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## Public health priority will decide vaccine cost, PM tells parties

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday told leaders of all parties that experts had said vaccines against Covid-19 would be ready in the next few weeks, and that they would be manufactured on a large scale in the country. The inoculation will begin as soon as scientists give the go-ahead, the PM said.

Opposition leaders, particularly Sharad Pawar of NCP, demanded that the vaccine should be distributed free. With all parties suggesting that the vaccine should be at least priced nominally, Modi said that the Centre

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Focus on roadmap

THE FIRST shots will be received by healthcare and frontline workers, but not many more details are available — even though the PM has said that India would be ready to roll out the vaccination programme as soon as scientists give the go-ahead.

was in talks with state governments, and that the larger public health would be the priority  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Jharkhand HC takes note of reports, asks govt to file 'detailed affidavit'

**THE SCHOLARSHIP SCAM**

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, DECEMBER 4

THE JHARKHAND High Court on Friday took suo motu cognizance of *The Indian Express* investigation into the sprawling Pre-Matric Scholarship scam and asked the state to file a "detailed affidavit" in the matter.

The court had listed the matter after Ranchi-based lawyer Mohammad Shadab Ansari wrote to Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan asking the court to take



The *Indian Express* report on November 1

cognizance of the findings of *The Indian Express*. The court turned the letter into a PIL, stating this was prima facie a "scandal".

The investigation by *The Indian Express* had laid bare a  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## GOVT-FARMER TALKS RESUME TODAY

# Reports of disquiet in Punjab; Govt looks at MSP, redressal assurances

APMC, pvt mandi parity, court process will need amendments

HARIKISHAN SHARMA, MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA & RAAKHI JAGGA  
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

HAVING ANNOUNCED its intention to address key concerns of farmers such as levelling the playing field between APMC mandis and private markets, registration of traders, and allowing farmers' recourse to civil courts for dispute resolution, the Central government Friday internally discussed options on how to incorporate these changes.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar met senior officials in Krishi Bhawan and went through the 10-page note mailed by farmers' unions on Thursday morning and the substance of the talks during the seven-hour discussion later that day.

Hopeful of breaking the  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Farmers at the Singhu border in New Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna MORE REPORTS, PAGES 4, 6

## On table now, issues which Opp raised in House, Govt dismissed

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

IT WAS a crisis foretold.

The farmer protests on the borders of Delhi and their discussions with the government at Vigyan Bhawan — another round

of talks will be held Saturday — are a rerun of the concerns raised in Parliament this September over the three farm Bills, and suggestions which the government chose to ignore.

The Opposition had urged the government not to pass the Bills in a hurry, but to send them

for Parliamentary scrutiny given the sweep, intent and implications. From MSP to mandi system, contract farming to dispute resolution mechanism, these concerns of the farmers had been flagged by MPs, even from parties such as AIADMK and BJD  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Wedding stopped in UP, groom says, 'no talk of conversion... love enough'

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 4

THE MUSLIM youth whose wedding to a Hindu neighbour was stopped in Lucknow's Duda Colony by the police under the

new anti-conversion law said neither of them planned to convert. Pointing out that the two had known each other for five years, the mother of the woman said the marriage had their sanction and nobody could stop it. The families also said the

wedding was planned before the law came into force, on November 28, and they would have sought permission if they knew it was required.

The groom, who works as a pharmacist, told *The Indian Express*,  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

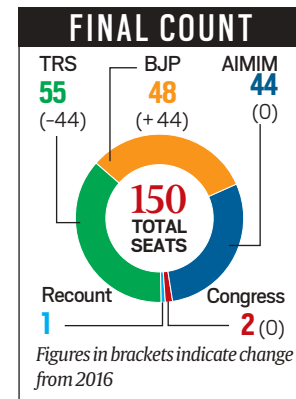
## Massive BJP surge in Hyderabad civic poll, says Telangana next

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 4

MARKING A stunning performance in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, the BJP on Friday emerged as the second-largest party, dislodging the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) from half the seats it had held. While the BJP tally went up from four in 2016 to 48, the TRS numbers went down from 99 to 55.

With only one result in the 150-member GHMC still pending following the order for a recount, the TRS will finish well short of the mark of at least 65 seats to get the mayor's post.

While the AIMIM retained its tally of 44 seats, while contesting 51 seats instead of 60 last time, the blow of ending up behind the BJP will hurt. The GHMC polls were a prestige battle for AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on his home turf, and the BJP that ran a high-pitch campaign rolling out its big guns had principally targeted it. Among  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



## Citing inflation concern, RBI holds key rate; says recovery needs support

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN & GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Friday left key policy rates unchanged for the third time in a row in the wake of persistently high retail inflation, even as it pointed to the economy, which contracted

in the last two quarters, showing signs of an early recovery.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain status quo on the policy rate and to continue with the accommodative stance "as long as necessary, at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year"  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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**THE WEALTHIEST INDIAN BUSINESSWOMEN**

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of IT company HCL Technologies, topped the list of the richest women in the country with a net worth of Rs 54,850 crore. Here's a look at the other wealthiest Indian businesswomen.

**WHAT'S TRENDING**



**LOVE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC**

**When Tarun Kanti Pal, 66, met 63-year-old Swapna Roy.**

**EXPRESS RESEARCH**



**WHY SOME STOLEN ITEMS DON'T RETURN**

**Demands for the return Kohinoor have been turned down**

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Why Maradona has had a lasting impact on Indian football's psyche**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode, we talk about what made Diego Maradona one of the biggest legends in football and his lasting impact on Indian football's psyche.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Disquiet**

deadlock Saturday when the talks will resume, sources said the government was willing to even give a written assurance to farmers on the continuation of MSP (Minimum Support Price) and the manner of procurement to farmers. "A written assurance on MSP and procurement is just short of putting it down in law," said a source, indicating the distance the government was willing to walk to placate the farmers.

The government's conciliatory stance is also influenced by ground reports about deep resentment among farmers in Punjab. They were told that in spite of the successful procurement of paddy, farmers believed the farm laws spelt an end to the APMC regime. It was also pointed out that had the party's former ally Akali Dal not channelled that anger, headline forces may have hijacked the protests. The top leaders were told the resentment was more pronounced in the Malwa region of Punjab that borders both Haryana and Rajasthan.

Former BJP MP and Additional Solicitor General Satya Pal Jain, who has been representing the Centre in farmer-related cases in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, said all issues were on the table. "The government is also considering farmers' apprehensions around the MSP. I am confident things will be sorted out soon," Jain said.

In the meeting with the 40 representatives of farmers' unions on Thursday, the government had identified four key issues related to the new farm laws. These include: a level-playing field between APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis and private markets; need for proper registration of traders outside APMC mandis; recourse to civil courts to dispute resolution, which right now is officer-led; and the need for registration of contract farming.

Besides these, the unions demanded that the MSP system be hardwired in the law itself.

After the meeting, Tomar had said the government would consider the points identified in the meeting. It is learnt that officials from the agriculture, food and law ministries discussed various options. While some concerns of the farmers can be addressed through executive orders, some others may require amendment to the laws.

For instance, to ensure *samyata* (level-playing field) between the APMC mandis and private markets, amendment of Section 6 of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 may be required. Similarly, a tweak in the provisions of the Act will be required to allow disputes to be taken to civil courts. Under the Act, Section 15 states that disputes arising out of transactions in the alternative markets cannot be entertained in regular civil courts. Instead, these have to be compulsorily referred to conciliation boards and appellate authorities appointed by the local Sub-Divisional Magistrates and District Collectors.

**PM on vaccine**

when the price is decided. Modi, who last week reviewed the progress at India's top vaccine hubs, informed the meeting that eight potential vaccines, including three Indian candidates, were at different stages of trials in the country. "Experts expect that the vaccine will be ready within the next few weeks. India's vaccination drive will begin as soon as we get a go-ahead from scientists. The Centre is working on the basis of suggestions from state governments about who will be inoculated in the first phase of the vaccination drive," Modi said.

He said healthcare workers involved in treating Covid-19 pa-

tients, frontline workers, and the elderly who were suffering from serious conditions, would get priority in vaccination. The meeting, which was convened by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, was attended by the floor leaders of all parties in both Houses of Parliament.

"The world is looking out for the cheapest and safest vaccine," Modi said. "Because of this, it is natural that the world is watching India. I have visited vaccine hubs in Ahmedabad, Pune, and Hyderabad and witnessed the ongoing preparation for manufacturing the vaccine."

Sources said the government was confident of being able to start distributing the vaccines in some weeks, even though it did not put forward a specific timeline. The meeting — the second of its kind convened by the government — was held in a "cordial atmosphere and went off on a positive note", a top source said.

A senior Opposition leader told *The Indian Express* that a detailed presentation made by the Health Secretary was "fine", but it contained a few "ifs and buts". "For instance, the presentation said 'whoever needs to be vaccinated, will be vaccinated'. This was ambiguous. Who will decide who needs to be vaccinated? Vaccination is generally universal," the leader said.

Several regional leaders demanded that the Centre should provide states with the financial support needed for the vaccination programme. Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "We hoped and expected that the government would tell us details about the vaccination plan. But the government merely said health workers and frontline workers would be given priority. We agree that should be done... that is necessary... but what about the 130 crore Indians? No roadmap was presented."

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad spoke about the need to develop infrastructure to store vaccines at sub-zero temperatures. Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said 2.5 per cent of the GDP must be allocated to the health sector.

In a three-page note given to the government, the CPM's Elamaram Kareem underlined the massive economic costs of the pandemic, and the ways in which it had destroyed lives and livelihoods, and pushed crores of people into poverty, hunger and deprivation.

**Hyderabad poll**

the 48 seats won by the BJP, six were in the Muslim-dominated Charminar division.

The Congress's tally stood at two, the same as in 2016.

BJP leaders said the party's performance "made it unambiguously clear that it is emerging as the alternative force" in Telangana, which they said was their agenda for this election. The party sees Telangana as one of the states where it has the most chance after Karnataka. BJP president J P Nadda and senior leader and Home Minister Amit Shah said the results also showed "unequivocal support towards PM Modi's development and governance model".

The BJP won in areas dominated by software engineers, intra-state migrants, and people who moved out of the congested Old City of Hyderabad to newer areas of the city on the outskirts. The party appears to have made substantial gains among socially and economically backward communities as well. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had demonstrated its presence in the state, winning four of the 17 seats with almost 20% vote share.

BJP Telangana chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar said, "The BJP's win in the November 10 Dubbaka by-election was the defeat of T Harish Rao, the

**On table now, issues which Opp raised in House, Govt dismissed**

which are considered friendly to the government. Yet Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who is now leading the talks with the farmers, told Lok Sabha on September 17: "I want to request the farmers not to get influenced by disinformation for political ends (*rajnitik drishti se kiye gaye kisi bhi dushprachar se prabhavit na ho*)."

This is what members said during the debates in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on September 17 and September 20:

**The worry**

■ **Initiating the debate in Lok Sabha on September 17, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Congress MP from Ludhiana, said:** "If you give trouble to the farmers of Punjab, if you put Punjab, a border state, in crisis, the country will suffer... If you commit atrocities on the farmers of Punjab and Haryana, how will the country function? Our soldiers too hail from Punjab and Haryana. There is bound to be a reaction. There will be unrest. You create difficulties regarding SYL canal and MSP. What will you gain out of it except unrest?"

■ **At the end of the debate, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said:** "You are saying the farmers will benefit because of this (Bills). Show me one farmer who is happy with these Bills. Look at Haryana and Punjab, the farmers are unhappy. Wahan aag lag gayi hai. Both the states are in ferment."

■ **In Rajya Sabha on September 20, SAD's Naresh Gujral said:** "Don't think the farmers of Punjab are weak... Mr Minister, I have only one request... the spark that has been lit in Punjab and Haryana... don't allow it to turn into a fire. Otherwise it may be written in history... that lamhon ne khata ki thi, sadiyon ne saza paayi."

**On MSP**

■ **Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda of JD(S):** "One of the central fears of the farmers is that the ordinances may be a ploy and a precursor to phase out grain procurement at minimum support prices. This they perceive would throw them to the mercy of private players and big corporates... Since the ordinances were brought hurriedly during a raging pandemic, there appears to be widespread doubt."

■ **S R Balasubramoniyam (AIADMK):** "The Bill is silent about the Minimum Support Price (MSP) which is essential for the survival of farmers. The Government should stipulate mandatory rules for the Minimum Support Price. That is

more important for the farmers than anything else."

■ **Partap Singh Bajwa (Congress):** "Agriculture and market, according to Schedule VII of the Constitution, are state subjects. The ordinance and Bills are against our federal cooperative spirit. Further, we don't want APMC and Minimum Support Price to be tinkered with."

■ **K Shanmugasundaram (DMK):** "The Bill is silent about the Minimum Support Price which is essential for the survival of farmers. The Government should stipulate mandatory rules for MSP."

■ **Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena):** "Include a provision to say that no agreement (for purchase) can be entered into which is less than the MSP so that farmers will get the base price and they are convinced."

■ **Ram Mohan Naidu (TDP):** "There has been no mention about the MSP in any of the three Bills and this is leading to confusion. The Government is saying that there is nothing to fear about the MSP. If that is the case, then why do they not make it liable for the private players to ensure that MSP is granted to the farmers? If that is included, then much of the ruckus that is being created will be settled."

■ **Binoy Viswan (CPI):** "I request the Minister... if the statement about the MSP is true and sincere... he should move an official amendment here, saying that he will add a clause ensuring the MSP for the farmers. In that case, I promise you, even though we oppose you politically, the Communist Party of India will support this Bill."

■ **Tomar's response, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, was:** "MSP-based procurement was there in the country, is there, and will continue."

**On dispute resolution**

■ **Ram Mohan Naidu (TDP):** "On the question of Dispute Resolution Mechanism... much of it has been delegated to the Executive, like the Magistrates and District Collectors. Now, the courts are not being involved in this. This provision would be a partial solution. Apart from trade related disputes, farmers will have other legal battles also which could be land related. In these times, I think, it would be better if the Government thinks of setting up Agricultural Tribunals in line with the provision of Article 323 (b) of Constitution of India."

■ **S Jothamani (Congress):** "This Bill says that there is a dis-

pute settlement mechanism. He or she can go to the conciliation board. If nothing happens in 30 days, a farmer can approach the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. If it does not work, then there is a District Collector. In this process, simple and poor farmers will be pitted in a long legal battle against corporate giants. What is the guarantee that justice will be granted after all this mental trauma? In the process, farmers' livelihood and hope will be destroyed."

■ **Anubhav Mohanty (BJD):** "The dispute resolution mechanism is too complicated for small farmers... This Bill should go to the Standing Committee for scrutiny for more and more clarity. Our farmers feed us. I think this Bill has been brought very hastily."

■ **Tomar defended the dispute resolution mechanism envisaged in the Bills.**

**On mandi system**

■ **Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (TDP):** "Farmers have serious concerns about this Bill. Firstly, it prohibits State Governments from collecting the market fee, cess or levy for trade outside notified APMC mandis, removes inter-State trade barriers and provides framework for electronic trading directly between a buyer and a farmer. In simple words, it breaks the States' control over farmers, enabling them to choose whom they want to sell to... without paying the market fee, the corporate sector will purchase agriculture produce outside the market through brokers according to the price fixed by them."

■ **K Keshava Rao (TRS):** "You are creating an extra zone in the geographical order. They already have APMCs. We know that still people can buy outside the APMC, but the regulated body being there gives some kind of protection and some kind of psychological backing to the farmer that whenever he needs the price, whenever he needs protection, he goes back to the Market Committee regulated zone and gets the money. Now, you have kept the entire thing open. Anybody with a PAN can start an electronic trading thing."

■ **Anubhav Mohanty (BJD):** "It may be not direct but the indirect impact of the Bill is that APMCs may fade away. Though the Bill does not abolish existing APMCs, it may end up having that impact by creating platforms where zero-tax trade can take place. Notwithstanding... problems, APMCs fulfil some important functions, especially for small and marginal farmers."

They provide an assured market to farmers, provide storage facilities, act as a medium for price discovery at the local level."

■ **Mahua Moitra (TMC):** "Section 6 of the Bill lays out that no market fee, cess or levy under the State APMC Acts shall now be levied on farmers and traders by the State Government for trading in a trade area as defined in the new Bill. However, under the existing State Acts, this market fee will be payable. So, this is going to lead to a substantial loss to the State exchequer because now any area outside the notified area will de facto be treated as a trade area where no State revenue can be realized. One farmer or trader trading in a trade area and another being charged across the road by the State is going to create a ridiculous rural divide."

■ **Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD):** "The farmers of Punjab have a lot of apprehensions. The MNCs, tycoons and magnates will indulge in private purchase of food grains as they will not be taxed. In the beginning, they may lure by giving more rate than the MSP, but when they establish their monopoly, they will fleece and strangle the farmers."

■ **K K Ragesh (CPM):** "Our mandi system... yes... there are a lot many limitations. But those limitations... need to be addressed and rectified. But, at the same time, the mandi system provides a kind of competitiveness and that ensures at least some sort of remunerative prices to our farmers. Through this Bill, the Government is simply slow-poisoning the mandi system."

■ **Tomar said the mandi tax imposed by state governments range between 2 to 8.5 per cent. He said when trade takes place outside the mandis, "this 8.5 per cent tax will not be there and farmers are going to directly benefit from this."**

**On contract farming**

■ **N K Premachandran (RSP):** "Contract farming worldwide has proved to be a failure."

■ **Kalyan Banerjee (TMC):** "In a country where more than 85 per cent cultivators are marginal and small farmers, the Bill does not actually seem to cater to the plight and safety of the poor farmers. By promoting contract farming, the Bill instead tends to permanently empower the big landlords, agricultural business lobbies."

■ **K Shanmugasundaram (DMK):** "Giving legal sanction to contract farming would help corporates enter the agriculture sector, and may increase the productivity, but would it help the farmers?"

heard again on December 18.

**RBI holds rate**

to revive growth on a durable basis, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target range.

In its bi-monthly monetary policy, the central bank also offered more funds to 26 stressed sectors in the Covid-hit economy to maintain the tempo of the recovery. On the RBI Internal Working Group's recommendation to allow industrial houses to enter the banking sector, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said: "It is a report by an internal working group. It should not be seen as the RBI's point of view or decision."

The policy panel kept the main policy rate, repo rate, at 4 per cent and reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent. With consumer price inflation at a six-year high of 7.6 per cent in October, the RBI said it expects inflation in the October-December quarter to be 6.8 per cent, which is well above its medium target level of 4 per cent within a band of plus/minus 2 per cent.

The policy panel indicated that the economy is showing signs of recovery. The RBI now believes that GDP contraction for the full fiscal year will be lower at 7.5 per cent against the 9.5 per cent projected earlier. GDP contracted by 23.9 per cent in the June quarter and 7.3 per cent in the September quarter. But with the country gradually opening up after the lockdown, real GDP is expected to expand by 0.1 per cent in the December quarter and 0.7 per cent in the March quarter, the RBI said.

"The MPC is of the view that inflation is likely to remain elevated, barring transient relief in the winter months from prices of perishables. This constrains monetary policy at the current juncture from using the space available to act in support of growth," Das said.

At the same time, the signs of recovery are far from being broad-based and are dependent on sustained policy support, he said — and reiterated that while inflation remains a policy priority, the pandemic warrants special attention to growth.

Das said the preservation of financial stability and interest of depositors remained uppermost on the RBI's agenda. "We could swiftly resolve the situation at two scheduled commercial banks (Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank). We remain strongly committed to preserve the stability of the financial sector and will do whatever is necessary on this front," he said.

**Wedding halted**

"There is no question of conversion... no discussion about conversation... because I feel that if two of us love each other, we can accept each other for who we are. If she is a Hindu, I can accept her religion and identity, and she agreed to do the same." The woman was not at home.

The police had stopped the ceremony, being held as per Hindu rituals, on Wednesday night, on a complaint by the Hindu outfit Rashtriya Yuva Vahini, though no case has been filed. While the groom is 24, the bride is 22, and the two are neighbours. The 24-year-old said they were planning to hold both Muslim and Hindu rituals, and neither of them was converting. The police earlier said all they wanted was for the two to follow the norms of the new law and that "there was no offence".

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Friday at the house of the groom, the mother of the woman said, "It is no one's business whom my daughter gets married to. We have lived in a mixed colony all our lives and have been friends with Muslims. Then, why can't my daughter get married to a Muslim? He does not want her to convert either... I don't know who complained to

the police or if they acted on their own."

The woman's mother works as a cook; her father is a driver. The groom said, "The two of us know each other, we like each other. I would not even call this a love marriage, both families had agreed and it was more an arranged marriage. I asked for her hand from her mother a year ago. I was sure that I would not marry her if her family didn't agree." His father was a rickshaw puller but is too old now; his mother died a few years back.

The wedding date had been fixed two months ago, the families said. "If we had known about the new law, we would have sought permission and this embarrassment could have been avoided," the mother of the woman said. The groom said he was ready to apply to the district administration and wait as long as it takes. "There is no hurry, I will get married according to the rules and regulations."

Under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, anyone wanting to convert to another religion has to seek permission from the District Magistrate at least two months in advance. Any "wrongful" conversion entails punishment under the law.

The groom added that they were open to marrying under the Special Marriage Act, which allows for a ceremony without any change of religion.

Recalling the wedding day, the mother of the woman said, "She had got ready, been to the beauty parlour. Then, all this happened. It was hard, but she is fine now." She added they were not worried about the financial losses. "Eventually what matters is my daughter's happiness... What if we had not allowed them to get married and they had eloped?"

Para Police Station SHO Triloki Singh earlier told *The Indian Express* that they intervened following a complaint by some Rashtriya Yuva Vahini representatives. "We told the families that under the new law, you can only get married if you have notified the DM for the specified time. We told them that it should not seem that there is pressure to convert," he said.

Lucknow DCP (South) Ravi Kumar said the families had been provided a copy of the new law. "They have given in writing that they will seek permission from the DM. No offence has been committed and we have not lodged a case," said Kumar.

Rashtriya Yuva Vahini national president KD Sharma said their outfit's minority cell state chief, Yasir Khan, had lodged the complaint. Sharma lives less than a kilometre from where the couple stay. "I called up the SHO as well and told him to take necessary action... We are not against the marriage, but we want the new law to be followed," Sharma said, claiming he had got a call from the national president of the Hindu Mahasabha too regarding the wedding.

Advocate Mukteshwar Mishra said if the couple did not intend to convert, the new law could not apply to them. "In case they intend to marry, they have to get their marriage solemnised under the Special Marriage Act. This will ensure that the provisions of the new Ordinance, which deals with illegal conversions, will not apply in their marriage. But both of them have to continue practising their respective religions," Mishra said.

The families said they didn't want any "jhanjhat". "We are simple people. We somehow manage with what we make... When we get permission, the wedding will happen. If we don't, then we will see what to do. However, we don't see any reason for the administration denying us permission," said the groom's brother.

# Stubble burning season over but pollution in capital still serious, take action, says Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

UNION ENVIRONMENT Minister Prakash Javadekar Friday said Delhi's air pollution situation was serious even as the stubble burning season in northwest India has ended. He said the Delhi government and other agencies in the National Capital Region (NCR) need to take notice of the situation and immediately initiate steps to address air pollution-related complaints.

"The Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) 50 teams visit areas in Delhi-NCR every day. They give their observations and complaints on polluting activities to the relevant agencies. Still, some work gets done and some doesn't," the minister said.

"Delhi government and all other agencies should take notice... stubble burning happens for 60-62 days, but after that pollution level has to be controlled by NCR itself," Javadekar said.



Share of PM2.5 levels from stubble burning was 1% Friday

Following the minister's remarks, the CPCB on Friday asked pollution control boards, municipal corporations and various other agencies of Delhi and NCR areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to intensify actions for controlling local emissions. Calm winds and low temperatures, along with local and regional emissions, has turned

Delhi-NCR's air quality index (AQI) to very poor since November 30. Share of PM2.5 levels from stubble burning in Delhi's air was 1% on Friday and has been below 7% since November 23.

P K Gupta, head of CPCB's air quality management division, told agencies in the letter on Friday that the AQI is likely to stay in the

'very poor' category for the next few days owing to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

"Based on feedback received from 50 CPCB teams since October 15, major (local) sources of emissions are open dumping of garbage, construction and demolition activity, unpaved roads or pits, re-suspension of road dust," Gupta said in the letter.

According to CPCB's analysis and the number of complaints received on social media and the Sameer mobile application of the Board, construction and demolition activity, open dumping of garbage, road dust and industrial emissions need to be controlled in Delhi's south, southwest, north, northwest and northeast districts. In NCR, these activities need to be controlled in Jhajjar, Bhiwadi, Gurgaon north, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Noida, said Gupta in the letter.

A Delhi government official said several measures, including sprinkling of water on roads, mechanised sweeping, night pa-

trolling and dust control at construction sites are being taken by municipal bodies and other agencies in the capital to reduce local emissions.

On November 20, CPCB chairman Shiv Das Meena had directed chief secretaries and various agencies of Delhi-NCR to immediately address air pollution complaints made by the public and 50 teams of the Board on the Sameer application and social media.

He had pointed out the low redressal of complaints in the letter. Out of 3,094 complaints lodged by citizens and inspection teams on the Sameer application between October 7 and November 18, 34% were solved. In the same period, 784 complaints were lodged on social media platforms of CPCB, out of which 24% were solved.

A Delhi Pollution Control Committee official said that as of Wednesday, its share of pending complaints on the application were zero and that the municipal corporations in Delhi had a high share of pending complaints.

# For niece's kanyadaan, riot accused gets bail

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

OBSERVING THAT in Hindu mythology, "the ritual of 'kanyadaan' is ripe with deep religious symbolism", a Delhi court Friday granted interim bail to a man arrested in a murder case related to the Northeast Delhi riots. The man has got two weeks' bail to perform the wedding rituals of his niece.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav granted interim bail to Brijmohan Sharma on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 50,000, with one surety of the like amount. He was arrested in connection with the murder of Irfan, allegedly by a riotous mob, in New Usmanpur area. The court said that though Sharma's regular bail application has been dismissed on November 24, it cannot be a bar to grant him interim bail for a very short period to perform important rituals like the "kanyadaan" of his niece.

Though Sharma is not the girl's father, it is apparent that he has been a fatherly figure to her as he had been taking care of the family of his deceased brother, the court said.

It further said it was clearly evident that Sharma's two brothers had expired long back and that another brother had separated from the family. It noted that Sharma's father was stated to be 74 years old and hence "it would be very difficult for such a person to run here and there for... the exigencies and intricacies involved in a typical Hindu marriage".

"I find substance in the submissions... that presence of applicant is very much necessary in the said marriage, as he has to perform certain important rituals, including 'kanyadaan'... that carry deep sentimental significance.

"...in Hindu mythology, the ritual of 'kanyadaan' is ripe with deep religious symbolism as it exemplifies the bond between a father and a daughter..." the order said.

# HAD LOST HIS JOB

# Man arrested in Gurgaon for three murders in three days

SAKSHI DAYAL  
GURGAON, DECEMBER 4

A 22-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for allegedly murdering three people on three consecutive nights last week with the intention of subsequently looting them.

According to police, the accused, identified as Mohammad Raji, was arrested on Thursday near IFFCO Chowk.

"The accused used to work in housekeeping at a guest house in Gurgaon, but had been unemployed for the last one month. During questioning, he said he committed three murders last week, on the nights of November 23, 24, and 25," said ACP (Crime) Preet Pal Sangwan.

Police officials said the accused, who hails from Bihar, would lure the victims into consuming alcohol with him, and stab them after they were intoxicated.

Later, he would then gather their belongings and flee. In the first murder, which he committed on the night of November 23, the accused had allegedly stabbed a youth to death near Leisure Valley Park.

The following night, he allegedly stabbed a security guard to death in the green belt area in Sector 40.

Police said the third murder was the most brutal, with the body of the deceased, identified as 26-year-old Rakesh Kumar, being found decapitated. His head, officials said, was recovered only after Raji's arrest.

"The body of the deceased had been found in an empty plot in front of the Vigilance Bureau office in Sector 47. He was identified through his Aadhaar card, following which his relatives were alerted and they confirmed his identity. Despite searches by the police and his family near the spot, the severed head was nowhere to be found," said the ACP.

"During questioning, the accused revealed that he had slit the victim's throat, because of which he began bleeding profusely. To prevent police from identifying the deceased, the accused then detached his head from his body, tied it in a cloth, and hid it in some bushes. The body was thrown into a drain. The head has been recovered from a deserted area in Kanhai village in Sector 40, based on the information revealed by the accused," he said.

"Police said they scanned footage from "250 to 300 CCTV cameras" to trace the accused. "His arrest a week later is the result of the information procured through that footage, other methods of investigation, as well as police sources," said Subhash Boken, PRO of Gurgaon Police.

Meanwhile, Kumar's relatives, when contacted, said they were unaware of any links between the accused and him. "We do not know who the accused is or how Rakesh knew him," said Yogesh, Kumar's older brother.

Police said the accused was produced in court on Friday and has been taken into police remand for further questioning.

# Chargesheet delayed, journalist gets bail in espionage case

SOFIAHSAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

RULING THAT an accused is entitled to default bail if the chargesheet is not filed within 60 days in offences where no minimum sentence is prescribed, the Delhi High Court on Friday granted default bail to journalist Rajeev Sharma, who is facing accusations of espionage under the Official Secrets Act in a case registered by Delhi Police's Special Cell in September.

Justice Yogesh Khanna in the order directed Sharma to provide his contact number and address to the police and also asked him to keep the location app on his mobile phone open all the time. It also said he will not leave NCR without seeking permission of the trial court.

According to case details, Sharma is accused of having links with Chinese intelligence officers and having received funds from the foreign handlers for allegedly conveying to them sensitive information pertaining to national security and foreign relations. Sharma was arrested on September 14. Two other persons, a Chinese and a Nepalese national, were arrested by the police later.

Sharma last month moved a petition under Section 167(2) of CrPC before the lower court contending that he be released on default bail since 60 days allowed to the investigating agency for completion of investigation have ended but the chargesheet has not been filed. His plea was dismissed by a Patiala House Court Duty Metropolitan Magistrate on November 16 which said the time

period of filing the chargesheet in the case would be 90 days.

According to the procedure under Section 167(2) CrPC, an accused is entitled to bail in cases where the offence is punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term not less than ten years, when the investigating agency fails to complete the probe within 90 days. The accused in other all cases — where the minimum punishment is less than 10 years — gets entitled for default bail on expiry of a period of 60 days. Sharma has been booked under Section 3/4/6 of the Official Secrets Act and the offences are punishable with an imprisonment which may extend to 14 years but there is no mention of minimum punishment in the law.

The order passed by the lower court was challenged before the High Court by Sharma. Delhi Police argued that where there is no minimum punishment prescribed and the maximum punishment is more than 10 years, then the chargesheet can be filed beyond 60 days but before 90 days from the date of arrest.

Justice Khanna said that the offence must have imprisonment "for a clear period of 10 years or more" and only then the provision allowing 90 days for completion of investigation would be applicable, adding that Sharma is entitled to default bail. "The Official Secrets Act... entails punishment which may extend to 14 years, but the Section does not talk of minimum period of sentence and thus does not pass the test of clear period of 10 years or more... as such the period of challan in this case would be 60 days," the court said.

# BJP councillor arrested by CBI for 'taking bribe' for MCD clearance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation has arrested a BJP councillor from Delhi for allegedly taking a bribe to help a man get municipal clearance for construction of his house.

Agency sources said BJP councillor from Vasant Kunj Manoj Mehlawat was arrested while allegedly accepting part of the bribe amount on Thursday evening. Following his arrest, the CBI also conducted searches at his house.

"He has been remanded in judicial custody after his arrest," a CBI official said.

Sources said the complainant approached the agency alleging that the Councillor was demanding a bribe of Rs 10 lakh to help

# The complainant alleged the councillor demanded a bribe of Rs 10 lakh

him get MCD permission to construct a house.

"Accordingly we laid a trap and caught the Councillor allegedly accepting the bribe," the CBI official said.

The arrest drew a sharp response from the AAP, which termed it as the "feather in the crown of BJP's corruption".

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said Mehlawat's arrest laid bare the "building mafia" in the three civic bodies controlled by the BJP. "I am a concerned MLA of

Delhi and I am telling you that not a single citizen of Delhi has any option but bribing the BJP-ruled MCD officials to build his or her own house. This collection of money happens in a very coordinated manner. Every area of Delhi has different rates defined by the BJP ruled MCD and the builder mafia," Bharadwaj said.

He claimed MCD workers and officials from top to bottom receive money as part of the alleged nexus. He further said his party will hold 181 press conferences to expose this alleged corruption.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the BJP has zero tolerance towards corruption and has suspended the councillor from the party. "We in Delhi BJP do not hesitate in taking action on corruption, unlike the Aam Aadmi Party..."

# Ganga Ram staff to be roped in for Ph-III Covaxin trials

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

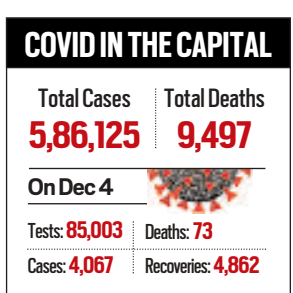
HEALTHCARE WORKERS from Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital may soon be roped in for Phase III human trials of Covaxin, India's first indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine. The move comes days after the Delhi government gave its approval to Bharat Biotech, which is developing the vaccine in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology and the Indian Council of Medical Research.

"We have given the approval for participation of healthcare workers from our hospital but it has to be finally cleared by the hospital's ethics committee.

Once done, healthcare workers who are willing will be enrolled for the process," said Dr DSRana, chairman of the hospital's board.

