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Chorus on ground:

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

'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

"When you young friends decide to move ahead with this $thinking, then \, there \hbox{'s no goal } that$ we cannot achieve together. Be it 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,



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 ploy, 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

DECISION

2020

J&K

DISTRICT,
LOCAL POLLS

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-domi-

nated districts - Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua and Samba - in the Jammu Division, leading in 49 out 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

watching closely. We are fortu-

nate that our country has robust

laboratories. From the start of

the pandemic itself, we are iso-

lating the virus; we have system-

atically studied the genomic be-

haviour of more than 1,000 virus

samples. We have closely exam-

ined the mutations. So far, we

have not found any signal (of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

PARTY	JAMMU	KASHMIR	
BJP	6	#	
PAGD * 9			
*In ADDCs in Jammy 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

PVAIDYANATHANIYER 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

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

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

DDCs in the Kashmir Division

Union Territory, and par-

August 5 last year when the state

ticularly in the Valley, which assumes significance. It has kickstarted politics, dormant and locked down since

was split and downgraded and its special status abrogated. The Alliance members' decision to contest has been vindicated by CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Dhakka from Delhi won't work, protest now has life of its own **VANDITA MISHRA** CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA,

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 22

THERE MUST have been a moment, a point in the ongoing agitation led by Punjab farmers, when a line was crossed.

When men and women began talking less about the three Central farm laws that sparked small dharnas at petrol pumps and toll plazas across the state and more about those who started travelling to Delhi's doorstep to huddle together in the cold.

That moment, when the protests became a character in their own right, was missed by the BJP-led government at the Centre. That's where it will need to go back to, to find a resolution.

What is more, as The Indian Express found in a week-long journey through villages and cities across Punjab's three regions of Malwa, Doaba and Majha, talking to scores of farmers and their families, the image



of the un-seeing Centre is compounded by the spate of name-

The protests are "misguided", it was said, driven by a "lobby" of Leftist Modi-baiters, professional malcontents. Or hijacked by the 'Khalistanis", who are always seen — and imagined — in the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TOMORROW: FROM JIO AND BSNL TO MSP: WHAT THE FARMER **FEARS AND WHY**

Govt wants farmers back at table, says has an open mind

LIZ MATHEW & **HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

farmers, including tweaking the

laws or even setting up a com-

mittee as suggested by the

Delhi's borders for nearly a

month, official sources said, the

Government has an open mind

With protesters camped at

Supreme Court.



Supreme Court's suggestion

whether the implementation of the laws can be put on hold pending talks.

ing Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and

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



MISSING BALOCH **ACTIVIST FOUND DEAD IN TORONTO**

NEPAL: OLI EXPELLED AS PARTY CHAIRMAN

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 proposal, 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

on ideas if the farm groups show signs of a reconciliatory approach. The Government is also formulating a response on the

Conscious of the sentiments evoked by the protests in Punjab, senior Union Ministers, includ-

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 Abhava -- 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 Puthrikkayl, 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

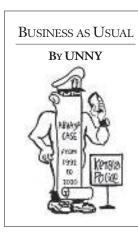
Aikkarakunnel and Leelamma. died in 2016.

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 strangulated her Sephy beat her CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

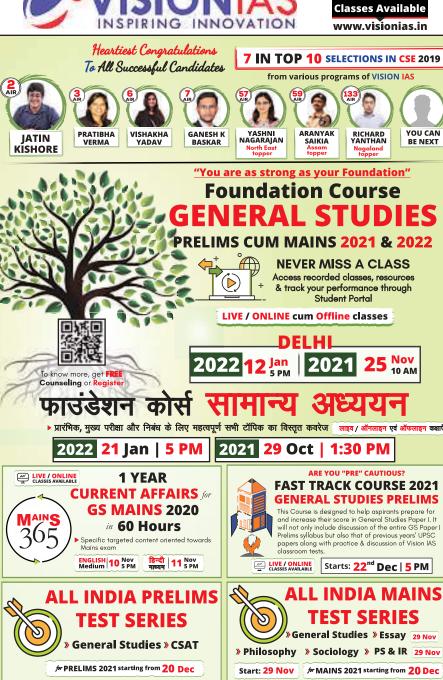


Body was found in a well in convent on March 27, 1992



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

According to the CBI, Abhaya,



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WHY MASINAGUDI RESORT OWNERS REFUSE TO MOVE OUT OF ELEPHANT CORRIDOR

More than two months after the Supreme Court ended a long legal battle over the Masinagudi elephant corridor in Tamil Nadu, those affected say they are being turned out of their homes - a home they have always shared with the pachyderms

VIDEO OF THE DAY



HERE IS EVERY OTHER **SPL EDITION ONEPLUS**

From the collaboration with McLaren to the brand's first 'concept'

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



EXPLAINED: WHO WAS KARIMA BALOCH

A vocal critic who worked to highlight violations in Balochistan

EXPRESS AUDIO

What you need to know about the new coronavirus variant

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we talk to virologist Dr Shahid Jameel about the new variant of SARS-COV-2, and whether we should really worry about it

FROM PAGE ONE

PM at AMU event

then the space for such people will shrink on its own," he said, adding that "politics can wait, not society. not the development of the country, not the poor".

"Ahundred years ago, in 1920, the youth of the country got a chance to dedicate themselves to the country, struggle and make sacrifices. That generation's sacrifices gave India independence in 1947. Today's generation has many opportunities to reach the goal Atmanirbhar Bharat, New India. That was 1920, this is 2020. The next 27 years are very important for you. In 2047, when India completes 100 years of independence, you will witness the historic moment, and you will also be part of the making of modern India. You must think of the country's welfare," Modi said.

'Today, the entire world is looking at India... There is curiosity about this being India's century. We must have a single goal to make the country Atmanirbhar. It should not matter which family one was born in, in which religion one was raised...," he said. "AMU has given several freedom fighters and I would like to say that they came from different backgrounds, but worked together for the independence of the country. What was done for the freedom of this country, you have to do the same for the country. We have to work for a common ground. New India must be self-reliant, and the benefits will reach everyone equally. The youth can do it.

In December 2019, AMU was one of the centres of protest against the CAA, and clashes on the campus had left over 70 people injured, Police arrested 26 people, including AMU students.

The Prime Minister also released a postage stamp dedicated to AMU. AMU Chancellor Svedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Vice-Chancellor Tarig Mansoor and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank also took part in the virtual event.

Delhi schools

vaccinate a sizeable chunk only by July. There is no possibility of reopening schools before that. We also have to look at how examinations will be conducted without putting teachers and students at risk," he said.

Explaining the proposal to scrap nursery admissions for the upcoming session, a senior official said: "Schools can admit students in both nursery and kindergarten for the 2022-23 academic session, as there will be vacancies in both grades. Considering the unpredictable nature of the Covid virus, the youngest children will be the last to go to school in any case. In such a situation, to have another set of young children whose entire academic year will be online is a little unfair to them as well as to their parents."

School in Delhi have been shut since March, "There is a whole batch of students who started nursery in April this year, but everything was online. They have not interacted with their teachers or classmates, and have only seen them on the screen. In formative classes such as nursery and kindergarten, children learn to interact with each other and the world so that they are prepared for what lies ahead. They have not got this opportunity, despite starting school," said the official.

Nursery admissions in Delhi are a highly regulated process, with the Delhi government deciding the admission schedule and criteria. The guidelines are usually released by November. This year, however, schools said there has been no discussion on the process so far.

Govt-farmers

Home Minister Amit Shah, and top officials are also engaged in backroom channel talks with socio-political groups and Sikh community leaders to find a "middle path" and "bring the protesting farmers to the table for discussions again". On Tuesday, Tomar urged the farmers to decide on a date for talks two days after his Ministry invited farm unions for more discussion. "But any concession from the Government can come only if the discussions are continued." sources said.

According to sources, the Government is ready for the "long haul" and is "confident that the reform initiatives it has taken will benefit farmers". But it is also conscious that "both the optics and the unrelenting protests" would dent its image, they said.

"Even if it is farmers from just ne state, images of them sitting in protest do not look good for any government. But we feel that the Government has held enough discussions and deliberations over these laws. In fact, discussions on these have been on since 2001 (when the NDA government under AB Vajpayee was in power)," said sources.

"As of now, we have no alternate plans to end this. No solution to this can be found unless the discussions continue. The situation may change, there may be some middle path, but there should be discussions. Without talks, it can

go on for a long time," sources said. On Tuesday, during an interaction with members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Tomar said: "The Government is ready to discuss every suggestion. We are ready to discuss with an open mind and find a solution to any provision of law that goes against the farmer...By discussing again and again, we reach a solution...I think we will find a way soon and will move towards a solution."

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And whereas several individuals (including but not limited to company), jointly and

severally have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of

And whereas the building plan earlier approved for the said colony is now proposed to be

And whereas the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Chandigarh

Accordingly, vide this public notice, objections are hereby invited from any of the

allottees in the said colony. A copy of earlier building plan approved vide Memo No.

ZP-1005/SD(BS)/2014/27657 dated 08.12.2014, Memo No. ZP-1005/AD(RA)/2018/221

dated 03.01.2019 & the part building plan now being proposed to be revised vide Memo No.

ZP-1005/SD(DK)/2020/20091 Dated 11.11.2020 are available on website

The said building plans can also be perused at the offices of undersigned at M/s PERFECT

BUILDWELL Pvt. Ltd. correspondence: E-597, Second Floor, G.K.2, New Delhi-110048,

Any Allottee having any objection on revised building plan, may file his objection in the

Office of Senior Town Planner (Planning) Sector-104, Gurugram, Haryana within 30 days

of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections

Haryana has required seeking of objections against the revision of the said building plan.

granted by Director General Town and Country Planning, Chandigarh, Haryana.

flats/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees)

revised building plan for Tower T-24, T-25 and T-26.

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Place Gurugram

The Agriculture Minister said the focus of the laws is to benefit farmers by "freeing them from the shackles" of the (APMC) mandis. "These reforms have been made in the interest of farmers and will bring about a new era in Indian agriculture," he said.

Stating that the Government is committed to reforms, Tomar said: "When the process of reform begins, first people will make jokes, then there will be protests, and then acceptance. We are going through this process."

Chorus on ground nooks and shadows of a state that fought and defeated extremism in

the 1990s and lived to tell the tales. But to many here, especially Jat Sikh farmers, at the centre of the economy, politics and culture of the state which has historically nurtured an anti-Centre streak, the Centre is again talking down to Punjab. And forcing its way.

"Nobody is a leader in these protests, everyone has minus-ed themselves and the farmer has taken centrestage", says Balkar Singh, who retired as professor in Punjabi University, Patiala. "Look at them, sitting in the cold. The person who is leaving behind his children and the comfort of home is not doing it at anyone's bidding", says Baljit Singh in Malwa's Kotra Lehal village. "The government has a point", says Amritpal Singh, a farmer who also runs a shop in village Dhesian, Hoshiarpur, in Majha region, from where the largest numbers migrate abroad and which is less roiled by the agitation than Malwa. "But how can it not listen to those who are sitting out in the open?'

And in Amritsar, Ginni Bhatia, president of a textiles traders association, marvels "Itna jazba, itni thand(such emotion, in such intense cold)", and asks: "Why did you not ask the beneficiary if they want the reform in the first place?"

To get a sense of this agitation that is assuming a life of its own with every day that passes without a resolution, you could begin with two men and a woman.

Meet Sardara Singh Johl in Ludhiana, Bibi Jagir Kaur in village Begowal, and Narendra Modi inthe-Punjab-fray.

There's no point arguing the merits of the farm laws now, says 92-year-old Johl, the grand old man of agriculture economics in the state. "I have supported the Bills, I can answer all the questions, but if I do it now, it will be Dr Johl versus Rest of Punjab".

Over a storied 60-year career, the Padma Bhushan awardee has had one of the longest and most influential engagements with the issue of agriculture reform in Punjab — as vice chancellor of Puniab Agricultural University. member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

His report on crop diversification in 1986 made "diversification" a part of policy lexicon, "I was looking ahead 50 years... government did not even turn the page (of the report)", he says.

Johl speaks with regret about opportunities lost, being appointed to boards which did not meet, leading discussions that

reached nowhere. "My plan was that 1 million hectares of 2.6 million hectares under rice could be diverted to other crops to restore the water table... Rs 1,600 crore could be given to farmers to compensate for the shift (to oilseeds, among other crops, which would eventually cut down the oil and pulses import bill of up to Rs 14,000 crore)... There was a lack of interest in the political bosses and bureaucrats...Itried again but nothing happened".

Today, "the question is not whether laws are good or bad. They (agitators) are saying 'yes or no'. The old system they want to go back to is the one that pushed so many farmers to suicide. But now, government should withdraw the bills, begin again by bringing the farmers' concerns into Parliament." A "trust deficit" stands in the

way, says Johl. "These are serious laws, they affect the lives of people. What was the hurry? They should have put the bills in the public domain, through Select Committee... In the interest of the economy and of peace, the government must take them back". he says. At the sprawling Sant Prem Singh Murale Wale Dera that she heads in Begowal village of district Kapurthala, Akali Dal leader Bibi Jagir Kaur says: "We are all kisans (farmers), those who are sitting there are ours. The government is looking nirdayi (hard hearted). Things should not have reached this point, we need a quick solution".

In November, Kaur made a comeback as chief of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, the first woman to hold that position.

The SGPC, central to the management of Sikh religious affairs intricately entwined with Sikh politics, is contributing with "sewa (service)" at the protest sites, she says. "SGPC has set up continuous guru ka langar, put up waterproof tents, provided medicines and 250 mobile toilets...Four ambulances are working, our doctors are taking turns. We are giving Rs 1 lakh to the family of those who have died during the protest, and Rs 20-25,000 to those injured in accidents on the way.'

What Bibi Jagir Kaurwon't say is that both the SGPC and her party are playing catch-up.

But you can read between her lines: "I want to go there, but the first line of SAD leadership is not going to the protest sites, because we don't want to do politics. The rest, from MLA to sarpanch, are going. The Stree Akali Dal went too... o assi haan (we are them, the protesters)". The SAD, which walked out of the NDA on the farm bills' issue, tried and failed to be the "bridge" between the farmers and the Centre, she says. "Now the government should take the laws back, at least to begin with, so that people can come back to their homes." "Dhakka nahi karna chahida hai...dukh lagda hai, nuksan na ho jaye (there must be no force, we are apprehensive that things may not worsen)", the SGPC chief says.

The term "dhakka" is commonly used in Punjab, and you hear it again and again in the context of this agitation - the Centre, many say, is trying to get its way, "dhakke naal(with force)". But more and more, the "Centre" is replaced by "Modi". In the course of these farmers' protests, PM Modi is on the ground and in the fray in Punjab in a manner in which he has not been seen to be in other states, even during an election.

One of the stand-out features of the Modi phenomenon has

is no clear-cut majority in the five councils, the independent candidates are likely to play the role of king makers

Both the BJP and the People's Alliance have termed the poll results as their success. While the BJP has termed the outcome and the voter turnout a contradiction to the "idea of Gupkar Alliance", the People's Alliance has said that the people have rejected the "unconstitutional decision to abrogate Article 370".

"The overwhelming participation of the people is a clear sign that they believe in democratic procedure rather than bullet and grenade," BIP's election-incharge for the Valley, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said, "The peaceful, free and fair election with record voting turnout contradicts the idea of the Gupkar Alliance," he said.

Former Chief Minister and Vice President of the People's Alliance Mehbooba Mufti called it a "hard earned victory". "Today's DDC results have made it clear that people of J&K voted en masse for @JKPAGD thus rejecting the unconstitutional decision to abrogate Article 370. They have overwhelmingly supported @JKPAGD which stands for restoration of I&K's special status," Mufti tweeted. "Our win

J&K DDC polls

is dedicated to PAGD cadre who worked tirelessly to ensure our success. GOI left no stone unturned to create hurdles for us. Beginning with @parawahid's arrest a day after he filed his DDC nominations, restricting our movement & not allowing us to campaign," she said in her tweet.

Omar Abdullah, Vice President, of J&K National Conference, which is leading 68 seats, said, "The trends that have emerged in the DDC polls in J&K are very encouraging for the @JKPAGD.The BJP had made this election a prestige issue about Art 370 & I&K's special status. The people have now spoken & it's for those who believe in democracy to pay heed to these voices."

The BJP is turning up as a dominant force in Muslim-dominated Chenab and Pir Panial regions of Jammu Division as well. Significantly, it also opened its account in the Valley securing three wins, one each in South (Kakapora in Pulwama), North (Tulail in Gurez, Bandipore) and Central Kashmir (Khonmoh in Independent candidates

were leading in about 50 seats. which political sources attributed to good booth-level management by the BJP. The Congress party has once again failed to make a mark in the DDC polls. It is ahead only in nine seats in the Valley and 17 seats in Jammu. The final tally is exected after midnight.

