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INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP



VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 TO BEGIN

First shot at recovery today

PM to launch rollout, 3,006 vaccination sites for 3 crore priority groups

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

ON SATURDAY, India begins the world's largest immunisation exercise against Covid-19, which has so far infected more than a crore people and killed more than 1.5 lakh in the country. On Day 1, at 3,006 session sites, around 100 beneficiaries each from the 3 crore priority group comprising healthcare and front-line workers will be given the first shots of Covid-19 vaccines, after the rollout is launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Detailed backend preparations up to the block level have gone into the immunisation drive, taking into account both the experience from India's Universal Immunisation Programme and the booth strategy during elections.

A technical support team based in Delhi will operate 24x7 to address any issues related to the flagship Co-WIN platform, which will hold real-time information on the vaccination drive, including stocks, storage temperature, and individualised tracking of beneficiaries. Experts will be at hand on the platform to address everything from technical glitches reported from vaccination sites to any adverse events following immunisation. There is a designated Adverse Event Following Immunisation Management Centre, to which every session site in the country has been linked.

A 'Communication Control

THE COUNTDOWN

COVID TALLY
1 crore cases 1.5 lakh deaths
3,006 Vaccination sites

DAY 1:
100-odd to be vaccinated at each site

INFRASTRUCTURE
2,900 cold chain points
240 walk-in coolers
70 walk-in freezers
45,000 ice-lined refrigerators
41,000 deep freezers
300 solar refrigerators

PERSONNEL
2,360 trained at central level; 5.7 LAKH vaccination team members at state level
BUDGET
₹480 cr to states for first phase

CO-WIN: 24X7 support team, for technical glitches, adverse events

Room' at the Union Ministry of Health will closely monitor any "disinformation campaign and rumour mongering" regarding the two vaccines to be administered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the LNJP Hospital in New Delhi Friday, ahead of the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination drive across the country. Praveen Khanna

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

VACCINE EFFICACY NEEDS NUTRITION BOOSTER
BY K SRINATH REDDY

WITH HOPE

Vaccination Day marks a nation's gratitude to its Covid warriors —and opens a new chapter of hope with caution

PAGE 10

Aise hi Covid khatam hoga: Over 8,000 to get vaccine in capital today

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

FROM NURSING orderlies to top doctors, a total 8,100 healthcare workers who have for months fought the Covid-19 pandemic from the front in Delhi, will receive doses of the vaccine on Saturday, the first day of India's

mass inoculation drive.

"Public ko dikhana hai, aise hi Covid khatam hoga (We have to show the public, this is how Covid-19 will end)," said 28-year-old Pavitra Chaturvedi, a nursing orderly at the capital's Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital.

Chaturvedi, who has been posted in the Covid ward of the

Delhi government-run hospital since the beginning of the pandemic, was elated and emotional to be among those who will receive the first shots of the vaccine.

"Last year was a critical time for all of us. Bhagwan se maangte hain ki aisa time fir kabhi na aaye. (We pray to God, may we never have to see such a time again),"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

On farmers, SC flagged no consultation, let it hear us on J&K: Omar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

FORMER CHIEF Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and vice-president of J&K National Conference Omar Abdullah Friday said the Supreme Court needs to immediately step in to hear and decide the petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A on the lines of its recent intervention on the farm laws.

"It is not like the Supreme Court is not working at all. We have seen the Supreme Court take cognizance of what is happening with the farmer protests and step into those. If the farmer protests can invite the attention of the Supreme Court and their observations can include words that 'this did not seem to include any consultation'... then there were no consultations with J&K before what happened on 5th of August, 2019. By that same yardstick of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Omar Abdullah at the Idea Exchange on Friday. Express

EXPLAINED

May become impossible to turn clock back

THE SUPREME Court's delay in taking up the matter related to the constitutional changes in J&K could result in the new situation becoming permanent, and a point could be reached where it would be impossible to undo some of the changes, Omar Abdullah said.

Kovind gives Rs 5 lakh, Governors & chief ministers too donate for Ram Temple

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Friday donated Rs 5,00,100 for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, as the Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust began a nationwide campaign to collect donations.

"A delegation of four people had gone to receive the good wishes of the Hon'ble President. The President along with his fam-



The cheque from President Ram Nath Kovind, in New Delhi on Friday. Anil Sharma

ily donated a cheque of five lakh and one hundred rupees for the construction of the temple. We are happy that this national movement for temple construction has begun with his hands," VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal said.

The President's office did not issue an official statement in this regard. VHP sources said the President made the donation in his personal capacity.

The delegation that visited Kovind included former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister

and head of the committee for the construction of the Ram Temple, Nripendra Mishra, member of the Trust Swami Govinddev Giri, VHP International Working President Alok Kumar, and RSS leader Kulbhushan Ahuja.

VHP sources said the first day of the donation drive had seen an enthusiastic response not only from several dignitaries but also from common people. A delegation is supposed to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGESHEET IN TRP SCAM CASE

Mumbai Police cite WhatsApp chats between Arnab and ex-BARC chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

A SUPPLEMENTARY chargesheet filed by the Mumbai Police on January 11 in the TRP scam case contains over 200 pages of purported WhatsApp conversations between Republic TV editor Arnab Goswami and then CEO of BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) Partho Dasgupta, who is now in custody, showing their alleged proximity, with Goswami more than



Arnab Goswami; Partho Dasgupta

once offering to mediate on Dasgupta's behalf with the political leadership, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and claiming at one point, "All

ministers are with us".

In one of the chats, which go back to July 2017, 'Dasgupta' sends 'Goswami' exclusive TRP (Television Ratings Point) data. The police have alleged that Goswami paid Dasgupta money so as to show the highest TRPs in the news segment for the two Republic channels. While they claim evidence to prove this, it is not part of the chats attached to the supplementary chargesheet. The BARC calculates TRPs, on the basis of which advertisement rates for TV channels are decided.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



COPS, EX-MILITARY AMONG THOSE WHO STORMED U.S. CAPITOL

INDONESIA QUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 42, INJURES HUNDREDS

PAGE 12

Appset with data breach?



NEXT MEETING ON JAN 19

Form own group to discuss laws: Govt to farmer unions

No point, only a few speak for us, say unions; object to FIRs, raids, notices



Representatives of farmer unions after the ninth round of talks with the government in New Delhi, Friday. Amit Mehra

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & RAAKHI JAGGA
NEW DELHI & LUDHIANA, JANUARY 15

FAILING TO make any headway in talks with farmer unions demanding the repeal of the new agriculture laws, the Centre suggested Friday that the unions constitute their own informal group which could list expectations and make a proposal that could be discussed.

The unions, spearheading the protests at the gates of Delhi since November 26, said there was no point in forming an informal group when even now, only a few among them speak on behalf of the farmers during the talks.

Leaders of the unions said they told the ministers —

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Prakash — that "we are farmers, not your political rivals".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NIA summons farm union leader for questioning, he says bid to derail protest

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 15

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has summoned Baldev Singh Sirsa, the president of Lok Bhalai Insaf Welfare Society (LBIWS) which is one of the unions participating in talks with the Government over the new farm laws, in connection with a case registered against a leader of the outlawed outfit, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

Sirsa has been asked to appear at the NIA headquarters in New Delhi on January 17 for



Baldev Singh Sirsa

questioning in the case against SFJ's Gurpatwant Singh Pannu for an alleged conspiracy to create an "atmosphere of fear and lawlessness and to cause disaffection in people and to incite them towards rising in rebellion against the Government of India".

On Friday, LBIWS was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Comedian stays in jail, co-accused include brother, friend, organiser

IRAM SIDDIQUE & BENITA FERNANDO
BHOPAL, MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

THE INDORE police says it has no evidence regarding the allegations against Munawar Faruqui, and on Friday failed to produce a case diary before the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court at his bail hearing. Still, the case against the comedian, held for alleged objectionable remarks against Hindu deities, now has six youngsters behind bars for more than a fortnight. Of the six, one is the brother of the show's organiser

who was in the audience, another a friend of Faruqui's who had nothing to do with the event, and a third whose only family is a minor brother running around for him now.

An Indore Sessions Court has rejected all the bail petitions it has heard so far. After the adjournment Friday due to "non-availability" of police case diary, the High Court will take up Faruqui's bail plea earliest by next week.

Faruqui, 28, was arrested along with Nalin Yadav, Prakhar Vyas, Priyam Vyas and Edwin Anthony on January 1 for the alleged objectionable remarks and

for "hurting religious sentiments" at a show in Indore, on a complaint by Eklavya Gaud, the son of BJP MLA Malini Gaud. The next day, Faruqui's friend Sadakat Khan was held when he went to meet him in court.

Faruqui was booked under IPC Sections 295A (outraging religious feelings) and 269 (unlawful or negligent act likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life) among other charges.

At the bail hearing Friday, Faruqui and Yadav's lawyer Anshuman Shrivastav appealed to the High Court to reschedule the hearing for later in the day.



Eklavya Gaud (left), Munawar Faruqui at the Indore show, before it was stopped following Gaud's complaint

"Since the Tukoganj Police Station (where the case is registered) is across the road from the High Court premises, we argued that the police should be asked to get the diary... however it (the hearing) was adjourned," he said, calling it a tactic by the police to harass his client.

On January 13, a Judicial Magistrate First Class had extended the judicial custody of all the accused except Sadakat for another two weeks.

Shrivastav had earlier questioned the grounds on which bail had been rejected by the Sessions Court. "The criminal law does not work on assump-

tions but their bail has been denied on an assumption that it will lead to law and order problems and not on any technical or legal grounds."

An Indore-based producer and upcoming comedian, Prakhar, 24, had contacted Faruqui for the show. Faruqui's was to be the main act, of about 75 minutes, with Prakhar and Yadav, 24, another small-time comedian, doing five-seven minute gigs each. Priyam, Prakhar's younger brother, was attending the show. Faruqui came down from Mumbai, while Yadav travelled from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.

In its application to the Sessions Court on January 6 objecting to Prakhar and Priyam's bail pleas, the Tukoganj Police Station said Prakhar had made all the arrangements, and accused him of making objectionable remarks against Hindu deities in his opening act. It argued that bail be denied as there were law and order issues in Ujjain and Indore after the remarks.

Prakhar and Priyam's family could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Nalin's younger brother, who is 17 and a second-year commerce student, said Nalin was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3 THE CITY

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

		Total		Vacant	
TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		VENTILATORS	
6,31,884		11,863		1,430	
		Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 14		340	390	4	71,325
Jan 15		295	427	10	66,921
Total		2,795*	6,18,357	10,732	97,33,648

*Total active cases

INCOMING: 1,000 LOW-FLOOR CNG BUSES

Metro city's lifeline but buses still carry bulk of Delhiites

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

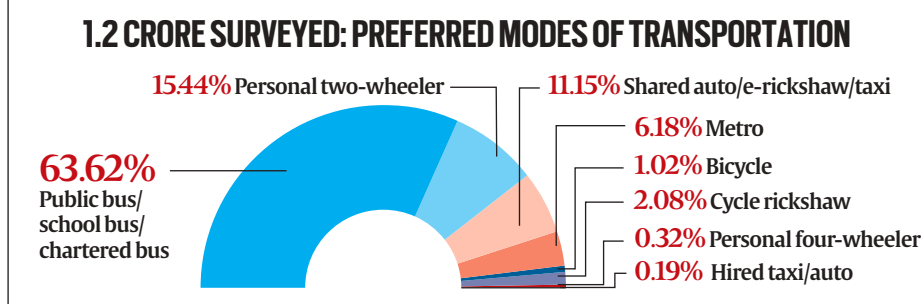
THE DELHI Metro network, which grew from 8 km to 380 km between 2002 and 2021, is used by 6.18 per cent people in the city for commute, with over 60 per cent public still dependent on buses, the Delhi government's socio-economic survey has found.

The Metro is popularly known as Delhi's lifeline and is credited with radically transforming the city's public transport system. On the other hand, the fleet of public buses, especially under the Delhi Transport Corporation, has steadily shrunk over the last decade.

On Friday, the DTC placed orders for 1,000 low-floor CNG buses, a decade after buses were last inducted in the corporation. There are approximately 6,693 public buses — 3,760 DTC and 2,933 cluster buses — in the capital as of now, as against the Supreme Court-mandated requirement of 11,000 buses.

"Congratulations Delhi! After 12 years of wait, orders have been placed by DTC to induct 1,000 low-floor AC CNG buses. All these buses will be on road by September 2021. Delhi government is committed to a pollution-free Delhi by building a world-class public transport system," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

According to the findings of the survey, accessed by *The Indian Express*, the preferred mode of 63.62 per cent of the people is "public bus/school bus/chartered bus" and 6.18 per cent take the Metro. Metro usage is highest among residents



Congratulations Delhi! After 12 years of wait, orders have been placed by DTC to induct 1,000 low-floor AC CNG buses. All these buses will be on road by September 2021. Delhi government is committed to a pollution-free Delhi by building a world-class public transport system

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
CHIEF MINISTER

of the New Delhi district (10.89 per cent) and least in case of northeast district (3.16), which joined the Metro network with the introduction of the Pink

Line in 2018 and remains highly dependent on shared autos and cabs.

The survey, the biggest of its kind, covered 1.02 crore people and was conducted between November 2018 and November 2019.

While the Metro tickets range between Rs 10 to Rs 60 depending on the distance travelled, bus fares are relatively low, with the minimum and maximum fares being Rs 5 and Rs 15 in case of non-AC buses and Rs 10-Rs 25 in case of AC buses.

Residents of the north district use buses the most (75.18 per cent), while Shahdara sees the least use (50.25 per cent).

In case of Shahdara, 21.51 per cent people use personal two-wheelers for commuting — above the city average of 15.44 per cent.

The survey found that despite the acute shortage of buses in the city, it remained the most preferred mode of commute to the workplace, ed-

ucational institutes or other places. Only 0.32 per cent of the people use personal four-wheelers.

The preferred mode of commute is along the lines of ownership of private vehicles, as detailed in part one of the survey, findings of which were published by *The Indian Express* last September.



DELHI SURVEY
COMMUTING

which 40.35 per cent possess only two-wheelers, 4.34 per cent households only four-wheelers and 6.59% households possess both two- and four-wheelers.

The survey also found that 11.15 per cent people use shared autos, e-rickshaws and shared taxis to commute.

Only 0.19 per cent of those surveyed use hired autos and cabs, 1.02 per cent commute on bicycles, and 2.08 per cent on cycle rickshaws.



BEFORE THE JAB, A FRESH COAT

Preparations underway at Lok Nayak hospital a day before the Covid-19 vaccination drive begins, Friday. This has been Delhi government's largest Covid facility. *Praveen Khanna*

Fellowship to boost street theatre, artists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

DEPUTY Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Friday launched the Delhi government's Street Theatre and Performing Arts Fellowship to support artists.

The fellowship is aimed at promoting street art in Delhi and has been extended to 500 artists from diverse backgrounds including theatre, music, dance and fine arts.

During the launch at the Delhi Secretariat, Sisodia said, "This will create a taste for art and culture among the people of Delhi. There will be live art performances on the streets as we have created this fellowship to give an opportunity to artists to express their art."

He added, "Artists from Delhi, over the past few years, have been asking me to promote street art. They pointed out that though there are concentrated cultural hubs like Mandi House, we need to expand culture to all parts of the city to give a platform to street artists to showcase their art."

The fellowship comes under Delhi government's department of art, culture and languages and offers a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 to those who are selected for it.

The artists will perform in a team of 10 every week at various public places February onwards. Each team has been trained by "eminent theatre experts" and would include artists of different art forms.

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR LOCAL BODIES (TOLL TAX DEPARTMENT)
14th Floor, DR. SPM CIVIC CENTRE
MINTO ROAD, JLN MARG, NEW DELHI-110002
E-mail ID: osdtolltax@gmail.com (Ph: 011-23226422)
No: ADC/TT/HQ/2021/D-2077 Dated: 15/01/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide orders dated 10.08.2020 has directed that RFID System should be implemented at all the remaining entry points of Delhi. Accordingly, ECC and toll tax shall be collected cashless from all commercial vehicles while entering Delhi at all entry points.

The Commission For Air Quality Management (CAQM) has directed that commercial vehicles without valid RFID tags & sufficient recharge in RFID tags will not be permitted to enter Delhi through RFID equipped entry points to Delhi.

RFID Tag can be obtained from 13 MCD toll plazas i.e. KGT (Kundli), Tikri, Aya Nagar, Rajokari, Kapashera, Badarpur Sarai, Badarpur Main, Kalindi Kunj, DND Flyover, Gazipur Old, Gazipur Main, Shahdara Flyover, Shahdara Main Toll Plaza. The RFID Tag can be recharged at above mentioned Toll Plazas or online by following process:

1. Download "MCD-Toll" mobile app from playstore; enter mobile no; you will receive OTP; enter OTP; your page will open; recharge using credit/debit card or net banking.
2. Go to www.ecctagsdmc.com and then follow the same procedure.
3. Go to RFID Toll Plazas and recharge there - pay by cash or credit/debit card etc.

Addl. Dy. Commissioner (Toll Tax)
Ro No. 61/DPI/S/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DIRECTORATE OF GURDWARA ELECTIONS F-BLOCK : VIKAS BHAWAN : I.P. ESTATE : NEW DELHI-110 002 Phone No. 2337 0225, 2337 8681 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The work relating to Revision and preparation of Photo Electoral Rolls of all 46 Gurdwara Wards of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, had commenced w.e.f 22.10.2020 and the last date for receipt of claims and objections, being 31.12.2020.

The Directorate of Gurudwara Elections, GNCTD, in its endeavour to make error-free Photo Electoral Rolls, has ordered physical verification of all Photo/Non Photo Electors, in the existing Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Electoral Rolls. The field staff/Enumerators have reported around 86,000 entries, which are liable to be deleted, from the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Electoral Rolls, on account of the electors being not residing/dead /replicated entry.

Such lists are displayed for each ward by the EROs at their respective, Designated Centers. The list of such Electors is also available on our website, for anyone to view and object to any entry/ entries, liable for deletion. **"gurudwaraelections.delhi.gov.in"**.

The Sikh Citizens are requested to please go through the list online or at the Designated Centers and the objections if any, against the entry/entries, may be made before the respective EROs, within 07 days of publication of this Notice. The deletions would be carried out by the EROs, after expiry of this period, after considering the objections received, if any, as per rules.

Sd/-

(NARINDER SINGH)
DIRECTOR (GE)

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Participation in Tenders (Ref. PPT/PIO/OE/63/18/03 dated : 04.01.2021) is open to both Port Dependent Industries (PDI) as well as Port Operators fulfilling eligibility criteria as per the RFQ document. Paradip Port Trust invites applications from interested parties in accordance with the Request For Qualification (RFQ) document in order to short-list competent Applicants who would be subsequently invited to bid (RFP) for the project.

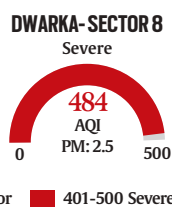
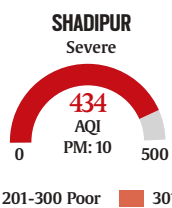
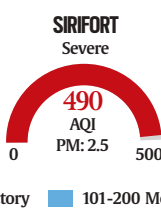
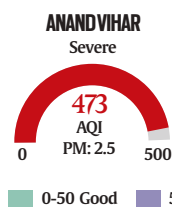
For details log on to www.paradiport.gov.in

RFQ invited on **JANUARY 4, 2021** Pre-bid meeting on **FEBRUARY 3, 2021** Application due date **FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

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

FORECAST: Jan 16
Mainly clear sky.
Dense fog in the morning

MAX: 19 | **MIN: 4**
0.8°C below normal | 3.1°C below normal

MCD workers unpaid, High Court warns that its councillors could be given a 'haircut'

Pulls up civic bodies, seeks details of their expenditure; tells Delhi govt: Their employees are your voters too

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE DELHI High Court Friday said the right to receive salary and pension is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, and warned that it will stop perks of councillors as well as senior officers of civic bodies to utilise funds for payment of salaries of MCD workers. It also sought details of the expenditure incurred on them.

The court made the observations during the hearing of a matter regarding non-payment of salaries and pensions of employees of North and East Delhi Municipal Corporations and the health institutions run by them. "We all get a lot of perks. We

as judges get a lot of perks. If some of those perks are taken away because of some problem, we are not going to suffer that much. We are all living like lords, people at the top. I have no difficulty in saying this, I am also a beneficiary of that. We can and we should take the haircut as a responsible citizen. Why should the poor man suffer, the class IV employee?" observed Justice Vipin Sanghi.

The division bench of Justices Sanghi and Rekha Palli said the stated reason of paucity of funds cannot be accepted as an excuse for such non-payment.

The court said payment of salaries to employees of corporations, including doctors, paramedic staff and healthcare workers, is an absolute necessity and



Sanitation workers have protested against salary delay. *Archive*

the same has to be prioritised over other discretionary expenditure that the corporations are incurring.

"If anyone has to take a haircut during these times due to financial constraints of the corpo-

rations, it has to be the people at the top," it said, ordering civic bodies to place before court the different heads of expenditure in relation to their councillors and Class I and II officers.

During the hearing, the court

was told that the civic bodies had earlier taken loans from the Delhi government and the same was readjusted against their basic tax assignment (BTA), which already stood reduced on account of fall in revenues during the pandemic.

The bench observed that the RBI had last year imposed a moratorium on enforcement of claims by banks and financial institutions during the pandemic as the businesses were hit. The court told the Delhi government that the recovery could have waited and that the same was uncalled for as the tax collection in every sector was low. The court has now asked the government counsel to seek instructions on the aspect of release of loan amounts which were deducted earlier from the BTA.

The court also said the Delhi government should be conscious of the fact that the employees of these corporations are also voters in Delhi. "If you are in power, you are in power because of them also. Don't treat them as if they are not your voters," it said.

It also observed that the municipal corporations may be ruled by a different political party but the councillors were not the ones suffering. "They are sitting pretty; that is why we are saying that we have to give them a haircut. They will all be roaming around in their cars, using municipal facilities, perks and petrol and everything. They are not suffering. It is the poor man who is suffering and people who are actually working and risking their lives," observed the court.