In October, Bharat Biotech had reached out to the Delhi government for enrollment of healthcare workers from hospitals for Phase III. Around 3,000-4,000 healthcare workers from both government and private hospitals are expected to participate. "The government has given its approval to the company, which will coordinate with the hospitals directly," said a senior official from the state health department.

Phase III trial of the vaccine has already begun at AIIMS with



Dr M V Padma Srivastava, the chief of Neurosciences Centre at the premier institute, and three other volunteers receiving the first dose on November 26.

"Several healthcare workers are coming forward to participate in the Phase III trials of the

vaccine. As part of the trial application, a dose of 0.5 ml would be given on day 0 and on day 28," said Dr Sanjay Rai, Principal Investigator Covid-19 Vaccine trial at AIIMS.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government has begun the process of enrolment of healthcare workers of different hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities for Covid vaccination. For uploading data, a link has been provided on the website of the Delhi State Health Mission.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that if the city's positivity rate stays below 4 percent for five consecutive days, it would mean Delhi

has been successful in combating the pandemic.

"The positivity rate has become less than 5 per cent as compared to the surge since November 7 which is a sign of relief as it points to perpetual decline of the effect of the pandemic in Delhi. If this continues for five consecutive days, Delhi will successfully combat the outbreak," he said on Friday.

On Friday, the city saw 4,067 new cases of Covid-19 and 73

deaths, taking the total number of cases so far to 5,86,125 and the death toll to 9,497.

Talking about the storage and availability of the vaccine, once it is introduced, Jain said there is "enough resources for the application as well as storage of vaccine". "For people who have already recovered from Covid-19, their body has produced antibodies naturally so they do not need to be vaccinated in the first phase," he said.

# Gang behind thefts at weddings busted, 5 held

New Delhi: Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested five men and apprehended a few other alleged members of the 'band baaja baraat gang', who allegedly hire children and train them before setting them off to commit thefts at weddings across Delhi. Investigation has revealed that the gang, originally from Madhya Pradesh, targeted farmhouses and banquet halls where weddings are organised.

Additional CP (Crime) Shibhesh Singh said the accused have been identified as Sandeep, Hansraj, Sant Kumar, Kishan and Bobby. "The arrests were made after the crime branch received a number of complaints that a gang, operating in Delhi and NCR, was committing thefts at wedding venues. A team also started scanning footage of wedding functions and identified three suspects, including two juveniles," Singh said.

Singh said the team found that the gang was operating from Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. "Our team also visited the three villages in Rajgarh district — Gul Kheri, Sulkhari and Kadiya — to identify the accused allegedly involved in the incidents. We made their arrest when they were leaving Delhi and moving for their village in MP," he added.

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
विज्ञापित संख्या 02/निदेशक/2020-मा.वा.अ.शि.प.  
Advt. No.02/Director/2020-MA.VA.A.SI.P.  
भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्, देहरादून में पे मैट्रिक्स के स्तर 15 के वेतनमान में निदेशक, वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, देहरादून का पद प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।  
Applications are invited for filling up the post of Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun in the pay scale at Level-15 of Pay Matrix on deputation basis in the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.  
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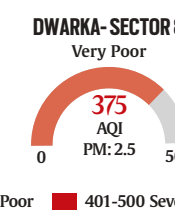
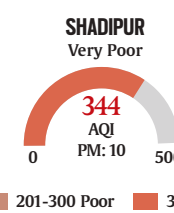
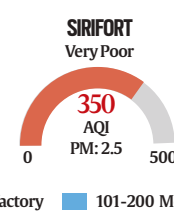
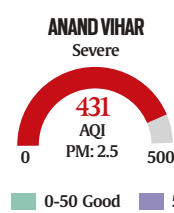
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It is notified for the information of passengers that the services of following Special trains will be discontinued due to operational reasons from the dates shown against each:-  
Train No. & Name Date of Cancellation  
02438 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Secunderabad From 06.12.2020  
Rajdhani Superfast Special till further advice  
02437 Secunderabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin From 09.12.2020  
Rajdhani Superfast Special till further advice  
09415 Ahmedabad - Delhi Special From 13.12.2020  
09416 Delhi - Ahmedabad Special From 13.12.2020  
Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.  
Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)  
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स्वास्थ्य, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
मुचना  
आरखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी (मूल कोटि) के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या 02/2020 के अलाके में अनुसूचित चिकित्सकों को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अपने प्रमाण पत्रों (सहा-शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्र, जाति प्रमाण पत्र, आवासीय प्रमाण पत्र, निबंधन प्रमाण पत्र इत्यादि) का सत्यापन कराने हेतु स्वास्थ्य निदेशालय, नामकुम, रांची (नामकुम डाकघर के निकट) में निम्नांकित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार किसी भी कार्यदिस को उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें :-  
कोटि तिथि समय  
(अनारक्षित कोटि (UNR) दिनांक 09.12.2020 एवं 10.12.2020 तक सुबह 10:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) एवं अनुसूचित जाति (SC) दिनांक 11.12.2020 एवं 14.12.2020 तक सुबह 10:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
अत्यंत पिछड़ा वर्ग (अनुसूचित-I) (BC-I) दिनांक 15.12.2020 सुबह 10:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
पिछड़ा वर्ग (अनुसूचित-II) (BC-II) एवं आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (EWS)  
अभ्यर्थी अपने साथ आधार कार्ड (यदि हो तो), चार पासपोर्ट आकार के फोटो एवं सभी प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल प्रति तथा एक स्वविप्रमाणित छायाप्रति के साथ उपस्थित होंगे।  
(प्रमुनाथ शर्मा)  
सरकार के अवर सचिव  
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उत्तरखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग  
हस्ताक्षर पिन कोड- 249404  
पत्रांक : 054/03(03)/डी0आर0/डि0/सेवा-02/2017-18  
दिनांक : 03 दिसम्बर, 2020  
विज्ञापित  
एतद्द्वारा उत्तरखण्ड शासन के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के अनारक्षित अशरिटेड प्रोफेसर- संस्कृत के रिक्त पदों पर सीपी नई द्वारा खान हेतु विनांक 04 अगस्त, 2017 को प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या: 01/03/डी0आर0/सेवा-02/2017-18 एवं विज्ञापित संख्या 147/03(0)/अशरिटेड/डी0आर0/सेवा-02/2017-18 विनांक 21 मार्च, 2018 के वापस आवेदन करने वाले आर अभ्यर्थियों को सहाकार विनांक 18.19 एवं 20 नवम्बर, 2020 को आक्षार पर मा0 आयोग द्वारा अन्तिम चयन परिणाम विनांक 03 दिसम्बर, 2020 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। उक्त चयन परिणाम एवं अभ्यर्थियों के प्रश्नों को सूची आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.ukpsc.gov.in](http://www.ukpsc.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
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Discipline Designation Level Tentative No. of posts Qualification Requirement Upper age limit  
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Posts of Executive Trainee are to be filled on All India basis while for Junior Officer Trainee only domiciles of following states are eligible for applying: Regional basis- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh.  
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Important dates  
Date of commencement of online registration for submitting applications 08/12/2020  
Closing date for submitting applications through website 04/01/2021



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

**SKY WATCH**  
**FORECAST**  
Mainly clear sky.  
Shallow to moderate  
fog in the morning

**MAX: 27** | **MIN: 8**  
2°C above normal | 1°C below normal

## BRIEFLY

## 4 held for kidnapping

**New Delhi:** Four men have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a job placement agent after posing as policemen and demanding Rs 5 lakh for his release. According to police, the accused wanted to take revenge as the victim had earlier allegedly duped one of their relatives. However, they released him after getting scared of the police raids.

## 20-year-old strangled to death

**New Delhi:** A 20-year-old woman was allegedly strangled to death and pushed off the third floor of a building in North Delhi's Wazirabad by her friend after she asked him to divorce his wife and marry her. The accused has been arrested from New Delhi railway station.

## Delhi govt enhances DA

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government Friday announced enhanced monthly dearness allowance for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and other category workers. DA revision takes place twice every year. **ENS**

## LAWYER TO COURT

## 'Police hiding riot chats from internal WA group'

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

PINJRA TOD member Devangana Kalita, facing trial under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, has told a Delhi court that this was a case of insidious prosecution as the police were hiding relevant WhatsApp chats from the court. Kalita's lawyer, Adit Pujari, made the submissions before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat while arguing for bail. After arguments ended, police informed the court that they will oppose the bail Saturday.

On allegations in the chargesheet of 300 women from Jahangirpuri being brought to Jafrabad and being received by Kalita, Natasha Narwal and other protesting women, where violence was precipitated, Pujari told the court that "this was a case of insidious prosecution".

Pujari referred to purported screenshots of an internal police WhatsApp group in which police were "closely monitoring the movement of these women from Shaheen Bagh to Jahangirpuri and Jafrabad". "They were monitored the entire time. Even photographs of the bus and the number were shared on this group... If they had committed some violence, carried weapons, our police would have arrested them. Instead the police have themselves stated that the protesters who went to these sites returned home," Pujari told the court.

Referring to another internal group, he told the court, "It is going to be a difficult case for us to defend if the prosecution is going to selectively pick out messages like this and place it before the court. This court will see the insidious way in which they have hidden messages."

"The police has deliberately in this case declined to place on record messages... they knew that another march was on... march by pro-CAA protesters. They are hiding it," he told the court. He said that the WhatsApp chats related to the women protesters show them arriving at the spot and the next message is that of a policeman informing that stone pelting was under control.

Pujari argued that this was to show that the women reached and stone pelting started and messages in between were not shared.



Tractors and trucks lined up at Singhu border which has become the focal point of the protests. *Praveen Khanna*

## FARM LEADERS HARDEN STANCE AHEAD OF FRESH ROUND OF TALKS WITH GOVT

## Call goes out for Bharat Bandh on December 8

**AMIL BHATNAGAR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FARMERS PROTESTING at Singhu Border have called for a Bharat bandh on December 8, ahead of their fifth round of talks with the central government over farm bills. Farm leaders said they are set to intensify the agitation as the fourth round of talks did not yield the desired results.

"During Thursday's meeting we repeated that the government will have to repeal the three laws. They agreed to nine amendments in the Acts. To an extent, they also agreed to amending electricity and stubble burning laws, but we were not satisfied with the results. We insist that we will only go back once the laws are taken back. A call for Bharat Bandh on December 8 has been made where we have invited the entire country to come on the roads and participate in this movement from wherever they are," said Harinder Singh Lakhowal of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal).

The farmer unions on Friday held two meetings among themselves — one comprised only farmers from Punjab while in the other, farmer representatives from Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana and Rajasthan were also present.

Farmers said it was mutually agreed by the unions that more

farmers will be included in the protest, beyond Punjab. The farmers said they consider their demands "non-negotiable" and the next round of talks will be dominated by the demand repealing the three laws through a special session of Parliament.

"There are movements happening in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This is an 'aar paar ki ladai' and the farmers need to realise it. Due to Corona and the lack of buses and trains, many farmers could not come. Now we have woken up to the idea that we need to be on the streets," said Yudhveer Singh from Bhartiya Kisan Union during the press conference at Singhu border, which has become the focal point of protests at the Delhi borders.

Farmers from eight divisional headquarters of Maharashtra, including Mumbai and Pune, are likely to join the protests at the Delhi borders, the farm leaders claimed, adding that a Rail Roko movement is also being planned in West Bengal. The unions will also be calling for a complete shutdown of toll plazas for a day, the date for which will be announced later.

The farmer unions have also called for more farmers to gather at Ghazipur and Tikri borders with UP and Haryana respectively in the days to come so they can build pressure on the Centre.

## From 60 kg tea to 125 kg rice, what it takes to feed thousands gathered on three borders

**JIGNASA SINHA, AMIL BHATNAGAR & ASHNA BUTANI**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FIVE HUNDRED litres water, 200 litres milk, 50 kg sugar and 60 kg tea leaves — through the day at Tikri border, tea simmers in a 100-litre vessel for thousands of farmers protesting there since November 26. Potato fritters and tea for breakfast, some jalebi in the afternoon, and chole-riice, aloo-gobhi and kheer for lunch and dinner.

Several langars have been set up across the three main protest sites in Delhi-NCR — Ghazipur border, Singhu border and Tikri, with pavements lined with sacks of rice and vegetables and chulhas for cooking, drums of milk reaching at the crack of dawn, and cooking duties drawn out.

At 4 am, when everyone's still fast asleep at the Tikri border, six middle-aged men from Haryana wake up daily to prepare the first meal of the day for 6,000-plus protesters — tea and potato fritters. By the time, the



A langar set up by a gurdwara committee at Singhu feeds thousands of people every day. *Praveen Khanna*

first cup of tea is ready, it's 5 am. Ram Kesh Singh (52), a paddy farmer from Rohtak, said: "Every day, we prepare potato fritters, kheer, aloo-gobhi, chole and rice, all cooked in desi ghee. We got these massive utensils from Bahadurgarh, hired three cooks. This is our sewa for all the

other protesting farmers." The group buys fresh vegetables daily from mandis nearby, and also accepts produce donated by well-wishers. Over 100 kg of potato and cauliflower is peeled and kept aside for dinner.

Maan (42), a farmer from Jhajjar who is a part of another

kitchen, said, "People are donating groceries; we are blessed. Today morning, a man gave us 100 cans of drinking water. We have 17 trucks, some given by transporters, and they ferry milk and vegetables." A small-scale kitchen operates in another corner, where eight elderly farmers peeled onion and potatoes for a meal for 100. Sardoor (60) from Punjab said, "We go back home every three days and return with ghee, milk and daal. This is our mini pinde... In the last six days, we have used three tonnes of ghee. We are here to stay, that truck is our bedroom."

At the Ghazipur protest site, a makeshift kitchen operates below the flyover, and on Friday, there is pulao, dal and aloo-gobhi for lunch. Help has come in from the volunteers of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, who've prepared 2.5 quintal dal, 125 kg rice, and 2 quintal of vegetables. Tarsem Singh from the committee said, "The food is enough to serve thousands." With many sugarcane farmers at the protest site, sweets made of jaggery have been a constant snack since the

protests began. While many relied on the langar, others had set up their own kitchens along the road. With a gas, stove and enough ration for six months, Mandeep Singh (39) prepared lunch for himself and around 20 others. He said, "We packed up whatever we could and left from our hometown, Pilibhit."

At Singhu border, where the maximum number of protesters have gathered, a langar set up by a gurdwara committee from Punjab's Hoshiarpur feeds nearly 10,000 people every day. The farmers have carried more than 10 gas cylinders, over 500 kg ingredients, large dishes, frying pans, steel spatulas, disposable plates and glasses and dustbins.

"We have more than 50 people working at the langar at all times. We start early in the morning and it goes on till 10 pm. Today we have matar paneer, dal and rice for lunch along with jaggery lassi and kheer... If we run out of gas, we get it filled from the nearest station. We have enough food for at least two months," said Udhham Singh, a farmer from Hoshiarpur.

## As trucks and tractors make several trips a day, some mechanics offer free repairs

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FROM MECHANICS helping farmers fix their tractors to students distributing medicines for free — a support system has come up for thousands of protesters at the capital's borders.

At the Singhu border near Haryana, farmers had arrived in hundreds of trucks and tractors that they use for daily trips to nearby towns to get groceries. Jagdish Singh (60), a member of the Jamhuri Kisan Dal, who came from Punjab to Delhi with more than 50 farmers, said: "We are facing issues as our trucks are being used by people to carry food and groceries. The tyres often get punctured and we need someone to fix it. I have sent a truck to ferry mechanics from our hometown in Abhara to here."

Some of the vehicles were also damaged after a clash with the Haryana police on November 23 and 24, which saw stone pelting, lathicharge and tear gas shelling.

Sonu (23), a mechanic from Punjab's Firozpur, has been helping farmers alongside his father for three days at the border. "My



Vehicles serve many purposes for protesters. *Amit Mehra*

father runs a repair shop back home and I work there. My cousins and friends are farmers. They are going through a rough time and we see it as our duty to help them. My elder brother is taking care of our shop while we are here. It is our sewa...," he said. The duo has helped repair more than 10 trucks in the last two days.

Some farmer organisations also sought help from mechanics in Punjab.

Rantir Singh (40), a mechanic from Barnala, said: "There are a lot of people who need medical help and also need to get their vehicles repaired... We have repaired more than 30 vehicles in

the last week. My brother also helps old farmers with medicines and food."

A few volunteers have also set up small stalls near the border to distribute medicines, with some even selling toothbrushes and power banks. Gurjant Singh (23), a student from Panjab University, said, "We bought some medicines from Haryana a week ago. My friends have joined the protest here and I wanted to help them. We kept the medicines on a table and are giving them for free. Most farmers here are old and need medicines... we have ones for cough, cold, stomach ache, diabetes and blood pressure."

## Haryana, MP farmers inch closer

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, DECEMBER 4

AS FARM protests on Delhi's borders enter the second week, farmers from South Haryana and Madhya Pradesh are inching closer to the national capital, crossing into Faridabad a day after they reached Palwal and hoping to move towards the city on Saturday. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Deputy Commissioner Yashpal Yadav said, "Around 50 to 70 farmers reached Sikri border from Palwal today. They have entered Faridabad and are spending the night at a government school in Jharsetli... We will not permit them to cross from the Badapur border but if they choose to enter via any other route, that will be allowed." "Our police force will continue to remain deployed in border areas and on alert," he said.

Around 100 farmers from Madhya Pradesh had arrived in South Haryana Thursday, crossing into Palwal in the evening. After spending the night at a Government School in Prithla, they had marched to Faridabad Friday morning. Deputy Commissioner of Palwal said several farmers from Palwal also began their journey from Hodal to Delhi Thursday.

## Many elderly among crowd, medical help now at hand

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

WITH THOUSANDS of elderly farmers among the protesters, complaints have been cropping up occasionally of fever and cold due to the harsh weather conditions at the Tikri Border.

Some help has come from locals at Jhajjar and Delhi, who have set up camps at the border protest site and have started giving out medicines for free.

Prabhjot Singh (27), a student from Jhajjar, placed medicines on a table which he bought from a store near his home. "I am practising medicine and came to know that many people here are suffering because of the harsh conditions. I bought two boxes of medicines — for cough, fever, high blood pressure and diabetes — and came here. By evening, I realised that most of the stock is finished and people need more."

Singh and his friends have also started distributing multivitamins and calcium-magnesium supplements to the farmers. Six farmers who were part of the protests at Tikri border have died since November 27. Police said four of these died in accidents, while the other two died of natural causes — Lakhvir Singh (55) and Gurjant (60).



A doctor distributes medicines at Singhu border. *Amit Mehra*

Doctors from the Red Cross Society in Jhajjar have also set up a camp where they offer check-ups. When a 65-year-old farmer, Gurunam Singh, complained of chest pain and breathlessness, a doctor checked his blood pressure and pulse rate.

He told the doctor, "We started from Mansa on the 26th and managed to reach here in two days. After a day, I felt a bit uneasy because of the long journey. We travelled a long distance and didn't have much food. I had chest pain and was taken to a hospital. They discharged me after a day and I came back here. Now, I am fit but still have chest pain."

The doctor at the camp prescribed medicines to Gurunam

and went on to check on the next patient. He said, "Many patients here have a fever or cardiac issues." Most farmers at Tikri border sleep in their tractor and trucks. Choor Singh (86), a farmer from Monga, said he bought a quilt from Jhajjar to keep warm. "We check on each other at night and make sure that everyone is getting sufficient food," he said.

On Wednesday, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain also tweeted: "During my visit to Singhu border today, I requested the Revenue Minister to shift water and fireproof tents from Burari to the Singhu border for the elderly so they don't face any problems due to the cold weather in Delhi."

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### PUT ON MUTE

THE VIRTUAL all-party meeting convened by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry to discuss the pandemic situation on Friday went off on a positive note, said most of the leaders. But DMK leader T R Baalu was not at all happy – first he raised objections to the presentation being made in Hindi without any translation or subtitles. Then he tried to raise the issue of farmers' protests. But Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi intervened and said the meeting was to discuss the Covid situation and the vaccine rollout, and that every leader should stick to that. Baalu didn't quite like the intervention and said the Prime Minister did not raise any objections. But the DMK leader could not continue as his mic was muted.

### COMING SOON

IMPLEMENTATION OF the GST has been a source of political wrangling for some time now, with the Congress claiming that hasty rollout and faulty implementation of the tax regime was one of the reasons for the decline in GDP growth. The issue could be back in focus as the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, headed by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is set to table its report soon. The PAC is examining a CAG report, which had pointed out gaps and shortcomings in the GST implementation. Interestingly, the PAC had sought and obtained views from the public besides industry and experts from all over the country. It heard the views of bodies such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, CII and FICCI earlier this week. Chowdhury says the views and suggestions that have been submitted to the committee by industry bodies and tax experts will be given due importance while drafting the report.

### SPECIAL PASSENGER

AS THE "world's loneliest elephant", Kaavan, made its journey from Pakistan to Cambodia after wildlife activists, including American singer and actress Cher, took up the cause, the Russian embassy in New Delhi also played a bit of a role. The overflight from Islamabad to Cambodia was handled by a Russian company which specialises in transporting animals. Since they were apprehensive about the elephant's state of mind – mid-flight – they arranged for a quick stopover in India, and asked for permission for landing and overflight. The Russian diplomats worked with the civil aviation authorities and the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure a smooth flight for the elephant.

## Govt to set up two Waqf boards in J&K, one in Ladakh

ESHAR ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

UNION MINISTER for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Friday announced that the government will set up two Waqf Boards in Kashmir and one in Ladakh. Naqvi said this is the first time that J&K and Ladakh will have Waqf Boards, which will map properties in the two Union Territories and digitise records.

Naqvi made the announcement at a meeting of the Central Waqf Council in New Delhi.

Naqvi told *The Indian Express*: "There are 40,000 prime properties in Kashmir which include Dargahs and shrines, community centres etc. These properties are not being utilised to their full potential right now. Because of Article 370, Kashmir has never had a Waqf board and this is the first time since Independence that it will have not just one but two. One Waqf Board will be for Shia Muslims and the other for Sunnis. In Kargil, since most Muslims are Shia, Ladakh will have just one Waqf board."

While Kashmir has so far not had Waqf boards, an Auqaf board was established by Sheikh Abdullah in 1932. He himself was its first chairperson. The Auqaf board functioned much like a Waqf board and was in charge of looking after Dargahs, shrines and Muslim community-held properties in Kashmir.

"This Auqaf board was run by private players and the chairperson and vice chairperson would usually be an academic... When Mufti Mohammad Sayeed came to power, he changed the nature of the Auqaf and restructured it so that it came directly under and was run by the govern-

EXPLAINED

### Why govt wants to map Waqf properties

There are 6,64,000 registered Waqf properties across the country. According to Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Waqf boards hold the largest number of properties in the country, second only to the Defence sector, and many have been "mis-handled" – they are either encroached upon, are disputed or are being misused.

ment," said National Conference general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, who has also been a trustee of the Auqaf for 22 years.

Sagar said the Auqaf held thousands of properties across the state which, apart from the dargahs and shrines, also included hotels, shops and malls. The Auqaf would also provide interest-free loans to widows and to poor students.

Naqvi, however, said that the Auqaf properties were not organised properly or utilised well in Kashmir. "We have decided that if they now want to build schools, hospitals or infrastructure that will benefit the community on these properties, not only will this be allowed but that it will receive 100 per cent funding from the Centre," he said.

Naqvi announced that his ministry had begun the process of digitisation, geo-tagging and GPS mapping of Waqf properties across the country.

### MAHARASHTRA COUNCIL POLLS

## MVA wins 4 of 6 seats, BJP gets jolt in Nagpur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE BJP received a jolt in the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections on Friday, winning just one of the six seats that went to polls, and losing two—one in its stronghold Nagpur and the other in Pune.

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, won four seats. While NCP and Congress each won two seats, one seat went to an Independent candidate.

The BJP will have to evolve better strategy factoring the combined strength of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress to effectively counter it in the next elections. Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis said after the results were declared. Speaking to reporters, the former CM admitted the BJP has fared badly. "It's evident we didn't correctly ascertain their combined strength," he said.

"The defeat of BJP in its traditional seat Nagpur and the Pune graduates' constituency shows that people are drifting away from the right-wing party. They have preferred Maha Vikas Aghadi," said NCP president Sharad Pawar.

The polls for six seats – three graduates' constituencies (Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad), two teachers' constituencies (Pune and Amravati) and one local body (Dhule-Nandurbar) had taken place on December 1. Votes were counted on December 3.

The electoral outcome in Nagpur, where BJP's former mayor Sandip Joshi was defeated by Congress' Abhijit Wanjari, came as a shock to the party. The Congress wrested the seat from



Supporters of Maha Vikas Aghadi celebrate outside the Congress Bhavan in Pune on Friday.

Ashish Kale

the BJP after 55 years. Wanjari polled 61,701 votes while Joshi got 42,791.

The seat was represented in the past by the late Gangadhar Fadnis, father of Devendra Fadnis. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has also been a Council member from this constituency. Another prestigious seat was the Pune graduates' constituency, which went to the NCP. The BJP candidate, Sangram Deshmukh, got 73,321 votes against NCP's Arun Lad, who bagged 12,214 votes. The seat had been vacated by BJP state unit president Chandrakant Patil.

The third graduates' constituency, Aurangabad, saw NCP's sitting member Satish Chavan trouncing BJP's Shirish Boralkar.

While NCP won from two graduates' constituencies, Congress won from one.

In Amravati teachers' constituency, BJP's Dr Nitin Dhande lost to Independent candidate Kiran Sarnaik. The Sena, which contested this lone seat, failed to

get its candidate Shrikant Deshpande elected.

The Pune teachers' constituency was bagged by Congress' Jayant Asgaonkar. Here, the BJP had supported Independent Jitendra Pawar.

The BJP sought solace in the lone local body constituency of Dhule-Nandurbar. Former Congress leader Amarish Patel, who had joined BJP last year ahead of the 2019 Assembly polls, won from his home turf.

The election underlined to the BJP that the Maha Vikas Aghadi remained strong. Chandrakant Patil said, "We will convene a core committee meeting to analyse and introspect what went wrong."

Shiv Sena, whose candidate was defeated in Amravati division's teachers' constituency, said it would evaluate the loss.

### THE COUNCIL POLLS, IN PERSPECTIVE

PAGE 12

## J&K DDC polls: 50% turnout in third phase; candidate shot at

BASHAARAT MASOOD,  
NAVEED IQBAL  
& ARUN SHARMA  
SANGRAMA, SHOPIAN, JAMMU,  
DECEMBER 4

A TURNOUT OF 50.53 per cent was recorded in the third phase of the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir as the Jammu division and south Kashmir districts recorded higher turnouts than the second phase on Friday.

In the first incident of violence during the polls, a Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party candidate was injured when militants shot at him while he was canvassing in Sagam constituency in Anantnag district.

Election Commissioner K K Sharma told the media that 31,611 per cent of voters exercised their right in Kashmir and the figure stood at 68.88 in the Jammu region. In Kashmir, Kulgam saw the highest turnout at 64.45 per cent, followed by Bandipora (56.73), Budgam (50.18), Kupwara (46.25) and Baramulla (30.9). Pulwama, which saw about 8 per cent polling in the second phase, recorded 10.87 per cent polling. Shopian recorded 22.68 per cent turnout, up from 17.28 in the second phase.



Security personnel keep vigil as voters queue up at a polling station in Shopian district on Friday. Shuaib Masoodi

Anantnag also saw an increase in turnout from 16.09 per cent in the second phase to 21.64 per cent.

Reasi recorded the highest turnout of 75.20 per cent in the Jammu region.

At Devpora, on the fringes of Shopian district, Mohammad Sharief, 40, voted for the first time. "The biggest problem here is connectivity. The nearest hospital is about 10 km away and we have to carry elders or the women on our shoulders when they are unwell."

"I was in a dilemma whether I should vote or not. But finally I voted, for the first time," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a resident of Seer Jagir village in Sangrama constituency of Baramulla. "It is like

walking on the sword's edge, if we vote, we are going against what we stood for all these years. If we don't, we would be facilitating illiterates and ruffians coming to power."

Nearby a group of youngsters. "It doesn't make any sense. Whether BJP comes to power or any other party, it would make no difference to us," said one of them.

At Anantnag, militants shot at and injured Apni Party candidate Anees-ul-Islam Ganaie while he was campaigning.

Police said he has been hospitalised with injuries in his left hand and thigh and his condition is stable. Police claimed he went for canvassing without informing them.

### FARMER PROTESTS

## India summons envoy, Trudeau reiterates stand on peaceful protests

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

DAYS AFTER Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came out in support of protesting farmers, India summoned the Canadian envoy Friday and warned that such "actions", if they continue, will have a "seriously damaging impact" on bilateral ties.

Trudeau, however, did not back down from his comments. "Canada will always stand up for the right of peaceful protests anywhere around the world. And we are pleased to see moves towards de-escalation and dialogue," he said in Ottawa when asked about India's move.

Earlier, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement: "The Canadian High Commissioner was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs today and informed that comments by the Canadian Prime Minister, some Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament on issues relating to Indian farmers constitute an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs."

"Such actions, if continued, would have a seriously damaging impact on ties between India and Canada," it said.

"These comments have encouraged gatherings of extremist activities in front of our High Commission and Consulates in Canada that raise issues of safety and security. We expect the Canadian Government to ensure the fullest security of Indian diplomatic personnel and its po-



Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

litical leaders to refrain from pronouncements that legitimize extremist activism," it said.

This statement is different from its statement Tuesday because the MEA mentions the Canadian Prime Minister. In its earlier statement, it had mentioned "some Canadian leaders".

A broad spectrum of Canadian leaders have expressed their opinion on the farmer protests, which has not gone down well with the government. Earlier this week, after Trudeau came out in support of the protesting farmers, India had reacted sharply against "ill-informed comments" on the "internal affairs of a democratic country".

Speaking to Canadian-Sikh community leaders at an online event on the occasion of Gurpurab, Trudeau said: "I would be remiss if I didn't start by recognising the news coming from India about the protest by farmers. The situation is concerning. We are all very worried about family and friends. We know that's a reality for many of you. Let me remind you, Canada will always be there to defend the rights of peaceful protesters. We believe in the process of dialogue. We've reached out through multiple means to the Indian authorities to highlight our concerns."

## Farmer protests only in Punjab... most are Cong workers: MoS Agriculture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 4

UNION MINISTER of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary said Friday that the protests by farmers are not a nationwide phenomenon and are restricted to Punjab.

Choudhary even claimed that many of the protesting farmers in Punjab were Congress workers.

"The farmers' agitation is not in the entire country and is only in Punjab. Even in Punjab, such people, whom we can say... are mostly Congress workers. I want to say that the decision will be taken in the interest of the farmers and in tomorrow's meeting the outcome will be positive," Choudhary told reporters in Jaipur.



Kailash Choudhary

## Tejashwi backs farmer protests, to lead dharna in Patna today

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, DECEMBER 4

BIHAR'S LEADER of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Friday expressed solidarity with the protesting farmers and backed the demand for written legal provision of MSP even as his party questioned the silence of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat – who is currently in the state – on the issue.

Tejashwi told reporters he would lead RJD's dharna at Patna's Gandhi Maidan to lend support to farmers on Saturday.

"The NDA government at the Centre has been taking anti-farmer decisions for the past six years. It got three farm Bills passed without taking farmers' associations into confidence... If the new farm laws are so good, why is not MSP being made essential," he said. "In fact, entire mandi system would collapse with the new arrangement and only corporate houses would benefit from it. If one nation, one

market is being discussed, why is not one MSP being discussed?" "The biggest threat from the new farm laws was government losing control over foodgrains sale and purchase," the RJD leader said.

"After the Bihar government repealed APMC Act in 2006, farmers have not been getting good price for their wheat and paddy. Can the Bihar government tell how much percentage of wheat and paddy it has purchased from farmers in the past few years?" he said.

RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tewari said RSS chief Bhagwat should make his stand clear on farmers, especially when Swadeshi Jagran Manch, which is affiliated to the RSS, too, has felt the need for changes in the farm laws.

## Plea in SC seeks removal of gathering from borders, cites commuter issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

ALAW student from Delhi Friday sought the Supreme Court's intervention to "immediately" remove the mass gathering of farmers from Delhi's borders.

The plea cited the Covid-19 pandemic and said farmers were "blocking the roads for all the emergency/medical services" required in the national capital for those affected by the virus.

In the plea, filed through Advocate Om Prakash Parihar, petitioner Rishabh Sharma said that "because of the ongoing protest at the Delhi borders, the roads have been blocked by the protesters and closed border points, which have affected vehicular traffic and people who are traveling to and from Delhi to get medical treatment in reputed government/private hospitals situated in Delhi are also affected".

"Majority of protestors are elderly people who are more vulnerable to this deadly virus, and it is in their best interest to completely avoid such mass gatherings", he said.

The plea said the rate of Covid-19 transmission may spike due to the mass gathering.

Sharma said that even though the police had allotted a dedicated place for the protestors to hold the demonstration peacefully – at Nirankari Ground in Burari, Delhi – they have not moved there, "and in order to create trouble for the commuters they have blocked the borders".

The petition also pointed to SC's Shaheen Bagh judgement.



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav

## Dineshwar Sharma, former interlocutor for J&K, dies at 66

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATOR Dineshwar Sharma, who earlier headed the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and was the Interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, died of a lung ailment in Chennai on Friday. He was 66.

The retired IPS officer of the Kerala cadre, who previously served as Interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, was appointed than Lakshadweep Administrator in October 2019.

Sources said Sharma was admitted to AIIMS on November 25 with complaints of heavy coughing and lung complications. On November 27, he was shifted to MGM Hospital in Chennai for a lung transplant but his condition deteriorated sharply in the past 24 hours. He had been diagnosed with an ir-



Lakshadweep Administrator Dineshwar Sharma

reversible condition called interstitial lunging, said sources. PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over his death. "Administrator of Lakshadweep Shri Dineshwar Sharma Ji made long lasting contributions to India's policing and security apparatus. He handled many sensitive counter-terror and insurgency ops during his policing career. Anguished by his demise. Condolences to his family. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister said in a tweet.

