Prakash Rajbhar said he had a 'positive' meeting with Shivpal Singh Yadav

ing in the Bihar Assembly polls, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday announced his party's intention to fight the 2022 state elections in Uttar Pradesh as part of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha.

Rajbhar said that AAP has invited him for talks and "we have invited AAP to be part of the morcha". "AAP leader Sanjay Singh has taken the proposal and will speak to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal," he said.

In the 2017 UP Assembly elections, the SBSP won four seats.

VIVEK DESHPANDE & LIZ MATHEW
NAGPUR/NEW DELHI, DEC 19

SENIOR Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue M G Vaidya died here on Saturday. He was 97. "Vaidya died of old age complications," Dr Harshwardhan Mardikar, who treated him over the last five days in hospital, said.

A former editor of pro-RSS Marathi daily 'Tarun Bharat', Vaidya had also served as RSS spokesperson and boudhik pramukh (intellectual wing chief).

One of Vaidya's son, Manmohan Vaidya, is currently sahsarkaryawah (joint general secretary) of RSS.

A swayamsevak since childhood, Vaidya, born in 1923, was

among the last surviving RSS ideologues to have witnessed the rise of the Sangh since the organisation's inception in 1925.

BJP leaders remember Vaidya as an ideologue who witnessed the entire trajectory of the RSS evolution — from its nascent stage as a cultural national movement, its vilification after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, formation of its first political wing, the Jana Sangh, its active political participation during the Emergency, the Ram temple movement, and the BJP coming to power with its own majority.

Ram Madhav, senior BJP leader who had succeeded Vaidya as RSS spokesperson, said he had learnt the art of media relationship from him. "He had seen the RSS for nine decades — right from Guruji Golwalkar's (M

S Golwalkar, second chief of the RSS) time," Madhav told *The Sunday Express*. "He was closely associated with Guruji and was a treasure trove of information and history about the RSS. He was the first spokesperson of the RSS, and I always saw him as an incisive analyst of politics and the society."

Known for his erudition, Vaidya had initially served as a school, and later as college, teacher. He quit his job as professor of Sanskrit in Christian missionary-run Hislop College of Nagpur in 1966 to join the newspaper 'Tarun Bharat' as its editorial team member. He subsequently became the newspaper's editor, before taking over as its managing director in 1985, and later as director of Narkesari Prakashan, which publishes the



M G VAIDYA
1923-2020

newspaper. Between 1978 and 1984, Vaidya was also a member of Maharashtra's Legislative Council as the Governor's nominee. Vaidya, who wrote 20 books, mostly explaining the Hindutva ideology, was known for his staunch rationalisation of the

contentious aspects of the ideology with historical and religious references from scriptures. He was known as a hardliner when it came to the RSS-BJP relationship, and did not appreciate the liberal approach of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government, according to leaders.

"He was bit strident with his views and was a stickler for the ideology," a BJP leader said.

Being a prolific writer in Marathi and Hindi, some of Vaidya's articles had created controversy for their hardline stance, which could not be in line with even the RSS's official position. "He was forthright and fearless with his views and this had created some disquiet in the Parivar," a leader said.

However, no one tried to counter or confront him out of re-

spect for Vaidya his contribution to the organisation.

His column — titled 'Bhashya' — in 'Tarun Bharat' ran for 25 years at a stretch, and is considered one of the longest-serving newspaper columns. It was widely speculated that the column had come to an abrupt end after Vaidya wrote a piece with an unflattering reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

But over the last six years, he had made several comments praising Modi's leadership and work as Prime Minister. Vaidya had stoked several controversies with his writings. On November 1, 2016, he had written: "Those who are opposed to a UCC [uniform civil code] may be given an option to not follow it. But in that case they will have to

forego their right to vote in the elections to the state assemblies and Parliament."

He had earned angry jibes from the Shiv Sena a few years ago with his suggestion that Maharashtra should be divided into four Marathi-speaking states, including the state of Vidarbha.

Much before the NDA government bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Vaidya had strongly advocated for it.

During his lifetime, Vaidya had endeared himself to people across ideological divide. He had performed "kanyadan" of the Muslim wife of then Congress leader Sunil Deshmukh, now a BJP MLA from Amravati. Shrikant Jichkar, a senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister, respected Vaidya as his guru.

SUVENDU ADHIKARI JOINS BJP: THE RISE AND THE FALLOUT

Key Nandigram lieutenant to Mamata's nemesis no. 1

DIPANKARGHOSE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

FOR MANY, Nandigram was the beginning of the end of 34 years of Left Front rule in West Bengal. As fierce protests broke out against land acquisition in the area, at the forefront was Mamata Banerjee, who broke away from the Congress in 1998. Behind the scenes, but not quite, was the Bhumi Uched Pratirodh Committee (BUPC), formed in September 2007, which rallied support in the villages and created a powerful momentum.

Sisir Adhikari, former Congressman who had joined Trinamool Congress with Banerjee in 1998 and went on to be a Union minister in the UPA government, was the convenor of BUPC. But one of the most important cogs in the committee, the man who knew every member of the organisation, stood by Banerjee's side as he galvanised support was a young, single-term MLA: Suwendu Adhikari.

Four years later, Mamata Banerjee became the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Thirteen years later, Suwendu Adhikari is the man the BJP hopes will bring them to power.

Even as TMC leaders put on a brave face, downplaying Adhikari's exit, privately many cannot deny this is a blow. "Adhikari has excellent organisational skills," a senior TMC leader said.

"In the Nandigram movement, he was Mamata Banerjee's most enthusiastic lieutenant — he did all the running around. When violence was at its peak, he was in touch with all villages. People came to him for help, he remembered all their names, and that in turn strengthened the TMC."

"Of course, Mamata was the leader, the emotional fountainhead. But Suwendu was the man on the ground, and he never let that influence in the area wane."

Since 2007, as Adhikari grew from MLA to multi-term MLA, to state transport minister, the influence of his family in the region



Suwendu Adhikari with Home Minister Amit Shah Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh at a rally in Midnapore. Partha Paul

has never withered. His father is a sitting MP, as his younger brother Dibendu, while another brother is chief of the municipal corporation of Kanthi Municipal Corporation.

"It is ironic that he left ostensibly because he feels TMC is turning into a family organisation, basically a grouse with Abhishek Banerjee (Mamata's nephew). But there is no place in Bengal that is quite like a family fiefdom as Medinipur is," a TMC leader said.

Since Adhikari began giving signals of a possible exit from TMC, with supporters putting up banners and posters of

"Dadar Anugami (brother's followers)", a direct juxtaposition with the moniker of "Didi" that Mamata Banerjee carries, there has been much debate within TMC and outside of the extent of his sway in the state. Numbers like influence over 35,65 or even over a hundred Assembly seats have been bandied about. A senior TMC leader, however, said, that the test of his popularity will come now. "Thus far, his organisational skills, with Mamata Banerjee's popularity as the face of Bengal, was a powerful combination," this leader said. "But Mamata is a powerful symbol for Bengal. You do not win 211 seats without that. Even in Nandigram, now it will be Suwendu Adhikari versus Mamata Banerjee. That is a completely different dynamic."

Saugata Roy, multi-term MP from the TMC told *The Sunday Express* that Adhikari had left "absolutely out of personal ambition" and wanted "sway over a number of MLA seats" that the party ultimately decided against.

Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray argued that there is no face yet to take on Banerjee in Bengal.

Even as BJP made vast inroads into Bengal in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, what it found in Adhikari is a powerful face, one that signals its intent to not just fight the 2021 Assembly polls, but win.

TMC a party of selfish people, Suwendu writes

ATRI MITRA & RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
MIDNAPORE, DECEMBER 19

JUST BEFORE joining the BJP, former TMC leader Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday circulated an open letter addressed to grassroots workers of his former party and explained why he switched to the saffron camp. He termed the TMC a party of 'sakam karma bhogis' (those who are not bothered about anyone but themselves).

"The party was not built in one day with the contribution of one person. It was a continuous and contiguous effort on a mam-

moth scale, which culminated 10 years ago," the former transport minister wrote in the letter.

The letter read, "It is therefore especially painful that the individuals currently in charge of the party are treating it like their personal fiefdom."

Adhikari said, "Instead of nishkam karma yogis (the ordinary people who built the party brick by brick in a selfless way), the party is now filled with sakam karma bhogis (those who don't bother about anyone but themselves)."

Urging TMC supporters to take a stand, he wrote that "I hope that my decision will enable you to make yours".

Suwendu turned greedy... Shah's son in BCCI: TMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 19

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee on Saturday criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Suwendu Adhikari for their remarks against the party ahead of the Bengal Assembly polls.

Claiming that the BJP "is the most corrupt party in the world", Banerjee said, "Amit Shah speaks of dynastic politics of other parties. But isn't Suwendu from an influential political family? Are the Adhikaris not an example of dynastic politics? Even Amit Shah's son is the secretary of BCCI. Under whose influence was he given that

post? Today Amit Shah said several lies. They are destroying farmers over farm laws... and they are talking about farmers... using Central agencies against the Opposition."

Hitting out at Adhikari for joining the BJP, Banerjee said, "Mamata Banerjee has been at the forefront of every major movement in West Bengal. Suwendu Adhikari has become greedy... he was not with the party since day one. So who are you to talk about ideals?"

"On behalf of my party, I would like to clarify that no one in Mamata Banerjee's family is eager to become the next Chief Minister of Bengal. BJP is spreading lies."

Defamation case: Ramesh apologises to Vivek Doval

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

CONGRESS LEADER Jairam Ramesh Saturday apologised to Vivek Doval, the son of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, in a criminal defamation case.

Vivek Doval had filed the case against Ramesh as well as *The Caravan* magazine and journalist Kaushal Shroff following the publication of the article titled 'The D-Companies'. The article had alleged that the NSA's sons ran a web of companies, including a Cayman Islands hedge fund to round-trip black money during the time of demonetisation.

Ramesh then conducted a press conference on January 17, 2019 in which he cited the article to made statements on the NSA, his family and business ventures. On Saturday, he told the court that he "may have gone overboard" and "realized that perhaps some independent verification may have been in order".

The court had taken cognizance of the criminal defamation complaint in January 2019. Ramesh was granted bail in May 2019.

Presenting his apology before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sachin Gupta, Ramesh submitted: "I want to clarify that these statements or accusations were made drawing conclusions from an article that was pub-



Jairam Ramesh

lished the previous day in *The Caravan* magazine. As the case progressed, I realised that perhaps the same independent verification may have been in order."

Ramesh stated in his apology: "General elections were close and the questions raised in the article seemed appropriate for being highlighted in making certain insinuations against you and your family. Thus, I would like to offer my apologies to you and your family for any hurt the statements may have caused. I would also urge the INC to remove the press conference available on their website."

Vivek Doval's lawyer, DP Singh, said they have "accepted Ramesh's apology and given their statement to the court accepting his apology".

Even as the court has proceeded to close the criminal defamation case against Ramesh, proceedings against *The Caravan* and Shroff will continue, Singh said.

IUML making decisions for Cong in Kerala, says Pinarayi

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 19

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday seized on the Congress poll debacle in the recent civic polls, saying the Muslim League (IUML) was making decisions for it, a claim rebutted by the United Democratic Front which alleged the Chief Minister was playing the communal card.

Vijayan, in a Facebook post, said the "deplorable state of affairs" of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) was due to the "shamelessness of the Congress" to do anything for a few votes.

"It is a strange experience in politics for one political party to dictate who should lead another party. Such extraordinary and anti-democratic things are happening in the UDF. It seemed like the League would take over the leadership of the UDF after the results of the local body elections came out. Has the League become a centre for commenting on the internal affairs of the Congress and deciding who should lead the Congress?" Vijayan asked.

Vijayan claimed it was clear from the statements of the League and the Congress leaders that the IUML was able to persuade the Congress in Kerala to form an alliance with communal parties, despite the opposition of the Congress national leadership.

Addressing a press meet, Chennithala, after the high-level meeting of the UDF, claimed the CPI(M) was trying to project the BJP as an opposition rather than the UDF. "LDF got 10,114 seats while the UDF bagged 8,022 seats and the BJP 1,600. This election proved that the BJP will not survive in Kerala. They could prove their presence only in a few pockets. The UDF still stands strong. But the CPI(M) is trying to project BJP as an opposition rather than the UDF," Chennithala said.

He said the Front accepts that there were some shortcomings on its part. "We will address them... we will correct these shortcomings and fight against this government's corruption," Chennithala added.

IUML leader PK Kunhalikutty, who was also present at the press meet, said the League had never interfered in the internal matters of the Congress. "That was a cheap allegation. The chief minister is playing the communal card," the IUML leader alleged.

FROM NASCENT STAGE, TO PERIOD AFTER THE MAHATMA'S ASSASSINATION, TO BJP GOVT ON ITS OWN

Ideologue who saw entire trajectory of Sangh's evolution

VIVEK DESHPANDE & LIZ MATHEW
NAGPUR/NEW DELHI, DEC 19

SENIOR Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue M G Vaidya died here on Saturday. He was 97. "Vaidya died of old age complications," Dr Harshwardhan Mardikar, who treated him over the last five days in hospital, said.

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M G VAIDYA
1923-2020

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However, no one tried to counter or confront him out of re-

Gujarat HC takes note of survey, issues notice to state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 19

THE GUJARAT High Court on Friday took suo motu cognizance of a survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the UNICEF Gujarat that found among households which had children enrolled in government schools, 85 per cent of parents had not been to access anything in lieu of mid-day meals since March, when schools were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Friday, the high court issued notices to the principal secretary of education department and the commissioner of mid-day meal scheme. Noting that the issue is "very serious" a division bench headed by Justice J B Pardiwala also noted that the survey observed that around 30 per cent of the children had not engaged in any formal learning activities since March 2020.

The Indian Express had on December 18 published a report—'85% parents got nothing in lieu of mid-day meals since March'—on the survey findings.

DROP IN MANDI TRADE

MP: Five cases of non-payment, SDMs attach properties in two

IRAM SIDDIQUE BHOPAL, DECEMBER 19

WITH THE new farm acts coming into play allowing deregulated trade outside mandi premises in private trade area, Madhya Pradesh has recorded five instances of non-payment of dues of which three were resolved by the sub-divisional magistrates by forming a joint committee and summoning the concerned parties, while traders are absconding in two other cases, leaving the farmers in lurch and prompting the authorities to proceed with seizure of properties.

This comes at a time when the mandis are registering a decline both in their business as well as incomes because many traders have moved out of regulated mandi premises to procure grains from farmers in a private setup. Traders coming to APMC mandis dropped by 20.65 per cent in November with six of the seven divisions recording a drop in business. Ujjain's APMC

mandi was an exception recording a 24.49 per cent increase in business. The overall revenue generated by the 259 mandis in MP dropped by 4.48 per cent in November compared with November last year.

To ensure effective implementation of the farm laws, soon after it was enforced, a sebonar was organised for the district administration staff at the tehsil level, Principal Secretary (Agriculture) Ajit Kesari told The Indian Express. "To help bring down such instances" of non-payment, two officials have been assigned to keep a tab of the sale in the private trade area outside mandi premises so any such case is subsequently brought to the SDM's notice, he said. "The farmers are familiar with mandi officials and these issues of non-payment of dues would easily come to their notice as farmers frequent the mandis more than the SDM's office."

The earliest complaint of non-payment was recorded on October 10 in Barwani district, when the SDM of Panselum

tehsil was approached by a farmer from Maharashtra's Dhule district who had sold 270 quintals of maize to two traders from Panselum in July and was waiting for repayment of dues amounting to nearly Rs 3.30 lakh. SDM (Barwani) Sumer Singh Mujalde said, "While the trade had not happened in our jurisdiction, the traders lived in our tehsil, and hence we formed a committee and the traders were summoned." The traders cleared the dues in two installments, and the matter was resolved on November 4 when the farmer gave a written application to the SDM that no payment was due.

In Hoshangabad, a Delhi-based firm identified as Fortune Company entered into an agreement with rice farmers in Pipariya district to buy their produce at Rs 50 higher than the rate offered in the mandi. But as the prices soared and touched Rs 2,950, the firm's agents switched off their phones with the date of purchase approaching. SDM Pipariya Nitin Tale said a joint

committee was informed after a complaint from farmers. "The (firm's) director... came over and ensured that all the produce of the farmers is purchased after a summons was issued to him."

In Jabalpur, a routine inspection on December 5 found a trader in possession of 17 quintals of paddy amid procurement being carried out on MSP, and further enquiry revealed he had purchased the rice from three farmers nearby, without giving them either the promised Rs 22 lakh or any receipt for purchase. SDM (Patan) Ashish Pandey said, "We ensured that the farmers were given their dues within the next 24 hours. While these farmers who had registered themselves for MSP, their registration was cancelled as they had already sold their produce to the trader."

However, farmers in Gwalior and Balaghat are struggling for payment of dues with the SDMs approaching the police to trace the absconding traders and seize their property.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Court orders probe in Akhtar complaint against Kangana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19



Javed Akhtar and Kangana Ranaut

THE ANDHERI Metropolitan Magistrate Court on Saturday directed the Juhu police station to probe a criminal complaint filed by lyricist Javed Akhtar against actor Kangana Ranaut for allegedly defaming him in a news television interview.

Akhtar had last month filed a criminal complaint against Ranaut for allegedly making defamatory statements against him on a private news channel.

The complaint, filed before the Metropolitan Magistrate at Andheri, claims that Ranaut has

unnecessarily dragged Akhtar's name in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

On Saturday, advocate Niranjana Mundargi, appearing for Akhtar, submitted that his client's name was dragged in an unconnected matter while her interview was pertaining to Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

S K Singhal appointed new DGP of Bihar

Patna: The Bihar government Saturday appointed IPS officer S K Singhal as DGP, according to a notification issued here.

Singhal has been holding the additional charge of DGP after Gupteshwar Pandey took voluntary retirement from service in September.

"Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, a 1988 batch Bihar cadre IPS officer, currently holding the post of DG-cum-Commandant General of Bihar Home Guards and Fire Services, is appointed as the DGP, Bihar till further orders," the home department notification said. He will retire on August 31 next year. **PTI**

Gwalior Smart City Development Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : Integrated Control Command Centre, 1st Floor, Motimahal, Gwalior (M.P.)-474007, INDIA
CIN : U75100MP2016SCDC041727
E-mail : gwaliorsmartcity@gmail.com, Phone : 0751-2648629, 2648634, 2646632
No./Engg./S.E./GSCDCL/84/2020 Date : 18.12.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Gwalior Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (GSCDCL) invites online for the following works :

The Details are as under :

| S. No. | System No./E-Tender No. | Tender Name | EMD | Tender Fee | Last Date of Online Bid Submission |
|--------|-------------------------|---|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | 2020 /UAD/119079_1 | Conservation, Development and Aggregator Services for Adaptive Reuse of Old Collectorate Gorkhi Palace Complex as Craft Mart. | 12,32,585 | 50,000 | 21 Jan. 2021 05:30 P.M. |

Full details of the above tenders can be seen on www.mplenders.gov.in Amendments to NIT, if any shall be published on website only.
M.P. Madhyam/95285/2020 **जब तक कोरेना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक दिनाई नहीं।** S.E.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

292 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 10,004,599 | **ACTIVE CASES: 308,751**
DEATHS: 145,136 | **TESTS: 160,090,514** | **RECOVERIES: 9,550,712**

| DEC 18 | CASES | DEATHS | RECOVERIES | TESTS |
|--------|--------|--------|------------|-----------|
| | 25,152 | 347 | 29,885 | 1,171,868 |



STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES

| | ACTIVE CASES | RISE IN LAST WEEK |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Uttarakhand | 7,100 | 217 |
| Assam | 3,542 | 46 |
| Andaman | 96 | 18 |

STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING

| | ACTIVE CASES | DECLINE IN LAST WEEK |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Maharashtra | 60,352 | 12,963 |
| Delhi | 11,419 | 7,257 |
| Rajasthan | 13,058 | 4,663 |

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES ON DEC 18

| | ON DEC 18 | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Kerala | 5,456 | 693,865 |
| Maharashtra | 3,994 | 1,888,767 |
| West Bengal | 2,239 | 532,695 |

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS ON DEC 18

| | ON DEC 18 | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Maharashtra | 80 | 49,693 |
| West Bengal | 42 | 9,277 |
| Delhi | 37 | 10,219 |

Data as on December 18, 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.

Kerala govt warns of Covid case spurt after local polls

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja Saturday warned of a possible spurt in Covid-19 cases triggered by the recent local body elections.

"After local body elections, there had been large gatherings in many places. New cases have started trickling in from various places," she said.

The Health Minister said the next weeks will now be critical.

"It will reveal whether the gatherings during elections have contributed to the spike in cases. There should be a self-imposed lockdown. The state health de-



Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja

partment has also taken special attention and has been told to get ready to face a higher case load," she said.

On Saturday, Kerala's cases total number of reported cases crossed 7 lakh. The test positivity rate in the state is now 10.49 as against the national figure of 6.25 per cent. The metric has been hovering at this range for the last several weeks. **ENS**

Karnataka to restart schools for classes X and XII from Jan 1

Bengaluru: Karnataka has decided to reopen schools for Classes X and XII from January 1 in order to allow students taking Board exams in 2021 to prepare for the examinations.

The decision was taken Saturday in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa based on the recommendations of a Technical Advisory Committee for Covid-19.

For students of Classes VI to IX, schools can run classes under the Vidyagama scheme—under which classes are held in open spaces—from January 1, School Education Minister Suresh Kumar said. A decision on restarting these classes in regular mode would be taken after monitoring the situation in January, the government has decided. **ENS**

Need to swiftly vaccinate 30 cr population, says Harsh Vardhan

New Delhi: With the country set to roll out its largest immunization drive next year, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Saturday, emphasised that the 30 crore priority population needs to be vaccinated expeditiously.

He was speaking during the twenty-second meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Covid-19, he said.

During the meeting, NITI Aayog member Dr Vinod K Paul made a detailed presentation on the vaccine rollout, which is expected to begin early next year.

Paul apprised the GoM on the details of the six vaccine candidates undergoing trial in India—in terms of composition, manufacturers and technical partners, and conditions for storage. **ENS**



INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV
17-25 December, 2020

INAUGURATION
Monday, 21 December, 2020 (10:30 AM)

Gita Yajna
10:30 AM
Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
Chief Guest **Sh. Jai Ram Thakur**
Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

Inauguration of International Gita Seminar
11:00 AM
Srimad Bhagavadgita Sadan, Kurukshetra University
Preside Over By **Sh. Satyadeo Narain Arya**
Governor, Haryana
Chief Guest **Sh. Jai Ram Thakur**
Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

Keep yourself safe from Novel Coronavirus and Enjoy the Festival at Home

www.internationalgitamahotsav.in
www.kurukshetra.gov.in
www.48koskurukshetra.com

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[/internationalgitamahotsav](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[/ligmkr2020](https://www.instagram.com/ligmkr2020)

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in

Farmers' group to PM, Tomar: Protest affiliated to no party

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee on Saturday wrote letters addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar where it asserted the ongoing farmers' protests are not affiliated to any political party.

In separate letters in Hindi to Modi and Tomar, the AIKSCC said that the government is wrong in assuming that the farmers' agitation against the three farm laws is being engineered by opposition parties.

It comes a day after the prime minister accused the opposition parties of misleading farmers over the three farm laws.

"The truth is that the farmers' agitation has forced political parties to change their views and your (PM's) claim that political parties fuelled it (protest) is wrong," said AIKSCC, which is one of the protesting unions.

NDA ally Beniwal quits LS panels: 'Will march to Delhi'

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 19



RLP chief Hanuman Beniwal

HAVING EARLIER expressed his opposition to the new farm laws, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) chief and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal, whose party is an NDA member, Saturday announced his resignation from three Lok Sabha committees and said he will march towards Delhi on December 26 with two lakh supporters, in protest against the three Acts.

"The government in Delhi is in a mood to crush the farmer protests. After consultation with all office-bearers of the RLP, we have decided that on December 26, two lakh jawans and kisans will march towards Delhi through the Shahjahanpur border. This is a question of Rajasthan's honour. We will not tolerate the attempts being made by governments to erase the existence of the farmer community," Beniwal told reporters in Jaipur, adding that a decision on whether the RLP would con-

tinue in the NDA would be taken during the march.

A prominent Jat leader, Beniwal enjoys considerable support among the youth and the community in districts such as Nagaur and Barmer in Rajasthan. "The government in Delhi shouldn't take the farmer protests lightly. If the protests flare up countrywide, it will be difficult for the BJP to tackle them," Beniwal said Saturday.

The RLP's demands were withdrawal of the three farm Acts and implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report, he said. "In support of the farmer protests, I am resigning from three Lok Sabha committees — the Standing Committee on Industry, the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and

the Committee on Petitions. I have sent an email in this regard to the Lok Sabha Speaker."