Construction of new Parliament building begins

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE CONSTRUCTION of the new Parliament building commenced Thursday, with labourers beginning excavation work, said officials.

The new building is being constructed by Tata Projects Ltd and is estimated to cost Rs 971 crore. The construction is expected to be completed by 2022, in time for the 75th Independence Day.

Earlier this week, a 14-member heritage panel gave its approval to the new Parliament building while also giving the go-ahead to the Central Vista redevelopment project. The Supreme Court had asked the Centre to seek prior approval from the panel and other relevant authorities before starting construction of the new building.

A senior official from Tata Projects said that despite the delay in starting, they will complete the project on time. "A plan of action is already in place to accelerate the schedule by augmenting resources like skilled manpower and formwork, etc.. The reinforcement required to be placed in the raft and walls are ready. Other off-site activities like procurement of stone for external cladding, MEP LLEs, carpets, etc happened during these 35 days. We are more than confident that we will be able to deliver this building to the nation on or before time," said Sandeep Navlakhe, vice-president and



The construction is expected to be completed by 2022

business unit head of Tata Projects Ltd.

Laying the foundation stone for the new Parliament on December 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the new building will fulfill the country's aspirations of the 21st Century while symbolising the "co-existence of the new and the old". "The (existing) building is now looking to retire. It is incumbent upon all of us to give 21st Century India a new Parliament building," he had said.

The new Parliament building will house larger Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha halls with capacities of 888 seats and 384 seats to accommodate an expanded Parliament. The Lok Sabha hall will also have an additional capacity, up to 1,272 seats, to host joint sessions.

According to the design plan, the architecture of the new Parliament shall complement or harmonise with that of the present Parliament and other buildings of the Central vista.

8-yr-old, man who tried to rescue him dead in market fire

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THREE PEOPLE, including an eight-year-old and a bystander who tried to rescue him, died in a fire that broke out in a building at the furniture market in Kirti Nagar Thursday night.

Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg said, "We got a call around 11 pm that a fire had broken out at a godown at the Kamala Nehru camp, where fires usually spread very quickly. Above the shop was a cluster of rooms with many tenants. The building had collapsed completely. Search operations for survivors went on till morning." He said that the cause of the fire has not been determined so far.

The victims were identified as Rohit (20), Sanjay (32) and Rajesh (8).

Two of them were among the families which lived in the eight rooms above the shop at the furniture market.

Rajesh's mother Manorama (25), who works as a domestic help, said, "We were sleeping and woke up due to a feeling of immense heat... As we were running out, I grabbed my younger son, who is two years old. Rajesh could not make it as he fell unconscious. There was so much smoke, we could hardly see."

First to arrive at the spot and raise an alarm was Rohit (20), a resident of the nearby JJ colony.

Kamal (20), who works at one of the factories in the area and is an acquaintance of Rohit, said, "Rohit drives a van and used to park it right near this shop. He was the first one to notice the smoke coming out of the building. He raised the alarm, and managed to save many people."

Kamal too helped in evacuating people from the spot. "Rohit did not return when he went back to save Rajesh," he said.

Rina Devi (35), Rohit's aunt, said, "We kept calling his mobile till 2 am but we never got a response. He lost his life saving others." She said they also lost a ration/grocery shop in the fire.

Rohit's cousin Gautam (14) said, "A few of us searched for his body in the morning and found it around 8 am. It was in the drain running behind the building and was buried under the debris... I couldn't recognise him but he had a tattoo of a star on his arm and used to wear white sneakers... that's how I knew it was him."

Meanwhile, police are on the lookout for the owner of the building.

Vijay Kumar Singh, SHO of the Kirti Nagar police station, said, "We got a PCR call at 10.55 pm, and reached the spot in a few minutes. The landlord of the building, Tony, has fled. A case has been lodged against him under IPC sections 285 and 304, and investigation is on."

Contractor arrested for 'abducting' DGCA staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

DELHI POLICE arrested a 24-year-old man and a taxi driver for allegedly abducting an official from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation office and snatching his phone and ID card.

Police said the accused, Vaibhav Chaturvedi, a contractor, was allegedly angry after staffers of a plane did not allow him to use the washroom when the plane was landing. The taxi driver, Kuwar Singh (37), has told police that he simply followed Chaturvedi's instructions as he thought the latter was a senior officer.

On January 8, Chaturvedi went to the DGCA office to file a complaint. A senior police officer said, "He (Chaturvedi) told us that he found two-three officials in an inebriated state and had an altercation with them. He posed as a senior police officer and abducted a Junior Secretariat Attendant named Surender Prasad from the office."

The accused took Surender to Safdarjung Hospital for a medical examination but the doctors refused to do the test as he didn't have a police application. While another DGCA employee reached the hospital, Chaturvedi allegedly snatched his phone and took off with Surender in his car.

He allegedly snatched Surender's phone and ID card later and left him at BP Marg. The accused also gave him his personal number.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, "We received a complaint from Surender on January 8. During the investigation, we traced the vehicle number from CCTVs near Safdarjung and the DGCA hospital. Chaturvedi had already given his personal number to Surender. We contacted him and told him to appear for a statement but he didn't come. He was then apprehended from his house in Rohini. With his help, the driver was also arrested."

Chaturvedi told police that he found "3-4 men drunk in a room" when he went to file his complaint at the DGCA office. In an attempt to take action against them, he allegedly abducted Surender to get him medically examined.

cite people to harm the ongoing protest". "In the past few days, we have heard different types of provocative calls regarding the 'tractor parade' from some people who want to see violence in the stir to defame the agitators. But we have initiated a campaign to make farmers aware that they should follow the call of only the Sanyukt Kisan Mocha regarding the next steps. Our agitation will remain peaceful," said Nathwan.

Meanwhile, a senior Haryana Police officer said the crowd is growing by the day: "We are keeping an eye on the developments and will take an appropriate decision if and when needed."

working classes joining hands," said Nathwan, who is president of the Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Haryana.

"From many villages, vehicles go to Delhi for a day, carrying food items for protesters. Villagers who wish to donate ration or milk inform village committees in the evening so their items can be taken to Delhi in the morning. A large number of farmers now don't sell their milk, and instead prefer to give it to protesters," said Mandeep Nathwan, a farm leader from Fatehabad, who led the cavalcade.

Nathwan said farm leaders have also started a campaign to make villages aware about "anti-farmer forces who may try to in-



Youngsters atop JCBs, seeing off tractors near Hissar Friday

tractor trolleys return to their villages to perform their duties in their fields," said a farm leader.

On Friday, farmers in nearly 500 vehicles from Sirsa and Fatehabad districts of Haryana moved to Delhi's Tikri border. By evening, the cavalcade had crossed Hissar hoping to reach by Saturday night. "Farmers equate the current agitation with a 'freedom struggle' -- a fight to save their land from corporates," said Mandeep Nathwan, a farm leader from Fatehabad, who led the cavalcade.

"This protest will change the political atmosphere of the country with farmers, labourers and

To avoid jams, Haryana farmers say will start for Delhi on Jan 20

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 15

TO AVOID long jams on roads, a large number of farmers plan to move to Delhi borders as early as January 20 to participate in the "tractor parade" planned for Republic Day.

Farm outfit leaders estimate the participation of almost one lakh tractors from Haryana alone, with as many as 7,000 villages despatching several vehicles. The number of protesters at Delhi borders has been increasing over the past few days, with more tractors from Punjab and Haryana joining every day.

"The number of those moving to Delhi borders daily has doubled now, ahead of the 'tractor parade'," said Suresh Koth, a farmer leader from Hissar, who has been camping at Singhu border for 50 days.

"The big movement of tractors to Delhi borders from Haryana villages will start from January 23. We hope at least 20 tractors from each village with 200 persons in each tractor trolley moves to Delhi borders. From big villages, 150-200 tractor trolleys will move to Delhi," said Koth.

Farmers say that every day, 300 tractor trolleys with at least 20 farmers in each move to Singhu border from Punjab and Haryana. "As many as 50-100

Along the 15-km stretch at Singhu, 50 horsemen trot 'in R-Day preparation'

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

AHEAD OF Republic Day, when farmers plan to bring thousands of tractors into the national capital, members of the Nihang community Friday held a march around Singhu border.

Around 50 horse riders, all from the community of armed Sikh warriors, took out their horses and marched from the main stage at the protest site till the end, spanning over 15 km. Farmers called this a preparation and rehearsal for Republic Day,



At the march. *Prem Nath Pandey*

when they will hold a march from Singhu to Tikri and other borders of Delhi.

Kashmir Singh (19), one of the youngest in the group, decorated his horse with flowers

and colourful fabric. He said that while farmers will march with their tractors, Nihangs will use their horses in solidarity.

"I have been here for almost one month. We will support farmers because we know these laws will kill their livelihood. My uncle is also a farmer and he tells me that he isn't able to sell his vegetables at a good price. We want the government to wake up and help us," he said.

Balancing two drums on his horse, Sikander (27) said, "We need to practise because we will have to cover a longer distance

on Republic Day and also play the drums and raise slogans. We want the government to repeal the laws or we will enter Delhi and march on the roads."

So far, over 300 Nihang Sikhs have joined from Punjab.

Chandkaur (58) said he joined the protest with farmers on November 28 and added that he doesn't want the farmers to stay at the borders. "We have been suffering here. I see the meetings and other news, the government is not ready to listen to us. We will go to Rajghat or Jantar Mantar, where the Centre can see us."

\$680 million project afoot to redevelop New Delhi station, Railways woos global investors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE WORK for the redevelopment of New Delhi railway station is in full swing with the Railway Land Development Authority organising virtual roadshows for global stakeholders to engage them in various aspects of the project.

Infrastructure majors such as Adani, GMR, JKB Infra, France's SNCF, Arabian Construction Company and Anchorage had taken part in the project's pre-bid meeting held in September 2020.



An artist's impression of the new railway station

As per the estimate by Railways, the project is going to involve a \$680 million investment and is slated to be completed in four years after the work is awarded.

The roadshows are being held between January 14 and 19 and prospective investors and developers from various countries and cities such as Singapore, Australia, Dubai and Spain will be engaged in discussions about the project concept and the proposed transaction structure with potential bidders.

"RLDA has also developed a walkthrough of the project that will be showcased during the

roadshow for an in-depth understanding," said Ved Parkash Dudeja, vice chairman, RLDA.

The New Delhi railway station is planned to be developed on a Design-Build Finance Operate Transfer (DBFOT) model, wherein the private party will get the lease of the station building for 60 years.

The project is currently at the Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage, with the due date on February 2, 2021. The Master Plan area is approximately 120 hectares, out of which 88 hectares is being planned in phase 1.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THREE CIVIL defence volunteers have been arrested from North Avenue for allegedly issuing fake Covid-19 challans and obtaining penalty amounts in their Paytm accounts.

DCP (New Delhi) Dr Eish Singhal said the accused — Sunny (19), Yashwant Rath (21) and Lucky (20) — are posted in the office of SDM (New Delhi), Jamnagar House. They used to issue fake Covid-19 challans to people visiting Talkatora Garden. The matter came to notice on December 31, when a Shakarpur resident was issued a fake challan by the accused," he said.

In his complaint, the victim said he was sitting in Talkatora Garden with a friend, when three civil defence volunteers allegedly fined them Rs 2,000 each for not wearing masks.

As the complainant did not have Rs 4,000 cash, he paid them via Paytm, police said. He, however, got suspicious over the authenticity of the challan and later approached police.

Singhal said, "We conducted a detailed inquiry and sought details of the alleged Paytm

beneficiary. We got to know that the alleged mobile number was registered in the SDM office in Sunny's name."

During the course of inquiry, it was revealed that the challan was not issued from SDM office and was found to be fake.

"All the three Civil Defence volunteers posted in SDM Office, Jamnagar House, were identified and arrested with the help of technical surveillance as well as local information," he added.

During questioning, they confessed to having issued four such fake Covid-19 challans, police said.



We can beat Corona by COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE

Vaccination for COVID-19 will start for Health Workers on
16th January 2021

This will be followed by vaccination for Front Line Workers
& citizens above 50 years of age or to citizens
with any co-morbid condition

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0099/20-21

For vaccination you must:



Registration is mandatory for vaccination. Carry your Photo ID for verification



Wait for 30 minutes after you have been vaccinated



Do take the second dose at due date for complete protection

For complete protection, follow the five even after vaccination!



Use mask correctly



Wash hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly or use hand sanitizer



Maintain 6 feet (2 gaj) physical distance



If you see any symptom, prompt self-isolation



If you see any symptom, promptly get yourself tested

**When we are safe,
Delhi is safe!**

For more Information  **Helpline No.: 1075 (Tollfree)**

 <https://www.facebook.com/Directorate-of-Family-Welfare-Delhi-296539800989345>  <https://twitter.com/DelhiDfw>

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



Directorate of Family welfare, Delhi Government

New Delhi

Asked about law and order, Nitish tells media not to demoralise police

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JANUARY 15

FACING CRITICISM over the state's law and order situation, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday urged the media not to "demoralise the police" and added that Bihar is still at the 23rd position in the country in terms of crime.

Referring to the murder of IndiGo airlines station manager Rupesh Kumar Singh two days ago, he said the police were thoroughly investigating the case and the state DGP was personally

NORTHERN RAILWAY
First Corrigendum
TENDER NOTICE
Date of opening of the work listed in tender notice no. **05W/BWS/CB/2020-21 dated 29.12.2020**, may be read as 05.02.2021.
Other terms and condition will same as earlier. **115/2021**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), East Central Railway, Samastipur and on behalf of the President of Union of India invites Tender from competent and experienced contractors having technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works.
Tender No. & Date : EL-TRD-08-ET-20-21 (Open), **Sl.No. : 1. Name of the work with its completion period :-** Manning of Railway owned freight sub stations at MHL & MJL of SPJ Division for further two years through outsourcing. **Sl.No. : 2. Approx. cost of work :** Rs. 77,00,466.24/-, **Sl.No. : 3. Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,54,000/- **Sl.No. : 4. Date & Time for closing and opening of tender :** Date of Closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on **05.02.2021**. Date of opening of e-tender from 12.30 hours on **05.02.2021**. **Sl.No. : 5. Website Particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen :** <http://www.ireps.gov.in> in DRM (Elect) Office/SPJ.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), E.C. Rly./Samastipur PR/1303/SPJ/ETRD/120-21/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-664-10-Tele-2020-21, Dhanbad, dt-13.01.2021 E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.
Sl.No. : 1. Name of the work: (1) Integration of Electronic In-Motion Weightbridges (EMIMWBs) at West Bokaro siding (Champur siding) with FOIS & (2) Integration of Electronic In-Motion Rail-Weightbridges of CCL with FOIS Connectivity and CCTV. **Sl.No. : 2. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 2,27,06,692.58** **Sl.No. : 3. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,63,500.00** **Sl.No. : 4. Date & time for closing of tender: 03.02.2021 (12.30 बजे)** **Sl.No. : 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted.** The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> **Note :-** Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.
For Sr. D.S.T.E. East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/1309/DHN/S&T/7120-21/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
सं. ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन्/वर्क्यू.टी/ई-निविदा/उत्तर/46-20-21 दिनांक-13.01.2021. E- TENDER NOTICE NO. - ECR-CAO-C-ETN-46-20-21 E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORKS. **Sl.No.1. Name of work with it's location:** Dismantling existing Girdler with track of Br. No. 5 & 7 of span 30.5m OWG, Transporting, Assembling and Erection of Open Web Girders 4 nos. of 45.70 m clear span, all 25 tone loading including side pathway, utility tray, access ladder etc. and their Erection (by suitable method) over Major Br. No. 5(2X45.7 m) & Br. No. 7 (2 x 45.70 m) between SRGR-NMA stations on permanent diversion and Provision of Side pathway, Inspection Platform, Utility Tray, access ladder etc. on Br. No.4, 6 & 10 (Kosi Bridge) between Nirmali & Saraiagarh in connection with provision of New line between Nirmali and Saraiagarh of Samastipur Division of East Central Railway. **Sl.No. 2. Approx. cost of the work: Rs.10,03,33,798.52/-** **Sl.No. 3.Earnest money to be deposited: Rs.651700/-** **Sl.No. 4. Date and time for closing of tender: 08.02.2021 at 14.30 hrs.** **Sl.No.5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc:** The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. **Note:** In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.
For CAO/Con/North E.C. Rly. MXH, Patna PR/1301/CON/ENGG/T/20-21/60

JD(U) may get 50% share in cabinet berths

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 15

DESPITE BEING the junior partner in the ruling coalition in Bihar, with 43 MLAs as compared to the BJP's 74, JD (U) might succeed in getting a 50 per cent share in cabinet berths, sources from both parties have told *The Indian Express*.

The much-awaited cabinet expansion is likely anytime now.

The JD (U) had sent out a message of displeasure to its ally after six out of seven party MLAs in Arunachal Pradesh switched to BJP. Ever since, BJP has been trying to placate the JD (U). Bihar BJP in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and state BJP chief Dr Sanjay Jaiswal recently called on newly-appointed JD (U) president R CP Singh.

Sources in BJP and JD (U) hinted that top leaders had "almost agreed on a 50:50 cabinet berth sharing formula on the lines of seat-sharing before 2020 Assembly and 2019 Lok Sabha polls". A BJP leader said, "Amid posturing by the RJD in its bid to create political instability, the BJP is showing magnanimity in the sharing of cabinet berths with the JD (U)."

IRONCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ironcon.org CIN-L45203DL1976GO008171
Notice for Invitation of Tender
Tender No. :- IRCON/9043/BD.KHU-MON/Ballast-2020-21/1 **Date: 16/01/2021.**
Tender for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from Bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of, "Supply of Ballast from India to Bangladesh, between Kathakali (Ch.33.00 Km.) to Bagha (50.500 Km.), in connection with construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Link Project in Bangladesh."
Estimated Cost of Work Rs. 24.51 Crores
Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 08/02/2021 up to 15:00 Hrs
For further details and updates, please visit Tender section (ACTIVE TENDERS) on IRCON's website www.ironcon.org. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on this website only. CGM(Works)-I, Iron International Ltd., New Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE NO. March/21
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc. Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, including Scrap Rail and other scrap P.Way material. Auction programme is as under:-

#	Depots/Div.	Auction Dates for March/21 (Time: 11:00 AM)																											
1.	Dy.CMM/AMV 0522-2451257	2	4	6	9	11	13	15	16	17	18	20	22	23	24	25	26	27	30	31									
2.	Dy.CMM/SSB 011-27015387	2	4	6	9	11	13	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	27	30	31									
3.	Dy.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388	2	4	6	9	11	13	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	27	30	31									
4.	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	1	3	5	8	10	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	30	31	-									
5.	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	1	3	5	8	10	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	30	31	-									
6.	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	1	3	5	8	10	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	30	31	-									
7.	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	1	3	5	8	10	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	30	31	-									
8.	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	1	3	5	8	10	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	30	31	-									

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in
2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. In this regard details are available at ireps.
3. To register for in e-auction, purchasers need to visit website www.ireps.gov.in. In case any difficulty in registering purchasers may contact Dy. CMM/S&P.
No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2020-21 Dated: 14.01.2021 119/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenderers
No. 155/Nivida-Moradabad/20-21
1. On behalf of Government of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad on website <http://tender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors from 16-01-2021 at 10.00 am to 05-02-2021 at 05.00 p.m. Technical Bid, Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 06-02-2021 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders, who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government bidding the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Sl. No	INSTRUCT	Name of Work	Estimated cost with (Bidding) (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Bidema to Amroha-Chajlet road	8.00	6.35	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
2	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Naurangia(Joya) to Sirsa moham	45.00	4.25	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
3	Amroha	Construction of road from Kamukhali-Lalooanga-Chakkalet road (ODR) to Chanspur Milk	51.00	4.55	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
4	Amroha	Construction of road from Nagli Meera Shah road to Nagli Kat	80.00	6.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B" Road category
5	Amroha	Construction of road from Amroha-Kaisha-Pakwa road to Dheka Nagla via Kaisha	52.00	4.60	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
6	Amroha	Construction of road from Mau to Dhana Nagla	78.00	5.90	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
7	Amroha	Construction of road from Deepspur to Budpuram via Amhedha	77.00	5.85	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
8	Amroha	Construction of road from Meera Sarai Sirsa Khumrai Fardpur road to Salsapur	47.00	4.35	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
9	Amroha	Construction of road from Gangadapur to Milk Gauspur via Khairo wali madaya	42.00	4.10	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
10	Amroha	Construction of road from Raghunathpur to Devipura	42.00	4.10	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
11	Amroha	Construction of vill. Bhupura Sakaniya road	41.00	4.05	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
12	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Lathrapur to Kaurina Ashram	98.00	6.90	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
13	Amroha	Construction of road from Kuntala-Chakanwala-Bachraun road Km 2 to Kuntala	51.00	4.55	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
14	Amroha	Construction of road from Dhanauri to Naseerpur	97.00	6.85	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
15	Amroha	Construction of road from Gajraula-Khadgaur-Pakari road km 8 to Mohadi	78.00	5.90	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
16	Amroha	Construction of road from Gajraula-Mukari-Rajapur road to Badana	48.00	4.40	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
17	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Shahapur road to Ganga Tirth Mala	78.00	5.90	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
18	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Apraula Chauraha to vill. Takhatpur Govt. School	75.00	5.75	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
19	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Jajra to Alipur	48.00	4.40	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
20	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Kaural to Nawada via Naya Gaon road	60.00	5.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
21	Amroha	Construction of road from Dehra Kadar Balakh to Mahapur Road	96.00	6.80	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
22	Amroha	Construction of road from Bhupura to Nelpur Jr.high school	51.00	4.55	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
23	Amroha	Construction of road from Beebra Khurd to Maharakpur via Shidhpur	95.00	6.75	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
24	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Prithipur khurd to Shahid Arvind Samadhi via vill. Yusufpur	77.00	5.85	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
25	Amroha	Construction of road from Peepi Ghos road to Prithipur Khurd via Gajshah Degree college	87.00	6.35	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
26	Amroha	Construction of road from Usmapur to Kasampur Mey	41.00	4.05	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
27	Amroha	Construction of road from Nasser Nagla to Peethuland	41.00	4.05	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
28	Amroha	Construction of road from Bahadpur Chak road to Jaldi Kura Mafi road	45.00	4.25	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
29	Amroha	Construction of road from Jamnakhda road to Kailbapur Hamidpur	41.00	4.05	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
30	Amroha	Construction of road from Maharakpur Sadpur road to Salsapur	63.00	5.15	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
31	Amroha	Construction of road from Rampur Jamundar to Badshahpur	56.00	4.80	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
32	Amroha	Construction of road from Nehauri-Noorpur-Amroha-Joya road to Jamnakhda nahar ki patti to Beebra khurd via khara	53.00	4.65	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
33	Amroha	Construction of road from vill. Kailbaki Jamnakhda road to Bhakpuri via Chamunda	44.00	4.20	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
34	Amroha	Construction of road from Vill. Kailbaki to Sher Singh Chikara College	56.00	4.80	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
35	Amroha	Construction of CC road in Abadi portion of Ring road Bypass of District amroha (ODR)	89.00	6.45	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
36	Amroha	SR of Laloo Nagla-Chakkalet road to Umi Sadat road km 2 to Banayya Kothiupura road	41.00	4.05	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
37	Amroha	SR of Khushera to Behlupur road via Karmalipur, Rehda, Kasera	49.00	4.45	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
38	Amroha	Road Safety work on Chetan Chauhan road (ODR)	54.00	4.70	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
39	Amroha	SR of Khawri to Rasoolpur Bhanwar Ahmari road (ODR-33)	92.00	6.60	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category
40	Amroha	Renewal form P.C. on Naugawa to Bijnor Jila Sesma Nahar ki Patti road (ODR)	57.00	4.85	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.
UPID No-158889 DATE-14/01/2021 **www.upgov.nic.in**
E.E. (Rajeev Goshi) Sd/-
Superintending Engineer Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad Ph. 0591 - 2414619

India, Nepal commit to early completion of boundary works

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

EIGHT MONTHS after the boundary row erupted between India and Nepal, foreign ministers of the two countries discussed the issue and expressed the commitment to early completion of the boundary works in the disputed areas.