In a polarised Jammu and Kashmir, Faroog Abdullah-led National Conference has emerged as the only political party to secure considerable support in both the Kashmir and ammu divisions of the Union Territory. The results are, however, a big setback to the Centrebacked Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari. The party has only won 10 seats. The official figures reveal

that the People's Alliance, formed by mainstream political parties to seek restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has won or is leading in 112 seats. Of these, National Conference candidates have won or are ahead of their rivals in 68 seats. Candidates belonging to Mehbooba Mufti-led People's Democratic Party candidates are ahead in 28 seats. The Kashmir Division, how-

ever, has stood firmly behind the

People's Alliance giving it lead in at least 85 DDC seats. Of these, the National Conference has won or is leading in 42 seats, and PDP in 27 seats. Sajad Lone's People's Conference is ahead in eight seats and CPI (M) in five.

Overall, the National Conference is leading in 68 seats - 42 in Kashmir and 26 in Jammu. It has emerged as the only party to have achieved considerable poll success in both the regions of the Union Territory. In fact, it has given a tougher fight to the BJP than the Congress in Jammu's Hindu heartland.

The independent candidates have shone in the polls leading in around 50 seats - 32 in Kashmir and 17 in Jammu. Surprisingly, a large number were in the fray in the Kashmir Valley, which sources in PAGD said, served to divide the vote share of the alliance partners.

By Tuesday evening, the Election Commission declared the final results for the 241 out of the 280 seats. Of these the BJP secured 68 seats, National Conference 55, PDP 26, Congress 21 and Apni Party 10. The independent candidates were declared winners in 43 DDC seats.

(WITHINPUTS FROM ARUN SHARMA IN JAMMU)

been his ability to establish his dominance by lifting himself above the fray — and therefore insulated from the tug and pull of accountability for failures and issues even where the BJP is the incumbent. In Rajasthan, this took the shape of a slogan, "Moditujh se bair nahi. Vasundhara teri khair nahi (We have nothing against Modi but we will not spare Vasundhara)", in the election lost by the BIP and won by the Congress, Most recently, in Bihar, it was visible in the final tally that saw the BJP become the larger partner in the BJP-JD(U) alliance that was voted back to power.

In Punjab, however, most of those who speak of the Centre trying to impose the farm laws on the state — "dhakke naal" — take Modi's name. The BJP is a smaller player in Punjab and the state never whole-heartedly participated in the Modi wave that swept other states in 2014 and then again in 2019. Yet, in the battle of "anakh" (self-respect, honour, pride), the Jat farmer's "zid" or insistence is pitted directly against Modi's. The viral video of a song, "Fer dekhange (then we'll see)", in which a Modi-like animated figure clad in white and saffron is surrounded by youth on tractors and eventually forced to throw up his hands, speaks of larger things.

New SOPs

presence of the UK variant)," said Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog. "Also, until now, according to scientists, the most important thing is that despite this mutation, there is no negative impact on all the vaccines that are being developed in India," he said.

Paul said "all the samples" collected "recently" in the laboratories that conduct genetic sequencing have been "prioritised" since Monday. "This is being done in a much more extensive manner and at a faster pace. CSIR, ICMR and DBT are working together," he said. "As of now, based on our dis-

cussions with scientists in the UK and deep understanding of the data available, there is no cause for concern or panic. Is it a cause for us to be more vigilant? Of course, yes... also with the new variant, there is no change in our treatment guidelines," Paul said.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the country's premier labs would carry out the genome sequencing of the samples picked up from airports as well as Covid-positive patients with recent travel history to the UK. "We have been testing passengers originating from the UK. Thousands of genome sequencing during the pandemic have been established by laboratories of ICMR, CSIR and NCDC. And given this new challenge posed by the UK variant of the virus, these labs will be working with renewed vigour to establish genome sequencing of the samples," he said.

Bhushan said the state-wise passenger manifest of flights from the UK from November 25 to December 23 will be conveyed by the Bureau of Immigration to the state governments. "Passengers who have arrived from the UK recently will be contacted: we will examine if they have experienced any clinical issues. We will ascertain how many of them have been infected and examine if there is anything usual. If the infection is active, we will collect the specimen and genomic sequencing will be conducted," Paul said.

According to the new SOPs, those who arrived from the UK between November 25 and December 8 will be contacted by the district surveillance officers and advised to self-monitor their health. For those who arrived between December 9 and December 23, the surveillance officers will carry out a daily followup till 14 days after their arrival, and the travellers will have to selfmonitor for 28 days. If tested positive, genome sequencing of their samples will be conducted. If the genome sequencing indicates the presence of a new variant, the patient will remain in a separate isolation unit.

Kerala murder

with the axe. Together, they dumped her body in the well, the CBI told the court while building its case on circumstantial evidence. The "Abhaya case" was among the longest and most highprofile real-life murder mysteries in Kerala, with multiple twists and turns. The accused were arrested by the CBI in November 2008,

more than 16 years after the nun's death. And during the trial, eight of the 49 prosecution witnesses. most of them close to the Church, turned hostile

Among the key witnesses, whose testimony is believed to have been crucial, was Adakka Raiu, who said that he saw two persons going down the stairs of the hostel in the early hours of March 27, 1992. Raju, who had been jailed in connection with a theft case, was known to steal copper cables from buildings.

"I had been offered a huge amount of money to change my statement. But I considered Abhaya as my daughter and stood for justice," said Raju, who is now a daily wage worker. Kottoor told reporters that he

is innocent. "God is my protector. I will proceed according to the plans of God. I haven't committed anv crime." he said. Sephy broke down in the courtroom after hearing the verdict.

"This is the victory of the judiciary. For the last three decades, I have been fighting for Abhaya. This verdict has the signature of God," said rights activist Jomon Puthenpurackal, who had been part of a group demanding justice for Abhaya. The case was initially probed

by local police as an unnatural death before the Crime Branch took over. A year after the murder, it was handed over to the CBI after a petition was submitted by a group of nuns from various congregations to the then Chief Minister, the late K Karunakaran.

In a closure report in 1996, the CBI said that it could not conclude whether it was a suicide or homicide. But the chief judicial magistrate in Kochi rejected the report and directed the agency to continue the probe.

Finally, in September 2008, the Kerala High Court ordered the CBI to hand over the probe to the agency's Kochi unit headed then by DySP Nandakumaran Nair. It was a team led by Nair that arrested the three accused on November 19, 2008.

Political space

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 mes-

The Jammu Division and the Kashmir Division still do not see eye to eye, though Lt Governor Manoj Sinha refers to them as the 'two eves" of the Union Territory. Jammu has voted based on the religious composition of its voters. Predominantly Hindu regions have voted overwhelmingly for the saffron party; in Poonch DDC, it drew a blank, and three each in

Rajouri, Ramban and Kishtwar.

The moderate voice of the

National Conference seems to have appealed to voters beyond the Valley. It has emerged the single-largest party in three DDCs in the Jammu Division - Rajouri, Ramban and Kishtwar. If Congress enters into a post-poll alliance with NC, the two can gain a majority in all these three. And in Poonch, the NC, PDP and Congress add up to make the half-way mark. If at all, the five-party alliance of regional parties in the Union Territory has opened up new possibilities too, and presented the BJP with a unique challenge - that of a united Opposition, Of the 20 DDCs, a united Opposition can have its say in as many as 13. This may give ideas to national parties fighting the BJP's rise in states as well as the Centre. The flipside of this bonsai

democracy is also how a large number of independent candidates can influence the outcome. In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, of the 14 seats, independents have won as many as nine. With the Centrebacked J&K Apni Party winning three, and the BJP one, technically, Apni Party-BJP alliance can claim the DDC with support from independents.

The DDC elections have for the first time also given the BJP a toehold in the Valley. For the party to win a seat in Pulwama (south Kashmir), which saw percentage voter turnout in single digits, it is seen as remarkable. In fact, BJP has won a seat in north Kashmir (Bandipore) and Central Kashmir (Srinagar) too. This brings the party in proximity to the Valley's people, which may have a rub-off effect on its politics as well. Explaining the significance of the DDC elections, L-G Sinha had called it a key vehicle for bringing the politics of representation back in Jammu and Kashmir. Tuesday's results mark a tentative and important step towards that -- how will the establishment manage the new expectations is the next challenge. **FULL REPORTS ON**

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TAMILNADU HOUSING BOARD - COIMBATORE HOUSING UNIT **SEALED TENDER-CUM-OPEN AUCTION NOTICE**

Coimbatore Housing Unit of Tamilnadu Housing Board has proposed to sell the Commercial site / Shop site / Community Hall site / School site / Creche site / Public purpose site / Primary School site / Nursery School site / Service Industries site (Totally 94 items) through Sealed Tender-cum-Open **auction date on** 21.01.2021.

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Telephone No.: 0422-2493359

Guneet Josh

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Exe.Engr. & Adm.Officer,



				Total	Vacant
		HOSP	ITAL BEDS	18,779	15,965
6,18,74	47	VENT	ILATORS	1,523	872
	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

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

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.

house-to-house and do checkup of passengers to assess their condition, and also advise them to isolate themselves for some time," he said.

According to senior health officials, the government is chalking out a plan to isolate and quarantine passengers. We have identified Lok Nayak Hospital where the passengers who have been tested positive will be taken while those who have tested negative may have an option to go either to the paid or unpaid isolation facility. The final decision on the centres is yet to be taken," said a senior official from the state health department. At present, two hoquarantine 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

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 Jaipuriar 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

Cases below lk 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.

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

be heard next on January 5.

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



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

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 ASJ Rawat said, "She (Jahan)



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 $general\,ward\,since\,other\,in mates$ "behave strangely" with him after hearing he is a riot accused.

BRIEFLY ——

Minor raped, murdered, neighbour held

Gurgaon: A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered in Jhajjar Sunday night. Police said the victim's neighbour has been arrested for the crime. According to police, the child was abducted from her home by the accused while her parents had gone to the market. "When her parents returned and found she was not at home, they alerted the local police station. A team was immediately sent and the child was traced to the rented accommodation of the accused," said Rahul Dev, DSP, (Jhajjar).

Journo robbed of phone at qunpoint

New Delhi: A 30-year-old journalist of a news agency was allegedly robbed at gunpoint by three bike-borne men in East Delhi's Shakarpur. According to police, they received information regarding the incident on Tuesday at 12.30 am. Police rushed to the spot and found the victim. He alleged that three men on a bike robbed his phone and ID card at gunpoint and he also sustained injuries. A case under relevant sections has been registered at Shakarpur police station, a senior police officer said. Police said they are checking CCTVs to trace the accused. ENS

'Aghast' at handling of POCSO case, HC seeks all judgments of trial court judge

SOFIAHSAN NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 22

TAKING STRONG note of a judgment passed by an Additional Sessions Judge in a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. 2012, the Delhi High Court has called for all judgments rendered by her while handling her assignments as a POCSO court, and said the verdict does not exhibit due application of mind.

"We are aghast at the manner in which the trial court has dealt with this case. Irrespective of whether she is right in her conclusion with regard to guilt or innocence of accused, we have serious reservation with regard to the manner in which trial court has proceeded to deal with evidence in the case. In fact, it has not dealt with the evidence," the division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar said in its order.

The order was passed Monday in a leave petition filed by Delhi Police in February against the trial court's December 2019 judgment in a case pertaining to the rape of a minor. The case was registered under Section 506 IPC and Section 6 of POCSO Act in a West district police station. The lone accused was acquitted by the trial court.

Noting that the trial court's judgment is "all of 7-and-a-half pages", the bench in its order observed the purpose of writing a judgment by the trial court is to render a judgment that is comprehensive and should display application of mind to evidence.

"The impugned judgment does not exhibit due application

of mind by trial court, and compels us to not only issue notice in this matter, but also to require the learned Additional Sessions Judge concerned to send to this court all her judgments that she may have rendered while handling her assignment as a POCSO court. A copy of this order shall be communicated to District and Sessions Judge concerned to ensure com-

Among other things noted in the order regarding the judgment, the division bench said the trial court in para 14 recorded that two eyewitnesses denied having witnessed the offence but stated they were playing on the roof of the accused's place and "upon hearing the ruckus, rushed down and saw the victim's elder sister shouting and accused locked inside". "They did not see minor victim 'P' there. They stated they were under a lot of pressure when they made their statement under Section 164 CrPC. Para 15 records that FSL report confirms a condom was recovered from bedroom of accused, which had DNA of the accused. The trial court, however, records 'there was, however, nothing in testimony of victim that would connect this condom with the offence alleged against him'. However, victim's statement has not been either reproduced or dealt with," it said further.

Additional Public Prosecutor Ashish Dutta also pointed to the victim's MLC which contains the history and also refers to use of condom by the accused. The court issued notice to the person previously accused in the case for



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

At present, the water that surrounds the island and much of the wetlands – from Dhobi 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 Hauz 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 cvprus – decompose waste in the water further by drawing nutrients from it. The water is then

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

released into the wetlands.

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

"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 corpo-

"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 al-

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 BIP 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

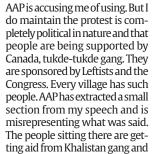


MLA Chadha



BJP MP Bidhuri and AAP

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



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.

FIR against Ragini Tiwari over video 'threatening' protesters

sought

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DELHI POLICE has registered an FIR against Ragini Tiwari alias Ianki 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 Jafrabad in February. The FIR has been registered under IPC Section 153 13, had said, "SHO/ Jafrabad has (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot). been directed to take necessary

Express that before lodging an FIR, Northeast district police had legal opinion. "Afterwards, an FIR was registered based on a police person-

nel'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

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.

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

MAX: 24 | MIN: 4

KILLED BY 2 MEN IN ROAD RAGE

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

ASHNA BUTANI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THEIR SON killed in an incident of road rage, the family of 15-yearold Rohit Kumar has locked their rented home in Greater Noida's Haldoni and left for their hometown in Aligarh, A class IX student, Rohit would help his two elder brothers sell vegetables in Greater Noida. He succumbed to head injuries on Sunday, two days after being beaten up by two men on a bike following an argument.

The two men have been arrested, said police.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Rohit's father Man Singh (40), who works as a driver in Delhi. said, "I was driving at the time... I got a call from my elder son saying that there was a fight and Rohit was badly injured. I left everything and rushed there — I never thought something like this



could happen."

Rohit was first taken to Yatharth hospital in Noida. Rashmi (27), his cousin, said, "First, we filed a complaint at Phase 2 station and then took him to the hospital. Throughout, he was bleeding from the head. The

treatment cost Rs 30,000 and we do not have that kind of money. Nobody around offered a helping hand. So we took him to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi... he kept crying and was bleeding. A day later, doctors said a bone in his head broke and bent inward.

up-to 15:00



Robit Kumar: (left) the locked house in Gr Noida where his family used to live

There was not a single bone in his body that was not damaged... they beat him up so badly."

A student of Shri Mishra Lal Adarsh Inter College in Aligarh, where he would go to take exams every few months, Rohit had been helping his brothers at the

Phase 2 mandi every day. In the evening, the three brothers would go to another market near Naya Gaon to sell vegetables

Adiba (20), a neighbour, said she still hadn't come to terms with Rohit's death: "He and his brothers, Ajay and Akash, had been working at the mandi for three years. I used to tie Rohit a rakhi every year... he was like a younger brother - hardworking and sincere."

Harish Chander DCP, Zone 2, Gautam Budh Nagar, said, "Rohit had set up his vegetable cart with his brothers, and two men on a motorcycle touched the cart. A heated argument broke out and they started beating each other up. The two men then picked up a stick from nearby and hit Rohit on the head." He said that the bike number was identified from CCTV footage and the two men, Likhit and Ashish, were arrested under IPC section 304.

BJP's MSP post features farmer protesting at Singhu

RAAKHIJAGGA& ABHINAV RAJPUT LUDHIANA, NEW DELHI,

DECEMBER 22

THE BJP in Punjab Tuesday removed a post on MSP purchase of crops from social media handles after the 36-year-old model whose pictures were used as part of the message said he was at the Singhu border protesting with farmers. Hoshiarpur-based Harpreet Singh, popular as 'Harp Farmer' on Twitter, claimed his picture was used without his permission.

Janardan Sharma, media incharge of Punjab BJP, said, "I am not aware as to how the picture was used and who used it. I think it has been taken off now."

Speaking to The Indian Express, the 36-year-old, a photographer who also makes short music videos, said: "My friend called to say my photo was being used in an advertisement campaign in support of the farm bill. I figured it had been lifted from my social media profile.'





The post has been removed (left); Singh at Singhu

The photo, from five years ago, shows Harpreet in a farmer's attire and says that during this kharif season, the purchase of crops at minimum support price is continuing.

It mentioned that the government's nodal agencies had purchased 412.91 LMT (lakh metric tonnes) of paddy and paid 77,957.83 crore benefiting 48.56 lakh farmers. Details about purchase of moong, moongfali, soyabean, urad dal, cotton and kopra on MSP were also given. Once the post was put up online by BJP, Singh responded to it online: "I'm at Singhu border since November 26 and I am against these farm bills. I am supporting farmers in their struggle and BJP is using my picture in favour of the bills and that too without my permission. It is the height of indecency. I appeal to everyone to report this so Facebook also comes

wheat, makka.