In his resignation letter from the committees, which he shared on Twitter, Beniwal also mentioned issues such as an FIR not being lodged over an "attack" on him in Barmer, non-spending of CSR funds, and environmental clearances obtained on the basis of "wrong facts".

While putting off a decision about staying in the NDA till December 26, saying he would do so "in the presence of lakhs of people", Beniwal indicated his mind was made. "You must have understood today... when I have resigned from the committees... definitely Hanuman Beniwal's road will be separate," he said. He added that the RLP would not enter into any alliance for the by-elections to three Assembly seats and the 2023 Assembly elections in Rajasthan.

Slamming the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan government on issues such as law and order, Beniwal accused it of collusion with former CM Vasundhara Raje. Beniwal has long been a detractor of Raje, and had quit the BJP to form the RLP ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections due to this rift, winning three seats. However, the RLP and BJP had aligned for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, with the RLP winning only one seat, that contested by Beniwal.



Manohar Lal Khattar and Narendra Singh Tomar

Khattar meets Tomar; says next round of farmers' talks soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 19

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Saturday said that the next round of talks between the Centre and protesting farmers could be held in the next couple of days. Khattar was speaking after meeting Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at his residence in New Delhi. This was the second meeting between Khattar and Tomar in recent times over the farm agitation.

Khattar, according to sources, also spoke with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on phone and urged that Centre should resolve the standoff with farmers at the earliest.

After his meeting with Tomar, Khattar said: "I believe that talks could take place in a couple of days. As such, farmers have gathered in large numbers in the times of the ongoing pandemic. I had a long discussion with Tomar ji today, so that an amicable solution can be achieved, soon."

Moradabad 'love jihad': After wife's testimony, man, brother released

ASADREHMAN
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 19



Rashid Ali and Saleem Ali with family members. Express

THE 22-year-old man held under the new Uttar Pradesh anti-conversion law in Moradabad district and his brother were released on Saturday after spending two weeks in jail, following the testimony by the woman he is alleged to have forcibly converted that she had married him willingly. The police said they had found no evidence against Rashid Ali or his brother Saleem, 25.

Rashid was going with Pinki, 22, to have their marriage registered on December 5 when they were accosted by alleged Bajrang Dal men, who accused Rashid of "love jihad", and took them to the police. Saleem was with them at the time. While Rashid and Saleem were arrested, Pinki was sent to a shelter home.

Moradabad Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Vidya Sagar Mishra said, "In our report submitted before the court on Thursday, we had stated that, given the woman's statement, no evidence could be found against the accused... We did not seek their remand... which cleared the way for the release of the accused."

Earlier, after Pinki told the court that she was an adult and had willingly married Rashid, she had been allowed to leave with Rashid's family.

Speaking to mediapersons Saturday after Rashid's release, Pinki said, "I want to thank mediapersons for their help." While she blamed the Bajrang Dal for what had happened, Pinki said she wasn't sure if they would take any legal action.

Additional SP Mishra said Rashid and Saleem were asked to submit personal bail bonds of Rs 50,000 each for release. Asked if the police will pursue the case, he said, "The investigation will go on. There is a process... There are many aspects in a probe. We will be following the process."

Saleem told reporters the three of them were returning after meeting a judge who had told them to file an application before the district magistrate regarding the wedding. "Our lawyer said we should come back at 4 pm and he would file our application. Near the Ramlila ground, Bajrang Dal people caught us."

Saleem said the officials at the police station treated them well and they were not assaulted in any manner.

On Pinki's claims that in the ordeal she had lost the three-month-old baby she was carrying, Mishra said only doctors could comment on it.

Dr Nirmala Pathak, Acting Chief Medical Superintendent of Moradabad Mahila District Hospital, where the woman was admitted twice, did not respond to several calls made by The

Sunday Express. District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr M C Garg and Deputy CMO Dr Deepak Verma could not be reached either.

District Probation Officer (Moradabad) Rajesh Chandra Gupta, who took Pinki to Mahila District Hospital after she complained of abdominal pains while at the shelter home, refused to talk about her condition. "You should ask the doctors about it. My work was to get her admitted to the hospital," Gupta said. On December 13, Gupta had said "fake news of girl's miscarriage is being circulated on social media".

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kanth, Himanshu Verma said he couldn't talk about the alleged miscarriage "since the district hospital is not in my jurisdiction". Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Laxmi Shankar Singh said, "She has given her statement in court. You should go to the court and find out what her statement was... I am an officer of the district administration. Does the district administration probe the pregnancy of a person?"

राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान, रुड़की
(जल संचयन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की सहायता से)

विनिदा संख्या: SAA/2020/Par-646-tender/15 दिनांक: 18.12.2020

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण हेतु नोटिस/NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान रुड़की की ओर से ई-प्रोक्विअरमेंट प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ऑनलाइन निविदा योग्य बिडर्स द्वारा **GAS PYCNOMETER-01 Unit** उपकरण खरीदने एवं स्थापना हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जो बिडर्स निविदा जमा करने के इच्छुक हैं, वे <https://eprocure.gov.in> (केन्द्र की वेब साइट पर) पर जा सकते हैं। ई-निविदा के अनुबंध से संबंधित निदेश खंड-VII में दिए गए हैं। निम्नलिखित दस्तावेज हमारी वेबसाइट पर भी उपलब्ध हैं। Director, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorki (Parichay) invites online bids under e-procurement system from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of **GAS PYCNOMETER-01 Unit**. Bidders, who are interested to submit bids, may visit <https://eprocure.gov.in> (Through Central Public Procurement Portal only) and the entire bid document is also available at our Website: www.nih.gov.in

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| IFB Publish Date | 17.12.2020 up to 1830 Hours |
| Document Download/ Sale Start Date | 17.12.2020 from 1830 Hours |
| Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time | 24.12.2020 at 1200 Hours |
| Last Date & Time of Bid submission | 11.01.2021 up to 1500 Hours |
| Technical Bid Opening Date & Time | 12.01.2021 at 1530 Hours |

अध्यक्ष/ Purchase Officer

जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

पुनः अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 05 / 2020-21 समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिये परिमाण विपत्र पर मुहरबन्द निविदा आमंत्रण की जाती है।

1 विभाग - जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
2 विज्ञापनदाता का नाम - सचिव-सह- मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
3 परिमाण विपत्र विक्री की तिथि - 24.12.2020 से 28.12.2020 (कार्यालय अवधि) एवं दिनांक 28.12.2020 को 4:00 बजे अपराह्न तक ही आवेदन प्रत्र प्राप्त किया जायेगा।
4 निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि - 29.12.2020 (पूर्वाह्न 11 बजे से 2 बजे तक जिला परिषद कार्यालय)।
5 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 29.12.2020 (3:00 बजे अपराह्न)।
6 परिमाण विपत्र की विक्री का स्थान - जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
7 निविदा प्राप्त का स्थान - जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
8 ग्रामीण विकास विभाग मद के अन्तर्गत श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी रुबन मिशन योजना।

| क्र.सं. | प्रमाण्ड का नाम | योजनाओं का नाम | परिमाण विपत्र की राशि | अग्रण की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र मूल्य | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि |
|---------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | घाटशिला | धरमबहाल (घाटशिला पूर्वी सिंहभूम) में एक ईकाई शौचालय का निर्माण। | 24983000.00 | 499660.00 | 10000.00 | 12 माह |

नोट:- निविदा की सभी शर्तें जिला परिषद के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।
80 उप विकास आयुक्त,
-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी,
जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 237856 Panchayati Raj(20-21).D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No.1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

| Sr. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | EMD | Cost of Tender | Time Allowed |
|--------|--|----------------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Construction of Smart Bus stop on MRR via Chotta Shimla (Circular road) under Smart city on various spots (SH- C/O Type-A, Type-B Smart Bus stops Development works at Rd. 151/465 (Nigam Vihar Rd. 151/095 (at Tolland Hill side) Rd. 150/105 (Bemloie Hill side) Rd. 155/095 (Bemloie valley side Rd. 146/405 (103 Tunnel), Rd. 146/ Near 103 Tunnel/SSB) and Rd. 145/445 (Near CMP Check post). | 13008512/- | 162600/- | 5000/- | 180/- |
| 2 | Routine Maintenance of ShoghiMehliJungaSadhpul road km.12/375 to 48/925 (Under PBMC) | 5282683/- | 85500/- | 2000/- | 365 days |
| 3 | Routine Maintenance of KufriChail road km. 0/00 to 25/00 (SH-Under PBMC) | 3569626/- | 61000/- | 1500/- | 365 days |

2. Availability of Bid Document a0nd mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in offline mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender

3. Key Dates:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Date of Online Publication | 29-12-2020 18.00 HRS |
| 2. Document Download Start and End Date | 29-12-2020 18.00 HRS upto 11-01-2021 16.00 HRS |
| 3. Bid Submission Start and End Date | 29-12-2020 18.00 HRS upto 11-01-2021 16.00HRS |
| 4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document | 12-01-2021 upto 10.30 HRS |
| 5. Date of opening of Technical Bid | 12.01.2021 11.00 HRS |
| 6. Date of opening of Financial Bid | |

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover.

i). Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical documents/ Eligibility information."

ii). Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ / Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in the O/o Executive Engineer Shimla Division No-IHPPWD, Shimla-3as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The Technical bids shall be opened on 12-01-2021 at 11:00 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Shimla HPPWD Shimla, H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Eligibility criteria:-

(i) The bidders must have successfully completed similar nature of one work not less than 40 % of estimated cost during the last five years under Govt. Department State or Central PSU,s (without Liquidated damages or compensation).

(ii) The executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

5129HP

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

शुद्धिपत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या RE-RDD/SD/HZB/15/19-2020 पौआर संख्या 237089 (Rural Development) में प्रकाशित निविदा की तिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नप्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है:-

| क्र. | NOTE :- | NOTE :- |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | 3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 04.01.2021 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted. | 3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 29.12.2020 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted. |

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी। कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल
हजारीबाग

PR 237860 Rural Development(20-21)D

Government of Tamil Nadu
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND AGRI BUSINESS
TAMIL NADU SMALL FARMERS' AGRIBUSINESS CONSORTIUM
(CIPET Road, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032)

Reference No: TNSFAC/101/2020, Dated: 19-12-2020
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (TNSFAC) invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible agencies complying with minimum eligibility criteria for empanelment as Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu under the Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs.

The EOI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria, etc. can be downloaded from the websites www.tenders.in.gov.in, www.tn.gov.in and www.agrimark.tn.gov.in. The last date for submission of EOI is 4th January, 2021 upto 1500 hrs only as hard copy. The applications in the prescribed format together with all necessary enclosures should be submitted in a sealed envelope mentioning "EOI for empanelment as Cluster Based Business Organizations for Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu under the Central Sector Scheme for formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs" on the top of sealed cover, by post to the captioned address.

Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium
Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business
CIPET Road, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy,
Chennai - 600 032, Tamil Nadu

DIPR/476/TENDER/2020

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
CIN: U85110KA1998SGC024503
Regd. Office: No. 1, Coffee Board Building, 4th Floor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560 001.
Phone: 22283074-78, Fax: 22386015
e-Mail: techknn@gmail.com
No: KNN/Empanelment/Survey/Consultancy/2021-25 Date: 20.12.2020

INVITATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF SURVEY CONSULTANTS

1. KNNL is empanelling private consultants for carrying out survey, investigations, designs, etc., for preparation of DPR of various projects under its jurisdiction. Empanelment of such consulting firms is being done after verifying the credentials of the firms duly obtaining the approval of the Estimate Review Committee (ERC). Only such empanelled firms are eligible to participate in the tenders for consultancy works.

2. The empanelling survey consultants should submit their detailed company profile.

3. The major portion of the survey consultancy works are proposed to be tendered under the following category:
Category-I: Survey consultancy works costing more than Rs. 100.00 lakhs.
Category-II: Survey consultancy works costing more than Rs. 50.00 lakhs and up to Rs. 100.00 lakhs.
Category-III: Survey consultancy works up to Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

Only such of the Consultants who are qualified and empanelled in the select list of Consultants will be eligible to apply for works under above category. However, KNNL reserves the right to separately pre-qualify the consultants for works of specialised nature.

4. Details of instruments / equipments required / Human Resources / Annual Turnover / Application Fees / etc., can be downloaded from our website www.knnlindia.com

Sd/- Managing Director,
KNNL, Bengaluru

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHMITRA ON 14410

6 Feet
Wear Mask
Follow Physical Distancing
Maintain Hand Hygiene

Shahjahanpur man held under anti-conversion law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 19

Police Friday arrested a 32-year-old man from Shahjahanpur district alleging that he "coerced" a married woman into changing her religion for marriage. This is the district's first case registered under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020.

As per the FIR, the accused, Mohammad Saeed, concealed his identity and introduced himself to the 42-year-old woman, a mother of two, as Sunil Kumar. He is alleged to have threatened her to convert and sexually assaulted her.

The FIR has been registered against Saeed and his family members under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 384 (extortion), 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and sections of the anti-conversion law. Police said they were probing the role of his family members.

Earlier, the woman and her mother accompanied by the

Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other right-wing organisations reached the police station concerned and got an FIR registered.

"The woman has alleged that the accused came to her contact around four-five years ago. As per the allegations, he introduced himself as Hindu and later established physical relations with her. He used to regularly talk to her over phone. It has also been alleged that he started pressuring her for marriage," said Shahjahanpur SP (City) Sanjay Kumar. Her husband stays in Mathura.

Talking to the media, the woman alleged that the man, who identified himself as Sunil, had come to her house to rent a room and took her phone number.

"He started talking to me over phone and with increasing closeness, he started threatening me. He made videos of me and started asking for money. He asked me to transfer my land and house in his name. He physically and mentally abused me. He also threatened me with acid attack," she alleged.

Malegaon blasts: Pragya Thakur again fails to appear in court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

BHOPAL MP Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, failed to appear before a special NIA court here on Saturday for the second time this month due to medical

reasons. She was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi on Friday evening.

Five of the accused Lt Col Prasad Purohit, Ramesh

Upadhyay, Sameer Kulkarni, Ajay Rahikar and Sudhakar Dwivedi appeared before the court on Saturday. Besides Thakur, another accused Sudhakar Chaturvedi did not appear citing personal reasons.

Judge P R Sitre expressed displeasure over the absence of two others. The court then directed all seven to appear on January 4.



An artist's illustration of the proposed complex

Blueprint of Ayodhya mosque complex unveiled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 19

THE INDO-ISLAMIC Cultural Foundation Trust on Saturday unveiled the blueprint of the mosque along with other amenities that will be constructed on the five-acre land allotted by the state government in Ayodhya's Dhannipur village.

If the proposed maps get the required approval from the authorities concerned in time, then work on the site might start from the Republic Day, the Trust said. In case the permissions are not granted in time, then the next pro-

posed date of commencing work will be the Independence day.

Earlier, the Trust had confirmed that besides the mosque, other facilities such as research centre on Indo-Islamic culture and study, charitable hospital, community kitchen, museum and public library will also be built on the site.

Earlier on Saturday, the plan and design of the whole area was showcased during an interaction with the Founder Dean Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University, Professor S M Akhtar. He is also the consultant architect for the mosque complex project.

9 SUNDAY STORY

POLL RESULTS

■ Number of wards in panchayat ■ Won by Twenty20

KIZHAKKAMBALAM



AIKKARANAD



KUNNATHUNAD



MAZHUVANNOOR



VENGOLA



*Single largest party; Twenty20 had contested in 10 wards

THE BIG PICTURE

RESULTS OF TOTAL 941 GRAM PANCHAYATS

371 LDF | **211** UDF | **2** NDA | **8** OTHERS

349
NO CLEAR MAJORITY

Twenty20 also won two divisions in district panchayat, and nine divisions in block panchayat polls



(From top) A stream restored as part of rejuvenation of water bodies; wider roads; a 'food security market' giving members subsidies on provisions; and 'villas' in place of one-room settlements

SOARING KITEX

1968: Anna-Kitex Group of Companies founded by M C Jacob as Anna Aluminium Company at Ernakulam's Kizhakkambalam village

1970s: Jacob ventures into textiles after the state government requests him to install about 400 of the 3,900 power looms the Centre has allotted to Kerala as part of an employment scheme. Jacob starts 10 units with 400 looms in each

1995: The company starts an export-oriented garment unit, later diversifying into spices, school bags and umbrellas. Now it is Kerala's largest private-sector employer with 15,500 on rolls

1997: CITU launches an agitation against the company demanding a trade union. Calls it off after 450 days without success. No trade union exists in any Kitex company at present

2015: Twenty20, Kitex's CSR wing, wins Kizhakkambalam panchayat

KIZHAKKAMBALAM PANCHAYAT

Schemes, subsidies keep voters happy: 'Can't live on ideology'

TWENTY-FIVE km from Kochi, at Kizhakkambalam, a huge model of a yellow mango fruit, with two thin leaves, standing on a podium, greets visitors. For local politicians of all hues, the mango, the poll symbol of Twenty20, symbolises the apolitical movement that for the second time running has wrested control of Kizhakkambalam panchayat.

In fact, Twenty20 has done one better. Though the Congress and CPM, sworn rivals in Kerala, fielded joint candidates to keep out the organisation, whose success threaten entrenched politics such as theirs, Twenty20 didn't just retain control of the panchayat in its hometown Kizhakkambalam, but also won one more than its tally of 17 wards out of 19 in 2015 (the only ward not won by Twenty20 this time went to the UDF).

The reasons for this astonishing performance are all around in the panchayat, with KITEX not just banking on government funds for schemes but also its own contribution, and CSR funds of other firms — filling a crucial financial gap in welfare schemes. While panchayat members usually receive Rs 7,000 monthly, KITEX pays the panchayat president Rs 25,000, vice-president Rs 20,000 and other members Rs 15,000.

KITEX MD and Twenty20 Chief Coordinator Sabu Jacob says his group has spent about Rs 170 crore in Kizhakkambalam in the last five years. "Only 10% of that would be CSR. The rest is from our ventures and other institutions."

One of the most successful schemes involves construction of 72 'villas' — with two bedrooms, a toilet, and a kitchen — for families who lived in single-room settlements. Jaya Muraliedharan and her husband, both daily wagers and former CPM supporters, are among Twenty20's new voters in the Kunathukudi ward of the panchayat. "Our life has changed. For years, we lived in a slum. We had four cents of land, but no money to construct a house. Twenty20 gave us a new house," says Jaya.

A majority of the Twenty20 supporters are women like her, won over not just by the housing scheme but Twenty20 measures such as a 'food security market', where provisions are available at subsidies between 50% and 70% to those who have joined as members, depending on economic status, with a monthly ceiling. (In Kizhakkambalam panchayat, it has 8,500 members.)

Says autorickshaw driver Jose Sebastian: "We cannot fill stomachs with political ideology. Twenty20 provides all essential items at subsidised rates. I can purchase a litre of coconut oil at Rs 60 a month from their store, when it is Rs 200 in the open market."

R Bindu, a housewife who won from Ward No. 8 on a Twenty20 ticket, says it is natural for women to vote for Twenty20 as they are the biggest beneficiaries of the schemes, including the creation of self-help groups. "The food store helps them run their kitchens without bleeding their family budgets. Home appliances can be purchased on instalment," she says.

To cut down on irregularities, there is a punching system in place. Members must use it when meeting at the ward level or for purchases at the food security market.

Sabu Jacob says that in the five years that Twenty20 has been at the helm, the panchayat has transformed from owing liabilities of Rs 39 lakh to holding a balance of Rs 13.57 crore. "We have increased efficiency in governance apart from increasing the bouquet of welfare schemes for people. Corruption was eliminated," he says.

Jacob oversees functioning of Twenty20 closely, with KITEX's salaried executives, including management and social work graduates, calling on people and conveying their requirements to the Managing Director.

K V Jacob, a former CPI local secretary who was an early convert to Twenty20 in the Kizhakkambalam panchayat, says there are both good sides and bad to this "autocratic" and corporate approach to democracy by Jacob. "While all schemes in the panchayat are funded by the exchequer, Sabu has ensured that the entire money is used for the project. When politicians handle panchayats, only 60% of the funds are ploughed in, the rest goes into their pockets," Jacob says.

However, he adds, Sabu's intervention means elected panchayat members like him have less and less say. "Panchayat members are reduced to mere puppets. Twenty20 executives are in touch with the local people. Nobody should question Jacob. I could not accept it and hence quit as panchayat president in January this year," Jacob says.

Two others who had won on Twenty20 ticket in 2015 also quit over disagreements. Others point out that many contractors too have backtracked from taking up projects in Kizhakkambalam, consequently ensuring that a majority of the works in the panchayat are done by KITEX's own men.

Local CPM leader KV Alias says this transforms democracy in ways that can't be ignored. "We are not against road development, but there have been incidents of the panchayat forcibly widening roads without the consent of landowners. Besides, provisions at subsidised rates are given only to Twenty20 members. Benefits mainly go to them," he alleges, adding that the CPM has held several protests against this.

TWENTY20 IN PREMIER LEAGUE

What happens when Kerala's largest private sector employer brings a management style to panchayat democracy? More funds, villa housing, a subsidised market, stunning electoral success, and charges of veiled autocracy. **SHAJU PHILIP** on a unique initiative that is disrupting Kerala's deeply entrenched politics — for good, and bad

KERALA'S LARGEST private sector employer, KITEX registered Twenty20 under the Charitable Societies Act in 2013 as fallout of a longstanding legal battle with the Congress-ruled Kizhakkambalam panchayat. In June 2012, the panchayat had refused to renew KITEX's licence on the ground that it was contaminating water bodies from its dyeing and bleaching units, despite a High Court clean chit. Later, when the Kizhakkambalam panchayat also obstructed KITEX's charitable activities and a fair held by it, Managing Director and Twenty20 Chief Coordinator Sabu Jacob decided that KITEX, a Rs 1,200 crore company, primarily into manufacture of garments, would itself contest the panchayat polls as part of its CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities.

Five years after it tasted success, sweeping the Kizhakkambalam panchayat, Twenty20 has proved itself more than a fluke. In the recent elections, it won three more panchayats in its home district of Emakulam — Aikkaranaad, Mazhuvannoor and Kunnathunad — apart from retaining Kizhakkambalam. This victory is sweeter, an acknowledgment of the work done by Twenty20.

"The panchayat had closed down our fair because it had that power vested in it. We decided to usurp that power," says Sabu. The name Twenty20 was meant to reflect the ambition of "holistic development" by 2020; while mango was chosen as the poll symbol for being the national fruit.

CPM leader and outgoing president of Aikkaranaad panchayat K K Raju admits they underestimated Twenty20: "We could not think of Twenty20 sweeping a panchayat ruled by the CPM."

During the coronavirus lockdown, the organisation coordinated distribution of sanitisers, masks and food kits, following this up with membership drives in Aikkaranaad, Kunnathunad, Mazhuvannoor and Vengola panchayats. This helped Twenty20 enrol 26,500 people in two months, apart from its existing base of 8,500 members in Kizhakkambalam.

In the panchayat elections, Twenty20 swept Aikkaranaad, winning all its 14 wards, gained a clear majority in Kunnathunad and Mazhuvannoor, and emerged as the single largest party in Vengola, where it won all the 10 wards (out of 23) that it contested. The Mazhuvannoor and Kunnathunad panchayats were earlier held by the Congress-led UDF.

Former Mazhuvannoor panchayat president and local Congress leader Anu Varghese reasons, "The main attraction for Twenty20 seems to be material offers, including subsidised provisions. The middle class does not get any benefits, unlike people from lower economic strata. Hence, given an attractive offer from a corporate world, the middle class has shifted loyalty."

However, attributing Twenty20's success to just what it did during the lockdown or the sops it offers would be an oversimplification.

The Kizhakkambalam panchayat stands out as a success story in the area — with its supermarket where consumer durables are available on instalments and subsidy; its free ambulance service; its new, widened roads; its rejuvenation programme for water bodies, and its free provision of agro-machinery for farmers, among other measures.

With 15,500 people on its rolls, KITEX touches the lives of many people in the area. People here tell you how despite its large staff strength, the company, with global clients like Walmart, Amazon, Target, has managed to keep Kerala's influential labour unions out. In 1997, a 450-day stir by the CPM's trade union wing, CITU, had to be called off after it drew no support from the staff. CITU sources, however, say the main reason was KITEX owner Jacob's close ties with leaders across all parties, many of whom are said to avail of his services as an Ayurveda practitioner.

In fact, the signs of Twenty20's growing attraction have been around. Its contestants are mostly leaders who have crossed over from other parties, including the CPM, BJP and Congress. The names don't matter, with the tag of KITEX enough.