Visiting Nepal Foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said the two sides are mindful that they should not let any outstanding issue "become irritant in an otherwise friendly relationship".

Asked about China's influence, he said Nepal has always ensured their soil is not misused against any of its neighbours.

After the bilateral meeting with External Affairs minister S Jaishankar, Gyawali said, "Yes, we discussed the boundary matters. We both are committed to finalise it at the earliest."

He was responding to a question at an interaction organised by Indian Council of World Affairs. "Needless to say that the relationship between neighbours has its own characters. Mutual trust, understanding and respect for each other's sensitivities and concerns



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Nepal counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on Friday. Source: Twitter

contribute to strengthen the foundation of such relationships."

"In this spirit, we desire to start the conversation with a view to resolving the question of boundary alignment in the remaining segments. Many of you may be aware that Nepal and India share over 1,800 km long international boundary most of which is jointly mapped. Only in the stretches of some kilometers, the work remains to be completed," he said.

"We pursue an independent foreign policy and our conduct of external relations is based on a balanced outlook. We do not harbour ill-will against anyone. Amity with

all and enmity with none is our motto. Guided by the same principles, we seek to foster relations with neighbours and all friendly countries around the world," he said, in a thinly-veiled reference to the battle for influence between India and China.

Jaishankar tweeted, "Co-chaired the 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting with FM @PradeepgyawaliK. Detailed review of our broad ongoing cooperation. Confident that our multifaceted partnership will continue to strengthen."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation
H.Q. U.C.F. Sadan, Deep Nagar Road, Vishnuvihar, Jajpurkalan, Dehradun
No. 44/HQ/Trn-E-Tender/ETM/2021 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 14/01/2021**
E-tenders are invited for the supply design, development, implementation, maintenance of Electronic Ticketing Machines (software for front end and Firmware) for the Automatic Fare collection systems on monthly rental basis as per following schedules:
1. Prebid meeting Date : 21-01-2021 at 11.00 Hrs.
2. Last Date for Online submission of tender form: 02-02-2021 Up to 14.00 Hrs.
3. Tender Opening date (Technical bid): 02-02-2021 at 15.00 Hrs
The tender documents are available online on <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
The bidder can download the documents through website. The tender can be submitted along with the cost of tender (Rs 25000.00+GST @ 18%+ 4500 total Rs 29500.00) in the form of DD in favour of Managing Director Uttarakhand Transport Corporation Dehradun.
General Manager (Tech), E-mail-uttc-gmtech@gmail.com

IRITES **RITES LIMITED**
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
The General Manager/EXPOTECH, RITES Ltd. invites Open tender online bid in single packet system for the following:

Item & Quantity	Engagement of freight forwarder for export of consignment as mentioned below through Mumbai Sea Port to Beira / Maputo sea port, Mozambique on CIF basis:
• 60 Nos Passenger Coaches ex. MCF, Raebareilly, U.P.	
• 05 Rakes/DMUs ex. MCF Raebareilly U.P. (Each rake consists of 06 Nos Coaches)	
• 300 CBM approx Spares ex. MCF, Raebareilly/RITES Ware house, Delhi/Chennai	

Tender Reference: RITES/EXPOTEC/COACH/DMU/12/2020
Last date & time of submission of bid : 04.02.2021 at 11:00 Hrs.
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://ritesltd.com> and CPP portal <https://tenders.gov.in/procure/app/Addendum/Corrigendum>, if any, shall be hosted online only.

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, निर्माण विंग
उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल सहायन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
मुख्यालय, नगर, देहरादून-248001 दूरभाष / फ़ैक्स: 0135-2764075
E-mail: cgmnirmanwng@yahoo.com, gmnirmanwng@gmail.com
Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice
Bid Identification no :- 168 / Nivida (Garhwal) खल / 10 **Dated :- 15.01.2021**

S.N.	Name of works	Estimated Cost	Period of Completion
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE HALL AT PITHORAGARH	2050.00 Lakh (Including G.S.T)	14 months
2.	Name and Address of Officer inviting the Bid:-	General Manager, Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam , 403/1 Indira Nagar, Dehradun	
3.	Date and Time Availability of bid documents in the portal:-	19/01/2021 -18.00 Hrs.	
4.	Pre Bid Meeting	25/01/2021 -15.00 Hrs.	
5.	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-	04/02/2021 -17.00 Hrs.	

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>" General Manager (Garhwal)

Office of the Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, P.W.D., Hapur
(Email ID:- pwddc03@gmail.com) **Date:- 30-12-2020**
No:- 2161/3A
E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenderers
On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites online bids through e-tendering from the registered firm for Road Category A, B, C and D as per applicable. The bid document may be uploaded from dated 03.02.2021 to 11.02.2021 up to 2:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on date 11.02.2021 at 09.00 PM, by the Committee in the office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Hapur. Date of financial bid will be informed separately to the technically qualified contractors. In case of holiday or office closed the technical/bid/financial bids will be opened on next working day in the same manner.

Sl. No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	HAPUR	Dibal Bidge (canal Patti) Meerut border to Paggur road (ODR) and Simbhal to Nawada road junction and rapid diversion improvement work	15.00	1.50	300 + 500 + GST @18%	02 Month	EE, P.D. PWD, Hapur	SE, BSP/Circle, PWD, Bulandshahr	CE, MZ PWD, Meerut

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by CA of last 5 Years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chankanya Software before submission of tender/Details of E-Tender uploaded on <http://tender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on

7 GOVT & POLITICS

TEMPLE VANDALISM

Andhra govt releases police reports, blames TDP, BJP workers for spreading fake news

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 15

FACING POLITICAL heat over incidents of vandalism at temples across the state, the YSRCP government in Andhra Pradesh on Friday released investigation reports in nine cases in which opposition TDP and BJP workers and sympathisers have been accused of spreading false news and instigating the attacks. The reports, however, do not say who targeted the temples.

The government claimed that 17 TDP members and four BJP members were involved in cases related to vandalism at temples. Thirteen from TDP and two from BJP have been arrested in this connection, it said.

Both the TDP and BJP said the government was trying to blame the opposition parties instead of going after the culprits who indulged in vandalism.

TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh said, "Instead of arresting the persons who actually desecrated the idols and attacked the temples, they are arresting people for their posts on social media and or writing reports in newspapers, highlighting the issue."

The TDP has claimed that there have been over 145 incidents of vandalism at temples during the YSRCP regime. However, the government has listed only nine cases, blaming TDP or BJP workers for false information.

BJP state president Somu Veeraju said the government was making a desperate attempt to blame other political parties. "There is no effort to catch the real culprits. This is an attempt to put blame on other parties," he said.

In one of the cases, TDP sympathiser C Madhusudhan Reddy, who posted a message on Telegram about miscreants damaging an idol of Goddess Saraswati at Sringeri Shankar Math in Guntur district, was arrested for spreading false information. The police report said Reddy forwarded the news about an incident that occurred two years ago.

In a separate case, two TDP workers and two BJP workers were arrested in Rajahmundry Urban on September 12 last year for alleged false propaganda that



Andhra CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy participates in 'Kamadhenu Gopuja' to mark Kanuma festival, in Guntur district. PTI

a Lord Ganesha idol had been desecrated.

In a December 5 case, the police arrested B Subbareddy, 44, a TDP sympathiser, for putting a garland of slippers on an idol of Lord Hanuman.

In another case, on December 28, the Kurnool Police arrested four TDP workers – Syed Fakruddin, B Jayaramudu, G Ramanjaneyulu and G Peddaiah – for allegedly demolishing an idol at a temple in Maddikera. The FIR, however, still states that unknown offenders demolished the idol.

In a December 30 case, police in Kurnool arrested an alleged TDP sympathiser, who was a temple committee management member of Lord Anjaneya Swamy at Marlamanda village, after he reported that legs of one of the idols in the temple had been chopped. Two journalists who reported his claim in local media were also arrested. The police report claimed that an electrician, while working inside the temple, slipped and fell causing damage to the idol.

In a separate case, six local reporters who were alleged TDP sympathisers were arrested on charges of reporting "false" news that idols of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha and Goddess Chenchu Lakshmi were damaged at a temple in Prakasam district. The police said the six knew the idols were damaged due to wear and tear.

In three other cases, police arrested two alleged TDP activists in Visakhapatnam, a BJP mandal secretary in Srikakulam and an alleged BJP worker in the third case over similar allegations.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BSP to go it alone in UP, Uttarakhand: Mayawati

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

BSP president Mayawati on Friday announced that her party would contest the state elections in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand next year on its own.

"The BSP in both these states, unlike Bihar (2020 Assembly elections) and Lok Sabha polls (2019), will not have any understanding with any other party," Mayawati told the media on Friday. She appealed to BSP workers not to celebrate her 65th birthday due to the pandemic and instead help those in need. She also released her book, titled *A Travelogue of My Struggle Ridden Life and BSP Movement*.

"On the occasion of my birth-



'Request Centre to give vaccine to common people for free'

day, I would like to make a request to the Central government. The farmers have been protesting in Delhi with full fervour... our party would again request the Centre to agree to all the demands," she said.

Hailing the vaccination drive, she said "our party requests the Central government to provide the vaccine to common people in the entire country for free". She said if the Centre does not, then the state governments should provide vaccination free of cost.

I am with Trinamool: Satabdi does a U-turn

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 15

ADAY after voicing her discontent with her party, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Satabdi Roy on Friday did an about-turn and said she was "with Trinamool".

Following a meeting with Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee, who is Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew, Roy said, "I am with Trinamool. I am staying with the party because of Mamata Banerjee. This is the time to stay together and put up a united fight. I have apprised Abhishek Banerjee of my complaints with the party. He has given assurances to address the issues. I am not going to Delhi tomorrow."

There were reports that Roy might meet Union Home Minister



TMC MP Satabdi Roy

Amit Shah in Delhi on Saturday. On Thursday, the three-time Birbhum MP had claimed in a Facebook post uploaded by her fans' club that "some people" were stopping her from reaching out to people, and not informing her about party programmes.

On Friday, the TMC reached out to her even as she resigned from the state government's Tarapith Development Board.



Congress leaders during a protest against the Centre's farm laws, in New Delhi. The party took out marches at all state capitals and gheraoed Raj Bhawans on Friday. Express

PM thinks he can tire out farmers, says Rahul

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not respect farmers and accused him of trying to tire them out as they protest against the three new farm laws.

Leading a protest in the capital as part of a nationwide campaign by his party, he said the farm laws will finish farmers and is intended to help a handful of industrialists. He said farmers have understood that their freedom and rights are in peril and added that if their rights are allowed to be snatched away today, the middle class will be the next in line. "If we don't stop this here, this will go

on," he said.

"Look at the media, IT, retail, power, look at entire India... you will see only 4-5 people. There are 4-5 big businessmen and Modi... and no one else. No farmers, no workers, no other businessmen... Airport, court, everything is being run by these five people and who is allowing them to run these - Narendra Modi," he said. Rahul said the Prime Minister thinks "he can tire out the farmers". "...he thinks in 10 days, 15 days or 20 days... they will all go back... because he does not have a deep respect for the farmers. He thinks the farmers will run away if they are forced to sit for 10, 15, 20, 30 days... Modiji... you cannot scare the farmers of India."

He said the government's talks with farmer unions are de-

laying tactics.

In Haryana, several Congress leaders were detained as they approached the Raj Bhavan as part of the party's nationwide protests against the new laws.

"The arrest of Congressmen who took to the streets to support the annadata on Kisan Adhikar Diwas shows the dictatorial mindset of the BJP-JP government," former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda said.

In Lucknow, Congress workers led by state party chief Ajay Kumar Lallu were allegedly taken into custody while they were trying to march towards the Raj Bhawan.

A senior police officer denied this, saying they were only shifted to a place earmarked for the agitation to maintain law and order.

Rahul's Jallikattu visit: Cong course correction ahead of TN elections

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

WHILE WATCHING the Jallikattu event from an elevated podium at an arena in Avaniyapuram near Madurai on Thursday, Rahul Gandhi stood up at one point to see the bull taming more closely, prompting one of the commentators to say: "Look Rahul Gandhi has stood up to see... He didn't know otherwise Jallikattu would not have been banned... He has promised not to ban it again. Congratulations, the bull has won."

The stray comment, not in jest but in enthusiasm, perhaps summarised the Congress's new-found politics in Tamil Nadu. It was a course correction and an emphatic one at that. The timing is a no-brainer since Assembly elections are just months away and the party in alliance with the DMK is trying hard to upset the AIADMK-BJP combine.

The commentator then said had Rahul been invited to Tamil Nadu, the ban on Jallikattu would not have happened in 2006. He was referring to the ban imposed by the Madras High Court in 2006 on the bull-taming sport after a spectator's death.

The court ruling aside, it was the Congress-led UPA government which had in July 2011 included bulls in a list of animals that "shall not be exhibited or trained as performing animal", effectively banning the local sport, which the then Environment



Rahul Gandhi in Avaniyapuram near Madurai on Thursday. PTI

Minister Jairam Ramesh felt was a "barbaric practice".

The decision came in for huge criticism in Tamil Nadu. The Congress's state leadership was not amused. And much to their chagrin, the Supreme Court upheld the Environment Ministry's order in May 2014.

So when Rahul went to Tamil Nadu to watch the Jallikattu event on Thursday, it marked the emphatic conclusion of a course correction by the Congress which began in 2014 itself.

The first flip-flop by the Congress came in April 2014. In the middle of the Lok Sabha elections, the central government submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court reversing its ear-

lier decision. It told the court it had removed the bull from the list of animals not to be exhibited or trained as performing animals.

From 2011 to 2014, the UPA government had three Environment Ministers – Jairam Ramesh, Jayanti Natarajan and M Veerappa Moily. The first notification came in 2011 when Ramesh was the minister. Natarajan did not do anything as the matter had reached the Supreme Court by then. In 2014, the Centre – which was under immense pressure – reversed the stance. Moily was then the minister.

"In order to strike a balance and to safeguard the interest of all stakeholders, including the animals, while keeping in mind the

BSY delays portfolio allocation as anger grows in party over cabinet picks

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 15

A CABINET expansion carried out by Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on January 13 to take his team strength to 33 – one less than its full capacity of 34 – has exposed deep divisions and a lack of unity in the state BJP unit.

Contrary to expectations that the cabinet expansion will momentarily strengthen the political position of Yediyurappa, the move appears to have exposed multiple loyalties and differences in the party – despite the Chief Minister trying to tone down his own wishes in the choice of new ministers. With more dissidence likely to emerge in the party and within the cabinet when portfolios are allotted Yediyurappa has decided to hold back on portfolio allotments until the conclusion of a two-day visit to the state by Union Home Minister and senior party leader Amit Shah.

"Home Minister Amit Shah will be arriving on Saturday and will leave the next day. Portfolios will be allotted after that," Yediyurappa said on Friday when asked about the date the portfolios will be allotted to the seven new ministers.

The cabinet expansion which saw Yediyurappa accommodating three members of the legislative council – two of them new entrants to the party from the Congress and third a leader who



BS Yediyurappa

PTI

lost the 2018 state polls – has resulted in dissent among core BJP workers and nearly 10-12 MLAs who are among the 105 who won the 2018 polls on BJP tickets.

The fact that Yediyurappa has given 12 of the available 34 ministerial posts to new entrants to the BJP from the Congress and JDS – who were among 17 MLAs who helped the BJP overthrow the Congress-JDS coalition and muster the majority of 113 seats for forming the government – is a source of anger among party MLAs as well as the fact that five MLCs have been included.

The most virulent statements against the CM's choices has come from Vijayapura MLA Basavaraj Patil Yatnal, who has repeatedly attacked Yediyurappa and said that he will not last long as CM – without attracting any censure from the party high command.

"Hard work and honesty have not been recognised in the cabinet expansion. The Chief Minister has given prominence to people who blackmailed him to make them

ministers. One of them is now a political secretary and two are ministers," Yatnal said in Vijayapura after the expansion. "Yediyurappa has blackmailed the party by using the Veerashaiva Lingayat community. Even though PM Modi and Amit Shah were not keen, the cabinet expansion has been done."

"Yediyurappa and Vijayendra [the CM's son] have bought out Congress leaders as well. Is the Congress alive as an opposition anymore?... Those who insult Hindu Gods are becoming ministers," Yatnal said.

Other MLAs who have been vocal in their dissent are Sathish Reddy, who lamented that he would not have been ignored if his political mentor H N Ananth Kumar was alive; Arvind Bellad, who said even his father was ignored in the past for cabinet positions in the BJP; Raju Gouda, who said only MLAs from Bangalore and Belagavi have got prominence. Some other core BJP MLAs who have expressed unhappiness include Sunil Kumar, SA Ramadas, Thippareddy, M P Renukacharya, Abhay Patil, Shankargouda Patil and Somashekhar Reddy.

"Some 10-12 MLAs are unhappy. If they have any complaints, let them approach the party leadership in Delhi. They should not bring the party into disrepute by making public comments," Yediyurappa said while attempting to deflect the blame.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

AHEAD OF POLLS

Kerala Budget lists pension hike, digital platform for jobs

SHAJUPHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 15

FROM A hike in pensions that will benefit 48 lakh people to laptop schemes for disadvantaged sections and a digital platform that aims to provide 20 lakh jobs, the Left government in Kerala Friday rolled out a series of social welfare measures in the last Budget of its term with three months to go for the Assembly polls.

According to the Budget presented by Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, the monthly social welfare pension has been increased by Rs 100 to Rs 1,600. Laptops will be provided at half-cost to children from the families of fishermen, SCs and Antyodaya households, and at 25 per cent cost for those in the BPL category "to attain the goal of a laptop in all households".

The big-ticket announcement, however, is the move to set up a digital jobs platform. "We aim to utilise all the possibilities created by work near home and work from home. Opportunities will be created for companies to recruit employees for centralised or decentralised jobs. Details of those professionals and trained persons will be made available on a digital platform," Isaac said while presenting the Budget.

The government will also provide benefits to candidates selected by companies through this platform, he said. These include loans for equipment purchased by state-run financial institutions with government guarantees and work station facility on concessional rent.



Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac on his way to present the Budget. Express

The state government will also shoulder the social security liability of those being recruited through the platform, including the employer's contribution to the Provident Fund. "If PF is not preferred, insurance premium for termination benefit payable on retirement will be paid by the Government. Health insurance will be provided," Isaac said.

For this, the Minister said, the Kerala Development Innovation Strategy Council (K-DISC) will be restructured as a nodal agency for maintaining contact with firms providing jobs, imparting training to job-seekers depending on requirement, maintaining a platform for providing information, and encouraging innovation.

Around 500 post-doctoral fellowships with a monthly stipend of Rs 1 lakh will also be introduced, Isaac said.

The Budget has proposed a welfare fund for workers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Another highlight of the Budget is the proposed mapping of atrocities against women in all local bodies.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

PM to flag off 8 trains to boost connectivity to Statue of Unity

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will flag off eight trains connecting different regions of the country to Kevadiya, the area which has the Statue of Unity, on January 17.

Modi will also inaugurate several other projects related to the railways sector in Gujarat during

the event. Chief Minister of Gujarat and Union Railways Minister will be present on the occasion.

Modi will inaugurate the Dabhoi – Chandod gauge converted broad gauge railway line, Chandod – Kevadiya new Broad Gauge railway line, newly electrified Pratapnagar – Kevadiya section and the new station buildings of Dabhoi, Chandod and Kevadiya.

Ex-Union minister Kamal Morarka dies at 74

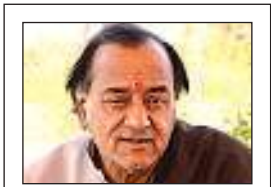
EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 15

FORMER UNION minister and businessman Kamal Mahavirprasad Morarka died in Mumbai on Friday evening following a heart attack.