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₹ 35,800/-. Cost of tender form

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Months, Online tender closing

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opening of Tender: 11,01,2021 at

16.00 hrs. . Detailed information

about tender and tender format is

available at website www.ireps

gov.in and tender notice at notice

board of CWM, CRWS, Bhopal's

office. Chief Workshop Manager

CRWS, Nishatpura, WCR, Bhopal

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE (W) ROOM NO. 306, VARUNALAYA PHASE-II, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI **EMAIL ID**: proyap32018@gmail.com **PHONE NO.**- 011 2355 0843 **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** Bid security

Last dt./tim eposit For each Completion of receipt of group (Rs.) group (Rs.) INR 3,96,000.00 Selection of Partner Public Relations (PR) Agency to carry out Lump Sum 03/02/202 Media Tracking and Analysis, and to assist DJB in handling (Rupees Three publicizing its activities, policies and programs to the public at large nder the YAP-III PR component, at both macro and micro levels

Further details in this regard can be seen at DJB website i.e. <u>www.delhijalboard.nic.in</u> under "Expression o "STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL Dy. Director (PR) Delhi Jal Board

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, NAVA RAIPUR

Director General of Police, Chitatingarh, Raspar, on behalf of Governor of Chitatinggarh, invites sealed tenders in

Providing RPID system for measuring naturing time during Physical Efficiency Test (P.E.T..) RPID

The tender document may be obtained from the office of the under signed on payment of Rs. 1,000\(^1\) (Rupees One Thomand only) in the form of Demand Drah/Barker Cheque issued by any nationalized/Scheduled bank in favour of A.I.G. Accounts, Police HeadQueners, Nava Raiper, Psyable in Raiper. Tender form can be downloaded from Charatisquir Police Working and can be submitted along with Rs. 1,000\(^1\) Dotto-Demand Drah. Detail of the Scope of work & tender condition are available on the website of Charatisquirh Police i.e. http://www.xgon/cc.gon/m.

The Tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents scaled and completed in all the respect must be submitted as per the schedule below :-

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

Room No.: 367, Block No. 3, Fant Floor,

28-12-2020 at 11:30 AM

(8-01-2021 at 16:00 life.

18-61-2021 Bill 12:50 Hrs.

folios Headquerters: C'hhemiseartr, Nava Raines

Police Headquarters, Chlattisgarh, Nava Raipur

(sd/-)

Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh

Providing digital solutions for outdoor events of Shot Put, Long Jump and High Jump during Physical Efficiency Test (P.E.T.)

Commence application software for the recruitment program including integration of previous available

03 separate on clops contrarked to (pre-qualification bid. Technical bid and Financial bid) for our services required for the recruitment of Chinalingarh Police for following items:

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 274/2020-21

DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka undertaking) Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Kavoor Cross Road, langaluru - 575004. Ph. 0824-2885795 E-mail : sepmescom@rediffmail.com CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

MESCOM invites short term tender for Manufacture and Supply of the

Quantity Name of the Material proposed for Procurement 11KV 5KN Polymeric Pin Insulators interested eligible bidders may www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.12.2020.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.) MESCOM, Mangaluru wer Related Complaint & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Subhakar, S/o Gangadhar, R/o A-10, B.B.M.B. Power House Colony, Ballabgarh, Haryana, Age: 57 years, Built: Thin, Height: 5'7" Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Jacket, Grey Pant and Shoes in his feet has been missing from ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi since 10.12.2020 at 7.52 am. In this regard a DD No. 87A dated 15.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area. Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. if any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

ADVERTISEMENT

DISTRICT AYUSH SOCIETY

MAHENDERGARH AT NARNAUL

District Ayush Society- Mahendergarh at Narnaul invites application

rom the eligibile candidates for filling up of the following post in the AYUSH Department District Mahendergarh, Haryana under National AYUSH Mission purely on contract basis initially upto 31.03.2021 with

The interested candidates are advised to visit website www.mahen

dergarh.gov.in for details of post and download the application form

and also may be collected from office of District Ayurvedic Office,

Post

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in Ph.: 011-24368638.24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/300/ED/2020

details as mentioned below:

Data Entry Operator

diately after written test.

considered

1057/7/HRY

District Programme Manager

Yoga Instructor (Part Time) under AHWC

P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area. Delhi Ph. :011-22146491, 8750870626

Date and Time of

Written Test

11.01.2021 at 10.00 A.M.

11.01.2021 at 10.00 A.M.

Corporate Office, 2nd Floor MESCOM Bhavana, Kavoor Cross Road, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004 Phone: 0824-2885795 E-mail: sepmescom@rediffmail.com No. SEE(P)/ MESCOM /2020-21/11612

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only) Name of the Material proposed for Procurement The interested eligible bidders may log on to

For Power Related Complaints and Assistant Call Toll Free Number 1912

The Executive Engineer, Jirania Division, PWD (R&B). West Tripura invites e-tender against press For CONSTRUCTION OF RCC BRIDGE (LENGTH =

21.20 M) OVER GHORAMARA CHERRA ON THE ROAD FROM NH-44 TO DURGANAGAR (JOB NO. TP/ COM/28/2017-18) (3rd Call)

With Estimated Cost : Rs. 1,30,33,249.00 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 1,30,332.00

Last Date for submitting of duly filled application form is 04.01.2021 upto to 05.00 P.M. in the office of District Avurvedic Office. Near Neerpur Chowk, Behror Road, Patikara (Narnaul) by hand or by more details kindly Registered Post only. Application sent through other mode will not be

https://tripuratenders.gov.in

ICA- C- 2519-20

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etendehry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

to know of it." Singh hails from Nidhulon village in Punjab's Hoshairpur. He said his family owns five acres of land where they grow

We pay homage to our noble martyr, who No. MESCOM/SEE(P)/EEE(P)/2020-21/ 11942



MAJ HPS

made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemy in 'OP RAKSHAK', J&K in the year 1993. His dauntless courage & sacrifice will forever inspire the organisation. **CO & ALL RANKS 6TH BN BRIGADE**

OF THE GUARDS.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

BUILDINGS (C & M) CIRCLE, MEDICAL WORKS, TRICHY **TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE, DATED: 22.12.2020**

2021/BCM/MW/TRY/Dated:23.11.2020 published in Newspaper is extended due to Administrative reason and the date of receiving tender is fixed upto 3.00 PM on 12.01.2021 and will be opened on 12.01.2021 at 3.30 PM. The tender schedule can be downloaded upto 11.01.2021, 5.45 PM. All other Details may be downloaded from the following websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in(or) www.tntenders.gov.in

Other conditions remain unaltered

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., DIPR / 4823 / TENDER / 2020 Buildings (C & M) Circle, Medical Works, Trichy

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Government of Karnataka undertaking)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 24.12.2020.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)(Proc), MESCOM, Mangalor

NIT No. 21/EE/JRN/2020-2021 Dated 19/12/2020

Time of Completion - 24 (twenty four) months.

visit:

Note: *NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER

NAME OF WORK HOTTCE TENDER

WE'S RESERVED TO MEN ADDITIONS OF CHARGES CONTICUEND AND THAT (AS THE COSE HAVE BY ALORE WITH CONTRACTS CONTICUEND HOLD AND THAT (AS THE COSE HAVE BY ALORE WITH CONTRACTS CONTICUEND.)

WHICH HE CLESSELLE ALTHOUGH A FOLIA LELLH IN STREET GOAY BYON

पर एवं मुगक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

🔘 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🍥 Corrigendum **STORES DEPARTMENT**

Corrigendum Batch No. 55/20 dated: 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 SI No. 1. Tender No.: 06205312, Brief

Description: Low Maintenance Lead Acid secondary, **EMD**: **Existing**: 137130 **To be** read as : 0 Sl No. 2. Tender No. 06202403, Brief Description: Magnet Telephone, EMD: Existing: 137130 To be read as: 0 Compliance: Existing: 1. Clause condition (special condition) EMD & SD is applicable as per IBD attached (Para 11-12) in terms of Railway Board letter No. 2004/RS) G/779/11 Pt. dated 3.12.19. EMD & SD will be exempted for RDSO approved sources and vendors registered with ECR for the trade group **To** be read as: EMD & SD is to be applicable as per Railway Board letter no. 2020/RS (G)/779/16 dated 27.11.20.

Receipt No. 01131 dated 14.12.20. and allocation No. Rev: 43-3667-04. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS-<u>www.ireps.gov.in</u> 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

Principal Chief Material Manager E.C.Railway, Hajipur PR/1167/HQ/ STORE/C/20-21/44

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR ASSAM STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION PALTANBAZAR, PARIBAHAN BHAWAN, GUWAHATI-781008

In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on nest working day. Tender forms shall not be supplied by Post.

Phone (MD):- (0361) 2739552(O)

Fax: (0361) 2730726 Email:- astc2009@gmail.com Date:22/12/2020

Ref No.ASTC/FAMEi/P2/0001/2019-20/0596

n) Address for submission of Tender Document: -

Lord date & time for availability of sender forms

Place. Time and Date of opening Financial Bid.

Dure till which the Bid to resum valid

Pre - Bid conference

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Selection of Bus Operator for Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 100 AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) basis in the cities of Guwahati, Silchar and Jorhat in the State of Assam Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) offers reliable, safe, dependable and comfortable passenger

service. Bus Services of ASTC covers rural and hilly roads, highways as well as city roads across the state. Besides this, it also provides Interstate Transport Services to the neighboring states as well. The Assam State Transport Corporation is strongly dedicated to achieving the key objectives to provide best transport services to citizens at reasonable price with the use of modern information technology. ASTC intend to use Electric Buses for augmenting clean and green shared mobility across the State of Assam by deploying them on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) basis through appointment of an Operator Towards this, the RFP is being hereby published for inviting proposals from eligible Operators /Bus

Manufacturers (OEMs) for procurement, operation and maintenance of 100 number of Electric Buses on GCC basis under Phase - II of FAME India Scheme. Who can Apply: Please refer to RFP document as per Clause 4 - Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria. Hard copies of the technical bids should reach the office of the undersigned on or before the bid submission deadline mentioned below:

Bid submission Due Date and time: 06.01.2021(Till 12 PM) The Financial Bids must be submitted through online mode only as per the format of the BOQ uploaded online. Hard copies of the same must not be sent with the technical bids ASTC at its discretion may or may not invite bids only from those firms which express their interest in

response to this invitation and fulfil the above requirements. ASTC reserves the right to reject any or all

of the bid responses received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Address for Submission of Tender Documents: For more details please contact: **Managing Director** Shri Balin Das Assam State Transport Corporation(ASTC) Chief Engineer (A&T), ASTC

Email: astc2009@gmail.com Paltanbazar, Guwahati-781008 Phone: 0361-2739552;

Managing Director Assam State Transport Corporation

The Written Test will be held at office of District Ayurvedic Office Narnaul in the premises of Baba Khetanath Govt. Ayurvedic College & Hospital, Neerpur- Behror Road, PATIKRA (Narnaul). The Typing Test for the post of Date Entry Operator will be held imme Interview for the above post will likely be held on 15 Jan. 2021 and onwards, Application will be intimated on Mobile No./E-mail ID provid-

above mentioned website also. Please check website www.mahendra garh.gov.in regularly. Candidates coming for interview are advised to bring original docu For any query you can Contact Mobile No. 70159-96561.

ed by the applicant. Therefore applicants are advised to produce valid E-mail ID and valid Mobile No. Interview schedule will be uploaded on

District Ayurvedic Officer-cum-Member Secretary, District Ayush Society,
District Mahendergarh at Narnaul.







THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-66 Notice Inviting Tender e Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items -Name of Hem opening of e-tender Cost (Rs.) C. Boxes for Different Milk Products Three Months Verka Head Office 2004 3.50,000/-23.12.2020 28.12.2020 Technical Bid SCO No. 153-155, Sector 34A, Chandigart From 10:00 AM up to 01:00 PM 28.12.2020 at 00:00 PM 23.12.2020 28.12.2020 Technical Bid C. Boxes for Export Chee Tins Three Months 2006 20,0006 From 10:00 AM up to 01:00 PM 28.12.2020 at 03:00 PM 28.12.2020 C. Baxes for Defence Supply Three Months

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only Le. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit.card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above 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 and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of lender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is General Manager (P&LM/PURCHASE)

New Delhi

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The date of tender for the work in the Tender Notice No.14/2020-

Last Date of bidding for bids- 19/01/2021 upto

From 10:00 AM up to 01:00 PM

28.12.2020 at 03:00 PM

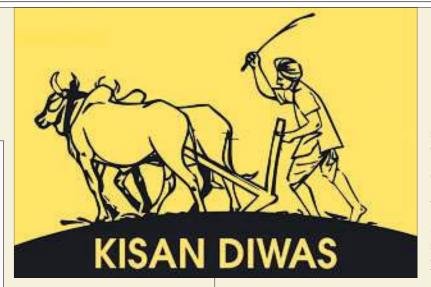
Saluting the Indian farmers on Kisan Diwas

GRICULTURE SECTOR is one of most important private enterprises in Indian economy. Call it an industry will not be an exaggeration because it is a huge employer in the private sector. Around 60 % Indian population works in agriculture and contribute nearly 18 % to the GDP. This share decreases gradually with each year with development of other areas of economy. It is estimated that there are nearly 145 million farm families in the country according to the Agriculture Census 2015-16. What is important today on this Kisan Divas is to remind the general public of their contribution to nation building.

Due to their hard work in the field India's agriculture has become a grand success story. With 11% of total global agriculture, India ranks second in the world in agriculture production as the leading producer of several commodities including food grains, cotton, cane, horticultural crops, dairy, poultry, aquaculture and spices. Ably assisted by modern inputs and technologies, Indian farmers have taken the country as the second largest production hub. Agricultural GDP rose from USD 101 billion in 2001 to USD 459 billion in recent years showing remarkable growth and that too with substantial reduction in the workforce in agriculture. As the economy grew, the workforce engaged in this sector sharply declined from 60% in 2000 to 42% in 2019. Still the current agricultural production has been ever increasing touching new heights; food grains 297 MT horticulture 315 MT, cotton 38 million bales of 170 kg each, milk 188 MT, fish, 13 MT, poultry 04 MT and 103 billion egg production, have been all records. In fact, except vegetable oils, India is not only self-sufficient but now planning for surplus management of agricultural produce. Framers have shown remarkable adoption of new technologies since the use of dwarf wheats and rice culminating in to the famous green revolution. Today one can see all the latest technologies like, hybrid cultivars, GM cotton, micro-irrigation, resource conservation, Hitech horticulture, artificial insemination tool in animals, sustainable, intensification and mechanization all in fields. As a result of surplus production many products face demand deficit in domestic market, often leading to glut and price crash and famers distress. Govt desires to double the farmers income by 2022, then our focus must shift from production to



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.

NVISIONED AND founded by Dr. K.K Birla in the year 1985, Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited was born out of the twin objective of achieving food security in the country and self-reliance in production. With a modest beginning, the Company has grown over the years and now commands nearly 13% of the total Urea production in India.

Chambal has continued to responsibly and sustainably contribute to the food security of the nation for more than three decades. Its manufacturing facilities are located at Gadepan, about 35 kms from Kota in the state of Rajasthan. The Gadepan complex comprises of manufacturing plants and residential complex which is one amongst the best in the country. Its three hi-tech Urea plants use state-of-the-art technologies from Denmark, Italy, United States and Japan and produce around 3.3 million MT of Urea per annum. These plants were commissioned in the years 1994, 1999 and 2019. The Company has received many awards over the years for its environmental performance. Besides Urea, the Company also markets other fertilisers and agri-inputs such as Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, NPK Fertilisers and agrochemical products under a single window concept to provide all necessary crop nutrients and crop protection chemicals to the farmers under one roof. The Company markets its products under its umbrella brand "Uttam". The Company takes pride in supplying high quality products which are preferred by farmers in Eastern, Northern and Central parts of India.

Gadepan III plant, commissioned in 2019, is amongst the most efficient Urea plants in the world and uses the latest technologies from KBR, USA and Toyo Engineering Corporation, Japan. The new plant is an important milestone in the journey of growth of the Company, which has benefitted not only to the Company but the country as a whole. It helped the country in its goal to achieve selfsufficiency 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.

Fertilizer for

sustainable development

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-

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 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

ADVERTORIAL

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.



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.

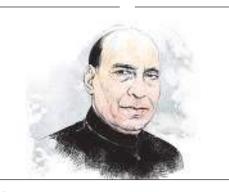
It will be our endeavor to further contribute in many more meaningful ways to make the farmers safe, healthy and prosperous.



Registered Office: Gadepan, District Kota, Rajasthan - 325 208 | corporate@chambal.in | www.chambalfertilisers.com | CIN: L24124RJ1985PLC003293

6 GOVT & POLITICS





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 constituenand 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

Late Tuesday evening, with counting still on, the NC had won 12 seats, Congress had five, JKAP IKNPP one Independents (four).

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 JKNPP one, with the saffron party leading in



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

at least half a dozen more. The winners in Udhampur district included BJP's former MLA R S Pathania's wife Juhi Manhas (Khoon constituency). In Reasi district, BIP 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

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

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

NAVEEDIQBAL

SRINAGAR. DECEMBER 22

BESIDES THE BIP 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.