Twenty20 underlined this connection with KITEX in its campaign, which was delegated to "coordinators" and executives. In every panchayat ward, Twenty20 had a 'ward executive', a salaried KITEX employee deployed full time; a 25-member executive committee; and a five-member high-power committee. Each member in the high-power committee had charge of five houses. Any issue of that house that needed the intervention of the panchayat would be taken up by the member. Chief Coordinator Sabu Jacob himself attended family gatherings, seeking votes.

K K Surendran, a long-time CPI sympathiser now with Twenty20 in Kunnathunad panchayat, says, "I saw the prompt services people got from the panchayat office. This is possible only because of Twenty20."

Levin J, a member of Twenty20 in the same



EXPLAINED

The Sign of Four

THE SUCCESS OF KITEX's corporate social responsibility wing in recent Kerala polls, winning four panchayats now compared to one last time, is unique in Indian politics — especially in a state with a long history of social and movements. While Twenty20's influence is likely to remain micro, can political parties afford to ignore what the result portends?

panchayat, says the development work in Kizhakkambalam has aroused much curiosity. "We see better roads, lit-up streets, free ambulance service, restored paddy fields... initiatives which political leaders have failed to bring."

Political scientist and former vice-chancellor of Central University of Kerala Prof G Gopakumar says Twenty20's success shows

the disillusionment with conventional politics. "This is a warning to parties... That not just the government can deliver welfare, others can."

Twenty20's win is especially striking in Kerala with its history of revolutionary and social movements, Gopakumar notes. However, he isn't sure about either the phenomenon's desirability or viability. "With the operations of a panchayat controlled by a firm, it is more corporatism than democracy... It may work at a micro-level, but not at macro. No one has shown the world how democracy can be run without a political party," the professor says.

Left political observer Prof R P Azad sees the emergence of Twenty20 as evidence of financial forces gaining further control in politics, even as the State fails to address people's problems. "Political intervention has been reduced to give-and-take," Azad says. "When the government distributes food kits, a corporate firm has stepped into the same space. The corporate world sees a panchayat as a market. This is a dangerous trend that will shatter the very basis of politics."

Jacob dismisses charges of autocratic or company rule in the panchayat. "If I had taken such an approach, people would have thrown us out. Political leaders who used to pocket funds have lost their livelihood after Twenty20 assumed office. Hence, they are raising this allegation," he says.

Amplifying his claims, other apolitical movements are seeking a foothold now in the space created by Twenty20, with V4Kochi contesting Kochi Corporation polls, Twenty-Twenty Chellanam standing for elections in the coastal panchayat, and V4 Pattambi in the Pattambi municipality. Twenty-Twenty Chellanam, floated by residents angry at parties for neglecting sea erosion, bagged eight of 21 seats in Chellanam, with the LDF winning nine and the UDF four. V4 Pattambi contested with LDF support, and having won six seats, is set to share power in the municipality. V4Kochi, however, failed to win any seat.

Jacob and Twenty20's sights, meanwhile, are set higher. Soon after the panchayat results, he announced they would next contest the Assembly elections, just a few months away.

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM
Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter: @Pchidambaram, IN

It is clear that the design and execution of programmes such as ICDS, Mid-day Meal Scheme and POSHAN Abhiyan are flawed. They have failed despite the fact that we have bumper harvests year after year... The irony is that farmers produce mountains of foodgrain, the FCI and other agencies procure extensively, the tax payers cheerfully bear the cost of procurement and storage, yet our children do not get enough food to eat!

THERE IS an India beyond Delhi, Singhu on the Haryana-Delhi border, the stock markets, the RBI and the TV channels. That is the real India, populated with real people who do physical work every day in factories and fields, in homes and on the streets, to keep body and soul together. Like every other human being, they eat, sleep, love, marry, procreate, laugh, cry and die. A very large number among them also struggle, all through their lives, with poverty and unemployment.

Those two words — poverty and unemployment — separate the poor, middle-income and advanced countries. The only goal of a developing country like India should be to wipe out poverty and unemployment. By last count, the proportion of people of India classified as poor or BPL (below the poverty line) was 28 per cent (UNDP). By last count, the unemployment rate was 9.9 per cent (CMEI, for week ending December 13, 2020).

ONLY RELEVANT METRICS

Do the governments, Central and state, care? In my view, the lasting contribution of the UPA governments (2004-2014) was lifting 270 million people out of poverty. All other measures and programmes were impactful when they were taken or rolled out, but become part of the normal after some time. For instance, the two-step devaluation done in July 1991 cut the path toward a market-

determined exchange rate but, today, a market-determined exchange rate is taken as so normal that describing it as a path-breaking reform (which it was) will hardly cause any eyebrows to be raised.

Persistent poverty and unemployment have terrible consequences. One of them is malnutrition among children. Every government rolls out programmes — Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyan and so on. Huge sums of money are allocated in the Budget, and it is claimed they are spent. There is a watchdog agency — the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Health and nutrition levels are measured through periodic surveys. The last one was the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS, 2016-2018) done jointly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the UNICEF.

The findings are worrying:

| Age | 0-59 months | 5-9 years | 10-19 years |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Stunted | 35 | 22 | |
| Wasted | 17 | n.a. | |
| Underweight | 33 | 10 | |
| Acutely malnourished | 11 | n.a. | |
| Thin (BMI < -2SD) | n.a. | 23 | 24 |
| Anaemic | 41 | 21 | 28 |

The clinical effects of malnutrition are manifold: impaired pancreatic, liver, thyroid and immune functions; loss of liver function; respiratory and intestinal infections; and decreased cardiac output, decreased appetite, lethargy and long-term developmental effects. Malnourished

children and adolescents are at higher risk for impaired growth (Black, 2013).

WHY MALNUTRITION?

Stunting and wasting are signs of chronic/acute undernutrition that reflects failure to receive adequate nutrition over a long period. Wasting may result also from inadequate food intake. The first 1,000 days is considered the most important period to intervene to prevent the **lifelong damage** caused by malnutrition. The highest prevalence of stunting was found in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (37-42 per cent) and the lowest in Goa and Jammu & Kashmir; higher in rural areas; more likely among children in the poorest wealth quintile; and more likely among Scheduled Castes/Tribes.

The CNNS must be read along with the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). NFHS-4 was conducted in 2015-16 and NFHS-5 in 2019-20. A Fact Sheet was released by the government a few days ago. Between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, the proportion of severely acute malnourished children has **worsened**. Ms Dipa Sinha of the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, writing in *(The Hindu, December 15, 2020)* observed that "we are likely to see an increase in prevalence of childhood stunting in the country during the period 2015-16 to 2019-20." She quoted the WHO which has said that stunting is "a marker of inequalities in human devel-

opment." India's HDI rank dropped by one in 2019.

FOOD, BUT NOT TO EAT

It is clear that the design and execution of programmes such as ICDS, Mid-day Meal Scheme and POSHAN Abhiyan are flawed. They have failed despite the fact that we have bumper harvests year after year. The stock of wheat and rice in September 2020 were 478 LMT and 222 LMT respectively, plus 109 LMT of unmilled paddy. The irony is that farmers produce mountains of foodgrain, the FCI and other agencies procure extensively, the tax payers cheerfully bear the cost of procurement and storage, yet our children do not get enough food to eat!

None of the above is surprising. They accord with what is common knowledge. What is surprising is that few in any government — and none in the present Central government — talk about these persistent problems.

Demonetisation, the slowdown of the economy over 8 quarters (2018-19 and 2019-20), the pandemic, the loss of jobs, homes and livelihoods, the migration of millions and the recession (Q1 and Q2 of 2020-21) have greatly impacted the nutritional status of our children. The anthropometric indicators, including malnutrition, have got worse.

Where does the responsibility lie? The sign on the desk of President Harry Truman read, 'The buck stops here'.

Fifth COLUMN
TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Love jihad is nonsense

THERE IS only one way to say this. Bluntly. The real victims of the attempt by BJP chief ministers to give legal weight to the insane idea of 'love jihad' are Indian women. All Indian women of every caste and creed technically have the fundamental right to choose who they marry. But for decades after India became a modern republic, this basic right was denied to young girls by parents of primitive mindset. In recent times, things have changed, especially in small towns and big cities. Girls have taken to choosing their own husbands instead of being forced into arranged marriages. This is good. It indicates that women are now aware enough not to be treated as chattel.

So, when women choose to marry outside their caste or religion, it is not 'love jihad' but a choice. Why then are BJP governments going out of their way to pass laws that seek to push women back into medieval times? As always in matters of fanatical Hindutva, it is Yogi Adityanath who leads the way. This powerful monk is so worried about Hindu women being shirked off by 'predatory' Muslim men that he passed an ordinance recently that disallows inter-faith marriages unless officialdom is given two months advance notice. This means that the government of Uttar Pradesh can interfere in that most personal decision that a woman makes: choosing the man she wishes to marry.

A recent victim of this new law is Pinki, 22, of Moradabad. She married a Muslim before Yogi's ordinance came into effect and when it did, the couple decided to register their marriage to avoid future complications. The registration attracted the attention of Yogi's Hindutva hoodlums who police 'love jihad'. They ensured that Pinki's husband and his brother were arrested, and that she was locked up in a Nari Niketan for ten days. She claims that while there, she was tortured and put under such stress that she had a miscarriage. Doctors who examined her when she was taken to hospital admit that an ultrasound examination failed to detect a heartbeat. When local policemen were asked why she had been treated in a way that caused her trauma, the response was that she should have told them she was pregnant. How many young women will have to endure what Pinki did before we realise that this awful law deprives women of their privacy and their right to marry who they want?

This should be the feminist issue of the moment but for some reason, there has been hardly a squeak out of those who generally make a racket about women's rights. Personally, I have never been drawn to women's causes. This is because I was at an impressionable age when women were burning their bras in America and was put off when a small group of silly Indian women faithfully followed suit. Two years ago, privileged Indian women did something similarly imitative when they copied the MeToo movement and started naming and shaming movie stars, ministers and celebrity writers. I got into trouble with them because I said that their efforts were too imitative to make a difference to women who are truly voiceless.

Where are these feminists today when there is a chance to take up a uniquely Indian and very dangerous assault on the rights of Indian women? Yogi Adityanath's efforts to deprive women of the right to choose their own husbands are being copied by other BJP chief ministers. So how long will it be before women are dragged back into a time when women had no right over their bodies or their choices? How long before women are told that they have no right to do anything more than breed children, cook and clean? The RSS chief made his own views clear when he declared that the secret of a happy marriage was for men to go out and work and for women to stay at home and look after the family.

The problem with the men who lead the Hindutva movement in Modi's 'new India' is that their minds seem pickled in a mythical past which they believe was glorious and unpolluted by marauding Muslim men. Ironically, their idea of Hinduism is more Islamic than Hindu. In the seventies, when Pakistanis first started coming to India to play cricket and talk of peace, I remember that it was the women who were truly dazzled by the freedom Indian women enjoyed. They were fascinated that Indian women could work in jobs that in their country only men did and delighted that they could dress the way they wanted and live life on their own terms. Pakistani men thought this was a bad thing and blamed it on evil western influence. I remember being shocked to hear this from men who were themselves educated in western universities.

What worries me today is that we seem in India to be regressing into a Hindu version of Pakistan. What worries me more is that laws are being passed that specifically target women's rights and that our usually vocal feminists are mysteriously silent. Not only should Indian women have the right to choose their own husbands they should have the right to decide if they want to change their faith. The idea that there is a widespread Hindu conspiracy to prey on innocent Hindu girls and convert them to Islam is ludicrous. So is 'love jihad'.

inside TRACK
COOMI KAPOOR



SHAKY POSITION

HARYANA CM Manohar Lal Khattar and his deputy Dushyant Chautala could well end up as casualties of the farmers' agitation. A Jat farm leader, Dushyant has been fielded to defend the government's farm Bills and he has per force to agree. Dushyant is aware that seven of his 10 JJP MLAs support the farmers' protest and can bring down the government. Former Congress CM Bhupinder Hooda is waiting expectantly in the wings. Dushyant, however, does not want to surrender the perks of office. After all, his family spent 16 years in the wilderness. Even grandfather Om Prakash and father Ajay have benefited from his stint in power, securing long paroles. Dushyant's unilateral style and tough talk have alienated his MLAs and he calculates they could leave regardless of whether they join Hooda or not. Dushyant is banking on the Governor not calling an early Assembly session for a no-confidence vote.

PAWAR PLAY

Since Congress high command remains unresponsive to its demands, the G-23 rebels led by Ghulam Nabi Azad realised the only way to challenge the Gandhis' suzerainty was to insidiously rope in the UPA allies, none of whom want Rahul to head an electoral coalition. The trial balloon to make Sharad Pawar UPA chairperson was floated by the Congress ginger group and has infuriated Gandhi loyalists. Meanwhile, the impasse over appointing a new president persists because Sonia Gandhi would step down only to make way for Rahul, but her son, after resigning following the defeat in the 2019 general elections, would like to defer taking formal charge. He would prefer to wait till 2022, when the present presidential term ends. A nominee of Rahul as president, the most likely choice being Mukul Wasnik, is unacceptable to many.

FORMIDABLE FOE

The Modi government, coasting on its success in handling the fall-out of abrogating Article 370 and the introduction of CAA, did not bargain that it would not be so easy to ride out the storm brewing in opposition to the farm Bills. Its attempt at subterfuge

failed. In July, when the then Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Badal objected to the ordinance for barrier-free farm trading, she was assured that necessary changes would be made when the Bills make it to Parliament. The Akali Dal walked out of the NDA when it realised that the Centre was not planning to alter its proposals. The unity of the farmers and their willingness to dig in their heels for the long haul took the Centre by surprise. The well-organised Sikh farmers can afford to sit tight in Delhi since their wheat fields do not need to be tended to till late February. Surprisingly, it is the normally combative Amit Shah who has displayed the most flexibility, while his Cabinet colleagues and the PM have hardened positions. With his ear to the ground, Shah realises it is politically counter-productive to attack farmers and Sikhs. The farmers have smartly distanced themselves from political parties and not allowed any individual to act as spokesperson. When intellectual and aspiring politician Yogendra Yadav tried to assume this role, he was asked dismissively by one doughy peasant how many volunteers he had actually brought to the protests.

STILL ELUSIVE

After Ahmed Patel's death, it was claimed that henceforth the Gandhis would speak directly to party members without intermediaries. But the Congress first family remained elusive. The only contact with Rahul is an early morning Twitter message which is sent between 8 am and 9.30 am, either paying tributes, offering birthday greetings or taking potshots at the BJP. The tweets are normally composed by Vineet Punia of the Congress media cell, not Rahul. Sonia continued to excuse herself from giving appointments to senior leaders on the plea of ill health. The sole exception was Kamal Nath, who met her more than once. Some speculated that Nath could get a bigger role in the party, others that the discussions concerned the AgustaWestland deal. But on Saturday, Sonia finally met the dissident letter writers. Significantly, Nath was also present.

FRESH HOLD-UP

Plans for an expansion of Modi's Council of Ministers have been in the offing for long, but frequently put off, most recently due to Bihar polls and farmers' agitation. It is an astrologically inauspicious period from mid-December, so those waiting for good news, including Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sushil Modi, will have to be patient. Meanwhile, a few ministers have far more than their fair share of portfolios. For that matter, even governors are juggling more than one state.



Renjika Pri

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Of addas in Central Hall, and a dour Chandrashekhar

ON DAYS THAT Parliament would be sitting late, I would come out of the media room and watch the beautifully lit circular building, a sight that always filled me with wonder — that this iconic structure should represent the will of a billion-plus people. It would be my goosebump moment.

There are so many things that come to mind when I look back at all those years when I wrote about Parliament and, as a media person, witnessed the political and legislative process at play inside it.

As iconic as the building, designed by Edwin Lutyns and Herbert Baker and completed in 1927, is the Central Hall, with life-size portraits of India's leaders, freedom fighters and former prime ministers looking down.

It was here, on the midnight of August 14-15, that Gujarat educationist Hansa Mehta presented the Indian flag to Rajendra Prasad, chairman of the Constituent Assembly. "It is in the fitness of things," she told him, "that the first flag flying over this august house should be a gift from the women of India."

It was here that Jawaharlal Nehru spoke his famous words that midnight, "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge..."

It was here that Sonia Gandhi, Nehru's grand daughter-in-law and Congress president, decided to heed her "inner voice" and not take up the country's prime minister-ship which was within her grasp in 2004.

It was here that the NDA government rolled out the GST, what it called the "biggest tax reform in the country", at a midnight ceremony on June 30, 2017.

And it was here that Narendra Modi, while attending the best parliamentary awards function in 2018, reminded MPs

that "Parliament is a forum to debate and even criticise the government".

It's here that MPs sit and chat, corner the minister and get the word done of their constituents. As someone once said, "It is the biggest eatery and gossipry in town." It's also where media persons like to hang out.

The Central Hall of Parliament, above all, is about holding conversations. MPs across parties affiliations would mount blistering attacks against each other while in the House, before coming to Central Hall and sitting together over coffee and toast.

This is often where problems got sorted out between the government side and the Opposition, and impasse gave way to dialogue, though this has been getting less frequent over the years.

I remember the late Pramod Mahajan, then parliamentary affairs minister in the Vajpayee regime, accosting Opposition leaders who had for days stalled the Houses with a warm "achha, ab batao, asal mein kya chahiye, us par baat karein, shor to kaafi ho gaya (ok, let's talk about the problem, there has been enough noise)."

During the UPA rule, Prithviraj Chavan, MoS in the Prime Minister's Office, was able to have a quiet word here with Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, leaders of Opposition in the two Houses, and get a consensus on the tricky nuclear liability Bill.

In 1989, many will remember the sight of a red-faced Chandrashekhar sitting in a corner of Central Hall, after being "duped" about who would become Prime Minister. He thought Devi Lal would be the man but it was V P Singh, who was elected at the parliamentary party meeting held there, who went on to replace Rajiv Gandhi as PM.

Arun Jaitley's addas in Central Hall were very popular, more so after Modi came to power because many of the other ministers

had stopped informal chat sessions with the media. An "understood" convention of Central Hall is that whatever is spoken there is "off the record", unless stated otherwise.

The 1999 cliffhanger of a trust vote that Atal Bihari Vajpayee lost — by one vote — in 1999 will be remembered as much for the intense debate that followed in Central Hall on which one vote could have made the difference.

All of these come to mind as the Prime Minister lays the foundation of a new Parliament building which is expected to come up by 2022. It will be bigger, and more modern. It will have 888 seats in the Lok Sabha, with an option to increase it to 1,224.

Structural considerations and space constraints are important factors for a new building. But in this day of innovation and modern technology, could they have not been addressed? Couldn't an expansion have been undertaken to meet the need for more offices, without giving up on the present building and converting it into a museum? After all, the Annexe building and the Library building were added as extensions for precisely the same reason.

You see MPs squished together in the British parliament; they could certainly do with more space. There is a plan to restore the decaying Palace of Westminster, but not to replace it.

For, Parliament is a building steeped in history, memories, and a democratic legacy which can never be replaced. While icons keep a nation's spirit alive, it is iconic structures such as Parliament that help give the nation its identity and connect the present to the past, giving it a direction to move more confidently towards the future.

The writer, a senior journalist, was former Political Editor, The Indian Express.

My ISOLATION

A WEEKLY WINDOW INTO THE LIVES OF INDIA'S NEWSMAKERS AND THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THEM

'Was chef of my house, saw YouTube recipes to cook for son'

What precautions are you taking?
Since I am travelling and shooting — everything. This includes all the protocols set by respective countries I have visited, constant monitoring of body temperature and oxygen levels on the sets, hand-washing, sanitising, and masks, of course. Moreover, I have a deep trust in homeopathy, and my whole family is taking it as a precaution.

Have you got yourself tested?
I have lost count! I started travelling (for film shoots) in August itself — from Glasgow to London to Delhi to Assam and now, I am in Birmingham. So, whenever I travel, I get tested.

What has your routine been like?
I was doing things like rebuilding a bird's broken nest on my terrace to catching up with long-lost childhood friends on the



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

National Award-winning actor ADIL HUSSAIN, 57, was recently seen in the American television series *Star Trek: Discovery*. He has also featured in international projects such as *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Life of Pi*. Known to straddle the worlds of mainstream and art house cinema, the actor has been busy travelling and shooting during the pandemic, getting himself tested for Covid-19 several times

INTERVIEW BY
TORA AGARWALA

phone. I got to spend a lot of time with my wife and son, who is 10. With the help gone, I became the chef of the house, cooking for my son all day. All the while, I was reading scripts, doing interviews, catching up with my family back in Assam.

What kind of masks do you use?
I started by using N95 masks, but then I saw people got creative... I started receiving masks made of 'gamosa' from Assam.

How do you ensure safety at work?
When you are acting, you are so absorbed that you forget the fear. The advantage in filmmaking is that you can cheat a little. We could take some shots apart and then make it seem as though the actors were next to each other.

Did you have to stay away from family?
Only for a month. I was fortunate

enough to go to Assam a few times to see my mother, who is 92.

How much time do you spend in front of a screen?
During the lockdown, I had to spend a lot of time in front of the screen, reading scripts, watching films, or even referring to YouTube for recipes for my son. Now, since I am working, this has reduced significantly.

How do you keep your mind off the pandemic?
I practise a certain kind of meditation to keep myself centered.

What is the first thing you want to do in a Covid-free world?
I would like to hug a lot of people, and maybe even hug a stranger. I am a very physical person, and I have missed that.



MEANWHILE

MAUSOLEUM OF ROME'S 1ST EMPEROR RESTORED

After decades of neglect, one of ancient Rome's most important monuments, the mausoleum of the first emperor Augustus, has been restored and will reopen early next year, city officials announced. The mausoleum was constructed in 28 BC near the banks of the river Tiber to house the remains of Augustus and his heirs, including emperors Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Aristoteles Sandoval with supporters in 2012. Reuters

MEXICO

Ex-governor of cartel-ravaged state shot dead in beach resort

THE FORMER governor of the Mexican state of Jalisco was shot dead early on Friday in a restaurant bathroom in the beach town of Puerto Vallarta, one of the most high profile political killings since Mexico embarked on its "War on Drugs" in 2006. Jalisco state officials said Aristoteles Sandoval was shot in the back by an unidentified assailant while his security detail were outside. A shootout erupted as his bodyguards began moving Sandoval to hospital. Mexico is struggling to stop violence across the country, with Jalisco one of the epicenters of cartel warfare that last year drove murders to an all-time high with 34,670 homicides recorded. **REUTERS**

FRANCE

Epstein-linked modelling agent charged with rape of minors

A MODELLING agent associated with disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein has been charged in France with sexual harassment and the rape of minors over 15 years old. Jean-Luc Brunel was arrested on Wednesday. He is being investigated as part of a French probe into alleged sexual exploitation of women and girls by Epstein and his circle. Multiple women have identified themselves as victims and spoken to police since the probe was opened last year. **AP**

GERMANY

Court lets Tesla partially clear forest for factory

A GERMAN court on Friday ruled Tesla could partially proceed with clearing a forest to build a manufacturing site near Berlin. Environmentalists had gone to court in the eastern city of Frankfurt am der Oder in an attempt to stop Tesla from clearing the forest, arguing that cutting down more trees could endanger hibernating reptiles. The court said it would ban clearing by Tesla in parts of the site, but would not stop the company from clearing the rest of the area. **REUTERS**



ARMENIANS MOURN WAR VICTIMS, CALL ON PM TO QUIT

Thousands of people visit Yerablur Military Pantheon cemetery on the day of the Armenian nationwide mourning for those killed in the conflict over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, in Yerevan, Armenia, on Saturday. The conflict and the fatalities on the Armenian side have increased pressure on Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, whom the opposition accuses of mishandling the conflict by accepting a Russian-brokered ceasefire last month, to resign. Footage published on Armenian television showed Pashinyan's critics shouting "Nikol is a traitor!" as his convoy passed by, escorted by heavy security. **Reuters**

FIRST U.S. OFFICIAL TO PUBLICLY LINK THE HACKING TO MOSCOW

Secy of State says Russia was behind major cyberattack on US

STEVE KENNY
DECEMBER 19

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said Friday it was clear that Russia was behind the widespread hacking of government systems that officials this week called "a grave risk".

Pompeo is the first member of the Trump administration to publicly link the Kremlin to the cyber-attack, which used a variety of sophisticated tools to infiltrate dozens of government and private systems, including nuclear laboratories and the Pentagon, Treasury and Commerce departments.

"I think it's the case that now we can say pretty clearly that it was the Russians that engaged in this activity," Pompeo said in an interview on the Mark Levin Show.

"This was a very significant effort," he said, adding that "we're still unpacking precisely what it is."

President Donald Trump has yet to address the attack, which has been underway since spring and was detected by the private sector only a few weeks ago. Until Friday, Pompeo had played down the episode as one of the many daily attacks on the federal government.