He was 74. "He was fine till around 5 pm today, but passed away shortly afterwards owing to a heart attack," said Rajendra Sharma, one of Morarka's aides.

Rajkumar Sharma, MLA from Nawalgarh in Rajasthan, tweeted, "Shocked at the demise of former Union Minister and famous industrialist of Nawalgarh, Shri Kamal Morarka ji. This is irreparable damage to all of us."

Morarka was incumbent president of Samajwadi Janata Party (Chandra Shekhar). He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1988. In



KAMAL MAHAVIRPRASAD MORARKA
1946-2021

November 1990, he was appointed a Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office during the tenure of Chandra Shekhar – his mentor – as PM. His uncle RR Morarka was also an MP in the third Lok Sabha (1962) from Jhunjhunu.

Born and brought up in Mumbai, Morarka was always connected to Nawalgarh, the land of his ancestors, in Jhunjhunu dis-

trict. In the early 1990s, Morarka set up the M R Morarka – GDC Rural Research Foundation in Nawalgarh, in memory of his father MR Morarka. The Foundation focuses on research and development to help farmers, including recycling of farm waste "through traditional and modern methods."

Over the years, it has had a special focus on organic farming, and the development and promotion of Vermiculture Technology.

Morarka also served as Vice President of Rajasthan Cricket Association as well as the Vice President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Morarka was also known for *Left of Centre*, a collection of his speeches in Parliament, on the significant events of the 1990s, including the Bofors scam, the liberalisation of the economy, the Babri Masjid demolition, the Harshad Mehta scam and more,

while his wildlife photography was presented in a coffee table book *Roar: A Walk Through The Wild With Kamal Morarka*.

A man of many talents, Morarka was also the proprietor of Hindi daily *Chauthi Duniya*, among others.

He had last contested an election in 2016. In May 2016, Morarka had thrown his hat in the ring, as an independent candidate, on the last day of nominations for Rajya Sabha bye-elections from Rajasthan. He was backed by Congress MLAs and other Opposition legislators. However, BJP candidate M Venkaiah Naidu, then a Union minister, as well as party leaders Om Prakash Mathur, Harshvardhan Singh of Dunganpur royal family and retired RBI officer Ramkumar Verma, had managed to win.

Morarka is survived by his wife and two daughters.

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

GOA

Govt decides to shift IIT project out of Sattari

Panaji: Bowing to public pressure, the Goa government on Friday announced that the proposed IIT campus at Shel Melaulim village in Sattari taluka will be shifted to another part of the state. The project has met with severe opposition from local residents, who staged a large-scale protest at the village, insisting that they will not part with their land for the campus. Speaking to reporters, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the state government has decided to shift the project due to constant opposition from local residents. "We respect sentiments of people, which is why we have decided to shift..." **PTI**

HARYANA

2 arrested for trying to rape student in Hisar

Hisar: An auto-rickshaw driver and his accomplice were arrested for allegedly trying to rape a college student inside his three-wheeler on in Hisar, police said on Friday. The incident took place on Wednesday when the victim boarded the auto-rickshaw to go to her educational institute. Upon reaching the institute, the auto driver kept driving. He and his companion then attempted to allegedly sexually assault the woman, said the police. Two police personnel were passing by and heard the shouts of the woman and nabbed the accused. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

2 Doppler radars commissioned in Himalayas

Pune: Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan Friday commissioned two of the ten indigenously built Doppler weather radars which will closely monitor the weather changes over the Himalayas. Services of X-band Doppler radars at Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand and Kufri in Himachal Pradesh were inaugurated in a virtual ceremony on the occasion of the 146th foundation day of the IMD. Covering the central and western Himalayas, these dual polarised radars will gather atmospheric variations and can pick signals of extreme weather. **ENS**

UTTARAKHAND

Govt to sponsor TV show to boost tourism

Dehradun: The government on Friday said it would sponsor a TV reality show based on adventure sports — to be hosted by actor Amitabh Bachchan — in a bid to promote tourism in the state. After the Cabinet meeting, government spokesperson Madan Kaushik told reporters that the state government will provide sponsorship of Rs 12.21 crore for the reality show. Sources said 70 per cent of the show will be televised in the state and that the production agency would also design its marketing. **ENS**

ARMY DAY CELEBRATIONS



Army Chief General M M Naravane at the 73rd Army Day Parade in New Delhi on Friday. **PTI**

Army commander: Revocation of J&K special status helped restore faith in govt

ARUN SHARMA

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 15

GENERAL OFFICER Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Y K Joshi on Friday said the government's move to revoke the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had helped restore faith of the people in government institutions.

Speaking on the occasion of Army Day at an event in Udhampur, Lt Gen Joshi said, "The abrogation of Article 370 and improvement in governance thereof, has been a major game-changer and helped restore faith of the common people in the institutions of government." He added that the recently-held District Development Council elections in the UT of J&K "conveyed the resolve of the *awaam*

(populace) to shun separatism and embrace democracy".

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Central government revoked the special status granted to the state of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh.

The government then moved to establish a three-tier Panchayati Raj system in J&K by holding DDC polls in the last quarter of 2020. In his address, Lt Gen Joshi said the Army too had played a role in "creating an ecosystem and normalcy in which people can resume and live their lives normally" despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Pointing out that Operation Sadbhavana had been pivotal in providing job opportunities and education to the youth, he said, "We are making a lot of efforts to win over the youth by giving them better opportunities

in education and employment."

Speaking of the challenges faced by troops of the Northern Command, Joshi said, "First, we have the Western adversary that is Pakistan and which has not yet relented from producing terror as an instrument of State policy. Second, we have Northern borders where we have seen Chinese belligerents along the LAC where they tried to alter the status quo and which has been contested with resolve and courage by the Indian Army; and third, the internal situation in J&K, which is stable now, but can flare up anytime."

On the situation at the LAC in Ladakh, he said, "I am extremely satisfied with all the actions the Northern Command has taken towards the end of August 29-30." He said the command is at a position of operational advantage, negotiating with China's PLA from a position of equivalence.

Army chief: No one should make mistake of testing India's patience

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

IN A tough message to China amid the Ladakh standoff, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Friday said no one should make any mistake of testing India's patience even as he asserted that a befitting response was given to the "conspiracy" of unilaterally changing the status quo along the northern frontier.

Gen Naravane, at the same time, said India is committed to resolve the over eight-month-long military standoff with China through talks.

In his address at the Army Day parade in Delhi Cantonment, Gen Naravane said the sacrifice of the "Galwan heroes" in eastern Ladakh in June last year will not go waste and that the Indian Army will not allow any harm to the country's sovereignty and security. "We are committed to resolve disputes through talks and political efforts but no one should make any mistake of testing our patience," he said in the presence of the country's top military brass including Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal RK S Bhadauria.

Referring to the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), Gen Naravane said Pakistan continues to shelter terrorists and 300 to 400 of them are waiting in training camps on the Pakistani side to infiltrate into India.

Gen Naravane also noted that eight rounds of military talks were held between India and China. "Our efforts will continue to find a solution to the current situation on the basis of mutual and equal security," he said.

KARNATAKA

13 dead after minibus collides with truck

DARSHAN DEVAIAH BP

DHARWAD, JANUARY 15

AT LEAST 13 people were killed and eight were injured after a minibus collided head-on with a truck on the Hubballi-Dharwad bypass road in north Karnataka on Friday morning, police said.

According to police, a group of 17 women — all of whom had studied at St Paul's Convent in Davangere — were travelling to Goa for a trip in the minibus.

"The tempo (minibus) had left Davangere at around 3 am. When it reached near Ittigatti cross, located about 8 km from Dharwad city, at around 7 am, it collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction," said an officer from Dharwad Rural Police.

"According to a preliminary investigation, all 17 women are classmates. They go for a trip every year. This year, they had planned to go to Goa and one among them was a doctor," police said later in the evening.

The drivers of both vehicles have also died, police said. The injured were shifted to a local hospital in Hubballi. Later in the



A group of 17 women were headed to Goa in the minibus. **Express**

evening, one of the injured passengers — a 47-year-old woman — was airlifted to Bengaluru. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dr Shalini Nalawad, founder-director of ICATT Air Ambulances said, the patient was admitted to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru for further treatment. "The patient sustained head injuries, we were giving her constant care... Her condition is stable," she added.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Prime Minister Narendra took to Twitter to express grief over the incident.

In a tweet in Kannada, Yediyurappa expressed shock and grief over the tragedy and said officials had been asked to investigate the cause of the accident and submit a report soon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter saying: "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a road accident in Karnataka's Dharwad district. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I pray for a quick recovery of those injured."

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, police officials said.

TRP case: Govt says no coercive action against Republic TV staff till Jan 29

OMKAR GOKHALE

MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Friday assured the Bombay High Court that it would not take any coercive action against *Republic TV* editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and other employees of ARG Outlier Media Private Limited, which runs the channel, till the next hearing in the TRP fraud case.

Following this, the Bombay High Court decided to continue the relief granted to *Republic TV* employees from coercive action till January 29. Earlier, the relief was granted till Friday.

The HC also took on record a status report filed by the Mumbai Police pertaining to the probe in a sealed envelope. Further, the court permitted parties to the case to approach it by giving notice to the other side, in case of any urgency.

The channel had filed an application seeking to make the ED, which is investigating a complaint related to TRP fraud in Lucknow, a party to the case. The government, however, had "strongly objected" and sought time to file a reply to the plea.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

319 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 1,05,27,683
ACTIVE CASES: 2,13,027
DEATHS: 1,51,918
TESTS: 18,49,62,401
RECOVERIES: 1,01,62,738

JAN 14 **CASES** 15,590 **DEATHS** 191 **RECOVERIES** 15,975 **TESTS** 7,30,096



STATES WITH RISING ACTIVE CASES

	ACTIVE CASES	RISE IN LAST WEEK
Kerala	66,666	2,073
Maharashtra	52,558	1,447
Odisha	1,980	61

STATES WHERE ACTIVE CASES ARE DECLINING

	ACTIVE CASES	DECLINE IN LAST WEEK
Rajasthan	5,675	1,793
Uttar Pradesh	10,080	1,706
Chhattisgarh	7,418	1,441

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES

	ON JAN 14	TOTAL
Kerala	5,490	8,31,260
Maharashtra	3,579	19,81,623
West Bengal	680	5,63,475

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS

	ON JAN 14	TOTAL
Maharashtra	77	51,477
Kerala	19	3,440
West Bengal	17	10,010

Data as on January 14, 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

Punjab announces aid after death of Special Olympian

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, CHANDIGARH, JAN 15

TWO DAYS after a double-gold medalist at the Special Olympics died of an illness waiting for a Rs 30 lakh cash reward promised by the then SAD-BJP government in 2015, the Congress dispensation on Friday announced Rs 5 lakh financial assistance for his family.

The announcement by Punjab Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Sodhi came on a day *The Indian Express* highlighted the plight of Rajvir Singh.

The 21-year-old Ludhiana youth had won two gold medals in cycling at Special Olympics in 2015 held at Los Angeles. He died due to a brain-related ailment at the Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) Wednesday after being on ventilator support for nearly a month.



Rajvir Singh

In a statement, minister Sodhi said senior officials of the department have been asked to hand over the financial assistance to Rajvir's family.

In July 2020, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, in a video message, had said that his government will help Rajvir and other Special Olympians waiting for their cash rewards. Sports officials revealed that so far, the government has not notified any policy to release pending cash rewards to Special Olympics medal-winners.

Rajvir's father Balbir Singh, who works as a labourer, said, "This money is now just paper for us. My son is dead. Had they given this money earlier, I might have saved my son".

Chit fund case: Wife of Rose Valley chief held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, JANUARY 15

THE CBI's Economic Offences Wing arrested Subhra Kundu, wife of Rose Valley Group chairman Gautam Kundu, in Kolkata on Friday in connection with its probe into the multi-crore chit fund scam. The Enforcement Directorate, which had arrested Gautam in 2015, is also investigating the Rs 17,000-crore scam, said to be the biggest in Bengal.

According to sources, the CBI will take Subhra to a Bhubaneswar court on Saturday for transit remand. The case was registered in Odisha. The CBI arrested Subhra, who was wanted by the CBI and ED and did not reply to notices, after getting information that she was in her South Kolkata house.

The Rose Valley Group allegedly cheated thousands of depositors, promising abnormally



Subhra Kundu

high returns on investments in its illegal schemes. As per sources, Subhra is the director of two companies of Rose Valley Group. CBI officers said she could not give any satisfactory answer to bank transactions by these two companies. She is alleged to have siphoned crores, which were said to be proceeds of crime, and managed the Rose Valley Group companies after Gautam's arrest.

Several TMC leaders have been interrogated, arrested and jailed in connection with the case.

TMC leader Saugata Roy said about Subhra's arrest, "I don't want to give it much importance. Why did it take them so long to arrest her when Gautam Kundu was arrested long back?"

Sewage action plan: Himachal walks different path, despite Centre's push

KARISHMA MEHROTRA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

IN WHAT appears to be a counter-intuitive outlier, Himachal Pradesh has proposed a sewage management action plan that contrasts models suggested by the central government and international consultancies. Despite a concerted four-year push from the Centre towards individual septic tank solutions, even in urban areas, the hill state plans to dig up more ground to enlarge its piped underground networks.

Himachal submitted its action plan this month to the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC), which is overseeing compliance to a set of National Green Tribunal orders to make sewage 100 per cent treated by March 2021.

Over the past four years, states have been nudged towards Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) — on-site, decentralised solutions such as septic tanks — following a major push from the Centre which came out with a FSSM policy in 2017. In July last year, a National Mission for Clean Ganga webinar was also held for "mainstreaming" FSSM.

While states such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

EXPLAINED **E** International agencies back FSSM

THE CENTRE'S push for FSSM follows arguments from major international agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Gates Foundation, which provide significant funding for these projects. They say centralised, large-scale sewerage systems are time-consuming, expensive, and environmentally-disruptive. A February 2020 ADB report pushes strongly for a decentralised solution for sewage and fecal sludge management.

Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have begun to lean towards FSSM in medium and small urban settings, others like Gujarat, West Bengal and Himachal have shown less inclination. Currently, the country has only 25 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), which treat sewage from septic tanks, but cities are building 400 more, according to a CMC report of

September last year.

As the states begin to chart out their directions, Himachal is experiencing an acute urgency. In 2016, Shimla's insufficiently treated sewage in the Ashwani Khud river system led to a Hepatitis E outbreak, which causes jaundice. It affected more than half of the total families in the city in three months. "There is huge urgency. They have seen the implication of not doing this well," PwC urban infrastructure consultant Shivanshu Chauhan told *The Indian Express*.

Roughly 70 per cent of Himachal's 57 cities are connected to underground pipes and, to connect the remaining, the state plans to build 23 more sewage treatment plants and convert septic tank services into networks, said Naveen Puri, Himachal's Engineer-in-chief in Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

When asked about the decision, AMRUT Joint Secretary D Thara said: "In a hilly state... FSTP is good enough to immediately deal with the problem. Septage is a good idea." He said ultimately the decision is the state's and the Centre plays a "supportive" role.

Along with Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation or AMRUT, after a declared-achievement of open-defecation free (ODF), govern-

ment sources said decentralised sewage management in ODF++ will be of high priority in the next phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. In the 2020 Swachh Survekshan ranking, an FSSM action plan gives an urban local body 40 marks and over 95 per cent on-site sanitation coverage gives 80 marks.

While Himachal may seem like an obvious site for decentralised sewage systems, engineers in the state cited major difficulties in convincing private actors to traverse the hills for de-sludging septic tanks. "Along with the Centre, Niti Aayog also said carry sewage from septic tanks to the plant. But in Himachal, we studied it, it is not possible here," Puri said. Another chief engineer, Sushel Justa, said mismanaged septic tanks have continuously leaked, contaminating the water table.

Abhishek Akhilesh, a KPMG executive who works with Urban Affairs Ministry, said: "Himachal is a bit of a unique case.... Given the gradient, getting these low-powered trucks to de-sludge when they are filled with two tons of waste is difficult." However, underground is not a "panacea" either, he said, for the same gradient concerns will require more costly, pressurized sewer lines.

UP: BJP fields ex-IAS officer AK Sharma in MLC polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

THE BJP on Friday nominated former Gujarat cadre IAS officer Arvind Kumar Sharma as a candidate for the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council polls, a day after he joined the party.

Sharma recently took voluntary retirement as the secretary of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. He has worked closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for about 20 years.

Besides Sharma, the saffron party also declared the candidatures of Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh and state BJP vice-president Laxman Acharya.

The elections for the 12 MLC seats will be held on January 28. The nomination process has already started. The 12 outgoing MLCs include Dinesh Sharma, Swatantra Dev Singh and Laxman Prasad Acharya. The seat of former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Nasimuddin Siddiqui is vacant due to his disqualification after he switched to the Congress.

UN representative: India doesn't properly protect human rights defenders

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

UNITED NATIONS Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Mary Lawlor Friday said India does not "properly protect human rights defenders".

She also said she had written to the government in November, "raising concerns" over Jesuit priest Stan Swamy's arrest in connection with the Bhima Koregaon case, but had not yet received a response. Lawlor was speaking at an online event marking 100 days of Swamy's incarceration.

"India is a state which doesn't properly protect human rights defenders. I am appalled by the treatment of human rights defenders such as Father Stan Swamy who embodies solidarity," she said.

"It's clear that there are severe challenges to promoting and protecting human rights in the country. Make no mistake, the state is responsible for protection of human rights defenders," she added.

Lawlor criticised the UAPA, saying its "definition of a terrorist act is not precise or clear, and fails to provide legal certainty". She also said the law has led to a "highly concerning conflation of



Event marked 100 days of Stan Swamy's incarceration

human rights advocacy with terrorism". "In November 2020, I sent a letter to Indian government raising concerns about arrest. Governments are given a 60-day period during which they are expected to reply... But I am still to receive a response from the Indian authorities," she said.

Advaisi rights activist Xavier Dias, who worked closely with Swamy, said what happened was "very unfortunate, unfair and unjust". Delhi University professor Apoorvanand moderated the discussion. Dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai performed to Maya Angelou's poem *Still I Rise* and said Swamy was "a person who has done extraordinary work for the poorest and the most marginalised".

A sipper bearing the photo of Swamy along with the hashtag "releasestan" was released on the occasion — Swamy was prohibited from accessing his sipper for a long time by jail authorities.

CBI says 4 of its officials got Rs 50 lakh in bribes for leaking info to 2 firms

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

FOUR CBI officials, who had been raided by the agency on Thursday for alleged corruption, had allegedly received more than Rs 50 lakh from two companies under probe for bank loan fraud for allegedly leaking crucial case information to office-bearers of the two firms.

The four officials — Dy SPs R K Sangwan and R K Rishi, Inspector Kapil Dhankad and steno Sameer Kumar Singh — have been booked under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act) and the IPC.

According to CBI, these officials were sharing information about cases against Shree Shyam Pulp & Board Mills Pvt Ltd and Frost International in exchange for bribes.

The agency has also booked office-bearers of these companies, including Sujay and Uday Desai, both directors in Frost International, and Mandeep Kaur Dhillion, additional director in Shree Shyam Pulp. Apart from this, two lawyers, Arvind Kumar Gupta and Manohar Malik, have also been booked for allegedly bribing the officials.

According to CBI, in the case of Shree Shyam Pulp, Dy SP RK Sangwan, who was once the investigating officer of the case, “paid a bribe of Rs 10 lakh in cash on behalf of Ms Mandeep Kaur Dhillion to (inspector) Kapil Dhankad”. In return, CBI has alleged, Dhankad conveyed confidential informa-

East Coast Rly withdraws order to hire bungalow peons on contract

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

A ZONAL railway has withdrawn a recent policy order, which sought to deploy bungalow peons for officers through contractual manpower, after the Railway Ministry intervened and clarified that zones cannot do so.

The Odisha-based East Coast Railway had issued a policy order earlier this month that said if options of appointing bungalow peons from available staff strength does not work out, the railway can outsource the job by hiring manpower on contract to work at the homes of officers.

This came a month after the Railway Ministry issued the new central policy governing engagement of Telephone Attendant cum Dak Khalasi (TADK) or bungalow peons. It said that bungalow peons are to be appointed from available railway staff in Level 1 category and officers could no longer recruit fresh candidates. This effectively put a stop on the 100-year-old policy of bungalow peons, officers said, citing the fact that it is not feasible to take Level-1 (Group D) staff from existing departments and deploy them at homes, considering there is hardly any manpower to spare.

In the earlier system, officers could choose to engage anyone to work as TADK and after three years, the TADK was formally absorbed as a Railway employee following due processes.

However, TADK continues to be an entitlement and, according to officials, at least 30 officers in East Coast Railways are currently waiting for a policy clarity to deploy bungalow peons at their homes. Several such cases are across all zonal railways. The now-withdrawn order, issued with the approval of the zonal General Manager, came in that context.

ED questions Khadse over 2016 land deal

Mumbai: NCP leader Eknath Khadse was questioned for more than six hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at its office in Mumbai's Ballard Pier on Friday in connection with a 2016 land deal in Pune. Khadse, who arrived at the ED office around 11 am and left at 5.30 pm, told mediapersons: “They asked questions and I tried to give answers. Whatever documents or information they need, I will provide, and will appear before them again whenever they ask.” Khadse (68), who quit the BJP and joined the NCP last October, was summoned by the ED on December 30, 2020, in connection to the case. But he skipped appearance on the ground that he was quarantined due to Covid-19, and was given more time. Khadse had resigned from then Devendra Fadnis-led Cabinet in 2016 after navigating allegations that he misused his official powers to facilitate the purchase of government land in Bhosari near Pune by his family. **ENS**

tion relating to the investigation to Sangwan “with an intention to favour the accused”. CBI has alleged that Dhankad also received a bribe of Rs Rs 10 lakh from Dy SP Rishi who made this payment on behalf of Desais of Frost International.