BASHAARAT MASOOD

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

came from Muzaffarabad to a for-

mer minister, a senior Congress

leader and former legislators to

the children of senior mainstream

political leaders, the DDC elections

in Iammu and Kashmir saw a

galaxy of candidates trying their

luck. Here are some of the big win-

ners and losers in what is the

biggest democratic event in the

WAHEED-UR-REHMAN

PARRA: The youth president of

PDP, Waheed was contesting from

jail. He was picked up by the NIA a

few days after he filed the nomi-

nation papers. In his absence,

Waheed's family sought votes for

him to "prove his innocence". In

Pulwama-I constituency, which

polled less than 10 per cent votes,

Waheed won after securing 1,332

votes from. The next in line were

ister and senior Congress leader in

TAJ MOHIDIN: A former min-

the rejected votes - at 333.

new Union Territory



Independent candidate Bilal Ahmad in Srinagar. PTI

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

NAVEEDIOBAL 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.

Big wins, narrow defeats

Jammu and Kashmir, Taj Mohidin

jumped the fray from the border

constituency of Parenpillan in Uri,

a seat he has represented twice in

Mohidin was leading, when re-

ports last came in, by a margin of

over 1,500 votes over his nearest

rival. Showkat Ali Khan - a joint

candidate of the People's Alliance

for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD)

While Mohidin had secured 9,730

lator who joined the Altaf Bukhari-

led Jammu and Kashmir Apni

Party, Shuaib lost to Independent

candidate Irfan Hafeez Lone from

Sangrama constituency of

Baramulla by a narrow margin.

While Irfan secured 3,404 votes.

Shuaib managed to get 2,129 votes.

PDP spokesperson Suhail Bukhari,

who was also in the fray from

Sangrama, managed to get only

from Wachi in south Kashmir's

Shopian, the PDP candidate won

from Zainapora-II DDC seat, de-

feating his rival, Independent can-

AIAZMIR: A former legislator

325 votes and finished sixth.

SHUAIB LONE: A former legis-

votes, Khan was at 8,145 votes.

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 re-**FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

didate Basher Ahmad Malla by

637 votes. While Mir polled 932

er denuty Chief Minister

Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffar

Hussain Beig, Safeena contested

the DDC polls from Wagoora con-

stituency as an Independent can-

didate. She was up against NC's

Shaheena Begum, a joint candi-

date of the People's Alliance.

Safeena defeated Begum by a

south Kashmir constituencies, es-

pecially in Pulwama and Shopian,

was low, the region witnessed

from Dadsara Tral, Avtar Singh, de-

feated National Conference's Ali

Mohammad Bhat by a margin of

only three votes. In Zainapora-I

DDC constituency, Independent

candidate Bilguees Jan defeated

another Independent, Gull Igbal.

by 11 votes. In Kakapora con-

stituency of Pulwama, BJP's

Minha Lateef won by a margin of

An independent candidate

some close contests.

While the turnout in most

margin of around 1,500 votes.

SAFEENA BEIG: Wife of for-

votes, Malla managed 295.

Somia Sadaf

PARTY-WISE

PERFORMANCE

BJP

Independents

*J&K SEC; as of late evening

PAGD

Jammu

3 73

(wins/leads)

42

32

85 27

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

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

INTHE 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.

State Election "...The rhasdir ed to defe 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 didn'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 Bandipore, where a candidate, Pakistani wife of a militant who returned under the rehabilitation programme, was contesting.

retain youth in science: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

Challenge is to

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), Modialso 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 hitech 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

Trump presents Legion of Merit to PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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: "Lam 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, re-

flected 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 K M Cariappa in 1950, and Gen SM Srinagesh in

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

Japan's Defence Ministry said



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 es-

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

SHUBHAJITROY 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 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 provincewide 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

plete," she had told BBC. In a 2016 interview. Karima

said the political situation in Balochistan pushed her into pol-"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

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 exe," 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 poweropen 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 anticorruption agency Lokayukta police for failing to complete investigation over past five years.

proached 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

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



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. "...vet 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 bigwigs," the court observed.

FULL REPORT ON

Board exams not in Jan-Feb, says Pokhriyal

EXPRESS NEW 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)

TWISTS AND TURNS IN ABHAYA MURDER CASE

28 yrs of probe, tampered tapes, kitchen evidence

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 22

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS and probes by three agencies later, a 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

VICTIM AND ACCUSED

Sister Abhaya as well as the accused belonged to the Knanaya Catholic Church, which is headquartered in Kottayam, A 19-yearold nun, Sister Abhaya was a predegree 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 Puthrikkayl - were arrested. The CBI court, however, later allowed the discharge petition of Father Puthrikkayl for lack

According to the prosecution, Sister Sephy was in a relationship with two priests - Father Kottoor, the then chancellor of the diocese and Father Puthrikkayl, 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 strangulated 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 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.

Following a complaint to the 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 SPAK 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 new CBI probe team led by Deputy SP Nandakumaran Nair recorded the statement of Saniu 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 Puthrikkayl 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 destroy-

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 narcoanalysis 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

The CD of the test on Father Kottoor had been edited at 30 places. The CD of Father Puthrukkaayil 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 CIM 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

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,

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

ave weathered the threats." A school dropout, Jomon be-

Church, which is the home church of the accused as well as the victim. When an action council was formed in Kottavam 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

He alleged that police, espe-

cially 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.

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

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 devel oping the Agriculture Sectorof India. Financially, how is the company posi-

tioned 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 effectiveutilization 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 flagshipprogrammes, being run by the MoA & FW; Farmers training programmes are being organised by showcasing new technologies in

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 thissector?

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, Jetsar 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 loca-

- tions as below: -■ 2000MT at CSF, Jetsar
- 40000MT at CSF, Hisar
- 3000MT at AO, Govindpura RO, Bhopal
- 1000MT at AO, Ajmer RO, Jaipur ■ 3000MT at AO, Hempur RO, Lucknow
- ■1000MT at AO, Dharward RO, Bengluru ■ 2000MT at AO, Haveri RO, Bengluru

3. Lining of Water Cources at Farms is 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



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 ac-

tivities 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 Temporary 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 dif-

ferent 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 farm-

ers. NSC also exportza x zs 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-

New Delhi

fare, GOI. What are the major take awavs 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 Revenuefrom 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 verities, 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, seedis 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.

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 probe 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 distancing. 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. NCPCR 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

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

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

04200265A

05 06195329A

Kit for speed sensor

04 06195454 PIJF 50 pairs telephone cable.

style QBA1

the date and time mentioned in the tablebelow:

Activity

Online Sale/Download date of Tender

documents

Cost of Bidding Document, Bid

Processing Fee, & E-tender processing

(Submission of Cost of Bidding

Document & Bid Processing Fee is

exemption for SSI/ NSIC/ MSME

registered agency)

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)

(Submission of Bid Security (EMD) is

mandatory for all bidders, No

exemption for SSI/ NSIC/ MSME

registered agency)

Pre-Bid Conference

Date/Time for submission/ uploading of

offer / Bid (ONLINE)

Submission of Cost of Bidding Document Fee, Bid Processing Fee,

EMD. Tender Document & Required

Mandatory Supporting Documents

(Hard Copy)

Validity of Bid

Date & time for opening of Technical

Date & time for opening of Financial Bid

Online E-Reverse Auction Request

PR. No. 009930 (ENERGY) 2020-21

10

in tender notice on the above portal.

Jpended insert 30 mm Neutral

Relay AC immune plug-in type,

Commission, but soon found that Yahoo India had blocked

their email account "because of

violation of terms of service of

Yahoo mail".

Twitter, NCPCR Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo said, "Î hope that Yahoo India and Yahoo will compliance with law

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.

Published

14.12.20/11:59

18.12.20/16:01:31

Duration

Upto 21/01/2021 (12:00 Hrs)

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

ncluding 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 RFF

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).

INR 4,00,000.00 (INR Four Lakhs) per Mega Watt (MW) as pe

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.

12/01/2021 at 11 .00 Hrs. (Bihar Renewable Energy

Development Agency", 2nd Floor, VidyutBhawan, Building

No.2, Bailey Road, Patna – 800021. Bihar, India)

21/01/2021 up to 23:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

22/ 01 /2021 at 14:00 Hrs.

("Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency", 2nd Floor,

VidyutBhawan, Building No.2, Bailey Road, Patna - 800021.

Bihar, India).

180 days from the date of opening of Financial Bid.

22/01 /2021 at 15:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

02/ 02 /2021 at 15:30 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

E-Reverse Auction Request Scheduled Will be communicated

qualified bidders, will be informed accordingly.

ESE,

BREDA. Patna

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.

10.12.20/21:20:42 18.01.21

41.5 K M | 18.12.20./16:00:19 | 18.01.21 | Fund is available

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER BATCH No. 55A/20 Date: 21.12.202
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials - "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS

241 sets

K- type composition brake block. | 73609 Nos. | 19.12.20/20:57:06 | 18.01.21 | Fund is available

4580 nos.

674 Nos

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

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/GCGMSPP/250MW/22/2020-21

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

BREDA invites Online Bids (e-tender) from interested Bidders for "Procurement of Power

Raina among 34 held in Mumbai club raid 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 Vandna 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

SHAJU PHILIP

DECEMBER 22

Central farm laws.

Date: 21.12.2020

Fund is available

Fund is available

18.01.21 Fund is available

Closing

18.01.21

Principal Chief Material Manager

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif

Mohammad Khan Tuesdav

turned down a Cabinet recom-

mendation to summon a meet-

ing of the Assembly to debate the

Vijayan said it was regrettable

that a recommendation from an

Chief Minister Pinaravi



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

Kerala Governor denies nod for session

on farm laws, CM says 'outside powers'

elected government enjoying

clear majority, for discussing an

emergent issue of national im-

portance, has not been acceded

to by the Governor, especially

when the power to summon an

Assembly session clearly falls

outside the discretionary power

had made a recommendation to

the Governor to summon a meet-

ing of the Assembly on December

23. The Governor turned down

On December 21, the Cabinet

of the Governor

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 convoys 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. "BIP 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.

the recommendation after rais-

ing queries as to the purpose of

In a letter to the Governor,

Vijayan said when the Council of

Ministers makes a recommen-

dation to summon the session of

the Legislature, the Governor

cannot exercise discretionary

power and turn down the rec-

Chennithala said the Governor's

decision was unfortunate.

Opposition leader Ramesh

ommendation.

summoning the Legislature.

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

ABHINAV RAJPUT& ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA NEW DELHI, JALANDHAR DECEMBER 22

FARM LEADERS said Tuesday that they have asked British-Punjabi 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 "bovcott 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, Harender 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.

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

which was notified by the Centre

in 2018, allows citizens and cor-

porates to buy monetary instru-

ments from the SBI and donate

them to a political party, which is

then free to redeem it for money.

sued this January, had directed

the Centre to reveal the names

of electoral bond scheme donors

who wanted their identities to

guing 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 ef-

ficient functioning of central in-

Durve had first sought the in-

formation 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

bonds issued to political parties

was held by the SBI in fiduciary

capacity" and that the names of

the donors could not be dis-

closed as these fell in the bracket

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.

While sharing information of

of third party information.

'information related to electoral

Citizen groups have been ar-

remain confidential.

vestigating agencies.'

The same CIC, in an order is-

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 provi-

sions 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 UK body slaps £20,000 fine judge uses car of booked person, on firm broadcasting suspended **Republic Bharat**

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, owner of the

said Audi car.

Railway Board

For and on behalf of the President of India

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

KRISHN KAUSHIK

channel that it found contravened the code against "hate In its order against Worldview Media Network Limited on Tuesday, the Office of Communica-tions, 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

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 national-

that this content was potentially

highly offensive, breaching Rules

ity".
"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

Corrigendum No. 01

nder Notice No. UDZ-HMT/GC 205110747 dated 26 11 2020 for Regular Maintenance of Newly laid BG track between Dungarpur (incl.) to Himmatnagar (Excl.) (from Km-227.0 to 321.35) of UDZ-HMT Section in the jurisdiction of ADEN/DNRP of Aime 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 or Sqm. 2. NS Item No. 22 please read in Unit column Sam, instead of Per Track Metre. Other terms and conditions will Dy. Chief Engineer

899-DH/20 N.W.Railway, Dungarpur Linking of New BG Track

93; Dated: 08-12-2020. Open fende brough e-tendering system is invited from openenced and reputed Contractor(s) tim(s) for the following works:- Tender No. CE/CON/N-A/TL/2020/12, Name o. work: Linking of New 9G Track with 10 20 rail panet Laying of Pts & X-ings, SEJ. L-Xing etc. on PSC sleeper, insertion of Pre Assembled T/Cut and dismantling o sisting Track and Trouts, spreading o Ballast, extension of L-Xing, approach pad, fencing etc. including supplying. fiting and fixing L-xing lifting Barrier, other connected antillary works as pe requirement in between station Nev Bongaigaon (including) to Sarbhog (excluding) and i.e. from Km 251/4-5 to 266/500 in connection with New Bongaigaon - Pathshala BG Doubling ection of New Bongaigaon - Agartala BG Doubling project. Approx. value: 712,87,36,008,20. Extender wilbe closed at 14:30 hrs. on 12-01-2021 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 12-01-2021, For Details

lease visit www.ineps.gov.in. Chief Engineer/Con/4, Maligaco Northeast Frontier Railway "Serving Customers with a smile"

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

etter No:- 3500/E-Tender Notice/20-21 (Short Term E-Tender Notice)

On behalf of Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Provincia 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 Prahari U.R.L. http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/ to upload required documents as per Goverment Order No 879(1)/23-7-2020 dt. 25-08-2020 & E-N.C./HOD's uppwd Order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020 All terms & conditions can be seen on website http://etender.up.nic.in.

NO.	RICI		cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	(Rs. in Lakhs)	docu- ments	Including rainy season	Engineer	ending Engineer	Contractors Registration Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	S	pecial Repair Year 20-21 R	epairing o	f various b	uilding	in District Ramp	ur (Anticipation	of Acceptance	e):
1		Inspection house of PWD PWD (In front of Dr. Ambedkar Park)		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.	6.00 (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 30) at situated Chiran PWD Colony Diamond road & TYPE 1 (1 to 30) situated at Kosi Banda.	(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
Sd/-									

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

(Sanieev Kumar Verma) **Executive Engineer** Pro. Div., PWD, Rampur Email- pdrampur@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: 17/12/20			
Notice Inviting Tender				

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

NO.		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, 0dB 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 resuired accessories.	2
9.	Repeater programming cable, programming software & soft and hard copy of service manual.	11
10.	Installation commissioning	11 Job
11.	Dispature 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 dispature	7

condition. 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 3. Tender documents also available for ready reference on the website of

https://mptenders.gov.in

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

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी। जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक ढिलाई नहीं

Deputy Director Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla (MP)

Name of Work Esti-mated Security of Bid completion Executive Superint-work

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/.

King George's Medical University U.P.

Notice No. 12/MS/TC/e-tender2020 Date 23.12.2020

Re E-Tender Inviting Notice

(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 $\ details \ of the \ tender \ and \ submission \ of \ their \ e-bids.$ 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

Dy. Director, Railway Stores (S)-l

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

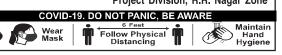
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only) The Executive Engineer, Project Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of

the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders on item rate basis from eligible contractors for the below mentioned work. Amount Put to

Si. No.	Name of the Work	Tender (Rs. in lakh)	(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 Technical 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:// Sd/- Executive Engineer

Project Division, R.R. Nagar Zone



खाद्य सामग्री– संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या ०६१२–२२१७३६ पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

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

CASES:

ACTIVE CASES: 292,518 DEATHS: **146,111**

RECOVERIES 30,376



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

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	
Korala	27	10.204	

rch and state governments. Often the numbers released every day contain data from previous of 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

IUST TWO weeks after the expert committee scrutinising apauthorisation (EUA) of Punebased 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 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

CBI arrests Lions prey Kashmir man for on 10 cows 'running child sex racket in US'

DEEPTIMANTIWARY

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 'masterslave 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.

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 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 LIK other countries & India before the committee".

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 Raikot 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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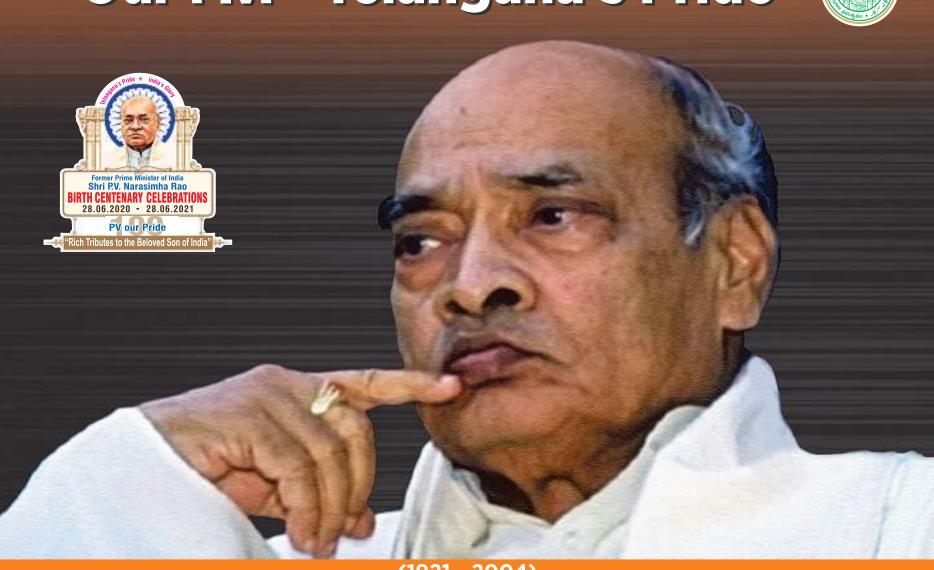
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(1921 - 2004)



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

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana.

