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INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP



PM at AMU event: In India's progress, none can be left behind because of religion

'Ideological differences natural, but can't come in way of national goals'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

UNDERLINING THAT "a lot of time was wasted last century in the name of differences", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a gathering of Aligarh Muslim University Tuesday that "the country is progressing on a path where none can be left behind because of religion, where all get equal opportunity to move ahead, and fulfil their dreams".

Describing the AMU campus, its history of education as a "priceless heritage" of the country and praising its alumni across the world as "representatives of India's culture", the Prime Minister, addressing the centenary celebrations of the university via a video link, said: "There are ideological differences in a society, it is natural. But when it comes to attainment of national goals, then these differences should be kept aside."

"When you young friends decide to move ahead with this thinking, then there's no goal that we cannot achieve together. Be it education, economic progress, better living, opportunities, women's rights, security, nationalism, these are every citizen's requirements. These are some issues on which we cannot disagree because of our political, ideological compulsions," he said.



Prime Minister Modi during the AMU event. ANI

"We must understand that politics is an integral part of society, but there are issues other than politics in society. A country's society is much larger, far more pervasive than the thinking of politics and power. Even beyond politics, there is enough space to take the society forward. It is very important to keep exploring this space. A campus like AMU can do this work, all of you can."

He said the development of a country or society should not be viewed through the prism of politics. "When we come together for a larger objective, it is possible that some elements get troubled. Such elements can be found in every society of the world. These are people with vested interests. To suit their own interest, they will employ every play, and spread negativity. But if building India is uppermost in our hearts and mind, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL POLLS

J&K votes split: Valley goes to Gupkar Alliance, Jammu to BJP

BJP wins at least 6 DDCs in Jammu, none in Kashmir; PAGD wins 9 councils, all in Valley

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

THE PEOPLE's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration has won or is leading in 100-plus seats of the total 280 in the District Development Councils (DDCs) in the first-ever elections held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the erstwhile state's special status in August 2019.

Even as votes are still being counted, it is clear that the Bharatiya Janata Party is emerging as the single largest party with wins and leads in 75 DDC seats. It is sweeping the Hindu-dominated districts — Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua and Samba — in the Jammu Division, leading in 49 out of 56 DDC seats.

The poll results mean that the BJP has secured control of at least six District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu and none in Kashmir. The People's Alliance has a majority in nine DDCs, all in the Valley. As there CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 6



THE COUNT

TOTAL DDC SEATS: 20
(10 in Jammu, 10 in Kashmir)

PARTY	JAMMU	KASHMIR
BJP	6	#
PAGD	*	9

*In 4 DDCs in Jammu Division, NC is the single largest party in 3, and Congress in 1

In 1 DDC in Kashmir Division, Apni Party is the single largest party with leads/wins in 3 seats

Manzoor Ahmad, a candidate of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, celebrates his win from a DDC constituency in Srinagar on Tuesday. Shuaib Masoodi

First time since August 5 downgrade, crucial political space opens in J&K

PVAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 23

THE HECTIC POLITICKING ahead of elections to the District Development Councils (DDCs) — the 'Gupkar Gang' jibe of Amit Shah, selective leak of now annulled Roshni Act beneficiaries and arrest of PDP's youth wing President Waheed Para — did

not dent the process, the results underlined Tuesday. As expected, BJP bagged six of the 10 DDCs in Jammu Division but it was the Gupkar Alliance's win in nine out of 10 DDCs in the Kashmir Division that's the key takeaway.

More than this outcome, it's the space that this democratic exercise has opened up in the

Union Territory, and particularly in the Valley, which assumes significance. It has kickstarted politics, dormant and locked down since August 5 last year when the state was split and downgraded and its special status abrogated. The Alliance members' decision to contest has been vindicated by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New strain not in India, says govt, issues SOPs for visitors from UK

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A DAY after it announced the suspension of flights from and to the United Kingdom until December 31, the Centre on Tuesday assured that there is no reason for panic, noting that the new strain of the novel coron-

avirus has not been seen in India. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also released detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for states regarding travellers from the UK who arrived in India over the past month, which includes carrying out genome sequencing in case of positive samples. "The Indian government is

watching closely. We are fortunate that our country has robust laboratories. From the start of the pandemic itself, we are isolating the virus; we have systematically studied the genomic behaviour of more than 1,000 virus samples. We have closely examined the mutations. So far, we have not found any signal (of the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE



MISSING BALUCH ACTIVIST FOUND DEAD IN TORONTO
PAGE 6

NEPAL: OLI EXPELLED AS PARTY CHAIRMAN
PAGE 12

Delhi may scrap nursery admissions for 2021-22

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI government is considering scrapping nursery admissions for the 2021-22 academic session. Sources said senior government officials have discussed the option, which will now be proposed to private schools. According to the pro-

posals, schools will admit two batches in 2022-23 instead — one in nursery, and the other in kindergarten.

Meanwhile, Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia told The Indian Express that there was very little possibility of schools reopening before July. "Even if we start vaccinating people by February, we will be able to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

28 yrs after murder of 19-year-old in Kerala, court finds priest, nun guilty

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 22

A WATER bottle that had fallen down near the fridge inside the kitchen with water dripping out, a veil found under the door locked from outside, an axe, a basket, two slippers found at different places in the room — and crucial testimony from a thief.

All of this added up to the case presented by the CBI that led Tuesday to the conviction of the two accused in the murder of 19-year-old Sister Abhaya — a crime that has been a part of Kerala's news cycle ever since the Catholic nun's body was found inside a well at a convent in Kottayam on March 27, 1992.

Twenty-eight years and nine months later, a CBI special court in Thiruvananthapuram found a priest and a nun guilty of the murder. The quantum of punishment for Father Thomas Kottoor, 63, and Sister Sephy, 57, the first and third accused, will be pronounced Wednesday.

Hours after the order was passed, the two accused, charged under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) and on bail since 2009, were sent back to jail.

The CBI had named another priest, Father Jose Puthrickkayal, as the second accused but the court allowed his discharge petition before the trial, which began last year, citing lack of evidence.

"I had been waiting for this day. Truth has the final victory. I have been praying for the soul of



Body was found in a well in convent on March 27, 1992

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my sister to get justice," said Abhaya's brother Biju Thomas, who is employed in the Middle East. Abhaya's parents, Thomas Aikkarakunnel and Leelamma, died in 2016.

According to the CBI, Abhaya, a pre-degree college student, was killed after she found the two priests and Sephy in a compromising position inside the kitchen of the Pius X Convent hostel.

Fearing that she would expose them, the agency told the court, Kottoor strangled her while Sephy beat her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Political space

the outcome.

Kashmiris will have representatives people can go to with their day-to-day grievances and institutions whose doors they can knock on. Logon ki sunwai hogi (people will be heard), and funds will reach these Councils based on the size of their population.

That apart, the political message is clear.

3 THE CITY



		Total	Vacant	
TOTAL CASES		18,779	15,965	
HOSPITAL BEDS		1,523	872	
VENTILATORS				
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Dec 21	803	1,669	27	62,440
Dec 22	939	1,434	25	82,386
Total	8,735*	5,99,683	10,329	79,45,193

*Total active cases

MANDATORY TESTING AT AIRPORT BECAUSE OF NEW STRAIN

5 from UK positive, others to be traced

ASHNA BUTANI
& ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FIVE PASSENGERS travelling on Air India's London-Delhi flight tested positive for Covid-19 on arrival Tuesday, a day after the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced mandatory testing of all passengers coming from the United Kingdom due to the emergence of the new strain of Covid-19.

Officials said that four flights from the UK to Delhi were scheduled for the day. "Out of around 500 passengers arriving on the first two flights, five tested positive," said an official of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL).

The Delhi government said it will check the health condition of passengers who have arrived here recently from the UK, by visiting their houses.

"The Delhi government is on alert in the wake of a mutated coronavirus strain detected in the UK. The situation is being closely monitored and mandatory tests are being conducted at the Delhi airport for all passengers arriving from that country," said Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain.

In the last two weeks, about 6,000-7,000 people have landed at Delhi airport, many of whom would have travelled to other places like Punjab from thereon, Jain said. "We will go

EXPLAINED
Airport's vaccine plan

According to DIAL officials, cargo terminals are equipped with state of the art handling equipment, screening systems, and storage and processing facilities. Terminals also have temperature-controlled facilities to handle specific cargo. Officials said the airport is working with pharmaceutical companies and airlines, while staff are being trained to handle vaccines.

quarantine for positive and symptomatic patients — Marriot and Aerocity.

Following the announcement of suspension of flights from the UK, the Delhi Airport issued an advisory that RT-PCR tests would be mandatory for all those traveling from the UK before midnight of December 22.

"Earlier, passengers who had been exempted via Air Suvidha and had a negative test report did not have to take the test. But in view of the new strain, RT-PCR tests were made compulsory for them," the official added.

The flight landed around 11.30 pm on Monday. Passengers arriving on these flights were greeted with goodies upon entering the airport. A separate waiting lounge was created for those arriving from the UK and waiting for their test reports. The last two flights are scheduled to arrive at 11:15 pm and 11:30 pm on Tuesday night.

According to a DIAL official, the Delhi Airport is fully prepared to handle and distribute Covid vaccines "even if the government announces that it will come in tomorrow".

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria told the media Tuesday, "We have a storage capacity of 27 lakh vaccines at any given point for Delhi Airport. So, we can distribute 54 lakh vials, if we are able to complete two rotations in a day."

Cases below 1k second day in a row, plan to cut Covid beds

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI health department has formed a four-member committee to make recommendations on reducing the number of Covid-dedicated beds in hospitals. The move comes after several requests were made by hospitals and institutes to restart non-Covid services against the backdrop of a drop in cases.

The order has been issued by Principal Health Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt. The team comprises Udit Rai Prakash, special secretary of department of health and family welfare; Dr Nutan Mundeja, Director General of Health Services; Dr Suneet Kaur from the National Centre for Disease Control; and Dr Anant Mohan, professor and head of department of pulmonary medicine, critical care and sleep medicine at AIIMS.

As per the Delhi government's Corona App, of the 18,779 beds earmarked for Covid-19 patients, 15,965 (85%) are vacant.

The team will submit its recommendations by December 23, after assessing trends in hospital admission/discharge, and recommend graded de-escalation of Covid-dedicated beds. It will also



Testing underway near Tilak Nagar Metro station. Renuka Puri

suggest if ICU and critical care beds be part of the process. This is "to ensure that capacity de-escalation recommendations strike a harmonious balance between regional and location access across all categories of hospitals and the need to have a buffer capacity for patients from neighbouring states", the order states.

For the second consecutive day Tuesday, the city saw less than 1,000 daily cases with 939 new cases being recorded. The death toll reached 10,329 with 25 new deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.14% with 82,386 tests conducted in the past day.

At Lok Nayak, the largest Covid-only hospital under the

Delhi government, there are 165 beds occupied of 2,010.

Meanwhile, resident doctors and undergraduate students from Maulana Azad Medical College and associated hospitals have been protesting outside the office of the director demanding that authorities restart non-Covid services and reopen the college for students. "Our delegation held a meeting with Special Secretary, Health, Tuesday, where we were informed that a high-level panel has been formed to look into the decision. However, we have not been given any written assurance on the timeline, so we will continue the silent protest," said Dr Keshave Singh, president, MAMC resident doctors' association.



The island is located among wetlands stretching behind Kalindi Colony along the DND

Along DND where solid waste once was, an 'island' comes up

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A SMALL island made out of solid waste and construction debris is an unexpected sight in the thick blanket of water hyacinths that cover the wetlands stretching behind Kalindi Colony along the Delhi-Noida-Delhi flyway.

Until May last year, this land was a dump for solid waste which was excavated to build the island and an embankment around it, as part of the South Delhi Biodiversity Park — a 200 hectare stretch on the Yamuna floodplains being developed by Delhi University Professor CR Babu in collaboration with Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

"We plan to plant 1 lakh trees in the entire embankment area, so people can walk through a forest. The island will be covered by patches of grass, and connected through canoes, where one can sit and do fishing,"

Professor Babu told *The Indian Express*.

At present, the water that surrounds the island and much of the wetlands — from Dholi Ghat in Okhla to DND flyway near Kilokari village — is sewage from 25 drains, which would render it difficult for fish to survive.

However, Professor Babu plans to treat an estimated 1,500 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage from these 25 drains through 11 constructed wetland systems which will naturally purify wastewater before it enters the Yamuna — a method he has successfully used in the past to revive the lake at Neela Haaz biodiversity park in South Delhi.

Under the new project, one such constructed wetland system started functioning last week and is treating around 15 MLD of wastewater from Kilokari drain, which used to accumulate behind Kalindi Colony.

"For a very long time, the constructed wetland system has

been ignored by civil engineers, who have been keen about sewage treatment plants (STPs). You need a lot of energy to run STPs... The constructed wetland is a viable alternative," he said.

The wetland model that treats waste from Kilokari drain involves a three-step process. Wastewater from the sewage first enters an oxidation pond, where solid material is trapped in a wire mesh and atmospheric oxygen dissolves in the water. The water is then passed from channels through ridges made out of boulders, which creates turbulence and causes aeration — in other words, it dissolves oxygen in water. In the final stage, species of 25 plants — including typha, phragmites and cyprus — decompose waste in the water further by drawing nutrients from it. The water is then released into the wetlands.

Prof Babu said the remaining 10 constructed wetland systems will be ready by mid next year.

Called terrorist, beaten again in jail: Former Cong councillor to court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FORMER CONGRESS councillor Ishrat Jahan, facing trial in an UAPA case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, Tuesday told a Delhi court that she was assaulted and called a terrorist by inmates at Mandoli jail.

This is the second time Jahan has told a court that she was assaulted inside the jail. She had told the court she was facing harassment in prison for the past four months and had requested to be shifted to Tihar, but it was refused due to the pandemic.

Jahan told the court, "This is the second incident in a month. In the morning today at 6.30, they (inmates) beat me badly and abused me verbally. One of the inmates even slit her hand so I'm punished on a false complaint. Fortunately, jail officials did not listen to them. I have given a written complaint. They keep calling me a terrorist. They also demanded money from me in the canteen."

Observing that Jahan was in a "state of utter fear", Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat directed jail authorities to take immediate steps to ensure her security and that she was not harassed further for bringing her complaints before the court. It also directed prison authorities to submit a report Wednesday on detailed steps taken.

When ASJ Rawat asked the Assistant Superintendent of Mandoli jail if such an incident has occurred, she confirmed the same and said necessary steps have been taken. The matter will be heard next on January 5.

ASJ Rawat said, "She (Jahan) seems to be in a state of utter fear. Please talk to her immediately and understand the situation. File a detailed report about steps taken to allay her apprehension and fear. Take all necessary steps, take immediate steps. I don't want to hear that the accused was further harassed by her inmates or anybody else because she complained. I do not want to hear that the present



The riots broke out in Feb

accused is harmed in any way."

Advocate Pradeep Teotia, appearing for Jahan, apprised the court of previous incidents of assault faced by Jahan. He said, "One of the inmates beat her up badly previously. A complaint was filed before the Deputy Superintendent and that inmate was shifted to another jail. There are two ladies in her prison cell who beat her up today. While she was offering her morning prayers, they objected to it and started abusing and beating her."

Jahan further said she was suffering from a medical condition for which she was not taken to a hospital nor were any tests done.

Advocate Rizwan, appearing for co-accused and suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, claimed that most of the riot accused were facing discrimination in prison, either by inmates or jail authorities. "Almost all the accused are facing discrimination in jail. They have been declared terrorists before conclusion of the trial. Jail authorities behave adversely with them. Proper monitoring by the court is important in the cases, especially the conspiracy case in which the accused have been booked under the UAPA," he said.

ASJ Rawat said, "An accused is an accused, not a convict." Jamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, who is also facing trial in a riots case, told the court he has repeatedly been called a "terrorist" in jail. Co-accused Athar Khan also asked the court to shift him from the general ward since other inmates "behave strangely" with him after hearing he is a riot accused.

Jain says MCDs not sharing cash details

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DELHI URBAN Development Minister Satyendar Jain Tuesday said the department had asked for details of incomes and expenditures of the three MCDs, a request that was allegedly denied by the corporations.

Jain said the department had asked for details regarding funds received by all the three MCDs in last one month, and their expenditure under various budget heads such as salaries, and other expenditure heads.

"The three MCDs have only shared details regarding total funds received and spent, but are refusing to give details of money used under different budget heads... they must be transparent with regard to public money... It is the right of people to know details regarding their money and MCDs must be transparent with the public exchequer," said Jain.

BJP leaders said the govern-

ment was harassing the corporations.

"Delhi government seeking details of expenditure on monthly basis is one more way to harass the civic bodies. They should transfer full funds to the MCDs and then seek clarification on annual basis. Under democratic system, it's CAG which audits accounts of government bodies and MCDs are bound to that system. Civic bodies don't need to abide by Delhi government's politically motivated demands," said Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor.

AAP leaders, meanwhile, took out 'Padyatras' in the 272 municipal wards against the alleged corruption of Rs 2,500 crore in the three corporations. AAP MCD in charge Durgesh Pathak said volunteers met and raised the issue among voters: More than 20,000 AAP volunteers and citizens of Delhi took part in these rallies. They are still ongoing.

MCDs have refuted AAP's allegations.

Under attack by AAP, Bidhuri firm: Protests funded by tukde-tukde gang, people in Canada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AAP ACCUSED South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri of abusing protesting farmers and calling them "pimps" during a Kisan Kalyan Samarthan Yatra he addressed in Mehrauli Tuesday — a charge denied by the two-time MP, who said he had actually used the word "thalue" (useless or worthless).

"The ruling party at the Centre has tried every trick in the book to break the farmers — from use of

water cannons, tear gas to building trenches, putting up barbed wire fences. When farmers reached Singhu and Tikri borders, the BJP realised the farmers' extraordinary will, and resorted to using vulgar language to describe this movement... I would like to ask the Prime Minister, 'What is our country's farmer to you — our pride or a pimp?'," Chadha said.

Bidhuri, when contacted, said he was being misquoted by Chadha, but maintained that he stands by what he said about the protests being supported by "those from Canada, tukde-tukde



BJP MP Bidhuri and AAP MLA Chadha

gang, Leftists and the Congress". "Maine bola ki protest main kuch thalue baithe hue hain. We use this word for useless people in villages. I did not use the word

AAP is accusing me of using. But I do maintain the protest is completely political in nature and that people are being supported by Canada, tukde-tukde gang. They are sponsored by Leftists and the Congress. Every village has such people. AAP has extracted a small section from my speech and is misrepresenting what was said. The people sitting there are getting aid from Khalistan gang and tukde-tukde gang," Bidhuri said. He also said that people were camping at the borders because they were getting things for free. Chadha demanded that

Bidhuri be expelled and said BJP leaders had made several allegations regarding the farmers' movement in the past.

"Different leaders of the BJP have at different times accused the farmers' movement of being funded by China and Pakistan. Today I ask the Prime Minister, when the ED, CBI, NSA, R&AW, I-T and even the Delhi Police come under the ambit of the Centre, when all these departments fall within the ambit of the Centre, what stops you from beginning an investigation and stop maligning the farmers?" Chadha said.

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DELHI POLICE has registered an FIR against Ragini Tiwari alias Janki Behen, a self-proclaimed Hindutva leader, days after a video went viral where she openly threatened to end the ongoing farmers' protest with violence similar to the riots in Northeast Delhi's Jafraabad in February. The FIR has been registered under IPC Section 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot).

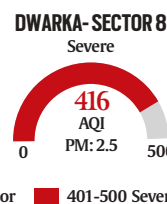
Sources told *The Indian Express* that before lodging an FIR, Northeast district police had sought legal opinion.

"Afterwards, an FIR was registered based on a police personnel's complaint. In his complaint, he alleged he found the video of Tiwari on social media where she was provoking people and threatening violence, similar to the riots in Northeast Delhi," a police source said. After the video was flagged, DCP (Northeast), in a tweet from his personal handle on December 13, had said, "SHO/ Jafraabad has been directed to take necessary

action."

After the FIR was filed, police went to Tiwari's house but found she was out of town. A senior officer said, "Police will summon her in coming days and are also planning to probe her alleged role in the Northeast Delhi riots."

Two months ago, the Delhi Home Department had shared with the Delhi Police a video clip purportedly showing Tiwari, who delivered incendiary speeches on Facebook live in the run-up to the riots, purportedly indulging in stone pelting with rioters in front of policemen at Maujpur on February 23.



MAX: 24
2.6°C above normal

MIN: 4
3.9°C below normal

Youngest of 3 brothers, 15-year-old shuffled between school and work

BJP's MSP post features farmer protesting at Singhu



Singh hails from Nidhulon village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur. He said his family owns five acres of land where they grow wheat, *makka*.



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Verka Head Office, 155, Sector 34A, Chandigarh No. 0172-5041837	200/-	3,50,000/-	23.12.2020 From 10:00 AM	28.12.2020 up to 01:00 PM	Technical Bid 28.12.2020 at 03:00 PM
—do—	200/-	20,000/-	23.12.2020 From 10:00 AM	28.12.2020 up to 01:00 PM	Technical Bid 28.12.2020 at 03:00 PM
—do—	200/-	1,25,000/-	23.12.2020 From 10:00 AM	28.12.2020 up to 01:00 PM	Technical Bid 28.12.2020 at 03:00 PM

NOTE: Only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID & password. For more details, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely tender opening. For additional details regarding e- tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is Rs. 1000/- per lot.

General Manager (P&LM/PURCHASE)

Saluting the Indian farmers on Kisan Diwas



Dr C.D. Mayee, President, South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), New Delhi

export because our share in global agriculture export market is mere 2 %, USD 37 bn. Remember trade is important even in farming profession as it leads to economic growth and prosperity. December 23 is celebrated as the National Farmers Day since the last 20 years to honour them. Hence, I wish to salute the Indian farmers for their benefaction and pray for their wellbeing on this auspicious day.

MESSAGE

ON THE occasion of 'Kisan Diwas' I would like to convey our gratitude to the millions of farmers who ensure that we are well nourished. They have been in the forefront of many challenges in the past and they continue to be the 'shining light' even during these unprecedented Covid times. Our farmers have time and again emerged as a provider, benefactor, nurturer and a nourisher. It has been both a privilege as well as a humbling experience for Syngenta to serve the farmers for the past 90 years to enhance their yields and more importantly improve their quality of life. We have also been acutely conscious of the fact that our farmers need to be safe and healthy. In a humble way we have initiated a flagship program called I-SAFE which stands for Inculcating Safety Awareness for Farmers' Empowerment across India. In collaboration with Syngenta Foundation, we have created an Agri Entrepreneur (AE) program to train youth in rural areas on various aspects of safety as well as other skills like agronomy, financial and counselling services. Through our CSR initiative I-CLEAN which stands for Inculcating Cleanliness, Learning, Education, Awareness and New Habits we are building and upgrading 'sabji mandis' in remote corners of India. This is with an aim to provide not only shelter but a clean environment for the farmers to sell their produce and enhance their livelihoods. It will be our endeavor to further contribute in many more meaningful ways to make the farmers safe, healthy and prosperous.



Dr K C Ravi
Chief Sustainability Officer
Syngenta India Limited

Fertilizer for sustainable development

ADVERTORIAL

sufficiency in Urea and thereby reduce the dependence on imports. It has also benefitted the farming community immensely by increasing the availability of Urea manufactured in the country.

The Indian Farmer is one of the Company's most important stakeholder and well-being of the farming community is at the core of the Company. The company has a vast network of dealers and retailers reaching right up to the villages. The Company has a well-structured farmer advisory programme specially designed to promote sustainable farming practices. Conserving natural resources, adopting comprehensive soil health man-



Dhara - Khet Hara". Corporate Social Responsibility ("CSR") had been a focus area since inception of the Company. We strive to improve the quality of life of rural communities through accelerated economic growth and social development. A holistic approach, where one activity complements and strengthens the efforts of the other, is helping us build communities capable of living sustainably. Our CSR projects mainly cover the areas of Education, Skill Development, Employment & Livelihood, Healthcare, Rural Development and Soil Health.

Education is the cornerstone of Chambal's CSR initiatives. Chambal's comprehensive education program is being driven through 41 Aanganwadis and 44 Government Schools adopted by the Company in 35 villages in Kota and Baran districts of Rajasthan. The Company has also adopted 5 Industrial Training Institutes and a Polytechnic College near its plants at Gadepan. These institutes have been developed over the year to provide quality technical education and students passed out from these institutes are placed in some of the reputed companies. The Company has received awards and accolades for its CSR initiatives in the field of education.

Soil and water analysis is also conducted at Company's laboratories free of cost to the farmers. The Company also operates mobile soil testing vans that provide soil testing services at the farmer's doorstep.

The road ahead

The availability of land under agriculture has already reached its peak and there is hardly any additional land that can be brought into agricultural. The clear implication is that we must produce more grain per acre of land that is already under agriculture. This requires enhancing the fertility of soils by supplying the nutrients necessary for agricultural production. Therefore, the country must invest in a sustainable and balanced supply of agricultural inputs including fertilizers.

Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited is a world class enterprise that stands for industry-leading business practices. With its vision to play a catalytic role in delivering food security and achieving self-sufficiency in fertilizer production in India, Chambal is playing a crucial role in realising the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

WE AT Chambal are committed to build a sustainable enterprise for the benefit of all our stakeholders. We have integrated responsible practices into our business strategies and operations to manage the three challenges; economic prosperity, social development and environmental integrity. We are also committed to improving the quality of life of rural communities through accelerated economic growth and social development in the villages that surround our plants. We support a wide array of community development initiatives in the areas of Education, Skill Development, Employment & Livelihood, Healthcare, Rural Development and Soil Health as part of our effort to give back to the communities in which we operate."

Anil Kapoor, Managing Director,
Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited

agement practices, embracing innovating cropping methodology and increasing farmers' income are a few other aspects of our outreach program. Under this programme, the company organises crop seminars, product and field demonstrations as well as farmers meets. The Company has also set up a toll-free tele helpline - Hello Uttam to answer queries raised by farmers on various topics. For several years, the Company has passionately pursued the tenet "Swasth

Ensuring food security through self-reliance in fertilizers

For over three glorious decades, Chambal Fertilisers has been working tirelessly to lend self-sufficiency to fertilizer production in India. Not to rest on its laurels, it has made every effort to turn itself into a renowned fertilizer company, accounting for nearly 13% of the nation's total Urea production. Responsibly contributing to the nation's food security, enriching the lives of farmers and playing its role in the nation's unstoppable march towards a prosperous future.

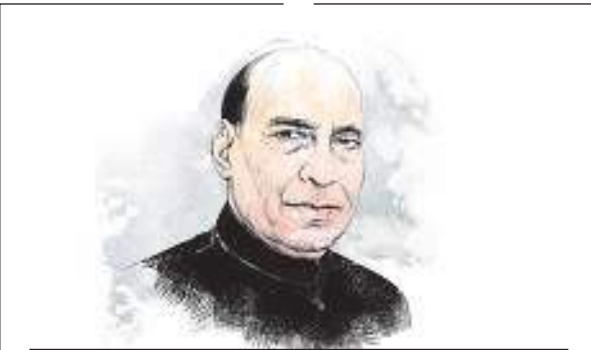


CHAMBAL FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS LIMITED

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



AUTO MESSAGE

WHEN DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Japanese counterpart Kishi Nobuo on Tuesday, the discussions were on serious issues such as bilateral defence and security cooperation. However, images officially released by the Japanese side after the meeting caught the attention of officials in the Defence Ministry. In a photo published on Kishi Nobuo's official Twitter handle, there was a miniature model of an Indian autorickshaw on his table. Other than the flags and a Buddha statue, all that he had on the table was the model of the autorickshaw in green and yellow. With officials starting to wonder what could be the message, one of them quipped: "It could mean India-Japan relations are on auto pilot."