Mike Pompeo

But intelligence agencies have told Congress that they believe it was carried out by the SVR, an elite Russian intelligence agency.

As evidence of the attack's scope piled up this week, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency sent out an urgent warning Thursday that the hackers had "demonstrated an ability to exploit software supply chains and shown significant knowledge of Windows networks."

The agency added that it was likely that some of the attackers' tactics, techniques and procedures had "not yet been discovered." Investigators say it could take months to unravel the extent to which American networks and the technology supply chain have been compromised. Microsoft said it had identified

EXPLAINED
Worries over motive

THE SOPHISTICATED, months-long hacking attack on the US government's systems has left American officials struggling to comprehend what the motive of the hackers is. While reports cite some officials as saying that the hacking was part of the kind of traditional espionage that the US also routinely conducts on foreign powers, others worry that the sophistication and depth of the alleged Russian operation would give the hackers the capability to shut down, corrupt or take control of computer systems in the United States.

40 companies, government agencies and think tanks that the hackers had infiltrated. Nearly half are private technology firms, Microsoft said, many of them cybersecurity firms, like FireEye, that are charged with securing the public and private sector. **NYT**

Senate investigators fault US FAA over Boeing 737 Max safety

DAVID KOENIG
DECEMBER 19

BOEING IMPROPERLY influenced a test designed to see how quickly pilots could respond to malfunctions on the Boeing 737 Max, and US Federal Aviation Administration officials may have obstructed a review of two deadly crashes involving the plane, Senate investigators say.

In a report released Friday, the Senate Commerce Committee also said the FAA continues to retaliate against whistleblowers. The FAA's parent agency, the

Transportation Department, has also hindered investigators by failing to turn over documents, it said.

The report follows a similarly scathing review of the FAA by a House panel earlier this year. Both grew out of concern about the agency's approval of the Boeing Max.

In a statement, the FAA said the report "contains a number of unsubstantiated allegations" and defended its review of the Max, calling it thorough and deliberate. "We are confident that the safety issues that played a role in the tragic accidents involving Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian

Airlines Flight 302 have been addressed through the design changes required and independently approved by the FAA and its partners," the agency said.

Boeing didn't comment on specific allegations. "We take seriously the Committee's findings and will continue to review the report in full," the company said.

All Max planes were grounded after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people. After a lengthy review of Boeing changes, the FAA last month approved the plane to fly again if airlines update a key flight-control system and make other changes. **AP**

Zoom executive accused of disrupting calls at China's behest

NICOLE HONG
DECEMBER 19

IN A novel case, US federal prosecutors Friday brought criminal charges against an executive at Zoom, the videoconferencing company, accusing him of engaging in a conspiracy to disrupt and censor video meetings commemorating one of the most politically sensitive events in China.

Prosecutors said the executive, Xinjiang Jin, who is based in China, fabricated reasons to suspend accounts of people in New York who were hosting memorials on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre and coordinated with Chinese officials to identify potentially problematic meetings.

He is accused of working with others to log into the video meetings under aliases using profile pictures that related to terrorism or child pornography. Afterward, Jin would report the meetings for violating terms of service, prosecutors said.

At least four meetings commemorating the massacre this year were terminated as a result of Jin's actions, prosecutors said.

Jin, who is also known as Julien Jin, acted as the liaison between Zoom and Chinese government authorities, prosecutors said. Jin has not been arrested and is at large in China, which does not have an extradition treaty with the US. **NYT**

Suicide bomber in Somalia hits PM's rally

DECLAN WALSH
NAIROBI, DECEMBER 19

THREE SENIOR Somali military officers, including a commander with an elite American-backed commando force, and several other people died in a suicide attack on Friday that was aimed at the country's Prime Minister, the Somali police said.

The Islamist extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility

FDA authorises Moderna vaccine, adding millions more doses to US supply

Debate over who should get shots in next vaccination wave

DENISE GRADY,
ABBY GOODNOUGH
& NOAH WEILAND
DECEMBER 19

THE FOOD and Drug Administration on Friday authorised the coronavirus vaccine made by Moderna for emergency use, allowing the shipment of millions more doses across the nation and intensifying the debate over who will be next in line to get inoculated.

The move will make Moderna's vaccine the second to reach the American public, after the one by Pfizer and BioNTech, which was authorised just one week ago.

The FDA's decision sets the stage for a weekend spectacle of trucks rolling out as expert committees begin a new round of discussions weighing whether the next wave of vaccinations should go to essential workers, or to people 65 and older.

Jockeying for the next shots in January and February has already begun, even though there is still not enough of the two vaccines for all the health care workers and nursing home staff members and residents given first priority. Uber drivers, restaurant employees, morticians and barbers are among those lobbying states to include them in the next round along with



Police officers and soldiers escort a delivery van as part of a drill for the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, in Mexico City on Friday. Reuters

Switzerland approves Pfizer shots

Zurich: Swiss drugs regulator Swissmedic has authorised the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and partner BioNTech, the agency said on Saturday, calling it the world's first such approval under a standard procedure.

Two months after receiving the application, Swissmedic granted authorisation for the vaccine for people

aged 16 and older after a rolling review of documents being submitted.

Switzerland has a contract with Pfizer and BioNTech to deliver 3 million doses of the vaccine. Covid-19 cases in Switzerland and neighbouring Liechtenstein have surpassed 400,000 and the death toll has topped 6,000. **REUTERS**

those in the more traditional categories of the nation's 80 million essential workers, like teachers.

In the past week, there has been an average of 213,165 new

Covid-19 cases per day, as the virus continues to spread fast across the US. And the daily death toll in recent days has surpassed 3,200. **NYT**

UK imposes harsher lockdown on London, citing new version of virus

MARK LANDLER &
STEPHEN CASTLE
LONDON, DECEMBER 19

ALARMED BY what he called a faster-spreading variant of the coronavirus, Prime Minister Boris Johnson abruptly reversed course on Saturday and imposed a wholesale lockdown on London and most of England's southeast.

The decision, which Johnson announced after an emergency meeting of his cabinet, came after the government got new evidence of a variant first detected several weeks ago in Kent, south-east of London, which the Prime Minister asserted was 70 per cent more transmissible than previous versions.

The new measures, which take effect at the end of Saturday night, are designed, in effect, to cut off the capital and its surrounding counties from the rest



Boris Johnson said the new variant of the coronavirus was 70% more transmissible than previous ones. Reuters

of England. They are the most severe measures the government has taken since it imposed a lockdown on the country back in March, and they reflect a fear that the new variant could supercharge the transmission of the virus as winter takes hold.

"When the virus changes its method of attack, we must change our method of defence," a somber Johnson said at a

Saturday afternoon news conference. "We have to act on information as we have it, because this is now spreading very fast."

Viral mutations are not unusual, and this variant — known as VUI_202012/01 — has been detected in a handful of other countries, but some medical experts expressed alarm about its apparent infectiousness. Some argued that it reinforced the urgency of the government to tighten social restrictions to try to eliminate the virus altogether.

The new lockdown zone includes all of Greater London and much of the surrounding south-east of the country. The restrictions will remain in place for at least two weeks.

The government told people in this region to stay at home except for urgent travel, medical appointments and outdoor exercise. Nonessential shops will close, as will gyms, cinemas, hairdressers and nail salons. **NYT**

DOCUMENTS REVEAL THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS STAGE-MANAGED WHAT APPEARED ONLINE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE OUTBREAK

No 'negative' news: How China censored information about Covid-19

RAYMOND ZHONG,
PAUL MOZUR, JEFF KAO
& AARON KROLIK
DECEMBER 19

IN THE early hours of Feb 7, China's powerful internet censors experienced an unfamiliar and deeply unsettling sensation. They felt they were losing control.

The news was spreading quickly that Li Wenliang, a doctor who had warned about a strange new viral outbreak only to be threatened by the police and accused of peddling rumours, had died of Covid-19. Grief and fury coursed through social media. To people at home

and abroad, Li's death showed the terrible cost of the Chinese government's instinct to suppress inconvenient information.

Yet China's censors decided to double down. Warning of the "unprecedented challenge" Li's passing had posed and the "butterfly effect" it may have set off, officials got to work suppressing the inconvenient news and reclaiming the narrative, according to confidential directives sent to local propaganda workers and news outlets.

They ordered news websites not to issue push notifications alerting readers to his death. They told social platforms to gradually remove his name from trending topics pages. And they activated

legions of fake online commenters to flood social sites with distracting chatter, stressing the need for discretion: "As commenters fight to guide public opinion, they must conceal their identity, avoid crude patriotism and sarcastic praise, and be sleek and silent in achieving results."

The orders were among thousands of secret government directives and other documents that were reviewed by *The New York Times* and ProPublica. They lay bare in extraordinary detail the systems that helped the Chinese authorities shape online opinion during the pandemic.

At a time when digital media is deepening social divides in



A memorial to Dr Li Wenliang carved into the snow of a Beijing riverbank in February. Li, whose warnings about the severity of the coronavirus were silenced, died from Covid-19. AP

Western democracies, China is manipulating online discourse to enforce the Communist Party's consensus. To stage-manage what appeared on the Chinese internet early this year,

the authorities issued strict commands on the content and tone of news coverage, directed paid trolls to inundate social media with party-line blather and deployed security forces to muzzle

unsanctioned voices.

Though China makes no secret of its belief in rigid internet controls, the documents convey just how much effort is involved in maintaining a tight grip. It takes an enormous bureaucracy, armies of people, specialised technology made by private contractors, and the constant monitoring of digital news outlets and social media platforms.

China's curbs on information about the outbreak started in early January, before the novel coronavirus had even been identified definitively, the documents show. When infections started spreading rapidly a few weeks later, the authorities clamped down on any-

thing that cast China's response in too "negative" a light.

It may never be clear whether a freer flow of information from China would have prevented the outbreak from morphing into a raging global health calamity. But the documents indicate that Chinese officials tried to steer the narrative not only to prevent panic and debunk damaging falsehoods domestically. They also wanted to make the virus look less severe — and the authorities more capable.

The documents include more than 3,200 directives and 1,800 memos and other files from the offices of the country's internet regulator, the Cyberspace Administration of China. They

also include internal files and computer code from a Chinese company, Urun Big Data Services, that makes software used by local governments to monitor internet discussion and manage armies of online commenters.

"China has a politically weaponised system of censorship; it is refined, organized, coordinated and supported by the state's resources," said Xiao Qiang, a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley. "It's not just for deleting something. They also have a powerful apparatus to construct a narrative and aim it at any target with huge scale."

"This is a huge thing," he said. "No other country has that." **NYT**

12 ECONOMY

'GLOBAL PERCEPTION HAS CHANGED FROM WHY INDIA TO WHY NOT INDIA'

PM urges private sector to step up investment in R&D across sectors

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

MOST OF the investment in research and development across sectors has done by the public sector units so far and the private businesses too must increase its investment in the area, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while addressing the virtual keynote address of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India's (ASSOCHAM) ongoing foundation week.

"The investment being done in research and development (R&D) is also an important aspect. There is a need to increase the investment in R&D. In countries like the US, the private sector invests about 70 per cent of the total investment done on R&D, in India, the same is done by the public sector. In this too, a big part is done in IT (information technology), pharma and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the virtual keynote address of ASSOCHAM's foundation week. via @ASSOCHAMIndia

transport sector," Modi said in his address, adding that it was the need of the hour that private sector in India must step up its investment in R&D.

The funds by the private sector should also be kept aside for newer sectors such as agriculture, de-

fence, space, energy, and construction, the Prime Minister said.

During the event, Modi also said that in the past six years, the global perception had changed from being a "why India" to "why not India" country.

"There was a situation in the

past when investors would question 'why India' (for investing in the country). With reforms (of past six years) and their effects, its proposition has changed to 'why not India'," Modi said.

Citing that India had in the last six years scrapped about "1,500 old and obsolete laws" and was framing new ones which would be in tune with the requirements of the times, Modi said that easing compliance burden in the new labour laws have made investors turn their investments towards the country.

"From a non-existent culture for innovation to a new ecosystem promoting and nurturing startups has given the world confidence to say 'why not India'. Today the faith reposed by the government in the private sector and encouragement of foreign investors have made the same people say 'why not India'," the prime minister said.

As a part of its efforts to im-

prove ease of doing business, the government has, among others, been decriminalising several provisions of the Companies Act, which earlier had very stringent measures for small violations.

The move has been part of larger government efforts to boost ease of doing business since 2018. The recently decriminalised offences include administrative offences such as delays in filing CSR reports, or failure to rectify the register of members in compliance with orders from the NCLT. Experts point out that the decriminalisation efforts are really an effort to pull back on regulations introduced in 2014 aimed at boosting corporate compliance.

Further, the government last year trimmed the headline corporate tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing companies as measures to boost ease of doing business.

COVID-19 IMPACT

'Household consumption growth hit in 2021 too'

The Covid pandemic is likely to impact shopping behaviour and overall consumption growth is likely to get delayed by up to two years, said a report by Boston Consulting Group

Outlook

The household consumption is going to be negatively impacted over 2020 and 2021, it said

₹290-300 trillion

Projected total household consumption spending by 2030, similar to initial pre-COVID estimates for 2028

13% Household consumption

Rural consumption has been relatively resilient through the pandemic, but the trend is unlikely to sustain over the long-term



growth in India over the last decade to reach Rs 120 trillion in 2019

₹7.3 lakh

Average expected annual household income by

2030, nearly 40 per cent higher than it is now but 7-8 per cent lower than pre-Covid estimate

Highest growth in services like health, education and leisure, indicating the changing lifestyle and preferences of consumers, and the rise of many new to the world categories

Key Growth Pillars

Affluence, attitude, awareness, access

Source: Boston Consulting Group/PTI

CBI books Transstroy India for diverting ₹7,926 cr from 14 banks

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

IN WHAT could be the biggest bank fraud case reported so far, the Central Bureau of Investigation has booked Transstroy India Ltd (TIL), Chairman and MD Sridhar Cherukuri and directors for alleged misappropriation and diversion of Rs 7,926.01 crore from 14 banks.

Former Telugu Desam Party MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, who is also the company's current additional director and a promoter, has also been booked by the CBI. Sambasiva Rao was a three-time Lok Sabha member and one-time Rajya Sabha member.

The top bank fraud cases so far were Gitanjali Gems (promoted by Mehul Choksi) Rs 5,044 crore, Reg Agro Ltd Rs 4,197 crore, Winsome Diamonds (promoted by Jatin Mehta) Rs 3,386 crore and Ruchi Soya Industries Rs 3,225 crore.

According to Canara Bank, of the Rs 7,926.01 crore fraud

amount, the amount of lending made by all the 14 consortium members is Rs 4,765.70 crore. "The remaining amount was lent under Multiple Banking Arrangement. Out of this, exposure of Canara Bank is Rs 678.28 crore only," the bank said.

According to banking sources, the additional funding was done by five banks without informing the consortium. Banks also found that the company donated gold jewellery worth over Rs 5 crore to temples purchased with the bank loan. "The company is under the process of liquidation. The company has already been declared as willful defaulter on December 26, 2018," Canara Bank said. The bank has already made 100 per cent provision on the account as per the RBI rules, it said.

According to the CBI, it was alleged that the accused was involved in falsification and fabrication of books of accounts, fudging of stock statements, tampering of balance sheets and round tripping of funds.

Bids for AI in, but history suggests still some way to go

PRANAVMUKUL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AFTER A series of changes to the bidding conditions and a number of deadline extensions, the government has finally closed the first phase of Air India's disinvestment having received "multiple expressions of interest". While in light of recent events concerning Air India's disinvestment, this is an important step forward in the sale process, history of the airline's strategic sale exercise would suggest there is still some way to go.

History of Air India disinvestment

The first-ever attempt to conduct a strategic sale of the airline was made in 2001 during Atal



In January, the government brought Air India back to the strategic sale table with significant changes in the terms. File

Bihari Vajpayee's NDA government, when 40 per cent of the airline's equity was put on the block. Initially a number of foreign airlines including Lufthansa, Swissair, Air France-Delta, British Airways, Emirates and Singapore Airlines expressed interest in buying the airline, in addition to corporate houses like Hinduja Group and Tata

Group. But when the government clarified that any foreign airline will have to partner with an Indian company to bid, most airlines pulled themselves out of the race.

The only one remaining was Singapore Airlines, which partnered Tata Group. The Hinduja Group also remained in the fray, which, later that year, was named

CRUDE WATCH

OIL MARKS 7TH WEEKLY GAIN

New York: Oil settled up at a nine-month high on Friday, rounding out seven straight weeks of gains as investors focused on the rollout of vaccines and a decline this week in the US dollar. Brent crude settled up 76 cents, or 1.5 per cent, to \$52.26 a barrel. REUTERS

NARASAPURA PLANT VIOLENCE

Wistron sacks VP, Apple puts firm on probation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

DAYS AFTER workers went on a rampage at the Wistron Corp plant in Narasapura over alleged delays in wages, the Taiwan-based manufacturer has removed its vice-president who oversees the business in India. Apple, one of the companies the plant in Kolar used to manufacture for, has said Wistron will not receive any new business from Apple before they complete corrective action.

"Since the unfortunate events at our Narasapura facility we have been investigating and have found that some workers were not paid correctly, or on time. We deeply regret this and apologize to all of our workers," said a statement from Wistron on Saturday.

In the statement Wistron acknowledged that it had made mistakes as it expanded in then new facility. "Some of the processes we put in place to



Wistron unit in Narasapura.

manage labour agencies and payments need to be strengthened and upgraded. We are taking immediate action to correct this, including disciplinary action," the statement said. It added: "We are also enhancing our processes and restructuring our teams to ensure these issues cannot happen again."

Meanwhile, an Apple statement said its "preliminary findings indicate violations of our Supplier Code of Conduct". Apple employees and independent auditors hired by the company have

How Apple's reaction to labour challenges in India is different from China

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

GLOBAL SOFTWARE and hardware conglomerate Apple on Saturday took a stringent action against one of its vendors, Wistron, by acknowledging that the latter had violated supplier code of conduct by "failing to implement proper working hour management processes".

What happened at Wistron's Narasapura facility?

On December 12, temporary workers employed at Wistron's Narasapura facility in Bengaluru raised slogans and vandalised vehicles parked inside the factory premises. These workers were protesting against non-payment of regular and overtime dues by the company. The workers started throwing stones, and damaged some vehicles inside the factory. Some iPhones, which had been manufactured at the factory and were kept for export, were also looted by the workers, according to reports.

While the state government authorities arrested some of the workers involved in the protests, Wistron in its initial statement said it had followed all laws and was supporting the authorities in their investigation, Apple said it had "immediately launched a detailed investigation at Wistron's Narasapura facility in India".

The Narasapura unit employs about 2,000 regular employees and some 7,000 contractual employees, while the old Peenya unit employs about 3,500 people on a permanent basis. The flagship iPhones produced at the Narasapura and Peenya unit are also exported to other countries across the world.

What is the status now?

A week later, after the initial investigations in the issue have

The Narasapura unit employs about 2,000 regular employees and some 7,000 contractual employees, while the old Peenya unit employs about 3,500 people on a permanent basis

been done, both Wistron and Apple have acknowledged the "lapses" in payment and work schedules. Even the state government agreed that contractual workers at the plant had not been paid regular and overtime dues over the past three-four months.

Is Apple's reaction to labour issues different in India compared to China?

Outside the US, China has until now remained one of the largest workplaces for Apple. Three of its biggest vendors, Pegatron, Foxconn and Wistron have huge factories dedicated exclusively to the manufacturing and assembly of iPhones, iPads, iWatches and a range of other Apple products. All these vendors employ thousands of people on assembly and production lines for Apple products.

As early as 2010, there have been allegations of serious labour law violations against Apple's suppliers and vendors, including Foxconn, Pegatron and Wistron. In 2011, an explosion at Foxconn's Chengdu unit had left 4 workers dead and injured about 18 others. In the same year, another explosion at one of the units of Pegatron, another Apple supplier, left 59 workers injured, the Chinese media reported.

China Labour Watch, an independent not-for-profit organisation, which has since 2010

been have been working around the clock to investigate the issues which occurred at Wistron's Narasapura facility, the statement said. "While these investigations are ongoing, our preliminary findings indicate violations of our Supplier Code of Conduct by failing to implement proper working hour management processes. This led to payment delays for some workers in October and November," it added.

Wistron said its "top priority" was to ensure all workers are "fully compensated immediately and we are working hard to achieve that". Apple said its focus was on making sure everyone in our supply chain is protected and treated with dignity and respect.

The Apple statement said it has "placed Wistron on probation and they will not receive any new business from Apple before they complete corrective actions". The statement added that Apple employees, along with independent auditors, will monitor their progress.

tracked Apple and its vendors' labour laws and the alleged violations has repeatedly raised questions about the working conditions inside the factories of these companies.

As early as 2013, the agency had flagged the working conditions in Pegatron, one of the major suppliers of Apple. It had in its report said that the hours of work at Pegatron were "working long overtime hours to turn out a scaled-back, less expensive version of the iPhone".

"Six days a week, the workers making these phones have to work almost 11-hour shifts, 20 minutes of which is unpaid, and the remainder of which is paid at a rate of \$1.50 an hour (\$268 per month) before overtime. This is less than half the average local monthly income of \$764 and far below the basic living wage necessary to live in Shanghai, one of the costliest cities in China," the agency had said in its report.

Six years later, China Labour Watch came up with another report which alleged that while Foxconn violated labour laws in its factories, Apple did nothing to stop it.

"Apple has done very little to improve the rights of workers in their supplier factories. Apple claimed they care about every worker on the production line, but in fact, workers are paid wages that are close to or equivalent to the local minimum wage. It is difficult for workers to sustain their livelihood on the minimum wage," China Labour Watch said in its latest report.

Though Apple denied all the allegations, it accepted that the company "did exceed the number of contract workers allowed by Chinese law". Earlier this year in November, Apple also suspended "business operations" with Pegatron after finding out that the company violated Apple's supplier code of conduct by violating student workers' programme.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Ferrero to buy Eat Natural

New Delhi: Italy-based global confectionery major Ferrero Group has announced that it will acquire Eat Natural, the maker of high-quality cereal bars, toasted muesli and granola. The value of the deal has not been disclosed.

'Honda stops output at plant'

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Ltd (HCLIL) has decided to pull the plug on production at its Greater Noida plant in Uttar Pradesh, sources said on Saturday. PTI

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



POINT OF VIEW

Neurodiversity and Social Justice

There's work to be done for a more inclusive world



BOOKS

Between the Pages

Poets, writers, doctors, politicians and filmmakers recall a difficult year through the books they read



NEW AVENUES

Tripti Dimri in a still from *Bulbbul*

Feet on the Ground

Tripti Dimri on trying to move on from the role that brought her acclaim

FIRST ROLE: Playing Sita's friend as a child during Ramlila in Vasant Vihar, Delhi, where her brother was cast as Sita
STANDOUT ACT: Playing the lead in Anvita Dutt's *Bulbbul*, that re-launched on Netflix in June this year

HAVE YOU come out of the character of *Bulbbul* yet? Tripti Dimri, 26, has fielded this question several times since Anvita Dutt's compelling directorial debut *Bulbbul* premiered on Netflix on June 24. Wrapped in resplendent Banarasi and an air of enigma, Dimri owned the titular lead with ease. It's not easy to outgrow such a powerful character, but Dimri has tried her best.

Bulbbul is a fablesque drama, set in early 20th-century Bengal. Portraying two stages of *Bulbbul*'s life — when she is a fidgety 20-year-old, and her transformation into the self-assured head of the household at 25 — was a challenge as Dimri had to inhabit two different characters. "The 20-year-old *Bulbbul* is a lot like me: clumsy and indecisive. But the other *Bulbbul* is something else altogether; she doesn't even blink much," says Dimri.

Her two-month preparation involved attending extensive workshops. The most useful tip to play the older *Bulbbul* came from acting coach Atul Mongia, who suggested "focussing on breathing". To ease the pressure on her, before rolling the camera, Dutt would allow Dimri to take her position and keep her eyes shut till she was ready. Then, for a crucial scene, as she sat on the spacious staircase of Rajbari Bawali on the outskirts of Kolkata, fanning herself with a peacock-father fan, a classical vocalist performing nearby, Dimri realised she had finally managed to get into *Bulbbul*'s skin. "That's when I thought I've got it," she recalls. That scene establishes *Bulbbul*'s authority in the *zamindar* household even as certain forces continue to undermine her position.

Dimri, whose family is originally from Uttarakhand, grew up in Delhi. She had been an introvert as a child, but in college, she realised that she would have to overcome her shyness. That's when she started modelling, eventually pushing herself to audition for what was to become her film debut, *Poster Boys* (2017).