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

Sounded 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

HE 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

N 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

HERE'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.

His trader's voice



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

Raiiv 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-

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 pri-

vate "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 foodgrain 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

CITIZEN AMERICAN

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

Rajmohan Gandhi

AS A 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 varies 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 Unless Trump tells his
American adorers (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.

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 adorers (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 northeast 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.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

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

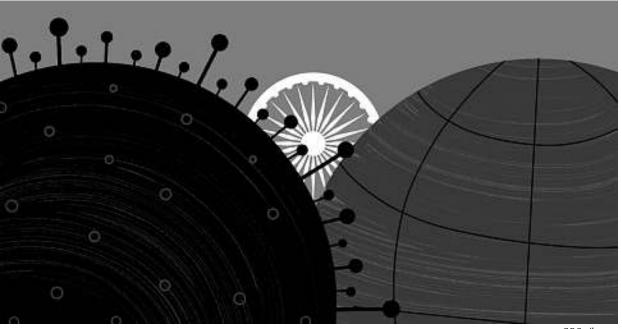
THE YEAR ENDS with a sigh of relief and anticipated redemption. Scientists the world over have delivered with unprecedented speed a set of vaccines which may deliver us, in time, from the scourge of COVID-19. This news comes appropriately on the eve of Christmas and the turn of the year, traditionally 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 unlearnt. 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-

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 burdensharing. 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

and T

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" —THEGUARDIAN

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 protestors 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 Januar 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 protestors 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

CAVANDER CHOW

Game on in Bengal

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

Sayandeb Chowdhury

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 eking 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 fledgeling 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 "voncerts", the rasikas too have

IDEAS Online

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FROM LADAKH STAND-OFF: AMEYA PRATAP SINGH

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

●THE MYTH OF OWAISI'S POLARISATION: NIZAM PASHA

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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 welfarism 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 Welfarism without intangible essentials is hollow.

Love Kumar Lalwani, Mehsana

12 THE WORLD



Security personnel at the site of the attack in

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 **REUTERS** ministry.

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 expan-

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 **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.

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

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 22

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on

Tuesday signed a stopgap meas-

other week while Congress

passed a massive Covid-19 aid

and government funding pack-

age overnight aimed at bolster-

ing the nation's pandemic re-

sponse and its battered

billion for coronavirus relief plus

federal government funding to

also avert a government shut-

down - together worth about

\$2.3 trillion in spending for the

rest of the fiscal year that ends

next September 30 -- and is awaiting Trump's approval to be-

In the meantime, US law-

makers moved to fund federal

agencies through December 28

to prevent a lapse in government

operations. Trump signed the

stopgap funding bill into law on

Tuesday, the White House said.

to throw a lifeline to the US econ-

omy after months of inaction as

the novel coronavirus outbreak

continues to swell nationwide,

with more than 214,000 people

infected every day. So far, more

The Covid-19 provisions aim

The package includes \$892

economy.

come law.

Trump signs stopgap

funding bill; Cong awaits

nod of \$892 bn Covid aid

Donald Trump

Saturday.

than 319,000 Americans have

cludes \$600 payments to most

Americans and additional

money to the millions of peo-

ple thrown out of work during

the Covid-19 pandemic, just as

earlier benefits expire on

and others said that while the

new round of aid was wel-

comed, it was far from enough

to help Americans who have

been struggling for months and

comes too late for many. They

called on President-elect Joe

Biden to do more once he takes

Mnuchin has said \$600 direct

payment checks could be sent to

people as soon as next week.

Treasury Secretary Steven

office on January 20.

Still, various advocacy groups

The wide-ranging bill in-



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

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

to this particular variant.'

Biden gets his shot, says nothing to worry about

LALITKJHA 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.

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

"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 ake disciplinary action against

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 statue," 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-



KP 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.

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 soety 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-

Why the law has sparked controversy

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

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

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

32 years on, suspect charged in 1988 Lockerbie bombing

We Didn't Start The Fire

location of the erupting lava, there was little risk to the public. AP/PTI

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

EU vows 'final push' in UK trade talks

The two sides have for

months been struggling to seal a

new framework for their rela-

tions, going beyond trade to

transport to energy. But the

much-postponed final stages

now coincide with a cross-

Channel crisis as EU and other

"We are really in a crucial mo-

countries suspend most travel to

ment. We are giving it a final

push," said the negotiator, Michel

and from Britain.

arrangements expire.

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.

in this case.'

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



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

departure from the EU when it

leaves the bloc's single market

and customs union on December

31. meaning its current free trade

Britain is set to complete its

"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



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 examinhave had a role in the explosion, ing what happened failed to but his exact involvement re-

confirm his identity or locate him after the attack, Mr. Barr 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

Barnier. He told the closed-door

gathering that fisheries remained

a stumbling block and that the

UK's latest offer on sharing out

the catch from 2021 was "totally

unacceptable", according to an

EU diplomat who spoke on con-

mats and officials said an agree-

ment was getting closer but also

warned it might not come to-

gether in time to come into force

Earlier in the day, EU diplo-

dition of anonymity.

on Ianuary 1.

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 said. Mr. Mas'ud appeared to prospects "very good."

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

and we have no reason to think that that government is interested in associating itself with this heinous act of terrorism,' Mr. Barr said. "We are optimistic they will turn him over to face

Extradition would allow Mr. Mas'ud to stand trial, but defense lawvers raised doubts about whether a confession obtained in prison in war-torn Libya would be admissible as evi-

Mr. Mas'ud was the third suspect charged in the Pan Am 103 ase. The other two, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, were initially charged in 1991, but American efforts to bring them to justice were stymied when Libya refused to extradite them to either the United States or Britain for

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

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.

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 camelids, a group of animals that includes 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

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

Source: Ministry of Health & Family

Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Dec 22



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 testhundreds 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.

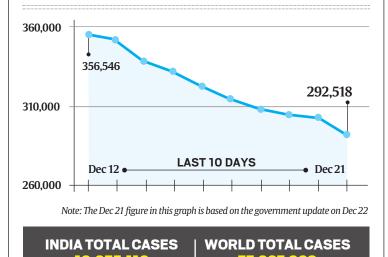
Source: Johns Hopkins University,

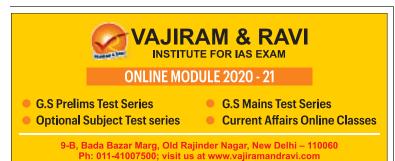
updated at 11 pm on Dec 22

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW RESEARCH

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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 Bidhva 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 cochairman 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

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

politics of violence that caused more than

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

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 Dissolution of the House is not new in Madhes-based Janata Samajbadi Party have

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

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

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 payinstance, 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

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 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

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

ments, causing losses to the government. For using these invoices, booking fake purchases 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 theplacetook 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.



In fact, this is almost never the case.

This time, Jupiter and Saturn are a tenth

Planets in a conjunction are typically above

or below each other, because their orbits are

slightly tilted with respect to each other.

some views, that might give them the ap-

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

ers aound 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?

of a degree apart viewed from Earth. From The last Great Conjunction happened in pearance of converging into one, but view-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

New Delhi

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

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

⊙ ₹67,177

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

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

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

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU 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 research, 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 day 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,

previous close. On Monday, the rupee plunged 23 paise to end at a twoweek low of 73.79 against the US dollar.

registering a fall of 5 paise over its

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.

\$900-billion US Covid aid: How relief package could impact global sentiment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU 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 EXPLAIN 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

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 fi-

nancial 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.

BRIFFLY —

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 vear amid the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. A notification for a threemonth extension of the suspension, which was to end on December 24, was issued by the corporate affairs ministry on Tuesday. The threemonth period would be from December 25.

BHELto 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: 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 Roposo – 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 FAR



- 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

45 Originators who went through securitisation in Q2 FY2021, compared to 18 in Q1 FY2021 Financing requirements likely

10

downgrades

to rise: The financing requirements for non-banking financial companies (NBFC) and housing finance companies (HFC) are expected to increase in financial year 2021-22 as disbursements would be closer to the pre-Covid levels

Lockdown, moratorium impact: Securitisation volumes contracted sharply in O1FY21. following the nationwide lockdown and the moratorium provided to borrowers

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

Bharat Biotech & Ocugen team up to develop Covaxin for US "Vaccines such as Covaxin that

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

BHARAT BIOTECH has decided to develop Covaxin for the US market in collaboration with American biopharmaceutical firm Ocugen. The two companies have signed a binding letter of intent (LoI), Bharat Biotech said Tuesday. According to the LoI, Ocugen

will have the US rights to the vaccine candidate and, in collaboration with Bharat Biotech, will be responsible for "clinical development, registration, and commercialisation" of the candidate for that market. "The companies have begun

collaborating and will finalize details of the definitive agreement in the next few weeks. This collaboration leverages Ocugen's

CURRENTLY IN PHASE 3 TRIALS

■ Covaxin has been evaluated in nearly 1,000 subjects in phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials in India, and is currently part of a phase 3 clinical trial

vaccine expertise, and its R&D and regulatory capabilities in the US," said Bharat Biotech in its statement.

In preparation for the development of Covaxin in the US, Ocugen has assembled a 'Vaccine Scientific Advisory Board' to evaluate the clinical and regulatory path to approval in the US market.

can potentially elicit a broad immune response and may limit future Covid-19 severity could be important to have in our arsenal," said David Fajgenbaum, a member of Ocugen's Vaccine Scientific Advisory Board. 'The development and clini-

cal evaluation of Covaxin marks a significant milestone for vaccinology in India. Covaxin has garnered interest from several countries worldwide for supplies and introduction and we are excited to collaborate with Ocugen to bring it to the US market," said Dr Krishna Ella, CMD, Bharat Biotech. The vaccine has been evalu-

ated in approximately 1,000 subjects in phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials in India, and is currently part of a phase 3 clinical trial in-

Crude production slips 4.9% amid low demand, shutdowns

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU 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 vear ago period, but rose 13 per cent from the 18.9 million tonnes processed in October, according to government data released on

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 Cairn 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.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU 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, 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 maior 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 by quality, focus and flexibility.

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

"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

Buyback offer to open on Dec 29

New Delhi: Wipro said Tuesday its up to Rs 9.500-crore share buyback programme will start on December 29 and close on January 11, 2021.

Last month, shareholders had cleared Wipro's buyback plan to buy up to 23.75 crore equity shares at Rs 400 per share, aggregating to an amount of up to Rs 9,500 crore.

"...the company received final comments from the Securities and Exchange Board of India on December 21, 2020, with respect to the

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

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU 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 Reconstruction 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.

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

NINE STATES on Tuesday raised Rs 12,000 crore through state development loans (SDLs) in the auction, nearly 25 per cent lower than the amount that was initially indicated for the week.

However, Tuesday's SDL issuance was 18.3 per cent higher than the year-ago level. After the high 48.4 per cent expansion recorded in April-November 2020,

the SDL issuance in December 2020 has displayed a mixed trend, with a 5-24 per cent year-on-year decline in the first two weeks followed by 8-19 per cent growth in the subsequent two auctions. As per Icra, overall, the gross SDL issuance between December 1 and December 22, 2020 has recorded a mild Y-o-Y contraction of 2.5 per cent. So far, in Q3FY21 (till December 22, Rs 1,83,400 crore have been raised via SDLs, which is 90.7 per cent of the Rs 202,200 crore indicated for Q3FY21).

'Apple self-driving car by 2024'

REUTERS

BEIJING/DETROIT, DEC 22

APPLE INC is moving forward with self-driving car technology and is targeting 2024 to produce a passenger vehicle that could include its own breakthrough battery technology, people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The iPhone maker's automotive efforts, known as Project Titan, have proceeded unevenly since 2014 when it first started to design its own vehicle from scratch. At one point, Apple drew back the effort to focus on software and reassessed its goals. Doug Field, an Apple veteran who had worked at



Apple CEO Tim Cook. File

Tesla Inc, returned to oversee the project in 2018 and laid off 190 people from the team in 2019.

Since then, Apple has progressed enough that it now aims to build a vehicle for consumers. two people familiar with the effort said, asking not to be named.



Inc jumped nearly 5 per cent on Tuesday, after Reuters reported that the iPhone maker is aiming to produce a passenger vehicle by 2024. Apple's shares were last up 3.9 per cent at \$133.27, on track to add nearly \$86 billion to its market valuation.

The Nasdaq was propped up by Apple as the S&P 500 was in the red over weak economic data. **REUTERS**

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

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-

make distribution companies



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-theclock electricity to consumers, as

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:

per the Ministry of Power.

■ billing and payment; disconnection and reco-■ reliability of supply;

gations

nection;

licensees:

■ consumer as 'prosumer'; standards of performance of li-

■ release of new connection

and modification in existing con-

■ metering arrangement:

■ compensation mechanism; ■call centre for consumer services

■grievance redressal mechanism.

Full report on

New Delhi

www.indianexpress.com

■ Rights of consumers and Obli-

Draft Letter of Offer filed by the company for the captioned buyback...the company will dispatch the Letter of Offer to eligible shareholders," Wipro said in a filing. PTI

'SDL issuance falls in Dec post expansion in Apr-Nov'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing, Jabalpur Importance established by an act of Parliament, und Dumna Airport Road, PO: Khamaria, Jabalpur-482005 (MP) INDIA

Sub :- Advertisement for Faculty Positions Ref.- Advertisement No 03/2020 Dated 18/12/2020

With reference to above advertisement for faculty positions was published in various disciplines. In continuation to it applications are also invited in the disciplines of Mechanical Engineering and English for the posts of Assistant Professor Grade-II, Pay level-12; Assistant Professor Grade-II, Pay level-11 (on contract) and Assistant Professor Grade-II, Pay level-10 (on contract). For further details and application form please visit Institute website www.iiitdmj.ac.in

Note :- Last date for receiving hard copy of completed application form is also extended till 25-01-2021 (by 05:00 PM)

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

riesz:- स्व/१६/शी.जे. जे.बी.-19/गोपन-1/2018-20 दिनांक: 22 दिशम्बर, 2020 विश्वपित

एतदद्वारा सुचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड न्याविक रोवा सिविल जज (जूनियर डिंबीजन) मुख्य परीक्षा-2019 के परीक्षा परिष्यम दिनांक 22 मई 2020 संकल अन्यर्थियों के लिए आयोजित सामाजगर दिनांक 17 से 20 सितानर 2020 के जाधार पर उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक रोवा शिविल जज (जूनियर ठिवीजन) परीक्षा-2019 का चयन परिणाग दिनांक 22 दिसम्बर, 2020 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। अभ्यर्षियों के लिए धवन परिपाम, मुख्य परीक्षा एवं अंतिम चयन परिणाम के क्रम में सफल अध्ययियों के श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार कटलॉफ मार्क्स एवं अध्यर्थियों के प्राप्तांक आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर प्रसारित कर दिये गये है। (कर्मेन्द्र सिंह) सचिव



Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya-224229(U.P) Advertisement No. 01/2020

Applications are invited from eligible candidates of Indian Nationals for post in different cadre on regular basis. 1. Director of Agriculture Experiment Station One Post (UR), 2. Medical Officer Two Post (one post (Men) (UR) one post (Women) (UR)), Details of requisite qualification processing fee, application Performs etc., may be downloaded from the University website-www.nduat.org. Applications on prescribed Performs must reach to the university before mid-night of 20 January, 2021 through the given e-mail idndniyukti2020@gmail.com.

Director Administration & Monitoring

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





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🚄 भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान सस्थान तिरुवनंतपुरम , INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM MARUTHAMALA P.O. VITHURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Tel.; 0471-2778061, 8146 RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from eligible Indian nationals for the post of REGISTRAR on deputation/contract basis for a tenure of not more than 5 years.

No. of Post	One
Classification	Group 'A'
Pay Scale	Pay level 14 (as per 7 th CPC)
Educational Qualification	Masters' degree with at least 55% marks or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7 point scale from a recognized University/Institute.
Age Limit	56 years as on last date of receipt of application.
Last date of submission of online application	15.02.2021

For further details on qualification, experience and submitting online application please log on to: http://www.iisertvm.ac.in/openings Sd/-Professor-in-Charge (Admin) Advt. No.18/20-21 DATED 16.12.2020

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT PATNA

A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchari 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) PatnaApplican

Sushila Sah

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULES 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULS, 1993. Sushila Sah, W/o Vikram Singh, Permanent resident at - H/15, Doctors

Colony, Opposite SBI Doctors Colony, Birla Pre 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) or the Recovery of a sum of Rs. 36,64,682.97 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh, Sixty Four Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty Two and Ninety Sever 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/their 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

nentioned Herein before, the Proceeding will be heard and determined in

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 17th Day of ec., 2020. Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal

ग्रेटर नीएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण प्लॉट नं.—1, नॉलेज पार्क—IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्धनगर बसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई—मेल : authority@gnida.

Dec., 2020.