BACK IN ACTION

DAYS AFTER they met and initiated an internal dialogue process, Rahul Gandhi and some of the letter-writer leaders, who have sought changes in the party, will be together again later this week. Gandhi will lead a delegation of Congress leaders and MPs on Thursday to meet President Ram Nath Kovind to demand his intervention for repealing the three controversial farm laws. They will submit some two crore signatures collected by the party urging his intervention. The delegation will include Ghulam Nabi Azad. Gandhi had met the President earlier this month with leaders of other opposition parties but Azad, the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, was not involved in coordination with leaders of other parties.

BJP sweeps Jammu division, faces reverses in Chenab, Pir Panjal

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 22

THE BJP was set to emerge the single largest party in Jammu, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur and Kathua districts, but suffered reverses in Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions.

Of the results announced for 52 seats in Jammu division so far, the BJP, which was contesting 114 seats in the division, was declared winner in 28 constituencies, mostly in Jammu, Samba and Reasi districts. The party's advances got checkmated by the National Conference (NC), Congress, JKAP and Independent candidates in Kisht, Doda, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri districts.

While BJP had won 13 seats and NC one in Samba district, the trends available in Jammu district showed that it was poised to win all seats, barring two, where an NC and an Independent candidate were leading. In Kathua district, BJP was leading at 12 places, while Congress and BSP were ahead in one seat each.

In Udhampur district, BJP had won four seats and JKPP one, with the saffron party leading in at least half a dozen more. The winners in Udhampur district included BJP's former MLA R S Pathania's wife Juhi Manhas (Khooon constituency).

In Reasi district, BJP won at five places, with two going to NC, including former J&K minister Jagjivan Lal. The JKAP was declared elected from two places, among the winners former minister Ajaz Khan from Thruoo. Congress and Independents won one seat each.

The election results and trends available so far show that voters by and large rejected the extreme right-wing politics in Jammu division.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with his Japanese counterpart Kishi Nobuo during which both leaders discussed defence cooperation between the two countries and opposed any attempts to change status quo through coercion in the region – in a veiled reference to China.

They also discussed the Malabar naval exercise, which concluded in November, and for the first time since 2007 saw participation of all four members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue – India, Japan, US and Australia.

The conversation, another sign of deepening defence ties between both the countries, comes in the backdrop of the continuing military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Japan's Defence Ministry said



BJP candidate Suresh Kumar after his lead in the DDC poll results, in Jammu. *PTI*

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FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



Kishi Nobuo

in its statement that the two leaders "also exchanged views on regional situations, including the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and reaffirmed their continued close cooperation". "In this context, the ministers affirmed their intention to continue exchanging views in light of the current events occurring in the region and concurred in sending a clear message that they strongly oppose any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion or any activities that escalate tension," it said.

Singh tweeted, "India is committed to further elevate engagements with Japan under the Special Strategic & Global partnership framework," he said.

DDC: 'Free of political baggage', Independents score big in polls

NAVEEDIQBAL
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

BESIDES THE BJP and the National Conference winning big on their own, the single largest group of winning candidates in the DDC elections are the Independents. Barring five of 20 districts, Independents won the day in all other districts.

As per latest available figures, 44 of 241 seats for which results were available till late Tuesday evening, were won by independents. Twenty-eight of these are from Kashmir region, the rest in Jammu.

For the two cousins of Srinagar and Poonch, Independents will cast the deciding vote. Of 2,178 candidates in 280 territorial constituencies divided equally between Kashmir and Jammu, over a thousand candidates were Independent. In a hyper-local election, they made the pitch of being "free of political baggage" in their campaign.

Although PDP had just 63 candidates contesting on party ticket, the number of Independents is higher than its tally of 26, as per last available figure.

In terms of votes, the 44 independent candidates together polled over 1.24 lakh votes, significantly higher than PDP's 45,000. The BJP, owing to higher voter turnout in Jammu, polled more votes than any other single party – over 4.42 lakh. The National Conference polled about 2.16 lakh out of total 30 lakh ballots cast in these elections.

As of Tuesday night, only BJP and PDP have claimed support of approximately a dozen Independent candidates. As the full list of candidates is announced, likely by Wednesday morning, a clear picture will emerge on who the Independent winners choose to support. There are seven Independent winners in Srinagar and six in Poonch, four in Shopian, three each in Bandipora, Baramulla and Pulwama, among others.



Independent candidate Bilal Ahmad in Srinagar. *PTI*

'Now that he has won, we are living in the hope of his release'

NAVEEDIQBAL
PULWAMA, DECEMBER 22

JUST AFTER 2 pm, two men walked out of the counting centre at Government Degree College for Women in Pulwama, holding a sheet of paper and barely able to contain their smiles. "He won, Waheed won." While the final vote count was yet to be announced, the lead was unassailable.

Of the 1,851 votes polled for the Pulwama 1 constituency, Waheed-ur-Rehman Para secured 1,322. However, he was not around to collect his certificate.

The PDP's youth wing leader was arrested by the NIA on November 25, five days after he filed nomination papers, in connection with a terror case against suspended J&K police officer Devinder Singh. The NIA has alleged that Para, who is currently in judicial custody, was in touch with one of the accused.

At his home, in Naira area of



PDP's youth wing leader was arrested on Nov 25

Pulwama, his father Ghulam Ahmad Para sits on the floor of the living room, surrounded by friends, neighbours and relatives. "I have not seen him in two years. After he was released, he came home once to see his sister and I missed seeing him that day as well," the father says, as he breaks down. He says his son never had permission to stay the night at his home due to security concerns.

The campaign, carried out by his friends and family, started after Para's arrest. "I only stepped out to campaign for him over two days. His friends did everything," he says. "Now that he has won, we are living in the hope of his release."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

PARTY-WISE PERFORMANCE		
	Kashmir	Jammu (wins/leads)
BJP	3	73
NC	42	26
PDP	27	1
Congress	9	17
Apni Party	9	3
Independents	32	17
PAGD	85	27

*J&K SEC; as of late evening



Somia Sadaf

PoK to J&K: Past the fences, she is still not 'home'

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

IN THE chilling winter cold, Somia Sadaf spent days travelling home to home in villages of Drugmulla constituency of Kupwara, trying to convince people to vote for her. She was the first woman from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to contest the DDC polls.

As Drugmulla went to polls in the fourth phase on December 7, the turnout kept Sadaf's hopes alive. But as she anxiously awaited the results on Tuesday, the counting for the DDC seat was not allowed.

Reason: Sadaf, and her domicile.

On Tuesday, counting for the seat was stopped after the office of the State Election Commissioner wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, asking him to stop the counting.

"...The State Election Commissioner has directed to defer counting of votes in Drugmulla till further orders in this regard. Ballot boxes and related election material shall be stored in a strong room..." stated the letter, signed by Secretary, State Election Commission.

The letter cited a complaint for "furnishing of wrong information" by Sadaf.

Asking why no one raised the issue when she had filed her nomination, and afterward, Sadaf said, "It was a surprise for me... Nobody objected for over a month. Suddenly, when I was sure to win this seat, today they don't allow counting of votes."

Sadaf said she is surprised but not sad: "Whatever happens, happens for the good."

Counting was stopped on similar grounds at Hajin constituency of Bandipora, where a candidate, Pakistani wife of a militant who returned under the rehabilitation programme, was contesting.

Challenge is to retain youth in science: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

WHILE THE biggest challenge facing science right now is development of a vaccine for Covid-19, the biggest long-term challenge remains attracting and retaining youth in science, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the sixth India International Science Festival (IISF), Modi also stressed the need for increased cooperation between science and industry, and appealed the global community to invest in Indian talent and innovate in the country.

The science festival, which concludes on December 25, will be the country's largest virtual science festival till date, with the concluding session to be addressed by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

Stating that India has a rich legacy in science, technology and innovation, Modi said in his address: "Our scientists have done path-breaking research; our tech industry is at the forefront of solving global problems. But India wants to do more. We look at the past with pride but want an even better future. All our efforts are aimed at making India the most trustworthy centre for scientific learning."

"At the same time, we want our scientific community to share and grow with the best of global talent. One of the steps taken to achieve this is hosting and participating in hackathons to provide exposure and opportunity to

Indian scientists."

Modi said that the new National Education Policy will help build a scientific temper from an early age, with the focus of education shifting from outlays to outcome, and from textbooks to research and application. "The (National Education) Policy will encourage creation of a pool of top quality teachers. This approach will help budding scientists. This is being supplemented by the Atal Innovation Mission and Atal Tinkering labs being developed in schools across the country, in which science infrastructure is being upgraded."

He said Atal Incubation Centres are also being created for higher education facilities.

For quality research, the government is running the Prime Minister's Research Fellows Scheme to encourage the country's best talents to undertake research as per their talent and interest, he said. With digital advances, the Prime Minister said, India is becoming a centre of evolution and revolution of global hi-tech power.

"To achieve this world-class education, health, connectivity and rural solutions, today's India has data, demography and demand," he said. "Above all, India has democracy to balance and protect all this. That is why the world trusts India."

The Prime Minister stressed on scientific solutions for challenges of water scarcity, pollution, soil quality and food security facing the country.



PM Modi addresses the India International Science Festival on Tuesday. *PTI*

Trump presents Legion of Merit to PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has conferred one of the country's highest military decoration – The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander – to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Australian PM Scott Morrison and former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe.

This is significant since the four leaders were key to reviving the Quadrilateral grouping since 2017, which is part of the Indo-Pacific strategy and is aimed at countering the growing belligerence of China in the region.

The award was received on behalf of the Prime Minister by Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

In multiple tweets on Tuesday evening, Modi stated: "I am deeply honoured to be awarded the Legion of Merit by @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. It recognises the efforts of the people of India &



US President Donald Trump

the US to improve bilateral ties, reflected in the bipartisan consensus in both countries about the Indo-US Strategic Partnership. The 21st century presents both unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities. The India-US relationship can leverage the vast potential of our people's unique strengths to provide global leadership for the benefit of (the) entire humanity.

In September, the award was given – after 29 years – to the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

There have been two Indian recipients of the honour in the past: Field Marshal KM Cariappa in 1950, and Gen SM Srinagesh in 1955.

Rajnath talks defence ties with Japan counterpart

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with his Japanese counterpart Kishi Nobuo during which both leaders discussed defence cooperation between the two countries and opposed any attempts to change status quo through coercion in the region – in a veiled reference to China.

They also discussed the Malabar naval exercise, which concluded in November, and for the first time since 2007 saw participation of all four members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue – India, Japan, US and Australia.

The conversation, another sign of deepening defence ties between both the countries, comes in the backdrop of the continuing military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Japan's Defence Ministry said

Baloch activist, vocal critic of Pak, found dead in Toronto

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 2016 Independence Day speech, had made an outreach to the people of Balochistan, Baloch activist Karima Mehrab called the Indian PM her brother and urged him to be the voice of "Baloch genocide, war crimes and human rights violations at international forums".

On Monday night, Mehrab – popularly known as Karima Baloch – was found dead in Toronto, Canada, where she had been living since 2015, seeking political asylum. The 32-year-old was last seen on December 20, the Toronto Police tweeted.

The first woman chairperson of the Baloch Students Organization (BSO-Azad), Karima was born in Balochistan's Tump area to a politically active family that produced several prominent nationalist figures like Wahid

Qambar and the late Khalid Baloch.

Although Pakistan has banned the BSO-Azad, Karima repeatedly rejected the notion that the organisation supported violence for the attainment of its political goals. She had often accused Pakistan of promoting radical Islamic elements in Baloch areas to counter the nationalist movement and to curb women's rights.

According to a profile in the Baluch Hal, "her journey with the BSO began in 2006 when she was a student at Atta Shad Degree College in Turbat. It was a tumultuous year in Balochistan's politics as the Musharraf government killed the prominent Baluch tribal chief Nawab Akbar Bugti in August that sparked province-wide protests across the province. Given her proactive participation in the BSO, she soon rose to prominence within the organization. In 2014, she made history after being elected as the first female chairperson of the BSO after



Karima Mehrab had called the Indian PM her brother

Zahid Baluch, its former chairman, went missing. Her home and the family were also reportedly targeted due to her political activities."

Karima was married to Hamal Haider, a senior Baloch National Movement leader who until recently served as the party's international spokesperson.

She had been listed by the BBC in its prestigious 100 Most Inspirational and Influential Women of 2016. "A national liberation movement without the

participation of women is incomplete," she had told BBC.

In a 2016 interview, Karima said the political situation in Balochistan pushed her into politics.

"When I was growing up, I never thought of becoming a politician. I was more interested in arts and psychology. It is obvious that when you are living in a society whose sufferings you see all around you on a daily basis, then you begin to question why is this happening to me and my people?" she said.

"When you begin the search for answers to all these questions, the answers you find make you give up personal goals and focus on the greater national goal."

Malik Siraj Akbar, a US-based Pakistani journalist and editor of Baluch Hal, told The Indian Express on Tuesday, "Karima stood out in Balochistan's politics as the first female leader of the Baloch resistance movement. In Baloch society, not many women get out of their homes. Not only

did she mobilize the women of her area but also led the men in the fight against Pakistan's policies in Balochistan."

"She was vocal, fearless, and consistent in her resistance despite facing severe opposition from the Pakistani military and its intelligence agencies. One of her uncles had previously been killed by the Pakistani security forces and the home was targeted but that did not deter her from her mission. She was deemed as a powerful Baloch voice even in exile," Akbar said.

Akbar said he believed that with her death, the Baloch movement has got its biggest female icon yet. "She will be remembered and seen by many young Balochs – both boys, and girls – as a role model and a symbol of resistance even if they would not fully endorse her politics simply because there are not many women like her in Balochistan or Pakistan who would be willing to sacrifice everything for their political beliefs and call out the power-

ful Pakistani military in such an open way," Akbar said.

Meanwhile, rights group Amnesty International tweeted, "The death of activist #KarimaBaloch in Toronto, Canada is deeply shocking and must be immediately and effectively investigated. The perpetrators must be brought to justice without recourse to the death penalty."

Karima is the second high-profile Baloch activist living abroad to be killed this year. In March, Baloch refugee and journalist Sajid Hussain was found dead in the Fyris River near Uppsala, Sweden. He had been missing for days before his body was found.

Reporters without Borders (RSF), a Paris-based journalists' organisation, alleged that Hussain's mysterious disappearance and subsequent death could have been organised by the Pakistani intelligence agencies – ISI and MI – due to his work as a journalist.

'ILLEGAL' DENOTIFICATION OF GOVT LAND
HC refuses to quash 2015
corruption case against BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 22

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Tuesday refused to quash a 2015 corruption case against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa over an alleged illegal denotification of government land and came down heavily on the state anti-corruption agency Lokayukta police for failing to complete investigation over past five years.

Yediyurappa had approached the High Court in 2019 with a plea to quash the corruption case taken up by the Lokayukta police in February 2015 based on a private complaint filed by one Vasudev Reddy. The complaint was over a decision Yediyurappa took when he was deputy CM in 2006 to allegedly release a parcel of government-acquired land to private persons.

Yediyurappa's plea was that the case against one of the other accused – former industries minister R V Deshpande of the Congress – had been quashed by the court on October 9, 2015. The HC stayed proceedings against Yediyurappa in April 2019.

On Tuesday, the court ruled that the case cannot be quashed. "I find that distinct and separate allegations are made against the



BS
Yediyurappa

petitioner (accused No.2) which read as under:- The then Deputy Chief Minister Mr B S Yediyurappa also recklessly denotified land, disregarding the fact that possession was taken and land was allotted to entrepreneurs," Justice John Michael Cunha said in his order.

"This allegation prima facie discloses a cognizance offence in so far as the petitioner is concerned which needs to be investigated. A reading of the complaint clearly indicates that the petitioner is sought to be prosecuted for the independent act of denotification..." he said.

The court also pulled up the Lokayukta for not completing the investigations against Yediyurappa when there was no stay. "...yet respondent No.1 being an independent and impartial body entrusted with the duty to investigate into the misconduct of the public servants objectively cannot give rise to an impression... that it is playing into the hands of political big-wigs," the court observed.

**FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com**

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 22

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS and probes by three agencies later, a special CBI court here on Tuesday found a priest and a nun – Father Thomas Kottoor and Sister Sephy – guilty of the murder of Sister Abhaya, a young nun who they allegedly feared would disclose their relationship. A look at the twists and turns in the investigation, one of among Kerala's longest.

VICTIM AND ACCUSED

Sister Abhaya as well as the accused belonged to the Knanaya Catholic Church, which is headquartered in Kottayam. A 19-year-old nun, Sister Abhaya was a pre-degree student in a college run by the church. She used to live in Pious Xth Convent Hostel, which had 123 inmates, including 20 nuns. Her body was found in a well in the hostel compound on March 27, 1992. Around 16 years later, three suspects – Father Thomas Kottoor, Sister Sephy and Father Jose Puthrirkkayil – were arrested. The CBI court, however, later allowed the discharge petition of Father Puthrirkkayil for lack of evidence.

THE CASE

According to the prosecution, Sister Sephy was in a relationship with two priests – Father Kottoor, the then chancellor of the diocese and Father Puthrirkkayil, a college faculty at the diocese-run college in Kottayam. According to the investigators, around 4 am on March 27, 1992, Abhaya was woken up by another hostel inmate as she had to prepare for exams. As she went to the kitchen to take water from the fridge, she allegedly saw the two priests and the nun in a compromising position. Fearing that she might tell others, the accused strangled her and hit her with an axe handle. They dumped her into the well. Sephy, who was in charge of the hostel mess, had been living in the cellar with another nun. On that day, her roommate was away.



The accused produced before the Kochi Chief Judicial Magistrate Court. Express file

POLICE PROBES

Initially, local police registered a case of unnatural death, based on the statement of Sister Leissue, Mother Superior of the convent. On April 13 that year, the Crime Branch of Kerala Police took over the probe. On January 30, 1993, it submitted a report, concluding Abhaya committed suicide.

CBI STEPS IN

Following a complaint to the then Chief Minister K Karunakaran, the probe was handed over to the CBI. On March 29, 1993, the CBI took over the probe. However, it could not conclude if it was suicide or homicide. In a report CBI SP A K Ohri filed in the court of the chief judicial magistrate, the agency said, "Assuming it to be a case of homicide, all possible efforts were made to determine the identity of culprits.... However, our prolonged efforts... did not yield any fruitful results." The court did not accept the report. The CBI submitted final reports two more times, under different investigating officers, calling it a homicide but adding that it could not find the assailants. Both times, it requested the court to treat the case "as closed being untraced", but the court refused to budge. On September 4, 2008, the Kerala High Court gave the CBI's state unit three months to complete the investigation.

THE ARRESTS

The new CBI probe team led by Deputy SP Nandakumaran Nair recorded the statement of Sanju P Mathew, who lived next to the hostel. In his statement recorded under Section 164 of Cr PC, Mathew said he had seen Father Kottoor on the hostel campus on the night of March 26, 1992, a day before Abhaya was found dead. Based on this, Father Kottoor, Father Puthrirkkayil and Sister Sephy were arrested on November 19, 2008. On July 17, 2009, the CBI submitted the chargesheet. The special CBI court began the trial last year. However, during the trial, Mathew turned hostile. Days after the arrests, retired assistant sub-inspector V V Augustine, who initially probed the case for the police, committed suicide. The CBI was considering to list him as accused for destroying evidence.

LIE-DETECTOR TEST

On July 6, 2007, the court ordered the CBI to subject the suspects to narco-analysis test. On August 3, 2007, the CBI conducted the test in Bangalore but could not proceed further in the absence of hard evidence. In August 2008, the CBI informed High Court no new facts had emerged after the test, but it would continue its probe. The copy of the original narco-analysis CD was given to the court.

TAMPERED TAPES

A team of technical experts at the Centre for Development of Imaging Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, found that master tapes of the narco-analysis tests, conducted on the accused before their arrest, had been tampered with.

The CD of the test on Father Kottoor had been edited at 30 places. The CD of Father Puthrirkkayil had been edited at 19 places and the CD of Sister Sephy was edited at 23 places. The Centre was asked to examine the CDs by the CJM court in Kochi, which was monitoring the probe. In December last year, the High Court ruled that the narco-analysis and brain-mapping tests cannot be used as evidence.

KITCHEN EVIDENCE

The most crucial evidence relied upon by the CBI was the disturbance at the crime scene – the hostel kitchen.

A bottle found near the fridge with the cap open and water dripping, a veil found under the exit door that had been locked from outside, an axe and a basket that had fallen down. Also, Sister Abhaya's slippers were found at two different places in the kitchen. Put together, the prosecution said, the kitchen presented a picture of a tussle. However, no blood was found.

My mission was justice
for Abhaya: Activist who
tracked case from start

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 22

FOR JOMON Puthenpurackal, it has been a long wait. One of the few who tracked and highlighted the Abhaya murder case right from the beginning, the rights activist says it had become a mission for him to see to it that justice was delivered. It took 28 years but the wait was worth it, he says.

After the CBI special court convicted Father Thomas Kottoor and Sister Sephy of the murder, he said, "I have been waiting for this day. Justice for Abhaya has been my mission in life. The forces behind the accused tried to annihilate me. I have weathered the threats."

A school dropout, Jomon belongs to Knanaya Catholic Church, which is the home church of the accused as well as the victim. When an action council was formed in Kottayam days after Abhaya's death, he was one of council leaders. Then aged 23, Jomon had raised doubts over the police version of suicide and picked up faults in the probe.

As the case was passed from police to the CBI, from one officer to another, from judicial magistrate court to higher courts, he followed it like a shadow. He was among the few to highlight the delay in delivery of justice for Abhaya's family.

Such has been the influence of the case on him that he turned a full-time rights activist and social worker, taking up corruption cases against bureaucrats and politicians in the later years.

So happy I might drink tonight:
Thief who turned prime witness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, DECEMBER 22

IN THE early hours of March 27, 1992, Raju, a petty thief, was in the compound of the Pius Xth convent in Kottayam, hoping to steal something worthwhile. Instead, what he saw that day made him a prime witness in the murder of Sr Abhaya. It was God's will that he was there, he says.

"I'm very happy today. Maybe it was God's will that I be present there at that time. Many people over the years have approached me with crores of rupees for changing my testimony. But I have not taken a single paisa from them," Raju, who has since reformed, told reporters after the court verdict.

He alleged that police, especially the crime branch, which investigated the case before the CBI tried to foist the murder charge on him, citing his presence in the compound.

He alleged that he was tortured by several officers to get him to change his testimony.

Speaking about Sr Abhaya, he said, "She was like a daughter to me. I always knew that she would get justice and today, it has happened. I'm so happy that I might drink tonight."

Raju was the third witness in the case, whose testimony during the trial paved the way for the conviction of the accused.

Raju had told the CBI he had seen Father Thomas Kottoor and Father Jose Puthrirkkayil in the convent compound in the early hours of the day Sister's Abhaya's body was fished out of the well.

Board exams not in
Jan-Feb, says Pokhriyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

BOARD EXAMINATIONS for classes X and XII will be not be held in January-February given the Covid-19 situation, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said on Tuesday.

"In the current circumstances, it will not be possible to hold Board exams in January-February. However, when they will be after February will be decided later, after deliberations and consultations," he said during an online interaction with

teachers. The CBSE had earlier this month announced that Board exams in 2021 will be conducted in written mode.

Pokhriyal reiterated that holding online exams is not a possibility due to the digital divide. Answering a query on why exams could not be held online if classes can be held, he said, "There are still a small percentage of students who are staying in remote areas... Every student should have a computer and laptop and access to internet. This is a big challenge but we will find a solution as fast as we can..."

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

ADVERTORIAL

The game changer in the seed industry of India

National Seeds Corporation assays a leadership role when it comes to strengthening the agriculture sector right from its foundation, by providing quality seeds to farmers, ensuring quality agro productivity in the country

What are the various contributions of National Seeds Corporation in developing the Agriculture Sector of India. Financially, how is the company positioned currently?

Main contributions of National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC) in the Agriculture sector of India are — NSC as the key arm of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW) which undertakes various activities for seed business to ensure agri input for agricultural production of food and nutritional security in the country; NSC is focussed on systematic and scientific seed multiplication of seeds and planting materials. Production of Test Stock, Breeder Seed, Foundation Seed and Certified Seed of various crops and making quality seed available to farmers at reasonable rates for increasing their production and productivity thereby ensuring increased income; NSC is also engaged in production of Tissue Culture Plants of Banana and saplings of Citrus, Guava, Ber, Pomegranate and Bael; NSC had developed the capacity of Tissue Culture Plants of Banana at Bhubaneswar.

Towards diversification, NSC has established Fish Seed Production Unit at CSF, Suratgarh (Raj.) and Raichur (Karnataka); Fodder Block making unit also established at Raichur farm for effective utilization of Crop Residue for making quality fodder available to cattle for higher milk production; NSC also plays an important role in assisting the Govt. of India in the implementation of its flagship programmes, being run by the MoA & FW; Farmers training programmes are being organised by showcasing new technologies in the farms.

Financially, NSC has achieved its turnover of Rs. 1060.00 crore during FY 2019-20 with PBT of Rs. 60.88 Crores. NSC has proposed payment dividend of Rs.10.82 crore which will be approved by the Shareholders in the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 23.12.2020 including dividend distribution tax for FY 2019-20.

What are the various infrastructure facilities, especially at farms, to have sustainable growth in this sector?

At farms, in addition to the existing infrastructural facilities in the Machinery fleet, buildings and Plants etc. NSC has recorded the following achievements:-

1. The installation of Solar Power of capacity 160 MW is in progress at CSF, Jatsar by



Vinod Kumar Gaur
Chairman-cum-Managing Director

NTPC, for which NSC has given 340 ha of unculturable land for 27 years (2+25) on lease. This will not only help in sorting out the power supply but also income will be generated out of unculturable land. The project is likely to be completed by 31.03.2021 with partial production at initial stage.

2. Storage godowns of capacity 3000 MT along with 2 TPH processing plant is being constructed at Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir which will be utilised for storage and processing of Rabi 20-21 crops. In addition to above, new godowns constructed and are under construction in NSC at different locations as below:-

- 2000MT at CSF, Jatsar
- 3000MT at AO, Hempur RO, Lucknow
- 1000MT at AO, Ajmer RO, Jaipur
- 3000MT at AO, Dharward RO, Bengluru
- 2000MT at AO, Haveri RO, Bengluru

3. Lining of Water Courses at Farms as being done in length of more than 10 kms and last year it was done in length of 8 kms. This helps in saving water.

What is meant by Seed Replacement Rate (SRR)?

Seed Replacement Rate is the percentage of area sown out of total area of crop planted in the season by using certified quality seeds other than the farm saved seed. If the area under quality seed is more, it means the production and productivity from that area will be more, contributing to the welfare of the farmers.



Center Pivot System, at NSC Farms

How do Certified Seeds aid farmers in cultivation?

Seed is basic material which enhance the efficiency of all other inputs. If seed is not of good quality, Fertilizers, Pesticides etc. will not give good result. The seed production activity at the growers/farmers' fields increase the income as well as productivity of the crops. The use of Certified seeds alone increase the productivity level by about 15-20%, and therefore farmers are advised to utilize Certified seed for increasing their income and productivity. This increase fertilizer efficiency, reduced use of pesticides, herbicides, all depend on quality and type of variety.

What are the principal business activities of NSC?