In a tweet, Shah said, "He served the nation with utmost devotion as a dedicated officer of the

Indian Police Service. My heartfelt condolences to his family in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

Born in Bihar, Sharma had had a long stint in IB before he became its chief in 2014. Following his retirement in 2016, the government appointed him as Interlocutor for J&K in October 2017, owing to his long association with the region as an intelligence officer. Sharma was assistant director in IB in Kashmir between 1994 and 1996 and then served on the Kashmir desk of the bureau in Delhi.

"He was the right man for the job. Very decent, down to earth and patient. Unfortunately, his short term as interlocutor could not achieve much," a senior intelligence official said.

Sources said part of the reason was he did not get much support from Delhi after a point.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Will bring no-confidence motion against BJP-JJP govt, says Hooda

SAKSHI DAYAL  
GURGAON, DECEMBER 4

THE HARYANA Congress Friday said it will bring a no-confidence motion against the BJP-JJP alliance government, which has lost the "trust of people and legislators" after its "big mistake" of trying to stop farmers from marching to Delhi.

Addressing a press conference in Gurgaon, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda urged the Governor to convene an emergency session of the Haryana Assembly.

"Three Independents have left the government and, after the people, it (the BJP-JJP government) is also losing the trust of the MLAs... we appeal to the Governor to call an emergency session of the Assembly to discuss the farmers' issues. In that, we will also bring a no-confi-



Bhupinder Singh Hooda

dence motion against this government, which has lost the faith of the people as well as the Vidhan Sabha," said Hooda.

"If farmers were not stopped, if water cannons... tear gas were not used, maybe this would not have been the situation... This work that the Haryana government has done is condemnable. This is the biggest mistake of the Haryana government," said the two-time former CM.

He said that while Congress stands in support of the farmers' demands, "the JJP and Independent MLAs, who have reached the Vidhan Sabha with the vote of the farmers," are standing in support of the government.

## Kejriwal likes lying, Khattar beating people up: Capt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

TAKING TO Facebook Live on Friday to counter criticism after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said: "Kejriwal nu jhooth bolan di aadat hai" (Kejriwal likes to tell lies) and "Khattar nu lokaan nu kuttan di" (Khattar likes to beat up people).

On former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal's remark that he had met the Home Minister over an ED case, the Punjab CM said: "I am not scared of ED... she (Harsimrat) is also known for telling lies. I do not know what is her education."

## Nadda kicks off 120-day national political tour from Uttarakhand

Dehradun: BJP national president J P Nadda started a 120-day nationwide political tour on Friday with a four-day visit to Uttarakhand where he met spiritual leaders and prominent political leaders in Haridwar and attended the Ganga puja at Har Ki Pauri. According to functionaries, Nadda will hold a meeting with party MPs, MLAs and other party organisation leaders in Dehradun on Saturday. Later, he is scheduled to address a meeting in Ambedkar

Nagar Mandal in Rajpur Road Assembly constituency. On Monday, the BJP chief is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and the council of ministers for deliberations on the government's work, its image among the people and a review of work for various elections and policies being implemented in the state. Nadda's visit holds significance for the state BJP state unit that is facing factionalism. **ENS**

## NIA to probe Nagrota encounter case

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE CENTRE has handed over to the NIA investigation into the November 19 encounter at Nagrota in Jammu. The agency has registered an FIR after taking case papers from Jammu and Kashmir police which was probing the case until now.

Sources said the case was handed over to NIA as it has cross-border implications and a federal agency would be better suited for a case where the hand of Pakistan is prima facie evident. The case concerns an encounter between security forces and four Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists at Ban Toll Naka

in Nagrota. The terrorists allegedly entered India from Pakistan using a tunnel on the Jammu border and were on their way to Kashmir in a truck when they were intercepted by security forces. As the truck was being searched, the terrorists opened fire and in the following encounter, all terrorists were killed and two security personnel injured. From the truck, the police recovered 11 AK rifles, 24 magazines, 75 kg of RDX, 20 m of IED wire, six detonators, one Under Barrel Grenade Launcher, 29 grenades, five Rifle Grenades, three pistols with six magazines, a wireless set and a GPS. The police had then indicated that the terrorists were planning a big attack in the Valley ahead of the District

Development Council Polls. The day after the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and top intelligence officials. Sources said the meeting discussed ways to ensure international pressure on Pakistan by presenting appropriate evidence at forums such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The next meeting of FATF is slated to take place in February. "NIA will be able to gather the kind of evidence that will be useful to corner Pakistan in FATF. NIA is also a member of the delegation that represents India at FATF meetings," a Home Ministry official said.

**SALES AND MARKETING NOTICE:**  
For the 100 percent water soluble mixture of fertilizers

In pursuance to the order No. S.O.2900 (E) dated 24th October, 2015 and its amendment dated 30th December 2017, issued by Department of Agriculture Co-operation and Farmer Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Govt of India, M/s DCM Shriram Limited, Registered Office: 2nd Floor, (West Wing), World Mark-1, Aerocity, New Delhi-110037 India (its Unit: Shriram Fertilisers and Chemicals) hereby notifies that it intends to sell 100 percent Water Soluble Mixture of fertilizer Grades as per specification given below.

| Sl No | Description  | N-P-K            |                |                                  |                          |
|-------|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|       |  | 10-30-20, B-0.1% | 15-10-30, S-4% | 15-05-32, S-2%, B-0.1%, Mo-0.01% | 10-05-40, S-2.5%, B-0.2% |
| 1     | Moisture per cent by weight, Maximum                           | 0.5              | 0.5            | 0.5                              | 0.5                      |
| 2     | Total Nitrogen per cent by weight, Minimum                     | 10               | 15             | 15                               | 10                       |
| 3     | Nitrate Nitrogen per cent by weight, Maximum                   | 5.5              | 7.0            | 8.3                              | 9.7                      |
| 4     | Ammoniacal Nitrogen per cent by weight, Minimum                | 4.0              | 2.0            | 0.1                              | 0.3                      |
| 5     | Urea Nitrogen per cent by weight, Maximum                      | 0.5              | 6.0            | 6.6                              | 0                        |
| 6     | Water soluble phosphorus (as P2O5) per cent by weight, Minimum | 30               | 10             | 5                                | 9                        |
| 7     | Water soluble potassium (as K2O) per cent by weight, Minimum   | 20               | 30             | 32                               | 40                       |
| 8     | Sulphate Sulphur (as S) per cent by weight, Minimum            |                  | 4              | 2                                | 2.5                      |
| 9     | Boron (as B) per cent by weight, Minimum                       | 0.1              |                | 0.1                              | 0.2                      |
| 10    | Molybdenum (as Mo) per cent by weight, Minimum                 |                  |                | 0.01                             |                          |
| 11    | Total Chloride (as Cl) per cent by weight, Maximum             | 1.5              | 1.5            | 1.5                              | 1.5                      |
| 12    | Matter Insoluble in water per cent by weight, Maximum          | 0.5              | 0.5            | 0.5                              | 0.5                      |
| 13    | Sodium as NaCl per cent by weight, Maximum                     | 0.5              | 0.5            | 0.5                              | 0.5                      |
| 14    | Lead (as Pb) per cent by weight, maximum                       | 0.003            | 0.003          | 0.003                            | 0.003                    |
| 15    | Cadmium (as Cd) per cent by weight, Maximum                    | 0.0025           | 0.0025         | 0.0025                           | 0.0025                   |
| 16    | Arsenic (as As) per cent by weight, Maximum                    | 0.01             | 0.01           | 0.01                             | 0.01                     |

To know more about doses, method of application and benefits, please contact below given regional offices of Shriram Fertilizer and Chemicals

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Kirti Mahal, 19, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008, India. CIN No.: LT4899DL1989PLC034923  
Customer Care No.: 0120-4040188, Email: sfs@dcmsriram.com, Website: www.shriramfertilisersolutions.com

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised as under:-

Revised Timings of 02431 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Special Superfast Train

| Train No.: 02431 |       | STATIONS     |
|------------------|-------|--------------|
| ARR.             | DEP.  |              |
| 04:14            | 04:15 | KASARAGOD    |
| 23:48            | 23:50 | THRISUR      |
| 22:20            | 22:25 | ERNAKULAM JN |

Revised Timings effective from : 02431 from Thiruvananthapuram Central from 31.12.2020.

Revised Timings of 02691 KSR Bengaluru - New Delhi Rajdhani Special Superfast Train

| Train No.: 02691 |       | STATIONS        |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| ARR.             | DEP.  |                 |
| 07:05            | 07:15 | SECUNDERABAD JN |

Revised Timings effective from : 02691 from Secunderabad JN from 05.12.2020.

Revised Timings of 02465 Madhapur Jn - Anand Vihar (T) Special Superfast Train

| Train No.: 02465 |       | STATIONS    |
|------------------|-------|-------------|
| ARR.             | DEP.  |             |
| 12:40            | 12:15 | MADHUPUR JN |
| 12:40            | 12:42 | JASIDIH JN  |

Revised Timings effective from : 02465 from Madhapur Jn from 05.12.2020.

Revised Timings of 02434/02433 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Special Superfast Train

| Train No.: 02434 |       | STATIONS        | Train No.: 02433 |       |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|-------|
| ARR.             | DEP.  |                 | ARR.             | DEP.  |
| 08:00            | 08:05 | BALHARSHAH      | 17:45            | 17:50 |
| 11:14            | 11:15 | WARANGAL        | 14:13            | 14:14 |
| 14:30            | 14:40 | VIJAYAWADA JN   | 11:38            | 11:48 |
| 20:45            | ---   | CHENNAI CENTRAL | ---              | 06:05 |

Revised Timings effective from : 02434 from Hazrat Nizamuddin from 30.12.2020 and 02433 from Chennai Central from 01.01.2021.

Train No. 09415 from Ahmedabad Jn will depart at 17:20 hrs. instead of 17:40 hrs. on 06.12.2020 & 09.12.2020.

For any other information such as arrival/departure of above special trains stations enroute and frequency etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE SCHEME FOR EXOTIC LIVE ANIMALS**

Last date for voluntary disclosure  
15 December 2020  
FAST APPROACHING  
PLEASE AVAIL!

A scheme for Voluntary Disclosure and Registration of Stock, Import of Exotic Live Species in India, and related matters [for Exotic Live Animals listed in CITES, excluding wild animals listed in the schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972]

**"DEALING WITH IMPORT OF EXOTIC LIVE SPECIES IN INDIA AND DECLARATION OF STOCK"**

**Register/Apply for:**

- Voluntary Disclosure of possession of Exotic Live Animals by 15 December 2020.
- Registration of change in stock of Exotic Live Animals (Transfer/Death/Acquisition).
- NOC for Import of Exotic Live Animals.
- Birth of progenies.

**Benefits**

- Immunity as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad in PIL civil no. 12032/2020 dated 30/07/2020 and corroborated by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- Enhanced veterinary care and well-being of animals.
- Control of zoonotic diseases.
- Simple online procedures of application and approvals.

**The entire process has been made online.**

Government of India "ADVISORY FOR DEALING WITH IMPORT OF EXOTIC LIVE SPECIES IN INDIA AND DECLARATION OF STOCK", Forms for Disclosure and User Friendly Manual can be accessed at <<https://parivesh.nic.in>>

dadv 13101/11/0024/2021

**WORLD SOIL DAY**  
Securing land health for a better future

**Dr. Vivek Saxena**, Country Representative, IUCN India

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union, established in 1948, having observer status at UN General Assembly, is a world's largest environmental network of membership Union uniquely composed of both Government and Civil Society Organizations, of about 1500 Member organizations and more than 15,000 IUCN Commission members. IUCN India network comprises of about 40 members, including Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC) as State Member and more than 1100 commission members, represented through 6 IUCN Commissions of Ecosystem Management (CEM), Education and Communication (CEC), Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), Species Survival Commission (SSC), World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). IUCN India works with numerous stakeholders including governments, academia and private sector on biodiversity conservation and wise use of natural resources, including, in the transboundary context. In addition, IUCN also works on cross cutting areas viz. nature-based solutions and engaging businesses for harmonizing conservation and economic development and address challenges related to poverty alleviation, food security and climate change. India became a State Member of IUCN in 1969, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

IUCN in 2020 has published the reports, "Common Lands" and "IUCN Global Standards for Nature-based solutions", focusing on natural resource conservation for a secure planet.

**ITC LIMITED**

ITC is a global exemplar in sustainability which is manifest in its status as the only company in the world, of its size and diversity, to be carbon, water and solid waste recycling positive. ITC pursues innovation in its business models to synergize the creation of wealth for nation with the formation of ecological and social capital as a unified strategy. In its programme catchments, ITC focuses on replenishing and conserving soil & soil health, water and biodiversity. These three natural resources are crucial for agriculture and for rural livelihoods. ITC has set an objective of restoring Soil Organic Carbon in the farm fields at 0.75 to 1% level. ITC has reached out to 11.33 lakh acres through watershed development, promoted zero tillage in above 1 lakh acres in a year and promoted biodiversity conservation in 31,000 acres, all of which lead to arresting top soil runoff and improving soil health.

*World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5th December as a means to focus on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. The theme for 2020 is "Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity"*

**Soil biodiversity and ecosystem functions that determine agricultural performance**

**Overview of ecosystem processes provided by the soil biota, classified according to their body size**

Microbes & Microorganisms (Protozoa, Nematodes, Fungi, Bacteria, Archaea) facilitate ecosystem function by feeding on organic matter and releasing nutrients. They also play a role in soil structure, soil moisture retention, and soil pH regulation.

Small animals (Earthworms, Arthropods, Nematodes) facilitate ecosystem function by feeding on organic matter and releasing nutrients. They also play a role in soil structure, soil moisture retention, and soil pH regulation.

Large animals (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles) facilitate ecosystem function by feeding on organic matter and releasing nutrients. They also play a role in soil structure, soil moisture retention, and soil pH regulation.

Agricultural lands are modified ecosystems that depend on nature in many ways, for nutrient supply, water supply, pest control, pollination and other services. Soil biodiversity conservation is at the heart of sustainable farming practices, but scientific knowledge needs to be strengthened and to be incorporated as sustainable practice at farm level. 90-95% of soil biota remains unidentified and less than 1% of some groups have been described. A close correlation is observed between the diversity and abundance of soil species and soil ecosystem function. Management of this biota by farmers should be better informed by science as to how species interact in the soil and how positive interactions can be enhanced or restored by farming practices.

Reports from International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and United Nations say that the present practices on natural resources are producing alarming impact on food production systems. These changes affect the land, soil, and biodiversity of the regions. The pandemic is a live illustration of the need for more sustainable food systems that work with nature, ensuring food security and decent livelihoods for a rapidly growing population.

targets set under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Government of India has also pledged under Bonn Challenge to restore 26 million hectares of forest landscape and degraded lands by 2030.

On World Soil Day, Mr. Rickej Kej, Music composer & Producer, UNCCD Land Ambassador, UNESCO-MGIEP Ambassador, UNICEF Celebrity Supporter, rightly says that "Degraded landscape has dire consequences for the well-being of people and wildlife, soil nutrient restoration is needed for the environment to become healthier, since soil holds everything together".

**COMMON GROUND**

**Land health as a common ground**

Connect with us: **Website:** [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org), **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/IndiaIUCN>, **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/IUCN-India-103145781445476>

SC scraps plea for inclusion of govt nominees in Ayodhya mosque trust

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea, urging it to direct the Centre to create a trust comprising government nominees from Sunni community for proper administration of the land and construction of a mosque at the 5-acre plot allotted to the UP Sunni Central Wakf Board in Ayodhya. The petitioners said the plea is in public interest as "the Trust will have contributions from foreign countries also and Ayodhya being a sensitive place will require a strict vigilance and supervision..."

Despite BSY plea, pro-Kannada groups stick to bandh plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, DECEMBER 4

A KARNATAKA bandh called by pro-Kannada organisations to protest the creation of a Maratha Development Authority is expected to affect normal life in parts of the state, especially in the capital Bengaluru, on Saturday.

The leader of a collective of pro-Kannada organisations, Vatal Nagaraj, 71, Friday turned down an appeal by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to call off the bandh. "I appeal to everyone including Vatal Nagaraj not to trouble people with the bandh," the Chief Minister said. Nagaraj said Yediyurappa must withdraw last month's order for setting up the Authority. "I want to tell Yediyurappa, please withdraw the 'Authority' and I will garland you. Don't threaten us. We will not get scared," he said.

According to the state government, the Authority, set up with an outlay of Rs 50 crore, will provide scholarships and loans to people from the Maratha community living in Karnataka.

The creation of the Authority is being seen as an effort by the ruling BJP to appease the Marathi population in border regions ahead of bypolls to the Belagavi Lok Sabha seat and the Basavakalyan Assembly seat.

Provisions of UP anti-conversion law added to kidnapping case in Sitapur

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 4

POLICE in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh has added provisions of the new anti-conversion law to an FIR alleging kidnapping of a 19-year-old woman. This is the fourth case in which Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, has been invoked. Earlier, police in Bareilly, Muzaffarnagar and Mau districts have filed one case each under the law that came into effect on November 28.

On November 26, the woman's father lodged a complaint against seven people, including his neighbour Jibrail, accusing them

of kidnapping her. Citing local residents, the father Thursday told police that his daughter has been converted. "After the woman's father submitted a complaint, we added the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 to the case. We included two more IPC sections — 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 368 (wrongfully concealing or keeping in confinement kidnapped person) — in the FIR," said SHO, Tambor police station, Amit Singh Bhadouriya.

Police said the woman went missing on November 24. Besides Jibrail, a taxi driver, the other accused are his family members, including his mother and sister-in-law, and friends, said police.

Bhadouriya said police have arrested two of the accused — Jibrail's elder brother Israil (26) and brother-in-law Usman. The role of the others is being probed, he said.

The first case under the new law was lodged at Deoria police station in Bareilly against one Owas Ahmed. Three days later, police arrested Ahmed. The second case was registered in Muzaffarnagar's Mansoorpur police station against two persons, and police are yet to make arrests. Mau police lodged the third case at Chirajyakot police station against 14 persons after a complainant alleged that the accused kidnapped his 25-year-old daughter. No one has been arrested so far.

Plea in SC against bigamy among Muslims: Opposed to public policy, decency, morality

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A GROUP of women has moved the Supreme Court challenging the provisions in the Shariat Act and Indian Penal Code which allow the practice of bigamy in the Muslim community.

The plea filed through Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, said that though there are UN conventions against bigamy, "in India the irony is that bigamy has been made punishable under Section 494 of

IPC subject to applicability of personal law". The practice is disallowed by Hindu, Christian and Parsi laws but permitted under Section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, the plea said, adding this "is opposed to public policy, decency and morality and is discriminatory within the meaning of Article 14 of the Constitution of India".

"Therefore, the provision of Section 2 of Shariat Act in so far it protects the bigamous marriages by Muslims is liable to be struck down being unconstitutional and void," the petition prayed.

The plea said Section 494 of IPC provides that "whoever, having a husband or wife living, marries in any case in which such marriage is void by reason of its

taking place during the life of such husband or wife, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine".

Thus "it is clear that the offence of bigamy is punishable only when the second marriage is void. It means that the validity of second marriage depends on the recognition of such marriage under personal law". The petitioners questioned how the state can make a penal law "in such a manner which may create discrimination and same act may be punishable for someone but for others enjoyable".

The plea has been filed by Kashika Sharma from Himachal Pradesh, Usha Sinha from Bihar, Kiran Singh, Suvind Praveen Kanchan and Parul Khera from Uttar Pradesh and the Lucknow-based Jan Uddhosh Sansthan.

**कार्यालय उज्जैन नगर पालिक निगम, उज्जैन**  
विकास क्र./शि/1113  
छत्रपति शिवाजी भवन आगर रोड उज्जैन, (म. प्र.)  
उज्जैन, दिनांक : 04.12.2020  
(Online) निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना  
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए पत्र "अ" (फार्म ए) में प्रविष्टित कम या अधिक के आधार पर प्रमुख अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग म.प्र. शासन भोपाल के कार्यालय में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से उक्त विभाग में पंजीयन प्रमाण पत्र की प्रमाणित प्रति प्रस्तुत करने पर ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, तथा ठेकेदार की (श्रेणी सी) एम.पी. गर्मेंट व सिरियल क्र. 1 का टेंडर फार्म मूल्य 15,000/- रहेगा।  
सिरियल क्र. 1 का ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 04.01.2021 समय 17:30, ऑनलाइन ई.एम.डी. शी.डी. शी.डी. एवं समस्त दस्तावेज Submission करने की अंतिम तिथि 04.01.2021 समय 17:30 रहेगी।  
विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। यदि उपरोक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार का संशोधन होता है तो इसकी सूचना ऑनलाइन दी जावेगी। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं की जावेगी।

| क्र. | निविदा विकास क्र.           | कार्य का नाम   | अनुमानित लागत | नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग म.प्र. भोपाल | अंश-स्तरनी रू. | समय अवधि |
|------|-----------------------------|--|---------------|--|----------------|----------|
| 1    | 2                           | 3  | 4             | 5  | 6              | 7        |
| 1    | E-Tendering 2020_UAD_116961 | वाई 19 झोन 2 अन्तर्गत अटल परिसर फायर ब्रिगेड परिसर के पीछे व्यावसायिक कामप्लेक्स निर्माण कार्य | 3,46,54,489/- | 10.5.2012 UADD ISSR SOR & Non-SOR Items    | 3,46,545/-     | 480 दिन  |

कार्यपालन यंत्री -नगर पालिक निगम उज्जैन

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice**  
The Sr Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website <https://ireps.gov.in>, for the parking contracts, for the period of 01 (One) year, to be closed on 28.12.2020 at 15:00 hrs at the following stations/locations:

| S  | Name of work with its location/Railway Station   | Advertise value/ Reserve Price of one year in (Rs) | EMD @2% of total Contract Value (In Rs.) | Cost of tender form Inclusive GST @ 18% (in Rs) | Website particulars where complete tender document can be seen                       |
|----|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat Railway Station (PNP), 2 <sup>nd</sup> entry "A" Category, with measuring an area of 390 sq mtrs                                      | 9,34,704   | 18700                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking101-2020 |
| 2  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE), 1 <sup>st</sup> Entry "B" Category, with measuring an area of 648 sq mtrs                                 | 8,98,400   | 18000                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking102-2020 |
| 3  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE), 2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry "B" Category, with measuring an area of 353 sq mtrs                                 | 3,43,968   | 6900                                     | 1180  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking103-2020 |
| 4  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Pahar Ganj Side, "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 3429.19 sq mtrs                               | 1,40,19,635  | 280400                                   | 5900  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking104-2020 |
| 5  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Shahabad Markanda Railway Station (SHDM), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 375 sq mtrs   | 3,87,648   | 7800                                     | 1180  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking105-2020 |
| 6  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Meerut City Railway Station (MTC), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 2054.80 sq mtrs  | 27,95,696  | 56000                                    | 3540  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking106-2020 |
| 7  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat Railway Station (PNP), 1 <sup>st</sup> Entry "A" Category, with measuring an area of 804.70 sq mtrs                                   | 13,95,008  | 27900                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking107-2020 |
| 8  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Ghaziabad Railway Station (GZB), City Side "A" Category, with measuring an area of 2551.59 sq mtrs  | 38,63,143  | 77300                                    | 3540  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking108-2020 |
| 9  | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station (HNZM) "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 4061.87 sq mtrs  | 1,00,99,075  | 202000                                   | 5900  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking109-2020 |
| 10 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Delhi Cantt Railway Station (DEC), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 709 sq mtrs  | 25,55,731  | 51200                                    | 3540  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking110-2020 |
| 11 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Jind Railway Station (JHI), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 393.39 sq mtrs  | 4,27,499   | 8600                                     | 1180  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking111-2020 |
| 12 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Subzi Mandi Railway Station (SZM), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 1525.37 sq mtrs  | 11,96,214  | 24000                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking112-2020 |
| 13 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Nangloi Railway Station (NNO), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 610 sq mtrs  | 13,00,010  | 26000                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking113-2020 |
| 14 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Adarsh Nagar Railway Station (ANDI/PRS), Shalimar Bagh Side "A" Category, with measuring an area of 398.86 sq mtrs        | 3,03,453   | 6100                                     | 1180  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking114-2020 |
| 15 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Palam Railway Station (PM), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 414.70 sq mtrs  | 6,60,278   | 13300                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking115-2020 |
| 16 | Parking contract of Cycle Scooter at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Ajmeri Gate Side "A-1" Category Station, with measuring area of 926.68 sq mtrs                               | 38,36,075  | 76800                                    | 3540  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking116-2020 |
| 17 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 105.52 sq mtrs   | 5,09,760   | 10200                                    | 2360  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking117-2020 |
| 18 | Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Delhi Sadar Bazar Railway Station (DSB), on As Is Where Is basis, "D" Category, with measuring an area of 4722.67 sq mtrs | 1,43,73,807  | 287500                                   | 5900  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a> tender no: Parking118-2020 |

\* Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by license extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/ license fee. 2719/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Manoj Yadav @ Manoj S/o Deep Chand Yadav R/o Childline Prayags, E-Block, Near P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi, **Permanent Address:** Village Mangsapur, Distt. Fatehpur, U.P. has been missing since 30.10.2015 from the Kalawati Saran Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 363/15 u/s 363 IPC dated 30.10.2015 has been registered at Police Station Mandir Marg, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Age:** Around 13 Years. **Height:** 4'9". **Complexion:** Wheatish. **Face:** Long. **Built:** Normal. **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt & pant and bare footed. **Identification:** A Tattoo of "OM" on right hand.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. at E-mail id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 New Delhi Distt., Delhi DP/161/ND/2020 Ph. No. 011-23364100, 23368730, 8750870522

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)**  
Notice Inviting E-Tender  
Corrigendum-I  
NIT No.: BP-2813  
Name of office: Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (PW), Nangal.  
Name of work: Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 2 number HP compressor after dismantling of existing old HP compressors in switchyard of Bhakra Left Bank Power House of BBMB (PW), Nangal.  
Last date for download tender documents 22.12.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of online bid 22.12.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.  
Due date for opening technical bid 23.12.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website <https://bbmbproc.abcprouce.com> & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)  
774-PR-Generation-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**UJVNL**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
RO No.:797  
**TENDER NOTICE** Date: 04-12-2020  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders for following work Tender No: CH(Maint.-)25/2020-21 Refurbishment & Installation & Commissioning of 01 Set of Turbine Guide Bearing Pads of 60 MW Francis Turbine of Chibro Power Station.  
Estimated cost : ₹ 14,00,000/- GST extra  
Date of availability of bid on website : 06.12.2020, 11:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of tender : 28.12.2020 up to 13:00 hrs  
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)"  
(Executive Engineer, Maint.)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**GOVERNMENT OF CH HATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER E/M Circle Water Resources Department Raipur NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement) e-PROCUREMENT REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
Tender ID No. 2020\_WRCWB\_600247 / REF No.: 12/SAC/EM/20-21/RUDRI/dri-p-I Dated-01.12.2020  
**Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.01.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. (IST)**  
Name of work : Supply erection testing & commissioning of new 30mtr Hot dipped galvanized high mast pole with 350watt LED flood light and repair with replacement and fixing of 350watt LED fixture power cable and panel at 30mtr of 9nos existing high mast of RSP Gangrel Dam.  
Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 110.59 Lakhs  
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of India Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) from Date 07.12.2020 , at 15:00 Hou rs. (IST) onwards.  
NOTE :- All eligible/interested bidders are mandated to get enrol led on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) in order to download the tender document and participate in the subsequent bidding process. Bidders from India should however be registered with the Government of Chhattisgarh or other State Government/Government of India or State/Central Government Undertaking. Bidders from India Who are not registered as above on the date of bidding can also participate provide they get themselves Registration in appropriate class by the time of contract signing. If they become successful bidders.  
sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
E&M H.E.M.M. Division Rudri  
For Superintending Engineer  
E/M Circle Water Resources  
Department Raipur  
85376

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MH&FW, DGHS BCG VACCINE LABORATORY**  
No.110, 33 Feet Road, Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai-600 032. Tamil Nadu  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed tenders are invited from the Manufacturers / Dealers in the prescribed form ON or BEFORE 29.12.2020 at 02.00 PM for supply of the following item. Technical Bid will be opened at 03.00 PM on 29.12.2020 at the above said office address. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid will be informed to the bidders who are qualified in the Technical Bid.

| Sl.No | Description of the Item  | Quantity |
|-------|--|----------|
| 1     | No.D.21016/02/2020-21 (Stores) Aluminium Flip Off - Suitable for 2R Vials, Plastic Button to be pale yellow colour with glossy finish enabling for sticking VVM as per Drawing and Specification enclosed in the Tender Form as Annexure - I | 20 lakhs |
| 2     | No. D.21016/03/2020-21(Stores) BIFID SILICONISED RUBBER WADS 13MM BROMO BUTYL LYO. GREY COLOUR SUITABLE FOR 2R VIALS - READY TO WASH AS PER DRAWING AND SPECIFICATION ENCLOSED IN THE TENDER FORM AS ANNEXURE - I                            | 10 lakhs |

Drawing with specification, Tender Forms and Vendor Qualification forms can be downloaded from the CPP Portal / BCGVL website - [dirbcglab.gov.in](http://dirbcglab.gov.in) DIRECTOR

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tendering Tender Notice No.: 27/2020  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Iztanagar For and behalf of President of India invites "Open" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work: S.No.1-Description of works: Provision of comparison to right patrolman through Outsourcing under ADENP/BE. (Under sanctioned work Provision of comparison to right patrolman through Outsourcing in IZN division). Approx. Value: ₹ 2,48,245/-, E.M.D. Money: ₹ 5,000/-, Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ 1,000/-. Completion time period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 50 Days. S.No.2-Description of works: Provision of comparison to right patrolman through Outsourcing under ADENP/BE. (Under sanctioned work Provision of comparison to right patrolman through Outsourcing in IZN division). Approx. Value: ₹ 12,66,049.50, E.M.D. Money: ₹ 25,300/-, Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ 2,000/-. Completion time period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 50 Days. Note: 1. On line-tender can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. of dated 29.12.2020. 2. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**STORES E-PROCUREMENT**  
Tender Notice No.: S/17/2020-21, Dated: 04-12-2020 (3) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender, please visit IREPS e-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenders are advised to get their registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and in free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/air or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: S.N.: Tender No.: 3020/2020-21/55/2020, Brief Description, PL No & Quantity : Hanger for Solder Spring Suspension (BG-ICF, as per Drawing No. G-4105, Qty - 3751 Nos. for New Beniganj/Workshop Depot, Qty - 744 Nos. for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop Depot, PL No. - 30051058, Closing/ Opening date : 14-12-2020. PCMM, Maligaon

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**  
("A State Govt. Undertaking") Press Tender Notice (E-Tendering Mode Only)  
Online Tenders are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla - 4, from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) Authorized dealer of OEM for the following work:-

| Tender No.                                   | Name of work  | Estimated Cost | Earnest Money | Cost of Tender Documents | Completion Period | Sale of Tender documents                      | Last date of receipt of tender | Opening of Techno Commercial bid |
|--|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CEO/MA&C/TenderNo./13/OP-NOFP/Bid/01/2020-21 | SOP to new OPD Block at Indira Gandhi Medical College Shimla -01 under Electrical Division HPSEB Shimla -01 | Rs. 518 Lacs   | Rs. 13 Lacs   | Rs. 5900.00              | 04 Months         | From 14.12.2020 to 28.12.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM) | 29.12.2020 (Upto 5 PM)         | 30.12.2020 (at 15.00 Hrs)        |

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the website <http://www.tenderwizard.com>/HPSEB and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. For further details on e-tendering, please contact Phone no. 0177-2801745

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation  
ER. Sanjeev Maria  
Chief Engineer (OP) South HPSEB Ltd, Shimla -4

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD, AJMER**  
CEN 03/2019: Ministerial and Isolated Categories Indicative Notice for Computer Based Test (CBT)  
The Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for the vacancies of Ministerial and Isolated Categories notified under CEN 03/2019 will be held from 15.12.2020 to 18.12.2020. The exam will be held by observing all guidelines related to COVID-19.  
The link for Exam City, Date & Shift intimation and Mock test will be made live from 05.12.2020 onwards on official websites of all RRBs. E-call letter can be downloaded 04 days prior to start of Exam as mentioned in city intimation link.  
For further details and updates, the candidates are advised to visit only official websites of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) from time to time.  
Chairpersons  
Date : 05.12.2020 Railway Recruitment Boards

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:

| Delhi name of work with its location  | Allotment of 13 Catering Stalls (Special Minor Units) at Division A & B category of Railway Stations over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years. (Ctg. SMU 37 to Ctg.SMU 49-2020) |
|---|---|
| 2 Name of tender on IREPS   | 23AC/Ctg./Blue Print/A/18   |
| 3 Approximate cost of work  | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in  |
| 4 Date of opening of Tender   | 28.12.2020 at 15:00 hrs   |
| 5 Cost of Tender document & 18% GST   | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in  |
| 6 Earnest Money Deposit   | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in  |
| 7 Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a>   |

No. 23AC/Ctg./Blue Print/A/18 Dated: ,12.2020 2711/2020

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Name of work and location                                   | Balance work of Additional holding line between Anand Vihar & Chandernagar station in c/w Development of new coaching terminal at Anand Vihar Railway Station (Phase-II) (Fourth call).  |
| 2. Completion period of the work                               | 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter.   |
| 3. Approx. Cost of work  | Rs. 58.25 Lakh (Rupees Fifty eight lakh & twenty five thousand only)   |
| 4. Earnest money amount (to be deposited Online)               | Rs. 1,16,500.00 (Rupees One lakh sixteen thousand five hundred only)   |
| 5. Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender | Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 28.12.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 28.12.2020  |
| 6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document                    | The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> Above tenders document will be available on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 07.12.2020 to 28.12.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. |

No. 220-Acs/11166/Holding Line Date: 04.12.2020 2715/20  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## BRIEFLY



Narottam Mishra

## MADHYA PRADESH

## Home Minister found 'unfit' for vaccine trial

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra was found unfit for Bharat Biotech's coronavirus vaccine trial as his immediate family members had tested positive for the infection, a doctor said on Friday. Dr Anil Kumar Dixit, Dean of the city-based People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, said, "Mishra was found unfit for the vaccine trial as some of the members in his family had tested Covid-19 positive earlier." Talking to reporters here, the minister said he wished to volunteer for the trial as he wanted to do something for society. "But I was found unfit for it as my wife and children had tested positive in the past," he said. **PTI**

## MAHARASHTRA

## ED files plea against Iqbal Mirchi kin

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday approached the special court seeking to declare three family members of deceased gangster Iqbal Memon alias Iqbal Mirchi as "fugitive economic offenders" in connection with a money laundering probe. An application was moved under the Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) Act, 2018, seeking to declare Memon's sons Junaid and Asif as well as his wife Hajira as fugitive economic offenders. The plea also sought that 15 of their properties in India and six bank accounts with a balance of Rs 1.9 crore be confiscated. **ENS**

## CHHATTISGARH

## Maoist killed in encounter in Bijapur district

Bijapur: A Maoist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bijapur district on Friday, police said. The skirmish took place around 12.30 pm in a forest under Gangaloor police station area, where joint teams of security forces were on an anti-Naxal operation, inspector general of police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI. Personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA were involved, he said. **PTI**

## ANVAY NAIK SUICIDE CASE

## Raigad police drops key charge against Arnab, two others

MOHAMED THAYER & SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE RAIGAD police, in the 1,914-page chargesheet filed in the Anvay Naik suicide case on Friday, have dropped the charge that indicated that the three accused, including Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami, together conspired to drive Naik to suicide in April 2018.