“Further, it is reliably learnt that Shri RK Rishi, DSP received Rs 15 lakhs twice through two advocates namely Shri Manohar Malik and Shri Arvind Gupta (having office in Defence Colony) to extend favors to a Chandigarh based company against which a corruption case was being investigated by CBI. In this matter, Shri Kapil Dhankad twice received Rs 2.5 lakhs from Shri Arvind Gupta for having brokered the deal through Shri RK Rishi,” the CBI FIR said.

“It has also been reliably learnt that the details of the investigation of many other cases including confidential notes and directions have been communicated by Shri Sameer Kumar Singh, Steno, to Shri RK Sangwan and Shri RK Rishi on pecuniary considerations to protect the interests of the accused,” the FIR added.

The agency had on Thursday raided its own headquarters apart from 14 other locations across the country in connection with the case.


Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Regulations) that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 4th February 2021 to consider and approve inter alia (i) the Audited Financial Results (Standalone) and (ii) the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2020.

Pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of the above referred Regulations, the said Notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.tatapower.com and also on the website of the respective stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary
FCS No.: 3606

Place : Mumbai
Dated : 15th January 2021

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB**
ONLINE INTERVIEW FOR MEDICAL OFFICER (MALE/FEMALE)
Online Applications are invited for Online Interview for engagement of a Medical Officer (Male/Female) on purely Temporary/Contractual Basis on or before **25.01.2021**.
For Date & Time of Interview, Eligibility Conditions, Link for applying Online, Last Date of Application, Terms & Conditions and other details, please visit **www.cup.edu.in**.
REGISTRAR
Main Campus, VPO Ghudda, Distt. Bathinda-151401 Email: recruitment@cup.edu.in
विज्ञान का हिंदी स्वर्णार विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।
Adv. No. CUPB/20-21/011 Dated: 15.01.2021
CUPB-30

**TATA POWER**
The Tata Power Company Limited
CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001 Tel: +91 22 6665 8282; Fax: +91 22 6665 8801
e-mail: tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, MUMBAI BENCH
CA (CAA) NO. 1140/MB/20
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 READ WITH SECTION 52 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPOSITE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AMONGST COASTAL GUJARAT POWER LIMITED AND TATA POWER SOLAR SYSTEMS LIMITED AND THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS

The Tata Power Company Limited, a company)
incorporated under the provisions of the Indian)
Companies Act, VII of 1913 having Corporate Identity)
Number: L28920MH1919PLC000567 and its registered)
office at Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai)
400 001, Maharashtra, (India))

... Company / Transferee Company

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE CONVENING MEETING OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY
NOTICE is hereby given that by an Order dated 5th January 2021, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench (**'Hon'ble Tribunal'**) has directed a meeting to be held of the Equity Shareholders of The Tata Power Company Limited (**'Company'** or **'Transferee Company'**), for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving, with or without modification(s), the arrangement embodied in the Composite Scheme of Arrangement amongst Coastal Gujarat Power Limited and Tata Power Solar Systems Limited and The Tata Power Company Limited and their respective shareholders (**'Scheme'**).

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Equity Shareholders of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 16th February 2021 at 3:00 p.m. (IST) **ONLY** via Video Conferencing (**'VC'**) Other Audio Visual Means (**'OAVM'**), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (**'Act'**), Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (**'SEBI Listing Regulations'**), to transact the business set out in the Notice.

The Company has completed dispatch of the Notice of the Meeting on 13th January 2021 by electronic mode to those Members who have already registered their e-mail address with the Depositories/the Depository Participant (**'DP'**) the Company's RTA-TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited (**'TSR'**) the Company whose names appeared in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as per the details furnished by the Depositories as on 8th January 2021 (**'Cut-Off Date'**).

A copy of the Notice along with the Explanatory Statement including inter alia the Scheme under Section 230, 232 and 102 of the Act read with Rule 6 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, is made available on the website of the Company at www.tatapower.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Additionally, the Notice is also available and may be accessed from the relevant section of the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively. In case any Member is interested in receiving a copy of the Notice, along with the Explanatory Statement, the same shall be obtained free of charge by sending a requisition in this regard to the Company at tatapower@tatapower.com.

As this Meeting is being held through VC/OAVM, the facility for appointment of proxies by the Equity Shareholders of the Company is not available at the Meeting.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, or failing him, Mr. Ashok Sinha, Directors of the Company to be the Chairman of the Meeting.

The above mentioned Scheme, if approved by the Equity Shareholders of the Company, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Remote-Voting:
In compliance with (i) Section 230(4) read with Sections 108 and 110 of the Act; (ii) Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014; and (iii) Regulation 44 of the SEBI Listing Regulations, as amended from time to time, the Company is providing to the Members the facility to exercise their right to vote by electronic means using remote e-Voting system (e-Voting other than at the Meeting) as well as e-Voting at the Meeting (collectively referred as **'e-Voting'**) using facility offered by National Securities Depositories Limited (**'NSDL'**).

The detailed instructions for e-Voting are given in the Notice. Members are requested to note the following:

- The remote e-Voting will commence on Sunday, 17th January 2021 at 9:00 a.m. (IST) and will end on Monday, 15th February 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (IST). The e-Voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter and Members will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time.
- The voting rights of the Members for voting through e-Voting shall be in proportion to their share of the paid-up Equity Share Capital of the Company as on the Cut-Off Date i.e. Friday, 8th January 2021. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-Off Date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of e-Voting.
- Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after the Cut-Off Date, may obtain the Login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or request the Company/TSR for viewing the proceedings of the Meeting. However, such person shall not be entitled for e-Voting.
- Facility of voting through electronic voting system shall also be made available during the VC/OAVM proceedings of the Meeting till 15 minutes after the conclusion of the Meeting. Members attending the Meeting through VC/OAVM, who have not already cast their vote by remote e-Voting, shall be able to exercise their right during the Meeting.
- Members who have already cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the Meeting will be eligible to participate at the Meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again on such resolution for which the Member has already cast the vote through remote e-Voting prior to the Meeting.
- Members who need assistance before or during the Meeting, can contact NSDL on evoting@nsdl.co.in or call on toll free no.: 1800-224-430 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal, Senior Manager-NSDL at amitv@nsdl.co.in.

Members whose email IDs are not registered with the Company/Depository Participants/the Company's RTA, may follow the following process and get their e-mail addresses registered with TSR, on or before 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Monday, 1st February 2021 to receive the Notice and the procedure for remote e-Voting along with the login ID and password for remote e-voting:

I. For Members who hold shares in Electronic form:

- Visit the link <https://green.tsdrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po>
- Enter the DP ID & Client ID, PAN details and Captcha code.
- System will verify the Client ID and PAN details.
- On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
- Enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
- The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Notice.

II. For Members who hold shares in Physical form:

- Visit the link <https://green.tsdrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po>
- Enter the physical Folio Number, PAN details and Captcha code.
- In the event the PAN details are not available on record, Member to enter any one of the share certificate numbers.
- System will verify the Folio Number and PAN details or the share certificate number.
- On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
- Enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
- If PAN details are not available, the system will prompt the Member to upload a self-attested copy of the PAN card.
- The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Notice.

As directed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, Mr. P. N. Parikh (Membership No. FCS 327) and failing him, Mr. Mitesh Dhabliwala (FCS 8331) of M/s. Parikh & Associates, Company Secretaries, shall act as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting at the Meeting and remote e-Voting process, in a fair and transparent manner and submit a report on votes cast to the Chairman of the Meeting within 48 hours from the conclusion of the Meeting.

The result of the voting shall be announced by the Chairman of the Meeting on or before Thursday, 18th February 2021 upon receipt of Scrutinizer's Report and the same shall be displayed on the website of the Company at www.tatapower.com and on NSDL website at www.evoting.nsdl.com besides being sent to BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited on the said date.

In case of any queries, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800-224-430 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

For The Tata Power Company Limited
Sd/-
N. Chandrasekaran
Chairman appointed for the Meeting

Dated: 15th January 2021
Place : Mumbai

राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून, पटेल नगर, देहरादून
कोन न० - 0135-2726020, 2726021 फ़ैक्स न० 0135-2726020 Website - www.doonmedical.com
पत्र पत्ता- राधुनगढ़/विहिता/2020-21/245 दिनांक: 15.01.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना


अधोहस्ताक्षर कर्ता द्वारा संस्थान में आवश्यक उपकरणों एवं अन्य व्यवस्थाओं हेतु प्रतिष्ठित रच निर्माता फर्मों अथवा उनके अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से निम्नानुसार ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जा रही है।
1. नेत्र विभाग सम्बन्धित उपकरणों हेतु निविदा।
2. ईओएनटीओ विभाग से सम्बन्धित उपकरणों हेतु पुनः निविदा।
3. थिक्किस्लाय में **Liquid Oxygen, Nitrous Oxide & Carbon Dioxide** की आपूर्ति कार्य हेतु निविदा
निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य समस्त सूचनायें उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://ukltenders.gov.in> से दिनांक 16.01.2021 अपराह्न 2:30 से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

**J.C. BOSE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, YMCA, FARIDABAD**
NAAC 'A' Grade Accredited State Govt. University
Adv. No. 01/2021

NOTICE
Applications on the prescribed form are invited for various posts of Non-Teaching / Workshop Staff on direct recruitment / depuration basis by 18.02.2021.
Application form including information about qualifications, experience, reservation, application fee and other details can be downloaded from the University website www.jcbousest.ac.in. The University reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of posts or it may not fill any of the posts advertised without assigning any reason.
14807/HRY
REGISTRAR
NH- 2, SECTOR-6, MATHURA ROAD, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121006

Advertisement No. 5/2021
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
Invites applications for the post of
Chairman and Managing Director
in
Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited
Last date of receipt of applications in
PESB is by **15:00 Hours on 25th March, 2021**
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in> **SNP 03**

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the kind notice that sanction for engagement of one personnel for Courier Services through outsourcing policy, in the office of the Jt. Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Gurugram (Range), has been accorded by the Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, Panchkula as per Haryana Govt. Instruction, tender for engagement of one personnel through outsourcing policy is hereby invited to call for dated 21.01.2021. All the outsourcing contractors who fulfill the terms and conditions as prescribed by the Haryana Govt. will submit their quotations till dated 21.01.2021 at 2.00 P.M. in the office of the undersigned situated at "C-1, Tower-I, Infocity-I, Sector-34, Gurugram". The tender will be opened on the same day i.e. 21.01.2021.
Jt. Excise & Taxation Commissioner
Gurugram (Range),
1432/7/HRY

**EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS), BHOPAL**
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
1. Applications are invited for short listing suitable candidates for selection of contractual employment for 11/12 months for the vacancies of **Medical Officer (02)** (01) vacancy against additional Medical Officer as per Manning docu for the FY 2021-2022, (01) vacancy against authorized, **Dental officer (01)**, **Pharmacist (02)** (01) vacancy against authorized and 01 vacancy against additional as per Manning docu for the FY 2021-2022, **Lab Technician (01)**, **Lab Assistant (01)**, **Nursing Assistant (02)**-01 vacancy against authorized and 01 vacancy against additional as per Manning docu for the FY 2021-2022, **Clerk-(01)**, **Data Entry Operator(01)**, **Female Attendant (01)** and **Safaiwala-(01)** on contractual basis at ECHS Polyclinic Bhopal.
2. Employment of Med Officer and Dental Officer will be carried out in accordance with para 4 of Central Org ECHS letter No B/49760/AG/ECHS/R/2020 dt 02 Jan 2020. Link available at <https://echs.gov.in/img/Policy/Peris20Section2%20Selection%20procedure%20for%20Contractual%20staff%20Q02%20for%20FY2021-2022.pdf>
3. Applicant for Medical Officer, Pharmacist and Nursing Assistant to intimate if they are applying against authorized / additional vacancy or both.
4. Details of terms & conditions are available on ECHS website. Application is available at https://echs.gov.in/img/download/appl_echs_form.pdf
5. Please submit application as hard copy only, by post / by hand with two set of Application with PPO & Discharge book (For Ex-servicemen Only), 10th Class & other Marksheets, Other Educational Certificates, experience certificates. Applications in email/online submission form are NOT ACCEPTABLE.
6. Last date for receipt of applications along with connected documents is 30 Jan 2021.
7. Shortlisted candidates only will be called for interview scheduled on 10 Feb 2021 from 0900h onwards at Station Headquarters, Sultania Infantry Lines, Bhopal-462001.
Tel: No 0755-2731057

Office of the
Chief Electrical Inspector to Govt., Haryana
SCO 117-118, Sector-17-B, Chandigarh
(e-mail: cei_goh@yahoo.com).
Telephone No. 0172-2704 Fax No. 0172-2710171
INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORISATION OF CHARTERED ELECTRICAL SAFETY ENGINEER (CESE) IN THE STATE OF HARYANA
Opening date of Registration of online application: 22.12.2020
Extended Closing date of Registration of online application: 25.01.2021
Extended Last date of submission of fees: 29.01.2021
Online applications are invited from eligible Engineers to authorize them as Chartered Electrical Safety Engineers under regulation 5A of the Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Amendment Regulations, 2018 and guidelines issued by CEA. For more detail, visit our website: www.ceiharyana.in
Chief Electrical Inspector
to Govt., Haryana, Chandigarh
1421/7/HRY

**Institute of Digital Education and Employment Development**
हिजिल शिक्षा तथा रोजगार विकास संस्थान
Head Office : Bagdi (Tonk) Rajasthan-304801


Notification No.: DRD/01/2021 **Recruitment Notification** Date: 07/01/2021
ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTORATE INSTRUCTIONS, ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR COMBINED APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT OF 433 POSTS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE INSTITUTE LOCATED IN INDIA.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online application commencement date	14-01-2021
Last date for online application and fee submission	20-02-2021
Exam Date	August, 2021

Online application process:- the applications for the combined apprentice recruitment examination will be filled through the online application system on the departmental website www.dsrvsindia.ac.in. Instructions and forms for filling online application will be available on the recruitment portal of the department website.
Details of the Posts :

Name & No. of Posts	UR	EWS	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Data Entry Operator	84	16	19	8	41	168
Web Designer	8	1	1	0	5	15
Content Writer	83	16	18	7	41	165
Computer Networking Technician	23	4	6	2	11	46
Office Assistant	19	2	2	3	13	39

Application Fee : Applicants will be able to submit the application fee online as per their category.
For UR/EWS/OBC Candidates : Rs. 550/-, For SC/ST/PwD Candidates : Rs 400/-
Note: Detailed guidelines including educational qualification, eligibility criteria, application fee, examination structure, examination syllabus, admission format, procedure and conduct and other conditions will be available on the above website www.dsrvsindia.ac.in for online application. **Director, DSRVS**

**Reliance Industries Limited**
Growth is Life
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021
Phone: 022-3555 5000 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L11701MH1973PLC019786

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, (Listing Regulations), notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Friday, January 22, 2021** *inter alia* to consider and approve the standalone and consolidated unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter / nine months ended December 31, 2020.
The said Notice may be accessed on the Company's website at <http://www.ril.com> and may also be accessed on the Stock Exchange websites at <http://www.bseindia.com> and <http://www.nseindia.com>.
For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Savitri Parekh
Joint Company Secretary and
Compliance Officer
Place : Mumbai
Date : January 15, 2021
www.ril.com

**IDBI BANK**
Advertisement No. 2 / 2020-21


Advertisement for Appointment of Experts (Contractual Basis)
IDBI Bank Ltd
Regd. Office: IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005 • Tel. 22189111
Invites applications for the following posts.

SN	Post Name	No. of Posts
1	Chief Data Officer	1
2	Head–Program Management & Information Technology Compliance	1
3	Deputy Chief Technology Officer (Channels)	1
4	Deputy Chief Technology Officer (Digital)	1

For details (eligibility criteria with respect to age, work experience, related instructions) and to apply, please visit the careers page on Bank's website www.idbibank.in.
Contact Details – Shri Manish Aind – 022-66552285
Shri Ram Prasad Pati – 022-66553050
NOTE: IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) therefor.

**F. No. 54/25/2020-Media**
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
5th floor, Antyodaya Bhawan
CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003.

Government Notified the List of Posts Identified Suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities
The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 4th January 2021 notified 3566 posts in Central Government establishments as suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities (disability of 40% and above) under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. These posts include 1046 in Group A, 515 in Group B, 1724 in Group C and 281 in Group D posts. Posts have also been identified suitable for new categories of persons with disabilities such as dwarfism, acid attack victims, muscular dystrophy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, specific learning disability, mental illness and multiple disability have been added. This list is not an exhaustive one and Central Ministries / Department/Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings may further supplement. This notification will broaden the scope for employment for persons with benchmark disabilities in Government establishments.
A list of 2973 posts identified suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities was last notified on 29.07.2013 in terms of the repealed Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. As compared to the earlier notified list, 593 new posts have been added.
The list of posts notified by the Central Government on 04.01.2021 is based on the recommendations of an expert committee constituted under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and consisting experts, persons with benchmark disabilities and representatives from various associations of persons with disabilities.
Details of the list are available on the website of the Department. Notification is also available on <http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2021/224370.pdf>.
davn 38117/11/0057/2021

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI**
4th FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110 001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).

In the matter of **OA No 386/2020/DRT-III**
THE NANITAL BANK LTD. Vs. M/S MOBI TRADE LINK & ORS.
Applicant Defendants

D-1. M/S MOBI TRADE LINK, 5 - Gur Mandi, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110007. Also At :- 40- 41, Shiv Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059. Also At:- B-7, Basement- Ground Floor, Nanjoli Stand, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043.
D-2. Sh. Puneet Jain, S/o Sh. Davinder Kumar Jain, 87, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007. Also At:- C-2/12, 4th Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi-110007.
D-3. Smt. Sudha Jain W/o Sh. Davinder Kumar Jain, 87, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007. Also At:- C-2/12, 4th Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi-110007. Also At:- 5 - Gur Mandi, G.T.Karnal Road, Delhi-110007.
D-4. Ms. Niti Jain, W/o Sh. Puneet Jain, 87, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007. Also At:- C-2/12, 4th Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi-110007.
D-5. Sh. Davinder Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Bal Kishan Jain, 87, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007 Also At:- C-2/12, 4th Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi-110007. Also At:- 5- Gur Mandi, G.T.Karnal Road, Delhi-110007.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 17.02.2021 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/software;
(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No. 23748469.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 31st day of Dec., 2020. By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar
DRT-III, New Delhi

SPECIAL TRAINS
For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Special Trains as per the schedule given below :-

05114/05113 Chhapra Kacheri - Gomti Nagar - Chhapra Kacheri Special Express (Daily)

Train No. 05114	STATIONS	Train No. 05113
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
-- 19:20	Chhapra Kacheri	08:40 --
06:35 --	Gomti Nagar	-- 21:10

Days of Run: 05114 Ex. Chhapra Kacheri Daily from 27.01.2021 & 05113 Ex. Gomti Nagar Daily from 28.01.2021.
Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.
Stoppage : Marhaura, Mashrakh, Dighwa Dubauli, Gopalganj, Thawe Jn., Tamkuhi Road, Dudahi, Padrauna, Ramkola, Kaptanganj Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Basti Mankapur Jn., Gonda Jn. & Barabanki Jn. Stations.

09731/09732 Jaipur - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jaipur Special Express (Daily)

Train No. 09731	STATIONS	Train No. 09732
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
-- 07:35	Jaipur	20:20 --
13:45 --	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	-- 14:45

Days of Run: 09731 Ex. Jaipur & 09732 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla Daily from 18.01.2021 to 31.01.2021.
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, AC Chair Car, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.
Stoppage : Gandhinagar Jaipur, Getor Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui Jn., Alwar Jn., Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations.

Note : The above Special Trains will have the reserved accommodation only.

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.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Is India nearing herd immunity?

Only India stands out with a flattening curve among those that had earlier experienced an explosion of infections



SURJIT S BHALLA AND
KARAN BHASIN

IT IS ALMOST a year since the virus first appeared outside of China. There have been several false alarms about the end of the virus; it is still ongoing, and in most parts of the world, the second leg of the virus (post July 2020), has been worse than the first. There is relief on the way — vaccines have been developed and are being distributed, and maybe the world returns to normalcy in mid-2021. Economists (and policymakers) like natural experiments and plenty have been on offer. For the first time in world history, countries went into lockdowns as a deliberate strategy to counter the virus. The strategy emerged from the very place from where the virus first appeared — Wuhan, China. As many countries closed shop, the spread of the virus was arrested, but only temporarily, as it now appears.

A study of the evolution of the virus suggests the following sets of conclusions. First, like Joan Robinson said in another context, for everything that can be said about the virus, the opposite is also true. Lockdowns work — and they don't. If they worked was the conventional conclusion (and there are many who still believe that lockdowns are "efficient" in controlling infections) then how does one explain the intensity and magnitude of the spread post the lockdown? What ex-ante theory of lockdowns expected/stated/believed that post the lockdown, there would be many cases, let alone that the cases would be far higher than during lockdowns?

But what one can explain is the answer of the faithful. The answer is simple and straightforward — the lockdowns were lifted too early, the infection had not died out, and hence the explosion in cases (and deaths). There will be time to analyse this proposition in some detail — but, for the moment, this defence is as close to circular reasoning as you can get. By this "logic", if the virus did not re-emerge (as in New Zealand, Taiwan, or Thailand), the timing of lockdown-lift was perfect. If it did re-emerge (as in most of Western Europe and the US — see table), then "obviously" it is the case that the lockdown-lift came too early.

The data does yield (ex-post) some non-nihilist conclusions. There is a common pattern to the success stories. Some of them employed a lockdown — but all the success stories involved a version of the 3-T policy. Testing, Tracing and Treatment. The 3-Ts policy is based on governments ramping up testing capabilities to identify those that are COVID-19 positive and isolating them to prevent the spread of the disease; next, tracing everyone who came in contact with those who had tested positive; testing the contacts; and then treating those that tested positive using different clinical protocols.