Since 1963, NSC is engaged in distribution of Quality Seeds. About 627 varieties of 80 crops are being made available to the farmers. After merger of SFCI, NSC has around 55000 acres of land in its farms where parental lines of seeds are produced. The foundation seed is also given to about 12,500 seed growers to produce quality certified seeds with the supervision of state seed certification agencies. Company has more than 2500 Dealers for sale of its products. Seed marketing is carried out through different channels and Tempo-

rory sale counters, during peak sowing season, to facilitate seed availability to farmers. NSC is further engaged in implementation of different Govt. of India schemes like NFSM, RKVY, MIDH, SMSP under NMAET, etc. Through different Govt. schemes, NSC is supplying Seed minikits and seeds of newly released varieties of Pulses and Oilseeds to promote cultivation of newly released high yielding varieties. Seed Marketing is carried out through different channels i.e. through Seed Dealers; own sale counters and temporary sale counters during peak season, to facilitate seed availability to farmers. NSC has more than 2600 Dealers for sale of its products. NSC is also having MoU with State Governments like Karnataka, Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir for production and supply of seeds as per their requirement and MoU with JCI for supply of Jute Seed. NSC has MoU with PSUs like CCI, RCF, HIL for sale of seeds. NSC is engaged in implementation of different schemes like NFSM, RKVY, MIDH, SMSP under NAMET etc. Through different Government Schemes, NSC is supplying seed minikits and seeds of newly released varieties of pulses and



oilseeds to promote cultivation of newly released high yielding varieties. Participation in exhibition, Melas etc. to create awareness about the usage of quality seeds and to showcase the latest technology in seed production for the benefits of the farmers. NSC also export x z s seeds to Asian and African Countries. Through CSR activities, vegetable seed kits are being supplied to small and marginal poor farmers to facilitate availability of balanced nutritional diet. As sales promotion activities, NSC is conducting Jeep campaigns, Field Demonstration, Dealers meetings, Distribution of leaflets, Pamphlets & Field day to promote NSC seeds. As a Nodal agency, NSC is authorized to issue Certificate of Registration to agencies for import of seeds. Maintenance of Seed Reserve to overcome seed shortage in calamities is also carried out by NSC. Presently NSC is the only Company in India who is providing all kind of seeds i.e. Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder, Fibre, Vegetables and Saplings. It is the biggest Company in India dealing in 80 crops and 627 varieties.

NSC recently signed MoU with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Wel-

fare, GOI. What are the major take aways from the MoU?

The MoU signed with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for FY 2020-21 consists of two parts viz- Financial parameters and Non-financial parameters. Financial parameters covers Revenue from operations, Operating profit as % of Revenue from operations and PAT as a % of Average Networth. The Revenue from operations target is fixed at Rs. 1160 Crores under 'Excellent' grade. The Non-financial parameters covers development of new products (nutri-cereals and green manure production), Production of stress tolerant varieties, increasing the area under micro irrigation at farms, Oil Seeds Production, introduction of new varieties, Seed production of Bio-fortified crop varieties, CAPEX etc. With infusion of funds in CAPEX, additional infrastructure facilities will be established which will help in achieving of more production in the years to come.

What are the future plans of the Corporation?

NSC plans to invest around Rs. 360 crore till 2024-25 in CAPEX covering seed processing plants, seed storage godowns, micro-irrigation facilities, other infrastructure facilities, farm machineries etc. With the implementation of ERP, NSC expects a revolution in seed industry as it will have total control from initial production operation till seed distribution. Seed traceability through QR code is going to play a major role though which fake seed suppliers will be eliminated in the Country, which GOI is pressing hard and NSC will be the first Company to implement it.

Company is focusing on production of seeds of pulses, oilseeds, nutri-cereals, fodder and vegetables, keeping in view the priorities of Govt. of India. Focus is also being planned on climate-resilient varieties i.e., biotic and abiotic stress tolerant. To ensure nutrition from some crops, biofortified varieties are being introduced. To ensure accurate seed availability in remote areas, dealers' appointments are continuously being planned. To contribute in doubling farmer's income, seeds being made and will be made available at reasonable prices so that input cost of Farmers is reduced.

Like in the past, with the combination of enthusiastic youngsters with highly experienced technical manpower, NSC is going to play a leading role in Seed sector in future also.

Raina among 34 held in Mumbai club raid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

HOURS AFTER Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced night curfew in all cities to prevent gatherings, the Mumbai Police raided the Dragonfly club near the airport early Tuesday and arrested 34 people, including cricketer Suresh Raina and singer Guru Randhawa, for not following safety norms to avoid the spread of Covid-19. All were later released on bail.

Police said Suzzane Khan, interior and fashion designer, too, was booked but was allowed to go after she was issued a notice to join the police later.

Senior Inspector of Sahar police station, S Mane, said, “A raid was conducted around 2.30 am at the Dragonfly club near Mumbai airport. We found that the guests and those operating the club were not following measures like wearing masks or observing social dis-

tancing. Following this, we arrested 34 people, including seven staff members.”

The officer said Raina and Randhawa were arrested under sections 188 (disobedience to order duty promulgated by public servant) and 269 (acts in a way that could spread an infection) of the IPC among others. Since the sections were bailable, they were released immediately. “There were some women celebrities as well but we did not arrest them. They were served notice and allowed to go,” Mane added.

A statement released on behalf of Raina said, “...He was not aware of the local timings and protocols. Once pointed out, he immediately complied... and regrets the unfortunate and unintentional incident.”

A statement released on behalf of Guru Randhawa read, “...Unfortunately, he was not aware of local authorities’ decision of night curfew but instantly conformed to all rules laid out by the government officials.”

Shakti Vahini email blocked, NCPDR writes to Yahoo

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE NATIONAL Commission for Protection of Child Rights has written to Yahoo India seeking immediate corrective action after the NGO Shakti Vahini -- that works on child sexual abuse cases and child protection -- was locked out of its email id after they sent a complaint with a video to NCPDR.

Shakti Vahini said they have lost access to all their data of the past two decades and have had to stop all work.

Last week, Shakti Vahini received a complaint of a child sexual abuse case from Maharashtra, which had a video attached.

Members of Shakti Vahini said that as per procedure they wrote to NCPDR, asking for the registration of a case under POCSO Act. As NCPDR asked for evidence to be attached, they sent the video to the

Commission, but soon found that Yahoo India had blocked their email account “because of violation of terms of service of Yahoo mail”.

On Twitter, NCPDR Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo said, “I hope that Yahoo India and Yahoo will comply with law of land.”

Calling the action “arbitrary”, Ravi Kant, President of Shakti Vahini said, “This action has completely stopped our work and all our data of the last two decades have just simply vanished... This incident also raises the question of protection of law to the frontline responders. Though Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 provides the necessary legal framework, a clear standard operating protocol needs to be operationalised. The NGOs working on these issues should be provided protection.”

The Indian Express reached out to Yahoo India representatives, but no comment was forthcoming.

Farmers gherao Haryana CM’s convoy, show him black flags

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

A GROUP of farmers Tuesday showed black flags to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Ambala while another held a protest against state Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister JP Dalal during his visit to Bhiwani’s Bahal town.

Khattar had gone to Ambala to address public meetings in support of BJP’s mayoral candidate Vandana Sharma and other ward candidates for the upcoming civic bodies polls. A large number of farmers had gathered in Ambala ahead of his visit.

As soon as Khattar reached Agrasen Chowk in Ambala’s Manmohan Nagar to address a public meeting, the farmers gheraoed his convoy, waived black flags and raised slogans against the government. They said they will continue to protest till the farm laws are not repealed.

A large number of police personnel deployed near the Chowk and managed to secure a safe passage for CM’s convoy.

The farmers later started gathering at the Anaj Mandi and also tried to block the Ambala-Hisar highway.

Meanwhile, in Bahal town, farmers staged a protest when state minister Dalal went to a village to address a public meeting. The farmers had planned to



Farmers show black flags as they block Haryana CM M.L. Khattar’s convoy in Ambala on Tuesday. A Aggarwal

show black flags to the minister, but the police stopped the agitators away from the route leading to the venue of the public meeting. Sources in the farm unions said they will show black flags to the CM when he will go to the village on December 27.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dalal claimed it was the handiwork of the opposition parties who are “not accepting the mandate as Modi ji and BJP are winning one after another election”. “They (opposition) are not able to win in the electoral battle. Instead of peaceful protests, they indulge in the aggressive actions. It’s unfortunate and it should not happen. By this way, 200-400 workers of the opposition, can show flags or attack any leader. There

are attempts to create the atmosphere of West Bengal in the entire country,” Dalal added, in an apparent reference to alleged recent attacks on the convays of BJP leaders in the TMC-ruled state.

However, a farmer leader, Suresh Koth, claimed that the anger among the people is increasing because of “drama being played by the BJP leaders to divert the attention” from the farmers’ agitation. “BJP leaders are now talking about the completion of SYL canal. Why was BJP not been able to get the canal completed even while being in the power at Centre and in Haryana for the past six years? Now, they want to break the unity of farmers of Punjab and Haryana fighting against the three laws,” said Koth.

Kerala Governor denies nod for session on farm laws, CM says ‘outside powers’

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 22

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan Tuesday turned down a Cabinet recommendation to summon a meeting of the Assembly to debate the Central farm laws.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said it was regrettable that a recommendation from an

elected government enjoying clear majority, for discussing an emergent issue of national importance, has not been acceded to by the Governor, especially when the power to summon an Assembly session clearly falls outside the discretionary power of the Governor.

On December 21, the Cabinet had made a recommendation to the Governor to summon a meeting of the Assembly on December 23. The Governor turned down

the recommendation after raising queries as to the purpose of summoning the Legislature.

In a letter to the Governor, Vijayan said when the Council of Ministers makes a recommendation to summon the session of the Legislature, the Governor cannot exercise discretionary power and turn down the recommendation.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala said the Governor’s decision was unfortunate.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER BATCH No. 55A/20 Date: 21.12.2020
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials - "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials : The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 Hrs.

Sl. No.	Tender No	Brief Description	Quantity	Published on/time	Closing on	Fund
01	04200265A	Kit for speed sensor	241 sets	10.12.20/21:20:42	18.01.21	Fund is available
02	05205687B	Upended insert 30 mm Neutral	4580 Nos.	14.12.20/11:59	18.01.21	Fund is available
03	04201545	K- type composition brake block.	73609 Nos.	19.12.20/25:07:06	18.01.21	Fund is available
04	06195454	PLUF 50 pairs telephone cable.	41.5 K M	18.12.20/16:00:19	18.01.21	Fund is available
05	06195329A	Relay AC immune plug-in type, style QBA1	674 Nos	18.12.20/16:01:31	18.01.21	Fund is available
06	14200058	Self priming mono block pump assembly	259 sets	21.12.20/11:52:47	18.01.21	Fund is available

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

PR/1168/HQ/Store/T/20-21/60 Principal Chief Material Manager

BIHAR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(A Government Agency under Energy Department)
2nd Floor, VidyutBhawan, Building No.2, BaileyRoad, Patna – 800021, Bihar, India.
(Through e-procurement mode only- <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)
RFP No: BREDA/TENDER/SPV/GCGMSP/250MW/22/2020-21

BREDA invites Online Bids (e-tender) from interested Bidders for “Procurement of Power from Grid connected Solar PV Power Projects through Tariff based competitive Bidding Process for total 250 MW” on the basis of International Competitive Bidding Process in accordance with Ministry of Power “Tariff based bidding Guidelines for solar PV Power Projects” as per the details given in RFP document, in the capacity of “Authorised Representative” of the Procurer (BSPHCL). The RFP document is available at website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view/download the e-tender document, seek clarification and submit their e-tender online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

S. No.	Activity	Duration
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	Upto 21/01/2021 (12:00 Hrs)
2.	Cost of Bidding Document, Bid Processing Fee, & E-tender processing charges (Submission of Cost of Bidding Document & Bid Processing Fee is mandatory for all bidders, No exemption for SSI/ MSME registered agency)	1. Non-Refundable Cost of Bidding Document Fee of INR 29,500.00 including 18% GST to be paid through [Internet Payment Gateway(IPG),Challan] in favour Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency” payable at Patna. (Bank details: -A/c No. - 50091813870, Allahabad Bank, Patna Main Branch, IFSC CODE: -ALLA0210003). 2. Non-Refundable Bid Processing fee of INR 3,54,000.00 including 18% GST to be paid through only Demand Draft (DD) in favour of “Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency” payable at Patna along with the Response to RFP. 3. E-tender Processing Charges of Rs. 590/- to be paid through online mode i.e. internet payment gateway (Debit/Credit card, Net banking, NEFT, RTGS).
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Submission of Bid Security (EMD) is mandatory for all bidders, No exemption for SSI/ MSME registered agency)	INR 4,00,000.00 (INR Four Lakhs) per Mega Watt (MW) as per bidder quoted capacity(to be submitted along with response to RFP). The EMD in form of a Bank Guarantee (BG) from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Commercial Bank shall be accepted.
4.	Pre-Bid Conference	12/01/2021 at 11.00 Hrs. (Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency”, 2 nd Floor, VidyutBhawan, Building No.2, Bailey Road, Patna – 800021, Bihar, India)
5.	Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer / Bid (ONLINE)	21/01/2021 up to 23:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
6.	Submission of Cost of Bidding Document Fee, Bid Processing Fee, EMD, Tender Document & Required Mandatory Supporting Documents (Hard Copy)	22/01/2021 at 14:00 Hrs. (“Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency”, 2 nd Floor, VidyutBhawan, Building No.2, Bailey Road, Patna – 800021, Bihar, India).
7.	Validity of Bid	180 days from the date of opening of Financial Bid.
8.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	22/01/2021 at 15:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihargov.in)
9.	Date & time for opening of Financial Bid	02/02/2021 at 15:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihargov.in)
10	Online E-Reverse Auction Request Scheduled	E-Reverse Auction Request Scheduled Will be communicated after completion of evaluation of Financial Bid (Bid Part-2) the qualified bidders, will be informed accordingly.

The RFP document containing the project profile, invitation for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be obtained from the e-proc website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar

ESE,

BREDA, Patna

चाय सामग्री- सर्वोच्च क्तिरी तर्क की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur

Letter No:- 3500/E-Tender Notice/20-21 Date :- 15-12-2020
(Short Term E-Tender Notice)

1. On behalf of Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD Rampur from registered Road or Building contractors from Dated 01-01-2021 at 10.00 am to Dt. 07.01.2021 at 5.00 pm. Technical bid/ Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 08.01.2021 at 12.00 noon. The bidders have to login on Prahrati U.P.R.L. <http://www.upgov.in/Prahrati/> to upload required documents as per Government Order No. 879(1)/23-7-2020 dt. 25-08-2020 & E-N.C./HOD's upgov Order No. 4859/44M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

2.

Sl. No.	DIST-RICT	Name of Work	Esti-mated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Bid documents	Time of completion including rainy season	Address of Executive Engineer	Address of Superintending Engineer	For Road work Contractors Registration Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Special Repair Work 2021 Repairing of various building in District Rampur (Anticipation of Acceptance):									
1		Inspection House of PWD PWD (In front of Dr. Ambedkar Park)	7.00 (Ex.GST)	0.70	766/-	03 Months including rainy season	Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur	Rampur Circle, P.W.D., Rampur	A, B, C & D
2		Building of TYPE 3-4 at situated FWD colony Diamond road	10.00 (Ex.GST)	1.00	766/-	03 Months including rainy season	Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur	Rampur Circle, P.W.D., Rampur	A, B, C & D
3	Rampur	Building of TYPE 2 at situated PWD Colony Diamond road & TYPE 3 & 4 situated at Kosi Banda.	8.00 (Ex.GST)	0.60	766/-	03 Months including rainy season	Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur	Rampur Circle, P.W.D., Rampur	A, B, C & D
4		Building of TYPE 1(1 to 103) at situated Chiran PWD Colony Diamond road & TYPE 1(1 to 30) situated at Kosi Banda.	7.00 (Ex.GST)	0.70	766/-	03 Months including rainy season	Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur	Rampur Circle, P.W.D., Rampur	A, B, C & D

UPID-158016 DATE-21.12.2020 www.upgov.nic.in

Sd/-
(Sanjeev Kumar Verma)
Executive Engineer
Pro. Div., PWD, Rampur
Email- prdivrampur@gmail.com
For and of behalf of Governor of UP

OFFICE OF THE FIELD DIRECTOR, KANHA TIGER RESERVE

MANDLA (MP) 481 661
Email: fdknp.mdl@mp.gov.in, Ph: 07642-250760 & Fax: 07642-251266
Procurement & Supply of Digital VHF Wireless Sets

NIT No./DM/3485 Date: 17/12/2020

Notice Inviting Tender

E-Tenders are invited by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Madhya Pradesh on behalf of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department for the following items:

Sl. No.	Name of item	Total Qty.
1.	Digital VHF (DMR) Handheld Sets 1/5 Watt complete with accessories (software license, leather case, earphone, belt clip, battery, battery charger)	1150
2.	Spare batteries.	1150
3.	H/H set programming cable, programming software & soft and hard copy of service manual.	7
4.	Digital VHF (DMR) 20 watt Mobile complete with accessories including software license, 6db whip antenna with 5 meter co-axial cable and suitable connector, microphone.	125
5.	Base set programming cable, programming software & soft and hard copy of service manual.	7
6.	Digital VHF (DMR) 20-watt Static complete with accessories including software license, co-axial cable, power supply, microphone etc. 0 db GP antenna with 30-meter coaxial cable RG217 and suitable connector at both ends but cable is to be supplied in bundle not in pieces.	215
7.	Repeater complete with accessories, software license, Duplexer, DC battery power cable, 6 dB omni directional Antenna with 60-meter coaxial cable RG217 from base stations and suitable connector at both ends but cable is to supply in bundles not in pieces.	11
8.	1+1 hot standby microwave link with switcher pair with all other required accessories.	2
9.	Repeater programming cable, programming software & soft and hard copy of service manual.	11
10.	Installation commissioning	11 Job
11.	Disrupture hardware and software server with anti-virus, head phone with mic, 2 in 1 audio jack, multi-media speaker system	7
12.	UPS 6 hrs. backup with batteries for disparture	7

1. Cost of tender documents (Tender Fee) is non-refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition.

2. The Tender should be submitted online on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> in favor of Deputy Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh within scheduled date and time. Tender fees Rs. 10,000/- and EMD of Rs. 10,000,00/- should be deposited online through the website.

3. Tender documents also available for ready reference on the website of <https://mptenders.gov.in>

4. This is a Turnkey Project.

5. Schedule:

Documents download/Sale Start Date	26/12/2020 from 11.00 Hrs.
Bid Submission Start Date	30/12/2020 from 11.00 Hrs.
Bid Submission End Date	10/01/2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.
Bid will be opened on	12/01/2021 at 15.00 Hrs.

Sd/-
Deputy Director
Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla (MP)
G-16729/20

दो मज की दूरी, मार्क है जरूरी।
जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।

Farm leaders to call on British PM to skip Republic Day event

ABHINAV RAJPUT & ANJU AGNIHOTRICHABA
NEW DELHI, JALANDHAR DECEMBER 22

FARM LEADERS said Tuesday that they have asked British-Punjab leaders to appeal to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to not come to India as the chief guest for next year’s Republic Day event till the Centre repeals its “black laws”.

The leaders also said they have deferred their meeting by a day to Wednesday, to decide on a response to the Government’s letter asking them to fix a date for the next round of talks. Besides, they issued an appeal to “boycott all stores run by Ambani and Adani”.

In Punjab, farm leaders hit out at Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar’s fresh appeal for talks and said that instead of responding to their demand to scrap the three laws, the Government is engaged in “propaganda” to promote them.

Speaking to reporters at the Singhu border, Harendra Singh Lakhowal, state convener, BKU (Lakhowal), said: “We are requesting the British Prime Minister to not come to India as long as the demands of the farmers are not met. We have made the appeal through leaders from Punjab who are now in England politics and have won elections there.”

Last week, visiting British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced that Johnson would be chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January. Raab also said that he “discussed” the situation arising out of the farmer protests with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and underlined that “your politics” is, in some sense, “our politics” because of the Indian diaspora in Britain.

King George's Medical University U.P. Lucknow

Notice No. 12/MS/TC/e-tender2020 Date 23.12.2020
Re E-Tender Inviting Notice

Online e-bids are invited latest by **13-01-2021** under two e-bid system for Purchase of **Printing Items** from original manufactures or their authorized India Agents/Service Providers on the terms and conditions as per tender documents. The details of the tender can be viewed at www.kgmu.org. Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>.

(Medical Superintendent)

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Bharat Sarkar)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Rail Mantralaya)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

E-TENDER NO. 2020IS202 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 79,761 MTS MILD/ CORTEN STEEL SHEETS/ PLATES/ COILS THROUGH e-RAMETHOD

1. On behalf of the President of India, the Executive Director, Railway Stores (S), Railway Board, New Delhi invites e-tender for procurement of 79,761 MT (approx.) of Mild, Corten Steel Sheets, Plates and Coils on Running Contract basis.

2. The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3. Normal manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4. Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 01.02.2021.

No. RS(S)2020747/3 Dated: 22.12.2020

2849/20

(Amita Bhallo)
Dy. Director, Railway Stores (S-I) Railway Board.
For and on behalf of the President of India

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division,
R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, 2nd Floor,
Nehru Road, BEML Layout, Bengaluru-560098.

No.: BBMP/EE/Proj/RRN/TEN/18/2020-21 Date : 22.12.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders on item rate basis from eligible contractors for the below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in lakh)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Additional works to Construction of Shuttle Cock Ground in Ward No. 17, J.P. Park, R.R. Nagar Constituency (Est. Cost: Rs. 600.00 lakh)	501.65	7,53,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from **28.12.2020**. (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **31.12.2020 at 4.00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer, R.R. Nagar Zone, Ideal Homes**. (3) Last date for submission of Tenders : **13.01.2021 upto 4.00 pm**. (4) Date of opening of Financial bids: **16.01.2021 at 11.00 am**. (5) Date of opening of Financial bids: **will be intimated to the technically qualified contractors**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Project Division, R.R. Nagar Zone

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

6 Feet
Wear Mask
Follow Physical Distancing
Maintain Hand Hygiene

Electoral bonds: CIC says revealing names of donors not in public interest, violates RTI

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

THE CENTRAL Information Commission (CIC), the lead body for implementing the Right to Information Act, has now ruled that the disclosure of identity of electoral bond scheme donors will not serve any larger public interest and will violate provisions of the Act itself.

In an order issued on December 21 that was uploaded on Tuesday, Information Commissioner Suresh Chandra, while dismissing an appeal by a Maharashtra-based activist Vihar Durve – who had sought information of the scheme donors – remarked that “there appears to be no larger public interest overriding the right of privacy of the donors and donees concerned”.

Upholding the contention of the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the State Bank of India (SBI), the commission further observed that the “disclosure of names of donors and the donees may be in contravention of provisions contained in section 8(1)(e)(j) of the RTI Act itself, which exempt a public authority to give a citizen information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrant the disclosure of such information”.

Uttarakhand judge uses car of booked person, suspended

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 22

THE UTTARAKHAND High Court on Tuesday placed Dehradun district judge Prashant Joshi under suspension following charges that he used an Audi car for travelling from Dehradun to Mussoorie to attend a camp court. The car in question here was owned by a person who is booked under various charges and to quash the said FIR, a writ petition (criminal) is pending before the HC. An FIR under IPC sections is registered against Kewal Krishan Soin, the owner of the said Audi car.

The electoral bond scheme, which was notified by the Centre in 2018, allows citizens and corporates to buy monetary instruments from the SBI and donate them to a political party, which is then free to redeem it for money.

The same CIC, in an order issued this January, had directed the Centre to reveal the names of electoral bond scheme donors who wanted their identities to remain confidential.

Citizen groups have been arguing that the information of donors must be disclosed in the interest of transparency. Durve, too, said that “the SBI ought to disclose the information in the interest of accountability and efficient functioning of central investigating agencies.”

Durve had first sought the information in this regard from SBI’s CPIO on June 16, 2018. Dissatisfied by the CPIO’s reply, he had appealed to the First Appellate Authority (FAA) with the bank, who also ruled that the “information related to electoral bonds issued to political parties was held by the SBI in fiduciary capacity” and that the names of the donors could not be disclosed as these fell in the bracket of third party information.

While sharing information of the total number of bonds issued in the 2018-20 period, the FAA also had similar observations to make over his refusal to share party-wise details of beneficiaries.

UK body slaps £20,000 fine on firm broadcasting Republic Bharat

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE BRITISH broadcasting regulator has fined the company, which has the licence to broadcast Arnab Goswami’s *Republic Bharat* Hindi news channel in the UK, £20,000 for a debate on the channel that it found contravened the code against “hate speech”.

In its order against Worldview Media Network Limited on Tuesday, the Office of Communications, or Ofcom, said that on its show *Poochta Hai Bharat* on September 6, 2019, “Ofcom’s Executive found that this programme contained uncontextualised hate speech and that this content was potentially highly offensive, breaching Rules 2.3, 3.2 and 3.3 of the Code”.

The order said the “programme contained statements which amounted to hate speech against, and was abusive and derogatory about, Pakistani people on the basis of their nationality”.

“These statements would potentially be harmful and highly offensive to any person who did not share the sentiment being expressed by the presenter and his Indian guests...”

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(Survey & Construction)
Corrigendum No. 01

Tender Notice No. UDZ-HMT/GC-205110747 dated 26.11.2020 for Regular Maintenance of Newly laid BG track between Durgapur (incl.) to Himmatnagar (Excl.) (from Km-227.0 to 321.35) of UDZ-HMT Section in the jurisdiction of ADEN/DMRP of Ajmer Division. Opening date 30.12.2020 was invited by this office:- The following amendments are as under in Schedule-B : 1. NS Item No. 01 please read in Unit column Each instead of Sqm. 2. NS Item No. 22 please read in Unit column Sqm. instead of Per Track Metre. Other terms and conditions will remain same.

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)
899-DH/20 N.W.Railway, Durgapur

Linking of New BG Track

Tender Notice No. CON/2020/DECI/03; Dated: 08-12-2020. Open tender through e-tendering system invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s) / firms for the following works:- Tender No. CON/CONN-AT/L/2020/12. Name of work: Linking of New BG Track with 10' 20' rail panel. Laying of Pts & X-ings, S&L, L-Xing etc. on F&S slopes; installation of Pre Assembled T&S and dismantling of existing Track and Trestles, spreading of Ballast, extension of L-Xing, approach road, fencing etc. including supplying, string and fangling, string lifting barrier, other connected ancillary works as per requirement in between station New Bongaigaon (including) to Sarbhog (excluding) and i.e. from Km 2514

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

295 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 10,075,116

ACTIVE CASES: 292,518

DEATHS: 146,111

TESTS: 163,117,557 | RECOVERIES: 9,636,487

DEC 21	CASES 19,556	DEATHS 301	RECOVERIES 30,376	TESTS 1,019,228
STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES				
	ACTIVE CASES	RISE IN LAST WEEK		
Goa	50,143	49,113		
Puducherry	37,762	37,455		
Tripura	33,172	32,819		
STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING				
	ACTIVE CASES	DECLINE IN LAST WEEK		
Maharashtra	59,469	12,914		
Delhi	9,255	5,992		
West Bengal	16,903	4,481		
STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES				
	ON DEC 21	TOTAL		
Kerala	3,422	709,292		
Maharashtra	2,834	1,899,352		
West Bengal	1,515	538,343		
STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS				
	ON DEC 21	TOTAL		
Maharashtra	55	49,925		
West Bengal	41	9,401		
Kerala	27	10,304		

Data as on December 21, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments. Often the numbers released every day contain data from previous days as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive

Serum Institute submits fresh data for Covishield emergency approval

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

JUST TWO weeks after the expert committee scrutinising applications for emergency use authorisation (EUA) of Pune-based Serum Institute of India's Covid-19 vaccine sought additional late-stage safety and efficacy data, the firm has submitted fresh data to the regulator, government sources said.

"Serum Institute India has submitted additional data. The regulator's office, internally, will review these documents. Only then they will request the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) to meet," sources told *The Indian Express*.

Significantly, the media has reported that the UK regulator is set to "clear" the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, "possibly on December 28 and December 29". In India, SII which sought EUA from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) on December 10 was asked to submit safety data on Phase 2/3 clinical trials in India of its vaccine candidate named Covishield, developed

by Oxford-AstraZeneca.

During the weekly briefing, Dr V K Paul, who co-chairs the high-level committee on vaccine administration, without naming the Pune-based firm, Tuesday said the process of examining additional data has begun. "As everyone knows, there are three applications before the DGCI; they include Pfizer, Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech. Pfizer has not yet submitted data. The other two companies had presented the data and the regulator sought additional data. This is a normal process," Paul said.