Naik, an interior decorator, had named Goswami, Feroz Shaikh of IcastX/Skimedia and Niteish Sarda of Smartworks as responsible for the suicide. He had worked for them and wrote in the suicide note that they had not paid him Rs 5.40 crore for the work.

While the FIR registered by the Raigad police soon after the incident had added IPC Section 34 (common intent)—which meant the three had worked together to drive Naik to commit suicide—the chargesheet has dropped that section. The chargesheet has retained Section 306 (abetment to commit suicide) and added Section 109 (punishment of abetment). Dropping Section 34 assumes significance since it was one of the main factors mentioned by the earlier investigating officer while closing the case in 2019.

While the current chargesheet drops references to the three being linked, in order to establish Naik was left with no option but to commit suicide, it has statements of over 50 witnesses of

which nine statements have been recorded before a magistrate.

"We have statements of several employees of Naik, bank statements and emails to prove that non payment of money by the three accused drove him to kill himself," said inspector Jamil Shaikh, who is probing the case.

An official said, "We have found strong evidence in the form of some communication we have established between Naik and the accused, where he told them that if they did not pay him for the work he had done, it will be difficult for him to continue living."

While in the closure report filed in 2019, the officer had concluded that Naik had not completed or not satisfactorily completed work done for the accused,

the current chargesheet has also stated that they have statements of those working for his clients which establish that Naik had completed the work he had taken on from them.

Earlier this week Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had said the police would soon be filing a "strong chargesheet" in the case. Goswami Thursday moved an urgent interim application before the Bombay HC seeking a stay on filing of a chargesheet and further proceedings. It is likely to be heard next week.

The court on Saturday will hear the revision application filed by the Raigad police against the magistrate court's order last month denying police custody of the three accused.

## You have the skills to usher in change: PM to IIT alumni

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

URGING THEM to "set a higher benchmark" for giving back to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the pan-IIT community could help build India into a self-reliant country.

Speaking at the IIT2020 Global Summit, he said India is witnessing a sea-change in the way the country works and new job opportunities are opening up. "Earlier when the IITs produced aerospace engineers, the domestic employment market was not strong for them. Now new space technology startups are coming up every other day in India, providing new opportunities. I am sure that some of you will hold big where none have gone before. We are committed to reform, perform, and transform," he said.

Highlighting areas of innovation where IIT alumni could contribute, the Prime Minister said his



Narendra Modi

government has brought reforms in labour codes and ensured that corporate tax rates remain low.

Adding that the post-Covid order would be about "re-learning, re-thinking, re-innovating, and re-inventing", Modi said that the IIT alumni have the skills to usher in the change. "India and the world needs viable solutions to adjust to the 'new normal'. Today a large number of IIT alumni are in global leadership positions and have the skills to bring about change. The responsibility is heavy, but I know your shoulders are capable," he said.

## No move to offer courses in mother tongue: IIT director

New Delhi: IIT-Delhi Director V Ramgopal Rao has said offering "entire B Tech programmes" in Indian languages would mean "the beginning of the end" for the IITs, but added that Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has clarified that no such plan was afoot.

This came after reports that the Centre has set up a task force to prepare a roadmap on imparting technical education in Indian languages and the Education Minister tweeted on the same.

Rao, in a Facebook post on the same day, issued a clarification. Pokhriyal "... There is going to be a task force involving IITs and the task force will look into the NEP implementation aspects related to IITs", he wrote. "Offering entire B.Tech programmes in local languages would mean, language will become a criterion in our faculty selections. This will be the beginning of end for IITs. Our faculty selections need to be on a global scale," he added. **ENS**

## MANESAR LAND SCAM CASE

## Panchkula CBI court frames charges against Hooda, 38 others

PALLAVI SINGHAL  
PANCHKULA, DECEMBER 4

ON THE orders of the special CBI court in Panchkula, former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, his then principal secretary ML Talyal and 37 others have been charged for corruption, criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct by a public servant in the multi-crore Manesar land scam case.

The CBI's case before the court is that Hooda, Talyal and others deliberately allowed land acquisition proceedings in Gurgaon's Manesar, Naurangpur and Laukhoula — which began in 2004 — to lapse thus allegedly benefiting private players.

According to the CBI, soon after issuance of notification for land acquisition, the land owners were approached by private entities and forced to sell their land in panic as they were told that the government was going to buy their land at cheaper rates. The government authorities, which abandoned the acquisition proceedings later in 2007, also processed "illegal and ar-



Bhupinder Singh Hooda

bitrary manner" the applications made by the same builders for grant of licences and CLUs. As per the CBI, this action caused huge loss to the state as well as the land owners and wrongful gain to the private entities.

The court, in December 1 order made public Friday, also took cognizance of the involvement of other officers, who were not named as accused by the CBI but were cited as witnesses in the chargesheet.

It has summoned senior IAS officer Rajeev Arora, currently serving as ACS Home, under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating) and ordered him to face trial in the case. Rajeev was Managing Director, HSIIDC from 2005-12.

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

277 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 95,71,559 ACTIVE CASES: 4,16,082 DEATHS: 1,39,188

TESTS: 14,47,27,749 RECOVERIES: 90,16,289

DEC 2020 CASES: 35,551 DEATHS: 526 RECOVERIES: 40,726 TESTS: 11,11,698



## STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES

| STATE       | ACTIVE CASES | RISE IN LAST WEEK |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Uttarakhand | 5,741        | 404               |
| Gujarat     | 14,823       | 294               |
| Punjab      | 7,724        | 245               |

## STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING

| STATE          | ACTIVE CASES | DECLINE IN LAST WEEK |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Delhi          | 29,120       | 9614                 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 6,742        | 5873                 |
| Haryana        | 15,516       | 5262                 |

## STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES

| STATE       | ON DEC 3 | TOTAL     |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Kerala      | 5,377    | 6,20,050  |
| Maharashtra | 5,182    | 1,837,358 |
| Delhi       | 3,734    | 5,82,058  |

## STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS

| STATE       | ON DEC 3 | TOTAL  |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| Maharashtra | 118      | 48,549 |
| Delhi       | 82       | 9,424  |
| West Bengal | 49       | 8,576  |

Data as on December 3, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments. Often, the numbers released every day contain data from previous days as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive

## BEANT SINGH KILLING

## SC asks govt why file on commuting Rajoana's death sentence not sent to President yet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE SUPREME Court Friday questioned the Centre over the delay in sending a proposal to the President for commuting the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde asked the Centre to apprise it as to when the authorities concerned will send the proposal to the President under Article 72 of the Constitution.

The apex court noted that a letter was sent from the MHA to the Punjab chief secretary on September 27, 2019, intimating that a proposal would be sent to the President.

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, as to why the proposal has not been sent till now. Nataraj sought two weeks' time to take instruction on the issue of sending a proposal to the President.

The bench has posted the matter for hearing on January 8.

## Stan Swamy moves plea for hearing if he is to be transferred to another jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

ARRESTED IN the Elgaar Parishad case, Father Stan Swamy, the 83-year old Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist from Jharkhand, on Friday moved a plea before a special court seeking an opportunity to be heard if a decision is taken to transfer him to any other prison. Swamy has been lodged in Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai since his arrest in October.

His lawyer, Sharif Shaikh, told the court that the defence team has learnt that Swamy may be shifted to another jail in the city. Following this, the court directed the Taloja jail SP to file a reply on the plea. Besides Swamy, while nine other accused arrested in the case are lodged in Taloja jail, three women accused are lodged in Byculla women's jail.

Shaikh also told the court that he had learnt from news reports that a straw sipper and winter clothes have been provided to Swamy at the jail. He added that the information has not been received from the prison officially, as jail authorities are yet to submit a report on Swamy's application seeking a straw sipper and winter clothes.



Stan Swamy

The court had last week directed the jail authorities to submit a report in this regard.

The Taloja jail authorities had informed the State Human Rights Commission that Swamy has been provided articles, including a sipper mug, straws, wheelchair, walker and walking stick. Also, two co-accused in the case have been assisting him as he suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Swamy has also moved other applications, including seeking his bag that was allegedly seized by the NIA at the time of his arrest. The court has asked the prosecution to file a reply on this.

Meanwhile, a letter purportedly written by Swamy, sent to The Indian Express by one of his colleagues, stated that jail authorities had been "very considerate" and given him a sipper, which he is using to drink tea and water.

## Vadodara BJP leader held for breach of Covid norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
VADODARA, DECEMBER 4

FORMER VADODARA mayor and general secretary of the BJP's city unit, Sunil Solanki has been arrested along with seven others for celebrating his birthday in violation of the lockdown regulations that demand social distancing and wearing masks, police said on Friday.

All eight have been released on bail, they added.

The Sayajigunj police said eight people, including Solanki, were booked after videos emerged of the birthday celebrations at the party's office in Vadodara on Wednesday.

Police Inspector Smitesh Solanki of Sayajigunj police station said, "We had registered the

## Ex-mayor Sunil Solanki celebrated his birthday along with seven others at a party office. All were without masks and did not observe social distancing

offence on Thursday under IPC Section 188 for violation of notification in place. Thereafter, we had arrested six persons on Thursday night. Solanki was arrested on Friday along with the eighth person. They were arrested and released on bail as it is a bailable offence."

On Friday, Solanki said he appreciated the police action as law "is equal for all".

## CBI wants HC to set aside Kerala govt order denying sanction to prosecute Cong leader

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
DECEMBER 4

THE CBI has submitted an affidavit in the Kerala High Court against the state government's decision to deny it sanction to prosecute senior Congress leader R Chandrasekharan and a bureaucrat in connection with a multi-crore corruption case at the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC).

Chandrasekharan is also the state president of the Congress's trade union arm, INTUC.

The case gained attention as the CPI(M) government is shielding a Congress leader at a time when the ruling party is scout-



R Chandrasekharan

ing for as many as cases to be raked up against the opposition party's leaders in the state.

This case relates to corruption in the procurement of raw cashew nuts from India and abroad, and sale of cashew kernels by KSCDC between 2006 and 2014, when Chandrasekharan had been its chairman and K A Ratheesh its

managing director. Ratheesh is now secretary of the Kerala Khadi Board.

The CBI took over the probe in 2015 following a direction from a division bench of the High Court, which acted upon a PIL moved by Cashew Industries Staff Association ex-secretary Kadakampally Manoj.

The petitioner had alleged that from 2006 to 2014, corruption to the tune of Rs 500 crore had taken place at KSCDC Ltd. The KSCDC had incurred a loss of Rs 1,100 crore during the said period despite the cashew sector doing well in those years.

In April, the CBI had sought sanction to prosecute Chandrasekharan and Ratheesh. In October, the government denied the sanction. Apart from the

two, the CBI had also arraigned two others as accused, but the state's prosecution sanction was required only for Chandrasekharan and Ratheesh.

Subsequent to the government denial of the prosecution sanction, the petitioner approached the High Court.

On Thursday, the CBI told the High Court that the government order denying prosecution sanction should be set aside as the order was issued to avoid filing of the final report against the accused persons. CBI said the government did not properly appreciate the evidences against the accused and misinterpreted findings of the investigating agency.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## ED attaches Mallya's France property worth Rs 14 crore under PMLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has attached a property in France of fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya worth Rs 14 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said.

The ED said Mallya's property has been seized by French authorities. "The value of the seized asset in France is 1.6 million Euros (approximately Rs 14 crores). Investigations conducted under PMLA revealed that a large amount was remitted abroad from the bank account of Kingfisher Airlines Ltd," the agency said in a statement.

So far, the ED has provisionally attached Mallya's assets worth Rs 11,231.70 crore (market value at time of attachment) in India and abroad.

Mallya and Kingfisher Airlines are under the scanner of the ED, CBI, Serious Fraud Investigation Office and the Securities and Exchange Board of India for loan defaults of over Rs 10,000 crore to a consortium of Indian banks.

The ED has alleged that the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines "diverted" at least Rs 3,547 crore of the loan granted to the airlines.

In April, a UK High Court dismissed Mallya's appeal against extradition to India. However, the government had on October 5 told the Supreme Court that Mallya cannot be extradited until a separate legal process in the UK, which is judicial and confidential in nature, is resolved.

## SC bid to reduce paper use may save 2.4 cr sheets a yr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

CHANGES IN the Supreme Court's rules regarding paper usage is likely to reduce its consumption by about 2.4 crore sheets every year, saving over 2,800 trees and conserving over 1 crore litres of water, according to estimates.

The top court's Registry uses 20,000 reams of paper (about one crore sheets) on average and the savings because of the changes is likely to save at least 25 per cent of this, official sources say.

The wastage of paper due to rules that mandated only one-side printing was a cause of worry

for the court for some time.

Beginning April, the administration under Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, known to be a nature lover, revised the provisions to allow printing on both sides. This measure alone, officials pointed out, is estimated to save around 1.5 crore A-4 sheets of paper per year.

It was also decided to use the A-4 paper, with one and half line spacing and reduced margins instead of legal size paper for judicial filings, reducing the paper usage by around 45 lakh annually.

Officials said with judgments and orders available on the court's website, the Registry has decided to do away with printing and distribution of their hard copies, further reducing paper usage.

## THIRD PROJECT 39A ANNUAL LECTURE IN CRIMINAL LAW

## State has no language to understand dissent other than branding it criminal: Pratap Bhanu Mehta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

WHEN PEOPLE come out on the streets to protest against a law, they are not merely disagreeing but are questioning the legitimacy of the government, said Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Professor of Political Science at Ashoka University and Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*, while delivering the third Project 39A Annual Lecture in Criminal Law on Friday.

"This is why the government sees dissent as a foundational attack on the very basis of the



Pratap Bhanu Mehta

state," he said, explaining why liberal democracies crush dissent even when the idea of dissent is lauded and protected by the Constitution.

"Dissent is the opposite of

consent. The more government claims consent is the basis of its legitimacy, the more it sees dissent as a threat," he said.

Project 39A is a criminal reforms initiative focusing on the death penalty and prisoner's rights at the National Law University, Delhi. The lecture was titled "The Dissenter as Criminal: Reflections on Dissent and the Law."

"The only way for the state to deal with them is by criminalising them and deny them standing as citizens. Then the attention is shifted from the issue to the standing of the protesters," Mehta said.

Questioning whether an anti-dissent logic is inherent in every

liberal democracy, he said that democracies have no language to understand a dissenter in any manner except as a criminal. As an example, he cited how the state is dealing with those arrested for their role in the Bhima-Koregoan protests in 2018 and the 2019 protests against the new citizenship law and the National Registry of Citizenship.

"In both the cases, they are charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A law expressly designed to deny standing to protesters as rational citizens," he said.

"Government will always want to show that there is a se-

cret conspiracy behind the protests even when the acts are done in public," he added.

Mehta also criticised the Supreme Court's observations in the case relating to anti-CAA protests in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh on the "right manner" of expressing dissent.

The SC had said that the right to protest and express dissent under the Constitution comes with an obligation to certain duties. "What must be kept in mind, however, is that the erstwhile mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy," the court had said.



# The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## GROWTH PANGS

With inflation continuing to be a worry, RBI leaves rates unchanged, signals policy support to economy will continue

IN ITS DECEMBER meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted unanimously to maintain the status quo on interest rates. The decision, in line with expectations, was driven by retail inflation continuing to remain well above the MPC's upper tolerance level. While space for further easing in the near-term is likely to be restricted given the likely trajectory of inflation, an extended pause implies that interest rates will remain low for a long period of time. Further, by continuing to maintain its accommodative stance and providing firm forward guidance — the MPC expects to maintain its current stance at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year — the committee has sent a clear signal of its intent to continue to attach primacy to growth considerations, serving well to boost sentiment.

The outlook on inflation continues to remain a matter of concern. The RBI now expects retail inflation to remain elevated at 6.8 per cent in the third quarter, trending down to 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, as against earlier predictions of inflation ranging between 4.5 and 5.4 per cent in the second half of the year. While this build-up in inflation is due to supply side disruptions, excessive margins and indirect taxes, core inflation has also edged upwards, providing evidence of spreading price pressures. The RBI now expects inflation to range from 4.6-5.2 per cent in the first half of next year. However, inflation may well firm up as demand picks up. This would lower any changes of further easing of policy rates. In the run-up to this meeting, given the excess liquidity in the system, and as a consequence the collapse in the short-term interest rates, there were expectations that the central bank would announce measures or provide some guidance on how it plans to suck out the excess liquidity from the system. However, the governor's commentary seems to indicate that the excess liquidity will not be withdrawn hurriedly, as growth concern remains. This will have a calming effect on bond yields. Further, the decision to expand the on-tap targeted long-term repo operations to stressed sectors, in line with the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, signals intent to continue providing liquidity support to the economy.

On the growth front, with economic activities bouncing back stronger than expected, the RBI has revised its growth forecasts, pegging the contraction in GDP for the full year at 7.5 per cent, up from its October policy forecast of 9.5 per cent. Growth is now expected to turn mildly positive in the second half of the year. However, a sustained pick-up in economic activities will depend on continued policy support, especially higher government spending, which until now, despite the announcement of various relief packages, has not met expectations.

## STAR TREK

Rajinikanth's entry will create a buzz in Tamil Nadu politics. But he will need more than star power to win over voters

TAMIL SUPERSTAR RAJINIKANTH ended the suspense finally on Thursday and announced the launch of his political party next month. While the launch date is to be announced on December 31, the actor said it will be a "non-corrupt, honest, transparent and secular party with a spiritual politics". Tamil Nadu is slated to hold assembly elections next year and the entry of the popular screen hero, whose entry into politics has been talked about for nearly three decades, will add variety and spice to the contest.

Rajinikanth has pitched himself as an alternative to the Dravidian parties that have dominated state politics for over 50 years. He has offered "spiritual politics" as a counter to the atheist ideology of the Dravidian movement. While the fan clubs are to form the cadre base of Rajinikanth's outfit, he gave a hint of his political leanings by inducting a former president of the BJP state unit's intellectual wing as the party coordinator. The BJP, a marginal player in state politics, has encouraged the actor's electoral aspirations in spite of his tentative approach to politics. The party was quick to welcome Rajinikanth's announcement and it will be interesting to see how it engages with the actor in the coming days. While the BJP and the AIADMK had very recently clarified that the two parties will fight the assembly elections as allies, the former has indicated that it is keen to expand its footprint in the state. The BJP, which lacks a pan-state popular face, may prefer to ride with Rajinikanth, whose "spiritual politics" it cheers, as part of a third front. However, the dominance of the DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu politics has been such that third fronts — floated by national parties such as the Congress, BJP and the Communists in the past — have failed to make a difference in elections. But with the demise of former chief ministers, M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalitha, the political space is now short of tall leaders.

The big question is whether Rajinikanth — and Kamal Hasan — can use their screen persona to win votes. MGR and Jayalalitha, political titans, were film stars, but they had worked in the DMK and AIADMK before emerging on their own and seeking office. But Rajinikanth has to hit the ground running — he needs to build a party and campaign hard to win over voters, all in about six months. He will also need to consolidate his fan base, whose political loyalties are divided among various parties.

## THE MASALA MAN

Dharampal Gulati's spice mixes have been integral to a foodscape that had its origin in a post-Partition India

IN REBUILDING LIVES in an unfamiliar, uncertain world, the kitchen is often the sole solace for refugees. Newcomers add to the aromas, enrich palates, change foodscape of their adopted homes. The hurriedly created colonies that housed Partition refugees in Delhi were sites of one such gastronomic chum — the tomato-rich gravies and tandoori fare that have become the signature of the capital's culinary culture owe much to the kitchens in these areas. It's no accident perhaps that the dhanias, methi, jeera and deggi mirch that lent this fare its flavour and heat found its greatest contemporary merchandiser a stone's throw away from one such resettlement colony. In 1947, Dharam Pal Gulati set up a shop in Karol Bagh — a locality that once dissolved into sophisticated Old Delhi but was now developing affinities with the Punjabi settlement of Rajendra Nagar on its other edge. Gulati passed away on Thursday, aged 98, leaving behind a masala empire worth more than Rs 1,000 crore.

The 25-year old had come to Delhi with Rs 1,500 in his pocket and the recipe of a spice mix that his family sold in Sialkot. Even before Partition forced the family to leave their home, the young Gulati had tried his hand at selling rice and soap. In Delhi, he plied a tonga. But the call of spices was hard to resist. Mahashian Di Hatti (MDH), literally the "shop of the magnanimous" named after the family enterprise in Sialkot, began from a 14-foot-by-9-foot space. Word spread. One of his earliest bulk orders was from a businessman from Multan who had migrated to Cuttack.

Barely a year into business, Gulati thought of packaging the spices in well-designed boxes. When colour TV came to the country, MDH released its first TV ad with Gulati doing a cameo replete with a red turban, twirled moustache and a string of pearls — an iconography synonymous now with MDH's boxes. And as the food brought by Punjabi settlers stood its own in the food culture of liberalised India, the masala man's spice mixes retain their charm even as oregano, thyme and rosemary find a place in Indian kitchens.

# Canary in the coalmine

A recovery led by profits, at the expense of wages, has implications for demand, inequality and policy



SAJJID Z CHINOY

GDP PRINTS SHOULD be viewed through two prisms. The first is what they tell us about the past. Here, the news has generally been better-than-expected. The US and India, for example, saw a much stronger recovery last quarter than previously envisioned, manufacturing bounced back sharply and, in India's case, the link between the virus and mobility has been broken more successfully than was feared.

But there's another, more forward-looking, prism that we must also peer through. GDP is typically reported in two ways: The sectoral, production side (agriculture, manufacturing, services) and the functional, expenditure side (consumption, investment, net exports). But there's a third way to slice the pie — the income side. Value addition must ultimately accrue to the different factors of production. On the income side, therefore, GDP is simply the sum of profits, wages and indirect taxes. This begs the question: Which factors of production are propelling the recovery, and which are bearing the burden?

The answer should provide some pause. The economic recovery in many parts of the world is too skewed for comfort, driven disproportionately by capital than labour. In the US, corporate profits last quarter grew four times as strongly as GDP, dramatically higher than expected. In India, the net profits of listed companies grew 25 per cent (in real terms) last quarter. This despite revenues shrinking because firms aggressively cut costs, including employee compensation. Indeed, a sample of about 600 listed firms reveals employee costs (as a per cent of EBITDA) was the lowest in 10 quarters. Think of what this implies. If listed company profits are growing 25 per cent, and yet GDP contracted 7.5 per cent, it reveals (by construction) significant pressure on profits of unlisted SMEs, wages and employment.

This correlates with labour market pressures around the world. US hiring slowed sharply in November and the unemployment rate is still forecasted to remain close to 6 per cent — almost twice pre-COVID levels — even at the end of 2021. In a sample of five East Asian economies, employment income has contracted — in nominal terms — in 2020. Labour market pressures are evident in India too. Household demand for MGNREGA remains very elevated, suggesting significant labour market slack. The employment rate (a more holistic measure since participation rates have

bounced around sharply) in some labour market surveys still reveal about 14 million fewer employed compared to February, and nominal wage growth across a universe of 4,000 listed firms has slowed from about 10 per cent to 3 per cent over the last six quarters.

So even as economies heal from COVID, the distribution of incomes across capital and labour risks becoming very skewed in favour of capital. Why does this matter? Equity issues apart, this portends ominously for future demand. It may be rational for any one firm to boost profits by cutting employee compensation. But if every firm pursued that strategy, that simply cannibalises future aggregate demand and profitability for all firms — the quintessential fallacy of composition that Keynes enumerated. Weak demand, in turn, disincentivises re-hiring, reinforcing the risks of settling into a sub-optimal equilibrium.

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the recovery, US policymakers are negotiating yet another fiscal package, and only a small fraction of the large discretionary stimulus that the Euro Area and Japan injected will be reversed next year. While developing economies have fewer degrees of policy freedom, they also have fewer safety nets to handle the labour market fall-out. So fiscal policy cannot afford to become a drag next year.

India's fiscal response has been restrained thus far, with the Centre's total spending similar to last year and state capex under pressure. It's therefore important for the Centre to step up spending in the remaining months. October saw a jump in central capex and that momentum must be maintained. More importantly, public investment, and a large infrastructure push, must be the leitmotif of the next budget. This will be crucial to boost demand, create jobs, crowd-in private investment and improve the economy's external competitiveness. But how do you accommodate this spending, if the consolidated fiscal deficit — which will end this year above 11 per cent of GDP — must be reduced, albeit very gradually, from next year? By doubling-down on public sector asset sales. If higher infrastructure spending is financed by higher asset sales, the headline fiscal deficit (which matters for bond markets and interest rates) can be slowly reduced, even as the underlying fiscal impulse (which matters for growth and jobs) remains positive. This is the only way to undertake fiscal consolidation without incurring a fiscal drag.

Monetary policy has led the charge in 2020. But with inflation continuing to remain sticky and elevated, the RBI has fewer degrees of freedom going forward. In 2021, the baton must therefore pass from monetary to fiscal, especially since the latter is a more surgical instrument to target SMEs and the labour market. The stronger-than-expected GDP print is very encouraging. But this is the start of a long journey back. If growth contracts 7.5 per cent this year and rebounds 12 per cent next year, activity in early 2022 will still be about 7 per cent below the level forecasted pre-COVID, reflective of some economic scarring. Much, therefore, remains to be done. The excitement around the vaccine shouldn't obscure this fundamental premise.

This is where policy, especially fiscal, will need to be supportive for longer than initially envisioned. Recognising the uneven nature of

the recovery, US policymakers are negotiating yet another fiscal package, and only a small fraction of the large discretionary stimulus that the Euro Area and Japan injected will be reversed next year. While developing economies have fewer degrees of policy freedom, they also have fewer safety nets to handle the labour market fall-out. So fiscal policy cannot afford to become a drag next year.

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The writer is Chief India Economist at J.P. Morgan. All views are personal

## RISE AND FALL OF HAFIZ SAEED

Pakistan state's surrender to the cleric embodies the perils of religious ideology



KHALED AHMED

ON NOVEMBER 19, a pivotal development took place in Pakistan. An anti-terrorism court sentenced chief of the banned organisation Jamaat-ud-Dawa (erstwhile Lashkar-e-Toiba) Hafiz Saeed, to 10 years in jail for "terror financing". The conviction came as Pakistan tried to avoid blacklisting by the global dirty-money watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which punishes "illicit financing of militant organisations".

Who was this man who made the world cower in fear when he organised the attack on Mumbai in 2008? From a Kashmiri Gujjar background, Hafiz Saeed lived in Simla before Partition. After 1947, he grew up in Sargodha where his family began farming. Saeed's father Maulana Kamaluddin was a religious scholar, so was his uncle Maulana Hafiz Abdullah, who later helped in setting up the "terrorist" organisation, LeT.

Religion serves as an agent of detachment from reality. Saeed's career embodies this phenomenon. After graduation in 1974, Hafiz Saeed was appointed lecturer at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore in the Islamiat department. From here, he went for higher studies to Saudi Arabia and became intimate with the infamous Saudi scholar, Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz, who was to pronounce the fatwa of

jihad in Afghanistan in 1979.

Saeed, like most clerics, was against democracy. After the fall of East Pakistan in 1971, and a fatwa of jihad in 1979 by Bin Baz, he turned to the war in Afghanistan, joining the training camp of Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, where he linked up with the teacher of Osama bin Laden and Arab fighters, Abdullah Azzam. He also met bin Laden several times. In 1986, the teachers of the Islamiat in Engineering University had founded Markaz Dawat wal-Irshad, a Wahhabi organisation devoted to the Saudi brand of Islam and raising armies for the jihad in Afghanistan.

In 1990, LeT was established in consultation with the Wahhabis in Afghanistan. By 2001, it was the most well-known jihadi outfit in the region, boasting 1,100 martyrs and 15,000 Indian troops killed in Kashmir. Back home, everyone seemed inspired by jihad. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's atom bomb, appeared in LeT rallies.

In 2003, after a career of jihad in Kashmir, the LeT was banned. It then became Jamaat-ud-Dawa and devoted itself to serving al Qaeda as a coordinating agency with networks in Pakistan. In February 2002, at the high tide of al Qaeda's revenge killings inside Pakistan, bin Laden's lieutenant, Abu Zubaydah, was caught in Faisalabad from a

safe house of Hafiz Saeed.

On April 9, 2016, *The News* disclosed that Saeed had been running stealth courts in violation of Pakistan's constitution: "The supra-constitutional Sharia courts, established by Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), operate across the country and only the Lahore court of this parallel judicial system has issued verdicts in 5,550 cases, including murder trials."

The "courts" had been going on since 1990 and one had been active even in Islamabad! Mufti Muhammad Idrees, a kind of stealth high court chief justice sitting in Masjid Qadisiya (the headquarters of JuD in Lahore), split all the beans. He claimed that seven Sharia courts had been functional, one each in Lahore, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Multan, Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad. Saeed was the head of all these courts, which makes him a kind of chief justice.

The state had surrendered to Saeed and was helpless to oust him from his spiritual-terrorist empire. The surrender of the state to Saeed was a blend of two contingencies — the evolution of the ideology of the state under Islam, and the drive of a revisionist policy vis-à-vis India.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

## DECEMBER 5, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

MISA REDUX  
OPPOSITION MEMBERS TORE copies of the National Security Bill and stormed out of the House when the government introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha. They labelled the Bill, which would give the government powers of indefinite detention, as "draconian, pernicious, obnoxious and immoral" and vehemently opposed its introduction. Many members suggested that preventive detention was being brought back with the intention of perpetuating Indira Gandhi's dynastic rule. Ram Avatar Shastri termed it the "Indira Security Bill". It was generally felt that the MISA was being resurrected and given a deceptive name. In a moment of unguarded candour,

Home Minister Zail Singh affirmed this. He said, "We have not done anything new... only the name of the Bill is new, everything else is the same."

BHAGALPUR BANDH  
LIFE IN URBAN areas of Bhagalpur district was paralysed by a "total bandh" observed in sympathy with 15 police officials suspended by the government in connection with their alleged role in the blinding of undertrial criminals. Train services were disrupted by people squatting across the railway tracks. Buses went off the roads. All shops and business establishments were closed. The bandh was in response to a call given by the Bhagalpur Chamber of

Commerce and the Bhagalpur Citizens' Association.

USSR AND POLAND  
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE Agency has reported to US President Jimmy Carter that the Soviet Union is ready to move into Poland any time the Kremlin decides to intervene. These moves were responsible for the solemn warnings by US Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and President-elect Reagan's top foreign policy adviser, Richard Allen, against Soviet intervention. All western leaders have now warned the Soviet Union that if it intervenes in Poland it will destroy detente, and lead to a new arms race.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## The super centre

Post 2014, two centralisations — of political and economic power — continue to reinforce each other, with profound consequences for the country and potential to define popular narrative in days ahead



HARISH DAMODARAN

THE RETURN OF single-party dominance and its implications for politics after nearly 25 years of minority/coalition governments at the Centre (December 1989-April 2014) has been widely commented upon. As have concerns over rising corporate market power and their expression, whether in the ongoing protests against the three central farm laws or the grant of bank licences to industrial houses.

The recent Bihar election results — Nitish Kumar is back as chief minister, but of what is, for all practical purposes, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government — have reaffirmed a larger political trend. There are states that are still opposition-ruled — Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. However, as many have noted, chief ministers today have been reduced to satraps. The real power is with the Centre, which has the all-important “agencies” and holds the purse-strings in these fiscally-challenging times.

For all their fulminations at not being compensated for shortfalls in GST revenues, states have had to accept whatever little the Centre offered through a special Option-1 borrowing window. The Maharashtra government couldn't stop the Elgar Parishad case being handed over to the National Investigation Agency, while the Pinarayi Vijayan administration in Kerala has been a mute spectator to the Enforcement Directorate grilling its officials and a minister in connection with alleged money-laundering and gold smuggling probes.

