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The Indian Express wishes its readers Merry Christmas 👚

Amshipora killings: found culpable, Major to face action

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

AN ARMY officer of the rank of Major has been found culpable in the killing of three Rajouri labourers, who security forces initially claimed were terrorists, in Shopian district of J&K in July this year, The Indian Express has learnt.

The three, one of them a 16year-old, had gone to the Valley from their hometown Rajouri, looking for work. They were killed in Amshipora, a village in Shopian district, in the early hours of July 18.

In September, a Court of Inquiry found prima facie evidence that "powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded" and the "dos and don'ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

MINISTRY SENDS LETTER TO FARMER UNIONS

Tell us when you want to talk, ready for 'logical' solution: Govt

Three farm laws have no relation to MSP-based procurement, says ministry

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

A DAY after farmer unions, protesting at Delhi's borders against the new farm laws, said they are open to talks if a more concrete proposal is made, the government responded Thursday saying it is ready for "logical resolution" of all issues raised by the farmers.

In a letter to 40 representatives of farmer unions, Vivek BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY

Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, urged them to decide the time and date for the next round of talks, and also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

11 Opp parties issue joint statement against Govt: who is spreading untruths?

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

EVEN AS West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been coordinating with Opposition leaders to hold a joint rally of anti-BJP leaders in Kolkata, the CPM on Thursday worked behind the scenes to get 11 parties, including the NCP, DMK and the Congress, to issue a joint statement against the BJP government on the farm laws. The joint statement came on

sharing deal with the Left parties for the forthcoming Assembly elections in Bengal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PUNJAB

FIELDS

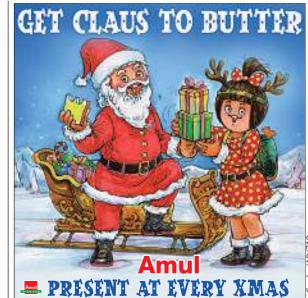
AN EXPRESS SERIES PART 3

PAGE 8

a day the Congress high com-

mand gave its Bengal unit the go-

ahead for entering into a seat-



Growth to break into positive territory in Q3, says RBI study

In first half of 2021-22, GDP growth likely to be 14.2 per cent

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

WITH THE INDIAN economy pulling out of the Covid pandemic's "deep abyss", the real GDP is expected to break out into positive territory with a slender growth of 0.1 per cent in October-December 2020 (Q3), and rise marginally to 0.7 per cent in January-March 2021 (Q4), according to an RBI study on the 'State of the Economy'.

An update of the economic activity index (EAI) in RBI's nowcasting assessment exercise further shows that in the first half

What worked for growth

A BENDING of the Covid-19 curve, and a 'method' to the stimulus imparted by the government seems to be making a difference. A string of liquidity measures plus cash/ kind support to the most vulnerable in the initial months was followed by calibrated moves to support investment and consumption demand, which, the RBI study says, is slowly showing results.

of 2021-22, the economy will clock a growth rate of 14.2 per cent on top of the 0.4 per cent **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Outrage as IIM-A to raze iconic dorms designed by Louis Kahn

RITU SHARMA & SHINY VARGHESE AHMEDABAD, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS

IN VALLEY

At St Mary's Church in

Gulmarg, Jammu and

Kashmir, on the eve of

Christmas on Thursday.

PEARL KILLING: PAK

SHEIKH'S RELEASE

COURT ORDERS OMAR

THE WORLD

A CONTROVERSY has erupted over a decision by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, to bring down 18 student dormitories built by legendary American architect Louis Kahn on the old campus — also called "heritage campus" - and replace them with new buildings.

The plan to replace the build-



Designed by Louis Kahn on the old campus. Nirmal Harindran

ings, built in the 1960s, with new ones are on the ground that they have suffered structural damage over the years, including in the 2001 earthquake. The new buildings are also expected to accommodate more students — in place of the existing dorms, which can accommodate 500 students, the plan is to build 800 student rooms in a new hostel complex.

The decision was taken even as the Mumbai-based Somaya and Kalappa Consultants (SNK) was already working on restoring **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Delhi Police search office of Pracha, lawyer in several riot cases

Violates due process of clients, say lawyers; police allege forged papers

ANANYATIWARI& APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE SPECIAL Cell of Delhi Police searched the Nizamuddin East office of lawyer Mahmood Pracha Thursday.

Pracha's firm Legal Axis is de-



Mahmood

fending several persons accused in different cases related to the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2









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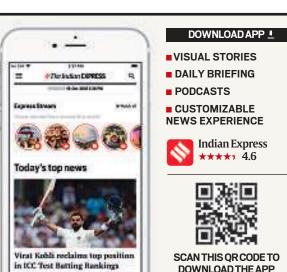


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YEAR OF THE BANNED: TIKTOK TO PUBG MOBILE, ALL THE APPS THAT STOPPED **WORKING IN INDIA IN 2020**

 $Tik Tok\ videos\ banned.\ The\ metaphorical\ 'chicken\ dinner', gone.\ Clothes\ from\ Shein, forget\ it.\ That's\ what the properties of the properties of$ 2020 was for users of Chinese apps in India.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



ANURAG KASHYAP ON 'AK vs. AK'

The script of AK vs AK is full of perceived cliches about Bollywood'

EXPLAINED



ISRAEL'S NATION STATE LAW

The controversial law is being challenged in the **Supreme Court**

EXPRESS AUDIO

What the results of the **DDC** polls mean for Jammu & Kashmir

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we decode the results of the DDC polls, the first electoral exercise to take place in J&K after the abrogation of its special status

FROM PAGE ONE

Growth to break into positive territory in Q3, says **RBI** study

growth rate in the second half of 2012-20.

"Over the month gone by, more evidence has been turned in to show that the Indian economy is breaking out amidst winter's lengthening shadows towards a place in the sunlight," the study said. The economy dipped by a record 23.9 per cent in the June quarter but the contraction narrowed down to 7.5 per cent in the September quarter.

The National Statistical Office's (NSO) end-November release delivered a pleasant surprise – the pandemic-imposed retrenchment of Q1 of 2020-21 turned out to be much shallower in Q2 and the economy is reflating at a pace that beats most predictions,

Two factors are blessing this turning of the page: one, a bending of the Covid infection curve, and second, a 'method' to the stimulus which started with liquidity/guarantee and cash/kind support to the economy, which is now transiting in a calibrated fashion to support investment and consumption demand.

The RBI paper said the fourth bi-monthly resolution of the monetary policy committee (MPC) did maintain status quo on the policy rate and stance, but a powerful message was conveyed: growth projections were revised upwards by 200 basis points from October. If they hold, the Indian economy will clock a growth rate of 14.2 per cent in the first half of 2021-22 on top of 0.4 per cent in the second half of 2020-21, the study said.

On the whole, the above-the-line fiscal stimulus will likely boost growth by close to 2 per cent of GDP in 2020-21. In other words, it is prudent to look beyond the volatility inherent in high frequency indicators, the RBI said. "Companies are doing so already - an analysis of 12-months ahead forward earnings reveals improvement in the outlook for a large number of

Going forward, in the second half of 2020-21, while the fisc is likely to benefit from better receipts in line with normalisation of economic activity, the push given through various expenditure measures by the Government, essentially on-budget ones through AtmaNirbhar 2.0 and 3.0 is likely to materialise, the

Gross fiscal deficit to GDP ratio is likely to moderate from 14.5 per cent of GDP in the first half of 2020-21 to 10.4 per cent of GDP in the second half of 2020-

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21, the RBI said. Taking into account these developments and assuming major expenditure push - partly in Q3 and mostly in Q4, based on GDP growth as projected in the Reserve Bank's December 2020 monetary policy review, the Q3 and Q4 combined fiscal deficit are projected at 8.3 and 12.4 per cent of GDP, respectively, with corresponding 50 per cent confidence interval estimated at 7.8-8.8 per cent and 11.6-12.9 per cent, it said.

The build-up of combined fiscal deficit in H1:2020-21 is sharper, but attributable mostly to the developments in Q1. Going forward, with the severest impact of Covid on government finances already realised in Q1, there is scope for Centre and states to continue with the counter-cyclical fiscal support, which is necessary to sustain the momentum of recovery, the RBI

The average GFD for the states that made post-outbreak budget presentations is 4.6 per cent of GSDP visa-vis 2.4 per cent for states presenting their budget before the outbreak of the pandemic. In Q1 and Q2 of 2020-21, the fiscal deficit for states was at 5.0 per cent and 2.5 per cent of quarterly GDP, respectively, much higher compared to previous years, it said.

Outrage as IIM-A to raze iconic dorms designed by Louis Kahn

the existing dorms, along with the Vikram Sarabhai Library, the faculty and administrative blocks and the classroom buildings, based on a competition it had won in 2014. Last year, the firm won a UNESCO award for the library restoration work.

Somaya, one of the founders of SNK, confirmed to The Indian Express: "I was not aware of the new bid" Amid the uproar over IIM-A's decision, an online meeting scheduled on Thurday to open the new bids was put off.

Justifying the decision to bring down the dorms, IIM-A Director Prof Errol D'Souza wrote a 11-page letter on Wednesday to the institute's alumni, citing multiple problems in the existing structure that made it "unliveable", among them "concrete and slabs falling from the roofs with damaging consequences for the lives of the residents".

When contacted with questions on the decision. D'Souza told The Indian Express, "I have written to the alumni yesterday. The queries you have raised are answered in that letter."

Architecture experts, students and faculty, however, expressed deep anguish that Kahn's iconic work on the campus should be brought down.

Revered as one of the world's finest architects of the 20th Century, Kahn is known to create powerful and evocative compositions of geometry and space. The IIM-A campus is a choreography of form, light

Kahn, who first came to India in 1962 at the invitation of IIM-A founder-director Vikram Sarabhai, as consultant for the National Institute of Design, gave his buildings a poise few could achieve at the time.

His work -- be it the Salk Institute in California, the Kimbell Museum in Texas, or the Phillips Exeter Academy Library and Dining Hall in New Hampshire -- allowed people to explore quiet corners in the inbetween spaces.

William Whitaker, curator and collections manager of the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design that manages Kahn's archives, said, "The IIM-A revived a prestigious award from UNESCO for the conservation of the Vikram Sarabhai Library. The award also called out the school's commitment to its architectural heritage as a model for India. It is a bitter irony to see the administration turn their backs on their own accomplishments. The school and the dorms are a unit. Remove one and the magic dissipates, never to re-

Rabindra Vasavada, one of the first architects to join Kahn as assistant in the 1960s, calls the idea of demolishing the dormitories an erasure of history itself.

"Kahn was always in search of the roots of institutions... In this case, it was an institution of learning. He saw every student as a disciple. That value was enshrined in every dormitory, where 10 of them lived together. Out of their classrooms, the dormitories were a space where people could get together to share ideas, without any sense of exclusivity," says

In his letter to the alumni group, D'Souza had, however, wondered if it was "appropriate... to colonise future perceptions of living spaces".

"We have grappled with questions as to why we should presume that the past is not changeable and why we should assume that future generations will value things in exactly the same way that past generations have," D'Souza went on to say, adding, "In today's world, our experience is that students hardly use these shared spaces as they have gravitated to virtual

Ahmedabad based architect Riyaz Tayabji said, "These are buildings of great architectural sophistication. Their sheer frugality in a time of sparse means showed us that great architecture is not a luxury but could be achieved with the barest of resources."

A faculty member at IIM-A said, "Among the major issues is that the cultural heritage associated with

Govt says ready for logical resolution of farmer issues

"give details of other issues on which you want to negotiate".

The Government of India again wants to reiterate its commitment that it is ready for logical resolution of all issues raised by the agitating farmer unions,"

Writing to the Ministry a day earlier, farmer unions had said that apart from the three central "your 'proposal' on Minimum Support Prices had nothing clear or concrete which deserved a response from our side. On Minimum Support Prices, you had proposed a 'written assurance' with regard to continuing the current procurement system. However, farmers' organisations are demanding a legal guarantee that all agricultural commodities will be purchased only at MSP or above, that too at an MSP fixed with C2+50% formula as per the National Farmers' Commission recommendation. When the Government sends the draft of such a legislation (for legally guaranteed realisation of remunerative MSP for all agricultural commodities and for all farmers), we will give a detailed reply without any de-

Seeking a legal guarantee on MSP, the unions are now linking MSP to the "C2+50% formula".

In a memorandum to the Agriculture Secretary on October

14, union representatives had listed five demands, of which three were related to MSP, which included implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report "to fix MSP with C2+ 50% formulae"; and make MSP and state procurement of all crops a legal right of farmers.

The Commission Agricultural Costs and Prices projects three kinds of production cost -- A2, A2+FL, and C2 -for every crop, both at state and all-India average levels.

A2 covers all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer in cash and kind — on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation, etc.

A2+FL includes A2 plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.

C2 is a more comprehensive cost that factors in rentals and interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets, on top of A2+FL

Referring to the MSP-related demand of the unions, Aggarwal wrote, "The three laws related to agricultural reforms have no relation to the minimum support price-based procurement nor do these have any effect on the system of MSP-based procurement system already there before the enactment of these three laws."

"This was mentioned in every round of talks. It was also clarified that the government is ready to give a written assurance regarding the continuation of the present system of MSP-based procurement," he said in the let-"It does not seem logical to

put any new demand on this subject, which is removed from the new agricultural laws. But as stated earlier, the government is ready to discuss all issues raised by you," Aggarwal said. On the unions stand on the

Electricity Amendment Act and the issue of stubble burning, he said the government is ready for talks on additional issues – other than issues identified at the December 3 meeting between the government and the unions. He said the government is

ready to discuss the issues, with good intentions and an open heart, to end the agitation.

A day earlier, reading from the letter sent by farmer leaders, Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav told the press at Singhu border: "We urge the government not to repeat those meaningless amendments which we have already rejected, but to come up with a concrete proposal in writing, so that can be made an agenda and the process of negotiation can be started as soon as possible. We are waiting for the government to proceed with an open mind and clean intentions.

notary stamp and creation of allegedly false/manipulated evidence at the hands of certain members of the Bar was noticed. The Special Court had observed that this required thorough investigation. Pursuant to this, a criminal case under appropriate sections of law was registered and investigation was taken up."

"During the course of investigation, search warrants to look for electronic and other evidence from the premises of two members of the Bar were obtained from the Court and the same are being executed in a professional manner at one location in Nizamuddin and another at Yamuna Vihar," he said.

The search warrant, issued on December 22 under Section 93 of the CrPC, states, "This is to authorise and require investigating officer of this case to search for the said incriminating documents and metadata of outbox of email ID... wherever they may be found whether in computer or in the office/premises... including outbox of email ID... as well as other offices/premises where presence of such evidence are detected during the search/investigation, and, if found, to produce the same forthwith before this

Policemen barred entry to Pracha's Nizamuddin East office while the searches were on. In the evening, from the second floor balcony, Pracha said, "My phone has been seized. I am being threatened. I have told them they can take things from my computers, from my office and even my home. At the end of the day, the Constitution will win. It is not so weak... We will ensure that each and every riot victim gets justice."

Lawyers working with Pracha filed an application with CMM Pankaj Sharma against the seizure of material. It is expected to be heard Friday.

The application seeks a clarification from the IO of the search warrant, stating that the team is "being compelled to provide alleged documents and is also being told that in failure to do so all the computers, documents etc at the said premises will be seized".

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, in a Twitter post, described the searches as "a direct attack on the fundamental right of the right to legal representation" and said "all lawyers must condemn this attack".

Senior advocate Chander Uday Singh said: "This raid will have a chilling effect on legal representation if lawyers' records are randomly searched and seized.'

Lawyer Prashant Bhushan said: "The targeting of lawyers who are defending those who have been framed is the next step in this conspiracy to frame protestors, activists and their lawyers in the guise of an investigation.'

11 Opposition parties issue

So far, Banerjee has reached out to NCP chief Sharad Pawar and is planning to invite regional leaders such as AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and DMK's M K Stalin to the Kolkata rally. Her attempt to rally Opposition leaders ahead of the elections -- to signal that she is leading the battle against the BJP -- is worrying for the Congress-Left, which is trying hard to turn the battle into a triangular fight.

The joint statement issued on Thursday – signed by Congress's Rahul Gandhi, Pawar, DMK's T R Baalu, J&K PAGD president Farooq Abdullah, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, CPI(ML) general secretary Bhattacharya, Dipankar Forward Bloc's Debabrata Biswas and RSP's Manoj Bhattacharya – slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accusing the opposition parties of lying to farmers about the new farm laws.

on December 8. As in the past, the AAP was not a signatory to

sations are a complete travesty of truth... Many of us had opposed these Agri Laws when they were being enacted in Parliament without discussions or proper consideration. MPs who sought a vote were suspended," the statement said.

"Amongst the many unsubstantiated accusations made, one of them is that those who spoke of agrarian reforms in election manifestos earlier but are now opposing. Yes, we are for reforms, but what sort of reforms? Opposition parties seek reforms to strengthen Indian agriculture; enhance the prosperity of our farmers; and ensure continued food security for our people and the country. The present farm laws undermine these very objectives," the statemended an MSP of C2+50 per cent, while this government, at best, implements A2+50 per cent. In fact, this government told the Supreme Court its inability to implement C2+50 per cent MSP. Who is spreading untruths?..." Hailing the "unity, grit and

determination" being shown by "lakhs of farmers from Delhi's neighbouring states in the midst of a severe cold wave in a peaceful manner", the statement called for a repeal of the new laws, along with the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020. "Following this, discussions on agrarian reforms must be held by the Central government with the farmers and all stakeholders. On the basis of these consultations, new enactments may be considered by Parliament, if necessary, by convening a special or a joint session," they said.

Separately, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi led a party delegation to President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking his intervention for repeal of the three farm laws. A memorandum submitted by the party said an "autocratic Modi government" was refusing to hear the "agony and anguish" of the farmers.

Amshipora killings: found culpable, Major to face action

approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court have been

The Summary of Evidence that followed was completed last week, and it found that the Major should

The recommendations of the Summary of Evidence have been forwarded to Lt Gen Y K Joshi, GOC-in-C. Northern Command, sources told The Indian Express. The next step in the process is a court

A Defence spokesperson said Thursday: "The process of recording the 'summary of evidence' has been completed. The same is being examined by the concerned authorities in consultation with legal advisors for proceeding further. Indian Army is committed to ethical conduct of

operations. Further details will be shared in a manner so as not to prejudice the proceedings under Army The Amshipora incident took place in the early

hours of July 18. A Major and two soldiers of 62 Rashtriya Rifles formed the initial encounter party, and were later reinforced by teams of the J&K Police On July 19, the Commander of 12 Sector RR held a

press conference to announce that three terrorists had been killed in the encounter, which had taken place following a cordon-and-search operation in Amshipora on "specific input" to the 62 RR unit about the presence of terrorists in the village.

The Army gave a detailed account saying the security forces had been fired upon, that there was exchange of fire, and during the recovery of bodies, they had found arms, ammunition and IED material at the

This version began unravelling when a family in Rajouri filed a missing person's complaint in August about three of its family members – Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohd Ibrar – who had travelled to Kashmir to look for employment in July, and were in touch with them over mobile phones until July 16. The family had been unable to contact them there-

According to the family, they had seen photographs of the bodies from the encounter, and had identified them as their three missing members.

This led to an uproar in the Valley as well in Rajouri, and in the Gujjar community. The Army set up a Court of Inquiry, while the police carried out their own investigation.

The men had been buried at a graveyard in Baramulla, where unidentified militants suspected to have infiltrated from Pakistan, are interred. Their bodies were exhumed in October for DNA tests, which confirmed the family's claims.

joint statement against govt

These are the same 11 parties

that had earlier issued a statement supporting the Bharat Bandh called by farmer unions Thursday's statement. "The Prime Minister's accu-

Slamming the government for accusing the opposition of spreading lies on the MSP, the statement read, "The PM claims implementing the Swaminathan Commission Report in this regard. This Report had recom-

those in which sections of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) have been invoked. In August, police told a Delhi court that Pracha had

forged documents and instigated a man to depose falsely in a case related to the riots. Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav, in an order, had said "it would be appropriate if the matter is investigated by an independent agency like Crime Branch or Special Cell". An FIR was filed in the matter.

According to Pracha's associate, advocate Digvijay Singh, the law firm is handling nearly 150 riot-related cases, including one filed against student activist Gulfisha Fatima, who is in judicial custody in a UAPA

Additional PRO (Delhi Police) Anil Mittal said, "During the course of a bail matter pertaining to an accused in the Northeast Delhi riots, use of a forged

lawyer in several riot cases

the campus will be lost. We can understand that they

are doing this because of increasing student count but

doing away with these will also mean losing the so-

Delhi Police search

cial and cultural aesthetics of the campus.'

office of Pracha,

Delhi riots in February this year – these cases include

OSE IDENTIFIED TO BE CONTACTED VIA SMS

51 lakh people to get vaccine in first phase, says Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

FIFTY-ONE lakh people in Delhi comprising healthcare staff, frontline workers, people with co-morbidities and those aged above 50 years – will be administered Covid-19 vaccine in the first phase, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday.

Addressing a webcast on the rollout of the vaccine, expected early next year, in the national capital, Kejriwal said the administration has identified nearly all the 51 lakh citizens under the "priority category" for vaccination.

The Delhi government's plan is in line with the recommendations made by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration of Covid-19 (NEGVAC).

Kejriwal said Delhi has made the necessary arrangements to receive and store the vaccine doses in two separate facilities: an existing cold storage facility, and the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, where an area of about 5,000 square metres is being used as a storage centre.

He said 1.2 crore doses are



CM during the webcast

THE PLAN				
609 cold chain points				
3,500 healthcare workers to be involved				
1.15 cr doses can be stored 1.2 cr doses needed in phase 1				

2 cr population of Delhi

PRIORITY CATEGORIES 3 lakh healthcare workers 6 lakh frontline workers

42 lakh over the age of 50/with co-morbidities CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

TOTAL CASES 6,20,681		HOSPITAL BEDS VENTILATORS	Total 18,770 1,523	Vacant 16,019 899
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Dec 23	871	1,585	18	87,861
Dec 24	1,063	1,120	37	89,920
Total	7,909*	6,02,388	10,384	81,22,974
			*T-4-	.1

Total active cases

needed to cover priority categories in the first phase.

Kejriwal said Delhi has about 3 lakh healthcare workers, 6 lakh frontline workers, and about 42 lakh people who are aged above 50 years or have co-morbidities. "We have identified nearly all of them and the identification work will be wrapped up in a week," he said.

Those identified will be contacted via SMS. "The government will inform them about the time and venue of vaccination," he said.

Over the last few weeks. teams comprising ASHA workers, teachers and civil defence volunteers have been carrying out door-to-door surveys, collecting the names and contact details of those aged above 50 and persons with co-morbidities.

"Right now, Delhi has the capacity to store 74 lakh vaccine doses and this is being augmented. In the next five to seven days, the city will be able to store 1.5 lakh doses," said Kejriwal.

The government has also made a separate plan to ensure medical help in the event of the vaccine triggering any adverse reaction.

Three vaccine candidates – Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Serum Institute-Oxford's Covishield and the Pfizer's m-RNA vaccine - are in the fray for emergency use authorisation.

2 arrested for cheating AIIMS doc

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly posing as personnel from a packers and movers company and taking the household items of an AIIMS doctor, along with Rs 12,000 as delivery charge, and later forcing him to pay Rs 42,000. **ENS**

OBITUARY Lt Col Shravan Kumar Misra (Retd) (19-12-1949 to 21-12-2020)

Fraternity of Army Educational Corps expresses profound grief and sorrow on the sad demise of Lt Col Shravan Kumar Misra (Retd) on 21 Dec 20. He will always be remembered for his selfless and dedicated service to the Corps We pray to the Almighty to bless eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family

Maj Gen Devesh Gaur Addl DG AE & Col Comdt and All Ranks of Army Educational Corps



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websites www.mmusolan.org and mmmch.mmusolan.org. The application form along with NEET score card and Fees of Rs. 10.000/- can be uploaded on the websites latest by 26.12.2020 at 10:00 PM. Counselling of registered candidates will be done in the Principal's Office of the MMMCH, Kumarhatti-Solan on 27.12.2020 from 10 AM onwards. The candidates should attend the counselling physically with all original documents and fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot.

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Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

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Govt to approach IGI on fliers from UK slipping out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE DELHI government will approach IGI Airport authorities over five Covid positive passengers from the United Kingdom going untraceable after landing in the national capital on Tuesday. While three were later found in Delhi, two were traced to Punjab and Andhra Pradesh Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters

that he came to know about the fliers slipping out from the airport from the newspapers. The Indian Express had on Thursday reported that the passengers were brought back to the city on Wednesday. "I saw it in the papers today. Flight operations and security come under the airport authorities. A person should not have moved out despite testing positive," Jain told reporters. On the role of the Delhi government-appointed nodal

officer at the airport, he said, "We are quarantining all those who are testing positive. The matter (of slipping out) will be raised with the airport authorities." A separate institutional facility has also been set up at the Lok Nayak Hospital for fliers from UK testing positive, Jain added.

The Delhi airport is managed and operated by the GMR group-led DIAL and its security is handled by the CISF. CISF DIG (IGI airport) Sachin Badshah said, "The CISF has no role on the arrival side. Personnel just facilitate the arriving passengers." (with PTI inputs)

MP Gambhir launches 'Jan Rasoi' canteen



The East Delhi MP at the canteen in Gandhi Nagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

EAST DELHI BJP MP Gautam Gambhir Thursday started a 'Jan Rasoi' canteen at Gandhi Nagar market to provide food to the needy at Re 1 per plate. He said five to six more canteens will be opened in different parts of his constituency, with the next one to come up in Mayur Vihar.

Stating that the canteen is being run with his own money and that of his NGO Gautam Gambhir foundation, he said: "The Jan Rasoi will serve nutritious, hygienic food to the needy at Re 1 per plate. A total of 500 persons will be provided food each day; second servings will also be given."

On the menu is rice, daal, vegetable curry, and sweets on special occasions, said an aide of the MP. The canteen will be open from 11.30 am to 3 pm and food coupons can be availed at the entrance.

Keeping social distancing in mind amid the pandemic, the canteen will feed 50 people at a time, said the cricketer-turned parliamentarian. "The token amount of Re 1 is meant to pay wages to staff running the kitchens," he told reporters.

Speaking about the initiative, he said: "I have always felt everyone has the right to healthy and hygienic food irrespective of caste, creed, religion or financial condition. It is saddening to see the homeless and destitute not being able to get even two square meals a day."

While there are various government-run canteens in other states that provide subsidised food, Gambhir said this is the first initiative started without government funding in the capital.



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

BJP DENIES CLAIM, ACCUSES AAP OF ORCHESTRATING RUCKUS

DJB office vandalised, Chadha says BJP behind attack; Gupta in video

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE DELHI Jal Board (DJB) headquarters at Jhandewalan was vandalised on Thursday, in the presence of Delhi Police officials, allegedly by a group led by Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta. A group of close to 100 people entered the building around noon, breaking the glass door of the reception, and made their way to DIB vice-chairman and AAP leader Raghay Chadha's office.

Chadha, who was not in his office during the incident, alleged that the mob broke computers, printers and benches, affacked staff members and manhandled women employees. The BJP, however, alleged AAP workers created ruckus.

Delhi Police said they detained around 30 men from the spot. DCP (Central) Sanjay Bhatia said, "We received information that a few BJP workers were protesting at DJB HQ. We detained around 30 men from the spot. Action will be taken as per law.'

BRIEFLY —

opposes new

pharmacy on

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal

Students' Union Thursday

protested against the

opening of an Apollo phar-

macy shop inside the cam-

pus. They alleged the

move was done without

approval of the Campus

Development Committee

and was a bid to further

privatisation, keeping at

bay INU's 'Progressive

Shop Allotment Policy'

which gives preference to

those from the margin-

alised and deprived back-

grounds. Registrar Pramod

Kumar did not respond to

Give more time

for HSRP, fuel

New Delhi: The Delhi High

Court Thursday suggested

to the AAP government to

give more time to people

to obtain colour-coded

fuel stickers and high se-

curity registration plates

before it starts fining them

Rs 5.500 for the violations.

The bench said the Delhi

government should not

create panic among citi-

zens. PTI

stickers: HC

calls and texts. ENS

University

JNUSU

campus



DJB vice-chairman Raghav Chadha examines the damage to

Police refused to reveal the names of those detained but senior officials said Gupta was among the 30. They were later released. Police are yet to register an FIR as they are awaiting a formal complaint from DJB.

On the videos showing Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta in the group, an officer said, "We haven't decided the course of action vet. We are investigating the matter."

Chadha alleged, "They said your Chief Minister is becoming too supportive of farmers and has been speaking in their favour... They threatened us saying if AAP doesn't stop supporting farmers, then BJP goons will attack all of us... They also said AAP should follow the directions of PM

Narendra Modi or else violent at-

tacks will continue on its leaders."

Videos shared by AAP show

shoved in the face as well." Responding to the incident, Gupta alleged supply through water tankers in the capital has been stalled for the past 22 days:

Gupta delivering a speech to

about 100 people outside the

main gate, as police officials guard

the gate from inside the complex.

Groups of men then push the gate

open, allowing the crowd and

Gupta to enter the complex, as

police officials, who are outnum-

bered, follow them. Amid slogans

of "Adesh ji, keep up the struggle

we are with you" and "Kejriwal

resign", the group shatters the

glass in the main reception area

In another video shot from

inside the building, Gupta can be

seen walking with a group of

men and women who are rais-

women, had locked themselves

inside a room and put a sofa

against the door. The mob kept

banging on the door, asking

them to open up. A female secu-

rity staffer was punched or

A DJB employee alleged, "Four-five employees, including

ing slogans in his support.

using chairs and rushes inside.

"I had gone there but officials didn't meet me at first; some officials met me later. None of our workers were involved in the violence. We staged a peaceful demonstration outside the headquarters against the DJB's Rs 25,000-core tanker scam, but AAP workers forcibly barged into the premises, vandalised the office and attacked BJP workers."

He also said five workers sustained injuries in the attack.

Chadha, meanwhile, said, "DJB will initiate legal proceedings. However, the proceedings will be handled by Delhi Police, whose officers were already present there and the attack happened on their watch... Police are now waiting for us to file a complaint. This shows how serious they are about investigating this."

On December 11, more than two dozen men had forced their way inside the official residence of Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, with AAP claiming they were from the BJP. The BJP acknowledged protesting outside Sisodia's house but denied that its workers had entered the premises.

Tech

According to sources, de-

fects on tracks cannot be

captured with the place-

ment and resolution of

the cameras currently in-

stalled. The bandwidth

capacity to relay footage

in real time to the com-

mand centres will also

have to be augmented. As

a result, complete transi-

tion to driverless mode is still some time away. For

now, the Metro plans to

equip one train each on

Magenta and Pink Lines

with these cameras.

upgrade

At Singhu, support from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

KASHMIR SINGH from Punjab's Ferozepur and J Arul from Tamil Nadu's Thiruvallur did not understand a word they said to each other backstage at Singhu border but the wide smiles and nods they exchanged were enough to forge a friendship. Meanwhile, Chandu Raut (57) from Maharashtra's Nagpur sported a black turban that a Sikh protester tied on his head, as he spoke about the 2018 Kisan march from Nashik to Mumbai — a distance of around 200 km that he covered

On Thursday, farmers from Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra took the stage, albeit briefly, in a show of solidarity.

"At least 25 of us, who are members of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) in Tamil Nadu, reached Delhi Wednesday, to show our support to our brothers from Puniab and Harvana. This is a continuing struggle for all farmers of the country," said Arul, who is the state committee member of AIKS in Thiruvallur district.

In the afternoon, Arul addressed protesters in Tamil — on a stage that has mostly seen speeches in Punjabi - which was met with applause from protesters. "I said we are with them in this struggle. When we go back home, we will hold similar protests on December 29," he

Earlier, the men were staying at a lodge near Singhu. On Thursday morning, they moved to the trolleys of farmers from Punjab's Moga. "We are able to communicate with each other via Google Translate," said P Balaii (26). His parents are farmers in Tamil Nadu and they grow sugarcane and rice.

Around 2,000 farmers from Maharashtra, who started their march from Nashik three days ago in support of the ongoing

SUKRITA BARUAH

WITH THE protest sites at both

Tikri and Singhu borders located

close to slum settlements, and

with large quantities of plastic

waste being generated at both

places, scrap collectors from

nearby slums are an occupied lot.

multiple scrap collectors can be

seen walking through the

protest sites looking for plastic

bottles. On Monday afternoon.

Neelam stood outside a bustling

At any given time of the day,

pected to reach Shahjahanpur in Rajasthan — 130 km away from Delhi — by Friday afternoon, where they will join other protesting farmers.

Meanwhile, around 12 members from a farmers' union in Maharashtra reached Singhu Wednesday to represent the 2,000 farmers. Manohar Muley, state committee member of Maharashtra Rajya Khet Mazdoor Union, from Nagpur, said, "While in Nagpur, we read about the cold wave in Delhi... No one mentioned how warm the protest site is because of our farmers from Puniab and Harvana."

Muley, who also sported a turban like Raut, went on stage in the afternoon and spoke about the support to the protests by farmers from Maharashtra.

Scrap collectors at protest

sites have their hands full

He said, "I walked from Nashik to Mumbai in 2018 and slept on the roads, in fields... Here,

Muley from Maharashtra; I Arul from Tamil Nadu on stage with a union member

there are so many arrangements. We are here for eight days, and will most likely send another group later.'

Accompanying Muley and Raut was Digambar Diwate (44), a teacher from Maharashtra's Ramtek district, whose parents are farmers. He said, "The government is trying to suppress farmers – be it those from Punjab or Maharashtra, We reached Singhu on Wednesday and have done three rallies today."

Apart from the unions from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, Tumul Katara (47) from Gujarat's Vadodara, who is a member of the All India Democratic Youth Organisation, and Sriram Sen (24), a member of the All India Democratic Students, from Madhya Pradesh's Guna, were at the protest.

"These farm laws are antifarmers and anti-people. I am not a farmer but this is a cause everyone must fight. At least 15 of us have come from Gujarat, and we will leave Sunday," said Katara.

Sen, whose parents are farmers, said he's been at the border since December 8 and is staying in a Punjab farmer's trolley. "I am here as long as the farmers are here. There's no going back now,'

PM to flag off country's first-ever driverless Metro train on Dec 28

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

HIGH-RESOLUTION cameras to detect "defects" on the tracks, real-time monitoring of train equipment, remote handling of emergency alarms and a graded removal of drivers' cabins - several upgrades are being made by the Delhi Metro in the run-up to the country's first driverless train

DMRC executive director Anuj Dayal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the driverless train service on the 37 km-Magenta Line (Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden) on December 28, and will also be launching the fully operational National Common Mobility Card for travel on the 23-km Airport Express Line (New Delhi to Dwarka Sector 21).

The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CMRS) has stipulated many conditions that will have to be fulfilled by the Metro before introducing completely 'unattended train operation' (UTO), the technical term used to describe the final stage of driverless services. The CMRS gave its nod for UTO launch on December 18.

According to a copy of the CMRS clearance, seen by The Indian Express, "The rail check system consisting of high-resolution camera to detect rail defects must be commissioned before implementation of UTO ... '

Sources said defects on tracks cannot be captured with the



DMRC is rolling out driverless trains on the Magenta Line

placement and resolution of the cameras currently installed. The bandwidth capacity to relay footage in real time to the command centres will also have to be augmented. As a result, complete transition to driverless mode is still some time away. For now, the Metro plans to equip one train each on Magenta and Pink Lines

with these cameras. "The above requirement is prerequisite to implementation of UTO. Presently, we are going to start driverless operation. There will be a roving attendant on board. Hence, those cameras are not essential at this stage. DMRC is, however, planning to install Rail Check System on one train each on lines 7 and 8 shortly," Daval told The Indian Express.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs issued gazette notification on December 16, adding UTO mode of operation in the Metro

Railways General Rules, 2020. Under the previous norms, unattended or driverless train op-

erations were not allowed. As per the CMRS clearance, initially the trains will have "roving attendants", who will be trained to intervene and operate trains if required, like in cases of emergencies. This is among the five stipu-

"Roving attendants shall be present in the cab till cab partition is removed and all driver control panels are covered, but will not take any action for normal operation," it says.

lations laid down by the CMRS.

Currently, drivers operate out of cabins, located at the front and back of every train, which block out the view of the tracks from the front and end coaches.

Following its transition to the driverless mode, the Metro plans to remove the partitions and cover the control panels. This will effectively allow passengers to through elevated lines and underground tunnels. The CMRS has directed the Metro to ensure that the on-board cameras are kept free of moisture to ensure clear visibility at the command

for implementation of UTO operation. The report and its compliance shall be submitted to CMRS at the time of implementation of UTO operation on the main line," the report added.

centre so that the footage can be continuously monitored. "DMRC has engaged a consultant (consortium of Systra MVA and Systra France) for inspection and review of systems

> langar centre at Singhu border where lunch was being served, with a sack full of plastic bottles almost as tall as her. "I live near Kundli village. I

used to go from factory to factory collecting scraps, getting enough to sell for around Rs 250 per day. Ever since this protest began, I stopped going on my usual routes and have been coming here at 8 am and staying till late in the evening. Since there are so many people using plastic bottles and plates. I'm collecting enough from here alone to sell

for Rs 500 per day," she said. She brings her one-year-old daughter to the site at meal time every day, and both of them have been eating at the langars. So are entire families and neighbourhoods from the nearby jhuggiihopri colonies

Rabia comes to the Singhu



A woman collects discarded bottles at Singhu. Abhinav Saha

Man made to sing anthem: Plea seeks probe into death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE DELHI High Court Thursday issued notice to the Delhi government and the Crime Branch in a petition seeking a court-monitored probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the death of 23-year-old Faizan during the Northeast Delhi riots. Prior to his alleged detention at a police station in February, Faizan and four others — as seen in a video – were allegedly made to

sing the national anthem and Vande Mataram by a group of policemen, who also hit them with their lathis. He died at a hospital within hours of his release. Seeking a status report from

 $the\,Crime\,\bar{B}ranch\,on\,the\,progress$ in the probe, Justice Suresh Kumar Kait fixed the case for hearing on February 1.

