The Indian EXPRESS



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The Indian EXPRESS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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UK EXAMINES MUTATION IN SARS-CoV-2

Concern over new strain: India stops UK flights until Dec 31; labs scramble to crack virus code

Directive after advice from two expert groups; 60 flights may be cancelled

PRANAV MUKUL& **KAUNAIN SHERIFFM** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

AS CONCERN mounted over a new, possibly more transmissible, strain of the novel coronavirus in the United Kingdom. India on Monday announced it was suspending flights from and to that country until the end of the year.

The suspension will come into effect on Wednesday – after 11.59 pm on Tuesday (December 22) – and will be in place until 11.59 pm on December 31.

At least 60 flights between India and the UK during this period are cancelled. Indian carriers on Monday advanced departures to and from London by several hours to ensure they CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

VACCINE CAN TAKE ON ANY MUTATION, SAYS CSIR CHIEF

MORE COUNTRIES BAR UK TRAVEL; NEW STRAIN IN S AFRICA PAGES 9.14

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NEW DELHI,

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 21 AT LEAST three states including Delhi on Monday announced precautions against the new

strain of the novel coronavirus detected in the United Kingdom and some other countries, and to prevent the unchecked transmission of the infection during

The grand old man of

Governor, friend to all

Cong, Treasurer to

Christmas and New Year celebrations. Maharashtra declared a night curfew from 11 pm to 6 am in cities across the state from

Tuesday until January 5. The decision is intended to clamp down large gatherings for on Christmas and New Year, which could lead to a faster spread of the infection. sources said. The state government has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Port of Dover closed as EU countries impose a travel ban from the UK, following the spread of a new Covid strain. Reuters

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

WITH EUROPE witnessing a fresh wave of lockdowns after a new variant of the novel coronavirus surfaced in the United Kingdom, domestic stock markets on Monday witnessed a huge sell-off with the 30-stock benchmark BSE Sensex plummeting 1,407 points

Joining the global rout, the Sensex fell three per cent to 45,533.96, its sharpest slide in seven months, and the NSE Nifty plunged 432 points to 13,328.40. All sectoral indices ended in the negative with PSU banks, media, metals, realty, auto, banks and pharma indices leading the downtrend.

The new variant of the coronavirus in the UK spooked CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Caution is key, details of threat not clear as yet

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 21

THE MOVE to temporarily suspend passenger flight links with the United Kingdom is, as the Union Health Secretary said, in the direction of "enhanced epidemiological surveillance and containment"

The latest threat assessment brief from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control underlines that "viruses constantly

change through mutation and the emergence of a new variant is an expected

occurrence, and not in itself a cause for concern". Information on the severity of the new variant is as yet very limited, and no conclusion has been reached on the reasons behind the increased transmissibility. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED

DECODING THE VIRUS VARIANT

Farm unions to meet on invite for talks, say govt's letter 'time-pass' while reiterating the demand for

the laws to be repealed.

Jamhoori Kisan Sabha gen-

eral secretary Kulwant Singh

Sandhu said representatives of

various unions will meet on

Tuesday to decide their next

step. Asked about the letter,

Sandhu said: "They have just

given a 5-page letter describing

what happened in earlier meet-

leaders who were copied on the Centre's letter that was ad-

dressed to Pal

Sandhu is one of the 39 farm

'The letter indicates that the

government does not want to

ings. This is time-pass factics.'

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA JALANDHAR, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after the government invited farmers' representatives for a new round of talks to break the deadlock with protesters over its agriculture laws, and urged them to choose a date. farm union leaders accused it of wasting time and said they would meet on Tuesday to decide on a response.

Dr Darshan Pal, the president of Krantikari Kisan Union, who received the invitation in the form of a letter from the Union Agriculture Ministry, told The Indian Express that the government is "not sincere" in its efforts. "We have already told the government that no amend-





At Singhu on the Delhi-Haryana border Monday. Abhinav Saha

Suicide bid by 70-yr-old at protest site, says he hopes to open govt eyes

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR & SUKHBIR SIWACH

CHANDIGARH, TARN TARAN, DECEMBER 21

farmer as Niranjan Singh from Bhatal Bhai Ke village, and said he was first admitted to the Civil Hospital in Sonipat and later referred to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Rohtak.

WITH THE protests against the Centre's new farm laws nearing SP (Sonipat) Jashandeep Singh Randhawa told The Indian their fourth week without any

By UNNY CBTQ Hathras UP POLICE For once, the elsency's osses could

Night before DDC counting, several leaders detained in J&K her former political adviser

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR DECEMBER 21

A DAY before the counting of votes for the District Development Council (DDC) tion of three of its senior leaders Monday. While the police were silent on the matter, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti called the action "out and out gunda raj", and said it showed the BJP was trying to "manipulate" the results.



SIMPLY PUT **PAGE 13**

EXPLAINED

Curbs back, night curfew in Sensex plunges 3%, joins Maharashtra into New Year global sell-off in stocks

GOT so much in life. The immense interest to work and I have the interest to work even today." This was what Motilal Vora told Rajya Sabha in his farewell address in March. The grand old man of the Congress party, Vora was that quintessential old school politician who remained fiercely loyal to the Nehru-Gandhi family and party ideology, but also maintained friendships transcending party lines during his over fivedecade-long political career, with his down-to-earth attitude. friendly nature. and wit.

On Monday, Vora passed away of post-Covid complications, a day after celebrating his 93rd birthday.

been twice Chief Minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh in the 1980s, the Governor of politically turbulent Uttar Pradesh in the 1990s when he swore in two governments in two-and-a half years, and an MP since 1998 till his retirement from the Upper House earlier this year. His uncanny instinct for political survival ensured Vora always found himself in a position of power,

In his long career, Vora had

B-Boy Kid Karam the Indian link to newest Olympic sport



Will represent UK in 'Breaking' at the 2024 Paris Olympics

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

IT TOOK three generations of competitive cussedness in a sport-mad family for Karam Singh to become a British national champion. And, as Breaking - a sport where breakdancers, or B-Boy dance-ath-



MOTILAL VORA 1928-2020

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

letes, duel against each other and

are judged on skills - heads to

the 2024 Paris Olympics, rising global star B-Boy Kid Karam, with roots in Punjab, has put

More so, after he represented

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

the UK at 2020's biggest

Breaking event, Red Bull BCOne,

which was held recently in

himself in contention.

NEW WELFARISM: SANITATION TO **STUNTING PAGE 11**

Ex-minister Naeem Akhtar

among those 'detained'

detained were former minister and senior leader Naeem Akhtar, The PDP leaders reportedly Mufti's uncle Sartaj Madni, and

Mufti tweeted, "Every senior police officer here is clueless as it is 'upar say order'. No rule of law in J&K anymore. It is out & out Gunda Rai.'

After reports of Akhtar's detention in the evening, she **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

farmer from Tarn Taran in Punjab allegedly attempted suicide on Monday morning by consuming tablets meant for pest control soon after he had reached the Singhu border to Delhi to join the agitation.

Police have identified the

ess that Singh stable, as of now". A senior police officer said: "The investigation officer has recorded the statement of Niranjan Singh in which he stated that he was disturbed by the condition of farmers at the protests and the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



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2 THE SECOND PAGE

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CLUES TO MANY PRESENT STRIFES IN ASIA

In the 1930s, the British Raj actually stretched from Yemen all the way upto Thailand. It included princely states like Dubai and Oman which were princely states just like Jaipur, Hyderabad and Kashmir.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

FANS BUILD TEMPLE FOR SONU SOOD A temple was built for

Sonu Sood in Telangana on December 20



EXPRESS AUDIO Hyperloop is not in the business of speed

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of Our Own Devices, we speak to Joseph Giegel, co-founder of Virgin Hyperloop, about the company's future, the challenges ahead of it, and what it is like travelling in the Hyperloop pod

FROM PAGE ONE

New curbs

also decided that all international travellers coming from Europe and Middle Eastern countries will be put in mandatory institutional quarantine, while those flying in from other countries will be guarantined at home.

The Delhi government will test all passengers on the three flights from the UK scheduled to land in the capital on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia told The Indian Express: "Over the past two weeks, 4,200 people have come to Delhi from the UK. A list of these people, along with their contact numbers has been prepared. District-level teams will be contacting each person and tests will be done.'

Sources in the Delhi Health Department said samples that test positive would be preserved for 14 days to allow for genome sequencing.

The Karnataka government said on Monday that people coming from the UK, Denmark, and the Netherlands by direct or transit flights must be guarantined for 14 days. Karnataka has also sought passenger manifests for all UK arrivals since December 7.

"Those who have come from the UK in the last 14 days must get RT-PCR tests done and be vigilant. Those who are positive must get genetic analysis done at the NIMHANS lab." Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said Monday

Maharashtra's decision to impose night curfew comes just a day after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said he was not in favour of night curfews or

lockdowns as the situation was

Farmers to meet

Shiv Kumar Kakka, national president, Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh. Kakka said the Samyukta

Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 40 protesting unions, will decide on a response.

Jagmohan Singh Patiala, general secretary, Bharti Kisan Union Ekta (Dakaunda), said there was "no need for such a long letter". "We had already clarified that we will only settle for a repeal of the three laws and the legalisation of MSP for all crops. The Government should focus on this," he said. Baldev Singh Nihalgarh, the

general secretary of Kul Hind Kisan Sabha (Punjab), termed the Centre's letter as "nothing but the insult of farmers in the severe cold". "We will send a letter to the Government and then see whether it will invite us for

talks on our demands," he said. Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan, the general secretary of BKU (Ugrahan), which is the largest farmers' union in Punjab, said they met representatives of the Puniab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (PKMSC)

Monday and decided not to attend any meeting with the Government until it accepts their demands. "But we will honour any decision taken by the 32 unions," he said.

The All India Kisan Coordination Sangharsh Committee (AIKSCC), another umbrella body, sent a letter to the Agriculture Ministry saying that they "never declined to par-

ticipate in the talks". On Sunday, Vivek Aggarwal, joint secretary in the Ministry, sought a date for the next round of talks in the letter, "according now under control. But he had a to your convenience, so that the rethink after a meeting with top matter can be resolved by holding a meeting again" in Delhi.

Singh and some members of the Jamhoori Kisan Sabha, and planned to stay at the protest site for a few days.

Mukhtar Singh (60), who was part of the group, said: "We started from our village in a car on Sunday and reached Delhi at 6 am today. When we reached Singhu, some of us went near the stage. I heard that he attempted suicide when an announcement was made on stage... He said he couldn't bear the pain that the farmers were undergoing. We are shocked." (WITH SOMYA LAKHANI/DELHI)

J&K detentions

posted, "J&K admin is on an arrest spree today. PDPs Nayeem Akhtar too has been abducted by J&K police & is being taken to MLA hostel. Looks like BJP is planning to manipulate DDC results tomorrow & don't want any resistance. Democracy is being murdered in Jammu and Kashmir.'

At around 10.30 pm, Akhtar's daughter Shehrvar Khanum tweeted, "My father... has been detained at this unearthly hour. There was no order or govt instruction shown to us. We don't know the ground of detention or the duration."

Madni's son Aroot Madni said he was picked up from his official residence at Khanbal in Anantnag district. Hussain hails from Anantnag too. Akhtar was reportedly detained from his Srinagar residence.

PTI reported that the authorities took into preventive custody at least 20 political leaders, in several districts of the Valley. Inspector General of Police,

Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, DIG, South Kashmir, Atul Goel and SSP. Anantnag. Sandeep Chaudhary didn't respond to calls and text messages. There was no statement by any central agency on the alleged detentions either. A relative of Madni, who didn't wish to be named, said they had no idea why he was detained and by whom, and that the police were not giving any clear answers. "There are conflicting reports. Sometimes we are being told he has been picked up by a central agency and sometimes we are being told that he is under preventive detention of the police." A senior PDP leader claimed the detentions are aimed at pressuring Mufti. "First, they detained Waheed (ur Rehman Para) and now them. They are picking up people who are close to Mehboobaji, and the message is clear. They want her to withdraw from active politics." In Jammu division, the Poonch police claimed to have foiled a major plan to "disrupt peace" ahead of the DDC results, with the seizure of around 1,800 iron rods, wooden sticks and bats on Monday. Poonch SSP Ramesh Angral said most of the seizures had been made in Mendhar. followed by Surankote tehsil, in the border area, and

India stops UK flights until Dec 31

EXPRESS EXPLAINED

complete flights by the 11.59 pm deadline on Tuesday.

About two dozen other jurisdictions too have suspended passenger air traffic from and to the UK. The Civil Aviation Ministry

took the decision on the basis of a recommendation by the Health Ministry, which noted that the new UK strain of the novel coronavirus is "spreading and growing rapidly".

The Health Ministry's advice was based on inputs from two high-level expert groups the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) headed by the Director-General of Health Services, and the Vaccine Task Force led by the Principal Scientific Advisor

and Member (Health), NITI Aayog - that met to discuss the new UK strain on Monday.

"We have decided to take all necessary precautions as a result of the situation arising out of the spread of a new strain of coronavirus in some countries. All flights originating from UK into India will be suspended temporarily from 22 Dec to 31 Dec 2020," Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri posted on Twitter. Consequently, flights from India to the UK are also suspended during this period.

"It has been reported that a distinct phylogenetic cluster of SARS-CoV-2 (named lineage B.1.1.7) has been detected. This SARS-CoV-2 is spreading and growing rapidly in the United Kingdom. It has also been reported that this variant has an unusually large number of genetic changes, particularly in the spike protein. This development calls for enhanced epidemiological surveillance, enhanced containment and other

measures to effectively tackle this," Health Secretary Rajesh Italy, Bhushan wrote to his counterpart in the Ministry of Civil

India, Bhushan said, has been witnessing "a sustained decline in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases for over two and half months" - "In this scenario, any interjection of a SARS-CoV-2 variant virus through passengers with air travel history could pose critical risks for pandemic man-

Aviation.

agement in India.' Also, "as a measure of abundant caution", Bhushan wrote, "passengers arriving from UK in all intentional flights (flights in transit) should be subjected to mandatory RT PCR tests on arrival at the air-

ports concerned". Positive patients should be sent to institutional quarantine, whereas "those who are found negative... should be advised to isolate themselves at home for seven days, to be medically monitored by states/UT concerned," he said.

Health has asked Civil Aviation to "prominently" display this information in arrival and waiting areas of airports. "State/UT governments are being separately asked to set up help desks at the airports to facilitate this. Adequate arrangements for passengers waiting for their RT PCR test results

may also be made at the airports," Bhushan wrote. Other jurisdictions that

have restricted travel ties with the UK include Canada. Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Kuwait, Iran, Israel, and Hong Kong.

With regular international flights still suspended, India and the UK had entered into an air-bubble arrangement to allow airlines to operate flights between the two countries. Flights are operated by Air India and British Airways, and private carriers Virgin Atlantic and Vistara. Several airlines operate chartered flights as well between India and the UK.

The largest number of connections between the two countries are on the London-Delhi sector, on which the four airlines together operate 21 flights every week. There are 12 flights every week between and London. Mumbai Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Goa, and Amritsar are also connected to London.

As airlines scrambled to meet the flight suspension deadline, Air India brought forward the departure of its Mumbai-London flight by more than five hours from the scheduled time of 7.40 am to 2.30 am on Tuesday.

The flight is expected to land at London Heathrow at 6.20 am local time on Tuesday, and depart for the return leg to Kochi at 8.20 am. It is expected to land in

Kochi at 11.35 pm on Tuesday night, less than a half hour before deadline.

Similarly, Vistara brought forward the departure of its flight to London from Delhi to 4 am on Tuesday, 10 hours before the scheduled time of 2 pm. On the return leg, the flight will leave London Heathrow at 9.55 am local time on Tuesday, and reach Delhi at 11 pm.

Public Health England PHE) said on Sunday that data from whole-genome sequencing, epidemiology, and modelling "suggest" the new variant. 'VUI - 202012/01' (variant under investigation) "transmits more easily than other strains".

The British health authority said they "currently have no evidence" that the variant is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality, "but we continue to study cases to understand this better".

"We know that mortality is a lagging indicator and we will need to continually monitor this over the coming weeks," PHE said

The PHE also said that it does not yet know the "mechanism for this increase in trans-

mission". "The evidence shows that infection rates in geographical areas where this particular strain has been circulating have increased faster than expected, and the modelling evidence has demonstrated that this variant has a higher transmission rate than other variants in current circulation," it said.

India was a famous wrestler in our town. When moving to England, he gave it up because he didn't want to conform to the rules of losing and winning when told to do so over here. I guess this is where my competitiveness comes from," says Karam of his paternal family that moved to Derby in the 1960s looking for work and a new life.

It was his father, though, who injected the dancing bug. "In the 80s, my father participated heavily in the dance of shuffling. He would perform in clubs and go all around the UK competing and challenging other dancers with his friends. Similar to how Breakers used to do it back in the day," he says. His uncle trained children in martial arts after a 4th Dan.

Karam runs, works out in a gym, and swims to improve stamina, agility, speed and power. "My big dope move, which is what I'm known for at times, is a crazy 'Head Spin Drill'," he says. He continues his 5-a-side football once a week, and has played "plenty" of cricket when younger, and hockey, which he claims he was good at.

"My favourite player in history is Sachin Tendulkar, but currently it's Virat Kohli, of course," says the Manchester United devout.

Smitten by breaking dance crew Trinity Warriors, whom he first saw perform head spins at a fun fair in a park at age 7, Karam told his sister that "one day, I'll do those spins". While the crew allowed the underage "Kid" to roll around on stage, his first teacher and mentor B-Boy Foggy told him he was underaged for any of the b-boying wizardry yet. "B-Boy Foggy explained that the classes were for 8-year-olds and up. I waited until my 8th birthday and was at the next class," says Karam. In 2008, Trinity Warriors battled Korean crew T.I.P in the World finals. "In this battle, I came out of a bag on stage and at the time I was the youngest person to ever compete in it," Karam recalls. As he grew up, Karam set his ghts on the UK's ultimate solo title. "To be crowned the British Champ meant everything to me," he says of the 2019 triumph. His Indian roots, though, peek through every now and then. "Some of my top rock moves are influenced by Bhangra steps from family weddings. I really like Bhangra artistes Sidhu Moose Wala and Panjabi MC and carry their energy with me in all of my sets and make videos to their music also! One of my favourite happy songs to dance on is Punjabi MC's Morni," says Karam. It was a trip to India in 2019 though that offered him a different transition than what b-boying in Europe invoked. Flown out to New Delhi to judge and deliver a workshop for the Bharat Jam Competition, Karam experienced a different culture. "For the first time, I was overwhelmed. It was the 'most pure' place and I will cherish the memories forever. I cried on the plane back because I didn't want to come back to the world I live in, over in England," he recalls. Breaking in the Olympics is music to his ears. "As a competitive b-boy, the Olympics provides definition. I love Breaking, so wherever it goes, I will go too. With Breaking being an Olympic sport and me potentially getting to be a part of it, it's a dream come true. I can't wait for it!" he says.

officials.

"Due to the new variant of Covid-19 [in the UK and other countries], we are taking extra precautions," the Chief Minister said. He said since the extent of the danger would be known in the next few days, "high alert should be maintained".

Sources said the night curfew will not impact the supply of essential commodities such as milk and vegetables, and was aimed at stopping large gatherings in hotels, restaurants, and pubs for New Year celebrations.

Maharashtra has so far registered 18.99 lakh Covid-19 cases and 48,801 deaths from the disease. New detections have, however, declined significantly over the last few days; the state registered only 2,834 new cases on Tuesday. It has 59,469 active cases at present.

Details not clear

As such, the restrictions put on non-essential travel to and from the affected country is out of an abundance of caution at an early stage.

Releasing information on the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 on Sunday, Public Health England (PHE) said that while the new strain transmits more easily, "there is no evidence that it is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality".

Nothing, therefore, changes on measures required to be taken to control the spread. "The way to control this virus is the same, whatever the variant. It will not spread if we avoid close contact with others. Wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance from others, and reduce social contacts," PHE said.

Only a detailed scientific analysis will reveal the extent of the problem - which could take a few weeks. COVID-19 Genomics UK (COG-UK), the consortium that flagged the emergence of the new variant, said: "It would take considerable time and effort to test the effect of many thousands of combinations of mutations.'

Suicide bid apathy of the government."

The bid comes five days after a Sikh preacher died after reportedly shooting himself with his revolver at Kundli near the Singhu border.

At Niranjan Singh's village, his family members said they were shocked by the suicide attempt as he had no financial problems and was "a very religious man". Singh is the father of five sons, one of whom died in the early 1990s, and the family owns around 25 acres of land.

Singh's granddaughter Mandeep Kaur said he had called her last night and "enquired about my children". "He didn't sound depressed. I was taken aback when I learnt about his suicide attempt...We are not under debt. There is nothing that

is bothering the family financially or otherwise," she said. Police sources said Singh left a note in Gurmukhi, in which he wrote that he couldn't "tolerate' the plight of farmers and hoped

his act would "open the eyes and ears" of the government. The sources said the letter

starts with a quote from the Gurbani: "Jay jeevai pat lathee jaa-ay, sab haraam jaytaa kichh khaa-ay (Those who merely live shall depart in dishonour; every-

thing they eat is impure)." There is also a line from the poet Muhammad Iqbal:

"Muddaten guzri hai itni, ranj-jo gam sehte huye, sharam si aati hai iss watan ko watan kehte hue (Years have passed enduring this suffering, it's a bit embarrassing to call this our country).

"I have been watching our brothers, sisters, elders and children sitting on railway tracks and roads, without a roof, under rain, storm and fog. It makes me wonder whether we are people of this country. Why are we getting the treatment of slaves?" he wrote.

Niranjan Singh had left for the Singhu border on Sunday with village sarpanch Balbir

three people had been arrested. A dozen people had been injured in clashes in Mendhar during the eighth phase of DDC polls on Saturday.

The results Tuesday will determine the fate of 2,181 candidates across 280 constituencies. The DDC polls are the first electoral process in J&K since the scrapping of its special status. WITH ENS, JAMMU

Vora dead

including as AICC treasurer for 18 years till Ahmed Patel took over from him in 2018. With Patel having passed away just recently after being stricken with Covid-19, it is the second veteran hand the Congress has lost in a short time.

Vora began his political career as an activist of Ram

Sensex plunges 3%, joins global sell-off

markets and stocks witnessed November and now, they were intense selling throughout afnet sellers to the tune of Rs 323 ternoon trade. "While the street was bracing for a correction this week after a sharp up move, the sheer velocity of the fall across broader markets took the bulls by surprise as practically none of the key indices constituents were in the green today," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

The rupee declined 23 paise to settle at 73.79 against the US dollar on Monday following a massive sell-off in domestic equities and strong American currency overseas. However, softening crude prices and persistent foreign fund inflows restricted the rupee's fall, forex dealers said.

While foreign portfolio investors have been net investors – Rs 1.13 lakh crore between

Manohar Lohia's Samyukta Socialist Party, and his electoral career as a municipal councillor from Raipur in the late 1960s. He became an MLA for the first time in 1972, and by 1985 was Madhya Pradesh CM. When he was named the governor of a troubled Punjab in a surprise decision by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Arjun Singh handpicked Vora as his successor, to ensure rivals like Madhavrao Scindia didn't get the prize chair.

While Singh was believed to be pulling the strings of his government, Vora impressed with his quality of winning friends and not rubbing anyone the wrong way. A senior leader remembers how Arjun Singh tried to keep Vora in line. "Digvijaya Singh, who was then the PCC president, would send a delegation to Vora every other day with impossible demands. But Vora was not hassled and used to agree to all ... He was smart and gave no opportunity for a confrontation.

In February 1998, Vora was

crore on Monday, according to provisional data available with stock exchanges. Domestic institutional investors saw a window of opportunity and emerged net buyers of equity worth Rs 486 crore on Monday. Travel restrictions imposed

by several countries to and from the UK have added concerns of yet another lockdown. European market witnessed further selling pressure as the UK and EU failed to reach a trade deal before the decided deadline. Markets are worried about the economy taking a Uturn again if lockdown is imposed and businesses are shut to tackle the new variant.

Among global indices, all major European indices fell between 2.5 per cent and 3.5 per

removed when Arjun Singh made his way back, but got a pobeen the Chairperson and sition in Delhi as Cabinet minis-Managing Director of Associated ter -- he would describe it as "a Journals Ltd, and was a director shift from lake to ocean". In unat Young Indian. Along with der a year, Vora was brought Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Vora back as Madhya Pradesh CM was an accused in the National again after Singh resigned fol-Herald case pending before a lowing some strictures by the Delhi court. Jabalpur High Court.

In 1993, the PV Narasimha Rao government appointed Vora the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, just months after the demolition of the Babri Masjid, and he found himself at the heart of major political tumult, churned up by the Samajwadi Party and BSP. His decision to dissolve the House in 1995 was criticised by both Mulayam Singh Yadav, who hoped to come to power after the Mayawati government was reduced to a minority, as well as the BSP leader.

Vora moved back to active politics and won the 1998 Lok Sabha elections from Rajnandgaon. In 2000, he was appointed AICC treasurer, and held the post till 2018.

cent. At 7:45 IST, while FTSE 100 in the UK was down 2.7 per cent, Dax in Germany and CAC 40 in France fell sharply by 3.1 per cent.

Jaideep Hansraj, MD & CEO, Kotak Securities, said, "The new strain of coronavirus in the UK has led to correction across European markets. Parts of Asia like Hong Kong are also considering measures such as curfews and shutdowns to tame the virus. As we head towards Christmas vacation and calendar year end. FPI flows are expected to moderate which could also be one of the causes of steep correction. Lack of positive news flows has seen Indian market taking a breather. After all, it has been a non-stop rally for the past 50 days which started after US elections.'

Since 2002, Vora had also

While his health had deteri-

orated with age, Vora remained

active -- much more than many

of his party colleagues. He

would be found at his 24, Akbar

Road, office almost every day.

Congress general secretary

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra recalled

that he used to attend every

meeting, even at the age of 92,

and expressed his opinion freely.

Vice President M Venkaiah

Naidu and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi joined Sonia and

'Shri Motilal Vora's demise has

tributes to Vora.

President Ram Nath Kovind

The market was already in an overbought position with huge foreign investment flows pushing up the Sensex to new peaks. The vulnerability of the market was high due to quick gains made in the ongoing rally

eading to low margin of safety. If the new Covid variant spreads across the world, there is a possibility that the market will witness further declines. However, if countries are able to tackle the spread of the pandemic, the markets will bounce back in a few days. "We do not expect a big

correction... but rather a consolidation in the short-term, of not more than 7-10 per cent in the main indices. Buying at dips can be considered as a strategy in the falling market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial services.

> left a huge void that would be difficult to fill." Rahul called him "a true Congressman and a wonderful human being".

Vora is survived by six children, with one of his sons an MLA from Durg, Chhattisgarh.

B-Boy Kid

Salzburg where the world's best eight competed.

Karam, whose father is Indian and mother British, grew up in Derby's rough and multicultural neighbourhood of Normanton. "There being very minimal success stories from my part of the neighbourhood, my achievements led to the award on Derby's Walk of Fame. I am the youngest to receive it," says Karam in an interview conducted over email with The Indian Express

Rahul Gandhi in paying their The recognition comes two generations after his grandfa-Modi talked about Vora's ther, a wrestler from Phagwara, "vast administrative and organhad to quit his beloved sport isational experience". Congress while refusing to compromise president Sonia Gandhi said. on principles.

"My grandfather back in

France has been a second home with most of his wins coming there besides in the UK. It puts Karam alongside Breaking's biggest names -- B-Boys Shigekix of Japan, Bumblebee of Russia and Zeku of the USA -- as a formidable contender.

FORECAST: Dec 22

Moderate to dense

apprehended both the accused." He said the accused con-

fessed they had shot at the

woman in her house when she

refused to marry Karan. "He

came in contact with the victim

through TikTok 10 months ago.

He is married and has two chil-

dren, but he did not tell her. Three

months ago, when she came to

know he was married, she

started ignoring him. Her family,

meanwhile, was looking to get

her married," said a police officer.

want the victim to marry anyone

else, "So, he made a plan to elim-

inate her. He had stolen a bike

from Mohan Garden area and

fixed a fake number plate to it.

He procured a country-made

pistol and ammunition from

Praveen. On Friday, the duo en-

tered the victim's house and

fired at point-blank range with

the intention to kill her, and fled,"

so much time. This is contrary

to the standing order No.

252/2019 issued by the Commissioner of Police," the di-

vision bench of Justices Vipin

Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar

tition filed by Hema, whose fa-

ther Gopal Sethi (60) went miss-

ing on July 7, 2017. A complaint

in this regard was recorded on

December 5, 2017. Despite Sethi

not being traced for months, the

FIR was not registered and no in-

Hema, in her petition, said

The court was hearing a pe-

said in the order.

said the officer.

Police said Karan did not

MIN: 5

2.9°C below

fog in morning

SKYWATCH

MAX: 23

1.6° C above norma

Mainly clear sky.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 **3** THE CITY





Met on TikTok: Man Swathes of solid waste at protest sites, civic fires at woman who workers and ragpickers have their hands full refused to marry him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Very Poor

PM:25

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been woman who refused to marry him. The incident took place on Mohan Garden. Police have arrested the man's friend as well.

tified as Karan, a resident of (22), a resident of Panipat. "On Friday, police received information that a woman has been shot at by a man she had refused to marry," a senior police officer said. juries to her stomach, is undergomet the woman on Tik Tok. He was already married and when the victim found out, she started

DCP(Dwarka)Santosh Kumar

Govla Dairy road, near Shvam Kunj Colony, Goyla village, and

arrested for allegedly firing at a Friday at the woman's home in The accused have been iden-

Haryana's Sonipat, and Praveen The woman, who sustained ining treatment in a hospital. "Karan avoiding him," the officer said.

Meena said: "On Saturday, police got a tip-off and laid a trap at

Shocked by police failure to file FIR in 2017 case: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court has expressed shock over Delhi Police's failure to register an FIR regarding the disappearance of a man despite a complaint being filed

While ordering an FIR in the case, the court transferred the investigation to the Crime Branch and asked the DCP to file a status report before January 7.

Police earlier told the court that the investigating officer who was looking into the matter apparently took the file with him after his transfer, and there is no record available in the police station regarding the status of the complaint.

"We are shocked that no FIR was registered with regard to the father of the petitioner going missing despite passage of





Ragpickers pick bottles and other waste from the Singhu protest site. Abhinav Saha

from these. "We provide these

bags but these get filled really

quickly and then people start

throwing used plates on the road...

I'm not sure who but some peo-

ple come and clear away the bags

remains a visible problem at border, which has been serving a both sites - strewn across roads few hundred people food every day. They have created an enclo-On Monday, Sandeep Singh sure with ropes around their Dhaliwal from Punjab's Moga was cooking and serving area, and hang 3-4 garbage disposal bags supervising a langar at Singhu

Relay hunger strike begins at Singhu site

AT SINGHU AND TIKRI

SUKRITA BARUAH

& ASHNA BUTANI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

the disposal of solid waste.

Every day, thousands of dis-

sewa through serving food in

image of the protest. Also gener-

ated are large quantities of peels.

packets, and other waste from

food preparation. While farmers,

langar organisers, Haryana mu-

nicipal organisers, volunteers

and local ragpickers are involved

in efforts to dispose of the mas-

sive quantities of solid waste, it

and thrown into drains.

WITH TENS of thousands of peo-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A RELAY hunger strike commenced at the Singhu border protest site Monday, with 11 farmer union leaders beginning a 24-hour fast from 9 am.

The relay hunger strike had been announced Sunday with the aim of mounting added pressure on the Centre to repeal the three contested farm laws. The hunger strike will be undertaken by 11 people at a time for a 24hour period each before another group of 11 people takes over.

Among those who began the strike Monday were Jagjit Singh Dallewa, president Kisan Union Bharativa (Sidhupur); Satnam Singh, president, Democratic Kisan Sabha; Avtar Singh, press secre-



Indirapuram's Ramlila Ground, had nine demands that they placed before the Centre – from an increase in MSP to the freedom to sell in mandis or outside. They also demanded that education, medicine and irrigation be free, there should be no age Kisan limit on the use of tractors, timely purchase of farm produce, payment in a week, and no cases for burning stubble. "We support the farmers' bill but with increased MSP," said Amit Singh, treasurer of Hind Mazdoor Kisan Samiti (HMKS) and a resident of Mujhera village in Muzaffarnagar district. He said his association returned as the minister assured them their demands would be met: "There is a myth being spread that MSP would not be there and contract would be done on farmers' land. which is not the case.'



They arrived at Indirapuram Sunday afternoon, met minister Tomar at his office, and left later that night

Kanhaiya Lal, a farmer who took part in the protest, said he came from a village in Mathura where he grows mustard. He

Apart from this, ragpickers who live nearby come and collect plastic bottles." he said. At Tikri border, almost every

group of farmers is equipped

with a broom and a plastic bag. While a few langar organisers have set up dustbins, these are not enough. Sanjeev Kumar (42), a petrol pump sanitation worker, is now tasked with cleaning the area in front of the pump, where many langars have been set up: "Earlier, I would sweep around 5-6 kg of waste to one corner of the petrol pump, till the Nagar Parishad truck came in. Since the protests started, I sweep aside 80-90 kg of waste. Once I have done this, sanitation workers come and do the needful."

Municipal sanitation workers ply through both sides multiple times a day. "We have a 100 square foot trolley-truck in which we collect waste. Our shift is from 8 am to 5 pm and during that time, we go up and down the entire stretch of the protest five times, disposing the waste at a collection centre in Kundli village after each round," said Deepak, the driver of one of two such Kundli Nagar Palika trolley-trucks collecting waste at Singhu border. He admitted this was not enough to keep up with the volume of

truck deals with 400 kg of waste in a day. Another five trucks come in for the night shift.

> could have been greater communication with Deans of Schools about admission processes," they added. The signatories alleged there was "growing dissatisfaction among both teachers and students", and that Deans and Directors did not have any forum where "open discussions" with

In their letter, the signatories have said how UGC/MHRD regulations should be considered as "broad guidelines and not im-

"Our fear is that the latter approach which is increasingly in evidence, will limit and cramp the possibilities of creative, autonomous and engaged intellectual and academic work," they wrote, adding that there were also issued related to pension, leave and career advancement scheme.

Univ V-C: 'Lack of participation'

SHADIPUR

Poor

291

PM: 10

The Sonipat Nagar Nigam has

more waste collection resources

at Singhu border. "Our trolley has

a capacity of about 1.5 tonnes.

and there is another such trollev

operating in this same shift. We

take around 11 rounds of the site

during one shift and dump the

waste at a site close to the bor-

der. Another two trolleys come

in the evening shift, they make

even more rounds. At midnight,

5-6 large trolleys arrive and carry

away this waste to our main

dumping ground in Murthal,'

said Shashi, supervisor of one

Bahadurgarh Nagar Parishad take

rounds of the site. Around 55

workers sweep the waste, pack it

in bags, and load them onto

trucks. Suraj Mal (37), a truck

driver, said he used to take two

rounds of the road earlier, but

now takes five every day: "After

this, we dispose of the waste in a

godown in Bahadurgarh around

They estimated that each

km from the site.'