Paul further reiterated that the decision for granting approval for EUA will be based on established scientific norms.

The SEC, which consists of a panel of experts, had earlier said that SII has presented their proposal along "with the interim safety data from Phase II/III clinical trial carried out in the country and the interim safety and efficacy results of Phase II/III and Phase III clinical trials carried out in the UK, other countries & India before the committee".

CBI arrests Kashmir man for 'running child sex racket in US'

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE CBI has arrested a man in Kashmir for allegedly running a child sex abuse racket along with his US-based wife. The accused, identified as Niyaz Ahmed Mir (35), was Tuesday produced before a special court in Srinagar, which remanded him in CBI custody.

Mir's wife, identified as Tamara Stanley (34), is a resident of Washington. She was arrested on June 25 this year and was "charged with production of child pornography", according to a US Justice Department statement.

CBI said the couple allegedly targeted minors in the US and "uploaded pornographic videos and images over the dark web for financial gains" and were "also involved in direct communication with many minors in USA."

The agency on Tuesday also conducted searches at Mir's residence and recovered "incriminating digital evidences including 3 laptops, 5 mobiles, pen drives, hand written notes etc".

CBI spokesperson RK Gaur, said: "Accused was allegedly operating through his wife, who had agreed to be involved in a 'master-slave relationship'. She allegedly exploited multiple minors, recorded these abuses and electronically sent them to him. It was also alleged that when victims refused to follow his dictate, he shared these videos and images with their families." The US authorities unearthed the racket through Stanley's emails.

Lions prey on 10 cows at gaushala in Rajkot village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, DECEMBER 22

A PRIDE of 10 lions entered a gaushala and preyed on 10 cows in Arab Timbadi village of Rajkot district early on Tuesday. A team of forest department that was tracking the pride, however, reached the spot and saved 25 other cattle heads in the gaushala.

This is the third instance of lions being spotted in Rajkot district in a month. Seven lions were found camping in Thanagalol village, 10 km north of Arab Timbadi last month, and three lions killed 14 cattle earlier this month in Jasdan taluka.

"The pride of 10 lions managed to enter the gaushala at around 3 am Tuesday and went on the rampage, killing 10 cows. However, a team of forest department reached the spot soon and saved 25 other cows," Nishant Kugasiya, taluka development officer (TDO) of Jetpur, told *The Indian Express*.

Arab Timbadi is nearly 10 km from the border of the Gir Wild Life Sanctuary (GWLS). Spread across Junagadh, Bhesan and Visavadar talukas of Junagadh district, GWLS is home to a few dozen Asiatic lions. But over the past few years, lions have been moving out of the area.

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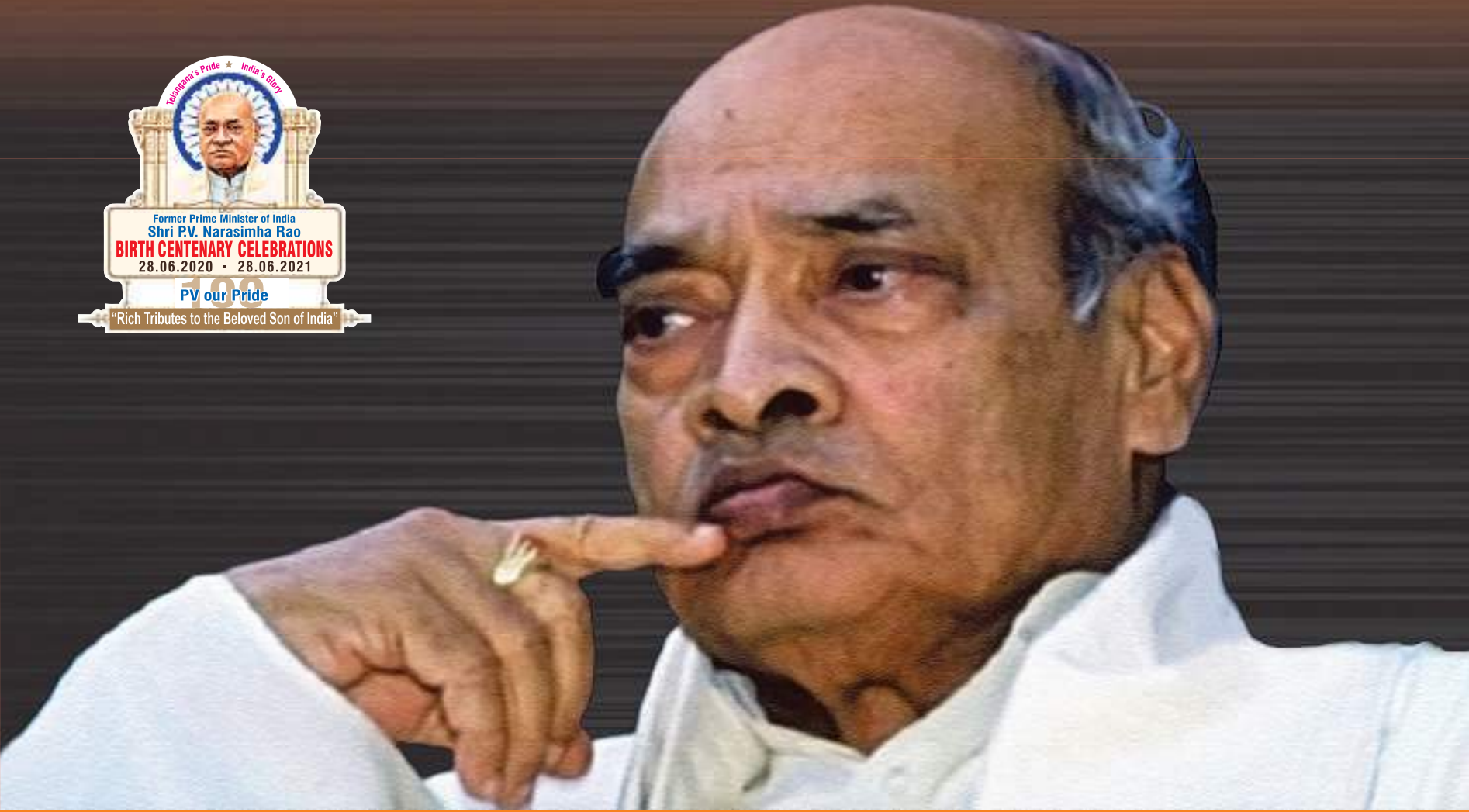
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DAV/15113/13/0001/2021

Our P.V. - Telangana's Pride



(1921 - 2004)



A Polyglot Of High Repute - A Person Of Great Integrity
A Statesman Of Highest Caliber - A Visionary For Nation Development
Telangana's Glowing Spirit - A Luminary Of Telugu Race
India's Treasure Of Knowledge - An Inspiration To Many Generations

Former Prime Minister of India
Late P.V. Narasimha Rao's
16th Death Anniversary Commemoration Meeting
State Government pays rich tributes to Telangana's Proud Son

Hyderabad

Venue: P.V. Gnana Bhoomi, Necklace Road, Hyderabad
Date: 23-12-2020 Time: 9 AM

New Delhi

Venue: Gurajada Conference Hall, Telangana Bhavan, New Delhi.
Date: 23-12-2020 Time: 10.30 AM

10



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE UNIQUE NATURE ABOUT THE INFLUENZA VIRUS IS ITS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CHANGES, FOR MUTATION.

—MARGARET CHAN

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SCIENCE IS KEY

Covid variant must be taken seriously but a year into pandemic, science should guide policy, not alarm bells

THE IDENTIFICATION OF a new strain of the novel coronavirus has set off alarm bells in several parts of the world. On Monday, India joined a growing list of countries that have suspended air links with the UK, where the strain is reported to have become the dominant pathogen — it also seems to have appeared in South Africa, Italy, Denmark, Netherlands and Australia. Stock markets have plunged in several countries, including India. In a world reeling under the ravages of the battle with the novel coronavirus, such reaction is understandable. And, there is no doubt that the new strain needs to be taken seriously. But scientists have learned much about the novel coronavirus in the past one year. It's this work in laboratories, research institutes, hospitals and data centres that should obviate pessimism, even as the contagion dons a new avatar.

Viruses mutate. Though the novel coronavirus has mutated at a far slower pace than most other flu viruses, the new strain — referred to as VUI (variant under investigation) or B.1.1.7 lineage — is not the first mutant of the contagion. Earlier mutations do not seem to have increased the health risks posed by the novel coronavirus. Public Health England — the executive wing of the UK's healthcare department — does reckon that VUI "transmits more easily than other strains". But the agency has also pointed out that there is no evidence "that the variant is more lethal than other strains" of the contagion. So far, according to the UK government's New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group, four deaths in around 1,000 cases have been identified. It has also said that further work "is needed to compare this fatality rate with data sets". Though the UK's health secretary has warned that the VUI "is out of control", the World Health Organisation has disputed this negative prognosis. "We have had a much higher contamination rate at different points in this pandemic and we've got it under control," the head of the global health agency's emergency unit, Michael Ryan, is reported to have said.

Will the new strain bypass the vaccines that are in the final stage of development in different parts of the world? It's too early for a conclusive answer. However, one of the protocols of vaccine development is to look at a virus as a moving target. So, safeguards against new strains are built into most vaccines. The UK's PHE, for instance, is confident that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine currently being deployed in the country can take on VUI. Given that the anti-COVID-19 vaccines are first generation preventives, some tweaks cannot, of course, be ruled out. Researchers, in any case, have consistently been underlining that the vaccines have to be fine-tuned. It's this state of preparedness and the confidence amongst the scientific community that should guide responses to the new variant of the contagion — there's no cause for panic.

CONSUMER IS KING

New electricity rules aim to make discoms accountable to users. Competition, not just regulation, is necessary to achieve this

ON MONDAY, THE central government notified The Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 that are aimed at making power distribution companies more accountable to the end consumer. The underlying rationale for the new set of rules is straightforward. Power distribution companies, whether public or private entities, are essentially geographical monopolies. This leaves the end consumer with no alternative to shift even if they are unhappy with the services being offered to them — unlike the telecom sector where consumers can easily migrate to other service providers. Thus, in the absence of real competition, consumers have little or no power to hold discoms accountable for the quality of electricity supplied or the service provided. The new rules attempt to address this issue by putting in place a structure to make discoms more accountable to the end consumer, placing him at the centre of the regulations.

The rules cover 11 key areas, encompassing the obligation of the distribution licencees, metering arrangements, release of new connections, and a grievance redressal and compensation mechanism, among others. Discoms will now have to compensate consumers for long power cuts, delays in granting electricity connections, and other such lapses in service. For instance, as per the new rules, new connections should be provided by discoms within seven days of receiving the request in metros, 15 days in other municipal areas, and 30 days in rural areas — failure to comply with these timelines will result in penalties. Currently, some state electricity regulatory commissions (SERCs) do have provisions for compensation if the stated performance benchmarks are not met. However, not all states adhere to them, or have user friendly procedures for receiving the compensation. The new rules attempt to fix this by paving the way for an automatic compensation mechanism. However, there is some concern that these rules violate the domain of the SERCs. Some experts have also argued that they may be inconsistent with the performance benchmarks that have already been specified by SERCs. But, the real challenge will lie in their effective implementation.

While these are welcome steps, the larger issue of ushering in competition in the power distribution segment — the weakest link in the power chain — remains. The government had earlier hoped to introduce the model of separation of carriage and content. Doing so would have allowed consumers the freedom to choose their electricity supplier. This would have ushered in competition, forcing discoms to improve their performance standards, and adopt a more consumer centric approach.

NOT JUST A JOB

A politician decided to switch jobs, leaving her husband's party. No one would care if they were investment bankers

THERE'S A REASON for that old adage, "Don't discuss politics or religion at the dinner table". But then, there's a counter-cliche: "Communication is the key to a successful relationship." On Monday, Sujata Mondal Khan, wife of BJP MP Saumitra Khan, joined the Trinamool Congress. She has been a long-time member of the BJP and her chagrin at her now-former party stems from the fact that "corrupt leaders from other parties" were being given positions in the BJP at the expense of party loyalists. Saumitra Khan broke down at a press conference held shortly after his wife's departure and said he would send her a "divorce notice".

Defections and counter-defections are hardly a new phenomenon in Indian politics. But in families, particularly in ideologically and politically polarised Bengal, switching parties is clearly more than just switching jobs. Remember, this is a time when family feuds erupt in WhatsApp groups over everything from the CAA to farmer protests. That impulse may well be compounded in families where both partners are politicians. Perhaps, politics should stop at the water's edge, and beyond the threshold, more mundane domesticity should rule the roost. But that's easier said than done — like business and Bollywood, a political career is often a family concern. Children take over political parties from their parents, spouses become stand-in chief ministers. In fact, when Saumitra was banned by a court from entering Bankura during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Sujata became the chief campaigner for her husband.

In an ideal world, where the political lines would not be so sharply drawn, a spouse switching parties wouldn't be as upsetting as it seems to be. Political couples could ask each other, "how was your day" without worrying about defections, optics, elections and the burdens of ideology. After all, when investment banker couples switch jobs, there are no press conferences expressing anguish.



RAJIV MEHRISHI

THE APMC ACT of the 1950s freed the Indian farmer from the monopoly of the local trader (a la Kanhaiyalal of *Mother India*), undoubtedly with substantial benefits. Equally truly, what got created were oligopolies. In practice, each trader in the mandi has built relationships with a set of farmers: The traders provide credit, the farmer then sells his produce only through that trader, to have the credit/advance against such sales adjusted. More often than not, the mandi trader is also a conduit for the sale of foodgrain at MSP (direct sale by farmers to MSP centres is virtually impossible), reducing the net received by the farmer to below MSP (the traders' "commission" for such transactions is obviously off the books). The symbiotic relationship between particular traders and farmers, which have been created within these oligopolies, is possibly less exploitative only in comparison to the Kanhaiyalals of yore.

That taking the next step, of allowing/introducing more buyers for farm produce, would further reduce exploitation of farmers has been the wisdom-by-consensus of almost all experts, expert committees and conferences at least since the late 1980s. The logic is simple: If the farmer has a single buyer for her produce, she is most vulnerable; if there are a few buyers, she is less open to exploitation; and if there are an unlimited number of buyers, she is the best off, because she can sell to whoever offers the best price. Few can argue against this simple logic.

In fact, the much-advocated reform of the APMC laws has not happened so far due to the opposition from mandi traders, by now an influential lobby. In Rajasthan, for example, in 2004, a similar Cabinet-approved amendment to the APMC Act had to be withdrawn because traders went on strike. Opposition to changes from traders to the way, and to whom, farm produce is sold is perfectly understandable. But from the farmers? Why should farmers oppose more av-

It is astonishing that farmers are speaking up to protect traders' interests

The EC Act has also been against the interests of the farmer by discouraging investments in cold chains, warehouses, etc. Better supply/marketing chains have the potential of getting higher prices/returns for the farmer. If anything, the farmers should have agitated, from decades ago, for the amendments that they are now reportedly opposing! What is equally astonishing is the silence of all those 'intellectuals' and 'experts', barring a few exceptions, who had passionately argued for years for these reforms. Let us not let our reform imperative be informed by which party is in power.

enues for the sale of their produce, other than mandis, especially if no element of coercion is involved?

What changes have the three farm laws wrought? The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 gives farmers the freedom to sell outside the mandi; and to the buyer to buy at "farm gate", without the necessity of a mandi licence. The farmer's choice to sell within the mandi, if she so wishes, is not taken away. Reportedly, farmers believe that this reform is a precursor to the abolition of mandis and MSP. It is hard to imagine what might have made them jump to this conclusion: Any political party would have to have an extreme and unprecedented case of myopia to do away with either mandis or MSP, as it would be politically suicidal. Besides, it seems the government is prepared to give whatever assurance the farmers want on their continuation, and also to make changes in the law such as mandi fee applying to private "mandis" as well.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, basically provides for yet another much-recommended agriculture marketing reform — contract farming. This helps the farmer to transit to commercial crops, such as vegetables and fruits, which give higher returns than food-grain sold at MSP, by assuring her the "contracted" price even if there is excess production, and prices in the market fall. Of course, the farmer is also committed to selling at the "contracted" price, even if market prices are higher, though the law does provide a means of sharing this windfall. The point, however, is that there is no element of compulsion. The farmer is free to continue sowing crops that sell at MSP, or to take her chances in the market, if she sows non-MSP crops, without entering into any contract. How can there be a protest about an additional option? If the farmers do not like the safety features of the

law, such as appeals, they can seek those changes. Why they should seek a repeal of the law altogether is truly baffling.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 provides that storage, etc of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes can be regulated only in extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, natural calamity, or extraordinary price rise. The EC Act, as it stood, served the interests of the consumer, especially the rather spoilt urban middle classes, by trying to get farm produce to them at low prices. It is not difficult to see that if retail prices are low, farm gate prices will be depressed too. The EC Act has also been against the interests of the farmer by discouraging investments in cold chains, warehouses, etc. Better supply/marketing chains have the potential of getting higher prices/returns for the farmer. If anything, the farmers should have agitated, from decades ago, for the amendments that they are now reportedly opposing!

In the 2004 strike in Rajasthan, the traders' demands were uncannily similar. This is what is astonishing: The concerns of the traders — additional sale options for farm produce other than the mandis, and contract farming — are being mouthed by the farmers. What is equally astonishing is the silence of all those "intellectuals" and "experts", barring a few exceptions, who had passionately argued for years for these reforms. Let us not let our reform imperative be informed by which party is in power.

There is obviously more to this agitation than meets the eye. To think that the farmers have been "misled" as part of a "political conspiracy" is perhaps naïve. Perhaps, the key lies in the way the MSP scheme works in certain states, and the way "big" farmer-trader relationships have worked out in such states.

The writer has been the CAG of India, and is a former civil servant



RAJMOHAN GANDHI

ASA hard year closes out in the US, and the electoral college voting seals Joe Biden's win, the oft-ignored power that individuals possess in a democracy has once more been highlighted.

In America's quaint system, the choice of a state's voters for the nation's president is formalised by "electors" named by the winning party, who vote one by one in ceremonies separately conducted, on the same day, in each state or federal territory. This year, the rituals were performed on December 14.

But rituals may be a misleading phrase. These "electors" could have cheated and voted against their party, that is, against their state's verdict. However, every one of the 306 Democratic "electors" voted for Biden, and each of the 232 Republicans for Donald Trump.

This time, with Trump continuing to deny his defeat (and to rouse his supporters to somehow transform it into a win), the "electors" became targets of intimidation. Prevention of voting and even abduction was feared, but public servants saw the exercise through.

In some places, ingenuity was needed. At the last minute in traditionally Republican Arizona, which had chosen Biden over Trump, the state's officers — loyal Republican Party members — switched the ritual's venue to a safer place, freeing the "electors" to vote for Biden.

In this and other ways, officers and "electors" across the US overcame pressures and did their duty. In so doing, public servants in states like Georgia and

CITIZEN AMERICAN

US polls have shown 'ordinary' citizen has the ability and duty to call out a wrong

Arizona probably destroyed their political futures, at least for the short term. But they saved their country's prestige.

In India, too, doing our duty in the teeth of pressures and inducements is not a small matter, whether we are public servants, or members elected to a local, state or national council, or just citizens.

Yielding to pressure from Trump and his base, many Republican members of Congress shamelessly endorsed a Supreme Court plea, initiated by Texas's attorney general, to invalidate the popular vote in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and Wisconsin. In a decision that showed that the Supreme Court, too, knew its duty, all its nine justices, including the three nominated by Trump, decided against entertaining the brazen plea. Though Trump reacted by tweeting that the court lacked "wisdom" and "courage", the justices had shown precisely those virtues.

Biden's dislodging of Trump is, therefore, not the former's personal feat. It is the outcome of duty done by a great many.

Equally crucial to the outcome was the outspoken and broad rejection of the continual Trumpist hint, obvious to everyone and appealing to many, that America belonged primarily to its Whites. Twinned to this insinuation was a call against "pampering Blacks". In refutation, Americans said on social media, in newspapers, on TV, in daily conversation, and in marches on the street that their country belonged to all, and that the real problem was the neglect of Black needs. Confronting the Trumpist line was thus not left to an

Obama, a Biden or a Kamala Harris. It became an American duty.

The parallels for India are plain. While Adivasis, Dalits and Muslims make up "India's Blacks", among these worse-off sections Muslims are assigned the role that Trumpism reserves for Blacks. This is where India's national life has been found wanting. Even though every index of income, wealth, housing, health, education or security finds the Muslim at the bottom, a Junaid or a Jamila, a Yasmin or a Yusuf, will rarely get support, even if attacked by a mob.

Unless Trump tells his American adorners (which he won't) that he has been defeated, they will not accept that truth. Unless a Narendra Modi, an Amit Shah or an Adityanath says to Hindu nationalism's fervent adherents — what seems so hard for the three to say — that a Muslim's life is as valuable as a Hindu's, the masses of adherents will not accept that truth.

That still leaves crores of other Hindus and other Indians who would welcome reminders of the equal value of every human life, and of the tolerance which Indians in their vast majority have always cherished. For any of us to wait for some great leader to provide these reminders, or to keep silent until a unified opposition emerges, is to acquiesce in daily deeds of injustice.

To Indians and others, America 2020 has shown that the "ordinary" citizen has both the ability to call out a wrong and the duty to do so.

The writer teaches at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



DECEMBER 23, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM ON THE BOIL

AT LEAST SIX persons have already died and several more were injured when the police opened fire to disperse demonstrators who attacked the police with brickbats in several parts of Gauhati on the fifth day of the 13-day mass satyagraha. An indefinite curfew was imposed by the authorities in Mirza township and the army staged a flag march as tension prevailed during police firing. Despite the police action, the satyagrahis did not disperse and awaited action in different parts of the city. They dispersed only after the magistrate on duty declared "their formal arrest and release".

CRITICISING PROTESTORS

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has warned agitators in Assam and other parts of the north-east that divisive elements would not be tolerated and any resort to violence will be sternly dealt with. Mrs Gandhi said that the agitation has not helped the cause of national integration. She said that Indian culture was known for its tradition of hospitality and its willingness to assimilate what is good in other cultures. Unfortunately, the agitators had not understood this vital element of our culture.

RUCKUS OVER BOTTLE

MANIRAM BAGRI, JANATA-S member from Hissar created a flutter in Lok Sabha when he

tabled a country liquor bottle in the House. The bottle, as per him, had been bought from Narwana where 22 people had died in a hooch tragedy. Minister of health Shankaranand and Congress-I members alleged that Bagri had brought disrespect to the house.

RADIO IN HEAD

MIAMI MEDICAL STUDENT Stephen Liggett was surprised when a psychiatry patient reported hearing music in his head. He was more surprised to learn that the music was coming from a radio station. The patient, a Vietnam war veteran with shrapnel in his skull, could be the first walking radio receiver — the shrapnel being the receiver.



New Delhi

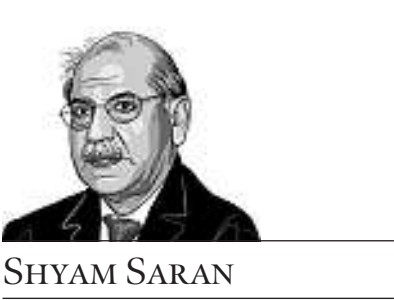


THE IDEAS PAGE

11

The new league of nations

For India, despite a rising China, this is a favourable geopolitical moment, which it must seize to assure its place in a loosely structured multipolar global order



SHYAM SARAN

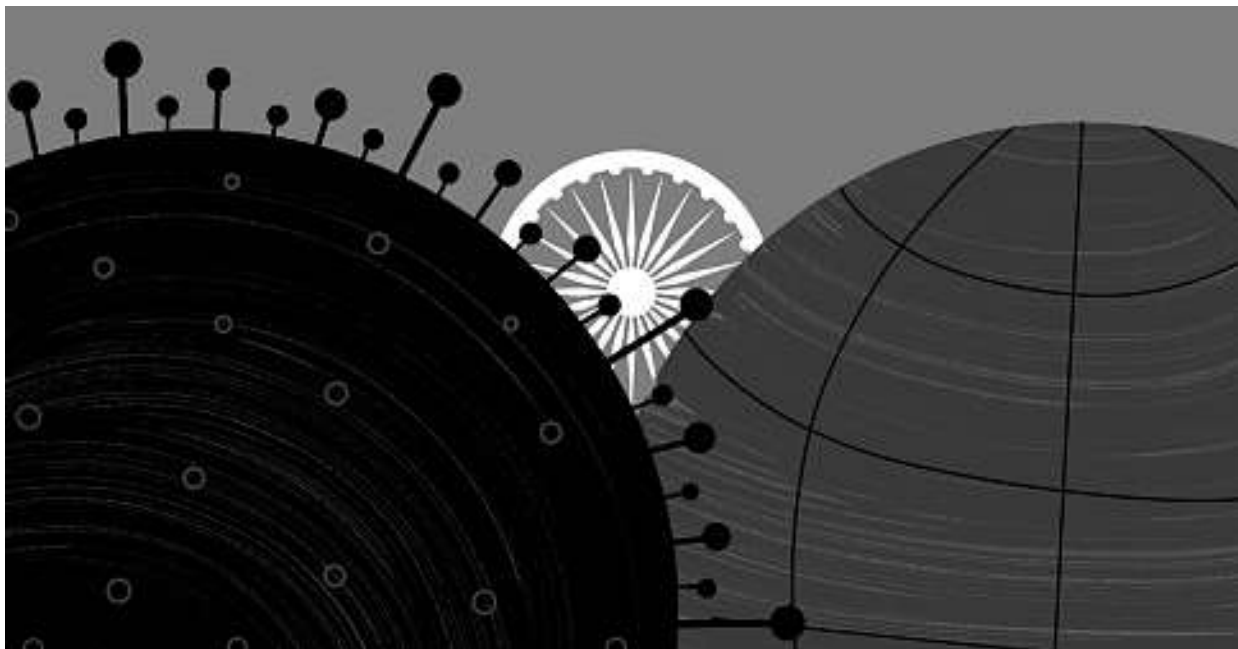
THE YEAR ENDS with a sigh of relief and anticipated redemption. Scientists the world over have delivered with unprecedented speed a set of vaccines which may deliver us, in time, from the scourge of COVID-19. This news comes appropriately on the eve of Christmas and the turn of the year, traditionally an occasion of renewal, and rekindled hopes for a better year ahead. These sentiments will be more intense, more deeply felt than in recent years with lives having been rudely disrupted, relationships made distant and tinged with yearning and a pall of uncertainty and sense of future dread sweeping across the world.

But while the gloom may be slowly lifting, the world will repair only slowly and there are worrying intimations of other crises looming round the corner. We are at an inflexion point, marking a watershed in human experience. But there are several paths ahead, several choices that beckon, except that there is no path to retrace our steps back to where we were before the pandemic struck — because that world no longer exists. Geopolitics has been transformed and power equations are being altered. There are a new set of winners and losers in the economic sweepstakes. Technological advancement will magnify these changes and India will need to make difficult judgements about the world that is taking shape and find its place in a more complex and shifting geopolitical landscape.

Some trends were already salient before the pandemic struck. They are being accelerated and intensified thanks to the forces unleashed by this crisis. There are also newer trends at play, which demand attention and efficient management. As the pandemic recedes, the world could draw the right lessons and proceed on a more hopeful trajectory. It may equally lurch into another even more serious and damaging crisis or even multiple crises because the lessons remain unlearned. The latter has been more often the case in history but the implications are more dire now.

The success of scientists in delivering vaccines in record time has masked an ugly reality. COVID-19 has been a global emergency, recognising no national or regional boundaries but it has been dealt with almost entirely within national confines. International cooperation in either developing an effective vaccine or responding to its health impacts has been minimal. The pre-existing trend towards nationalist urgings, the weakening of international institutions and multilateral processes has been reinforced. Even in the distribution of vaccines, we are witnessing a cornering of supplies by a handful of rich nations. Help for the poorer nations of the world is a low priority.