ं जिसका अनुमोदन अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी महोदय द्वारा दिनांक 21.12.2020 को

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के ग्राम रानौली लतीफपुर व बिसाहडा में 85 क्यूसेक गंगाजल परियोजना व ग्राम बिसरख जलालपुर हेतु निम्न भूमि को कृषकों की परस्पर सहमति से प्राधिकरण द्वारा निर्धारित दर पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित

ग्राम का	खसरा	कुल क्षत्रफल	खातदार का नाम
नाम	संख्या	(वर्ग मीटर में)	
रानौली	780 मि0	0.0108	ब्रहम सिंह पुत्र जगमाल निवासी ग्राम
लतीफपुर	786 मि0	0.0120	प्रेम सिंह, निरंजन सिंह पुत्रगण टेकराम
			निवासी ग्राम
बिसाहडा	1046 मि0	0.0168	नत्थू सिंह पुत्र छिद्दा निवासी ग्राम
बिसरख	46 / 8म	0.0855	जयपाल, जगराम पुत्रगण शिम्भु निवासी
जलालपुर			शरफाबाद व नगेन्द्र भाटी, विनोद भाटी
			पुत्रगण बिजेन्द्र सिंह भाटी निवासी ग्राम
	46 / 4म	0.1140	्राजकुमार, रिंकु पुत्रगण भूप सिंह व
			श्रीमती संतोष पत्नी स्व० भूपसिंह निवासी
			ग्राम व श्रीमती कान्ता पत्नी धर्मवीर
			निवासी ग्राम बरोला

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप रं पन्द्रह दिवस के अन्दर अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेंटर नौएडा के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है। आपसी सहमॅति के आधार पर भूमि विक्रय हेतु भू—स्वामी / खातेदारों द्वाँरा भूमि के विक्रय-पत्र निष्पादन कराये जाने हेतु अभिलेखों की जानकारी ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के भूलेख अनुभाग से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा

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अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (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 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://pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

<u>nu</u>	<u>ra can</u>									
Sl. No	Name of PIUs	Package No.	Name of Work (Repair & Maintenance)	Estimated Cost (in Lakh)	Cost of Tender paper (Rs.)	Time of completion (inMonth)				
1	RDD (RWA) Works Division Koderma	JH-M- 1302 (19-20)	Irgobad to Yogiatilha (L-3.400 Km) Chandwara to Pahridihi (L-15.150 Km)	240.32	10000.00	6				

- Availability of bidding documents for online bidding from 23-12-2020 to 08-01-2021 upto 5.00 p.m.

- 5.00 p.m.
 Last date of online submission 08-01-2021 upto 5.00 p.m.
 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.
 Date of technical bid opening 11-01-2021 at 5:00 p.m
 Date of financial bid opening- to be informed later.
 Name of tender inviting officer- Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, 3rd floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi
- For more detail log in to website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in** or contact 0651-2401947 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)20-21*D

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS								
Train No. & Name	Notified Upto	Extended Upto						
02819 Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar T. Superfast	03.01.2021	31.01.2021						
02820 Anand Vihar T Bhubaneswar Superfast	05.01.2021	02.02.2021						
08311 Sambalpur-Manduadih Mail/Express	03.01.2021	27.01.2021						
08312 Manduadih - Sambalpur Mail/Express	04.01.2021	28.01.2021						
02851 Visakhapatnam-H.Nizamuddin Superfast	01.01.2021	29.01.2021						
02852 H.Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Superfast	03.01.2021	31.01.2021						
02887 Visakhapatnam-H.Nizamuddin Superfast	02.01.2021	31.01.2021						
02888 H.Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Superfast	04.01.2021	02.02.2021						

Note: There will be no change in Timings, Path, Frequency & Composition of above Festival Special Trains

THESE SPECIAL TRAINS WILL BE HAVING FULLY RESERVED ACCOMMODATION ONLY.

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

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.

Integrated Helpline No. 139

Security Helpline No. 182



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झारखण्ड सरकार

आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, धुर्वा, राँची। प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठयकमों में अध्ययनरत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र / छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृति योजना वर्ष 2020-21 हेतु आवेदन से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृति योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र / छात्राओं को सरकार द्वारा जारी निर्देश के आधार पर निर्धारित मापदंड के अनुसार वितीय वर्ष-2020-21 में प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठयकमों में अध्ययनरत छात्र / छात्राओं से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते है |

छात्रवृति के लिए आय की अधिसीमा :--अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति के छात्र / छात्राएँ जिनके माता-पिता / अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से वार्षिक आय 2.50 लाख रूपये से अधिक नहीं हो, तथा पिछडी जाति के छात्र / छात्राएँ जिनके माता—पिता / अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से वार्षिक आय 1.50 लाख रूपये से अधिक नहीं हो, इस योजना के अन्तर्गत छात्रवृति प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी अन्य कोई छात्रवृति का लाभ प्राप्त

अहत्ता प्राप्त छात्रों को वेबसाइट https://ekalyan.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 कर एवं सभी निम्नांकित वांछित प्रमाण–पत्रों की Scanned Copy (jpeg/jpg में 150kb तक) वेबसाईट पर अपलोड करेगें :-

(i) ऑनलाईन आवेदन के पश्चात प्रिन्ट आउट पर छात्र एवं अभिभावक के हस्ताक्षर सहित

आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया :-

्रों। ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आय प्रमाण–पत्र (Income Certificate) (अंचलाधिकारी / अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपायुक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रति । (दिनांक-01.04.2020 से निर्गत आय प्रमाण-पत्र मान्य होगा ।)

(iii)ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत जाति प्रमाण-पत्र (Caste Certificate) (अंचलाधिकारी / प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी / अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपायुक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रति । (iv) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आवासीय प्रमाण-पत्र (Residential Certificate) (अंचलाधिकारी / प्रखण्ड विकास

. पदाधिकारी / अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपायुक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रति ।

(v) संस्थान के लेटर हेड में संस्थान द्वारा वर्तमान वर्ष के लिए निर्गत Bonafide Certificate (with Fee Structure निर्गत संख्या एवं दिनांक के साथ) की मूल प्रति। (एक पृष्ठ में)

(vi) पूर्व की परीक्षा के अंकपत्र (Mark Sheet of previous exam) की अभिप्रमाणित प्रति । (vii) छात्र के नाम पर बैंक खाता पासबुक की पृष्ठ, जिसमें Account No. एवं IFS Code उल्लेखित हो, की छायाप्रति (बैंक

खाता को आधार संख्या से सीडिंग होना अनिवार्य है।)। छात्रवृति की धनराशि PFMS के माध्यम से Aadhar Enabled DBT के द्वारा सुयोग्य छात्र—छात्राओं के खाते में अन्तरित की जाएगी।

ऑनलाईन आवेदन की समय सीमा:-कार्यवाही प्रारम्भ होने की तिथि | कार्यवाही के लिए निर्धारित प्रक्रियात्मक कार्यवाही नए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा ई–कल्याण पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण हेत् आवेदन। संबंधित छात्र–छात्रा द्वारा छात्रवृति हेतु आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया शैक्षणिक संस्थान द्वारा छात्र / छात्राओं के आवेदन

28.12.2020 20.01.2021 कॉलेज / संस्थान का निबंधन ऐसे कॉलेज / संस्थान जिनके द्वारा affiliation एवं registration का अद्यतन कागजात वेबसाईट पर upload नहीं किया गया है से पुनः अद्यतन कागजातों के साथ वेबसाईट पर registration करने का अनुरोध किया गया है। कॉलेजू / संस्थान के द्वारा registration करने एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 10.01.

2021 निर्धारित की गई है। कॉलेज / संस्थान का दायित्व:-

संस्थान अपना पूर्ण विवरण सहित मान्यता संबंधी प्रमाण पत्र अपलोड करेंगे।

नोट:- राज्य के अन्दर स्थित संस्थानों को संबंधित जिला के जिला कल्याण पदाधिकारी द्वारा User Id एवं Password उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा तथा राज्य के बाहर के संस्थानों को उनके ई—मेल आई0डी0 पर User Id एवं Password उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा। राज्य के अन्दर स्थित महाविद्यालय/संस्थान Course Mapping करते हुए Fee Detail भी Update करेंगे जो Post Matric (Within State) में Student application form दिखलाई देगा, तभी Student Online आवेदन कर सकते हैं। राज्य के बाहर स्थित महाविद्यालय/संस्थान को Course Mapping करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

छात्र/छात्रा की छात्रवृति हेतु संस्थान के लेटर हेड में वर्श–2020–21 में अध्ययनरत छात्र/छात्राओं का Bonafide Certificate निर्गत संख्या एवं दिनांक सहित निर्गत करेंगे। (II)

(III)संस्थान प्रधान अपने महाविद्यालय / संस्थान में अध्ययनरत छात्र / छात्राओं के द्वारा भरे गए Online आवेदन को https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in के वेबसाइट पर अपने User Id एवं Password के माध्यम से login कर Online सत्यापित करेंगे। राज्य के अन्दर स्थित महाविद्यालय/संस्थान सत्यापन से पूर्व Fee Detail भी

पूर्व से छात्रवृति पोर्टल पर निबंधित संस्थान यदि अपने User Id एवं Password भूल गए हों तो पोर्टल पर दिए गए लिंक से पुनः User Id एवं Password Recover कर सकते हैं।

<u>6. हेल्प लाईनः–</u>

सिर्फ 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 - helpdeskekalyan@gmail.com पर email कर सकते हैं अथवा https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in वेबसाइट के Complaint link पर ऑनलाईन शिकायत <u> 7. नोट :-</u>

- पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृति योजना से संबंधित अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग से निर्गत दिशा-निर्देश एवं अन्य अनुवर्ती सूचना वेबसाइट <u>https://</u>ekalyan.cgg.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने के पूर्व कृपया उक्त वेबसाइट पर दिए गए निर्देश को अवश्य देख लिया
- उपबन्धित बजट राशि की सीमा के अन्तर्गत प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृति 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 रदद् कर दिया जायेगा ।
 - ऑनलाईन आवेदन में त्रुटि / अशुद्धि / गलत अथवा भ्रामक सूचना देने पर आवेदन रदद् कर दिया जायेगा।

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

आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त।

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING

(UGMAC)-2020 for MBBS / BDS / B.V.Sc. & A.H. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Bihar Veterinaty Colleges and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2020/11 Dated 22.12.2020

Important Notice for MOP-UP Round Counselling

Fresh Online Registration and submission of Application form are invited from such qualified, eligible & interested NEET(UG)-2020 candidates for appearing in the MOP-UP round Offline Counselling of Under Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (UGMAC)-2020, who are not admitted in any Medical/ Dental Colleges of India, on the vacant seats of Government / Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar / Bihar Veterinary College after admission on the basis of UGMAC-2020 Online 2nd round counselling from 23.12.2020 to 24.12.2020.

- 2. Eligibility criteria and instructions and other details are available in the prospectus of UGMAC-2020 which can be downloaded from the Board's website beeceboard.bihar.gov.in.
- Those candidate who are admitted in any Govt./ Pvt. Medical / Dental College of India are not eligible for MOP-UP round counselling
- 4. Those candidates who have already duly submitted the online application form earlier for UGMAC-2020 and are not admitted in any Govt. / Pvt. Medical / Dental Colleges of India and are interested to take admission in Medical / Dental Colleges and Bihar Veterinary College on the basis of MOP-UP round counselling of UGMAC-2020 are also required to do fresh Registration and duly submit the application form with requisite fee.
- Seat Matrix of vacancies after completion of 2nd Round Counselling will be available on Board's website from 25.12.2020. If any further vacancies arise, the Seat matrix of updated vacancies shall be uploaded on the Board's website on 27.12.2020 (10:00 A.M.) before starting of MOP-UP Counselling. The details of programme / process / fee etc. has been uploaded on the Board's website: bceceboard.bihar.gov.in vide adv. No. BCECEB(UGMAC)-2020/10 Dated 22.12.2020.
- 6. The concerned candidates are requested to download the details and go through it and complete the process accordingly as per the details of above advertisement for attending the MOP-UP counselling. **Controller of Examination**



TATA STEEL LIMITED

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001. India Tel.: +91 22 6665 8282 Email: cosec@tatasteel.com Website: www.tatasteel.com CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260

Notice is hereby given pursuant to circular no. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOS3/CIR/P/2018/139 dated November 6, 2018 ("the Circular"), issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, that the Company has received the following requests to transfer the equity shares from the name(s) of the shareholder(s) ("Transferor") to the name(s) of the proposed transferee(s) ("Transferee").

The details of the proposed transfers are:

SN	Folio No.	Name of the Transferor(s)	No. of equity shares of ₹10 each	Distinctive numbers	Name of t Transferee
1	S1U0018209 Urmila Devi Bansal Sanjay Bansal		25	387901900 – 387901924	Sanjay Ban
2	S1G0021515	Gita Devi	1	373891536 – 373891536	Indra Kuma Bagri
3	S1S0132205	Sharda Bhalotia	2	336522992 - 336522992 612205789 - 612205789	Indra Kuma Bagri
4	S1M0066566	Manikalal Hansaraj Shaha Mahipal Mohanlal Shaha	50	187306841 – 187306890	Kalu Ram Joshi
5	S1Y0007739	Yogendra Kumar Surana Gambhirmal Surana	133	105196821 - 105196870 316786407 - 316786427 334542600 - 334542617 388865128 - 388865171	Yogendra Surana
6	S1L0014945	Lalit Prakash Jain	183	184378631 - 184378680 265979734 - 265979754 332583598 - 332583614 377101714 - 377101757 610843620 - 610843648 796652232 - 796652253	Vimal Prak Jain
7	S1S0136423	Sherenaz Mahiyar Mazda	1330	98775021 - 98775470 98775771 - 98775920 98776021 - 98776070 98776221 - 98776320 98776371 - 98776380 200998171 - 200998190 384260386 - 384260775 612215981 - 612216140	Raiomond Irani
8	S1M0118463	Mydur Anand Shashikala Anand Ankush Anand	18	328150496 - 328150505 328150506 - 328150510 797541486 - 797541488	Harish Kun Chunilal Poonam H Chhabria
9	S1M0113212	Mydur Anand Shashikala Anand Anirudh Anand	15	797540396 – 797540410	Harish Kun Chunilal Poonam H Chhabria
10	S1M0118462	Mydur Anand Shashikala Anand Anirudh Anand	3	797541483 – 797541485	Harish Kun Chunilal Poonam H Chhabria
11	S1M0113213	Mydur Anand Shashikala Anand Ankush Anand	36	321510847 - 321510866 321510867 - 321510876 321510877 - 321510882	Harish Kur Chunilal Poonam H Chhabria
12	S1M0076637#	Mukesh Dhruva Pushpa Dhruva	132	187806721 - 187806770 268364265 - 268364285 335648068 - 335648084 378065417 - 378065460	Rajendra F Mehta
13	S1N0070851	Nilesh Vasa Rakesh H Lakhani Chandanbala H Lakhani	64	379453554 – 379453583 611317081 – 611317099 797613840 – 797613854	Kalu Ram Joshi
14	S1N0064196	Nilesh Vasa Rajendra Vidhavan	95	379413536 – 379413579 611309303 – 611309331 797611800 – 797611821	Kalu Ram Joshi
15	S1N0064197	Nilesh Vasa Rishi Vidhavan	95	379413580 - 379413623 611309332 - 611309360 797611822 - 797611843	Kalu Ram Joshi
16	S1A0079165	Amritlal M Shah Devang A Shah	36	232723671 - 232723691 331335059 - 331335073	Bhavna J Shah

#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 $\underline{www.tatasteel.com}.$

For Tata Steel Limited

December 23, 2020 Mumbai

Parvatheesam Kanchinadham Company Secretary & Chief Legal Officer (Corporate & Compliance)

TATA STEEL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Property No. 296-B built on portion of Plot No. 296, measuring 62.1/2

sqyds.,out of Mustatil No. 34, Killa No. 3 Village khyala, Kanhiya Park, Chand Nagar, New Delhi-110018, hereinafte

Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc., that our clients Mr. Jatin Sharma S/o Pawan Kumar and Mrs. Indresh W/o Mr. Jatin Sharma Start Die 20 A Chend News Mars Mars Mars

both R/o 219-A, Chand Nagar, Vishr

Garden, New Delhi - 11001

(hereinafter called the "Purchaser" intend to purchase the said property from Mrs. Ranjit Kaur W/o Shr Racchpal Singh R/o E-58, Vishnu

(hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that the said

property is owned by her by virtue

Sale Deed registered as Document No

33910 Book No. 1 Volume No. 19432

referred to as the "said property"

16 Classifieds & Tenders

Classifieds

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

I, Rachi 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 Rachi Kaushik for, all 0040558415-1 purposes.

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, 0040558422-5 permanently.

, Nanki Chawla W/O Sunil Ahuja R/o 53, 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 (Exisiting Name of spouse as per change of nextof-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 (Exisiting 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.

I. Aniali Shaw D/O Raiesh Shaw,R/o 5/1B,DOVER TERRRACE, Ballygunge S.O,Ballygunge,Kolkata,West Bengal-700019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nisha Shaw.

0070724805-1

0040558415-2

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 RIDDHI 0040558404-2 VASUDEVA.