Acting built her confidence and Dimri hoped to make heads turn with her next film, Sajid Ali's *Laila Majnu* (2018), a modern-day interpretation of the classic tale of doomed lovers. However, the film sank at the box office. Has *Bulbbul* given her the instant recall she had craved? The mask is a dampener but "recently, I was doing a shoot in a restaurant where people knew me," she says.

January marks a new beginning for Dimri, who is in the process of finalising her next project. The actor, who used to live in shared accommodation, will shift to a rented apartment next month. "My family now has no excuse but to visit me every month," she says, with a laugh.

SHINING BRIGHT

In the year that the pandemic forced us to transition from the big screen to OTT platforms, a host of actors owned the medium with powerful performances in unusual roles. A look at the actors who made their presence felt

ALAKA SAHANI & EKTAA MALIK

Taking Chances

Declining big projects may have been too risky a move for a newcomer, but Divyenndu's unusual choices have paid off

FIRST ROLE: An MLA's son in *Aaja Nachle* (2007)
STANDOUT ACT: Playing Munna Bhaiya on *Mirzapur* (2018-present) on Prime Video

AS A child, Divyenndu loved it when his parents would ask him to recite a poem or sing for guests. "I would embellish it with some theatrics or other," says the actor whose role as Munna Bhaiya in the web-series *Mirzapur* on Prime Video has been a hit. "When people ask when I was bitten by the acting bug, I say that I was born with it," he says.

This bug kept him involved in extracurricular activities in school and, later, at Kirori Mal College, Delhi, where he pursued a degree in political science. "Those three years made me realise the depth of theatre. I decided to give it my all and joined the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune," he says. Divyenndu's next stop was Mumbai. After some struggle, he was cast in *Aaja Nachle* (2007). "It was a Yash Raj Films production and even though it was an insignificant role, they made me feel special," he recalls. A few more years of struggle later, he was cast in *Pyaar ka Punchnama* (2011) to play Nishant "Liquid" Agarwal, a character that became an audience favourite. David Dhawan's *Chashme Baddoor* (2013) followed, leading many to see him as a rising star. Instead, there was a lull. "I think my real struggle started after these films. In this industry, when one arrives, one tries to consolidate one's position. I said 'no' to big people and big projects. It dawned on me that I have no problem in rejecting the predictable path," says the Delhi-bred actor, who dropped his second name, Sharma, a while back.

Divyenndu, 37, is aware of the pitfalls of his unconventional approach. "If *Mirzapur* hadn't happened to me, I would have ended up as an example of how to wreck your career. I'm glad my instincts paid off," he says. He will next appear in *Mere Desh ki Dharti*, Faraz Haider's forthcoming film about the plight of farmers.

The Game is On

Actor Pratik Gandhi on growing up with theatre and the series that changed his life

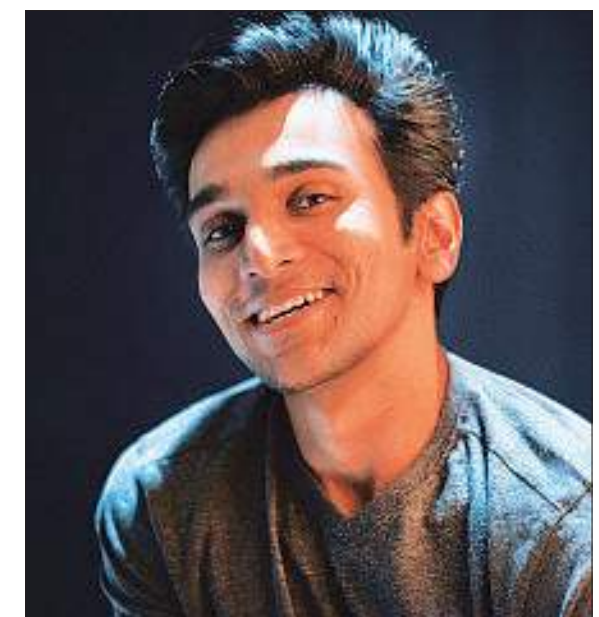
FIRST ROLE: A Gujarati play in school, when he was in Class III
STANDOUT ACT: Playing Harshad Mehta in *Scam 92* on Sony LIV

"WHEN WE were making *Scam 92*, we knew that it was something unique. It is one of the first financial thriller series based on real events, for instance, but we never imagined it to have an impact of this magnitude," says actor Pratik Gandhi, on the massive success of his OTT debut, *Scam 92: The Harshad Mehta Story*, directed by Hansal Mehta, which released to great reviews in October on Sony LIV.

When Gandhi had arrived for an audition at casting director Mukesh Chhabra's office, he had no idea of what lay ahead. He had been given a very vague idea about the show. So he was thrilled when he landed the lead role of the stockbroker Harshad Mehta. "When Hansal asked me if I was up for playing Harshad, I was like, 'yes!' I later got to know that Hansal hadn't even looked at my audition tape. For the last 15 years, I have run pillar to post, sometimes doing multiple auditions a day, for a break, so I was quite taken aback. But Hansal said that he had seen my work in the Gujarati film *Wrong Side Raju* (2016), and he didn't need any other validation of my work," says the 40-year-old.

It was in 2004 that Gandhi landed in Mumbai, after having dabbled substantially in Gujarati theatre back home in Surat. "Surat is an interesting place. The municipal corporation has been organising a city-level theatre competition for the last 50 years. The city has about 15-18 established theatre groups. I was grounded in the performing arts from a very young age," says Gandhi, who also has a degree in industrial engineering from Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. His parents were both teachers who encouraged him to follow his passion. "When I was trying to balance my corporate career and theatre, my dad asked me to quit my job and concentrate on my acting career. But I was hesitant because I was equally passionate about both. I am glad I had that journey, too. As I was not dependent on theatre for my bread and butter, I could experiment a lot. For the past eight-nine years I have only been doing monologues and minimalist theatre," says Gandhi.

Films — always the endgame for Gandhi — happened organically. He was approached by director Abhishek Jain on Facebook for the Gujarati film *Bey Yaar*, which released in 2015. "That film got me *Wrong Side Raju*, which went on to win the National Award for Gujarati film (in 2017). It was the beginning of good times for Gujarati cinema. People were keen to invest money in it," says Gandhi, who has since worked in many Gujarati films like *Tamburo* (2017) and *Luv Ni Love Stories* (2020). *Scam 92*, he says, offered him the opportunity to play someone who was complex and layered and quite different from characters he had played so far. "There were so many shades to Harshad Mehta, I wanted to make the audience sit up and take notice, as any great piece of literature and art is meant to do," he says, even as he waits for a suitable project.



Middle-Class Hero

With the success of *Paatal Lok*, actor Jaideep Ahlawat looks at a fresh start

FIRST ROLE: When Jaideep Ahlawat was a Class XI student of All India Jat Heroes' Memorial College, Rohtak, he was cast as a five-year-old in a 30-second role in a play
STANDOUT ACT: Playing policeman Hathiram Chaudhary in the web series *Paatal Lok*, which released on Prime Video in May

"IT'S A *shruaat* (beginning). After every project, I wonder, what next?" says Jaideep Ahlawat. With his nuanced performance as policeman Hathiram Chaudhary in *Paatal Lok*, he has emerged as one of the most-talked-about actors of 2020. With work resuming, his December calendar is packed with meetings for new projects and script-readings. Yet, the 40-year-old is convinced that "starting with a clean slate" works for him.

The role of a weary and introverted policeman in the nine-episode show has been the best and most challenging in Ahlawat's decade-long career. "You can find a Hathiram around you: a middle-class man who is struggling on every front — job, personal life — yet he is trying to live his life and achieve something. People could relate to his emotions," says the actor from Kharkhara village in



Haryana. While the team of *Paatal Lok* couldn't meet to celebrate the show's success because of the pandemic, Ahlawat says he is aware of the role that the lockdown played in increasing viewership of OTT platforms and in generating word-of-mouth acclaim for the show.

Ahlawat was offered this role without an audition or test. He has never asked the directors why they zeroed in on him, but he assumes that his previous work and his Haryana connection helped. He was first noticed when he played Shahid Khan in Anurag Kashyap's two-part film *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012). The next year, he brought back memories of old-style Bollywood baddies as AK 74 in Dilip Ghosh's *Commando: A One Man Army* (2013). With the release of Meghna Gulzar's *Raazi* and the anthology film *Lust Stories*, 2018 was an especially good year. In the former, he plays a RAW agent, while in the latter, in the story directed by Dibakar Banerjee, he delivered an understated performance as a man in a relationship with his best friend's wife.

Despite being around for a while, the actor, a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, says he is still learning to navigate his way around the industry. But he is clear about what he is seeking. "Working on your craft and performance is the only thing an actor can do. Fame is always a by-product," he says. When asked about his dream role, he quips: "Right now, I have a long list. The question should be asked to me after 20 years. Only then can I answer if any dream role is left to be done". In the meantime, he is in the process of finalising a role in a Shashank Khaitan-directed short film that's part of an anthology.

» CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Scar Wars

A human and a mosquito take matters to court

IN A filmi courtroom drama setting, presenting the case: *My Goodself vs Shrimati Dengue*; the issue of contention being yet another sleepless night, courtesy the undesired company of Shrimati Dengue.

Prosecuting Counsel: Milord, my journalist-writer client's profession depends on his having a clear head every morning to enable him to write coherently and not befuddle his readers. With a disturbed night, this is not possible. My client has had many such disturbed nights thanks to the accused who's been dancing noisily like a dentist's drill around his ear. She is robbing my client of a good night's sleep and the ability to make a livelihood.

Defence Counsel: Milord, my client comes from a noble lineage of insects, which has remained virtually unchanged for at least 79 million years. Her soprano wing-beats produce pure music, "the food of love", as she lands delicately as a ballerina.

Prosecution: And then she inserts her diabolical hypodermic into my client's tender, plump earlobe, and sucks up his precious lifeblood — almost three times her body weight in one sitting.

Defence: Milord, my client weighs not even 0.5 gm so the amount of blood sucked up is totally insignificant.

Prosecution: Milord, what the learned counsel has forgotten to mention is that his client, at the time of bloodsucking, may also inject deadly pathogens, which cause dengue, malaria, yellow fever, chikungunya, West Nile disease and so on. In the course of human history, her type has killed 52 billion people, mostly children and the elderly, and in India, malaria is among the leading causes of death among children. She is exceedingly dangerous.

Defence: Milord, I think you can dismiss this case. My client is not Shrimati Dengue: dengue mosquitoes only bite during the day.

Prosecution: Milord, what's in a name? A deadly disease-spreader is a disease-spreader. We can call her Shrimati Machchar if you like.

Defence: Milord, the learned counsel has not mentioned that the origins of these pathogens, lies not with my client and the great *khandans* of Aedes, Culex and Anopheles. Members of these clans first picked up these pathogens from human beings or animals and then passed them on inadvertently to those whose blood they sucked. The mosquitoes that originally inhabited the US were malaria-free, until European colonists arrived.



MOSQUITTEERS

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mamma mozzies suck blood for the iron their babies need

Already malaria-ridden, they had infected the mosquitoes on board the ships. Both passed on the pathogen to the innocent local American mosquitoes that bit them, and then passed it on to the native American human population, 95 per cent of whom died. The human species is to blame. Even so, mosquitoes have been ruthlessly persecuted, with fogging by toxic chemicals, to which they've been desperately trying to develop immunity. Besides, mosquitoes are vital to the health of planet Earth: they provide food for millions of birds, insects, fishes and animals. And they have saved the rainforests from total annihilation by humanity! If it weren't for mosquitoes infesting every swamp, marsh, jungle and rainforest, humans would have built malls there, making global warming go through the roof! The mighty Amazonian rainforests, those in Africa and the Western Ghats, are standing because they're guarded by the great mosquito clans!

Prosecution: This still does not justify Shrimati Dengue to suck my client's blood every night and wail in his ear! Isn't it pure malice? Can't she be vegan?

Shrimati Dengue: (In a sob-choked Hindi-film-actress voice) Milord, I suck blood solely for the sake of my innocent babies! Our menfolk are vegan wimps who get drunk on *kaddu* (pumpkin) juice! We mothers are left to obtain the iron our babies need to develop healthily.

Defence: And, now, the human species is trying to emasculate those wimps even more, by genetic manipulation to make them infertile. We're talking here of the eradication of entire species.

Prosecution: My client's fundamental right to a sound night's sleep is being violated! All night he has spent slapping his ear! You can see how red it is!

Shrimati Dengue: Milord, I was unable to take a single sip the entire night! I was dancing with death! Every time I landed on that warm, rubicund, luscious earlobe, for my fundamental right to a drink of blood for my babies, whap! a hand would come crashing down! I'm still traumatised and starving. This is attempted murder!

Prosecution: Milord, I rest my case! The accused has confessed that she was hovering about my client's earlobe with the intent to suck his blood, thus disturbing his sleep!

Judge: You both have wasted this court's and my valuable time. I find the defendant... wait, where is she?

(A sudden stir — Shrimati Dengue vanishes — is followed by a pistol-shot-like sound: The judge is ruefully rubbing his cheek, disdainfully flicking away something small, red and smudgy off his palm.)

Judge: Case dismissed!



GETTY IMAGES

Neurodiversity and Social Justice

Working towards a just world, one that honours all kinds of minds, requires us to be and do better



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

TAHIRA, A single mother of a child with autism, shared with me that the society's obsession with normality had convinced her that her four-year-old child was "damaged" and she, as a mother, was a "failure". Her words made me reflect on our compulsive need to compare, categorise and label children. The further the child is from that benchmark of "normality", the more they are ranked as deficient and measures taken to fix them.

Here, I present some ideas in an attempt to unpack the dominant discourses on normality and the counter-movement:

Neurodivergence: Each child is wired and inspired differently. Some might struggle with the acquisition of skills like reading, writing, sustaining effort, awareness and responding to their social environment. These might pose difficulties for some children as they don't meet society's expectations, leading to typical diagnoses psychiatrists or psychologists might assign to them: dyslexia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism, etc. It's important to highlight that in spite of the struggles, neurodivergence is not a problem, as long as there is no accompanying stigma and underlined conclusion of the child being "disordered", "deficient", with restricted possibilities or hopes for the future.

Neuronormativity: It perpetuates the problematic notion of a neurohomogenous

world where all the neurodivergent children are seen as not "normal" and have to be "fixed" and treated to fit in, be compliant and obedient. Their parents, typically mothers, feel blamed and shamed for not doing enough or being at fault for having children who have flawed neural circuitry. Tahira said, "The pandemic has been a blessing, as I don't have to take my child out and face society's harsh judgements for having a damaged child."

Neurodumping: I have come up with this word in exasperation at the one-size-fits-all approach. A typical example is "special children" which many schools use for neurodivergent children. Many times, when I've asked teachers, how many children do they have in their class, they'd reply with something like, "25+3!" Three being the "special children", of course! I wonder if anybody has asked these children how they feel about being called "special"? A 10-year-old girl once told me vehemently, "I hate being special. I'm teased in my school and carpool for being special. How do I become non-special?"

Neuroconceal: It is a concept introduced by narrative practitioner David Denborough to throw light on how, by locating the "deficits" in the child, we invisibilise and obscure issues of social justice. Of how it robs them of simple experiences of life that we take for granted — getting admission in schools, being invited to birthday parties, getting acknowledged for their skills and achievements (and not in the "special" section category), being respected by their teachers and other adults and not sniggered at, bullied, ridiculed for minor lapses and ostracised as being "weird". What strikes me constantly is the day-to-day injustice that neurodivergent children and their families have to face, which becomes a larger problem than their atypical wiring.

Neurodiversity: The term was introduced by activist Judy Singer, who'd said, "I was interested in the liberatory, activist aspects of it — to do for neurologically different people what feminism and gay rights had done for their constituencies." Neurodiversity culture has a huge global following now, and their basic belief is that being neurodivergent is not a disorder or an illness but a way of being.

Human rights on the spectrum

The biggest problem with the notions of neuronormativity and neurodumping is that it propagates one "normal" kind of mind, thereby stigmatising anything which is atypical. Like the LGBTQ+ movement, we need to question this — who does it serve, benefit and privilege? Who gets invisibilised, obscured and rejected?

The person is not the problem; the problem is the problem is mostly social: This narrative practice *mantra* locates the problem where it belongs — not in the child but in the sociocultural context where these normalising judgements decide a child's worthiness of being valued, respected, included, or to be discarded. In our organisation, we work with children where it's not the neurodivergence which poses a problem but the consequent struggles with depression, anxiety, addictions, trauma, abuse resulting from a society that robs them of their dignity, safety and basic human rights.

People are multistoried: We have to move away from neurodumping and single-story accounts, whether in terms of labels or in the way we describe children in rigid binaries of good or bad, smart or dumb, obedient or rebellious with not much room for anything in between. A child might prefer to play on her

own, building castles with boxes; another might like to fiddle with his fingers as he jumps merrily and recites complex math formulae; and yet another may awe you with her in-depth knowledge of marine life but be completely confused by societal complexities.

People are people through other people: Desmond Tutu's words remind me, *the way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice, and the way we talk about them becomes their life stories.* Children build their sense of self or identity on what stories are being circulated about them at home, in schools. A sobbing child once told me, "I'm a human being, not a disorder". We need to build communities of concern for our children where they are valued and welcomed for who they are and not stigmatised for who they are not.

Personal commitment: I always have a sense of wonder at the parents' commitment to do whatever it takes to do the best for their children. But is this just their responsibility? Don't we all need to play a role in ensuring that our children are not being deprived of their basic human rights? We need to stop apologising for our neurodivergent children and instead practice advocacy — for and with them. Temple Grandin, herself on the spectrum and an advocate for people with autism, had remarked, "I am different, not less". So, the next time, a relative rolls his/her eyes at your "badly-behaved child" or a teacher tells you your child isn't capable of learning, take a deep breath, smile and tell them, "He experiences life differently. Let me know if you want to learn more about it."

Children live in a world that fails them in so many ways. We need to be better, do better and ensure we're working towards a more just world which honours all kinds of minds.

Dr Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder, Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

SHINING BRIGHT

Breaking Bad

Actor Abhishek Banerjee drew from his past experiences to play a cold-blooded killer

FIRST ROLE: As the constable in *Hawalaat*, Sarveshwar Dayal Saxena's one-act play, which was staged in 2003 at Delhi's Kirori Mal College
STANDOUT ACT: Playing Hathoda Tyagi in *Paatal Lok* on Prime Video

SOON AFTER Abhishek Banerjee finished shooting for *Paatal Lok* in June 2019, he left for a month-long trip to Europe with his wife, Tina Noronha. The actor had found himself uncharacteristically angry, anxious and even possessive of his wife when he was shooting for the web-series as the serial killer, Hathoda Tyagi. Travelling was his way of leaving behind the intensity the character demanded.

Mumbai was under lockdown when *Paatal Lok*'s release was announced this April. "The announcement brought back memories of Hathoda Tyagi," recalls Banerjee, whose portrayal of the negative character brought him wide recognition.

Earlier, Banerjee has enjoyed appreciation for his performance in *Ajji* (2017) as Vilasrao Dhavle, *Janna in Stree* (2018) and *Compounder in Mirzapur* (2018). With popularity, however, came pressure. "One can no longer hide behind the newcomer tag and hope that a bad performance won't be noticed," says the 32-year-old. Banerjee's talent for getting into the skin of a character became obvious during his first year as a



student of English literature at Delhi University's Kirori Mal College. He came to be known as "thulla" (a low-ranked policeman) after acting in the play *Hawalaat*. "Not many knew my name but they remembered my character. When people appreciate your play without realising you acted in it, that joy is incomparable," he remembers.

Banerjee, who moved to Mumbai in 2008, got several blink-and-miss roles in movies like *Rang De Basanti* (2006), *Dev.D* (2009), *Go Goa Gone* (2013) and *Bombay Talkies* (2013). As he waited for acting opportunities, he turned to casting to earn a living. "I'm an actor and I had an eye for actors. I knew how to take briefs from directors," says the co-founder of the agency Casting Bay, that has handled casting for *Paatal Lok*, *Mirzapur* and *Bulbbul*, among others. He will next appear in two upcoming comedy films, *Helmet* and *Aankh Micholi*.

Finding Her Funny Bone

A once-reluctant actor, Shalini Vatsa's comic potential found acclaim this year



FIRST ROLE: In Class IX, Shalini Vatsa acted in *Yahan Bande Saste Milte Hain*, staged at Patna's Kalidas Rangalaya
STANDOUT ACT: Playing nurse Lata Kutty in *Ludo* on Netflix

SHALINI VATSA'S journey charted its own course. Her Lata Kutty, who turns from a no-nonsense nurse into gangster Sattu's (Pankaj Tripathi) dotting lover in Anurag Basu's *Ludo* (released in November), has "a fun and quirky side". This character "was something I hadn't explored on screen" and was "very different from my previous strong-women roles in

Sacred Games (2018-19) and *Gurgaon* (2016)," says the actor who'd been unsure about a film career. Her first role, as Dhaniya (*Peepli Live!*, 2010), was to have been her last. But then came a small but significant role as domestic worker Gauri in *Shanghai* (2012). And after playing Prosecutor Tambe in Hansal Mehta's *Shahid* (2012), her desire to continue acting grew.

Her parents taught at Patna University and would take her to watch plays and rehearsals. Vatsa turned to theatre after moving to Delhi to study political science at DU's Indraprastha College, and later, at JNU. In 1997, she joined Barry John's Theatre Action Group, and, later, with Habib Tanvir's Naya Theatre, acted in plays like *Zahreeli Hawa*, *Charandas Chor*, *Agra Bazar*, *Kamdev Ka Apna Basant Ritu Ka Sapna*. In 2004, she moved to Mumbai with actor-husband Himanshu Tyagi. "I love acting. 'Liberating' and 'therapeutic' can't explain my feelings fully. However, a role should challenge and help me grow as an artiste," says Vatsa.

Near and Far

Jitendra Kumar took a big leap from viral videos to the boy-next-door on screen



FIRST ROLE: Comedy sketches with *The Viral Fever* in 2012
STANDOUT ACT: *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* and *Panchayat* (Prime Video)

JITENDRA KUMAR had never harboured any dreams of being an actor. Theatre and acting happened by chance when he was pursuing civil engineering at IIT Kharagpur. A fellow student Biswapati Sarkar pushed Kumar, facilitating his entry into the world of online content in

2012-13. As his videos went viral, Kumar became a familiar face. The year 2020 looked promising with two big releases — as the romantic lead opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* (film released in February), and the web-series *Panchayat*. Both got rave reviews. As Kumar was prepping for more work, the pandemic struck. "The lockdown brought all my thoughts into perspective. Caring for people, their health, for one's own health, I'm not taking anything for granted," says the 30-year-old, who hails from Kairthar, a small town near Alwar in Rajasthan. He's also gotten over his initial worry of playing the same "hairan-pareshan" boy-next-door roles, and says, "even with the same premise I can play each role differently. I enjoy it now."

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DECEMBER 20, 2020

GULZAR
POET, FILMMAKER AND LYRICIST

This year, I read *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (2017, Vintage) by Israeli author Yuval Noah Harari. While reading his book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (2011), I started underlining what I liked so I could remember them. I underlined too much and ended up spoiling the book. When I went to buy another copy, I found *Homo Deus*.

I have always been fond of reading history. My daughter Meghna, too, often makes movies related to history. During my visit to a book shop, whenever I come across a book concerning her subject, I pick it up for her. That's how I came across *The Forgotten Army: India's Armed Struggle for Independence 1942-1945* (1993, University of Michigan Press) by Peter Ward Fay on Subhash Chandra Bose's efforts to liberate India by forming the Indian National Army.

SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS LEADER

Two books that stood out for me are *The Deoliwallahs: The True Story of the 1962 Chinese-Indian Internment* (2020, Pan Macmillan) by Joy Ma and Dilip D'Souza and *Midnight's Machines: A Political History of Technology in India* (2019, Penguin Viking) by Arun Mohan Sukumar.

It remains a blot on our democracy that after the Sino-Indian War of 1962, India transported 3,000 residents of Chinese heritage to a disused World War II POW camp in Deoli, Rajasthan, and interned them forcibly in appalling conditions for nearly five years. We disrupted and destroyed the lives of people who knew no other homeland but India, only because of their ethnicity. This marked the first time since the adoption of the Constitution that neither birth nor belonging were deemed sufficient to accord nationality — just as today, to some unsavoury nationalists, Muslim Indians' religion is deemed to raise questions about their entitlement to be regarded as citizens on a par with others.

I have no doubt that *Midnight's Machines* will be heralded for years to come as the definitive account of India's attempts to negotiate its technological destiny. Sukumar masterfully blends history, science and politics to deliver a narrative that both enthral and informs. He proves himself to be that rare historian with a journalist's eye for detail and a novelist's ear for prose.