Most challenges the world faces are global, like the pandemic. They are inherent in globalisation driven by rapid technological change. These include climate change, cyber security, space security, which are newer domains. But even extant challenges such as



C R Sasikumar

terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and ocean and terrestrial pollution have taken on a globalised dimension. They are not amenable to national solutions. They demand collaborative, not competitive solutions. This glaring disconnect between the rising salience of global and cross-cutting issues and the resistance to multilateral and collaborative approaches is likely to intensify in the post-pandemic world, unless there is some display of statesman-like leadership to mobilise action on a global scale. The nation-state will endure but its conduct will need to be tempered by a spirit of internationalism and a sense of common humanity.

How likely is it that there will emerge leadership that is able to orient the world in the right direction? The pre-pandemic shift in the centre of gravity of the global economy and political power and influence, from the trans-Atlantic to the trans-Pacific, has been reinforced under the impact of the crisis. East Asian and South-East Asian countries have managed the crisis more effectively and their economies are the first to register the green shoots of recovery. Ironically, China being the country where the COVID-19 first erupted early this year, has been the first large economy to witness a significant rebound in its growth rate. While trade and investment flows in the rest of the world have declined, they have registered growth in this part of the world. The regional supply chains centred on China have been reinforced rather than disrupted. China will emerge in pole position in the geopolitical sweepstakes commencing in 2021. The power gap with its main rival, the US, will shrink further. The power gap with India, its largest rival in Asia, will expand even more. India is already confronting a more aggressive and arrogant China on its borders. This threat will intensify and demand asymmetrical coping strategies.

Despite China emerging a relative gainer from the disruptions triggered by the pandemic, I believe that the trend towards multi-polarity is here to stay. Neither the US in its relatively diminished state nor China with its enhanced power can singly or as a duopoly manage a much more diffused distribution of economic and military capabilities across the globe. As already noted, most of the challenges we confront demand global and collaborative responses. Even a powerful country cannot coerce other na-

AN EXPRESS IDEA SERIES

2021

COVID SHADOW, NEW YEAR LIGHT

India's instinctive preference has been for a multipolar order as the best assurance of its security and as most conducive to its own social and economic development. It now has the opportunity to make this its foreign policy priority as this aligns with the interests of a large majority of middle and emerging powers. This will be an important component of a strategy to meet the China challenge. The techniques of mobilisation that were deployed successfully in leading the Non-Aligned Movement in an earlier time and in a different geopolitical context are relevant.

tions to collaborate. This is only possible through multilateral approaches and adherence to the principle of equitable burden-sharing. We may see the emergence of a loosely structured global order with clusters of regional powers, inter-linked and interacting with each other. But such a multipolar order can only be stable and keep the peace with a consensus set of norms, managed through empowered institutions of international governance and multilateral processes. India's instinctive preference has been for a multipolar order as the best assurance of its security and as most conducive to its own social and economic development. It now has the opportunity to make this its foreign policy priority as this aligns with the interests of a large majority of middle and emerging powers. This will be an important component of a strategy to meet the China challenge. The techniques of mobilisation that were deployed successfully in leading the Non-Aligned Movement in an earlier time and in a different geopolitical context are relevant.

Despite a degree of pessimism about India's economic prospects, we may be located at a favourable geopolitical moment. This may appear counterintuitive. Thanks to concerns about China's aggressive posture across the board and its unilateral assertions of power, there is a significant push-back even from smaller countries, for example, in South-East Asia and Africa. China's blatant "weaponisation of economic interdependence" such as we see in its punitive commercial action against Australia, has made its economic partners increasingly wary. India is seen as a potential and credible countervailing power to resist Chinese ambitions. The world wants India to succeed because it is regarded as a benign power wedded to a rule-based order. India can leverage this propitious moment to encourage a significant flow of capital, technology and knowledge to accelerate its own modernisation. But for this to happen, India needs to position itself as the most open and competitive destination for trade and investment offering both scale and political stability.

The choice is clear and the opportunity for leadership beckons.

The writer is a former foreign secretary and currently senior fellow, CPR

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"If the new virus's effect on the rate of transmission is as bad as government advisers' fear then we will need a national shutdown of the kind imposed in March"

— THE GUARDIAN

A blind eye to justice

Given the farmers' protests, the Supreme Court should have suspended implementation of farm laws till it heard the matter



REKHA SHARMA

FARMERS FROM MANY states are out in the cold sitting on *dharna* at Delhi's borders against the three newly enacted farm laws, which they believe will rob them of their livelihood, and, eventually, their lands too. Amongst their many fears, real or imaginary, is that the new laws will open the agrarian sector to corporates in a big way, and that in the absence of a statutory guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP), they will be forced to sell their produce for a song — as they do not have the wherewithal to carry the same to far-flung places in pursuit of a better price. The farmers are not willing to settle at anything less than the withdrawal of the three contentious Acts, and have resolved to stay put at the borders, whether it takes them days or months to make the government relent.

The government, on the other hand, is equally adamant, and is not willing to cede any ground to the farmers. Initially, instead of soothing their frayed nerves, attempts were made to discredit the protesters by calling them Khalistanis. When that did not stick, they were called anti-nationals. In the latest salvo, the Union agriculture minister, in an open letter to the farmers, alleged that those stopping trains at the borders when the situation in Ladakh is challenging cannot be farmers. Perhaps, the minister needs to know that most of the soldiers he is referring to may well turn out to be the sons or relatives of these farmers.

However, despite the name-calling and innuendoes, the government did hold a few rounds of talks with the representatives of these very farmers. But both are standing their ground. The government believes the three laws are in the best interest of the farmers, and that they are being misled by the Opposition. Meanwhile, at least 29 protesters have reportedly died.

In the above scenario, the matter has reached the Supreme Court. While the Bhartiya Kisan Union has challenged the constitutional validity of the three Acts, a law student in a separate petition has sought the removal of protesting farmers from the site to a designated place citing inconvenience to the public, besides the threat of COVID-19. It is openly being alleged that the petition seeking removal of the farmers is at the behest of the government to derail the agitation. It may or may not be so.

In the course of hearing, the Supreme Court recognised the constitutional right of the farmers to protest so long as their dissent is non-violent. Observing that the farmers' issue will soon become a national issue, it proposed setting up a committee comprising

representatives of farmers' unions across India, the government and other stakeholders to resolve the issues agitating the farmers. It also asked the Attorney General if he could assure the court that till it decides the issues, the government would put on hold the implementation of the contentious laws. Though the AG said that he would get back to the court, the Solicitor General reportedly rejected the suggestion out of hand.

Given the fact that the Supreme Court itself felt the farmers issue will soon become a national issue, and given also the fact that it was slipping into winter vacation for a fortnight, and that the farmers would have to suffer the harsh winter under the open sky, should the court not have exercised its power, and suspended the implementation of the laws till it finally heard the matter? The Supreme Court has also reportedly said that it will not decide the validity of the laws as of now.

With the greatest of respect to the Supreme Court, it is time it takes the bull by the horns. It has, for far too long, put on the backburner issues which concern the nation most. We have known of a Supreme Court which, in the past, heard the matter of a terrorist at midnight, sat late into the night, and granted bail to two industrialists, suspended the execution of a convict who beheaded his five daughters, again at a midnight sitting. Why then the issue of farmers, who are one of us and who have been feeding us, cannot be taken up on an urgent basis, even if it calls for setting up a special bench in vacation to prevent the matter from snowballing into a national issue? Edmund Burke has famously said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

And those who want the farmers to be removed from the present site to a designated place, on the ground of inconvenience to the public and the pandemic, need to know that it was the Haryana government that tried to push the farmers to the brink when they were peacefully moving towards Delhi by using water cannons, erecting barricades and digging roads to prevent them from proceeding ahead. Ironically, all this happened on Constitution Day. These people also need to know that the authorities had declined permission to farmers who wanted to peacefully protest at Jantar Mantar, where many protests have been held in the past. Where were they to go then? As for the threat of COVID-19, if assembly elections could be held in Bihar and huge election rallies organised in West Bengal during a pandemic, why not allow farmers' protests?

Let me end with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr, who was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, after he defied a court's injunction and led a march of Black protesters without a permit. In response to his critics who objected to his holding the protests at Birmingham, he wrote a letter in which he said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court



SAYANDEB CHOWDHURY

Game on in Bengal

There is no alternative for TMC, Left and Congress but to stitch together an alliance

THE DICTIONARY MEANING of blunderbuss is two-fold. The more archaic meaning stands for a gun with a short, large barrel, to be fired only at close range. The second meaning refers to an action lacking subtlety and precision. Either way, what the BJP is planning in Bengal is a textbook case of blunderbuss. It has gone to the state — which goes to the poll in the early half of 2021 — with all guns blazing. It has parked there, the head of its IT Cell. A Bengal-specific division of the raucous Republic TV has been bankrolled.

To organisationally unsettle Bengal BJP's insouciance, the home minister recently paratrooped to induct one chieftain and several local turncoats, mostly from the Trinamool Congress but also from the Congress and the CPI(M). If this is the barrel for shooting, the other part of the blunderbuss, one can bet, will also lack any subtlety. It would be the same story of courting dodgy defectors with plum positions; creating a narrative of a long-suffering Bengal under Marxists and autocrats; unearthing imaginary traumas of Partition; canvassing the fiction of rampaging Bangladeshi infiltration; holding high-octane rallies with one-penny actors and a prevaricating prime minister; instigating localised communitarian violence; and hop-in and hop-off flirtations with Bengal's long list of talismans — Tagore for breakfast, Vivekananda for lunch, Subhas Bose for dinner. So much

and so forth. The question hence is not what BJP will do in Bengal. The question is, knowing the narrative, what the other parties would.

Nothing binds the Trinamool's foot soldiers more than their genuflecting loyalty to a firebrand shibboleth. Notwithstanding 10 years in power and a handful of penetrative welfare policies, Mamata Banerjee remains an impenitent autocrat of a shambolic party, which is otherwise made of local mafiosi ek-ing out political fortunes from the crumbs of a gig economy. To that end, only a prospect of a win in the next polls can keep her minions together. At the same time, Mamata is a popular leader, has extensive acceptability, commands widespread loyalty and has not yet lost her street-fighting genes. So, in spite of her party, Mamata is still a substantive political force. At least till today.

The state of the Left is a concoction of delusion and denial. It is deluding itself if, according to several reports, it is considering backing the BJP furtively to root out the TMC, so that it can make a triumphant return in 2026. This is like the squirrel tempting the wolf to tame the cat. Even if the cat survives the wolf, the squirrel won't. Also, unless it has lost all its marbles, the Left will do well to remember that the RSS reserves its sincerest disgust for it. So, both politically or ideologically, providing any grease to the BJP's juggernaut would be hara-kiri, now and in the foreseeable fu-

ture. This is more so, because the Left continues to have a significant voter base among those sore with Mamata's vulgar populism. As for the Congress, very little can be said about its prospects in Bengal more than it can be said elsewhere, though it has a small but loyal faction of voters, especially in parts where the Congress continues to have active presence and key local leadership.

TMC, BJP and a CPM-Congress combine have hinted that they will fight each other in the polls. But facts and the political winds are chiming one simple arithmetic: That there cannot be a three-way election in 2021. That would mean an advantage for BJP, as it will cannibalise on the factionalism in the former and on the irrelevance of the latter. If the BJP is to be defeated, the TMC and the Left-Congress combine must come together to form a strategic alliance. There is immediate and successful precedence in Maharashtra, while the grand alliance in Bihar, even in defeat, has created the promise of a non-BJP future. History is witness that after a millennia of fighting each other, France and Britain did come together against Germany in both the world wars. Why is it such an impossible prospect in Bengal?

An alliance is going to ensure — mathematically speaking — an unassailable political behemoth; and will be electorally insurmountable even if the BJP unleashes its most

diabolic campaign. An alliance will also cut down on cost, disincentivise defection and allegations of dynasticism in TMC. It would also minimise the political violence that Bengal routinely witnesses before polls. These are quantifiable gains. So, what is at stake?

First, if the Left is willing to court BJP and sit out till 2026 (hypothetically counting their return to glory), why not do the same instead for TMC? For after Mamata, there would be no TMC to speak of anyway, giving a real chance to CPI(M)'s so-far unreal hopes. Second, Bengal's history for decades since the 1960s is full of the bloody rivalry between local Congress and CPI(M). If that can be conveniently forgotten to forge an alliance, why not the same for TMC? Third, a coalition in power will keep Mamata's monocracy in check, end CPM's long isolation from governance; and create a pool of political progeny for the future. As for TMC, it is anyway a party without a belief, so how will it matter if it sides with the Left?

Most importantly, such a strategic and timely alliance would successfully turn the tables on BJP's spin doctors, while ensuring that Bengal does not suffer the ignominy of having fallen to the ultra-right. What can be better for Bengal?

The writer teaches at Ambedkar University Delhi. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRISIS IN NEPAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Crisis in Kathmandu' (IE, December 22). Nepal PM K P Oli's sudden move to dissolve the House of Representatives is being seen as a vindictive manifestation of his authoritarian streak. The move appears to stem largely from the feud in the ruling Nepal Communist Party. Oli is steering his country into an inflexion point for the fledgling democracy that it was attempting to establish after decades of instability.

SS Paul, Nadia

GREATER CULPABILITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In the dock' (IE, December 22). It's not just UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath — his supporters and patrons in the BJP should be in the dock following the CBI's indictment of the UP police in the heinous case of rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl. They had tried their best to derail the investigation through diversionary and delaying tactics. Even PM Narendra Modi, who is not tired of claiming empowerment of Muslim women, had kept quiet. Thank God that in this case, the CBI seems to have investigated it under no pressure and as a result, could chargesheet the four upper-caste accused in a stipulated time.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

VIRTUAL BONHOMIE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Notes from a new world' (IE, December 22). While musicians have adapted well to perform in "vconcerts", the rasikas too have

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evolved to appreciate them. I have been tuning in to the December season concerts and the bonhomie buzzing about in the chatbox has been infectious. Sharing tidbits and trivia about the raagams, composition and composer have immensely enhanced the musical experience.

K Sahasranaman, Mumbai

HOLLOW WELFARE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'New welfareism of India's Right' (IE, December 22). It is worth noting that the government is focusing on tangible essentials in its schemes. But intangible essentials, like medical facilities and education, are important too. Despite its focus on tangible welfare, the data on child stunting is not impressive. New Welfareism without intangible essentials is hollow.

Love Kumar Lalwani, Mehsana

TOPOF THE WORLD



Security personnel at the site of the attack in Kabul. AP

AFGHANISTAN

Roadside bomb kills prison doctors in Kabul

Kabul: A roadside bomb killed at least five prison doctors and health workers in the Afghan capital on Tuesday while they were on their way to the country's largest jail, officials said. The Taliban said they were not involved in the attack as the five were on their way to the sprawling Pul-i-Charkhi prison housing hundreds of prisoners, including scores of Taliban insurgents. Three doctors, two of them women, working to control the spread of the coronavirus in the jail were among the dead, said Masooma Jafari, a spokeswoman for the health ministry. **REUTERS**

NORWAY

Greenpeace loses court case over Arctic oil drilling

Oslo: Norway's supreme court approved the government's plans for Arctic oil exploration on Tuesday, dismissing a lawsuit by campaigners who claimed the scheme violated people's right to a healthy environment. The verdict upheld rulings made by two lower courts, rejecting arguments by Greenpeace and the Nature and Youth group that a 2015-16 oil licensing round giving awards to Equinor and others breached Norway's constitution. While the case was specifically about ten exploration licenses awarded four years ago, the environmental campaigners had hoped that their appeal would set a precedent limiting the oil industry's Arctic expansion. **REUTERS**

ARGENTINA

Senate to vote on expanding right to abortion

Buenos Aires: Argentina's Senate will decide next week whether to give final approval to a government-backed bill that would expand the availability of legal abortion, a proposal that has divided a society with strong ties to the Roman Catholic church. A similar bill was defeated by Argentina's Congress in 2018. Current law allows for abortion only when there is a serious risk to the mother's health or in the event of rape. **REUTERS**

BRAZIL

Rio mayor arrested over 'bribery scheme'

Rio de Janeiro: Rio de Janeiro Mayor Marcelo Crivella was arrested on Tuesday, nine days before the end of his term, for alleged involvement in a corruption scheme at city hall, police and prosecutors said. Crivella, who was arrested at home on the western side of Rio, denied any wrongdoing and said he was the target of political persecution. The mayor's arrest comes after a wave of corruption investigations that have landed five former Rio state governors to jail. "I am innocent and I don't know what is going on. This is a political persecution," Crivella said after his arrest. **REUTERS**

England mulls wider lockdown to curb spread of new Covid variant

EU urges member countries to lift blanket travel bans for Britain

THE NEW YORK TIMES
LONDON, DECEMBER 22

AS GOVERNMENTS around the world raced to seal their borders to travelers from Britain in an attempt to contain a new variant of the coronavirus, officials in London warned that the lockdown measures in effect in the capital and southern England might need to be expanded.

The government's chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, said Monday night that the new strain was now "everywhere" across England and that cases were only expected to grow over the holiday period. "I think it's likely therefore that measures will need to be increased in some places in due course, not reduced," Mr. Vallance said.

With nearly every country in Europe now banning travel to and from Britain, European Union officials struggled to establish guidelines for member nations that could bring a semblance of order to the chaotic cascade of border closures announced over the past 48 hours.

The EU's executive arm, said on Tuesday that member states should move swiftly to reverse travel bans imposed over the past few days in an effort to stop the spread of new variant of the coronavirus that has emerged in Britain. It recommended testing or quarantining as needed, and stressed that nonessential travel should be discouraged. The recommendations are nonbinding.

The World Health Organization sought to temper the growing sense of alarm over



People queue outside a supermarket in London's Balham on Tuesday. Reuters

the new variant and the danger it poses. "There is zero evidence at this point that there is any increase in the severity associated with this disease," Mike Ryan, the WHO emergency director, said. "Clearly there is work ongoing to look at transmission and the increased rates of transmission and how much of that is attributable to this particular variant."

While scientists around the world worked to better understand the dangers of the variant, the measures being put in place to try and contain it were already being felt across Britain. Millions of people forced to abruptly cancel Christmas plans are now also facing the prospect of a disruption to basic services unlike anything experienced so far in the pandemic.

Biden gets his shot, says nothing to worry about

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 22

US President-elect Joe Biden on Monday received the Covid-19 vaccine and said he wanted to demonstrate that people should be ready to take the vaccine when it is available.

Biden received the first course of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. "I am doing this to demonstrate that people should be prepared when it's available to take the vaccine. There's nothing to worry about," he said. "Today, I received the Covid-



Joe Biden receives his first dose of the vaccine. AP/PTI

19 vaccine. To the scientists and researchers who worked tirelessly to make this possible -- thank you. We owe you an awful lot," Biden said in a tweet.



WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

A plume rises near active fissures in the crater of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano. The eruption began late Sunday within the volcano's caldera, the US Geological Survey said. Because of the location of the erupting lava, there was little risk to the public. AP/PTI

EU vows 'final push' in UK trade talks

REUTERS
BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 22

THE EUROPEAN Union is giving a "final push" in a bid to strike a Brexit trade deal with Britain, the bloc's chief negotiator said Tuesday.

Britain is set to complete its departure from the EU when it leaves the bloc's single market and customs union on December 31, meaning its current free trade

arrangements expire.

The two sides have for months been struggling to seal a new framework for their relations, going beyond trade to transport to energy. But the much-postponed final stages now coincide with a cross-Channel crisis as EU and other countries suspend most travel to and from Britain.

"We are really in a crucial moment. We are giving it a final push," said the negotiator, Michel

BioNTech CEO confident vaccine will work on variant

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, DECEMBER 22

GERMAN PHARMACEUTICAL company BioNTech is confident that its coronavirus vaccine works against the new UK variant, but further studies are needed to be completely sure, its chief executive said Tuesday.

The variant, detected mainly in London and southeast England in recent weeks, has sparked concern worldwide because of signs that it may spread more easily. While there is no indication it causes more serious illness, numerous countries in Europe and beyond have restricted travel from the UK as a result.

"We don't know at the moment if our vaccine is also able to provide protection against this new variant," CEO Ugur Sahin told a news conference. "But scientifically, it is highly likely that the immune response by this vaccine also can deal with the new virus variants."

Sahin said the proteins on the UK variant are 99 per cent the same as on the prevailing strains, and therefore BioNTech has "scientific confidence" that its vaccine will be effective. "But we will know it only if the experiment is done and we will need about two weeks from now to get the data," he said. "The likelihood that our vaccine works ... is relatively high."

Nepal ruling party heads for split as Prachanda expels Oli from top post

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 22

THE NEPAL Communist Party (NCP) on Tuesday moved a step towards a formal split, with the Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' -led faction removing Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli from the post of chairman and deciding to take disciplinary action against him.

The Central Committee unanimously nominated senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal as the party's second chairman in place of Oli. Prachanda is the first chairman of the party.

"Now Dahal and Nepal will chair the meetings in turn as stated in the party statute," said Rekha Sharma, a central committee member.

Earlier in the day, Oli -- one of the two chairmen of the ruling NCP -- organised a separate meeting of the Central Committee leaders close to him at Baluwatar, the prime minister's official residence.

The meeting was held three days after Oli got the President to dissolve Parliament, a controversial move amidst a prolonged tussle for power between him and Prachanda within the ruling dispensation.

At the meeting held by the Prachanda faction, it was de-



K P Oli and (right) Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

cided that the dissolution of Parliament was an act that went against the spirit of the Constitution and values of democracy. Hence, the group decided to expel Oli as party chairman. "The government stands dissolved but the Party is intact," Prachanda said.

In a counter-move, the faction led by Oli removed NCP central secretariat member Naryan Kaji Shrestha from the position of the spokesperson. Oli announced a new 1,199-member committee to organise the party's general convention on November 18-23 in Kathmandu next year. Earlier the party's convention was scheduled from April 7 to 12, 2021.

Meanwhile, four members of the dissolved House -- all belonging to the Prachanda camp -- filed a petition before the Supreme Court, pleading that the dissolution of Parliament be declared null and void.

—WITHPTI

Israeli top court hears challenge to Jewish nation law

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 22

THE ISRAELI Supreme Court on Tuesday was hearing a case against a contentious law that defines the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people, marking the beginning of a landmark challenge against legislation that opponents say discriminates against minorities.

The 15 petitions filed by Arab rights groups and other civil society organisations seek to have the country's Supreme Court strike down the law.

The petitions pose a major challenge to the 2018 law and are being heard by a panel of 11 justices, the court's largest possible configuration.

"This is the first time in Israeli legal history that the Supreme Court has to deal with the legal status of the Palestinian minority in Israel," said Hassan Jabareen, founder of Adalah, an Arab minority rights group petitioning the court, ahead of the hearing.

The nation-state law was approved by the Knesset in July 2018. It defines Israel as the "nation-state of the Jewish people" and adds that "fulfilling the right to national self-determination in the state of Israel is unique to the Jewish people."

It also downgraded Arabic from an official state language to one with "special status".

The law's passage prompted vocal opposition by the country's Arab minority, particularly among Druze Israelis, who serve in the military and saw them-

EXPLAINED
Why the law has sparked controversy

Benjamin Netanyahu has called the 2018 legislation "a defining moment in the history of the state".

Proponents of the law have argued that the legislation merely enshrines Israel's Jewish character into law. But critics have argued that the law contravenes the basis of Israel's legal system, as well as its Declaration of Independence, and solidifies inequality among its citizens.

selves demoted to second class citizens.

As the judges heard arguments against the law from petitioners, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the court "is not an absolute ruler" and called for legislation to limit judicial authority.

Israel on cusp of 4th election in 2 years

Jerusalem: Israel's government teetered on the brink of collapse on Tuesday, a building crisis that looks likely to push the country into yet another early election -- the fourth in two years.

The Parliament was expected to dissolve at Tuesday midnight. A new vote has tentatively been scheduled for March 23. **NYT**

Russian law to allow former presidents be senators for life

Moscow: President Vladimir Putin signed legislation on Tuesday that allows former presidents to become lawmakers for life in Russia's upper house of parliament once they leave the Kremlin, a government website showed.

The legislation follows sweeping changes to the Russian political system initiated by Putin this year that, among other things, allow him to run for two more six-year terms in the Kremlin if he chooses. He had been due to step down in 2024.

The reforms are being closely parsed for clues as to what Putin may do at the end of his current presidential term. **REUTERS**

32 years on, suspect charged in 1988 Lockerbie bombing

ADAM GOLDMAN & KATIE BENNER
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 22

US ATTORNEY General William P Barr on Monday announced criminal charges against a former Libyan intelligence operative accused of building the explosive device that was used in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in United States history, stemming partly to a confession that he gave nearly a decade ago while imprisoned in Libya.

The announcement bookends Mr. Barr's two tours of duty as attorney general, first under President George Bush and now under President Trump. At his first news conference as the acting attorney general under Mr. Bush in 1991, he announced

charges against two suspects in the explosion of the jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. On Monday, the 32nd anniversary of the attack, Mr. Barr revealed charges against a third person, a shadowy bomb expert named Abu Agila Mohammad Mas'ud.

The Justice Department charged Mr. Mas'ud with two criminal counts, including destruction of an aircraft resulting in death, according to court documents unsealed on Monday. He is halfway through a 10-year sentence in a Libyan prison for unrelated crimes.

"Let there be no mistake," Mr. Barr said. "No amount of time or distance will stop the United States, and its partners in Scotland, from pursuing justice in this case."

Mr. Mas'ud's name had surfaced during the investigation



Remains of Pan Am Flight 103 at a field in Lockerbie, Scotland. The December 1988 attack killed 270 people. AP/File

into the bombing of the flight, which killed 270 passengers, including 190 Americans.

However, officials examining what happened failed to

confirm his identity or locate him after the attack, Mr. Barr said. Mr. Mas'ud appeared to have had a role in the explosion, but his exact involvement re-

mained murky. But the department said that Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, Libya's leader at the time, personally thanked Mr. Mas'ud for carrying out the deadly operation and called it a total success.

After Colonel el-Qaddafi's government collapsed, Mr. Mas'ud confessed to the bombing in 2012 while being interviewed by a Libyan law enforcement official. Investigators eventually learned about his detention and confession, Mr. Barr said, calling the development a "breakthrough."

The attorney general, who steps down on Wednesday, said he was hopeful that the Libyans would extradite Mr. Mas'ud to the United States and called the prospects "very good."

"Mas'ud is in the custody of the current government of Libya,



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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

From Cormac the llama, tiny antibodies that show promise against coronavirus

FROM A llama named Cormac, researchers at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) have isolated a set of tiny antibodies, or “nanobodies”, that hold promise against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. At least one of these nanobodies could prevent infections and detect virus particles by grabbing hold of SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins, the researchers suggest in the journal *Scientific Reports*. This nanobody, called NIH-CoVnb-112, appeared to work equally well in either liquid or aerosol form, which suggests it could remain effective after inhalation.

A nanobody is a special type of antibody naturally produced by the immune systems of camels, llamas, and alpacas. They are called nanobodies because they are tiny, about a tenth the weight of most human antibodies.

Because nanobodies are more stable, less expensive to produce, and easier to engineer than typical antibodies, researchers have been using them for medical research. Since the pandemic broke, several researchers have produced llama nanobodies against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that may be effective at preventing infections. In the current study, the researchers used a slightly different strategy than others to find nanobodies that may work especially well, NIH said in a statement.

The spike protein acts like a key during coronavirus infection. It “unlocks” the door to infections when it binds to a human protein called ACE2 receptor on the cell surface. The NIH scientists developed a method that would isolate nanobodies that block



Cormac, the llama. Triple J Farms, Washington; photo provided by NIH

infections by covering part of the spike protein that bind to and unlock the ACE2 receptor.

To do this, the researchers immunised Cormac five times over 28 days with a purified version of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. After testing hundreds of nanobodies, they found that Cormac produced 13 nanobodies that might be strong candidates.