The petition was filed by Faizan's mother Kismatun (61). represented by advocates Vrinda Grover and Soutik Banerjee. The petition stated that Faizan was "targeted, brutally assaulted" and "injured by the policemen" at Kardampuri. It further said he was subsequently "illegally detained" in an injured condition at Jyoti Nagar police station on December 24 and denied timely critical medical care, resulting in his death on February 26 at a hospital.

"The taunts and abuses used by the police alluded that the injured men, simply by virtue of being Muslims, were unpatriotic and being 'taught a lesson'," it contends, while referring to contents of the video clip.

The petition claimed the in-

vestigation by the Crime Branch in the past nine months was a "sham". The petition said police carried Faizan and other injured men from Kardampuri bridge to GTB Hospital, and from there to the police station, adding that the road taken by the police vehicle is a public route lined with commercial establishments and other buildings with CCTV cameras.

"However, the Crime Branch... made a generic and unsubstantiated assertion that, 'during investigation, neither any government CCTV nor any private CCTV was found installed in the area'...," it submitted, adding that every police vehicle has a log book recording personnel travelling in it.

The petition also states that the duty roster at Jyoti Nagar police station would also reveal the names of the policemen.

While arguing that a detailed narration of the facts by Faizan to his mother right before his death amounts to a 'dying declaration', the petition alleged that the Crime Branch has, however, "parroted" the police narrative pertaining to his illegal detention.

protest site with her neighbour Shakila and their children – each with their own sacks. "We come at 7 am and stay for

a couple of hours. We come again at 1 pm and stay for two hours Earlier we used to go to colonies and Narela mandi to collect scraps - enough to make around Rs 100-150 per day. There is a lot more to be collected here. We collect scrap worth Rs 250-300 per day. We are storing these in our homes for now. We sell to a person who comes from Sonipat, but he hasn't been able to come yet because of the blockade," she said

At Tikri border too, Shahid Khan, a contractual waste picker, looks for plastic bottles, cardboard and leftover food, "I carry the packets in my thela and segregate the waste at home. Every three months I sell them to a contractor. I make Rs 20,000-Rs

25,000 for three months. I think it would amount to a lot more this time since there is a lot of waste. We make the most from plastic bottles," he said.

The Indian Express has reported that the massive volume of solid waste generated at the protest sites — disposable plates, glasses and packets, and food waste — is more than what municipal workers can collect on a daily basis.

Some groups are currently focusing on distributing essential items instead of cooked food at both sites. While not producing food waste, this is generating large quantities of cartons every day. Some of these are being used as fuel for desi gevsers set up in the bath area; the rest are being collected by a group of women scrap collectors.

(Inputs from Ashna Butani)

FAMILY SANITATION CHALLAN BOOK

With challan book for kids, MCG hopes to impart lessons in cleanliness

SAKSHI DAYAL

GURGAON, DECEMBER 24

TO TEACH children the need to maintain cleanliness and hygiene and imbibe an ecofriendly lifestyle, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), earlier this week, launched a 'Family Sanitation Challan Book' using which chil-

dren will be able to penalise their relatives "in play" for irresponsibility or violations in this

According to MCG officials, the challan books will be available as both hard and soft copies and the penalties will be in the form of chocolates, toys, ice cream and books, instead of

The book was launched by

MCG Mayor Madhu Azad and MCG Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh on Wednesday.

"With this initiative, our aim is to teach children these values and practices through play, to make them vigilant and to create an atmosphere in households wherein people are aware and keep checking each other," said MCG Joint Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar.



An official said that children named 'Sanitation Captains' can challan their family members if they violate rules, such as using plastic carry bags, not segregating waste, throwing wet waste into the dry

Instead of money, penalties are in the form of chocolates, toys, ice cream and books

New Delhi

waste dustbin, or throwing waste in the open. "We are printing around 100

hard copies of the book, which is completely environment friendly, with no plastic and paper binding. We have kept it completely eco-friendly and biodegradable... We have also created an online link that people can use to download the challan book. This will also help

us maintain data on how many people are actively using these books," said the Joint Commissioner.

"Our effort is to ensure that the books reach some people in each ward. Our teams work in different wards and we will get them to distribute these as well. They will also make people aware of how to use these books," he said.



Be The Love And Light This Christmas!



■ PRASHANT SOLOMON

HEN Jesus was born, a great star appeared in the sky over Bethlehem to herald the coming of Christ. Three wise men from the East saw this star and came on their camels to meet and worship the newborn babe. They found him in a manger and gave him gifts. They recognised this child as a Divine soul.

This year, on December 21, 2020, a sign in the heavens was given as there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius. The brightest seen since the year 1226. It is also said that this is heralding the Age of Aquarius, which is believed to be a new era where there will be a powerful surge of spiritual consciousness on the planet.

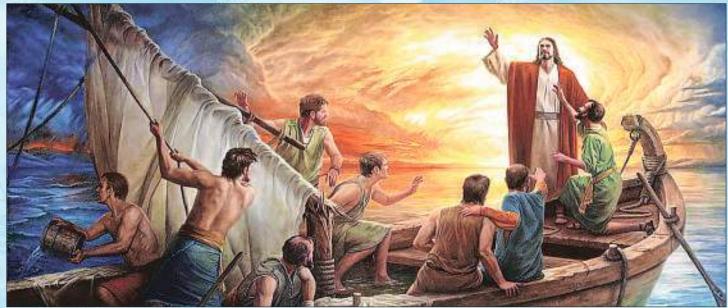
Christmas is a great day to look at the year gone by and process everything you experienced in that particular year. Christmas is a day that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ but it is also a day that we celebrate the year gone by as we prepare for the coming year ahead. Should Christmas of the year 2020 be any different? Well it is different because the year 2020 has been an unprecedented year!

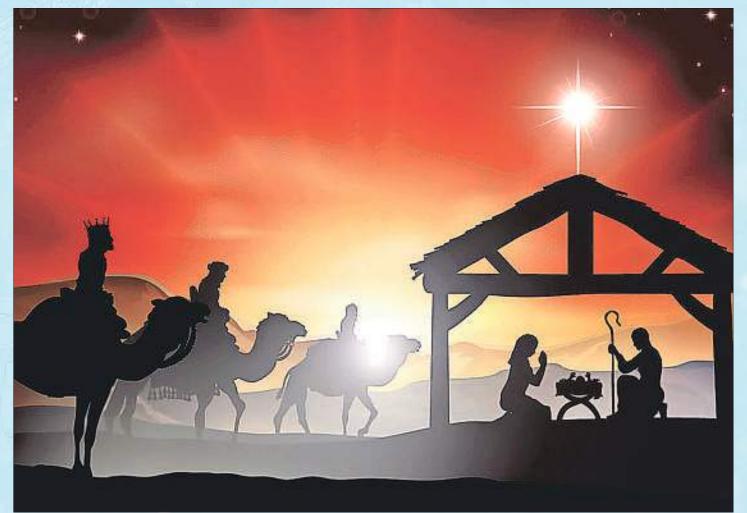
It started off in a grand way. The beginning of a new decade. Like the years 1717, 1818 and 1919 before it, 2020 is one of those years that comes only once every 101 years, where the first two digits are the same as the last two. The next time this type of year comes by will be in 2121. So right from the beginning, 2020 came with something unique in our collective minds. But what a ride it's been. Nobody could have imagined all the things that would happen.

A global pandemic spread throughout the planet and forced nations to lock down. Covid 19 brought the whole world to its knees. New terms that were hardly of any consequence in our global consciousness last Christmas have been branded into our collective global consciousness like - masks, lockdown, travel bans and social distancing.

We all were forced to stay at home and that left us no choice but to look inwards and introspect. Many people fell into depression, loneliness and sadness. People all around the globe suffered financial challenges because of lost jobs and failing businesses. People got infected and fell sick and hundreds of thousands bid goodbye to this planet and set sail back to the spiritual realms from which we have all come.

But despite all this, there was something interestingly good about the year. 2020 was a great gift to





We all experienced something together as a species. It taught us valuable lessons. It made us realise in the most dramatic and almost cinematic way that the important things in life are our relationships with each other and that we are all literally 'in the same boat'. Videos and social media posts from various platforms popped up showing us how the lockdown affected people's lives in remote corners of the world and this brought a strange type of relief,

joy, happiness and camaraderie. It has shown us that we are quite literally all equally vulnerable and that as the fictional Jack Shephard from the famous TV show Lost says, "If we can't live together, we are going to die alone!"

The virus sees not one's religion, financial condition, gender, political views, nationality, caste, creed or

colour. The virus is the great leveler. Not just the virus but many other things that happened in the world this year strengthened the bond of people all over the world. There were riots, floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes in various parts of the world. But despite that, there was hope! For through a mass scale global effort of science despite the odds, the year 2020 has seen both virus and vaccine!

Remember earlier when I mentioned we are all 'in the same boat'? There is a story of Jesus in the

Bible about this: **JESUS CALMS THE STORM** (Luke 8:22-25)

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

In times of crisis, it is natural to be afraid. It is natural to get negative thoughts. But this is the time to pray for faith. For faith leads to perseverance, tenacity and resolutions of the challenges we face.

Christmas is a time to reflect and process the events of the year. What did you learn spending time with yourself? What did you learn about your loved ones and family? Have you counted how many things there are to be thankful for? Going forward, how will you change yourself in order to change the world for the better? We are all very lucky to be living in these highly spiritual and eventful times. This is a year that historians will be writing about for centuries. It is a year that marks the beginning of a new era of humanity.

2020 has been a year unlike no other experienced by anyone alive on this planet.

On this Christmas Day 2020, I bring you good news! We will survive and things will get better. We have all gotten through this together. We remember those who we have lost but we know they are still alive in the spiritual realms, where we will all return someday. But there is no hurry. There is much to do

You are not alone! Even if it feels like that sometimes. The ride can be scary but we are in it together. This year has been called by many as the 'Great Awakening'. For many have felt our connection. We are souls who have come here to explore and bring the love and light of God to everyone else.

This Christmas let us celebrate the lessons we learned this year. Let us celebrate our connection. This year like never before, we felt connected as a global civilisation. We realised that the important things in life are not connected to material things but they are connected to freedom, to exploring, to seeking, to learning, to loving and to being one world connected to-

Like the star that shone the night of Christ's birth, let your light shine! Let the love and light of Christ be reborn within you! Keep introspecting within and soon like the wise men found the Christ child, we may find the Divine light and love of God within us or the Christ consciousness within us.

Let us be thankful to God to be alive! Let us be thankful that we are all connected! Let us aim to do our bit to make the world a better place. After 2020, we now welcome 2021. In this new year, let us resolve to tackle our individual, local, national and global problems without being afraid and having hope and faith that things will get better.

Peace be unto you and yours! Be God's Love! Be

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2021.

Prashant Solomon is the Managing Director of Chintels India Pvt. Ltd. He is also an author and freelance journalist. You can reach him at prashantsolomon@gmail.com @prasol @ @prasol YouTube: Prashant Solomon Website: www.prashantsolomon.com



Wishing You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy 2021

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On home turf, Suvendu says BJP will win over 200 seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

A DAY after the TMC held a public meeting on his home turf in East Midnapore, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari led a roadshow in the same area and declared that the saffron party would win more than 200 seats in next year's Assembly polls.

On Thursday, Adhikari covered a five-km distance in his hometown Contai amid huge fanfare. Party leaders Saumitra Khan and Joy Prakash Majumdar and hundreds of party workers attended the roadshow.

"Those who are criticising me should look in the mirror first. They had joined the TMC from other parties. This time TMC will come second. We will win over 200 seats," said Adhikari.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to address a rally at Nandigram- Adhikari's Assembly seat till he resigned as MLA recently, in January.

During the road show, Adhikari's followers raised a slogan, "Hare Krishna Hare Hare, BJP ghare ghare"- meaning that the "BJP has entered every

PM at Visva-Bharati: Tagore's vision is essence of Atmanirbhar Bharat mission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

NOBEL LAUREATE Rabindranath Tagore's vision is the essence of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, or self-reliant India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. Addressing a function to mark

the centenary celebrations of Visva-Bharati University through video conferencing, the Prime Minister said, "Guided by Gurudev [Tagore], Visva-Bharati presented a strong image of Îndian nationalist sentiment during Independence. Gurudev wanted humanity to benefit from India's spiritual awakening. Atmanirbhar Bharat vision is also a derivative of this sentiment."

Founded by Tagore in 1921 in Santiniketan, Visva-Bharati is the country's oldest central university. It was declared a central university and an Institution of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in May 1951.

The Prime Minister said the Visva-Bharati University, Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Andhra University, Annamalai University and several other universities





Prime Minister Modi addresses the gathering during the centenary celebrations of Visva-Bharati University. PTI

came up in the same era and gave momentum to India's thirst for knowledge. "Today, as more and more people are getting good education, we now have to work to build a strong and wise nation one that is self-reliant," he said.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was present at the event in Santiniketan. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal joined the programme virtually.

In his speech, the Prime Minister also highlighted Tagore's links with his home state Gujarat, perhaps in a retort to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has repeatedly said she will not allow Bengal to be turn into Gujarat.

"When I speak about Gurudey, I cannot help but talk about the connection between Gurudev

and Gujarat. He used to frequently visit his elder brother Satyendranath Tagore who was posted there... He stayed in Ahmedabad for a long time. During such a period, he wrote two popular poems. He wrote a portion of Kshudhita Pashan in Gujarat," he said.

"Not only this, Gujarat's daughter Srimati Hutteesingh was married to the Tagore family. When Satyendranath Tagore's wife Inanadanandini Devi was in Gujarat, she saw women draping the pallu of saree on their right shoulders, which she felt cumbersome and improvised the style bringing the pallu on the left shoulder. Women empowerment organisations can do some more research on this," he said.

Not invited to centenary event at varsity: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said she was not invited to Visva-Bharati University's centenary celebration that was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually.

"I didn't receive any kind of $invitation for the programme \, so \,$ how can I attend it?,"she said at a press conference.

The BJP was quick to produce a letter of invitation from the university to the Chief Minister, and alleged that she was "disrespecting" Rabindranath Tagore's institution. The BJP also claimed that Visva-Bharati University Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty sent the letter.

Responding to a question in this regard, Chakrabarty said, "Even if the invitation, as you suggest, was sent on Wednesday night, should that be the decorum? After all, she (Mamata) is the chief minister of a state.



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a press conference in Kolkata on Thursday. Partha Paul

Meanwhile, the CM tweeted: "Visva Bharati University turns 100. This temple of learning was Rabindranath Tagore's greatest experiment on creating the ideal human being. We must preserve the vision and philosophy of this great visionary.'

Mamata Thursday also announced an agro-industrial park in Singur, the place where she had launched her campaign against the then Left Front government over a decade ago over land acquisition.

Bengal Cong gets nod for pact with Left

BJP, TMC have same DNA, says Adhir

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE CONGRESS high command on Thursday gave the green signal to its West Bengal unit to enter into a seat-sharing pact with the Left parties for the forthcoming Assembly elections to take on the ruling Trinamool Congress and an aggressive BJP. While a section of Congress leaders believe a Congress-Left alliance could end up helping the BJP, the party's state unit was vehemently opposed to any pact with the TMC and had been in-

sisting on a tie-up with the Left. West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told The Indian Express that the BJP and the TMC have the same "political DNA" and asserted that the Congress and the Left parties "occupy the secular space" in Bengal and still enjoyed the support of a large section of the population who believe in secularism and liberal democracy. He said it is the media which is projecting the Assembly elections as a fight between the TMC and the BJP.

"The impression (of a straight fight between the TMC and the BJP) has been gaining because of media hype. Because the media is trying to project that only two forces are there. But that is far from the reality and far from the truth. In West Bengal, the Left and the Congress... they occupy the secular space and still enjoy the support of a large section of the population who believe in secularism and in liberal democracy. So certainly we have our own constituents that will be reflected in the coming elections,"

On possible division of anti-BIP votes, Chowdhury said, "We have to fight against the BJP and [Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee both because we have been subjected to persecution by the ruling dispensation in West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee is a regional poacher while the BJP is a national poacher.

Both are well adept in poaching operations in the opposition camps. To that extent, they are very much similar in their approaches," he said. He said it was not the respon-

sibility of the Congress party to not come. During the course of keep the anti-BIP votes together.

"On the one hand, we are subjected to atrocities and persecution by Mamata Banerjee... on the other hand, on the alibi of the BJP... [we have been asked] to ally with the TMC. This cannot be done... because we have been left between the devil and deep sea. We have to carve out our own space because the space has been snatched upon by the Mamata Banerjee government.



Bengal Cong chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury



FOR BOTH the Congress as well as Left parties, the upcoming assembly elections in West Bengal is a battle for survival. The high-octane campaign by the ruling TMC and the BIP saw the Left getting squeezed out in the Lok Sabha elections and the Congress plunging to two seats. The parties had fought the elections separately. Having decided on the alliance, the two hope to arrest the declining trend and pose a challenge to both the TMC and BJP.

And now she is facing the music. The way Mamata poached our people and dismantled our organisation... the same ploy is being employed by the BJP. They are identical in their politics of destruction. Both are the same in their attitude. Their political DNA is quite identical," he said.

Asked about Banerjee's move to rally opposition leaders like Sharad Pawar and M K Stalin in her fight against the BJP on the issue of federalism, he said, "Federalism in India is certainly in peril. That is why our Congress chief ministers also extended support to Mamata Banerjee. As far as federalism is concerned, all the Opposition-ruled states are in peril. That is why all have to be united on that account. That is a

different kettle of fish." "Pawarji is a senior leader. He thought it prudent that on the issue of federalism all the states ruled by the Opposition should be united. That is why he has extended his opinion.... It is a common issue. There is nothing extraordinary in this approach."

Asked how many seats will Congress contest, Chowdhury said, "That stage has discussions, factoring in other considerations like where we are strong and all... we will zero in on the number and choice of seats. Everything has been left to the state leadership... nothing has been imposed on us.'

"First of all we have to discuss and decide amongst ourselves that this many seats have to be demanded. Thereafter, we will propose to the Left parties,'

CPM welcomes Cong decision to enter into electoral alliance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

THE CPM on Thursday welcomed the Congress' decision to enter into an electoral alliance with the Left Front in next year's Assembly polls in West Bengal. CPM is biggest constituent of the Left Front in Bengal. Other constituents are- CPI, Forward Bloc and RSP.

The state Congress unit had earlier recommended this move which was also favoured by the Left parties in Bengal.

The two parties had contested the 2016 Assembly polls together in the state but failed to make much of an impact. The alliance won only 76 seats of the state's 294 seats. The Congress won 44 seats and the Left Front bagged only get 32 seats.

However, in 2019 Lok Sabha polls the alliance between both the parties did not materialise resulting in the dismal electoral performances.

Welcoming the move, state CPM secretary Surjyakanta Mishra told mediapersons that the time has come to strengthen the alliance to the grassroots level. "We were anyway holding talks with Congress on the al-

liance and have been organising joint movements. Now, they have formally announced the alliance. Now we have to take it forward. We have to strengthen this unity of secular for democratic forces to the grassroots. We will raise people's issues and together with the Congress we will intensify our movement in the state.

Meanwhile, hours after the announcement, a section of Congress leaders said Chowdhury should be the chief ministerial candidate of this Left-Congress alliance. Congress MLA Nepal Mahata wrote in his twitter handle that Adhir Chowdhury is the Chief Ministerial face of this alliance.

On the other hand, Congress MLA and Leader of the Opposition in state Assembly Abdul Mannan said, "All India Congress Committee has taken the decision on the alliance. Now let it also decide on the chief ministerial candidate.

The Left Front leaders, however, said it is too early to discuss such matters. Forward Bloc state secretary Naren Chatterjee said, "I will not say anything on this. The Left Front Chairman Biman Bose will speak on this.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 24

INDIA ON Thursday said two cargo vessels with a total of 39 Indians on board have been on anchorage in Chinese waters as they were not allowed to unload their cargo though some other ships have managed to do so.

There is a considerable amount of stress on the crew members on account of this unprecedented situation," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

Srivastava said bulk cargo vessel MV Jag Anand is on anchorage near Jingtang port in Hebei province of China since June 13 and has 23 Indian sailors. Another vessel. MV Anastasia with 16 Indian nationals as its crew, is on anchorage near Caofeidian port in China since September 20, waiting for discharge of its cargo, he said at a media briefing.

"Our Embassy in Beijing has been in constant touch with provincial and central government authorities in China, requesting that the ships be allowed to dock and/or the crew be allowed to be changed." he said.

Srivastava said the Chinese authorities have conveyed that crew change is not being permitted from the ports on account of coronavirus-related restrictions imposed by the local authorities.

"We also understand, however, that some other ships, which arrived after Indian ship had arrived, have actually managed to discharge cargo and leave. The reasons for this are not clear," he said, adding India has taken note of the Chinese foreign ministry's statement on Wednesday about the provision of necessary facilitation and assistance.

Place : Biharsharif

STATUE OF UNITY

Oppose inclusion of areas around statue under eco-sensitive zone: ex-BJP MLA to sarpanches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE VADODARA, DECEMBER 24

FORMER BJP MLA Motilal Vasava has written to the sarpanches of 121 villages around the Statue of Unity in Narmada district, urging them to oppose the inclusion of the areas under eco-sensitive zone as per a 2016 notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Vasava, who also leads the BJP party's tribal cell in the state, has asked the sarpanches to use the upcoming gram sabhas in the villages to pass resolutions against the government order.

In a letter to the sarpanches of 121 villages of the "eco-sensitive zone" in Narmada, Vasava has reminded the tribal communities of the rights bestowed upon them by the Provisions of

the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act. 1996 or PESA, a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional gram sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India as per Schedule V of the Constitution.

In his letter, Vasava has said,

"The gram sabhas are coming up in your respective villages between December 28 to February 6... The grave issue facing us as of now is the inclusion of the villages in the eco-sensitive zone. You must remember that the government has granted you the rights to protect your properties, jungles and other possessions as indigenous communities under Schedule V of the Constitution as well as the special PESA Act. The state government, by the way of the central government under the eco-sensitive zone, is trying to establish its title on your lands. I trust that you will use the power that the PESA Act gives you to pass resolutions in your respective villages by taking into confidence the villagers to oppose this government

Vasava's letter comes a day after BJP MP from Bharuch, Mansukh Vasava, also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking revocation of the notification and "releasing" Narmada district from the ecosensitive zone. The area has seen protests from villagers since the district administration began sending notices to the gram panchayats for the implementation of the notification, which involves the inclusion of the state government as a co-owner of the village lands on revenue records.

GOVT. OF BIHAR

notification to include the area

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)-2020/13 Dated 24.12.2020

विज्ञापन संख्या- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2020/10 एवं 2020/11 दिनांक 22.12.2020 के क्रम में UGMAC-2020 से सम्बन्धित सभी अभ्यर्थियों / संस्थानों / सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि UGMAC-2020 के आधार पर द्वितीय चक्र (2nd round) सीट आवंटन उपरांत नामांकन की तिथि 26.12.2020 तक विस्तारित होने के कारण, आयोजित की जाने वाली Mop-up कॉउन्सेलिंग से संबंधित Publication of Merit list / Uploading of updated seat

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(i)	${\bf Publication\ of\ Merit\ list\ /\ Counselling\ Programme:}$	26.12.2020		26.12.2020	(8:00 P.N
(ii)	Date of uploading of updated Seat Matrix:	27.12.2020		28.12.2020	(10:00 A.

MOP-UP कॉउन्सेलिंग से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

<u> कापक्रम</u>	<u>पूप गियारित तिथ</u>	<u>पुनानवास्ति ।ताथ</u>
ublication of Merit list / Counselling Programme :	26.12.2020	26.12.2020 (8:00 P.M.)
ate of uploading of updated Seat Matrix :	27.12.2020	28.12.2020 (10:00 A.M.)
roposed date of Offline Counselling (MOP-UP Round):	27.12.2020 to 29.12.2020	28.12.2020 to 29.12.2020
पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(UGMAC)-	2020/10 दिनांक 22.12.202	0 की अन्य शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

पंजाब बैंबर Circle Sastra Centre: Biharsharif, Ramchandrapur, Nalanda, Bihar-803101 Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)

Authorised Officer: - Sri Atulya Kumar

For Punjab National Bank, Circle Sastra Centre, Biharsharif

Whereas, Punjab National Bank/ the Authorised Officer/s of the Punjab Nationa Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s). The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taker

Symbolic possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned in the account. The borrower's /quarantor's /mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to

redeem the secured assets er/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies wi

SI. No.	Branch/Name of the account	Name of Mortgagor's / hypothecator	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand notice/ Possession Notice	Amt O/S as on the date of NPA
1.	BO: Harnaut Smt Usha Devi, W/o-Sri Rajesh Chaurasiya, At-Machhariyawan, P.S-Fatuha, Dist- Patna, Pin:803201	Smt Usha Devi, W/o-Sri Rajesh Chaurasiya, At- Machhariyawan, P.S-Fatuha, Dist- Patna, Pin:803201	EM of property covered under deed no.5910 dated 12.04.2013, Khata no -23, Khesra no-177, Thana-215, area-3.59 decimal located at mauza-Rupaspur, in name of Smt Usha Devi W/o-Sri Rajesh Chaurasiya. Boundary: N-Ram Suhawan Singh, S-Jagat Prasad, E-Mukesh Singh, W-jagdish Prasad & Chhote Prasad.	22.01.2020/ 21.12.2020	Rs.13,69,611.00 + intt. & other charges w.e.f. 01.06.2019
2.	BO: Harnaut Sri Surender Singh, S/o-Late Ram Ishwar Singh, At-Diri Par, P.S-Karay Parshuray, Dist-Nalanda, Pin: 803110	Sri Surender Singh S/O-Late Ram Ishwar Singh, At-Diri Par, P.S- Karay Parshuray, Dist-Nalanda, Pin: 803110	EM of property covered under deed no.5556 dated 11.06.2014, Khata no -250, Khesra no-2492, Thana-213, Tauzi no2188, area-3.125 decimal located at mauza-Samnahua Dih, in name of Sri Surender Singh S/o- Late Ram Ishwar Singh. Boundary: N-Niz Lekhkari, S-Bishwamohan Kumar Singh Hal Kharidar, E-hunder then NH31, W-Rabindra Singh Bagairah.	22.01.2020/ 21.12.2020	Rs.13,15,714.00 + intt w.e.f. 01.06.2019 & other charges if any.
3.	BO: Harnaut Smt Krishna Devi, W/o-Sri Mundrika Singh, At-Uttra (Bhagwatpur) Po-Bheriya, Ps- Chandi, Dist- Nalanda	Smt Krishna Devi W/o-Sri Mundrika Singh, At-Uttra (Bhagwatpur) Po-Bheriya, Ps-Chandi, Dist- Nalanda	EM of property covered under deed no.2931 dated 26.04.1985, Khata no82, Khesra No858, Tauzi no13055 Thana no280, Area-8.0 Decimel located at mauza-Uttra(Bhagwatpur), in the name of Smt Krishna Devi w/o-Sri Mundrika Singh. Boundary: N- Sri Rameshwar Singh, S-Sri Bharash Chauhan & Dripal Chauhan, E-Arjun Mahto, W-Road.	22.01.2020/ 21.12.2020	Rs.11,93,289.00 intt w.e.f. 01.06.2019 & other charges if any.
4.	BO: Harnaut Smt Dharamshila Devi, W/o-Sri Ravindra Prasad, At-Rupaspur, P.S-Chitsora, Dist- Nalanda, Pin: 803110	Smt Dharamshila Devi, W/o-Sri Ravindra Prasad, At-Rupaspur, P.S-Chitsora, Dist-Nalanda, Pin: 803110	EM of property covered under deed no.6157 dated 18.06.2015, Khata no -239, Khesra no-3210, Thana-208, area-15.625 decimal located at mauza-Dihri, in name of Smt Dharamshila Devi W/o- Sri Ravindra Prasad. Boundary: N-khata, S-Raushan kumar Purchaser, E-Niz Vendor, W-Baikunth Prasad.	22.01.2020/ 21.12.2020	Rs.11,60,261.00 intt w.e.f. 01.06.2019 & other charges if any.
5.	BO: Chandi M/s Jai Thakur Baba Automatic Rice Mill, Prop:- Sri Ajay Kumar, S/o-Sri Chandrapal, At-Rukhai, Ps-Chandi, Po-Rukhai, Dist- Nalanda	Sri Ajay Kumar S/o-Sri Chandrapal, At-Rukhai, Ps- Chandi, Po-Rukhai Dist-Nalanda	EM of property covered under deed no.6226 dated 04.08.2012, Khata no54, Khesra No2847, Thana no199, Area-25 Decimel located at mauza-Rukhai, in the name of Sri Ajay Kumar S/o-Sri Chandrapal. Boundary: N- Paien, S-Mannu Paswan, E-Krishna Prasad & Paien, W-Survy Alang.	11.02.2020/ 21.12.2020	Rs.38,93,371.96 + intt w.e.f. 01.09.2019 & other charges if any.
6.	BO: Noorsarai M/s Mahesh Body Builders, Prop Sri Mahesh Singh, S/o Late Lakhan Singh, Vill-Badhar, Po- Charuipar, P.S- Noorsarai, Dist- Nalanda	Sri Mahesh Singh & Shri Vikas Kumar, Vill-Badhar, Po-Charuipar, P.S-Noorsarai, Dist- Nalanda	Hypothecation of fix & furniture, plant & machinery, stocks and entire asset lying at unit. EM of property covered under Revenue receipt no.222781 dated 05.05.2017 Khata no183 Khesra No31, Thana no36, Area-6.5 Decimel located at mauza-Charuipar, in the name of Sri Mahesh singh & Sri Vikas kumar. Boundary: N- Road S-Ram vilash Singh, E-Uma singh, W-Pankaj Singh. EM of property covered under Revenue receipt no.222781 dated 05.05.2017 Khata no184 Khesra No44, Thana no36, Area-8.5 Decimal located at mauza-Charuipar, in the name of Sri Mahesh singh & Sri Vikas kumar. Boundary: N- Jainandan Singh,S-Uma Singh, E-Gali, W-Road.		Rs.20,98,588.12 + intt w.e.f. 01.01.2020 & other charges if any.
7.	BO: Sheikhpura Smt Anuradha Devi, Wio-Sri Bhola Prasad Yadav, Mohalla-Girihinda Jakraj Asthan Road, Po-Sheikhpura, Dist- Sheikhpura- 811105	Sri Bhola Prasad Yadav, S/o-Lt Mahaveer Yadav, Mohalla-Girihinda Jakraj Asthan Road, Po-Sheikhpura, Dist- Sheikhpura-811105	EM of property covered under deed no.1610 dated 29.03.2017, Khata no84, Khesra No64, Thana no191, Area-2.0 Decimel located at mauza-Grihinda, in the name of Sri Bhola Prasad Yadav S/o- Lt Mahabir Prasad Yadav. Boundary: N-Ram Kishun Yadav Manpur, S-Road District Board, E-Ramnandan Yadav & Others, W-Rasta & Parti Gaimajarua.	10.02.2020/ 22.12.2020	Rs.10,86,477.00 + intt w.e.f. 01.11.2019 & other charges if any.
	BO: Barbigha Shri Sudhir Kumar, At-Chand Kuan, P.O+P.S-Barbigha, Dist-Sheikhpura Pin-811101	Hypothecator: Shri Sudhir Kumar, Morthagor: Smt Mamta Kumari, W/o Shri Sudhir Kumar, At-Chand Kuan, P.O+P.S-Barbigha, Dist-Sheikhpura Pin-811101	Hypothetication of fix and fixtures, plant &machinery, stocks and entire assets lying at unit. EM of property covered under deed no.5878 dt. 02/09/2015, Khata no -93, Thana no-62, Khesra no-440, area-3.5 Decimel located at Mauza-Narayanpur, Tola-parsobigha, p.s- barbigha, Dist-Sheikhpura in name Smt Mamta Kumari W/o- Sh. Sudhir kumar. Boundary: N-Mahesh prasad, S-Road, E-Road, W-Surender prasad.	26.02.2020/ 22.12.2020	Rs.7,29,387.87 + intt w.e.f. 01.10.2018 & other charges if any.
9.	BO: Sohsarai Md. Hashim Faruki S/o-Late Md Rizwan Faruki, Mohalla-Kohnasarai Ps-Laheri, Dist-	Md. Hashim Faruki S/o-Late Md Rizwan Faruki, Mohalla-Kohnasarai, Ps-Laheri, Dist- Nalanda, Pin: 803101	EM of property covered under deed no.4164 dated 28.03.2012, Khata no63, Plot No333, Thana no114, Area-1.921 Decimel located at mauza-Hazipur, Makhdumpur, in the name of Md. Hashim faruki S/o- Late Md. Rizwan Faruki. Boundary: N-Niz Adhikar in same plot,S-Niz 4ft. wide Rasta of vendor, E-Present Purchaser Md. Ashraf, W-4ft. wide rasta by vendor & after that purchaser Md. Mansoor Alam.	02.01.2020/ 23.12.2020	Rs.10,16,721.00 + intt w.e.f. 01.04.2017 & other charges if any.

Ram Mandir is Rashtra Mandir: Adityanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW. DECEMBER 24

CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath on Thursday hit out at the Leftists and socialists, accusing them of

betraying the country. Speaking at a kavi sammelan organised on the eve of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary in Lucknow, the BJP leader said that "Ram is the centre of our sanatan parampara" and nothing can be expected from those who for their own political benefits call Ram communal.

Calling the Ram Temple being built in Ayodhya a Rashtra



Adityanath

Mandir, Adityanath said, "In bhavon ko pehchanne ka prayas ish desh ke andar vampanthiyon ne aur socialists ne kiya hota, to sambhavta desh ke prati vishwasghaat karne aur desh ke prati namakharami karne ka avsar inko kabhi nahi mila hota (Only if the Leftists and socialists would have tried to understand these feelings, they probably would never have got the opportunity to betray and be ungrateful to the country.'

The Ballabgarh Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited AN ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 22000:2005 Certified Unit) **Short Term Re-QUOTATION NOTICE**

Sealed Re-Quotation are invited from the suppliers/authorised lealer/manufacturers for supply of following item on Annual Rate

	Contract		
Sr.No.		Description of the Items	EMD
	01.	Polythene Scrap	Rs. 10000.00
	02.	Empty SMP Bags with liner	Rs. 10000.00

Detailed specifications of above items alongwith other terms & conditions can be held from this office free of cost on written reques on any working day between 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The interested parties may send their detailed offer along with Earnest Money as nentioned above in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Ballabgarh Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Milk Plant Ballabgarh" payable at Ballabgarh/Faridabad so as to reach to this office on or before 14.12.2020 by 2.30 P.M. in sealed cover super scribed with the word, "Quotation for (Name of item) & due or 14.12.2020". The above Said Quotation was opened on dated 14.12.2020 but there is minium bids has not been received on the time of opening of Quotation, So the period of submission of Quotation is further extended upto 04.01.2021 at 2.30 P.M. and the same will be open at 3.00 P.M. on the same day at Milk Plant Ballabgarh in the presence of the party who may like to be present. The successful quotation will have to lift the material within a week time from the date of finalization and as per the terms and condition laid down in the order. The above said material can be inspected or any working day from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.G.S.T. would be charged extra as applicable. The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any/all Quotation without assigning any reason. No Quotation will be considered without earnest money. Conditiona Quotation will not be accepted. If the date of opening declared as hol day then Quotation will be opened on next working day.

1090/7/HRY

Chief Executive Officer Milk Plant, Ballabgarh.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TOURISTS RESUMPTION OF JOYRIDE SERVICES OVER DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWA

It has been decided to resume of three Joyride services on Darjeeling-Ghum-Darjeeling section over Darjeeling Himalayan Railway with effect from 25-12-2020.

Timings of the proposed Joyride serving

STATION	52	52594		52597		52598	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
Darjeeling	++1	09.25	444	12.00		13.50	
Ghum	10.15	10.40	12.40	13.10	14.40	15.05	
Darjeeling	11.20		13,40	***	15.45		
Traction	Sto	am	Die	sel	Sto	am	
Composition	osition First Class		100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Class Cor.2	(5.11,65)	Class Cor-2	

General Manager (Operations) NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financia Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribuna Procedure Rules) 1993. n the matter of **O.A. No. 493/2019**

State Bank of India Rajesh Prasad Naudiyal & Ors ۷s Applicant

M/s Amrapali Smart City Developers Pvt. Ltd.