BHUPENDER YADAV
NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, BJP, AND RAJYA SABHA MEMBER

If there was an upside to the unfortunate pandemic and the resultant lockdown, it was the endless hours we got to do things we had been complaining of not having the time for. I devoted the time to practise yoga and to read. The two books that are my top picks for the year are *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari and *Amit Shah aur Bhajappa ki Yatra* (2019, Bloomsbury) by Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi.

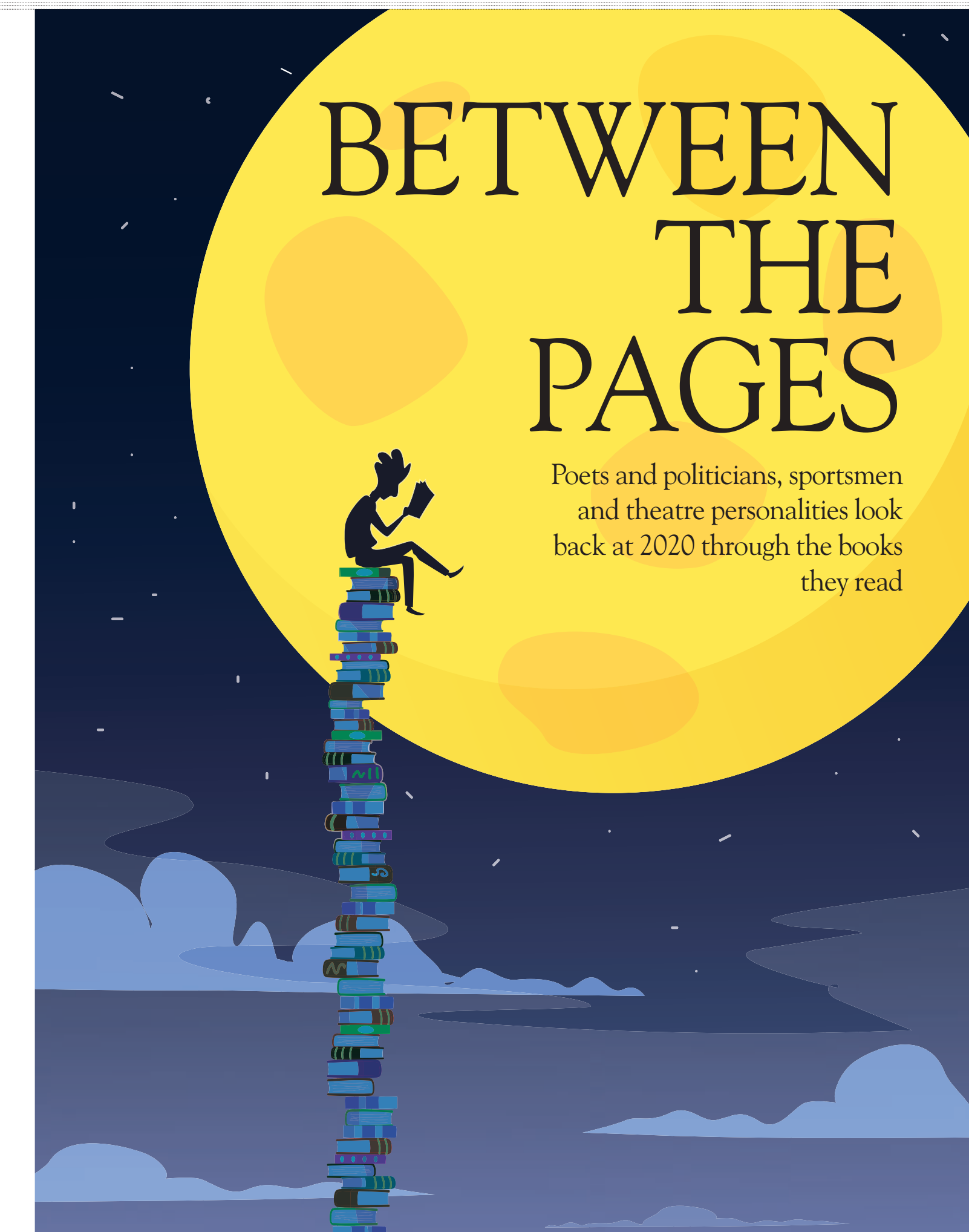
Harari provides a rare understanding of our present lives through the history that we have lived. The book tells us how humans came to dominate the world by being the only species that can cooperate in large numbers, a trait others lack and thus perish. This is a crucial read for a post-pandemic world.

Amit Shah aur Bhajappa ki Yatra is a captivating read about Shah and his organisational skills. The book takes the readers on a ride through BJP's history and parallelly tracks Shah's journey from a booth-level worker in BJP to getting to the helm of the party as its president. His journey began at the age of 13 with the political campaign for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's daughter Maniben Patel. The book tracks his rise from that campaign in 1977 and delineates how Shah came in touch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and how they formed one of the strongest political alliances. This book is as important to understand Shah as it is to understand BJP's organisational prowess.

KENNETH I. JUSTER
US AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

I read many great books in 2020. Two that I especially enjoyed were William Dalrymple's *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company* (2019, Bloomsbury), and George Packer's

Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century (2019, Jonathan Cape). *The Anarchy*, written by one of the great historians of India's past, provides a vivid and gripping story of the personalities and behaviour of those involved with the East India Company and the late Mughal India. It is not a pleasant tale, but is a page-turner, told with wonderful detail and deep passion. *Our Man*, also written by an award-winning author, tells the story of American diplomat Richard Holbrooke through an engaging style that mixes the author's voice with that of the subject, from his diaries and tapes. I worked with Dick in the mid-1970s (as he was called then) and stayed in touch with him thereafter, so this book dealt with



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Poets and politicians, sportsmen and theatre personalities look back at 2020 through the books they read

ARUNI KASHYAP
WRITER

I THINK everyone in India should read Samit Basu's *Chosen Spirits* (2020, Simon and Schuster) — it is an urgent and topical book set in an India of the future, a work of speculative fiction. I don't read a lot in this genre, but I think speculative fiction has the ability to caution us.

I have long admired Moroccan-American writer Laila Lalami's fiction but *Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America* (2020, Pantheon) is my first introduction to her nonfiction writing. Through a set of essays, Lalami talks about what it means to be a Muslim-American citizen, a naturalised American citizen; and how acceptance by the establishment comes with some conditions. Reading this book will let you know that the divides that the US seems to be reeling under since 2016 have always been there, but it was experienced only by people of colour.

Chika Unigwe has the enviable ability to write riveting short stories. The stories in *Better Never Than Late* (2019, Cassava Republic Press) are about Nigerian immigrants in Belgium, where

the author lived for many years. In English fiction, the immigrant experience of Africans is often dominated by the depiction of life in the US or the UK, but these stories introduced me to a new immigrant experience. The themes of belonging, home and nostalgia are present, and yet, handled differently so that the reader is always surprised.

I came across *The In-Betweens: The Spiritualists, Mediums, and Legends of Camp Etna* (2019, Highbridge Co) by Mira Ptacin when the first chapter was excerpted in a magazine. Since I have some experience of visiting fortune-tellers and psychics in Assam, and owing to my family connection to Mayong — often wrongfully dubbed as the land of black magic in India because of the large numbers of people who practise sorcery in that region — I was instantly drawn to this book. This is wonderfully told nonfiction, which you will go back to again and again just for the craft.

I love a good gothic horror novel and *Mexican Gothic* (2020, Jo Fletcher Books) by Silvia Moreno-Garcia didn't disappoint. When I was young, we lived in a haunted house for several years, and reading this book took me back to those years.

GN DEVI
WRITER AND CULTURAL ACTIVIST

FOR ME, 2020 has been a year spent more in dealing with national issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, National Education Policy, 2020 and agriculture-related laws than in reading and writing. However, the few books that caught my imagination have been of substantial interest to me. The most remarkable among these is *The Diary of Manu Gandhi* (2019, Oxford University Press), translated and edited by Tridip Suhrud.

With an impressive corpus of translation from Gujarati to English and with a body of Gandhi-related literature to his credit, he has already set high norms for editorial scholarship. The book offered a lot more. It covers the period of 1943-44, the crucial years in the Mahatma's life during which he lost Kasturba as well as Mahadev Desai to death in the Aga Khan Palace prison, becoming forlorn. The completely guileless diary entries by the hesitant young Manu, discovering the Mahatma as a person, hold a luminous mirror to the mind of a witness to the Mahatma.

The other book that I read with great

interest and would like to re-read was by the historian Vinay Lal. COVID-19 has already generated a huge amount of writing. However, *The Fury of COVID-19* (2020, Macmillan) has a class that is going to keep this work alive for decades. Lal has woven the narrative of the global response to the catastrophe by bringing in profoundly disturbing questions of politics, ethics and social histories. It is primarily about contemporary human society and its response to the decay within. Politicians, corporate heads, religious leaders have much to learn from it.

Who We Are and How we Got Here (2018, Oxford University Press) by David Reich belongs to a class of its own. It is based on monumental research in the field of genetics and aided by a deep understanding of social anthropology and archaeology. Reich is a Harvard scientist; but his work has so much for India that anyone interested in Indian history, society and culture must read it. It tells the story of Indian population, its origins, migrations and reason for its immense diversity. I liked the work so much that I decided to have an online conversation with him, transcribe it and publish it in English, Kannada and Marathi.



such as *A Moveable Feast* (1964, Jonathan Cape) by Ernest Hemingway. Soon after I read this memoir of his Paris years, I saw the movie *Hemingway and Gellhorn* (2012).

As I went through my old wildlife photographs, reading the classic adventure *Serengeti Shall Not Die* (1960, Hamish Hamilton) by Bernhard and Michael Grzimek on their exploration of Serengeti in the 1950s was riveting. During the lockdown I also attended a few online seminars for teachers and discovered *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life* (1997, John Wiley & Sons) by Parker Palmer, an education classic full of poetic wisdom and inspiration. My last recommendation would be *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare* (2005, Harper Perennial) by James Shapiro. This deeply researched book brings the Elizabethan times alive.

FEISAL ALKAZI
THEATREPERSON

I have a great fascination for cities and their histories. One book that I read during the lockdown was *The Epic City: The World on the Streets of Calcutta* (2017, Bloomsbury) by Kushanava Choudhury, about a man who grows up in Kolkata and then migrates to the US to study. He misses India so much that he comes back and takes a job with *The Statesman* in Kolkata. As people do, when they return to cities, they have completely changed in the interim. He goes back looking for the places he hung out as a child. He is so evocative in writing about the city that anybody who has been to Kolkata would relate to the book and those who have not will want to get on to the next flight. The other one that I read is *Half the Night is Gone* by Amitabha Bagchi. Set in Old Delhi, Bagchi has written in such a way that as you read, you can imagine every sentence in Hindi.

Booker Prize, Brandon Taylor gives us a story of a young Black gay man. He captures the loneliness and the turmoil that comes from being an outsider in a voice that is both quiet and powerful. *Shuggie Bain* (Picador) by Douglas Stuart, this year's Booker Prize winner, is another powerful novel by another new writer that deals with the enduring bonds of filial love and struggles of growing up gay in a world where heterosexual norms determine the way lives are expected to be lived.

DAVID ABRAHAM
FASHION DESIGNER

I'm always on the lookout for authentic queer fiction. This year has been good, with new works achieving recognition on mainstream reading lists. In *Real Life* (Daunt Books), shortlisted for The

Booker Prize, Brandon Taylor gives us a story of a young Black gay man. He captures the loneliness and the turmoil that comes from being an outsider in a voice that is both quiet and powerful. *Shuggie Bain* (Picador) by Douglas Stuart, this year's Booker Prize winner, is another powerful novel by another new writer that deals with the enduring bonds of filial love and struggles of growing up gay in a world where heterosexual norms determine the way lives are expected to be lived.

PR SREEJESH
FORMER INDIA HOCKEY CAPTAIN

At the start of 2020, my target was to read four books a month. But I ended up reading six a month. One of the best books I read recently is *Relentless: From Good to Great to Unstoppable* (2013, Scribner) by Tim Grover. If you are an athlete recovering from injury, are out of form, just playing or are preparing for a tournament, this is the best book you can read to motivate yourself. Another book I would recommend is *Atomic Habits* (2018, Penguin Random House) by James Clear. It gives you ideas to get over your old habits and develop new ones. Last, the one book I have started to read every day is the *Bhagavad Gita*.

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VARUN GROVER
POET AND LYRICIST

Naiyer Masud is probably the best Indian short-story writer you haven't heard about, primarily because less than half of his works have been translated into Hindi from Urdu. *Ganjifa* (translated

by Mahesh Verma, Neel Ranjan Verma, Nazim Abbas, and Maulana Mashkoor Hasan Qadri; 2018, Rajkamal Prakashan) has seven stories of such beautiful language, complex characters, and thrilling twists in the tales that I decided to learn Urdu during the lockdown to be able to read his complete works in original. Masud translated many of Franz Kafka's works to Urdu and one can see the same existential dread running through his works — but that's just one layer. Imagine a mix of Kafka and Roald Dahl, set in the old city of Lucknow, and narrated like a *qissa* by an old friend.

The mammoth *Kai Chaand The Sar-e-Aasman*, Shamsur Rahman Faruqi's novel in Hindi (translated by Nareesh 'Nadeem', 2012, Penguin), is an awe-inspiring work by the legendary Urdu critic and poet. *Kai Chaand...* traces the social, literary and colonial history of the Indo-Islamic culture in the 18th-19th century through fascinating, often surreal tales of many generations of a single family.

many facts with which I was familiar. Holbrooke was a larger-than-life figure, brilliant and fully committed to solving some of the toughest problems in US foreign policy, relentless in his style, and yet undercut by his own ambitions and related flaws. Packer wonderfully captures all of this in his highly readable book.

K SRINATH REDDY
PRESIDENT, PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA; MEMBER OF THE INDIA'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE

The two books I pick are *Survival: One Health, One Planet, One Future* (2018, Routledge) by George Lueddeke and *Humankind: A Hopeful History* (2019, Bloomsbury) by Rutger Bregman. In the year

of COVID-19 and fake news, the first makes a well-argued case for protecting our interconnected and interdependent world by

profiling the confluence of forces that are threatening a sustainable future — from environmental degradation and zoonotic diseases to corrupt governance and misused technologies.

Bregman's uplifting book provides an optimistic view of human nature, arguing how its basic decency can be fostered to create a better world.

WALTER J LINDNER
GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

None of the two books I recommend are easy night-table accessories, neither in content nor in weight (750 and 1,500 pages, respectively). Part I of Barack Obama's memoirs, *A Promised Land* (2020, Viking), is a fascinating, deeply personal account of history in the making by one of the most inspiring personalities of our times. A must-read for all

who — as I do — share his dreams of justice, moral standards, hope and change, to make this world a better place. Equally indispensable to understanding the fabric of Indian family and day-to-day life is Vikram Seth's 1993 novel *A Suitable Boy* (Harper Collins). Set in a two years-period of post-independence and post-Partition India, the complex four-family story has invaluable political, social and spiritual insights to understand the DNA of today's India. I prefer the book to the recent BBC and Netflix version. It's a serious read, yes, but it's utterly rewarding. The list wouldn't be truthful without mentioning two always-present tempting competitors to novels and books: *Lonely Planet's* travel books (India, but also others) and musical scores by Bach, Handel or Mozart.

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ROHINI HATTANGADI
ACTOR

I recently read a book called *Close Encounters* (2019, Rajhans Prakashan) by Purushottam Berde, a well-known director of films and theatre, whose childhood was spent around a red-light area of Mumbai's

SANJNA KAPOOR
THEATREPERSON

Kamathipura. In the book, he talks about his old neighbourhood and the people who lived there — from a hoarding painter to pimps — who became his friends and the camaraderie between Hindu and Muslim families. What I found fascinating was how he writes without the burden of making a statement. He weaves a tale that stays in the mind long afterwards.

SANJNA KAPOOR
THEATREPERSON

I thought this year would be my year of reading and I would dive into my neglected shelves of books, only to find that this was not as easy as I thought. My concentration seemed to be mercurial, fiction could not hold my attention, and so the dozen or so books that I did manage to read this year were either biographies, education-based or historic, including contemporary classics

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Vineet Prakash,S/o Dev Prakash Hinduja,R/o A-283 2nd-Floor, Vikaspuri,New Delhi-18,have changed my name to Vineet Prakash Hinduja. 0040558190-4

I,Vanshika Thareja W/o Mohit Thareja R/o B-11, 3rd Floor, Greater Kailash Enclave-1, New Delhi have changed my name to Vanshika K Thareja for all future purposes. 0040558195-7

I,Shweta Jindal D/o Subhash Jindal W/o Anand Jain R/o F-87,Green Park Main Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Shweta Jain. 0040558190-9

I,SAMEER AHMED KHAN,S/O NAFIS AHMED,H.NO-127,DDA JANTA-FLATS,TIGRI KHANPUR,DELHI-110062,have changed my name to SAMEER KHAN. 0040558195-4

I,Rachna Sharma,W/o Ashok Sharma,R/o L-12 Gali.No-15,New Mahavir-Nagar Tilak-Nagar,New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Rachana Sharma. 0040558197-11

I,PAWAN SHARMA,S/O GANGA PARSAD SHARMA R/O-338/G,BLOCK-B,TOMAR-COLONY,KAMMAMPUR,BURARI ,DELHI-110084.CHANGED MY NAME TO PAMETO PAWAN KUMAR SHARMA. 0040558190-3

I,Kundan Wahli,S/o Yashpal Wahli,R/o G-1803, Ace City, Sector-1, Greater Noida,UP-201306,have changed my name to Kundan D Wahli,for all future purposes. 0040558195-6

I,Jitender Rajveer Singh S/O Rajbir Singh, R/O Tikkan Nagar,Tehsil,Charhki Daddi,Bhivani,Haryana-127306,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jitender Phogat. 0070724567-1

I,IQBAL AHMAD S/O MOHAMMAD YUSUF R/O H-57,SHAKURPUR COLONY,DELHI-110034.CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD IQBAL. 0040558197-1

I,SHEELA W/o DURGESH R/o-311,K1-Block, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to SUSHILA DEVI. 0040558190-8

I,Hasin Ahmad S/O Haji Rasheed,R/o H.NO.215,Kotla Mewatyan,Kareempura,Hapur-245101,UP,have changed my name to HASIN. 0040558195-1

I,HUNARIJIT SINGH KALSII S/O KULWANT SINGH KALSII R/O M-2,HARI NAGAR,MAYAPURI,DELHI-110064.CHANGED MY NAME TO HUNARIJIT SINGH. 0040558190-2

I,Aviraj, S/o Rajendra Kalra R/o C-391, G.F., Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Aviraj Kalra. 0040558190-7

I,Aakanksha Kundan Wahli W/o Kundan Wahli R/o G-1803, Ace City, Sector-1, Greater Noida, UP-201306 have changed my name to Aakanksha Wahli,for all future purposes. 0040558195-8

I, Urmila Arora W/o Raj Kumar R/o G-9/103, 1st-Floor, Sector-16,Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Urmila. 0040558190-6

I, Service.No.097794K, Rank-CHPL(Ex) Servicemen,Mr.Tika Datt S/o-Late Sh.Keshab Datt Joshi R/o-VIII&Post-Nayal, Distt.-Almora,Uttarakhand,Teh-Mall a Lakhnapur,inform that my wife Smt.Bhagirathi Joshi corrected DOB-02/02/1960.Pls amend in my Service Record and PPO. 0040558197-10

I,Sanjeey Kumar Singhal S/o Lt.Sh.Kishan Chand R/o A-8/30, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Sanjeev Singhal for all future purposes. 0040558194-1

I,RONANKI BABY RANI D/O RONANKI SURYA NARAYANA,R/O NO 16-17-41,4TH LINE,P N COLONY,GUJARATHIPETA,SRIK AKULAM,ANDHRA PRADESH-532005 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAGHUPATHI RANI. 0070724561-1

I,Poonam Gupta Kamalu,W/o Kamalu Kingsley Chinedu,R/o Flat No-4, (UGF) 75/E Khasra.No-693/220 Maidan Garhi Delhi-110068,Have Changed My Name To Panam Gupta. 0040558190-5

I,Pooja Rani W/o-Krishnan Lal Sanhotra R/o A-10,Top-Floor,Shiv-Vihar Chander-Vihar,Nilothi Nangloi,New Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Pooja Rani Sanhotra. 0040558197-12

I,PREETI RAANI D/o Ramesh Kumar R/o 23, Vasudha Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name as PREETI GOEL for all future purposes. 0040558159-1

I,NAFIS AHMED KHAN,S/O SHEED AHMED,H.NO-127, DDA JANTA-FLATS,TIGRI KHANPUR, DELHI110062, have changed my name to NAFIS AHMED. 0040558195-5

I,Najeeb Sultan Shervani S/O Barkat Ahmed, R/o Kinawa,Post Ghinawana,Kasganj,Bilaram,Utt ar Pradesh, 207124, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Najeeb Ahmed. 0070724559-1

I,Madhavi Ramakrishna W/O Tirumala Chetty Ramakrishna. R/o C-8.MRPL Township,Bala Mangalore, Katipalla ,Dakhina, Kannada Karnataka,575303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tirumala Chetty Madhavi. 0070724565-1

I, Gauri Roy Chowdhary wife of Late Saral Chandra Roy Chowdhary resident of 28-C, OCS Apartments, Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091 have changed my name from Gauri Roy Chowdhary to Gauri Roy Chowdhary for future reference. 0040558169-1

I,Guvva Hemalatha D/O Guvva Narsiah,R/o 5-495 Indramarga Colony,Gandi Maisamma Dommara Pochampalle Dindigul, K.V, Rangareddy Andhra Pradesh-500043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vangala Bhanu. 0070724585-1

I,GARLAPATI ANANTHALAKSHMI D/O RAM REDDY MEREDDY,R/o 3-4-376/6/5,NEERAJA NILAYAM,BASANTH COLONY,LINGAMPALLY, NARAYANGUDA,HYDERABAD,P IN-500027,TELANGANA,INDIA, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mereddy Ananthalakshmi 0070724566-1

I, Durga Rani Roy D/o late Shri Ajit Roy W/o Shri Manik Chand R/o B-603, New Seemapuri, Delhi-95, have changed my name after marriage to Durga Modak for all future purposes. 0040558164-1

I,BALENDRA KUMAR S/O RAMMU NATH, R/O KANAILA, SANT KABIR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH. 272164,declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as RAMBHU PRASAD in my PAN CARD No. DZVPK5880D. The actual name of My Father is RAMMU NATH, which may be amended accordingly. 0070724563-1

I,Afroj and Afrooz,W/o Hasin R/o.H.NO.215,Kotla Mewatyan,Kareempura, Hapur-245101,UP,have changed my name to Aphroj. 0040558195-2

I,bhavyasree sareesh,spouse of,sareesh R.resident of,h.no-3/2-old walpi vayu sena vatika,gurugram haryana-122001, have changed my name,from bhavyasree sareesh to bhavyasree b vide affidavit dated-18-12 2020,before. 0040558197-5

I,hitherto known as Baby Shivani, D/o Late Deepak Aggarwal, R/o residing at,C-72/G/F, Block-C, Anand-Vihar, Karkardooma, East-Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Krishna Aggarwal. 0040558195-3

I,ABHIMANNYU PORIA S/O CHANDER PORIA R/O HNO.255, 2ND-FLOOR, POCKET-C9,SECTOR-17, ROHINI, DELHI-110085. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ABHIMANNYU PORIA. 0040558190-1

I,ARUN BADOLA S/O VACHAS PATI R/O H.No.349 SECTOR-9 R.K.PURAM NEW DELHI-110022.HAVE CHANGE MY NAME ARUN BADOLA TO ARUN KUMAR 0040558197-2

I,14641555A(HAV), NAVEEN PATHANIA, resident of, Village-Gholi, P.O.-Lohra, Tehsil-Fathepur, District-Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176053, have changed my minor son's name,from PARV SINGH PATHANIA,TO PARV SINGH, vide affidavit, dated-19/12/2020, before Notary-Advocate-Madan Lal Gupta, Regd.No-4921, New Delhi. 0040558188-1

I,Jahnvi Mehra, D/o Balwant Mehra, R/o A-25 st.no-2, Jagatpuri-extn,Shahdara Delhi-93,have lost my original-certificate/marksheet Class-10th(2017) Rollno-8644098, class-12th(2019) Rollno-9616330 CBSE-DELHI. 0040558197-7

It is notified for the information that my original/duplicate qualifying-examination marksheet/certificate of main/compartent,secondary examination of year-2001 and roll.no.2116741, and senior secondary examination of year-2003 and roll.no.2218530 issued by CBSE has been actually lost/destroyed/mutilated. Name of the candidate chaterbir singh full address-C-16, old-DF-colony, old-DF-park sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, contact-9811122226. 0040558197-9