At Tikri, five trucks from the

team from the Nagar Nigam.

301-400 Very Poor

ARANYA SHANKAR NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

CRACKS HAVE appeared in the Ambedkar University Delhi administration, with 17 officials, including Deans of Schools, Director of Centres and the Presiding Officer of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), writing to the Vice-Chancellor against her manner of functioning, alleging their participation in decision making was at "risk" in her tenure.

Among things in which the Deans and Directors said they should have had more say was this year's admission process, which saw intense protests from students over "scuttling of reservations". AUD had also decided to do away with 100% fee waiver for all reserved category students irrespective of income, but after uproar, decided to stay the deci-

sion for this vear. V-C Anu Lather and PRO Anshu Singh did not respond to calls and texts.

"In the existing meetings with

the Vice-Chancellor, not only is

the agenda not shared prior to the

meeting, but faculty members are

unable to bring their agenda to

the discussion. Also these meet-

ings focus largely on routine/ad-

ministrative matters... Most fac-

ulty do not feel the administration

values their role in the running of

the university. For instance, there "The faculty members of AUD, irrespective of their job tenure and permanency, proudly owned their programmes and provided their best efforts to establish this university. In turn,

they also enjoyed the privilege of the V-C could take place. participating in many decisionmaking processes... We believe this sense of participation is at risk...," they wrote to the V-C on mutable laws".

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in December 2017.

vestigation has been conducted, the court said. she suspects her father's relatives for his disappearance on account of disputes regarding the property left by her grandfa-

ther. During the hearing on December 18, police told the court that a vigilance enquiry is going on into the lapse.



ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21 AROUND 2,000 farmers with over 300 tractors reached Indirapuram from different parts of western Uttar Pradesh Sunday

afternoon and held a rally in support of the Centre's three new farm laws, albeit with some amendments. They returned later that night after meeting

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at his office in the evening and being assured their demands would be looked into.

The farmers, who arrived at



December 16.

tary, Krantikari Kisan Union; and Mukesh Chander, vicepresident, Doaba Sangharsh Committee.

Protest coordinators said that farmer union leaders will meet on Tuesday to decide how to respond to and whether to accept the central government's invitation for a new round of talks.

On Sunday, Vivek Aggarwal, joint secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, had written to Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal – in a letter copied to 39 other farm leaders inviting them for a new round of talks at a date of their choosing.

said he was stopped by police when he came along with others in a tractor and got into a quarrel, but managed to reach Indirapuram. HMKS secretary Satish, while

submitting the memorandum, said the association fully sunports the laws that are in the interest of farmers and will end their exploitation at the hands of middlemen.

"We urge the government to consider some amendments to ensure MSP procurement continues, farmers have freedom to sell their produce within and outside mandis, and contractfarming should be on crops, not farm land," he said.



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The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) for an amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of ime available, to redeem the secured asse

SI.		Name of the		Date of	Amount
No.		Borrower/	property (all the part & parcel of the	Demand	outstanding
	Branch	Guarantor	property consisting of)	Notice	as on the
		(Owner		Date of	date of
		of the		Possession	demand
		property)		Notice	notice
1.	M/s Birbal	Smt. Gauri	All that part and parcel of the land & building in	10.02.2020	₹
	Academy	Rani W/O	the name of Smt. Gauri Rani W/O Shri Birbal Jha	16.12.2020	52,15,246/-
	and	Shri Birbal	area measuring 2041.25 Sq. Ft. Deed No.5016		(Rs. Fifty two
	Publication	Jha	dated 30.06.2000, Volume No.01, Zild No		lac fifteen
	Private		169, Pages-547 to 572, Khata No140, Survey		thousand two
	Limited		Plot No.120(P), Thana No.10, Tauzi No.811,		hundred forty
	Prop.: Shri		Mauza-Bahadurpur, Pargana-Ajimabad, P.S.		six only.)
	Birbal Jha		Sultanganj, Sub & Sadar Registry Office Patna		
	B/o:		City, District-Patna, Bihar, bounded as under		
	Khajpura,		(as per Deed): North-C.S. Plot No.119, South-		
	Patna		10ft Common Road, East-Survey Plot No124		
			Road, West-Smt. Asha Mishra.		
Date	e : 16.12.2020	Ô	Auti	norised Offic	cer
Plac	ce : Patna		Indian Bank (E	rstwhile Alla	ahabad Bank)

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राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय, जयपुर

दीक्षान्त समारोह संबंधी आवश्यक सूचना

राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय का 30 वां दीक्षान्त समारोह दिनांक 08.01.2021 को Virtual Convocation आयोजित होने जा रहा है जिसमें वर्ष 2019 की विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों की परीक्षाओं में सर्वोच्च अंक प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा वर्ष 2019 में प्रथम रथान प्राप्त छात्र / छात्राओं के गोल्ड मेडल दिनांक 08.01.2021 को समय 2.00 बजे से 5.00 बजे तक स्थान सिनेट हॉल, कूलपति सचिवालय, राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय, जयपुर में वितरित किये जायेंगे। जिसकी सूची विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.uniraj.ac.in पर प्रकाशित कर दी गयी है।

गोल्ड मेडल प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थियों के लिए निर्धारित ड्रेस कोड निम्नानसार हैं :—

- (1) पुरूष : सफेद कलर का कुर्ता-पायजामा / पेन्ट-शर्ट / धोती कूर्ता तथा काले जूते।
- (2) महिला : सफेद साडी / सलवार सूट मय विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा निर्धारित मैरून कलर का बार्डर व ब्लाऊज एवं चुन्नी/दुपट्टा एवं काले सेन्डिल / स्लिपर।

इस कार्यक्रम में स्वयं के आने की पूर्व सूचना संलग्न प्रारूप में भरकर कुलसचिव की ई—मेल आई.डी dyregistrardegree@gmail.com पर दिनांक 04.01.2021 तक अवश्य भिजवारे ।

साथ ही, विभिन्न विषयों के पीएच.डी. धारकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 01.08.2019 से 31.07.2020 तक की Ph.D. उपाधियाँ संबंधित विभाग से समय 2.00 बजे से 5.00 बजे तक वितरित की जावेंगी।

इसी प्रकार वर्ष 2019 की विभिन्न पाठयक्रमों की उपाधियाँ मद्रित कर संबंधित महाविद्यालय / परीक्षा केन्द्र वितरित करवा दी गई है। अतः सभी छात्र / छात्राओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 08.01.2021 से सम्बन्धित महाविद्यालय / परीक्षा केन्द्र से अपनी उपाधि प्राप्त कर सकते है। कुलसचिव







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the three policemen lunch at his

house in Deoli, around 14 km

away. He also said he has to col-

lect some documents," a senior

booked a cab for them and they reached the Deoli home. When

the officers were having lunch,

Shokeen escaped. Once the offi-

cers were alerted to this, they

tried to trace him in the vicinity.

When they couldn't, they re-

turned to the hospital.

Afterwards, a call was made to the

local police, and Baghpat officers

said Shokeen had escaped from

disclosed that he first went to meet

his relatives, who were asked to

arrange a car for him. He then left

for Mehandipur Balaji Mandir in

Rajasthan's Dausa district, where

he hid for some months. "He then

shifted to Himachal Pradesh. Six

months ago, he came to Delhi. He

was hiding in Kamruddin Nagar

During questioning, Shokeen

the hospital," an officer said.

"In their investigation, police found that Shokeen's associate

police officer said.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 **4** THE CITY



			Total	Vacant	
TOTAL CASES		ITAL BEDS	18,786	15,945	
6,17,808		ILATORS	1,522	845	
Daily	cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
1,091		1,275	26	83,289	
803		1,669	27	62,440	
9,255*		5,98,249	10,304	78,62,807	
	D8 Daily 1,	Daily cases 1,091 803	HUSPITAL BEDSVENTILATORSDaily casesRecoveries1,0911,2758031,669	HOSPITAL BEDS 18,786 VENTILATORS 1,522 Daily cases Recoveries Deaths 1,091 1,275 26 803 1,669 27	

Can't encroach land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court has said authorities have an obligation to ensure places of worship are not created on public land, while dismissing with cost a petition seeking to restrain DDA from demolishing four temple premises in New Patel Nagar area or forcibly dispossessing their manager from there. The manager of a temple cannot claim the right to remain in possession forever, especially when the land is government land, said the court.

"Such attempts by unscrupulous parties ought to be discouraged in as much as the occupants, under the garb of a place of worship, turn the land into a completely unplanned encroachment by hundreds of people," Justice Prathiba M Singh said in the order, while dismissing the petition by

Bal Bhagwan with cost of Rs 1 lakh. Bhagwan, who claims to be the chela of Late Swami Omkara Nand, in his petition said the four temples have been running since the 1960s and DDA attempted to forcibly take possession. However, the DDA called it an "illegal occupation" and said the land is meant for rehabilitation of Kathputli Colony dwellers and was vested with it by the Ministry of Resettlement and Rehabilitation

in 1982. The land dispute is acting as a hindrance in implementation of the project meant for 3,000 dwellers, DDA said further.

It was also submitted before the court that the land in question

is not more than one and a half acres and the four mandirs are in a very small portion of it, while the remaining part comprises a residence, shops and factories. "The land is used for commercial purposes, not for the purpose of mandirs," the DDA argued in court, adding that huge revenue was being earned by collecting rent from occupants of the commercial shops and residences.

Justice Singh, in the ruling, said the entire area has no sanctioned plan and the plaintiff before court has conceded he has no document of title in respect of the property. The court also said Swami Omkara Nand also did not

have any ownership of the land. "In any case, the manager of the mandir cannot claim the right to remain in possession forever, especially when the land is government land. Even if the said possession is treated as settled possession, the same can only be protected against forceful taking of possession. The person in settled possession cannot question being dispossessed in accor-

dance with law after due process has been followed," the court further said in the order.

AFTER NEW COVID MUTATION under garb of place of worship, says HC in 1982. The land dispute is a cting

ASTHA SAXENA & MALLICA JOSHI NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

WITH A new Covid-19 strain being detected in the United Kingdom, the Delhi government will test all passengers coming to Delhi from the country from Tuesday. While the Ministry of Civil Aviation has suspended all flights connecting India to the UK till December 31, there are three flights scheduled to reach Delhi on Tuesday.

According to Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, the government will also contact all those who arrived from the UK in the past two weeks.

He told The Indian Express, "Over the past two weeks, 4,200 people have come to Delhi from the UK. A list of these people and their contact numbers has been prepared. District-level teams will be contacting each person and tests will be done. Efforts will be made to contain possible spread of the mutated virus. By tomorrow, 400 more people will land via the last flights into the country from UK for now."

On Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal urged the Centre to immediately ban all flights from the UK over the "super-



Covid testing underway in East Delhi, Monday. Amit Mehra

spreader" mutation. "New mutation of coronavirus has emerged in the UK, which is a super-spreader. I urge the central govt to ban all flights from the UK immediately," he tweeted.

A high-level meeting was attended by top health officials to lay down the roadmap for community surveillance and testing of passengers from the UK.

Sources in the state health department said the samples tested positive through RT-PCR will be preserved for 14 days to find out

the genome sequencing of Covid-19. "The samples will then be sent to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) for genome sequencing," said a senior state health department official. Those testing negative will

be isolated for seven days. Officials, meanwhile, said though they will contact all those people who arrived from the UK over the past two weeks, tracing their movements and activities was not very feasible as there is no lockdown anymore.

Faster spread

THE NEW variant, which UK scientists have named "VUI – 202012/01", includes a genetic mutation in the 'spike" protein that the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus uses to infect human cells. According to scientists, these changes, in theory, can lead to a quicker spread of Covid between people.

Delhi recorded the least number of fresh Covid-19 cases - 803 in over four months Monday. Even as daily testing dipped to a little over 62,000 – as is usual on Sundays – the positivity rate remained below 2 percent.

The last time the city recorded fewer than 803 cases was on August 17 when 747 of

14,000 people tested positive. Delhi has been testing an average of around 75,000 people per day over the past month and the positivity rate has been dipping since the beginning of December.

Ex-MLA, on the run for 2 yrs after fleeing custody, arrested

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

DELHI POLICE has arrested former MLA from Mundka Rambeer Shokeen, two years after he escaped from the custody of three Baghpat Police officers. Police said that during questioning, he confessed that he arrived at Safdarjung Hospital, from where he was allegedly taken to his inlaws' house in South Delhi's Deoli before he escaped.

DCP (Southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh confirmed the arrest and said an FIR was registered against him at Safdarjung Enclave police station. Earlier this year, police had filed a chargesheet before a Delhi court against the three policemen, Shokeen and his associate.

Shokeen was arrested in 2016 under MCOCA after he was allegedly found to be involved in criminal activities, including extortion and robberies. On September 26, 2018, Shokeen, uncle of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana, arrived at Safdarjung Hospital following a court order for medical treatment. but the officers escorting him were informed that the doctor was in an

operation and they would have to wait. "His wife Rita Singh was waiting with his associates in two SUVs outside. Shokeen offered

after changing his name," the officer said Police lodged an FIR after a complaint was filed by inspector Kishor Singh Rotela, posted with police line Janpad in Baghpat. Police found the conduct of all the three policemen suspicious as CCTV from the hospital did not corroborate their version of events," the officer said.

Constitution of Yamuna panel 'under process'

SHIVAM PATEL NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A 16-MEMBER River Yamuna Management Committee (RYMC) chaired by Lt-Governor Anil Baijal is "under process" of being set up to restore and manage the river's floodplains in Delhi and to promote activities including eco-tourism.

A draft order prepared by the DDA states that members of the committee will comprise the Delhi chief secretary, DDA vicechairman, Delhi Police chief, commissioners of the three MCDs, CEO of the DJB and a Ministry of Jal Shakti representative, among others. DDA vice-chairman Anurag Jain told The Indian Express that the draft order was "under process" of being notified. The draft states, "The aim of the Committee is to ensure conservation, protection, restoration and rejuvenation of the flood plains of River Yamuna and to promote and secure requisite activities in and along the river, its floodplains and its watershed." The committee is being formed following directions of the NGT to the DDA last year for constituting a 'special purpose vehicle' for rejuvenation of the river. In February, the DDA had told the NGT that it was not possible to set up such an authority. However, the tribunal did not accept this submission.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

KANTA PRASAD (80), who runs the now famous eatery Baba Ka Dhaba in South Delhi, opened a new restaurant in Malviya Nagar on Monday.

Two months ago, YouTuber Gaurav Wasan had shot a video of Prasad and his wife selling food at their small eatery and, with tears in their eyes, talking about the lack of customers due to the pandemic. The video went viral and several people donated money and visited the dhaba.



Prasad's new restaurant in Malviya Nagar also goes by the name of Baba ka Dhaba



called the police when he saw

the group, allegedly armed

with pistols and hurling abuses.

outside his house. The prosecu-

tion told the court that they

were trying to confront his fa-

ther and opened fire indiscrim-

inately, during which Begum

and his father turned hostile and

"completely demolished the

case of the prosecution", the

prosecution witnesses turned

hostile, and when confronted

with their statements made to

the police, "vehemently denied

It also noted that three other

During the trial, both Imran

was shot dead.

court said.

OPEN HOUSE

At Lodhi Garden over the weekend. Abhinav Saha

12-year-old is first dengue death in Delhi this year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy from Old Delhi has been declared the first confirmed case of death due to dengue in the city this year

According to officials, the boy was initially admitted to Kalawati Saran Hospital and later to Holy Family Hospital, where he died on October 27.

A medical board has been set up to look into the cause of death for all dengue cases.

So far this year, the city has seen the fewest number of dengue cases since 2015. While one should die of the disease as there were over 15,000 cases in the overall number of cases was 2015, the count is 1,062 till date very low," a senior Delhi gov-

this year.

While 60 people succumbed to the disease in 2015, the number has progressively decreased

> ince In 2016 and 2017, 10 people each succumbed to the disease, followed by four in 2018 and two in 2019.

ernment official said.

pery

"The government has been running a concerted programme to combat dengue over the past few years. The year 2015 was particularly deadly for the city, following which many more systems have been put in place. This year has been particularly good with very few cases, and one death. This is also unfortunate as we wanted that no

However, a month later, Prasad filed a case against Wasan for allegedly misappropriating funds that were raised to help the couple. Wasan has denied the allegations.

Prasad's new restaurant goes by the same name, Baba Ka Dhaba, and is close to his old eatery in Malviya Nagar.

"I am thankful to all the people who donated money. This restaurant is going to be a bit different. More people can come here, sit and enjoy food. I have hired two chefs now. We will make Indian and Chinese food," Prasad said.

He has rented the place and will start serving customers from Wednesday. He said he's setting up the kitchen for both takeaway and dine-in options.

A month after an FIR was registered on his complaint, Prasad

said he doesn't want to fight with Wasan.

"The case is with the police. They can do what they want. I hold no grudge; I want Wasan to come to my restaurant and try the food," said Prasad.

In November, Baba had alleged that Wasan "deliberately shared his and his family's bank details and collected a huge amount of donation". Wasan has said he returned all the money to Prasad through cheques and online payment. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said police are investigating the matter. "The complainant alleged that the accused misappropriated funds with help of various bank accounts. We are checking all accounts and verifying the allegations."

12 acquitted in 2015 murder, court pulls up police

ANAND MOHAN J NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

PULLING UP police for its "lackadaisical attitude", a Delhi court Monday acquitted 12 men accused of killing a 62-year-old woman while confronting an Aam Aadmi Party polling agent over allegations of bogus votes being cast during the 2015

Assembly elections. The woman, Shugra Begum, was shot in the head when a group of men tried to confront AAP polling agent Haji Yameen in Nehru Vihar on February 7, 2015. Yameen's son Imran

having made any such statement to the IO (investigating officer)". Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav, in his judgment, also pulled up the IO, inspector Sanwar Mal, over a delay in preparing seizure reports.

Mal had deposited three exhibits at the Malkhana, but the third exhibit, a sealed bottle containing a bullet, was deposited by the IO without preparing a seizure report, "surprisingly for reasons best known to him", the court said.

Further, an assistant sub-inspector, Umesh Singh, had testified in court that he did not remember the recovery of any

"I find substance in the submissions of defence counsel that in view of the deposition of ASI Umesh Singh, it is crystal clear that inspector Mal did not conduct any proceedings on 19.02.2015 at the mortuary of GTB Hospital and manipulated the date of seizure... with the sole motive of replacing/changing the actual recovered bullet from the forehead of the deceased with another bullet after firing the same with a pistol, and later

on planted the said bullet and pistol upon accused Rajesh," the court said.

It observed, "As if this was not

enough, the lackadaisical attitude of IO further pulled down the curtains for the already slipprosecution case. Admittedly, the IO did not send the seized DVR, CD containing CCTV footage and the audio CD containing the alleged conversation between accused Zakir and prosecution witness Sher Khan Malik to FSL for examination; he even did not take the voice sample(s) of Zakir and... Malik. This is a material lapse on the part of the investigating agency as it had

SIX-YEAR PROJECT Behind Rahim's tomb restoration -1,75,000 hours and 3,000 craftsmen

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

FIVE DECADES before the Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan, it was Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan - commander-in-chief of Akbar's army, and a poet who built a tomb in Delhi in memory of his wife Mah Banu. It was the first Mughal tomb built for a woman. After his death in 1627, Rahim was also buried beside his wife, just like Shah Jahan was in the Tai

As Rahim Khan's tomb was opened to the public earlier this week after six years of restoration work - perhaps the largest conservation project ever undertaken for any monument of national importance in India – comparisons with the Taj as one set foot inside were inevitable. While the latter attained glory

and became the most sought-af-

ter monument in the country, Rahim's tomb, which inspired the architecture of the Taj, stood alone and faded from public memory.

But in its state of shambles, it carries another piece of historical trivia. The monument came to be used as a quarry in the 18th-19th Centuries – stones from here were plundered to construct monuments elsewhere in the city, such as the Safdarjung Tomb – leaving the structure at a risk of collapse. In fact, in the 1920s, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) provided masonry support to overhanging sandstone blocks on the facade, saving the structure

from collapsing on itself. In 2014, the InterGlobe Foundation came on board with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) to support the "conservation of Rahim's mausoleum" Intense discussions with the ASI



Rahim's tomb before (left) and after restoration. The restoration work began in 2014. Photos: AKTC

led to the approval of a final conservation plan. "The monument was at risk of immediate collapse at the time," said Ratish Nanda, CEO of AKTC.

The physical revival included repairs to major damaged struc-

tures in the interior and exterior of the mausoleum, its canopies, dome and facade. The landscape around Rahim's tomb has also been restored to its original slopes and height. "It was clear from the onset that conservation work will

be coupled with research, publications, festivals on Rahim's cultural legacy. So, a team was established to research Rahim's cultural legacy - his poetry, writings, association with Bhakti poets and, of course, his prowess

with the sword," said Nanda.

Over 3,000 individual craftsmen, including stone carvers, masons and lime plasterers, are estimated to have spent 1.75 lakh hours on this massive conservation effort.

New Delhi

But Nanda says supervision is critical in conservation work, and at Rahim's mausoleum, it was even more critical as the intricate ornamentation needed to be restored and the condition of the building required complex underpinning of foundations and stitching of cracks.

failed to prove an important con-

necting link in the chain of

events which are required to be

proved by the prosecution..."

The six years that followed were part obstacles, part discoveries. Even as AKTC wanted to cover the entire dome with marble and restore it to its original glory, the ASI allowed only partial marble cladding. The 11-member ASI core committee, chaired by then Additional Director General BR Mani, had mandated that only 10 per cent of the dome could be covered with marble, while the rest had to be left as it is. Said Mani, "If the entire dome is covered with marble now, it may amount to retouching history."

The journey also shed more

two patterns or medallions were alike. Just like his dohas, even on the mausoleum, he used Hindu motifs - demonstrating his significant understanding of Hinduism. "Rahim's persona as a hydraulic engineer – he had built the water supply system in Burhanpur – was demonstrated here as well, when we discovered a fountain that lifted water over 20 feet high (from the pool on the sandstone terrace of the mausoleum)," said Nanda. Also, texts revealed that the

light on Rahim's personality - no

enclosed garden in which the mausoleum stood stretched all the way to the Humayun's Tomb complex, which is now lost forever. Till now, the monument lacked a dignified entrance, which has now been moved along Mathura Road, to encourage more visitors. The entry ticket has been fixed at Rs 40 by ASI.









EXPRESS NETWORK

500 farmers head to Delhi from Nashik in parallel to 2018 march

MOHAMED THAVER NASHIK, DECEMBER 21

OVER 500 farmers, some of them participants of the 2018 farmers' march to Mumbai, crammed into 70-odd vehicles and embarked on a 1,260-km road journey from Nashik to Delhi to join the protesting farmers.

While the congregation was not as impressive as the one in 2018, the All India Kisan Sabha. which organised both the marches, said that they expected the numbers to swell as various contingents were expected to join the march on the way.

The farmers are protesting the three farm laws introduced by the central government. At least five rounds of formal talks have been held between the Centre and 40 farmer unions to break the deadlock, but the unions are demanding complete rollback of these laws.

"In terms of sheer numbers this may not be a large crowd but it is just the starting point. As we stop at various places in the state before reaching Delhi, we will at least have 5,000 farmers. The 2018 march too started small," Dr Ajit Nawale, state secretary of AIKS, told The Indian Express.



The farmers expect numbers to swell as various contingents may join the march on the way. Deepak Joshi

The 2018 march had seen mobilisation of around 30,000 farmers who gheraoed Vidhan Bhavan seeking among other demands implementation of the loan waiver scheme of 2017. The peaceful march had been praised for the manner in which it was carried. "This time round, it is Delhi instead of Mumbai. but we are optimistic the impact will

be the same," Nawale added. Several of those gathered at the ground on Monday had also participated in the long march. On the decision to drive down to Delhi, Nawale said,

"Walking all the way to Delhi is not an option and we would have preferred taking trains. However, due to lockdown measures, the only option we had was using vehicles."

Ram Nikam, a farmer affiliated to Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), sitting in a bus that was part of the rally, said, "Till the time we get assurances in writing we will find it difficult to believe the central government. In the past PM Narendra

Modi had promised Rs 15 lakh in every account. We all know what happened.'

fied Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of Rs 3,100 per quintal. Bhairavnath B Thombare, president of the West Indian Sugar Mills Association, the apex body representing private sugar millers in the state, said mills are resorting to distress sales due to the large dues they owe to farmers. Thombare, whose group Natura Sugar and Allied Industries Limited, runs two sugar mills, said traders were refusing to bid for sugar at Rs 3,100 per quintal.

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

AMID THE continuing low de-

mand for sugar, mills in

Maharashtra have started reporting distress sales two months

into the sugarcane crushing sea-

son of 2020-21, with some sell-

ing below the government noti-

PUNE, DECEMBER 21

"In December, of the 5,000 tonnes combined sales quota given to our two units. we managed to barely sell around 1,000 tonnes. Tenders with base price of Rs 3,100 per quintal evoked no response," he said.

While mills that sell sugar below MSP are liable for action, industry insiders said almost all the mills in Solapur district and many in Ahmednagar and Marathwada regions are doing so. "The excess sugar is not



Farmers say government's export scheme came too late. File

shown in production books and is again resold in the markets at below Rs 3,100," an insider said. As of December 15, mills in

Maharashtra had arrears amounting to Rs 1,979.56 crore, for 186.71 lakh tonnes of cane purchased at the governmentdeclared FRP of Rs 2,850 per tonne. Sugar commissioners have warned mills of action if they fail to clear the dues on time.

Earlier this month, the Centre announced a Rs 3,500 crore subsidy programme to help mills export 60 lakh tonnes of sugar, with domestic demand still to recover from the lockdown shock. Millers in Maharashtra point

out the government export announcement came two months



Sugar demand still low, dues pending,

sugar miller from Kolhapur said. Millers say the government should heed their old demand of increasing the MSP to Rs 3,500 per quintal. "That would allow mills to get more money to clear their dues as banks would increase their lending amount accordingly," Madhavrao Ghadge. Chairman and Managing Director of Kolhapur-based Shree

Gurudatt Sugars Limited, said. FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

Bumper bajra crop: BJP vs Cong on MSP in Rajasthan to data on the government web

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, DECEMBER 21

AMID PROTESTS against the three farm laws introduced by the Centre, a crisis is brewing in Rajasthan over bajra, with farmers getting rates far below the minimum support price (MSP) in the state

BJP MLA and Rajasthan Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore tweeted on Monday that he has written to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot demanding government procurement of bajra at MSP.

However, Naveen Jain, Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, said that at present there is no plan of procuring bajra. Rajasthan procures agricul-

tural commodities such as mustard, moong, groundnut etc at MSP, apart from wheat, which is procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the state government.

For the Kharif 2020-21 season, the Central government has fixed the MSP of baira at Rs 2.150 per guintal. However, according

imum price for bajra between December 18 and 19 was Rs 1,300 at the Khairthal agricultural mandi in Alwar. Farmer leaders say as a result, farmers from areas such as

site agmarknet.gov.in, the max-

Khairthal are trying to sell their baira in neigbouring Harvana, where government procurement is taking place at MSP. Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar recently said he would not allow Rajasthan

farmers to sell bajra in the state. Raiasthan Education Minister and state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasara told The Indian Express on Monday, "When the new farm laws talk about one nation one market, then how can you say that you won't buy a particular

commodity? If they are saying that the new farm Bills are for the benefit of farmers, then why aren't they letting the farmers avail the benefit?' On Rathore's letter demand-

ing bajra procurement, Dotasara asked why the BJP hadn't done so during its time in power.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

In a first, 2 Punjab farm unions hold joint media briefings, speak from one stage

RAAKHI JAGGA LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 21

FOR THE first time since the farmers' stir began, the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee(KMSC) have started holding press conferences together every alternate day. Moreover, speakers of both unions have also started speaking on each other's stages --which are around 30 km apart.

border while on Sunday, Both unions are based in Joginder Singh Ugrahan, presi-Punjab. BKU (Ugrahan) has a dent BKU (Ugrahan), had spoken from the stage of KMSC at Kundli large base in Malwa region while KMSC is more active in Majha border. Though in Punjab, both Punjab. Their protest stages will unions had earlier also organised stay separate as before, but the

evening media briefing will be done jointly.

sued a joint press statement.

stage of BKU (Ugrahan) at Tikri

address the media or issued joint The first such joint press constatements. Their state-level ofference took place on December fice-bearers have never spoken 18. On Monday, no press confer-

from each other's stages. ence was organised, but Joginder Satnam Singh Pannu, president of KMSC, said, "Yes, such an Singh Ugrahan, president of BKU (Ugrahan) and Satnam Singh exercise to talk with media on a Pannu, president of KMSC, iscommon platform is being done for the first time, but it is being On Saturday, Sarwan Singh done for better coordination Pandher, general secretary, over a common issue which are KMSC, had spoken from the

they have never sat together to

farm laws. Meanwhile, the rest of the 32 farm unions of Punjab organise their common press conference with union leaders of other states under the banner of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) Ugrahan group and KMSC

are not part of SKM so far. many programmes jointly, but

'By proposing amendments, Centre proved laws have flaws'

JOGINDER SINGH UGRAHAN, chief of the Bharati Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), speaks to RAAKHI JAGGA on farm laws, human rights and farm suicides.

What do you think of the amendments proposed by the Centre government in the three farm laws?

We have rejected their proposals and amendments. Earlier, they were saying that farm laws are for farmers' welfare but later they were ready to insert amendments. By proposing amendments, they have proved that their laws have flaws. Any

law, which has so many flaws, needs to be scrapped...

When you had started from Punjab, what was on your mind?

We had come with a clear mind that this struggle will last long. That's why we came after stocking up on ration to last us the season. Our workers keep coming in turns at the protest site and on any given day not less than 50,000 of them remain present at the Tikri border apart from at over 50 protest sites in Punjab. However we are thank-

Your union stirred up a ful to the overwhelming recontroversy when you organised a protest seeking release of the jailed human rights activists. The other 32 farmers' organisations of Punjab said the protest has harmed the ongoing struggle.

Talking about democratic rights is not a crime and we will continue to seek our rights in future as well. We heard words like "urban Naxals", "agents of Congress", "favouring Pakistan and their PM Imran Khan" ... These things have no meaning. Talking about human rights is not a crime

In the Supreme Court's writ petition, your outfit is not a party. Will you become a party in this petition over farm laws in future? We have not decided any-

thing as of now. We will discuss the issue with union members and also with the rest of the farmer unions who are also fighting for the same cause.

Your reaction to the fresh letter by the Centre for another meeting?

That letter talks about the same old amendments proposed by the Centre in farm laws.

ADVERTORIAL

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY

Dr. R.D. Sharma has written Mathematics books from Class VI to XII, Objective Mathematics for JEE, Mains & Advance and other Engineering Entrance Examinations, Engineering Mathematics for Engineering Students.

confidence of students.

Additionally it is also important to

focus on MCQs, Fill in the Blanks

and very short answer questions.

All of these together form a very

exhaustive, sufficient and

carefully curated content that

can prepare the student to excel

5. And, how should JEE aspirants

It is very important to have a clear

understanding of all concepts

which are being taught in class 11

& 12, they form the basis of JEE

preparation. Therefore it is

important to practice from books

specifically designed for JEE

Mains and Advanced. So, from

the very onset, my goal was to

reduce that chaos and swiftly

lead a student from 11th standard

all the way to JEE exams and

hence I wrote books that cater to

Specifically talking about JEE, my

books on JEE Mains and Advance

cater to the exam pattern

thoroughly with theory and

illustrated and solved MCQ

examples, and exercises. So, in

my view, my books provide

enough material for a student to

each milestone.

prepare and excel.

in CBSE board exams.

prepare?



Joginder Singh Ugrahan

sponse from Haryana farmers

who are supplying the protest-

ers with hot meals and milk.

1. Your textbooks are greatly sought after by students from high school to engineering courses. What prompted you to write textbooks?

I have been fortunate to have great teachers throughout my student life, my teachers have played a pivotal role in kindling my desire to become a teacher and subsequently an author. I have always aspired to deliver the same positive impact on my students which my teachers had on me. While a teacher can deliver personally only within the confines of a classroom, a book has a much wider reach. I always felt that I could explain the concepts of Mathematics with an algorithmic approach through the medium of a book. As a teacher I felt that I can deliver the subject and contribute to the lives of many students which inspired me to writing textbooks.

2. What made you so passionate about mathematics in the first place?

My father and my teachers were the main influencers who encouraged my interest in Mathematics. Although my father did not have any formal

education, he was very good with numbers. I remember that he would make me memorise multiplication tables every night before I would fall asleep. I believe, memorising multiples upto 20 by heart is crucial to overcome the fear and generate confidence in Mathematics at a very early age.

3. Ideally, how should a expertise. mathematics textbook is designed? Is there anything lacking in the CBSE/NCERT textbooks that are taught from in schools.

In my view, basic fundamentals and concepts form the most important part of any book, especially for Mathematics, it is very important to present the theory in a very lucid and graded manner. It is important that the students learn to follow the algorithmic approach of

Mathematics. This helps the students to gradually and logically build understanding and knowledge.

Practice is the second most important part of understanding the application of the concepts; a book should have a good number of illustrative examples alongside theory on key concepts so that students can hone their understanding. Practice makes a student perfect, so a large collection of problem helps students to practice and build

4. How should one prepare for **CBSE** board exams?

I believe that it is very important to have a clear understanding of the concepts and practice as per the graded levels through the illustrated/solved examples, students are advised to practice illustrated examples and then practice from the exercise. My books for CBSE board exams are specially designed to develop deep insight into the subject for which concepts have been illustrated through carefully crafted illustrations with increasing difficulty level. It not only helps in understanding the subject but also boosts the

THE MAN BEHIND THE MATHS

Importance of books during online-teaching

Online education has been a very big challenge for teachers and students alike. In such times, a good book can immensely help a teacher to guide the students step by step to follow the theory and make them practice graded illustrative/solved examples and exercises. For a student, a good book is like a personal teacher which encourages self-study and fills up the void of class notes.

6. You have often stressed the importance of mathematics teaching being made interactive. How would a teacher introducing a quadratic equation, for example, teach the concept in an interactive way?

Mathematics is not as dry as a lot of people perceive it to be. In fact, each field of mathematics came into being because someone was trying to solve a problem that couldn't be solved using already known concepts. Newton evolved calculus because he realised that he couldn't solve gravitational field theory that could predict the motion of all planets with existing mathematical concepts. Teaching Mathematics can be made really interesting by first

introducing the genesis of the many more. I believe a solid concept or branch of foundation in Calculus equips a mathematics and secondly by student with a very indispensable including examples from real life applications. To give a few examples: Concepts such as 8. December 22 is National permutations and combinations can be made really interesting to Srinivasa Ramanujan. How learn by relating to playing card Understanding and learning Aryabhata and Brahmagupta, as intuitive by showing variations in study mathematics? graphs.