I, Daljeet Kaur Nagpal,w/o-Pardeep Singh R/o.H.No. 18,2nd-Floor, NRI-Complex, Greater-Kailash Part-IV, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name to Daljeet Kaur, 0040558422-2 permanently.

I, Dayabati, D/o Ram Phal, W/o Mr. Harveer Singh,R/o H.No.1580/30, Block-G,Ekta Wali Gali, Raiendra-Park, Gurugram (Haryana), have changed my name to Dayawati. 0040558410-5

I. Debiani Maitra.D/o Benu Krishna Majumdar, R/o 169,Narmada-Apartment, Alaknanda New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Debiani Maiumdar. for all purposes. 0040558432-4

L Govind Chaudhary S/o Bhairab 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.

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 0040558422-3 permanently.

I. Jeetendra Tebak S/O Vishwanath Tebak R/O C5A/11 Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, Have Changed my Name to Jeetender Tebak. 0040558425-

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 Roka 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

PERSONAL My actual/correct name is Kastoori Ben,W/o Tirath Ram,R/o-445,Pkt-

> 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-0650957. The

actual name of My Father is

SUNIL KUMAR, which may be

3,Paschimpuri-New-Delhi-63,

instead of Kasturi as wrongly

mentioned in my daughter

amended accordingly. 0070724803-1

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 nurnoses. 0040558422-10

LVandana Rai Chanchal W/o Sachin Rai Chanchal R/o B-1/711, 6th Floor, Tower-B1, SCC Heights, Near KDP Chowk, Rai 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 Talahattula Someswar Rao S/O Late T.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 0040558404-1

I,SANDE ARTHI RAJALAKSHMI D/O Mr.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, Eco Village-2.Greater Noida.U.P.-201009, have changed my name to Pankaj Dass.

0040558410-7

I,Pardeep Singh Nagpal,S/o Harbhaian Singh, H.No.18, 2nd Floor, NRI-Complex, Greater-Kailash Part-IV, New Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Pardeep Singh, 0040558422-1 permanently.

I.LOVKESH BATRA, S/O KASHMIRI LAL BATRA R/O H.NO.1363, NOORWALA, ΡΔΝΙΡΔΤ-132103 ΗΔΡΥΔΝΔ 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

I, Pankaj,S/o Pramod Kumar R/o-H-132, J.JColony, Tigri, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Pankaj Kumar permanently. 0040558422-7

I. Suresh Kumar 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.DFI HI-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 Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Malkiat Singh Dhillon. 0070724790-1

L 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-

, SWATI.D/O NAVEEN KUMAR GOYAL.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,have changed my name to Komal 0040558410-6

I,Kulwinder Kaur D/O Piara 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

0040558370-1 Purposes. 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-AZAIB, NEW DELHI-30, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEO SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

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 villagesamalkha,new delhi-37,declare that my actual name is Anil Gaur, for all, future 0040558415-5 purposes

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.KONDLI, 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, Malkajgiri, K.V. Rangareddy Telangana-500047, have changed my name and shall hereafter he Known as Sunkari Solomon Raj

0070724796-1 I, Shekhar kumar S/o Late Sh. Kude Ram R/o 714/200 1 Shyam Gali, Maujpur, North East Delhi-53 have changed my $name\,from\,Shekhar\,kumar\,to$ Satender for all purposes.

0040558361-1 I, Shakuntala D/O Bhagwandas Prajapati, R/o.Ward-No.10, Raksan Hotel khajuraho Distt-Chhatarpur (M.P)-471606, have changed My above Name to Shreya for all future purposes.

I, SURENDER SINGH CHAUHAN.S/O MUKUND SINGH CHAUHAN, ADD-A-152, THIRD-FLOOR, STREET.NO.8 KUMAON SOUARE WEST VINOD-NAGAR. FAST DFI HI-110092...Changed

my name to SURENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN, permanently. 0040558410-4

L Sanioli D/O Raiesh Narang,

R/o H.NO.-104.Ashok Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Paninat Harvana-132103 have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sanjoli Narang 0070724793-1

I. Manoi 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 Manoi Kumar Sharma instead of Manoj

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 1/9323.West Rohtash-Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Krishan Chand Aggarwal, Permanently.

0040558422-6

0040558404-7

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

I. Kuldeep S/o Karan Singh, R/o Nasir Pur Gaon Pol.No.737, Palam-Colony, Delhi-110045, changed my name to Kuldeep 0040558432-2

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

0040558415-4

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

0070724785-1 I hitherto Known as Ghanandri

Devi W/O Sh.Aiab 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 0040558422-9

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 Mohit s/o Ashok r/o- village-

haryana, have changed my name to Mohit kumar. 0040558432-1

Kanoda, district-Jhajjar

I Jitender Kumar S/o Sh.Tarkesvar 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

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 0040558348-7 purposes.

I Ankit S/o Sh. Mahendra Pal R/o 1449/M-11, Street No.9, Durgapurim 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 Eco Village-2,Greater-Noida, U.P.-201009, have changed my name to Pankaj Dass.

0040558410-8 I,Rattan Singh Dob 13-03-1973 Adhar 611422675272 S/O Lt.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. Aditva 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

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.

be amended accordingly, for

all future purposes.

LOST & FOUND

LMOHD TALIB.S/O Mohd wasif.R/o-H.NO-12.shamshadgarden sahibabad ghaziabad, up.have lost my originalcertificate 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, Dilshadgarden.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. Finder may contact at above address.

0040558396-1

IT IS, notified for the information, that my original qualifying examination certificate, and marksheet, of main-secondary examination(10th class)of year-2018, Roll.No.-0570355, issued by UPMSP, has been actually lost, Dakshita Kaushik, R/o.-313/34B, Haryana Dairywali Gali.Inderlok, Delhi-110035#9811083610

nagar vistar shahdara, Delhi-

32, have lost my original-

certificate Class-10th

7531019299.

I, Kunal Bhati,S/o purshottam Bhati 1/4670 st.no-04 balbir-

year-2017 Rollno-8638575 CBSE-DELHI. 0040558415-8 I,Amarjeet Singh would like to inform the general public that my original documents GPA Agreement to sell stamp paper vide register serial No.96434.payment receipt.will and possession-letter, have been lost FIR has been lodge LR.NO.731283/2020.on.13-11-20 finder may send below mentioned Address-Amarjeet Singh, S/o Harnam Singh, B-79A,(khasra.no.31/8),Gali.No.2 Hardev-Nagar,Jharoda-Mazra.Burari Delhi.Ph-

0040558404-9

I, hitherto known as Dhirender Kumar,S/o Late Shri.Sanwal Dass employed as Head Constable. Delhi-Police in the East Zone PCR R/o-D-34.Sector-12.Pratap Vihar, Ghaziahad, U.P.-201009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dhirendra Kumar.

Lost my original Perpetual Lease Deed of my Property Bearing No.F1U-106. Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Finder may Contact-Nirmla Devi Puri W/o-Late Sh.Hari Ram Puri at above noted

0040558363-1

0040558404-8

I. Virender Prakash Gunta R/O 11/196, SECTOR-3, RAJENDER NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, UP-201010 have lost My Some Important Paper (ALLOTMENT LETTER AND PAYMENT RECEIPTS OF MY FLAT NO.1741, ZINNIA, 16TH FLOOR, GAUR SAUNDARYAM, GREATER NOIDA WEST, (UP) SOME OTHER PAPER AND AROUND 300/- CASH. (Ref. No. LR1482420 dated 15/12/2020 has been lodged with UP Police. If found, kindly contact Mob.:9810094741

0040558367-1

, shalu, D/o Lt. Ranvir Singh, R/o-395, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044. Lost my certificates of 10th Roll.no.8744819 year 2009-11, 12thpassed Roll.no.9738218 year-2014,CBSE-board Delhi. Finder please send.

0040558404-10

LOST AND FOUND I, Gurdeep Singh S/o Late Sh. Mohan Singh R/o 248, MIG Flats, Block No. 7, Prasad Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have lost signed cheque books of A/c No. 600620110000775 of Bank of ndia, Karol Bagh, New Delhi ii the name of Gurdeep Singh and A/c No. 60061011000089 o Canara Bank, Patel Nagar, Nev Delhi in the name of Daljee

Kaur. Finders may contact at above address or mobile no. 9066661366, 9910367972.

I, Pushpender Singh S/o Sh Gurdeep Singh R/o 248, MIG Flats, Block No. 7, Prasa Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have signed cheque books of A/o 2010101025908 o New Delhi in the name of Pushpender Singh and CBSE 10th class certificate Roll No. 8155069 Year 2011 Finders may contact a above address or mobile no 9066661366, 9910367972.

LOST & FOUND

Satinder Singh Walia S/o Sh urdeep Singh Walia R/o 248, MIG arol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 hav ost signed cheque books of A/c No 50100123331508 of HDFC Ban Pusa Road, New Delhi and A/c No 500610110000897 of Bank of India 600610110000897 of Bank of India, Karol Bagh, New Delhi in the name of Satinder Singh Walia and A/c No, 3356536570, State Bank of India, Gole Market, New Delhi and A/c No. 00161131002773 of State Bank of India, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi in the name of Rubal Enterprises and A/c No. 00161131002889 of State Bank of India, East Patel Nagar, in the name of Nimrit Enterprises. Finders may Contact above above address or mobile no. above address or mobile no. 9066661366, 9910367972.

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

INS Advertising Agency Required (FRESHER/EXPERIENCED) Manager (Event, Hoarding) Digital Media) Clerk, Field Boy with D.L. # 9315933605, 9213474731. 0040558100-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Kamble r/o 27, Khasra No. 68, First Floor, Block-I, Mahendra Park, Adarst-Nagar, Delhi-110033, has disowned an lebarred her son namely Shri Moh Kamble and his wife Smt. Pooja Verm & their Son namely Mst. Kabir Kamblo and paramely Mst. Kabir Kamblo and more and move the severed relations with them due to their and heahvior. Stillurie and disrespectfit. pad behavior, attitude and disrespect conduct towards her. If anybody dea with them shall do so at his own risk ar my client shall not be responsible for the Sd/- SUBHASH GUPT 125, FIRST FLOOR, ANAND NAGAF INDERLOK, DELHI-11003

PUBLIC NOTICE Block-D, measuring area 310 sq, ydS Along with tas whole of structure of Basement Floor, Grount Floor, Floor, Grount Floor, Grount Floor, Grount Floor, Grount Floor, Ground Floor,

PUBLIC NOTICE

14/126(0-1), 4/127(0-1), 4/214(0-7), 4/216(0-4), 4/216

PUBLIC NOTICE public that Sh. R.K. Gupta (Ram Kuman Gupta) to be owner and in possession tentre Ground Floor (without roof rights, "said floor" Part of Property Bearing, "Son Good Floor (Property Bearing, 1900 Sq Yards, situated in the abadiof Inder Puh (Web Lelh). by virtue of Sale Deed dated-12.12.2017, Doc. No. 5400 duly Regd. in the SRC-VII-8 Asroin) Nagar, Delih. Ann now Sh. R.K. Gupta (Ram Kuman Gupta) wishes to Sell afforesaid property to Sh. Arun Kumar Jain, Smt. Suntta Jain, Sh. Yovan Jain & Smt. Sakshi John Sh. Yovan Jain & Smt. Sakshi Di-C First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and they have approached to IDFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any clair regarding in respect of the said property/floor or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which calam, if any, of such persons will blic that Sh. R.K. Gupta (Ram Kun which claim, if any, of such persons w be consider to have been waived and/o

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of my client Sharmar Sharma son of Shri J.N.

Surender Kumar Sharma son of Shri J.N. Sharma and Bimla w/o Sh. Surender Kumar Sharma, both resident of H.Nc RZ-8, A-Block, Arjun Park Najafgarh New Delhi-110043, that Jitender Sharm @ Bholu son of my aforesaid clients i illients, hence, my clients have Sever all their relations with Sh. Jitend Sharma @ Bholu and he is debarr rom all movale/ immovable property my client. Any one dealing with m client's aforesaid son shall do so at h peril. LALIT RANA CH. NO. 818, DWARKA COURT DWARKA, SEC-10 NEW DELHI-110078

PUBLIC NOTICE

person(s) claiming any right, intere ng any objection or found in possession

सार्वजनिक सूचना साजानक सूचना र्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि में विक्कल श्री राम सिंह पुत्र श्री घिसु राम निवार 10041 ने अपने पुत्र धमेन्द्र कुमार व उसकी पत पुषमा व तीन बच्चे जिनके नाम विनिता, जस्सी व दक्ष को उनके गलत आचरण व दुर्व्यवहार करने वे जरण अपनी समस्त चल अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदख कर दिया है तथा समस्त संबंध विच्छेद कर लिये र दिया है तथा समस्त सबय विष्टुद पर सिय है विष्य में इनके द्वारा किये गये कार्यों के लिये वह स्वर ाम्मेदार होंगे, इसमें मेरे मुवक्किल व उसके परिवा

के किसी भी सदस्य की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

NA THENRY DESCRIPTION

1088/21

(2nd Call)

No. PHQ/Sec .-10/Prove-1/5661/2020

En. No. D/817/89

abandoned and our client shall procee with the disbursement of loan again he said property and subseque creation of Mortgage in respect thereof Sunil Parsad (Advocate For Juris NextGen Law Office E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-New Delhi-11004

on pages 171-177, on 19.12.2011 in the office of SRO-II, executed in her favou by Mr. Joginder Singh being GPA of Mr Trilochan Singh.

Any person including Bank/s,
Financial Institution/s. relative/s
having any claim, right, title or any
interest of any nature whatsoever into
or upon the aforesaid property is
hereby called upon to make the same hereby called upon to make the sam known, in writing, with documentar the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response havin been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge of encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall no bind our clients/ Purchaser, in an

manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate
M/s Intellective Law Offices
A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

PUBLIC NOTICE

legal rights to Sell the said property, if any persons(s) claiming any objection in the said property may contact with above named person/client at above address/phone no. 7876756925 within 11 dadys of publication of this notice. All the information given by my client and the public Notice on behalf of my client. VINOD WADHWA (Advocate Enrl. No. D/769/2005) **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it know to all that my client Sh. Sur Kumer Gupta SiO SH. B Daya Gupta an Smt. Prabha Gupta Wio Sh. Sunil Kum Gupta Both R/O C7/94-95, Ground Floc Sector-7 Rohini, Delhi hereby debarr at disown their daughter Ms. Menackshi Gup D/O Sh. Sunil Kumar Gupta Wio Sh. Suni Sharma and her husband Sh. Sunny Sharm Sio Sh. Lalit Kumar both R/O B-3244-24 2nd Rioor, Sector-8 Rohin Down Thoy a not obedient towards my client therefore the have also severed with all relation with ther eir legal heir for all purposes wnatsoever. Sd/- HITENDER SAKKARWAL ASSOCIATES, ADVOCAT Chamber No. 1130, Rohini Court Comple Rohini, Delhi-1100i

PT.B.D.SHARMA UHS/PGIMS ROHTAK

PUBLIC HOTICE / SHORT TERMS TEROER NUMBER

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Be it known to all that my client namely 1) ANIL MALIK S/O SH. RAI MEHAR SINGH and (2) SUNDAF namely 1) ANIL MALIK S/O SH. RAM. MEHAR SINGH and (2) SUNDAR MALIK W/O SH. ANIL MALIK, both R/o Plot No. 101, Amberha extension, Sector 19, Dwarka, Nev Delhi-110075, have disowned debarred their son namely JEETES! MALIK S/O SH. ANIL MALIK R/o Plot No. 101, Amberhai extnsion, Secto 19, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 fron their movable and immovable properties because he is out o control of my clients. My clients have severed all relations with him. Anvons exevered all relations with him. Anvons evered all relations with him. Anyor ealing with him may do so at his/h

> Sd/- (KAJOL SHARMA Ch. No. 418A, Lawyers Chamber Block, District Court Dwark New Delhi-11007

PUBLIC NOTICE For "F" Form Lost

It is reported that M/s Diamond India Limited (Noida Branch) whose TIN No. 09665718479, in the name of Form Fcopy issued by Department of ommerce Tax, Noida (Duplicate) form has been submitted to Noida Department and the original copy of the same Form-F as state have beer ost), which were used for transferring oods from M/s Diamond India Limited (Chennai Branch). If any person gets it, please inform it to Diamond India Limited, A-1, 2nd Floor Tejpal Singh Market, Block-H, Secto

Form No- 0003022 dt. 07/12/2015

IE IT KNOWN TO PUBLIC AT LARG HAT MY CLIENT VINOD KUMAR S/ HRI CHANDER BHAN R/O B-5 YAGI COLONY, NANGLOI, DELH 10041 HAVE SEVERED ALL THEI TOU'S THAVE SEVENED ALL THEIR RELATIONS FROM HIS SON SONL THAT MY CLIENT DIS-INHERITED DISOWNED THEM ALL FROM THEIR AMILY/PERSONAL, MOVABLE ANI FAMILYPERSONAL, MOVABLE AND MMOVABLE PROPERTIES WITH MMEDIATE EFFECT. ANYBODY DEALING WITH AFOREMENTIONED PERSON, WILL DO SO AT HIS OWN JOSTS AND RISKS, WITH NO RESPONSIBILITY AT ALL.