Through its Managing Director / Authorised Signatory

Having its Registered Office at: 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Tower, Plot No. 15,
Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and
whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **06.01.2021 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

All the Advocates / Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application / software (ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar / Recovery Officer-I / and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Offical Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head (iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748469.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 16.12.2020 By Order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delh





HoD (KN)

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS (An Autonomous Trust under the Ministry of Culture,

Government of India)

11, Mansingh Road, New Delhi 110 001

Shri Devendra Swaroop Fellowship

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) inviting application for a Fellowship in the memory of Shri Devendra Swaroop to study "Bhartiya Gyan Parampara" (Indian Knowledge Tradition).

The Fellowship will be for a period of two years.

Further details; like Remuneration, Age limit, Essential Educational Qualifications, Experience, Responsibilities are available at our website

http://ignca.gov.in/. Last date of application is 15 January, 2021

davp 09118/11/0003/2021

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बेंक **Indian Overseas Bank** आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good People to grow with (Govt. of India undertaking)

Regional Office: 2nd & 3rd Floor, Naseema House, West Gandhi Maidan, Near Biscoman Bhawan, Patna - 800001. Ph.: 0612-2219216

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on Dates as mentioned below (date of the sale) for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder due to the Secured Creditor from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor & Branch Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, VillBhavnathpur, P.ORannuchak, in the name of Mr. Brajesh Kumar S/o Reserve Price EMD of the Property Bid Increase Amount stands of the Property Property Reserve Price EMD of the Property Standard In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) Reserve Price EMD of the Property Standard In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) Reserve Price EMD of the Property Standard In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) Bid Increase Amount Reserve Price EMD of the Property Standard In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) Bid subraction In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) Bid subraction In the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further) 18	
Borrower/Guarantor & Description of the Immovable Property Bid Increase Amount Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty Roll Property Bid Increase Amount Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty \$25,00,000/- \$17,12,696/-* 29.01. Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands \$2,50,000/- as on 17.12.2020 and interest thereone of Mr. Brajesh Kumar S/O and interest thereone and interest themselves the property standard stands \$2,50,000/- and interest thereone and interest themselves the property standard stands \$2,50,000/- and interest themselves the property standard stand	a of
Borrower/Guarantor & Description of the Immovable Property Bid Increase Amount Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty Amortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands ₹25,00,000/- as on 17.12.2020 and interest thereon and interest themselves to be calculated further) and interest themselves the page of Mr. Brajesh Kumar S/O	
Branch Bid Increase expenses to be calculated further) Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands X/III Bhayngthour PO Pannychak in the name of Mr. Brainch Kumar S/O And interest thereon and interest thereon and interest thereon	
Shri Brajesh Kumar (Borrower & All part and parcel of theproperty ₹25,00,000/- Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands Vill Bhaynothour PO Bannuchak in the name of Mr. Brajesh Kumar S/O	nission
Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands ₹2,50,000/- as on 17.12.2020 11.00 Å	
Mortgagor) S/O Shri Dinesh Choudhary, admeasuring 15½ decimal of land stands ₹2,50,000/- as on 17.12.2020 11.00 Å	2021
Will Bhaynathaur BO Bannuchak in the name of Mr. Braioch Kumar S/o	
7.7E NAME 12.00	
Malandana DO Aldanaana Diat Chri Diarah Chandham Khata Na 242 (25,000)-	
Makandpur, P.SAkbarnagar, Dist Shri Dinesh Choudnary, Khata No.313, 27.01. Bhagalpur-812006. Khesra No.816, Thana No.59, At-Mouza-	2021
2. Shri Dinesh Choudhary (Borrower), Bhavnathpur, Rannuchak, Makandpur,	
VillBhavnathpur, P.ORannuchak, Bhagalpur-812006 under registered	
Makandpur, P.SAkbarnagar, DistSale Deed No.3968 of 2009 dated	
Bhagalpur- 812006 18.04.2009. (As per valuation report	
Guarantor: Shri Nitesh Kumar S/o Dinesh actual measurement is 15.00 Decimals).	
Choudhary,Vill Bhavnathpur, P.OBounded by: North-Road, South-Self	
Rannuchak, Makandpur, P.S Purchaser, East-Sukho Bhagat, West-	
Akbarnagar, DistBhagalpur- 812006 Chedi Choudhary.	
B/o: Bhagalpur (BIHAR)	
1. Mrs. Chanda Devi (Borrower & All that part and parcel of the property ₹15,55,000/- ₹23,96,164/- 29.01.	2021
Mortgagor) W/o Amarkant Singh and consisting of land & residential building ₹1,55,500/- as on 18.12.2020 11.00 €	AM to
Resident of Moh-Baigna, Ward No24, situated at Khata No.191, Khesra No91, ₹50,000/- and interest thereon 12:00	
Katihar, Pin-854105 PS-83, Mauja-Baigna, Tauzi-1172, Ward-	
2. Mr. Amarkant Singh (Borrower) S/o 22, Prabhat Nagar, DistKatihar, in the	
Jagnnath Singh Name of Smt. Chanda Devi, W/o Amar	
Resident of Moh-Baigna, Ward No24, Kant Singh as per Sale Deed-335 dated	
Katihar, Pin-854105 13.01.2005 registered at SRO Katihar.	
B/o: Hardayal Road, Katihar Extent of the site: 2 Decimal 1 Kari.	
Boundaries (as per Sale Deed No.335	
dt. 13.01.2005): North-Dhaneswari Devi,	
South-Champa Devi, East-Lakkhi Mahto,	
West-10 Feet Road.	
Sh. Ashok Ray (Borrower/Mortgager), Commercial vacant land situated at ₹17,60,000/- ₹8,74,374/- 29.01.	2021
S/O Sh. Sahdeo Ray, R/O-Village-Belhar, Village and Anchal-Aurai, Sub registry- ₹1,76,000/- as on 20.12.2020 11.00 /	AM to
Post-Darihara, DistSaran, Bihar-841247 Katra, DSRO & DistMuzaffarpur,	PM
B/o: Hajipur (BIHAR) Rev. Thana No.97, Khata No842, 27.01.	2021
Khesra No537, Area-10 decimals &	
Khata No.842, Khesra No536, Area-	
10 Decimal, Total Area 20 decimals in	
the name of Ashok Ray. Boundaries:	
North-Rasta Pakka Main Road, South-	
Rameshwar Rai, East-Rameshwar Rai,	
West-Shop of Vinod Rai.	
M/s H Handloom Fabrics All that part and parcel of the property ₹1,10,06,500/- ₹24,36,052/- 29.01.	2021 I
lp	
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-₹11,00,650/- as on 18.12.2020 12.30	PM to
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) Thana-Till,00,650/- as on 18.12.2020 as on 18.12.2020 12.30 Image: assume thereon of the properties of the pr	PM to
Prop.:Md.Hafizuddin(Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor)Thana-Tilly (Borrower/ Standard)₹11,00,650/- and interest thereon of the standard (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Tilly (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouz	PM to PM
Prop.:Md.Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- ▼11,00,650/- ■ 3 on 18.12.2020 	PM to PM
Prop.:Md.Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- 	PM to PM
Prop.:Md.Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- Till,00,650/- Till,00,650/- 	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 thereon, sale deed no.346, dated Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur, Dist.	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- ₹11,00,650/- Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At- Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At- Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At- Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 B/o: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) T11,00,650/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- 1,00,000/- ▼1,00	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At-Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur-812001 Bhogilpur-812001 Bhogilpur-812000 Bho	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001	PM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At- Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At- Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur-812001 Bhog: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) Til,00,650/- ₹1,00,000/-	PM to PM 2021
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At- Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At- Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Bhogelpur-812001 Blog: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) No. 204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North- Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, All that part and parcel of the property ₹29,32,900/- ₹35,73,666/- 29.01.	PM to PM 2021 2021
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist.—Bhagalpur-812001 thereon, sale deed no.346, dated Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist.—Bhagalpur-812001 thereon, sale deed no.346, dated No.1.2013, Khata No.169, Khesra No.01, Halka No02, Jamabandi No311, Thana No.204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North-Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri situated at Adalpur,Po- Hajipur, Vaishali ₹2,93,290/- as on 22.12.2020 11.00 A 12.30 ₹11,00,650/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,00,000/- ₹2,000/- ₹2,000/- ₹2,000/-	2021 AM to
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 thereon, sale deed no.346, dated Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 thereon, sale deed no.346, dated Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 No.204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North-Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At-Adalpur, Districted in the same of the same of the same of the property of the property of the same of the property of the prope	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At- Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At- Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Dist Bhagalpur-812001 B/o: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At- Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State- Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana- T11,00,650/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ▼1,00,000/- ▼2,01,00,000/- ▼2,03,290/- ₹2,93,290/- ₹2,93,290/- ₹2,93,290/- ₹50,000/- ₹50,000/- ₹50,000/-	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At-Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Bhogalpur-812001 B/o: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At-Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bidshar 848115. Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-₹11,00,650/₹11,00,000/₹1,00,000/€₹1,00,000/€	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur- 812001 Bho: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At-Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat, At-Thahra Gopalpur, DistBhagalpur, extent of 16 decimal of homestead land together with pucca single storied house standing thereon, sale deed no.346, dated 08.01.2013, Khata No.169, Khesra No.01, Halka No02, Jamabandi No311, Thana No.204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North-Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At- Adalpur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Late Rajendra Sah, At-Thahra Gopalpur, noisting of Khata No-139, Jamabandi No. 755 within the registration subdistrictHajipur and DistrictVaishaliin the Late Rajendra Sah, At-Thahra Gopalpur, noisting of Shri. Sushil Kumar S/O- Shri.	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur-812001 Bhagalpur- 812001 Bho: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At-Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat, At-Thahra Gopalpur, DistBhagalpur, extent of 16 decimal of homestead land together with pucca single storied house standing thereon, sale deed no.346, dated 08.01.2013, Khata No.169, Khesra No.01, Halka No02, Jamabandi No311, Thana No.204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North-Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At- Adalpur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Late Rajendra Sah, At-Thahra Gopalpur, noisting of Khata No-139, Jamabandi No. 755 within the registration subdistrictHajipur and DistrictVaishaliin the Late Rajendra Sah, At-Thahra Gopalpur, noisting of Shri. Sushil Kumar S/O- Shri.	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Guarantor: Mrs. Rozi Khatoon At-Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, DistBhagalpur-812001 Bhogalpur-812001 B/o: Tilkamanjhi (BIHAR) M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At-Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bidshar 848115. Consisting of Mouza-Pista, Thana-₹11,00,650/₹11,00,000/₹1,00,000/€₹1,00,000/€	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Kilaghat Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Distribustorial decimal of homestead land together with pucca single storied house standing thereon, sale deed no.346, dated Kilaghat, Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpur, Distribustorial Haliaghar Sarai, Tatarpur, Bhagalpu	2021 AM to PM
Prop.: Md. Hafizuddin (Borrower/ Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Aziz, At-Jagdishpur, District-Bhagalpur, extent of 16 decimal of homestead land together with pucca single storied house standing thereon, sale deed no.346, dated 08.01.2013, Khata No.169, Khesra No.01, Halka No02, Jamabandi No311, Thana No.204, Within the registration sub district Bhagalpur & District-Bhagalpur in the name of Md. Hafizuddin S/o Lt. Md. Aziz. Bounded as per deed: North-Md. Unush & others, South-Jiyauddin, East-Md. Safik & others, West-Road. M/s Maa Kalratri Motors, Prop.: Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At- Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt: Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Late Md. Aziz. Boundaries: On the North by Ram Prasad Singh, On 12.30 11.30 12.30 11.30	2021 AM to PM

For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi or bank's website www.iob.in or https://publishtenders.gov.in Date: 24.12.2020 **Authorized Officer** Place : Patna Indian Overseas Bank

8 GOVT & POLITICS





POET-TURNED-POLITICIAN Kumar Vishwas has found a new admirer in the ruling BJP. On Thursday, BJP's Uttar Pradesh President Swatantra Dev Singh showered him with praise for his "brilliant poetry recitation" at a programme organised on the eve of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Incidentally, the compliments for the former Aam Aadmi Party leader come days after the AAP announced that it will fight the upcoming UP Assembly election

OFFERING CONDOLENCES

BALOCH ACTIVIST Karima Mehrab — popularly known as Karima Baloch — a vocal critic of Pakistan Army, was found dead this week in Toronto, Canada. New Delhi, which usually refrains from commenting on individual deaths except for world leaders, on Thursday expressed condolences to her family. While the local police in Toronto have ruled out any foul play, Baloch's family has sought a probe into the circumstances of her death.

STAR SHOW

THE CONCLUDING session of the India International Science Festival tomorrow is set to be a star-studded event. Actor Amitabh Bachchan, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and eminent wildlife activist and film director Mike Pandey have been roped in by the government for the concluding session. Prominent wildlife channels participated and screened their films over the past few days in the festival.

Farm laws: As pressure mounts, **Dushyant offers to be mediator**

VARINDER BHATIA& SUKHBIRSIWACH CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 24

WITH PRESSURE mounting on the BJP-JJP government in Haryana over the farmers' protests, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Thursday offered to act as a mediator between the farmers and the Centre to resolve the standoff.

This came on a day a group of villagers used shovels to damage a temporary helipad in his constituency Uchana in Jind - one of the districts that has seen farmers gathering in protest against the three new farm laws - where they claimed Chautala was to visit later in the day. They also released videos of the helipad being dug up.

However, a leader from Chautala's JJP denied any visit plans."There was no official programme of the Deputy Chief Minister to go to Uchana today. Instead, he was addressing press conference here in Chandigarh. Then he flew to Delhi. Several times there are tentative programmes, like social engagements at a party worker's place. The Uchana programme could have been one of those...," he told The Indian Express.

Chautala, meanwhile, told reporters that the protesting farmers should talk with the government and reach a solution. "No solution can be reached without talks," he said.

"When the Union government is making efforts in this regard, the 40 farmer unions who are leading these protests should also come forward and participate in talks for



Protesters dig up a helipad in Uchana, Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala's constituency. They said Chautala was scheduled to arrive there on Thursday — a claim the JJP denied. Express

the betterment of farmers. I hope talks will be held in the next few days and that would lead to a positive outcome," he said.

In reply to another question, he said, "Changes need to be made in the agriculture laws and in this regard written suggestions have been made to the Centre and the Centre also agreed to the same. The government is ready to include the guarantee of MSP in writing, to make amendments to

Electricity Amendment Bill among other demands. If the Centre gives me responsibility to mediate on those changes that are not being included, I am ready to do the needful."

Chautala's statements came even as farmer unions continued to build pressure, raising anti-government slogans outside residences of senior BIP and IIP leaders in their respective constituencies.

The offer to mediate assumes

mer Union minister Chaudhary Birender Singh - with whose family the Chautalas have engaged in political contests over the past few decades – has announced support to the protesting farmers. In fact, Singh sat on a dharna at Hisar on Thursday, which was organised by his Chaudhary Chhotu Ram Vichar Manch in support of the farmers. This came a week after he joined a similar dharna in Rohtak district. The families of Chautala and

Singh, both of whom claim to champion farmers' causes, have fought electoral battles from Uchana Kalan assembly seat and Hisar parliamentary constituency for many years. Most recently, Chautala defeated Singh's wife Prem Lata from Uchana in the October 2019 Assembly polls. Few months before that Birender Singh's son and BJP candidate Brijendra Singh defeated Chautala

Singh's open support to the protesting farmers may build pressure on Chautala as neither he nor his legislator mother Naina Chautala has joined any such protest until now.

Singh, however, is yet to get a warm response – there was thin attendance at Thursday's dharna -largely because his MP son is yet to show up in favour. Brijendra Singh was part of a three-member panel of BJP MPs formed a few months ago to talk to the agitators. Birender Singh's support to the agitation is being seen as an attempt to pacify the angry farmers, at least, in Hisar constituency where some khap groups have announced social boycott of both



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met the President to seek repeal of the three farm laws, in Delhi. Abhinav Saha

Democracy in India not in reality... PM incompetent: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday led a party delegation to President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking his intervention for repeal of the three farm laws. Rahul then launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him "incompetent" and accusing his government of labelling those who stood up to it as terrorists. "One day if Mohan Bhagwat stands up...he also will be called a terrorist," Rahul said.

While Rahul, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury met the President, the police prevented senior Congress leaders – among them MPs and AICC office bearers -from marching towards Rashtrapati Bhawan from the AICC headquarters. The police took many of them, including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, into custody and shifted them to the Mandir Marg police station in buses before releasing them.

Rahul said the Prime Minister will have to listen to the farmers "BJP and Narendra Modi have

only one goal. And the farmers and labourers have understood that. Narendra Modi is making money for two-three-four crony capitalists who are close to him,' Rahul said, adding that the Prime Minister did not pay heed to his warnings on the threat of coronavirus and his suggestion not to handle the pandemic in a centralised way. "He didn't do it. He caused thousands and thousands of people to die because he didn't do it. And afterwards after I said it in the press conference he did it. So the point is you have an incompetent man who is controlled by certain other people...'

To a question about the detention of Congress leaders and whether it was right in a democracy, he said, "Which democracy are you talking about? Are you talking about India? There is no democracy in India. Democracy in India...it may be in your imagination but not in reality.'

Priyanka said it is "sin" to brand farmers anti-nationals. "If the government is calling them anti-nationals, then the govern-

FULL REPORT ON

BJP sees plot, others lend weight but socially distanced

VANDITA MISHRA CHANDIGARH, AMRITSAR,

DECEMBER 24

FOR NOW, the farmers' protests in Punjab against the Centre's three farm laws are bringing together, despite their different and often conflicting interests, sections of big and small farmers, landless agricultural labourers and commission agents. It's a moment of

unity, too, for Punjab's notoriously

fragmented farm unions. side the farm sector - joining, for instance, the theatre group in Amritsar, to the trader in the city's famed wholesale cloth market. A play written in the early 1950s is seeing a revival today, says Kewal Dhaliwal, who runs Manch Rangmanch in Amritsar which has been performing at the protest sites.

In Joginder Baharla's "Harian Saunnian", Punjab's two main crops, "Harian" and "Saunnian" (personification of rice and wheat), talk to the farmer, ask him why he remains poor even though he works so hard. "During performances now, audiences sing along with the chorus, 'saade khet, saade khet (our fields, ours!)", says Dhaliwal.

And in the city's Tahli Sahib Bazaar, cloth merchant Ajay Kumar Arora says: "I belong to a family of businessmen but about 70 per cent of my customers are from the villages. If they get good money for the crop, they buy

But one set of actors is conspicuously left out, and left behind -Punjab's political parties.

Seen to have awakened late to the agitation, accused of speaking in many voices, they are being turned away from the protest sites and villages, forced into the role of cheerleaders, left to mount parallel protests, like the Congress's Punjab MPs at Jantar Mantar. Or engage, like Arvind Keiriwal and Amarinder Singh, in Twitter spats.

Going ahead, this marginalisation of the political player has implications for the future of the state and the political party. All parties will have to address the disillusion to win back the neo-In the immediate term, as the

protests continue, it could mean that the political party will have little or no say in a crucial calculation that will decide the timing and content of the resolution: When do the costs of the mobilisation begin to outweigh the investments being made in it? As the ruling party at the

Centre, the BIP, of course, is on the other side of the fence. With the Shiromani Akali Dal exiting the NDA over the farm laws, the BJP is on its own again in a state that resisted the Modi sweep in 2014 and again in 2019.

But its current isolation in the state is made of more than just that. In its longstanding alliance with the SAD, there was a more or less tidy division of political labour — the BJP focused on the urban Hindu areas, while Akalis drew their strength primarily from the Sikh peasantry.

The split with the SAD means, therefore, that the urban-centric BJP looks unable to bridge the communication gulf with the protesting farmers camping at



SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema, Congress leader Sunil Jakhar



AN EXPRESS SERIES PART THREE

Delhi's borders or in the villages. As it searches for conspiracies and Others, the BJP also looks like a party in sullen denial.

In Chandigarh, former MP and member of the BJP national executive, Satya Pal Jain, talks of "a lobby, anti-BIP and anti-Modi". "They did prachar (publicity), like they did against the CAA — aapki zameen chali jaayegi, the corporates will take away your land... this propaganda, started by the AAP and a hardliner section of Sikhs, went down below. Captain Amarinder Singh cashed in on it to corner both the SAD and the BIP in one stroke. Then came the SAD somersault". The BJP, he says, feels

To this cast of characters, which also includes "Leftist" kisan union leaders, Jain adds the commission agent or arhtiya, "who feels most adversely affected by the new laws"

But the BJP, says Jain, sees in this crisis a new opportunity. "This will be ultimately sorted out by the Centre, and the credit will go to the party." It will give it an opportunity to expand its base on its own in Punjab, as it did in Haryana and Himachal, and "a new experiment will start," says Jain.

Senior Akali leader and former Puniab education minister Daliit Singh Cheema contests the BJP claim that the SAD had belated second thoughts. His party began objecting ever since the introduction of the ordinances, he says met farm unions, conveyed the feedback to the Modi government, asked for a select commit-

Now, a cornered SAD, which posted its poorest ever tally in the 2017 assembly elections, winning only 15 seats out of 117, is falling back on its traditional anti-Centre political tack and rhetoric - only

this time it is not deployed against old enemy Congress but newly divorced partner BIP.

"What was the need to do this (bring the laws)," Cheema asks and answers his own question: "One after another, there is encroachment by the Centre on state powers. The federal system is being undermined, the reason is ar-

The second term of the NDA has been "very different", but this "violation of the constitutional spirit" was visible earlier too, he sored schemes, centralisation of powers in GST, implementation of laws like UAPA. These are "Emergency waale halaat (Emergency-like circumstances)", it's the same "Indira Gandhi pol-

Like the others, the Congress, too, seems to have been caught off-guard. Yet its bind is a special one: It is in power in the state, and yet not powerful on the issue roiling it currently — it holds few or no cards in the face-off between the Centre and the farmers of Punjab.

"Procurement in this state is done like clockwork. If you went up in a chopper, you would see Punjab fields all yellow, and after 10-12 days, there would be no grain standing. It is a well-oiled machinery", says Sunil Jakhar, president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee.

There are corruptions and inefficiencies in the FCI, he says, and as leader of the Opposition, he had taken his concerns to the CAG. "But you need to correct, not dismantle", he says. The government's "promotion of corporates"

is having an unintended effect, he says: "You have now painted them as big villains".

If Congress handwringing highlights the predicament of the political mainstream in Punjab, the sidelining of the Aam Aadmi Party underlines the taming of the alternative. Only three years ago, in 2017,

the AAP had succeeded in turning the two-cornered Punjab contest into a triangular one on an antiestablishment platform, emerging as the second largest party in state. Now it stands alongside the mainstream parties - on the outside of the farmers' protests, look-

Says Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly AAP's Harpal Singh Cheema: "This started with the farm unions, then we spoke up.'

When Cheema says, "we supported the kisan jathebandiyan (farmer mobilisations), jab unhone kiya toh hamne kiya" – it is both a factual description of the sequence of events and an inadvertent admission of the AAP's failure to seize the moment, or the movement.

Cheema reacts to the BJP's insinuation of an "AAP-Khalistani lobby": "In the last assembly election, too, the Congress called us Khalistani and the BIP called us Urban Naxals. The agencies are with them, why don't they jail

But in this moment, the AAP's real challenge may lie in what he says next: At the sites of the protests, "we have to sit in the back, we can't even sit in the front, they don't let us speak".

Rahul forever young, agitated, says BJP, dares him to debate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE BJP on Thursday targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who led a party delegation to President Ram Nath Kovind against the Centre's farm laws, calling him "perpetually young, frustrated and agitated". While Union minister Prakash Javadekar challenged Gandhi to a debate, BJP spokesperson national Sudhanshu Trivedi said no government had done more for farm-

ers than the BJP. The BJP pointed to old speeches of Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh where they are seen to be arguing for reforms, and against middlemen in agriculture, accusing the Congress of changing stance.

"I challenge the Congress and Rahul Gandhi for an open debate. I will prove how the Congress always ignored farmers' interests and how Modi empowered them," Javadekar said.

On Gandhi's demand for a Parliament session where the laws should be repealed, the minister said: "When Parliament is in session, Congress members obstruct and do not take part in a debate."



and promotion of contract farming. "Now I want to ask Rahul Gandhi if he lied in 2019 or is lying now," Tomar said. Party spokesperson Trivedi called Gandhi "perpetually

had promised the end of APMC.

ensuring trade without mandi tax

young, disenchanted, agitated and frustrated". Attacking Gandhi for his comments that India was an "imaginary democracy". Trivedi said. "I want to bring to his attention that it was the anniversary of the country's tallest farmer leader and former Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singh and tomorrow is the birth anniversary

of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Did the Congress not charge both of them with sedition? Did they

In stir against Reliance, farmers snap power supply to Jio towers

RAAKHI JAGGA

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 24

AFTER STAGING protests outside petrol pumps and retail outlets of Reliance, protesting farmers in Punjab have now started disconnecting power supply to Jio mobile towers disrupting the telecom giant's services in sev-

eral parts of the state. Farmers owing allegiance to different farmers' unions have shut the power supply to several lio towers in Nawanshahr. Ferozepur, Mansa, Barnala, Fazilka, Patiala and Moga districts in last three days.

In Ferozepur, the power supply to the cellular transmission



tower being snapped in Kotlallu village of Mansa

towers was cut by farmers separately under the banner of BKU (Ugrahan) and BKU (Dakaunda).

In Nawanshahr, farmers under the banner of Kirti Kisan Union (KKU) disconnected power supply to 11 Jio mobile

In most of the villages in Barnala and Bathinda, farmers locked the gates of towers after snapping the power supply. Jagmohan Singh Patiala,

working group member of All Sangharsh Kisan Coordination Committee, said, "Our teams in the field are conducting surveys to find independent towers of Jio... our tarwill be only independent towers.'

Jio Telecommunications refused to comment till the time of filing of this report.

A Venuprasad, CMD, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) did not respond to request for comment.

43 farmer outfits made parties in plea to remove protest from Delhi borders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE PETITIONER who moved the Supreme Court for removal of the protesting farmers from borders of Delhi has made as many as 43 farmer outfits parties to his plea and served copies of the petition upon them.

Advocates Om Prakash Parihar and Dushyant Tiwari, who represent the petitioner Rishabh Sharma, filed a revised list of parties in the top court on December 22.

The petitioner had initially made only the Centre, the gov-

ernments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, parties to his petition. When the matter came up for hearing on December 16 before a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, the court suggested that it would also like to hear farmer organisations on the issue.

Issuing notice on the petitions that day, the court allowed impleadment of eight farmer associations that are part of the protests.

Government sources said this list was only representative as no one was sure how many outfits were part of the protests.

Sonal Mansingh seeks breach of privilege action on Kejriwal The Bills were passed via voice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

BJP RAJYA Sabha MP Sonal Mansingh has sought a breach of privilege notice against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, taking issue with his speech on the contentious farm laws in the Delhi Assembly where he also tore a copy of the Bills.

Mansingh, quoting Kejriwal's speech, filed a complaint with Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, the Chairman of the Raiva Sabha. on Wednesday. Chairman Naidu can in due course take cognizance of the complaint, and forward it to the privilege committee of the Upper House. The Rajya Sabha





Mansingh raised Kejriwal's speech in Delhi House

may then ask the Delhi Assembly to take action against Kejriwal.

Mansingh said in the letter that the Rajya Sabha, "...in a usual (sic) show of unity, passed these Bills unanimously, taking into account the fact that these Bills are oriented towards the welfare of farmers community in the coun-

vote on September 20 with several opposition members protesting in the Well and others seeking a division of votes. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariyansh cited lack of order caused by the protests to rule out a division. Mansingh alleged in the letter, that Kejriwal, on December 17,

"delivered a speech thereby cast-

ing serious aspersions on the over-

all working of Rajya Sabha and

made unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations against the Chairman." Mansingh's notice also says,

'Kejriwal after uttering... blasphemous words in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, tore the copies of all the three Farm Bills."

Pak national among 2 JeM militants killed in J&K gunfight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

TWO JAISH-E-MOHAMMAD militants including a Pakistani national were killed Thursday in an encounter with security forces in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The gunfight ensued after the militants fired upon a search team of security forces, drawing

Security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation in Wanigam Payeen in Kreeri area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir Thursday morning, a police spokesman said.

One of the slain ultras was identified as Abrar alias Langoo who, according to sources, is a Pakistani national. The second militant was Amir Siraj, a resident of Sopore, the spokesman said.

He said the militants were affiliated with IeM. As per police records, the militants were involved in several

civilian atrocities, he said.

terror-related cases, including

attacks on security forces and

Cong MLAs meet CM Soren, air grievances

AHEAD OF JHARKHAND GOVT'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, DECEMBER 24

FROM COLLECTION of electricity dues that are becoming a burden on the poor to providing more jobs, and conducting panchayat elections on time, a majority of Congress MLAs met Chief Minister Hemant Soren for the first time since the government was formed in Jharkhand and apprised him of problems they face

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led government will announce its first year's achievements on December 29.

as public representatives.

Sources in the Congress Legislative Party said the party's Iharkhand in-charge, R P N Singh, arranged the meeting.

An MLA who was part of the meeting said: "One major issue was the manner of collection of electricity dues from the poor. The Covid-19 pandemic has already broken their backs, and people in various constituencies are feeling overburdened by notices served by the electricity department on dues. We asked the



CM to go a little slow on this." With pending dues running into nearly Rs 5,600 crore, the Damodar Valley Corporation is carrying out outages in various parts of the state. Recently, the Union Power Ministry wrote to the Jharkhand government and asked it to pay the dues to DVC, otherwise as per agreement the RBI would deduct Jharkhand's

money in four equal installments. At a recent departmental review meeting, Soren had called for self-reliance in power generation.

Another Congress MLA said that there was a problem with the panchayat elections next month. The legislators said works in the panchayats would come to a halt. The discussion came on the back of a letter from Panchayati Raj director Aditya Ranjan to deputy commissioners, stating panchayat polls could not be completed on time due to the pandemic.

PM to launch DFC section in UP

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the largest section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor at midday on December 29 to launch the operations of one of the largest rail infrastructure projects in India.

The 351-km Khurja-Bhaupur (Kanpur) section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is ready and necessary trials and testing have already been concluded. Modi will dedicate to the

dor along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Along with the section, the PM will also unveil the state-ofthe-art Operation Control Centre of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, based in Prayagraj. The centre, with galleries of multiple screens, will keep track of all train movement in real time on the freight corridor and enable seamless planning of operations.

The Khurja-Bhaupur section, after the inauguration, will see a substantial number of freight trains and container traffic diverted to the freight corridor, resulting in not just faster movement of goods but also decongestion of the existing railway line carrying traffic to North

As a run-up to the inauguration, work was expedited and trial runs were conducted earlier this month. The first coal-loaded train comprising 59 wagons with tonnage of 4893 tonnes ran for Nabha Power House in Punjab on December 10.

The 352-km section Modi will dedicate to the nation is built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crore, funded by the World Bank. The new stations in this section are Bhaupur, Kanchausi, Achalda, Ekdil, Bhadan, Makhanpur, Tundla, Hathras, Daudkan and Khuria. Some of the important industrial areas that straddle this section are Aligarh, Khurja, Firozabad

and Agra. Sixty-eight level crossings have been eliminated in this stretch, augmenting speed and safety, the Dedicate Freight Corridor Corporation says. The section has 19 major bridges, 414 minor bridges, seven railway flyovers. A Tata-Aldesa IV was responsible for civil construction, while Alstom has done the sys-

Oli decision is Nepal's internal matter: MEA

New Delhi: India Thursday described Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's decision to dissolve Parliament and call for fresh elections as an "internal matter" that is for the country to decide as per its democratic processes.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India will continue supporting its neighbour in moving forward on the path of peace and development. "We have noted the recent political developments in Nepal. These are internal matters for Nepal to decide as per its democratic processes," Srivastava said. ENS

Temple runs into construction hiccup: Structural piles not up to mark

AVANEESH MISHRA

LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

THE START of the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya has hit another hiccup after tests revealed that structural piles made to bear the weight of the temple did not give desired results, acto Shri cording Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

The Trust, which was formed

the Ram temple following the Supreme Court's verdict in the Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, is now trying to find alternative ways for it.

The team of technical experts that include people from several renowned institutes like the IITs. NITs, the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee, and engineers from companies like Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Tata Consulting

Engineers (TCE) are already facing hurdles in form of loose sand due to water flow on the west side of garbhagrih of the proposed temple.

The foundation design, finalised and submitted by the L&T, comprised plain cement concrete raft resting on about 1200 cement concrete piles going 20 to 40 metres deep and

around 1 metre in diameter. "The drawing was of 1,200 pillars and we did a testing.

Some of the pillars were put underground till around 125 feet and were tested after around 28 days, which is the required time as per engineering norms. We put 700 tonnes of weight on them along with creating an earthquake situation, but the test piles did not give us the desired results. The readings on the ma-

chine were not what we

wanted... If the pile testing re-

sults were just a little different,

we would have given a go-ahead

(for the construction work). But they were much different from what we expected," Rai said.

He said with the Saryu river flowing on the west side of the garbhagrih, water and loose sand are present close to where the pillars are to stand. "The structure's strength cannot be ensured on loose sand. That is why the experts are having discussions on how to stop the water from reaching the temple, and make a strong foundation..'





ADVERTORIAL

Christmas is all about celebrating brotherhood and being merry!

This is a festival that knows no boundaries and is celebrated across the globe with a whole lot of cheerfulness and festivities

■ITH THE ongoing festive season inching closer to the year-end festivities, two big celebrations are on the cards for many on the occasion of Christmas and New Year. The festival of Christmas rings in the arrival of New Year and merriment. Things are likely to get even more merrier considering that both Christmas and New Year fall on long week-

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus whom Christians believe is the Son of God. Celebrated across the globe by Christians and non-Christians alike, Christmas is "one of the most important days of the year for Christians, along with Easter when the death and resurrection of Jesus are ob-



served." The traditions of celebrating Christmas differ from country to country, but they nearly always include "a feast, giving gifts or cards, and enjoying church or public festivities such as singing Christmas carols and songs. Santa Claus is a tradition in many countries of the world."

The season of preparing for Christmas is called Advent and begins on a Sunday about four weeks before Christmas. The Christmas Season (called Christmastide) ends 6 January or the Twelfth Day after



Christmas, in which Epiphany is remembered. In many countries, "the season for retail stores to sell gifts, food, greeting

cards, Christmas trees, and decorations begins almost a month before the Christ-

Since every festival in India is celebrated with great pomp and show, Christmas is no exception. It's a festival that spreads the message of brotherhood and love and is celebrated across the society with great merriment. On this day, people visit churches and cathedrals that are embellished with flowers, colourful lights and other decorations. Folks send Christmas greetings to their friends and families in faraway places. People decorate their homes to the hilt with Christmas trees, wreathes with bright red decorative bulbs, bells and other small trinkets. People hang beautiful star-shaped paper lamps of various colours and sizes outside their homes. And when it comes to celebrating festivals, one automatically turns to shopping. In India, every festival is an opportunity to shop your heart out to have a complete celebration. No celebration is considered complete unless there's some shopping involved in it, be it for festive essentials, apparels or gift sets etc. During this hugely popular festival, shops and bazaars are decked up to do good business by offering mega discounts and offers. Generally, markets are jampacked with huge crowd as people scurry to buy new clothes, gifts (exchanging gifts is an age-old Christmas practice and people choose gifts for their loved ones with great thought and affection), a variety of things to cook, Christmas decorations, among other things.

इंडियन बैंक



🔼 इलाहाबाद

ALLAHABAD

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Malayalam film director dies

Kochi: Malayalam film director Shanavas Naranippuzha (37), who suffered a heart attack a few days ago, died at a private hospital here, film industry sources said Thursday. Shanavas (37) was from Naranipuzha in Malappuram district. Shanavas's movie 'Sufiyum Sujatayum' was the first Malayalam film released on OTT platform during the Covid lockdown. Kerala cultural minister AK Balan condoled his untimely demise, saying it was a huge loss for the Malayalam film industry. PTI

UTTAR PRADESH Gangrape victim 'raped' by cop

Shahjahanpur: An alleged gangrape victim has accused a police sub-inspector of raping her when she went to a police station to lodge a complaint. ADG, Bareilly Avinash Chandra has ordered an inquiry into the complaint of the woman, who met him Wednesday. The 35-year-old woman told reporters Thursday that on November 30, while she was on her way to Madanpur on foot, five men came in a car, dragged her to a field and

MAHARASHTRA Head constable shoots self

Palghar: A policeman allegedly shot himself inside a police station in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Thursday, an official said. Head constable SD Bhoye, attached to Tulinj police station in Nalasopara, shot himself in a room on the station premises, police said. In his 40s, Bhoye was on night duty. Further probe is underway, police said. PTI

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Dated: 23-12-2020 (1) All tenders ave been uploaded on Indian Railways Procurement Portal (IREPS) www.freps.gov.in. For details ecessary guidelines for quoting agains -tender, Please visit IR E-Procuren ortal, (2) The prospective tenderers a dvised to get them registered on th rebsite http://www.ireps.gov.inonine This registration is mandatory for of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted nline only. Offers sent/submitted gainst such e-tenders through e-mail ostitax or in person will be rejecte ummarily without any consideration (4) This notice is for information during ritial phase only. In future, no such otice shall be published. Vendors at equested to get registered with IREP: ind visit portal www.ireps.gev.in fo nline for the following materials SN.1: Tendor No. : 40/19/0543 A/07/65 20, Brief Description, PL No & Quantity: 500 Amp. 758 V. Inte Whicular (IV) Coupler unit for EOG type AC Coaches/Power car conforming to RDSO's Specin, No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/ C/0177 (Rev. 0) - 2013. Cty - 7 Nos for Pandu/GSD, Qty + 21 nes for New Songalgaon/Workshop Depot, PL. No 45218948 , Closing/Opening date :01 01-2021; SN.2: Tender No. : 50/20/067 77.66/2020. Brief Description, PL No. Quantity: Yellow LED Signal Lamps or Main Colour Light Signals for Railwa Signalling as per RDSO specification No. ROSO/SPN/199/2010 Rev 1: 0 with stest amendments/version, Qtv - 37 No or Dibrugarh Town/Workshop Depot Cty - 151 Nos for Pandu/GSD, Cty - 125 Nos for New Jalpaigun/GSD, Qty - 21 Nos for Katihan/GSD, PL NO, 5646806 Closing/Opening date : 68-01-2021 SN.3: Tender No. : 50/20/0669/01/6 20. Brief Description, PL No Quantity: Rod LED Signal Lamps for fain Colour, Light Signals for Railway Signating as per RDSO specification No. RDSO/SPN/199/2010 Rev 1.0 Witt test amendments/version, City - 69 No or Dibrugarh Town/Workshop Depot City - 149 Nos for PandulGSD, City - 5: Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSO, City es for Katihan'GSD, PL NO. 58468167; Closing/Opening date : 1 11-2021; SN.4: Tender No.: 30/204 (1/68/2020, Brief Description, PL Mc & Quantity: Brake cylinder with Hand rake Arrangement for LHD Coache Part No. Mrs Knorr Bremse Part No. 82516/1204 LP or Brake Cylinder wi land Brake Attachment (PBACM 254) 30) for LHB Coaches, Part No. M/s arveley Part No. 4F-125187, Qty -Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Worksho Depot. City - 9 Nos for New Bongaigao Norkshop Depot, PL NO. - 33510192

losing/Opening date : 18-01-2021;

HORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY



Naranippuzha

KERALA

DAYS AFTER her friend, with whom she was walking home after a birthday party in Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, was booked under the month-old anti-conversion law and slapped with charges under sections of the SC/ST Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the 16-year-old stands firm.