7. From class VI to engineering mathematics, you cover a wide range. Is there a particular topic or aspect that you enjoy most, and why?

My favourite topic is Calculus, it is

one field of mathematics which finds its use in almost every discipline that a student might choose to pursue after 12th grade. Calculus finds application is solving really complex areas across a variety of fields such as all branches of engineering, for space flights programming, Medical Science for studying the growth of micro-organisms, Architecture for assessing load distribution, Economics for projecting demand and supply under complex scenarios and

tool for success in future.

Mathematics Day, honouring relevant is Ramanujan, and the games and game of chess etc. ancient greats such as concepts in Quadratic equations mathematicians who could can be made really easy and inspire students of today to

Absolutely, they are relevant and revered and remain so. Talking specifically about Ramanujan, work done by him is being used in study of string theory and black teaching/writing about the holes which still remains enigmatic. It's unbelievable that mock-theta function that Ramanujan had come up with in 1920 is relevant and relied upon even a century down the line to solve most complex of theories in Physics.





PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD.

22, Ansari Road, Daryaganj New Delhi-110002 E-Mail: ish.dhanpat@gmail.com

Dr. R.D. Sharma was born in a small village in Rajasthan, his father was a farmer and he did his primary and middle school education in a small school in a nearby village, for secondary education he went to a school 20Km from his native village. He did B.Sc (Hons) in Mathematics from RR College, Alwar and secured a First Class First in 1979. He did his M.Sc and secured First Class First in 1981 and Phd from Department of Mathematics, University of Rajasthan, at Jaipur.



Priyanka call to Azad broke

ice, brought

Congress and brought the core

team of the group of 23 leaders,

who had been demanding

sweeping reforms within the

party, and Congress president

Sonia Gandhi along with other

senior leaders to a discussion table

Priyanka had been in touch with

one of the letter-writers for some

time. She was said to be exploring

the possibilities of a reconciliation,

underlining that a fractured party

cannot take on the ruling BJP. The

23 leaders, too, were keen to have

a dialogue but the blowback they

had suffered after the August letter

had left them with little option but

more was the "name calling" and

lack of effort from the leadership

to understand their point of view.

Congress Working Committee,

held on November 27 to pay trib-

utes to late stalwarts Ahmed Patel

and Tarun Gogoi, turned out to be the window both the sides were

looking for. Although virtually, the

meeting was the first time Azad

and leaders like Anand Sharma

came face to face with the other

leaders. And that meeting saw many leaders making an impas-

sioned plea for unity in the party.

Priyanka, at that meeting, favoured

But a virtual meeting of the

What had infuriated them

to harden their position.

Sources said an emissary of

to defuse the tension.

Sonia and

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Garbage of lies: Mamata on Shah's 'Bengal is zero in industry' charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after Amit Shah accused the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal of blocking Central government schemes and stymying the state's development, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday accused the Union Home Minister of lying while criticising the state's level of development. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader described the minister's figures on Bengal's various development parameters as "garbage of lies" and labelled the BJP a "cheatingbaaz party", alleging that "for politics, they can do anything".

On Sunday, the Home Minister had said Banerjee's time was up in Bengal, "which has witnessed infiltration and corruption under the TMC rule". At a press conference in Birbhum, Shah said Bengal was once among the better-performing states, but now it was doing poorly on almost every indicator, be it GDP or per capita income

"He [Amit Shah] claimed our state is 'zero' in industry, but we are number one in the MSME sector. He claimed we couldn't build rural roads but we are number one in that. This is Government of India's information." Baneriee said.

Responding to the allegation that she was blocking Central schemes, the chief minister said she had written another letter to Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar about the

implementation of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. She has agreed to implement the PM-Kisan and Ayushman Bharat schemes only if the Central funds are routed through the state government.

"You may kindly recall my letter dated September 9, 2020, regarding the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme launched by the Central government. The decision of the Central government on implementation of the scheme in West Bengal and transferring the requisite fund to the state government for onward distribution to the farmers through the state government machinery is still awaited," read the letter.

She added, "The state government is already implementing a scheme of direct fund transfer to the farmers, including the sharecroppers with death benefit scheme, as had been enumerated in my letter under reference. More than 73 lakh farmers are to be benefited under this scheme. I once again request you to kindly arrange to transfer the requisite fund to the state government, for onward disbursement with full responsibility to the farmer-beneficiaries of the state through state government machinery."

Taking umbrage at Amit Shah's remark that the government would think about implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act after a vaccine is found and people are inoculated, Banerjee reiterated the TMC's opposition to the amended citizenship law.



Saumitra Khan; Sujata Mondal Khan

Wife joins TMC, BJP MP to 'seek divorce'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

BJP MP Saumitra Khan's wife Sujata Mondal Khan joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Monday, following which the BJP leader said he would send her a divorce notice. The Bishnupur MP broke down in tears during the press meeting that was called minutes after his wife joined the ruling party.

Sujata was a member of the saffron party but did not hold any post. She had campaigned for her husband before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when he was barred by a court from entering Bankura. After joining the TMC in presence of MP Saugata Roy and spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, Sujata said she was unhappy with the BJP for not giving due recognition to leaders



TMC, she added. The MP's wife said she was "feeling liberated by joining the TMC". "I love challenges and do not want to work for a party that has no face for Assembly elections. I want to work for 'Didi [Mamata Banerjee]' who for me is today's Jhansi ki Rani.'

Terming the decision a "big mistake", the BJP MP said, "The BJP has given me enough recognition. I am obliged that you have campaigned for me in the past, but it is also true that I would not have won the seat without the BIP's name."

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leader added, "A 10-year relationship has ended because of politics. I will now work harder for the BJP. I will work till my last to kick the TMC out of Bengal."

BSY rules out merger, Kumaraswamy says 'issue-based support'

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE BENGALURU, DECEMBER 21

AMID SPECULATION that the opposition JD(S) could merge with the ruling BJP in Karnataka, leaders of both parties - H D Kumaraswamy and Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa – on Monday said there is no question of such a move. Former CM

letter-writers **Kishor: BJP** to talks table will struggle **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21 to cross IT WAS a call from Priyanka double digits Gandhi Vadra to Ghulam Nabi Azad which broke the ice in the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

THE TRINAMOOI Congress' (TMC) election strategist Prashant Kishor on Monday claimed the BJP would not cross double digits in the West Bengal Assembly polls.

"For all the hype amplified by a section of supportive media, in reality BJP will struggle to cross double digits in West Bengal," he tweeted, adding, "Please save this tweet and if BJP does any better I must quit this space!"

Several TMC leaders, including former state minister Suvendu Adhikari and five other MLAs. joined the BJP in Union Home Minister Amit Shah's presence at an event in Medinipur on Saturday. Shah had asserted that his party would win over 200 seats in the upcoming polls.

Kishor, who managed Narendra Modi's successful campaign for prime ministership in 2014, has been roped in by TMC chairperson Mamata Baneriee to boost her party's prospects.

BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya took a swipe at Kishor, saying the country will end up losing a poll strategist after the elections.



broached the idea of a conclave. He met the core team of the letter writers too and finally the dates for the meeting were decided. "It was she who broke the ice

At the end of the day, we are all Congressmen. And none of us want the issues to prolong. All of us know that the only way forward for the remain united and fight the BJP together but there had to be a beginning somewhere," one of the letter writers said.



NO FLIGHT, NO RISK

tion parties taking shape without them.

OTHERS IN A SPOT

WHILE CONGRESS chief ministers such as Bhupesh Baghel,

Amarinder Singh and Ashok Gehlot have come out in support

of their West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee in her fight

against the Centre over the transfer of police officers, her re-

ported plans to hold a rally inviting the likes of NCP chief

Sharad Pawar and DMK leader MK Stalin will put the party in

a quandary. The Congress is set to take on the Trinamool

Congress in West Bengal Assembly elections next year along

with the Left parties. While the Congress attacks the Centre

regularly over federalism, Banerjee is signaling that she will

use it as an issue in the Assembly polls. It is to be seen whether

Banerjee would reach out to the Congress, and how the

Congress responds, if she does. The CPI(M), a votary of feder-

alism, is also maintaining a studied silence. The Congress and the Left would also not like an anti-BJP grouping of opposi-

AS THE new mutant strain of the novel coronavirus in the United Kingdom has triggered concern and prompted India to stop flights from the UK for the moment, questions are being raised about the prospect of British PM Boris Johnson's visit to India next month for the Republic Day celebrations as chief guest. But the UK's minister of state in the Foreign Office, Tariq Ahmad, tweeted on Monday about British Foreign Secretary (equivalent to Foreign minister) Dominic Raab's visit last week. He also stated, "An important trip laying the groundwork for Johnson's visit next month. Raab is absolutely right - we want an even stronger relationship with India, as part of our work in the Indo-Pacific region." He quote-tweeted Raab's video, in which he spoke about his India visit.

VEDAS IN SCIENCE

THE INDIA International Science Festival, starting Wednesday, includes, among others, sessions on Indian history to be able to incorporate lectures on scientific and technological advances made in ancient India during the Vedic times. This is the first time that the science festival, which primarily centres around science subjects, would include such subjects.

Boeing: Super Hornet clears ski-jump test, suitable for Navy carrier





BS Yediyurappa, **HD** Kumaraswamy





THE BJP is keen to win the

support of the JD(S) to gain

control of the Karnataka

Legislative Council where

the Congress-JD(S) com-

bine has been effective in

blocking some new legis-

lation in the labor and agri-

culture sectors. The saffron

party also needs support

in the Council to pass a

new law to ban all forms of

cattle slaughter in the

state. Moreover, the sup-

port bases of the JD(S) and

the BJP lie in two distinct

regions of Karnataka – the

[D(S) has a base among the

dominant Vokkaliga com-

munity in southern

Karnataka and the BJP in

the Lingayat community,

dominant in north

Karnataka. Talk of a

merger comes at a time

when the BJP has been

making inroads into JD(S)

Chandauli, Shravasti, Siddharth-

nagar, Balrampur and Chitrakoot.

Higher Education Maneka S Garg

said in these districts. many stu-

dents do not have smartphones or

other e-learning devices and lack

internet connectivity. Pre-loaded

study material will do away with

the need for internet connectivity.

ernment plans to provide eight to

nine tablets to the library of each

of these colleges. As per the spec-

ifications. each tablet will have 10-

inch screen and high resolution.

The UP Higher Education

Under the scheme, the gov-

Additional Chief Secretary of

territory.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

AMERICAN AIRCRAFT giant Boeing Monday said that its F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet has successfully performed the skijump, making it suitable for the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier. "F/A-18 Block III Super Hornet will of-

fer the Indian Navy advanced warfighter technologies, superior economics and enhance naval aviation cooperation with the US Navy," it said.

"Boeing and the US Navy proved recently that the F/A-18 Super Hornet can operate from a 'ski jump' ramp, demonstrating the aircraft's suitability for India's aircraft carriers," it said in a statement. "The demonstrations. held at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD. show that the Super Hornet would do well with the Indian Navy's Short Take-off but Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) system and validate earlier simulation studies by Boeing."

"As part of Boeing's proposed 'By India, for India' sustainment program, the Block III Super Hornets can be serviced in partnership with the Indian Navy as well as India and US based part-



The demonstrations show the Super Hornet will do well with the Navy's STOBAR system, Boeing said in a statement, Twitter/Boeing in

ners throughout the lifecycle of the aircraft," Boeing said.

"The first successful and safe launch of the F/A-18 Super Hornet from a ski-jump begins the validation process to operate effectively from Indian Navy aircraft carriers," Ankur Kanaglekar, Head India Fighters Sales, Boeing Monday. Defense, Space and Security said.

Boeing is offering the F/A-18Super Hornet in single seater (E-Variant) and two-seater variant (F-Variant) to the Navy. Kanaglekar said that it will act as a force multiplier for the Navy as "it can interface with (Navy's)P-8I aircraft and other US origin assets".

PAYING TRIBUTE

Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi pay their condolences to the family of party veteran Motilal Vora, who died at a hospital in Delhi on Monday. Anil Sharma

Russia envoy: S-400 deal advancing... don't recognise unilateral sanctions

Russian ambassador Nikolay **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** Kudashev appeared to criticise the NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21 US sanctions on Turkey for procuring the S-400 missile sys-THE IMPLEMENTATION of the tems under a USD 2.5 billion deal. ongoing Russia-India defence saying Moscow does not recogdeals, including the supply of a nise such unilateral actions.

batch of S-400 missile systems, "We do not recognise or welis advancing well despite the come unilateral sanctions as a threat of US sanctions, the language or tool or instrument Russian embassy in Delhi said on of interstate or international relations, other than those applied The Russian embassy also by the UN Security Council. This said that India should not be is also the case of Turkey," he worried about its relationship said. "India's position is also cryswith Pakistan but noted that tal clear.' Moscow is committed to de-

"If relevant decisions to start works related to Ka-226 helicopters and AK-203 rifles production are expedited, soon we will see good progress," he said.

On Russia-Pakistan ties, Russian Deputy Chief of the mission Roman Babushkin said Moscow's ties with Islamabad are "independent" in nature and that his government is mindful of respecting sensitivities of other countries. "We do not think India should be worried." he said at the briefing when asked about

Russia's military drills with Pakistan as well as trade cooperation. Kudashev, replying to a question at a media briefing on China's growing belligerence in the Indo-Pacific, said Moscow would welcome enhanced dia-

logue between New Delhi and

Beijing.

dicate that his party is willing to extend "issue-based support" to the BJP.

Speculation of a merger arose following meetings between the two leaders amid reports of unhappiness among JD(S) ranks. Kumaraswamy had also stated recently that he would have been in a better political situation if he had allied with the BJP rather than the Congress after the 2018 Assembly polls.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Yediyurappa said: "JD(S) is a party built by former Prime Minister Deve Gowda and former CM Kumaraswamy is its leader. Talking about its merger with another party is insulting to them."

Yediyurappa said he had asked BIP leaders not to fuel rumours of such a merger.

Earlier, Kumaraswamy also denied the rumours: "The Janata Dal (S), which is a party of Kannadigas with self esteem, will never think of political merger. The party, which is a strong voice of the people, will never display such stupidity. At the most, we may extend issuebased support to the BJP, if need be." he said.

Corruption killing cows in UP, Priyanka writes to Adityanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

AFTERA video showing dead cattle allegedly in a cow shelter in Lalitpur's Saujana town was widely circulated on social media, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday hit out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh for "negligence" and "corruption" in running cow shelters and asked it to learn from Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh's Godhan Nyaya Yojana.

The Lalitpur district administration rejected the allegations, saying only one cow at the shelter had died.

In a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Priyanka said she was disturbed seeing the images from Lalitpur and alleged that the UP government's efforts to build cowsheds had failed due to corruption. She shared the letter on her Twitter account and claimed that the video was of a cow shelter in Lalitpur.

District Administration Annavi Dinesh Kumar later inspected the gaushala asked caretakers to take care of weaker cattle. Kumar suspended the village panchayat officer, the lekhpal and the veterinary officer, and issued directions to take action against the village pradhan over alleged irregularities in running the shelter.

Congress leader and former Union minister Pradeep Jain Aditya, meanwhile, started a sitin against alleged "ill-treatment of cows".

MP Youth Cong unit elects leader now in BJP

velop ties with Islamabad as it is

a member of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Addressing a press conference,

IRAM SIDDIQUE BHOPAL, DECEMBER 21

IN AN embarrassing goof-up, the Madhva Pradesh Youth Congress (YC) had elected a leader now in the BJP as its general secretary of Jabalpur (uttar) unit in the elections that concluded on Friday. His appointment was subsequently cancelled.

The incident came to light when Harshit Singhai, a Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist who had deflected from the Congress to join the BIP earlier this year, began receiving congratulatory messages on Saturday.

When contacted, MP Youth Congress spokesperson Masood Mirza accused Singhai of resortinformation from the former Congress worker on withdrawal of his nomination. He also said, 'Soon after the goof-up was brought to my notice, his

ing to these tactics for cheap publicity, and denied receiving any

(Singhai's) appointment was cancelled with immediate effect.'

According to Singhai, the congratulatory messages left him confused. He said that in the nine months after leaving the Congress, he has not campaigned for the YC polls, but was declared elected as general secretary. "I spoke to the district in-charge of both the BJP and the Congress and informed them about the mistake," said Singhai, who was president of the Jabalpur unit of

NSUI, the Congress's students' wing, before his political switchover in March.

Singhai had submitted his nomination in 2018 but the elections were then stalled, as the Vidhan Sabha elections were round the corner. Soon after the Congress came to power, the party was occupied with the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, and then the party lost its government in March 2020, when 22 Scindia loyalists switched sides, along with hundreds of other workers, including Singhai.

"I had submitted by resignation after the switchover and then when the nomination (for YC polls) was called in November, I also sent an email to the party and informed them that I am

withdrawing my nomination," Singhai said. However, he said, the party administrators failed to take notice of his resignation, as well as his email informing them of his withdrawal of nomination.

Mirza said, "We had issued notices asking workers to come forward and inform us if they had switched parties, or would want to withdraw their nominations themselves or any worker who had some information could inform the election committee. But neither happened in Singhai's case.

Mirza maintained that even if the election committee received verbal information of a worker switching over, it had to be backed by photo evidence of some sort before his nomina-

tion was cancelled - which, he said, did not happen in Singhai's case

Mirza also denied receiving any email of cancellation of his nomination. "The elections did not take place physically; people were chosen online according to the number of votes, due to which Singhai was declared a general secretary," he said.

Singhai alleged that many who voted in the Youth Congress elections were workers now affiliated with the saffron party.

Vikrant Bhuriya, Jhabua constituency candidate and son of former Union minister and Congress MLA Kantilal Bhuriya, was elected president of the Youth Congress after securing 40,850 votes.

UP: Tablets for college students in 7 dists soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

WITH GROWING dependence on digital mediums for studies in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to provide 160 tablets with pre-loaded study material to 18 government colleges in seven aspirational districts.

The devices will be available at college libraries as digital reference books, and students can get them issued too

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said the districts chosen Department has already started for the initial stage of the project a "digital library" for universities are Fatehpur, Sonbhadra, and colleges.

Bodo council: HC hearing PM to inaugurate today, ruling alliance says its members on tour

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI. DECEMBER 21

THE NEWLY constituted Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in Assam is yet to start functioning in full swing a week after its formation on Monday as elected members from the ruling alliance of the BIP, the UPPL and GSP are away on "sightseeing" and a high court ruling on the validity of the council is expected Tuesday.

Out of the 40 elected seats in BTC, UPPL won 12, BJP nine, GSP one, Congress one and BPF 17 seats. The BPF-Bodoland People's Front — is an ally of the BJP in the state government and there are three ministers from the party in the Sarbananda Sonowal cabinet. But the BJP did not ally with the BPF, against which it had campaigned vociferously, and joined hands with the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL). The lone Congress candidate and a winner from the BPF have joined the BJP since.

After the results to the BTC were out on December 13, over 20 of the winning members of the BIP-UPPL-GSP alliance were put up in a hotel in Guwahati and shifted to the Assam Bhavan in

Shillong on Sunday. The BTC headquarters is in Kokrajhar, about 225 km away from Guwahati. The move to shift them to hotels was undertaken. according to sources, to avoid the winning candidates to be poached by the BPF.

"Our elected representatives are on a sightseeing tour. They will be back soon. We are not scared... The BPF might be trying for horsetrading. I am not sure, but there is a possibility. But they can't do anything. We are sure," said Promod Boro, who leads UPPL and is the newly appointed Chief Executive

Member of the BTC. When the BJP did not ally with the BPF, Hagrama Mohilary, BPF supremo and an influential Bodo leader, approached the Gauhati HighCourt, challenging the manner in which the Chief Executive Memberand other executive members were appointed and alleging violation of constitutional provisions. In an order on December 18. the court asked that "status-quo be maintained" till the next date of hearing, which is Tuesday.

"Let the situation become normal, many of their leaders may come to us." BPF general secretary Prabin Boro told The Indian Express.

India science festival today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the sixth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) and deliver its inaugural speech. The science festival, which will be held on December 22-25, will be India's largest virtual science festival till date, said Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Speaking at the curtain-raiser press meet Monday, Harsh Vardhan said that science and scientists have always risen to any challenge, including that of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Indian scientists rose to the occasion and within a short span of time created a large number of products ranging from sanitisers, face marks, PPE kits to ventilators and have gone on to discovering new drugs, vaccines and genome sequences of the Covid-19 virus," he said.

The theme for this year's festival is 'Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare' which will "showcase the contribution of scientific and technological endeavours to realize the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission". The IISF was launched by the

Indian government in 2015. CSIR director-general Dr Shekhar C Mande said the total registration for the science festi-



PM Narendra Modi with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc during the virtual bilateral summit. PTI

ing coordination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, terror-financing networks and safe havens.

India, Vietnam to boost

Indo-Pacific cooperation

In his initial remarks at the summit, Modi said India looks at ties with Vietnam with a longterm and strategic perspective, and that cooperation between the two countries can contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

A document, titled 'India-Vietnam Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People', released after the summit, said the two sides will step up military-to-military exchanges, training and capacity building programmes across the three services and coast guards, as it was agreed that enhanced bilateral defence and security partnership would be an important factor of stability in the

Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Modi stressed that the Code of Conduct negotiations on the South China Sea should not preiudice the interest of other countries in the region, Das said. She said Modi also invited Vietnamese companies to invest in India and highlighted the urgent need for long-overdue review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement as a concrete step towards revitalising economic engagement between the two countries as well as the larger ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

In reference to South China Sea, the vision document said both leaders also underscored the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, DECEMBER 21

THE KARNATAKA High Court

on Monday asked the state

government not to take further

steps to drop legal proceedings

against 61 persons in the state,

intended in an order issued on

August 31 this year on the basis

A division bench of the High

Court asked the BJP govern-

ment in Karnataka not to pro-

ceed with the implementation

of its order to drop legal pro-

ecutors in each of the cases not

to blindly follow the state gov-

ernment's orders to drop pro-

ceedings against elected rep-

resentatives but to apply their

minds on the seriousness of

cases before deciding on them.

The PUCL filed the writ pe-

According to the August 31

Director,

The

of a Cabinet decision.

Karnataka government had decided to drop legal proceedings against elected representatives, including Law minister including several ministers, as JC Madhuswamy, **Forest minister Anand** Singh, former minister **CT Ravi and others**

> steps to file necessary applications before the concerned Courts where the 61 cases mentioned in the Annexure are pending withdrawal."

Citing the Supreme Court order in SK Shukla and others versus state of UP and others case. the High Court observed that "even if (the) Government instructs the Public Prosecutor to withdraw from prosecution of a case, the latter after applying his mind to the facts of the case may either agree with the instructions and file a petition before the Court, stating grounds of withdrawal or disagree therewith having found a good case for prosecution and refuse to file the withdrawal petition".

The HC said action under Section 321 of CrPC can be taken "only with the permission of the court. No court is bound by such a decision taken to withdraw from prosecution. Even if an application is made under Section 321 of CrPC, courts are duty bound to assess whether a prima facie case is made out or not, and that the court has power to reject the prayer."

The court has adjourned the case for hearing on December 29.

ADVERTORIAL

Vajpayee aide's new book recalls key events in his time as PM

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

LATE P A Sangma, who became Lok Sabha Speaker for the first time in 1996 when the Congress was in opposition, could have been re-elected unanimously in 1998 had G M C Balayogi not arrived in Parliament House at the eleventh hour.

Sangma, who chaired the proceedings during the 13-day government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was informed by the BIP that it had no objection to his candidature as Balayogi's flight from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi got delayed.

This interesting nugget is in the book penned by Shakti Sinha, a former bureaucrat and



Sinha, his private secretary, said Sangma was keen on getting reelected as Speaker but wanted a unanimous election. Sangma had called on Vajpayee formally after the swearing-in during which he pointed out that he had been a fair presiding officer in his first term.

"Vajpayee was non-committal, but Sangma did not look disappointed when he left," Sinha writes. Another veteran BIP leader L K Advani also seemed to have



taken a stand that it was not necessary for the next Speaker to be from the BJP. "Sangma made it clear that he would like to be elected unanimously and would not take part in a contest. Vajpayee did not seem comfortable, far from confident." he writes.

BIP was in discussion with the N Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP, which was being pressured by Left parties to not support the NDA government. A day before the election,

Vajpayee told Naidu over the phone that the TDP could have its candidate as Deputy Speaker. But "Naidu played hard to get" and succeeded in making Vajpayee agree on his candidate for the post and conveyed the name -Balayogi - on the morning of the

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

over rising Chinese belligerence in

the region. They also inked seven

agreements to expand bilateral ties in defence, nuclear energy and

At a virtual summit with his

Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen

Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi described

Vietnam as an important partner

in India's Indo-Pacific vision as

well as for its Act East policy, and

said that peace, stability and pros-

perity in the region is the common

ligerence by China in the South

China Sea region, the two leaders

reaffirmed the importance of

maintaining freedom of naviga-

tion and overflight in the South

China Sea, while pursuing peace-

In the wake of growing bel-

several other sectors.

goal of both sides.

election day. "Unfortunately, Balayogi was somewhere in Andhra and nominations could only be filed till twelve noon. His flight got delayed and he made it to Parliament House literally at the eleventh hour. I remember waiting with few others at the closest gate of Parliament House, and running with him so that the nomination could be filed. He made it just about a minute or two before the deadline." Sinha writes.

had been informed by Madan Lal Khurana, then parliamentary affairs minister, that the BJP would have no objection to his candidature. "Assured of his unanimous election, Sangma too had filed his nomination," the book says. But Balayogi won the election by voice vote - the Congress and the other opposition parties did not ask for a vote — and Sangma was "quite peeved"when Parliament was convened and lambasted Vajpayee during the debate on the vote of confidence.

Sangma, he had obviously been led to believe that he was going to be elected speaker. The people responsible for pushing Sangma's candidature which had the unintended consequence of forcing

Naidu to choose sides, had certainly miscalculated." However, later in 2012, when Sangma contested for the President's office against the Congress-led UPA candidate Pranab Mukherjee, who became the President, BJP, AIADMK and BJD had extended their support to him.

The book also gives a detailed account of the pressure tactics applied by smaller allies and regional parties, whose number propped up the Vajpayee government - the government fell after 13 months after AIADMK withdrew support. "...It was not just Jayalalitha, but almost all NDA constituents

who wanted the governments in the states to be dismissed, since it was run by their political opponents," it states.



val has crossed one lakh. ENS tween the two leaders in promot-

Amid the uncertainty, Sangma

Sinha writes: "To be fair to

tition, stating that some of the cases intended to be dropped by the government were against elected representatives who are a part of the state legislature. order, "The Government has

granted permission for the withdrawal of prosecution of 61 cases mentioned in the annexure under Section 321 of CrPC. Department of Prosecutions and Government Litigation, is suggested to take appropriate

Livinguard prioritises people and planet in the fight against COVID-19

the Livinguard mask, we can protect both people and the planet.

Livinguard's mission is to provide hygiene suited for the modern world. The ever-increasing levels of pollution, global travel, shared mobility, and the prevalence of drug resistant microbes have led to growing threats of infectious disease. The company believes that our future is tied to sustainable solutions amidst nondegradable wastes that threaten our existence on this planet. They are committed to developing highly effective technologies that also minimize waste and use of resources; in their view personal and planetary health are inseparable imperatives and the foundational base of everything that they strive to do. To amplify their reach and spread this message, Livinguard has partnered with legendary cricketing icon, Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador for masks and gloves. As a leader and role model in the world of cricket and beyond, Sourav exemplifies the ethos of the Livinguard brand - to prioritize the protection of people and the planet. Commenting on his association with Livinguard AG, Sourav Ganguly, stated, "I am delighted to start the innings with Livinguard. Facemasks and gloves have become an extension of our daily attire. While doing my research on the right personal protection measures, I found that most face masks and gloves were either only preventive in nature or single-use. Livinguard face masks and gloves on the other hand, are not only preventive, but also protective. Livinguard technology has been proven to de-

stroy 99.9% bacteria and viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Furthermore, they are reusable and washable up to 6 months, effectively replacing 210 single-use masks. This made my choice clear - Livinguard masks and gloves provide the ultimate protection to the user, safely and sustainably. At a time where we need to wear the right masks and gloves to protect ourselves during this "new normal", we must also remain conscious of the impact it has on our planet. My ethics completely match with Livinguard's vision and purpose. It is an honour to associate with a brand whose top priority is the safety and wellbeing not just of people but also the planet. The masks can be used for extended periods and reused for upto a week before washing because the fabric continuously destroys microorganisms upon contact. This significantly diminishes the risk of transferring them to the user and to other surfaces. The mask is proven to be non-toxic and safe for use, unlike other nano-technology based masks found on the market which contain silver and copper; these are toxic substances and once it leaches, it can cause irreversible damage to our vital organs and the planet. The Livinguard Technology has also been applied to reusable hand gloves. These also destroy bacteria and viruses, while being extremely comfortable and touchscreen compatible.

GOVT & POLITICS 7

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST 61

govt decision to

ministers, MLAs

HC stays BSY

drop cases on



•HE NOVEL coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has not only disrupted our lives, but left us dealing with adverse environmental problems of wastage and waste generation. To live through this 'new normal,' enhanced cleaning regimens, regular and frequent handwashing, and mask & glove wearing are integral parts of our daily lives. While these behaviours are essential in our fight against COVID-19, the inadvertent impact they have on our planet can't and shouldn't be ignored. With enhanced cleaning and regular hand-washing for ~15-20 seconds, we consume more water, and with regular mask & glove wearing, we tend to generate more waste. Small changes to these entrenched behaviours can go a long way; for example, turning the tap off while we soap our hands can save water, and wearing reusable masks and gloves can substantially reduce the amount of waste we generate. Livinguard AG can help you make the right choice of mask and gloves; their reusable and sustainable products can protect both people and the planet during this unprecedented time.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was estimated that India produced 609 metric tonnes of biomedical waste (BMW) per day. As of August, this number has increased to 778 metric tonnes per day according to the COVID-19 BMW app launched by the Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB). It is not news that the increase in the use of masks by non-healthcare workers as a result of the pandemic has had a severe impact on marine life, our oceans, beaches and much more. The Swiss hygiene company Livinguard AG, with operations in India, as well as Germany, USA, Singapore, Japan, and South Africa, has come up with a revolutionary reusable, environmentally friendly face mask, that can also destroy >99.9% bacteria and viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Livinguard masks rely on unique continuous disinfecting properties, which has been proven by some of the world's leading scientific institutions. Freie Universität Berlin and The Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona, scientifically confirm the technology's antiviral properties. These third-party researchers confirmed masks treated with Livinguard technology kills greater than 99.9% of SARS-CoV-2, and many other common viruses. When used daily and washed weekly (upto 30 times), these masks can be reused for 6 months, effectively replacing 210 single-use masks. Made from 100% cotton fabric, it is eco-friendly, >90% biodegradable and results in less than 0.5% waste. Research shows that if a million people use one reusable Livinguard mask 210 times, we can save 36,000 tonnes of waste. With a

simple switch from a disposable mask to

livinguard

Protected by



Livinguard products are available on Nykaa & Flipkart. You may order directly as well at sales.india@livinguard.com



New Delhi



8 **EXPRESS NETWORK**

Varavara

Rao

fit and can be discharged from

Nanavati. Additional Solicitor

General (ASG) Anil Singh, repre-

senting the NIA, submitted that

Rao had been treated properly

and can be discharged. While the

court sought to know from Singh

if he was available for final hear-

ing on the plea on Tuesday, Singh

submitted that he was required to

attend other matters and would

not be able to make his arguments

for NIA on Tuesday and sought

that the plea can be kept for hear-

ing in first week of January after

the court reopens after vacation.

cede to your request, we will

have to continue his stav in

Nanavati Hospital. We find it very

difficult to recall our order with-

out hearing this plea on merits."

the court in its order noted,

"There is a consensus among

parties that this matter can be

conveniently argued next

January 7, the bench said, "We

Posting further hearing to

After hearing submissions,

Justice Shinde said, "If we ac-

Varavara Rao to remain in Nanavati hospital till Jan 7

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI. DECEMBER 21

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday allowed Varavara Rao, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the Elgaar Parishad case, to remain at Nanavati hospital in Mumbai till the next hearing on medical bail plea on January 7.

Rao, who is lodged at Taloja Central Jail, was shifted to the private hospital following a court order on November 18. The court also directed the Nanavati hospital to file a fresh medical report of Rao by the next hearing.

A division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice M S Karnik was hearing a petition filed by Rao's wife P Hemalatha, seeking proper treatment for the 81vear-old and his release on bail on health grounds.

On Monday, the court enquired about Rao's health to which senior advocate Anand Grover representing Rao, on instructions from his family members, submitted that while Rao's health was improving, he still had blood pressure issues and doctors from Nanavati Hospital had kept him on night monitoring as he was sweating and was feeling

are making an exception begiddy Chief Public Prosecutor cause of his health conditions Deepak Thakare for the jail auand since his application is pendthorities submitted that Rao was ing for some time."

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ E-Tender Notice

month...'

Tender no. JHS/DYCEE/WS/T/3R/2020-21 Dt.: 18.12.2020 work for A to 1 parts Wagon Repair Workshop JHANSI.

Description of work	Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
Electrification work for A to 1 parts connected with multiple sections at Wagon Repair Workshop JHANSI.	JHS/DYCEE/ WS/T/3R/ 2020-21	₹ 19,81,970% (Rs.Nineteen lakin eighty one thousand nine hundred seventy only)	thousand Six
Completion Period : 07 mon 15:00 Hrs. and opening 15:30 Hr and is available on Indian Rail Detailed information pleas www.ireps.gov.in	rs. 1., Tender w Iway E-Tende a visit Indi	I be closed at 15.00 Hrs. ring website www.ireps an Ratiway E-Tende	on 22.01.2021 .gov.in 2. For ring website 1402/20 (AN)
North central railways	100	E a CP	RONCR

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION Tender Notice No : 151 / 2020 - 2021 **TENDER NOTIFICATION EXTENSION NOTICE**

Roc. No. E1/8927/2020 (Main) Dt. 21.12.2020 Receipt and submission of tenders as per Tender Notice No. 151/2020-2021 is Postponed due to administrative reason as detailed below.

detailed below.					
Details	Date already notified	Date postponed			
Last date for download of Bid Documents	21.12.2020 Upto 15.00 Hours	28.12.2020 Upto 15.00 Hours			
Submission of bids through e-submission	21.12.2020 Upto 15.00 Hours	28.12.2020 Upto 15.00 Hours			
Tender Opening Date and Time	22.12.2020 Upto 16.00 Hours	29.12.2020 Upto 16.00 Hours			
Other terms and Conditions remain unchanged.					