I,Naveen Kumar, S/o-Late Sh.TeJ Pal Sharma,R/o P-H.no.516,2nd-Floor, Rishi Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034,have lost Original Property documents of F-241,measuring 100sq.mtrs., Sector-3,Udyyog Vihar, Bawana, Delhi. Finder Call-8383098084. 0040558190-10

MATRIMONIAL



DOCTORS

28/5.7 Tamil RC Nadar MS Ortho looking Doctors Bride with same Community Contact 9840773577 0050172245-1**

OTHERS

Bansal only son18.04.93, G.22p.m Chandiagarh 57B.E.civil, MBA Infrastructure finance. MNC Mumbai 9L/pa (rise held of pandemics). Parents Gazetted officers.Chandigarh. Preferred working.9914444099. 0050173046-1**

Nair boy (30/5'6'') born and grown up in Delhi (B.Arch/PGP-ACM) working as Head of Department in a German consultancy firm in Pune seeks suitable alliance. Please contact 9818184493. 0040558054-1



Salvation Army Christian Girl 26 yr / 5' / MBBS / from Trivandrum, Kerala. Preference to Missionary doctors 9747968993 samkuttytp1961@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN

I,AFROJ AND AFROOZ W/O HASIN R/O.H.NO.215, KOTLA MEWATIYAN,KAREEMPURA, HAPUR-245101, UP, have changed my name to Aphroj. 0040558195-2

I,bhavyasree sareesh,spouse of,sareesh R.resident of,h.no-3/2-old walpi vayu sena vatika,gurugram haryana-122001, have changed my name,from bhavyasree sareesh to bhavyasree b vide affidavit dated-18-12 2020,before. 0040558197-5

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, **ABHISHEK NEGI S/o Shri PADAM LAL NEGI** R/o House No. 2, Block-1, Type-5, Lodhi Road Complex, New Delhi- 110003 declare that the name of my mine has been wrongly written as **TENZIN THUVTAN ALIAS ABHISHEK** in my Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine is **ABHISHEK NEGI** respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public is hereby informed that **Smt. Kumari Krishna** has claimed to be the owner Built-up Plot No.A-6, out of Khadra No.676 min, Area Measuring 53 sq.yds, situated at **Shrawasthi Ln, Tota, Tola Ln, Ghazabad** and has agreed to sell it to **Smt. Anita Kar**, who has approached the **Magna Housing Finance Limited** for loan against mortgage of above said property. If any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then inform within 7 days to **Vikas Shokeer, Advocate, AB-16, Mainwali Nagar, Delhi-110087**. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client **Shri Anil Badan S/O P.C. Badan** and **Smt. Anuradha Badan W/o Sh. Anil Badan**, both R/O, C-53, Neeli Bagh, New Delhi are owners in possession of **Basement and Ground Floor** of Second Floor, C-53 Supreme Court Bar CHBS LTD., Neeli Bagh, N. D., by virtue of, **sale deed dt. 14.08.2013, R.No. 4256**, executed by **Devendra Pal Singh Chauhan & Ors.** (legal heirs of **Late Sh. Dharam Pal Singh Chauhan** and **Late Sh. A.P. Singh Chauhan**), and have offered to mortgage the said property with **State Bank of India**. The Original Conveyance Deed, dt. 01.04.1997, R.No. 2388 executed in favour of **Sh. A.P. Singh Chauhan**, is lost/irretrievable for which FIR is already lodged. By way of this public notice it is informed to general public to return if anyone has found this document, and/or informed that any person having claim, any charge, interest, lien or claim on the basis of the said Conveyance Deed he/she may notify to the undersigned and/or documentary proof Court judgment within 15 days from the date of publication failing which the title / sale deeds executed in favour of said property, P.C. Badan, and **Smt. Anuradha Badan W/o Sh. Anil Badan**, shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage.

Anil Kumar Rajak (Advocate)
D/251, Street No.6, Harsh Vihar, New Delhi-110093

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known my clients (1) **IBRAHIM PRAKASH CHADHA S/O SH. DEVU DUTT CHADHA (2) SHASHI CHADHA W/O SH. IBRAHIM PRAKASH CHADHA** BOTH RESIDENT OF WZ-1601, RANI BAGH, DELHI-110084 have severed their relations with their son namely **MOHIT CHADHA AND HIS WIFE CHEETA CHADHA** and debarred them from their movable and immovable properties/assets due to their misbehavior, unfamiliar activities, irascible act, misconduct and going against my clients. Anybody dealing with them in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at their own risk, cost and responsibility and my clients family shall not be liable for their any act.

Sd/- KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)
Regn. No. D-7481/14

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is informed that my client **Smt. Gayatri Devi W/o Sh. Bal Kishor Sharma R/O H.No.E-3/43, Street No.3, Near Water Tank, Dayapur Extn., North East Delhi-110098** has debarred her son **Umesh Kumar** and his wife **Smt. Neetu**, due to their disobedient, misbehavior and quarrel some nature forever, from her all movable and immovable properties and any deals with them in future, will be liable for the same.

Nand Kishore (Advocate)
Seat No.135, Ball Block, Nehru Place, Delhi-53

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is hereby given to general public that **Mrs. Usha Goel** to be owner and in possession of Entire Second Floor Flat called "The said flat", Part-2, Residential Property, F-2, Area measuring 200 Sq. Yds. out of Khadra No.531(303), situated at Village Udhampur, District Jammu, J.K. State, has by virtue of Two Separate Sale Deed dated-20.06.2018, Doc. No.3598 & Sale Deed dated-08.02.2018, Doc. No.4981 duly Regd. S/O-I/AShadhara,Delhi. And now Mrs. Usha Goel wishes to Sell all debarred property to Mr. Shri. Anil and he has approached to DFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All persons having any claim regarding in respect of the said property/floor or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim of any such persons will be considered to have been waived/ abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

Sunil Pansod (Advocate)
For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1 New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients, **Shri Raj Kumar Seth S/O Late Shri Om Prakash Seth and Smt. Geetu Seth W/o Shri Raj Kumar Seth Both R/o 24, Nishant Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi-110034**, have severed all their relations with their son **MR. VANSI SETH** and debarred/dismantled him from all their movable and immovable properties as he is beyond the control of my clients. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk, cost and consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible.

B. K. WADHWIA (Advocate)
Ch. No. 1002, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is notified for the General Public that my client **Sukhmander Singh, S/O Late S. Hazara Singh, R/O WZ-30, New Sahya Pura, M.S.S. Nagar, Tikka Nagar, New Delhi-110018**, has severed his relations with his son **Gurdeep Singh**, daughter-in-law **Simranj Kaur**, grand son **Narinder Singh** and have debarred them from inheriting any of his movable and immovable properties rights because of rude, ill and conduct behavior of their above said son, daughter-in-law, grand-son, with my client. If any person deals with them or advance any loan, will do so on his/her own risk and consequences. My client will not be responsible for their any act and deed.

Sd/- (MANMOHAN SINGH) Advocate
Enrt. No. : D/2007/2006
B-62, Shankar Garden, Vikes Park, New Delhi-110019
Mb. 9810472909, 9213888929

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Tarchoan Singh S/O Late Sh. Nand Singh, R/O Ch-1152, Tegga Garden, New Delhi-110027**. The Original documents i.e. Possession letter, NDC, for water and electricity issued by DDA, have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station L/R No. 70189/2020, dated: 26/11/2020, with Crime Branch, Delhi. Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, because of rude, ill and conduct behavior of original documents may write/contact with above named person(s) at above address/Phone No.92920220 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/- A.JAY. KR. MAHAJAN, ADVOCATE
109, AUTHORITY BUILDING, D/SITT CENTER, JANKI PURI, NEW DELHI-110058.PH: 9868907147.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client **Mrs. Madhu Sharma W/o Sh. Ashwani Sharma R/O 14/22, Chandan Vihar, West Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi - 110084** have disowned and severed her relation with her son **Sh. Aman Sharma**. My client have also debarred him from her movable and immovable properties & there after shall not be responsible for his acts, deeds and things whatsoever.

Ashok Kumar (Advocate)
29, Old Court Kashmir Gate, Delhi-6

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to General Public that my clients (1) **SMT. RENU W/O. OF SHRI RAVI KUMAR & (2) SH. RAVI KUMAR S/O. SH. HARI SINGH R/O. 339, KH. NO. 210/211, GALLI NO.7, MUKANDPUR, DELHI-42**, have severed off/ disconnected their all relations with their son **SH. SUMIT** and his wife **AYOJI D/O. SHYAM SUNDER** and have debarred/ disowned them from their all movable and immovable properties for all intents and purposes, due to their misbehavior and they are out of control of my clients. If anybody deals with them, then they shall be liable and responsible for all the consequences, and my clients will not be responsible or answerable to anyone.

Sd/- DINESH JAIN (Advocate)
OFF. RUS-5, DDA MKT Pitampura Delhi- 34

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It is hereby informed to General Public that my clients (1) **SMT. RENU W/O. OF SHRI RAVI KUMAR & (2) SH. RAVI KUMAR S/O. SH. HARI SINGH R/O. 339, KH. NO. 210/211, GALLI NO.7, MUKANDPUR, DELHI-42**, have severed off/ disconnected their all relations with their son **SH. SUMIT** and his wife **AYOJI D/O. SHYAM SUNDER** and have debarred/ disowned them from their all movable and immovable properties for all intents and purposes, due to their misbehavior and they are out of control of my clients. If anybody deals with them, then they shall be liable and responsible for all the consequences, and my clients will not be responsible or answerable to anyone.

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Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd.
CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909
Regd. & Corp. Office : 'Urja Sadan' Nana Varachha Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT

DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 (Or 1800 233 3003)
Install MCB/ ELCB/ RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/ Electrical Accidents

Tender Notice
Details for the tenders mentioned hereunder are available on www.dgvcl.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.dgvcl.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

| Sr. No. | Tender No. |
|---------|--|
| 1 | DGVCL/SP / 2114 / HD PVC Rigid Pipe |
| 2 | DGVCL/SP/2118 / 1C LT AB Cable |
| 3 | DGVCL/SP/ 2120 / 22 KV XLPE Cable |
| 4 | DGVCL/SP/2126 / 10C X 2.5 sq.mmm Armored PVC Control Cable |
| 5 | DGVCL/SP/ 2127 / G.I. Earthing Bolts & Nuts |
| 6 | DGVCL/SP/ 2128 / S.I.T.C. of 22 KV RMU work |
| 7 | DGVCL/SP/ 2129 / S.I.T.C. of 11 KV RMU work |

Note: Bidders may visit the Company website for regular updates till opening of the tenders. ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 20/62 Dy. Chief Material Manager/Sales Dt.: 18.12.2020 E-Procurement Tender Notice The Principal Chief Materials Manager,PRYJ

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

| S.N. | Tender No. | Description | Qty. | Tender Opening Date |
|------|------------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| 1. | 40203045 | ON LINE UPS WITH ISOLATION TRANSFORMER | 81 NOS | 11.01.2021 |
| 2. | 8023000A | Servopex Grease | 5096 Kgs. | 08.01.2021 |

Note:-- (1) The Complete information of above E-Procurement Tenders are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III, digital signature certificates issued by CCA under I.T. Act 2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vender shall be straight way ignore and shall not be considered. @1399/20 (P)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd
(A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)
1. E-Tender No. : JP-SNT-MT-02-20-21 2. Name of Work: Repairing, ReFixing /Replacement & Maintenance of Signalling and Telecommunication Gears/Equipment and other related work in Kishanghar Balawas-New Rewari- New Kishanghar- Mader Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) under GM/Co-ordination/JP. 3. Estimated Cost of Work : Rs. 1,23,22,599.71/- 4. Duration of Contract : 12 (Twelve) months 5. Type of Tender: Open E-Tender Single Packet. 6. Cost of Tender Document (Non-Refundable) : Rs. 5000/- plus GST @ 18% = Rs. 5900/- 7. Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,46,500/- 8. Uploading of NIT and Tender Document : 14.12.2020 at 11:30 hrs. on www.ireps.gov.in 9. Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender (Online) : 30.12.2020 up to 15:00 hrs. on www.ireps.gov.in 10. Date and time of Online opening of bid : 30.12.2020 at 15:30 hrs. on www.ireps.gov.in 11. Validity of offer : 90 days from the date of opening of tender. 12. Help Desk for E-Tendering : For any clarification, help and registration for E-Tendering & matter relating to Digital Signature , contact at Help desk of www.ireps.gov.in and phone No.-011-23761525 13. Availability of Tender Documents : The detailed Tender documents can be downloaded from www.ireps.gov.in 14. Any further addendum/Corrigendum for this tender will be posted in DFCCIL tendering portal website [https://www.ireps.gov](https://www.ireps.gov.in)

BRIDGE

Dealer: North, Vulnerable: East West

- NORTH**
 ♠ A1072
 ♥ K72
 ♦ QJ74
 ♣ Q10
- SOUTH**
 ♠ K8654
 ♥ Q854
 ♦ 63
 ♣ A7

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |

West led the nine of hearts. This lead surely marks East with the AJ10(x). How, if at all, do you use this information?
The West Hand: S-QJ9H-93 D-A10B2 C-K852
The East Hand: S-3H-AJ10B D-K95 C-J9643

Cover with the king of hearts. East doesn't have to fall for your use but it is not likely that he will see through it. Here is what you are hoping for.

Dummy's king loses to East's ace. East, thinking he is on to something hot, leads back the jack, setting up his ten. South wins with the queen and plays the king and ace of spades. West will turn out to have a trump trick but no matter. South continues with another heart and the good heart spots will work to set up South's eight of hearts. The club ace is an entry to the South hand and the eight of hearts is a winner, which allows you to get rid of dummy's club loser. Is it natural for East to continue hearts?

- He may see through your plot, but even if he does it will help him only if he is able to lead a club effectively. If East has the king of clubs he cannot attack the suit and by playing the hearts as you did you will eventually be able to get rid of dummy's club loser.
- Dealer: North, Vulnerable: North South
- NORTH**
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ QJ109
 ♦ AB
 ♣ K1097
- SOUTH**
 ♠ Q1062
 ♥ K83
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ A63

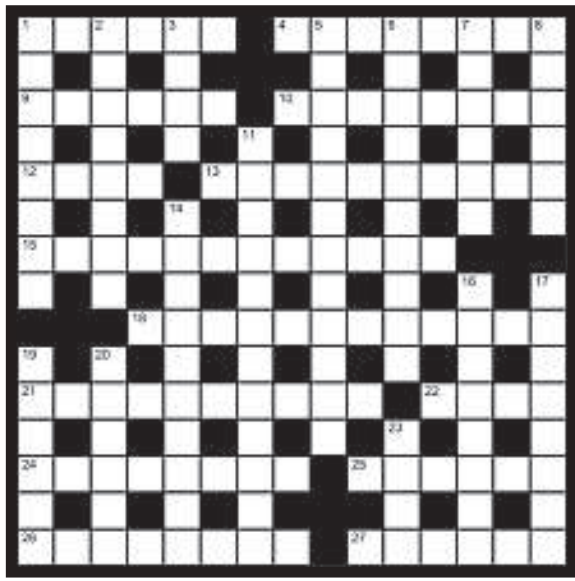
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | 2♦ | Dbl. | |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

South made a Negative Double of 2♦, hoping to find a spade contract. He followed with 2NT to show an invitational hand of around eleven points. West led the king of diamonds, his partner's suit. How should South plan the play? Be specific.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2300

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
 1. Rubber (6)
 4. State of prevailing (8)
 9. Counterfeit (6)
 10. A cutting tool (8)
 12. Haystack (4)
 13. Mutual (10)
 15. Unrestrained excess (12)
 18. Coasting (12)
 21. Relevant (10)
 22. Former Yugoslav leader (4)
 24. Printout (4,4)
 25. An Asian language (6)
 26. Shift, move or displace (8)
 27. Food closet (6)
DOWN
 1. Effectuated as a law can be (8)
 2. Heinous deed (8)
 3. Level (4)
 5. From time to time; occasionally (4,2,1,5)
 6. Told, indoctrinated or trained (10)
 7. Guarantee (6)
 8. Scuffle (6)
 11. Act well so that others may copy (3,2,7)
 14. Wigs? (10)
 16. Wary (8)
 17. Disgrace (8)
 19. Scent bag? (6)
 20. Ancient enemy of Athens (6)
 23. Prefix with physics (4)



- CRYPTIC CLUES**
ACROSS
 1. It's just dying to burst (6)
 4. A bit over-developed and not at all successful (8)
 9. The jumpy state of the Severn river (6)
 10. Say again "Cast out fear Steady on!" (8)
 12. Gangs require a doctor qualified in surgery (4)
 13. Sent malt in as part of what's due (10)
 15. Diplomatic bags? (7-5)
 18. Proverbially woeful Gerorgette Heyer novel (7,5)
 21. A nutmeg tree - that's official (4-6)
 22. Either of two sides that meet (4)
 24. Subjective? (8)
 25. Beseech individual to

- clear off (6)
 26. Does mime flop in apse? (8)
 27. Cacklers get together in this (6)
DOWN
 1. Spare ribs for lunch you have in the garden? (4,4)
 2. Garden feature to attract dippers? (8)
 3. This is life's ruin, beloved! (4)
 5. A blow here could lead to disqualification (12)
 6. All-round light distribution (10)
 7. Rise of Medic: replace c with b in the same book (6)
 8. Unfriendly aspect of the time New York went wild (6)
 11. Manic insider plotted arson (10)
 14. Twenty put up on the cricket field? (10)
 16. Enduring advice on how to get old? (4-4)
 17. Eliot's hero needs somewhere to sleep when a woman comes round (4,4)
 19. Small child in steamship

Solutions to 2299

- QUICK CLUES** Across: 1 Talcum, 4 Paradox, 9 Artist, 10 Fast time, 12 Examples, 13 Affect, 15 Significance, 18 Uttar Pradesh, 21 Crunch, 22 Instinct, 24 Eventful, 25 Let rip, 26 Slapdash, 27 Whoosh. Down: 1 Traverser, 2 Lethargy, 3 Unspiculated, 5 Away, 6 Artificial teeth, 7 Ruined, 8 Preity, 11 Mexican, 14 Camping, 16 Leonardo, 17 Chutzpah, 19 Access, 20 Eureka, 23 Burns.
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Shrimp, 4 Loch Ness, 9 Mining, 10 Paraffin, 12 Dogbery, 13 Scouts, 15 Midsummer day, 18 Inconsistent, 21 Fauld, 22 Leafless, 24 Imitated, 25 Rimir, 26 Ailments, 27 Jet-lag. Down: 1 Semidome, 2 Renegade, 3 Mannequin parade, 5 Oban, 6 Heapcoals of fire, 7 Efflux, 8 Sanest, 11 Crampon, 14 Fraser, 16 Remedial, 17 Stashing, 19 Africa, 20 Burial, 23 Peat.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday December 20

There's still some excitement circulating in the celestial spheres. Yet you don't really have any reason to feel under undue pressure. The whole tenor of the present favours secret activities.

Monday December 21

There are so many helpful planetary patterns, that it would be a shame if you looked on the gloomy side of things. So be constructive and seek people who can help.

Tuesday December 22

Other people can be just so surprising. Partners have a tendency to try and make you feel good, and there is every reason for you to take them at their word. It will do you a power of good to stand up for yourself.

Wednesday December 23

You're heading for a positive period, but the choice is yours. If you expect others to make up your mind for you, you will begin to lose out, so put yourself first.

Thursday December 24

Life is full of chances, and right now you have an opportunity to make a completely fresh start. Don't wait around for good luck to happen to you.

Friday December 25

All may be calm on the surface, but inner realities are shifting and you can expect new vistas to open. Start by setting out a 'to do' list and think about the best practical steps.

Saturday December 26

Pluto is encouraging you to express your deepest desires. Before you get excited, let me remind you it's going to be occupying its current position for many years.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There should be plenty of action this week with a general boost to your energy caused by stimulating people and events. You haven't been your usual decisive self lately and, as a result, one or two arrangements haven't worked out as planned.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There'll be a great deal going on behind the scenes, much of it to your credit. It would be misleading to pretend that everything will be easy, because much of what happens will be unfamiliar and will require you to make quick responses. Yet you'll show yourself at your best.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Life has improved considerably recently, although much that happens from now on will depend on what you have made of the often remarkable opportunities that have come your way. Actually, a new relationship or job might now be subject to delays which will lead you to think you've been the victim of a false start.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

This is certainly a dynamic moment - in theory, at least! Although there's a part of you that is happy to drift along as if everything was fine, you're much too ambitious to let life remain the same for long. The planets will give you little choice but to set about improving your lot.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This should be one of those quiet times when you have the chance to catch up with chores you began some time ago and never finished, and when you have the time to consolidate all that you have achieved in the past year. However, as the week passes, domestic questions will begin to occupy more and more of your time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You are now moving decisively into a highly creative phase of your life. This doesn't necessarily mean that you'll suddenly discover your artistic talent, although this may happen. What is does mean is that you'll be taking a much more imaginative and individual approach to your life than was often the case in the past.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Hopefully you are spending much of your time preparing for future activities. This is, after all, a special period. Your romantic life will be dominated by stealth and secrecy, partly because this gives an added flavour of danger and mystery.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Venus is pleasantly aligned with your sign at the moment, a factor which is responsible for bringing peace and harmony to your relationships. If the path of love is smooth at the moment, enjoy it. But, don't be complacent, for you might misunderstand a partner's intentions and end up disappointed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Saturn, the planet of restriction and limitation, is easing the pressure on your financial affairs. You're therefore quite entitled to breathe a final sigh of relief, secure in the knowledge that you can now revert to your true dynamic character without fear of being caught out by some minor obstacle.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Jupiter the most benign planet, is helping you through, and Mars, ruler of vitality and energy, leaves you in a much more relaxed frame of mind than you have been for quite a few weeks. This planet always brings mixed blessings. Ah well, you can't have it all.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This looks like a lively month on the emotional front, mainly because you're impatient for instant results. Plus, any long-distance or foreign contacts you have built up over the last year will continue to play an influential role in your life.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You're heading for an amazing period, but there'll be a slow build-up so don't expect instant results. There'll certainly be one or two downs over the coming months, but these should be more than compensated for by a remarkable series of highs.

JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.
 Nature's far _____ to repeat herself. - Paul Muni (3,6)

| | |
|-------|--------|
| GSEEO | EIMOLT |
| CUTIS | CEHRBU |

Answer: Nature's far too subtle to repeat herself. - Paul Muni
 SOLUTION: GOOSE, ICTUS, MOTTLE, CHERUB

SUDOKU 4328

Difficulty Level 3s
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 4327



SAINIK SCHOOL KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB)
CBSE AFFILIATION NO 1680001
 Phone No-01822-230184
Recruitment Notice

1. The Recruitment of the following posts on regular basis will be held as per details given below:-

| Particulars | 01xLDC | 01x Driver | 02x General Employees |
|--|---|--|---|
| Reservation | Unreserved | OBC | 01-SC and 01-Unreserved |
| Last date for submission of application form | 14 Jan 2021 | | |
| Pay Scale | Level 2 of VII CPC starting cell 19900 | Level 2 of VII CPC starting cell 19900 | Level 1 of VII CPC starting cell 18,000 |
| Essential Qualification | (i) Matriculation. (ii) Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute. (iii) knowledge of short hand and ability to correspond in English will be considered as an additional qualification. | (i) Matriculation or equivalent (ii) Heavy Vehicle Driving Licence | Matriculation or equivalent |
| Age | 18-50 years of age. | 18-50 years of age. | 18-50 years of age. |
| Fees along with application form | General/OBC- Rs. 500/-, SC/ST- Rs 250/- | General/OBC- Rs. 500/-, SC/ST- Rs 250/- | General/OBC- Rs. 500/-, SC/ST- Rs 250/- |

2. For detailed advertisement and application form, please visit School website: www.sskapurthala.com.

3. The School administration reserves the right to cancel all or any of the vacancies due to non-availability of suitable candidates or administrative/ policy reasons.