"I have told this to the magisme walking with my friend. They made videos of me and are now calling it love jihad. I did nothing

Offline lessons for classes 9-12 to resume from Jan 4 in Bihar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PATNA, DECEMBER 24

THE BIHAR Education Department Thursday directed all university Vice-Chancellors, District Magistrates and District Education Officers to restart offline lessons for students from Classes 9 to 12 from January 4 with 50 per cent capacity in classrooms.

All higher educational institutions, private coaching centres and engineering colleges have been asked to adhere to the directive.

Bihar Education Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar, in an order issued Thursday, laid down standard operating procedures for restarting higher classes. He said junior classes would also start functioning from January 18 after a review of the situation.

The official said that on any given day, only half of the enrolled students would be called to schools. "A student of a government school will be given two masks each and teachers would also be given training in ways to prevent Covid infection," said Kumar. He said coaching institutions will have to submit a compliance report of SOPs to the respective DMs at regular intervals.

For higher educational institutions, medical leave norms have to be relaxed, said the government order that also instructed that "norm of incentive or award for maximum attendance has to be discouraged".

Bihar has ab ment schools and colleges for higher classes.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(Survey & Construction) E-TENDER

or and on behalf of the President o Indian, Chief Administrative Officer Construction), North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-tenders under "TWO PACKET SYSTEM" from ne agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria for the following work . 1. E. Tender No.: No. UDZ-HMT-GC-T-66 . Name of the work with its location Miscellaneous protection work o oridges, Earth work in cutting & filling or formation, side drain, catch wate drain work road work Geomating work, pitching works etc. and all other ncillary work between Kharwa Chand Jaisamand Road stations in connection with Udaipur-Himmatnagai GC project. 3. Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 11.10.91.281.98 4. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs ,05,500.00 5. Date for submission of e-Tender: 14.01.2021 at 15.00 hrs 6. Details and particulars of website vhere e-tender can be seen & filled up. : www.ireps.gov.in 7. Official email address : dycecudz@gmail.

Walking home with friend after birthday party, Muslim youth booked under love jihad law

My free will, says girl; father alleges police dictated complaint, asks 'Is it unlawful for boy, girl to walk together?'

ANAND MOHAN J

BIJNOR, DECEMBER 24

trate, and I will say this again. Those men had a problem with

tention to marry and convert her".

wrong. I went of my own free will," she told The Indian Express.

Around 10.30 pm on December 14, the girl, a Dalit, and her former classmate, a Muslim, were walking back home after a friend's birthday party, when they were allegedly chased by a group of men, beaten with sticks and questioned. When it became apparent that they belonged to different religions, they were allegedly whisked away to a local police station.

The FIR, registered allegedly on a complaint by the girl's father, stated that the accused "induced the girl to elope with him" with the "in-

The girl's father has, however, denied his complaint, alleging that police dictated the statement. "I trust my daughter completely. What wrong did she do? Why must she be made part of politics? Is it unlawful for a boy and a girl to

walk together now?" The youth, who was subsequently booked under the month old anti-conversion law and charges of abduction and under sections of the SC/ST Act, and POCSO Act, is now in a jail in Bijnor. While police claim the man is

18 years old, his family members maintain he is 17. Arun Kumar, Station House Officer, Dhampur, where the FIR was filed, said, "The accused is in

judicial custody. If he is minor, they

will have to produce documents

to show that. We have invoked appropriate sections in this case after questioning the girl and on the basis of her father's complaint." Blaming the local pradhan for

allegedly politicising the incident, the girl's father said, "This is all politics. They made videos of my daughter and falsely claimed that this was a case of love jihad. I have been pradhan before and was planning to contest again. But now they have shamed my daughter and polarised the village," her father told The Indian Express.

Denying the father's accusations, the pradhan said, "I was with the girl's father when this case came to my notice. I helped them file the FIR. You must remember, hara hua pradhan hai (He is a pradhan who lost)".

A few kilometers from the girl's house is a one-room brick house where the youth lived with his family — his four siblings, and his

"I just want to see my son again. Police have filed a false case against him," said the youth's mother, folding her mat after her evening namaaz.

While her eldest son works as a farm labourer, another works as a tailor in Dehradun. Her youngest, now in jail, used to work in Jalandhar before shifting to Dehradun, where he earned Rs 5,000 a month as a welder's apprentice. Her husband died a year

Haryana

Maharashtra

West Bengal

Maharashtra

West Bengal

Maharashtra

West Bengal

Kerala

Delhi

Kerala

ago of heart ailments. The family claims the youth, who dropped out after Class 3, is a minor but have no documents to prove it.

The mother says that when she fell ill with typhoid, she called her youngest son in Dehradun and asked him to visit her. He reached on December 9.

"On December 14, my son left in the evening, saying he was attending a birthday party and won't be home for dinner. Now they are accusing him of converting a girl to Islam. This is completely false," his mother said.

"Everything is ruined for us this year. Now we have to collect money to fight this case," the youth's brother said.

ACTIVE CASES: 2,83,849

10,39,645

RISE IN LAST WEEK

97.567

4,636

306

6,881

5.258

4.454

TOTAL

7,21,511

19,06,371

5,41,624

TOTAL

50,098

9,473

3,000

ACTIVE CASES DECLINE IN LAST WEEK

RECOVERIES

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

1.01.23.778 | DEATHS: 1,46,756

STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES

ACTIVE CASES

1.05.230

62,867

2,991

STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING

54,573

8.003

15,689

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES

ON DEC 23

3.913

1,628

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS

ON DEC 23

34

ta as on **December 23**, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Counc Research and state governments. Often the numbers released every day contain data from pre as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive

TESTS: 16,53,08,366 | RECOVERIES: 96,93,173

journalist, 3 others: Case transferred to addl district and sessions judge

Arrest of Kerala

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

THE MATHURA District and Sessions Judge has directed to transfer the case of Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan and three others, arrested and booked for sedition and under the UAPA, to the court of Additional District and Session Judge from the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, which was so far hearing the case and extending their judicial custody.

The move came on the basis of an application moved by UP Police's Special Task Force, which is investigating the case. District Government Counsel Shiv Ram Singh said the case has been transferred on a petition of the investigating officer.

However, Defence Counsel Shashwat Anand said the state government moved an application as it "admitted their mistake". Anand said it was the defence which cited jurisdiction while challenging the judicial custody granted by the Chief Judicial Magistrate in a habeas corpus plea filed in Allahabad High Court. "Citing the jurisdiction, we raised the issue in habeas corpus apart from seeking bail for the accused. The state government has now admitted their mistake and moved an application seeking transfer of the matter to the court of Additional Session Judge. With Tuesday's order, it is clear that custody of the accused till December 22 was illegal," Anand said.

Siddique Kappan, Atiq-Ur-Rahman, Masood Ahmed and Alam were arrested in Mathura on October 5 while on their way to Hathras where a 19-year-old Dalit girl had been allegedly gangraped, leading to her death in a Delhi hospital.

UP Police claimed that the accused gathered funds to instigate riots on basis of caste "as they have done on basis of religion in protest of CAA". The UP government had earlier submitted that the four were part of the Popular Front of India and former members of the Students Islamic Movement of India. The next date of hearing on

the habeas corpus — filed on behalf of Rahman, Ahmed and Alam is scheduled for January 5.

EVENING MIDNIGHT MASS AMID COVID

Preparations for Christmas services at St Xavier's Catholic church in Ahmedabad Wednesday. With the night curfew in place, the church conducted midnight mass at 6:30 pm with 150 registered attendees. Social distancing norms were followed. Nirmal Harindran

Karnataka withdraws night curfew order in view of 'public opinion'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BENGALURU, DECEMBER 24

IN A U-turn, the Karnataka government on Thursday withdrew its night curfew order, hours before it was to comment into effect.

The decision to impose night curfew for nine days from 11 pm to 5 am starting Thursday was taken on Wednesday in line with the Centre's advice, amid concerns over a new Covid-19 variant spreading in the UK.

In a statement, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said: "In view of the public opinion that there was no need for night curfew, the decision was reviewed and after consulting with cabinet colleagues and senior officials it has been decided to withdraw the night curfew." Yediyurappa had initially announced Wednesday that the night curfew will be imposed from December 23 until January 2 between 10 pm and 6 am, Changes in night curfew dates and timing were announced later

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

The Maharashtra government

might reopen the suburban lo-

cal trains for the general public

from January. Minister for Relief

and Rehabilitation Vijay

Wadettiwar said the govern-

ment has recently allowed the

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

with Yediyurappa tweeting that it will be imposed from December 24 to January 1, 2021, between 11 pm and 5 am (5 am, January 2). On Thursday, Yediyurappa ap-

pealed to the people to exercise self-restraint by wearing face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The decision to impose night curfew had drawn flak from the ruling as well as the opposition parties.

Terming the night curfew as a measure to 'cover up' wrongdoings of the BJP government by diverting public attention, Congress state chief D K Shivakumar said, "This is a government which is not accountable. It tries to divert public attention through various means. How does the night curfew help containing the coronavirus." Shivakumar asked.

BJPlegislator AHVishwanath, who is aspiring to become a minister, also criticised the government's decision. "I request the government to reconsider its decision to impose night curfew.

public in Jan, says Maharashtra minister

resumption of water sports, en-

tertainment and amusement

"The decision on the local

parks in the state.

Minister for

Wadettiwar

Rehabilitation

Relief and

Suburban local trains may open for

Some of the decisions should be taken after much deliberation because it's a government for the people," he told the media. Another senior BJP leader,

Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, also urged the government to reconsider its decision. Earlier in the day, Karnataka

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar defended the government's move to impose night curfew saying it was done on the advice of the technical advisory committee (TAC) for Covid-19. Speaking to reporters, he said, "The TAC had recommended imposing night curfews from 8 pm onwards as a precautionary measure. However, after much deliberation we decided to restrict movement of individuals from 11 pm to 5 am."

Reacting to criticism of the move, Sudhakar sought to know what important economic activities take place at night. "When all essential services, healthcare facilities and transport are well in place. I would like to know whom the night curfew is going to affect?"

trains will be taken at the earli-

est. The chief minister's attempt

is to start the locals for the gen-

eral public from the first week of

decision will be taken only after

ascertaining the spread in the

state, if any, of the new variant of

Covid-19, found in the United

Officials, however, said the

January," said Wadettiwar.

BHIMA KOREGAON BATTLE ANNIVERSARY

Collector's order under Sec 144: No outsider allowed at Jaystambh on Jan 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, DECEMBER 24

AFTER AN appeal to local residents and a government notification urging people to not visit the Jaystambhon January 1 next year, Pune District Collector Rajesh Deshmukh on Thursday issued a prohibitory order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973, as per which no outsider would be allowed to visit the war memorial in Perne village between 12 pm on December 30 to 6 pm of January 2, 2021.

The order mentions that a 'symbolic' programme, to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon, will be held at the Jaystambh that day. Only those with passes issued by Pune Rural Police would be allowed to attend the programme.

Along with Perne, the order also restricts the entry of outsiders

Kesnand, Kolwadi, Dongargaon, Fulgaon villages (all under the jurisdiction of Lonikand police station) and Koregaon Bhima, Dingrajwadi, Sanaswadi, Vadhu Budruk, Pimple Jagtap, Wajewadi, Apti, Wadegaon villages (in the jurisdiction of Shikrapur police station) during this period. No book stalls, food stalls, banners, boards. hoardings, public meetings, rallies or marches will be allowed near the Jaystambh or these villages.

Even those who attend the programme at Jaystambh have to follow all guidelines issued by the state government due to the pandemic situation, stated the order, adding that they have to leave the area immediately once the programme gets over.

Action will be taken against those found spreading wrong information or rumours on social media about the programme, warned the district administra-

to Tulapur, Bakori, Wadhu Khurd, tion. It also warned against "hate messages, sloganeering or boards that cause any kind of tension". Those who violate the district

collector's orders would face legal action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code and sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

On December 22, the state Home department had issued a notification, stating that the program at Jaystambh will be shown live on Doordarshan and other media platforms. The government urged people not to visit the Jaystambh, in view of the Covid situation, and instead pay their tributes from home.

On January 1 every year, Dalits, mainly from Ambedkarite Mahar community, visit the Jaystambh, a war memorial erected by the British in memory of soldiers who fought against Peshwas in the Battle of Koregaon Bhima. The 2018 event was marked by clashes, in which one person was killed.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BHANDARA

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 23 of 2020-2021

Online e-tenders in B-1 forms for following works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bhandara from the elligible contractors. Tender doc ament may be downloaded at Govt. Website http://mahatenders.gov.in. Rights to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason reserve with Executive Engineer

Sr No.	Name of Works	Estt. cost. (Rs. in	money	E-Tender	Class of Contractor
		Lakhs)	(Rs. in Lakhs)	documents	
1	Construction of Minor Bridge of Pahungaon To Bhagadi Road VR-82 In Km. 0/200 in Ta. Lakhandur Dist. Bhandara	120.93	1.21	1120.00	Class-IV & above
2	Construction of Minor Bridge of Tai (Khu) To Bothali To Bhagadi Road ODR-91 In Km. 2/050 in Ta. Lakhandur Dist. Bhandara	110.44	1.10	1120.00	Class-IV & above
3	Construction of Minor Bridge Of Kitadi Masal Virli Road MDR-39 In Km. 5/200 in Ta. Lakhani Dist. Bhandara	99.95	1.00	1120.00	Class-IV & above

Other terms & condition can be seen in the bidding documents The details tender notice can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the

e-tendering portal http://mahatenders.gov.in. The bidder shall submit the Hard Copy of Tender Document (Technical & Financial Envelope) in sealed Envelope with in 72Hrs. on the last date of submis sion at the office of tender opening authority.

Executive Engineer Public Works Division Bhandara

Uttarakhand

State's 1st 'child-friendly police station' ready to open

LALMANI VERMA

DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 24

AVOIDING ANY armed personnel in khaki wear or scratchy police radios, children coming to the Dalanwala police station in Dehradun will soon find a separate entrance lead them to the first floor, where a designated room with toys, comic books and wall paintings of popular cartoon characters, from Mowgli to Doraemon, will help them feel comfortable in interacting with the police and reporting any incident without fear.

Uttarakhand's first child-friendly police station, which has been developed on the first floor of the Dalanwala police station premises, is ready for operation.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh



This 'baal mitra police thana' has been developed under supervision of the state Child **Right Protection Commission**

Rawat was to inaugurate it on Thursday but as he is in home isolation after testing positive for Covid

last week, a fresh date for inauguration will be decided after his recoverv. authorities said. Unlike the white walls of the main

premises, the floor is painted in bright colours, and printed window blinds are set to replace solid curtains.

This 'baal mitra police thana' has been developed under the supervision of Uttarakhand Child Right Protection Commission, and support has been taken from a social organisation in giving the premises a child-friendly look. A training session will soon be held on child-friendly practices for police personnel so that they can provide coun-

"On this premises, children caught in petty crimes or other matters like child labour will be provided counselling. An environment has been created so that a child does not

seling to children in need.

New Delhi

said Usha Negi, Chairperson of the Uttarakhand Child Right Protection Commission. Negi said that childfriendly police station set-up is ready for operation. She confirmed a fresh date for the inauguration will be decided after the CM recovers. Shweta Chaubey, SP (City) and

feel uncomfortable or any kind of fear

while interacting with the police. The

police personnel will be in civil dress

and counselling of children for their

rehabilitation will also be done there,"

nodal officer for the 'baal mitra police thana', said it will function as a dedicated unit for juveniles and there will be a separate team of police personnel for interacting with children and their counselling. By the time other police stations get a similar set-up of their own, children from other areas will also be taken to Dalanwala, she said.

No meeting with Ramani in hotel, Akbar tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

FORMER UNION minister M J Akbar on Thursday told a Delhi court that there was no meeting between him and journalist Priya Ramani in the hotel where she alleges that he sexually misbehaved with her.

Akbar made the submission during the final hearing of a criminal defamation complaint filed by him against Ramani, who had accused him of sexual misconduct 20 years ago when he was a journalist.

Akbar subsequently resigned as a Union minister in

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra, appearing for Akbar, said: "The moment a meeting is denied, further questions are not warranted. None of the suggestions are warranted. The meeting in the hotel is denied. What part of the incident has not been addressed? They say complainant has avoided the meeting. When I (Akbar) have denied it, where is the issue of not addressing?"

Luthra said that when Akbar has denied the meeting, "there can't be a question of whether sofa was blue or pink... Completely misleading to say that I didn't address".

She said, "You (Ramani) haven't proved any date, hotel register, CCTV or ticket of entry in car parking. You haven't proved anything.

The hearing remained inconclusive and the court will resume the proceedings on January 4.

HC quashes FIR over 'jungleraj in UP' tweet

Expressing dissent on law and order situation hallmark of a constitutional liberal democracy, says Allahabad HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

OBSERVING THAT expressing dissent on law and order situation is a "hallmark of a constitutional liberal democracy" like India, the Allahabad high court has quashed an FIR against a person who had allegedly tweeted that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath "has transformed the state into a jungleraj in which no law and order prevails".

Expressing dissent on the law and order situation in the state is a "hallmark of a constitutional liberal democracy like ours, constitutionally protected under Article 19 of the Constitution", the Bench of Justice Pankaj Naqvi and Justice Vivek Agarwal observed while quashing the FIR.

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by Yashwant Singh who had been booked under Section 66-D (offence of cheating by personation by using comresource) of the Information Technology Act and Section 500 (defamation) of the IPC. The FIR against Singh was lodged at Bhognipur Police Station in Kanpur Dehat district on August 2.

In the FIR, police had alleged that Singh had referred to various incidents of abduction, ransom call and murders in his

In an order passed on November 23 and uploaded recently on the High Court's website, the Bench observed that no offence under the applied sections was made out against the accused and guashed consequential proceedings.

"We after analysing the above provisions, qua allegation made in the FIR do not find even remotely a commission of offence under Section 66-D, as said provision relates to cheating by personation," the High Court said.

Singh's lawyer, Dharmendra Singh, had told the court, "The right to comment on the affairs of the State is well within his constitutional right envisaged under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. Mere dissent does not amount to criminality. The FIR was lodged malafidely only with a view to coerce the petitioner to stop expressing his dissent against the State government...."

The additional government advocate, arguing on behalf of the state government, had opposed the petition.

Tripura: 4 top NLFT leaders surrender, abducted border fence workers return

DEBRAJ DEB

AGARTALA, DECEMBER 24

SOON AFTER it released three fencing workers abducted from near the Indo-Bangladesh border, the banned National Liberation Front of Tripura suffered a significant blow Thursday when four of its top leaders surrendered before the state police.

The surrendered militants are the NLFT-Biswamohan faction's "assistant foreign secretary" Rathan Kalai alias Reuben. "assistant organizing secretary" Joy Sadhan Jamatia alias Jara, "assistant publicity and information secretary" Madhu Ranjan Noatia alias Yafung and "deputy chief of army staff" Kukila Tripura alias

Yarung. Director-General of Police V.S. Yadav said these four were among the top ten commanders of the NLFT. The outfit's Biswamohan faction, based in Bangladesh, is suffering from low cadre strength and is reeling under a financial crisis, the offi-

They have laid down two AK-56 rifles, one AK Bayonet, four AK magazines, 119 rounds of AK ammunition, a wireless handset and 1.5 lakh Kyat (Myanmar currency), the DGP said.

The surrender came just a day after the return of the border fencing workers. Subhash Bhowmik (48), Subal Debnath (37) and Gana Mohan Tripura (37) were working on an unfenced patch of the border in Dhalai district on December 7

when they were taken away by the militants at gunpoint into Bangladeshi territory.

Tripura shares an 856-kmlong border with Bangladesh, around 67 km of which is unfenced.

Assistant Inspector General of Tripura Police, Subrata Chakraborty, said the three persons were released Wednesday due to "continuous operations" by the local police and other security forces as well as the "tremendous pressure" mounted on overground workers of the insurgent outfit.

Bangladeshi security forces. too, conducted extensive search operations within their territory, which forced the ultras to release the hostages, the official said. Sources who did not wish to be named claimed that a ranson was paid to secure the release of the abductees. This was denied by senior police officials overseeing the case.

The abducted persons were employed as a work supervisor, a labour contractor and a JCB

machine driver. NLFT was formed on March 12, 1989 to fight for a "sovereign Tripura". It was banned in 1997 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and later under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The insurgent outfit suffered a debilitating split in August 2019 when 88 members broke away and laid down arms before the state government. A small faction of the outfit, the Biswamohan group, still remains

MUMBAI TERROR attack mastermind and banned Iamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Thursday sentenced to

anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in one more terror financing The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore also imposed a

15 and a half years in jail by an

Terror financing

Saeed sentenced

for over 15 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE, DECEMBER 24

case: Hafiz

fine on Saeed. The 70-year-old radical cleric has already been convicted for 21 years imprisonment in four

Pakistani rupees (PKR) 200,000

terror financing cases of late. 'On Thursday an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore sentenced five leaders of Jamatud-Dawa, including its chief Hafiz Saeed, in another terror financing case...for 15 and a half years," a court official told PTI.

Now, Saeed will have to undergo collective imprisonment of over 36 years in five terror financing cases at the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore. His punishment will run concurrently in these cases. There are reports that he is given 'VIP protocol' in jail.

Saeed, a UN-designated terrorist on whom the US has placed a \$10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17 last year in the terror financing cases.

The other four JuD leaders convicted on Thursday are Hafiz Abdus Salam, Zafar İqbal, JuD and Muhammad Ashraf.

Each convicted person has also been fined a PKR 200,000.

MEA: India, China agree next round of military talks should be held soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

INDIA AND China have agreed that the next round of military talks should be held soon for working towards an "early and complete" disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the diplomatic and military talks have helped both sides to enhance understanding of each other's positions on the issue.

Last week, the countries held another round of diplomatic talks under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border

In the virtual meeting, both sides agreed to continue work towards ensuring complete disengagement of troops in all friction points along the LAC in eastern at the "earliest". He was replying to questions on the over seven-month border standoff.

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

cus has now moved to the

TRP scam: BARC's former CEO held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

THE MUMBAI police crime branch on Thursday arrested Partho Dasgupta, former CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), from Pune, taking the total arrests in TRP case to 15 This comes days after the Crime Intelligence Unit of the crime branch arrested Ramil Ramgarhia, the former COO of BARC.

The police are probing their roles in helping channels like Republic TV in increasing their TRPs. While the police earlier arrested 12 persons involved in helping six channels and filed a chargesheet against them, the foWhatsApp chats that the police found on the phones of some of the arrested accused. An officer said, "We found

WhatsApp groups that had senior employees of the Republic in it where methods to improve TRPs by various underhand methods were discussed. These arrests are linked to those chats." Dasgupta was arrested from

Pune. He will be produced before the court for custody on Friday.

API Sachin Vaze, who is investigating the matter, refused to reveal the specific role of Dasgupta on Thursday. In their chargesheet the police have named six channels as paying to give their TRPs a

spokesperson Yahya Mujahid

Birthday tribute to Bharat Ratna ADVERTORIAL An initiative by RED* Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji

Remembering the journey of a poet, patriot and a gifted orator

Maharaja Agarsen Technical Education Society

Former Prime Minister BHARAT RATNA

SH. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

MATES PARIVAR PAYS ITS RESPECTFUL HOMAGE TO THE VISIONARY LEADER AND SALUTES HIM Inaugurating the campus of Maharaja Agarsen Institute of Technology In January16, 2005. In fond memory of that unforgettable moment

POSITIONS HELD

Founder-Member, Bharatiya Jana Sangh (B.J.S)

Elected to 2nd Lok Sabha

1957-77 Leader, Bharatiya Jana Sangh Parliamentary

1962 Member, Rajya Sabha

1966-67 Chairman, Committee on Government Assur-

1967 Re-elected to 4th Lok Sabha (2nd term) **1967-70** Chairman, Public Accounts Committee **1968-73** President, B.J.S.

1971 Re-elected to 5th Lok Sabha (3rd term) Re-elected to 6th Lok Sabha (4th term) **1977-79** Union Cabinet Minister, External Affairs

1977-80 Founder - Member, Janata Party **1980** Re-elected to 7th Lok Sabha (5th term) **1980-86** President, Bharatiya Janata Party (B.J.P.)

tary Party 1986 Member, Rajya Sabha; Member, General Purposes Committee

1980-84 1986 and 1993-96 - Leader, B.J.P. Parliamen-



ATAL JI and i shared a very warm relationship whenever we met. I recall one particular incident when he was alone at his residence. Along with my friend Pawan Sharma, i went to meet him. He met me very warmly. I took his hand in my hand and started looking at it. Bemused, he asked me, "i do not have the luck line in my hand which can make me the Prime Minister". I responded, i see it clearly and he will definitely be the Prime Minister. He jokingly remarked, that now i am also a fortune teller, to which i said that i have credible information from a close source that the then President Shankar Dayal Sharma ji will invite the single largest party to show strength at the floor and stake claim. Few days later, albeit for a very brief period, Atal ji became the Prime Minister of the country for the first time.

Sh. Nand kishore garg

1988-90 Member, House Committee: Member, Business **Advisory Committee**

1990-91 Chairman, Committee on Petitions

1991 Re-elected to 10th Lok Sabha (6th term) 1991-93 Chairman, Public Accounts Committee

1993-96 Chairman, Committee on External Affairs: Leader

of Opposition, Lok Sabha Re-elected to 11th Lok Sabha (7th term)

Atal Ji again became Prime Minister for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999.

In 1999 general elections BJP-led NDA won 303 seats out of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha securing a comfortable and stable majority. On 13 October 1999, Sri Vajpayee Ji took oath as Prime Minister



of India for the third time.



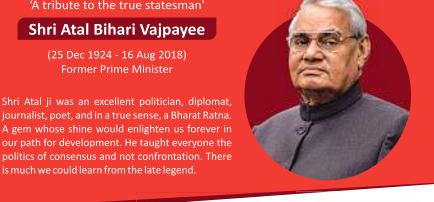
ADVERTORIAL

'A tribute to the true statesman' Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

> (25 Dec 1924 - 16 Aug 2018) Former Prime Minister

Shri Atal ji was an excellent politician, diplomat, journalist, poet, and in a true sense, a Bharat Ratna. A gem whose shine would enlighten us forever in our path for development. He taught everyone the

is much we could learn from the late legend.













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Dr Nand Kishore Garg

Founder & Chancellor,

Maharaja Agrasen University (Himachal)

WORDLY WISE

THE THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS IS THAT IT ALMOST DOESN'T MATTER WHAT MOOD YOU'RE IN OR WHAT KIND OF A YEAR YOU'VE HAD — IT'S A FRESH START. — KELLY CLARKSON

The Indian EXPRESS

∞ FOUNDED By ∞ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

BURY THE LEGACY

Government should abide by arbitration panel verdicts in Vodafone and Cairn case and end retrospective taxation

N ITS 2014 election manifesto, the BJP had attacked the then Congress-led UPA government for unleashing "tax terrorism" and "uncertainty" in the country, which not only "negatively impacts the investment climate", but also "dents the image of the country". Six years later, the signals that emanate suggest that rather than ushering in a "non adversarial and conducive tax environment", the Narendra Modi government is continuing with the highly contentious policies of the UPA government. On Thursday, it was reported that the government has filed an appeal at the Singapore seat of the permanent court of arbitration challenging the judgment in the Vodafone retrospective taxation case. The government's move comes a day after it lost the arbitration case to Cairn Energy over the retrospective levy of taxes and was asked to pay damages to the tune of \$1.2 billion. While the government has said it is studying the award, applying the principle of uniformity of approach suggests that it is likely to appeal the verdict in the Cairn case as well. This would be a mistake, and would send the wrong signal to the investor community. The government should accept the orders, and ensure a proper burial to the issue of retrospective taxation.

The Cairn issue pertains to tax demand on capital gains made by the company in the reorganisation of its business. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague has maintained that the issue was not a tax dispute, but a tax-related investment dispute, and hence it fell under its jurisdiction. The court noted that the demand was in breach of fair treatment under the UK-India bilateral investment treaty. Ironically, the tribunal order also took note of arguments made by BJP leaders on retrospective amendments and international disputes - former finance minister Arun Jaitely had likened them to tax terrorism. In the case of Vodafone, the Singapore seat of the PCA has held that India's retrospective demand of capital gains and withholding tax from the firm was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment". In fact, in the Vodafone case, the Supreme Court held in 2012 that Vodafone's interpretation of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was correct. The then finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, circumvented the ruling proposing an amendment to the Finance Act, giving the tax department the power to retrospectively tax such deals.

Hoping that domestic courts will overturn the arbitration award would be unwise, and will be treated as a warning by investors. The approach has to be one of compliance with the verdict, rather than finding ways to bypass it. The government must distance itself from the issue of retrospective taxation that has caused much damage to India's reputation.

My School vs Your School

UP and Delhi ministers sparring over education is politics more welcome and inspiring

HAT DOES THE Indian voter truly want? Her expectations have ranged, over decades, from the minimum of bijli-paani-sadak and naukri to the over-arching dream of vikas to any arrangement that conforms to the calculus of caste and religion. Surprisingly, for a country with a large young population, education has rarely been considered the stuff of exciting political contests — even if it makes a significant difference to opportunity and income. And so it is both novel and heartening to see the education ministers of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh sparring over the state of public schooling in their respective states. Much of it has to do with the Aam Aadmi Party's decision to contest UP assembly polls in two years from now. In Delhi, the AAP's push to funnel resources into the public school system has not only seen changes in government schools — but also reaped electoral benefits. The AAP's pitch to UP led to a challenge from state education minister Satish Dwivedi, who invited Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia to visit government schools in UP to see their credit-worthy state for himself. Sisodia promptly turned up at Lucknow, where he was stopped by UP police from carrying out his surveys.

Optics aside, there is no better time than this pandemic-struck year to make education a matter worth fighting over. Several surveys as well as anecdotal reports have flagged a nationwide crisis in learning triggered by the closure of schools. That crisis is likely to be more acute in the northern states, which, even before the pandemic, lagged behind the south in the provision of public schooling. For instance, the Niti Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI) 2019 ranked UP right at the bottom of the large states. An analysis of ASER reports from 2006 to 2014 also shows a sharp fall in the already low-reading levels in UP's government schools. The geographical divide in learning is an outcome of historical investments made in public schooling in states like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Southern India's head-start in education, arguably, is also thanks to a larger, more effective politics of social justice. The Delhi government has done well to walk on that path.

Education is, not surprisingly, a political hard-sell, given the difficulty in quantifying its gains and given how tangled it is in social bottlenecks of caste and gender. But for Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, an exchange of repartee between their ministers might serve to bring education some welcome political attention. At the least, it will be a refreshing change from a politics so accustomed to the fever pitch of identity that it neglects the grim material realities holding India's aspiring youth back.

DEAR SANTA

This year, adults too have a wishlist for Christmas — a shot of Covid vaccine among other things

HIS MORNING, CHILDREN across the world heaved a sigh of relief. The World Health Organisation was indeed right when it clarified on December 16 that Santa Claus (or Father Christmas in more anglophile countries), is immune to COVID-19. His immunity clearly extends to the new strain that is emerging out of the United Kingdom. The joy of children — brought about by a sense of innocence and wonder, no doubt, but also, perhaps, from all the presents — is also bringing into sharp relief the need for Santa Claus to expand his remit. At the end of a year of isolation and uncertainty, of economic precarity and fear about the future, adults too need a little generosity.

Between last Christmas and this one, the world has changed. There is less shopping $this year-job \ losses\ and\ salary\ cuts\ saw\ to\ that-and\ instead\ of\ hugs, a\ communal\ meal$ and laughter around the hearth, there are forced smiles and overcompensated gaiety over video calls. But despite annus horribilis, there are many things to celebrate — things, in fact, that are always worth cherishing. Those who have avoided COVID can breathe a sigh of relief. And for the rest, without having to be superficial at gatherings, grown-ups now know who their real friends are.

So, since the most important things are things money can't buy, what can Santa bring adults this year? Could he, perhaps, shimmy down the chimney with a salary increment or, for those who lost work, a job? If that's too ambitious, perhaps just a small party at the North Pole, where adults can enjoy a little revelry away from the rugrats — learning from home has taken a toll on parents too. But there is something that would be easiest of all, and particularly suited to Santa's unique set of skills - speedy, same-night delivery being key among them. Could he, please, just leave a shot of vaccine under the

Fallacy of central model



Curricula model at the national-level doesn't do justice to state or local-level problems, issues

MILIND SOHONI

RECENTLY, THE AICTE, an agency of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which regulates engineering education in the country, came up with a new scheme to support the writing and production of engineering textbooks in 21 regional languages. There is the usual downloadable application form and scoring sheet to be filled by active or retired professors from AICTE-approved institutions. The support offered is about Rs 2 lakh.

But there are two catches. The first is that the textbooks should preferably be for a course in the AICTE national model curriculum. Now, it is well-known that the model curriculum is not very relevant. In fact, it has no place at all for any regional content. Thus, the nuances of irrigation in Maharashtra, for example, the basic planning framework, the schedule of the patkaris (canal operators) and the workings of the paani wapar sanstha (water user associations) are all lost. The same story repeats itself in other areas of engineering. This perpetuates the disconnect between what is taught and what is practiced and has led to the employability crisis in the Indian economy. The scheme could have been an opportunity to address this lacuna if it were to relax the adherence to the model curriculum. That would allow the inclusion of regional content, and that too in the local language, the use of local formats and documents, and linkages with practitioners and local agencies. This would achieve a closer connection with the practice of engineering.

The second problem is that higher education departments of the states are nowhere in the picture. This jeopardises the success of the scheme, even if good textbooks do come out. Firstly, universities have their own curricula which affiliated colleges follow. These are usually vetted by peers within the system. Most universities and state higher education departments would welcome a systematic development of textbooks in the regional language for a selected set of basic courses. The current scheme does not ensure that this will happen. Thus, a better strategy for AICTE would have been to request the states to make a proposal, to set the guidelines and to monitor their progress. A sum of Rs 1 crore per year, for five

It is the elite central institutions and scientific agencies which have uniformly become the centres of mediocrity and decay. Bolstering them is a moribund bureaucracy and a narrow intellectual class incapable of honest work. Witness the absence of any study of most public aspects of the pandemic — from the number of hospital beds required, or the safety of rail travel to counting the actual number of deaths. The lack of study has led to chronic informality, poor wages and widespread hardship. What has emerged is a regressive politics of centralisation of good intentions and handouts for an everincreasing number of projected beneficiaries.

years, would have allowed the states to come up with a rotating panel of writers, supported by a professional team which works to a plan. So why did AICTE not think of this?

The fact is that such obduracy is routine for MHRD, and also the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Grants are made to individual faculty members and sometimes, institutions. The state departments, from education to industries, cannot convey their priorities or interests. Moreover, most of the open-ended funds are available at the Centre. For example, the annual funds with DST exceed Rs 4,000 crore while Maharashtra operates an S&T budget of about Rs 60 crore. Thus, the agenda for higher education and science is set at the Centre and has little to do with problems which the states face or the innovations needed there. Moreover, many grants go to faculty members in the elite centrally funded institutions who have little understanding of or interest in the regional problems. As a result, professional practices in most state departments such as irrigation, transport, or public health have been stagnant for decades. The people in the states, which is most of us, continue to

suffer. And yet we continue with this regime. Perhaps, the seed of this was sown at the time of the birth of India as an independent nation. It was then that science was cast as a national project and not as the living practice of a community. It created a dichotomy — the centralised state, it's scientists and professors working in elite institutions on the one side, and the people on the other, as recipients of the benefits of science but not as participants. But there also was a social narrative. Science was but one part of the broader project of modernising India which was to be guided by a well-intentioned, internationally connected elite situated in Delhi. The states were seen as swamps of vested interests, parochial in thinking and highly unequal and exploitative in social relations. They could not be trusted with the welfare of their own people, let alone deliver the benefits of science. This logic permeates many central programmes as they find ways to reach the so-called ultimate beneficiary while bypassing the state apparatus. Such bulldozer thinking is also evident in the National Education Policy 2020.