What this analysis — of a single party under an unquestioned leader exercising total control over the nation's polity — misses out, though, is a parallel and related phenomenon. That has to do with the increasingly “conglomerate” nature of Indian capitalism. These two centralisations — of political and economic power — reinforce each other. Its consequences are profound and have the potential to define the popular narrative in the days ahead.

Not too long ago, a significant part of political financing came not from large corporates as much as sugar and textile millers, cooperative barons, liquor and PWD contractors, grain traders/arhtiyas, land sharks, builders and miners. They were mostly regional capitalists who invested in provincial leaders. This translated into a decentralised crony capitalism model, where every party/politician had a chosen set of businessmen for bestowing favours and receiving funding in turn.

Howsoever repugnant, this model had some redeeming features. The mutually-beneficial partnership between the aspiring politician and the small-to-middling capitalist did allow for the emergence of new tycoons, including from diverse regional and social backgrounds. So long as the “cronies” and their political backers didn't remain the same, it ensured a frequent reshuffling in the ranks of capitalists and also a competitive electoral democracy.

Consider this: The Nineties and Noughties were synonymous with not just coalition governments and regional parties talking centre stage, but also a period of “entrepreneurial capitalism” in India. The latter, one could argue, was more a result of the 1991 economic



C.R. Sasikumar

reforms that opened up new industries for private investment. But the fact that these avenues for capital accumulation were seized during a time of no single-party majority governments or a strong Centre cannot be missed. Nor can the fact that the period after 2014, despite being marked by political stability and the institution of a near-presidential system of governance, has seen more capital destruction than creation or accumulation (‘Death of enterprise’, IE, June 29, 2019).

Epitomising the above rise and fall are the “Andhrapreneurs” or businessmen from undivided Andhra Pradesh (AP). The promoters of GVK, GMR, Lanco, Madhucon, NCC, Nagarjuna Fertilisers, Navayuga, Soma Enterprise, Progressive Constructions, Sujana, IVRCL, Ramky Infra, SEW Infra, Transstroy, Sri City and Gangavaram Port were all liberalisation's children. The first two post-reform decades were when many of them graduated from piecemeal contracting to constructing full-fledged national highways, airports, ports, power plants, irrigation dams, water supply systems, river bridges, tunnels and metro rail sections.

It is not a coincidence that the fortunes of the “Andhrapreneurs” grew precisely when its politicians were vital to propping up coalition governments at the Centre. The Telugu Desam Party was either part of non-Congress, non-BJP governments (in 1989-90 and 1996-98) or extended critical support to the first BJP-led ruling National Democratic Alliance from 1998 to 2004. Undivided AP also sent the largest contingent of Congress MPs to enable the formation of the United Progressive Alliance government in 2004 and 2009.

AP and Telangana are now both Opposition-ruled. But their irrelevance, if not deference, to the present dispensation at the Centre is matched by the decline of the “Andhrapreneurs”. There are very few survivors from the earlier-mentioned names — most have been consumed by the debts contracted during a not-too-distant past when animal spirits truly reigned. GVK only recently was forced to sell its prized Mumbai International Airport to the Adani Group, which has also acquired Navayuga's Krishnapatnam Port.

The transition from “entrepreneurial” to

The absence of intermediation channels for medium-scale or even many large industrialists isn't helped by the party at the Centre not really requiring their money. The BJP under Narendra Modi, like Indira Gandhi's Congress in its time, faces no political competition within or outside. It can afford to operate a centralised funding system overwhelmingly reliant on Big Capital. Not only regional parties, even the once-powerful liquor, contractor, sugar or arhtiya lobby hardly matter in the new business-political oligarchy regime.

“conglomerate” capitalism has obvious repercussions from an economic and business standpoint. In many industries — from telecom, airlines, steel, cement and aluminium to synthetic fibres, polymers, toiletries, tea and biscuits — there are now two, at most three, players holding dominant market position. Some groups have leadership straddling multiple sectors: Reliance (petrochemicals, telecom and retail), Tata (steel, commercial vehicles, salt and IT services), Aditya Birla (cement, aluminium and chlor-alkali) and Adani (ports, private power, branded edible oil and, next, airports).

But no less important are the ramifications for politics. The political scientist Adam Ziegfeld has shown that regional parties thrive when coalition governments are the order of the day. On the other hand, if single-party majority rule becomes the norm, political actors have little incentive to establish or join state-level parties that can share the spoils of power at the Centre. A corollary to this is that the regional capitalist no longer has ministers or MPs through whom he can get things done in New Delhi. They are as powerless as he is.

The absence of intermediation channels for medium-scale or even many large industrialists isn't helped by the party at the Centre not really requiring their money. The BJP under Narendra Modi, like Indira Gandhi's Congress in its time, faces no political competition within or outside. It can afford to operate a centralised funding system overwhelmingly reliant on Big Capital. Not only regional parties, even the once-powerful liquor, contractor, sugar or arhtiya lobby hardly matter in the new business-political oligarchy regime.

If the current agitation against the undermining of the traditional agricultural produce mandi system is any indication, the challenge to the oligarchy will come only from below. The political Opposition can latch on at best.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“While the input of the country's neighbours, as well as that of foreign forces involved in the country's internal affairs — such as the US — is important, the fact remains that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is in the primary interest of the Afghan people themselves.” — DAWN

## An inter-faith prayer, an arrest

Why is a human rights activist in prison for an act of peace?



ANAND PATWARDHAN

ON NOVEMBER 2, the UP police arrested Faisal Khan. I have known Faisal as a human rights activist working alongside Sandeep Pandey (who in 2002 won a Magsaysay Award for his social work while declining the award money). Both Sandeep and Faisal are staunch Gandhians but in today's India, there is one huge difference. One of them is Muslim.

A few years ago, Faisal revived the Khudai Khidmatgars in memory of that wonderful band of freedom fighters from the North-West Frontier Provinces led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, or Badshah Khan, as he was lovingly known, easily the tallest (both literally and ethically) of leaders inspired by the non-violent movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi.

One of the bravest chapters of India's freedom struggle was written in 1930 at the Quissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar, where following the arrest of Khudai Khidmatgar leaders a large crowd had gathered. British armoured vehicles ploughed into the crowd, killing many. The crowd refused to disperse. The British opened machine-gun fire but the crowd neither ran nor retaliated with violence. Officials put the death toll at 20 but nationalists say over 300 were killed. Two platoons of the Royal Garhwal Regiment of the British Indian Army refused to open fire. Their officers were later sentenced to eight years in jail.

American political scientist Gene Sharp, in his work on nonviolent resistance, described the scene: “When those in front fell down wounded by the shots, those behind came forward with their chests bared and exposed themselves to the fire, so much so that some people got as many as twenty-one bullet wounds in their bodies, and all the people stood their ground without getting into a panic.”

Amazing as it seems today, when the Taliban and al Qaeda from the same region have been turned into killing machines by the super-powers that initiated them, Badshah Khan and his Pashtun warriors faced many massacres without retaliating with violence. A clue to their mindset is in the pledge they took when joining: 1) In the name of God who is Present and Evident, I am a Khudai Khidmatgar. 2) I will serve the nation without any self-interest. 3) I will not take revenge and my actions will not be a burden for anyone. 4) My actions will be non-violent. 5) I will make every sacrifice required of me to stay on this path. 6) I will serve people without regard to their religion or faith. 7) I shall use nation-made goods. 8) I shall not be tempted by any office.

Badshah Khan spent a total of 14 years in British India jails. He bitterly opposed Partition and the creation of Pakistan. His party boycotted elections and soon he found himself in jail in independent Pakistan. When he died at the age of 98, he had spent a total of 37 years in jail, many of them in solitary confinement.

In India, Faisal Khan launched a 21st-century version of Khudai Khidmatgars on Gandhiji's death anniversary in 2011. To the pledges of the original body, they added a rule ensuring a minimum non-Muslim membership of 35 per cent. Starting with the idea of creating inter-faith dialogue, the Khudais have touched people's hearts across the country and membership has swelled to 50,000. Today it has many Hindus, including a few who had once been in the RSS.

Apart from peace marches and relief efforts initiated in riot-torn areas, for want of space, a few examples should suffice to illustrate the constructive initiatives launched by the Khudai Khidmatgars. In 2014, they launched a Beti Bachao campaign in Haryana to tackle the diminishing population of girls. In 2017, they started Sabka Ghar at Ghaffar Manzil, near Jamia in Delhi, where people of any faith and caste are welcome to stay for up to a month. They started an interest-free loan facility named the Badshah Khan Domestic Workers Fund. In 2018, Faisal was felicitated by Shri Murari Babu at his ashram in Gujarat. Overwhelmed at hearing Faisal recite verses from the *Ramcharitramanas*, Shri Murari Babu promised to visit Sabka Ghar in Delhi. Faisal can, of course, recite from the Quran with equal ease.

Why is such a man in jail? In October this year, four Khudais — Faisal, Chand Mohammed, Alok Ratan and Nilesh Gupta — undertook the traditional 84 kos (150-mile) *parikrama* of Braj at Mathura, considered the birthplace of Lord Krishna. As always, the Khudais engaged in dialogue with local priests, often ate with them and made friends everywhere. On October 29, they reached Nand Baba Mandir, and were warmly received and given *prasad* by the priest. Faisal, in his distinctly Muslim cap, recited from the *Ramcharitramanas* and both men spoke about the shared values in religion. Some of this is recorded on a phone camera. When *namaz* time came, Faisal asked if there was a mosque nearby but the priest said they could offer *namaz* within the temple compound. One of the Hindu Khudais photographed this moment, signifying the harmony they believe in and in their enthusiasm posted it on Facebook. As the photos went viral, all hell broke loose. The priest of the temple was pressured to lodge a police complaint and Faisal was arrested and brought to a Mathura jail under various charges, including one about destroying communal harmony. The UP police could not locate Chand Mohammed, went to his home in Bihar, allegedly beat up his parents and damaged property. They then allegedly forcibly brought Chand's brother Noor to Mathura but luckily after legal intervention, Noor was set free.

Two days ago, a trial court in Mathura, filled to the brim with RSS cadre and a huge team of prosecution lawyers, rejected Faisal's bail and the matter will now move to the Allahabad High Court.

What explains Hindutva's rage against Faisal and the Khudai Khidmatgars? The clue, once more, lies in the past. The original Khudai Khidmatgars had suffered the worst massacres and persecutions of the independence struggle. Badshah Khan later wrote that this was because the British thought a non-violent Pashtun was more dangerous than a violent one and did everything they could to provoke them into violence, but failed. The Khudai Khidmatgars of today cannot be provoked either.

The writer is a documentary filmmaker



I S CHAHAL

## How Mumbai took on the virus

Its municipality led a decentralised effort to increase testing, tracing, hospital beds

EVER SINCE THE first COVID-19 case was detected in Mumbai in mid-March, the city has been in the news for the wrong reasons. The contagion spread like wildfire in March and April. The well-known slums, Dharavi, Deonar Bainganwadi, Govandi, Ghatkopar and Worli Koliwada, were teeming with the infection. The death rate touched 8 per cent and there were rumours of innumerable deaths in Mumbai. In the first week of May, a few dead bodies were found on the city's streets and road dividers. Social media was flooded with videos of dead bodies on roads or in hospitals, several of them on beds, adjacent to those with patients still receiving treatment.

The Centre's monitoring team visited Mumbai on May 5 and expressed fears of thousands of deaths in the city in the near future. Critics demanded that Mumbai be handed over to the army. Panic had gripped the city. I took over as Mumbai's municipal commissioner May 8. Early next day, I took stock of the COVID-19 ICUs of major BMC hospitals. This was followed by a 4-km long march to the containment zones of Dharavi to understand the situation in the slums.

We identified four pillars on which the fight against COVID-19 would stand — testing, ambulances, COVID beds and abundant trained doctors/paramedics. Testing, tracing, tracking, quarantine and treatment became

the credo of our work. In the next 10 weeks, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) ensured a massive increase in health infrastructure. The number of COVID-19 beds were increased from 3,700 on May 8 to 22,300, with ICU beds increasing from 480 to 1,957 — there was a manifold increase in ventilator beds. Team MCGM rose to the occasion.

The availability of COVID-19 test results in 24 hours was made mandatory. Thousands of health workers visited slums and containment zones for door-to-door surveillance and focused testing. More than a million RT-PCR tests were conducted in the city. There was a 10-fold increase in the number of ambulances, from 80 to 826. We ensured that they were available on the Uber platform, free of cost. More than a thousand doctors and paramedics were roped in, including retired government doctors. Around 900 MBBS interns were deployed to manage the war rooms in the city's 24 wards.

An innovative and extremely aggressive “Chase the Virus Policy” was implemented and lakhs of high-risk contacts were shifted from the slums and placed in institutional quarantines to shield them from the contagion; 48,000 institutional quarantine beds were created. Decentralised hospital bed management along with the “Chase the Patient” policy proved a “game changer”.

Senior IAS officers were deputed to hos-

pitals to supervise operations. Mumbai became the first city in India to fully regulate COVID-19 beds in 35 major and 73 other private hospitals at government rates through a single online dashboard. This was implemented with an iron hand. A world-class online platform for dialysis management for COVID-19 patients was operationalised. Nine centrally air-conditioned jumbo field hospitals with ICU and dialysis beds were established and Mumbai became the first city in India to successfully build and operate them. Walk-in facilities of beds for suspected COVID-19 patients were created all over the city to treat suspected patients without test reports. Dashboards were created in hospitals to provide information on crematoriums.

“Mission Save Lives” for hospitalised patients led to a reduction of mortality rate from 8 per cent to under 2 per cent. Compensation of Rs 50 lakh was given to MCGM/BEST staff who had succumbed to the disease and were not covered under the Government of India's insurance scheme for frontline COVID workers.

The “My Family My Responsibility” campaign was implemented for two months — 12,000 health workers reached out to 3.5 million families twice for surveillance and health checkups. The “No Mask no Entry” campaign was launched. Posters and stickers bearing the message came up at bus stops, buses, taxis,

shops and offices. More than 5 lakh people were fined for not wearing masks.

iPads with Wifi facilities were distributed to COVID-19 positive patients admitted to hospitals to facilitate interaction between them and their relatives — this, we felt, was important to address psychological issues faced by the patients. Plasma banks were created in major BMC hospitals and the drug protocol was standardised.

In the last week of November, the city had less than 10,000 active cases, the doubling rate had increased to 218 days, the rate of infection had fallen to 0.3 per cent, the positivity rate was down to 6 per cent and the monthly mortality rate was below 2 per cent. More than 90 per cent patients are now discharged from hospitals. The situation did not deteriorate in Mumbai during the festive season.

The virus is an unpredictable adversary. Till there is a vaccine for mass use, spurts in infection cannot be ruled out. Worldwide, cities ride the crest and trough of the viral surge with tragic consequences. The war against the virus is far from over. Team MCGM resolves not to be complacent so that we can make Mumbai one of the country's safest metros during and after the pandemic.

The writer is municipal commissioner, MCGM, Mumbai

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MIND THE GAP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial ‘Skewed justice’ (IE, December 4). The task of raising the percentage of women judges in higher judiciary from a mere 7.2 percent has to be a priority even when the task is daunting. The feeder lines themselves are weak — women's participation in the legal profession is just 5 per cent, the ratio of women judges in High Courts compared to men is 1:8.7, and only 10-15 per cent of 17 lakh advocates enrolled with Bar Councils across the nation are women. A major deterrent is frequent verbal harassment by male lawyers in court. Even Indira Jaising has complained that her “word is often treated as less valuable than the word of a male lawyer.”

G Chouksey, Pune

### SCIENCE'S VICTORY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial ‘Piercing the Pall’ (IE, December 4). 2020 will be remembered not just for the pandemic, but also for the ability of science to combat the greatest challenge faced by humanity in the last 100 years. The incredible speed with which vaccines have been developed and tested will go down in history as one of the finest achievements in science. The new mRNA platform also has the potential to provide immunity against the other big C-scourge, cancer.

K Sahasranaman, Mumbai

### IDEAS ONLINE

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● DECEMBER 6, A CLASH OF IDEOLOGIES: DRAJA

www.indianexpress.com

### ACCESS TO ALL

THIS REFERS TO ‘A failure to enable’ (IE, December 3). According to the National Association of the Deaf, India is home to 18 million people with hearing impairment. It is only recently that the government has initiated the process of codification of Indian sign language in the form of a dictionary. This community is facing great challenges in participating in the social mainstream. Qualified sign language interpreters are scarce in number. The state needs to take steps to make the public sphere more inclusive.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

### From dolphins and whales, new insights on Covid-19



Rain, an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin. University of California–Santa Cruz

WHEN INFECTED by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, people experience a drop in oxygen levels in their blood. This makes them vulnerable to damage in a large range of tissues. Compare this with marine mammals such as dolphins and whales, which spend their lifetime switching between environments of high and low oxygen levels, but tolerate both — because their bodies have adapted that way.

In a review article published in *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology* on Thursday, ecologist and evolutionary biologist Terrie Williams of the University of California–Santa Cruz explores how the diving physiology of marine mammals can help us understand the effects of Covid-19. Williams has spent decades studying the physiology of marine mammals and their extraordinary ability to perform strenuous activities while holding their breath for long periods under water. Texas A&M University marine biologist Randall Davis has co-authored the paper with her.

Marine mammals have ways to protect themselves and allow their organs to keep functioning while holding their breath for hours at a time. But to be able to do that, they have had to undergo a whole suite of biological adaptations.

The fact that humans lack these adaptations makes it important for people to protect themselves from infection with this virus. “Damage to oxygen-deprived tissues happens fast and can be irreversible, which may account for the long-term effects we are beginning to see in people after coronavirus infections,” Williams said in a statement on her research.

The heart and brain are especially sensitive to oxygen deprivation, and marine mammals have multiple

mechanisms to protect these and other critical organs

■ Marine mammals have a capacity for carrying much more oxygen than humans.

■ Some marine mammals contract their spleen during dives, which releases oxygen-rich blood cells into the circulation.

■ To avoid blood clots resulting from such high concentrations of red blood cells, many marine mammal species lack a clotting mechanism found in other mammals.

■ Marine mammals have greatly increased concentrations of oxygen-carrying proteins such as myoglobin in heart and skeletal muscles, and neuroglobin and cytoglobin in the brain.

■ Numerous safety factors enable tissues in marine mammals to withstand low oxygen and the subsequent reperfusion of tissues with oxygenated blood. In humans, reperfusion after a heart attack or stroke often leads to additional tissue damage.

According to Williams, the solutions that marine mammals have evolved provide a natural template for understanding the potential for damage to oxygen-deprived tissues in humans.

“There are so many ramifications of shutting down the oxygen pathway, and I think that’s what we’re seeing in these Covid patients,” she said. “Our heart and brain cells are meant to last a lifetime, and we cannot replace them once they are damaged,” she added. “Dolphins and whales have natural protections that humans lack, so we are highly vulnerable to hypoxia.”

The research was funded by the Office of Naval Research.  
Source: University of California–Santa Cruz

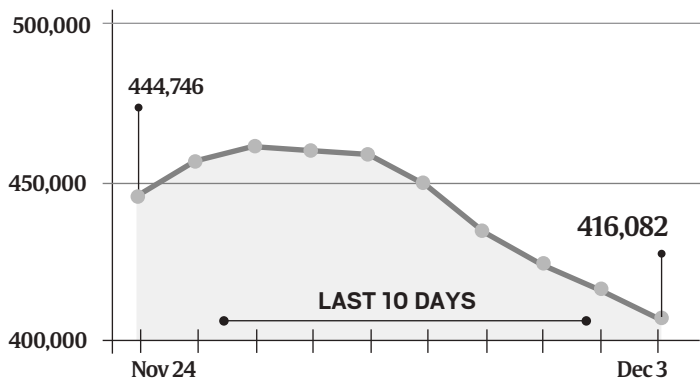


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

## INDIA ACTIVE CASES

416,082



Note: The Dec 3 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Dec 4

INDIA TOTAL CASES  
9,571,559

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Dec 4

WORLD TOTAL CASES  
65,552,911

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Dec 4

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Surgery as part of Ayurveda

The government has notified compulsory surgical procedures for PG students of Ayurveda. How does Ayurveda deal with surgery, and why is the Indian Medical Association upset with the notification?

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, DECEMBER 4

ON NOVEMBER 19, a government notification listed out specific surgical procedures that a postgraduate medical student of Ayurveda must be “practically trained to acquaint with, as well as to independently perform”. The notification has invited sharp criticism from the Indian Medical Association, which questioned the competence of Ayurveda practitioners to carry out these procedures, and called the notification an attempt at “mixopathy”.

The IMA has planned nationwide protests on December 8 against this notification, and has threatened to withdraw all non-essential and non-Covid services on December 11.

### How far is surgery part of Ayurveda?

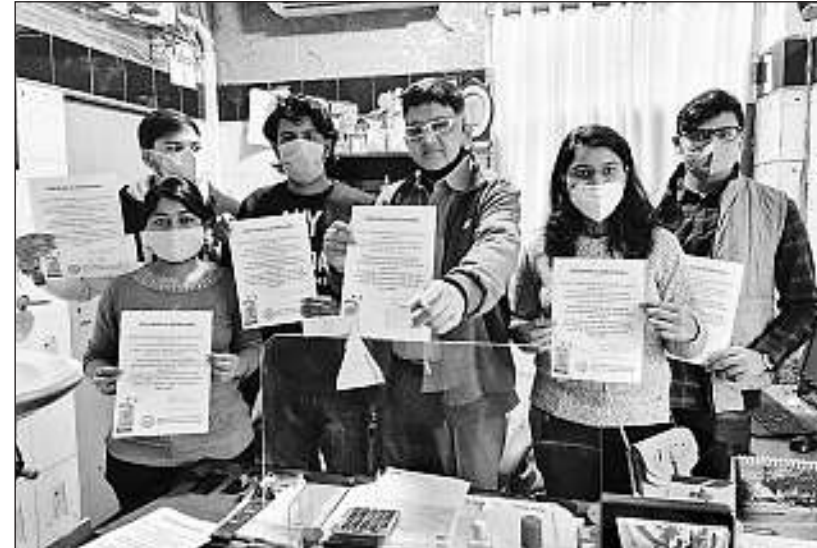
It is not that Ayurveda practitioners are not trained in surgeries, or do not perform them. In fact, they take pride in the fact that their methods and practices trace their origins to Sushruta, an ancient Indian sage and physician, whose comprehensive medical treatise *Sushruta Samhita* has, apart from descriptions of illnesses and cures, also detailed accounts of surgical procedures and instruments.

P Hemantha Kumar, professor and head of the department of general surgery at the government-run National Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur, claims that at least 1,000 major surgeries are performed every year at his hospital. “There would be many more minor surgeries being done,” he said.

There are two branches of surgery in Ayurveda — *Shalya Tantra*, which refers to general surgery, and *Shalakya Tantra* which pertains to surgeries related to the eyes, ears, nose, throat and teeth. All postgraduate students of Ayurveda have to study these courses, and some go on to specialise in these, and become Ayurveda surgeons.

Nandkishore Borse, head of the department of surgery at Tilak Ayurveda College and Tarachand Hospital, a semi-government facility in Pune, said for several surgeries Ayurvedic procedures almost exactly match those of modern medicine about how or where to make a cut or incision, and how to perform the operation. There are significant divergences in post-operative care, however.

“The only thing that we do not do is super-specialty surgeries, like neurosurgery. For



Medical students of Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education and Research's college at Talegaon display a pledge to resist 'mixopathy'. Indian Medical Association

most other needs, there are surgical procedures in Ayurveda. It is not very different from allopathic medicine,” Hemantha Kumar said.

### Before the notification, what were the regulations for postgraduate students?

Postgraduate education in Ayurveda is guided by the Indian Medical Central Council (Post Graduate Education) Regulations framed from time to time. Currently, the regulations formulated in 2016 are in force. The latest notification of November 19 is an amendment to the 2016 regulations.

The 2016 regulations allow postgraduate students to specialise in *Shalya Tantra*, *Shalakya Tantra*, and *Prasuti evam Stree Roga* (Obstetrics and Gynecology), the three disciplines involving major surgical interventions. Students of these three disciplines are granted MS (Master in Surgery in Ayurveda) degrees.

Ayurveda practitioners point out that students enrolling in Ayurveda courses have to pass the same NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test). Their course runs for four-and-a-half years, followed by one year of internship, six months of which are spent at an Ayurveda hospital, and the remaining six months at a civil or general hospital, or a primary health care centre.

Postgraduate courses require another three years of study. They also have to undergo clinical postings in the outpatient and In-patient departments at hospitals apart from getting hands-on training in Ayurvedic treatment procedures. Medico-legal issues, surgical ethics and informed consent is also part of the course apart from teaching Sushruta's surgical principles and practices, said Dr Vinayak Temburnekar, National President of National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA).

### So, what is new?

Ayurveda practitioners say the latest notification just brings clarity to the skills that an Ayurveda practitioner possesses.

“The surgeries that have been mentioned in the notification are all that are already part of the Ayurveda course. But there is little awareness about these. A patient is usually not clear whether an Ayurvedic practitioner has the necessary skill to perform one of these operations. Now, they know exactly what an Ayurveda doctor is capable of. The skill sets have been defined. This will remove question marks on the ability of an Ayurveda practitioner,” Hemantha Kumar of the Jaipur-based National Institute of Ayurveda said.

The notification mentions 58 surgical

procedures that postgraduate students must train themselves in, and acquire skills to perform independently. These include procedures in general surgery, urology, surgical gastroenterology, and ophthalmology.

### What are the IMA's objections?

IMA doctors insist that they are not opposed to the practitioners of the ancient system of medicine. But they say the new notification somehow gives the impression that the skills or training of the Ayurveda doctor in performing modern surgeries are the same as those practising modern medicine. This, they say, is misleading, and an “encroachment into the jurisdiction and competencies of modern medicine”.

The fact that Ayurveda institutions prescribe textbooks from modern medicine, or that they carry out surgeries with the help of practitioners of modern medicine, is not reason enough to allow this encroachment, said KM Abul Hasan, chairman of the IMA Junior Doctors' Network.

A statement from the IMA said it condemned the “predatory poaching on modern medicine and its surgical disciplines” by CCIM (Central Council of Indian Medicine, which functions under the Ministry of Ayush). “This is another step to legitimise mixopathy,” it said.

Avinash Bhondwe, president of the Maharashtra chapter of IMA, said the CCIM had claimed that all these modern surgeries are actually Ayurvedic procedures, and have Sanskrit names. “All the common procedures in all the surgical specialities have been included in the notification. They have notified these as Ayurveda procedures. They should also explain, with proof, how each of these procedures mentioned in Ayurveda literature is equivalent to the modern surgical procedures,” Bhondwe said.

The IMA is also upset with the recent decision of NITI Aayog to set up four committees for integrating the various systems of medicine in medical education, practice, public health, and administration, as well as research. It says such an integration would lead to the death of the modern system of medicine.

The IMA has demanded that the notification as well as the NITI Aayog move towards ‘One Nation One System’ be withdrawn. “If the government does not accept our demands, IMA will file a petition in the Supreme Court,” said RV Asokan, Secretary-General of IMA.

# Maharashtra Council polls, in perspective

AJAY KHAPE  
PUNE, DECEMBER 4

MAHARASHTRA'S RULING Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), an alliance of the Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress, has won four of the six Maharashtra Legislative Council seats for which voting took place on December 1.

Elections were held for three graduate seats of Nagpur, Pune, and Aurangabad; two teachers' seats of Pune and Amravati; and one local body seat from Dhule-Nandurbar.

This was the first state-level election after the MVA formed the government, keeping the BJP, the single largest party in the Legislative Assembly, out of power. The MVA's victories are important also because each of these Council seats represents electors in a large geographical area of the state.

### Seats and electors

The Upper House of Maharashtra legislature has 78 members, 66 of whom are elected, and the rest nominated. Members are elected for a six-year term.

Of the 66 elected members in the Council, 30 are elected by members of the Legislative Assembly; 22 are elected by local bodies

from 21 divisions; and seven members each are elected from among graduates and teachers of the seven revenue divisions of the state — Mumbai, Amravati, Nashik, Aurangabad, Konkan, Nagpur, and Pune.

### Graduate constituencies

Only those who have a Bachelor's degree from a recognised university are eligible to participate in the elections for the graduate seats.

Voters are enrolled afresh before each election, and applicants have to submit proof of education with a Bachelor's degree for enrolment as an elector. The elected member is expected to raise the issues of the educated class in the Upper House.

Of the seven graduate constituencies in the Council, the BJP, NCP, and Congress now have two members each, and the Shiv Sena has one.

### Teachers constituencies

For teachers constituencies, professional teachers, employed either in the government or the private sector, are eligible to register themselves as voters. The teacher electors choose one among themselves to raise their issues in the Legislative Council.

The Sena, NCP, Congress, BJP, Lok Bharati

(LB), Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP) of India and an Independent candidate now have a seat each in the teachers constituencies in the Council.

### For MVA, vindication

This was the first election in which the Sena, NCP, and Congress forged a pre-poll alliance with the aim of consolidating their strength in the state. The three parties see the victories as an indication of the acceptance of their alliance by the people. Senior NCP leaders have said the alliance succeeded in cutting the BJP to size.

After Friday's showing, the MVA would want to have a pre-poll alliance for all elections in the state. Maharashtra is scheduled to have local body polls early next year. “I will have discussions with the leaders of the three alliance partners in order to implement the same pre-poll strategy for all forthcoming polls,” Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said.

### For BJP, a major setback

The results of the Council elections are a blow to the BJP. The failure to retain its bastion of Nagpur and the Pune graduate constituency will hurt the party the most, while raising the hopes of its rivals.

The Nagpur seat has in the past been represented by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Gangadhar Fadnavis, father of former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. On Friday, Fadnavis conceded that the results of the elections were not up to the BJP's expectations, and that the party had failed to correctly gauge the combined strength of the three ruling parties.

### The winners and losers

The Congress, which has been in decline in the Nagpur region, has won the Nagpur seat after decades. Abhijit Wanjari of the Congress defeated Sandip Joshi of the BJP, a close confidant of Fadnavis's.

The Pune seat had been represented twice earlier by state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil. On Friday, the NCP's Arun Lad defeated Sangram Deshmukh of the BJP by a huge margin.

Satish Chavan of the NCP retained the Aurangabad seat, comfortably defeating the BJP candidate, Shirish Boralkar.

Former Congress MLC Ambrish Patel, who fought the election on BJP ticket, won the Dhule-Nandurbar seat, while Independent candidate Kiran Sarnaik won the Amravati division teachers seat.

# Lab-grown meat: cleared in Singapore, emerging alternative worldwide

POOJA PILLAI  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE SINGAPORE Food Agency (SFA) approved this week the sale of a lab-grown meat product. This is the first time cultured meat has been cleared for sale anywhere in the world. The product approved by the SFA is cultured chicken, produced by US-based East Just. The company has announced the product will be manufactured with local partners under its new brand GOOD Meat.

### Why is this a big deal?

In its June 2020 Food Outlook Report, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) stated that world meat output was set to contract row to 333 million tonnes, 1.7% less than in 2019. The disruption has been caused mainly by Covid-19, but it has added to already widespread fears about zoonotic diseases, especially African swine

fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

This provides an opportunity to the alternative meat industry. According to a Nielsen report from May this year, the sale of plant-based meats, which have been available in retail outlets and restaurants since 2018, grew by 264% in the US over a nine-week period that ended May 2. The market for alternative proteins was growing even before the pandemic: in a 2019 report, Barclays predicted that alternative meat could capture 10% of the \$1.4-trillion global meat market over the next decade. But while plant-based meats were finding more and more favour, commercial availability of lab-grown meat (or cultured meat) was still many years in the future.

This is why the approval by Singapore to cultured chicken is seen as significant.

### How is lab-grown or cultured meat different from plant-based meat?

The latter is made from plant sources



Lab-grown chicken. Memphis Meats

such as soy or pea protein, while cultured meat is grown directly from cells in a laboratory. Both have the same objective: to offer alternatives to traditional meat products that could feed a lot more people, reduce the threat of zoonotic diseases, and mitigate the environmental impact of meat consumption. In terms of cellular structure, cultured

or cultivated meat is the same as conventional meat — except that cultured meat does not come directly from animals.

According to the Good Food Institute (GFI)'s 2019 State of the Industry Report on cultivated meats, compared to conventional beef, cultivated beef could reduce land use by more than 95%, climate change emissions by 74-87% and nutrient pollution by 94%.

The report adds that since cultivated meat is created in clean facilities, the risk of contamination by pathogens such as salmonella and *E coli*, which may be present in traditional slaughterhouses and meat-packing factories, is significantly reduced. It does not require antibiotics either, unlike animals raised for meat, thereby reducing the threat posed to public health by growing antibiotic resistance.

### Who else is making cultured meat?

According to the GFI report, by the end

of 2019, 55 companies were focused on cultivated meat products, including Future Meat Technologies (chicken, lamb, beef) in Israel, Biftek (beef) in Turkey, Cubiq Foods (chicken fat) in Spain, Netherlands-based Meatable (pork, beef), French company Gourmet (foie gras) and US-based Memphis Meats (beef, chicken, duck). Also among these is Delhi-based Clear Meat, which is developing cultured chicken.

### How soon will cultured meat be widely available to consumers?

There are still significant hurdles to be overcome before cultured meat is widely available. Apart from ensuring that the products are affordable — currently still a challenge — and dealing with consumer mistrust, producers of alternative meats will face resistance from traditional meat producers.

The world's largest meat companies, such as Nestlé, Tyson Foods and Perdue Farms, have already jumped on the fast-

moving plant-based meat bandwagon. But production of cultured meat is difficult to scale up at present.