Initial experiments suggested that NIH-CoVnb-112 could work very well. Test tube studies showed that this nanobody bound to the ACE2 receptor 2 to 10 times stronger than nanobodies produced by other labs. Other experiments suggested that the NIH nanobody stuck directly to the ACE2 receptor binding portion of the spike protein, NIH said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

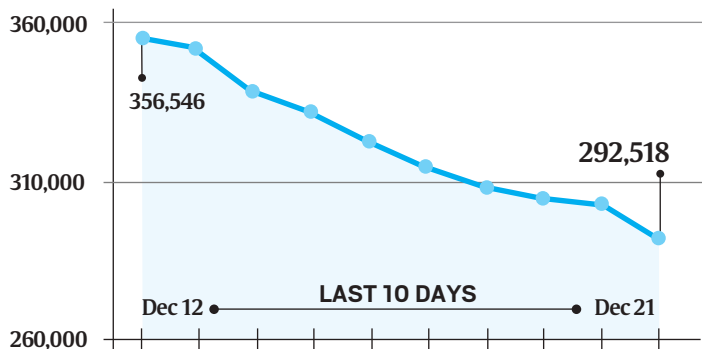


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

292,518



Note: The Dec 21 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Dec 22

INDIA TOTAL CASES
10,075,116

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Dec 22

WORLD TOTAL CASES
77,667,963

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Dec 22



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SIMPLY PUT

Nepal crisis: what's at stake

The Lower House of Parliament has been dissolved at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, who is fighting a losing battle in his party. A look at the questions it raises over the Constitution and left unity

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 22

ON SUNDAY, Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli recommended dissolution of the House of Representatives, the lower of Parliament, a move promptly approved by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

This effectively ended the unity forced among the left forces that had led to the creation of the single, grand Nepal Communist Party three years ago. It plunged national politics into turmoil and the five-year-old Constitution into uncertainty, and raised questions about the haste with which the President approved Oli's recommendation.

Oli took the step when he realised that a factional feud within the party had reached the point of no return and he faced possible expulsion both as party chief and as Prime Minister. Since then, a dozen petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the dissolution with two years left of the present House's tenure. Each faction has also approached the Election Commission claiming it is the real party.

Oli's battles

Oli is fighting a losing battle in the party. He has declared that the next election will be held on April 30 and May 10 next year with him leading a caretaker government, but his fate will be decided by agitating crowds and the Supreme Court. There's also a movement for restoration of Nepal as a Hindu kingdom.

His move has created bitterness between the breakaway communist group he leads and other parties. On Monday evening, Oli got his followers to padlock the party office, effectively bringing it under his control, but going by the numbers in the dissolved Parliament, the Central Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Central Committee, Oli is in a minority. But with Parliament dissolved and with a President seen as favourable to him, Oli will have the power to rule without being accountable to none.

The dissolution came hours before a Standing Committee meeting that was expected to order a probe into corruption charges levelled against him by party co-chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda.

The unification & its end

Prachanda led the Maoist insurgency for a decade (1996-2006) before joining mainstream politics. Oli was a fierce critic of the



Demonstrators in Kathmandu burn an effigy of Nepal Prime Minister Oli (above) following the dissolution of Parliament. Reuters

politics of violence that caused more than 17,000 deaths. But Oli approached the Maoists in 2017 for a merger between their parties, pre-empting the possibility of an alliance between the Maoists and the Nepali Congress that may have come in the way of Oli's prime ministerial ambitions.

Oli was leading the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist, and Prachanda represented the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist). Following the merger, the two leaders agreed that they would lead the government by turn, a promise that Oli did not honour at the end of his two-and-a-half years, thus sowing the seeds of separation. Now, as a split appears inevitable, Oli is hoping to continue in power with those following him.

Questions over Constitution

What has happened has left a question mark over the Constitution of 2015, and its key features like federalism, secularism and republic. There are already popular protests on the streets.

The split in a party with a two-thirds majority has raised concerns that it may lead to a systemic collapse. “We will go for a decisive nationwide movement to have this Constitution dumped,” said Balakrishna Neupane, convener of an ongoing citizens' movement.

Constitution & dissolution

Dissolution of the House is not new in

Nepal, but this is the first such instance after the new Constitution of 2015 that places safeguards against dissolution. “The new constitution does not envisage such a step without exploring formation of an alternative government,” said Dr Bhimarjun Acharya, a leading constitutional lawyer.

The 1991 Constitution, scrapped in 2006, had provisions for dissolution of Parliament at the Prime Minister's prerogative. During the time it was in force, Parliament was dissolved thrice. The first Parliament elected in 1991 was dissolved on the recommendation of Prime Minister G P Koirala after he failed to have a vote on thanks motion by the King passed in the House. The Supreme Court upheld that dissolution.

But in 1995, the Supreme Court rejected the dissolution by Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikary after a no-trust motion had been tabled but before the loss of majority was proved. The court held that the executive did not have the right to snatch an issue under consideration of the legislature.

The third time, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba dissolved Parliament in 2002 and the Supreme Court upheld it. King Gyanendra revived Parliament in April 2006.

Opposition stakes

The opposition Nepali Congress and the Madhes-based Janata Samajbadi Party have

reasons to hope than an early poll will earn them a bigger space in Parliament. But it fears that the likely street protest and violence, besides the onset of rain in late April and early May, could be used as an excuse to further defer the election.

“I doubt elections will be held on the prescribed dates,” said Shekhar Koirala, member of the Nepali Congress central committee. The Nepali Congress or the Janata Samajbadi Party have, however, not been very proactive in Parliament in countering the government.

The Army

The Nepal Army has made it clear that it will remain neutral in the ongoing political developments. This implies that if Oli tries to rule with the help of security forces to maintain law and order and contain protests, it is uncertain how far the Army will play along.

The China factor

China has been a big factor in Nepal's internal politics since 2006. It is seen as having lobbied, visible or secret, to prevent the split. China has also invested in crucial sectors like trade and investment, energy, tourism and post-earthquake reconstruction, and is Nepal's biggest FDI contributor. It has increased its presence in Nepal because of a perception that India played a crucial role in the 2006 political change.

How frauds make use of fake GST invoices

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

IN THE last one month, the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGSTI) across the country has arrested over 100 people and booked 3,479 entities in 1,161 cases for illegally availing or passing on input tax credit (ITC) by using fake GST invoices, and causing loss to the exchequer. Tax officials said the use of fake invoices to wrongfully avail ITC credit has been gradually increasing and has become a concern for the government, especially at a time when revenue collection is depressed.

How did fraudsters cheat the government?

In a number of cases booked by the tax authority, fraudsters have been found to have floated multiple dummy firms, obtained GST registrations, issued fake GST invoices of goods and services without actual supply of services, and passed on ineligible ITC accrued from the bogus invoices to clients for a commission, who subsequently used it to make GST pay-

ments, causing losses to the government. For instance, on December 9, the Vadodara tax unit arrested an individual for operating 206 dummy companies in 10 states that illegally passed on ITC of Rs 154 crore to clients by issuing fake invoices of Rs 1,101 crore.

In some other cases, the tax department has found that promoters of certain companies have routed fake invoices through a series of shell companies and transferred input tax credit from one company to another in circular transactions to increase the turnover of the company. This helped them not only evade GST but also avail higher bank loans and credit facilities due to increased turnover. A case in point is a trading company in Mumbai that has been booked for an ITC fraud of Rs 220 crore. The probe agency has found that the firm did circular transactions with 22 related companies to inflate its turnover.

What motivates fraudsters to use fake invoices?

Fake invoices are used because it not only helps evade GST on taxable output supplies by availing undue ITC and converting excess ITC into cash but also helps in inflating turnover

using these invoices, booking fake purchases to evade income tax, diversion of funds and money laundering. According to official data, in 2018-19, the central GST authorities registered 1,602 cases of fake ITC involving an amount of Rs 11,251 crore and arrested 154 people. Between April and November 2019, the authorities booked over 6,000 such cases.

What is the reason for a surge in such cases?

According to tax officials one of the primary reasons for an increase in companies availing ITC fraudulently is the lack of due diligence during the GST registration. The process of registration was made easy and hassle free by the government so that businesses could be easily on-boarded to the system. However, this meant that a number of dummy companies too obtained the GST registration in the absence of scrutiny or physical verification of the registered address of the companies. Apart from this, officials said, lack of data exchange among the enforcement agencies and banks have also led to increase in fraud cases. “The existing GST system needs to be more robust to detect

such frauds,” said an officer.

Will the tax department be able to recover the money from the fraudsters?

Tax officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity said in these cases recovery of money is unlikely as the money has already been siphoned and the companies involved in the fraud are only on paper with very little or no assets.

How is the government planning to curb such cases?

The government is planning to tighten the GST registration process and legal measures to deal with the rising cases of fake invoicing. Last month the legal committee of the GST Council met to discuss the tightening of the GST registration process and work out other legal measures including necessary law amendments required in the GST Act. Apart from this, the Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management, the data wing of GST, has identified and issued a list of 9,757 companies that have either issued or availed fake ITC across the country between July 2017 and March 2020.

Jupiter and Saturn will meet again — but current spectacle is still on

MEHRGILL

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FOR THE last several days, sky watchers have been captivated by the Great Conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn. The closest pass between the planet took place on Monday, December 21, but the spectacle itself began days earlier — and will last until at least Christmas Day.

What's a great conjunction?

A pairing between any pair of planets is a conjunction. Jupiter and Saturn are the two largest planets visible to the naked eye, hence the expression ‘Great Conjunction’. These two align roughly every 20 years, which is relatively rare compared to the alignments of planets closer to the Sun (and which consequently have shorter orbits).

Jupiter orbits the Sun once in 12 years, and Saturn once in 30. High school arithmetic tells us that in 60 more years (the LCM

of 12 and 30), i.e. in 2080, the two planets will align at roughly the same place where stargazers watched them on December 21, 2020. In these 60 years, Jupiter will have orbited the Sun five times, while Saturn will have done so twice.

But they will have met twice more during this period, though at different places in the sky. In 12 years more, Jupiter will return to its current place; in the next 8 years, it will complete 2/3rds of another 12-year cycle around the Sun. In the same 20 years, Saturn will have completed 2/3rds of its 30-year cycle. In other words, the two planets will meet again in 2040. And yet again in 2060.

So, why is this conjunction special?

It's the alignment. We measure the position of a planet in terms of the angle it makes on the Earth's orbital plane, with a given reference direction. When we say two planets have aligned in a conjunction, it suggests they are casting the same angle with that reference direction.



The Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, viewed from New Delhi

In fact, this is almost never the case. Planets in a conjunction are typically above or below each other, because their orbits are slightly tilted with respect to each other.

This time, Jupiter and Saturn are a tenth of a degree apart viewed from Earth. From some views, that might give them the appearance of converging into one, but view-

ers around the world have found them distinct enough to tell them apart.

Also, the position of Earth matters. Not every alignment provides a clear viewing.

And how rare is this conjunction?

The last Great Conjunction happened in 1623. For context, Galileo had discovered

four of Jupiter's moons with his telescope a few years previously — but scientists today believe Galileo would not have found it easy to see the conjunction, because the planets were aligned too close to the Sun from Earth's perspective. From an Indian context, Jahangir was ruling the Mughal empire at the time, and the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji was yet to be born.

The last time the two planets were close enough to be viewed in the night sky was in 1226. This was just a year before the death of the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan.

How long will the spectacle continue?

Jupiter has been catching up with Saturn since the beginning of December as the two planets move along their orbital paths around the Sun. The date the world celebrated, the night of December 21, was when Jupiter “overtook” Saturn (from Earth's perspective). But even after December 21, the planets will still appear very close together for the next few days. Between December

16 and 25, the distance between the two planets in the sky will appear to a viewer from Earth to be less than the diameter of a full moon.

This does not mean, of course, they are really that close — they are currently over 700 million kilometres apart. Yet their separation during the current conjunction is smaller than they usually ever get during most other conjunctions.

What if some watchers miss it?

For the very young, there is still an opportunity. The next two conjunctions are in 2040 and 2060, although they will not be as easy to view or as prominent as this one. It's the big one after that to look out for — on March 15, 2080. That will have almost exactly the same separation as this one does, and will be much easier to see, according to Rice University. That's 60 years from today, something for younger sky watchers to be optimistic about.

Inputs from ENS in New Delhi

14 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹49,653



RUPEE

₹73.84



OIL

\$50.29



SILVER

₹67,177

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 0030 IST

SENSEX: 46,006.69 ▲ 452.73 NIFTY: 13,466.30 ▲ 137.90 NIKKEI: 26,436.39 ▼ 278.03 HANG SENG: 26,119.25 ▼ 187.43 FTSE: 6,428.76 ▲ 12.44 DAX: 13,379.07 ▲ 132.77

International market data till 0000 IST

IT, PHARMA LEAD GAINS; RUPEE FALLS 5 PAISE TO 73.84

Markets recoup losses partially as FPIs return; Sensex back above 46K

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

AFTER MONDAY'S sell-off, domestic markets on Tuesday made a partial recovery on the back of firm global advices. Led by IT and pharma stocks, the Sensex, which fell 1,407 points on Monday, gained 453 points, or 0.99 per cent, to close above the 46,000 level at 46,006.69 and the NSE Nifty50 soared 138 points, or 1.03 per cent, to 13,466.30 on buying support.

The rally was led by IT and pharma stocks, with other sectors also supporting the firm trend. "Volatility is expected to stay high in the near-term due to strict lockdown impacting economic recovery. However, the market is expected to remain bullish in the medium to long term, backed by progress in economic activity in 2021," said Vinod Nair, head of re-

search, Geojit Financial services.

With FPIs resuming purchases, markets opened with an uptick amid encouraging global cues and hovered in a range in the first half. However, healthy buying in the IT and pharma majors combined with some recovery in the other sectors helped the benchmark to pare intraday losses and settle around the day's high as well. Consequently, the Nifty ended around 13,466 levels, up by 1 per cent. The broader markets, too, witnessed recovery and both the midcap and smallcap index posted decent gains.

Analysts said markets took an unexpected positive momentum in the afternoon, during a see-saw trading day, following the positive opening of the European markets, which recovered from Monday's sell-off. "We expect volatility to remain high in the following sessions too. Traders should proactively manage their positions and



Sensex at 46,006 points. File

avoid unnecessary overnight risk," said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking.

The rupee furthered its losses by another 5 paise to close at 73.84 against the US dollar on Tuesday in line with weaker Asian peers amid concerns over a new coronavirus strain. At the interbank forex market, the domestic currency opened at 73.95 against the

US dollar and witnessed an intraday high of 73.82 and a low of 73.95, as per a PTI report. The local unit finally closed at 73.84 against the American currency, registering a fall of 5 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee plunged 23 paise to end at a two-week low of 73.79 against the US dollar.

Asian shares (except India and Thailand) retreated on Tuesday, extending losses on growing worries over a new, potentially more infectious strain of the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, European stocks steadied on Tuesday, after heavy losses a day earlier sparked by fears over a highly infectious new strain of Covid, as Washington approved an \$892 billion pandemic relief package. The broad Euro STOXX 600 gained 1.2 per cent, on course for its biggest one-day jump in over five weeks. German

and French indices both added 1.3 per cent, as per a Reuters report.

In the US, the benchmark S&P 500 stock index dipped in choppy trade, despite the US Congress's passage of an \$892 billion coronavirus aid package.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 96.58 points, or 0.32 per cent, to 30,119.87, the S&P 500 lost 2.43 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 3,692.49 and the Nasdaq Composite added 39.71 points, or 0.31 per cent, to 12,782.22. US Treasury yields also fell as investors weighed the likelihood of increased lockdowns in response to the new Covid-19 variant.

Oil dropped towards \$50 a barrel on Tuesday, adding to losses from the previous session. Brent crude was down 62 cents, or 1.22 per cent, at \$50.29 a barrel by 0150 pm GMT, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 78 cents, or 1.63 per cent, to \$47.19.

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FOLLOWING SEVERAL months of wrangling, the US Congress cleared a \$900-billion coronavirus aid package Monday night, with both the House of Representatives and the Senate clearing the aid bill. Outgoing President Donald Trump is now expected to sign it into law.

What does this bill entail?

The cleared aid package entails direct jobless benefits for Americans below a threshold income level, alongside support for businesses and unemployment programmes. A number of Covid-19 relief programmes were set to expire at the end of the month and about 12 million Americans were at risk of losing access to benefits, if the legislation had not gone through. At over 5,500 pages, the legislation was described by the Associated Press as "the longest bill in memory and probably ever".

The deal, which has been hanging fire for months, was announced on Sunday by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

What are the key benefits in the package?

The stimulus includes \$600 payments to most Americans, and will supplement unemployment payments by \$300 per week. It also contains more than \$300 billion in support for companies, alongside funds for vaccine distribution and rental aid.

The payment is half the amount that the US Congress approved for direct payments during the first round of pandemic relief earlier this year.

Why is this important for the US, and even markets such as India?

Delays in clearing the package

had led to concerns over whether the US government would shut down without a spending bill. Washington has been operating on temporary funding since October, the commencement of the US federal government's financial year. This is important as the \$2.4 trillion economic relief package has been credited with cushioning the US economy from the impact of the pandemic.

The impact of the legislative action could resonate beyond the US, in terms of assuaging market sentiments across geographies, especially coming a day after markets tanked following reports of the new coronavirus strain in Britain and South Africa.

The Sensex, which fell 1,407 points on Monday, gained 453 points, or 0.99 per cent, to close at 46,006.69 and the NSE Nifty Index soared 138 points, or 1.03 per cent, to 13,466.30 on buying support.

BRIEFLY

Bids invited for Shipping Corp

New Delhi: The government Tuesday invited expressions of interest for strategic disinvestment of its 63.75 per cent stake in Shipping Corp of India along with the transfer of management control.

IBC suspension notification

New Delhi: The government has again extended the suspension of fresh proceedings under the insolvency law by three more months till March 24 next year amid the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. A notification for a three-month extension of the suspension, which was to end on December 24, was issued by the corporate affairs ministry on Tuesday. The three-month period would be from December 25.

BHEL to back local suppliers

New Delhi: Engineering PSU BHEL said Tuesday it is interested in indigenisation of over 300 items across nine categories, with a focus on contributing to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission. **PTI**

US, UK revise GDP figures

Washington/London: The United States Department of Commerce, in its third estimate, revised the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the July-September quarter to 33.4 per cent annualised rate, from 33.1 per cent reported last month. Similarly, the United Kingdom revised its GDP growth figure for the third quarter to 16 per cent, from 15.5 per cent earlier. **REUTERS**

2 startups raise funds from Google

New Delhi: VerSe Innovation, which runs Dailyhunt and short video app Josh, on Tuesday said it has completed an over \$100 million (about Rs 739 crore) fund raising round from AlphaWave, Google and Microsoft. Existing investors, Sofina Group and Lupa Systems also participated in this round, a statement said. With this new infusion of capital, the company is now valued at over \$1 billion, it added. Meanwhile, lock screen platform Glance said Tuesday it has raised \$145 million in funding from Google and existing investor Mithril Capital. An of InMobi Group, Glance — which also owns short video app Poposo — said it will use the funds to expand in key markets. **FE & PTI**

'Securitisation volumes likely to bounce back in FY22'

After contracting sharply so far this fiscal year, domestic securitisation volumes of retail pools originated by NBFCs and HFCs are likely to bounce back firmly in FY22, Icra said



Why is it important: Appetite for securitisation of unsecured loans still remains relatively weak and would only improve if collection efficiency for such asset classes continues to increase sustainably

STATUS OF
PASS-THROUGH
CERTIFICATES (PTCS)
IN FY21 SO FAR10
downgrades31
upgradesFACTORS THAT WOULD
DRIVE RISE IN VOLUMES
FOR THE REMAINDER OF
FY21 AND FY22:

- Growing investor confidence in asset quality due to improving collections
- Higher funding requirement of originators on account of increasing disbursements
- Improving business activities post the end of lockdown and moratorium period

Lockdown, moratorium impact: Securitisation volumes contracted sharply in Q1FY21, following the nationwide lockdown and the moratorium provided to borrowers

Source: Icra
Ratings/PTI

Crude production slips 4.9% amid low demand, shutdowns

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE NATION'S crude oil production fell 4.9 per cent in November to 2,486 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) from 2,680 TMT a year ago, while natural gas production fell 9.1 per cent from last November.

Lower demand due to Covid-19 and plant shutdowns planned to coincide with lower demand were key reasons for lower output, a government release said.

Meanwhile, crude oil processing in the month fell 5.1 per cent to 20.8 million tonnes as against 21.9 million tonnes in the year ago period, but rose 13 per cent from the 18.9 million tonnes processed in October, according to government data released on Tuesday.

Cumulative crude oil production in April-November was 20,427 TMT, down 6 per cent from 21,725 TMT in the same period last year. This is also 5.3 per cent lower than the target of

21,566 TMT set for this period, according to the official release.

Significantly lower production from Caim India's Rajasthan fields — where output fell 9.6 per cent to 477 TMT compared to 527.5 TMT in the corresponding period last year — comprised a key portion of the shortfall in crude oil output.

ONGC's crude oil output fell 1.5 per cent in November due to lower than expected production levels at newer fields, the operations of which were impacted due to Covid implications, the government release said.

Output by Oil India (OIL) was down 6.53 per cent in November over last year due to lower than expected production from older wells and the impact of protests and blockades at OIL units after the Baghjan well blowout in May.

Natural gas output in the country fell largely due to closure of ONGC gas wells in the western offshore due to a plant shutdown in Hazira as well as lower than expected production from wells in the Eastern offshore region.

Wipro inks \$700-mn IT takeover deal with Metro AG

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 22

WIPRO SAID on Tuesday it will take over the information technology units of Metro AG — Metro-NOM GMBH in Germany and Metro Systems Romania SRL — under which over 1,300 employees across Germany, Romania and India will transfer to Wipro.

Metro is a leading international wholesale company, with food and non-food assortments,

specialising in serving needs of hotels, restaurants and caterers as well as independent traders.

The estimated deal value for the duration of the first five years is \$700 million. With the intention to extend up to four additional years, it can be a potential spend of up to \$1 billion, Wipro said.

The IT major will deliver a complete technology, engineering and solutions transformation programme for Metro as it positions itself as a wholesale 360-degree provider in the hotel, restaurant

and catering food industry fuelled by quality, focus and flexibility.

"Partnering with Wipro allows us to simplify and streamline our IT landscape, and critically gives us access to innovation and the best digital practices," Timo Salzsieder, CIO, Metro AG said.

Thierry Delaporte, CEO and managing director, Wipro said, "Like us, Metro AG is focused on leveraging digital transformation for competitive advantage. Wipro's role is to make that transformation efficient and effective." **FE**

Govt, World Bank in \$500 million pact to develop highway corridors

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE GOVERNMENT and the World Bank Tuesday signed a \$500 million project to build national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an arm of

the World Bank, has a maturity of 18.5 years including a five-year grace period.

The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in mainstreaming safety and green technologies, the finance ministry said in a statement. The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support MoRTH construct 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bioengineering solutions, it said.

"Connectivity for economic growth and connectivity for sustainable development are two important aspects of a country's development trajectory. This operation brings these two priorities together in support of India's growth strategy," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank country director in India.

ELECTRICITY (RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS) RULES, 2020

Norms bring in compensation mechanism

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday notified the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. These rules serve to "empower" consumers with rights that would allow them to access continuous supply of quality, reliable electricity. This is because the provisions make distribution companies more accountable to consumers.

The rules cover 11 key areas of power supply to consumers in the country, including obligations of distribution licensees, metering arrangements, release of new con-



The rules cover 11 key areas of power supply to consumers.

nections and modifications of existing connections and grievance redressal and compensation mechanisms. However, there are certain exceptions to these rules,

especially where use for agricultural purposes is concerned.

Effect on consumers

Now, as per law, states will have to implement these rules and discoms will be held more accountable for issues like delays in providing and renewing connections of electricity. They are also obligated to provide round-the-clock electricity to consumers, as per the Ministry of Power.

To ensure compliance, the government will apply penalties that will be credited to the consumer's account. The following areas are covered under the rules:

■ Rights of consumers and Obli-

gations of Distribution licensees;

- release of new connection and modification in existing connection;
- metering arrangement;
- billing and payment;
- disconnection and reconnection;
- reliability of supply;
- consumer as 'prosumer';
- standards of performance of licensee;
- compensation mechanism;
- call centre for consumer services;
- grievance redressal mechanism.

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

New Delhi



www.ukpsc.gov.in पर प्रसारित कर दिये गये हैं।' (कर्मन्ड सिंग) सचिव"/>

**RESTORATION OF UDHAMPUR-KOTA-
UDHAMPUR SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the service of train no. 09805 Kota - Udhampur Special will be restored w.e.f. 23.12.2020 & its return service, the 09806 Udhampur-Kota Special will be restored w.e.f. 24.12.2020.

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

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

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

2847/20 Please join us on   **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FORM NO.15

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT PATNA

A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchhari
Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna - 800025

O.A.No: 41 of 2020

State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, (SARB),
PatnaApplicant

Versus

Sushila SahDefendant(s)

**SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULES 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS
RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULS, 1993.**

To,

Sushila Sah, W/o Vikram Singh, Permanent resident at- H/15, Doctors Colony, Opposite SBI Doctors Colony, Birla Per School, Kankarbagh, Patna-20, At Present- Flat No- 305, Sindhu Indira Niley, Nageshwar Colony, Patna-1, Recorded Address in Bank's Account- Flat No- 104, 1st floor, Nutan's Vidya Complex, Industrial Estate Road, Kurji, Patna- 800010, (PAN No.- EGNPS3262P)

Where the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendant(s) for the Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 36,64,682.97 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh, Sixty Four Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty Two and Ninety Seven Paisa)** as on 17.12.2019.

The above mentioned defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in persons or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **30.01.2021 at 10.30 AM (Forenoon)** as to why reliefs Prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the Proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

**Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 17th Day of
Dec., 2020. Registrar**

Debts Recovery Tribunal

JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement) (PR No.-233325)

Notice Inviting Tender :- 14/2020 Date:

The undersigned, on behalf of the Governor of Jharkhand, invites percentage rate bids for the work mentioned in the table below through e-Procurement from eligible and approved Contractors, registered in appropriate class with Rural Development Department (R.W.A.), Government of Jharkhand. The bid shall be submitted online in the website <http://pmsytendersjhr.gov.in>. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

3rd call

Sl. No	Name of PIUs	Package No.	Name of Work (Repair & Maintenance)	Estimated Cost (in Lakh)	Cost of Tender paper (Rs.)	Time of completion (in Month)
1	RDD (RWA) Works Division Koderma	JH-M-1302 (19-20)	1. Irgobad to Yogiatiha (L-3.400 Km) 2. Chandwara to Pahriddhi (L-15.150 Km)	240.32	10000.00	6

2. Availability of bidding documents for online bidding from **23-12-2020 to 08-01-2021 upto 5.00 p.m.**
3. Last date of online submission **08-01-2021 upto 5.00 p.m.**
4. Date of submission of hard copies of earnest money, affidavit regarding bid correctness and cost of document – upto **3:00 p.m on 11-01-2021.**
5. Date of technical bid opening – **11-01-2021 at 5:00 p.m**
6. Date of financial bid opening- to be informed later.
7. Name of tender inviting officer- Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, 3rd floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi
8. For more detail log in to website pmsytendersjhr.gov.in or contact 0651-2401947
9. The cost of work mentioned above is indicative only and it may change. Bidders are advised to submit earnest money as mentioned in the bidding document.

**Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi**

PR 238061 (Rural Work Department)20-21stD

झारखण्ड सरकार
आवासन कल्याण आयुक्त कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, धुर्वा, राँची।

प्रवेशिकोर पठयक्रममें न अध्ययनरत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र/छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृत्ति योजना वर्ष 2020-21 हेतु आवेदन से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र/छात्राओं को सरकार द्वारा जारी निर्देश के आधार पर निर्धारित मापदण्ड के अनुसार वित्तीय वर्ष-2020-21 में प्रवेशिकोर पठयक्रममें न अध्ययनरत छात्र/छात्राओं से आवेदन पर आम्नात्रित किये जाते हैं।

1. छात्रवृत्ति के लिए आय की अधिसूची :-
अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति के छात्र/छात्राएँ जिनके माता-पिता/अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से वार्षिक आय 2.50 लाख रुपये से अधिक नहीं हो, तथा पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र/छात्राएँ जिनके माता-पिता/अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से वार्षिक आय 1.50 लाख रुपये से अधिक नहीं हो, इस योजना के अन्तर्गत छात्रवृत्ति प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी अन्य कोई छात्रवृत्ति का लाभ प्राप्त नहीं कर सकतेगे।
2. आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया :-
अर्हता प्राप्त छात्रों को वेबसाइट <https://ekalayan.cgg.gov.in> में दिये गये सभी दिशा निर्देशों एवं प्रक्रियाओं को पालन करते हुए ऑनलाईन आवेदन करना है। ऑनलाईन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने के पश्चात् उसकी हार्डकॉपी (Printout) में विधिवत हस्ताक्षर एवं सभी निम्नांकित वांछित प्रमाण-पत्रों की **Scanned Copy (jpeg/jpg में 150kb तक)** वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करेंगे:-
(i) ऑनलाईन आवेदन के पश्चात् प्रिन्ट आउट पर छात्र एवं अभिभावक के हस्ताक्षर सहित
(ii) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आय प्रमाण-पत्र (Income Certificate) (अंचलिकाधिकारी अथवा उपमुख्य स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रत। (दिनांक-01.04.2020 से निर्गत आय प्रमाण-पत्र मान्य होगा।)
(iii) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत जाति प्रमाण-पत्र (Caste Certificate) (अंचलिकाधिकारी/प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी/अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपमुख्य स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रत।
(iv) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आवासनी प्रमाण-पत्र (Residential Certificate) (अंचलिकाधिकारी/प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी/अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपमुख्य स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रत।
(v) संस्थान के लेंटर हेड में संस्थान द्वारा वर्तमान वर्ष के लिए निर्गत **Bonafide Certificate (with Fee Structure)** निर्गत संस्था एवं दिनांक के साथ) की मूल प्रत। (एक पृष्ठ में)
(vi) पूर्व की परीक्षा के अंकपत्र (Mark Sheet of previous exam) की अभिप्रमाणित प्रत।
(vii) छात्र के नाम पर बैंक खाता पासबुक की प्रत, जिसमें Account No. एवं IFS Code उल्लेखित हो, की छायाप्रति (बैंक खाता को आधार संख्या से सहीबू होना अनिवार्य है।) छात्रवृत्ति की धनशायि PFMS के माध्यम से Aadhar Enabled DBT के द्वारा सुयोग्य छात्र-छात्राओं के खाते में अन्तरित की जाएगी।

6. हेल्प लाइन:-
सिक्त आवेदन पत्र भरने की प्रक्रिया में यदि कोई कठिनाई हो तो ई-कल्याण के सम्पर्क संख्या - 040-23120591 / 23120592 / 23120593 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं, एवं e-mail id - helpdeskckalyan@gmail.com पर e-mail कर सकते हैं अथवा <https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in> वेबसाइट के Complaint link पर ऑनलाईन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं।

7. नोट :-

- पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति योजना से संबंधित अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग से निर्गत दिशा-निर्देश एवं अन्य अनुसूती सूचना वेबसाइट <https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने के पूर्व कृपया उक्त वेबसाइट पर ररिद गए निर्देश को अवश्य देख लिया जाय।
- उपबन्धित बजट राशि की सीमा के अन्तर्गत प्रवेशीकोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति स्वीकृति हो सकेगी।
- निश्चित समय सीमा की समाप्ति के पश्चात किसी प्रकार का आवेदन पत्र पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- छात्र / छात्रा को अपना बैंक खाता संख्या एवं आधार संख्या देना अनिवार्य होगा।
- एक से अधिक आवेदन पत्र भरने पर छात्र / छात्रा का आवेदन पत्र रद्द कर दिया जायेगा।
- ऑनलाईन आवेदन में त्रुटि / अशुद्धि / गलत अथवा भ्रामक सूचना देने पर आवेदन रद्द कर दिया जायेगा।

**आदिवासी कल्याण
आयुक्त।**

**PR 238066 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority
and Backward Class Welfare Department(20-21)**

The image shows the Tata Steel Limited logo, which consists of a stylized 'T' inside a circle, with the word 'TATA' in bold capital letters below it. Below the logo, the text 'TATA STEEL LIMITED' is written in bold capital letters. Underneath that, the registered office address is listed: 'Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001, India'. The contact details include a telephone number '+91 22 6665 8282', an email address 'cosec@tatasteel.com', and a website 'www.tatasteel.com'. The CIN number 'L27100MH1907PLC000260' is also provided.

#The shares held against this folio number have been transferred to demat account of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority ('IEPFA') pursuant to IEPFA Rules, 2016. In terms of the Circular and IEPFA Rules, the said transfer request would be processed and completed.

Any person who has any objection in respect of the proposed transfer of equity shares referred to above, shall intimate in writing to the Company Secretary at the Registered Office of Company and/or to the Registrar & Transfer Agent, TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice and if no objection is received by the Company within the stipulated period then the Company shall proceed with the transfer of the said equity shares/issue of Letter of Entitlement in favour of the above-mentioned transferee(s), without any further intimation. The information is also being made available on the website of the Company at www.tatasteel.com.

For Tata Steel Limited
Sd/-
Parvathesam Kanchinadham
Company Secretary &
Chief Legal Officer (Corporate & Compliance)

TATA STEEL

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, SANTOSH DEVI W/O RAJINDER SINGH R/O HOUSE NO- 194, SECTOR-B4, POCKET-6, PUNJABI COLONY, NARELA, DELHI-110040 have changed my name to **SANTOSH KUMARI**

0070724765-1

I, Ram Dulari D/O Uday Chandra Choudhary R/o Plot no-151, Surya Lok-1, Near Flora Farm, Chhapraula, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201009 Have changed my name to **Meenu Choudhary**

0070724781-1

I, Rachii Kaushik, W/o Suraj Kaushik, R/o- H.No-L-2/86, Shastri-Nagar, Ashok-Vihar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name, from **Rachee Sharma** to **Rachii Kaushik** for all purposes.

0040558415-1

I, Pawan Rekha Arora, w/o Shyam Arora, R/O Flat.No. 855, Gh-14, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to **Pawan Rekha**, permanently.

0040558422-5

I, Nanki Chawla W/O Sunil Ahuja R/o 5/3, Gupta Colony, G.T Road, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Komal Ahuja**.

0070724792-1

I, Murti Rana (Existing Name of spouse as per change of next-of-kin POR/Service Documents/ Pension Certificate) spouse of **Late R.D. Rana** (Name of Husband) resident of **Flat.No.G-602, Amrit CGHS Ltd. Rashmi, Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi-110034**, (Address), have changed my name from **Murti Devi** (Existing Name of spouse as per change of next-of-kin POR/Service Documents/ Pension Certificate) to **Murti Rana** (Proposed/Adopted/ Corrected New Name) as per affidavit dated 21.12.2020.

0040558415-2

I, Anjali Shaw D/O Rajesh Shaw, R/o S-15, DB/DOV TERRACE, Balliyunge S/O, Balliyunge, Kolkata, West Bengal-700019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Nisha Shaw**.

0070724805-1

I, BALVEER SINGH, S/O CHANDER SINGH, ADDRESS-5-A/35-VISHNU-GARDEN DELHI-110018, changed my name to **BALBIR SINGH**.

0040558404-3

I, Bhopinder Kaur Manchanda W/O-Ravinder Singh Manchanda, R/o S-183, Greater Kailash-2, New-Delhi-110048, have changed my name to **Bhupinder Kaur Manchanda**, Permanently.

0040558404-5

I, DINESH VASUDEVA R/O-42 ISHWAR COLONY DELHI-110009, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME **RIDHI VASUDEVA TO RIDDHII VASUDEVA**.

0040558404-2

I, Daljeet Kaur Nagpal, w/o-Pardeep Singh R/o.H.No. 18,2nd Floor, NRI-Complex, Greater-Kailash Part-IV, NewDelhi-110048, have changed my name to **Pardeep Singh**, permanently.

0040558422-2

I, Dayabati, D/o Ram Phal, W/o Mr. Harveer Singh, R/o H.No.1580/30, Block-G, Ekta Wali Gali, Rajendra-Park, Gurugram(Haryana), have changed my name to Dayawati.

0040558410-5

I, Debjani Maitra, D/o Benu Krishna Majumdar, R/o 169, Narmada-Apartment, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to **Debjani Majumdar**, for all purposes.

0040558432-4

I, Govind Chaudhary S/o Bhairav Choudhary R/O Plot no-151, Surya lok-1, Near Flora Farm, Chhapraula, Gautam Buddha Nagar, 201009 have Changed My Name To **Gobind Choudhary**.

0070724780-1

I, Harbir Singh@Harvir Singh, S/o Sh.Paras Ram, H.No. 1580/30, G-Block, Rajendra Park, Gurugram (Haryana), have changed my name to Harveer Singh.

0040558404-4

I, Isha Bharti D/O Rajender Kumar, R/o 74,TARUN ENCLAVE, PITAM PURA, North West Delhi-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Ishita Anand**.

0070724782-1

I, Jasvir Kaur w/o Mehar Singh R/O-B-41, Duggal-Colony, Devli Road, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to **Jasbir Kaur** permanently.

0040558422-3

I, Jeetendra Tebak S/O Vishwanath Tebak R/O C5A/11 Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, Have Changed my Name to **Jeetender Tebak**.

0040558425-1

I, KM Abhilash Pandey W/O Raghwendra Kumar Mishra. R/o D-3/7, Radio Colony, Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Abhilasha Mishra**.

0070724786-1

I, Yakkabahadur Rupsingh R/O S/O Rupsingh Roka, R/o 684/1-20 Cansa Board, Bardez Tivim, North Goa-403502, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Raj Roka**.

0070724802-1

I, ABIN THAMPI S/O DINAKARAN THAMPI, R/O DULCET, OLIVE COURTYARD, KAKANAD , KERALA- 682030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **ABHIN RUDHR THAMPI**.

0070724783-1

My actual/correct name is Kastoori Ben, W/o Tirath Ram, R/o-445, Pkt-3, Paschim-puri-New-Delhi-63, instead of **Kasturi** as wrongly mentioned in my daughter **Preeti, Harshita, son Yuvraj** school record & **D.O.B.** certificate.

0040558415-3

It is for general information that i, **Nishant Dhillon S/O SUNIL KUMAR, R/o 2230, RAJA PARK, SHAKUR BASTI, SARASWATI VIHAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110034**, declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as **SUNIL KUMAR DHILLON** in my 10th Certificate No- 0605957. The actual name of My Father is **SUNIL KUMAR**, which may be amended accordingly.

0040558410-9

I, Vijay Laxmi W/o 6471143, H.Naik Late Kanti Prasad Basavanand Sharma, R/o, Wz -139 A, First-Floor, Gali.no. 12, New Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to **Vijay Laxmi Sharma** for all purposes.

0040558422-10

I, Vandana Rai Chanchal W/o Sachin Rai Chanchal R/o B-1/711, 6th Floor, Tower-B1, SCC Heights, Near KDP Chowk, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, UP-201017, have changed my name to **Vandana Ghai**. In future my name will be **Vandana Ghai**.

0040558425-4

I, Tapan Samanta s/o -Nitai Chandra Samanta, R/o 9A/49, W.E.A, KarolBagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to **Tapan Kumar Samanta**, permanently.

0040558404-6

I, T.Someshwar Rao alias Talabattula Someswar Rao S/O Late P.Punna Rao, R/o H.No-B-28-A, Ramdutt Enclave, Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Sudhakar Talabattula**.

0070724799-1

I, Shabnam Khatoon W/o Shakeel Ahmad R/O C-2/78, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi-110003 have changed my name to **Shabnam**.

0040558404-1

I, SANDE ARTHI RAJALAKSHMI D/O M-RICKEY RADHAN PANDIT VETTRIVEL, R/o B-272, Block-B, Greater Kailash, South Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **ARTHI RAJALAKSHMI**.

0070724807-1

I, Purnima, W/O Sh.Pankaj Dass, H.No-507, Tower.No.B-9, Supertech, Ok Village-2, Greater Noida, U.P.-201009, have changed my name to **Pankaj Dass**.

0040558410-7

I, Pardeep Singh Nagpal, S/o Harbajhan Singh, H.No.18, 2nd-Floor, NRI-Complex, Greater-Kailash Part-IV, NewDelhi-110048, have changed my name to **Pardeep Singh**, permanently.

0040558422-1

I, LOVKESH BATRA, S/O KASHMIRI LAL BATRA R/O H.NO.1363, NOORWALA, PANIPAT-132103, HARYANA, HAVE CORRECTED MY NAME FROM LOVKESH TO LOVKESH BATRA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040558392-1

I, Kiran Sharma W/o Rakesh Sharma R/o E-10, first floor, inderprastha Apartment Sant Nagar burari delhi-110084 have changed my name to **Kiran Bala**

0070724762-1

I, Pankaj, S/o Pramod Kumar R/O-H-132, JJCOLONY, Tigri, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to **Pankaj Kumar** permanently.

0040558422-7

I, Suresh Kuma Agarwal S/O Sita Ram, R/o House no.-534, Sector 15-A, Faridabad, Haryana-121007, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Suresh kumar Thard**.

0070724797-1

I, TANYA ABHAY GUPTA D/O ABHAY GUPTA R/O C-7/316A, LAWRENCE ROAD, KESHAV PURAM, DELHI-110035. CHANGED MY NAME TO **TANYAA ABHAYE GUPTA**.

0040558410-1

I, Tishu Walia D/O Surinder Pal, R/o H.No-73, Mehar Enclave, Near Pudda Colony, Kapurthala, Punjab-144601, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Tanisha Walia**.

0070724801-1

I, Malkiat Singh S/o Sh. Balkar Singh Dhillon employed as **Head Constable/Exe.** in **Delhi Police (East Distt.)** and attached with **Police Family Welfare Society, 5 Rajpur Road, Delhi-110054** and **Resident of H.No.679, Gali no-17, West Guru Anand Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092**, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Malkiat Singh Dhillon**.

0070724790-1

I, Sehans Pal S/O Late Sh. Pawan Singh Resident of H.No.58, Vill-Mehar Majra, Teh. Chhachhrauli, Distt. Yamuna Nagar-135101, Haryana, India has changed my name from **Sehans Pal** to **Sehans Pal Singh** for all purposes in future.

0040558412-1

I, SWATI.D/O NAVEEN KUMAR GOVAL, ADDRESS- 83/B3, JJ COLONY RAGHUBIR NAGAR RAJOURI-GARDEN NEW DELHI-110027. Changed my name to **SWATI GOYAL**, permanently.

0040558410-2

I, Kum.Vaishali, D/o Subhash Chand Vinayak, W/o Mr.Sagar Khatri, H.No.405, 2nd-Floor, LIG, Sector-22, Near-Mini Sweets, Faridabad (Haryana), 121005, as the changed my name to **Komal Khatri**.

0040558410-6

I, Kulvinder Kaur D/O Piaru Singh W/O Jatinder Singh R/o Hayatpur, Kotli Khas, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144306, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Simranjit Kaur**.

0070724789-1

I, Kapil Kumar Sharma S/o KN Sharma R/O House No.1770, Sector-37, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to **Kapil Sharma** for all future Purposes.

0040558370-1

I, Jasvinder Singh S/O-Tarlok Singh R/O-N-135, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to **Jasvinder Singh Sandhu**.

0040558410-9

I, J.S. Dhillon S/O Mati Ram Singh (M.R.Singh) R/o-184-H, Pocket-4, Mayur-Vihar-1, Delhi-91, have changed my name to **Jujhar Singh Dhallun**.

0040558425-3

I, Hunny w/o-Ayush Chadha, R/O C3A, 118A, Janakpuri, NewDelhi-110058, DOB-15.07.1988 born-Rewari, Haryana-123401, have change my name **Anurika Arora**, for all, future purposes.

0040558432-3

I, GOPAL KRISHNA, S/O RAI RAMNANDAN SHARMA, R/O-B-102-A, LANE, NO-6, PARYAVARAN-COMPLEX, SAIDUL-AZABI, NEW DELHI-30, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEO SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040558432-5

I, Dileep Kumar S/O-Mani Ram R/O-Village-Shahbad Mohammadpur, Delhi 110061, Have Changed My Name To **Dilip Kumar**.

0040558410-10

I, Anil Kumar s/o Sh Late.Mahender Singh R/o house.No 111, MCD-School wali gali village-samalkha, new delhi-37, declare that my actual name is **Anil Gaur**, for all, future purposes

0040558415-5

I, Aalokit s/o Shyam Arora, R/o Flat.No.855, Gh-14, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to **Aalokit Arora**, permanently.

0040558422-4

I, AVISHEK KUMAR SINGH, S/O HARIDWAR SINGH, R/O C-52, POCKET-D-2, SUNDAY MARKET, KONDOLI, DELHI-110096, have changed my name to **ABHISHEK KUMAR SINGH**.

0040558422-8

I, Sunkari Charith S/O Sudheer Babu, R/o 13-87/502, Bollampally Residency, Yadav Nagar, Malkajigiri, K.V. Rangareddy Telangana-500047, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Sunkari Solomon Raj**

0070724796-1

I, Shekhar kumar S/o Late Sh. Kude Ram R/O 714/200, 1, Shyam Gali, Mauipur, North East Delhi-53 have changed my name from Shekhar kumar to Satender for all purposes.

0040558425-5

I, Shakuntala D/O Bhagwandas Prajapati, R/O Ward-No.10, Raksan Hotel Khajuraho Distt-Chhatrapur (M.P.)-471606, have changed My above Name to **Shreya** for all future purposes.

0040558390-2

I, SURENDER SINGH CHAUHAN, S/O MUKUND SINGH CHAUHAN, ADD-A-152, THIRD-FLOOR, STREET, NO-8 KUMAON SQUARE WEST VINOD-NAGAR, EAST DELHI-110092, Changed my name to **SURENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN**, permanently.

0040558410-4

I, Sanjoli D/O Rajesh Narang, R/O H.No.-104, Ashok Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Panipat, Haryana-132103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **Sanjoli Narang**

0070724793-1

I, Manoj Kumar, S/o-Mast Ram Sharma, R/o-E-37/38, Second-Floor, Gali No.1, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092, inform that in my daughter's school records my name wrongly mentioned as **Manoj Kumar Sharma** instead of **Manoj Kumar**.

0040558425-2

I, MANJU, D/O JAGDISH PRASAD, H.No.582/F, YADAV-COLONY NR. AIRFORCE STATION VILLAGE RAJOKARI , A, SOUTH-WEST DELHI-110038, changed my name to **MANJU SAINI**, permanently.

0040558410-3

I, Krushna Chandra Agrawal s/o-Gopiram Agrawal, R/o 1/9923, West Rottash-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to **Krishan Chand Aggarwal**, Permanently.

0040558422-6

I, Ketan Satija S/O Gulshan Satija, R/O-A-103, Gulab Bagh, Nawada, Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to **Deepak Satija**.

0040558404-7

I, Kuldeep S/o Karan Singh, R/o Nasir Pur Gaoi Pol.No.737, Palam-Colony, Delhi-110045, changed my name to **Kuldeep Singh**.

0040558432-2

I, Anandi W/o-Bhagat Singh, R/o-C-539, Sector-1, Aavantik, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that in my PF record my name was written as **Arti**, whereas my correct-name is **Anandi**.

0040558415-4

I, DUDALA MUSTEYYA S/O NARAYUDU, R/O H.NO. 5-5-442, P.NO.802, PRASANTHNAGAR, VANASTHALI PURAM, HYDERABAD -500 070, TELANGANA STATE, INDIA., have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as **DUDALA MUSTAIAH**.

0070724785-1

Ihitherto Known as **Ghanandri Devi W/O Sh.Ajab Singh R/O,RZE-592/5 Gali, no.24 Sadh Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony South-West Delhi -110045**, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Lata Devi**.

0040558422-9

I Tanveer Jahan Siddiqui W/O, Late Mohd. Idris Siddiqui R/O A16/2 UGF, Flat 501, Thokar No 6 Shaheen Bagh Okhla New Delhi have changed my name to Tanvir Jahan Siddiqui for all purposes

0040558366-1

I Mohit's/o Ashok r/o- village- Kanoda, district-Jhajjar haryana, have changed my name to **Mohit kumar**.

0040558432-1

Ijtender Kumar S/o Sh.Tarkeswar Choudhary R/o C-91, Gali No.4, Part-1, Mukundpur, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to **Jitender Choudhary S/o Sh.Tarkeshwar Chaudhary** for all purposes.

0040558348-8

I Bhupender Gupta S/O Amrit Swaroop Gupta R/O C-6/204, PWO Complex, Sector-43, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001. have changed my Minor Son's name from **AADI GUPTA** to **AADI AMRITRAJ GUPTA** for all purposes.

0040558360-1

I Bed Kauri Widow of No.4140398 Late Sep Balbir Singh R/o VPO-Chhawala, New Delhi-110071 have changed my name to **Bed Kaur** for all purposes.

0040558348-7

I Ankitt S/o Sh. Mahendra Pal R/O 1447/M-11, Street No.9, Durgapuram Nand Nagri, North-East, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to **Ankit Saini** For all purposes.

0040558348-9

I, Pankaj Kumar Dass, S/o Sh.Digendra Chandra Das, H.No.507, Tower, No-B-9, Supertech Ok Village-2, Greater-Noida, U.P.-201009, have changed my name to **Pankaj Dass**.

0040558410-8

I, Rattan Singh Dob 13-03-1973 Adhar 61142675272/S O L.Surya Dev Singh R/O RZ I 96/A, West Sagarpur, New Delhi-46 Have Declared That **Ratan Singh Yadav Is My Name** For All Purposes.

0070724766-1

I, Aditya Tiwari (Army no-15132187M.Hav), S/O Ayodhya parsad Tiwari, R/O-VPO- Chandu-Vihar sulatanpur, UP-228001, hereby declare that in my **Army Service-Records**, my **D.O.B.** is wrongly-mentioned as **4/12/2003**. Her correct-D.O.B. is **4/7/2005** which may be amended accordingly, for all future purposes.

0040558425-5

I, Poonam Gupta Kamalu W/o Kamalu Kingsley Chinedu R/O Flat No-4 (UGF) 75/E Khasra No-693/220 Maidan Garhi Delhi-110068 Have Changed My Name To **Punam Gupta**.

0040558190-5

LOST & FOUND

I, MOHD TALIB, S/O Mohd wasif, R/O-H.No-12, shamshad-garden sahibabad ghaziabad, up, have lost my original-certificate Class-10th(2016) Rollno-8616717 class-12th(2018) Rollno-9638242 CBSE-DELHI.

0040558415-9

I, Yashoda sati, D/o Maha Nand sati, R/O-H-41C, Dilshad-garden, DELHI-95, have lost my original certificate/marksheet Class-10th(1987) Rollno-455181 class-12th(1989) Rollno-328635 CBSE-DELHI.

0040558415-10

I Anupama W/o Shri Praveen Verma R/o B-3/8, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 have lost my original Allotment Letter & Zoning of Plot No. A-35/7, DLF City Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana.

CROSSWORD 4309

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ACROSS

1 Put prison helper's position in jeopardy (2,7)

8 Victor loses his head in the bull ring (5)

9 Misfortune for the other side (7)

10 Firs do make attractive features in Norway (6)

11 She may get up late (6)

12 Stop in front of a humble building (8)

15 One point on a fork is unpleasantly sharp (8)

18 It's old perhaps and not easily moved (6)

20 I'd seem upset by a death (6)

21 Jewish father (7)

22 Not qualified to speak (5)

23 Trace idea that is wrong and root it out (9)

DOWN

2 It's pleasant embracing an Eastern relative (5)

3 Able to help us with processed fuel (6)

4 Fair description of all but the fastest runners? (8)

5 It's exhausting but follow it up with a telephone call (6)

6 Any girl so mistreated might react thus (7)

7 Expression of annoyance for your immediate occupation (9)

11 Accepted in error and fainted (6,3)

13 Fair description of a reformed character (3,2,3)

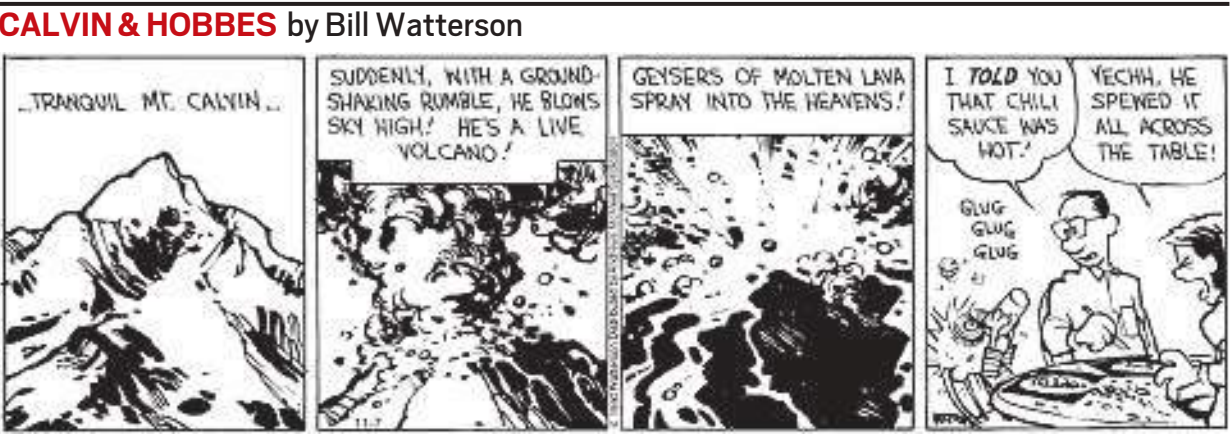
14 I'm into gossip like a bishop (7)

16 Wish to reside in style (6)

17 Artistic piecework (6)

19 Unsuitable camouflage paint (5)

Solutions Crossword 4308: Across: 1 Coconut, 4 Mango, 7 Mate, 8 Marginal, 10 Cartoonist, 12 Ranges, 13 Ground, 15 Call it a day, 18 Alphabet, 19 Edam, 20 Trout, 21 Shotgun. Down: 1 Comic, 2 Catering, 3 Trains, 4 Magistrate, 5 Nuns, 6 Obligated, 9 Poles apart, 11 Guide dog, 12 Rampant, 14 Alters, 16 Yemen, 17 Up to.



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.