Commissioner

Woman found after she went missing from Shirdi in 2017, produced in HC

THREE DAYS after a woman re-

ported missing from Shirdi in

2017 was found, the Aurangabad

bench of the Bombay High Court

was informed that 11 others

who went missing from the

temple town have also been

October, the High Court had re-

quested DGP Subodh Jaiswal to

examine the matter from a hu-

man-trafficking or an organ traf-

habeas corpus petition filed by

Manoj Soni, a driver from Indore,

whose wife Deepti went missing

from outside the Sai Baba temple

in Shirdi on August 10, 2017. On

December 17, Deepti was found in

Indore after she 'returned' to her

sister's house. On Monday, she

was produced before the High

Court after undergoing a medical

KHPatil said, "In her medical ex-

amination she was found to be

normal both physically and psy-

chologically. The court has asked

us (police) to investigate where

she was for three years and we

may also have to do a narco-

The case has been adjourned

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

Tender Notice No. : ST-CKP-OT-16-2020, dated 18,12,2020. Sr. Divisional

Signal & Telecom Engineer (SW). South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur for and

through E-Procurement system for the supply of the below item.

Description

Tender No.

Ô

analysis test to find out.'

for four weeks.

Additional public prosecutor

examination in Aurangabad.

The court was hearing a

ficking angle.

According to the data earlier

traced by the Shirdi police.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21 MUMBAI. DECEMBER 21

UNION ENVIRONMENT Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday announced that a "60 per cent increase has been recorded in the population count of leopards in India from 2014 estimates".

The 2014 estimates placed the population of leopards at nearly 8,000 which has increased to 12,852.

placed before the court by the Releasing the 'Status of leopards in India, 2018' report, the police in October, 279 persons were reported missing from minister said, "There were 8,000 Shirdi between 2017 and leopards in 2014. Increase in the October 27, 2020 of whom 67 population of tigers, Asiatic lions then remained untraced. In and now leopards shows how India is protecting its environment, ecology and biodiversity.'

The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and then Maharashtra (1,690).

UP: 3 arrested for trying to convert family into Christianity, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

THREE PERSONS have been arrested in Deedarganj area of Azamgarh under Uttar Pradesh's new anti-conversion law for allegedly trying to convert a family to Christianity.

arrested.

The three, identified as Bal Chand Jaiswal, Gopal Prajapati and Neeraj Kumar, allegedly were holding a prayer at the

60% rise in leopard numbers

from 2014 estimates: Javadekar

Report also says habitat of leopards has shrunk over the last 100-125 years.

The report finds that in region wise distribution, Central India and Eastern Ghats have the highest number of leopards at 8,071. In the Western Ghats region, there are 3,387 leopards while there are 1,253 leopards in Shivalik and Gangetic Plains. There are 141 leopards in the Northeast hills.

The study was conducted through capturing 5,240 leopards on camera apart from satellite im-

to change their religion. As a heated argument ensued, a police team reached

Police said the three worked as preachers after converting to Christianity. They were booked under the new anti-conversion law and were produced before a court on Monday which sent

aging and field work by teams of flood plains. forest officers along with teams of the Wildlife Institute of India poaching, habitat loss, depletion and National Tiger Conservation of natural prey and conflict are Authority (NTCA).

major threats to leopard popu-But while the estimated lations," says the report. number of leopards has increased, the report alerts that the numbers of leopards, in the tens leopard habitat area has been of thousands. Fragmentation of forests as well as the quality of shrinking alarmingly over the past 100-125 years. forests that exist is a cause for con-

While the presence of the cern as this leads to increased huleopard is fairly ubiquitous man-leopard conflict. Leopards across the country, the study has are not like tigers, who don't like been conducted only in tigerhumans and therefore don't venpopulated forests areas under ture out. Leopards are far more Project Tiger, and leopard popuadaptable and because of this, lations in other agricultural, nonwhen loss of habitat takes place, forested areas like tea and coffee they move closer to human setplantations, and in most parts of tlements and that's when the the North East have not been conflict takes place. Development conducted. The leopard census can't stop, but we need to look has been carried out in the closer at greener technologies Shivalik Hills and Gangetic and stop the fragmentation of forest land to protect the species,' plains, Central India and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and North says co-author of the report, Qamar Qureshi from WII. eastern Hills and Brahmaputra

Court orders framing of charges against separatist Aasiya Andrabi, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DELHI court Monday ordered the framing of charges against Kashmiri separatist Aasiya Andrabi and her two associates for waging war against India, sedition and conspiracy to commit acts of terror.

Special Judge Parveen Singh ordered putting Andrabi and her associates Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, who were arrested in April 2018, on trial for various offences punishable un-



Qty. Earnest Cost of Due Date

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

"In the Indian subcontinent

"Historically India had large

der IPC and the Unlawful Activities

be formally framed on January 18.

banned outfit Dukhtaran-e-

Milat (DeM), was accused of be-

ing involved in conspiracy and

acts to "severely destabilize the

sovereignty and integrity of

India", along with her associates.

Union Home Ministry, registered

a case against them as well as the

organisation. According to the

FIR, Andrabi, Fehmeeda and

Nasreen were actively running

DeM and were using various

media platforms to spread insur-

rectionary imputations and

hateful speeches that endanger

the integrity, security and sover-

cused persons were found in-

volved in the conspiracy and acts

to severely destabilize the sover-

DeM through Aasiya Andrabi

openly advocated secession of

I&K from India and called for

Jihad and use of violence against

This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of Train No.

06527/06528 KSR Bangaluru-New Delhi-KSR Bangaluru Superfast Express

Special has been revised at Itarsi Station with immediate effect as under:-

the country, the agency said.

eignty and integrity of India.

The NIA had said that the ac-

eignty of India, the NIA said.

The NIA, on directions of the

The charges are scheduled to

Andrabi, who was chief of the

(Prevention) Act (UAPA).

BRIEFLY



At the ceremony in Guwahati. Dasarath Deka

ASSAM 64 militants

lay down arms before CM Guwahati: A total of 64

militants belonging to four insurgent outfits on Monday ceremonially laid down arms in the presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Guwahati. Eighteen of cadres ULFA (Independent) including self-styled deputy commander-in-chief Drishti Rajkhowa, the self-styled commander-in-chief of People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) Ong Teron, 32 members of United People's Revolutionary Front and 13 cadres of the Dimasa National Liberation Army laid down their arms in the event. ENS

MAHARASHTRA HC rejects ED's plea in Jet

Airways case

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court Monday rejected a plea by the **Enforcement Directorate** challenging an order of the sessions court that denied ED's application to intervene in a closure of a case of alleged cheating and criminal breach of trust registered against Jet Airways. In October, the sessions court rejected the ED plea to intervene in the closure of the case against Jet Airways and promoters Naresh Goyal and Anita Goyal. The ED had sought to intervene saying it was probing money laundering allegations against the Goyals based on the same case. ENS

prayers when a resident of the area, Ashok Yadav, accused them of trying to convince the others

house of one Tribhuvan Yadav on Sunday when they were them to judicial custod.

SHO (Deedarganj) Sanjay Kumar Singh said that on

Sunday they were conducting



SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following additional Special Trains as per the schedule given below :-

02440/02439 Sri Ganganagar - H. Sahib Nanded - 12 Sri Ganganagar Superfast Special Train (Weekly) Trips								
TRAIN NO	0.02440	STATIONS	TRAIN N	0.02439				
ARR. D	EP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.				
1:	3:25	Sri Ganganagar	20:15	-				
23:00 23	3:15	New Delhi	10:10	10:25				
21:40		Hazur Sahib Nanded		11:05				

Days of Run: 02440 from Sri Ganganagar on every Friday from 25.12.2020 to 29.01.2021 and 02439 from H. Sahib Nanded or every Sunday from 27.12.2020 to 31.01.2021

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper 2nd Seating (Reserved)

Stoppages : Hanumangarh Jn., Sangaria, Mandi Dabwali Bathinda Jn., Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri Jn., Sangrur, Jakhal Jn., Jind, Rohtak Jn., Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt., Gwalior, Jhansi, Bina, Bhopal Jn., Itarsi Jn., Khandwa, Malkapur, Akola Jn. Washim, Hingoli Deccan and Purna Jn. stations.

02486/02485 Sri Ganganagar - H. Sahib Nanded - 2 Sri Ganganagar Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly) Tri								
TRAIN	NO. 02486	STATIONS	TRAIN N	O.02485				
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.				
	14:30	Sri Ganganagar	19:30	_				
23:00	23:15	New Delhi	10:10	10:25				
21:40		Hazur Sahib Nanded		11:05				

Days of Run: 02486 from Sri Ganganagar on every Tuesday & Saturday from 22.12.20 to 30.01.21 and 02485 from H. Sahib Nanded on every Monday & Thursday from 24.12.20 to 01.02.21 Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper 8 2nd Seating (Reserved)

Stoppages : Abohar, Malout, Giddarbaha, Bathinda Jn. Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri Jn., Sangrur, Jakhal Jn., Jind, Rohtak Jn., Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt., Gwalior, Jhansi, Bina, Bhopal Jn., Itarsi Jn., Khandwa, Malkapur, Akola Jn., Washim, Hingoli Deccan and Purna Jn. stations.

Note : The above Special Tra have the reserved accommoda	ains will	5.
For any kind of information passenge to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.	ers are requested or visit Railways	6. 7
Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security	Helpline No. 182	1.
Beware of Touts or authorised rail travel age		8.
Follow us on :- NORTH	ERN RAILWAY	vw
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	or
2842/2020 Visit us at : ww	ww.nr.indianrailways.gov.in	n

	WITH A SMILE

-			Money In	Tender	
			Rs.	doc In Rs.	
97205434A	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Add/	15 Nos.	51190.00	0.00	12/01/2021
	Drop MUX (STM-1) for main stream at stations in cable				
	hut/OFC equipment rooms per TEC GR No.GR/SDH-04				
	/02 March02 with latest amendment with L.I.I optical				
	interface and as per technical requirement of OFC				
	system, equipped with 21 E1s (including engineering				
	order wire), expandable upto 63 E1s capacity, simply by				
	addition of E1s cards, fully wired, cross connect				
	granularity VC-12, VC-3 & VC-4 LEVELS, aggregate				
	interface, power unit, sub rack, 4 port 10/100 Mbps				
	Base –T Ethernet, installation material with all other				
	accessories and technical manual etc. The equipment				
	should be compatible with existing SDH equipment				
	already installed The SDH equipment shall beTEC				
	(TSEC)RDSO approved on or before date of opening				
	of bid (inspection by RDSO)				

Invitation of Tender through E- Procurement system Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad-244001 for and behalf of the President of India, Invites tender

Note: - Above tender with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm who desires to participate against E-tender are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a Class III digital signature certificate from certifving agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt, of India. Manual offer against E-tender shall not be accepted. Tender Notice No. 05 /Sr.DMM/MB / 2020-21 Dated: -21/12/20 2839/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY Under the Department of Energy Sine. Government of Odisha (ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004) S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE Website: www.oredaorissa.com, E-mail: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

E-Tender call notice No. 5836 / Dated 18.12.2020 /

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY invites sealed e-tender is two part bidding system from manufacture for supply, installation, commissioning including warranty and comprehensive maintenance contract for a period of five years of Solar powered water heating systems in Odisha Details are given below.

1.	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREOA website	21-12-2020				
2.	Due date and time for receipt of pre-bid quarries on the RFP	28-12-2020 up to 5.00 P.M				
3.	Date and time for the pre bid meeting through online mode only. Meeting invite link on Google hangout platform (link for pre-bid meeting = <u>meet.google.com/nfd.bnto-ift</u>)	31-12-2020 at 11.30 A.M.				
4.	Due date of hosting of final bid documents	04-01-2021				
5.	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid	15-01-2021 up to 5.00 P.M.				
6.	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for Select Bid Forms only	19-01-2021 up to 1.00 P.M.				
7.	Due date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	19-01-2021 at 3.00 P.M.				
8.	B. Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable To be intimated later on only for the bidders whose Technical bids shall be responsive					
www con	Interested prospective bidder may visit OREDA web site <u>www.oredaorissa.com</u> and <u>www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA</u> for details relating bidding process and all other terms and conditions. The bidder can view the tender documents from <u>www.oredaorissa.com</u> website on free of cost.					
0111						

Sd/- 18-12-2020 **Chief Executive**

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 06527/06528 KSR BENGALURU - NEW D	ELHI -
KSR BENGALURU SUPERFAST EXPRESS SPECIAL TRAIN (DAILY)	

TRAIN No. 06527				▲			lo. 06528	
Existing	Timings	Revised	Timings	STATIONS	Existing	Timings	Revised	Timings
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	★	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
	19:20		19:20	KSR BENGALURU	12:50		12:50	
21:50	22:00	21:40	21:50	ITARSI	08:20	08:30	08:10	08:20
10:20		10:20		NEW DELHI		20:20		20:20
Bew of To	Beware Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway of Touts Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only							

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

Note:- 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 stations.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways has decided to change the timings of Train No. 02431 Thiruvananthapuram Central-New Delhi/Hazrat Nizamuddin Tri-Weekly Rajdhani Special Train at Vadodara Railway Station as under:-

Revised Timings of Train No. 02431 Thiruvananthapuram Central-New Delhi/
łazrat Nizamuddin Tri-Weekly Rajdhani Special Train at Vadodara Jn. Railway Station

		TRAIN No.	02431		With Effect From
STATIONS	Existing	Timings	Revised 7	Timings	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	22.12.2020
VADODARA JN.	00:06	00:26	00:01	00:06	
Beware of Touts Co		s Buy Tra Authorise			Railway Agents only
	etc., must b	e followed in	n the trains a	and at the R	OVID-19 including Social ailway stations. All other
			0		to your rail journeys well juiry No. 139 or Indian



Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App or by approaching





Pune meet discusses plan to hold another Elgaar Parishad event

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE PUNE, DECEMBER 21

ACTIVISTS AND retired officers held a state-level meeting under the banner of 'Bhima Koregaon Shaurya Din Prerna Abhiyaan' in Pune to plan another 'Elgaar Parishad' event on December 31, ahead of the anniversary of the battle of Bhima Koregaon on January 1.

"We are now organising Elgaai Parishad at the Ganesh Kala Krida Manch. We have already booked the premises and process is on for seeking permission from the police for holding the conference. We plan to invite as speakers some noted personalities who are fighting against fascist forces and casteism. We will move high court if we do not get permission from the government," said Justice (retd) B G Kolse Patil, a former High Court judge who was a key

person at the meeting. Justice (retd) Patil questioned the state government for the police keeping a watch on their meeting, and said he had played a role in the defeat of the BJP in Maharashtra. "Then why has your government withdrawn security provided to me by Devendra (Fadnavis) since 2014...Why are your police seen following me at my public meetings?" he wrote on Facebook. He also warned of a 'jail bharo' protest in case of any hurdles to or-

ganising the Elgaar Parishad Harshali Potdar, who was named as accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, activists Ravi Gaikwad, Balasaheb Garud, Dr Sangram Maurya, Ganpat Bhise, parents of arrested KKM artist Sagar Gorkhe, a few members of the PFI, retired IPS officer Suresh Khopade

Bhim Army chief to visit Jaystambh

were among those who attended

the meeting on Sane Guruji Sma-

rak premises in Pune on Sunday.

Bhim Pune: Army has announced that its chief Chandrashekhar Azad will visit

'Jaystambh' in Pune on January 1 to mark anniversary of the battle of Bhima Koregaon. "We will share exact details about our programme soon. We will be following directions of government officials in view of the Covid-19 outbreak," said Abhijit Gaikwad, who heads the Pune unit of Bhim Army,

Jaystambh is a war memorial at Perne village erected by the British to commemorate the Battle of Bhima Koregaon. On January 1 every year, thousands of Dalits visit laystambh to mark a "war for freedom" against alleged casteism of the Peshwas. **ENS**

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

Insurance cover not given to many; need regulatory oversight on hospitals to prevent refusal to accept insurance claims. Reports of hospital beds being

sold; need law to keep check and control over private hospitals. Migrant workers worst af-

fected; govt should start national database on migrant workers to identify and deliver benefits. Students deprived of Mid-Day Meals; should be continued until schools reopen.

These are among key recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The Committee, headed by Rajya Sabha MPAnand Sharma, submitted its report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Nadu on Monday.

The Committee has made a detailed assessment of four aspects: the country's preparedness, augmentation of health infrastructure, social impact, and economic impact. In November, another Parliamentary Committee had said that the pandemic may have

shed many families below the poverty line, and that women had borne the brunt of the disruption.

Preparedness

The Committee has said that "migrant labourers, factory workers, daily wage earners were the worst affected" " As there was no timely dissemination of the information in the district areas about the arrangements being made for food, shelter and other facilities, anxiety and uncertainty gripped the migrant labourers and workers and led to their movement in large number to their home states." it said.

House panel seeks leash on

pvt hospitals, migrant data

The Committee has said that the government "should draw up a national plan and guidelines under NDMA, 2005 and Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897". "An effective functional institutional mechanism is needed for coordination between the Centre, states, and Union Territories for quick response to such a crisis in future."

Health infrastructure

The Committee highlighted the "disproportionate availability of ICU beds in private and public sector hospitals". It said the "threat of Covid-19 has highlighted the

CSIR D-G

C Mande

huge disparity of infrastructure and services in public and private hospitals". The Committee said the largest share of the healthcare burden has been borne by government hospitals because "private hospitals are either inaccessible or

not affordable for everyone". The Committee has "strongly recommend[ed] that there is a need for a comprehensive public health Act...preferably at the national level with suitable legal provisions to support the Government in keeping checks and controls over the private hospitals as there have been reports about the selling of hospital beds by them".

The Committee put on record the submissions by insurance regulator IRDAI. "...In the initial phase of Pandemic, insurance coverage was not given to many people... Private hospitals were charging exorbitantly high rates for the treatment of COVID patients who had to suffer a lot due to lack of any insurance coverage," the Committee said. It underlined the need for transparency and accountability, and to promote fair practices.

Social impact

Loss of jobs due to the lock-

down and "uncertainty involved

with the pandemic and inadequate social security, access to affordable housing, health benefits, and, other basic amenities" led to workers returning to their home states, the Committee said. This points to the "ineffective

implementation of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979", the Committee said. "The task of identifying the location and disbursing relief measures to the migrant workers became very difficult as the Central Government did not have any data of the migrant workers and had to seek it from the States."

The Committee "strongly rec ommend[ed]" that a national database on migrant workers be launched at "the earliest as it will help in the identification of migrant workers and also in delivering ration and other benefits to them". The database may also include "records of returning migrant labourers including details about their source and destination, earlier employment details and the nature of their skills", the Committee said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES ACTIVE CASES **RISE IN LAST WEEK** Kerala 61.661 2.121 Odisha 3.057 290 Jharkhand 1,708 137 STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING ACTIVE CASES DECLINE IN LAST WEEK Maharashtra 62,743 11,361 Delhi 10.148 6.637 West Bengal 17.771 4.802 STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES TOTAL ON DEC 20 Kerala 5,711 7,05,870 Maharashtra 3,811 18,96,518 West Bengal 1,978 5,36,828 STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS ON NOV 30 TOTAL Maharashtra 99 49,870 West Bengal 40 9.360 2,924 Kerala 30 Data as on December 20, re Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medica

Research and state governments. Often the numbers released every day contain data from pre as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive

Looking at other states to source beef after Karnataka ban: Goa CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PANAJI. DECEMBER 2

WITH BEEF set to be in shortage in Goa soon, after Karnataka's proposed law on banning cattle slaughter, the government is now looking for other states from where it can source the meat, with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday stating that it is his duty to fulfil the needs and interest of the state's 30 per cent minority

asked the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to look for ways and sources to tackle this situation."

"For now." he said. "we are sourcing live animals and beef meat from other states." While there was a shortage felt

these last few days, the Goa government for now has managed to facilitate temporary beef supply to cover the month. Asked on his population. "Currently, there is an stand on the matter, Sawant said, "I also worship gau mata. But we issue because Karnataka has suddenly banned beef," Sawant said. have a 30 per cent minority pop-"Along with Maharashtra, Karnaulation in our state. It is my duty taka was our major source for to look after them, too.'



day said the Covid-19 vaccines being developed across the world are likely to be able to fight off any mutations that the virus may have developed. Mande's comment comes even as British Prime Mini-

> ster Boris Johnson placed London and its surrounding areas under lockdown after a mutation to the virus, believed to increase its

transmissibility, was discovered. The coronavirus has mutated several times since the first case was discovered in Wuhan, China. But scientists had pointed out that the mutations in the coronavirus have been slow. Mutations of the virus have occurred in India as



trial Research (CSIR) director-general Dr Shekhar C Mande on Monwell, but these mutations have been minor, said Mande.

"There are plenty of viral isolates going around. The coronavirus has different isolates in different parts of India. The virus in the South is not the same as what is found in Delhi – all are not identical to each other. We have had mutation like A2A, B4 etc. But India has nothing to be alarmed about." he told The Indian Express. "Mutations in the country have been minor and have been similar to that world over. I believe the vaccines that are being developed will be able to tackle the mutations."

So far scientists have noted two distinct sets of mutations in

mutations to virus: CSIR D-G the virus that causes Covid-19 – the H69/V70 deletion and the Dr Shekhar D614G, both of which affect the

> cines seek to target and weaken. There is no proof so far of the mutations tampering with vaccine effectiveness. Mande said

may be higher, this was not indicative of more fatal symptoms or increased chances of death. Science labs in India have sequenced more than 4.000 geno-

mes of the coronavirus which has been submitted to Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza data. "Genome sequencing is an important method of surveillance for a virus. This is why our labs will continue to sequence genomes till the pandemic is over," said Mande.

DUKC

DIVYAA

Covid vaccine likely to fight off ASI lifts cap on no. of visitors to

spike proteins, which helps the virus to bind to the human cell and infect it. It is this ability that vac-

that while the transmissibility of the new strain, named N501Y.

centrally protected monuments

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey of India (ASI) has revised the standard operating procedures (SoPs) issued in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and has removed the cap on total number of visitors per day at centrally protected monuments.

However, the final decision on the number of tourists to be allowed inside monuments has been left to the discretion of superintending archaeologists and district magistrates, considering the pandemic situation and local restrictions.

Sources said there were repeated demands raised by tour operators and hotel owners in Agra for the cap on visitors to be lifted. However, the ASI insists that all social distancing and hygiene-rel-



visit the centrally protected monuments and heritage sites, where networks may be erratic 10.000 visitors can now visit and e-tickets may not always the Taj Mahal on a given day be possible.

ated protocols, and thermal scanning are still to be strictly observed. With the cap on visitors lifted, as many as 10,000 visitors can enter the Taj Mahal on any given day, as opposed to the cap of 5,000 visitors per day since September 21, when the monument reopened after six months of lockdown

एलाईस एअस

Form No. URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014] Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thrity days hereinafter to the Registrar at Centra Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Plot no. 6,7,8 Sector-5, IMT Manesar District Gurgaon (Harvana) ncode-122050 that M/s Usha Packagings, a partnership firm may be registered under Part 2013, as

The order also permitted the

resumption of sound and light

programmes at the monuments.

Superintending

Dhanbad DC orders audit of utilisation of DMFT funds



ABHISHEK ANGAD

RANCHI DECEMBER 21

DHANBAD DEPUTY Commissioner Uma Shankar Singh has ordered an audit and an impact assessment of utilisation of funds from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) for the financial years 2017-2020. A letter issued by Singh asked for the audit as DMFT funds were being used for "buying of water tankers

(and) sweeping machines". The order asks a committee to submit its report by December 26.

A source in the Mines Department said water tankers and sweeping machines are "lying unused" and the manner of the utilisation of DMFT funds in-

Development Regulation (Amendment)Act, 2015, in every district affected by mining-related operations, the state government shall, by notification, establish a trust as a non-profit body to be called the District Mineral Foundation.

Internal documents accessed by The Indian Express says that since the DMFT was formed in 2015. the total collection of the trust in Jharkhand was Rs 6189.4 crore as of November 2020, of which 2922.97 crore has been

spent so far. They say that 66.79 per cent of this collection has been utilised in two districts alone – Dhanbad and Ramgarh. In Jharkhand, the Drinking Water and Sanitation Depart-

ment accounts for around 91 per dicated "major corruption". cent of total DMFT amount spent. As per the Mine and Minerals According to the DMFT collections and utilisation data accessed by The Indian Express, 16,746 schemes or projects took shape under the drinking water category, which have around 32

> crore sanctioned under this category, of which Rs 2265.99 crore has been spent.

lakh beneficiaries, with Rs 3,973

Under the sanitisation category, 17 projects have been initiated, which benefited 7.9 lakh people. An amount of Rs 480.20 crore was sanctioned, of which Rs 377.11 crore has been spent.

A PIL has also been filed in the High Court on the utilisation of DMFT funds on people affected by mining who do not have access to safe drinking water.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARDS

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Indicative Notice for 1st Stage Computer Based Test (CBT-1)

The 1st Stage CBT will be held in multiple phases in order to ensure adherence to all the COVID-19 guidelines for the large number of eligible candidates. Accordingly the first phase of the Exam is scheduled to be held from 28.12.2020 to 13.01.2021 in various cities all over the country. The remaining eligible candidates will be scheduled in subsequent phases and will be intimated accordingly. The exam will be held by observing all guidelines related to COVID-19.

Links for Exam City, Date & Shift intimation, Forgotten Registration Number, Help Desk and Mock test are made available on official websites of all RRBs. E-call letter can be downloaded 04 days prior to exam date mentioned in Exam City and date intimation link

For further details and updates, the candidates are advised to visit only official websites of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) from time to time. Chairpersons

Railway Recruitment Boards

SB State Bank of India **CENTRAL RECRUITMENT & PROMOTION DEPARTMENT** CORPORATE CENTRE, MUMBAI. Phone: 022-2282 0427. Fax: 022-2282 0411. E-mail: crpd@sbi.co.in

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4	Assistant Manager (System)	JMGS-I	183	
5	Deputy Manager (System)	MMGS-II	17	-
6	IT Security Expert	MMGS-III	15	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/28
7	Project Manager	MMGS-III	14	
8	Application Architect	MMGS-III	5	
9	Technical Lead	MMGS-III	2	
10	Assistant Manager (Security Analyst)	JMGS-I	40	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/29
11	Deputy Manager (Security Analyst)	MMGS-II	60	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/29
12	Manager (Network Security Specialist)	MMGS-III	12	
13	Manager (Network Routing & Switching Specialist)	MMGS-III	20	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/30
14	Deputy Manager (Internal Audit)	MMGS-II	28	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/31
15	Engineer (Fire)	JMGS-I	16	CRPD/SCO-FIRE/ 2020-21/3

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"IMPORTANT

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	ALLIANGE AIR	partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a
	Alliance Air Aviation Limited (A wholly owned subsidiary of Air India Limited)	company limited by shares. The principal objects of the company are as follows:
	Alliance Air invites applications for	 To Carry on business, to manufacture products Parts of all kinds & description related to Corrugated boxes of kraft & Duplex Paper. To Carry on Business as dealers and stockiest,
1	filling up the various posts.	Importers & Exporters of all types of Corrugated boxes, Paper pulp, Paper Angle boards, Paper
	For details please log on to career	tubes, paper bags, BOPP Tapes, Stretch Wraps, Non-woven Bags, Biodegradable Bags, Paper Tags & Mats. A copy of the draft Memorandum and Articles of
	page of our	Association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 21/1, Mustil No. 9
	website: www.airindia.in	,Sahupura Sunped Road, Sunped, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana 121004. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their
[AI AIRPORT SERVICES LIMITED	objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of
	APPOINTMENT	Corporate Affairs (IICA) Plot no. 6, 7, 8 Sector-5, IMT Manesar District Gurgaon (Haryana)
	Al Airport Services Limited (formerly known as Air India Air Transport Services Limited)	Pincode-122050 within twenty one days from
	invites applications from Indian Nationals (Male & Female) who meet with the requirements	the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.
	stipulated herein for the following posts on a Fixed Term Contract basis which may be renewed subject to their performance and the requirement of the AI Airport Services Limited	Name(s) of Applicant
	(formerly known as Air India Air Transport Services Limited), to fill-in the existing vacancies as shown below and to maintain a wait-list for vacancies arising in future.	1. Rohit Sharma 2. Tushar Taneja Dated: 21st December, 2020
	Sr. No. Position No. of post Station	
	1 Dy. Terminal Manager-Pax Handling 2 Chennai-2	IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)
	2 Duty Manager-Terminal 4 Chennai-4 3 Officer- Human Resource / Administration 3 Chennai-2, Kolkata-1	IA No. 3233/2020 in CS (OS) 616/2018
	4 Officer-IR/Legal 1 Delhi/Mumbai-1	Sh. Rahul Singla & Anr Plaintiff/s Vs.
	5 Jr. Executive-Human Resource / Administration 3 Delhi-2, Mumbai-1	Sh. Manish Gupta Defendant/s
	Govt. guidelines applicable for Reserved Categories. For Application Format and all other details, please see Advertisement on our website- www.aiatsl.com (Careers)/www.airindia.in (careers)	To Legal Representatives of defendant 1. Miss Pooja Gupta, W/o Late Sh. Manish Gupta, R/o 25/41 West Punjabi Bagh, New
		Delhi-110026 2. Ms. Manya Gupta, D/o Late Sh. Manish Gupta, R/o 25/41 West Punjabi Bagh New Delhi-110026
	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited	3. Ms. Nitya Gupta, D/o Late Sh. Manish Gupta, R/o 25/41 West Punjabi Bagh New Delhi-110026
	(A Government of India Enterprise)	WHEREAS the plaintiff above mentioned has moved an application (I.A. No. 3233/2020)
	CIN : U40104MH1987GOI149458	alleging that you the above named persons are Legal Representatives of deceased
	Advt. No. : NPCIL/HRM/2020/02	defendant, Late Sh. Manish Gupta and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction
	Recruitment of Senior	of this Court that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you, the
	Assistant Company Secretary	above named Legal Representatives of deceased defendant, to make appearance before the Hon'ble Court on 21.01.2021 at
	ONLINE applications are invited for One	10:30AM/ through video conferencing. Take notice that IA No. 11806/2020 is also
	(01) Unreserved post of Sr. Assistant	fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble Court on 21.01.2021 at 10.30AM/ through video
	Company Secretary (Level-12).	conferencing. Further THIS COURT DOTH ORDER THAT, till the next date of hearing,
_	For detailed advertisement & online	status quo regarding title, possession and construction, qua the suit property shall be maintained.
	application visit our web site	Take notice that in default of your
	www.npcil.nic.in & www.npcilcareers.co.in	appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit & IAs will be heard and determined in
	Online application will start from	your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this
	22.12.2020 at 1000 hrs. and will end on	court on this the 18th day of December,2020.
	05.01.2021 at 1700 hrs.	Deputy Registrar (O) for Registrar General SR







Date: 22.12.2020



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE LOSING FEELS WORSE THAN WINNING FEELS GOOD. -VIN SCULLY

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ Ramnath Goenka BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CRISIS IN KATHMANDU

Internal tussle in Nepal's ruling party forces Prime Minister Oli to seek early elections, a vote may not settle the issue

RIME MINISTER K P Sharma Oli's move to opt for fresh elections rather than bow to the demands from within the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to accommodate his rivals in the power structure has pushed Nepal into political uncertainty. Oli's recommendation on Sunday to dismiss the House of Representatives and have fresh elections, nearly two years ahead of schedule, was immediately accepted by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. Legal experts and politicians described the decision as a "constitutional coup" and have challenged it in the Supreme Court. All these moves will test the fragile consensus on the country's constitution and, possibly, force a vertical split in the NCP.

The origins of the current crisis can be traced back to the formation of the NCP in 2018, after the merger of the CPN-United Marxist Leninist and CPN-Maoist Centre. Oli, the face of CPN-UML, had led the combine to nearly a two-thirds majority in the elections the previous year. Though it was decided that power will be shared between leaders of the two parties that merged, Oli was reluctant. Confident that it was his popularity on account of taking a strident anti-India position in the wake of the 2015 border blockade that enabled the communist alliance to sweep the polls, Oli chose to impose his will on the NCP. This was bound to deepen the divisions within the party. The CPN-UML and the CPN-Maoist had been bitter rivals after the communist movement split in the 1990s over ideological issues and the Maoists launched a guerrilla war against Kathmandu. For years, Oli had demanded that the Maoists under Pushpa Kamal Dahal be held accountable for war crimes, including the killings of CPN-UML cadres. These differences were papered over when the two parties decided to contest elections under a new constitution in 2017 and merge into one outfit post the poll. Clearly, there has been no reconciliation within the outfit. Besides, party rivals have accused Oli of engaging in one upmanship and being unwilling to share power. On his part, Oli sought to fob off all criticism about his conduct by suggesting that his rivals were conspiring with India to remove him from office.

Oli had the mandate to iron out the rough edges of the constitution, address the concerns of Madhesi groups, and strengthen Nepal's institutions. But he preferred to consolidate power and sought to rally support by adopting anti-India postures and cosying up to China. With the NCP unravelling and Oli preferring fresh elections over a truce with rivals, Delhi has little role to play but watch the internal dynamics of Nepal's domestic politics play out. Given the internecine wars and erosion of his own standing within, an election may not deliver the clean slate that Oli is hoping for.

IN THE DOCK

CBI chargesheet indicts UP police in the Hathras rape-murder case; fair probe is the only way to justice

ORE THAN THREE months after a 19-year-old Dalit woman was brutalised, allegedly by four upper-caste men in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, the CBI has filed a chargesheet, a stinging indictment of the state government's - especially its police department's - handling of the case. Based on the declaration by the victim before she succumbed to her injuries, the report incriminates the four accused and punctures the narrative of the state's police officials who said that no "gangrape had taken place". The investigation agency's observations lay bare the local administration's malfeasance towards the victim and her family from day one. No woman officer or the station house officer examined her till September 19 - five days after the incident. "Though the victim alleged molestation, her medical examination regarding sexual assault was not conducted," the chargesheet notes. The medical examination was conducted more than a after the assault. "This delay", as a report by the AIIMS' forensic department, cited by the CBI points out, "could have led to the loss of crucial evidence". The CrPC and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' "Guidelines for Forensic Medical Examination in Sexual Assault Cases" are clear about the procedures to be followed by the police and administration once there is an allegation of sexual assault: An FIR must be registered, a medical examination of the survivor must be conducted in the presence of a woman medical officer and the police must ensure that a statement of the survivor is recorded by a magistrate. The CBI chargesheet is a sobering testament to the UP police's failure to adhere to the rulebook. It was only after the woman "explicitly said balatkar (rape)" and named the four accused that she was sent for a medical examination, the chargesheet notes, while calling out "the negligence during the handling of the case by police as well as concerned authorities". The UP government has responded to the chargesheet by claiming that it had ordered the CBI investigation in the first place. But the fact remains that in the more than three years that the Yogi Adityanath government has held office, the UP police's actions have mirrored a political partisan agenda: whether in creating an enabling atmosphere for cow vigilantes, going after anti-CAA protestors, rampant use of draconian NSA, "encounter" deaths, or now using the anti-conversion law to strike at the personal freedoms of young women and men. That's why, perhaps, in Hathras, the sordid affair continued after the young Dalit woman's death, with the police cremating her in the dead of night, denying the grieving family the right to perform the last rites. Now that the CBI has stepped in, insulating the investigation and prosecution from political influence is the only way to ensure justice in the rape and murder of a young woman.