The fact is that several states have proved themselves to be quite capable of delivering welfare to their people. Most developmental innovations such as the anganwadi, mid-day meals, water management, consumer and producer cooperatives, have come from the states. And they have done this through their own political, social and cultural institutions, without the big-ticket investments in science from the Centre or the support of its elite higher education institutions.

It is the elite central institutions and scientific agencies which have uniformly become the centres of mediocrity and decay. Bolstering them is a moribund bureaucracy and a narrow intellectual class incapable of honest work. Witness the absence of any study of most public aspects of the pandemic from the number of hospital beds required, or the safety of rail travel to counting the actual number of deaths. The lack of study has led to chronic informality, poor wages and widespread hardship. What has emerged is a regressive politics of centralisation of good intentions and handouts for an ever-increasng number of projected beneficiaries. The AICTE scheme is merely an illustration of this overall decrepitude.

What is to be done? We must accept that states were neither born equal, nor are their developmental trajectories similar. Next, the centralised system of science is broken. It has been a severe drag on the development of many states while providing little systematic guidance to the others. The embedded hierarchy is sucking out the creativity of our youth and causing stress and disaffection. We need a more accountable and decentralised system. An immediate first step would be to devolve much of the powers of MHRD and its institutions and the funds available with DST to the states. This would actually be in line with the spirit and intent of our original Constitution.

> The writer a faculty at IIT Bombay is currently on deputation to IIT Goa

THE LAWMAKERS MUST WORK

State legislatures have an abysmal record in terms of number of sittings per year

CHAKSHU ROY

THE KERALA governor and the government of the state are at loggerheads again. This is the second major conflict between the two this year. The first, at the beginning of this year, was concerning the governor's address to the state legislature. The governor's address is written by the government. Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, while delivering the address in the legislative assembly, stopped before reading out a paragraph of the address. The paragraph related to the Kerala government's opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Interrupting the address, Governor Khan said that he was of the opinion that the paragraph did not relate to policy or programmes. But he went on to read the paragraph to honour the wish of the chief min-

ister despite his disagreement. The current conflict is with regards to the summoning of the state legislature. The Kerala government made a recommendation to the governor for summoning the state's legislature for a one-day session. The government wanted to discuss the situation arising out of the farmers' protest in the legislative assembly. Media reports suggest that the governor turned down the government on the grounds that there is no emergent situation for which the state assembly should be called to meet at short notice. Earlier this year, the Rajasthan governor had rejected the recommendation of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's government to call a session. The Legislatures are arenas for debate and giving voice to public opinion. As accountability institutions, they are responsible for asking tough questions of the government and highlighting uncomfortable truths. So, it is in the interest of a state government to convene lesser sittings of the legislature and bypass their scrutiny. Lesser number of sitting days also means that state governments are free to make laws through ordinances.

chief minister wanted a session of the legislature called so that he could prove his majority on the floor of the house.

The Constitution is clear: The government has the power to convene a session of the legislature. The council of ministers decides the dates and the duration of the session. Their decision is communicated to the governor, who is constitutionally bound to act on most matters on the aid and advice of the government. The governor then summons the state legislature to meet for a session. The refusal of a governor to do so is a matter of concern. Such events require careful deliberation to prevent them from snowballing into a constitutional crisis. But the events in Kerala and Rajasthan are an aberration. They should not distract us from the dismal record of the sittings of state legislatures in the country.

In the last 20 years, state assemblies across the country, on average, met for less than 30 days in a year. But states like Kerala, Odisha, Karnataka are an exception. The Kerala Vidhan Sabha, for example, has on an average met for 50 days every year for the last 10 years. The trend across the country is that legislatures meet for longer budget sessions at the beginning of the year. Then for the rest of the year, they meet in fits and spurts and pay lip service to the constitutional requirement that there should not be a gap of six months between two sessions of a legislature. The blame for the decline in the

sitting days of the state legislatures rests with the government.

Legislatures are arenas for debate and giving voice to public opinion. As accountability institutions, they are responsible for asking tough questions of the government and highlighting uncomfortable truths. So, it is in the interest of a state government to convene lesser sittings of the legislature and bypass their scrutiny. Lesser number of sitting days also means that state governments are free to make laws through ordinances. And when they convene legislatures, there is little time for MLAs to scrutinise laws brought before them.

Continuous and close scrutiny by legislatures is central to improving governance in the country. Increasing the number of working days for state legislatures is a first step in increasing their effectiveness. One way to do that is by convening legislatures to meet all around the year. In many mature democracies, a fixed calendar of sittings of legislatures, with breaks in between, is announced at the beginning of the year. It allows the government to plan its calendar for bringing in new laws. It also has the advantage of increasing the time for debate and discussion in the legislative assembly. And with the legislature sitting throughout the year, it gets rid of the politics surrounding the convening of sessions of a legislature.

> The writer is head of outreach PRS Legislative Research



DECEMBER 25, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

HM'S ASSAM OFFER

HOME MINISTER ZAIL Singh announced his invitation "without condition" to leaders of the Assam agitation to discuss the foreign nationals issue, which has disturbed the state for to long. He wanted the other side also not to put any conditions. "Let them come and we will talk," he told the Rajya Sabha and welcomed Opposition members' help in the matter. Zail Singh's invitation came half an hour after the House had heatedly debated a calling-attention motion of AK Sharma (Ind) and others for nearly two hours. The critics of the government had felt frustrated in their attempt to get assurances on several points Including an end to "repression" by the Central Reserve Police force and resumption of talks.

BIP ECONOMIC VISION AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM with a large measure of decentralisation, emphasis on distributive justice and In-built checks to prevent exploitation and the growth of monopolies has been envisaged In the draft economic policy statement of the Bharatiya Janata Party for its forthcoming session at Bombay. The draft economic policy statement has been prepared by a nine-man committee appointed by the party president, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with Kanwarlal Gupta as convener. The statement has dwelt

New Delhi

at length on the burning issues of the national economic scene - hyper-inflation, low rate of economic growth, rising volume of unemployment, increase in the percentage of population below the poverty line, and gross inequalities.

COLD WAVE

PART OF NORTHERN India was in the grip of a cold wave as heavy snowfall in the hills and intermittent rain in plains continued for the second day. The night-long heavy snowfall blocked traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Indian Airlines could operate only one service to Srinagar because of bad weather.

—THE GUARDIAN

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

Thank you for nothing

There's very little that was redeeming or cheerful about the last 10 months. But times like this are precisely when we need a list that helps us be grateful, when all has failed



PADMANABHAN

THE VERY BEST part of this very worst year is that it's been terrible for everyone. Right? Even the trillionaires who use champagne in their bidets, have lost friends and family. Even the most cruel, powerful and ruthless leaders have fallen sick. One of them even lost his election (please, Lord, let there be no proofing error in that sentence!).

Still. There's really nothing redeeming or cheerful to say about the last 10 months. Times like this are when we need this list. Progressing from least to worst, be grate-

1: ... you no longer need to dress for work, because you're slumming in front of your computer, at home. No under-wired bras, no high-heeled shoes, no skin-clogging makeup. No ties, no scratchy underwear, no stinky socks, no suffocating suits. No rusty razors to cut faces or underarms, no aftershave lotion to sting your skin, no deodorants to stain the bras you no longer wear. Best of all, everyone you know is in exactly the

2.... your children are at home, so you no longer need to drive them to school, make packed lunches or do laundry when they return, muddied and crumpled.

3. ... your children are home, so you can exercise your vocal chords, roaring at them at top volume when they drive you mad because they're not doing their schoolwork. And no one will complain or call the police, because they're all doing the same, in their homes. Including the police.

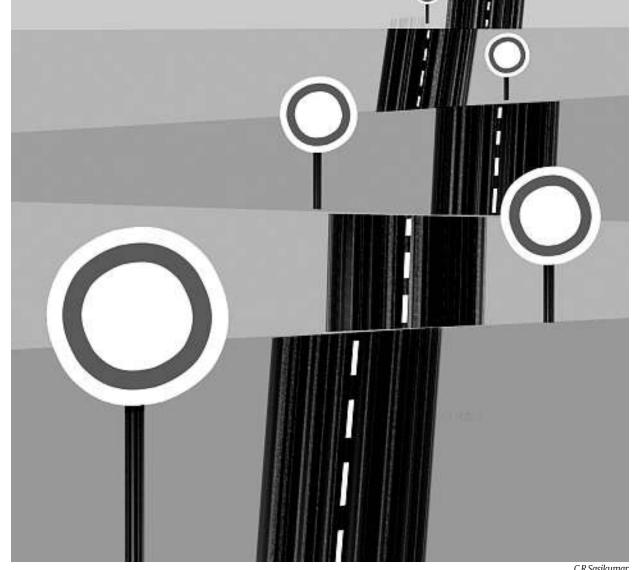
4. ... you're already divorced or widowed/widowered! Or else, from what your friends tell you, you know that if you were still married, you'd be plotting to murder

5.... you're still married! And you can enjoy all the excitement of plotting a really de-

6. ... you have children, and, therefore, you have continuous reminders about how much worse it is to be a child in this era than it was for you. Children everywhere today are forced to survive with parents who are getting divorced or murdering one another. Or chilling out in the asylum.

7. ... you have parents whose behaviour ever since the pandemic began has become so vicious and unforgiveable that you can hate them forever. In this way, you will save yourself the heartbreak you would otherwise feel when leaving home to get married or to go to college or to work. You will not have to face the trauma of looking after them in their old-age — particularly if, as is the case in some families, they have cleverly managed to murder one another.

8. ... that you're single and have no children to despise or spouses to murder. After all, murder is not only a very serious crime, but it takes up a great deal of time, energy and, quite often, money. Really, this has been an excellent year for recluses. Not only are you entirely comfortable being alone through the silent reaches of the night — and the equally silent reaches of the day — but



you are for once in the position to smile condescendingly at all your whining, complaining extroverted friends, who are forced to wrap themselves around their pets or their giant hot-water bottles for comfort.

9.... that you're single because you've lost everyone in your family to illness and, therefore, have no reason to find other and more violent means of getting rid of them. Really, this is such a very grim reason for being grateful, that it's truly tasteless of me to even mention it. Indeed, you might consider being grateful that we've never met, because otherwise you would be forced to call up your local assassin service (www.terminaldispatchers.com) and arrange to cross me off the directory of the living.

10. ... that you've lost your job and your home, thus driving your family away from you. This means that you've been spared the horror of losing them in other ways (see above). Being homeless and despised by everyone you know means that you're finally free of all worldly attachment. You can throw away your now useless credit cards and empty wallets to embrace the highest levels of spiritual advancement. You can achieve maximum fitness by walking at your leisure to the Himalayas, while starving along the way. Once you're there, you can find a place by the side of an icy mountain stream and

contemplate infinity. 11. ... that you've been thrown into prison for your misdeeds towards your family (see above), because you can finally write that book that you've never had the time to AN EXPRESS IDEA SERIES

COVID SHADOW, **NEW YEAR** LIGHT

Be grateful that your children are home, so you can exercise your vocal chords roaring at them at top volume when they drive you mad because they're not doing their schoolwork. And no one will complain or call the police, because they're all doing the same, in their homes. Including the police.

get around to, all these years. You can learn yoga, or else a degree in law. The degree will come in useful for fighting your case in court. Once you're out of lock-up, you'll have a lucrative professional life ahead, defending others like yourself.

12.... that you live in a country that supports the death penalty and have been fasttracked towards the gallows, because – how lucky! - you pleaded guilty. As a result, you won't have time to catch COVID-19, thereby risking a nasty, uncomfortable end, in the prison hospital.

13.... that you're being executed and will thus be relieved of your miserable life very efficiently. I can't guarantee that it'll be painless but it will be quick, especially compared to COVID-19 deaths. Victims of the disease typically take around three days from start to finish, whereas you should be gone in less than five minutes. Even though we have no confirmed accounts of existence (such as it might be) in the afterlife, many accounts suggest that, as a friend put it recently, "the grass is greener on the other side". This may have a lot to do with the grass on this side having been burnt away by fires or riots or lack of water. Seriously? Almost anything on the other side would be better than what we have endured this year.

14.... that you've read this list because whatever you read next will be more

> Padmanabhan is an author, playwright and cartoonist.

A Le Carre lesson for France

"Rather than wasteful bailout loans, Mr Sunak would be better off taking public equity stakes in stricken companies, ending austerity in local government, and launching a national recovery council of industrialists and trade unions along

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

with civil-society groups."

With a new law to monitor Islamic separatism, France betrays an idea of citizenship and republican values that is deeply insular



Aakash Joshi

"Should we be free to burn Korans, mock the passionately held religions of others? Maybe we should — but should we also be surprised when the believers we have offended respond in fury? I couldn't answer that question at the time and, with all goodwill, I still can't. But I am a little proud, in retrospect, that I spoke against the easy trend, reckoning with the wrath of outraged western intellectuals, and suffering it in all its righteous glory." - John Le Carre, 2012

IN 1989, AS the Cold War was drawing to a close, the contours of a new "clash of civilisations" were being defined. Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses, published a year earlier, had angered people across the world for its seemingly cavalier attack on Prophet Mohammad, and Ayatollah Khomeini, İran's supreme religious leader, issued the infamous fatwa against the writer. Many countries, including India, banned the book for fear of "hurting religious sentiments". Rushdie became a symbol of resistance against a perceived medieval mindset; a revanchist religiosity that pits itself against the idea of liberal democracy and free speech. In some senses, the cleavages wrought by the Satanic Verses controversy have only widened. "Islamism", "fundamentalism" "Islamic extremism" are the great "Other", like Sauron in The Lord of the Rings, something the "Men of the West" must fight to maintain the virtues of the world.

The most recent threat-to-liberal-values call has come from the Emmanuel Macron government in France in the aftermath of the unconscionable murder of a teacher, Samuel Paty, in October. Since 2015, beginning with the attack and killings in the offices of Charlie Hebdo, over 250 people have been killed in terrorist attacks by religious extremists. The latest move in this battle against what Macron has called "Islamic separatism" is a proposed law which would allow the state to monitor Muslims, their religious gatherings and organisations, allow police greater impunity, including while acting against hate speech when it emanates from Muslims.

For those who empathise with the French, the reaction by the Macron government is understandable, both as a political necessity as well as a security measure. Yet, talk of the "enemy within" (Prime Minister Iean Castex) is not mere political rhetoric. It betrays an idea of citizenship and republican values that is deeply insular and which relies on what social anthropologist Pierre Bourdieu called meconnaissance or misrecognition.

Simply put, meconnaissance is a form of hegemony by which the interests of a particular section of society are presented as a universal value. In the current context, that interest is of the security-state and ideologies that

seek to consolidate political power at the expense of the rights of individual citizens. This misrecognition is based on creating a false dichotomy. During the Cold War, the false opposition was between "freedom" and "tyranny" for the West and between "bourgeoise democracy" and equality behind the Iron Curtain. Now, it is between a form of nihilism that emanates from religion and the state as a protector against this rising tide.

The first step in taking away individual rights in this process is by robbing citizens of their individuality. Hence, a Muslim citizen – in India, as much as in France — is defined by her Muslimness more than her Indian-ness or French-ness. Once such a hyphenated identity is put in place, a form of apriori criminalisation is often attached to a community, and the rights of citizens who belong to it are gradually trammelled – whether by laws to "protect liberal values" or prevent "love jihad". In contrast, the European Union's Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, an annual document, has repeatedly recorded incidents of violence by right-wing extremists, as well as propaganda against refugees and minorities in France and the rest of Europe yet, it is unlikely that a special law to monitor Caucasian citizens will be put in place. Their citizenship, after all, is not hyphenated.

It was a disagreement over this hypocrisy that became the source of one of the most well-known literary feuds. In 1997, an argument unfolded in the letters column of The Guardian. John Le Carre, the greatest exponent of the espionage novel who died earlier this month, took exception to what he saw as the pointless provocations of *The Satanic* Verses. He was, of course, pilloried by Rushdie and the literary establishment of the day. But Le Carre who, as a spy and a novelist, dealt with the subtle entrapments of ideology and the immoralities of nationalism, perhaps understood better than most that the certainties of "universal values" must be tempered with a virtue that is all too rare — respect.

It was not Le Carre's case, nor is it of this article, that violence and terror do not deserve a response. Nor did he support the call for Rushdie's murder or the book's ban. The question was, and continues to be, of the larger ethos by which certain citizens are painted as the other. It cannot be the case, for example, that a gau rakshak or a crazed gunman in an American school is the product of his upbringing, mental health and the various failures of state and society while the barbarity of someone from a minority community is because of his "radicalisation" and

The values of the French Revolution and the French Republic have found echoes Constitution. A basic corollary of liberty, equality and fraternity is that unlike fundamentalists, the states that adhere to these values do not in law (and, ideally, in culture) differentiate between citizens according to their religious or political beliefs. When those principles erode, the results can be devastating: Just look at what has happened to Pakistan, particularly after the reign of Zia-ul Haq, and what is happening in India today.

aakash.joshi@expressindia.com



Saving the public university

The first step is governance reform for more autonomy and accountability

Shailendra Raj Mehta

THERE ARE 55 central universities, the crown jewels of the Indian academic system. They are endowed with prime land, extensive funding from the central government and there is a long line of students waiting to get in. Here, faculty have security of tenure, and their job fully protects free speech, so they are the most vocal among academics. Among them are the handful of real universities in the country - vishwavidyalayas or universitas, that focus on all the major branches of learning, where cross-disciplinary research, so necessary to solve complex modern prob-

lems, can genuinely take place. Yet, they are in turmoil. In recent years, six vice-chancellors (VCs) of central universities have been sacked. Another five have been charge-sheeted. Some of these institutions have seen their glory days, yet increasingly, the energy is going out of the system. The locus of innovation has switched to new and innovative private universities. However, not a single new private university has so far been able to create a true broad-based viswavidyalaya with the full range of humanities, social and natural sciences and the professional disciplines. Therefore, to save academia in India, central universities must be saved.

It is tempting to blame the problems on a few bad apples in the leadership. But if the problems are so pervasive, then the challenges must be systemic. The response of academics who are witness to this decline is to blame a lack of autonomy. But in reality, it is a crisis of accountability.

Each of the 55 central universities is governed by a separate Act. While there are differences, the broad structure is as follows. The Visitor of the university is the President of India. On his behalf, the Ministry of Education recommends an eminent citizen as the chancellor, whose role is mostly ceremonial. The Ministry also constitutes a search committee that typically interviews multiple candidates and comes up with a list of three candidates. From this list, the government picks a VC. Separately, and through a different process, a senate or court is chosen. Technically, this is the governing council (GC) of the university, which will usually have nominees from various stakeholders, including the government, faculty, students, and citizens. The university's work is carried out by the executive council chaired by the VC, who also appoints the registrar. A separate finance committee is constituted, headed by a chief finance officer, who is often a civil servant on secondment to the university. This arrangement is designed to maintain financial checks and balances.

But this is where the major problems begin. The GC has no say in the selection of the VC. Further, the GC typically meets only once a year. If any work gets done in this meeting, it is a miracle, since the GC of Delhi University, called the Senate, for example, has 475 members, probably a world record. In theory, the VC presents and gets approval for the annual plan of the university from the GC. In practice, after

much grandstanding on both sides, the plan is rubberstamped. After that, throughout the year, there is minimal direction or monitoring from the GC, which may or may not meet again. There are typically no quarterly updates, and there is little oversight. Under the circumstances, the high number of failures should not come as a surprise, since effectively, there is minimal governance.

By contrast, the new IIM Bill very sensibly limits the GC to at most 19 members. They are expected to be eminent citizens, with broad social representation and an emphasis on alumni. This GC chooses the director, provides overall strategic direction, raises resources, and continuously monitors his or her performance. Within the guidelines provided by the GC, the director has full autonomy but also full accountability.

This arrangement is based on the best global examples, including Harvard. Today, most people do not know that Harvard too was a sarkari university until 150 years ago, that was dying a slow death. It is a fascinating story that I have documented elsewhere. When its governance was reformed by creating an empowered board comprising its most successful alumni, this small provincial university soon became worldclass. The reason was simple: No one knew or cared more about the university than its alumni board members. They brought dynamism, oversight, and resources. The creation of a journey to world-class status began with the governance reform.

Accordingly, the governing councils of all central universities, IITs, and all other central institutions, need to be restructured by an Act of Parliament. The most eminent alumni of these institutions must be brought on their boards. IIT Delhi has just announced a billion-dollar endowment campaign. This campaign is being spearheaded by its most successful alumni, over a dozen of whom have created Unicorns, or billion-dollar companies. If these individuals are cordially invited to join its GC, not only will this money be raised quickly, but it will also be spent well. The dynamism and exposure that these alumni will bring to the table will promptly lead to world-class innovations.

The warrior-poet Rahim, who knew a lot about administration, famously said -eksaadhe sab sadhai, sab saadhe pat jaaya, Rahiman mool hi seenchiye, phoole phale aghai. If you accomplish one big thing, everything gets accomplished, but if you try and fix everything at once, then nothing gets fixed; as in plants, water the roots, and the whole plant prospers and yields flowers and fruits. To allow central universities, the IITs and other public institutions to truly blossom, we need to reform their Governance. There is no time to waste.

The writer is president and director of MICA, Ahmedabad. Views are personal

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VICTIMS' REDRESS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Justice as Relief' (IE, December 24). The Indian criminal justice system is not been victim-oriented. The recent judgment by the Delhi High court can go a long way in ensuring that victims are not ignored and their grievances are adequately addressed. The major highlight of this judgement is Victim Impact reports (VIR) for determining the amount of compensation, which will be done by the Delhi state legal service authority (DLSA). The accused will be required to compensate as per his capacity to be determined by the DLSA. However, it would have been more feasible for the victims if they themselves are allowed to make VIR before the courts or at least heard directly before the court.

Sarachana Sisodia

BJP DEFEATED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Message from J&K' (IE, December 24). The DDC poll outcome has taken the wind out of the BJP's sails. Despite the saffron party's attempts to demonise and intimidate the regional mainstream parties' leaders. The abrogation of Article 370 has brought opponents together, which the BJP didn't count on. The BJP must realise that its unilateral and anti-democratic policies in Kashmir are counterproductive and take corrective measures.

Deepak Singhal Noida

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• NONE LIKE ATALJI: **PRABHAT JHA**

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BEDI IS RIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Bedi wants his name removed from Kotla stand over Jaitley statue' (IE, December 24). That legendary spinner and former captain Bishan Singh Bedi is peeved with the DDCA's decision on the Arun Jaitley statue makes perfect sense. Bedi is dead right in his protest. If this is allowed by the DDCA, similar requests may pour in from other state sports federations too. While the voters are against the statue culture, the new project to install statues of ex-presidents of sports Federations would tarnish the image of not only our stadiums but even our country. Such a move should be nipped in the bud.

N Viswanathan, Coimbatore

Classifieds

PERSONAL

My,daughter's passport number-N647421 has My,name wrongly-recorded-as Sapna, while my correctname.is Sapna Sharma, Sapna Sharma wife/of Vineet Kumar Sharma resident-10, Naval-Vihar, Colony, behind Honda Agency, Murari Nagar, Khurja Bulandshahr,Uttar-Pradesh

0040558658-10

I,Sureshmon Koovackadu Chacko S/o Chacko Antony R/o Flat-No.45D, Block-B-5, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sector-34, Noida(U.P.) have change my name to Suresh Chacko for all future purposes.

0040558596-1

I,Minimol Ignatious W/o Suresh Chacko R/o Flat-No.45D, Block-B-5, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sector-34, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Mini Suresh for all future purposes.

0040558596-2

I,Dalbir Singh S/o,Paramjeet Singh Gill R/o-Plot-No.24, B-Block, Street-16, Kaushik Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Dalbir Singh Gill. 0040558653-4

I.Baswarai S/O Chandrashekar. R/o 2-4-55, Narayanapur, Gurmitkal(Rural), Yadgir Gurmitkal, Karnataka-585214. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Avik Kairav. 0070725068-1

I. hitherto known as Padavala Nagaraju, S/O Syam Sundar Rao, R/O G2 Block 1 City Side, 4/361, OMR Kandhanchayadi Perungudi, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu 600096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Padavala Deva Nagaraju.

0120010770-1

I, hitherto known as Divyansh Prakash Srivastava, S/O Devesh Prakash Srivastava R/O E-501, Orchid, Valley of flowers, Thakur village, near evershine dream park, Kandivali east, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known Divynsh P Srivastav. 0120010769-1

I. Yogesh Kumar S/o.No 14622662W Ex Hav/ ACP-1 Saroj Kumar Kaushik, R/o B-30, Sanjay Enclave, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-59, have changed my name to Yogesh for, all purposes.

0040558648-5

I. Vidhi Manglik alias Vidhi Keshav Gupta W/o Keshav Gupta,R/o 103, Second-Floor, Vaishali.Pitampura. Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Vidhi Gupta. 0040558658-7

I, Vibha Vats D/O Dhiraj Kumar Vats, W/O Sanjeev Kumar Sharma. R/o I-171, Street No-13,Lalita Park,Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi.Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as VIBHA SANJEEV SHARMA.

I, T.R. Anil S/o Thundiparambil Raghavan R/o C-1/63 near Dwarka Madhu Vihar. Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, has Thundiparambil Raghavan 0070725022-1

I, Surendra Singh s/o Kirtan Singh, R/o-31/991, DDA-Flats, Madangir, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Surender Singh Rawat, permanently.

0040558658-2 I,Arav Yadav, S/o-Rishi Raj

Yadav, R/o H.No.206, Vijayant Enclave.Sector-29. G.B.Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name to Arav Raj for all future purposes. 0040558648-3

I, Sastika Das D/O Bishnu Pada Das,W/O Chayan Benerjee R/o NABODAL CLUB, 2 NO BENGAL CHEMICAL, Barasat(m), North 24 Parganas, West Bengal-700127, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Swastika Banerjee.

I, Sanjay Gupta S/O Gauri Shanker Gupta R/O.H.NO-5708, Gali.No-80,Regarpura KarolBagh, Delhi-110005, changed my nameto Sanjay Kumar Gupta. 0040558653-1 I, SWETA SINGH,W/O.VATSAL

KUMAR SINGH, ADD-FLAT.NO.5B/526, AFNOE APARTMENTS,PLOT.NO.11,SEC-7,DWARKA, SOUTH/WEST DELHI-110075, changed my name to SHWETA SINGH, 0040558653-3 permanently.

I, SUDIPTA PAL S/O SUDARSHAN CHANDRA PAL, R/o P6 G.C Ghosh Road, South Dumdum ,(M) North 24 Parganas, West Bengal-700048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as SUDIPTO PAUL.

0070725063-1

I, SUBASH CHAND S/O SUDARSHAN KUMAR, R/o T-235.E-2/2B. ROAD.NO-20. BALJEET-NAGAR, DELHI-110008,have changed my name to SUBHASH CHAND.

I, BHUPENDRA SINGH KASVA S/O KARAN SINGH, R/O LILLI KA RASTA, HALDEENA, MALA KHERA, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN 301406, declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly writter as BHUPENDRA SINGH KASBA in my 10TH Class Certificate no-1108903. The actual name of Mine is BHUPENDRA SINGH KASVA, which may be amended accordingly.

0070725057-1

110095, have changed my name to Hasan Zain, permanently. I, Gurbax S/O Saran shah Singh R/O H.No-661, 2nd-Floor Dr **I,** Rita Singh,W/o-Rajinder Singh.R/o-C-83, Neelamber

0040558658-9

0040558573-1

0040558658-1

0040558648-1

0040558653-8

0040558658-8

0070725075-1

0040558626-3

0040558653-6

Apartment Opp.Sainik Vihar,

Pitampura, New Delhi-110034

marriage name, both in use are

Have Rita Jairath before-

one and the same person.

I. Rishi Mishra S/o Brahm Dev

Mishra R/o-D-325, Second Floor

, Front-Side, Nawada Housing-

Delhi-110059, have changed my

father's name from Sub.Brahm

Mishra, for all future purposes.

Sub.Brahm Dev Mishra and

Brahm Dev Mishra one of the

I, Rinku s/o Bachey Lal R/o C-

10,DDA-Flats, Garhi East of

Kanojia, permanently.

Kailash, New Delhi-110065, have

changed my name to Rinku Lal

I, Rekha Rani Malhotra, W/o Shri

. Virendra Kumar Malhotra, R/o-

Ghaziabad.(U.P.).have changed

my name to Rekha Malhotra.

, Ramesh Kumar S/O Shanker

Cinema, Sunder Nagri, Delhi-93

have changed my son's name

Kashyap (DOB 03.11.2006) for

I. RAVINDER SINGH BHATIA s/o

SCHOOL N.H.2. FARIDABAD

I, Praveen Kumar, S/o Dharam

Appt., Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-

110085, have changed my name

HARYANA-121001, have

changed my name to

Beer, R/o A-12, Chetak

I. Pramod Kunwar S/o Ram

Bahadur Kunwar R/o H.No-3.

Street No-9/2, Shakit Vihar

Meethapur Jait Pur, Jaitpur,

South Delhi-110044, declare

has been wrongly Witten as

Parmod Kunwar and Sarala

Kunwar in my minor son

education certificate The

Kunwar and Sarla Kunwar,

which may be amended

accordingly.

Prakash Kaur.

actual name of my is Pramod

I, Prakash Kumari W/O Gurbax

Dr.Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-

I, Sheela Rani Gupta R/o 30,

Nagar Delhi-110009 have

Gupta for all purposes.

S/o Radha Mohan

HNO.251.

purposes.

purposes.

Tagore Park, Dr. Mukheriee

changed my name to Sheela

I, Pradeep Kumar Shrivastav,

Prasad H No 76-B Gali No 4

name to Pradeep Kumar.

Laxmi-Market, Laxmi-Nagar,

I. PRAMOD KUMAR AGGARWAL

S/O ASHOK AGARWAL, R/O

BFF,GALINO.12C,RAJENDRA

110041.CHANGED MY NAMETO

PARK, NANGLOI, DELHI-

PRAMOD AGARWAL.

I, No-4191580Y Hav Beer

Bahadur Yadav S/o Satvdeo

Biltihra Road RS, UP-221715, in

written as Kausalya Devi which

that my wife's correct name as

is her incorrect name, inform

Kaushalya Devi for all future

2/146, Geeta Colony, Delhi-

I. Manish Kumar S/o.No

14622662W Hav/ ACP-1,S/o

30.Saniav Enclave Uttam-

my name to Manish for,all

I. Kishaver Niazi.w/o Muinul

G,Dilshad Colony,Delhi-

I, KAVYA SWAMY A D/O MR.

ARJUN SWAMY, R/O A-57, D

BLOCK, VASANT VIHAR, NEW

DELHI-110057, HAVE CHANGED

MY NAME TO KAVYA SWAMY.

I, JYOTI KUMAR RAI S/O RAM LAL

JANAKPURI, DELHI-110058, have

I. IYOTI.W/O-Bhaskar Sinha R/O-

Kunj,Sector-62,Noida, Gautam

Budh Nagar, 201307, U.P. have

changed my name to JYOTI

SINHA for all purposes.

I. Hitherto known as Shilpa

Kumari Sadh, W/o Nimesh

Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-

and shall hereafter be known

110051,have changed my name

Kumar Sadh,R/o-11/17

Street.No.1,West Azad-

as Shilpa Sadh.

502,Plot No.C-58/18,Sharad

RAI, H.NO-A2A/2, TYPE-1,

changed my name to JYOTI

TELECOM-COLONY.

KUMAR.

to Kishwar Jahan,

permanently.

Saroj Kumar Kaushik, R/o,B-

Nagar, Delhi-59, have changed

Hasan Niazi,R/o G-54/5,Block-

110095, have changed my name

0040558648-6

0040558658-6

0040558648-2

0040558653-7

0040558648-4

to Manju Bala, permanently.

my service record my wife's

Yadav R/o Rousada Ballia,

name has been wrongly

Delhi-110092, have changed my

110009, changed my name to

Singh R/O H.No-661, 2nd-Floor

that name of mine and my wife

RAVINDER SINGH.

to Parveen Sahni.

RANJEET SINGH, H.NO-2E-213-D,

WARD NO-11, NEAR-DAYANAND

from Anubhav to Anubhav

all future purposes.

Lal R/O K-438, Near Gagan

1162, Vivekanand Nagar,

same person.

Complex.Uttam-Nagar.New

Dev Mishra to Brahm Dev

Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-110009, changed my name to Gurbax Shah Singh. 0040558626-2 I. Geeta Raghay.W/o Ashok Kumar R/o-289, AE-Block, Patel

I, Hasan Zain Niazi,s/o Muinul

G,Dilshad Colony,Delhi-

Hasan Niazi, R/o G-54/5, Block-

Garden, Mohan Garden, N.Delhi-59.have changed my name to Geeta Devi.

0040558653-5

0040558658-5

I, Charanjeet Arora, s/o Thakur Dass,R/O Charanjit Arora NGR-072, DLF New Town Heights, Sector-90,Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122505,have changed my name to Charanjit Arora.

0040558648-7

I. Avrita Kaur Chadha.W/O Jasveen shah Singh R/O.H.No-661, 2nd Floor Dr Mukherjee-Nagar Delhi-110009, changed my name to Avrita Kaur.

0040558626-1

0040558626-4

I. Aleyamma Abraham W/O-Abraham Mathew Mavanal R/O-Flat.No.486, DDA Flats.Pocket-3. Sector 19,Dwarka,New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Jiji Abraham for all, future 0040558626-6 purposes.

I, ASHOK KUMAR AGGARWAL S/O RAM PRATAP AGARWAI R/O 2/29,SUNDER-NAGAR, GOPAL-NAGAR, SURAKHPUR-ROAD, NAJAFGARH, DELHI-110043. CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK AGARWAL.

0040558599-1

Nimmi Khurana W/o Sh Dinesh Khurana R/o 11061, Doriwalan, East Park Road, Karol Bagh, S.O. Central Delhi, Delhi-110005. have changed my name Nimmi Khurana to Sonia Khurana for all purpose. 0040558571-1

Neeraj Tanwar S/O, Ramdhan R/o 1137,gali No. 2,phase 2, laxman Vihar, Gurgaon have changed my name to Neerai for 0040558617-1

I Harish Chandra S/O Rama Nand R/O RZD1A/48C, Gali No.5, Mahavir Enclave, Part-1, New Delhi-110045. have changed my Minor Son's name from JATIN to SACHIN for all 0040558601-1 purposes.

I Chaman S/O, Bijender R/o 280 Kishorpur(18) Palwal Haryana Pin 121102 have changed my name to Chaman Dagar for all 0040558603-1 purposes.

I, Ram Dass S/O Baba Harpal Dass, R/o 11/3,49 Mishra Building, Near Station. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh-244001, declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Ram Dass and Baba Harpal Dass in my Pan card no-EFUPD0136M. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Ramdas Walia and Ravi Pal Walia, which may be amended accordingly.

0070725060-1

0040558489-1

I Deepali Bhatia W/o Late Mahesh Bhatia R/o WZ-586A, Gali No.1. Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Near Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 have lost my all Original documents of abovesaid Property. Finders may contact at Mobile No.9711188083.

LOST & FOUND

0040558572-

I, ANKITA GOYAL D/o Narender goyal R/o-B-301/H st.no-9, Ashok-nagar, shahdara, Delhi-93, have lost my original certificate/marksheet class-10th(2015) Rollno-8657443 class-12th(2017) Rollno-9619912, CBSE-DELHI.

0040558626-9

I, Lost the original-allotment letter.plot buyer agreement dated-12-09-1984, paymentreceipts & possession-letter by DLF, of my property No.T-7/21,DLF Phase-3, Gurugram, Haryana-122002. Finder please contact:Nikkhhil Arora, 9999670088. 0040558648-8

I, MONA D/o-Vijay kumar R/o-B-299 st.no-10, Ashok 0040558671-1 I. Maniu w/o Krishan Kumar R/o nagar,Shahdara,Delhi-93,have lost my original 110031, have changed my name certificate/Marksheet class-10th(2015) Rollno-8658082 0040558658-4 class-12th(2017) RIIIno-9640007,CBSE-DELHI.

0040558626-8

L Parveen kumar. S/o Banarsi Dass, House.No.683P, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana, Declare that my above Property papers(Map senction letter.Re-Allotmentletter, Deed of Conveyance & GPA), have been lost at Narela, Delhi on 21/12/20. Founder please contact-9711047471. 0040558648-9

Lost Original-Property Regd.Documents No.1525 Add Book.No.1, Volume No.3115, Page-156-159 Regd.On-12/07/1999 in the office of SV IV between Anil Kumar Bhasin and Tripta Rani Kapoor Property.No.1/7345 St.No.7, East Gorakh-Park, Shahdara Delhi-110032, founder may inform Mohini Madan, W/o Yash Madan#8076885462.