Sd/- BHARAT BAGGA En No.: D/3755/2013, Advocate OFF.: E-15/127, 2nd Floor, Sector-8 Rohini, Delhi-110085

"IMPORTANT"

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and Others Allestrate Decade | Tomater Bart No. Super-Super-Attorpt SHORT THUM CATENDER NOTICE NO. LISTRE NOTICE NOTI OPENING 15.12.2020 CLOSING 01.01.2021 PERCHAR General Branch Century No. UEBROGA www.uhat.oc. In 26.1MG,281MG,281MG,2 813MSEXTENSION: 2938, 2954 in sews elender a bryalición All lauracticos are soudable on ticos welmies Cault: gineral@uhir.ac.in ecti. 1. Congresson, Para, witness se emertical/published in the sever papers has will be evaluate on the website <u>consummination found in</u>

AMRITSAR SMART CITY LTD. (ASCL)

5CO-21, 2nd Floor, B - Block, District Shopping Complex, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar Phone No. 0183-5015048 // www.smartcityamritsar.com // ceoasclasr@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Amritsar Smart City Limited, Amritsar invites online unconditional bids from

	Two e	nvelope bide	ling procedu	re for follo	wing works/ ite	ms:	
S. No.	Name of the Work items	Estimated cost (INR)	Earnest Money (IHR)	Tender Fee (INR)	Tender availability Date and Time	Delivery Period	Last Date for Bid submission
1	Supply and Delivery of jetting curn suction machines and desifting machines (8 nos.) under Smart City Mission. NIB No.37/ASCL/2020-21	4,70,34,000/- (Rupees Four Crores Seventy Lakins Thirty Four Thousand Only)	9,40,680/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty Thousand Six Hundred Eight Only)	10,000'- plus (processing Fee as per the terms and condition of the e-procurement	23.12.2020 at 03:00 PM	Four (04) Months	06.01.2021 by 03:00 PM

portai)

1. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the website https://eproc.ginjab.gov.in

2. Detailed HIT & Bid Documents can be seen and Downloaded from the website https://eproc.pinjab.gov.in

Chief Executive Officer Amritsar Smart City Limited

Raipur, Dated :16/12/2020

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, POLICE HEADQUARTERS ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR

NOTICE INVITING 2ND TENDER

Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governo of Chhattisgarh from original equipment manufacturers (OEM) Or authorized by manufacturer for the
 SI. No.
 Name of Item

 1
 Network Analysis Tools
 The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below -Schedule for Tender

Address for submission of Tender AIG of Police (P&P), Block No. 3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh Sector 19, Nava Raiipur. 18/01/2021 till 03.00 pm Block no 03, Room No. 309 Documentb) Last Date and Time of Submission on Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur Block no 03, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Bids c) Place, Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid-Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur. 18/01/2021 at 4.00 pm Shall be intimated later d) Place, Time and Date of Opening Financiall Bide) Date till which the Bid to ramain Valid 120 days from the scheduled date of submission ot the Bid

Note:- 1. In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day. 2. Tender document's can be downloaded from our website www.cgpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of document tender fee Rs. 3000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts). Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur Or State Govt Challan of Rs. 3000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c- 0055-Police- 800- other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition. 3. Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, it any shall not be advertised on the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only. 4. If any bidder sends tender doc uments through Courier/Speed post, the tender documents will be accepted till 03.00 pm on 18/01/2021 at Block no. 3, Room No.309 Police Headquarter s, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19 Nava Raipur Only. Received tender document s in any other address at PHQ on stipulated date an

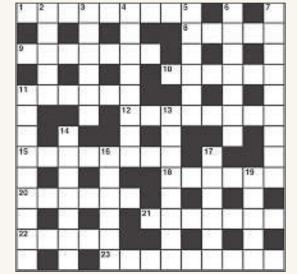
time, will not be accepted. (sd/-) A.I.G. of Police (P&P) For-Director General of Police



For All Advertisement Booking Call: 0120-6651214



CROSSWORD 4309



It's pleasant embracing an

3 Able to help us with processed

4 Fair description of all but the

6 Any girl so mistreated might

Expression of annoyance for

your immediate occupation

11 Accepted in error and fainted

13 Fair description of a reformed

character (3,2,3)
14 I'm into gossip like a bishop

16 Wish to reside in style (6)

17 Artistic piecework (6)19 Unsuitable camouflage paint

It's exhausting but follow it up with a telephone call

Eastern relative (5)

fastest runners?

react thus (7)

fuel(6)

- ACROSS Put prison helper's position in
- jeopardy (2,7) Victor loses his head in the bull
- Misfortune for the other side
- 10 Firs do make attractive features in Norway
- 11 She may get up late
- 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
- 21 Jewish father

root it out

(9)

- 22 Not qualified to speak
- 23 Trace idea that is wrong and

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 Obliged, 9 Poles apart, 11 Guide dog, 12 Rampant, 14 Alters, 16 Yemen, 17 Up to.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson







SOLUTION SUDOKU 4330



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

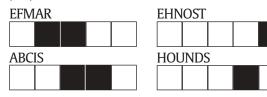




JUMBLED WORDS

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)



swer: The discovery of a new **dish** does more for human happiness than the discovery SOLUTION: FRAME, BASIC, HONEST, UNSHOD

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 =

5	2	3	_		6			
	1		5	2		3		
				6		1		5
			4		9			П
8		2		7				
	П	4		8	2		3	П
							7	1
			7			2		8

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

your chart and brings

both fun and self-

to do well.

to say 'sorry'.

you no end of potential for

improvement. Family affairs

should put the spotlight on children and their interests. In

fact, the young-at-heart stand

Restlessness rises,

and vou could even

be tempted to move

home. One way or

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

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

The Moon is now

bound to trigger some of the livelier

aspects of your

away and generally expressing

you'd probably be wise to keep

your latest opinions, this

at least half an eye on

practical responsibilities!

would be perfect. Mind you,

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Today's sensitive

Moon lands in an

extraordinarily



LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) Socially, your life is looking up. Although there have doubtless

BY PETER VIDAL

disappointments, you have to see that what is truly necessary emotional ties. You never know



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.

Sometimes it's not what people do

that's important, but other words, philosophical personality. If you were to spend the whole day chattering irrelevant, but you should realise that what you believe shapes your actions and controls your future. Oh, and

distance contacts.



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.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The Moon plays a curious role in your



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.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) Secrecy comes

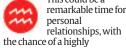


wish to deceive anybody, just your belief that certain things are private and not for other people's eyes or ears. You're in an imaginative mood and mystical truths make more sense to you than the so-called facts.

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

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



significant meeting rising by the hour. Indeed, your life could if you handle it right.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



yourself, so much the better. It's also a perfect moment to encouraging them to do their best and offering them your full support.

GREATER CHENNAL 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

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 subr 3.00 p.m. Tender Opening date and t		,

Tender details can be downloaded from: http://tntenders.gov.in Superintending Engineer (Mechanical) IPR/4873/Tender/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tende against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-03. The details are as under:

1.	Name of the work	Complete body cleaning & cycloni filters cleaning in 3240 Nos. 3-phas 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	13.01.2021 (11.00 Hrs.)
	of tender bid of tender	
6.	Date & Time of opening of tender	13.01.2021 (11.30 Hrs.)
	document	
7.	Website particulars where	www.ireps.gov.in
	complete details of tender	
	documents can be seen	

- (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procuremnt system
- (IREPS) site i.e. ${\bf www.ireps.gov.in}$ 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 lo.: 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.uprvunl.org/ e-tender portal www.etender.up.nic.in. Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all ebids 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 nformation 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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER website: www.uprvunl.org पत्रांक : 14 / 1x660मे0वा पनकी विस्तार / मु0अभि0 / सी0पी0डी0 / विज्ञापन दिनांक 22.12.2020

"SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATION

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



SUDOKU

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. Ashiya @ Heena Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: **lame** : 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

SHO Website: http://cbi.nic.jn P.S., Shahbad Dairy, Delhi e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/664/ON/2020

financial bid.

Ph.: 011-27821047 8750870322



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_ICFRE_598118_2. 3. Earnest money: Rs. 1,00,000/-, Tender fee: Rs. 1,180/- (Non-

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. . The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and

refundable) including 18% GST and Period of Contract: One

www.fri.res.in 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

> 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 (Satara), 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

Office at Jalna. All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering www.mahatenders.gov.in etenders.in and http://www.mahapwd.com.

Charity Commissioner's and Public Trust Registration

The remaining matter is unchanged. - Executive Engineer,

World Bank Project Division, Aurangabad (dgipr/2020-2021/1570)

UJVN Limited H.O.: "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradu Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

Ro. No. 843 Tender Notice 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

Executive Engineer (M&G) "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

C-256

Rs. 47.91 Lakhs (Estimated cost).

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED. Rourkela

Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012,

Email: rourkelascl@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

The Complete Bid documents can be viewed /downloaded from portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (https://www.rmc.nic.in or e-procurement portal of Odisha https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 21.12.2020 to 04.01.2021 up to 5:00 PM. Bids must be submitted online only [https:/tendersodisha.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.

> **Chief Executive Officer** Rourkela Smart City Ltd OIPR-13080/11/0012/2021

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**

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 upkeep, operation and maintenance of the remaining PT's/CT's under its urisdiction as per approved policy of SDMC. The list of remaining Toilets long 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 my PT/CT or group of PT's/CT's shall reach to the office of under signed

In case there is more than one Person/Stake holders apply for any T/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.

EOI and have not still executed the .agreement with SS/CNZ, they shall not be considered for further allotment of toilets. EE (EMS)CNZ R.O. No. 55/DPI/S/2020-21

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

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 Principa

Note: For detailed terms & conditions of the notice may please visit

our website: www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in For General Manager (P)

CIN:U45203TN1999GOI043322 NOTIFICATION REGARDING TENDERS OF KPL The Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT)/ the tender requirements of KPL will not

Portal (http://eprocure.gov.in) All the interested bidders are requested to refer above websites for

tenders of KPL

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन नारनौल में वाहनों की मुरम्मत के लिए हार्डवेयर/पेटी आईटम्स/कॉटन क्लोथ इत्यादि की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है। इच्छुक सप्लायर दिनांक 15.01.2021 तक अपनी सीलबंद कुटेशन महाप्रबंधक नारनौल के नाम भेज सकते है। जिसके उपर स्टोर आईटम कृटेशन लिखा होना अनिवार्य है। स्टोर आईटम की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर सकते है। कूटेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी कार्य दिवस में आकर 200/– रुपये जमा करवाने उपरांत

ह ./- महाप्रबंधक,

1063/7/HRY



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/LCBC/TNJ/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



Tel Ph. No.: 0744-2500197, email: nnkota@gmail.com website: www.kotamc.org, No:- NNK/Garage/2020/2256-78 Date:

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.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTPP Act 2012 and RTPP Rules 2013, amended upto date and under national Competitive Bidding with Single Stage - two envelope Bidding procedure for following works. Detailed NIT & Bid Documents

favourable region of

been some now is a willingness to voluntarily let go of certain - loved ones might like the

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) Professionally you are still on to a winner. In all areas there seems to be a great deal to

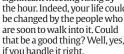
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

what they think. In considerations should be taken seriously. You may think they're welcome any new long-

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

could be high on the agenda, with bargains to be had.

This could be a



put other people first,

Indicative Notice

Serving customers with a smile

(A company of Chennai Port Trust) (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Government of India) egd. Office: No.17, Jawahar Bulding, Rajaji Salai, Chennai – 600 001

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

कुटेशन नोटिस

महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते है।

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, नारनौल



Date: 22.12.2020 NIT No 37/2020-21 (Re-Tender)

read/seen sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & Kotamc.org

New Delhi

An Expression of Interest was invited in South Delhi Municipal

by 5/01/2021 up to 05:00 PM.

Those parties/agencies/individual etc. who applied earlier in previous

can possibly get ahead of

Chief Personnel Officer at 11.00 (A.M.).

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

Rajeev Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota

Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Kota North

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

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); Twenty 20 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 ICCT20
- Approval on inclusion of two
- Discussion on the BCCI's stand on
- Update on India's Future Tour
- Appointment of the Cricket **Committees and Standing**
- Appointment of the BCCI's
- representative or representatives
- Election of the vice-president.

The ICC, on the other hand, believes that

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.

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.

- World Cup.
- new teams in the IPL.
- the inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Programs.
- Committees.
- at the ICC.
- Election of two representatives of the general body in the IPL Governing Council.

cricket's inclusion in the Olympics will ensure "diversification of funding for Members, reducing reliance on ICC funding"

According to sources, Ahmedabad, which

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.

GAURAV BHATT NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

"BHAISAHAB, 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 threetime medallist 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 medallist 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 Quizzed for reasons for so much fan fol-

AFTER PEP TALK, KOHLI LEAVES

Indian captain Virat Kohli left Australian

shores on Tuesday after a pep talk with

his beleaguered teammates, handing

over the mantle of leading the side to

Ajinkya Rahane in the remaining three

Tests. Kohli is coming back to India for

star batsman met his teammates and

encouraged them to give their all in the

remainder of the series. While Kohli has

departed for India, his white-ball deputy

Rohit Sharma is quarantining in Sydney.

MARK WAUGH SEES "NO HOPE" OF

The Indian cricket team has "no hope"

humiliation in Adelaide and will suffer

a 4-0 whitewash in the four-match Test

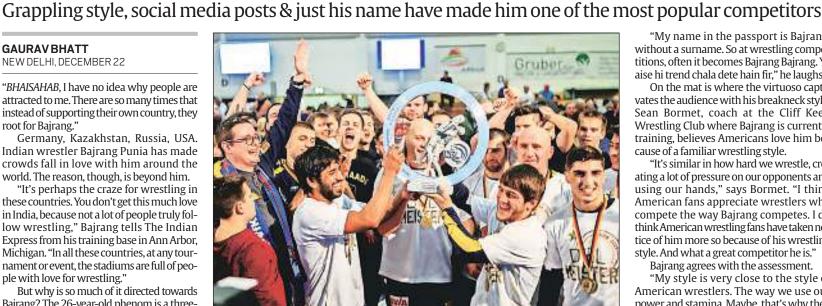
of making a comeback after the

INDIA BOUNCING BACK

Before boarding his flight back home, the

the birth of his first child in January.

AUSTRALIA FOR INDIA



Bajrang, India's international wrestler

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 swag 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 scampered 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

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

"My name in the passport is Bajrang, without a surname. So at wrestling competitions, often it becomes Bajrang Bajrang. Ye aise hi trend chala dete hain fir," he laughs.

On the mat is where the virtuoso captivates the audience with his breakneck style. Sean Bormet, coach at the Cliff Keen Wrestling Club where Bajrang is currently training, believes Americans love him because of a familiar wrestling style.

"It's similar in how hard we wrestle, creating a lot of pressure on our opponents and using our hands," says Bormet. "I think American fans appreciate wrestlers who compete the way Bajrang competes. I do think American wrestling fans have taken notice of him more so because of his wrestling style. And what a great competitor he is."

Bajrang agrees with the assessment. "My style is very close to the style of

American wrestlers. The way we use our power and stamina. Maybe, that's why they like it a lot more. Plus, I've faced a lot of Americans, at Worlds and other events. So, they know about me."

The three hosts of FloWrestling Radio show recently discussed the Bajrang phenomenon at length. And while they agreed that the Indian's social media swagger and selfies from the gym or clad in fine attire play a role, how he wrestles, and how often, is the real key.

"It's because he wrestles like an American and we're not used to seeing that from foreigners," opined Kyle Bratke. "The Russians, they don't wrestle like us. But this guy, he goes out and he wrestles hard in your face for six minutes. And he's just competing all the time. And we don't see that out of the Russians or anyone else that is one of the top guys in the world. He is at Matteo Pellicone, he's in New York and Beat the Streets. He's not afraid of anybody. I think people like that attitude. They like what they see when he's on the mat, too." Ben Askren, 2008 Olympian and former

UFC fighter, called Bajrang his favourite international wrestler. "It's almost impossible to be a fan of

someone when they show up twice a year and you don't know when and where. If I can't watch a guy 3-4-5 times a year, it's really hard for me to become a fan." And Christian Pyles summed up the dis-

course: "Another thing with Bajrang is in many of his matches, he'll be down and he storms back. Every match is like a mini Rocky type of thing where this guy's the underdog, but keeps going."

Bajrang accepts the compliments but isn't compelled to wonder why. "Wherever wrestling is popular, I feel

happy," says Bajrang. "All the credit goes to wrestling. And Bajrang Bali."

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

series against Australia, feels former

batsman Mark Waugh. Asked if India

could bounce back after losing the first



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."

Test, Waugh said: "No hope, no hope. I thought Adelaide was the Test that they could win on paper and with Virat Kohli

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.

here for just the one Test. I thought the

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."

How has Zlatan made a difference at AC Milan



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has scored 10 goals in Serie A so far this season. File

SHASHANK NAIR

FOOTBALL REFUSES to quit on Zlatan Ibrahomovic 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

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 be-

fore; I'm running more intelli-

gent 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

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 Agames - 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

In his second season at

career-threatening injury?

Manchester United (2017-18), Ibrahimovic suffered an anterior cruciate lig-

ament 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 not 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.

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 Rakshitta Ravi also made it to the finals of the boys under-14 and girls under-16 categories respectively.

New Delhi

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.

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