India's new Europolitik



Delhi now sees European powers as natural partners in constructing a durable balance of power in Indo-Pacific

C RAJA MOHAN

AS THE PROBLEM of reversing Chinese aggression in the Ladakh region carries over from 2020, strengthening Delhi's international coalitions becomes an important priority for Indian foreign and security policies in 2021. If the intensification of security cooperation with the United States has become an important milestone in India's foreign policy in 2020, integrating Europe into India's new strategic calculus ought to be a major objective in 2021.

Three recent developments underline Delhi's changing strategic perceptions of Europe. One is India's support for France's membership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Second, India's backing for a larger European role in the Indo-Pacific. Delhi has welcomed the interest of Germany and Netherlands in building a new geopolitical architecture in the Indo-Pacific. Third, security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific is also emerging as an important theme in the plans to work out a decade-long road map to transform the partnership between Delhi and London, which is in the throes of separating from Europe and defining a new international role for itself.

On the face of it, the three moves appear part of South Block's quotidian diplomacy. But a closer look suggests two important conceptual departures. One, India is looking beyond the bipolar geopolitical competition between the US and China. Delhi has also begun to shed the postcolonial mental block against regional security cooperation with post-imperial Europe.

As Delhi's difficulties with Beijing continue to mount, the US becomes an even more important security partner for India. But Delhi also wants to insure against the inevitable volatility in the complex dynamic between Washington and Beijing.

Although the US-China relationship has rapidly soured in the Trump years and the return to an era of mutual trust seems unlikely, Delhi should be prepared for a Sino-US relationship marked by intense competition and significant cooperation. China is already teasing the incoming Biden administration with the promise of a reset in bilatTo be sure, France and Britain have lingering disputes left over from the era of decolonisation in parts of the Western Indian Ocean. Delhi will have to contribute to the amicable resolution of those problems. It is also true that the European ability to project military power into the Indo-Pacific is limited. But in combination with Asian democracies, Europe can certainly make a difference. It can mobilise massive economic resources for sustainable development of regional infrastructure, wield substantial political influence and leverage its significant soft power to shape the Indo-Pacific discourse. Above all, it can significantly boost India's own comprehensive national power.

eral relations and hinting at its support for the new US president's ambitious goals on mitigating climate change. Meanwhile, the political questioning of the costs and benefits of America's alliances in Europe and Asia initiated by Donald Trump is likely to continue under Biden.

To cope with the uncertain political trajectory of the US, Delhi is already supplementing its American partnership with a network of minilateral groups with other middle powers, such as the India-Australia-Japan forum and the trilateral dialogue with France and Australia. Delhi now sees European powers, individually as well as collectively through the European Union, as natural partners in constructing a durable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific.

Rebuilding ties with Europe needs a significant corrective to Delhi's traditional strategic neglect of the continent. Both the bipolar Cold War dynamic (the East-West dimension) and the North-South framework (developing world versus the developed) prevented Delhi from taking a more nuanced view of Europe's political agency after WWII.

Attempts to impart strategic momentum after the Cold War did not really succeed. When Europe looked at Asia, China loomed large as an attractive commercial partner. And as the economic gap between China and India widened, so did the scale of European interest in both countries. Communist China, with its special sensitivity to "inter-imperialist" contradictions, invested massive political and diplomatic effort to cultivate European political classes and economic elites. That began to pay off handsomely. India, in contrast, appeared rather indifferent to Europe.

France has been an exception. Through the 1990s, in the name of promoting a multipolar world, Paris had reached out to Delhi. President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India in early 2018 unveiled an expansive framework for revitalising the strategic partnership.

India's partnership with France now has a strong regional anchor - the Indo-Pacific. France, with its territories in the Western Indian Ocean and the South Pacific as well as a historic naval presence, was quick to see

the challenges arising from China's maritime expansion and the emergence of the Indo-Pacific as a new political geography.

The rest of Europe and Britain have now woken up to the China challenge and are ready to pay greater attention to Asian geopolitics and the Indo-Pacific. India, too, is breaking out of its past approaches to the Indo-Pacific defined by such binaries as "North versus South" and "regional vs extra-regional".

What was once a political taboo in Delhiregional security cooperation with the former imperial powers of Europe – has now become a strategic necessity. The rise of China and the consequent geopolitical instabilities are inevitably producing new coalitions that break out of an old political paradigm.

To be sure, France and Britain have lingering disputes left over from the era of decolonisation in parts of the Western Indian Ocean. Delhi will have to contribute to the amicable resolution of those problems. It is also true that the European ability to project military power into the Indo-Pacific is limited. But in combination with Asian democracies, Europe can certainly make a difference. It can mobilise massive economic resources for sustainable development of regional infrastructure, wield political influence and leverage its significant soft power to shape the Indo-Pacific discourse. Above all, it can significantly boost India's own comprehensive national power.

Until now, Asians have undervalued the potential European role in the eastern waters. Most Europeans had convinced themselves that managing Asian geopolitics was America's burden. But as China transforms the Eurasian landmass as well as the Indo-Pacific, it is abundantly clear that the US alone cannot redress the imbalance. A strong coalition of Asian and European middle powers must now be an indispensable element of the geopolitics of the East. Such a coalition can't be built overnight. But Delhi could push for a solid start in 2021.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



Limits Of Faith

Anti-conversion law may push women in interfaith unions to discard Hindu identity

The summer of **36**

Team India plunges a new low in Australia. But sports tend to forget and forgive

HE SUMMER OF 36 will not be forgotten, but will certainly be forgiven. Though the nature of the implosion was shocking for a team of proven pedigree and credentials, and would remain an all-time low, none of the 11 players would be condemned by what would be the equivalent of the devil's number in Indian cricket. It would be a memory that would be tough to erase from the mind of these cricketers as well as the audience, there would be frequent reminders in the form of banter, sledge or genuine malice, but it would cease to be a crushing burden as time rolls on. It would haunt them, but would not define their career or life.

The batch of 36 could take lessons from the class of 42. It was no ordinary batting line-up that England skittled out in London, featuring as it did Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath, Farokh Engineer and Ajit Wadekar. But decades later, when their careers are assessed, that hour of ignominy is seldom recalled. Gavaskar went onto become an all-time great most reputed for his all-condition technique. Viswanath is often remembered as the most aesthetic of Indian batsmen, a match-winner on difficult tracks. Engineer made England his home and went on to become a county legend. Wadekar's leadership skills are still praised and he later enjoyed successful stints as India coach.

Sport, thus, forgets and forgives. It offers a chance for redemption. There are numerous examples. Stuart Broad was struck for six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh, yet he is set to end up as one of the all-time great bowlers, scaling more heights than Yuvraj could even imagine. Usain Bolt was eliminated in the first round of the Athens Games, before he clocked the Olympic record in Beijing four years later. Shane Warne was plundered for 150 runs in his debut Test against India, but went on to pick 708 wickets. So India could take lessons from history and fight back.

JYOTI PUNWANI

EVEN AS HINDUTVA groups rejoice at the most efficient implementation ever seen of any law in Uttar Pradesh, their joy might just be sullied by an unexpected fallout. The Hindu women "rescued" by the UP police from their Muslim husbands are boldly speaking up for Muslims. Even more striking is the way they are publicly rejecting their parents.

These are not sophisticated urbanites used to living independent lives. Hailing from small towns, where their movements must have been monitored closely, they fell in love - a disgrace for most families - and were courageous enough to take the next step of eloping.

Be it in Mumbai or Meerut, such decisions are not easy. Marrying outside one's faith can become a matter of life and death, so most youngsters simply drop the idea. Yet, such marriages are increasing. For the brave couples, living away from wrathful parents and keeping a low profile is the safest method of survival.

That's been made impossible by the way the UP police are swooping down on couples hunted out by vigilantes. Since the enactment of the UP law criminalising marriages between Hindu women and Muslim men both in intent and action, the law is just that the police have barged into homes where weddings were taking place; they have separated couples in registrars' offices and courts.

Thanks to the ubiquitous mobile camera, videos of these invasions of privacy have gone viral. But what's shone through these painful, violent scenes has been the courage of the Hindu women. In one video,

The number of Hindu-Muslim unions the UP police have targeted in the last month shows that despite all the hate propagated over the last six years, young Hindus and Muslims do not see each other as enemies. Even more importantly, their willingness to build a life together indicates that faith is not their primary identity.

the woman, held back by cops, pleads with them not to separate her from her partner. Oblivious of the crowds around, she declares that she loves him very much, that he's her life. This could have been a Hindi film scene – it played out in Aligarh.

In the shameful Moradabad case, which resulted in the death of the unborn child, videos showed the Hindu wife angrily telling the Bajrang Dal bullies who encircled her that she had married of her own will. It requires a special kind of guts to do that, especially when cops are mere spectators. Later, she insisted on going to her in-laws' home, and turned her back on her mother, who had been brought to the police station by the vigilantes.

In Meerut, a Hindu woman living with a Muslim told the police to back off: She knew her partner was Muslim; there was neither conversion nor coercion involved in their relationship. One Hindu mother was so furious at the way the police interrupted her daughter's wedding to a Muslim that she lashed out against such unwarranted interference to the media.

In other cases, parents knew that their daughters had eloped, but preferred to stay quiet for fear of embarrassment. The zeal of the police-backed vigilantes dragged these Hindu families into the limelight. Forced to file complaints, their daughters' actions will now be argued in courts in full media glare.

One wonders whether the UPCM had anticipated such a fallout on small-town, lowermiddle-class Hindu families. His stated intention to bring in this new law was to "protect our(Hindu)daughters". Did he anticipate that these very "daughters" would so determinedly refuse "protection"?

The manner of the law's implementation could also lead to an outcome that goes against Hindutva's aims. Those for whom religious identity never meant much will now be forced to adopt a Muslim identity. The number of Hindu-Muslim unions the UP police have targeted in the last month shows that despite all the hate propagated over the last six years, young Hindus and Muslims do not see each other as enemies. Even more importantly, their willingness to build a life together indicates that faith is not their primary identity. A woman who can declare to a hostile mob that as a Hindu, she has chosen to marry a Muslim, is one confident of her religious identity, not bound by it.

But the new law does not allow for such fluid identities. Pushed by a ruthless policevigilante nexus. Hindu women in inter-faith marriages may have to discard their Hindu identity. A couple that "looks obviously Muslim" is unlikely to be harassed; by the same logic, a Muslim ghetto would be the safest space for them. But such an environment could force the Hindu wife to become more Muslim than she may want to, and the Muslim husband to conform to community diktats. Children of mixed marriages are moulded by exposure to different customs. But UP's new law could result in their being moulded by just one faith, and it won't be Hinduism.

The writer is a senior journalist



DECEMBER 22, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

PAWAR ARRESTED

THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT'S plan to foil the farmers' "long march" across the state received a setback with the Chandur magistrate ordering the release of the agitators' leader Sharad Pawar and 440 others. Meanwhile, the Maharashtra bandh organised by six left and democratic parties against the police swoop on the marchers yesterday received a partial response. Official sources said over 1,100 people were rounded up for defying prohibitory orders. The farmers and political workers were set to resume the march when the orders came. Pawar and other marchers were arrested as they neared a jungle near Pohra on their way to Chandur

from where they were to travel by bus and other vehicles to Deoli and then to Nagpur before the winter session of the state legislature.

CONGRESS MERGER

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi today indicated the possibility of some "individuals" from the Congress party headed by Devraj Urs joining the Congress (I). She, however, ruled out the possibility of the merger of two parties at the organisational level. But when asked by journalists if she would consider such a merger in the interests of her party, Mrs Gandhi said, "Well, it works both ways".

ASSAM TENSE

TENSION MOUNTED IN Gauhati following a call given the foreigners' issue agitators to the entire city population, including government employees, to take part in a mass satyagraha. Assam home minister expressed concern at the renewed incidence of violence in several parts of the state and asked the people to cooperate with the government to ensure peace.

THATCHER VISIT

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER Margaret Thatcher is expected to make an official visit to India around the middle of April next year. The exact dates for her visit will be finalised by the two governments through diplomatic channels.





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE ш

New welfarism of India's Right

Traditional redistribution, which aims to deliver on intangibles like health and education, has ceded to a distinctive 'New Welfarism', where Centre is demonstrably providing tangible essentials to citizens



Abhishek Anand, VIKAS DIMBLE AND ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN

THE RECENTLY RELEASED fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) provides reliable and independent evidence to assess micro-development performance under this government. The survey covers many dimensions of health, nutrition, and the overall quality of lives. Here we focus on one that government policy has consciously targeted – New Welfarism – and another that was not but has been of long-standing interest - the stunting of children. The contrast offers potentially important lessons for the political economy of policy-making and for the state of the economy itself.

%

The New Welfarism of the Narendra Modi government represents a very distinctive approach to redistribution and inclusion. It does not prioritise the supply of public goods such as basic health and primary education as governments have done around the world historically; it is also somewhat ambivalent about strengthening the safety net which past Indian governments have pursued with mixed success. Instead, it has entailed the subsidised public provision of essential goods and services, normally provided by the private sector, such as bank accounts, cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing, and more recently water and also plain cash.

Before discussing the findings, several caveats need emphasis. First, since the latest round only has data for 17 states and five Union territories, our findings cover only 54 per cent of India's population. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are notable exclusions. Second, our findings cover only some government programmes which targeted the provision of women's bank accounts, electricity, sanitation and cooking fuel, respectively. They do not cover housing for lack of data. Third, even where data are available, they may not capture the granularity of the outcome. For example, "access to power" does not mean families have 24x7 power from the grid; "access to cooking gas" is no guarantee of its daily use. Fourth, even though the New Welfarism was a central government initiative, significant state-level variations suggest that the centre can neither take full credit nor bear all the blame for outcomes.

Figure 1 illustrates the key findings. First, ajor progress has been made by this government in achieving its New Welfarism. By 2019, 72 per cent of all women had bank or savings accounts that they report as being able to use themselves. Ninety-eight per cent of all households had access to electricity, nearly 70 per cent to improved sanitation, and 60 per cent to clean cooking fuel. Second, the pace of improvement. measured as the percentage of households that have gained access to these goods and services each year, has accelerated since 2015 (the lines tilt more sharply upwards). Improvement has been especially marked in rural India. Perhaps, the most striking change relates to women's financial inclusion and empowerment. Every year, pre-2015, an additional 1.5 per cent of women in rural areas were acquiring bank or savings accounts that they could themselves use. Post-2015, this rose to 7.1 per cent, a near five-fold increase. In rural Bihar, the number of women with accounts jumped from 6.6 per cent in 2005 to 25 per cent in 2015 to almost 50 per cent in 2019.



Rural Urban All households

Notes: All the numbers are per cent of households that have access to the good/service in question. Data are for the 5 years ending in the year labelled on the x-axis, with data for other years linearly interpolated. Data are for 15 states for which numbers are available for all the rounds of the NFHS. Data for women's bank/savings accounts - available only after 2005 - capture financial inclusion and women's empowerment because they are accounts that women themselves use. Numbers in the charts are the percentage point changes per year of access to households before and after (doted line) 2015.



FIGURE 2. STUNTING RATES (% of under-5 children)



Notes: Declines represent improvement.

Illustration: C R Sasikuamr; Graphic: Ritesh Kumar

Electricity

urban **0.7%**

rural 2.0%

urban **1.9%**

rural 0.8%

2005

005

Clean cooking fuel

0.5%

3.4%

3.2%

5.6%

2015

2015 2019

2019

present as opposed to intangibles that might accrue at some more distant point in time. Critical to exploiting that opportunity is ensuring that deliverables can be attributed to the Union government. To this end, the central implementation machinery (the bureaucracy and banks) is deployed as much as possible. And to erase any doubt about the source of the benefits, the policy is backed up by strong and persistent messaging, highlighting the achievements and the benefactor.

In contrast, improving child nutrition is precisely the sort of intangible benefit that is difficult to achieve, measure or monitor. Households cannot easily see whether and to what extent better nutrition has been provided; its benefits, embodied in happier, healthier and cognitively stronger children, are even less clearly discernible. Moreover, better nutrition takes time and patience to deliver. And many factors beyond state-directed efforts are necessary for proper nutrition. In particular, families need a broader macro-economic environment of robust growth of income, purchasing power and consumption.

Ŝo, two conclusions might be drawn from this tale of two outcomes. First, governments need visions - both substantive and political. Second, some outcomes require direct, relatively easy action (like delivering tangible goods and services) but others will be more difficult, requiring above all a dynamic economy, and a conception of the policies and institutions that will support it. In some ways, this Indian experience is consistent with a broader global trend (Poland, Hungary and Turkey). Even without delivering broad-based prosperity, populist leaders and parties are finding electoral success through a potent, new cocktail: Leveraging the identity politics of the right, embracing tepidly, even rejecting, the market-focused neo-liberalism of the centre, and appropriating the redistributive economics of the left. Except that in India today, traditional redistribution (strong safety nets or improved public good provision) has ceded to a distinctive New Welfarism, where the central government is demonstrably and effectively providing tangible essentials to its citizens.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Most countries do not want a confrontational relationship with China. Few believe ideology is more important than economic interests and it is only some political and opinion elites who hold a radical view toward their China -GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA relations."

The composite campus

When Prime Minister speaks at AMU centenary today, he could underline his resolve to preserve, protect and defend the character of the university



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

"FROM THE SEED we sow today there may spring up a mighty tree, whose branches, like those of the banyan of the soil, shall in their turn strike firm roots into the earth and themselves send forth new and vigorous saplings; that this college may expand into a university, whose sons shall go forth throughout the length and breadth of the land to preach the gospel of free inquiry, of large-hearted toleration and of pure morality," said Sir Syed Ahmad Khan at the time when Viceroy Lord Lytton laid the foundation of the MAO (Mohammadan Agro-Oriental) college on January 8, 1877. The prophetic words of the founder have come true as Aligarh Muslim University is today an internationally-acclaimed university and a unique symbol of India's composite culture. At a function to unveil the university's centenary celebrations today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in attendance.

Historian Hamilton Gibb had called the institution the "first modernist organisation of Islam". The university has rightly been recognised as an "institution of national importance" by the Constitution. It has produced heads of state of several countries, including India. Two its alumni, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Zakir Hussain, were conferred the Bharat Ratna.

The cornerstone of Sir Syed's philosophy was the development of a scientific spirit, which he considered to be a sine qua non for intellectual advancement and social progress. He faced stiff opposition from fundamentalist Muslims and more than 50 fatwas were issued against him for his progressive views on Islam and emphasis on western education. Sir Syed was a great nationalist. On Hindu-Muslim relations, he had said in 1883 that by living together for centuries in India, Muslims have acquired hundreds of customs from the Hindus just as Hindus learned hundreds of things from the Muslims. In Gurdaspur in 1884, he remarked: "O Hindus and Muslims! Do you belong to a country other than India? Do you not live on this soil and are not buried under it or cremated on its ghats? If you live and die on this land, then, bear in mind, that... all the Hindus, Muslims and Christians who live in this

marily for the Muslims and so far as consistent with above objectives for others". But this is exactly what the Supreme Court of India held in Kerala Education Bill (1957), when it observed that minority institutions are primarily for the minority that has established them. The TMA Pai judgment (2003) reiterated this view while dealing with the relationship of Article 30(1) with Article 29(2). AMU does not have religion-based reservation but most people do not differentiate between reservation in state institutions and minority institutions. While the former cannot have religion based reservation due to Article 15(1), the latter are entitled to it under Article 30(1) if it is a religious minority institution. As minorities are an integral part of India, AMU as the greatest citadel of minority education is simultaneously an institution of national importance in respect of which only Parliament can legislate. Many erroneously believe that a governmentaided institution cannot be a minority institution. Article 30(2) explicitly negates this view. The Court has consistently held that government "aid" cannot come with such conditions that will "annihilate or destroy minority character" of a minority institution. No one has ever doubted the minority

character of MAO College. The Supreme Court in 1967 and Allahabad High Court in 2005 admitted the so-called "deep green" character of the MAO College. This college was converted into a university in 1920. Section 5 of the AMU Act even today says AMU shall inherit not only all debts, liabilities, etc. of the MAO College but also its rights. Even Justice Chagla, while introducing the 1965 amendment, had told Parliament that the government has no intention of changing the character of the university. Yet, departing from its otherwise liberal approach, the Supreme Court in 1967 opined that it is not clear from the text of the 1920 Act that the university was established by Muslims. HM Seervai termed the judgment as "productive of great public mischief". Parliament responded to court's anxieties through an amendment in 1981 to clarify and explicitly state the historical fact that Aligarh Muslim University is "an institution of their choice established by Muslims of India" and that it "in fact originated as MAO College" and was merely "incorporated" and not really "established" in 1920. In 2005, Allahabad High Court struck down this amendment as a "brazen overruling". The SC quickly stayed this judgment and in 2019 agreed to reconsider its own 1967 judgment.

AMU always received full support from successive governments. Since PM Modi has given the slogan of sabka saath, sabka saath and sabka vishwas, he may not only give a big financial package to the university but also assure the over-anxious AMU fraternity about his resolve to preserve, protect and defend the historic and constitutional character of this great institution so that AMU realises the vision of its founder by producing enlightened and liberal citizens. Investment in the secular and modern education of minorities helps the nation in many ways.

Post-2015, 3.4 per cent of households were

What explains the difference between the success of New Welfarism and the failure on stunting?

gaining access to better sanitation, compared

to 1.5 per cent before. For cleaner cooking fu-

els, the pace increased seven-fold to 5.6 per

cent of households every year after 2015. For

rural electricity, 2 per cent of additional house-

holds were getting power every year pre-2015,

and the pace increased to 3.4 percent of

short of earlier claims. The clearest example

is sanitation: The India-wide average of access

to clean sanitation is still a little under 70 per

cent, far from the declaration that India is 100

per cent open-defecation free. The Bihar num-

been a major Indian failure of state action and

societal inaction. Figure 2 plots stunting rates,

defined as when a child's height-for-age is two

standard deviations below the global norm.

After showing a slow but steady decline, es-

pecially between 2005 and 2015, there has

been a disappointing reversal thereafter with

overall stunting rates flattening and urban

rates rising. And because stunting reflects nu-

trition, which, in turn, derives from income

and consumption, this story - of retrogres-

sion, not just stalled progress - is incompati-

ble with a dynamic economy, distributing the

benefits of development widely.

Turn next to child stunting, which has long

Third, performance on some metrics falls

households every year.

ber is only 49 per cent.

New Welfarism embodies a vision, both imbued with conviction and laden with calculation. The conviction is that providing these goods and services will make a critical difference to the lives of the poor. Indeed, New Welfarism recalls the Basic Needs approach to development that was in intellectual vogue several decades ago. The conviction also stems from a belief that the power of technology can be harnessed to achieve successful implementation.

New Welfarism's calculation is that there is rich electoral opportunity in providing tangible goods and services, which are relatively straightforward to deliver, measure and monitor. Traditional government services such as primary education are intangible, which are difficult even to define, much less measure. But when the government promises toilets, for example, everyone can monitor progress. Either a toilet has been installed, or it has not. Opportunity is also spotted in providing

benefits that can be delivered in the political

The New Welfarism of the Narendra Modi government represents a very distinctive approach to redistribution and inclusion. It does not prioritise the supply of public goods such as basic health and primary education as governments have done around the world historically; it is also somewhat ambivalent about strengthening the safety net which past Indian governments have pursued with mixed success.

Anand is graduate student at Harvard Kennedy School, Dimble is deputy director, Ashoka Centre for Economic Policy and Subramanian is professor, Ashoka University

Notes from a new world

Pandemic has forced classical musicians to adapt to the virtual mode

Ranjani and Gayatri

AS THE DAYS start to get shorter and cooler, the warmth of music fills the air in our hometown of Chennai, the cultural nerve centre of South India. Every year, around this time, the city gears up for the December music season, a dizzyingly packed schedule of concerts, dance recitals and much more. Every year. thousands of concerts and music fans throng the city from all over the world. But now the halls are empty, and the annual extravaganza seems a distant memory. A sombre reminder of the world we face comes in the form of an email from The Music Academy, which announces that for the first time in almost a century, the festival will be virtual!

We are Carnatic singers and musicians and have been performing for nearly 35 years as a vocalist duo on stages all over the world. India was early to impose curbs on March 24 and as artistes we had hoped that the December season would remain untouched by the pandemic. But as the virus raged and

gatherings were banned, reality dawned on us. We saw live concerts, which are the staple of the classical music experience, reduce to a mere dream. The world changed and the energy that feeds the creative endeavour of artistes like us was nearly extinguished.

As we watched this changed world, we asked ourselves: How do we keep this experience alive, both for ourselves and our fans? The word "virtual", hitherto absent from our vocabulary, became the call of the hour, as we realised that we had to adapt. We were not sure how the new format would be received. As physical live concerts transformed into virtual concerts, a new catchword was born - voncerts!

The journey to the virtual world was less than smooth for artistes. The first few months saw a grand pageantry of musical content being shared on social media in the form of unseen videos and solo performances from the family room. This content was enthusiasti-

cally received by fans – indeed, this offered a welcome diversion from the painful parade of pandemic news. As the gravity of the pandemic deepened and its long-term implications unfolded, it was time for us to look for sustainable alternatives.

As we embarked on this journey, we had more questions than answers. Should content be free? What should be the format? We realised that musical content simply cannot be presented in good form without aspects that enrich the experience - good recording, suitable stage and careful editing. With apprehension, we introduced a fee model and have been pleasantly surprised by the response. Music lovers have been willing to pay for concerts produced well. Importantly, it has enabled artistes to recreate much of the impact of a live concert in a virtual reality.

As artistes, it heartens us to learn that this new reality can indeed be enriching. Since restrictions do not exist for a virtual event, it has

been surreal for us to see music lovers from Chicago to Berlin to Chennai in the same audience, making it a truly global experience.

As Lenin famously said, "There are decades when nothing happens and then there are weeks when decades happen.' Decades did happen in the last few weeks, but through this seemingly endless journey, a new reality of musical expansiveness and global reach has arrived. As we write this, news of a vaccine brings hope for green shoots for a new world – where the musical experience is unconstrained and virtual formats broaden the reach of music globally. At the ongoing December concerts, both free and ticketed virtual content have filled the vacuum of empty auditoriums. We look forward to a time of untrammelled travel, live concerts and a safer and healthier world in a pandemic-free future.

The writers are Indian classical musicians

The Scientific Society founded by Sir Syed in 1863 was national in character. Apart from the British members, it comprised 82 Hindu and 107 Muslim members. Even the 22member managing committee of MAO College included six Hindus. The first graduate of the university was Ishwari Prasad and the first MA was Amba Prasad. Strangely, famous colleges of England did not admit non-Christian students even as late as the beginning of the 20th century.

country are one nation."

True, Section 2 of the MAO College Laws, 1877 clearly provided that "the college is priThe writer is president of Consortium of National Law Universities and vicechancellor of NALSAR, Hyderabad. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KOHLI MUST GO

THIS REFERS TO the interview with Ramchandra Guha, 'Ambedkar warned us about dangers of bhakti in politics; bhakti in sport is the same'(IE, December 19). Its high time sweep out the star culture from Indian cricket. As a start, Virat Kohli should be removed from captaincy. No cricket captain in history has abandoned ship in the middle of an Ashes series/Australian tour. Can you imagine the Chief election commissioner taking leave during a general election or General V P Malik taking casual leave during the Kargil conflict? Yet, Kohli is allowed to just walk away in the middle of an overseas tour! Captaincy requires much more in than just being a good player - it requires character, fortitude and above all, an unswerving commitment to the country you represent. Kohli has to go, and as Guha rightly suggests, so does Sourav Ganguly. The sooner the better.

N P Singh, Delhi

ON THE BACKFOOT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, The Bengal fight' (IE, December 21). The cacophony around the Bengal elections is getting more shrill by the day. While the BJP is geared up for the no-holds-barred fight, desertions from the TMC are compounding Mamata Banerjee's problems. Moreover, for Banerjee, there is the antiincumbency factor. The BIP rightly senses that it has a real chance to unseat her. Vijai Pant, Hempur

IDEAS **ONLINE** ONLY IN THE EXPRESS • FOR A FAIR ADMISSION PROCESS: PRIYA GARG AND HARSHITA SINGHAL A CAUTIONARY EXAMPLE: SUNIT ARORA www.indianexpress.com

OPPOSITION, UNITE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Beyond the new facade' (IE, December 21). The article, written by a well-respected bureaucrat, makes it clear that for the BJP-led majority government, the functioning of Parliament is not a priority - the legislative body has been ignored and kept in a corner. This government pays no heed to the Opposition and ignores suggestions from experts. It appears that the people in charge want to move the country towards being an autocracy. There is still time – the Opposition should wake up, unite and stop this design.

R M Deshpande, Navi Mumbai





HIMACHAL PRADESH, JAL SHAKTI VEBHAG **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Quotation are invited for the works as mentioned below on prescribed document so as to reach i the office of the Executive Engineer, Hydrology Const. & Maintenance Division, Tutikandi Shimla-171004 on o before 30.12.2020 upto 11.00 A.M. The quotations will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. The pre scribed E-5 document can be obtained from the above mentioned office on any working day w.e.f 14.12.2020 to 29.12.2020 between 10.00 AM to 5.00 P.M. The bidders may also contact the office for any clarifications in this regard personally, Telephonically No. 0177-2658166 or email ID: eehydro@yahoo.co.in

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	Name of Work		Estimated Cost	Time
1	National Hydrology Project (SH: Supply of spare part of Chromatograph (Trace GC 1110) installed in Level-II+ Laborator Tutikandi Shimla-4 H.P.		98,698.00/-	Two Month
2	National Hydrology Project (SH: Flushing of 28 Nos. Observation & Wells/Piezometer at various Points/Location under Hydrology Division Santokhgarh in Tehsil and Distt. Una H.P.		4,34000/-	Two Month
21-4 Date			HIM SUCHANA AVA Sd/- Executive Engin ology Const. & Mair Tutikandi-Shimla-1	eer nt. Division,
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

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ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई—निविदा सूचना संख्या–RWD/SD/GARHWA/14/2019-20_RE(2rd Call),PR-223355(RD)19-20*D 1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी

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2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 21.12.2020

3. ई—निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय — 04.01.2021 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक 4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गढवा / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ.एफ.पी. भवन, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 05.01.2021

अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक |

5. निविदां खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ.एफ.पी. भवन, राँची । निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –06.01.2021 अपराहन 2:00 बजे।

7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गढ़वा। ई—निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दरभाष सं० – 9234908682

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

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

PR 237912 Rural Development(20-21).D

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, रॉची पूर्व, रॉची

<u>ई० प्रोक्योरमेन्ट अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना</u>

(पंचम आमंत्रण) ेि निविदा सं0 / पेयजल / Bleaching— 01 / 2020—21(5[™] Call) दिनांक—19.12.2020, चतुर्थ आमंत्रण PR- 235628 कार्य का नाम :– पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखंड अन्तर्गत विभिन्न गॉवों में विरंचक चूर्ण के छिड़काव कार्य हेतु भारतीय मानक विशिष्ट (BIS) सं०–1065–1989 (अद्यतन पुनरीक्षण) के अनुरूप विरंजक चूर्ण (Bleaching Powder) Grade - I (न्यूनतम क्लोरिन कन्टेन्ट 34%) की आपूर्ति का कार्य ।

1. बिलीचिंग पाउडर ेआपूर्ति से संबंधित मात्रा, प्राक्कलित राशि, निविदा पत्र का मूल्य, अग्रधन राशि एवं कार्य पूर्णता की तिथि की

	ग्रामों की	आपूर्ति की जाने	पैकिंग, लोडिंग, ढुलाई, अनलोडिंग,	निविदा			कार्य
ग्रुप		वाली ब्लीचिंग		पत्र का	अग्रधन की राशि	जमानत की राशि	पूर्णता
संख्या	कुल संख्या	पाउडर की मात्रा		मूल्य	(रुल्)	(रू०)	की
	લહ્યા	(मे0टन)	पाउडर का प्राक्कलित मूल्य (रू०)	(ন্দ)			अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RER-1	29564	739.100	20537774.00	10000	410760.00	1026889.00	30 दिन
			थि :- दिनांक 28.12.2020				
 नविदा 	पर्व बैठक	(प्री बीड मिटिंग)	की तिथि 🛛 : दिनांक 30.12.2020	के पर्वाहण	12.30 बजे से।		
4. निविदाय	दाता द्वारा वि	नेविदा वेबसाईट	पर upload करने की अंतिम तिथि :	06.01.2021	के अपराहन 4.00) बजे तक ।	
5. अग्रधन	की राशि ए	वं परिमाण विपत्र	का मुल्य का :- 07.01.2021 के अपर	हन 4.00 ब	जे तक ।		
		की अन्तिम तिथि				वं स्वच्छता विभाग र	ाँची प्रक्षेत्र
(, डोरण्डा, राँची।		,		
			(ii) कार्यपालक अभि	नेयंता का व	हार्यालय पेयजल	एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण	डल राँच
			पर्व, राँची।			,	o (1, 1
6 निविदा	(तकनीकी	बीड) खोलने की		के अपराहन	11.00 बज्ते ।		
		नाम एवं पता	:– कार्यपालक अभियंता			ਰ ਦੱਸੀ ਧਰੀ ਦੱਸੀ।	
		र्यालय का सम्पर्क		, 140101 5	4 (4-0(1) / 10(i, (i-ii <u>L</u> -i, (i-ii)	
		न का सहायता के					
३.३० त्राप चोटः— १	ूर्ला ७ सर तिमोष ज	ग की रशिवर्सी के सनकारी के लिए	वेबसाईट — http://jharkahndte	adors gov	in गर देखा जा	सकता है।	
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-R 23/9		ing water and	d Sanitation)20-21#D		, , , , , , , , ,		<u>,,, , , ,</u>
1000	ALC: NO		Govt. of	Karnatak	а		
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1 10	57		(An Autonomous Institu				-
1.1	240						0.40
N .10	6.53		d, Fort, Bengaluru - 560 002.				
		Email: direct	tor_bmcri@yahoo.co.in / direct			ebsite: www.bm	cri.org
			e-TENDER NOTIF	ICATI	ON		

SI. Tender Notification Details Schedule No. No. & Date

Gorakhpur serial blasts case: ex-Unani doctor gets life term

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

A LOCAL court in Gorakhpur on Monday sentenced suspected Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami (HuJI) operative Tariq Qasmi to life imprisonment in connection with the serial blasts that rocked the city in 2007. Six people were injured in the explosions.