0040558653-10

Lost my Original Perpetual Lease Deed of Plot.No.H-1190, Narela Industrial Complex, Delhi-110040. Finder contact-Rajiv Kumar Goel. Mob.9811049265.

0040558653-9

0040558658-12

Lost original-Allotment Letter and Receipt of Plot.No.B-B36/18(ID No.10302),TDI City, Kundli, Haryana, Finder Contact:Manju Bala Makhija,w/o Vinay-Makhija, R/o-9/10, Vikas-Colony, Near Mukherjee-Nagar, Delhi, Mob#9811048053.

0040558653-2

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Required (FRESHER/EXPERIENCED) Manager (Event, Hoarding, Digital Media) Clerk, Field Boy with D.L. #9315933605. 0040558100-3

PUBLIC NOTICE

onversion of the aforesaid flat from lease ree hold in DDA, The original DDA docum Demand latter etc of the above said flat h ost. An N.C.R 830153/2020 dated: 21/12/ ost. An N.C. R 830153/2020 dated: 21/12/2020 it is effect has been lodged with Delhi Police, An Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having an bipection or found in possession of origina focuments, may write/contact with above namer secons at above address/Phone N. 981045588 within 15 days from the date of publication of this toolice. The person calaming any right, interest to this property, can be proposed to the property of the property

PUBLIC NOTICE

of Sh.Chander Bhan Aggarwal, resident o Delhi-110033 & (2) SH. ANIL KUMAR JAIN son of Sh. Shri Pal Jain, resident of JAIN son of Sh. Shri Pal Jain, resident of D-17, C.C. Colony, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, who is negotiating with S. Gurpreet Singh @ S. Gurpreet Singh, R/o H.No.7, Road No.84, West Punjaibi Bagh, Delhi, to purchase the Northern-Eastern Portion having land area measuring 302 sq.yds. out of total land area measuring 604 sq.yds., with its roof rights upto sky, of Property bearing No.B-129/2. situated at Wazirpur Industrial Area. 29/2 situated at Wazirour Industrial Area Delhi, who claims the absolute owner of

Delhi, who claims the absolute owner of the said entire property. All persons having any claim or demand or rights in respect of or against the above said property or any part or portion thereof by way of Agreement to sell, inheritance, share, sale, transfer, assignment, private mortgage, gift, exchange, possession covenant, easement or otherwise owsoever, is hereby required to make the ame known in writing with documentar same known in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned at my office within ten days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person(s), if any, will be treated as null and void and will not have any legal & any other sanctity and not binding on my clients and the proposed transaction of purchase of the said property shall be completed. the said property shall be completed ithout any reference to such claim(s).

Parveen Garg (Advocate) RU-26, Pitampura, New Delhi-34 Mob. 9810039884

PUBLIC NOTICE

and immovable properties and also from Mic Gujral Brothers at W-582, Maya Puri Phase-II New Delhi with immediate effect because of their constant lighting at home and ousde and loss of my clients mental peace, harassment, forture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my clients. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibilities therefor. My clients shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public at large that my clients (1) Shri Vicky Baja S/o Shri KL. Bajaj and (2) Smt. Madhu Bajaj W/o Shri Vicky Bajaj both R/O p-23B, Rajdhani Park, Nangloi, Delhi 110041 have severed all their relations 110041 have severed all their relations socially, financially in all respects with their daughter namely Ruppal Baja because she is not obedient to my clients since long time and also debarred and disowned her from inheriting any movable and immovable properties owned by my above said clients. Any person dealing with her will dro sn at his-her/their nown risk.

New Delhi-110058

PUBLIC NOTICE My Client- Ramesh Chand R/o RD-72, Ravidas Nagar, Narela Mamoor Pur, Delhi-110040 severed all relations and lebar/disinherited his son- Om Bir Singh from his all movable, immovable properties due to his extreme hostile behaviour. My client will not be responsible for OM Bir Singh's acts.
Sd/- VINOD KUMAR MANGAL

Chamber No. 680, Ist & IInd

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to public at large that my client SHRI HANSRA o Láte Shri Luna Ram R/ 5/0 Late Shin Luna Ram R/C 5665/9, Regarpura, Karo Bagh, New Delhi-110005 lave disowned his daughte OVELEEN@CHARU from III his moveable and mmoveable estate. My clien and his estate shall not be responsible in any manne for any act/deed done by is daughter any perso ealing with them shall dea lealing with them shall dea at his/her own risk & cos hereof and further shall be lealt with as per the law.

AMIT BATRA (Advocate) 26R/1 Desh Bandhu Gupta Roa Karol Bagh, New Delhi-11000 Contact No : 986806619

PUBLIC NOTICE his Notice is hereby given to general publ at Sh. Manoj Nandwani & Smt. Jaan ohira, who claimed to be owner and ossession of Entire First Floor (without ro ghts) along with one mezzanine between fi oor & second floor Portion of Prope flöor & second floor Portion of Properly No.127, area measuring 206.67 Sq. Yards, Harsh Whar, Pitampura, New Delhi, whose owner was their Mother namely as Smt. Leela Mandwani by witue of Sale Deed dated-06.05.2000, after their Mother Death this property goes to in their favour as per Hindu Succession Law and as per the ownership right Sh. Manoj Nandwani & Smt. Jaarwi Rohira agree to Sell afforseaid property to Sh. Mukesh Goyal and now Sh. Mukesh Goyal and now Sh. Mukesh Goyal and a sproached to I ICID lamk Ltd. for finanched sassistance and therefore shall be mortgaged produced to local balk tub, on litable sesistance and therefore shall be mortgag ith the said Bank. All person's having a laim regarding in respect of the said prope r any part, are hereby requested to notify t ame in writing to undersigned with support ocumentary evidence at the address mentilow within 10 days from the date ublication of this notice, failing which claim, ny, of such persons will be consider to hav been waived and/or, abandoned and our clier shall proceed with the disbursement of loa. against the said property and subsequen reation of Mortgage in respect thereof

reation of Mortgage in respect thereof.
Sunil Parsad (Advocate)
For Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1
New Delhi-110048

is Notice is hereby given to general bloom of that Sh. Pranav Sikka S/o-Shrveen Sikka, who claimed to be ner and in possession of Secondor "said floor" Part of Propert Floor Said floor Part of Propert Bearing No. 199, colony known as SE Nagar (SBI Colony), Paschim Vihal New Delhi, whose owner was hi father namely as Sh. Parveen Sikka b virtue of Regd. Family Will dated 29.04.2014, after his father death thi erty goes to in his favour as p I. Family Will dated-29.04.20 and as per the ownership right S Pranav Sikka S/o-Sh. Parveen Sikl shish Goel & Smt. Preksha Goel. person's having any claim regarding respect of the said propert nership right or any part, are here equested to notify the same in writi o undersigned with supporti

PUBLIC NOTICE

and/or, abandoned and our client sha be purchase above said property. Sunil Parsad (Advocate Ch.No.401,Saket Lawyer's Bloc Saket Court, New Delhi-11001

ate of publication of this notice, failir

vhich claim, if any, of such persons w

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it know to all that my client Mrs. Sudes Chawla W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar R/ 152, Vinoba Vihar, Jaipur has severed a relations from Sh. Vikas Chawla (Son Ms. Preeti Chawla (Daughter-in Law, their minor sons Yuvra) Chawla, Kuwe Chawla and has also severed all relation from her daughter Ms. Rekha Kaur W. Baljeet Singh R/o C 10/2, 2nd Floor Sec 15, Rohini & has also debarred/ disowne them from all movable/ immovab properties which belong to my client. Ar properties wind roboting to my client. Any person dealing with above said persons shall do so at his own risk and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for any often act/conduct.

Swati Sharma (Advocate)
Ch. No. 804, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of my client, Mr. Dhruv Choudhary ("Owner") of Built up First Floor of Property no. 66, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Rect. no. 28, Killa no. 12, situated in the Radhey Shunn Park in the area of Village. Killa no. 12, situated in the Radhey Shyam Park, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110051 by virtue of Giff beed dated 14.10-2020 executed by Mr. Narender Kumar who was owner through Will dated 18.02.2008 executed by Mrs. Shyama Devi. Now, my client intends to mortgage the said property to SHFL. If any person (s) having any objection regarding the same about the said Property / ownership rights/Title Or claim, please raise objection with documentary proof within 07 days of Publication at the below address.

Mohd. Khairul Hussain Advocate Chamber no. 214, 2nd, Floor, Old Lawyers Chamber, DELHI High Court,Sher Shah Road, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE his is for information of general public that my lient, Shri Shiv Pal Jha, S/o Sh. Babu Rarr ha, holding membership No.482 of Dhruva CGHS Ltd., who is the absolute owner and is in the possession of the property being Freehold Society Flat No. 30S, Second Floor, Plot No. 4 Dhruva Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092, has misplaced and lost the Original Allotment letter & Possession Letter issued by Dhruva CGHS Ltd. in Favour of Ms Reena Dogra. That an NGR dated 23.12.2020, has been lodged with Delhi Police, Crime Branch. If any person/s finds the above stated document, it is requested to hand over as same to the undersigned. And if any person/s has any claim whatsoever with respect to have saved property, helshe is required to sover stated property, helshe is required to sover stated property, helshe is required to sover the property. e stated property, he/she is required above stated property, heishe is required to give notice of the same to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication hereof, together with copies of document forming basis of such claim, falling which i shall be concluded that there is no claim whatscever against the above said property and my client can proceed with his intender object pertaining to the above stated property. Namrata Ranga Advocate Namrata Ranga Advocate C-117B, Rama Park, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059, M:09818947341 adv.namrata.ranga@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

nformation is given to general public arge that my client Smt. Himans sharma of Freehold Residential Plot n large that my cient Sint. Intimation.
Sharma of Freehold Residential Plot no. 152-A area measuring 50 sq., vjds out of Kharsa no. 204min Situated at Village Chandrawall Alias Shahdara in the abadi of Jagat Puri Mandoli Road Illaqa Shahdara Delhi. By virtue Sale Deed dated 07.06.2019 as Doc no. 3308 Vol no. 3049 Page no. 104-112 SR IVA initially Smt. Kuntal Kumari w Sh. Gian Chand Sharma owner by Plot no. 152A area measuring 100 sq. vjds. by virtue of General Power of Altorney dated Control of Sharma of Chandra Sharma died on 30.10.2013 her husband Sh. Gian Chand Sharma died on 19.05. 1988 leaving behind following the legal heirs namely Sh. Madhu Sudan Sharma scucited Sale Deed date. sharma executed Sale Deed date I neavour of Smrt. Himansh Sharma w/o Sh. Tarun Sharma and Bui on First floor without roof rights sold to b Smt. Ladlee Pandey w/o Sh. Panka Kumar Pandey and the same property oling to be financed by AAVA! INANOLERS LIMITED (Formerly know as AU Housing Finance Ltd.) Branci Ray end Place New Delhi. I any person(s) have any objection(s) or

If any person(s) have any objection(s) claim(s) with respect to the right, title interest in the Said Property then contaus within 7 days from the date Publication of this notice and or the sam the undersigned if found by any one Sd/- NAVEEN KUMAR VERM

F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziaba

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to informed that my client Mr. Vipin Kochar son late H.L. Kochar resident C-59, Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, Neither he is owner of Property No. C-59, Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, nor has he ever mortgaged this property to Ravinder Singh alias Moldi S/o Seva Singh reisident of 13 NWA club Road, Punjabi Bagh Extension New Delhi and he has Bagh Extension New Delhi, and he ha Bagh Extension New Delhi, and he has never been given any rights with respect to property to anyone. That the publication made by Ravindra Singh alias Moldi, in regard to the said property in the metropolis edition of The dian Express newspaper nursday, 10 December 2020 Ne elhi, is unture, baseless and faction y clients revoke this publish

By publishing this type of information Ravinder Singh alias Moldi has not onl misleads the public at large but ha

Advocate
Enrol. No. D/2133/04
Ch. No. 833, Lawyer's Chamber
Dwarka Court Complex,
New Delhi 110075
Mob. 9899328383

PUBLIC NOTICE

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my clients (1) SH. RAJEEV KUMAR GARG son of late Sh. Satish Chand Garg, and (2)
MRS. MEENAKSHI GARG wife of Sh. MRS. MEENAKSHI GARG wife of Sh. Rajeev Kumar Garg, both resident of 46, Maulana Azad GHS, Pitampura, Delhi, who is negotiating with S. Gurpreet Singh @ S. Gurpreet Singh Sabharaval S/o late Sh. Satinder Singh, R/o H.No.7, Road No.84, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, to purchase the Northern-Western Portion purchase the Northern-Western Portlon having land area measuring 302 sq.yds. out of total land area measuring 604 sq.yds., with its roof rights upto sky, of Property bearing No.B-29/2, situated at Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi, who claims the absolute owner of the said entire property.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All persons having any claim or demand o All persons naving any claim or demand or rights in respect of or against the above said property or any part or portion thereof by way of Agreement to sell, inheritance, share, sale, transfer, assignment, private mortgage, gift, exchange, possession, covenant, easement or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known, in writing with documentary. same known in writing with documentary same known in writing with occumentary proof to the undersigned at my office within ten days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person(s), if any, will be treated as null and void and will not have any legal & any other sanctity and not binding on my clients and the proposed transaction of purchase of the said property shall be completed. the said property shall be complete without any reference to such claim(s). Parveen Garg (Advocate) RU-26, Pitampura, New Delhi-34 Mob. 9810039884

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is herby informed Mis Talwar & Associates through as partners Shrt R.K. Annad Sio Late Shri Roshan Lal Anand and Shri Chetan R. Annad Sio Shri Roshan Lal Anand and Shri Resident of C-70, NDSE Part-2, New Delhi-110049 is the sole owner of Property, No-14 Block 3, Jhandewalan, Block E Scheme measuring 217-S Sq vig (Mix Land Use) Ground Floor. Shop or small workshop upper floors: Residential and for office purpose by vitue of lease deed executed on 22.9.1972 and partnership dated 17.11.2008. The original documents such as (i) lease deed of polt No. 14 Block 3, Jhandewalan Block E Scheme, New Delhi (ii) Mutation Letter wherein selege permission was granted by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter ND Si6(15)56 dated by lessor vide letter

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all the members of public that my client is intending to purchase the dwelling unit on the part of the Uppe Ground Floor of the property bearing No. 73, Block 'M' Greater Kailash - II, New Delhi, togethe with proportionate share in the land underneath the said dwelling house from Shri Rainesh Pathak S/o Late Shri Chaman Lal Pathak and Shri Manu Pathak, S/o Shri Rainesh Pathak, both residents o A - 57, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 21, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, who claim to have misplaced the original sale deed dated 05.07.1989 in respec of the said property issued in favou of their father/ grandfather, Late

Sh. Chaman Lal Pathak. Anyone claiming any right, title o property, in any manne whatsoever, must immediately along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim.

If no such claim is received within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any right, title or interest in the abov mentioned property and even someone has any claim, he/ she has given up the same.

For Kalpa Lav Rishi Sehgal, Advocate 490, Lawyers' Chambers, Block - II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi - 110003 E-mail: thekalpalaw@gmail.com

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

DYCE-C1-BPL-03-2020 Dated: 19.12.2020 E-Tender on behalf of the Presiden

of India acting through Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, West Central Railway, Bhopal for the following work (Single Packet system):-Tender No.:Dy.CE(C)-I/ BPL/04/2020, Brief Description: Protection works on Important bridge Tawa (Dn) by Gabion/stone pitching and other miscellaneous works in connection with SQL-BGTA patch doubling project, Approx tender value: ₹ 195.38 lakh, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,47,700/-Completion period: 06 (Six) months including harvest & monsoon period Due date of Closing of tender 11.01.2021 at 15.00 hrs. . The complete information of above E-Tender is available on http://www. irepa.gov.in and also placed on the Notice Board of office of the Dy.CE(C)-I/West Central Railway Bhopal. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above lender. Corrigendum if any issued in connection with tender, will be available on above mentioned website only. Dy.Chief Engineer (Constn.)-I

West Central Railway, Bhopai रल पात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं मुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

BSES

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा (म.प्र.) 452001 (जनकार्य एवं उद्यान विभाग)

विस्तृत वेबसाईट http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

-::निविदा विज्ञप्ति::-निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदा ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है, उल्लेखित कार्य की निविदा का

क्रं.	ऑन लाईन पोर्टल	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	UAD_ 120087_1	Selection of Bus Operators for Bus Transport System in Khandwa (on cluster basis) of Madhya Pradesh on "Operate and Maintain Basis" For Cluster Number 3 (Three)	2,20,000/-	5,000/-	84 माह

: 08/01/2021 (प्रातः 10:30 बजे) नेविदा संबंधी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाईट http:www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकत है। निविदा में यदि किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन किया जाता है तो वह समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नर्ह

SEARCH FOR MISSING



MARIYAM MATHEW

Mariyam Mathew D/o Alexander Mathew R/o H. No. 28/274, Arjan Vihar, Dhaula Kuan, Delhi Cantt.. New Delhi has been missing since 15.12.2020 from Hanuman Mandir, Vande Matram Marg Bus Stand, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 36A dated 17.12.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Mandir Marg,

girl (depicted in the photo), Namely:

under:-Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Identification: Burn mark on left hand wrist, Wearing : Black colour top & jacket and blue colour jeans and blue colour shoes in feet.

cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in Phone:

011-24368638, 24368641 New Delhi Distt., Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-23366730, 23364100 DP/176/NDD/2020

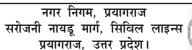
APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male namely Surender Kumar Sinha S/o Rajendra Kumar Sinha R/o Jhuggi Yamuna Khadar, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi Age: About 58 years, Height: Approx. 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Build: Thin, Face: Oval, Identification: black mole on nose, wearing blue colour pant,

17.12.2020 infront of ward no. 14, Emergency L.B.S. Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 66-A dated 17.12.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi. The deadbody has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of L.B.S. Hospital, Delhi.

following address or telephone nos.



ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज में supply, fixing, installation & commissioning of Air Quality monitor equipment के कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों के माध्यम से ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है।निविदा डाले जाने की तिथि

क्रं.सं	निविदा का विवरण	दिनांक	समय
1.	निविदा उपलोड किये जाने की तिथि	26.11.2020	अपरान्ह 02:00 बजे से
2.	2. निविदा डाले जाने की अन्तिम तिथि		अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे तक
3.	टेक्निकल बिड खोले जाने की तिथि	11.01.2021	अपरान्ह 04:00 बजे

निविदा का अन्य विवरण ई-टेण्डर की वेबसाइट http://www.etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

1561-PRO/20 24/12/20

(Hajfkine)

सं.डी.: 470/पर्या./2020

(उत्तम कुमार वर्मा) पर्यावरण अभियन्ता

Tel. No.: 022-24100478

e-mail: procurementcell@vaccinehaffkine.com Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai-400 012 (INDIA)

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 23.12.2020 MANAGING Director (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio

Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope system from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Description	Pre Bid Meeting	and Preparation of bid & bid submission	Bid Opening
1	E-3233		04.01.2021 At 11.00 am	From 28.12.2020 10.00 am to 13.01.2021 up to 1400 hrs	13.01.2021

site https://mahatenders.gov.in

For e-tendering help/information, please contact. Web site: https://mahatenders.gov.in Contact No.: 1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985, +91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91-7878007973

TENDER NOTICE Date: 25.12.2020 Solar Open Category - Invitation of Proposals for sanction of grid connected rooftop solar PV projects Start Date of Submission End Date of Submission Tende CMC/BR/20-21/ DESIGN, SUPPLY, ETC OF GRID CONNECTED 25.02.2021

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND RWA/ GHS ONLY.

Head (Contracts & Materials n No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

New Delhi

निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांकः 06/01/2021 (शाम 5:30 बजे तक)

General public is hereby informed that a



New Delhi. Her physical description is as

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. at E-mail Id

P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi



blue colour shirt and grey colour jacket, was found dead on

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the

SHO: P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-22772251, 22772287 DP/313/ED/20

दिनांक: 24 दिसम्बर, 2020

| |का विवरण निम्नवतु है:-

हस्ता./

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज HAFFKINE BIO PHARMACEUTICAL

CORPORATION LIMITED

(Procurement Cell)

Date of Period of Sale

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the web

E-mail: eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in (Dr. R. M. Kumbhar) General Manager-I, Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., (Procurement Cell), Mumbai

DGIPR/2020-2021/1597 BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

1.2 MW 25.12.2020 ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER PLANTS AT VARIOUS 09:30 HRS 17:30 HRS LOCATIONS IN THE STATE OF DELHI UNDER **RESCO** CAPEX AND RESCO MODEL IN OPEN CATEGORY 09/2020

Detailed terms & conditions which include Eligibility Criteria, Technical Specifications, various conditions of this notification, formats, etc. can be downloaded from BRPL website www.bsesdelhi.com/web/brpl/open-tenders

Brief Tender Description

FOR 1.2 MW AGGREGATE CAPACITY FOR

15 ECONOMY

⊗ \$51.29 Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 0000 IST

New virus strain

③ ₹66,954

SENSEX: 46,973.54 ▲ 529.36 NIFTY: 13,749.25 ▲ 148.15 NIKKEI: 26,668.35 ▲ 143.56 HANG SENG: 26,386.56 ▲ 43.46 FTSE: 6,493.11 ▼ 2.64 DAX: 13,587.23 ▲ 169.12

RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION: APPEAL FILED IN A SINGAPORE COURT

Vodafone case: India challenges ruling

AASHISH ARYAN

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE INDIAN government has challenged the verdict delivered in the Vodafone retrospective taxation case by the Singapore seat of Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague, sources in the know of the development told The Indian Express.

The decision to file the appeal in a court in Singapore was taken after "top ranking" officials met with officials from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and Ministry of Finance, and instructed them not to wait on the issue, one of the sources said

The sources, however, did not specify as to when the challenge was filed. Beginning

BRIEFLY —

Gold bond issue

Mumbai: The issue price for

the next series of sovereign

gold bonds has been fixed at

Rs 5,000 per gram of gold, the

Reserve Bank of India said in

a statement on Thursday. The

Sovereign Gold Bond

Scheme 2020-21-Series IX

will be open for subscription

from December 28, 2020 to

New Delhi: State-owned

Central Bank of India will

exit housing finance joint

venture by selling its entire

stake of over 64 per cent to

Centrum Housing Finance

IL&FSgetsnod

tosellChinaasset

New Delhi: IL&FS on

Thursday said it has received

approval from Justice (retd)

D K Jain, who is overseeing

the resolution process of the

group, for sale of its Chinese

road asset Chongqing Yuhe

Sebifines NDTV

New Delhi: Sebi on Thursday

imposed a total penalty of

Rs 27 crore on NDTV pro-

moters, Prannoy Roy and

Radhika Roy, as well as on

RRPR Holding for violating

various securities norms by concealing information

from shareholders regarding certain loan agreements.

Listings on mobile

Mumbai: With mobile net-

work boosters becoming a

major reason for poor service

quality, the Department of

Telecom has asked online

sellers to pull down listings of

such equipment, an official

statement said on Thursday.

Fintech group's

code of conduct

Mumbai: Aday after RBI rap,

a grouping of five fintechs on

Thursday came out with a

code of ethical conduct for

digital lending which will

safeguard consumer rights

and interests. PTI

boosters to go

Expressway Co (CYEC).

promoters

January 1, 2021.

to exit JV

for Rs 160 crore.

Central Bank

at₹5,000

September 25, when the verdict was delivered, India had 90 days or till Thursday, December 24, to file the appeal.

On Wednesday, India was handed its second defeat in the retrospective taxation case after the Netherlands seat of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague ruled that the Indian government's retrospective tax demand against the global oil and gas major was "inconsistent" with the UK-India bilateral treaty.

Like the Vodafone judgment, the international tribunal once again said that India's demand of retrospective tax on Cairn Energy Plc was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment". In addition to that, in both the judgments, the international arbitration tribunal has held that India Case d back to 2007 Case dates back to

> THE VODAFONE Group retrospective taxation case dates back to 2007 when the UPA government had raised an initial tax demand of Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains and withholding tax against Vodafone Group when the company had acquired 67 per cent of stake in Hutchison Whampoa for \$11 billion.

must not make any more attempts to recover "the alleged tax liability or any interest and or penalties arising from this al-

means". other Earlier this year, on

September 25, The Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague's Singapore seat had ruled that India's retrospective demand of Rs 22,100 crore as capital gains and withholding tax imposed on the telco for a 2007 deal was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" that the company was entitled for its investments in the country's mobile telephone business.

The international arbitration tribunal had then also ruled that the Indian government must reimburse 4.3 million pounds to Vodafone Group for costs incurred on legal representation and assistance as well as for fees paid by the company to the arbitration court.

Following the ruling, Vodafone Group said that "the tribunal held that any attempt by India to enforce the tax demand would be a violation of India's international law obligations". "This was a unanimous decision, including India's appointed arbitrator Mr Rodrigo Oreamuno," a company spokesperson had then said.

The Vodafone Group retrospective taxation case dates back to 2007 when the UPA government had raised an initial tax demand of Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains and withholding tax against Vodafone Group when the company had acquired 67 per cent of stake in Hutchison Whampoa for \$11 billion.

India had then said that Vodafone Group ought to have taken into account the capital gains and withholding taxes

Brexit deal fuels

sterling, recovery

hopes propel stocks

Rs 22,100 crore including interest and penalties.

The company had, on the other hand, said that it would not have to pay the taxes since India and the Netherlands had signed a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in 1995, which exempted such investments from taxation.

However, the Income Tax department continued to send demand and recovery notices to the company, which challenged them first in the Bombay High Court and later in the Supreme Court.

In 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that the Vodafone Group's interpretation of the Income Tax Act of 1961 was correct and that it did not have to pay any taxes for the

GAINS FACTORED IN

0.23%

As of 01:20 pm EDT

well. The STOXX index rose 0.13

per cent. On Wall Street, the Dow

Jones rose 70.04 points, or 0.23 per

cent, to 30,199.87, the S&P 500

gained 13.05 points, or 0.35 per

POUND

1.3547

DOW JONES

30,199.87

fails to constrain Sensex; Re up 21p Index gains for **SENSEX** 14:48 PM third day in a row to 46,973 47.000-- 46,743.49 46,900 46.800-

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

THE BULL rally continued for the third day in a row with the benchmark Sensex soaring another 529 points amid reports about the government's plan to begin vaccination and hopes of the Brexit deal between the UK and European Union. The benchmark Sensex soared by 1.14 per cent to 46,973.54 and the NSE Nifty index gained 148 points, or 1.09 per cent. to 13.749.25 on sustained buying support.

The Sensex, which crossed the 47,000-level in intra-day trading again, has now recouped the losses after the 1,400-point crash on Monday. Foreign investors invested Rs 1,225 crore in stocks on Thursday while domestic institutions pulled out close to Rs 1,900 crore. "Sustained foreign inflows and the recovery in the economy are good signs for the markets to consolidate further," said veteran stock broker Pawan Dharnidharka.

The government's plan to set logistics ready to vaccinate frontline health workers in the first phase boosted the investor sentiment. Momentum in European markets on hopes of Brexit deal also helped indices to trade higher. Financials and pharma sector contributed to the rally. "Volatility noticed at the start of the week vanished by the end of the week as concern over new strain of virus re46,700-46,500 46,400 **RUPEE**

duced, development on the US stimulus and vaccination." said Vinod Nair, head of research,

Broad market indices like smalland mid-cap indices underperformed. Climbing for the second

straight session, the rupee darted up 21 paise to end at 73.55 against the US dollar on Thursday amid sustained foreign fund inflows and positive domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.66 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.54 and a low of 73.66. The domestic unit finally finished at 73.55, registering a rise of 21 paise over its previous close.

'Housing sales: Festive boost in Dec qtr, but Covid hit to pinch'

Sales of residential properties are estimated to grow 51 per cent across seven major cities in October-December, as against the previous quarter, on festive demand, JLL India said

106% higher on debut

21,832 units in housing sales during December quarter as against 14,415 units in July-September

48% drop in housing sales in 2020 to 74,451 units from 143,923 units from previous year as demand slumped in all seven cities

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

SHARES OF Mrs Bectors Food

Specialties made a stellar debut

on the bourses on Thursday

with listing day gains of

than its issue price of Rs 288 and

hit the upper circuit at Rs 600 be-

fore closing the trading session at

Rs 592.5 apiece. This is the third

best listing day gain after Burger

King India and Happiest Minds

Technologies, which saw gains of

125 per cent and 123.5 per cent,

The IPO of Mrs Bectors Food

The stock opened at Rs 500 on

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

105.73 per cent.



The IPO of Mrs Bectors

Food Specialties was

and was subscribed

Specialties was for an amount of

198.02 times. Experts believe the

IPO listing gains can be attributed

to the all-time highs in the market

and strong retail participation.

Hemang Jani, head-equity strat-

egy, broking and distribution,

Motilal Oswal Financial Services,

said the listing gains could be at-

tributed to the euphoria in the

market and retail frenzy. FE

for Rs 540 crore

198.02 times

In Bengaluru, sales fell to 10,440 units in 2020 from 26.453 units last year

Chennai sales declined to

6,983 units from 13,967 units Delhi-NCR demand dipped to 15,743 units from 29,010

In Hyderabad, sales decline to 9,926 units from 16,025 Kolkata witnessed sharp fall in

demand to 2,568 units from 7,463 units Mumbai saw housing sales of

19,545 units in 2020 as

tax sops

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

THE MUTUAL fund (MF) industry

has sought parity in tax treatment

of mutual funds and Unit Linked

Insurance Plans (ULIPs) and a hike

in threshold limit for withholding

tax (TDS) on income distribution

The Association of Mutua

(dividend) on mutual fund units.

Funds in India, in its pre-Budget

memorandum, proposed that

threshold limit for withholding tax

on income distribution (dividend)

on MF units should be raised from

Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per annum

and a cap of 15 per cent on sur-

charge on income distribution on

units from equity MF schemes in

hands of non-corporate taxpayers.

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

against 32,138 units last year Pune went down to 9,246 units from 18.867 units Source: JLL India/PTI

tended its climb against the dollar on the news, rising as much as 0.94 per cent, but then pared gains. Analysts said the pound's 5 per cent rally since early November Mrs Bectors Food closes MFs seek meant that much of the Brexit relief had already been priced into

REUTERS

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 24

THE BRITISH pound rose on

Thursday as Britain and the EU

clinched a free trade deal, while a

global gauge of stocks edged up-

ward amid investor optimism to-

Sterling momentarily ex-

ward economic growth.

last up 0.35 per cent at \$1.3547. The trade deal helped European equities edge higher as

the currency. Still, the pound was added 33.62 points, or 0.26 per cent, to 12,804.73 as of 1:20 pm EDT. Trading in US stocks will be

closed on Friday.

The impact on UK financial markets of the Brexit vote and years of negotiations has been profound

BREXIT'S LONG SHADOW OVER UK MARKETS

STOCK LAGGARDS UK domestic-focused around 6.8% in dollar terms from early-2016 levels while the FTSE 100 is 4.5% lower — that's against an 80% gain for the S&P 500 and an almost 60% rise for world stocks

Source: Reuters

STERLING'S WILD RIDE The pound has had several brief lowest level since 1980

WEAKER FINANCES With a large current account deficit and a debt-to-GDP before Covid above 80%, it is reliant on international investors' confidence in the UK economy

cent, to 3,703.06, and the Nasdaq KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 116,117/SE/PHC/TSR/2020-2021 State Plan 2018-19 Mace of TWSS - Head works Peechi- Replacing damaged Filter Media for 36 MLD Water Treatmen Plant, renovation of filter house, providing roof for 36 MLD WTP Peechi, JJM-Thrissur district- Thanniam Gramapanchayath Providing FHTC to Rural house holds and allied works EMD : Rs. 200000 Tender fee : Rs. 11200 Last Date for submitting Tender : 11-01-2021 03:00:pm Phone : 04872423230 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in., www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

KWA-JB-GL-6-690-2020-21

PH Circle, Thrissur

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIT) For and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Central University of Kashmir, online tenders under two bid systems are invited from reputed and Government registered agencies for Annua document is available on e-tendering

No. Est - 04 of 2020

US regulator allows M&M to sell new Roxor models in Jeep case

REUTERS

respectively.

DETROIT, DECEMBER 24

A US regulator ruled on Wednesday that Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd's new design for its Roxor off-road utility vehicle did not infringe the intellectual property rights of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Jeep brand, six months after barring sale of older models. The International Trade Commission

(ITC) said the post-2020 Roxor model did not violate the "trade dress" of FCA's Jeep Wrangler SUV, accepting an administrative law judge's October recommendation that design changes made by Mahindra meant an earlier cease-and-desist order should not apply to newer models. "The ruling validates Mahindra's redesign of the highly popular Roxor off-road vehicle," Mahindra said in a statement. "Mahindra is now permitted to manufacture and distribute the redesigned 2021 Roxor."

'NO TRADE DRESS VIOLATION'

■ The International Trade Commission (ITC) said the post-2020 Roxor model did not violate the "trade dress' of FCA's Jeep Wrangler SUV.

"While FCA is disappointed with the commission's decision regarding the redesign, we believe we will be successful in appealing this decision," FCA said in a statement, Trade dress consists of the unique characteristics that make a product stand apart and is generally accepted as identified with that product by the public. For example, FCA sees the Jeep Wrangler's boxy body shape, front grille and round headlights as distinct to the brand. In June, the ITC ruled Mahindra infringed on the intellectual property rights of FCA's 2019-model Jeep brand.

latest setback for Ma, the 56-year-

old former school teacher who

Communist Party's People's Daily

said if "monopoly is tolerated, and

companies are allowed to expand

in a disorderly and barbarian man-

ner, the industry won't develop in

a healthy, and sustainable way".

Shares in Alibaba fell nearly 9 per

In an editorial, the ruling

founded Alibaba.

cent in Hong Kong.

(Two cover system) 'e' - Tender Notice No. 30/E.O/DB/Tender/2020-2021, Dt : 22.12.2020 For and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University 'e' - tenders are invited by the Estate Officer, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Anima

ciences University, Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai - 51 online for item vice rate bids ar nvited from the eligible contractors for the following work

Starting and End date for Eligibility Opening Form value of class of (Rs) Description of work downloading Registere Cover-GST) including contractor (3) (8) Construction of Indigenous Cattle Unit, Sheep and Goat Unit, Native Dog Breeding Unit, Animal Quarantine Facility, Isolation facility, Farm Veterinary Hospital 04.01.2021 Clinical Laboratory and by 04.00 PM including Class-l 22.01.2021 Rs.14.69 Instrumentation and (State ,45,000 LS and Monsoo at 11.00 AM Fabrication Centre in Level) at 10.00 AM 'Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences" at Thalaivasa Koot Road in Salem District. (Re-Tender)

ast date for submission of bid 21.01.2021 by 10.00 A.M or notice inviting tenders please log on to : www.tanuvas.ac.in / http://tntenders.gov.in The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: http://tntenders.gov.in Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if any shall only be available in v

China launches antitrust probe into Alibaba over 'monopoly' booming internet space, and the

REUTERS

HONG KONG/BEIJING, DEC 24

CHINA HAS launched an antitrust investigation into Alibaba Group and will summon the tech giant's Ant Group affiliate to meet in coming days, regulators said on Thursday, in the latest blow for Jack Ma'se-commerce and fintech empire. The probe is part of an accelerating crackdown on anticom-



Alibaba founder Jack Ma.

petitive behaviour in China's



National Dairy Development Board PB No. 40, Anand - 388001. Gujarat, India. Tel: 02692 - 260148 / 260149 / 260160, Fax: 02692 - 260159 Website: http://www.nddb.coop, Email: purchase@nddb.coop

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB) ON LINE BIDDING Bids are invited on behalf of Service Recipients from eligible bidders for the works listed below Estd. Cost | Event Start/ | Bid Submission / Description of Works Civil, structural & Internal Electrification works for the following: 15.01.2021 15:00 hrs. Ice Cream Plant of cap. 10000L per shift expandable to 30000L 1510 Lakh. per day at Madurai, Tamilnadu 15.01.2021 15.01.2021 15:30 hrs. NDDB:HO:PUR:LCB:65/2020 (ET/65) 20.01.2021 15:00 hrs. B) ETP of cap. 20LLPD at Sabar Dairy, Himmatnagar, Gujarat, 774 Lakh/ 30.12.2020

NDDB:H0:PUR:LCB:66/2020 (ET/66) 12 Months 20.01.2021 15:30 hrs. 20.01.2021 For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit these websites : www.nddb.coop and www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nddb. For any clarification please contact Dy. G. M. (Purchase), NDDB, Anand 388001 NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these website.

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE Construction & Maintenance Group, इससे हिल्ह ISRO HQ, LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru - 08 Ph: 080-25037-387/193 **BRIEF TENDER NOTICE** Name of work Construction of Training Facility at ISITE, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-Civil & PH Works CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/11/2020-21 Tender Notice No. Date: 24.12.2020 Rs.1388.00 lakhs **Estimated Cost** Period of Completion 4 (Four) Months in months

From 18.10 Hrs on 24.12.2020 To 23:59 Hrs on 02.01.2021 can be downloaded Last date and time Up to 14:30 Hrs on 06.01.2021

15:00 Hrs on 06.01.2021 Interested tenderers may please refer www.tenderwizard.com/

ISRO Also detailed notice inviting tender (NIT) for eligible

Sd/- Group Head CMG, ISRO HQ

Period during which the tender document

for receipt of tenders Due date and time for opening of tenders

criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from vebsite www.isro.gov.in

New Delhi

Geojit Financial Services. Volumes on the NSE were a bit lower than recent average.