Conventional meat still dominates the market, and industry lobbies have been fighting to hold on to their market, not least by challenging the very idea of alternative meats. The application of meat-related terms, such as burger and sausage, to plant-based products has been challenged in the EU (where the bid failed) and the US (where it has had some success) on the ground that these misled consumers.

The charge against lab-grown meat, led by agriculture and husbandry bodies, is that it simply isn't meat if it didn't come from an animal. The US Cattlemen's Association, for example, successfully lobbied Missouri to pass a Bill ruling that plant-based and lab-grown meats cannot be called meats. The Cattle Council of Australia has been putting similar pressure on the country's government since 2018.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



A simulated image of the Chang'e-5 spacecraft. AP

## SPACE

## Chinese probe carrying lunar rocks lifts off from Moon

A CHINESE spacecraft lifted off from the Moon Thursday night with a load of lunar rocks, the first stage of its return to Earth, the government space agency reported. Chang'e 5, the third Chinese spacecraft to land on the Moon and the first to take off from it again, is the latest in a series of increasingly ambitious missions for Beijing's space programme, which also has a orbiter and rover headed to Mars. The Chang'e 5 touched down Tuesday on the Moon. Its mission: collect about 2 kg of lunar rocks and bring them back to Earth, the first return of samples since Soviet missions in the 1970s. AP



Rohingya refugees board a ship as they are moved to Bhashan Char island in Bangladesh on Friday. Reuters

## First Rohingya arrive at Bangladesh island

JULHAS ALAM  
DHAKA, DECEMBER 4

AUTHORITIES IN Bangladesh on Friday sent the first group of more than 1,500 Rohingya refugees to an isolated island despite calls by human rights groups for a halt to the process.

The 1,642 refugees boarded seven Bangladeshi naval vessels in

the port of Chittagong for the trip to Bhashan Char, according to an official who could not be named in accordance with local practice.

After about a three-hour trip they arrived at the island, which was once regularly submerged by monsoon rains but now has flood protection embankments, houses, hospitals and mosques built at a cost of more than \$112 million by the Bangladesh navy.

Located 34 km from the mainland, the island surfaced only 20 years ago and was never inhabited.

Saleh Noman, a Bangladeshi journalist who travelled with the refugees, said by phone from the island that the refugees were given rice, eggs and chickens for lunch after their body temperatures were measured by health workers as a coronavirus precaution.

The island's facilities are built to accommodate 100,000 people, just a fraction of the million Rohingya who have fled waves of violent persecution in their native Myanmar and are currently living in crowded refugee camps.

The UN has voiced concern that refugees be allowed to make a "free and informed decision" about whether to relocate to the island in the Bay of Bengal. AP

## US govt sues Facebook, alleges bias against American workers

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

THE US government has filed a lawsuit against Facebook, accusing the social media giant of "intentional and widespread" violations of the laws to discriminate against American workers and favour H-1B visa holders.

H-1B is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Most of the nearly 600,000 H-1B visa holders are from India and China.

The lawsuit, filed on Thursday by the US Justice Department, al-

**The govt alleged that Facebook refused to hire qualified US workers in favour of H-1B holders**

leges that Facebook refused to recruit, consider or hire qualified and available US workers for over 2,600 positions and instead, reserved for temporary visa holders it sponsored for permanent work authorisation (or "green cards") in connection with the permanent labour certification process (PERM).

The PERM process requires an employer to first demonstrate

that there are no qualified and available US workers for the position that the employer plans to offer to the temporary visa holder.

The positions that were the subject of Facebook's alleged discrimination against US workers offered an average salary of approximately \$156,000.

According to the lawsuit, which followed a nearly two-year investigation by the Justice Department, Facebook intentionally created a hiring system in which it denied qualified US workers a fair opportunity to learn about and apply for jobs that the company instead sought to channel to temporary visa holders. PTI

## Qatar Foreign Minister says 'some movement' towards ending Gulf row

REUTERS  
DUBAI, DECEMBER 4

QATAR'S FOREIGN minister said on Friday there has been movement on resolving a bitter diplomatic dispute among the Gulf countries but he could not predict whether a breakthrough was imminent or would fully resolve the matter.

The US and Kuwait have worked to end a row after Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Qatar since mid-2017.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani's comments to an Italian diplomatic conference come after White House senior adviser Jared Kushner held talks in Doha on Wednesday following a visit to Saudi Arabia.

"Right now there are some



Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani

movements that we hope will put an end to this crisis," Sheikh Mohammed, told the "Mediterranean Dialogues" online conference, speaking by videolink. "We are hopeful that things will move in the right direction right now. We cannot predict whether it will be imminent or resolve the issue in one day."

The other four nations accuse Doha of supporting terrorism.

**EXPLAINED** One eye on Iran

ONE OF the major reasons for Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies to be taking part in the process aimed at eventually ending the boycott of Qatar is their fear that Iran could become stronger after the end of the Trump administration. Qatar has had close ties with Iran, and the Saudis will likely hope that if they are able to bring Doha to their corner, it will become easier to isolate Tehran.

Qatar, which hosts the region's largest US military base, denies the charges and says the boycott aims to undermine its sovereignty.



John Ratcliffe

## US intelligence director says China is greatest threat to America

DEB RIECHMANN  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

CHINA POSES the greatest threat to America and the rest of the free world since World War II, outgoing National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe said Thursday as the Trump administration ramps up anti-Chinese rhetoric to pressure President-elect Joe Biden to be tough on Beijing.

"The intelligence is clear: Beijing intends to dominate the US and the rest of the planet economically, militarily and technologically," Ratcliffe wrote in an op-ed published Thursday in *The Wall Street Journal*. "Many of China's major public initiatives and prominent companies offer only a layer of camouflage to the activities of the Chinese Communist Party."

"I call its approach of economic espionage 'rob, replicate and replace,'" Ratcliffe said. "China robs US companies of their intellectual property, replicates the technology and then replaces the US firms in the global marketplace."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying dismissed the editorial as a further move to spread "false information, political viruses and lies" in hopes of damaging China's reputation and China-US relations. AP

## Coronavirus claims 1.5 mn lives globally

Average of 10,000 deaths daily in the past week alone

SHAINA AHLUWALIA & SANGAMESWARAN S  
DECEMBER 4

OVER 1.5 million people have lost their lives due to Covid-19 with one death reported every nine seconds on a weekly average, as vaccinations are set to begin in December in a handful of developed nations.

Half a million deaths occurred in just the last two months, indicating that the severity of the pandemic is far from over. Nearly 65 million people globally have been infected by the disease and the worst affected country, United States, is currently battling a third wave of coronavirus infections.

In the last week alone, more than 10,000 people in the world died on average every single day, which has been steadily rising each passing week. Many countries across the world are now fighting second and third waves even greater than the first, forcing new restrictions on everyday life.

The novel coronavirus caused more deaths in the past year than tuberculosis in 2019 and nearly four times the number of deaths due to malaria, according to the World Health Organisation. The United States continues



People dine outside in separate domes in London. Britain went into two lockdowns in recent months in its bid to fight multiple surges of Covid-19. Reuters

to lead in terms of fatalities, with over 273,000 deaths alone. North America and Latin American regions combined have more than 50% of all coronavirus deaths that have been reported.

The Latin American region, the worst-affected globally in terms of fatalities, recently surpassed over 450,000 deaths.

On Wednesday, Britain became the first country to approve the vaccine candidate developed by Germany's BioNTech and Pfizer Inc, jumping ahead of the rest of the world in the race to begin a crucial mass inoculation programme. However, sup-

plies are expected to be very limited in the early stages which means that every country beginning the drive will have to prioritise based on risk factors.

US health regulators are expected to approve distribution and administration of the vaccine in mid-December.

Africa aims to have 60% of its population vaccinated against Covid-19 within the next two to three years, the African Union's disease control group said on Thursday. The continent of 1.3 billion people has recorded more than 2.2 million confirmed coronavirus infections. REUTERS

## Biden says he will publicly take Covid vaccine, keep Fauci

Statement comes after Obama, Bush, Clinton say will get shots in public

TREVOR HUNNICUTT  
WILMINGTON, DECEMBER 4

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden said on Thursday he would publicly take a coronavirus vaccine to demonstrate its safety to the public and pledged to retain the nation's top adviser on the pandemic, Anthony Fauci, when he takes office next month.

"People have lost faith in the ability of the vaccine to work," Biden told CNN in an interview that aired on Thursday.

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of President Donald Trump's coronavirus task force, met with Biden's advisers on the pandemic earlier in the day. In the interview, Biden said he asked Fauci to stay on as a chief medical adviser.

In the interview alongside Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, Biden called for Congress to pass the \$908 billion bill proposed by moderates in the US Senate, but said that it should be viewed as a "start" to providing relief during the pandemic. "People are really hurting," he said. "They're scared to death."

Trump at times has criticized Fauci's insistence on aggressive measures to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, which has now claimed 273,000 US lives.

Biden said that as president, he will order masks to be worn in federal buildings and transportation hubs. He said he will

## FAUCI APOLOGISES FOR SUGGESTING UK RUSHED VACCINE CALL

London: America's top infectious disease expert has apologised for suggesting UK authorities rushed their authorisation of a Covid-19 vaccine, saying he has "great faith" in the country's regulators. Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, had said in an earlier interview that UK regulators hadn't acted "as carefully" as the US Food and Drug Administration. Fauci said late Thursday that he meant to say US authorities do things differently than their British counterparts, not better, but his comments weren't phrased properly. AP



Fauci

ask Americans to wear masks for the first 100 days of his administration.

Biden's remarks on taking a vaccine after three former presidents — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — said they would publicly get the coronavirus vaccine as a way to demonstrate its safety. REUTERS



Vivek Murthy

## Vivek Murthy picked to be next US Surgeon General: report

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has tapped his key Covid-19 adviser Dr Vivek Murthy as the next Surgeon General, a role for which he was appointed during the Obama administration and had to leave abruptly during the current Trump administration, according to a media report.

The 43-year-old Indian-American doctor is one of the three co-chairs of the Biden's Covid-19 Advisory Board.

"Vivek H Murthy, a former US surgeon general, has been asked to reprise the role in an expanded version in the new administration," *The Washington Post* reported on Thursday, quoting an individual familiar with the decision.

A formal announcement in this matter is expected soon.

The surgeon general serves a four-year term and is the top government official on public health issues. Jerome Adams is the incumbent Surgeon General.

Murthy is expected to be part of a team of healthcare officials charged with tackling Covid-19, the issue Biden has said would be his top priority upon taking office, the report said. PTI

## PANDEMIC CHANGES HOLLYWOOD

## In seismic shift, Warner Bros to stream all 2021 films

JAKE COYLE  
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 4

IN THE most seismic shift by a Hollywood studio yet during the pandemic, Warner Bros. Pictures on Thursday announced that all of its 2021 film slate — including a new *Matrix* movie, *Godzilla vs. Kong* and the Lin-Manuel Miranda adaptation *In the Heights* — will stream on HBO Max at the same time the films play in theatres.

Among the myriad release plan changes wrought by the pandemic, no studio has so fully embraced streaming as a lifeline. But after disappointing domes-

tic ticket sales for *Tenet*, and with the majority of US theatres currently closed, the AT&T-owned Warner Bros. will turn to a hybrid distribution model next year. Films will debut simultaneously in theatres and on HBO Max in the US. After one month, they will stop streaming and continue to play only in theatres.

The move follows Warner Bros.' decision to put *Wonder Woman 1984* on HBO Max in December, along with a concurrent theatrical run. If that pivot sent shockwaves through the industry, Thursday's announcement rattled Hollywood to the core.

"Given the unprecedented time that we're in, we needed a



A still from the upcoming Warner Bros film *Dune*. AP

creative solution to address our fans, our filmmakers and our exhibitors," said Ann Sarnoff, chief executive of WarnerMedia

Studios, in an interview. "Big and bold is a necessity right now."

Sarnoff called it a "temporary solution" and a "one-year plan."

The studio said other options — releasing big-budget films solely in reduced capacity theatres or delaying films another year — weren't appealing. Warner Bros.' move amounts to an acknowledgement that any full rebound for theatres is still a year or more away.

"We've got to get people back in theaters at full capacity at some point. If you read the medical experts that's going to take a while to work its way through the system," said Sarnoff. "If we saw an end in sight to the pandemic, we might have a different strategy. But we don't see that at this moment."

HBO Max is only available in the United States. Internationally,

the studio's 17 films planned for 2021 release will roll out exclusively in theatres.

Warner Bros.' decision resonates especially because the 117-year-old studio of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Casablanca* has long been a market-leader in Hollywood — and one known as especially supportive of theatres. The studio has generally ranked among the top two studios in market share over the past decade — most recently dwarfed only by Walt Disney. Warner's films typically account for \$1.5-2 billion annual in ticket sales in North America — a lot of money to compensate for in HBO Max subscribers. AP

## London clears way to make Ambedkar House a museum

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, DECEMBER 4

LOCAL AUTHORITIES in north London have formally cleared the operation of Ambedkar House as a museum in honour of the architect of the Indian Constitution after it was approved as a landmark associated with "one of the founding fathers of modern India" earlier in the year.

Camden Council gave the final go-ahead for the museum after UK Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick had intervened to grant retrospective planning permission for 10 King Henry's Road in Camden, where Dr BR Ambedkar lived in 1921-22 during his student days at the London School of Economics.



Ambedkar lived at 10 King Henry's Road from 1921-22

The minister's March order came at the end of an inquiry following an appeal against Camden Council's planning refusal.

Camden Council, the local authority which had originally opposed the application, said it accepted the decision based on additional evidence provided by the Indian authorities. PTI



GOLD

₹48,813



RUPEE

₹73.80



OIL

\$49.13



SILVER

₹63,343

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2230 IST

SENSEX: 45,079.55 ▲ 446.90 NIFTY: 13,258.55 ▲ 124.65 NIKKEI: 26,751.24 ▼ 58.13 HANG SENG: 26,835.92 ▲ 10742 FTSE: 6,545.25 ▲ 54.98 DAX: 13,233.64 ▼ 19.22

International market data till 1900 IST

## UNDER ON TAP TARGETED LONG-TERM REPO OPERATIONS

## RBI offers more funds to 26 sectors identified by Kamath Committee

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has decided to bring the 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee within the ambit of sectors eligible under on tap Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO), providing more liquidity to the slowdown-hit economy.

Under TLTRO, banks can invest in specific sectors through debt instruments like corporate bonds, commercial papers and non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to push the credit flow in the economy. The central bank had brought five sectors announced under the TLTRO scheme on October 21.

The RBI had announced the TLTRO on Tap scheme on October 9, 2020 which will be available up to March 31, 2021. Accordingly, it was decided to conduct on tap TLTRO with tenors of up to three years for a total amount of up to Rs 1 lakh crore at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate with flexibility to enhance the amount and period after a review of the response to the scheme, the RBI said



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das addresses the media, in Mumbai on Friday. ANI

According to State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara, the RBI announcement of the extension of on tap TLTRO to stressed sectors is a perfect example of co-ordinated monetary and fiscal policy coordination, a hallmark of the current pandemic.

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0 announced on November 12, the Centre launched the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 2.0 (ECLGS 2.0) under which the corpus of Rs 3 lakh crore of existing ECLGS 1.0 was extended to provide 100 per cent guaranteed collateral free additional credit to entities in 26

stressed sectors identified by the Kamath panel plus health care sector with credit outstanding of above Rs 50 crore and up to Rs 500 crore as on February 29, 2020.

According to the RBI, banks are encouraged to synergise the two schemes by availing funds from RBI under on tap TLTRO and seek guarantee under ECLGS 2.0 to provide credit support to stressed sectors. Liquidity availed by banks under the scheme should be deployed in corporate bonds, commercial papers, and non-convertible debentures issued by the entities in specific sectors over and above the outstanding level of their investments in such instruments as on September 30, 2020.

Reacting to the MPC decisions, Punjab National Bank MD & CEO CHSS Mallikarjuna Rao said, "The growth is expected to be better with the GDP estimate being revised upwards for FY21. Liquidity measures have been announced to revive activity and on tap TLTRO has been extended to the stressed sectors identified by the Kamath committee. The credit offtake is expected to get a boost going forward, we expect it to top at least 8 per cent in the days to come."

## OTHER DECISIONS

## NO DIVIDEND PAYOUT THIS YEAR

To strengthen banks' balance sheets, the RBI has decided that banks and cooperative banks should not make any dividend payout from the profits pertaining to FY20. "In view of the ongoing stress... it is imperative that banks continue to conserve capital to support the economy and absorb losses," it said.

## DIVIDEND POLICY FOR NBFCs

The RBI has decided to formulate guidelines on dividend distribution by NBFCs keeping in view their increasing significance in the financial system and their interlinkages with different segments. Unlike banks, currently there are no norms in place with regard to distribution of dividend by NBFCs.

## DIGITAL PAYMENT GUIDELINES

The central bank has proposed to issue RBI (Digital Payment Security Controls) Directions, 2020 for regulated entities to set up a robust governance structure for such systems and implement common minimum standards of security controls for channels like internet and mobile banking, card payments, among others.

## CONTACTLESS CARD LIMIT HIKED

The Reserve Bank has proposed to enhance, at the discretion of the user, the limits for contactless card transactions and e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards (and Unified Payments Interface, or UPI) from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the farm laws, against which farmers are protesting, were not passed in a jiffy by the government and a lot of discussion and consultations happened with numerous stakeholders before these legislations were finalised. She said the Centre is engaging with farmers and hoped some solution will be found.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a lot of homework happens before a final call is taken on anything. Consultations take place at various levels. These are things that have been in the discussion for a very long time. Every party has spoken about it, in fact these reforms were part of their manifestos. It was not something done in a jiffy... these ideas have gone through the grind," Sitharaman said, while addressing the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit via video conference.

She said the government has extensively used the minimum support price (MSP) to help farmers, and both the MSP and APMC (agricultural produce market committee) system will continue under the new regime as well.

Farmers from various states are protesting around Delhi against the three agriculture laws passed in the last Parliament session.

"If there are farmers who have doubts and want to speak about it, I am glad that the Agriculture Minister is sitting and engaging in meaningful conversation with them with an open mind. I hope something will come out of it," she said. There are indications that the government could amend three major provisions in the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, which are key to the most con-

## VACCINE DETAILS YET TO BE ASCERTAINED

TO A query on whether the Centre will allocate a significant amount in the FY22 Budget for Covid-19 vaccination, the Finance Minister, at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, said exact details of the costs involved are yet to be ascertained



tested legislation.

To a query on whether the Centre will allocate a significant amount in the FY22 Budget for vaccination against Covid-19, the Finance Minister said exact details of the costs involved are yet to be ascertained. "As of today, we do not know what will be the details that come with the vaccine, whether it will be one dose or two dose, are two doses going to be sufficient, or will there be recurrence of doses after six months."

Sitharaman highlighted that the economy is recovering sharply from effects of the pandemic, with consumption demand expected to sustain and investment picking up going forward. Banks are seeing companies coming for funding for their capital expenditure plans. With the recovery and liquidity leading to bump up in inflation, Sitharaman said she was not "worried about inflation" as it seems mostly seasonal and under control as of now.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India on Friday noted that inflation is likely to remain elevated, barring transient relief in the winter months from prices of perishables. The RBI has pegged CPI inflation at 6.8 per cent for the third quarter of FY21, 5.8 per cent for Q4, and 5.2-4.6 per cent in the first half of 2021-22, with risks broadly balanced.

## 'Attempts to ensure economy finds resurgence'

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday urged officials of the revenue department to support the government's efforts in reviving growth of the Indian economy. Speaking at the 63rd Founding Day of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), she said India's growth is important for global economic revival as well.

The DRI officers should be on their toes to help government's attempts to ensure that "the Indian economy finds resurgence, revives even during this pandemic, post the lockdown, so that we can be the engine of the global growth. We and our growth is so important, being a large democratic economy, for the global revival," she said while addressing officers via video conference.

The 800 lean and mean staff of DRI has worked really hard, and at times also faced point blank gun threats in many cases, to ensure that the job is done effectively, she said. **ENS**

## Yet to take decision on industrial houses in banking, says Das

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

RBI GOVERNOR Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the central bank has not taken a decision on the issue of allowing industrial houses to enter the banking sector. Two weeks ago, an internal working group (IWG) constituted by the RBI to study ownership structures of private lenders had suggested a guarded entry of corporates into the banking space, conversion of big NBFCs into banks and promoters to hike their stakes from 15 per cent to 26 per cent.

In a press conference following the monetary policy review Das said, "It is a report by the internal working group. It should not be seen as the RBI's point of view or decision." The IWG had external members, acted independently, and had independent deliberations, Das said.

"The RBI has not taken any decision so far," Das reiterated. "Our approach is consultative." "The report of the internal working group is in the public domain. After receiving comments from interested parties, the central bank will "examine the whole matter and take a considered decision."

The decision to allow industrial houses to control banks has evoked much debate and controversy at a time when there have been multiple bank failures leading to bailouts (Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank), the scars from the IL&FS and DHFL frauds have not yet healed and questions are being asked about the RBI's supervisory capacity. Several experts consulted by the IWG were also against allowing business houses into the banking sector.

Former RBI Governor

## 'Banks must invest in robust IT systems'

Mumbai: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said banks and NBFCs need to invest in robust IT systems to maintain public confidence. His statement came a day after the central bank pulled up HDFC Bank for repeated outages in its digital services. "Overall, banks, NBFCs and other lenders need to boost IT systems to maintain public confidence. We see need for more investment in robust IT solutions by all financial entities," he said. **ENS**

Raghuram Rajan and former deputy governor Viral Acharya were the earliest to weigh in, questioning the need for such a proposal at this time.

In an essay posted on Rajan's LinkedIn profile, the duo said that the proposal to let industrial houses into banking will lead to "connected lending" which, according to them, is "invariably disastrous" and would further "exacerbate the concentration of economic (and political) power in certain business houses." The former RBI officials termed the proposal "bombshell" and advised that it was "best left on the shelf."

Similarly, in an op-ed in *The Indian Express*, former chief economic advisors Arvind Subramanian and Shankar Acharya, and former finance secretary Vijay Kelkar said the step would be a "grievous mistake" which could "seriously set back economic and political development."

## Status quo 'to revive growth on a durable basis'

The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI on Friday kept key policy rates unchanged for the third time in a row "to revive growth on a durable basis and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward"

**4.00%** Repo rate, at which the RBI lends funds with security

**3.35%** Reverse repo rate, at which RBI borrows from banks

**4.25%** Bank rate, at which RBI lends short-term funds to banks sans security

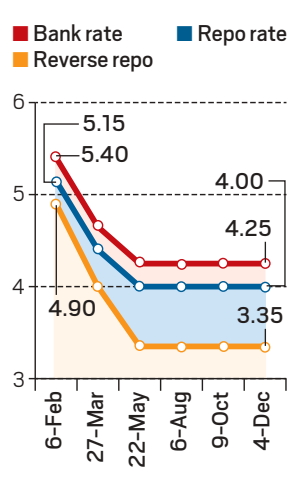
**MPC STANCE:** All members of the MPC — Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R. Varma, Mridul K. Saggarr, Michael Debabrata Patra and Shaktikanta Das — unanimously voted for keeping the policy repo rate and accommodative stance unchanged



**INFLATION FORECAST:** The RBI has projected CPI inflation at 6.8% for Q3FY21, 5.8% for Q4 and 5.2% to 4.6% in the first half of 2021-22

**GROWTH PROJECTION:** Real GDP is expected to contract by 7.5% in FY21 and expand by 0.1% in Q3 of 2020-21 and 0.7% in Q4

## REVISION IN POLICY RATES (in %age)



Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau

## Why no change in policy rates

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

WITH RETAIL inflation remaining elevated, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, decided to keep the policy rates unchanged for the third time in a row in the bi-monthly monetary policy announced on Friday. This effectively means lending rates in the banking system and EMIs on home, auto and personal loans will remain more or less steady.

## What are the current rates?

The six-member MPC voted unanimously to leave the policy

repo rate, the rate at which the RBI lends funds to banks, unchanged at 4 per cent. It also decided to continue with the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary.

## What constraints did the monetary policy face?

The MPC is of the view that inflation is likely to remain elevated, barring transient relief in the winter months from prices of perishables. This constrains monetary policy at the current juncture from using the space available to act in support of growth. "At the same time, the signs of recovery are far from being broad-based and are dependent on sustained policy support," the RBI said.

## What's the outlook on the inflation front?

The RBI has projected CPI inflation at 6.8 per cent for the third quarter of FY21, 5.8 per cent for Q4 of 2020-21 and 5.2 per cent to 4.6 per cent in the first half of FY22.

## Is the recovery picking up momentum?

The MPC said recovery in rural demand is likely to bolster further, while urban demand too is gaining momentum as unlocking spurs activity and employment.

## What's the RBI's action plan?

The RBI said it will continue to respond to global spill-overs in order to secure domestic stability with its liquidity management operations.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## AT RECORD CLOSING

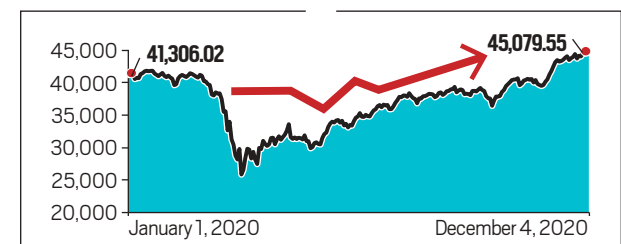
## Sensex ends above 45,000-mark buoyed by RBI policy decisions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE RESERVE Bank decision to keep policy rates unchanged and maintain an accommodative stance for the current and upcoming year boosted investor sentiment, sending the benchmark Sensex above the 45,000 level for the first time. The 30-share index soared 447 points to close at 45,079.55 and the NSE Nifty rose 125 points to 13,258.55 on hectic buying support.

Broader markets too ended with healthy gains of 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively. Banking, telecom and consumer durables were top performers. The BSE Bankex shot up by 2.14 per cent. Short-term bond yields came down by 9-10 basis points.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial services, said, "Possibility for a further rate cut in near term can be ruled out, considering elevated inflation levels. However, the RBI has ensured ample liquidity support on a timely basis... Globally, renewed US stimulus negotiation and vaccine roll-out has underpinned optimism." ICICI Bank shares rose 4.2 per



cent and SBI gained 2.77 per cent.

Analysts said the dovish commentary from the RBI and improved growth outlook lifted the sentiment. "With all the major events behind us, we feel global cues would dictate the market trend ahead," said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking.

A section of investors attributed the current optimism to the catch-up rally being played by broader markets which are trying to match their industry bellwethers. "However, some sentimentality credit for this upmove can be given to the acceptance of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine by the UK government which would surely play a remarkable role in the concentrated efforts to overcome the pandemic," said Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities.

## Brent moves closer to \$50/bbl

London: Brent crude oil futures rose to just under \$50 a barrel on Friday as expectations of a US economic stimulus package and hopes of a vaccine for the coronavirus overrode rising supply and increased Covid-19 deaths. A bipartisan \$908 billion coronavirus aid plan gained momentum in the US Congress. Brent was up 42 cents at \$49.13 a barrel by 1619 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate rose 46 cents to \$46.10 a barrel. Both benchmarks are set for a fifth straight week of gains. **REUTERS**

## BRIEFLY

## RIL arm plan for Reliance Infratel

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal has approved a resolution plan submitted by Reliance Projects & Property Management Services Ltd, an arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), for Reliance Infratel, a regulatory filing by RIL said Friday.

## IKEA store in Navi Mumbai

New Delhi: Furnishings retailer IKEA will open its second Indian store, after the first one opened in Hyderabad in August 2018, in Navi Mumbai on December 18. **PTI**

## Tata Power wins bids for two more Odisha discoms, to own 51% in both

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

TATA POWER said Friday it received the letter of intent (LoI) from the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission for distribution of power to consumers in western and southern parts of the state through the respective discoms, WESCO and SOUTHCO, for the next 25 years. The company had, last December, won the distribution license for CESJ, another Odisha discom. It is also the sole bidder for NESCO, the remaining discom in the state.

Tata Power will own a 51 per cent stake in the discoms, while the remainder 49 per cent will be held by the government of Odisha.

In FY19, the four Odisha discoms had cumulatively posted a loss of Rs 1,539 crore, of which NESCO losses comprised only Rs 2 crore.

Tata Power has committed to make a capital expenditure of Rs 2,830 crore cumulatively between FY22 and FY26 on WESCO and SOUTHCO discoms.

It aims to reduce aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses of SOUTHCO from the current level of 35.3 per cent to 14.8 per cent in ten years. For WESCO, AT&C losses are targeted to be cut to 9.1 per cent from 27.6 per cent in the same period.

In Delhi, where Tata Power has a similar public-private partnership model with the Delhi government, the company has managed to reduce AT&C losses from the

high of 53 per cent in 2002 to around 8 per cent at present.

About NESCO, for which the company is the sole bidder, Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power, had told investors in November that "the regulator and the government is taking a view on whether they would give it to us based on our offer or there is going to be a rebid".

Discom business plays a major role in Tata Power's five-year planning, as it envisages consumer base in this front to rise to 20 million from the current 2.6 million subscribers. With growing opportunities in discom privatisation, the company is targeting Rs 27,000 crore revenue from transmission and distribution business by FY25. **FE**

## CCI to launch study into impact of multiple investments by PE firms in same sector

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE COMPETITION Commission of India (CCI) is set to launch a study into multiple minority investments by private equity (PE) firms in the same sector, the regulator's Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said on Friday. He noted that investments by private equity players had surpassed strategic FDI investments in India.

"The Commission has been examining transactions of sub-10 per cent investments in target enterprises by private equity investors where there is even a single board seat," he said at a conference on competition law organised by the

## CCI Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said investments by PE firms had surpassed strategic FDI investments in India

Confederation of Indian Industry. Gupta said the CCI had noted that some investors had invested in multiple firms of the same industry and that the impact of common ownership by minority shareholders across firms on competition needed to be understood.

The CCI chief noted that the study would be aimed at gauging the underlying incentives and motivations of the common key

investors. "It is important to look at the rights they get to protect the legitimate financial interests, from their shareholdings, and whether these rights can translate into their ability to influence the decision of a firm," said Gupta.

The Commission is also currently conducting a market study on the pharmaceutical sector, focussed on the distribution segment of the pharma market in India, including discounts and margins policies at wholesale and retail levels of the distribution system, and the role and impact of trade associations on competition.

The CCI has imposed penalties on many pharma trade bodies, such as the Madhya Pradesh Chemists and Druggist

Association, and the Federation of Gujarat State Chemists and Druggists Association.

On the e-commerce sector, Gupta said that amassing of huge data by first movers to the detriment of new entrants and consumers, and the phenomenon of 'winners take all' posed objective challenges before the competition authorities. He noted that key competition issues that arose in the CCT's market study on e-commerce — including lack of platform neutrality, unfair platform business contract terms, existence of platform parity clauses and exclusive agreements — and deep discounting were a result of disparity in bargaining power between platforms and other businesses.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER Notice No. EL-50-DNR-OPEN-23-2020-1. The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open from the reputed contractors working in State/Central Govt having valid Electrical contractor license for the required voltage level issued by State/Central Govt Licensing board for the following work fulfilling the Eligibility Criteria and terms, conditions mentioned in tender document. Tender No. EL-50-DNR-OPEN-23-2020-1. Name of work with its Location: Electrical (G) related works for setting of quick watering arrangement at Patna Jn. 2. Approx cost of the work (NT value): 14142306.00/- 3. Earnest money to be deposited: 220700.00/- 4. Date & time for online submission and closing of all above tenders: On 28.12.2020 up to 12.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the Office from where all the above tender forms can be seen: CRIS website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Office of the Sr. DEE (G/DNR, D.R.M. Building, 1st Floor, East Central Railway, Danapur. NOTE: All corrigendum will be uploaded on website before 15 days, if required.

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect/G), E.C.Rly., Danapur. PR/1054/DNR/EGENT/20-21/52

Stay protected from Corona  
Wear your mask properly  
Frequently wash your hands with soap  
Maintain safe distance  
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Open Tender Notice

OPEN TENDER Batch No: 52/20, dated: 03.12.2020 E-Tender Notice for supply of materials-participation in through web portal of IREPS- [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) offers are invited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hrs. SI No. 01 Tender No: 04203997 Brief Description: Initiator Corrosion Quantity: 6000 Ltrs. Published online: 02.12.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. All Information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) SI.No. 1. Name of Work: Provision of AT at different stations over Sonpur division. Approx. Cost (in Rs.): 4000562.00/- Earnest Money (in Rs.): 80000.00/- Cost of Tender document (Rs.) (Non-refundable): 00.00 The above Tender notice is available on Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER. Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel the tenders without assigning any reason.

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect/G) East Central Railway/Sonpur PR/1052/SEE/EGENT/20-21/40

Stay protected from Corona  
Wear your mask properly  
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Maintain safe distance  
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Open Tender Notice

East Central Rail/Electrical (G) Department Open E-Tender Notice No.LR-Open-20-21-13, Dated:-02.12.2020. The Divl. Rly. Manager (Elect/G) Sonpur for and on behalf of the president of India invites 'Open E-Tender' for following works. The last date of online E-Tendering is 30.12.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. All Information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) SI.No. 1. Name of Work: Provision of AT at different stations over Sonpur division. Approx. Cost (in Rs.): 4000562.00/- Earnest Money (in Rs.): 80000.00/- Cost of Tender document (Rs.) (Non-refundable): 00.00 The above Tender notice is available on Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER. Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel the tenders without assigning any reason.