This is the fourth case in which Oasmi, who is in Barabanki district jail at present, has received a life sentence. The Samajwadi Party government led by Akhilesh Yadav had moved a withdrawal application in the court in 2013 to

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवी फर्मो ठेकेदार/कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्यों हेतु बन्द ई-निविदायें मोहर ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आंमत्रित की जाती हैं। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्न शुल्क जमा करने तथा अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। निविदा का विवरण निम्न प्रकार हैः ई-निविदा संख्या, कार्य का विवरण, निविदा के प्रथम भाग खुलने की दिनांक, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य (कर सहित) को क्रम में पढ़ा जाये। 1. टी-107/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र वेदव्यासपुरी पर स्थापित 40 एम०वी०ए० परिवर्तक-I के तेल का रिसाव रोकने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 19.01.2021, रू. 2,000.00/-, 590.00/ 2. टी-108/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बडौत के अन्तर्गत नवनिर्मित 220 के0वी0 डबल सर्किट बडौत–शामली लीलो निरपुडा के सुरक्षित कोरिडोर मे पेड़ों की कटाई/छटाई से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 19.01.2021, रू. 2,000.00/-590.00/- अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, ''पारेषण भवन' विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्टहित में ऊर्ज बचायें'' पत्रांकः 5196 वि.पा.मं./ETC/मेरठ/MT/सूचना दिनांक: 21/12/2020

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,

गढवा

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु ई–निविदायें दो भागों में (जी0एस0टी0) में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in' पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा मूल्य तथा धरोहर राशि तथा अन्य विवरण/संशोधन आदि की विस्तृत जानकारी ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाइट पर

withdraw the Gorakhpur blast case, but it was rejected.

"Additional District and Sessions judge Narendra Kumar Singh on Monday awarded life imprisonment to Qasmi in the serial blast case. In all, 23 prosecution witnesses were examined of whom seven turned hostile," said government counsel SP Narayan Singh.

Qasmi, who used to be a Unani doctor, is married and has four children. On May 22, 2007, three blasts ripped through Gorakhpur within five minutes. During investigation, the police found the blasts were triggered by extremist outfits Indian Mujahideen (IM) and Hull. The UP Police's

Special Task Force arrested Qasmi and another suspected Hull operative, Khalid Mujahid of Jaunpur, outside the Barabanki railway station on December 20, 2007, and claimed to have seized 1.25 kg RDX. six detonators, three cell phones and two SIM

Sr. Name of Work

District Chamba (HP)

No. JSVD-DLU-EA-I-E-Tender/2020-13455-80 Dated: 18-12-2020

No.

Ref:

Reference

Annexure "A"

Technical

Specifications:

. A) Vehicle:-

Annexure "A"

Technical

Specifications:

B) Hydraulically operat-

ed desilting equipment:

NO.CDM/1328

Dated:-19-12-2020 DIPK-10745

cards from them. Apart from the Gorakhpur case, the police also booked Khalid and Qasmi in the Lucknow and Faizabad court blast cases. The explosions had occurred on November 23, 2007, Khalid died in 2013 while being brought to Faizabad from the Lucknow dis-

trict jail During its investigation in the Gorakhpur case, the police later unearthed the involvement of suspected IM operatives Salman alias Chottu, Saif and Mirza Shadab Baig. Saif and Salman are in jail at present. The district police attached a property of Baig, a native of Azamgarh's Sahab Ka Kila locality, after seeking permission from court as he remained absconding.

"The file of Saif and Salman was separated from Tarig because their names came into light late," said Singh.

Defence counsel Jalalludin Khan, who represented Qasmi, said, "The court government's plea to withdraw the Gorakhpur blast case was rejected by the court." Khan said his client would appeal the judgement.

ractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh, Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Subject:- Procurement of vehicle mounted manhole desilting machine

Instead of

i. Four wheeled Vehicle TATA ACE

Gold (BS-VI). The Vehicle shall be

as per Indian Motor Vehicle Act.

And as per company standard

iv. The hydraulic pump of the

hydraulic system shall be Dowty

Vickers/ IPH (Itlay) make and con-

trol valve of Bucher V-Tech/IPH

All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the main N.I.T.

complete in all respects.

(Itlav) make

Tender Notice No. e-2 /Smart City /20-21/SCM

Remodeling of Flow Irrigation Scheme Chakki Khad Raipur Kuhl in Tehsil Bhattiyat

HIMACHAL PRADESH, JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dalhousie on behalf o Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the below mentioned work from the cor

The date of start for downloading the above bid is 19-12-2020 and deadline for submission of bid is 01-01-2021

The bidde of start for downloading the above bid is 19-12-202 and decating the above bid is 19-12-202 is the departmental website https://hptenders.gov.in. 1 xecutive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason(s). to. JSVD-DLU-EA-I-E-Tender/2020-13455-80 Dated: 18-12-2020 5196/HP Jal Shakti Division, Dalhousie Distt. Chamba (HP)-176304

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH. CITY DRAINAGE

DIVISION SRINAGAR

Email address:- exenmcddsmcsgr@gmail.com, Contact No. 0194-2503097

CORRIGENDUM

Please read as under in respect of above mentioned NIT.

COIMBATORE SMART CITY LIMITED SMART CITIES MISSION

EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE

This office N.I.T NO: CDM_E_07_OF _2020-21, DATED: - 03.12.2020.

Estimated

Cost

Rs. 4,12,64,644/- Rs. 4,45,150/-

PLEA TO DEACTIVATE TWITTER ACCOUNT HC to petitioner: Show that reasonable restrictions violated by Kangana's tweets

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

THE BOMBAY High Court while hearing a criminal writ plea on Monday against actor Kangana Ranaut for her allegedly offensive tweets, observed that the actor had the fundamental right to express her views, albeit, withreasonable restrictions.

However, the court asked the petitioner as to how the reasonable restrictions could be put on her freedom of speech as per Article 19 (2) of the Constitution based on her allegedly offensive tweets. The court also asked the petitioner that on which grounds could the court exercise its powers in the case.

A division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice MSKarnik was hearing criminal writ plea filed by Mumbai-based lawyer Advocate Ali Kaashif Khan Deshmukh against Ranaut seeking directions to permanently suspend or deactivate her Twitter account in or-

Time

Limit

Two Years

Read as

i. Four wheeled Vehicle diesel version

TATA ACE Gold (BS-VI). The

Vehicle shall be as per Indian Motor

Vehicle Act. And as per company

standard, complete in all respects

iv. The hydraulic pump of the hydraulic

system shall be Dowty Vickers/ IPH

(Itlay) make and control valve of

Bucher V-Tech/IPH (Itlay) / Walvoil

MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Sd/

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SRINAGAR

Date : 18.12.2020

make

Cost of

Form

Rs. 2500

Earnest

Money



der to stop "spreading of continuous hatred and disharmony through extremist or derogatory tweets..." Deshmukh had also named Ranaut's sister Rangoli Chandel as an accused.

On Monday, the state government reiterated its stand and opposed the plea stating that the plea was vague, non-maintainable and did not raise grievance about any personal injury.

The bench asked the petitioner, "If you say that your fundamental right, Article 21 (right to personal liberty) is violated... Any individual can have such an account to express her views through tweets. You will have to show that reasonable restrictions ... are violated by such tweets. Tell us how can you do that?"

The court posted the matter to January 7.

Third wettest monsoon in country since 1994: IMD

New Delhi: December 10 India experienced its third wettest monsoon in 2020 in 25 years clocking in 109 percent of its Long Period Average (LPA), according to a post-monsoon analyby the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the findings of which were re-

leased Monday. According to the IMD, the seasonal rainfall over the country was above average between the months of June and September. The highest

rainfall was experienced

in August. According to IMD, the country received its highest rainfall in 1994 - 112 percent of LPA -- followed by 110 percent of LPA in 2019. In terms of distribution, Central India received the highest rainfall this year, according to the weather monitoring agency.

Gujarat teacher 'falls to death' from 14-storey

NANCE OF INDUCTIVELY Supply COUPLED PLASMA MASS Master SPECTBOMETER (ICP- Plan Water Supply Sup	Executive (Under Criteria gineer Water JKIDFC) Mentioned in pply Master an Div. Sgr Document)	में बिजली बचायें" हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, मुरादाबाद। पत्नांक ः		:- या बैंकर्स चेक जो व	लोह 06526-223686, 9 कार्यपालक अभियंत रार्यपालक अभियंता, उ		since 2012 We have not yet searched his house for any note and the phone records are yet to be probed Further ques-
NANCE OF INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA MASS SPECTROMETER (ICP- MS) AND OTHER Division Master Plan Division	gineer Water JKIDFC) Mentioned in pply Master Tender	अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम,	 नाम एव पता 8 ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरमाष सं० 9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट 	:-	लोह 06526-223686, 9 कार्यपालक अभियंत	801557189(संबंधित 1 का दूरभाष नम्बर)	yet searched his house for any note and the phone
ING, OPERATION, MAINTE- Water Executive E		जीएसटी सहित मूल्य रू० 590/- " राष्ट्र हित	_ निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का	:-	कार्यपालक अभियंता गार्म	ोण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,	suffering from depression
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, Executive Rs. 250000/- R	Rs. 3500/- Languishing (As Per	धरोहर राशि रू0 4000/-, निविदा प्रपत्न का	 5 निविदा खोलने का स्थान 6 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 	:-	ु प्रक्षेत्र, धु	र्वा, रॉंची।	family of the victim has informed us that he was
No. Division Money Do (In Rs.) (ocument Account Contract (In Rs.)	स्वचयार्ड एवं स्टोर एरिया पर घास आदि	विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, घुर्वा, रॉची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि,एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	:-			commissioner of police, M Division, Ahmedabad city police, said, "The
Criteria Mentioned in Tender Document) Position of funds:- Available Languishing Programme	(Under JKIDFC)	मुरादाबाद के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र	 यामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, 	:-			cities of Gujarat. VG Patel, assistant
executive Engineer Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinag	gar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K,		2 वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	:-			over 15,000 students in Ahmedabad and other
NOTICE INVITING TENI	DER	जीएसटी सहित मूल्य रू० 590/- 3-ई-				a	started private tuitions in 1999 and has so far taught
	-	धरोहर राशि रू० 3000/–, निविदा प्रपत्न का	क्र० कार्य का नाम सं०	प्राक्कलित राशि	-		treatment. They said Tank
		लाइनों के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य।	अल्पकालान इ— निविदा अमित्रण सूचना संख्य 1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणीः	4I - RDD/SD/LO	JHARDAGA/E-	13/2020-21	chronic depression since 2012 and was undergoing
Mask Follow Physical Distancing	Hand Hygiene	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				12/2020 21	was suffering from
E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E							areas of the city. As per his friends and family, Tank
•							tute in Satellite and Paldi
Sd/-	- Director cum Dean			0.	C		Tank used to run his insti-
•		3					ition teacher of mathe- matics in Ahmedabad,
			cbepmcsmartcity@gmail.com				A popular private tu-
	ed, downloaded and applied only through					ited,	entry of Rajyash Rise commercial building.
	his institute at 11.30 A.M.		Submission will be closed at 15.00 hours a	and opened at 16 .	00 hours 06.01.2		was found at the parking
3 2020-21, Emergency Light, BP Apparatus, Printe	er, Mask & technical bid: 07.01.2021						
			date has been postponed to 06.01.2021				According to police,
BMC&RI, Bengaluru.	the tenders : 05.01.2021	अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखा जा					
Dated 19/12/2020 COVID 19 Rehabilitation Centre, Victoria		होंगी जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में	u			ity	plex at Vishala Circle in
BMCRI/Sup(2)/50/ the purchase of Medical Equipments r	29.12.2020 at 11.30 AWI	नियम/शर्ते विभाग के फार्म ए/बी के अनुसार				an Croro lakh	from the terrace of a 14- storey commercial com-
	(1) Dro bid Mosting dated (allegedly fell to death
Dated 19/12/2020 Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratorie		•	हें Name o	f work		Amount Security	<i>Ahmedabad:</i> A 40-year-old private tuition teacher
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New Delhi

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 **L**EXPLAINED

• @ieExplained #ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

How the coronavirus spike protein attaches itself to surfaces, freshly viewed



Impression of the adhesion behaviour of the coronavirus on surfaces. Adrian Keller/Paderborn University

THE PRIMARY route of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19, is understood to be via airborne droplets. But respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted not only via the air but also through contact with contami-

nated objects. Scientists at Paderborn University, Germany have examined what helps viruses attach themselves to surfaces, and published their findings in the journal Advanced Nano-Biomed Research. "It is generally known

that coronaviruses are primarily transmitted via the air. However, several studies have now also

identified transmission through contaminated surfaces as an important factor. There is increasing evidence that they can play a key role in the spread of viral infections," physicist Dr Adrian Keller of Paderborn University said in a statement.

Keller and colleagues examined specifically the proteins that make up the viral envelope - the outermost layer of the virus. And the outermost point at the envelope is the spoke protein, the coronavirus's key tool in infecting the human cell. The researchers said virus adsorption at non-living surfaces most likely involves the spike protein. "Understanding S1 spike protein interaction with fomite surfaces thus represents an important milestone on the road to fighting the spread of

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

Covid-19," they write in their paper. To examine the adsorption of virus particles on non-living surfaces, the research used high-speed atomic force microscopy. The surfaces in the exper-

iments were brought into contact with

electrolytes carrying proteins that the researchers had isolated from the virus. To understand how coughed-out, virus-laden droplets would interact with these surfaces when landing on them, the researchers adjusted the salt concentrations and pH values of the electrolytes so that they resembled those of saliva or mucus. "The adsorption of the proteins on the

surfaces occurs in these media and is intended to simulate the process of coughed-out, virus-laden droplets landing on surfaces," Keller said. It was found that on oxide sur-

faces, the adsorption of the spike protein is controlled by electrostatic interactions. Keller explained in the statement: "Among other things, this leads to the spike protein adsorbing less strongly on aluminium oxide than on titanium oxide... However, electrostatic interactions can be suppressed relatively easily, for example in concentrated salt solutions. We assume that these correlations between the surface and the spike protein also play a key role in the initial attachment of complete SARS-CoV-2 virus particles to the surfaces.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Decoding the virus variant

India and several other countries have suspended flights to and from the UK. What mutations have led to the coronavirus variant that has caused concern? How rapidly has it spread? Will it impact vaccination?

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

ON MONDAY, India suspended all flights from and to the UK until December 31, amid concerns about a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that is "spreading & growing rapidly" there. Several other countries, too, have suspended UK flights and imposed travel restrictions.

What are these concerns leading to travel restrictions?

Last week, the new SARS-CoV-2 variant was revealed to be the reason behind the rapid surge in Covid-19 cases in South and East England. It is being referred to as VUI (Variant Under Investigation) 202012/01, or the B.1.1.7 lineage.

"Over the last few days, thanks to our world-class genomic capability, we have identified a new variant of the coronavirus, which may be associated with the faster spread in the South of England," UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the House of commons on December 14. UK authorities have already notified the World Health Organization about the variant

Public Health England (PHE) announced that 1,108 cases with this variant have been identified as of December 13, "predominantly in the South and East of England". "PHE is working with partners to investigate and plans to share its findings over the next 2 weeks." it said.

What is the variant like?

The variant was identified in genomic surveillance by COVID-19 Genomics UK (COG-UK), a consortium that analyses genome sequencing data from the UK. COG-UK is the largest contributor to the global Covid-19 database GISAID

The variant is the result of multiple mutations in the spike protein of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, as well as mutations in other genomic regions of the RNA virus. Preliminary analysis suggests that it is more transmissible than previously circulating variants. COG-UK identified one of these mutations as "N501Y", in an area of the spike protein that binds to a key protein in the human cell, the ACE2 receptor. This was an indication that the alterations may, theoreti-



An empty Eurostar terminal at St Pancras International station in London on Monday, as various countries imposed travel restrictions to and from the UK. Reuters

cally, result in the virus becoming more infectious. "Efforts are underway to confirm whether or not any of these mutations are contributing to increased transmission," the consortium said.

What do we know so far about transmissibility, and severity of disease?

On Sunday, PHE said data from wholegenome sequencing, epidemiology and modelling suggests that the new variant "transmits more easily than other strains".

However, it also emphasised that there is "no evidence" that the variant is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality. "... But we are continuing investigations to understand this better," it said. It said mortality is a "lagging indicator" and it will "continually monitor this over the coming weeks".

PHE has said it does not know yet the mechanism for this increase in transmission. 'We know that mutations in the spike protein, the part of the virus that makes it infectious, can change how the virus interacts with human cells." it said.

It said the evidence shows that infection

rates in geographical areas where this particular strain has been circulating have increased faster than expected, and the modelling evidence has demonstrated that this variant has a higher transmission rate than other variants in current circulation.

How much of a concern is the higher transmissibility?

On December 18, New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG), which advises the UK government on the threat posed by new and emerging respiratory viruses, said the new variant could potentially ramp up the reproduction number of the disease by up to 0.93. It said it has "moderate confidence" that the new variant "demonstrates a substantial increase in transmissibility compared to other variants".

The expert body, however, concluded that there is "currently insufficient data to draw any conclusion" on the underlying mechanism of increased transmissibility", the age distribution of cases and disease severity. It has said 4 deaths in around 1,000 cases have been identified, but "further work

is needed to compare this fatality rate with comparable data sets".

'The location of the mutations in the receptor-binding domain of the spike glycoprotein raises the possibility that this variant is antigenically distinct from prior variants. Four probable reinfections have been identified amongst 915 subjects with this variant but further work is needed to compare this reinfection rate with comparable data sets," it said.

On Sunday, a threat assessment brief published by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said phylogenetic analysis reveals that the "cluster differs by 29 nucleotide substitutions from the original Wuhan strain". "Three sequences from Denmark and one from Australia, from samples collected in November 2020, cluster with the UK variant, most likely indicating that international spread has occurred, although the extent remains unknown," it said.

But has the virus not mutated before?

Whenever a virus replicates and circulates in a human population, mutations occur naturally, at a rate of around one to two mutations per month in the global phylogeny.

In fact, for SARS-CoV-2, COG-UK says that there are currently around 4,000 mutations in the spike protein. The variant D614G was earlier the dominant strain because it spread very easily. Another strain that originated in Spanish farmworkers, 20A.EU1, spread rapidly across Europe in summer.

"It is difficult to predict whether any given mutation is important when it first emerges, against a backdrop of the continuous emergence of new mutations. Understanding their significance may be possible based on experimental work that shows a link between the mutation and a subtle change in virus biology. However, it would take considerable time and effort to test the effect of many thousands of combinations of mutations," COG-UK said.

Will it impact vaccine development and response?

On Sunday, UK authorities said further laboratory work is being undertaken as a priority to understand this. "There is currently no evidence to suggest that the Pfizer vaccine would not protect people against the new strain," PHE said.

Seasonal UV radiation and global Covid trends

KABIR FIRAQUE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE NOVEL coronavirus has now seen all the seasons in both hemispheres, but the effect of seasonal factors such as temperature and humidity remains to be fully understood. New research has now looked at the influence of another seasonal variable - ultraviolet radiation from the Sun - and found evidence is that higher natural UV radiation reduces Covid-19 transmission. The study is published in the journal PNAS.

trends in different locations because this approach would introduce confounding factors. "For example, comparing Covid-19 cases in India to cases in Norway and attributing the difference to large differences in July were predicted to decrease by 7.7 per-

there are many differences between India

in southern temperate locations and decline by 7.4 percentage points in the northern temperate ones. And when the seasons flip, growth rates in December compared with average UV exposure would be erroneous - centage points in southern temperate regions, and jump by 7.8 percentage points in northern areas. Carleton noted. however, that UV seasonality looks different in India than in other parts of the northern hemisphere due to the South Asian monsoon. "The onset of the monsoon lowers summer UV, which can raise the Covid-19 transmission risk relative to other times of the year and relative to other regions in the northern hemisphere, where summer tends to be the highest UV season," she said.





The caveat

The researchers stress that seasonal changes in UV are just one of many causes of change in Covid-19 case rates. And the influence of UV is modest compared to policy measures such as travel restrictions, school closures, or event cancellations. "On average across the northern hemisphere, we find that prior estimates of the effect of these social distancing policies are 3-6 times larger than our estimated effects of seasonal changes in UV," economist Tamma Carleton of the University of California–Santa Barbara said, by email.

Because other research has looked at how artificial UV light can inactivate the coronavirus, it is also important to note that this is not the same as the effect of the sun's UV ra-



Average daily global Covid cases (red bars) and average daily UV (yellow: high UV; orange: lower UV) from November 1 to December 2, 2020. Tamma Carleton et al/UCSB & Harvard

diation. UV disinfectants currently in use today rely on wavelengths in a range called UV-C. Such wavelengths do not reach us naturally from the Sun. as these are absorbed by the ozone layer. In sunlight that reaches the Earth, the wavelengths are in the range known as UV-A (and to an extent in the range UV-B).

The study avoided comparing Covid-19

The analysis model

and Norway, including population density, health services, testing rates, etc, and UV is just one of many factors that differs across these countries," Carleton said. Instead, the study compared various pop-

ulations to themselves over time, and tested whether daily variations in UV radiation lead to changes in Covid-19 cases up to three weeks in the future. They gathered disparate datasets from different countries' agencies, and harmonised them to create a global dataset.

The extent of variations

A change in UV exposure by 1 standard deviation, the analysis found, reduced the growth rate of new cases by around 1 percentage point over the following two weeks. A change of 1 percentage point, for context, is approximately equivalent to the change in UV between April and May in Delhi.

Based on changes in UV, the model predicted Covid-19 growth rates for the temperate zones north and south of the tropics. Between January and June, Covid-19 growth rates would increase by 7.3 percentage points

Causal or correlational?

Indeed, infection rates did appear to have decreased in much of the northern hemisphere during the summer, the researchers noted, but observed that many parts of the northern hemisphere also relaxed their pandemic restrictions during the same period. Asked whether the correlation with UV can indeed be called causal, Carleton said: "In the paper, we use a statistical model that is designed precisely to isolate natural variation in UV exposure that is 'quasi-random', so that we can feel confident causally interpreting the effect of UV on COVID-19 growth rates.

Cong's survival dilemma: stay with Shiv Sena, or go solo in BMC polls

SANDEEP ASHAR MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

THE VERY day after he was appointed,

Mumbai's new Congress president Ashok (Bhai) Jagtap insisted that the party should contest the 2022 civic elections solo. His remark has come days after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's assertion that the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), would fight together in all local body elections, including the Mumbai civic poll, and after the MVA defeated the BJP in the recent Legislative Council polls.

The Congress faces a dilemma in Mumbai, the city where it was founded in 1885. Rolled over by the BJP in two successive Lok Sabha and Assembly polls and the 2017 civic polls, the Congress realises it needs to stop the BIP from dislodging Thackeray's Shiv Sena in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). At the same

time, it also has to ensure its own survival.

A need to rebuild

From hoisting the Congress flag in the BMC in an alliance with the Republican Party of India (Athavale) in 1992, when it won 112 of the 227 seats, the Congress slid to just 31 seats in 2017. This coincided with a rise for the BJP, which rode Narendra Modi's popularity to win 82 seats in 2017, just two short of the Sena's tally. While sharing power in the Assembly at that time, the BJP and the Sena had contested against each other in the BMC

The North Indian migrant Hindu vote, once a support base of the Congress in Mumbai, has shifted largely towards the BIP. At 27%, North Indians are the second most influential vote bank in Mumbai, after the Marathi-speaking population.

The Congress now wants to "connect more" with the Marathi-speaking voters. In the elevation of Jagtap, a leader who has his roots in Mumbai's trade union movement,



it has tried to invoke Marathi asmita or regional pride.

The Congress has sensed that identity politics will be the flavour of the election. While it is the Sena has traditionally pushed the Marathi manoos cause aggressively, the BIP is hoping to dent the Sena's Marathi vote bank and Congress's base among Scheduled Caste communities. The Sena knows it canot afford to loosen its sway over the Marathi-speaking population while banking on transfer of some of the traditional Congress and NCP votes. The early projection of a Marathi face in Jagtap, therefore, reflects the Congress's concerns that a highpitch battle between the BJP and the Sena might further weaken its own support base among the Marathis.

The balancing act

While appointing a Marathi face at the helm, the Congress, which is faction-ridden in Mumbai, has also attempted to get the caste and community balance right by projecting a joint leadership model.

It has named former Mumbai Youth Congress president Charan Singh Sapra as working president, and former state Minorities Development Minister Naseem Khan as the Mumbai unit's Campaign Committee chief. Suresh Shetty, a serving minister, is head of the Manifesto Committee, while Amarjit Manhas, the party's vice president in Mumbai, is president of the Coordination Committee. Additionally, it has also created a new post Maharashtra Pradesh in charge for the Mumbai unit -- to accommodate former

minister Chandrakant Handore, a Scheduled Caste leader.

Party leaders admit they must win back most of their North Indian support base and also woo more Marathi votes. But the party must first ensure that its own loyal vote among Muslims and Scheduled Castes remains intact. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen has been eyeing the minority and OBC vote banks.

Alliance or not

On November 27, the eve of the first anniversary of the MVA-led coalition government. Thackeray announced that the three parties would fight the BMC elections jointly. The NCP, which has not polled more than 10% of votes in four BMC elections so far, too, is in favour of an alliance.

A majority of the sitting Congress corporators, however, opposed the idea during an internal assessment meeting, presided over by All India Congress Committee's (Maharashtra) in-charge HK Patil.

While there have been no formal negotiations yet, sources said that the Sena is willing to leave to the Congress all the 31 seats the latter had won in 2017, and has also offered that the seats the BIP won could be shared among the allies. But most Congress leaders want the party to contest as many seats as possible. A senior corporator cited the examples of party's alliances, made out of compulsion, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which only reduced the party's footprint in those states.

At the state level, Maharashtra Congress president Balasaheb Thorat is willing to keep the alliance option open. In an interview to the Indian Express last month, Thorat said, "The three parties will sit together to evolve consensus (alliance or not) on the issue." Another senior minister favours an alliance. But not the Mumbai Congress itself. "Contesting local polls independently won't hurt the alliance in the state," said Jagtap.

New Delhi



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 'I'HE WORLD



MEANWHILE VOLCANO ERUPTS ON HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND

The Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island erupted and shot a steam cloud into the atmosphere that lasted about an hour, an official with the National Weather Service said on Monday. An advisory was issued by the National Weather Service in Honolulu, warning of fallen ash. Excessive exposure to ash is an eye and respiratory irritant, it said.



Stephan Balliet in a courtroom. AP

GERMANY

Life term for white supremacist in

synagogue attack A WHITE supremacist who live-streamed his efforts to blast his way into a synagogue in Germany on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar last year, failing to cause widespread bloodshed only because he could not breach a heavy wooden door, was sentenced on Monday to life in prison. Two people were killed outside the synagogue in Halle, in eastern Germany, during the attack on Oct. 9, 2019. In convicting the assailant of murder and attempted murder, the presiding judge, Ursula Mertens, said that the attempt to kill the 51 people inside as they celebrated Yom Kippur had been "despicable, cowardly and inhuman."The attacker, Stephan Balliet, a 28-year-old German nationalist, stood motionless as the judge read the sentence. NYT

MALAYSIA Workers at glove maker found living in shipping

containers HUNDREDS OF workers at a Malaysian glove making factory are living in metal shipping containers in squalid conditions that one minister described as modern slavery, according to the human resources ministry and local media reports. Ministry officials on Monday conducted a raid on a glove-making factory in Kajang district, just outside Kuala Lumpur, where they found workers living in cramped, dirty shipping containers stacked behind the premises, reports

Australia detects UK's Covid strain as several countries shut door on Britain

Worries over food shortages in UK as travel ban closes off crucial trade route

REUTERS SINGAPORE, DOVER, DEC 21

AUSTRALIA SAID on Monday it

India,

suspended travel from Britain including France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Israel and Canada - although scientists said the strain may already be circulating in countries with less advanced detection methods than the UK.

United Kingdom to Australia's New South Wales state were found carrying the mutated variant of the virus. Both are in hotel quarantine, and the recent spike in infections in Sydney is not

linked to this, authorities said. ordinate their response to the new strain of the coronavirus. The bloc is on course to start Covid-19 vaccinations within a week after its medicines regulator approved the use of a shot from Pfizer and BioNTech on Monday.

ing days on lettuce, some salad France shut its border to arrivals of people and trucks from Britain, closing off one of the



December 27 as Europe tries to

catch up with the United States

and Britain, where inoculations

began earlier this month.

Having secured a green light

from the European Medicines

Agency, the European

Commission gave final ap-

proval on Monday evening to

the EU's first Covid-19 vaccine.

Commission President Ursula

von der Leyen said doses would

be available for all EU countries,

at the same time and on the

As families and truck drivers

Damage

caused

same conditions. **REUTERS**

EU clears Pfizer Covid vaccine for first inoculations

had detected cases of the new fast-spreading coronavirus strain identified in the United Kingdom. while slew of countries closed their borders to Britain, causing travel chaos and raising the prospect of UK food shortages days before the Brexit cliff edge.

Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, Jordan and Hong Kong suspended travel for Britons after Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned that a mutated variant of the virus, up to 70% more transmissible, had been identified in the country. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman closed their borders completely. Several other nations have

Two travellers from the

most important trade arteries with mainland Europe.

tried to navigate the travel bans to get back home in time for EU officials met via video to co-Christmas, British supermarket chain Sainsbury's said shortages would start to appear within days if transport ties were not quickly restored. "If nothing changes, we will start to see gaps over the com-

leaves, cauliflowers, broccoli and citrus fruit - all of which are imported from the continent at this time of year," Sainsbury's said.

US Congress reaches deal on coronavirus aid package

ANDREW TAYLOR WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 21

TOP CAPITOL Hill negotiators sealed a deal on a \$900 billion Covid-19 economic relief pack-



Workers construct guest rooms at a short-stay facility in Singapore's Changi Airport as part of its upcoming segregated travel lane initiative to curb the spread of Covid-19. The new arrangement due to start in late January will keep visitors segregated while allowing for safe meetings between people from abroad and from Singapore during stays lasting up to 14 days. Reuters

Another new strain is driving virus resurgence in South Africa

MOGOMOTSI MAGOME & ANDREW MELDRUM JOHANNESBURG, DECEMBER 21

SOUTH AFRICA has announced that a new variant of the Covid-19 virus is driving the country's current resurgence of the disease, which is seeing higher numbers of confirmed cases hospitalisations and deaths.

The new variant, known as 501.V2, is dominant among new confirmed infections in South Africa, according to health officials and scientists leading the country's virus strategy.

"It is still very early but at this stage, the preliminary data sug-



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AN ADVISORY panel on Sunday



People at a Covid-19 testing facility in Johannesburg. AP

gests the virus that is now dominating in the second wave is spreading faster than the first wave," Professor Salim Abdool Karim, chairman of the government's Ministerial Advisory Committee, said at a briefing. South Africa may see "many



Biden, wife set to be given vaccine shots in televised event



Biden picks Bharat Ramamurti as

new members of the National

Economic Council that coordi-

nates domestic and interna-

tional economic policymaking

process for the administration.

Biden named three additional

NEC members: loelle Gamble

Special Assistant to the US

President for Economic Policy;

David Kamin, Deputy Director

NEC along with Ramamurti as

Deputy Director of NEC for

Ramamurti is the Managing

Director of the Corporate

Power programme at the

thorisation in the US – on live tel-

evision on Monday in Delaware,

Roosevelt Institute. PTI

Reform and

Protection

Financial

Consumer

is safe to take.

more cases" in the new wave than

it experienced in the first surge of

the disease, said Abdool Karim.

more than 8,500 people hospi-

talised with Covid-19, surpassing

the previous high of 8,300

recorded in August. "We are see-

ing a much earlier and much

sharper rise in the second wave or

Covid-19 will also offer protection

against the new strain. AP

South Africa currently has

Nepal PM defends move to dissolve Parliament, blames own party leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 21

NEPAL'S PRIME Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday defended his move to abruptly dissolve Parliament, saying he was forced to seek a fresh mandate through elections as the rift within the ruling Nepal Communist Party severely affected his government's functioning.

Oli on Sunday got the President to dissolve Parliament, a controversial move amidst a prolonged tussle for power between him and former premier Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' within the ruling dispensation.

In a special address to the nation, Oli said he was forced to dissolve Parliament and announce mid-term elections after he learnt about a plan to move a vote of no-

confidence against him. "I was forced to seek a fresh mandate through elections as attempts were made against my government, not to allow it to function properly," the prime minister said while defending his decision to dissolve Parliament and announce dates for mid-term elections.

Oli said the intra-party rift in the ruling Nepal Communist Party severely affected the government's functioning.

"The elected government was pushed to a corner and picketed against and was not allowed to work so I decided to dissolve the house." "Against the people's man-

date and their will, national politics was dragged into an endless

situation who did not cooperate with my government," Oli said.

l was forced to seek a

fresh mandate through

elections as attempts

were made against my

it to function properly.'

K P SHARMA OLI

NEPAL PM

government, not to allow

and goalless direction by creat-

ing controversy, making

Parliament meaningless as the elected government could not

receive its support but always

faced opposition and dragged

party leaders of being responsible

for forcing him to take this step.

"When the prime minister of the

majority government was not al-

lowed to work. I did not want to

indulge in unfair practices behind

closed doors and reach a compro-

mise with them," Oli said, adding

that giving a chance to the people

for a fresh mandate is "the best

an abrupt step for now, but some

of my party leaders should be

held responsible for creating this

"This move could be seen as

democratic alternative".

He accused some of his own

into the controversy," Oli said.

Ex-Libyan intelligence official charged in 1988 Pan Am flight bombing

REUTERS & PTI WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 21 United Kingdom, including 11 residents of Lockerbie, Scotland, who perished on the ground as fiery debris from the falling aircraft de-

THE US on Monday charged a former Libyan intelligence operative for his role in making the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270

stroyed an entire city block. The US Justice Department on Monday unsealed charges on the

32nd anniversary of the attack. The suspect, Abu Agila Mohammad Masud Kheir Al-

Marimi. a former senior Libvan in-

telligence official, was charged

with two criminal counts related

to the bombing. He is in Libyan

custody, US Attorney General

William Barr said Monday, and US

officials are hopeful that Libya will

allow Masud to be tried in the US.

Masud worked in various capaci-

ties for Libyan intelligence, includ-

ing as a technical expert in building

explosive devices from approxi-

mately 1973 to 2011. It also alleged

Masud was involved in the 1986

bombing of LaBelle Discotheque

In 1991, two other Libyan in-

in West Berlin, Germany

The Justice Department said



by broadcaster Astro Awani said. The company's name was not revealed. **REUTERS**

IRAQ

Rockets land in Baghdad's **Green Zone**

AT LEAST eight Katyusha rockets landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone in an attack targeting the US Embassy, causing some minor damage on the compound on Sunday, the Iraqi military and the embassy said on Sunday. The Iragi military said an "outlaw group" fired eight rockets. Most of the missiles hit a residential complex and a security checkpoint inside the zone, damaging buildings and cars and wounding one Iraqi soldier, a military statement said. **REUTERS**

DARIA LITVINOVA

MOSCOW, DECEMBER 21

RUSSIAN OPPOSITION leader

Alexei Navalny on Monday re-

leased a recording of a phone call

he said he made to an alleged

state security operative who re-

vealed details of how the politi-

cian was supposedly poisoned.

during a domestic flight in Russia

and was flown to Berlin while still

in a coma for treatment two days

later. Labs in Germany, France

and Sweden, and tests by the

Organisation for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons, estab-

lished that he was exposed to a

Navalny fell sick on August 20

age, finally delivering long-overdue help to businesses and individuals and providing money to deliver vaccines to a nation eager for them.