Maintenance Contract (AMC) of various equipment installed at different campuses of the University at Ganderbal. The detailed www.eprocure.gov.in and can also be downloaded University website (www.cukashmir.ac.in). The last date for submission of bid/s is 07-01-2021 (04:00 PM) and the bids are scheduled to be opened on 11-01-2021 at 11:30 am at Green Campus Ganderbal - 191201

BESCOM invites tender through e-procurement for the following

Date: 23 -12-2020

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

Enquiry No. BESCOM/GM(M&C)/92/SIMs/2020-21. Particulars "Supply, Installation and Configuration of SIMs to existing AMF based DTC metering system in BESCOM jurisdiction and data transfer for a period of one year." The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the tendering website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 29.12.2020. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 080-25501216 080-25501227 Sd/- The General Manager, Ele., Meter & Commercial,

BESCOM, First Floor, K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560 001 Ph.No: 080-22341177 For electricity related complaints call: 1912

Download BESCOM Mitra mobile app

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

16 THE WORLD



Macron tested positive for the coronavirus on December 17

FRANCE

Elysee: Macron no longer shows **Covid symptoms**

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron is showing no more symptoms of Covid-19, the Elysee office said on Thursday. Macron, 43, can now end his quarantine after he self-isolated for seven days at the presidential retreat of La Lanterne, close to the Palace of Versailles, the office said in a statement. He had tested positive for the coronavirus on Dec. 17, prompting a trackand-trace effort across Europe following numerous meetings between the French leader and EU heads of government in recent days. Macron suffered headaches, a dry cough and tiredness for several days. **REUTERS**

TUNISIA 20 dead after migrant boat sinks

AT LEAST 20 African migrants died when their boat sank off Tunisia on Thursday as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to the Italian island of Lampedusa, a Tunisian security official said. The coastguard rescued five people and was searching for about 20 others who were still unaccounted for, the official told Reuters. The coastline near the Tunisian port city of Sfax has become a major departure point for people fleeing conflict and poverty in Africa and the Middle East and searching for a better life

AUSTRALIA FB removes celebrity chef's page for Covid

conspiracies **FACEBOOK** Thursday it has removed the page of Australian celebrity chef turned conspiracy theorist Pete Evans for spreading misinformation about Covid-19, the tech giant's latest move to police false content about the pandemic. Evans, a former judge on prime time Australian cooking shows with a large catalogue of cookbooks, has become one of the country's most prominent spreaders of baseless claims questioning Covid-19, calling it a "hoax" and "BS" to his millions of followers. **REUTERS**

Breakthrough: UK, EU agree Brexit trade deal

Agreement must be ratified by British and European parliaments; key details to be worked out later **Brexit is finally done, but**

MARK LANDLER & **STEPHEN CASTLE**

LONDON, DECEMBER 24

BRITAIN AND the European Union struck a hard-fought trade agreement on Thursday, settling a bitter divorce that stretched over more than four years and setting the terms for a post-Brexit future as close neighbours living apart, according to British officials.

The deal, which must be ratified by the British and European Parliaments, came together in Brussels after 11 months of grinding negotiations, culminating in a last-minute haggle over fishing rights that stretched into Christmas Eve, just a week before a year-end deadline.

Despite running to thousands of pages, the agreement leaves critical parts of the relationship to be worked out later. And it will not prevent some disruption to trade across the English Channel, since British exports will still be subjected to some border checks, adding costs for companies and causing potential delays at ports.

But it is nonetheless a landmark in the long-running Brexit drama — the bookend to Britain's departure from the EU in January



British PM Boris Johnson (left), as well as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier announced the agreement of the trade deal in press conferences in London and Brussels respectively. Reuters

and a blueprint for how the two sides will coexist after severing deep ties built up over a 47-year relationship. A failure to come to terms could have left Britain and the EU in a bitter standoff.

If approved, the agreement would take effect on January 1, four-and-a-half years after a narrow majority of Britons voted to leave the European Union, plunging their country into rancorous debate and political divisions over how to do it.

For Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain, who won a landslide election victory in 2019

We have taken back control of our destiny. People said it was impossible, but we have taken back control... We will be an independent coastal state."

BORIS JOHNSON BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

vowing to "get Brexit done," the deal allows him to fulfill that promise. But to get there. Johnson had to make significant concessions, especially on rules that

It was a long and winding road. But we have got a good deal to show for it. It is fair, it is a balanced deal, and it is the right and responsible thing to do for both sides."

URSULA VON DER LEYEN EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

cover state aid to businesses and rights to fish in British waters.

Until the end of this year. Britain had agreed to continue

regulations of the EU while negotiators hashed out new arrangements to govern a vast cross-Channel trade

Given the EU's much greater size and economic muscle, its negotiators were able to insist that Britain stay aligned with the bloc in some critical respects.

London will subscribe to "level playing field" principles, which are intended to prevent British companies from gaining an unfair advantage over their European competitors through state aid or by enjoying less strict environmental or labour laws. NYT

the world has changed since the 2016 referendum

MARK LANDLER

LONDON, DECEMBER 24

IT TOOK 11 grueling months for negotiators from Britain and the European Union to hammer out the terms of a post-Brexit trade deal. But in many respects, the deal is already four and a half years out of date.

The world has changed radically since June 2016, when a narrow majority of people in Britain voted to leave the European Union, tempted by an argument that the country would prosper by throwing off the bureaucratic shackles of Brussels.

In those days, the vision of an independent Britain - free to develop next-generation industries like artificial intelligence and cut its own trade deals with the US, China and others — was an alluring pitch. The Brexit buccaneers vowed to create a "Global Britain".

That was before the anti-immigrant and anti-globalist-fuelled rise of US President Trump and other populists leaders who erected barriers to trade and im-

Trump gives clemency to more

of his allies, including Manafort,

Stone and Charles Kushner

migration and countries turned inward. It was before the coronavirus pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of far-flung supply chains, fuelling calls to bring strategic industries back home and throwing globalism into retreat.

In the anxious dawn of 2021, buccaneers are out of fashion. The world is now dominated by three gargantuan economic blocs - the US, China and the European Union, Britain has finalised its divorce from one of them, leaving it isolated at a time when the path forward seems more perilous than it once did.

While the deal averts tariffs and quotas on goods crossing the English Channel, it is at heart about disentangling neighbours who had become deeply integrated over decades. That estrangement, analysts say, is bound to weaken ties between the two sides in other areas, like security and diplomacy. Britain has also promoted itself as a champion of democratic values in places like Hong Kong, standing alongside the US. But in a less hospitable world, it may not find many allies for that kind of work. NYT

Daniel Pearl killing: Pak court orders release of Omar Sheikh, three others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI, DECEMBER 24

IN A surprise move, a Pakistani court on Thursday ordered the release of British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides, who were convicted and sentenced in the abduction and murder case of US journalist Daniel Pearl. A two-judge bench of the

Sindh High Court, presided over by Justice K K Agha, directed security agencies not to keep Sheikh and other accused under "any sort of detention" and declared all notifications of the Sindh government related to their detention "null

The court observed that the four men's detention was

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 24

CHINA'S AMBASSADOR to

Nepal, Hou Yangi, on Thursday

met Pushpa Kamal Dahal

'Prachanda', who parted ways

with Prime Minister K P

Sharma Oli following the disso-

Prachanda that China was will-

ing to work with the Nepal

Communist Party faction led by

him "to further China-Nepal re-

lations and Nepal's prosperity".

Prachanda comes two days af-

ter her meeting with Nepal

President

Bhandari.

meeting

Previously, when Oli was

Bidhya Devi

with

Hou, sources said, assured

lution of Nepal's Parliament.



Pearl was killed in 2002

In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench commuted the death sentence of 46-yearold Sheikh to seven years imprisonment. The court also acquitted his three aides who

China envoy meets Prachanda

under pressure from his own

party members, Hou had per-

sonally intervened to ensure

that the Prime Minister re-

Republic of China Hou Yanqi met

Chairman of the Nepal

Communist Party Pushpa Kamal

Dahal 'Prachanda' this morning.

They discussed the issues of bi-

lateral concerns," Bishnu Rijal, a

leader close to the Prachanda

leaders had termed the Chinese

envoy's series of meetings with

the ruling party leaders as in-

terference in Nepal's internal

Communist Party had built a

"fraternal relationship". Global

The NCP and the Chinese

political affairs.

A number of political party

"Ambassador of the People's

amid political crisis in Nepal

mained in power.

were serving life terms in the case almost two decades after they were found guilty However, the Sindh govern-

ment refused to release them and kept them in detention under the Maintenance of Public Order. Their continuous detention

was challenged in the Sindh High Court, which ordered their release. However, it asked to place their names on the nofly list so that they could not leave the country. It also directed them to appear before the court whenever summoned.

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story in 2002 on the links between the

Times, a Chinese paper reflecting

the views of the CPC, had brought

out a report last month that the

opposition Nepali Congress was

involved in fomenting anti-China

in the wake of the split in the

NCP, the paper said that China

had no preference to any polit-

ical party, and that it wanted a

It said China's cooperation to

Nepal should not be seen as "in-

terference in its internal affairs".

same sentiments during her

meeting with Prachanda, who

is now the chairman as well as

the leader of the Parliamentary

Party, after having removed Oli

-WITH PTI INPUTS

from that position.

Hou repeated nearly the

stable government in Nepal.

However, in a recent piece

sentiments in Nepal.

country's powerful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

A three-judge apex court bench headed by Justice Mushir Alam is hearing the appeal by the Sindh government and the family of the slain journalist against the acquittal of

The US has been mounting pressure on Pakistan, demanding justice for Pearl.

Pearl's murder took place three years after Sheikh, along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and Mushtag Ahmed Zargar, was released by India in 1999 and given safe passage to Afghanistan in exchange for the nearly 150 passengers of hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814. He was serving a prison term in India for kidnappings of Western tourists in the country.

Israel imposing third national Covid lockdown

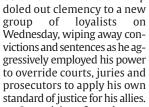
MAAYAN LUBELL JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 24

ISRAEL WILL impose a third national lockdown to fight surging Covid-19 infections, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday, as the country pursues a vaccination campaign.

The restrictions will come into effect on Sunday evening and last for 14 days, pending final cabinet approval, a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

They include the closure of shops, limited public transport, a partial shutdown of schools and a one-kilometre restriction on travel from home, except for commuting to workplaces that remain open, and to purchase essential goods. **REUTERS**

MAGGIE HABERMAN & MICHAELS SCHMIDT DECEMBER 24 **US PRESIDENT Donald Trump**



One recipient of a pardon was a family member, Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Two others who were pardoned declined to cooperate with prosecutors in connection with the special counsel's Russia investigation: Paul Manafort, his 2016 campaign chairman, and Roger Stone, his longtime informal adviser and friend.

They were the most prominent names in a batch of 26 pardons and three commutations disclosed by the White House.

Also on the list released on Wednesday was Margaret Hunter, the estranged wife of former Republican lawmaker Duncan Hunter. Both of them had pleaded guilty to charges of misusing campaign funds for personal expenses.

Duncan Hunter was pardoned by Trump on Tuesday, as part of a first pre-Christmas wave of grants of clemency to 20 convicts, more than half of whom did not meet the Justice Department





(*Clockwise from left*) Charles Kushner, father of Trump's son-in-law Jared; Paul Manafort, Trump's 2016 campaign chairman; and Roger Stone, his longtime adviser and friend. AP

Pardons mostly just for friends

Presidents to use their pardoning power toward the end of their term, and many before Trump have used it not just in cases suggested by the Justice Department, but also for the benefit their own friends and

IT IS not unusual for US expert quoted by the *New* York Times, 60 out of 65

people pardoned by Trump before Wednesday have had a personal or political tie to the President. Such a high percentage of pardons to allies is unprecedented and has attracted criticism even from

inside Trump's party.

uncover the facts. NYT

guidelines for consideration of pardons or commutations. They included a former Blackwater guard sentenced to life in prison for his role in the killing of 17 Iraqi civilians in 2007.

allies. However, according to an

The pardons to Manafort and Stone on the same day will be particularly stinging for the former

special counsel Robert Mueller and his team. Neither man ever fully cooperated with prosecutors despite entering guilty pleas, leaving investigators to believe that private discussion of pardons and public statements by Trump may have compromised their ability to

Trump vetoes defence Bill, raises prospect of government shutdown

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump vetoed a bipartisan defence policy Bill on Wednesday and raised the prospect that the United States could face a government shutdown during a pandemic, stirring new turmoil in Washington as he headed to Florida for Christmas.

Angry at his fellow Republicans in Congress, Trump sought to refashion two complex pieces of legislation that passed Congress by wide, bipartisan margins after months of negotiation.

Trump followed through on a threat to veto the defence Bill and demanded dramatic changes to a \$2.3 trillion package that funds the federal government and provides nearly \$900 billion in coronavirus aid. If Trump blocks the spending package, large parts of the US government could start to shut down next week. House Democrats on Thursday tried to bring changes to



Trump is headed to Florida for Christmas. Reuters

Bill that would increase direct aid payments to \$2,000 per person, aligning with Trump's wishes, but members of Trump's own party blocked that effort, worsening the

Trump said he vetoed the defence policy Bill, which has passed every year since 1961, because he objected to liability protections for social media companies unrelated to national security and did not want to rename military bases that are currently named for generals who fought for the pro-slavery Confederacy during the Civil War.

US President warns Iran of retaliation after attacks on embassy in Iraq

HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24

US PRESIDENT Trump warned Iran on Wednesday that he would hold it accountable "if one American is killed" in rocket attacks in Iraq that the Trump administration and military officials blamed on Tehran.

In a Twitter post that came after a meeting with senior officials, Trump said that Iran was behind rocket attacks on the American Embassy in Baghdad on Sunday. "Some friendly health advice to Iran," Trump tweeted. "If one American is killed, I will hold Iran responsible. Think it over."

His post was followed by a statement from US Central Command, which called the attacks the largest in a decade. "The Dec. 20, 2020, rocket attack on the green zone in Iraq was almost certainly conducted by an Iranian-backed rogue militia group," the statement said. NYT

Covid dampens Christmas joy in Bethlehem

JOSEF FEDERMAN & JALAL HASSAN BETHLEHEM, DECEMBER 24

BETHLEHEM ON Thursday ushered in Christmas Eve with a stream of joyous marching bands and the triumphant arrival of the top Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land, but few people were there to greet them as the coronavirus pandemic and a strict lockdown dampened celebrations in the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Similar subdued scenes were repeated across the world as the festive family gatherings and packed prayers that typically mark the holiday were scaled back or cancelled altogether due



A Palestinian National security unit is deployed in Manger Square, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, traditionally believed by Christians to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on Wednesday. AP

In Bethlehem, officials tried to

make the most out of a bad situation. "Christmas is a holiday that

Mayor Anton Salman, "Despite all the obstacles and challenges due to corona and due to the lack of tourism, the city of Bethlehem is still looking forward to the future with optimism.' Raw, rainy weather added to

renews hope in the souls," said

the gloomy atmosphere, as dozens of people gathered in the central Manger Square to greet Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

"Despite the restrictions and limitations we want to celebrate as much as possible, with family, community and joy," said Pizzaballa, who was to lead a small Midnight Mass gathering later in the evening. "We want to

Thousands of foreign pilgrims

usually flock to Bethlehem for the celebrations. But the closure of Israel's international airport to foreign tourists, along with Palestinian restrictions banning intercity travel in the areas they administer in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, kept visitors away.

The restrictions limited attendance to dozens of residents and a small entourage of religious officials. Evening celebrations, when pilgrims normally congregate around the Christmas tree, were cancelled, and Midnight Mass was limited to clergy.

The coronavirus has dealt a heavy blow to Bethlehem's tourism sector, the lifeblood of the local economy. Restaurants, hotels and gift shops have been shuttered. REUTERS

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Investors need not panic over Covid-19 news flows

The market crashed earlier this week amid news about the new virus variant. But as the 2008 financial crisis and this pandemic have shown, markets do recover



SANDEEP SINGH

A SHARP 1,400-point fall in the stock markets on Monday brought to the fore the concerns of investors about the virus continuing to exist around them and at the same time about the otherwise rising trend in the markets. Although investors have been reaping the benefits of the rising markets, there has been a bit of anxiety around a broader sense that the markets are running ahead of broader economic fundamentals. The fall in the markets did not extend beyond Monday, how-

ever: stability returned quickly alongside a fund flow by foreign portfolio investors.

While the fall was driven by concerns around a new, more potent variant of the coronavirus, investors must keep in mind that such mutations are only to be expected during the course of the pandemic, and it is important for them not to panic. While day traders need to react to such news flows and square off their positions or cut down their losses, there is no such compulsion for long-term retail investors. They need to just wait out that market volatility.

Why was there panic?

The sharp 37% fall in the Sensex and Nifty between February 1 and March 23, 2020 is still fresh in investors' memory, and hence there will be concerns around any fresh news about Covid-19 or a new virus strain that can impact our lives and hurt the economy, which are otherwise slowly returning to nor-

malcy. So, when news broke of the new coronavirus variant and countries started announcing travel restrictions to and from Britain, the first reaction was one of fear, which led to the sharp fall in the markets on Monday. At one point, the Sensex was down by over 2,000 points or 4.3% over Friday's closing, in line with a 2-3% drop in European markets on Monday.

Even as investors have been riding the high tide, there is a feeling that the markets are running ahead of the broader economic fundamentals and the GDP recovery is still a work in progress. This has been keeping many of them on the edge, and some are even going for profit booking. Though profit booking is a good idea, investors must do that only if they want to go for asset reallocation or want to utilise the money to meet certain goals such as buying a car or a house, or kids' higher education. Booking profits with the idea of re-entering when the market is down

may not work out.

So, how should you take the news around Covid?

In February and March 2020, Covid-19 was a new unknown. As research started detailing the potency of the virus and market participants and investors started seeing its impact on human life, their livelihood and the economy — including travel restrictions, lockdowns, social distancing, closure of offices and near halt of industrial activities across countries - the markets started reacting to it more vigorously. However, as the months progressed, the world found a way to live with the virus, scientists developed at least four vaccines (till date), economic activity resumed, and markets bounced back. The excess liquidity in the global markets (initially meant to support the respective economies under duress) also found its way into stock markets worldwide and lifted them higher and faster than expected.

Amid all the anxiety, the news of a new more potent virus variant on Monday brought back the memories of March and investors pressed the panic button. It is, however, important to keep in mind that Covid-19 or a new strain is no longer an unknown; we have all gone through the drill and learned to live with it over the last nine months. So there is no cause for pressing the panic button. A retail investor needs to analyse the situation carefully before taking a call to exit, and even before exiting, he or she must figure out the options for deploying that fund.

Why should you not panic?

When in doubt, investors should simply refer to the two biggest events that the markets faced over the last 12 years — the global financial crisis in 2008 and the pandemic in 2020. Both impacted the markets worldwide. If the impact of the global financial cri-

sis was limited largely to the finance industry globally, the pandemic continues to have a much deeper impact and has hit every life in some way or the other.

So what do these episodes tell us? During the 2008 crisis, the Sensex lost 41% between September 1 and October 27, but then regained its August 2008 closing level of 14,500 after nine months i.e in May 2009. By the end of December 2009, the Sensex was up 20% over the index closing value in August 2008.

Similarly, although the Sensex lost around 37% between February 1 and March 23, 2020, it regained its previous high level — over 41,000 in January 2020 — around mid-November. Currently, the Sensex is trading at 11% higher than the highs it had seen in January 2020.

Investors should always remember these two events and their impact on the markets. Short term crash events do have a bearing on day traders, but for retail investors, there is no reason to panic.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

Covid-19 isolation impacted women more, survey finds

A STUDY in Canada has found that women are suffering more than men during the months of Covid-19 isolation, with poorer sleep and more anxiety, depression and trauma, while also feeling more empathetic than men. Conducted by University of Calgary researchers with the

University of Calgary researchers with the
Hotchkiss Brain Institute, the study has been published in the journal sample.

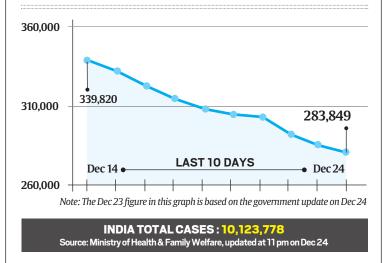
Frontiers in Global Women's Health. The findings are based on an online survey of 573 Canadians (112 men and 459 women, mean age 25.9 years) between March 23 and June 7. In a statement on the research, the University of Calgary said more than 66% of the survey participants reported poor quality of sleep, more than 39% reported increased symptoms of insomnia, and anxiety and

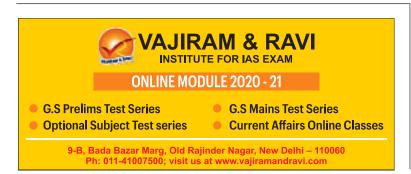
distress were increased in the whole sample. Sleep, depression and anxiety symptoms were more prevalent in women

Source: University of Calgary

INDIA ACTIVE CASES







SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Mutated virus vs tests, vaccines

The coronavirus variant circulating in the UK is defined by many mutations. Which ones are of particular concern? Why has WHO advised that it may evade some PCR tests, and can it impact vaccination?

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

IN EMERGING information about the new variant of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 circulating in the UK, one mutation has been of particular concern. The variant, called VUI 202012/01 and reported as being capable of transmitting faster among people, is defined by as many as 14 mutations and three deletions in its genetic material. Of particular concern is one mutation, N501Y. While the variant's potential to impact testing and vaccination results are still being studied, health authorities are largely optimistic that most tests and vaccines will still work.

What is a mutation?

A mutation means an alteration in genetic material. In an RNA virus such as SARS-CoV-2, proteins are made of a sequence of amino acids. Such a virus contains some 30,000 'base pairs', which are like bricks placed next to each other to form a structure. An alteration in this base can be a mutation, effectively changing the shape and behaviour of the virus.

In the UK variant, one mutation has made the virus more likely to bind with human proteins called receptors. This is called N501Y.

What is N501Y?

In simple words, the amino acid represented by the letter N, and present at position 501 in the coronavirus genetic structure, has been replaced in that position with another amino acid, represented by Y. The position where this alteration has taken place is in the spike protein's receptor-binding domain. (It is the spike protein of the virus that binds with the human receptor.)

Therefore, the mutation has increased the binding affinity of the coronavirus. The mutated virus reportedly accounts for 60% of recent infections in London.

cent infections in London.

According to the Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID) database, the same mutation in the receptor binding domain has been independently reported in several countries including South Africa and Australia. Sequence analysis has shown that this mutation originated separately in the UK



A phial of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at Guy's Hospital in London. While the virus has mutated in some areas, most vaccines target multiple parts. AP

and South Africa.

What about the other mutations?

Mutations are common, but the majority of them cause no alteration in the structure of the proteins they encode — these are called 'synonymous' mutations, as they eventually translate to the same amino acids. Another type is 'non-synonymous' mutation, which could result in an amino acid change.

In the variant circulating in the UK, there are six synonymous alterations and fourteen non-synonymous mutations. In addition, there are three 'deletions' — amino acids removed from the sequence.

According the World Health Organization (WHO), other than N501Y, mutations that "may influence the transmissibility of the virus in humans" are P681H and HV 69/70.

And what are P681H and HV 69/70?

P681H: This mutation has occurred in the amino acid present at 681 — another position in the receptor-binding domain. Here the amino acid Phas been replaced with H. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has said this is a site "with high variability in coronaviruses", and this specific mutation has also emerged

spontaneously multiple times. The WHO has said this mutation is of "biological significance".

Researchers have earlier shown that this mutation can promote entry into respiratory epithelial cells and transmission in animal models.

Recent samples seguenced at the African

Recent samples sequenced at the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases, Redeemer's University, Nigeria has shown the P681H sequence there. However, researchers say that at present, they "do not have evidence to indicate that the P681H variant is contributing to increased transmission of the virus in Nigeria".

HV 69/70: This mutation is the result of a deletion of amino acids at positions 69 and 70. These positions are again in the spike protein of the virus. This deletion has been observed in France and South Africa as well. The CDC has said: "This double deletion has occurred spontaneously many times, and likely leads to a change in the shape of (i.e., a conformational change in) the spike protein".

Researchers on behalf of COVID-19 Genomics Consortium UK (CoG-UK), which red-flagged the new variant in the UK, have said in their preliminary report that this deletion was also seen in a mink-associated outbreak in Denmark. In humans, this deletion has been associated with another mutation, N439K, which again occurred the receptorbinding domain.

The WHO has highlighted that this deletion can affect the performance of some RT-PCR tests that detect the novel coronavirus.

How can it affect RT-PCR tests?

The WHO has said that the deletion at positions 69/70 has been found to affect the performance of some diagnostic PCR assays that use an 'S gene target' (in the 'S' or spike protein). However, the WHO has also said, "most PCR assays worldwide use multiple targets and therefore the impact of the variant on diagnostics is not anticipated to be significant".

The CDC, too, has said that most commercial PCR tests have multiple targets where they detect the virus, so that even if a mutation impacts one of the targets, the other PCR targets will still work.

In fact, infection triggered by the new strain in the UK, too, was detected by the conventional RT-PCR test.

"Laboratories using in-house PCR assays that target the S gene of the virus should also be aware of this potential issue. In order to limit the impact on the detection capacities in the countries, an approach using different assays in parallel or multiplex assays targeting different viral genes is also recommended to allow the detection of potential arising variants." the WHO had recommended.

Will it impact vaccine development?The CDC has said vaccines approved by the

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are "polyclonal", producing antibodies that target several parts of the spike protein.

"The virus would likely need to accumulate multiple mutations in the spike protein to evade immunity induced by vaccines or by natural infection," it has said.

And the WHO has said: "Laboratory studies are ongoing to determine whether these variant viruses have different biological properties or alter vaccine efficacy. There is not enough information at present to determine if this variant is associated with any change in severity of clinical disease, antibody response or vaccine efficacy."

——— **A**n Expert Explains -

New Chinese commander on LAC: what it means for standoff



Maj Gen (Dr) G G Dwivedi

ON DECEMBER 18, President Xi Jinping as the Chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) promoted four officers to the rank of General, including General Zhang Xudong, the new Commander, Western Theatre Command (WTC). Gen Zhang has replaced Gen Zhao Zongqi who retired at age 65.

The WTC is a very important Theatre strategically, being the largest of the five Theatre Commands. Its area of responsibility includes China's two sensitive states, Tibet and Xinjiang, besides the complete border with India. The WTC was created by

amalgamating the erstwhile Chengdu and Lanzhou Military Regions as a sequel to the process of 'theaterisation', part of the pathbreaking military reforms initiated by President Xi since 2013. Given the ongoing standoff and tense

situation on the LAC in the Ladakh Sector for the last seven months, there has been speculation on the significance of the change of guard, particularly with respect to the profile of the new incumbent, the timing of the turnover, impact on the operational situation, and prospects of breakthrough in the deadlocked negotiations.

The new incumbent

While General Zhao, a 1979 Vietnam War veteran, served mostly in Tibet (including command of Tibet Military District and Group Army), General Zhang apparently has no previous experience in the Western Theatre. He commanded 79 Corps in the Northern Theatre opposite the Russian border in 2017-18, and is believed to be a mechanised warfare expert.

General Zhang also served as Deputy

Commander of the Central Theatre Command, which is responsible for the security of the capital Beijing. He was also the Deputy Commander of the mega ceremonial Parade held in 2019 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Given the fast-track promotions during the last few years, and the fact that he has assumed command of the strategically important WTC at a comparatively young age of 58,

Gen Zhang must be seen as a rising star, and well up with the CMC. Whereas Gen Zhao is a member of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the apex body that elects members to the all-powerful Politburo and CMC, Gen Zhang is not. However, it is customary for all senior military officers to be members of the CPC, as the People's Liberation Army is the army of the Chinese Communist Party.



Gen. Zhang Xudong. www.mod.gov.cn

Timing of the change

Gen Zhao had taken over the WTC in 2016, and is believed to have been the brain behind the Doklam standoff in 2017. Although due to retire towards the middle of this year, he was given an extension in view of the situation on the LAC. The timing of the turnover has been planned with due deliberation, as no major operations are expected during winter. Gen Zhang will, therefore, get adequate time to settle down in his new job.

Impact on LAC situation

As the PLA's operations in Ladakh are being overseen directly by the CMC, no tangible change is likely on the prevailing situation on the ground. Also, all the other commanders in the WTC, including the Political Commissar Gen Wu, Commander Ground Forces Lt Gen Xu Qiling, Commander PLA Air Force Lt Gen Wang Qiang, and Commander

South Xinjiang Military Region (SXMR) Maj Gen Liu Lin, whose troops are involved in the current incursions, remain the same.

Even with regard to the talks on the disengagement and de-escalation process, no breakthrough is expected in the near future, as the PLA continues to insist on the Indian Army pulling back from the Kailash Range first, even while the Chinese remain unwilling to discuss the Depsang Sub-sector where they have gained significant advantage.

Maj Gen Liu Lin, who represents the WTC at the Corps Commander-level talks, had taken over the SXMR in 2019 after serving as its Chief of Staff. He is well versed with both the operational dimensions and the complexities of the disengagement process. Therefore, the current state of impasse is expected to continue.

The big picture

The command tenures in the PLA generally vary from three to four years and even beyond, which enables the commanders to make effective contributions in enhancing the combat-readiness of their units and format-

New Delhi

ions. As Theatre commanders in the PLA report directly to the CMC, Gen Zhang would have been assigned a clear mission and tasks to be achieved over the next couple of years.

President Xi as the Commander-in-Chief has given a clarion call to the PLA to be on a par with the US Army by 2027. In the coming year, the CPC will be celebrating its centenary, which will be followed by the crucial 20th party congress in 2022. As the general secretary of the CPC, Xi will be required to showcase his achievements.

As the Commander of WTC, Gen Zhang will therefore have his task cut out, and he can be expected to spare no effort to prove himself. The Indian Armed Forces will have to continuously enhance their operational preparedness, besides working towards remaining fully geared to effectively respond to any future challenge and eventuality.

Maj Gen (retired) (Dr) GG Dwivedi is a veteran of the 1971 War; he has commanded Battalions in Siachen-Chushul, and formations on the LOC/LAC; and has served as Defence Attaché China

and North Korea

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



INAUGURATION - INDIANOIL

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of PNG and Steel, inaugurated the new Lube Blending Plant at Kolkata recently, in the presence of SM Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil.



MEETING - NAFED

The 63rd AGM of NAFED was held in New Delhi recently. Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, MD, tabled a brief of activities carried out by NAFED during 2019-20.



AWARD - NBCC

NBCC won "The Energy And Environment Foundation Global Green Building 2020" Award for Project "Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre, Niamey, Niger". R Chaudhari, Dir. (Comm), NBCC, received the award.



DEDICATION - ONGC

Minister for PNG & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan dedicated the 8th producing Basin of India, Bengal Basin, to the nation. He was joined by JS Mahato, MP, LS; S Shanker, CMD, ONGC and Directors of ONGC during the event.



FOUNDATION STONE - NBCC

Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar & Youth Affairs & Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju, laid the Foundation Stone of Squash Courts at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Delhi, to be constructed by NBCC.



AWARD - NTPC

NTPC has been conferred "Excellence" in CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in CSR Domain. The recognition was received by DK Patel, Dir. (HR) in presence of AS Thakur, MoS for Finance & Corporate Affairs.



MOU - HUDCO

DS Mishra, Secy, MoHUA & K Rizvi, CMD, HUDCO signed a MoU in the presence of M. Nagaraj, Dir (Corp. Planning) & D Guhan, Dir. (Fin) for setting key targets for the financial year



AWARD - NTPC- VALLUR

Two teams from NTECL-Vallur emerged as winner and runner Up at the 4th edition of All India Management Association (AIMA) Young Managers Simulation (YMS) (2020).



INAUGURATION - CANARA BANK

Canara Bank recently inaugurated "FRUITS" (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) Portal, a project of e-Governance, Govt. of Karnataka at NABARD, Karnataka Regional Office.

2

B-565



VISIT - SAIL

Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized the role of SAIL steel plants in Mission Purvodaya to drive development of eastern India, during his Durgapur and IISCO steel

POSOCO in association with FITT, the industrial interface organization at IIT Delhi, has launched the 9th edition of the POSOCO Power System Award 2021. PPSA seeks to recognize research in power systems & related fields in both Doctoral/Master categories in all the technical institutions offering post-graduation in power systems in India. Fifteen awardees in the PPSA-Doctoral category will be awarded a cash prize Rs.1,00,000/- for each shortlisted project along with certificates. Similarly, 15 awardees under PPSA-Master category will be awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 40,000/- for each shortlisted project along with certificates. The call for applications is open from Dec. 10 – 31, 2020.

NLCIL AK Jain, Secretary to Gol, Ministry of Coal, visited the Joint Venture Power Project, NUPPL in Kanpur recently to review the progress of the project, along with senior officials of NLCIL & UPRVUNL. MP D S Bhole, MLA, Ghatampur, U N Paswan, A Tiwari, DM, Kanpur Nagar & Arunkumar, SDM were also present on the occasion. The project progress was reviewed at site along with R Kumar, CMD, NLCIL, S Pandian, MD, UPRVUNL, S John, Director, NLCIL & Mohan Reddy, MD, NUPPL. Secretary Coal also inaugurated the Gate complex of the NUPPL project.

RCTC recently announced the launch of New Tourist Train. Jyotirling Yatra Ex Jalandhar on 27th Jan. 2021. In 7 Nights - 8 Days tour, tourists will be visiting the tourists places like Mahakaleshwer Jyotirling, Omkareshwer Jyotirling, Nageshwer Jyotirling, Somnath Jyotirling, Dwarkadheesh Temple & Sabarmati Ashram. Interested tourists may opt SL Class package at a Cost of Rs.7,560/- Per Person, whereas AC Class Package is open for the booking at a cost of Rs. 12,600/- per Person.

BHEL is organising a series of interactive workshops, titled 'BHEL Samvaad', under the guidance of the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). The first in the series of online workshops on collaborative manufacturing was conducted recently that saw a crosssection of Indian Industries, Industrial houses and MSMEs coming together to dwell upon the next steps for increased cooperation in indigenous manufacturing Chaired by Arun Goel, Secretary (HI), the workshop was attended by more than 80 participants, comprising senior representatives of Industry Chambers like CII. IEEMA FICCI, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM, etc., BHEL's vendors, othe MSMEs, and other leading industries.

Tata Power-DDL is providing consultancy services to Afghanistan's national power Utility – Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS). DABS manages electric power generation, import, transmission and distribution throughout Afghanistan. The program would help in developing the roadmap for an effective and reliable distribution network in Afghanistan. Tata Power-DDL's support towards capacity building and training of female engineers from Afghanistan's National Power Utility has been highlighted by the World Bank in its Blog blogs.worldbank.org/

DoPPW In a major relief to all Central Govt Pensioners DoPPW has extended the date of giving Annual Life Certificate, which is mandatory for continuity of Pension from November 30, 2020 to February 28, 2021. This was in addition to Pensioners aged 80 years and above who have been given an exclusive window from October 1 onwards to give their Life Certificate and avoid the major rush in the Pension Disbursing Banks from 1st November onwards. The IPPB is now fulfilling the major initiative of DoPPW, viz. DLC from Home by roping in 1,89,000 Postmen & Gramin Dak Sevaks and obtaining Digital Life Certificate from Home of Pensioners.

NBT India Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education, recently inaugurated the virtual edition of 9th International Adolescent Summit 2020: Life Skills, Health Safety & School Wellbeing. The International Adolescent Summit is being held till 12 January 2021 on the virtual platform, with various programs for all age-groups. The four-week event gives a chance to the students and teachers to interact with other schools from all over the

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LAUNCHES, CSR TIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

पुलिस तकनीकी सेवाएं मुख्यालय उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

. 8वां तल टावर, पुलिस मुख्यालय, अमर शहीद पथ, गोमतीनगर विस्तार लखनऊ-226002 e-mail: tshq@up.nic.ir Lett. No.: TS-MOD-83/2020 Dated- December, 17, 2020 Re E-Tender Notice

Online E-bids of the following instrument for Forensic Science Laboratory, Agra U.P are invited from

eligible and registered Firms/Manufacturers/Authorized dealers by Superinten Lucknow. This Re-tender is in continuation of E-tender No. TS-MOD-83/2020 -Tender No. Name of the Instrument | Qty. | EMD (in Rs.) | Tender Cost with 18% GST (in Rs.) | Period of Work PCR Machine

Bid documents are available on the website http://etender.up.nic.in, http://eprocure.gov.in and http://etender.up.nic.in, http://etender.up.nic.in, http://etender.up.nic.in, http://etender.up.nic.in, http://etender.up.nic.in, http://etender.up.nic.in</a 12.00 noon. Technical bids will be opened on 12-01-2021 at 14.00 Hrs.

All informations regarding E-Tender are available on website http://etender.up.nic.in http://eprocure.gov.in and http://uppolice.gov.in.

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd.

Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARA

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Install MCB/ ELCB/ RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/ Electrical Accidents

Tender Notice Details for the tenders mentioned hereunder are available on www.dgvcl.com

(for view and download tender documents) and www.dgvcl.nprocure.com

Tender No.