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect/G) East Central Railway/Sonpur PR/1052/SEE/EGENT/20-21/40

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Frequently wash your hands with soap  
Maintain safe distance  
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

"STOP CORONA — WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HYGIENE"  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAP)-1  
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT DELHI  
501, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005  
Press Nit No.- 02 & 3 (2020-21)

| S. No. | Name of Work   | Amount put to tender                                     | Earnest Money (EMD) and Tender fees  | Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution | Last date/time of receipt of tender |
|--------|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1      | Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission & Distribution Pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area, Package - 4 (East).    | Civil- Rs.8990.71 lakhs E&M- 3234.00 lakhs O&M- Lump Sum | EMD Rs.240 lakhs (Rs. 20.00 lakhs through RTGS and balance in form of Bank Guarantee (BG) Tender Fee Rs.1500/- | Tender ID no. 2020_DJ8_197145_1 Dated: 03.12.2020   | 08.01.2021 up to 3:00 PM            |
| 2      | Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission & Distribution Pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area, Package - 3 (Central). | Civil- Rs.4895.30 lakhs E&M- 4439.23 lakhs O&M- Lump Sum | EMD Rs.772 lakhs (Rs. 20.00 lakhs through RTGS and balance in form of Bank Guarantee (BG) Tender Fee Rs.1500/- | Tender ID no. 2020_DJ8_197197_1 Dated: 03.12.2020   | 11.01.2021 up to 3:00 PM            |

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 14.12.2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Hall, Varunalya Phase-II, Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. The NIT is available with bid forms and other details at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. Any future amendment/ corrigendum, pre-bid reply etc. can only be seen on website.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- EE(EAP)-1 Advt. No. J.S.V. 248(2020-21)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHE) DIVISION, PULWAMA  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
E-NIT S. No. 75/PHEP/Fresh of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders Fresh (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other State Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://ktenders.gov.in> for the subject work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Pulwama and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailing e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://ktenders.gov.in>.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Pulwama.

| S. No. | Name of Work   | Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs) | EMD (in ₹) | Cost of TD (in ₹) | Time of completion | Class of Contract |
|--------|--|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1.     | Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Bon Koll by way of providing, laying & fitting of GI pipes, including electrical and mechanical works including installation of 132 No. FHTC's for Bon Koll including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.   | 21.85                      | 43700      | 800               | 30 days            | B & C             |
| 2.     | Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Nowhar Malpora by way of providing, laying & fitting of GI pipes, including P/F of sanitary lines, providing rolling shutters, septic tank, soakage pit and desludging of structures, electrical/mechanical works including installation of 76 No. FHTC's for Nowhar Malpora which includes maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.   | 16.97                      | 33940      | 800               | 30 days            | B & C             |
| 3.     | Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Tahab old by way of providing, laying & fitting of GI pipes, including dismantling of CCA Truss over RCC SR, providing RCC jacking to existing SR, construction of wooden trusses over existing quarter, providing sanitary fitting to washroom, construction of ring type soakage pit and septic tank, mechanical and electrical works including installation of 299 No. FHTC's for Tahab old including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.            | 45.14                      | 90280      | 1100              | 60 days            | A & B             |
| 4.     | Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Wakherwan by way of construction of RCC jacking to existing SR including replacement of sluice chamber, construction of chain link fencing, providing, laying and fitting of GI pipes and including electrical/ mechanical works by way of supply/ installation, testing and commissioning of pumping equipment's and other electrical works at Renzipora including installation of 127 No. FHTC's for Wakherwan including maintenance for a period of 3 years which includes 12 months DLP. | 53.05                      | 106100     | 1600              | 60 days            | AAY               |

Position of Funds: -Available; Major Head of Account: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "<http://ktenders.gov.in>" as per schedule of dates given below: -

| S.No. | Description                        | DD | MM | YYYY | Time      |
|-------|------------------------------------|----|----|------|-----------|
| 1     | Publishing date of NIT             | 04 | 12 | 2020 | 1400 Hrs  |
| 2     | Download start date                | 04 | 12 | 2020 | 1400 Hrs  |
| 3     | Bid submission start date          | 04 | 12 | 2020 | 1400 Hrs  |
| 4     | Bid submission end date            | 18 | 12 | 2020 | 1400 Hrs. |
| 5     | Bid opening date (Technical Cover) | 19 | 12 | 2020 | 1000 Hrs. |

Other terms and conditions are mentioned in the detailed Tender Document attached. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir Sd/- Executive Engineer, (JSD) PHE Div, Pulwama

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU  
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR.  
TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date for the receipt of Tenders for the works as called for by Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur in NIT.No.7/2020-2021/LCBC/TNJ/DATED: 17.11.2020 are extended for Package No.8 from 23.12.2020 to 29.12.2020, Package No.1 & 3 from 23.12.2020 to 30.12.2020 and Package No.2 & 4 from 23.12.2020 to 31.12.2020.

Addenda, Corrigenda, Extensions, if any will be notified on the [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) only. Bidders are requested to visit our website regularly for any amendment of the present bid till finalization of bidding process.

Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur. DIPR/4506/TENDER/2020

JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
Phone/Fax No. : 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr) Website: [www.jkpolice.gov.in](http://www.jkpolice.gov.in)  
0191-2459029/2459255 (Jmu) E-mail: [phqjk@nic.in](mailto:phqjk@nic.in)

Addendum Notice

Below mentioned insertions are hereby made in e-NIT No. 35 of 2020 dated 27.08.2020 floated by this Hrs for the installation of CCTV Surveillance system in Police Stations and Police Posts as under: 1. Clause 33 During the technical evaluation of bids, the concerned committee will take into account relevant parameters and guidelines of GFR 2017 including recent insertion of Rule 144(X) in GFR 2017 issued by Ministry of Finance, Public Procurement Division vide Order No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23.07.2020. 2. Clause 34: The Code of integrity clause as mandated vide rule 175 (1) & (2) of GFR 2017 is to be adopted by both the procuring authority and the bidder in letter and spirit. The bidders may refer CVC's communication No. 007/VGL/033/396514 dated 28.09.2018 for integrity pact. The other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/- Rayees Mohammad Bhat (IPS) AIG(Provision & Transport), For Director General of Police, J&K Jammu. Date: 26.11.2020 DIP/J-8066/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Jyoti @ Ishu D/o Sh. Rajeev Kumar R/o H. No. G-1/23, Gurudwara Wali Gali, Jagat Puri, Near Shiv Mandir, Delhi Aged- 19 Years has been reported missing since 26.11.2020 from her house vide DD No. 79A Dated 26.11.2020 registered at Police Station Jagat Puri, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue coloured jeans-top-jacket and shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Jagat Puri, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/- SHO, Jagat Puri, Delhi Tel.: 011-24368639, 22420362, 22420363 Fax No. : 011-24368639 Mob.: 7065306023 DP/285/SHD/2020

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019, India  
Phone: +91-172-2793589/91 Fax: +91-172-2798990 Extn: 400  
Email: [helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in](mailto:helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in) Website: <https://mgsipa.punjab.gov.in>

Notice Inviting e-Tender [Ref. No. E-174761/2020-21/3431, 04-12-2020]

Online bids are invited in electronic tendering system from the reputed firms/ contractors for the contract of "Housekeeping and Maintenance of Hostel and Faculty Rooms" in MGSIPA.

| Important Dates                             |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Publishing Date and Time                    | 05.12.2020 09.00 AM |
| Document Download/ Sale Start Date and Time | 05.12.2020 09.00 AM |
| Document Download/ Sale End Date and Time   | 28.12.2020 01.00 PM |
| Bid Submission Start Date and Time          | 05.12.2020 09.00 AM |
| Bid Submission End Date and Time            | 28.12.2020 01.00 PM |
| Bid Opening Date and Time                   | 28.12.2020 03.00 PM |

- The tender documents can be downloaded from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- For any clarification/ difficulty regarding e-tendering process, the firms/ contractors can contact on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284.
- Any corrigendum/addendum/corrections, if any, shall be published on the website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) only.
- Bidders shall have to pay the fees (earnest money, document fee and processing fee, etc.) through online mode as mentioned on e-portal <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- MGSIPA reserves the right to scrap the e-tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason.

11329/PB SCS-cum-DG

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH  
No. 11936/Acctt(H)/CTU/2020 Dated, Chandigarh, the 03.12.2020  
E-Auction Notice

Chandigarh Transport Undertaking is going to hold E-Auction on dated 16.12.2020 for various categories of obsolete/unused spare part (scrap) and condemned buses/ Pre-condemned buses and staff cars as per annexure 'A' and 'B' through M/s MSTC Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprise), Telephone Exchange Building 2nd Floor, Sector-5, Panchkula (Haryana). The quantity of condemned and pre-condemned buses, staff cars and obsolete/unused spare parts of old model buses category lying at the location of CTU Workshop, Depot No. I, II & III and U.T. Secretariat Chandigarh, are available on M/s MSTC Ltd. website as well as on office website i.e. [chctdu.gov.in](http://chctdu.gov.in) and the link provided for e-Auction website & can also be checked/seen physically before the start of auction on any working day by contacting Nodal Officer (Sh. J.B. Sharma, Accountant (H), Mob: 94175-24603). All the interested/prospective bidders are requested to participate in the e-Auction through the website [www.mstcindia.co.in](http://www.mstcindia.co.in) and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) after getting registered with M/s MSTC Ltd.

General Term & Conditions: The payment & e-Auction terms shall be applicable as per the procedure laid down by M/s MSTC Ltd. which is available at their website. The bidders are also informed that the condemned/ pre-condemned buses, staff cars and obsolete/unused spare parts of old model buses will be allowed to be lifted only AS IS AND WHERE IS BASIS after completing all Office formalities.

Sd/- General Manager-I, For Divisional Manager CTU & Director Transport, Union Territory, Chandigarh.

NORTHERN RAILWAY  
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, and Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Name of Work   | Approximate Cost of work  | Earnest Money to be deposited                                   | Cost of tender document | Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of Tender | Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| TRR(S) with 60Kg/52Kg rails, 7.678Km under ADEN/NDLS and TRR(S) 6.398 under ADEN/DLI | ₹72,85,138.71 (Rs. Seventy two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight & Seventy One Paise only) | ₹1,45,700 (Rs. One Lakh Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only) | ₹0.00/-                 | 29.12.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.                                      | <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>                     |

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. : 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/31/2020-21/M-3 Dated : 04.12.2020  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2721/20

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male named Samsuddin S/o Late Md. Yunus R/o Unknown. Age about 67 years, Height 5'8", Face oval, Complexion shallow, Built thin, wearing Dharidar Kameez and Dark colour pant was found dead Near Shauchalaya, in front of PS Anand Vihar, Delhi on 30.11.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 76-A dated 30.11.2020 has been lodged at PS Anand Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO PS Anand Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-21210294, 21210296

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited  
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001  
CIN: U40109PB2010SG033813, Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
(O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala)  
OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No 219/2020 of PSPCL:-

| Item No. | Description   | Kty (Qts) | Enquiry No/Year | Last date & time for downloading of tenders | Last date & time for bid submission | Date & time of opening of bids |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.       | Manufacturing, Testing and supply (FOR destination at any place in Punjab) of 1000 Kg SF6 Gas in 100 Nos cylinders each of 10 kg capacity for use in existing 33/66KV SF6 Breakers of various makes installed at various sub stations in PSPCL. | 1000 KG   | 219/ 2020       | 22.12.2020 11.00 AM.                        | 23.12.2020 11.00 AM.                | 24.12.2020 11.30 A.M.          |

EMD Minimum EMD Rs. 22,000/- Rs. 10,000/-

Detailed NIT and Specifications may be downloaded from PSPCL e-Tendering website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, NO CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL e-tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sd/- Dy. CE/Sub-Station Design PSPCL, Patiala.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Tender No. 558-Stg-16-M-TENDER-1356 Dated: 03.12.2020  
Name of work with its location: Signaling work in connection with Provision of Railway siding at Naultha Railway station of Delhi Division.  
App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 68,44,140/- only  
Earnest Money Deposit(₹) ₹ 1,16,900/-only  
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, D.R.M. Office, New Delhi-110055.  
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender: Tender uploading / closing date & time: 30.12.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, D.R.M. office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 2708/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

A TOWNSHIP & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED  
4th Floor, Bus Bhavan, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh  
Notification No.EOI/01/APTIDCO Dt.03.12.2020

APTIDCO Limited is constructing houses under AHP, PMAY (U) in the State of Andhra Pradesh and intended to provide Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) as part of physical infrastructure in the colonies and calling for Expression of Interest (EOI) from the interested candidates in sealed covers in 25 locations across the Andhra Pradesh State. Details will be available in APTIDCO website [www.aptidco.com](http://www.aptidco.com) and for any clarifications please Contact: 9701242200. Last date of submission of EOI is 14th December 2020 upto 14.00hrs. Sealed Envelop containing EOI and Non refundable fees Rs.10,000/- by way of DD in favour of Managing Director, APTIDCO payable by Vijayawada. Sd/- Chief Technical Officer, APTIDCO, Vijayawada  
DIPR No.487PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2020-21, Dt.04/12/2020

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING MINORITY COMPANY)  
(UNDER MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPLOYMENT)  
(An ISO 9001: 2015 Company)  
G.T.Road, Naramau Kanpur-209217  
Visit us: [www.allimco.in](http://www.allimco.in) Email: [mm\\_office@allimco.in](mailto:mm_office@allimco.in), [sm\\_mm1@allimco.in](mailto:sm_mm1@allimco.in)  
Tele Fax 0512-2770437, Ph. 2770474, TOLL FREE NO. 18001805129

E-PROCUREMENT OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. MM/07/31 to 39/AY

Online Bids (Technical & Price Bid) are invited from well established & reputed Manufacturers/suppliers for supply of item as per details indicated below:

| Sl. No. | Tender No.  | Item  | Appx. Estimated Value of Material (Rs. in Lakh) | Due date of Opening of Tender (Technical -Bid) |
|---------|-------------|---|---|--|
| 01      | MM/OT/31/AY | Spectacles for Senior Citizen                       | 159.60  | 29.12.2020                                     |
| 02      | MM/OT/32/AY | Cerebral Palsy (C.P) Chair Wheel Chair With Commode | 380.65  | 29.12.2020                                     |
| 03      | MM/OT/33/AY | Packing Carton                                      | 234.74  | 29.12.2020                                     |
| 04      | MM/OT/34/AY | Surgical Boots & Knees Cap                          | 23.80   | 30.12.2020                                     |
| 05      | MM/OT/35/AY | MSIED Kit   | 588.00  | 28.12.2020                                     |
| 06      | MM/OT/36/AY | RVV Items   | 1300.00   | 28.12.2020                                     |
| 07      | MM/OT/37/AY | Bicycle Bell And Other Bicycle Item                 | 60.79   | 30.12.2020                                     |
| 08      | MM/OT/38/AY | Wheel Assy. For Tricycle                            | 49.46   | 31.12.2020                                     |
| 09      | MM/OT/39/AY | Bicycle Sprocket, Free Wheel & Postal Crank         | 176.26  | 31.12.2020                                     |

Interested Tenderers may download the tender document from ALLIMCO website [www.allimco.in](http://www.allimco.in) (for reference only) and CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp>. Tender Fee of Rs. 600/- as per Tender Terms to be submitted through Payment Gateway available at [www.allimco.in](http://www.allimco.in). All SSIMSE vendors are exempted from tender fee on submission of valid Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM). Tenderers are requested to submit their Offers/Bids Online through E-Tendering Process only on <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp> and send original hard copy of Online Payment Receipt of Tender fee and Sample, if required to reach ALLIMCO office on or before Bid submission end date which will be opened on Bid opening date indicated above. ALLIMCO reserves the right to reject any or all requests/offers without assigning any reason. No corrigendum notice shall be published in the news papers and interested parties have to visit NIC CPPP portal/Corporation's website for updates, if any. For ALLIMCO - SM (Materials)

UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER  
MOHANLAL SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY,  
UDAIPUR-313001

Email: [uncc@mssu.ac.in](mailto:uncc@mssu.ac.in) Website: [www.mssu.ac.in](http://www.mssu.ac.in)  
No.: MLSU/UC/RUSA/2020/02-13 Dated: 03-12-2020

NOTICE INVITING E-BID

Twelve (12) Single stage online unconditional Bids under Two-Cover system are invited for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of various ICT items (Total estimated cost Rs.-3,06,50,000/-) under various projects of RUSA 2.0. For details visit the websites <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/> <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/www.mssu.ac.in>

| NIB Code     | UBN No.           |
|--------------|-------------------|
| SUU2021A0061 | SUU2021GSR00109   |
| SUU2021A0060 | SUU2021GLRC00108  |
| SUU2021A0071 | SUU2021IGSRC00118 |
| SUU2021A0070 | SUU2021IGSRC00117 |
| SUU2021A0069 | SUU2021GSR00116   |
| SUU2021A0067 | SUU2021IGSRC00114 |
| SUU2021A0063 | SUU2021IGSRC00110 |
| SUU2021A0064 | SUU2021IGSRC00111 |
| SUU2021A0065 | SUU2021IGSRC00112 |
| SUU2021A0062 | SUU2021IGSRC00113 |
| SUU2021A0066 | SUU2021IGLOB0011  |

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Mehrajuddin alias Maharajuddin S/o Late Mohd Rahim R/o House No.C-997, Street No.16, Shri Ram Colony, Khajoori, Dayalpur, North East Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Mehrajuddin for all purposes. 0040556790-1

I, Aditya J George S/O Jiju George, R/o Keezhakathu veedu, Pathirapally P O, Alappuzha, Kerala-688521, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditya J. 0070722871-1

I, Parmjit Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o G-56/A, First Floor, Kiran Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 changed my name to Parmjit Singh 0070722899-1

I, Ravi Nankani S/o Mahadev Nankani & Nanki Nankani R/o B-43 Upper Ground Floor, Part-1, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018. Do hereby declare that Nanki & Nanki Nankani is same/one person. 0040556792-1

It is for general information that I, Rampyari Sachdeva, W/o Late. Hans Raj Sachdeva, D/o Jai Ram Dass, R/o H.No.6/24, Gali.No.04, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Rampyari Devi in my Family Pension Payment Order No.103023/2330. The actual name of mine is Rampyari Sachdeva which may be amended accordingly. 0040556875-9

It is for general information that I, Neena Jain, D/o Late. Suresh Chand, W/o Late. Virender Kumar Jain, R/o 46/1-B, Gali, No.15, East Azad Nagar, Delhi-110051, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Alpna Jain in my CBSE-Certificate. The actual name of mine is Neena Jain which may be amended accordingly. 0040556875-8

I, Kumari Kanchan mela, Kanchan bala, Kanchan senger, Kanchan Singh, w/o Sanjeev senger, Add-RZH-65A, gali.no.21, Pul Prahaladpur, delhi-110044, changed my name to Kanchan. 0040556893-6

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Meer Singh Employed as Assistant Commandant / Exe in Central Industrial Security Force (MKA) at CISF Unit ASG Kolkata, West Bengal -700052 and Resident of Vill and Post-Khera Khurampur, Dist- Gurugram, Haryana-122506, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sandeep Lamba. 0070722915-1

I, Radhey Shyam, S/o Laxman Dass R/o E-355 Mandir Marg, Chhajjapur, Babatpur, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Radhey Shyam, for all purposes. 0040556893-7

I, Priyanshu Vimal D/O Vikash kumar, R/O MIG-89 Argora Housing Colony, Argora, Doranda, Ranchi, Doranda, Jharkhand, 834002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ananya Sinha. 0070722874-1

I, Janne Jai Sai Babu, S/o Jagannath Sai Babu, R/o Q-1402, Stellar Jeevan Society, Near-Bisrakh-Village, Noida Extn, UP, have changed my name to Janne Joy Sai Babu. 0040556893-3

I, Hemanshu Duttaram, S/o Raj Pal R/o-Basayach Jansath Muzaffarnagar-251314, UP, have changed my name to Himanshu Kamboj. 0040556893-4

I, Ashok Kumar Yadav, S/O Sh.Sukhdev Yadav, R/o H.No.10, Gali, no.5 Mawal-Road Sai-Nagar Kheri Kalan(113)/Fariadabad Haryana-121002, have changed my name to Ashok Yadav, for all purposes. My DOB is-25.06.1986. 0040556875-6

I, Army No.-14653540N, NK Pradip Banduri, S/o.Late Ratan Chandra Banduri, R/o.QTR.No.P-1/8, CMP Line(TG-HQ-EME), Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt.-110010, have changed my daughter name, from JAGRATI BANDURI, to ARNISTA BANDURI(DOB-04.08.2020), in my service-records, Affidavit.No.(IN-DL13353895569854S) 0040556857-1

I, Urmila Mishra W/o Govind Ram Mishra, R/o E-106, Sector-22, Noida, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, declare that name of mine is wrongly written as Urmila in my, Husband Military Documents instead-of Urmila Mishra. My Correct name is Urmila Mishra for all, future purposes. 0040556875-6

I, Prahlad, S/o Pradeep Tandon, R/o Flat No.33, Sanjay Enclave-Bhalswa Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Himansh Tandon. 0040556893-5

I, PRIYANSHU MAHENDRA S/O HARISH KUMAR R/O-HOUSE-NO-25, BHERA ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110087, have changed my name to PRIYANSHU MAHENDRA for all future purpose. 0040556875-5

I, PRIYANSHU MAHENDRA S/O HARISH KUMAR R/O-HOUSE-NO-25, BHERA ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110087, have changed my name to PRIYANSHU MAHENDRA for all future purpose. 0040556875-5

I, P.I. Surendran Pullickel Ittman S/o Pullickal Govindan Ittman R/o 451-C, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad(U.P) has changed my name to Pullickal Ittman Surendran for all purposes. 0040556823-1

I, Murala Kartikeya S/O Murala Naveen Kumar, R/O 42-620/B Shiva Nagar First Right After Renuka Yellamma Temple Allwyn Colony Kukatpalli Medchal-Malkajgiri, Telangana-500072, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Murala Dhruvan Kartikeya. 0070722889-1

I, K.Babitha Rathod alias Romana Begum K. Babitha Rathod D/o Vittal Rathod W/o Mahamed Jahangir R/o 19-2-180/146/A, N R Colony Near Zoo Park Bahadurpura Hyderabad, Ph-500064, Andhra Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced Hinduism and renounced Islam religion w.e.f. 08/11/2010. I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Romana Begum. 0070722881-1

I, Smt. Naresh Tomar spouse of Shri Satyavir Singh Tomar r/o NP-59, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi, have changed my name from Smt. Naresh Tomar to Naresh Kumari Tomar as per affidavit dt.-26-Nov-2020. 0040556875-7

I, Saurabh Rajendra Prasad Taparia alias Taparia Sourabh Rajendraprasad, S/O Rajendra Prasad Taparia, R/O Flat No-D-201, Konark Excolita, Kesnaad Road, Wagholi, Pune, Maharashtra-412207, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Saurabh Taparia. 0070722886-1

I, Saransh Bukoliya S/O Dharmendra Bukoliya R/o Infront of Nisha Ladnes Tailor, Kashgi Bazar, Gird, Gwalior, Lashkar, Madhya Pradesh-474001, declare that name of mine and my father and my mother has been wrongly Written as Saransh Bukoliya and Dharmendra Bukoliya and Rajkumar Bukoliya. In my 10th Certificate no-0172682. The actual name of mine and my father and my mother are Saransh Sharma and Dharmendra Sharma and Rajkumar Sharma, which may be amended accordingly. 0070722877-1

I, Sanjay Sharma, S/o. Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma, R/o, A-50, Kalyankunj, Barola, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name, from Sanjay Sharma to Sanjay Kumar Sharma in future for all purpose. 0040556893-2

I, Sakshi W/o Sh. Ramesh R/o RZ-88, Pandit Mohalla, Saheed Vill Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, have changed my name Sonia to Sakshi for all future purpose. 0040556875-4

I, Sakshi W/o Sh. Ramesh R/o RZ-88, Pandit Mohalla, Saheed Vill Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, have changed my name Sonia to Sakshi for all future purpose. 0040556875-4

I, Rajeev Kumar Singh S/O Mahavir Prasad Singh R/o A-10, Nanda Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Janardan Prasad Singh in my Pan Card Number: BNGPS2582B. The actual name of my father is Mahavir Prasad Singh. 0070722876-1

I, RADHAKRISHNA ADHIKARI, S/O RADHACHARAN ADHIKARI, R/O D2-A-75, NANAKPURA, SOUTH-MOTIBAGH, NEW DELHI have changed my name to RADHAKRISHNA A. 0040556875-1

I, Priya Srivastava, D/o Dr. Pramod Kumar, R/O, C3-101, Lotus Pond, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., have changed my Minor daughter's name, From Yesnha Aggarwal To Yesnha Srivastava and her correct date-of-birth is 05-03-2016. 0040556857-5

I, Veera Vali Ahuja, W/o Raj Kumar Malik, R/O 2157, Outram-Lane, Kingsway Camp, GTB Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Veera Malik. 0040556875-3

I, Priya Srivastava, D/o Dr. Pramod Kumar, R/O, C3-101, Lotus pond, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., have changed my Minor daughter's name, From Yesnha Aggarwal To Yesnha Srivastava and her correct date-of-birth is 05-03-2013. 0040556857-5

I, Prajapati Bakabhai Kanabhai S/O Kanabhai Bhardarbai Prajapati, R/o Athudam Was, Chibhda, Banaskantha, Gujrat, 385330, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prajapati Rajkumar Kanabhai. 0070722906-1

I, PARVEEN KUMARI, W/O SUBEDAR GIRDHARI LAL, R/O SANYARDI P.O. TALYAHAR TALIHAT (360)MANDI HIMACHAL PRADESH-175001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAVEEN KUMARI. 0040556291-2

I, Neha alias Narbada D/o Sh. Nathu Ram Lekhra W/o Sh. Bhanwar Singh R/o 18/105, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Narbada for all purposes. 0040556790-2

I, Anju, Neeraj Yadav, R/O E.W.S 3511, AWAS VIKAS-3, Kanpur, Kanpur nagar, Uttar pradesh-208017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Archana Yadav. 0070722880-1

I, Ravi Nankani S/o Mahadev Nankani & Nanki Nankani R/o B-43 Upper Ground Floor, Part-1, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018. Do hereby declare that Nanki & Nanki Nankani is same/one person. 0040556792-1

I, Vandana Poudel, D/o Tara Poudel, R/O C-320, DDA-Janta-Flats, Pocket-1 Jasola-Vihar N.Delhi-25, I, have lost my 12th-class certificate Roll.No.9737620, Year-2015, from CBSE-Delhi. 004055671-8

Lost my original DDA NOC for Water & Electricity of my Flat No.105, First Floor, Block-G, Pocket-7, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089. Finder may Contact-Sunita Rangta at above noted address. 0040556797-1

It is notified that my original Admit Card, Mark Sheet, Provisional and Character Certificate of All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) of the year 2019, bearing roll no.3149046, issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned candidate. Sd/- SAGOLSEM ETANU CHANU, Thoubal, Athokpam-9612241025 0050172581-1

I, Bhagwati Devi, W/o Sh. Nawab Singh, R/O 100G, Sector-7, Jasola, New Delhi has lost the original property documents with power of attorney, General power of attorney and will of DDA SFS Flat No. 100G, Ground Floor, Category-3, Sector-7 Jasola New Delhi. 0040556869-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Poonam Devi acquired Land measuring 37.5 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 130-M, situated at Village Sadapur, Pargana & Tehsil Badli, Ghaziabad U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 12.10.1995 executed by Mr. Jeet Singh and Mrs. Poonam Devi is the undivided owner of above said property till date. Or Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property, will be of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or otherwise, who ever, is hereby notified to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such persons shall be treated as null and void also treated as waived and not binding on our client. 0040556893-10

I, Diwan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Diwan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Divan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Sanjay Sharma, S/o. Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma, R/o, A-50, Kalyankunj, Barola, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name, from Sanjay Sharma to Sanjay Kumar Sharma in future for all purpose. 0040556893-2

I, Chandramati Rawat D/O Prem Singh Rawat., R/O B-4846 Street no. 113/1 Sant Nagar Near Kaushal Chowk Burari North delhi -110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Priyanka Chauhan 0070722895-1

I, Bhupathi Muniraja S/O Bhupathi Yarraiah, R/o 3-10, Gowrishetty Park gali, Bodiredigaripalle, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517113, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raja Bhupathi. 0070722893-1

I, Aryan Mahajan S/O Amit Gupta, R/O Bazpur Road Kashipur, Udhham Singh Nagar Uttarakhand-244713, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aryan Mahajann. 0070722891-1

I, Kumar Nisheet S/O Rajesh Kumar, R/O H.No 31 /6 Type 5, Bsnl Colony Delhi-110001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nisheet Kumar. 0070722897-1

I, Arvind S/O Ramdayal Jakhar, R/O House Babu Laxman Singh Colony, outside Mahamandir 3rd pole, Jodhpur Kachery, Rajasthan, 342006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arvind Jakhar. 0070722884-1

I, Priya Srivastava, D/o Dr. Pramod Kumar, R/O, C3-101, Lotus Pond, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., have changed my Minor daughter's name, From Yesnha Aggarwal To Yesnha Srivastava and her correct date-of-birth is 05-03-2016. 0040556857-5

I, Veera Vali Ahuja, W/o Raj Kumar Malik, R/O 2157, Outram-Lane, Kingsway Camp, GTB Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Veera Malik. 0040556875-3

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I, PARVEEN KUMARI, W/O SUBEDAR GIRDHARI LAL, R/O SANYARDI P.O. TALYAHAR TALIHAT (360)MANDI HIMACHAL PRADESH-175001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAVEEN KUMARI. 0040556291-2

I, Neha alias Narbada D/o Sh. Nathu Ram Lekhra W/o Sh. Bhanwar Singh R/o 18/105, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Narbada for all purposes. 0040556790-2

I, Anju, Neeraj Yadav, R/O E.W.S 3511, AWAS VIKAS-3, Kanpur, Kanpur nagar, Uttar pradesh-208017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Archana Yadav. 0070722880-1

I, Ravi Nankani S/o Mahadev Nankani & Nanki Nankani R/o B-43 Upper Ground Floor, Part-1, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018. Do hereby declare that Nanki & Nanki Nankani is same/one person. 0040556792-1

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I, Bhagwati Devi, W/o Sh. Nawab Singh, R/O 100G, Sector-7, Jasola, New Delhi has lost the original property documents with power of attorney, General power of attorney and will of DDA SFS Flat No. 100G, Ground Floor, Category-3, Sector-7 Jasola New Delhi. 0040556869-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Poonam Devi acquired Land measuring 37.5 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 130-M, situated at Village Sadapur, Pargana & Tehsil Badli, Ghaziabad U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 12.10.1995 executed by Mr. Jeet Singh and Mrs. Poonam Devi is the undivided owner of above said property till date. Or Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property, will be of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or otherwise, who ever, is hereby notified to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such persons shall be treated as null and void also treated as waived and not binding on our client. 0040556893-10

I, Diwan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Diwan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Divan Chand, R/o 7J Amrit Puri A East of Kailash, Delhi-65, have changed my minor daughter's name Vanshika Diwan to Vanshika. 0040556893-10

I, Sanjay Sharma, S/o. Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma, R/o, A-50, Kalyankunj, Barola, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name, from Sanjay Sharma to Sanjay Kumar Sharma in future for all purpose. 0040556893-2

I, Chandramati Rawat D/O Prem Singh Rawat., R/O B-4846 Street no. 113/1 Sant Nagar Near Kaushal Chowk Burari North delhi -110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Priyanka Chauhan 0070722895-1

I, Bhupathi Muniraja S/O Bhupathi Yarraiah, R/o 3-10, Gowrishetty Park gali, Bodiredigaripalle, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517113, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raja Bhupathi. 0070722893-1

I, Aryan Mahajan S/O Amit Gupta, R/O Bazpur Road Kashipur, Udhham Singh Nagar Uttarakhand-244713, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aryan Mahajann. 0070722891-1

I, Kumar Nisheet S/O Rajesh Kumar, R/O H.No 31 /6 Type 5, Bsnl Colony Delhi-110001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nisheet Kumar. 0070722897-1

I, Arvind S/O Ramdayal Jakhar, R/O House Babu Laxman Singh Colony, outside Mahamandir 3rd pole, Jodhpur Kachery, Rajasthan, 342006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arvind Jakhar. 0070722884-1

I, Priya Srivastava, D/o Dr. Pramod Kumar, R/O, C3-101, Lotus Pond, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., have changed my Minor daughter's name, From Yesnha Aggarwal To Yesnha Srivastava and her correct date-of-birth is 05-03-2016. 0040556857-5

I, Veera Vali Ahuja, W/o Raj Kumar Malik, R/O 2157, Outram-Lane, Kingsway Camp, GTB Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Veera Malik. 0040556875-3

I, Priya Srivastava, D/o Dr. Pramod Kumar, R/O, C3-101, Lotus pond, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., have changed my Minor daughter's name, From Yesnha Aggarwal To Yesnha Srivastava and her correct date-of-birth is 05-03-2013. 0040556857-5

I, Prajapati Bakabhai Kanabhai S/O Kanabhai Bhardarbai Prajapati, R/o Athudam Was, Chibhda, Banaskantha, Gujrat, 385330, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prajapati Rajkumar Kanabhai. 0070722906-1

I, PARVEEN KUMARI, W/O SUBEDAR GIRDHARI LAL, R/O SANYARDI P.O. TALYAHAR TALIHAT (360)MANDI HIMACHAL PRADESH-175001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAVEEN KUMARI. 0040556291-2

I, Neha alias Narbada D/o Sh. Nathu Ram Lekhra W/o Sh. Bhanwar Singh R/o 18/105, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Narbada for all purposes. 0040556790-2

I, Anju, Neeraj Yadav, R/O E.W.S 3511, AWAS VIKAS-3, Kanpur, Kanpur nagar, Uttar pradesh-208017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Archana Yadav. 0070722880-1

I, Ravi Nankani S/o Mahadev Nankani & Nanki Nankani R/o B-43 Upper Ground Floor, Part-1, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018. Do hereby declare that Nanki & Nanki Nankani is same/one person. 0040556792-1

I, Vandana Poudel, D/o Tara Poudel, R/O C-320, DDA-Janta-Flats, Pocket-1 Jasola-Vihar N.Delhi-25, I, have lost my 12th-class certificate Roll.No.9737620, Year-2015, from CBSE-Delhi. 004055671-8

Lost my original DDA NOC for Water & Electricity of my Flat No.105, First Floor, Block-G, Pocket-7, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089. Finder may Contact-Sunita Rangta at above noted address. 0040556797-1

It is notified that my original Admit Card, Mark Sheet, Provisional and Character Certificate of All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) of the year 2019, bearing roll no.3149046, issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned candidate. Sd/- SAGOLSEM ETANU CHANU, Thoubal, Athokpam-9612241025 0050172581-1

I, Bhagwati Devi, W/o Sh. Nawab Singh, R/O 100G, Sector-7, Jasola, New Delhi has lost the original property documents with power of attorney, General power of attorney and will of DDA SFS Flat No. 100G, Ground Floor, Category-3, Sector-7 Jasola New Delhi. 0040556869-1

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



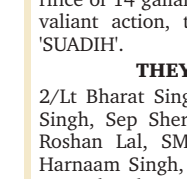
Shri Vijay Singh Deputy Commandant



SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL



HC/GD RAJ KISHOR PRASAD CCL KARGALI



9 DOGRA: BATTLE HONOUR SUADHI

Today, 49 Years Later, with great humility as well as pride, we remember 2/Lt Bharat Singh Kasana, Vir Chakra (Posthumous) and 13 other gallant sons of "NINTH THE ULTIMATE" who embraced martyrdom to create our history. The battle cry "Jwala Mata ki Jai" charged the atmosphere at Suadhi in erstwhile East Pakistan on 4th December 1971 as 9 DOGRA launched an attack in broad daylight on a well entrenched enemy. In the bloody battle that followed supreme sacrifice of 14 gallant sons of the battalion to ensure victory. For this valiant action, the battalion was awarded the battle honour 'SUADHI'.