The package, expected to draw votes in Congress on Monday, would establish a temporary \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a \$600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hardhit businesses and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

It came together Sunday after months of battling and posturing, but the negotiating dynamic changed in Republicans' favor after the election and as the end of the congressional session neared. President-elect Joe Biden was eager for a deal to deliver longawaited help to suffering people and a boost to the economy, even though it was less than half the size that Democrats wanted this fall.

Biden praised the bipartisan spirit that produced the measure, which he called "just the be-

WHILE THE stimulus package will help a large number of businesses and individuals struggling due to the Covid economic slump, the months-long delay in agreeing a deal is likely to have caused major damage, experts fear. The package comes too late for thousands of businesses that have failed in recent months. And with many people having lost their jobs,

the money this package promises may not be enough to sustain them until the labour market rebounds.

ginning".

House leaders informed lawmakers that they would vote on the legislation on Monday, and the Senate was likely to vote on Monday, too, Lawmakers were eager to leave Washington and close out a tumultuous year.

Democrats acknowledged it wasn't as robust a package as they initially sought. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi vowed more to come once Biden takes office. AP

RUSSIAN OPPN LEADER SAYS HE CALLED THE AGENT BY PRETENDING TO BE A GOVT OFFICIAL

recommended US frontline essential workers and people 75 and older should be next in line to get inoculated as the distribution of Moderna's vaccine, the second approved coronavirus vaccine, began across the country.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisorv Committee on Immunization Practices voted 13 to 1 to recommend 30 million frontline essential workers, which include first responders, teachers, food and agriculture, manufacturing, US Postal Service, public transit, and grocery store workers, have the next priority for the vaccines.

In all, the move would make 51 million people eligible to get inoculated in the next round.

About 200 million people including non-frontline workers such as those in media. finance. energy and IT and communication industries, persons in the 65-74 age group, and those aged 16-64 years with high-risk conditions should be in the ensuing round, the panel recommended. Meanwhile, trucks of FedEx



Boxes containing the Moderna vaccine prepared to be shipped at a distribution centre in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Reuters

Corp and United Parcel Service Inc started picking up the doses from warehouses for deliveries to hospitals and other sites.

Vials of Moderna's vaccine were filled in pharmaceutical services provider Catalent Inc's facility in Bloomington, Indiana. Distributor McKesson Corp is shipping doses from facilities in places including Louisville, Kentucky, and Memphis, Tennessee - close to air hubs for UPS and FedEx.

US President-elect Joe Biden and the incoming first lady, Jill Biden. are set to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine which was the first to receive au-

US NEC member people, including three Indian nationals and more than half a US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe dozen of Indian origin. A bomb in the forward cargo Biden on Monday named Indian American Bharat Ramamurti as one of the three

area of Pan AM Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, at 7.03 pm local time on December 21. 1988. at an altitude of 31.000 feet after 38 minutes of flight. The plane had taken off from London-Heathrow and was headed to John F Kennedy Airport in New York. Citizens from 21 countries

were killed in the deadliest terrorist attack in Britain's history. Thirty-five Syracuse University students, who were returning home to the United States for the holidays after a semester studying abroad, were among 190 Americans killed in the attack.

telligence operatives were charged in the bombing: Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Three victims were from India. Forty-three victims were from the Khalifa Fhimah.

UAE acknowledges visa restrictions on Pakistan sending a message to Americans across the country that the vaccine

ASSOCIATED PRESS DUBAI, DECEMBER 21

THE UNITED Arab Emirates' top diplomat has publicly acknowledged a so-far unexplained ban on visitors from Pakistan, which travel agents say also targets tourists and laborers from a dozen Muslim-majority countries amic the pandemic and the UAE's nor-

malisation of ties with Israel. Following a meeting with his

Pakistani counterpart, Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed "the temporary nature of recent restrictions imposed on the issuance of visas due to the outbreak of Covid-19", the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported Sunday.

He did not elaborate on the visa suspension, which has blindsided expats seeking entry to the federation of seven sheikhdoms, where foreigners outnumber locals nearly nine to one.

The reported visa restrictions targeting countries such as Lebanon, Kenya, Iran, Syria,

Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed that the move was temporary

Afghanistan and Yemen came just as tourists began arriving in the Persian Gulf country on Israeli passports following the normalisation agreement.

agent at Arabian Nights Tours in Dubai, said Monday that the visa approval rate for families from Pakistan and a few other Mideast nations has increased over the past few weeks. But young, single men from the countries are denied entry, fuelling speculation that the ban may be tied to security or visa overstay concerns.

Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent. Russian authorities have ve-

hemently denied any involvement in the poisoning.

Last week, the investigative group Bellingcat released a report alleging that operatives from Russia's FSB domestic security agency with "specialised training in chemical weapons, chemistry and medicine", were "in the vicinity" of Navalny in the timeframe

"during which he was poisoned". Navalny, who is convalescing in Germany, said the report proved beyond doubt that FSB operatives tried to kill him on the orders of Russian President Vladimir Putin. On Monday, he posted a video on his YouTube



Navalny releases recording of call to his alleged poisoner

After being poisoned, Navalny fell sick on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia and was flown to Berlin while still in a coma for treatment two days later. Reuters

channel Monday titled "I called my killer. He confessed." The video showed him

speaking on the phone with one of the alleged operatives. Bellingcat and other media out-

lets identified the man Navalny said he spoke with as Konstantin Kudryavtsev, a trained chemicalweapons specialist.

Navalny said he phoned the alleged FSB operative hours before the Bellingcat report was released, Navalny introduced himself as an aide to Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev and said he urgently needed to debrief the man on what had happened in another Siberian city, Tomsk, where the politician had been before he was supposedly poisoned.

The man on the other end of the call indicated that he was involved in the "processing" of Navalny's clothes so "there wouldn't be any traces". The clothes

Navalny was wearing when he was hospitalised in a coma have not been returned to him.

While posing as a Security Council aide, the politician asked "what went wrong" and why Navalny survived the poisoning. The man on the other end replied "it would have all gone differently" if the plane hadn't made the emergency landing and "if (it had) not (been) for the prompt work of the ambulance medics on the runway".

The man also reported that among Navalny's clothing, his underwear bore the highest concentration of toxic residue.

Earlier this month, Russian officials brushed off the investigation by Bellingcat. AP







SILVER

(△) ₹69,477

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 **5** ECONOMY

SENSEX: 45,553.96 ▼ 1406.73 NIFTY: 13,328.40 ▼ 432.15 NIKKEI: 26,714.42 ▼ 48.97 HANG SENG: 26,306.68 ▼ 191.92 FTSE: 6,380.43 ▼ 148.75 DAX: 13,213.49 ▼ 417.02

PSBs scan older loans, may

lead to more fraud discovery

Lenders to report discrepancies and make 100% provision against those

REVIEW TO ENSURE NO SURPRISES DOWN THE LINE

POWER WATCH RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS RULES

Timely connection, 24x7 supply; fines in place for discoms

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday notified rules that would allow consumers in India to access continuous supply of quality, reliable electricity. The Electricity (Rights of Consumers)Rules, 2020 serve to "empower" citizens by laying down rights that make distribution companies more accountable to consumers. There are exceptions to these rules for certain categories, according to the Ministry of Power.

"The distribution licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all consumers. However, the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture," stated the Ministry in a release. "I would call this almost historic. It is important for the power system because, for the first time, we are placing the consumer at the centre," said Power Minister RK Singh.

According to the Ministry, the move was "necessary" because distribution companies, regardless of whether they are public or private, are "monopolies", and the consumer has no alternative. The rules cover various aspects of power supply to consumers in the coun-



consumer's account. File

try, including obligations of distribution licensees, metering arrangements, release of new connections and modifications of existing connections and grievance redressal and compensation mechanisms.

government will apply penalties that will be credited to the consumer's account. "For example, if in a normal area you want to give connection, that connection has to be given in the maximum of seven days ... and if you don't give a connection within seven days, then a penalty will apply," said Singh.

day they are notified. Over 100 responses were received from ... the central government has the authority and the power to make laws regarding electricity and rules," said Singh. "It's not optional. It's not a scheme.

Penalties to be credited to

To ensure compliance, the The rules apply from the

"all stakeholders" on the draft. "It is a concurrent subject and It is a law," he added.

SUNNY VERMA& **GEORGE MATHEW** NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, DEC 21

PUBLIC SECTOR banks (PSBs) are expected to report more fraud cases in loan accounts that have earlier been put under their early warning alert system. Sources said banks are reviewing loan accounts, which have already been flagged for monitoring, and more large accounts are likely to be reported as fraud in the next couple of months.

"Banks are going through their the accounts which were put on alert earlier. They will report fraud wherever such instances are found in case of large accounts, and make 100 per cent provision against them. These are being reviewed thoroughly to ensure that banks have adequately provisioned balance sheets and there are no surprises down the line," a senior government official said. The RBI did not comment on

an email sent by The Indian Express. Some of the loans sanctioned during the 2010-2014 period have now turned out to be frauds with the lag between the occurrence of fraud and its detection stretching to over two years. The CBI on Saturday booked a former TDP Lok Sabha MP and his Hyderabad-based company for allegedly defrauding a consor-

LAG BETWEEN OCCURRENCE & DETECTION OF FRAUD

The total cases of frauds (involving Rs1 lakh and above) by banks and financial institutions shot up by 28 per cent by volume and 159 per cent by value during 2019-20 despite the **RBI tightening supervision** two years

tium led by Canara Bank of around Rs 8,000 crore.

The total cases of frauds (involving Rs1 lakh and above) reported by banks and financial institutions shot up by 28 per cent by volume and 159 per cent by value during 2019-20 despite the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightening the supervision and vigilance. While there were 6.799 frauds involving Rs 71,543 crore as of March 2019, the number of frauds jumped to 8,707 involving a whopping Rs 185,644 crore, says the RBI's Annual Report.

Bankers said the frauds reported this year are old ones. While these frauds happened five or six years back, they were reported only recently. "During the last two years, we had gone for forensic audit and investigation into these accounts. We found fund diversions and other issues. You have to differentiate between when the fraud happened and

Some of the loans sanctioned during the 2010-2014 period have now turned out to be frauds with the lag between the occurrence of fraud and its detection stretching to over

when it was recognised. In the last four or five years, the governance and system structures have evolved. We have done a root cause analysis and built systems so that lapses will not recur. We have taken all the precautions," said Rajkiran Rai, MD and CEO of Union Bank of India.

The RBI said weak implementation of Early Warning Signals (EWS) by banks, non-detection of EWS during internal audits, non-cooperation of borrowers during forensic audits, inconclusive audit reports and lack of decision making in Joint Lenders' meetings account are among reasons for delay in detection of frauds. The EWS mechanism is getting revamped alongside strengthening of the concurrent audit function, with timely and conclusive forensic audits of borrower accounts under scrutiny, the RBI said.

The central bank is now en-

gaged in interlinking various databases and information systems to improve fraud monitoring and detection. The Central Fraud Registry (CFR) portal of SCBs, augmented with new features is at an advanced stage of development. Online reporting of frauds by NBFCs and the CFR portal of commercial banks, augmented with new features, are likely to be operational by January

GOLD

₹50.297

2021, the RBI said. According to the RBI, a major chunk of the frauds was reported on the advances front with 4,610 cases for Rs 182,051 crore, which works to around 98 per cent of the total value of frauds. Public sector banks topped the fraud table with 4,413 cases involving Rs 148,400 crore. Private banks reported 3,066 frauds involving Rs 34.211 crore. The RBI also indicated that the frauds registered during 2019-20 actually occurred in the previous years. The average lag between the date of occurrence of frauds and their detection by banks and FIs was 24 months during 2019-20. In large frauds - Rs 100 crore and above - the average lag was 63 months. The sanction of the credit facility in many of these accounts was much older, the RBI report said.

Frauds have been predominantly occurring in the loan portfolio (advances category), both in terms of number and value.



>1%: Rise in aggregate operating profit margins, despite a rise in raw material cost during the guarter

Factors that contributed to profit growth of large companies:

Improving utilisation levels Power management Controlled expenditu

New Covid strain in UK headwind for markets: What next

Sensex

47,000

46.500

46.000

45,500-

45,000-

44,500

Intra-day, December 21

Previous

Close

Oper

46.960.69

Oil falls 4% on

virus worries

New York: Oil prices tumbled

about 4 per cent on Monday

as a fast-spreading new coro-

navirus strain that has shut

down much of Britain and

led to tighter restrictions in

Europe sparked worries

about a slower recovery in

\$2.10, or 4 per cent, at \$50.16

a barrel by 1736 GMT, while

US West Texas Intermediate

crude for delivery in January

While the recent

long term retail in-

vestors should be too worried

about, who should continue their

disciplined monthly investments.

Even as several nations including

India have announced temporary

ban on flights from UK to their

country after the emergence of

the new strain, investors must re-

Brent crude was down

fuel demand.

45.553.96

47,500 _¬**46,932.18**

OIL

S \$50.16

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2330 ISI

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DEC 21

RUPEE

₹73.79

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DOMESTIC STOCK markets, which were going strong and hitting new peaks on a daily basis till last week, took a heavy pounding on Monday with the Sensex plummeting 1,407 points, or 3 per cent. as a fresh wave of lockdowns were imposed across Europe and as the new variant of coronavirus in the United Kingdom dampened sentiments across the world.

What led to the 3 per cent fall in stocks?

The new variant of the coronavirus in the UK spooked markets and stocks witnessed intense selling throughout afternoon trade. "While the street was bracing for a correction this week after a sharp up move, the sheer velocity of the fall across broader markets took the bulls by surprise as practically none of the key indices constituents were in the green today,' said S Ranganathan, head of research, LKP Securities. The Sensex fell 1,407 points to 45,533.96, its biggest fall in seven months, and the NSE Nifty plunged 432 points to 13,328.40. All sectoral indices ended in the negative with PSU banks, media, metals realty, auto, banks and pharma indices leading the downtrend

> Travel restrictions imposed by several countries to and from the UK have added con-

cerns of yet another ш lockdown. European Z market witnessed EXPLAI further selling pressure as the UK and European Union failed to reach a trade deal before the de-

cided deadline. Markets are worried about the economy taking a U-turn again if lockdown is im-

Will the markets fall further?

The markets were already in an overbought position with huge foreign investment flows pushing the Sensex to new peaks. Their vulnerability was high due to quick gains made in the ongoing rally leading to low margin of safety. If the new Covid variant spreads across the world, there is ossibility the markets

will bounce back in a few days.



be up to March 31: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, PTI through several measures, including the Rs 3 lakh crore guaranteed loan programme.

"Gradually even the suspension of the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code)... further from 25th of December, I think...it can be up to March 31, 2021. So the entire year IBC (has been) suspended, rightfully so because every industry has gone through

major stress because of the panlemic And nobody could

Suspension of IBC ... can 'Corporate profits touch all-time high in Sept quarter'

Corporate profits rose 15% to touch an all-time high in the September quarter as margins widened on softer input costs and better utilistaion levels, a research report by Crisil said

800 Listed entities, comprising 85% of NSE's market cap in sectors excluding banking and finance

370 Manufacturing firms from available sample that showed a contraction of 4% and oil and gas, that were

> Sign of widening inequalities: The trend of companies' profits growing even as the economy contracts as a result of the pandemic has led some



posed and businesses are shut to tackle the new variant.

member how the markets recovered after the crash in March. Though it is a concern for the near-term as markets may see some more correction as the development threatens to delay the return to normalcy that the world was looking forward to (after the me in) it sh







the pandemic, but impact the re-: dealing with non performing assets.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala

Sitharaman on Monday said the

government is planning to extend

the suspension of fresh insolvency

proceedings for another three months. This would provide major

relief to corporate borrowers hit by

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

Speaking at a virtual event of the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce, she said the government has supported MSMEs to help them tide over the damaging impact of the Covid-19

drawn towards insolvency process which may have occurred during the pandemic," she said, as per a PTI report.

against ₹1.02 lakh crore in preceding June quarter

₹1.60 lakh crore: Earnings

depreciation and amortisation

before interest, tax,

(Ehitda) in Sontom

analysed

to restrain Amazon from writing to authorities

claiming this is illustrative of widening inequalities

FRL-Reliance Retail deal: HC rejects Future plea NCAER revises FY21 projection

fuel and raw material

ness further decline. However, if Source: Crisil Ratings/PTI nations are able to tackle the spread of the pandemic, the markets

a big cause of concern for the medium- to long-term investors. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

ranging reforms, especially in the

financial sector, power and foreign

trade." Additional reforms in

health.education.labour and land

are also urgent, but these will re-

quire close coordination between

BRIEFLY — **FinMin releases** ₹6,000 crore

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry released the eighth weekly instalment of Rs 6,000 crore to states to meet GST compensation shortfall.

\$107 mn in NIIF master fund

New Delhi: The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund announced a \$107 million investment in its 'master fund' from PSP Investments, US International Development Finance Corporation and Axis Bank. PTI

Wistron: Little hit from damage

Taipei: The damaged Narasapura plant was a new unit with limited output, so there will be limited financial impact, said Wistron.

'Google, FB laws fair, critical'

Sydney: Australian competition commission chief Rod Sims said proposed laws that will force Google and Facebook to pay for news were fair and critical. **REUTERS**

Agarwalnew Assocham prez

New Delhi: Transport Corporation of India MD Vineet Agarwal has taken over as president of Assocham. PTI

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court on Monday declined to grant Future Retail

Ltd's (FRL) plea for an interim injunction restraining Amazon from writing to Sebi, Competition Commission of India and other authorities about the arbitral order against its asset sale.

The Kishore Biyani-led FRL had, in November, accused Amazon of adopting a media strategy of "having every development reported and converted into a line of communication with stock exchanges" regarding the Amazon-Future Coupons' arbitration proceedings in Singapore. Asking statutory authorities/regulators to take a decision on Ama-

The court, however, did not void the FRL board's

approval for the ₹24.173-crore deal with **Reliance Industries**

did not void the FRL board's approval for the Rs 24,173-crore deal vith Reliance Industries.

Future-RIL deal

In August, Bivani's Future Group entered into an agreement with Reliance Retail - a subsidiary of the umbrella Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) group - to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing to the latter.

Amazon's objection

zon's objections in accordance Last year, FRL had signed anwith the law, the court, however, other deal with Amazon, as part

of which Amazon had acquired 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons - the promoter firm of FRL - in a deal worth nearly Rs 2,000 crore. Amazon said Future's deal with RIL was a violation of a non-compete clause and a right-of-first-refusal pact it had signed with the Future Group. The deal also required Future Group to inform Amazon before entering into any sale agreement with third parties.

On its part, Future Group has said that it had not sold any stake in the company, and was merely selling its assets and had therefore not violated any terms of the contract. Along these lines, Amazon also sent a letter to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), BSE and National Stock Exchange asking them not to approve the Future-RIL deal as there was an interim stay order on it. Asking the agencies to take

note of the stay order, Amazon is learnt to have said that if the deal went ahead, it would show companies across the world that orders by reputed tribunals such as the Singapore International Arbitration Centre(SIAC) were not respected in India.

FRL moved Delhi High Court

FRL had moved the Delhi High Court seeking appropriate relief against Amazon.com's NV Investment Holdings to stop the latter from interfering in its deal with RIL. FRL claimed Amazon had been "misusing" the interim order passed by the SIAC. While the order says the statutory authorities and regulators can take a view on the deal in accordance with the law, it also held the award given by SIAC as valid.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 21

THE NATIONAL Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said Monday it expects the GDP to contract 7.3 per cent in 2020-21 from 12.6 contraction estimated earlier in September. Stating that the long-term effect of sharp contraction this year is likely to be long lasting, the think tank in its midyear review, however, said it expects the GDP to record marginal growth of 0.1 per cent and 2 per cent in October-December and January-March, respectively.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had contracted by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal, in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. The contraction narrowed to 7.5 per cent in the second quarter.

The think tank upgraded its forecast from 12.6% contraction estimated in September

to -7.3% on 'sharp recovery in Q2'

the Centre and states, it said. The challenge now is to sus-"The sharp recovery of GDP in tain and accelerate the pace of the Q2, the bowstring effect, was a recovery seen in O2 over the welcome surprise. We have acmedium to long term, it said. The cordingly revised our forecast of massive increase in central and annual contraction to (-) 7.3 per state government borrowing becent. The revised growth forecasts cause of the ballooning fiscal for Q3 and Q4 are 0.1 per cent and deficit, however, is a major chal-2 per cent respectively ... the econlenge for monetary policy and the omy will have to grow at more financial sector. than the previous trend rate for it "The RBI has introduced a to catch up with its pre-pandemic

whole slew of measures to congrowth path," the NCAER's midtain the adverse impact of such a large increase in government bor-It said conventional macrorowing on the cost of money and credit flow to the private sector. But its success has been limited," the think tank said.

year economic review said. economic policies alone will not do, adding, "These will have to be supported by deep and wide

M&M arm SsangYong files Tesla shares sink on S&P 500 debut for bankruptcy in S Korea FALL 5% HALF AN HOUR INTO SESSION REUTERS BENGALURU, DECEMBER 21

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 21

MotorCompany(SYMC) has filed

cation for commencement of re-

habilitation procedure with the

Seoul Bankruptcy Court under the

Debtor Rehabilitation and

Bankruptcy Act of South Korea,

The SYMC has filed an appli-

for bankruptcy.

also applied for an autonomous restructuring support (ARS) pro-MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) gramme which is a court deon Monday said its loss-making signed process, it added. South Korean arm SsangYong

"If the Court approves the ARS, SYMC will continue to function under the supervision of its board and will negotiate with stakeholders to reach an understanding about a revival package which may include equity and debt financing and other related actions," M&M said.

M&M said in a regulatory filing. However, some of its decisions will be subject to Court approval, The troubled automaker has it noted.

> The Seoul Bankruptcy Court will deliberate and review the application and relevant documents submitted by SYMC to determine whether or not the court will commence the restructuring process of SYMC, M&M said.

Last week, M&M had informed the bourses that SYMC has missed repayments of loans aggregating to 60 billion KRW (around Rs 408 crore).

SHARES OF electric carmaker Tesla slumped in their debut on the S&P 500 on Monday, pulling back from record-high levels, as worries over a fast-spreading new coronavirus strain in Britain

weighed on markets. Tesla's shares sank 5 per cent to \$659.99 a half hour into the session. In its first day in the S&P 500, the stock was one of the biggest drags on the benchmark index, which was down 1.2 per cent.

The company, headed by billionaire Elon Musk, becomes the Tesla's shares sank 5% to

Tesla is the most valuable ever admitted to Wall Street's main benchmark

most valuable ever admitted to Wall Street's main benchmark and accounted for a 1.69 per cent



weight in the index ahead of Monday's trading. The shares had surged some 70 per cent since

mid-November, when Tesla's debut in the S&P 500 was announced, and have soared about 700 per cent so far in 2020.

The shares jumped 6 per cent on Friday in a day of frantic trading ahead of their S&P 500 entry.

Tesla's addition to the S&P500 led index-tracking funds to buy \$90.3 billion of shares by the end of Friday's session so that their portfolios reflected the index, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices' analyst Howard Silverblatt. The change is effective prior to the open of trading on Monday, S&P said earlier in December, and Tesla is replacing Apartment Investment and Management Co.



New Delhi



\$659.99 a half hour into the session. In its first day in the S&P 500, the stock was one of the biggest drags on the benchmark index, which was down 1.2%

Headed by Elon Musk,

16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

name Geeta Arora.

2/61, 3RD FLOOR, GALI NO. 2,

110045, HAVE CORRECTED MY

NAME AS DHAIRYA RANA TO

BHARAT SHAGAUNKA RANA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

, Chaman Lal S/o Mahender

R/o Vill-Noorpur, PO-Bhora

Kalan, Teh-Manesar, Distt-

Gurgaon, Haryana-122001,

have changed my name to

I, Avinash Singh Klair s/o Kirpal

Singh R/o 1666D, GovindPuri

Extn, Kalkaji, New Delhi-

name to Avinash Singh

Asha Rani W/o Harender

Gateway Tower, Sector-44,

Noida(U.P.) have changed my

I, Arpit Kumar S/o Ram Prakash

R/o 136, Baherimah, Kanpur

changed my name to Shilu

AYUSHID/O A IAY AGRAWAI

CROSSING, JAMUNADHAM

MATHURA, BANGAR, KRISHNA-

281004, changed my name to

, ANJU AGRAWAL W/O AJAY

JAMUNADHAM,MATHURA,

BANGAR, KRISHNA-NAGAR,

281004, changed my name to

I, Parmod Kumar, S/o Ram Pal

Sonipat, have changed my

name to Parmod Kumar

Sharma for all purposes.

I Shivraj Singh S/o Lt. Gurdeep

Singh R/o C-100, 2nd Floor, Vikaspuri, New Delhi- 110018

declare that Shivraj Singh and

Shivraj Singh Kairon are same

Shri Banwari Lal R/o House No

Delhi-110007 have changed my

name from Sanjeev Kumar to

Sanjeev Kumar Sharma for all

Parvinder W/o Shivraj Singh

R/o C-100, 2nd Floor, Vikaspuri,

New Delhi-110018 declare that

Parvinder and Rosy are same person name 0040558270-1

Arora R/o Pkt. H-34/69, 1st And

Delhi, 110085 have changed my

Singh,R/oG-23/3 (G.F.)Rajouri

Anjali Chand W/O, Gaurav

2nd Floor, Sector-3, Rohini,

name to Anjali Arora for all

I.Sirat Pascricha.D/o Punit

Garden,New Delhi,have

changed my name to Sirat

Kaur Pasricha, for all future

31-A, DDA Flats, Gulabi Bagh,

Sanieev Kumar Sharma S/o

GOVERDHAN CROSSING.

Dehat, UP-209115, have

R/o 104, GOVERDHAN

NAGAR, MATHURA, U.P-

AYUSHI AGRAWAL

AGRAWAL,R/0104,

MATHURA, U-P-

ANJOO AGRAWAL.

R/o B-4. Prem-Nagar

person name

purposes

purposes.

purposes.

Katiyar

Kumar R/o K702, Pearl

name to Asha Yadav.

permanently.

110019, have changed my

Chaman Panghal

0040558281-1

0070724679-1

0040558300-6

0040558303-4

0070724680-1

0040558301-8

0040558301-9

0040558300-3

0040558268-1

0040558266-1

0040558262-1

0040558305-

MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, DELHI-



Classifieds

PERSONAL

Vanita alias Vanita Gogia w/o Prem Gogia, R/o 11/14, Model Town-II. Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vanita 0040558264-1 Gogia

I. Nandwani Sumanbala Topandas and Suman Topandas Nandwani, W/o Anil Kalra, R/o 657.Sector-14 Sonipat, have changed my name to Suman for 0040558300-1 all purposes.

I,Sanjay Kumar Chauhan S/o-Rajender Singh Chauhan, R/o-

2/10,Kh.No.866/1,844,Defence Enclave,Third-Floor,Mahipalpur,South

West.Delhi, Delhi-110037, inform that Sanjay Kumar Chauhan and Saniav Kumar both name are same,person.My actual name is Sanjay Kumar Chauhan.

0040558301-7 I,Reeta Devi, Spouse of,Hav Pankaj Kumar, Resident of.Village & Post.Office-Noorpur, District-Ghaziabad(UP)-201206,have changed my name.from Reeta Devi,to Rita Devi,Vide affidavit,dated-17/12/2020.before District-

Court, Ghaziabad. 0040558295-2 I,Pratibha Singh W/o Devendra Singh R/o Flat-No.308, Pearl Height Apartment,

Ramprastha Green Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad(U.P.) have changed my name to Pratibha 0040558303-3 Devi.

I,Parmod Kapoor S/o Santram Kapoor R/o C-401, Amarpali Sapphire, Phase-1, Sector-45, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Parmod Chander Kapoor for all future purposes.

0040558303-1

I,Najib Akhter,S/o Zubair Ahmad R/o-B-234/A, Jawahar Mohalla.Block-B,Patparganj,Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Najib Akhtar.

0040558306-3 I,Mahender Singh,S/o,Shish Ram,R/o-H.No.85,5 Bishwa Mohlla, Maidan Garhi, Delhi-110068, have declare, that name, of my wife has, been wrongly-written,as Panmeshary Devi in my.P.P.O. No.N/S/C/1497/83.The actualname, of my wife is Panmeshwari Devi.

0040558301-6

I,Laxmi Kant Sharma,S/o Shri.Shankar Lal Sharma R/o-T-138.2nd-Floor. Shukar Bazar, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my minor daughter name from Kanishka Dadhich to Kanishka 0040558306-4 Sharma.

I,HAFID MANZOOR ZARGAR S/O Manzoor Ahmad Zargar R/O 1928, Gali Rajan, Kucha Chalan, Darya Ganj, Central Delhi, Pin code:110002 have changed my name to Hafid 0070724653-1 Manzoor

I,Ashok Kumar Sareen,S/o Balwant Rai Sareen. R/o 48/1. Ashok-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ashok Sareen.

I, Manjubala, D/o Sh.Mahender Singh, spouse of Sh.Braham Prakash,H.No.2078,Huda Sector-1,Rohtak 124001,(Haryana)have changed/corrected my name, from Manjubala to Manju Bala,vide-Affidavit dated-15.12.2020, before Rohtak-District Courts. 0040558306-5

I, Shweta Kumari Trigun Prasadsingh W/o Sonoo Kumar Kushwaha R/o 178, Puchhari Bazar, Kanhauli Manohar, Saran, Bihar-841403, have changed my name to Shweta Kushwaha

> 0070724677-1 I. Sheikh Mahamad Rafik

Sharapoddin Alias Sheikh Mahamad Rafic Sharpoddin Alias Shaikh M. Rafix Sharpoddin S/o Sharfuddin Amir Shaikh R/o 11/104, Ostwal Orchid Beverly Park. Kanakiya Road, Mira Road (East), VTC Mira-Bhayander, PO Mira Road. Thane. Maharashtra-401107, have changed my name to Shaikh Mohammad Rafik Sharfuddin 0070724668-1

l, Satya Prakash Sharma S/o Krishan Gopal Sharma R/o C-4/23. Yamuna Vihar. Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Satyaraj Sharma 0070724678-1

. Satish Kumar S/o Phirava Lal R/o E-24A, Khasra no-351, 2nd floor,Block-C, Gali no-3.Mahendru Enclave, Azadpur Delhi-110033, have changed name Satish Arora. 0040558301-2

SURESH CHAND KHATIK S/0 LILA RAM KHATIK ADDRESS-Q-8/9, Q-BLOCK, STREET.NO.08, MANGOLPURI NEW DELHI-110083, changed my name to SURESH CHAND GANGWAL.

0040558300-4 I, SUNIL kumar s/o paliya ram

h.no-1809 Ist-floor sector-4 urban estate gurgaon, have changed my name to SUNIL 0040558301-10 taneja. I, SASKHI MAHESHWARI W/O JATINDER SINGH HNO-12/173 BLOCK-12, GEETA COLONY, DELHI-110031 have changed my name to SAKSHI MAHESHWARI. 0040558300-8 I, Rishabh Kataria S/o Lalit Kataria R/o-WZ-104.Plot No-145,Upper Second Floor,Sant Nagar, Tilak Nagar New-Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Rishab Kataria.

0040558301-5 I, Ramesh Chand S/o Mahendra Singh R/o Distt-Hapur. Raghunathpur, Ghaziabad, Raghunathpur, UP-245101, have changed my minor son's name from Moolchand aged 16 years to Miraj Raj forever 0070724686-1

I. Pramod Singh, resident of Kalyanpur Pratapgarh (U.P) have changed my minor son's name from SHLOK CHAUHAN to SHLOK SINGH CHAUHAN vide affidavit IN-DL19974386055302S dated 21/12/20. 0070724690-1

l, Geeta Khurana W/o Satish Arora r/o E-24A khasra no-351 2nd floor Block-C,Gali no-3,Mahendru Enclave,Azadpur Delhi-110033,have changed 0040558301-1 I, DHAIRYA RANA, S/O ESHI KUMAR RANA R/O H. NO. RZF-

> n in any manner whatsoever DAYA SHANKAR YADA (Advocate) Ch.No.L-3, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-F



Notice is hereby given to general pub Sh. Parag Bose and Smt. Sanghamit e to be owner and in possession and Floor back side flat bearing No.U vitio rivor back side flat bearing No.1 (without roof rights) "said floor" Pari perty Bearing Plot No. F/60, Gali No. a measuring 50 So. Vorde area méasuring 50 Sq. Yards , out of 200 S /ds, Out of Khasra No 84/5, situated in t venue Estate of Village Palam, Delhi Sta Ihi colony known as Mahavir Enclave, Ne Ihi 110045, by virtue of Sale Deed date 12.2009, Doc. No.10799 duly Regd. in tl O-IX New Delhi/Delhi. And now Sh. Para SRO-XX New Delhi/Delhi. And now Sh. Para; Bose and Smt. Sanghamitra Bose wishes is Sell aforesait orportry to Sh. Ravi Kumar & DhCF (First Bank LId. for financial assistanci and therefore shall be mortgaged with the sai Bank. All person's having any claim regardim in respect of the said property/loo or any pari are hereby requested to notify the same in increased of the said property/loo or any pari are hereby requested to notify the same in documentary evidence at the address publication of this notice, failing which claim, any, of such persons will be consider to hav bern waived andro, abandoned and our cleim n waived and/or. abandoned and our clie hall proceed with the disbursement of loa ainst the said property and subseque Sunil Parsad (Advocat

> PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that my client. SMT BHAGWATI BORA, W/o MAHENDER SINGH BORA, is allottee(GPA/Purchase of DDA JANTA ILAT NO. 2363. FIRST FLOOR POCKET-A6, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELH-10053 has applied for conversion from leasehold right for feehold right vide File No. 252(189) 1982. HJG. The original Demand-cum-Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and NOC to water and Electricity connection & two bank challans the above said property has been los N NCR/LR NO.1806393/2019 date 8/10/2019 to this effect has been lodge 1 P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi.