That lockdown is not a necessary condition for victory is emphatically supported by the fact that more than a 100 countries practised lockdowns at one time or another, and less than a dozen succeeded. But all countries that did succeed also practised ancient wisdom as embedded in the 3-T policy. This fact deserves emphasis. The world has endured many viruses, many contagions. Check your



history books — no region/country practised a lockdown prior to 2020. Should one believe, therefore, that all other viruses were less contagious? The US strategy of confronting the 1957-58 flu is discussed in Lockdowns and Closures vs COVID-19: COVID Wins (available at <http://ssbhallaa.org/wvp-content/uploads/2020/10/Lockdowns-Closures-vs.-COVID-19-Covid-Wins-Nov-4.pdf>) and should be required reading for lockdown and other experts. The US had a version of the common flu much worse than any experienced before, or since. Yet the US authorities, under the able leadership of D A Henderson, faced the flu without lockdowns. What was the strategy employed? The same as that practised with all infectious diseases for centuries — attempt to isolate, and social distance from the patient. In the 1957-58 flu, some schools were closed, others remained open; ditto with workplaces; but emphatically no lockdown. The 3-T is a modern version of the same.

The table reports the data on COVID infections and deaths for several regions of the world (and selected countries). The data are presented for three dates — end-June, end-September, and January 11, 2021. The reader can peruse the comparisons at leisure, but we will discuss the India pattern in September and now. End September was the time when there was great worry; experts and the media were obsessed with India's bad virus "performance", and theories were developed as to how India could not do much right. No one (or very few) were predicting what actually transpired. End September, the Indian average (cases per million) was 4,712 — almost identical to the world average (4,486) and the average of Middle East and North Africa (MENA). As of January 11, MENA and the world are close together (12,398 and 12,526), but India is one-third lower.

The deaths per million evolution is like cases, but there is a noticeable difference. Deaths are considerably lower in India — only 113 per million versus 271 per million for the world and 274 for MENA. Note the very low value of deaths in sub-Saharan Africa and in East Asia. Two broad conclusions follow, but also need a follow-up. First, poorer countries

TABLE 1: COVID INFECTIONS & DEATHS (PER MILLION)						
REGION	CASES PER MILLION			DEATHS PER MILLION		
	30-Jun	30-Sep	11-Jan	30-Jun	30-Sep	11-Jan
World	1379	4486	12526	67	134	271
East Asia (excl. China)	115	369	867	4	10	21
Western Europe	3586	7420	40023	432	459	1016
Eastern Europe	2464	5822	28036	44	113	538
Latin America	4026	14434	26370	178	526	843
MENA (Middle East & N. Africa)	2023	4733	12398	49	124	271
China	59	63	67	3	3	3
Russia	4611	8372	24448	66	147	445
Sweden	6811	9417	51405	552	589	984
Germany	2373	3556	24303	110	116	537
US	7854	21564	68802	380	617	1147
Israel	3009	29581	61999	38	187	455
India	437	4712	7847	13	74	113

Source: COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)

Illustration: C R Sasikumar

One final note: Can we infer from these data that India might be approaching herd immunity, and doing so before vaccines are widely available? The many East Asian economies that have succeeded (for example, Vietnam, Taiwan, Cambodia, Laos, China etc.) did so by controlling infections at an early stage, that is, infections were never large enough to warrant a relationship with herd immunity. Ditto the case with regions in sub-Saharan Africa. Only India stands out with a flattening curve among those that had earlier experienced an explosion of infections.

seem to have been affected less adversely than the richer, more advanced economies. One suggested explanation (possibility) is that poorer countries have had to live longer with diseases (and bad sanitation) and, therefore, have developed some immunity which make them less prone to infections, ceteris paribus. Second, East Asia has a very low incidence of COVID-19, even after excluding China. One possible explanation is that this region has had greater experience with flu (for example, the avian flu).

One additional note about the continuing march towards herd immunity in India. In a paper presented at IRADE in December, we made a forecast of the "end" of COVID in India — we had said 12 million infections and the end sometime in April. Our forecast for India as of today — 10.5 million infections and the end sometime in May-June. Based on the available state-level data, some states in India have already achieved herd immunity while other states are catching up. States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Goa have seen flattening; others like Karnataka, Maharashtra, are catching up.

One final note: Can we infer from these data that India might be approaching herd immunity, and doing so before vaccines are widely available? The many East Asian economies that have succeeded (for example, Vietnam, Taiwan, Cambodia, Laos, China etc.) did so by controlling infections at an early stage, that is, infections were never large enough to warrant a relationship with herd immunity. Ditto the case with regions in sub-Saharan Africa. Only India stands out with a flattening curve among those that had earlier experienced an explosion of infections. The extraordinary decline of COVID-19 cases (and deaths) in India is an issue, like lockdowns, deserving of a more detailed study.

Bhalla is Executive Director IMF representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Bhasin is a New Delhi based policy researcher. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the IMF, its Executive Board, or IMF management

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"An exceptional assault on democracy had to be met with an exceptional display of resolution and retribution. The present and future safety of the republic demanded no less."
— THE GUARDIAN

Access denied

Legal action against Scihub and Libgen frames problem of control and governance of knowledge in a globalised world



ARINDAM BANERJEE
AND TANUJA KOTHIYAL

THE RECENT LITIGATIONS against Scihub and Libgen by Elsevier, Wiley and ACS bring us to a moment of many realisations about control and governance of knowledge in academia. In the latter half of the 20th century, globalisation led to the imperative of applying "global" standards to higher education. As global standards have been unofficially understood as the prevailing practices in American and European institutions, this has posed a serious dilemma for institutions in the global south.

Such parameters are often not compatible with the educational systems that have historically evolved in countries like India, with a colonial past and a persisting "non-industrial" present. Precise point-based measurements currently applied to measure knowledge production appear to be misplaced in knowledge ecosystems of the global south. Moreover, the larger question, whether such precise measurements, akin to parameters measuring industrial productivity, help in assessing the relevance of knowledge created and disseminated in any societal context, including those with an industrial culture like in Europe and America, remains unanswered.

In India, UGC has been the regulatory body responsible for maintaining standards in higher education, while addressing challenges of globalisation. Processes of UGC mandated "standardisation" have in particular impacted social sciences and humanities research in Indian universities. Over the years, UGC has linked institutional funding to ranking and accreditation systems like NAAC and NIRF. In order to evaluate institutions, these bodies have evolved "objective" criteria, which rank universities based on faculty research measured by citations in global journal databases like SCOPUS. Even for faculty promotions and eligibility for research supervision, it is articles published in such databases that are considered valid. In comparison, importance granted to research outputs like books or other forms is declining.

The insistence of publication in journals fails to distinguish between the varied trajectory of disciplines. It is more of an imposition of STEM (science, technology, engineering and management) criteria on social sciences and humanities. While in STEM disciplines, research is often highly objective and quantified, and conclusions can be published more easily as reports, short studies or articles, in social sciences and humanities research is subjective, analytical and argumentative. Within social sciences, too, there are some disciplines like economics where research methods can possibly be more empirical and quantitative. On the other hand, in disciplines like history, sociology, politics, philosophy, psychology and literature, researchers spend years writing books that engage with ideas in complex ways. The same is always not possible in a series of articles published over years. In devaluing books as authentic forms of research, UGC does major disservice to doyens of social sciences and humanities whose globally acclaimed books have con-

tributed significantly to knowledge building. Tyranny of "peer review" is another phenomenon that haunts scholars. Since continuous production and publication has become necessary for professional growth, teachers spend most of their productive time writing articles and getting them published, thereby missing out on quality engagement with pedagogy and research. This has led to a surfeit of articles on any possible subject competing with each other for citations. Moreover, with long review processes associated with journal articles, it is not really as efficient a measure of research output as is claimed.

While professional growth in universities bases itself on quantified indices, the process of peer review itself is subjective, and depends upon the knowledge, inclination and availability of time of the particular reviewer. It is not unheard of getting two opposite reviews for the same article, sometimes even expecting an author to revise the entire argument that she may be making. Researchers in interdisciplinary areas face even greater challenges as their reviewers might come from conventional fields.

It is often quite challenging for scholars to meet peer-review standards of A-listed journals. This has actually required the UGC to expand its own list, ending up including and subsequently deleting a large number of locally published journals. Further, the ghettoisation of research in paywalled journal databases makes research inaccessible for students as universities continue to cut down library budgets. Students and teachers, access articles through pirated sites like Libgen and Scihub, prone to be shut down at any point of time as evident from the litigations. Clearly, access to knowledge is structurally made inequitable in favour of the elite and/or moneyed institutions and their constituents.

To be sure, when we ideate about the outcome of research, it is not simply a case of books versus articles. The above arguments maintain for the possible multiplicity that can emerge as the end-result of research. There are those seminal journal articles that are profusely cited for decades and there are exceptional books that have survived centuries of ideation. In addition, interdisciplinary and practice-based research can throw up social and ecological experiments, artworks and performances, and numerous new outcomes yet to be conceived as research outputs. Any straight-jacketed emphasis on particular forms of research outcomes misses out on the very essence of research, particularly in social sciences and humanities, that is a rich and complex engagement of the human mind with the world around.

There is no doubt that Indian higher education requires reforms, but the latter need to be cognisant of the reality of higher education in India. While the UGC hopes to raise the standards to global levels, precarity of employment, longer teaching hours, a dismal student-teacher ratio, lack of sabbaticals, research and travel grants, access to research facilities and office space, adversely impact the research potential of teachers. "Regulating" research needs to be replaced with "facilitating" research, allowing minds to think and gestate. Unfortunately, in the era of the hegemony of finance capital, governments globally are under pressure to cut back on expenditure on public institutions, including educational. Regulations without facilitation will merely bureaucratise the governance of knowledge without generating any pathbreaking insights.

Banerjee teaches economics and Kothiyal teaches history at Ambedkar University, Delhi



RADHIKA PANDEY AND D PRIYADARSHINI

RECENT REPORTS SUGGEST that the upcoming budget may include proposals for a Bank Investment Company (BIC), anchoring the government's shareholding in its banks. With a predominantly bank-led growth strategy, banks face the daunting task of managing the pandemic's impact on their balance sheets while spearheading the country's economic recovery. A bulk of the responsibility will fall on public sector banks (PSBs) which dominate the banking sector.

A fiscally constrained government, therefore, appears to be looking at alternatives to reduce its burden as the spectre of another capital infusion looms — the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of PSBs are projected to increase to 16.2 per cent in the July-September quarter, in a baseline scenario, up from 9.7 per cent in the same period last year, with likely implications for capital adequacy. Moreover, the efficacy of recapitalisation of banks by the government is also under scrutiny. Despite capital infusion of nearly Rs 3.1 lakh crore from 2015-16 to 2019-20, PSBs have continued to underperform. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has sought details on bank recapitalisation since 2016-17, including the basis for distribution of capital among banks and the impact on their performance.

The BIC was proposed by the P J Nayak Committee constituted by the RBI in 2014 to

A way out for the bank

Budget must take steps towards privatising ownership of public sector banks

examine governance at public and private sector banks. The committee observed that if the PSBs continue to be governed badly, recapitalisation would only impose significant fiscal costs without the corresponding benefits to its principal shareholder — the government. It offered two options — privatisation or a complete overhaul of bank governance. The latter is envisaged in the form of a gradual disassociation of the government from the operations, management and governance of PSBs. This would unfold over a three-stage process to ensure that the boards of public sector banks are independently and professionally managed so as to generate returns to reduce claims on the exchequer. Once the boards of public sector banks are reconstituted on professional lines, in later stages, the committee envisaged that the BIC owner would transform from an owner to an investor whose primary responsibility would be to protect the government's financial investment in the banks by raising the returns to the government. The BIC is, therefore, a welcome step in as much as it signals the government's intent to pursue reforms to improve the governance and performance of PSBs.

However, the details will matter. The ownership and governance of the BIC itself will be crucial — it will need to be allowed to garner the requisite talent and expertise, and operate

with freedom. In the absence of this, it would merely add another layer while preserving the status quo. The less than encouraging experience of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) that was to precede the BIC is instructive. The BBB was set up in 2016 to advise on the selection and appointment of senior board members and management, avoid vacancies by helping with the planning of appointments ahead as also advice the PSBs on strategies for business and raising capital. However, in practice, the BBB's advice has not always been heeded to, and appointments have not always been made on time. The BBB, as originally conceived, was to consist of three senior bankers. However, it was expanded to include representatives from the RBI and the government.

The government would need to ensure the necessary freedom for the BIC to operate while circumscribing its own role. The ultimate success of these reforms will depend on how the government disassociates itself and empowers the BIC, the boards and the banks to function independently — from selection of talent to strategic decision making. The Nayak committee had suggested a shareholders' agreement between the BIC and the government that would detail out and formalise this freedom.

The BBB was also originally envisaged by the committee as a temporary arrangement for advising on board appointments before it

would be subsumed by the BIC. However, no further steps have been forthcoming after its establishment. A clear time-bound roadmap would, therefore, send an encouraging signal.

The objectives of the BIC would have to be clearly defined too. If capital raising is one of the goals, the structure of a holding company — with a portfolio of comparatively better performing and non-performing banks — to attract investments must be assessed. In this regard, the RBI has reportedly, in the past, expressed reservations on the BIC structure being a potential challenge for investors to assess the relative risks, returns and performance of the banks. This raises the question of whether privatisation would not be a better alternative, particularly as the transition of the government from an owner to a pure financial investor in its banks is likely to take time.

It would be imperative to carefully address such concerns and questions to ensure the success of restructuring the government's ownership and influence in PSBs envisaged through the BIC. Given these concerns, privatisation may be a better alternative. The budget could signal this intent by announcing the first step — the repeal of the Bank Nationalisation Acts and the State Bank of India Act.

Pandey and Priyadarshini are fellows at NIPFP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLATFORM DANGERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'After blocking Trump' (IE, January 15). As the massive assault on the Capitol illustrated, social media platforms like Parler, Facebook and Twitter have grown hugely popular and have turned into opinion influencers instead of being platforms for the harmless haring of information. This puts greater onus on the platform owners to ensure that their technology is not misused in the name of freedom of speech. This is more necessary for India, where social media is becoming a means to spread misleading rumours about the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

ADANI'S RISE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Finance and Niti had raised red flags before Adani's clean sweep of six airports' (IE, January 15). The mindboggling rise of single corporate entity — the Adani Group — in terms of airports bagged and the share of national passenger traffic handled is worrying. Coupled with the steep fall in the share of Airports Authority of India on the same metrics in just three years, this should serve as a warning not just the Central public sector undertaking but also other competing corporate entities. This development proves the argument of protesting farmers and substantiates their fear about the three farm laws are meant to benefit two cor-

porate groups.
Gangadhar Karalay, Nagpur

SOUND JUDGMENT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The correction' (IE, January 15). The Allahabad HC judgment should be celebrated for the fact that it brings the Special Marriage Act, 1954, closer to the objective with which it was enacted. Striking down the provision requiring 30 days notice ensures more safety and security for couples who may face stringent actions from their family members or the other self-proclaimed "protectors" of religion.

Sarachana Sisodia, Delhi

12 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni

UGANDA Museveni takes early election lead as rival alleges fraud

LONG-TIME LEADER Yoweri Museveni took an early lead in Uganda's presidential election according to preliminary results on Friday, though his main rival said there had been widespread fraud and his supporters had the right to protest. With 29.4% of votes from Thursday's ballot counted, Museveni had won 1,852,263 votes, or 63.9%, while main opposition candidate Bobi Wine had 821,874 (28.4%), the electoral commission said just after 11 am. The normally bustling capital Kampala was quiet on Friday, a holiday after Thursday's election, with most shops closed. **REUTERS**

AUSTRALIA Fake US leg band gets pigeon a reprieve

A PIGEON that Australia declared a biosecurity risk has received a reprieve after a US bird organisation declared its identifying leg band was fake. The band suggested the bird found in a Melbourne backyard on Dec 26 was a racing pigeon that had left the US state of Oregon, 13,000 km away, two months earlier. On that basis, Australian authorities had said they considered the bird a disease risk and planned to kill it. But the news from the US that the band was fake, which was confirmed by Australia's Agriculture Department, means that the bird is likely from Australia itself and so will not be killed.

INDONESIA Divers find casing of crashed jet's black box

INDONESIAN DIVERS have found the casing of a cockpit voice recorder from a Sriwijaya Air plane that crashed into the Java Sea last week, but are still searching for its memory unit, navy officer Abdul Rasyid said on Friday. "We've found the body or casing, we've found the beacon and now we're looking for the memory," Abdul told reporters aboard the navy ship *Rigel*. He was confident divers would find the memory in the next few days, adding that black boxes are usually strong and can withstand an impact. **REUTERS**

Indonesia quake kills at least 42, injures hundreds

AGUSTINUS BEO DA COSTA & STANLEY WIDIANTO
JAKARTA, JANUARY 15

A POWERFUL earthquake killed at least 42 people and injured hundreds on Indonesia's island of Sulawesi on Friday, trapping several under rubble and unleashing dozens of aftershocks as authorities warned of more quakes that could trigger a tsunami.

Thousands of frightened residents fled their homes for higher ground when the magnitude 6.2-quake struck 6 km northeast of the town of Majene, at a depth of just 10 km, shortly before 1.30 am.

The quake and aftershocks damaged more than 300 homes and two hotels, as well as flattening a hospital and the office of a re-



In the town of Mamuju in West Sulawesi, Indonesia, on Friday after the earthquake. *AP*

gional governor, where authorities told Reuters several people have been trapped under the rubble. "Praise be to God, for now OK, but we just felt another aftershock," said Sukri Efendy, a 26-year-old resident of the area.

As many as 42 people have

been killed, mostly in Mamuju and the rest in the neighbouring district of Majene, the country's national disaster mitigation agency said in a situation report on Friday evening. More than 820 people were injured, it said. **REUTERS**

Nepal gives emergency nod for India-made Covishield vaccine

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 15

NEPAL HAS granted emergency approval for AstraZeneca's India-made Covishield vaccine against the novel coronavirus that has claimed nearly 1,950 lives in the country.

The decision to grant the approval for the vaccine was taken on Friday, Nepal's Department of Drug Administration (DDA) said in a statement.

"Conditional permission has been granted for emergency use authorisation of Covishield vaccine against Covid-19 in Nepal," the statement said.

Drug major AstraZeneca has partnered with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, for the supply of the vaccine to the Indian government and also to a large number of low and middle-income countries.

The vaccine was developed in collaboration with the

University of Oxford.

Nepal on Friday detected 270 new coronavirus cases, taking the national Covid-19 tally to 266,816. Of the total cases reported so far, 260,567 people have recovered, whereas 1,948 have died, according to the Ministry of Health.

In the past 24 hours, 390 people have been discharged from isolation centres after their recovery, while five new deaths have been reported. As of now, Nepal has 4,301 Covid-19 active cases, it said. **PTI**



Shi Zhengli at the Wuhan Institute of Virology last year. *AP*

China honours 'Bat Woman' of Wuhan-based lab

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JANUARY 15

CHINA HAS honoured a virologist from a Wuhan-based bio-lab, which was at the centre of a Covid-19 storm, as a WHO team arrived at the Chinese city to probe the origins of the coronavirus.

Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), who has earned the moniker of "Bat Woman" for her passionate research into bats and viruses, was honoured as an "advanced worker of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)", the state-run *Global Times* reported, citing a WIV announcement on Friday.

US President Donald Trump had alleged that the novel coronavirus emanated from WIV before it spread across the world. After she was linked with Trump's allegation in local and foreign media early last year, Shi conspicuously disappeared for months amid rumours that she had defected. But she later resurfaced and criticised Trump, saying his claim "jeopardises and affects our academic work and personal lives". **PTI**



Dutch PM Mark Rutte leaves the Royal Palace in The Hague on Friday. *Reuters*

Dutch govt resigns over 'colossal stain' of tax subsidy scandal

STEPHANIE VAN DEN BERG
THE HAGUE, JANUARY 15

PRIME MINISTER Mark Rutte's government resigned on Friday, accepting responsibility for wrongful accusations of fraud by the tax authorities that drove thousands of families to financial ruin, often on the basis of ethnicity.

The cabinet would remain in place for now in a caretaker capacity to manage the coronavirus crisis, Rutte said. He then rode his bike to King Willem-Alexander's 17th century baroque Huis Ten Bosch palace in The Hague to discuss his resignation.

An election has already been scheduled for March 17 at the end of Rutte's third term.

"This is about tens of thousands of parents who were crushed under the wheels of the state," Rutte told journalists. "There can be no doubt, this is a

The cabinet will remain in place for now in a caretaker capacity to manage the coronavirus crisis

colossal stain."

A parliamentary inquiry found last month that officials at the tax service had wrongly accused families of fraud over childcare subsidies, causing an "unprecedented injustice".

Around 10,000 families had been forced to repay tens of thousands of euros each, in some cases leading to unemployment, bankruptcies and divorces. Many of the families were targeted based on their ethnic origin or dual nationalities, the tax office said last year.

This "is absolutely unacceptable in a law-based state", Rutte said. **REUTERS**

RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON VIOLENCE TO BE PROBED

Cops, ex-military personnel among those at Capitol riot

MICHAEL BIESECKER, JAKE BLEIBERG & JAMES LAPORTA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

AS US President Donald Trump's supporters massed outside the Capitol last week, a line of men wearing helmets and body armour trudged purposefully up the marble stairs in a single-file line, each man holding the jacket collar of the one ahead.

The formation is standard operating procedure for a combat team that is "stacking up" to breach a building. It was a chilling sign that many at the vanguard of the mob that stormed the seat of American democracy either had military training or were trained by those who did.

An Associated Press review of public records, social media posts and videos shows at least 21 current or former members of the US military or law enforcement have been identified as being at or near the Capitol riot, with more than a dozen others under investigation but not yet named.

Among the most prominent to emerge is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who was arrested after he was photographed wearing a helmet and body armour on the floor of the Senate, holding a pair of zip-tie handcuffs.

A retired Navy SEAL posted a Facebook video about travelling from his Ohio home to the rally and seemingly approving of the invasion of "our building, our house."