THEY MADE THE BATTALION PROUD

2/Lt Bharat Singh Kasana, VrC, Sep Jagdish Singh, Sub Onkar Singh, Sep Sherg Singh, Hav Janak Singh, Sep Janak Raj, NK Roshan Lal, SM Sep Janak Singh, L/Nk Diwan Chand, Sep Harnaam Singh, L/Nk Deputy Singh, SM, Sep Paras Ram, L/Nk Ram Chander, SM, Sep Bharat Singh

Commanding Officer and All Rank of 9 DOGRA

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI

ISER Mohali

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur E-TENDER

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

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ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

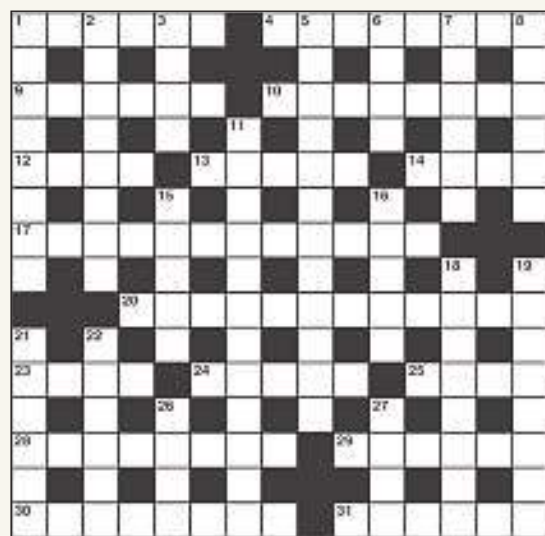
ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

ISERM/1412/2021 Pur

ISERM/14

## CROSSWORD 4294



- ACROSS**
- Tom let loose on the ranch (6)
  - Say I'd go after a government subsidy (5,3)
  - Honour I dream about (6)
  - He keeps a servant (8)
  - Standard feature of Saturn or Mars (4)
  - Drive from a tee into open country (5)
  - An element of quartz in crystal (4)
  - A leading actor in a Western? (8,4)
  - They rise or fall to some degree (12)
  - Scandinavian cooked loaf (4)
  - He may be wed in the end (5)
  - Wise men having a different image out East (4)
  - Type of vandalism that is so effective! (8)
  - Cultural centre? (6)
  - See 16 Down
  - Rebel about some measure of power (6)
- DOWN**
- Relatively close? (8)
  - Twenty-four hours from now (8)
  - Learning a new role (4)
  - What an expert in depreciation makes? (3,5,2,2)
  - An amphibian to notice (4)
  - A free family woman (6)
  - Manage to show the way (6)
  - Hop out of town (7,5)
  - Feeling irritable? (5)
  - 16 and 30 Across: Caught fighting? (5,8)
  - Andy's one to provide a non-committal answer (3,3,2)
  - Revolutionary paper money (8)
  - An active talker maybe but the talk is idle (6)
  - Where in Africa one supports the law to some degree (6)
  - Bespoke greeting in American state (4)
  - Overweight Oriental with fortune (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4293:** Across: 1 Packs, 4 Realism, 8 Lot, 9 Impromptu, 10 Reredos, 11 Nudge, 13 Mickey Mouse, 15 Edison, 18 Reset, 19 Default, 21 Sprouting, 23 Bar, 24 Segment, 25 Tidal, Down: 1 Pilgrim, 2 Cataracts, 3 Shield, 4 Repose, 5 Adomed, 6 Imp, 12 Disturbed, 14 Enthuse, 16 Natural, 17 Adrift, 18 Roses, 20 Fight, 22 Rig.

## 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 clue.

Sometimes love is stronger than a man's \_\_\_\_ - Isaac Bashevis Singer (11)

**LPIOO**      **AEICNN**

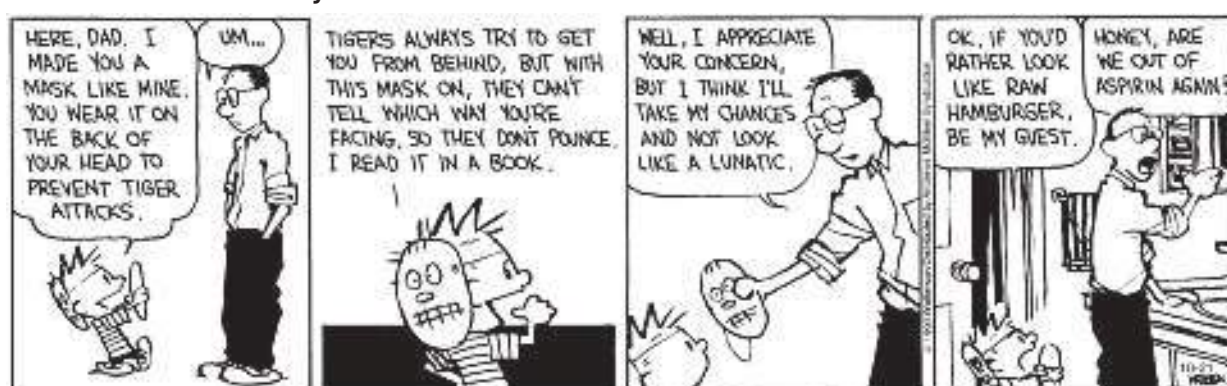
**TINGS**      **AELOCV**

Answer: Sometimes love is stronger than a man's **convictions** - Isaac Bashevis Singer

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4313

**Difficulty Level 2s**  
**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.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 7 |   | 2 |   |   |   | 9 |
| 2 |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 4 | 5 |   |   | 1 | 3 |   |
| 1 | 5 | 8 |   | 7 |   | 3 | 4 |   |
|   | 2 | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 | 4 |   |   | 8 | 5 |   |   | 1 |
|   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 7 | 5 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4312

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 |

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित महारवन्द निविदाएं दो भागों में अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से निम्न कार्य के सम्पादन हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। प्रत्येक निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर राशि एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. (राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक) के रूप में अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के पक्ष में देय हो एव इन्कम टैक्स एवं पैन नं०, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण प्रपत्र की छाया प्रति तथा अनुभव सम्बंधी प्रपत्र अवश्य होने चाहिए अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदा का भाग-2 विचारणीय नहीं होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र कार्यालय समय में निविदा खुलने के एक दिवस पूर्व 16:00 बजे तक कार्यालय से ही अवापसीय निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य भुगतान कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाएं अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में निविदा खुलने की निर्धारित दिनांक को 14:00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जायेंगी और उसी दिन सार्वजनिक रूप से ठेकेदारों अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में 15:00 बजे खोली जायेंगी आमंत्रित निविदाएं विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। टी-99/20-21 (निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि 31-12-2020) उपमाहाप्रबन्धक (लेखा), पारेषण पश्चिम, मेरठ हेतु एक नग डीजल चलित कार, (चालक सहित) किराये पर उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 4,000.00/- (रुपये चार हजार मात्र), निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य रु. 590.00/- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। 'राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें'। पत्रांक 5047/वि.पा.म./मेरठ/02/12/2020

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, S.N. MEDICAL COLLEGE, AGRA-282002

**Tender Notice No.:** SPS/2020-21/13069-72 **Dated:** 28/11/2020

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE**

The eTenders are invited in financial year 2020-21 from high quality manufacturing firms or their Indian distributors, of repute, for supply and installation of the various equipments for the S.N. Medical College, Agra. Tender forms can be downloaded and uploaded between the dates 09-12-2020 to 17-12-2020. Tender fee and EMD should reach in the office of Principal, S.N. Medical College, Agra upto 17-12-2020 till 5.00 P.M. Technical bids of the tenders received, will be opened by 2.00 P.M. on 18-12-2020 in the office of the Principal, S.N. Medical College, Agra. If any working day as due date is observed as holiday, the next working day will be treated as the due date. The EMD will be accepted in the form of FDR/TDR of Nationalized Bank, pledged in the name of the Principal, S.N. Medical College, Agra. The quantity of equipment may increase or decrease. The Principal as aforesaid has sole discretion of accepting/rejecting any tender and reserves his right to post-spone or refuse the purchase of any item notified in this tender. In case of any legal dispute, the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Agra (U.P.) India. This tender notice can be viewed on our authorized tender website <https://etender.up.nic.in> and [www.snmcagra.ac.in](http://www.snmcagra.ac.in) of S.N. Medical College, Agra.

| S. No. | Name of Equipment | Qty. Required | Tender Fees with GST | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) |
|--------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1      | VENTILATOR        | 02 No.        | 1180.00              | Rs. 64,000.00               |

UPID No.157474 DATE-02.12.2020  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

Sd/- Principal  
S.N. Medical College, Agra.

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदाओं दो भागों में जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ऑन लाईन ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाइट 'http://etender.up.nic.in' पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा मूल्य जी०एस०टी० सहित तथा धरोहर राशि आर०टी०जी०एस०/एन०एफ०आई०टी० बैंक गारण्टी के माध्यम से अधीक्षाधी अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, शाखा-जोया (जिला-अमरोहा) में संचालित चालू खाता सं० (Current Account)-30723557626, IFSC Code- SBIN 0007413, MICR No. 244002026 में टेंडर खुलने की दिनांक से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा करें। अन्य नियम व शर्त विभाग के निर्धारित नियम व शर्त उ०प्र०पावर कारपोरेशन के फार्म ए/बी के अनुसार होगी जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा लि० पोर्टल वेबसाइट पर निविदा खुलने के अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय तक उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा में किसी भी संशोधन या तिथि विस्तार ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर अवश्य देख लिया जाए। (अ) अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा खुलने की दिनांक-15.12.2020 1. ई-निविदा संख्या-148/ई०टी०सी०डि०/एम०/2020 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के अन्तर्गत 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र गजरोला पर 220/132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र गजरोला पर 220/132 के०वी० 160 एमवीए वीएचईएल मेक परिवर्तक के ऑयल की सेन्टीफ्यूजिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 2000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य रु० 590/ (ब) अल्पकालीन ई निविदा खुलने की दिनांक-22.12.2020 3. ई-निविदा संख्या-150/ई०टी०सी०डि०/एम०/2020-विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के अन्तर्गत 120 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र अमरोहा पर स्थापित 220 एमवीए-II बीबीएल मेक परिवर्तक की ऑयल लीकेज को रोकने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 2000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य रु० 590/ (स) ई निविदा खुलने की दिनांक-02.01.2021 4. ई-निविदा संख्या-151/ई०टी०सी०डि०/एम०/2020 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के अन्तर्गत 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र गजरोला-मेटीर लाईन के सम्यन्तन टॉवरों पर 70 के०एन० पोसलीन डिस्क इन्सुलेटर लगाने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 5000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य रु० 590/ "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" हस्ता/- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत पारेषण मंडल द्वितीय उ०प्र० पावर ट्रांस. कार्पो. लि. मुरादाबाद। पत्रांक 2563 वि.पा.म.डि.मु./ई-निविदा/2020 दिनांक 04/12/2020

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**e-Tender Notice for the Supply of Stores, No. E-66205360A**  
Dy. CMM/RSKOTA on behalf of the President of India, invites the following advertised tender through E-procurement System. No manual postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) for details and for submission of Tender.

| Sr. No. | Tender No. | Short Description                           | Tendered Qty. | Opening Date          | Estimated Value (INR) |
|---------|------------|---|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01      | 66205360A  | Spring Loaded side besser assembly complete | 1280 Nos.     | 08.01.2021 12.30 Hrs. | 1,07,50,484/-         |

Dy. Chief Material Manager,  
Wagon Repair Shop, W.C. Rly., Kota

पत्रा संख्या के दौरान विद्यमान हेतु 138 पर एवं पुत्रा हेतु 182 पर शर्त करें।

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(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), BILASPUR (C.G.)  
E-mail: [deanetgv@gmail.com](mailto:deanetgv@gmail.com) Contact: +917999923520, 7587195566

Adv. Ref. No. 239/Academic/2020 **Date:** 04.12.2020  
**SPOT/LOCAL LEVEL COUNSELING FOR B.TECH ADMISSION AGAINST VACANT SEATS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21**

The School of Studies of Engineering & Technology, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (CG) is going to conduct Spot/Local Counseling process for B.Tech. Admission from 5th December 2020 for session 2020-21 against a few vacant seats in the seven branches of Engineering i.e. Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Information Technology, Industrial & Production Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Interested candidates shall apply online during 05.12.2020 to 11.12.2020. The detailed information about seats availability and procedure of admission is available on the website [www.ggu.ac.in](http://www.ggu.ac.in)

Registrar (Acting)

**CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**  
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**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING CORRIGENDUM/TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE**

Tenders have been invited in CMWSSB Board for the following work. The due date for submission of the Prequalification application has been extended as indicated below.

| Sl. No. | Tender No. and Name of work  | Original Due Date | 1st Extended due Date | 2nd Extended due Date | Prequalification Application Documents available upto |
|---------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1       | Construction of 400 MLD Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Perur, Chennai with 20 years of Operation and Maintenance (DBO Basis) CMWSSB/CNT/WSS/ICB/JICA/DESAL/CP01/018/2020-2021 | 01.12.2020        | 16.12.2020            | 05.01.2021            | 04.01.2021  |

All the other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered.  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)  
DIPR/4509/Tender/2020

**PNIE-T NO:- 106/EE/PWD(DWS)/AMB/2020-21**  
Percentage rated e-tender in 2 (Two) bids are invited for the following work:-

| Sl No | DNIEt No                          | Estimated Cost | Deadline for bidding | Place, Time & date of opening of Technical bid   |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| 1     | DNIE-T No.:03/CE/PWD(DWS)/2020-21 | 36056941.00    | 22-12-2020           | Up to 15.30 Hrs on 23-12-2020 Office of the Executive Engineer, DWS Division, Ambassa, Jawaharnagar, if possible |

All details can be seen in the office of the undersigned. NB: This detailed press notice & bid documents for the work can be seen on website [www.tripuratenders.gov.in](http://www.tripuratenders.gov.in) at free of cost. The bid can only be submitted after uploading the mandatory scanned documents as specified in this tender document on the e-Procurement website [www.tripuratenders.gov.in](http://www.tripuratenders.gov.in)

For details please visit [www.tripuratenders.gov.in](http://www.tripuratenders.gov.in) and for any query please contact:- 9436355955

For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura.  
Sd/-  
(Er. H.Chakma)  
Executive Engineer  
DWS Division, Ambassa,  
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# India win by substitution method

Coming in as Jadeja's concussion substitute, Chahal upstages Aussies while unheralded Natarajan shines on T20 debut

SANDIP G  
DECEMBER 4

THERE WERE two contenders for the title of Destiny's Child on Friday. First was Yuzvendra Chahal, ignored after the Sydney drubbings, he made the most of a lucky break as a concussion substitute after Ravindra Jadeja suffered a knock on the helmet. The second was T Natarajan, who left a telling impression in his debut T20 for the country, an adequate reward for the hardships he had waded through in life to reach this level. Their three-wicket hauls guaranteed that India got the better of Australia by 11 runs, after Jadeja's cameo had turbo-jetted the visitors to a competitive 161/7, and left Canberra on a happy note.

Chahal's entry angered Australia coach Justin Langer and he indulged in a raging discussion with match referee David Boon at the start of Australia's chase. Jadeja seemed to have hurt his hamstring in the penultimate over and had the team physio strap his right leg. That didn't prevent him from plundering 14 runs off the last three balls of the over. Then in the 20th over, a top edge hit his helmet, but the physio didn't appear and the game continued without interruption as the left-hander hit two more boundaries. But between the innings, he was diagnosed with symptoms of delayed concussion and Boon agreed to a 'like-for-like' substitution. Langer probably believed the rule was misused and Jadeja had nothing more than a hamstring strain.

It would have angered the coach further when he saw Chahal rekindle his lost fizz. For much of the Sydney leg, he seemed woefully undercut and unusually over-experimental. Here, he was almost back to his best.

It's the run-up that betrays Chahal's state of mind. In Sydney, he was hurrying through his bowling action, an offshoot of which was a quicker release and less control over his deliveries. He would end up just tossing the ball benignly to the batsmen. But at the Manuka Oval, his strides were slower and shorter, with the even-paced rhythm of a well-oiled pendulum. The ball left his wrists smoothly, and danced and dangled in the air, before dipping on the



Yuzvendra Chahal celebrates the wicket of Mathew Wade. BCCI/Twitter

batsmen. The controlled flight and devious dip mattered, as Finch would vouch. He was batting freely and thought he had the full blade behind a lofted drive, but his stride was not enough to reach where the ball eventually landed and he ended up miscuing it almost towards extra cover, where Hardik Pandya hurled himself at the ball after a 20-yard sprint.

The wicket was crucial on several counts. The Finch-D'Arcy Short alliance of 56 runs had put the Australians in the driver's seat to chase down the target. It was also the time India looked frustrated on the field after dropping two catches, the second one by skipper Virat Kohli himself. The wicket not only brought India back into the game but also arrested Australia's momentum, which they never recovered.

In his next over, Chahal delivered a bigger scalp. He coerced a false stroke off Steve Smith. It was dip that primarily undid Smith, though Sanju Samson's catch deserves equal praise.

Leaving a largely vacant space on the leg-side, Chahal tempted Smith into a leg-side swipe, which he does almost instinctively. It seemed destined to land in no man's land before Samson galloped in and flung full-length forward to swallow the catch. The nemesis gone, India snatched the initiative.

But there still was Glenn Maxwell, who had been in irrepressible form. And pretty much Destiny's Child in ODIs. But enter Natarajan, the left-armed with the smartest yorker in the country. Probably, Maxwell second-guessed that Natarajan would slither one on his toes and thought he could scoop or paddle a boundary behind the wicketkeeper. But Natarajan is not just a one-trick pony. He bowled the cross-seamer that landed on leg-stump and seamed away just enough to trap the batsman in front. The umpire unmoved, Kohli instantly reviewed, whereupon the decision was overturned.

Thus from 56/0, Australia capitulated to

75/3, the three wickets crucially being their match-winners. From thereon, India tightened the noose. Short and Moises Henriques, both capable batsmen, seemed to stabilise Australia. But Natarajan then chimed in with his second important strike of the day by removing the opener, Short, with another cross-seamer that lost its pace after pitching.

He thus demonstrated that it's not only his yorkers that are to be dreaded but his variations too. What he lacks in speed, Natarajan makes up with his smarts. Then as if to remind that his most potent weapon is still the yorker, he produced a textbook one to demolish the stumps of Mitchell Starc, another fine executioner of the yorker.

In between, Chahal removed the dangerous Matthew Wade and Deepak Chahar terminated a defiant Moises Henriques to stub out the last lingering hopes of an Australian comeback. They ensured that Jadeja's splendid work with the bat was not wasted. But for his 44 off 23 balls, India would have settled for a sub-150 total which Australia would have strolled past.

The all-rounder continued his irrepressible batting form with another thrilling exhibition of stroke-play. Poor Josh Hazlewood, his Chennai Super Kings colleague, who was plundered for a match-altering 23 runs in the 19th over, Jadeja was motoring at a run-a-ball 12 before ransacking 32 off his last 11 balls. Starc too was dished out some harsh treatment, as the Indian total soared in the last two overs. A better death-over enforcer, if under-utilised, is difficult to find in contemporary cricket. It's tempting to say that all the years spent with Mahendra Singh Dhoni has influenced Jadeja's batting, especially how he paces his innings. All bodes well for India in the build-up to the T20 World Cup next year. In this light, Natarajan's comeback couldn't have been better timed either - India have been searching long for a yorker-emitting left-arm bowler, though Chahal would run away with the Destiny's Child spectre in this game.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India 161/7 (Rahul 51, Jadeja 44\*, Henriques 3-22, Starc 2-34) beat Australia 150/7 (Finch 35, Short 34, Chahal 3-25, Natarajan 3-30) by 11 runs.

# Concussion substitute remains a grey area

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 4

CONTROVERSY ERUPTED for the first time during India's ongoing tour of Australia, as Yuzvendra Chahal came in as a concussion substitute for Ravindra Jadeja in the opening T20I and ended up being the player of the match for his three wickets. The Australian team management disagreed with match referee David Boon's decision to allow India a concussion substitute despite Jadeja not being given a concussion test on the spot.

## The incident

On the second ball of the final over during India's innings, bowled by Mitchell Starc, Jadeja top-edged a back-of-a-length delivery into his helmet. The ball went towards backward point where the catch was dropped. Jadeja wasn't checked by the Indian team physio on the spot following the incident and he played three more balls after that and hit two boundaries. In the previous over, Jadeja had grabbed his hamstring and the physio went out to treat him. He was seen struggling with his running between the wickets and the injury apparently had put a question mark over his participation in the rest of the match.

## The controversy

With Jadeja to be assessed by the medical team, India asked for a concussion sub during the innings break, which was approved by the match referee. The decision didn't go down well with Australia coach Justin Langer, as he was seen having a heated conversation with Boon. Australia captain Aaron Finch was present as well. Langer left the conversation visibly annoyed. Although Jadeja wasn't given a concussion test on the spot, it's not unusual for symptoms to show up belatedly.

The ICC concussion management guidelines allow concussion test at the end of the over as well - "At the end of the over, if the player resumes play after having sustained a blow on the head." In this case, the end of the over marked the end of the innings and Jadeja was assessed af-



Jadeja has been ruled out of the rest of the T20 series due to concussion. BCCI/Twitter

ter he returned to the dressing-room.

## The rule

Rule 12.7.3 of the ICC playing conditions for concussion substitution states: "The ICC Match Referee should ordinarily approve a Concussion Replacement Request if the replacement is a like-for-like player whose inclusion will not excessively advantage his team for the remainder of the match." Rule 12.7.7 states: "The decision of the ICC Match Referee in relation to any Concussion Replacement Request shall be final and neither team shall have any right of appeal."

## The grey area

The 'like-for-like' phrase is a grey area here. Jadeja is a left-arm spin-allrounder, while Chahal who replaced him is a right-arm leg-spinner. Speaking to cricket.com.au, Australia all-rounder Moises Henriques questioned if Chahal was the right player to replace Jadeja. "I think the only real issue is you've got to ask yourself was it a like-for-like replacement? Is he (Jadeja) an (sic) out-and-out spinner?" Henriques said.

## The clarification

Last year, ICC general manager (cricket) Geoff Allardice tried to clarify the 'like-for-like' issue. "Every circumstance is going to be different depending on when the player is requested to be replaced," Allardice told reporters at Edgbaston, adding: "...it's very much around what is the likely role of the injured player for rest of the match and who is most like-for-like with the role that player will play."

## BRIEFLY

### Williamson hits 251, puts NZ in dominant position

**Hamilton:** The second day of the first Test between New Zealand and the West Indies belonged to Kane Williamson. The New Zealand captain, whose actions and decisions shaped the day, scored 251, his third double century and highest score in tests, before making an assertive declaration at 519-7 early in the final session. Williamson's innings came to an end 14 runs before his declaration but he courteously waited for Kyle Jamieson to complete his maiden half century before calling his batsmen in at 4.25pm, with around 26 overs left in the day. At stumps the West Indies, depleted by minor injuries to batsman Darren Bravo and wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich, were 49 without loss. Bravo has a sprained ankle and Dowrich an injured hand. Openers Kraigg Braithwaite (20) and John Campbell (22) batted doggedly through the late afternoon to ensure the tourists went to stumps with all 10 wickets intact. **AP BRIEF SCORES:** West Indies 49/0 (Campbell 22\*, Braithwaite 20\*) trail New Zealand 519/7 dec (Williamson 251, Latham 86, Jamieson 51\*, Gabriel 3-89, Roach 3-114) by 470 runs.

### SA-Eng game postponed after player tests positive

**Cape Town:** The first one-day international between South Africa and England was postponed Friday after another player tested positive for the coronavirus in the host teams' secure bio-bubble. The game, the first of three ODIs, was postponed to Sunday, the two cricket federations said. Cricket South Africa and the England and Wales Cricket Board said the decision was made "in the interests of the safety and well-being of both teams, match officials and all involved in the match." The CEOs of both boards, Kugandrie Govender of CSA and Tom Harrison of the ECB, agreed to the postponement. The player, who was not named, is the third South African player to test positive during the England tour, which began in mid-November. One player tested positive for the virus before the teams went into the bubble at a Cape town hotel, while a second tested positive in the bubble and before the recent Twenty20 series. England won that series 3-0. **AP**

## Betting ads during cricket streaming: I&B ministry steps in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

TAKING A dim view of online betting companies advertising on Indian platforms, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has instructed the private satellite channels to ensure that 'advertisements do not promote any activity which is prohibited by statute or law.'

In an advisory issued to 'all private satellite TV channels' on Friday, the government said concerns were expressed that advertisements on online gaming, which includes betting, and fantasy sports were misleading and not adhering to the 'Advertising Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Consumer Protection Act, 2019.'

"It had come to the notice of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that a large number of advertisements on Online Gaming, Fantasy Sports, etc have been appearing on television," the MIB stated. "Concerns were expressed that such advertisements appear to be misleading, do not correctly convey to the consumers the financial and other risks associated thereof, are not in strict conformity with the Advertising Code."

The *Indian Express* reported on Thursday two online betting companies ran direct advertising campaigns during the live streaming of the India-Australia one-day international series on SonyLIV, allowing users from India to place bets online using the Indian banking system. Online sports betting is prohibited in all states and union territories, except Sikkim.

Experts had flagged concerns over the development, saying it violated the The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) guidelines, which state that "advertisements shall not propagate products, the use of which is banned under the law". ASCI had said their guidelines cover the content of advertisements of real-money gaming that appear on any platform, including OTT.

In its advisory, the MIB reiterated the rule. "In the light of the above, all broadcasters are advised that the Guidelines issued by ASCI are complied with and advertisements broadcast on television adhere to the aforementioned Guidelines of ASCI," the MIB said.

"It may also be ensured that advertisements do not promote any activity which is prohibited by statute or law." The MIB also reiterated the guidelines for online gaming and fantasy sports, which were released on November 24 and will be enforced from December 15. According to the regulation, ads related to online gaming for real money must have proper disclaimers in relation to under-age participants as



A television grab of the Betway ad.

well as the potential financial risks.

"The advertisements should not present 'Online gaming for real money winnings' as an income opportunity or alternate employment option," it added. "The advertisement should not suggest that a person engaged in gaming activity is in any way more successful as compared to others."

## Self-regulation for fantasy leagues?

Niti Aayog on Friday published a draft for discussion to regulate online fantasy sports platforms in India. Online fantasy sports like Dream11, Mobile Premier League and My11Circle, among others, have been accused of treading a fine line between sports betting and fantasy gaming. These games are banned in several states, which have strict gambling laws. However, recent High Court verdicts have said these are games of skill and not chance and therefore do not amount to gambling.

"Fantasy sports contests do not have independent legal recognition, having to shelter under an undefined exception to the state gambling and public order laws," the draft stated. "Formal recognition of the fantasy sports industry and providing for principle-led governance would enable Indian OFSP (Online Fantasy Sports Platform) operators to focus on innovation and achieve scale and expand their operations in a clear and principle-based regulatory environment, achieving the mission of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative and the Prime Minister's vision of Indian-made and developed applications flourishing and succeeding in India and outside India as well."

The government's think-tank has said 'self-regulation must also be the preferred mode of governance to ensure ongoing transparency, consumer protection and accountability.' It also suggested guiding principles for the industry, which it says 'may be treated as a uniform "regulatory sandbox".'

Niti Aayog has invited comments till December 19, following which a formal paper will be prepared. The final decision on the issue will be with the Cabinet based on the draft prepared by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

## Cardiac Catherization & access to heart through wrist route

ADVERTORIAL

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION is a common procedure used to diagnose and treat certain cardiac conditions. It is a procedure doctors use for diagnosing and treating cardiovascular diseases including coronary artery disease. The method involves threading a long, thin tube (called a catheter) through an artery or vein in the leg or arm into the heart. It can be used both to diagnose and treat cardiac problems. Currently most common use of cardiac catheterization is to identify block in the arteries and treat it by angioplasty and stent implantation. This procedure is performed by an interventional cardiologist.

## WHEN IS THE NEED FOR CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION?

There are many reasons you might need this procedure. You may need it if you are having chest pain, or an abnormal stress test due to coronary artery disease. It is also used to diagnose certain heart problems like heart failure, congenital heart diseases, valvular heart problems, and to take biopsy of heart. It also helps your healthcare provider determine a treatment plan.

If you have a known blockage in a coronary artery, you may need a cardiac catheterization using a technique called coronary angioplasty. Coronary angioplasty involves passing a balloon over a wire at the site of blockage and inflating it which presses the plaque to the side of the blood vessel, that increases blood flow through the artery. A stent is often placed at the blockage site to keep the vessel open.

Healthcare providers also use cardiac catheterization to do other procedures on the heart. For example, they can use it to open a narrowed heart valve. It is less invasive than open heart surgery.

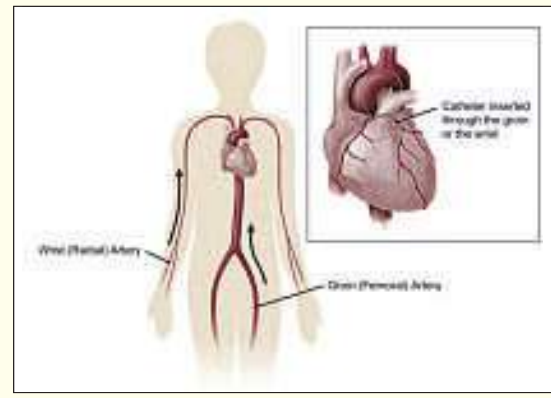
## WAYS TO REACH THE HEART

During these procedures, doctors can gain access to the heart's arteries by placing the catheter in the femoral artery and threading it up and into the heart. The femoral artery is a major artery in your groin area. Even though this is the traditional method and is usually safe sometimes femoral artery access can cause discomfort as patients need to lie very still for at least 5 hours to make sure that the puncture site in the femoral artery does not bleed again.

But the femoral artery is not the only route that can be used to reach the heart. Doctors can also use the radial artery, which is an artery in your wrist. Because the radial artery in the wrist is more superficial than the femoral artery in the groin, it much easier to apply direct pressure to the puncture site to stop the bleeding. With the advent of radial artery access for coronary angiography has made it a day care procedure. Also, radial artery access allows many patients to get out of bed and walk around right after their procedure. However, some procedures require large bore access and in them femoral artery can only be used for access to heart.

## WHY DOCTORS MAY PREFER RADIAL ACCESS TO HEART

Angiograms in most instances can be easily and conveniently done through the wrist, puncturing the radial artery. This approach is an extremely safe and simple procedure which obviates the need for bed rest. Patient can immediately walk after the procedure if he or she is otherwise well. Moreover, in many cases the same day discharge after the pro-



**Dr. Ritesh Sanguri**  
Senior Consultant,  
Interventional Cardiology,  
Venkateshwar Hospital, Dwarka

cedure after several hours of observation is possible. Once blockages are found, angioplasty and stenting is performed in the same sitting through the same route, hence making it more convenient and faster.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS WITH RADIAL ARTERY ACCESS?

The procedure is safe, but there can be a risk of bleeding. Sometimes there are anatomical variations which may require femoral artery access to complete the procedure.

## HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

The procedure length will vary depending on what you are having done. With just a diagnostic cardiac catheterization, the procedure may only take 15-20 minutes or so.

In nutshell diagnostic cardiac catheterization is a simple minimally invasive day care procedure which now can be performed through radial access from wrist with utmost safety and without any discomfort to patient.

Issued in Public Interest by  
Dr Ritesh

The views/suggestions/opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the experts.