In P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) caliming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 89 (0545710 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person datiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB) Housing or Director (Housing), D Block, 3° Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advoca Chamber No M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE Let it be known to the public at large that my Clients Arun Vasisht and his wife Neeta Vasisht R/o House No. 157, GH-6(Old), Prachin Apartments, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delh-110087, had in 2013 disowned their son Rahul Vasisht & ele debrect bing from their proveshe add. 2013 disowned their son Rahul Vasisht & also debarred him from their moveable and Immoveable properties in each context and every manner whatsoever and severed relations with him forever due to his criminal cabalistic surreptituous acts. My client continue to disown & debar their son Rahul. My clients are & shall not be held responsible in any manner of any acts in any context done by their son Rahul Vasisht with anv third party. Vasisht with any third party. Arvindra Nath Sharma (Advocate) # 524, Lawyers Chambers, New Dehi Court, Patiala House, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROM

HIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT LIENT (1) SMT. SUDESH NDER KUMAR SMT. SARVESH KUMARI WIF OF SHRI NARESH KUMAR BOTI ARE RESIDENT OF B-35/2, GAI NO. 4, BHAJANPURA, DELH 110053 HAVE PURCHASED PROPERTY BEARING NO. J-4/12 PROPERTY BEARING NO. J-4/12 MAIN ROAD, KARTAR NAGAR ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI- 11005

SHRI RAJESH KUM

FROM (1) SHRI HAJESH KOMAN SAGAR & (2) SHRI SONU SAGAT SONS OF SHRI HARI SHANKAF SAGAR IF ANYONE OR ANY OTHER LEGAL HEIRS HAVE HAS AN' OBJECTION IN THIS REGAR (PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY

HEN PLEASE CONTACT WITH M

Sd/- R SHUKLA (ADV Chamber No. B-139 B, G S Block Tis Hazari Court, Delh

10027 declare that name of mine nd date of birth has been wrongly

ritten as Chandrawati Devi ar

written as Chandrawati Devi and 10.08.1992 in my Reliance Life insurance No. 50364653. The actual name of mine is Chandrawati and date of birth 50.30.1987. respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other lenal requirements in

ith other legal requirements in

PUBLIC NOTICE

hri Sushil Kumar Sharma both resident hri Sushil Kumar Sharma both resident I/P-74, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Viha lelih-110052 have disowned and serve II their relations from their son Kun harma (Unmarried) debarred him from neir movable and immovab roperties/assets and their personal li

ver due to his bad behavior and be ntions and he is not obedient of r

ny body dealings with him do at its ov sks, my clients shall not be responsib r any kinds of acts.

any kinds of acts. y dealing made by her previously shal the sole responsibility of her. S.C. DIXIT (Advocate) Enrl. No. D/1464/1987

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed than y clients Sh. Jaspal Singh and Smt leena Wo Sh. Jaspal Singh Rio 20, Village-Bhadola, Adarsh Nagar lew Delhi-110033 have severed al and of relations from their son and aughter-in-law namely Sh. Visha ingh and Smt. Chandn respective) ue to their indifferent and abusyiv titude towards wor clients and also

ttitude towards my clients and als ebarred them from all kind of movabl

nd immovable properties and asset wned by my clients. If any person deal vith above said persons then he/she w e doing so at his/ber own risk

e doing so at his/her own risk. SANJAY TYAGI (ADVOCATE) E.No. D-2013/06 h. No. 14, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts. Delhi M:9717824555

PUBLIC NOTICE

t my clients Sushil Kumar sor O Sharma and Smt. Alka Sharm

is connection.

OR MY CLIENT WITHIN 7TH

Last date of receip

: 31/12/2020

of Tenders

Which can be uploaded by date 04.01.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.01.2021 General Manager

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR

INVITATION OF QUOTATIONS

Separate sealed quotations are invited on behalf of the "GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA" for the bonafied Manufacturers/ authorised dealers up to 3.00 PM on 06/01/2021 for the supply:-

"Current meters with accessories under NHP

Sd/

Estimated

Cost Rs.

61,72,307/

NOIDA

Executive Engineer Resource Division, Panchamukh

Agartala, Tripura

Public Works Department Government Resolution Number CAT-2017/C.R.8/Building-2, Dated 12th April, 2017.

Executive Engineer, Building Construction (P.W.) Division,

or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, Building Construction (PW,

0040558306-2

I,Anchal Rao Kuchekar,W/o Abhishek Rao Kuchekar,R/o H-107. 2nd-Floor, LIG-Flat, Sarita-Vihar,Delhi-110076,have changed my name to Anchal 0040558306-1 Saluja.

I, Yashraj , S/o Rajan Chaudhary , R/o H.no. 259, Sector-43, Gurugram, Haryana-122009 have changed my name to Yash Raj for all purposes.

I, Upasna Khanna,W/o-Vikas Gill, R/o 1/9482, Gali No.7, West Rohtash Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Upasna

Gill after marriage.

0040558301-3

I, Tanveer Jahan Siddiqui D/O, Late Mohd. Idris Siddiqui R/o A 16/2. UGF.Flat 501.thokar No 6. Shaheen Bagh,Okhla,Delhi have changed my name to Tanvir Jahan Siddiqui for all 0040558263-1 purposes

I, Vijay Kumar S/o Tara Chand R/o B-1102, Elite Homz, Sector-77. Noida-201301.(U.P). Have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Walia. 0040558303-2

I, Surender Singh S/o Gajender Singh R/o 187A. Second-Floor,Sai Sadan,Sant Nagar,East -of-Kailash,Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Surender Singh Rathore. 0040558301-4

I, Sudhir Kumar Indrabahadur Singh S/o Indrabahadur Singh R/o A-20, Pankaj Society, Mohane Road, Shahad West, Kalyan, Shahad Thane, Maharashtra-421103, have changed my minor son's name from Sameer Sudhir Kumar Singh aged 14 years to Singh Shivansh Sudhir Kumar forever

0070724682-1

I, Simran D/o Harpreet Singh R/o Post Office Piplanwala, Village Singriwala, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146022, have changed my name to Gurinayt S Dhami. 0070724675-1

I, Satish S/o Tara Chand R/o Plot 512/1 & 513, Shivpuri-1, Shyam Vihar, Dindapur, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name as Satish Shokeen.

0040558260-1

I, Pramod Singh, resident of Kalyanpur Pratapgarh (U.P) have changed my daughter's name from JAGRITI CHAUHAN to JAGRITI SINGH CHAUHAN vide affidavit IN-DL19977064036353S dated 21/12/20.

I. PURANWASI W/o Sh.Ram Adhar Ram R/o D-1/1A, Outub 0070724664-1 Vihar Part-2, chhawla, Najafgarh, Delhi-110071, have changed my name, from PURANWASI to PURANMASI, for all future purposes.

0040558300-9 I, PRINCE S/O HARBAKSH SINGH born on 31/10/1989 residing at

734, RISHI NAGAR, DELHI have changed my name to PRINCE SINGH SAHOTA vide affidavit dated 11-12-2020 at DELHI.

0050173251-1

0070724689-1

I. Naseem Ahmed S/o Afzal Ahmed, R/o V-17, Welcom, Seelampur-III, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Azeem Ahmed, permanently. 0040558300-7

I, Manpreet Kumar Alias Karamiit Singh S/o Yakub Kumar R/o Village Ambgarh, PO Kartarpur, Distt Jalandhar Punjab-144801, have changed my name to Manpreet Kumar 0070724688-1

I, Manjeet Kaur Hanspal W/o Nikhil Chugh R/o-1704.Sector-14 HBC Sonipat, have changed my name to Manjeet Kaur, for all purposes. 0040558300-2 I, Kiran Sachdeva W/o Deepak Madan R/o Flat No-81, Ashirwad Appartments, Plot No-11, Sector-12, Dwarka, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Priya Madan

I, Hifza/Hifza Imtiyaz D/o Mohammad Imtiaz, R/o 2882, Bulbuli Khana Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Hifza Imtiaz, permanently.

0040558300-5 I. Gopa Ram S/o Amra Ram R/o V/P-Godawas, Th-Pachpadra, Godawas Kalan, Barmer, Rajasthan-344026, have changed my name to Gopal Deora

0070724685-1

0070724683-1



LOST & FOUND It is notified for the information that my Original Marksheet, Secondary Examination Year 2017 Roll No. 8219120 issues by CBSE has been lost. Candidate Name-Sandhya Singh, G-155 ram colony Delhi - 110074

PUBLIC NOTICE is for general information that Chandrawati W/o Ajay Kuma Prasad R/o E-69, (F.F.) 25 Sq 'ds. Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi (Mob.-9310391337) 0040558272-1

IT IS, notified for the information, that my original qualifying examination certificate, and marksheet, of main-secondary examination,of year-2018,Roll.No.-0570355,issued by CBSE, has been actually lost.Dakshita Kaushik.R/0.313/34B.Harvana Dairywali Gali, Inderlok, Delhi-110035#9811083610

0040558295-1 I. HARISH KUMAR Kashvap.S/o

Ram Niwas, R/o-D-1/52 kh.no-129 G.F kirari suleman-nagar premnagar-3.Delhi-86 have lost my original certificate class-12th year-2012 Rollno-9745149 CBSE-DELHI. 0040558305-9

I. CHARU Chauhan. D/o Raiesh Chauhan, R/o-A-970 saraswati gali budh marg mandawali Delhi-92.have lost my originalcertificate class-10th(2016) Rollno-8601515 class-12th (2018) Rollno-9601218 CASE 0040558305-8 DELHI.

I, Ritesh S/O Daya ram, R/o C-207, shubhash-gali, nank chand basti, kotla-mubarakpur, N.D-03, Have lost my originalcertificate class-12th year-2016 Rollno-9184919 0040558305-10 CBSE-DELHI.

own risk and cost.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLICE NOTICE My clients Sh. Mahender Singh Sio Latt Sh. Bai Kishan and Smt. Barbara Mahender Singh Wo Sh. Mahender Singi both R/o Flat No.465, Pocket-3, Sector-19 Akshardham Apartiment, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 have disowed, disinherited and debarred their son Abhishek Singh is wife Kanika Srivastav and their mino baby from their all moveable and immoveable properties due to thei disrespectful, disobedience behaviour an out of control row vielents Mex This is informed public is general that my client Rajender Singh S/o Shri Surat Singh and Mrs. parmila W/o Shri Rajender Singh Both R/o 62 Main Road, Nangal Thakran, DelhI-39, have severed all their relation from his Son Ravi my client have debarred and dlsowned them debarred and dlsowned them from all their movable and immovable Assets due to their bed behavior and misconducts. My clients shall not be responsible for any give and take and any act of ommission by them. Anybody dealing with them shall not do at their his/her own risk and cost. disrespectful, disobedience behaviour ar out of control of my clients. My clients hav also severed all their relations with them. anybody deals with them, he/she shall c so at his/her own risks, costs ar consequences. My clients shall not b liable or responsible for the same in ar

(Advocate) Virender Singh

(Hans Raj Singh

Seat No.3, B.S. Sehr Side, Tis Hazari Cou

https://www.wee.com/		Division, Mulund, Mumbai-80. Tender with condition is never accepted.
nups.//goviprocureme	ent.delhi.gov.in/ Sd/-	Sr. Name of Work E
	Executive Enginee DTIDC Ltd. ISB	No. 4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10 at Ghatkopar Government Colony, CTS No. 194(B) Ghatkopar East, Mumbai
DIP/Shabdarth/0509/20	-21 Kashmere Gate, Delh	The Executive Engineer, Building Construction (P.W.) Division
The Divisional Railway	DRTHERN RAILWAY <u>E-TENDER NOTICE</u> Manager (Medical), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & o of India, invites open E-Tender for the under noted work:-	O.C. Approved by Ex. Engr.
N.I.T. No.	No. 146-Med/C./S.T./H.W./2020 Dated: 18.12.2020	No. BCD/Mulund/TC/1115 Office of the Executive Engineer, Sd/-
Name of work	Mechanized cleaning and de-silting of Septic and Bio tanks under the jurisdiction of Chief Health Inspector Haridwar on one time payment basis.	
Approx. cost	Rs. 8,60,962.74 Paise. (including GST & Dumping charge)	GOVERNMENT OF GOA
Earnest Money	Rs. 17,200/- online Payment mode www.ireps.gov.in	DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PPP DIVISION SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, GOA 403
Completion period	45 days	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Date & Time of openi of Tender	tender shall be opened on the same time on nex	(e-procurement mode only) No. FD/PPP/12/ICC-RFP/2020
Indian Railway Websi	working day. te Additional relevant information may be checked on the Website: www.ireps.gov.in	Dona Paula Goa on Design Build Einance On
Cost of E-Tender Document	00.00	Goa is already a well established and globally popular tourist destin is also the permanent venue for the International Film Festival of In
	erving Customers with a Smile	hosting the IFFI annually, but various other National & International MIC The Mopa International Airport, which is also a flagship PPP Project of is currently under development and is expected to further improve Gr
N	ORTHERN RAILWAY	The Mopa International Airport, which is also a flagship PPP Project of is currently under development and is expected to further improve Ga connectivity to National and International cities.
Name of the work with location	-	The Mopa International Airport, which is also a flagship PPP Project of is currently under development and is expected to further improve Ga connectivity to National and International cities. The Project: The GoG intends to develop a State-of-the-Art Int Convention Centre comprising, a main Convention Hall of minimum 500 capacity, exhibition hall, Multiplex, a 500 room Convention Hotel a downside developments (hotel(s), retail mall(s), etc.) & related infin in an integrated manner through the PPP mode, i.e. on Design-Build Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) Model, with a concession period of 60 year Project location: About 98,299 sq. m. (24.29 acres) of strategical prime land situated at Dona Paula Goa has been earmarked for the Pr
1. Name of the work	Conservancy contract for daily removal of solid waster rubbish/refuse/hedge cuttings etc. from the dustbins/heag or nominated sites of Railway Colonies at Zone 'A' Del Area with contractor's own labour and with his ow truck/tempo or any other mechanized means and to dum the same into the Municipal Corporation dumping grounc everyday by 09.00 hrs, and keeping the area in and aroun the dustbins clean and hygienic with contractor's ow labour, tools and materials for a period of three years fron the date of award of work on a monthly payment basis plu GST extra as applicable. Rs. 95,500/- P.M. or Rs. 34,38,000/- (Thirty Four Lakh Thir	The Mopa International Airport, which is also a flagship PPP Project of is currently under development and is expected to further improve Ge connectivity to National and International cities. The Project: The GoG intends to develop a State-of-the-Art Int Convention Centre comprising, a main Convention Hall of minimum 500 capacity, exhibition hall, Multiplex, a 500 room Convention Hotel downside developments (hotel(s), retail mall(s), etc.) & related infri- in an integrated manner through the PPP mode, i.e. on Design-Build Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) Model, with a concession period of 60 year Project Iocation: About 98,299 sq. m. (24.29 acres) of strategical prime land situated at Dona Paula, Goa has been earmarked for the PI land is free from all encumbrances and is in possession of GoG. Bidding Process: Proposals are invited (Single Stage - 2 Parts) a
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truction (PW) Division Mulun leject any offer. Conditional offer 5.01.2021 Sd/ **Executive Engineer** uilding Construction (P.W.) Division Mulund, Mumbai-80 For ENT OF GOA T OF FINANCE AT PORVORIM. GOA 403 521 PROPOSAL (RFP) ode only) -RFP/2020 **Convention Centre at** Build, Finance, Operate, FOT) basis ally popular tourist destination and ational Film Festival of India (IFFI) most preferred venue for Meetings E), the Government of Goa (GoG astructure in the State for not only lational & International MICE events a flagship PPP Project of the State cted to further improve Goa's direct op a State-of-the-Art Internationa ention Hall of minimum 5000 seating room Convention Hotel and other all(s), etc.) & related infrastructure node, i.e. on Design-Build-Finance ncession period of 60 years. 4.29 acres) of strategically located been earmarked for the Project. The possession of GoG. Single Stage - 2 Parts) as per the al / International developers/ bidders m for selection of a Private Sector manage and Transfer the Project on Document may be downloaded for a.gov.in/ and www.goa.gov.in. The ared only through the e-procurement paenivida.gov.in/) from 21.12.2020 oosted on the e-procurement portal on 14.01.2021. The last date & time -procurement mode, in the format 21, 1530 Hrs IST. ns, please contact the PPP nentioned below. ail: ppp-cell.goa@nic.in ct Helpdesk: 1800212680680

DI/Advt/1259/2020

Prithvi flaw

Young opener's technique has been a work in progress but will now need further improvements

SRIRAM VEERA MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

AT SOME point in the last two years, as Prithvi Shaw moved into the adult world, what he lacks has unsurprisingly overshadowed what he has. The stalwarts to have tried to redress the problem have ranged from Rahul Dravid, his U-19 and India A coach, to Ricky Ponting, his IPL franchise coach, to Ravi Shastri, India's head coach. With the entry of a new contender in Shubman Gill, the imminent return of Rohit Sharma and an ambitious KL Rahul in the mix, Shaw finds himself in a vulnerable corner and would need luck and empathetic backing to claw his way back.

The problem was a penchant to play too far away from the body. The first chapter dated a couple of years ago could be titled 'the curious case of the back leg'; Shaw would move his right outside leg stump just after the ball was released as his primary objective was to stay adjacent to the line, away from the ball, and give himself room for the hands to come crashing through. But it created issues when the ball swung and seamed; something had to be done.

They fixed it. The right foot stopped slipping away to the legside. His guard was then shifted towards middle stump, where the right foot now lies frozen in a slightly opened-up stance, but the betrayal was taken over by the hands, as seen during the IPL and now in Australia.

Especially, in the way Shaw picks his bat just after the ball is released - the hands initially move back and up like most batsmen, but suddenly they betray him, going wider, away from him to the right, before he drags them back in line.

But the detour cuts his reaction time, accentuates the bat-pad gap, delays the bat coming down in time for the incoming ball. If the ball shapes away outside off, this also ends in him playing away from the body. Bowlers as varied as Jofra Archer, Trent Boult, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar and now Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins have exploited it in the last few months.

It's perhaps an apt time to track what has unfolded in the last three years - the technical errors and the attempted fixes. "He (Shaw) is a talented player but he's got a long way to go, a lot to learn," said Rahul Dravid in 2017. Shaw would move along the ranks, alongside Dravid from cricket for teenagers into the adult world with the A team in 2018. So did this 'problem', though it was hardly seen as such in the teenager's world but would change in character in a year's time.

In December '17, in Mumbai, in the U-19 Challenger tournament held as preparation for the U-19 World Cup in New Zealand, the



Opener Prithvi Shaw's form is a concern going into the second Test match. File

backfoot movement triggered curiosity and came up in a casual conversation with one of his teammates.

When the ball swings or seams a lot, he will have problems but his bat-speed is something, and makes up for it." That observation by that keen teenager has remained spot on thus far.

In August 2018, Shaw's name was announced as the replacement for M Vijay, who was dropped mid-series in England. That year, he had already been on an A tour to England where Dravid was the coach. That back-leg movement would crop up now and then, and they didn't want to tinker too much with the technique; it's learnt that it was addressed to an extent on the A tours.

When he joined the Indian team's training session in Southampton, that awkward back-leg movement wasn't visible initially on the first day. Near the end of the session, though, it buffered up slowly.

Next day, it became more pronounced and Shastri took Shaw aside for a long encouraging chat in the end. Shastri would do the shadow batting, mimic Shaw's back-leg

movement, and then chat more.

The third day of training dawned, and Shastri parked himself near the youngster, shouting words of encouragement at nearly every decent shot played. The back leg would still, now and then, slip away to the leg.

Shaw didn't play any Test and the visuals popped up again in the mind in the series against West Indies in October that year. By now, that movement turned rare, though it would bleed through occasionally. As it would do on an odd day in IPL 2019. Once, Umesh Yadav took him out with a ball straightening outside off, as Shaw's back leg had shuffled a little bit onto leg stump (not outside, though) in an effort to stay beside the line and whack it.

By the time this year's IPL came along in pandemic times, it seemed Shah had tweaked his game further. He was now on a middle-stump guard and the back-leg movement had stopped.

It seemed it was designed to make him stay that much closer to the ball, and not play away from the body. The back leg was in the middle, and he took a slightly open stance,

playing for a team coached by Ricky Ponting. The back leg never moved; it was the left leg that roamed around but the threat had opened up elsewhere.

A similar shift of the guard towards middle and off had helped Virender Sehwag but at times, self-cures tend to mask if not create other problems. The problem now crept into the hands this IPL; that can be exploited only by high-quality seam bowling or pace, often a venomous cocktail of both.

The hand movements aren't drastic, by any stretch of imagination. Former Australian opener David Boon came to be known for his unique cocked-hand movement at pick-up. But in the years before his debut in 1984, he didn't have that movement as the older footage from his First-Class games reveal. Players adjust, learn new traits. By his prime, Boon would start picking the bat up differently, cock his top hand as the bat would do an aerial sweep, so to say, and come back in line at delivery.

DECODING SHAW

THE HANDS initially move back but suddenly yanks well to the right before he drags it back in line. The detour delays his reaction time, widens the bat-pad gap. HE WOULD move his leg outside leg stump just after the ball was

released to stay beside the line but it made him play too far away from the body. South African Hashim Amla, too, let his

hands wander and traverse unusual arcs but his wrists were so powerful that he could drag the bat back quickly in line. Shaw's is a slightly different case to Boon or Amla. His hands delay his subsequent movements as the bat takes a detour after first starting to go back and up in a more conventional way. He then yanks it away from him before again bringing it back in line.

It's just popped up at a wrong time, and coupled with the back-leg movement that he has been working on for a couple of years, and his penchant to stay beside the line, it has all added up.

The first time a famous Indian's back leg was literally tied up in training because it was backing away from the ball led to mind-boggling wizardry.

When Ranjit Singhji's leg was tied to a pole by his English coach Daniel Hayward, he conjured the magical leg-glance. The last time an Indian's back leg was tied led to the genius of Sehwag. When his back foot dragged itself out of the crease, coach AK Sharma tied it to a pole, which helped Sehwag to "receive the ball under my eyes and hit it". Occasionally, home cures can also spark creativity. What will the caged back leg and itchy hands of Shaw do if and when he gets another chance?

BRIEFLY –

Hamilton wins **BBC** award

London: Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton capped another successful year by claiming the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year prize. The 35-year-old driver, who last month equaled Michael Schumacher's record of seven F1 titles, overcame Jordan Henderson and Hollie Doyle to win the British broadcaster's prestigious prize in a public vote on Sunday. Hamilton has been a vocal advocate in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and said he now has "something different" driving him. Hamilton also won the BBC prize in 2014. England midfielder Henderson led Liverpool to its first Premier League title in 30 years. Liverpool is atop the league heading into the busy Christmas period. Henderson was also praised for his role in the #PlayersTogether campaign, which raised funds for National Health Service charities during the coronavirus pandemic. Doyle broke her own record for the most victories in a calendar year by a female jockey before enjoying a Champions Day double at Ascot -- including her first Group One aboard Glen Shiel in the British Champions Sprint. The other three members of the six-person shortlist were boxer Tyson Fury, snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan and cricketer Stuart Broad. AP

Benzema on target again in 3-1 win

Barcelona: Karim Benzema scored one goal and set up another to lead Real Madrid to a 3-1 win at Eibar on Sunday keeping the defending champions level on points with Atletico Madrid at the top of the Spanish league. Zinedine Zidanes side is behind Atletico on goal difference The city rivals are three points ahead of Real Sociedad and eight points ahead of Barcelona which is in fifth place behind Villarreal. Benzema opened the scoring in the sixth minute when he controlled an expert pass from Rodrygo before knocking the ball past goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic. The French striker assisted Luka Modric in the 12th after he dribbled around a defender and found the Croatia midfielder arriving unmarked at the edge of the area Modric fired a rightfooted strike into the upper part of the net to score what proved to be the winning goal. Eibar stayed true to coach Jose Mendilibars playing style of pressuring high up the field and what looked like a Madrid rout became an entertaining contest. AF





numerals

repair(8)

10)

(4)

(7)

(5.5)

5

3 Coaches coaches

4 He sits on a bench

2 Providing you get car in for

Conventional women?

9 Very different from some

11 An animal looking for his

Europeans on their own

6 Did favours when compelled?

	The objective of the shy
	(7)
ŀ	Fruit that gives individual
	vitality(5)
1	Check it's one of a pair

- 8 On the edge of alarming change(8)
- 10 He draws actors into trouble (10)
- 12 They're for firing ovens perhaps(6)
- 13 Earth reduced to dust? (6)
- 15 Agree on a definition of 24 hours and finish work (4,2,1,3)18 A word of twenty-six letters (8)
- master (5,3)19 It is made in a churn 12 Up in arms(7)14 Possibly alerts to changes (4)20 Tutor cooked fish (6)16 Potential enemy country
- 21 Well directed it may finish off (5)the game 17 Capable of scheming (7) (2,2)

Solutions Crossword 4307: Across: 1 Sweethearts, 9 Leisure, 10 Clamp, 11 Gigi, 12 Levitate, 14 Timbre, 16 Cellar, 18 Agitated, 19 Omen, 22 Hitch, 23 Philtre, 24 Appropriate. **Down:** 2 Wring, 3 Etui, 4 Heeled, 5 Ascribes, 6 Travail, 7 Flight paths, 13 Breather, 15 Maintop, 17 Keep up appearances, 20 Motet, 21 Mini.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't David Lloyd George (5,1,5)



two small jumps. - David Lloyd George Answer: Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in SOLUTION: AREAL, OASES, COCCUS, SMITHY





CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





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4

JDOKU

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SOLUTION SUDOKU 4329

9	2	6	7	1	5	4	8	3
1	8	7	6	4	3	9	5	2
4	3	5	8	2	9	1	7	6
8	7	4	1	6	2	5	3	9
3	1	2	5	9	7	8	6	4
5	6	9	4	3	8	2	1	7
7	5	3	9	8	4	6	2	1
2	9	1	3	5	6	7	4	8
6	4	8	2	7	1	3	9	5

vou will once again be asserting your independence, but there could be many mixed messages, and a high chance of misunderstandings.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Good communication is absolutely essential if you are to make a success of both personal and professional plans today. It's a fantastic day for anyone attending interviews or making important proposals, just as long as you are prepared for the unexpected.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You may pay more

attention to financial

affairs, but should be aware that money has certain psychological and symbolic connections. It may well be that if you should be tempted to go on a spending spree, it's because something is not going so well in the rest of

monetary ones.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The Moon is in an extremely strong position today, and that's good for you. However, it has to be said that there's a chance of confusion, muddle and mistakes, even though it may be tempered by bursts of

vour life.

supreme romantic inspiration. Just steer clear of awkward commitments, or any initiatives which could back-fire

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It could do you a power of good to keep yourself to yourself for a couple of days. If other people are trying to force you into a premature decision, feel free to delay and prevaricate for as long as you can. If you do make snap decisions, you could be letting other people in for trouble a little way down the line, so take sensible precautions.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

If you're taking time off for lunch, you're making the right move. It just so

happens that the most unpredictable planetary alignments of the day urge you to pamper yourself, if only to avoid the perils of tension and stress. You should also leave yourself open to unexpected developments.

some changes, this definitely seems to be a good period for a reunion. Rather than sitting around waiting for the phone to ring, you can take the lead and get in touch.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You may consider reviving professional plans which have been ignored or left on the back burner. In fact, this is about the best thing you can do at the moment. If you're not currently at work, you should find any way you can to gain respect in the community.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Financial plans should proceed satisfactorily. although domestic costs could increase before long. If there is to be an extravagant outburst, then you'll need to take care and keep an eye on changing prices Actually, though, emotional risks are as likely as

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan. 20)

You'll have to listen to partners very intently indeed, even though they may sometimes say completely the opposite from what they mean! Don't feel bound to commitments which have outlived their purpose. There is little to be gained by hanging on to the past at the expense of

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) It should be business

as normal today - or so you might imagine. There is a much greater than average chance that you will be forced to consider completely new factors, especially at work. But, as soon as you think you've found the answer, the

absolutely must work, for trying to be as inventive, innovative and creative as possible. You can't be pinned down today, but that's just so typical.

New Delhi





7

3

5



questions change. PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Take your pleasures where you find them. There is much to be said for taking some time off, or, if you

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AZAM OUT OF FIRST TEST

Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam and opening batsman Imam-ul-Haq have been ruled out of the first Test against New Zealand with thumb injuries. Both batsmen fractured their thumbs during a training session last week.

Chills, unable to taste chips: Kashyap-Saina's road to recovery

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

18 SPORT

Will be targeting six tournaments in quest to qualify for the Olympics

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

A PACKET of Masala chips progressively losing their crunch - and taste, proved to be more than a munching accompaniment during Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap's recovery from COVID-19. While the two are back to training at an unused badminton court in Hyderabad after rallying back from their infections, Kashyap recalls the fortnight that saw them stay largely asymptomatic, save for the loss of taste and smell.

"Noone had fever above 98.5 degrees. Just some chills and cold at the start. But it was when we couldn't sense the very strong taste of masala chips that we were sure even Saina was positive," Kashyap said.

It started with the bunch of friends attending the wedding of close buddy Guru Saidutt, where social distancing and masking went for a toss. After fellow players Guru and HS Prannoy felt feverish, four of them had returned positives while Saina's test initially came negative. "I tested because the others felt symptoms. There was cold and cough on Days 3, 4 and 5 and I lost taste on the 4th. It wasn't the worst cold I've had (though I hadn't had cold for 2-3 years) and things were back to normal by 6th day, though I was positive still on the 8th day,' Kashyap recalls.

Saina would isolate immediately afterwards, though she would lose sensory smell and taste after her initial negative test, prompting her to go for another re-test that came positive. "I could taste sweet a little honey. But salty and bitter were completely gone, so everyday food, I had no taste of. Everyday we would have one chip from the packet. After 3 days I could feel the flavours on the chips so that was the cue. When we tested next, we got negatives," he says. "But it's different for every person."

While he can look back and laugh flippantly about the packet of chips now, Kashyap says it'll be wrong to assume that being athletes spared them the worst. "Someone in my family was only 36 and very

S MARUTI SUZUKI



Saina Nehwal and P Kashyap had tested positive for Covid-19. File

fitness conscious. One day she was negative, next day she tested positive and suffered a fatal cardiac arrest soon after. It's scary and no athlete should assume they are immune," he adds. "Also a non-badminton player friend who was also at the wedding needed to be hospitalized." he adds.

A false positive prior to heading off to Maldives among the group of friends had also confused him. "The tests can confuse." There was no loss of appetite either. "In fact I might've put on 3 kgs because I couldn't stop eating and was getting very hungry," he says.

As an asthmatic, there were concerns if he'd need more than the anti-virals. "I monitored oxygen levels every two hours and asked my asthma doctor. But she said unless the O2 saturation levels really fell, there was no need for anything like steroids which might've been difficult as an athlete," he says. Return to the court has been tough though. "Two weeks of zero activity means muscles are sore and have lost tone. At Thailand, on a scale of 1 to 10, I'll probably be

playing at 3. But I don't want to push in training immediately and risk any problems. We waited a week for clearance from the district medical officer after the negative and still check oxygen levels every two hours after walking 6 minutes.

As things stand, the duo will head to Thailand, and are hoping as best case scenario to play in each of the 6 tournaments they've planned aiming for qualification. "There's 9 day gaps between each so I'm guessing quarantines are factored in," he

All England isn't a part of the qualification, but Kashyap reckons every player will head there. "It's prestigious," he says, before quipping, "It's big. If I won it, I'll show it everyday to everyone as if I've won the Olympics! Ofcourse it means a lot and every player will play."

'But right now there's no point thinking ahead. Situation is changing every hour," he adds, claiming he's quite done with chips for life - bitter, sweet, tangy or tasteless, all kinds of them.

Britain's Covid crisis could hit Sindhu's plans in the new year

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

AS EXITING Britain becomes increasingly difficult because of the escalating coronavirus situation with 40 countries - and counting banning airlines from UK, international badminton has lurched into uncertainty again. India's world champion PV Sindhu has been training in the UK for some months now and was supposed to travel to Bangkok in January. She will now be at the mercy of travel regulations in both countries as she attempts to resume competition at the Thailand Open scheduled for the second week of January. Thailand has also seen a tremendous single-day spike in cases putting the whole three-tournament series in jeopardy, though Bangkok isn't in lockdown.

What is the Sindhu situation?

The reigning World Champion and finalist at the Rio Olympics has been in UK since October, first for a series of nutrition tests and then training with the England squad. However, with restrictions on flights from UK. and Sindhu needing to be in Bangkok on January 3, it is looking increasingly difficult for India's top player, along with other British players, to make it to the two Super 1000 events in Bangkok where she was scheduled to resume competition. Returning to India is impossible with flights from UK barred now,

and Thailand is expected to impose strict restrictions - albeit specific ones for England, Wales and Scotland.

uled for late February, the toand-fro becomes a tricky decision, especially with no qualification points up for grabs

for Tokyo.

Samut Sakhon, a province near the capital Bangkok, as up to 40,000 people are being tested with Thailand scrambling to mitigate an outbreak that has infected nearly 700 people



PV Sindhu was to fly from the UK, where she has been based since October, to Bangkok in January for a tournament. File

at a seafood market. The epicentre of the new outbreak threw up 140 more cases, as the country recorded its



biggest daily spike of 548 cases

The Indian Open Super 500 in Delhi from May 11-16 will be

the last qualification tournament for the Tokyo Olympics, according to the fresh schedule firmed up by the Badminton World Federation. world are part of the qualification process, though only 5-6 will see top players target

qualification. Two Super 300s (Swiss - March 2-7 & German Open - March 9-14), two Super 500s (Singapore & India), one Super 750 (Malaysia Open - March 31 - April 4) and

With restrictions on flights from UK, and Sindhu needing to be in Bangkok on January 3, it is looking increasingly difficult for India's top player to make the trip to South-East Asia.

a Super 100 at Orleans have points up for grabs. The Badminton Asia Championship (April 27 - May 2), with its venue yet to be decided, is also included in Tokyo qualification.

What does this mean for Saina Nehwal. Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen and P Kashvap?

While both Saina and Srikanth are readying to travel to Thailand, their real test starts in Basel on March 2.

However, the big push for points comes from March 31 (Malaysia Super 750), Singapore (Super 500 from April 13-18) and in Delhi (May 11-16). Crucially, the three Super 1000s (two in Thailand and the All England) have nothing to offer if they are chasing qualification for Tokyo. The other alternative is criss-crossing the world for minor tournaments which involves travelling. Ideally, post Thailand, the Swiss, German, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Delhi tournaments is where the duo will look to strike for their points.

What are the financial implications on the 2021 season?

The BWF release stated: "There is also the possibility to reduce total minimum prize money for 2021 in the effort to reduce costs." A 20 per cent reduction in prize money is estimated throughout 2021 in circuit events, affecting player earnings.

Has vaccinations been factored in?

"Although the hope is that the COVID-19 vaccine may in time create a world with less restrictions, BWF expects that the pandemic will still influence tournament hosting throughout the whole of 2021," the world body said.

NEXA

THE TOUGH URBAN

THE NEW



EXPLAINE With the All England sched-

in Bangkok. Sindhu, however, has qualified

What is the situation in Thailand?

A lockdown has been imposed around

A total of 17 tournaments across the

New 17.78 cm Smartplay Studio (Available from Zeta variant onwards)

New Rear Spoiler and Roof Rails

Auto Gear Shift

Spacious and Comfortable Interiors

1.2L VVT Petrol Engine (BS VI Compliant)

New Delhi

Interest rate of 7.10%* | 100% On-road Funding*



Vol LXXXIXNo. 36 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05

R.N.I. No.506/57. Printed and Published by R.C. Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida - 201301 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, B1/B, Sector - 10, Noida - 201301. Phone: 0120-6651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha ** **Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express ®