DGVCL/SP / 2130 / 11 KV HT AB Cable

DGVCL/SP / 2123 / 11 KV CTPT Units

DGVCL/SP / 2124 / 22 KV CTPT Units

DGVCL/Civil / 2020 / HVAC CAMC / 127 / R

Note: Bidders may visit the Company website for regular updates till openin

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

CORRIGENDUM To Tender Notice No. 24 of 2020-21

of ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-1st)

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL

SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR Phone No. Direct: 0194-2403929, (Telefax: 0194-2403929) (Exchange: 0194-2401013 Ex. 2275)

E-mail: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in

Ref: This office E-N.I.T. No. SIMS 325 (P 1st)

Drugs tender 07 of 2020 Dated: 12.12.2020

In continuation to this office corrigendum issued

under No. SIMS 325 (P 1st) Drugs Tender 07 of 2020-10159-10165, Dated: 22.12.2020 may read

The typographical error occurred to the clause

04 of check list is rectified to the extent: please

read "Scanned copies of Earnest Money

equivalent of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lac) in the

shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Director

Finance SKIMS Soura Srinagar and Tender

Fee of Rs. 2,000/- (Two Thousand) in the shape of Bank Draft or Pay-in-slip CD-34 J&K Bank SKIMS", in place of Scanned copies of Earnest money equivalent of Rs, 1,00,000/- (One Lac) for each group in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Director Finance SKIMS Soura

Srinagar and Tender Fee of Rs. 2,000/- (Two

Thousand) in the shape of Bank Draft or Pay-in-

Purchase-I, SKIMS.

07 of 2020-10204-210-5844-47 Materials Management Officer,

slip CD-34 J&K Bank SKIMS.

. SIMS-325-(P 1st) Drugs Tender

Dated: 24.12.2020

Subject: Rectification of Typographical errors

Previous value

Rs. 63.05.049.18

Rs. 1,26,100.00

Rs. 2,78,400.00

Rs. 3,18,85,717.10

Rs. 3,09,400.00

Rs. 2,56,75,007.84

(for view, download and online tender submission),

odified and may please be read as under.

EMD Cost Rs.

EMD Cost Rs.

EMD Cost Rs

Description

Approximate NIT cost Rs.

Approximate NIT cost Rs.

Approximate NIT cost Rs.

Tender No

DRM-ADI-

DRM-ADI-

00-2020-20

DRM-ADI-

as under:

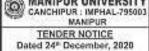
Sr. No.

UPID NO.158056 DATE-23.12.2020

(Anil Kumar Singh) Superintendent of Police SCRB. UP. Lucknow (Chairman- Purchase Comm



MU/FIN/EQUIP/19/(Pt) EMMRC, MU, Department Chemistry and Health Centre Manipur University invites sealed tenders for procurement of equipments and Medicines Details available at the University ebsite www.manipuruniv.ag.in Sd/- Purchase Officer Manipur University



Canchiput



BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD. बी एए आर B AND R (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE) CIN No.U27310WB1920G01003501 SECOND FLOOR, JVL PLAZA, NO. 626, ANNA SALAI, TEYNAMPET CHENNAJ - 600 018

resou	NOTICE INVITION RATE Offer(s) in two part reeful and experienced part is for following work:		
SI. No.	Description of work and NIT No.	Tender Document available on BAR's Website	Due Date submission

Repair & Maintenance of Installed 24.12.2020 06.01.2021 LED Street Lights / LED flood Lights Aurangabad Municipal Corporation of Maharashtra NIT No.: B&R / MDS / 71086 AWB / Repair & Maintenance 0973 Dated 24.12.2020 terested resourceful Contractors may download the tender document

rom Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in only.

ADI-200-2020-2021 & DRM-ADI-205-2020-21 of Engineering Department has been Modified value

Rs 54 22 465 44

Rs 1 08 500 00

Rs. 2,67,10,498.1

Rs. 2,83,600.00

Rs. 4,22,11,451.2

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा (जलकार्य एवं सीवरेज विभाग)

क्मांक/ज.वि.वि./61/2019–2020

//ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति//

मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीयकृत व्यवस्था में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों के लिए निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु निविदाएं ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है, उल्लेखित कार्य की नेविदा का विस्तृत वेबसाईट www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्रं.	टेण्डर	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	समयावधि			
1	UAD_	नवीन डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन पाईप लाईन से नल संयोजन कार्य		151200/-	15,000/-	12 माह			

नेविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांकः 06/01/2021 (शाम 5:30 बजे तक) : 08/01/2021 (प्रातः 10:30 बजे तक) नेविदा संबंधी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाईट http:www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन होता है तो वह ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर प्रदर्शित होगा उसे पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, खंडवा

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-1 st) SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR Phone No. Direct: 0194-2403929, (Telefax: 0194-2403929)

(Exchange: 0194-2401013 Ex. 2275) E-mail: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in

Subject:Technical & Financial/ Corrigendum

Ref: This office E-N.I.T. No. SIMS 325 (P 1st) Drugs tender 07 of 2020 Dated: 12.12.2020

In continuation to this office corrigendum issued under No. SIMS 325 (P 1st) Drugs Tender 07 of 2020-10159-10165, Dated: 22.12.2020 may read as under: Rectification of typographical errors/modifications:

Sr. No.	Item Code	Group	Incorporated in Corrigendum	Rectified and to be read as
01.	SAAO-38	Group "A" Sales Counter	Tab Anithymocye Globulin 25 mg.	Inj. Anithymocyte Globulin 25 mg.

lo. SIMS-325-(P 1st) Drugs Tende

07 of 2020-10171-177-5841-43

Dated: 23.12.2020

Materials Management Officer, Purchase-I, SKIMS.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), **ODISHA** NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) File No-B-IV-H-(H&D)-31/2019 Lr. No. 41221 / Bhubaneswar, the 23rd Dec. 2020

Invitation for Bids Bid Identification No. E.I.C. (B) - 07/2020-21

The Chief Engineer (Buildings) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building works

	as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building works
3.	No. of work	:	01 no.
4.	Bid Cost.	:	₹ 10,000/- (each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Super
	Availability of Bid Documents		From dt. 30.12.2020 to 17.00
	in the website		Hours of dt. 27.01.2021.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 29.01.2021 at 11:30 AM.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only

> Engineer-in-Chief (Buildings) Odisha, Bhubaneswar OIPR-34117/11/0011/2021

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HARYANA Nirvachan Sadan, Plot No. 2, Sector-17, Panchkula

Fax-0172-2585904, Telephone: 0172-2584810 www.secharyana.gov.in SHORT TERM TENDER FOR THE

PRINTING OF BALLOT PAPERS

e-tenders are invited from the Security Presses approved by R.B.I./ I.B.A having their own Web Offset Printing Machine with previous experience of printing of ballot papers for the printing of bout 2 Crores and 1.5 lacs ballot papers in respect of Panches and Members of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads for the Panchayat General Elections to be held in the near future, the details of which can be seen in the terms and conditions of the ten-

Tender Form can be downloaded from the e-Procuremen Portal i.e. https://etenders.hry.nic.in. The last date for submission/uploading of completed e-tenders will be 21.01.2021 upto 11.00 A.M. The Technical Bids shall be opened in the presence of tenderers or their authorised representative(s) at 11.30 A.M. on the same day.

Any other information regarding tender and tender form can be had from the Superintendent, Panchayat Branch of the State Election Commission Haryana on any working day during the STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA

1087/4/HRY



The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)



TENDER NOTICE Tenders are re-invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 69365, (2) 69222.

Note: For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in. PRO/AAM(M)/86/2020. **GENERAL MANAGER**

NDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUN (An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune - 411 008 I www.iiserpune.ac.in



Expression of Interest-01/2020-21

ISER Pune invites Expression of Interest from manufacturers /local suppliers for supply of listed items manufactured in India strictly as per PPP-MII Order dated 4th June 2020. List of tems/equipment is published on institute website.

nterested bidders are requested to submit their applications on or before 14th January, 2021 till 3.30 pm.

Detailed EOI document is published on http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/links/tender-notices-and-eoi

Advt. No: IISER/S&P/09/20-21 Dated 24/12/2020 Director

ODISHA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD (A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking) THE OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-INCLUSE CICIO TO THE OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER INCLUSE CICIO TO THE OFFICE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OFF At : Mahanadivihar, P.O. : Nayabazar, Cuttack-753004 Phone No.: 0671-2444511, Fax No.: 0671-2441616, E-mail ID : ce_jica@ Notification No. 3078 BID Identification No. Name of the Work

JICA/OWSSB/OISIP/ 04-II/LOT 1 IFB No. 02/2020: JICA/OWSSB/OISIP/ 04-II/LOT 2

Design and Construction of 1,850 m Length of Bo Drain with Road on top between Chainage 3300 5150, in the Main Drain 1, on Design Build basis. Design and Construction of 1,550 m Length of Box Drain with Road on top between Chainage 5150 – 6700, in the Main Drain 1, on Design Build basis.

CORRIGENDUM - 01 . In reference to the above and Notice Inviting Tender No. 2827 dated 30.11.2020, published in the newspapers and www.odisha.gov.in/tender, it is to hereby notified that, another pre-bid meeting shall be held on virtual platform on 30.12.2020 at 11:00 am. The interested bidders are requested to contact the Engineer-In-Chief OISIP JICA OWSSB Cuttack through E-mail

ce_jica@owssb.in by 05.00 pm of 29.12.2020 to obtain the virtual r user ID and Password. Upon receiving such request, participants shall be notified with the virtual meeting login ID and password for participation. Any further corrigendum / addendum / clarification, if any, will be uploaded or Government of Odisha Website: www.odisha.gov.in/tender only.

Engineer-In-Chief, OISIP, JICA, OWSSB, Cuttack

No. ND/DB/NIT/1/2020-21/ 406 4/6

Dated the Nacho, 21/12/2020.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Nacho Division, PWD (AP), Nacho invites on behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh sealed item rate tender in PWD Form-8 from the eligible registered firms/contractors of appropriate class under PWD/CPWD/NEEPCO/BRO/RAILWAYS etc. for the Work as stated below.

NIT/ Name of Estimated | Fornest Cost of Date of Date of Date of Date of Time of

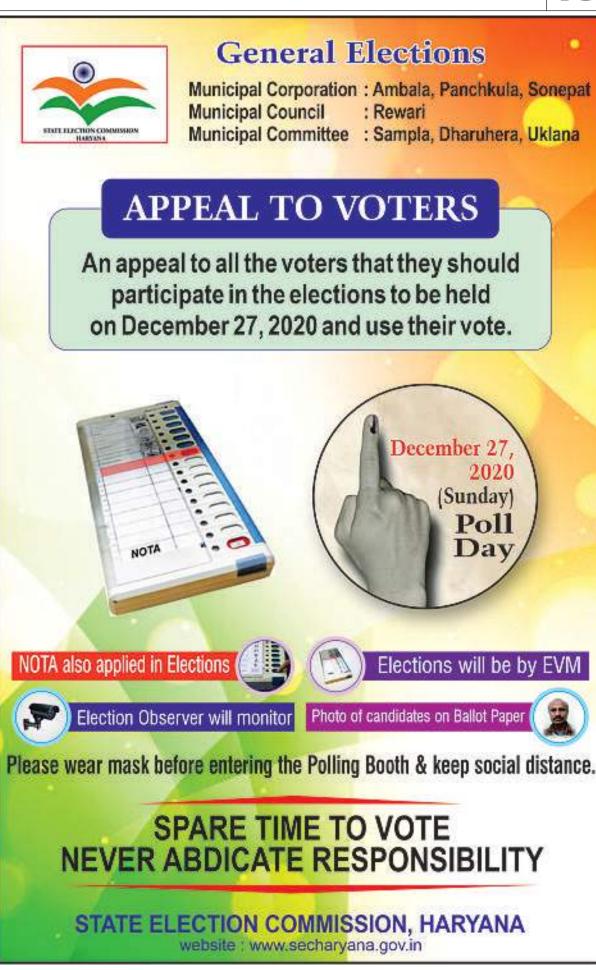
Pack age No.	works	cost (in Lakhs)	Money (in Re) (1% for APST)	Tender Paper (in Rs)	Receipt of applica- tion	issue of tender paper	submis- sion of Tender	opening of Tender	Com- pletion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Infrastru- cture develop- ment for SIB depart- ment at Taksing (SH: - Boundary Wall and CC steps).	Rs 70,42,300.00	70,423.00	1500.00	to 25/12/2020	26/12/2020 and 28/12/2020 up to 1600 Hrs.	31/12/2020 at 1000 Hrs.	31/12/20 20 at 1030 Hrs.	6 Manths

1. The intending tenderer/ participa

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Nacho Sub-Division, Nacho on payment of the tender cost. Other details and information can also be seen on the website Site www.arunachalpwd.org.

> Executive Engineer. Nacho Division, PWD (A.P) DIPR no. ARN/14762







www.kurukshetra.gov.in

www.48koskurukshetra.com

🥦 /internationalgitamahotsav

New Delhi

/igmkkr2020

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020 20 SPORT

(My perspective) has only shifted in the last 12 months since the whole Black Lives Matter thing started to take off. I was probably someone who had my head in the sand a little bit... That's really opened my eyes to things and issues our Indigenous people, black people and people of all sort of different cultures go through."

TIM PAINE, AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN, ON THE BLM MOVEMENT



Mary, Christmas

Six-time world champion and Olympic medallist Mary Kom celebrates Christmas Eve with family. Renuka Puri

Tokyo-bound athletes, coaches should be priority for vaccine: Parliament panel

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

A PARLIAMENTARY panel on Thursday recommended putting athletes, coaches and support staff going for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics in the priority group for the COVID-19 vaccination process. The committee also voiced concern over large number of vacancies of coaches, saying they should be filled up in a time-bound

The Tokyo Olympics are slated to be held from July next year.

manner so that Olympic preparations do not

The panel has also recommended identifying training facilities, stadia and sports centres for Olympic qualified athletes which have not opened yet. It said the closed centres should be reopened "at the earliest" or the athletes should be relocated to alternate centres which have opened.

The department-related parliamentary standing committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports headed by Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe submitted its report on "Preparation for Olympics 2021" to Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu through

The report said medical staff and other medical equipment such as X-Ray and MRI machines should be made available within select Sports Authority of India and other train-"This will ensure that athletes do not lose

any time for treatment and recovery. This will also keep them from travelling to hospitals where the chances of contracting COVID are the highest," it observed. The panel pointed out that due to coron-

avirus-triggered lockdown and travel restrictions, there was loss of international and national competition exposure which has hugely affected the training of the athletes. "The department and National Sports

Federations must ensure that players get an

corded priority as they prepare athletes for

opportunity to play maximum international tournaments before the 2021 Olympic games. "International competitions should be ac-

pressure situations they may find themselves in during actual Olympics," it said.

The committee observed that travelling to far away tournaments is a big challenge for athletes. Countries such as France and Germany that host tournaments at home, have produced more champions, it pointed out.

'India should host more international tournaments so that players can reduce travel to collect more points and move up the ranking ladder. Also, a larger number of athletes can benefit from the same amount that India spends on sending athletes abroad for exposure," the report observed.

The standing committee also recommended creation of "bio-bubbles" in training facilities so that "athletes can be isolated in a secure environment and train with minimal possibility of being infected."

It proposed giving individualised programmes to athletes capable of reaching finals or medal hopefuls and also providing for sending them abroad as soon as possible in a "bubble environment" where top scientific infrastructure is available.

Same ring, unusual Boxing Day

MCG will look different, with far fewer spectators, but India has task cut out

VISHALMENON

THE MCG does not have the notorious Bay 13 anymore. It was dismantled and replaced by a glitzy state-of-the-art hospitality arena last year. Besides, the stadium will be only up to 30 per cent full when India take on Australia in the second Test on Saturday. However, the im-

posing 1,00,000-seater is a colossal amphitheatre and playing here comes with its inherent challenges. The intimidating size and overwhelming presence can expose even the mi-

nutest shortcomings in a player. The MCG has rarely been a happy visit for tourists. Just to put things in perspective, South Africa in 2008, England in 2010 and India in 2018 are the only three visiting teams to have

defeated Australia at this venue this century.

After the Adelaide hammering, India under Ajinkya Rahane can either get intimidated and crumble at this imposing venue like sev eral teams have in the past. Or they can orchestrate a stunning turnaround. They can seek inspiration from their spirited all-round performance two years ago that vaulted them to a resounding series win.

In his pre-departure presser, when Kohli was asked about the challenges of playing in Australia, he quipped: "Playing in huge stadiums and in front of such huge crowds is always challenging. But if you do well here, you earn their respect, and that is something that's really satisfying for any cricketer."

From Michael Atherton to KL Rahul, they have all been subjected to relentless taunts and a volley of vitriolic abuse from the MCG crowd. Rahul, who made his Test debut six years ago, has spoken in detail about his harrowing experience to bcci.tv.

"The crowd is really against us when we play here. They love their cricket, but make our lives on the ground really hard. This is why cricket in Australia is so exciting. When I played my first Test in Melbourne, I was standing at deep square-leg boundary, and one of the guys in the crowd asked: 'Mate, what's your name?' They said hello and all, but in 10 seconds, the whole section started chanting, 'Rahul is a wa&\$#r'," he recollects.

Atherton, in an interview to The Times, London, said: "You never forget the crowd. In the 1990s, I played three Tests in front of 80,000 people and the atmosphere was incredible. As a player, it was inspiring. It racks up tension, puts you on the edge and makes you sharper and, ideally, better.'

The pandemic-forced isolation is expected to add pressure on the players. Steve Smith has not met wife Dani Willis since August 31, before



India take on Australia in the second Test on Saturday, playing at the imposing 1,00,000-seater amphitheatre comes with its inherent challenges. AP File

leaving for England on a white-ball tour. From there to the IPL and back in Australia, Smith has travelled from one bubble to another. Christmas Day, on the eve of the Melbourne Test, is traditionally an occasion when families of Australian players and coaching and support staff get together for lunch after a brief training session in the morning. Not this year, thanks to the pandemic.

"It's the first time in 50 years I've been without my family (for Christmas)," head coach Justin Langer said. "There's a number of players and the staff who are without families this year. It's one of the sacrifices we have to make in 2020. It's not ideal but it is what it is.'

Team India also has a lot to ponder. It arrives at the hallowed turf on the back of a calamitous batting implosion at the Adelaide Oval, Trailing 0-1, they will be without their talismanic captain Virat Kohli and senior pacer Mohammed Shami. The dodgy form of their batsmen and visions of 36/9 will add to their olight. But Langer and his troops won't like to let their guard down.

"India had the better of us really for the first two days of the (Adelaide) game," Langer said. "We were in for a real arm wrestle of a Test match. So, it was amazing how things turned around. We know how good a team India is, we know we've got to keep improving," the former opener said. "We'll have to start well Boxing Day morning and then be consistent, because we know India will fight back."

TOLD THE TEACHER

I WASN'T QUITE

FINISHED

MCG standby venue for Sydney Test

Melbourne: Cricket Australia on Thursday said Melbourne has been placed on standby to host the third Test between India and Australia if Sydney's COVID-19 situation renders it "untenable" despite efforts being made to continue with the original schedule. The fate of the third Test has been shrouded in uncertainty since earlier this month after a outbreak in the northern beaches in Sydney, which is scheduled to host the third Test from January 7.

"CA has reaffirmed its commitment to giving it the best chance to play the third Vodafone Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground and the fourth Vodafone Test at the Gabba as per the original schedule," CA said. "Should the public health situation in NSW render playing in Sydney untenable, CA's preferred contingency plan is to work with the Victorian Government to play the third Vodafone Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground followed by the fourth Vodafone Test at the Gabba.

A final decision would be made during the Boxing Day Test.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

they may be saying one thing

and doing something else! One

than at any time since last year. If there's any chance that you

can help soothe a loved one's nerves, please do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

you're unhappy at work, the pressure to change jobs in mid-

stream may be irresistible. It's

also now time to seek status in

be turning the clock back,

completing a task that you

began a long time ago.

your community. Perhaps you'll

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

dogma about the way people

should behave. If you get too

the richness of day-to-day

upset about rules and arbitrary

expectations, you'll miss out on

human experience. You'll also

sacrifice a passing opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

perhaps one which will colour

your prosperity for the years to

come. Don't be afraid to turn

the clock back for, if you lay the

past to rest, you will be much

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

view. This may go against the

grain, but is a good strategy

because you need to let partners get things off their

lead again as soon as the air

chest. You'll be able to take the

You really must

people today, and

even bend over backwards to see their points of

listen to other

better at dealing with

the present.

There does now

seem to be some sort

your financial affairs,

of turning point in

This is one of those

rare moments when

you all too easily get

stuck in some sort of

The professional

so strong that, if

dimension in your horoscope is looking

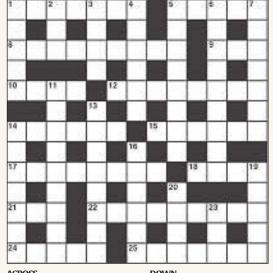
way or the other, your social stars are looking more intense

BY PETER VIDAL

Everything hinges

feel, say and do. The fact is, though, that

CROSSWORD 4311



- One would feel put out to be
- Gather in great numbers for a service (5)

treated so(7)

- They fit out a vessel with spars 9 The whole lot, though it
- sounds like less (3) 10 Goes unsteadily to turn back
- the power (4)

 12 It sounds highly unnatural (8)
- 14 It is involved with a plan that is flexible (6)
- 15 Tell a story concerning the dead?(6)
- 17 Changing triangle formation
- 18 Like one with a large area of land (4) 21 A drinking place in point
- 22 Realistic science exam (9)
- 24 Back a favourite I'd found not so hot (5)
- 25 Makes one's own wings?

- Writing directions for example
- 2 Old priest taking part in the litany(3) Trifles - child's play really
- 4 Kind of fin found in cod or
- salmon(6) 5 Estimated value
- Dogs give assailant trouble (9)
- Nobody in particular (7) 11 Document, having reached
- double figures, is fully described (7,2)
- 13 Nothing daunted, I printed a different version (8)
- 14 A key player (7)
- 16 A capital rank Arabs hold
- 19 It should include these mountains (5) 20 Astound without ado
- 23 One who confronts those engaged in a row (3)

 $\textbf{Solutions Crossword 4310: Across:} \, 1 \, \text{Racecard}, \, 5 \, \text{Otic}, \, 9 \, \text{Lenin}, \, 10 \, \text{Minimum}, \, 11 \, \text{Minimum},$ Masterstroke, 13 Icarus, 14 Pursue, 17 Heart-to-heart, 20 Unfrock, 21 There, 22 Palm. 23 Stiletto, Down: 1 Roll. 2 Cantata, 3 Construction, 4 Remark, 6 Tempo, 7 Competes, 8 Instrumental, 12 High jump, 15 Serpent, 16 Pocket, 18 Awful, 19 Veto.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

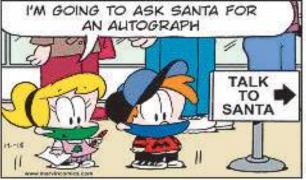


THAT SOUNDS I'LL NEED SOME MIKEN 15 IT WAS DUE I TUB , MAGOT

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



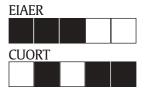
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

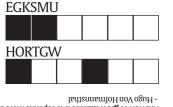


I'VE NEVER MET A FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY BEFORE TALK TO SANTA

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 is to separate more distinctly, to connect more closely - Hugo Von Hofmannsthal





Answer: 10 grow mature is to separate more distinctly, to connect more closely SOLUTION: AERIE, COURT, MUSKEG, GROWTH

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

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

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

SUDOKU

				0	1	1.0
	9					1
4					5	1
	1		3		4	2
9			2			6
		8				1
3	6		8	1		
	5	2	8		3	

8 4 SOLUTION SUDOKU 4332 8 1 9 4 6 5 3 7 2 9 3 7 6 8 1 2 4 8 3 5 2 4 7 3 8 9 5 2 3 9 4 7 3 7 4 6 9 8 1 2 5 2 5 1 7 4 8 6 3

7 3 6 8 1 2 4 5 9

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Your stars begin to look simultaneously more relaxed and more passionate, which means that you may be propelled head-long into a bout of sheer pleasure. Creative

activities now require boundless energy and limitless commitment. In fact, there's room for deep satisfaction in even the dullest of duties.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) The prospect of a

move of home or some other major domestic upheaval must now look more attractive. At the very least you should bring as much colour into your home and family life as you possibly can. That's no more than you deserve. Plus, what's

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It's decision time. Or

for everyone.

good for you could be right

is it? The fact is that while you may be pushed into making a choice, probably an emotional one, it looks very certain that whatever is agreed now will be altered again next month. Mind you, you will very soon make unexpected gains in a personal area. That's the good news.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) This is certainly a rare moment of passion. If all is calm on the surface, beware, for underneath you're like a seething volcano waiting to erupt. It seems that your emotional security is at stake. You just need to feel

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23) There's a real planetary traffic jam

that you're appreciated.



That's all.

shuffling here, there and everywhere. You may permit yourself a spell of confusion, and by all means wallow in your emotions. If there are important matters to deal with. call the experts.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23) One positive way to

other noble enterprise is now

increasingly likely.



New Delhi

use your current planetary energy is to dip into mystical and spiritual realities, searching for the pattern underlying your day-to-day affairs. Some sort of selfless involvement in a charity or

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20) Busy times lie ahead. There is a great deal



is cleared.

that doesn't only refer to paid employment. Relationships have to be worked at as well, and you should remember that the best partnerships must be based on genuinely shared activities and interests.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

Cavanifires Man Utd into League Cup semis

London: Manchester United left it late to book their place in the League Cup semifinals with a 2-0 win at Everton, while Tottenham joined them in the last four after beating Stoke 3-1 on Wednesday. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side dominated for long periods of their quarter-final at Goodison Park, but it took until the 88th minute before Edinson Cavani broke the deadlock, Anthony Martial bagged United's second goal in stoppage time. For Tottenham, Wales forward Gareth Bale made the most of a rare start to put the team ahead but Alli was at fault when his flamboyant flick was intercepted in the build-up to Jordan Thompson's equaliser for Stoke. Ben Davies put Tottenham back in front with his first goal since 2017 before England captain Harry Kane sealed Spurs' place in the semi-finals.

Real win five on the bounce to go joint top

Madrid: A towering header from Casemiro and an added-time strike from Karim Benzema saw Real Madrid beat a stubborn Granada side 2-0 at home on Wednesday to notch a fifth consecutive La Liga victory and go level on points with leaders Atletico Madrid. Real have 32 points from 15 games heading into a seven-day break from matches, level with Atletico who are top on goal difference and have two games

Sun's doping ban referred back to CAS

Chinese swimmer Sun Yang has had his eight-year ban for doping violations referred back to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after the Swiss Federal Supreme Court upheld his appeal against the ban on the grounds of bias by one of the CAS panel. The decision could potentially clear the way for Sun to compete at next year's delayed Tokyo Olympics, depending on when the case is heard. Sun was banned for eight years by CAS in February after it accepted an appeal from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) against a decision by swimming governing body FINA to clear him of wrongdoing for his conduct during a 2018 test.

Politicians, officials, musicians ... everyone but cricketers

MIHIR VASAVDA DECEMBER 24

WHILE RENOUNCING his membership with the Delhi and District Cricket Association and asking for the removal of his name from a stand at Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium, former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi lamented that India does not honour its sportspersons the same way as rest of the world.

Nearly all great venues in the world honour eminent sportspersons in way one or another. In India, though, cricket stadiums are named after everyone except cricketers and a handful are named after heroes from other sports.

Politicians

9 number of stadiums named after former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Of them, 8 - New Delhi, Chennai, Kochi, Indore, Guwahati, Margao, Pune and Ghaziabad – have hosted domestic and international cricket matches.

3 number of arenas named after Indira Gandhi (Guwahati, New Delhi and Vijayawada) and Rajiv Gandhi (Hyderabad, Dehradun and Kochi).

■ When India hosted the 2017 under-17 football World Cup, four out of the six venues used were named after the Nehru-Gandhi family – the Nehru stadiums in Kochi, Delhi and Margao, along with the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Guwahati, which is one of the three stadia named after the former Prime Minister.

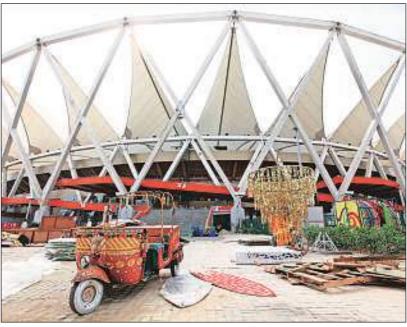
A life-size portrait of Rajiv Gandhi in his cricket gear hangs at the entrance of the stadium named after the former Prime Minister in Hyderabad.

2 number of grounds named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Nadaun and Lucknow) and Sardar Patel (Valsad and Ahmedabad)

■ The Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi was renamed Arun Jaitley Stadium

■ Kozhikode's EMS Stadium, which has hosted 1987 Nehru Cup and is home to I-League side Gokulam Kerala, is named after communist leader and first chief minister of Kerala, EMS Namboodiripad.

Administrators



New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games opening and closing ceremonies, is one of nine venues named after the former Prime Minister. Express file

4 number of stadiums that get their names from cricket administrators; Chennai's MA Chidambaram, Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy, Mohali's IS Bindra and Mumbai's Wankhede stadiums get their names from the eponymous former presidents of the cricket board.

Other personalities

■ There are stadiums which have links with the British Raj. The iconic Eden Gardens derives its name from the sisters of the former Governor-General of India Lord Auckland, Emily and Fanny Eden. Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium, meanwhile, named after the then Bombay Governor, Lord Brabourne.

number of venues named after music maestros: Guwahati's Dr Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium and Delhi's multi-purpose Thyagaraj Stadium, which is dedicated to Carnatic composer

number of stadium that gets its name I from an executive: Jamshedpur's Keenan Stadium, which is named after the former general manager of Tata Steel, John Lawrence Keenan.

Sportspersons

Onumber of cricket stadiums that are named after a cricketer. ■ There

however, two cricket grounds that honour hockey legends - Lucknow's KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium and Captain Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior, the venue where

Sachin Tendulkar became the first cricketer to score a double century in ODIs.

 $2^{\rm number\, of\, hockey\, stadiums\, named\, after\, Major\, Dhyan\, Chand,\, in\, New\, Delhi}$ and Lucknow.

number of football stadium named after a footballer, the **Bhaichung** Stadium in Namchi, Sikkim.

If COVID-19 impacts schedule, BCCI to compensate players

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

THE BCCI has decided to compensate cricketers if it fails to hold any other domestic tournament other than the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy due to the ongoing Covid situation in India. This was decided at the Annual General Meeting in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

This initiative is expected to benefit more than a thousand men and women cricketers. The Board, however, hasn't ruled out the possibility of holding the Ranji Trophy or the Vijay Hazare Trophy and will take a call during or after the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament to be played from January 10-31.

"We are still very optimistic about holding the Ranji Trophy. Members agreed that it is very important. But if the Covid situation worsens, then the Vijay Hazare Trophy (50over format) could be the easier option rather than holding four-day matches. But the domestic players will be compensated if there's no other domestic tournament apart from the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy," Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) president Jaydev Shah, who attended the meeting, told The Indian Express

As per the BCCI press release, the general body decided to "form a working group in order to compensate the players, match officials and others involved in cricketing activity if they are not able to participate due to cancellation of cricket matches/tournaments owing to COVID-19". The women's domestic matches and men's junior cricket, it is learnt, would be played during the IPL, from May onwards.

10 IPL teams from 2022

The AGM also authorised the IPL Governing Council to include up to 10 teams in the Indian Premier League. "Given the logistical challenges and also an increased number of matches in the middle of a pandemic, we are likely to expand the IPL from 2022. The members agreed in principle as regards to the IPL's expansion to cater to and create a wider talent pool," said a BCCI offi-

Chetan Sharma new

after he was picked for the senior se-Singh and Sulakshana Naik.

T20 World Cup tax matters

To ensure that the next ICC T20 World Cup is played in India in October-November 2021, the BCCI would bear the tax liability,

chairman of selectors

Former India medium pacer Chetan Sharma will be the new chief selector lection panel on Thursday, along with Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty (both ex-India seamers), by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap

The new selectors will join Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh in the panel and Sharma, who has played 23 Tests and 65 ODIs, will be the chairman by virtue of the number of Tests played.

which can go up to \$124 million, according to the AGM papers.

As per the host agreement, the BCCI is 'obligated to" deliver the International Cricket Council (ICC) a full tax exemption for hosting the World Cup. Else, the tournament will move out to the United Arab Emirates.

or the ICC will debit money from the Indian board's revenue share. The game's global body has set December 31 as the deadline in this regard. "Our revenue share from the ICC is \$390

million. If we fail to deliver a full tax exemption, then a little over \$100 million will go away from our share over two World Cups (2021 T20 World Cup and 2023 50-over World Cup). The office-bearers asked the members if we wanted to host or not. We said we want to host," the SCA president told

The BCCI is still negotiating with the government for tax exemption.

Cricket in Olympics

The BCCI is not averse to cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, but the members want certain clarifications from the ICC before taking a final decision. The AGM also decided to increase the re-

tirement age for domestic match officials and scorers from 55 to 60, while raising the insurance cover for retired First-Class cricketers to Rs 10 lakh. Rajeev Shukla has been elected BCCI vice-president.

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Christmas is all about celebrating brotherhood

This is a festival that is celebrated across the globe with a lot of cheerfulness and festivities

ith the ongoing festive season inching closer to the year-end festivities, two big celebrations are on the cards for many on the occasion of Christmas and New Year. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus whom Christians believe is the Son of God. Celebrated across the globe by Christians and non-Christians alike, Christmas is "one of the most important days of the year for Christians, along with Easter when the death and resurrection of Jesus are observed." The traditions of celebrating Christmas differ from country to country, but they nearly always include "a feast, giving gifts or cards, and enjoying church or public festivities such as singing Christmas carols and songs. Santa Clause is a tradition in many countries of the world."

Since every festival in India is celebrated with great pomp and show, Christmas is no exception. It's a festival that spreads the message of brotherhood and love and is celebrated across the society with great merriment. On this day, people visit churches and cathedrals that are embellished with flowers, colourful lights and other decorations. Folks send Christmas greetings to their friends and families in faraway places. People decorate their homes to the hilt with Christmas trees, wreathes with bright red decorative bulbs, bells and other small trinkets. People hang beauti-



ful star-shaped paper lamps of various colours and sizes outside their homes. And when it comes to cele-

brating festivals, one automatically turns to shopping. During this hugely popular festival, shops and bazaars are decked up to do good business by offering mega discounts and offers. Generally, markets are jampacked with huge crowd as people scurry to buy new clothes, gifts (exchanging gifts is an ageold Christmas practice and people choose gifts for their loved ones with great thought and affection), a variety of things to cook, Christmas decorations, among other things. In the midst of celebrations, don't become lackadaisical and do follow COVID-19 precautionary and preventive measures to have a worry-free Christmas celebrations this year.





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Christmas Brings Communities Together!

HRISTMAS is one such festival that transcends communities and unites them in one global celebration. Observed with much gusto among people of all faith, Christmas is a hugely popular festival across the globe. On Christmas, people throng to churches and cathedrals in scores to attend prayers and Mass. On this day, people from other communities too visit churches to pay their obeisance to Jesus Christ.

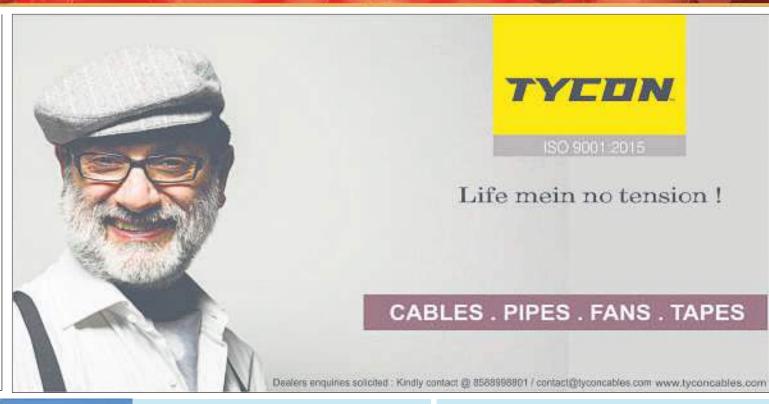
Christmas represents a great way to develop bonds between people in a society. Since there is an underlying feeling of family that comes with celebrating this festival, people always seem to bond well during Christmas. This is just one of the things that is an intrinsic part of Christmas that can help build support for

The season of preparing for Christmas is called Advent and begins on a Sunday about four weeks before Christmas. The Christmas Season (called Christmastide) ends 6 January or the Twelfth Day after Christmas,

in which Epiphany is remembered. In many countries, "the season for retail stores to sell gifts, food, greeting cards, Christmas trees, and decorations begins almost a month before the Christmas Day."

Being a cultural festival, preparations for Christmas start early for most people so that celebrations begin on the eve of Christmas. People usually buy decorations, food, and gifts mostly for children in the family and friends. Some families shop for matching Christmas outfits for everyone. "The common preparations include decorations of the place with Christmas trees, lighting. Before decorations begin, the house must be deep cleaned. The Christmas tree brings the Christmas spirit in homes."

The traditions of celebrating Christmas differ from country to country, but they nearly always include "a feast, giving gifts or cards, and enjoying church or public festivities such as singing Christmas carols and songs. Santa Claus is a tradition in many countries of the world."





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