Principal

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U. P. LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD, BADSHAH BAGH, GOKARAN NATH ROAD, LUCKNOW
 Telephone : (0522)2977709 (O) , E-mail: upldb@rediffmail.com

L. No. 590(3)/UPLDB/AES/DFS/2020-21 Date: Dec 18, 2020

TENDER NOTICE

Uttar Pradesh Livestock Development Board (U.P.L.D.B.) is a registered society under the Society Registration Act, 1860 established as per Govt. of India directives is inviting online tenders through e-procurement system from reputed manufacturers or Authorized distributor of a manufacturer for approval of rates for procurement of DFS equipments/machinery, etc. related with different schemes and activities implemented by UPLDB, Lucknow for the year 2020-21 & 2021-22.

| No. & date of Tender | Tendered Items/ Instruments (As per details given in the tender documents) | Cost of Tender document (Rs.) (Tender Fee+GST) Non-refundable | Earnest Money (Rs.) Refundable | Availability and start date & time for on-line Submission of e-Bids | Last Date/ time for online submission of filled e-Bids | Opening of online Tenders (Technical bids) |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| No.590(3)/UPLDB/AES/DFS/2020-21, Date: Dec., 18, 2020 | Integrated Computer Aided Sperm Analyser (As per specifications given in e-tender document) | 7435.00 (€3000.00 + 1135.00) | 42500.00 | 21.12.2020 01:00 P.M. and 21.12.2020 02:00 P.M | 07.01.2021 upto 11:00 A.M. | 07.01.2021, 11:30 A.M. onwards |

The complete e-tender details will be made available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal <http://e-tender.up.nic.in> and UPLDB's website <http://upldb.gov.in> as per information given in above table. Any corrigendum/amendment in this notice of e-tender document shall be uploaded and informed on e-procurement website on UPLDB reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason and decision of UPLDB shall be final and binding. It is also to inform that those tenderers who are registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation (UPLC) website: www.uplc.in for e-tendering and having digital signatures in reference with this office memorandum No. 54/UPLDB/AES/E-Tender/Franall/2017-18, Dt. 13.04.2017 or registered with UPLC till 06.01.2021 and having valid digital signature, shall be eligible to participate in the e-tender.

(Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh)
 U/C Chief Executive Officer, U.P. Livestock Dev. Board

SECTION - 1
Notice Inviting Tender
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
National Health Mission Division Rewa
 8, Arera Hills Jail Road Bhopal (M.P.)

NIT.No.08/2020-21/e-tendering/687 Dated:- 16/12/2020

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and Firms of reputed fulfilling registration criteria (Three Cover System):

| S. No. | Tender ID | Name of Work | Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh) | Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) | Tender Cost (Rs.) | Period of Completion Including Rainy Season |
|--------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 2020_DHS_117254 | Upgradation of 8 SHC Building of Block Nagod, 10 SHC Building of Block Mahaganwan and 11 SHC Building of Block Kothi to HWC (Health and Wellness Center) at District Satna (M.P.) (list enclosed) | 211.95 | 211950 | 15000 | 8 Months |
| 4 | 2020_DHS_117255 | Upgradation of 15 SHC Building of Block Chitrangi District Singrouli and 13 SHC Building of Block Kusmi District Sidhi (M.P.) (list enclosed) | 178.85 | 178850 | 12500 | 6 Months |
| Total | | | 390.80 | | | |

1. Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on the website <https://mptenders.gov.in>
 2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 16/12/2020 10:30 AM to 24/12/2020 17:30 PM.
 3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
National Health Mission, Division Rewa
 8, Arera Hills Bhopal (M.P.)
 G-16700/20

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE-1st) SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA, SRINAGAR-190011 Extension: 2275
Email: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in, TELE/FAX NO.: 0194-2403929

Abbreviated E-TENDER NOTICE No: SIMS 325 Purchase 1st tender 09 of 2020 Dated : 19/12/2020 invited for Surgical Dressing Material for the year 2021-22, 2022-23

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura, Srinagar, only from original manufacturers or their authorised distributors/agents possessing valid Sales Tax Registration and Drugs Licence for supply of Surgical Dressing material for a period of two years on rate contract basis for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 for S. K. INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES HOSPITAL PURELY ON SAMAPLE BASIS. Tenders to be submitted under TWO BID SYSTEM (TECHNICAL BID & PRICE BID). The detailed tender documents are also available at www.jktender.gov.in & www.skims.ac.in & you can visit the website for detailed information.

| Description | Tender Fee | Earnest Money |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Surgical Dressing Material | Rs. 2,000/- | Rs. 1,50,000/- |

| S. No | Nomenclature | Schedule |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 | Bid download start date | 19/12/2020 |
| 02 | Last date of clarification if any | 26/12/2020 (up to 2:00 PM) |
| 03 | Bid submission start date | 28/12/2020 |
| 04 | Sample submission start date | 29/12/2020 |
| 05 | Bid & sample submission end date | 18/01/2021 (up to 2.00 PM) |
| 06 | Technical bid opening date | 21/01/2021 at (2.00 PM) |

The tender should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of detailed E-NIT.

Sd/-
NO: SIMS 325 P 1st E-Tender 09 OF- 2020- 11120-24-5809-12
Dated: 19/12/2020
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER
PURCHASE 1ST

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE JSD Rural Water Supply Division,
Ganderbal H.Q: Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal.
 E - mail. pherwsd@gmail.com / pherwsd@yahoo.in Phone/ Fax: 0194 - 2416292.

Notice Inviting e - Tenders
FRESH E-NIT No- 36/PHE/JSD/RWSD/CIVIL OF 2020 - 21

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Turn Key Basis are invited including the maintenance cost for a period of Five years from reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of reputed in PWD or Railways and other state Governments for the following work:

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Tender Cost including all Taxes | | Cost of Document (Rs. in Lacs) | Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lacs) | Time of Completion | Tender Call | Tender opening Place and date (Technical Cover only) | Class of Contractor |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|-------------|---|---|
| | | Construction Part (Quotable) | Maintenance Part (Fixed Cost) | | | | | | |
| 1. | Design, Construction, successful testing & Commissioning of 0.15 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant (incl. Flash mixer, Chlorinator with Construction of Pump House cum Operator's Quarter, Pre-Setting tank near existing 0.15 MGD Water Treatment Plant at Manigam, 0.75 lac gallons P.C.C. Service Reservoir, 0.45 lac Gallon Capacity Clear Water Sump, 04 No. Sluice chambers, Chemical shed, Chain link fencing around various structures, Anchor/ saddle blocks for raising main, levelling/ terracing and platform cutting of ground, providing of angle iron truss to 0.15 MGD water treatment plant and existing staff quarter at Manigam, near filtration plant site, Providing and Laying/ fitting, testing successful commissioning of D.I./ G.I. main, sub-mains and distribution system with Trial run for 06 months after completion of the Construction work and maintenance for a period of five years for all including other Structures like SR, WTP & RWM on TURNKEY BASIS for WSS Wharshun Manigam under JKIDFC including Conducting complete necessary soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ Specification mentioned in the tender document. Architectural aesthetics shall also be kept in consideration to make the structures appealing. (LUP - 2344) | ₹ 382.16 Lacs | ₹ 26.85 lacs | ₹ 0.06 (Favoring Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division Ganderbal under MH 0215) | ₹ 7.70 Lacs (Pledged to the Superintendent Engineer, Hyd. Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal) | 10 Months | 2nd | Office of the Superintendent Engineer, Hyd. Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal on 13.01.2021 | "A" Class- Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/ Joint Venture of reputed in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments. |

Position of Funds - Available: Major Head of Account: Languageing (JKIDFC)
 The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>
 From 19.12.2020 (10:00 a.m) To 11.01.2021 upto (04:00 p.m)
 The Valid Registration certificate of enlistment card clearly indicating date of registration along with renewal page of Current Financial Year of 2020-21 & Latest GST clearance (NOT BEFORE November - 2020) along with Self Attested What's App Number and e-mail ID of the contractor must also be uploaded while uploading the tender. The tender document of the work may be referred to, for all other necessary / requisite documents, which are to be uploaded while uploading the tender.
 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/ downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in
 The Schedule showing the critical dates is given below

| TABLE (II) | | |
|------------|---|---|
| 01 | Date of Publishing of Tender Notice | 18.12.2020 |
| 02 | Date of downloading of bidding documents | From 19.12.2020 (10:00 a.m) To 11.01.2021 upto (04:00 p.m) |
| 03 | Date of Pre-bid meeting | In the Office of the- Superintendent Engineer, Hyd. Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal, H.Q. Srinagar on 04.01.2021 at 11.00 am) |
| 04 | Last date of submission bid Queries | 07.01.2021 upto 04.00 P.M. |
| 05 | Bid submission start date | 19.12.2020 (10:00 A.M) |
| 06 | Bid Submission end date | 11.01.2021 upto (04:00 P.M) |
| 08 | Date & time of opening Bids (Technical Cover) | 13.01.2021 at 10:30 A.M. |

No.- PHED/RWSD/Corrs/9034-58
 Dated:- 18.12.2020
 DIPK-10659/20

Sd/- (Er. M. Aslam Zargar)
Executive Engineer PHE,
JSD RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.
H.Q: Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal.

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION
VARIOUS WORKS OF WATER TANK AND PLUMBING WORK

For and behalf of The President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para, invites E-Tender as per the details given below - E-Tender Notice No. BVPW-2019-20/WTank-26 (1) Name of Work: Removes, Refit, Scraping, Cleaning, Painting & Hydraulic Testing of Water Tank and plumbing work in BG Coaches as per scope of work. (2) Approx. cost of work: ₹ 1,13,04,948.11/- (3) EMD: ₹ 2,06,500/- (4) Date and Submission of bid and opening of bid: Submission: 08-01-2021 up to 15:00 hrs. Opening: 08-01-2021 after 15:30 hrs. (5) Website particulars and Address of the office: CWM-BVP's Office, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para-364003 Website: www.ireps.gov.in BVP-048
 Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

"IMPORTANT"

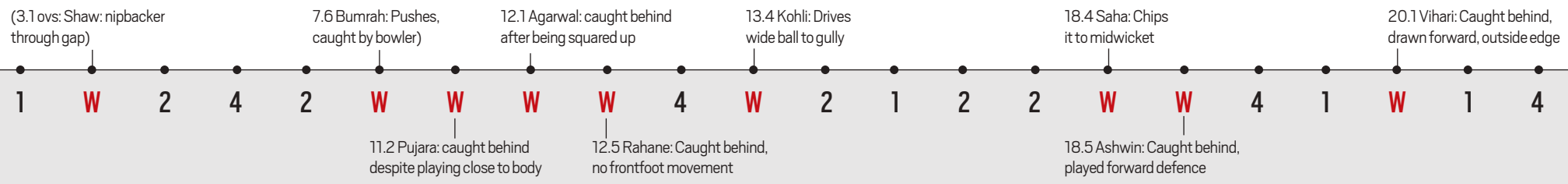
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Any team that is all-out for its lowest Test score since the time it started playing Test cricket, that's never good to see... If any other team had been facing that kind of bowling, they would have also got out, maybe be not all-out for 36, maybe 72 or 80-90.

SUNIL GAVASKAR, FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN ON CHANNEL 7 CRICKET

ANATOMY OF 36 FOR 9

THE GREAT INDIAN BATTING COLLAPSE: 21.2 OVERS, 16 SCORING SHOTS, 4 FOURS, 9 WICKETS



Day & Nightmare Test

India record lowest score of 36 as Hazlewood & Cummins' ode to fast bowling lifts Australia to eight-wicket win in Adelaide

SRIRAM VEERA
DECEMBER 19

IN HINDSIGHT, everything now seems like a set-up. A scene from a Quentin Tarantino movie. The long shots of idyllic small-town life. The sights, the sounds, the white chapel before an auditory cry of destruction rings out. Boom... a shootout or a knife-fest breaks out and blood flows.

On a warm gorgeous day in an idyllic city of churches, the players streamed into an exquisitely pretty stadium with a gentle brook gurgling not far away. It was Day Three, the mildest pitch-day traditionally. It wasn't the much-fussed-over night session either. Instead, mayhem ensued on a morning when Indian batsmen can make a passionate plea for short-term memory loss. Unless they are masochists. Unless they have the penchant for dissociation, as traumas can sometimes trigger, and can see the sequence of play for what it was: dreamy crafty goose-bumpy fast bowling.

It needed some heroic fight that's inconceivable and unimaginable to us but the best have a way of surprising with feats that seem scarcely believable in the moment of its creation. Indians couldn't stir any magic, though, and were left with broken egos and wrists.

Could they have done anything different? Barring Virat Kohli, no one chased a ball away from their body. Not one. Their hands didn't betray them. Neither did their minds; not one threw away his wicket.

How did this happen? Nearly every good ball produced an edge. Every nick carried. Even when the Hotspot missed, the snickometer snatched about the edge. Every catch was held - and for the biggest one of them, of Kohli's, Cameron Green was seemingly ready to spill his guts out but wouldn't let the ball roll out.

But of course, there must be some explanation other than supernormal performances from Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. The batsmen played from the crease and didn't try out anything different like taking an off-stump guard or stand outside. Perhaps, it just happened too quickly for them to react. Curiously, their strengths were made to feel like a weakness. None of them pushed out at the ball but instead, most played well inside the line. A technique that Cheteshwar Pujara works on a lot in particular, so that if the ball seams away a touch or straightens, it will rush past the edge. But the balls didn't even straighten at times, they sort of tilted in a bit and then just about held their line to take the edge. Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal and Hanuma Vihari - all were done in like that. A truly unreal phase of play. Perhaps, even Hazlewood and Cummins can't replicate the wizardry of this morning again.

The eyes turned to Kohli. Could he pull off a heist on his last cricketing day in Australia? On air, Glenn McGrath, who was barely able to contain his laughter at the incredulity of it all, pointed out, "he hasn't hit a hundred all year". Never mind, the pandemic.

The ball was wide-ish. Kohli had been out twice to such Cummings deliveries in the past, when he shifts his line like a windscreen wiper dragged across. Perhaps, Kohli feels he can control his downward bat swing to meet the ball and ends up chasing, bat away from the body, the mind away from the present. With Starc, it's all about how he overcomes himself. He doesn't even need a batsman at times, or so it feels, as his natural left-armers art is about get-



India will be without Virat Kohli for the next three Tests, as the captain is returning home on paternity leave. AP

ting his action, rhythm, and intentions right.

Hazlewood's is a superior art of mind games. With Starc, if no one is sure what to expect, everyone knows what's coming from Hazlewood. "Try to hit the off with the occasional bumper" is his mantra. Invariably, he triggers claustrophobia in batsmen. The hands begin to itch, they almost threaten to jerk out of control. Self-destructive urges kick in. They somehow manage to stop the hands from betraying, but then Hazlewood cuts one back in to test the loyalty of their feet. When they think they still possess free will over the movements of the feet and hands, he will suddenly go for their throat with a bouncer. An inescapable sense of suffocation keeps escalating.

Of the three, Cummins has the most skillful fingers. They cut the ball in, rip it out, make it

kick up to the throat. With Hazlewood, the trouble creeps up on you, eerily, silently, almost with a sense of Hitchcockian atmosphere about it. Cummins' art screams at the batsmen with a sense of choral conductor about him. He doesn't have the calm soul of Hazlewood; he is always doing something, always up to some trick. Little deviations don't satiate his soul. Dramatic cymbals need to crash. High notes have to be hit. Even the final effort at release is more striking than the smooth jazziness of Hazlewood.

Individually, they couldn't be more different. As a pack, they couldn't be more in sync. They come at you, pit themselves against you with everything they have got. That's why Indians' triumph in 2018-19 was historic. That's why their collapse now feels so blameless, and beyond their control.

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS IN TEST CRICKET

| | | |
|----|--------------|---|
| 26 | New Zealand | v England - Auckland, March 25, 1955 |
| 30 | South Africa | v England - Port Elizabeth, February 13, 1896 |
| 30 | South Africa | v England - Birmingham, June 14, 1924 |
| 35 | South Africa | v England - Cape Town, April 1, 1899 |
| 36 | South Africa | v Australia - Melbourne, February 12, 1932 |
| 36 | Australia | v England - Birmingham, May 29, 1902 |
| 36 | India | v Australia - Adelaide, Dec 17, 2020 |
| 38 | Ireland | v England - Lord's, July 24, 2019 |
| 42 | New Zealand | v Australia - Wellington, March 29, 1946 |
| 42 | Australia | v England - Sydney, February 10, 1888 |
| 42 | India | v England - Lord's, June 20, 1974 |

We have played enough cricket to understand what needs to be done at different stages of a Test... I don't think any mental fatigue was involved. It was just a lack of execution. If your mindset is not right, like ours wasn't today when we lacked in intent, the opposition can sense it and put you under extreme pressure"

VIRAT KOHLI, INDIA CAPTAIN

is exactly what happened," he said.

There though was repentance. In the catches they dropped, and in letting Tim Paine eat into the lead with his breezy batting. "That definitely would have been a boost for us if we had a lead of a few runs more. If we already had 100 runs as lead and with a decent start, the opposition starts panicking. In Test cricket, if you do not take your chances when they come your way, they can be very costly," he said.

More importantly, in the lack of fight in the

second innings. "They were bowling similar lengths in the first innings as well. We were just better at playing those and having a plan around it and how we wanted to go about things," he said, and then lamented the lack of positivity. "I think the way we batted allowed them to look more potent than they were in the morning. They bowled similarly in the first innings and we batted way, way better. A bit of lead can always be tricky because as a batting unit you can go into a headspace where you feel like we are just 50 or 60 ahead and you don't want to lose early wickets and allow opposition back into the game," he said.

The only time he showed a strain of emotion was when someone asked about comfort zone. "In international cricket, there is nothing like a comfort zone," he said, his eyes burning with rage. He, of course, emphasised his colleagues' capacity to recover, even without him. "I'm confident the team will bounce back strongly. I'm confident that we will learn from this. I don't think we have ever had a bad batting collapse than this and it can only go up from here," he stressed. But even the defence lacked the usual vigour.

SCORECARD

AUSTRALIA vs INDIA

ADELAIDE OVAL

Toss: India, chose to bat

INDIA 1ST INNS 244 (0/N 233/6)

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNS 191

INDIA 2ND INNS 36

P Shaw b Cummins 4 (4b)

M Agarwal c †Paine b Hazlewood 9 (40b, 1x4)

J Bumrah c&b Cummins 2 (17b)

C Pujara c †Paine b Cummins 0 (8b)

V Kohli (c) c Green b Cummins 4 (8b, 1x4)

A Rahane c †Paine b Hazlewood 0 (4b)

H Vihari c †Paine b Hazlewood 8 (22b, 1x4)

W Saha † c Labuschagne b Hazlewood 4 (15b)

R Ashwin c †Paine b Hazlewood 0 (1b)

U Yadav not out 4 (5b, 1x4)

Md Shami retired hurt 1 (4b)

■ Total: 36 (21.2 Overs)

■ FoW: 1-7 (P Shaw, 3.1 ov), 2-15 (J Bumrah, 7.6 ov), 3-15 (C Pujara, 11.2 ov), 4-15 (M Agarwal, 12.1 ov), 5-15 (A Rahane, 12.5 ov), 6-19 (V Kohli, 13.4 ov), 7-26 (W Saha, 18.4 ov), 8-26 (R Ashwin, 18.5 ov), 9-31 (H Vihari, 20.1 ov), 9-36* (Md Shami, retired not out)

■ Bowling: M Starc 6-3-7-0; P Cummins 10.2-4-21-4; J Hazlewood 5-3-8-5

AUSTRALIA 2ND INNS 93/2

M Wade run out (†Saha) 33 (53b, 5x4)

J Burns not out 51 (63b, 7x4, 1x6)

M Labuschagne c Agarwal b Ashwin 6 (10b)

S Smith not out 1 (1b)

■ Extras: (lb 1, nb 1) 2

■ Total: 93/2 (21 Overs)

■ FoW: 1-70 (M Wade, 17.2 ov), 2-82 (Labuschagne, 19.5 ov)

■ Bowling: U Yadav 8-1-49-0; J Bumrah 7-1-27-0; R Ashwin 6-1-16-1

■ Australia won by 8 wickets

SINGLE FILE

1 India's second innings is the first time that all 11 batsmen, and extras, registered single-figure scores in Tests.

31 Cummins became the joint second-fastest Australian to take 150 wickets (31 Tests), tied with Dennis Lillee, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill. Clarrie Grimmett was the quickest (28).

Is 'Summer of 36' Indian cricket's lowest point

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 19

FINALLY, AFTER 46 years, India buried the ghost of 42, slumping to a new low at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. The visitors were shot out for 36 in the second innings against Australia.

Is this India's lowest Test score?

Theoretically, yes. The BCCI scorecard shows 36/9, with Mohammed Shami retired hurt. Technicalities aside, the innings ended on 36.

India's previous lowest score was 42 in the second innings against England at Lord's in June 1974. That innings had one double-digit score; Eknath Solkar's 18 not out. On Saturday in Adelaide, India's second innings didn't have a single double-digit score.

What are the other lows?

As statistician Mohandas Menon put out on Twitter, India slumping to 19/6 was a new low. They never had such a collapse in their Test history, as India's previous low was 25/6 against South Africa in the second innings in Durban in 1996. India were dismissed for 66 then.

Is this the lowest Test total ever?

No. New Zealand were all out for 26 against England at Auckland in 1955. That remains the lowest. India's 36 all out on Saturday is the lowest innings total in Tests since 1955.

What was the fallout of the 'Summer of 42'?

India's tour of England in 1974 had descended into chaos. Then India captain Ajit Wadekar had described the dressing-room atmosphere "funeral-like". The team was asked to leave from the High Commissioner's place, where they had gone for dinner.

Sunil Gavaskar has narrated the incident in his book *Sunny Days*. Opener Sudhir Naik was accused of shoplifting. There had been reports of discord. India were clean-swept in the three-Test series and upon their return, Wadekar found himself axed from the West Zone team, and never played for India again.

In Indore, fans defaced the Victory Bat, which was erected after India's first-ever Test series wins in the West Indies and England in 1971. Tiger Pataudi returned to lead the Indian team in the following home series against the West Indies, in which India went down 2-3.

Anything common between 42 and 36?

India's weakness against pace in seaming conditions. At Lord's in 1974, two England pacers, Chris Old and Geoff Arnold, shared nine wickets between them. On Saturday, Aussie fast bowlers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood too accounted for nine Indian wickets.

Will BCCI take note?

Of course. This is the first Test of a four-match series and the BCCI usually makes an assessment only after the series is over. So, a knee-jerk reaction is unlikely. However, it is learnt that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly may have a conversation with the team management after the Test.

Kohli lost for emotion after hammer blow

SANDIP G
DECEMBER 19

VIRAT KOHLI was not so much lost for words as he was for emotions, when he addressed the press after a shambolic defeat that included India's slump to its lowest total in Test history. The words streamed out of his tongue like they always do, in a flurry. The gaze was firm and fixed, as it usually is.

But on Saturday, Kohli, who wears his emotions on the sleeve and the eyes, could summon neither courage nor conviction, dissection or defence, sarcasm or sorrow. A man who feeds on emotions seemed emotionless.

"Strange," he said when asked to assess how the first session rolled out. Then he paused, the pause hanging awkwardly before he added: "Everything happened so quickly that no one could make any sense of it. That was very, very surprising and disappointing for everyone."

Collapses? They are routine in Test cricket. "Playing at the highest level, there will definitely be collapses again and again.

We have to accept our mistakes and understand what we need to work on. But this is not club-level cricket," he said.

No cause for undue worries, he asserts, despite the fact that India has not crossed 300 in their last six outings. "I don't think it's anything alarming. We can very well sit here and make a mountain of a molehill. It is basically looking things in the right perspective and knowing what we need to do as a team moving forward to Melbourne," he said.

The mountain-out-of-molehill imagery could not have been more ill-timed or inappropriate. In the wake of this defeat, Kohli's words rung hollow. Almost silly. Was it a mindset issue, having not played Test in nearly 10 months? "No," he stressed before elaborating: "We have played enough cricket to understand what needs to be done at different stages of a Test match. I don't think any mental fatigue was involved. It was just a lack of execution."

He singled out the lack of intent as the defining reason for the defeat. "If your mindset is not right, like ours wasn't today when we lacked in intent, the opposition can sense it and put you under extreme pressure. That

Shami suffers wrist fracture, set to miss remainder of tour

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

ADELAIDE/NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

INDIAN PACER Mohammed Shami is set to miss the remaining three Tests against Australia after suffering a fracture on his bowling wrist during the series opener.

The fast bowler was hit on the elbow by a Pat Cummins short ball during India's second innings on Saturday which ended at a record lowest 36 for nine. He was taken to a hospital for scans, which revealed a fracture.

"Mohammed Shami has a fracture and the chances of him taking part in the remaining three Test matches is next to nil," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

He added that Mohammed Siraj, for his impressive show in the two warm-up games, will be in line for a Boxing Day Test debut in Melbourne. With no Virat Kohli available for the next three games, the Indian team is grappling with a lot of issues on multiple fronts.



Shami has been one of India's most lethal weapons and his absence will not only weaken the bowling attack but India will also miss a sound cricket brain on the field.

That Shami will be unavailable was indicative when skipper Kohli, at the post-match presentation ceremony, said that the fast bowler found it difficult to even lift his arm.

"He was in a lot of pain, couldn't even lift his arm. We'll probably know in the evening what happens," Kohli revealed after the visitors succumbed to an eight-wicket loss.