The discovery of a new ___ does more for human happiness than the discovery of a new ___ (4...4)

EFMAR

EHNOT

ABCIS

HOUNDS

SOLUTIONS

EFMAR: FRAME, BASIC, UNHAPPY, JOY

EHNOT: HOPE, TENSE, UNHAPPY, JOY

ABCIS: BASIC, UNHAPPY, JOY

HOUNDS: HOPE, TENSE, UNHAPPY, JOY

SUDOKU 4331

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4330

9 2 5 7 1 6 8 3 4

4 8 3 2 5 9 1 6 7

6 7 1 4 8 3 5 2 9

2 6 4 9 3 1 7 5 8

3 1 9 8 7 5 6 4 2

8 5 7 6 2 4 9 1 3

5 9 2 3 6 7 4 8 1

7 3 6 1 4 8 2 9 5

1 4 8 5 9 2 3 7 6

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's sensitive Moon lands in an extraordinarily favourable region of your chart and brings you no end of potential for both fun and self-improvement. Family affairs should put the spotlight on children and their interests. In fact, the young-at-heart stand to do well.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Socially, your life is looking up. Although there have doubtless been some disappointments, you have to see that what is truly necessary now is a willingness to voluntarily let go of certain emotional ties. You never know - loved ones might like the new you.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Restlessness rises, and you could even be tempted to move home. One way or another there seems to be a great need to improve your domestic existence, perhaps to introduce a splash of colour. At work, any personal friction can be overcome with a willingness to say 'sorry'.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Professionally you are still on a winner. In all areas there seems to be a great deal to gain from seeking out fresh responsibilities and pursuing new ambitions. If there should be any setbacks then, strange to say, the way is being opened for even greater success.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon is now bound to trigger some of the livelier aspects of your personality. If you were to spend the whole day chattering away and generally expressing your latest opinions, this would be perfect. Mind you, you'd probably be wise to keep at least half an eye on practical responsibilities!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Sometimes it's not what people do that's important, but what they think. In other words, philosophical considerations should be taken seriously. You may think they're irrelevant, but you should realise that what you believe shapes your actions and controls your future. Oh, and welcome any new long-distance contacts.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You really do have a chance to make a fresh start in financial affairs. On one level it's a good day for picking up bargains, but look around and you'll discover ways in which you can boost your long-term prosperity. Perhaps a social liaison offers the security you're looking for.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Business prospects have seldom been stronger, even if there's some information which cannot be trusted, not to mention people who are unreliable. There is much to gain from launching into some new venture as long as you keep your options wide open. Domestic improvements could be high on the agenda, with bargains to be had.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The Moon plays a curious role in your chart, suggesting a simultaneous rise in confidence and increase in sensitivity. This is an ideal time to launch yourself into a brave new existence, although there is no pressing need to act today. Any ventures initiated over the next three days will be very important.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This could be a remarkable time for personal relationships, with the chance of a highly significant meeting rising by the hour. Indeed, your life could be changed by the people who are soon to walk into it. Could that be a good thing? Well, yes, if you handle it right.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Secrecy comes naturally to you. This is not because you wish to deceive anybody, just your belief that certain things are private and not for other people's eyes or ears. You're in an imaginative mood and mystical truths make more sense to you than the so-called facts.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There seems to be much to do on the work front at the moment, and if you can possibly get ahead of yourself, so much the better. It's also a perfect moment to put other people first, encouraging them to do their best and offering them your full support.

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Mechanical Engineering Department

M.E.D.C.No.M1/1773A/2020

Short Re E- Tender Notice

Short Re E-Tender is invited for the following work by Superintending Engineer (Mech), (Head Quarters) as per tender condition

Ref No.	Name of Work	Tender Value	EMD
M1/1773A/2020	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 11 Nos. of Fully Automatic Horizontal Baling Machine with conveyor attachment	Rs.546 Lakhs	Rs.5,46,000/-
	Last date and time for submission of Tender: 07.01.2021, 3.00 p.m. Tender Opening date and time: 08.01.2021, 3.15 p.m.		

Tender details can be downloaded from: <http://tntenders.gov.in>

DIPR/4873/Tender/2020

Superintending Engineer (Mechanical)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-03. The details are as under:

1. Name of the work	Complete body cleaning & cyclonic filters cleaning in 3240 Nos. 3-phase locomotives at ELS/GZB for 36 Months.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 44,60,986.22/-
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 89,200/-
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 3,540/-
5. Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender	13.01.2021 (11.00 Hrs.)
6. Date & Time of opening of tender document	13.01.2021 (11.30 Hrs.)
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

(i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

(ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

(iii) No manual offers are acceptable.

(iv) Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-03 Dated: 21.12.2020 2852/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

1X660MW PANKI EXTENSION PROJECT, PANKI, KANPUR

UTTAR PRADESH RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

E-Tender Notice

Bids are hereby invited for all mentioned E-Tenders. Details of Tender Notice as well as Total quantity of work, Tender Specifications, Other terms & conditions available on our Web Site: www.uprvnl.org/ e-tender portal www.etender.up.nic.in. Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any, shall be uploaded on the E-Tender website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

1. E-Tender – ET-29/PTEP/SE(CIVIL)CCD-III/2020-2021 Annual M&R of wood works in residential and non residential building of officers colony, PTPS, panki, Kanpur. Estimated Cost: 5,47,587.00, Tender Fee: 590.00, Earnest Money: 11,500/-, OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 09.01.2021

2. E-Tender – ET-30/PTEP/SE(CIVIL)CCD-III/2020-2021 Preparation of different bill monthly accounts etc. for CFA & BO PTPS, panki, Kanpur. (2*105 And 1*660MW with pension and GPF account). Estimated Cost: 6,21,500.00, Tender Fee: 826.00, Earnest Money: 12,500/-, OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 12.01.2021

website: www.uprvnl.org EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

चक्रा : 14/1x660मेवा पन्की विस्तार/मुअप्रि/सीपीपीडी/विज्ञापन दिनांक 22.12.2020

"SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATION"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Ashiya @ Heena

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Ashiya @ Heena D/o Rajudeen R/o H.No. D-28, Sec-25, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 04.12.2020 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vides DD No. 597 dated 04.12.2020 has been registered at PS. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under :
Name :Ashiya @ Heena, Father's Name : Rajudeen, Age : 14 years, Height : 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing : Red Top, and Blue jeans. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/664/ON/2020

SHO
P.S., Shahbad Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27821047
8750870322

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)

P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248006, Uttarakhand

Phone : 0135-2224288, 2224286, 2224273, Fax: 0135-2758865, Website: www.fri.res.in, www.cppp.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING Re-E-TENDER

Online e-tender are invited on behalf of Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, from reputed, registered & licensed agencies who fulfill the eligibility criteria for "Supply of Man Power for Civil & Electrical Services at Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun for a period of one year.:

1. NIT No. : 12-30/2020-21/Head/Engineering Cell

2. Tender ID No. : 2020_JCFRE_598118_2.

3. Earnest money : Rs. 1,00,000/-, Tender fee: Rs. 1,180/- (Non-refundable) including 18% GST and Period of Contract : One Year, Bid submission start date: 22-12-2020, 3.00 P.M., Last date and time of submission of bid: 04.01.2021 up-to 3.00 P.M.

4. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and www.fri.res.in

5. The Qualified bidder who have already submitted tender fee and EMD need not to submit it again physically. They should upload the scanned copy of the same with all documents and financial bid.

Head, Engineering Cell,
Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

Government of Maharashtra

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

World Bank Project Division, Aurangabad

e-Tender Notice No. 03 of 2020-2021

Online Open B-1 Tenders (e-Tender) for the following work is invited by the Executive Engineer, World Bank Project Division, Bandkam Bhavan, Adalat Road, Aurangabad, Phone No. (0240) 2331342 Now the Period is from Date 24/12/2020, Time 17:31 Hrs. to 08/01/2021, Time 23:00 Hrs.

Name of Work :

1. Construction of RCC Compound Wall on Forest Land at Survey No. 287, 288, 289 (Satarra), 286 (Deolai) at Aurangabad, Tq. Dist. A'bad & Survey No. 207 (Jalna) at Jalna, Tq. & Dist. Jalna.

2. Providing and Fixing Modular Furniture for Assistant Charity Commissioner's and Public Trust Registration Office at Jalna.

All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal www.mahatenders.gov.in etenders.in and <http://www.mahapwd.com>. The remaining matter is unchanged.

Sd/-
- Executive Engineer,
World Bank Project Division, Aurangabad
(dgjpr/2020-2021/1570)

UJVN Limited

H.O.: "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephone : 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com

Ro. No. 843 Tender Notice Dated: 22/12/2020

Office of the EE (M&G), Dhakrani Power Station invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
NIT No. 25/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Repairing and Retubing of 02 nos heat exchanger on GT at Dhakrani Power Station
NIT No.26/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Annual Operation & Maintenance of Officer Transit camp and Mango Orchard at Dhakrani.
NIT No.27/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Polypoxy coating of various gates at Dhakrani Power Station.

Estimated cost: Rs. 600000.00, Rs. 1043600.00 & Rs. 2490000.00 (GST extra) respectively

Date of availability of bid document on website:- 23/12/2020

Last date of submission of tender:- 13.01.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs

For further & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (M&G)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED,

Rourkela

C-256

Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012, Email: rourkelasci@gmail.com

BID ID : - RCL/2251/2020 Date. 21.12.2020

'NIT' National Competitive Bidding

The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL Invites bids from eligible contractors for the project "Construction of Food Court Near Basanti Over Bridge on Percentage Rate basis in Rourkela" for Rs. 47.91 Lakhs (Estimated cost).

The Complete Bid documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (<https://www.rmc.nic.in> or e-procurement portal of Odisha (<https://tenders.odisha.gov.in> from 21.12.2020 to 04.01.2021 up to 5:00 PM. Bids must be submitted online only at (<https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>) on or before 04.01.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs IST. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security document fee & Power of Attorney and other documents as per DTCN shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 07.01.2021 by 4:00 PM. The RSCL reserves the rights to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever. For queries, intending bidder my contract GM(E&T) (8249833105) and Email id : Rourkela Smart City Ltd.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Rourkela Smart City Ltd
OIPR-1308011/0012/2021

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (DEMS), Central Zone
Room no. 504, Zonal Office Bldg, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-24

No. EE (EMS)/CNZ/SDMC/2020-21/439 Dated: 21/12/20

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

An Expression of Interest was invited in South Delhi Municipal Corporation, Central Zone vide no. No. EE (EMS)/CNZ/SDMC/2020-21/391 dated 16-11-2020, for the up-keep, operation and maintenance of the various PT's/CT's under its Jurisdiction as per approved policy of SDMC.

In this connection South Delhi Municipal Corporation, Central Zone, hereby further re-invite the Expression of Interest for the up-keep, operation and maintenance of the remaining PT's/CT's under its jurisdiction as per approved policy of SDMC. The list of remaining Toilets along with the approved policy may be obtained from the office of SS/CNZ, EE/EMS/CNZ and AC/CNZ. Any individual/Public/RWA's/MTA's /NGO's/ Consortium of Person/ Company etc can submit their interest in any PT/CT or group of PT's/CT's and this application of expression of their interest in any PT/CT or group of PT's/CT's shall reach to the office of under signed by 5/01/2021 up to 05:00 PM.

In case there is more than one Person/Stake holders apply for any PT/CT, the same shall be decided by the committee comprising of AC/CNZ,EE/EMS/CNZ, and SS/CNZ in the office of DC/CNZ.

Those parties/agencies/individual etc. who applied earlier in previous EOI and have not still executed the agreement with SS/CNZ, they shall not be considered for further allotment of toilets.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 55/DPI/S/2020-21 EE (EMS)CNZ

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

No-752E/719/CMP/pt-II/2016 Dated:- 21.12.2020

Indicative Notice

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli will hold a walk-in-Interview for engagement of 04 (four) CMP's (03 GDMO +01 Specialist MD/Medicine) on contract basis. Interested candidates may please appear with their relevant documents on 06.01.2021 at office of Principal Chief Personnel Officer at 11.00 (A.M.).

Note: For detailed terms & conditions of the notice may please visit our website: www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in

For General Manager (P)

Serving customers with a smile

KAMARAJAR PORT LIMITED

(A company of Chennai Port Trust)

(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Government of India)

Regd. Office: No.17, Jawahar Building, Rajaji Salai, Chennai – 600 001. CIN:U45203TN1999GOI043322

NOTIFICATION REGARDING TENDERS OF KPL

The Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) of the tender requirements of KPL will not be henceforth published in newspapers. All the concerned are hereby notified that tender enquiries of KPL will be published on KPL website (www.kamarajarport.in) and Government's Central Public Procurement Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.in>)

All the interested bidders are requested to refer above websites for tenders of KPL

कुदेशन नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन नारनौल में वाहनों की सुरक्षा के लिए हाईवेयर/पेट्री आईटम्स/कॉन्टन क्लोथ इत्यादि की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है। इच्छुक सलायार दिनांक 15.01.2021 तक अपनी सीलबंद कुदेशन महाप्रबंधक नारनौल के नाम भेज सकते हैं। जिसके उपर स्टोर आईटम् कुदेशन लिखा होना अनिवार्य है। स्टोर आईटम् की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं। कुदेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी कार्य दिवस में अकर 200/- रुपये जमा करवाने उपरांत महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

ह./- महाप्रबंधक,
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन,
नारनौल।

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR.

IInd TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date for the receipt of Tenders for the works as called for by Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin circle, Thanjavur in NIT/No. 7/2020-2021/LCB/OTN/DATED. 17.11.2020 are extended for Package No.1 from 30.12.2020 to 05.01.2021, Package No. 3 from 30.12.2020 to 06.01.2021, Package No.4 from 31.12.2020 to 07.01.2021, Package No. 8 from 29.12.2020 to 08.01.2021 and Package No. 2 from 31.12.2020 to 12.01.2021.

Addenda, corrigenda, Extensions, if any will be notified on the www.tenders.tn.gov.in website only. Bidders are requested to visit our website regularly for any amendment of the present bid till finalization of bidding process.

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
DIPR/4830/TENDER/2020 Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur.

Municipal Corporation Kota North (Rajasthan)

Rajeev Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota

Tel Ph. No.: 0744-2500197, email: nk Kota@gmail.com
website: www.kotamc.org

No:- NNN/Garage/2020/2256-78 Date: 22.12.2020

NIT No 37/2020-21 (Re-Tender)

Notice inviting online bids for Supply of Sanitary Equipments (with GPS device) in Kota City on behalf of KSCL through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTTP Act 2012 and RTTP Rules 2013, amended upto date and under national Competitive Bidding with Single Stage - two envelope Bidding procedure for following works. Detailed NIT & Bid Documents can be read/seen on <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> & sppp.raj.nic.in.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation, Kota North

Tax exemption for T20 WC, new IPL teams on BCCI agenda

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 22

THE INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council (ICC) wants tax exemptions for next year's T20 World Cup to be hosted in India or the money paid by the world body would be deducted from the Indian cricket board's share of revenue. The other option, before the ICC, is to move the tournament to the United Arab Emirates, which hosted the last season of the Indian Premier League. The tax issue is high on the agenda of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) 89th Annual General Body Meeting. Cricket's possible inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, which is backed by the ICC, will also be discussed.

The ICC has set the December 31 deadline for the Indian board to confirm a full tax exemption. "As per Clause 10.20 of host agreement for this event, the BCCI is obligated to deliver to ICC a full tax exemption for all income arising out of this event in favour of ICC, its subsidiaries and associates and its Members at least 18 month prior to the start of the event," the BCCI has mentioned in the agenda papers for its 89th Annual General Meeting to be held in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Without a full tax exemption, the ICC's surplus payout to its Members will be reduced and in May this year, the game's global body had agreed to extend the deadline for the BCCI till December 31 to do the needful. If the Indian board fails, then: "a. ICC moves the 2021 event from India to UAE or 'b. BCCI provides an undertaking that if the BCCI is unable to achieve the requisite tax solution then any resulting tax liabilities by ICC/IBC/its Members will be set off against monies owed to the BCCI from ICC (including ICC distributions) and that the BCCI will be liable for any shortfall after set-off."

The BCCI has already distributed the agenda papers among its members and the issue is going to be deliberated upon at length at the AGM. The BCCI-ICC tax tussle has been an ongoing saga. The global body had earlier wanted to recover the tax burden of the 2016 World T20 in India and threatened the BCCI to deduct a part of its annual revenue share in case of non-exemption.

Cricket in Olympics

The ICC document, in possession with The Indian Express, describes cricket and the Olympic Games "a winning partnership". According to the game's governing body: "Cricket can provide the Olympic movement with an unrivalled opportunity to drive fan engagement across the Asian Sub-Continent."

As for cricket's benefits, the document says: "The Olympics can provide cricket with an unrivalled opportunity to super-charge global growth beyond its traditional heartlands, particularly in the USA, Europe and China."

The ICC is targeting the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and a survey among its Associate Members showed that an additional \$13 million funding could be triggered just for the Associates through cricket's inclusion in the quadrennial showpiece event.

The ICC has also chalked out a tentative cricket programme for the 2028 Olympics: "One men's and one women's event (each spanning 9 days); Twenty20 format; 8 teams, and 16 matches per event; 11 players per team / 15 players per squad; 2 venues / turf or hybrid pitches." The ICC wants all its 104 members to be united "to progress a bid" and lists "unifying all Members behind the campaign for cricket's inclusion" as a challenge.

So far the BCCI has shown reluctance to cricket's inclusion in the Olympics. There's an apprehension that cricket in T20 format in the Olympics can negatively affect the revenue stream from bilateral and global T20 events.

ON THE AGENDA



Ahmedabad, which is said to have the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera, is all but certain to have a new IPL team.

- **Update on the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup.**
- **Approval on inclusion of two new teams in the IPL.**
- **Discussion on the BCCI's stand on the inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.**
- **Update on India's Future Tour Programs.**
- **Appointment of the Cricket Committees and Standing Committees.**
- **Appointment of the BCCI's representative or representatives at the ICC.**
- **Election of the vice-president.**
- **Election of two representatives of the general body in the IPL Governing Council.**

The ICC, on the other hand, believes that cricket's inclusion in the Olympics will ensure "diversification of funding for Members, reducing reliance on ICC funding".

It is learnt that the BCCI under its present dispensation is open to consider cricket's inclusion in the Los Angeles Olympics, which is a reason the item has been listed on the AGM agenda. Only last month, former India captain and current National Cricket Academy director Rahul Dravid threw his weight behind a cricket-Olympics partnership.

New IPL teams

The members will deliberate on incorporating two new teams into the Indian Premier League (IPL). According to a BCCI official, the majority of the members are in favour of an expansion, as they feel it would create a "larger talent pool, given the abundance of talent in Indian cricket". It needs to be seen if the BCCI brings on one new team to start with or two, and from the next year or 2022. "We will take a decision after the matter is placed before the members; one new team or two, from 2021 or 2022; we want to go ahead based on consensus," the BCCI official said.

According to sources, Ahmedabad, which is said to have the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera with a seating capacity of 110,000, is all but certain to have a new IPL team.

T20 World Cup venues

The BCCI has picked Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Mohali, Dharamsala, Kolkata and Mumbai to host the T20 World Cup matches. Some members, though, prefer a wider distribution. "It's a matter of pride for every centre to host World Cup matches. We have high class stadiums and top facilities and we want the BCCI to consider our case as well. We are OK with the bigger centres hosting India matches. But at least give us some games. We will raise the issue at the AGM," president of a West Zone state association said.

SHASHANK NAIR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FOOTBALL REFUSES to quit on Zlatan Ibrahimovic as the Swedish striker leads AC Milan to the top of Serie A — a league that has Cristiano Ronaldo and his Juventus as well as Inter Milan, who are managed by Antonio Conte.

Into his 40th year, Ibrahimovic is the top scorer of the league's top team — still undefeated — and has made a miraculous recovery from a knee injury suffered at Manchester United to play as well as he has in Italy after a two-season stint at LA Galaxy.

How is this AC Milan team a new environment for Ibrahimovic?

AC Milan have one of the younger sides in the league, with an average age of under 25. Adding someone with the experience of Ibrahimovic changes the mentality of the dressing room. The well-travelled star has assumed a leadership responsibility at the club and once bought a PlayStation 5 for every player in the squad.

In an interview to *BBC Sport*, the Swede talked about how his earlier stint at Milan (2010-12) involved fighting consistently for

Bajrang, India's international wrestler

Grappling style, social media posts & just his name have made him one of the most popular competitors

GAURAV BHATT

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

"BHAI SAHAB, I have no idea why people are attracted to me. There are so many times that instead of supporting their own country, they root for Bajrang."

Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia, USA. Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has made crowds fall in love with him around the world. The reason, though, is beyond him.

"It's perhaps the craze for wrestling in these countries. You don't get this much love in India, because not a lot of people truly follow wrestling," Bajrang tells *The Indian Express* from his training base in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "In all these countries, at any tournament or event, the stadiums are full of people with love for wrestling."

But why is so much of it directed towards Bajrang? The 26-year-old phenom is a three-time medalist at Worlds but yet to strike gold. He hasn't made his Olympic bow. There have been Indian wrestlers, nay, combat sport champions from India with bigger achievements. But nobody makes fans as easily as Bajrang.

Before his stint in the German league last February, the country's wrestling forums went into overdrive. Commenters wondered whether he would live up to the hype after a tough Pro Wrestling League season back home. Others reposted speculation of the debutant being under the weather. Cut to the Indian cutting down opponents to size, to the chorus 'Bajrang, Bajrang'.

Bajrang remembers waking up to back pages bathed with his photos. "Inder Tiger, Inder Joker. One who changed the game. Photos in every newspaper and channels," recalls Bajrang. "My club (Vfk 07 Schifferstadt) hadn't won the league title in 14 years."

Two months later, he was at the Ali Aliev Invitational in Dagestan; the wrestling capital of Russia. In the final, he defeated a local guy as the crowd favourite.

"You watch those wrestling videos from Dagestan, they are exactly like the Germany one. The crowd is behind me even though I am beating the local guy," Bajrang says. "Russia is lovely and whenever I step on the mat, they start the chants."

Russia's love for Bajrang rubbed off on their neighbours. Kazakhstan hosted the World Championships last year, and eventual bronze medalist Bajrang landed a day before his bout. India had a camp there, and several local kids kept asking them "where is Bajrang? When will he come?"

"When I reached, I made sure I met every single one of them. I got a lot of love in Kazakhstan."

Quizzed for reasons for so much fan fol-



During a stint in Germany last year, Bajrang Punia earned a legion of fans after helping his club Vfk 07 win the league title after 14 years. (Below) The Indian has become a cult figure in wrestling fandom due to his swagger and social media presence.



lowing, Bajrang responds with a sheepish mix of humility and curiosity. "I don't know why. You would have to ask them that."



Blaine Henry, a 30-year-old from Louisiana, runs a combat sports website called the 'The Fight Library'. He is also the leader of a group of Bajrang fanatics, efficiently named 'Bajrang Boys'.

"It started with a fantasy wrestling group. A few in the group, myself included, really enjoy Bajrang," says Henry. "Not only wrestling but what he does on social media, the photos and his words."

Last month, Henry scammed to secure the Bajrang Boys Twitter handle after the group was adjudged the best social media innovators by wrestling enthusiasts. The fan club, however, truly became formal when

PAKISTAN BEAT NZ IN THIRD T20

New test captain Mohammad Rizwan showed his leadership quality in a bold innings of 89 which steered Pakistan to a four-wicket win over New Zealand in the third Twenty20 on Tuesday.

Brief scores: New Zealand 173 for 7 (Conway 63, Ashraf 3/20) lost to

Pakistan 177 for 6 (Rizwan 89, Southee 2/25) by four wickets

PTI

Nobody did the fantasy wrestling, we just kind of hung out and talked to each other in a chat room. We made friends and a few in the group really enjoy Bajrang. Not only wrestling but what he does on social media, the photos and his words. We just enjoy each other's company and talk about Bajrang."

BLAINE HENRY

LEADER OF FAN GROUP 'BAJRANG BOYS'

their idol agreed to an interview.

"I sent him an email and he got back to us a couple days later. I learnt a lot about his life, where he comes from," says Henry. "We have been told that Bajrang is completely aware of us. Having him know and follow everything is like a joke that seems to have gone too far."



The question though remains: Why Bajrang? It's in the name, to begin with. "Mainly because the name sounds cool," Henry laughs.

Baj-Rang. The two syllables, drawn out in thick accents around the world, make the name extremely chantable. The process is further facilitated by the repeated first name phenomenon several Indian athletes are used to.

AUSTRALIAN WIRES

News and views around India's tour Down Under

Let it go and move on: Smith to India

Australian batting star Steve Smith has no time to think about how India might plot revenge in the second Test here this weekend but he does have a word of advice for the visitors jolted by the first game's battering — "Let it go and move on". "Look, the other day we just saw some pretty incredible fast



bowling. It is probably the best I've seen our bowlers bowl collectively for about five years I think," Smith said. "The lengths they were hitting were just impeccable. Sometimes that happens, you get a good ball and you nick it... You got to let it go and move on and try and keep yourself in a positive mindset."

series against Australia, feels former batsman Mark Waugh. Asked if India could bounce back after losing the first

Test, Waugh said: "No hope, no hope. I thought Adelaide was the Test that they could win on paper and with Virat Kohli

here for just the one Test. I thought the conditions would suit them. I just can't see how they can bounce back (after) Australia whitewashed them on the third day. So 'no' is the answer — four-nil to Australia," he said on *Fox Cricket*.

SMITH NOT CERTAIN TO BE REAPPOINTED AS CAPTAIN

Steve Smith's reappointment as Australia's Test captain is far from certain as the sport's governing body in the country feels there are some "great young leaders" coming through the system. CA chairman Earl Eddings told *ESPNCricinfo*: "First of all we've got three great captains in Meg, Aaron and Tim. We've got some great young leaders coming through. So it's not just about should Steve take over, it's about what's best overall."

PTI

How has Zlatan made a difference at AC Milan



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has scored 10 goals in Serie A so far this season. *File*

titles, but this second stint is built more towards bringing the Italian club back to its former glory days.

Has age changed Zlatan's approach to the game?

Through his stellar career, Ibrahimovic has turned out for a who's who of European club royalty — the two Milan clubs, Juventus, Barcelona, Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain and Ajax. The air of arrogance that one associates with him continues to be projected through his social media accounts but occasionally things get real, and the Swedish striker opens up about his limitations.

"I'm honest in saying that I'm not running like I ran before; I'm running more intelligently now. The Italian league, the reason I say that it's the most difficult to play in for a striker is because, it's very technical and the philosophy of Italy is to not to concede a goal rather than score a goal," Zlatan told *BBC Sport*.

What do the numbers say?

It doesn't matter which phase of Zlatan's career is pored over — titles and trophies are

a given. The ability to understand that he can't run like he used to, but still adapting his game to score 10 goals in the ongoing Serie A season, makes the 39-year-old a force to reckon with, especially considering how Milan are upsetting the status quo of Juventus — who have won the last nine league titles in a row and have Ronaldo on their roster.

Milan are currently on 31 points after 13 Serie A games — one point ahead of city rivals Inter and four ahead of Juventus. While talk of a domestic title — potentially Milan's 19th and the first since 2010-11 — will be premature at this stage, the Zlatan effect is there for all to see.

How did Zlatan come out of a career-threatening injury?

In his second season at Manchester United (2017-18), Ibrahimovic suffered an anterior cruciate ligament tear which essentially is a nine-month layoff for a footballer — a recovery he completed in seven months. For him to be at the age he was and to not only retire, but return to ply his trade in a top European league a couple of years later, proves his resolve to make an incredible comeback.

EXPLAINED

BRIEFLY

Star-studded team for Asian Le Mans Series

New Delhi: A star-studded line-up of drivers, including Narain Karthikeyan, Arjun Maini and Naveen Rao, will spearhead Racing Team India's campaign in the 2021 Asian Le Mans Series with an eye on competing in the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans later in the year. The Asian Le Mans Series, to be held at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi on February 5-6 and February 19-20, comprises of four races spread over the two race weekends, with each race lasting four hours, a media release stated.

Three Indians in finals of world youth chess

Chennai: Three Indians, including Grandmaster Nihal Sarin, reached the final of the FIDE Online World Youth and Cadet Rapid Championships in their respective categories on Tuesday. While Sarin beat Francesco Sonis 1.5-0.5 in the Open under-18 section, GM D Gukesh and WIM Rakshit Ravi also made it to the finals of the boys under-14 and girls under-16 categories respectively.

PTI & AP

Odisha hold NorthEast to a draw in ISL

Bambolim: Odisha FC and NorthEast United played out a 2-2 draw in an Indian Super League (ISL) match at the GMC Stadium here on Tuesday. Odisha took the lead through Diego Mauricio (26') before Benjamin Lambot (45+1') drew parity. Kwesi Appiah (65') then converted a penalty to put the Highlanders ahead but soon saw his goal cancelled out by Cole Alexander (67'). On Wednesday, Jamshedpur will hope to extend their unbeaten run when they take on Goa.

Werner under scrutiny despite Chelsea win

London: Chelsea's new signing Timo Werner will start firing on all cylinders when he ends his goal drought, manager Frank Lampard said after seeing his side beat West Ham United 3-0 thanks to a Tammy Abraham double and a Thiago Silva header. forward Werner has failed to find the back of the net in his last eight starts.