Biden picks FDA ex-chief Kessler to lead vaccine science

Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden has picked a former Food and Drug commissioner to lead vaccine science in his drive to put 100 million shots into the arms of Americans in his administration's first 100 days and stem the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr David Kessler, who will have the title of chief science officer of Covid response, headed the FDA in the 1990s. He has been acting as an adviser to Biden, and his appointment was announced Friday by the Biden transition office.

Kessler will assume responsibility for the scientific side of Operation Warp Speed, an effort launched under the Trump administration to rapidly develop vaccines and treatments. **AP**

Russia announces exit from Open Skies treaty citing US withdrawal

REUTERS
MOSCOW, JANUARY 15

RUSSIA ANNOUNCED on Friday it was pulling out of the Open Skies treaty, saying that the pact, which allows unarmed surveillance flights over member countries, had been seriously compromised by the withdrawal of the US.

The move, announced by Russia's foreign ministry, comes days before US President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration amid fears of a burgeoning arms race.

The US left the Open Skies arms control and verification



During the storming of the US Capitol on January 6. *Reuters*

'TRUMP TO LEAVE WASHINGTON ON INAUGURATION DAY'

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump will leave Washington next Wednesday morning, ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, according to a person familiar with the planning. Trump had already announced that he would not be attending Biden's inauguration. He is expected to remain in Florida with a small group of aides. **AP**

Also under scrutiny is an active-duty psychological warfare captain from North Carolina who organised three busloads of people who headed to Washington for the "Save America" rally in support of the President's false claim that the election was stolen from him.

Biden unveils \$1.9 trillion plan to stem Covid-19 and steady economy

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR & BILL BARROW
WILMINGTON, JANUARY 15

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has unveiled a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus plan to end "a crisis of deep human suffering" by speeding up vaccines and pumping out financial help to those struggling with the pandemic's prolonged economic fallout.

Called the "American Rescue Plan," the legislative proposal would meet Biden's goal of administering 100 million vaccines by the 100th day of his administration, and advance his objec-



The plan includes giving \$1,400 cheques to Americans

tive of reopening most schools by the spring. On a parallel track, it delivers another round of aid to stabilise the economy while the public health effort seeks the upper hand on the pandemic.

"We not only have an economic imperative to act now — I

believe we have a moral obligation," Biden said in a nationwide address Thursday. At the same time, he acknowledged that his plan "does not come cheaply."

Biden proposed \$1,400 cheques for most Americans, which on top of \$600 provided in the most recent Covid-19 Bill would bring the total to the \$2,000 that Biden has called for. It would also extend a temporary boost in unemployment benefits and a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures through September.

And it shoehorns in long-term Democratic policy aims such as increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and expanding paid leave for workers. **AP**

US executes Virginia gang killer despite Covid infection

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TERRE HAUTE, JANUARY 15

THE US government executed a drug trafficker Thursday for slaying seven people in a burst of violence in Virginia's capital in 1992, with some witnesses in the death-chamber building applauding as the 52-year-old was pronounced dead.

Corey Johnson's execution went ahead after his lawyers scrambled to stop it on grounds that the lethal injection of pentobarbital would cause him excruciating pain due to lung damage from his coronavirus infection.

He was the 12th inmate executed at the prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, since the Trump administration restarted federal executions following a 17-year hiatus. The last during the presidency of ardent death-penalty advocate Donald Trump was set for Friday.

Johnson, who his lawyers said was severely mentally disabled, was pronounced dead at 11.34 pm. When asked if he had any last words, Johnson focused on a room to his left designated for members of his family. "No. I'm OK," he said. Seconds later, he said softly while gazing intently at same room, "Love you."

After the execution, his lawyers released Johnson's last statement. In it, he said the pizza and strawberry shake he ate and drank before the execution "were wonderful" but he didn't get the jelly-filled doughnuts he wanted. He added: "This should be fixed."

2020 among the three warmest years: WMO

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, JANUARY 15

THE YEAR 2020 was among the three warmest years on record, said a statement by the World Meteorological Organisation.

Last year, the average global temperature recorded was 14.9 degrees Celsius, which was 1.2 degrees above pre-industrial levels (1850 - 1900). The warmest ever years recorded are 2016, 2019 and 2020, the WMO said.

In India, 2020 was the eighth warmest recorded since 1901, when the India Meteorological Department started maintaining temperature records.

"The exceptional heat of 2020 is despite a La Nina event,

which is a temporary cooling effect," said Prof Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, WMO.

La Nina is an oceanic phenomenon when cooler than normal sea surface temperatures are recorded along the central and equatorial Pacific Ocean. It affects the global average temperatures. The current cycle of La Nina is expected to continue till the middle of 2021.

Under the Paris Climate Agreement, world leaders agreed to try to keep warming well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid the most extreme effects of climate change. However, the WMO's Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update says there is a one-in-five chance that by 2024, warming would have already exceeded 1.5 degrees.

Fears over 'Great Firewall' extending to Hong Kong as internet firm says can block 'illegal acts'

JESSIE PANG
HONG KONG, JANUARY 15

THE COMPANY which approves internet domains in Hong Kong said it will now reject any sites that could incite "illegal acts", raising new concerns about freedoms after Beijing's imposition of a national security law on the Chinese-ruled city last year.

Holders of .hk domains were advised of the policy change late on Thursday, sources told Reuters, hours after internet service provider Hong Kong Broadband Network (HKBN) said it had blocked access to



The main page of HKChronicles website as seen from Japan on Thursday. Access to the website was blocked by an internet service provider in Hong Kong. *AP*

HKChronicles, a website offering information about anti-government protests.

The moves came just days af-

ter the arrest of over 50 pro-democracy activists, and sources have told Reuters that China is planning a further crackdown.

HKBN said it had blocked the website in compliance with the national security law, the first such censorship in the city of its kind.

In the emails, the Hong Kong Domain Name Registration Company alerted holders of .hk domains to the new "acceptable use" policy by its parent, Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited, which goes into effect on Jan 28, according to copies shared by recipients.

It said it could reject applications for new .hk sites that it believes could incite criminal acts, abuse privacy or provide false or misleading information.

"The rollout of the acceptable

use policy is quite worrying," said one website operator. "Things like providing false or misleading information, who are they to decide? Are these preventive measures for future false news regulations?"

The moves are fuelling worries that a censorship mechanism similar to China's "Great Firewall" is being put in place in Hong Kong.

While the internet in mainland China is heavily censored, residents in Hong Kong have so far enjoyed greater freedoms under the "one country, two systems" framework that it was promised when Britain handed it back to China in 1997. **REUTERS**



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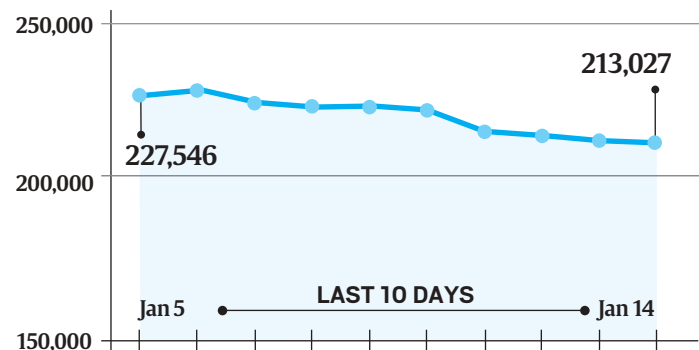
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

213,027



Note: The Jan 13 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Jan 14

INDIA TOTAL CASES

10,527,683

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Jan 15

WORLD TOTAL CASES

93,363,092

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Jan 15

Depression could reduce vaccine efficacy; psychologists suggest exercise and rest



Covid-19 vaccine being administered in the UK. Reuters

HEALTH BEHAVIOURS and depression, stress, or loneliness have been known to alter the body's ability to develop an immune response to vaccines. This could potentially include the new Covid-19 vaccines, the international organisation Association for Psychological Science (APS) has cautioned. Simple interventions, however, may maximise the vaccine's initial effectiveness, the APS has said in a new report, which recommends exercising and getting a good night's sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination. The report has been accepted for publication in the journal *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, the APS said.

The key to a vaccine's success is ensuring that a critical percentage of the population is effectively vaccinated to achieve so-called herd immunity. While vaccination programmes are being rolled out in various countries, not everyone will gain the full benefit immediately. Environmental factors, as well as an individual's genetics and physical and mental health, can weaken the body's immune system, slowing the response to a vaccine, the APS said in a media release on the new report.

It flags the concern that the novel coronavirus has triggered a concurrent mental health crisis as people deal with isolation, economic stressors, and uncertainty about the future. These challenges are the same factors that have been previously shown to weaken vaccine efficacy.

"Our new study sheds light on vaccine efficacy and how health behav-

iours and emotional stressors can alter the body's ability to develop an immune response. The trouble is that the pandemic in and of itself could be amplifying these risk factors," Annelle Madison of Ohio State University, lead author on the paper, said in a statement issued by the APS.

Vaccines work by challenging the immune system. Within hours of a vaccination, there is an innate, general immune response on the cellular level as the body begins to recognise a potential biological threat. This frontline response by the immune system is eventually aided by the production of antibodies, which target specific pathogens. It is the continued production of antibodies that helps to determine how effective a vaccine is at conferring long-term protection.

"In our research, we focus most heavily on the antibody response, though it is just one facet of the adaptive immune system's response," Janice Kiecolt-Glaser of the Ohio State University, senior author on the paper, was quoted as saying.

Although the Covid-19 vaccines already in circulation are highly effective according to trial results, these psychological and behavioural factors can lengthen the amount of time it takes to develop immunity and can shorten the duration of immunity, the authors said. But Kiecolt-Glaser said: "The thing that excites me is that some of these factors are modifiable. It's possible to do some simple things to maximise the vaccine's initial effectiveness."

Source: Association for Psychological Science



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Jallikattu: pride & politics

Ahead of Assembly polls, Jallikattu has become the subject of politics between Congress and BJP. A look at what it means for Tamil culture, and the controversies leading to an ongoing legal battle

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, JANUARY 15

WITH ASSEMBLY polls round the corner in Tamil Nadu, the Pongal festival and Jallikattu, the traditional bull-taming sport, have caught the attention of the BJP and Congress. While the BJP organised Pongal celebrations led by national and state leaders in several districts, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was in Madurai on Thursday to witness a Jallikattu event.

In the past, both the BJP and the Congress have faced public anger for their stands on Jallikattu, a controversial sport which has faced long legal battles over cruelty to animals, and which at the same time is a symbol of Tamil culture. In their present efforts to celebrate these cultural symbols ahead of elections, the two national parties have attacked each other over their past stands.

What is Jallikattu?

The bull-taming sport is popular in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts — known as the Jallikattu belt. Jallikattu is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.

A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating. It is a violent sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize.

In an age when the farm sector is largely mechanised, there are no major monetary benefits for bull owners in breeding Jallikattu bulls other than the prizes they get during the Jallikattu events. Traditionally, these used to be a dhoti, a towel, betel leaves, bananas and a cash prize of Rs 101. Over the last two decades, the prizes have included grinders, a fridge and small furniture.

Why is it important in Tamil culture?

Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls. At a time when cattle breeding is often an artificial process, conservationists and peasants argue that Jallikattu is a way to protect these male animals which are otherwise used only for meat



Jallikattu contest at Avaniyapuram, Madurai on Thursday. PTI

if not for ploughing.

Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Barugur and Malai Maadu are among the popular native cattle breeds used for Jallikattu. The owners of these premium breeds command respect locally.

Why has it been the subject of legal battles?

In India, legal battles surrounding animal rights issues emerged in the early 1990s. A notification from the Environment Ministry in 1991 banned the training and exhibition of bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers and dogs, which was challenged by the Indian Circus Organisation in the Delhi High Court. In 1998, dogs were excluded from the notification.

Jallikattu first came under legal scrutiny in 2007 when the Animal Welfare Board of India and the animal rights group PETA moved petitions in the Supreme Court against Jallikattu as well as bullock cart races.

The Tamil Nadu government, however, worked its way out of the ban by passing a law in 2009, which was signed by the Governor.

In 2011, the UPA regime at the Centre added bulls to the list of animals whose training and exhibition is prohibited. In May 2014, days before the BJP was elected to power, the Supreme Court banned the bull-taming sport, ruling on a petition that cited the 2011 notification.

So, is it legal or banned now?

That is the subject of a case pending in the Supreme Court. The state government has legalised these events, which has been challenged in the court.

In January 2017, months after the death of Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, massive protests erupted across Tamil Nadu against the ban, with Chennai city witnessing a 15-day-long Jallikattu uprising.

The same year, the Tamil Nadu government released an ordinance amending the central Act and allowing Jallikattu in the state; this was later ratified by the President.

PETA challenged the state move, arguing it was unconstitutional.

In 2018, the Supreme Court referred the Jallikattu case to a Constitution Bench, where it is pending now. The main question to be resolved is whether the Jallikattu tradition can be protected as a cultural right of the people of Tamil Nadu which is a fundamental right. Article 29(1) mandates that "any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same".

Like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka too passed a law to save a similar sport, called Kambala. A similar attempt by Maharashtra, too, was challenged in court, before it was passed as a law.

Except in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, where bull-taming and racing continue to be organised, these sports remain banned in all other states including Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra due to the 2014 ban order from the Supreme Court.

What is the politics playing out?

After the DMK regime in 2009 had issued a notification in favour of Jallikattu, it was the 2011 amendment by the Union Environment Ministry that led to the ban on Jallikattu in 2014. While the UPA regime was blamed for the ban, the BJP at the Centre too had shown an indifferent approach to the controversy until the 2017 uprising in Chennai, attended by thousands of people whose slogans often targeted the Narendra Modi regime.

Now, the two parties are competing with each other to assert their support to the Jallikattu event. Rahul Gandhi said at Madurai on Thursday that he had witnessed Jallikattu and that it was safer for both bulls and bull tamers. He also charged BJP with making efforts to suppress Tamil culture and language. For the BJP, national general secretary in charge of Tamil Nadu in-charge C T Ravi has accused Rahul of hypocrisy, reminding him of the UPA government's stand that Jallikattu is "cruel and barbaric".

The BJP is in alliance with the ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, while the Congress is an ally of the main opposition DMK.

The houbara: hunted by UAE royals at Pak invite

RAHEL PHILOPOSE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

ELEVEN MEMBERS of the UAE's royal family arrived in Panjgur district in Balochistan recently to hunt the internationally protected and vulnerable houbara bustard under a licence issued by the Pakistan Foreign Ministry. Earlier this week, Pakistan also issued special permits to Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the crown prince and five other members of their family to hunt the bird during the 2020-21 hunting season, Pakistan daily *The Dawn* reported.

This is not the first time royals from the Gulf and their wealthy friends have reached the deserts of Pakistan to hunt the rare bird. These controversial private hunting expeditions date back over four decades and have continued even after Pakistan's Supreme Court imposed a blanket ban on the killing of the houbara bustard in 2015, which was later reversed.

What is the houbara bustard?

It is a large terrestrial bird found in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The North African houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the Asian houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) are separate species. The Asian houbara is re-



The Asian houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*), IFHC

lated to the critically endangered great Indian bustard native to India.

After breeding in Central Asia during the spring, Asian houbara bustards migrate south to spend the winter in Pakistan, the Arabian peninsula and nearby Southwest Asia. Some Asian houbara bustards live and breed in parts of Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

According to the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC), roughly 42,000 Asian houbara bustards and over 22,000 of the North African houbara bustards remain today. The main reasons for the decline in the species'

population are poaching, unregulated hunting and the degradation of its natural habitat, the IFHC website states.

Why is the houbara hunted in Pakistan?

Vast swathes of land in Pakistan are allocated in blocks to wealthy dignitaries from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, who arrive in the country to hunt the birds every year using hunting gear and falcons. They kill the bird for sport and also because its meat is supposed to have aphrodisiac qualities.

Media coverage is not permitted, but the scale of each hunt is believed to be considerable. Each party has a convoy of over a dozen SUVs and often the dignitaries come with their own staff, locals told the BBC.

Why does Pakistan allow Arab royalty to hunt the houbara bustard?

For over four decades, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry has been extending yearly invitations to wealthy and powerful Arabs for hunting houbara bustards in the deserts of Balochistan and Punjab, to strengthen the country's relations with Gulf nations. Arab hunters first started coming to Pakistan to hunt in the 1960s after the houbara bustard population in the Arabian peninsula began to dwindle. Similar expeditions took place across the

border in Rajasthan, where Arab royalty hunted the great Indian bustard until the practice was banned in 1972.

In Pakistan, too, the Supreme Court imposed a ban on hunting the houbara bustard in 2015. Challenging the ban, the government argued that wealthy Arabs brought prosperity to underdeveloped areas around the hunting fields and the ban would have a negative impact on Pakistan's relations with Middle East countries. The ban on hunting was lifted in 2016.

How many bustards do they hunt?

Each permit allows the individual to hunt a total of 100 bustards in a designated area during a 10-day safari. But the Arab VIPs are known to violate the terms of the permit and kill far more bustards than agreed upon. In 2014, a Saudi Arabian prince and his entourage allegedly shot down 2,100 houbara bustards during a three-week hunting safari, sparking nationwide outrage from conservationists. It was this backlash that culminated in the Supreme Court ban, later revoked.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had opposed hunting the bird while he was in opposition, personally approved the special passes to Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and his family members.

How zombie films may have prepared fans for Covid-19 pandemic

KABIR FIRAQUE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

IN THE horror subgenre we know as 'zombie movies', you might find a ring of the ongoing pandemic. From the pioneering *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) to the recent South Korean production *Train to Busan* (2016), these films show zombies infecting ordinary people and turning them into zombies, and, just like it is happening in Covid-19, the uninfected around them living in panic as they try to stay safe.

It turns out that the connection may be deeper than just a resemblance between fiction and fact. If you like horror, particularly zombie films, watching them may have prepared you better for the Covid-19 pandemic. That's the conclusion drawn by researchers who have published their findings in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

Why zombies?

The study covered horror fans in general, as well as morbidly curious individuals. The conclusion is based on responses from horror fans who watched any kind of apocalyptic films — 'zombie movies', 'post-apocalyptic movies', and 'alien-invasion movies'.

"However, I think zombie movies in particular bear resemblance — literally and symbolically — to the pandemic," said Coltan Scrivner, a University of Chicago PhD student who led the new study.

"Zombie outbreaks almost by definition are pandemics," Scrivner told *The Indian Express*, by email. "The cause is almost always some sort of infection. Characters in zombie films learn how to avoid getting infected and often try to find a cure for the infection. In addition, they learn what the world looks like when society begins to break down or no longer functions as normal. Although exaggerated in the films, this resembles a real-world pandemic in some ways."



Night of the Living Dead (1968). Zombie outbreaks are pandemics, says researcher.

But how does watching such films help?

The information we obtain from an imagined zombie apocalypse, the study suggests, may serve us in analogous situations in the real world. "They [zombie film fans] reported feeling like they knew what to buy for the pandemic and that the consequences of the pandemic did not take them by surprise," Scrivner said.

Fans of horror films were found to show less psychological distress during Covid-19.

"Presumably, frequent users of horror media often employ emotion regulation strategies, which may lead to improved emotional coping skills," the study says.

How were these conclusions drawn?

The researchers asked 310 participants a variety of questions. One scale measured their resilience or psychological distress; another assessed them on morbid curiosity. A third scale was the 'Big 5' (neuroticism, agreeable-

ness, extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness). Participants also rated how much of a fan they were of different genres (horror, romance, zombie films etc).

"We were about to find that, controlling for the Big 5 personality traits, horror fans and morbidly curious people were more psychologically resilient during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic in the US. We also found that fans of... zombie, apocalyptic, and alien-invasion films reported being more prepared for the pandemic," Scrivner said.

If I am not a horror fan, should I start watching zombie films now?


For resilience against Covid-19, it may be too late. But according to study co-author John Johnson, a Pennsylvania State University psychologist, it is never too late to make ready for the next hurdle in life. "I'm not sure that watching such movies now would be helpful for our current situation. However, my understanding of pandemics and other life-

challenging events is that similar future challenges are absolutely inevitable," Johnson said in comments published on the Pennsylvania State University website.

Both Johnson and Scrivner believe fiction is a way to imagine simulated realities that prepare us for future challenges. Scrivner told *The Indian Express*: "Horror in particular offers a way to safely experience dangerous environments and dangerous social interactions. This lets people do two things:

■ "People can practise being afraid or being anxious and learning how to overcome that feeling. This likely can lead to better emotion regulation skills and, ultimately, better psychological resilience.


■ "People can also learn some specific information. For example, people who watched pandemic-themed movies like *Contagion* may have learned what a real pandemic could look like. This could allow people to be better prepared for when a real pandemic like Covid-19 occurs."



GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LTD.
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GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 700 MW RTC power for the period 01-03-2021 to 31-07-2021 at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India. Guidelines dated 30-03-2016 RFP will be available at www.mstecomm.com from 16-01-2021. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

Date: 15-01-2021
General Manager (Commerce)



कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, नई दिल्ली
रूपाय : 01576-233911, E-mail: setahrip@rajil@gmail.com

पत्रांक 127/508/01 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक 15.01.2021

1. कार्य का नाम :- निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, नई दिल्ली के अन्तर्गत जनपद टिहरी के विकास क्षेत्र चम्बा में डाइट भवन, नई टिहरी के अन्तर्गत बहुउद्देशीय हॉल, शौचालय एवं तलाबस्थी समस्त निर्माण कार्य।
2. कार्यदारी संस्था :- निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, नई टिहरी।
3. धरोहर धनराशि / कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि :- रु. 3.20 लाख / 12 माह
4. निविदा प्राप्त की अन्तिम तिथि :- दिनांक 02.02.2021
5. निविदा मूल्य :- रु. 10000.00 + जी०एस०टी० 18%
विस्तृत ई-निविदा नोटिस एवं निविदा प्रपत्र www.uktenders.gov.in पोर्टल पर दिनांक 19.01.2021 को 17.00 बजे प्रकाशित की जायेगी।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
“जल संयोजन-जीवन संचयन” कृषय जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाये।
“वैधानिक संसाधन-जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित करने पर कानून लागू है।”

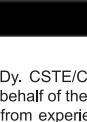


WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

W/623/51/NIT Date : 01.01.2021
Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender through e-tender on website www.iimps.gov.in the details are as under:-

Sr. No., E-tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Value	EMD (RS)	Completion Period
1. RTM/2020-21/110(R), Ratlam Division:- Recharging of dry open well at various location (22 Nos.).	90,24,322.99	1,80,500/-	12 Months
2. RTM/2020-21/112(R), Godhra-Nagda Section:- Deep screening of loop lines and Turnout (Manually) at Nagda.	1,00,13,877.98	2,00,100/-	09 Months
3. RTM/2020-21/132, Ratlam-Nagda Section:- Cess repair in connection with raising the speed to 160 kmph on existing NDLS- MMCT route	5,34,44,071.21	4,17,300/-	15 Months

Approx Quantity for Sr. No. 1 to 3 :- As per tender schedule. **Cost of Tender Document for Sr. No. 1 to 3 :- Nil. Similar type of work Sr. No. 1 & 3 :- Any Civil Engineering Work. Similar type of work Sr. No. 2 :- Any P.Way Work. Date of uploading on website Sr. No. 1 to 3 :- 01.01.2021. Date of opening & time at Sr. No. 1 to 3 :- 27.01.2021. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website www.iimps.gov.in **DRM (WA)**
AK/51/289 Western Railway, Ratlam
Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)**



NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM Office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:


Name of work	Approximate cost of the work	Earnest money	Completion period	Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender	Address from where tender form can be purchased
“S&T work for alteration of PI at Kathua and Madhopur Punjab stations and associated telecom work at adjoining stations in c/w doubling across Ravi Bridge section over Firozpur Division of Northern Railway”.	Rs. 66.35 Lakh	Rs. 1,32,700/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred only)	06 (Six) months	Tender will be available on www.iimps.gov.in website from 18.01.2021 to 11.30 Hrs. on 10.02.2021 and will be opened on 10.02.2021 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 27.01.2021 to 11.30 hrs. on 10.02.2021 and will be opened on 10.02.2021 after 11.30 hrs.	E-Tender document cost - Nil. The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway website i.e. on www.iimps.gov.in from 18.01.2021 to 11.30 hrs. on 10.02.2021, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class III digital certificate (If already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No.: 178-Sig/CW/32/96/PI-II Date: 15.01.2021 125/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile



कार्यालय-उप महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी) उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड, एम. के.एम. शीरोबाग, हरदोई (नेतागत),
पत्रांक : नि०ख०/निविदा सूचना / 2021-820 दिनांक:-15.01.2021

निविदा शुद्धि पत्र
कार्यालय पत्रांक 788 दिनांक 07.01.2021 द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा को दिनांक 25.01.2021 को आमंत्रित की गयी है, के साथ ही उक्त में क्रमांक क्रमांक 02 पर मण्डी समिति सितारगंज में वर्मी कम्पोस्ट यूनिट स्थापना कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि 15000.00, निविदा मूल्य 500.00+GST, समय 03 माह, श्रेणी “द”, क्रमांक 03 पर मण्डी समिति रामनगर में वर्मी कम्पोस्ट यूनिट स्थापना कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि 15000.00, निविदा मूल्य 500.00+GST, समय 03 माह, श्रेणी “द”, क्रमांक 04 पर मण्डी समिति खटीमा में वर्मी कम्पोस्ट यूनिट स्थापना कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि 15000.00, निविदा मूल्य 500.00+GST, समय 03 माह, श्रेणी “द” तथा क्रमांक 05 पर मण्डी समिति बाजपुर में वर्मी कम्पोस्ट यूनिट स्थापना कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि 15000.00, निविदा मूल्य 500.00+GST, समय 03 माह, श्रेणी “द” पढ़ा जाये। राश शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
उप महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी)



NORTHERN RAILWAY
E - TENDER NOTICE NO. ELKS/SRE/T-13 dtd. 08.01.2021

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.iimps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELKS/SRE/T-13
Name of work	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of 06 Nos. EOT cranes with standby spare for one years in Electric Loco shed, Saharanpur
Date of Closing/Opening	02.02.2021
Approx. Cost.	17,25,986-00
Earnest Money	34600.00
Completion period	01 Year
Validity period	45 days
Cost of tender form	Free of cost

1. The required Earnest Money will only be accepted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. upto tender closing date and time i.e. 02.02.2021 at 11:00 hrs. Manual payments through demand draft, bankers Cheque, deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid. 2. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 3. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 4. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 5. For details, please log on IREPS website www.iimps.gov.in **118/21**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.)
क्रमांक/मु.चि.अ./डीएमएफ/2020-21 कोरबा दिनांक / 2021

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति
क्रमांक/मु.चि.अ./डीएमएफ/2020-21 कोरबा दिनांक 13/01/2021: जिला खनिज न्याय मद से सत्र 2020-21 में जिले के स्वास्थ्य विभाग अंतर्गत बाइक एम्बुलेंस हेतु निर्माता, डीलर, सप्लायर आदि से रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति का प्रस्ताव मांगा जाता है। पंजीकृत इच्छुक संस्था निविदा प्रपत्र कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी विभाग, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) से 500/- (पाँच सौ मात्र) नगद जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। कोरबा जिले के वेबसाइट www.korba.gov.in में भी अवलोकन किया जा सकता।
1. रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति हेतु निर्देश एवं प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि:- 14/01/2021 से
2. रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि:-04/02/2021 (दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक)
3. प्राप्त रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति खोलने की तिथि :- 04/02/2021 (समय शाम 4.00 बजे)
4. रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति हेतु निर्देश एवं प्रपत्र प्राप्त का स्थान:- कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, स्वास्थ्य विभाग, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) हस्ता/-
मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.)
27527

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SIL NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHSVN	2932/P&D/2020 (BID NO. B- 633)	DATE OF CLOSING E-TENDER: 27.01.2021 (17:00 HRS.) DATE OF OPENING OF PART-I: 29.01.2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.sahibn.org.in	01723019145 xmsn513@saibn.org.in
2	UHSVN	2932/P&D/2020 (BID NO. B- 634)	DATE OF CLOSING E-TENDER: 27.01.2021 (17:00 HRS.) DATE OF OPENING OF PART-I: 29.01.2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.sahibn.org.in	01723019145 xmsn513@saibn.org.in
3	UHSVN	2935/P&D/2020 (BID NO. B- 635)	DATE OF CLOSING E-TENDER: 28.01.2021 (17:00 HRS.) DATE OF OPENING OF PART-I: 29.01.2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.sahibn.org.in	01723019145 xmsn513@saibn.org.in
4	UHSVN	294/P&D/2020 (BID NO. B- 635)	DATE OF CLOSING E-TENDER: 28.01.2021 (17:00 HRS.) DATE OF OPENING OF PART-I: 29.01.2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.sahibn.org.in	01723019145 xmsn513@saibn.org.in

1427/4/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SIL NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	INPNL	12/P&B DATED 18.11.2020	EXTENSION OF DUE DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION UPTO 27.01.2021 UPTO 17:00 HRS.	www.hapn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hapn.org.in
2	INPNL	NIT NO. 40/CWD-2/VOL-XIII/HAPN/2020-21 DATED: 22.12.2020	DATE OF OPENING BID 15/01/2021 LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 27/01/2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.hapn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hapn.org.in
3	CHBN	LINE INTERFACE UNITS AS PER NSGM GTPS (NIT NO. 651/DH/M/CHBN/MK/20-842) DATED 02.10.20 TENDER ID NO. 2020_HSC_147220_3	CLOSING DATE EXTENDED UPTO 21.01.2021(13:00 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	9812556355 sahm@dhbn.org.in
4	CHBN	THREE PHASE NET METER (NIT NO.663/DH/M/CHBN/MH (20-844) DATED 14.10.2020 TENDER ID NO. 2020_HSC_147635_1	CLOSING DATE EXTENDED UPTO 27.01.2021(13:00 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	9812556355 sahm@dhbn.org.in
5	HPGCL	2020_HSC_154553_1 NIT NO. 344/SGT/P/HM-1/IT/DE-12532 DT. 30.12.2020	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 18.01.2021 UP TO 13:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF EXPANSION BELLOWS TO 2*600 MM, RGTP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315164637 mm1.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
6	HPGCL	(NIT NO. 02/TRG-245/PTPS/2020-21) (EVENT NO. 2020_HSC_153995_1) HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES TO SET UP, RUN & MAINTAIN FIRST AID CENTRE, PTPS PANIPAT ALONG WITH AMBULANCE SERVICES ROUND THE CLOCK (24*7) & TO RUN HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES AT HEALTH CENTRE PTPS PANIPAT & CITY DISPENSARY PANIPAT.	START DATE 22.12.2020 AT 17:00 HRS. LAST DATE 18.01.2021 AT 17:00 HRS.	www.hpgcl.org.in	01802566015 xsmm1cpg1@hpgcl.com
7	HPGCL	21/CE/PLG/WHY/SP-371/VOL-IV DATED 08.09.2020	THE DUE DATE OF BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 08.02.2021 TILL 13:00 HRS AND OPENING OF PART-I (TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID) SHALL BE ON 10.02.2021 AT 15:00 HRS.	www.hpgcl.org.in	01725032425 oap@hpgcl.org.in
8	UHSVN	38/2020-21 HIRING OF VEHICLE FOR SDO QUALITY CONTROL, HIMTA, PANCHKULA	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 21.01.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 xsmcivildh@panchkulaj@gmail.com
9	UHSVN	39/2020-21 SDO OF MADANPUR IN COMPLAINT CENTER SEC-25, PANCHKULA	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 21.01.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 xsmcivildh@panchkulaj@gmail.com

1429/7/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SIL NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	CADA,BHAWANI	LINING/EXTENSION OF WATERCOURSES (33 NOS.)	CLOSING DATE 29.01.2021	DETAIL OF AMOUNT IN THE NIT PUBLISHED ONLINE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
2	HSAMB PANCHKULA	DEVELOPMENT OF ULTRA MODERN APPLE, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET AT PANDRE (PHASE-II) ON EPC MODE	14.01.2021 17.02.2021	150 LACS	https://hsamb.org.in
3	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 33KV CTS (CURRENT TRANSFORMERS)	17.11.2020 27.01.2021	EMD 2.52 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	PAINTING & REPAIR, GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF SHAKTI BHAWAN OFFICE COMPLEX KARNAL (CIVIL WORKS).	14.01.2021 21.01.2021	RS 16,500.00 for General, Rs. 0,250.00 for Registered society	www.hvpn.org.in
5	HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING CORP.	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ARCH-SHAPED GALVALUME SHEET ROOFING 1.00 MM THICK (TCT) AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AT STATE WAREHOUSES + 11 OTHER WORK	18.01.2021 08.02.2021	AS PER INDIVIDUAL TENDER	etenders.hry.nic.in
6	DAIRY DEV. COOP. FED. LTD.	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR BMC + 3 OTHER WORK	11.12.2020 29.01.2021	80000/-	www.vfsindia.org.in
7	HVPNL	SUPPLYING AND SPREADING OF GRAVELS AT 22KV S/STN, RAIWALI	13.01.2021 28.01.2021	149900/- For General 74950/- For Society	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
8	MC,DHARUHERA	DEPLOYING OF DIFFERENT OFFICE STAFF THROUGH OUTSOURCING POLICY FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR ON D.C RATE AT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, DHARUHERA + 4 OTHER (CIVIL WORK)	13.01.2021 27.01.2021	61.92 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in
9	HPGCL	SUPPLY OF SPARES OF WARMAN MAKE PUMPS OR EQUIVALENT PUMPS FOR ASH HANDLING PLANT.	CLOSING DATE 05.02.2021	88000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
10	HPGCL	SUPPLY OF INSTALLATION OF FOAM TYPE JET FOUNTAINS IN RGTP, COLONY, KHEDAR HISAR.	CLOSING DATE 27.01.2021	127000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
11	HARTRON	CENTRIFUGE MACHINE WITH THERMISTAT, TABLEAU FOR DATA RETRIEVING FROM ANY DEVICE, ASPHALT CONTENT TESTER, ELECTRONIC BALANCE (UPTO MICROGRAM LEVEL), ELECTRONIC BALANCE (MG LEVEL) + 9 OTHERS	18.01.2021 08.02.2021	EMD 13.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
12	DAIRY DEV. COOP. FED. LTD.	PADDY ROCE HUSB	18.01.2021 27.01.2021	1.50 LACS	www.vfsindia.org.in
13	MC,JAGADHRI,YGN	COMPLETION OF SC CHDUPAL AT BHOLA KA MAJRA IN WARD NO. 19 YAMUNAGAR, + 5 OTHER WORK	18.01.2021 25.01.2021	93.74 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in

1431/7/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in



ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd Office: Jangpali, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

E-Tender No.CPC-39/2020-21
Tenders for engineering, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 132kV, 630 mm² Copper cable (XLPE insulation, corrugated aluminum sheathed) at 132/33 kV Paralakhemundi Grid S/S for 132kV R. Udayagiri-Paralakhemundi DC Line, as per tender specification available on OPTCL's official website: www.optcl.co.in and Tender portal: www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL.
HPNL-30220-21 OIPR-040111/10091/2021 Sr. General Manager (CPC)

PNIT NO (e-TENDER) : e-PT-III/EE/RDSD/2020-21 DATED-11/01/2021
The Executive Engineer, RD Store Division, Gurkhabasti, Agartala invites e-tender for procurement of ISI marked (IS:1786:2008) TMT bar (3600 MT) as per specification of DNIT from eligible bidders upto 3.00 PM of 01/02/2021. For details visit website - <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> and contact at M- 9774488585. Any subsequent corrigendum will be available in the website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer RD Store Division Agartala

ICA-C-2805-21



UJVNL LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135-2763507, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com.

पत्रांक सं. 50 **Tender Notice** **दिनांक 15.01.2021**
Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ranganga Power Station, UJVNL Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites sealed tender from interested parties. Detail of tenders is given below.
T.N. No. 16/EE(M)/Kg/2020-21, 17/EE(M)/Kg/2020-21
Name of work - 1 - Modification and Repairing of 20 Ton Draft Tube Gantry Crane.
2 - Annual operation and upkeeping of Erector Hostel and Canteen.
Estimated cost :- 1- Rs. 21,70,719/- GST Extra, 2. Rs. 6,97,102/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website :- 16/01/2021
Last date for submission of tender :- 06/02/2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"




UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
उत्कृष्ट उन्नत उज्जयिन, उज्जैन
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NIT No.:USCL/71 Dated: 09-12-2020 2nd Call
Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Selection of Agency For Installation, Operation And Maintenance of Integrated Dynamic Performance Delivery Device in Public Toilets and Community Toilets In Ujjain For Ujjain Smart City Limited" Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Probable Amount of Contract:	Rs. 2,40,00,000/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,40,000/-
Cost of Document	Rs 15,000/-
Pre bid Meeting Date	18/01/2021 15:00 hrs.
Last date for purchase of tender and submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	27/01/2021 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be uploaded on this website only.
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited



DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR. VIII
Yamuna Vihar Sewage Treatment Plant
(Adjoining Dr. Ambedkar College) Delhi – 110 094
Phone: 011-22813593 Email:- eedr8@gmail.com
PRESS NIT NO- 5 (2020-21)

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	Providing, Laying & Jointing 250mm dia internal sewer line in left out portion of different colonies in AC-68 Gokalpur	3,60,52,527/-	Nil (declaration form to be filled)	1500/-	2021_DJB_198729_1 dtd. 14.01.2021	08.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 320 (2020-21)
"STOP CORONA: Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distancing"
Sd/-
Executive Engineer(C) DR-VIII

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN
(Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No: 53 of 2020-21 Dated: 12-01-2021 (E-tendering).
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT: The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban invites tenders by e-tendering mode on Item's/age rates from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with J&K UT: CPWD, MES & Railways for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated cost of Work (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Lacs)	Time allowed for completion	Time & Date of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Rwall on Banthal Chanloo road in km 5th RD (725-775) RD (925-950) in km 6th RD (125-125) RD (325-385) RD (400-425) (RD 625-705) (Under MABARD)	PWD (R&B						

CoC TO CLEAR PLAN IN COMING DAYS & FORWARD IT TO NCLT

Piramal group likely to bag DHFL as lenders back ₹37,250-cr bid

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

THE PIRAMAL group is all set to bag the troubled Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), with lenders led by public sector banks backing its Rs 37,250-crore bid for the takeover of the mortgage firm.

According to banking sources, banks were not in favour of clearing the bid by the US' Oaktree Capital, which has been in a fierce battle with the Piramals for the housing finance firm. The Piramal bid got 94 per cent voting from the lenders, while the required majority is 66 per cent. However, Oaktree's bid got only 45 per cent backing. The Piramals are likely to merge DHFL with their financial services business once the bid is cleared by the bankruptcy court.

The Committee of Creditors (CoC) is expected to officially clear the proposal in the coming days and forward it to the National Company Law Tribunal.

After Piramal revised its bid, Oaktree had increased the bid by another Rs 1,700 crore after the deadline. Oaktree, in a letter to the creditors, had claimed a Rs 2,700-crore undervaluation by the CoC. Oaktree had also proposed it would offer Rs 1,000 crore from the sale of DHFL's life insurance business to the lenders.

Last Friday, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance said its bid for DHFL offers the highest upfront cash recovery and has the highest score according to the evaluation matrix. Piramal said it formally submitted a final bid within the deadline, while Oaktree sent an additional offer after the deadline,

EXPLAINED
Resolution vital

THE DHFL resolution is important for the financial sector, which was hit by the collapse of IL&FS and the DHFL crisis. While DHFL owes around Rs 80,000 crore to banks and other creditors, full recovery may not happen as bondholders are not sure about getting their money back.

offering Rs 1,700 crore more. Realising that its bid falls severely short, Oaktree sent an email on December 24 — two days after

the deadline — offering an additional Rs 1,700 crore, Piramal said. "Reserving the right in a bidding framework is blatantly illegal and mischievous — if this were to be allowed; everyone will bid Re 1 for all assets, 'reserve' the right to increase, look at other bids and increase to slightly more than the highest bid," Piramal said.

Oaktree's bid had reportedly claimed that DHFL's NCDs would be assigned an 'AAA' rating if their resolution plan is accepted. However, rating agencies are not allowed by law to provide any 'credit opinion' or have 'indicative credit rating discussions', Piramal said. Piramal had said the proposed takeover of DHFL's insurance business by Oaktree may invite regulatory challenges as it is a foreign entity. Currently, 49 per cent of DHFL Pramerica Life

Insurance is owned as foreign investment by Prudential International Insurance Holdings.

On November 29, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) filed an application for initiation of insolvency against DHFL, making it the first non-banking financial company (NBFC) to undergo the process.

In the first bidding round, Piramal Enterprises offered Rs 15,000 crore for DHFL's retail arm, while Oaktree offered Rs 27,800 crore for the entire firm. SC Lowy, meanwhile, offered Rs 2,300 crore for its non-slim redevelopment authority loan book. After the lenders expressed unhappiness over the low bids, all the companies revised their bids significantly.

Lenders and creditors are looking to recover Rs 83,000 crore of unpaid loans of DHFL.

SENSEX DOWN 549 POINTS TO 49,034

Markets shrug off US stimulus plan; Covid, lockdowns weigh

US indices drop as Biden's \$1.9 trillion proposal sparks fears of rise in taxes

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

DOMESTIC STOCK markets came under selling pressure as overseas markets remained subdued amid rising Covid cases in China, more restrictions in many countries and grim prospects about a faster global economic recovery. The \$19 trillion US stimulus plan also failed to boost the markets. The Sensex declined 549 points, or 1.1 per cent, to 49,034.67 and the Nifty 50 fell 161.90 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 14,433.70 on selling pressure.

The broader markets also remained under pressure as both mid- and small-caps ended with losses of 1 per cent each. On the sector front, except telecom, all the

Bond yields rise in absence of OMO announcement

Mumbai: The benchmark bond yield rose on Friday to a three-week high as a lack of an open market operation announcement disappointed investors ahead of a debt sale and variable rate reverse repo auction later in the day.

"It has been decided to restore normal liquidity management operations in a

phased manner," the RBI said.

Markets read the release as an indication that the RBI was looking to roll back the massive cash surplus in banking system. The 10-year yield was trading at 5.95 per cent versus 5.93 per cent Thursday and off the day's high of 5.96 per cent — its highest since December 24. **REUTERS**

other indices ended with losses.

The rupee snapped its three-session winning streak and settled for the day 3 paise lower at 73.07 against the US dollar on Friday.

UK's Office for National Statistics reported that the economy shrank 2.6 per cent in November.

Meanwhile, Wall Street's main indices dropped Friday, weighed

down by losses in major US lenders after their earnings reports, while incoming President Joe Biden's stimulus plan sparked fears of a rise in corporate taxes.

At 11:39 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 135.21 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 30,856.31 and the S&P 500 lost 18.40 points, or 0.48 per cent, to 3,777.14.

First time in 10 mths, imports in positive zone; exports inch up

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

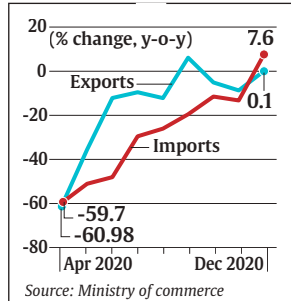
MERCHANDISE EXPORTS inched up in December, for a second time since February 2020, while imports advanced for the first time in 10 months, suggesting a gradual return towards normalcy.

The quick estimate released by the Commerce Ministry on Friday shows exports rose 0.1 per cent on year to \$27.15 billion in December, better than a 0.8 per cent contraction announced earlier.

Imports rose at a much faster pace of 7.6 per cent last December to \$42.59 billion, inflating trade deficit to a 25-month high of \$15.44 billion.

The rise in imports reflects a nascent revival of domestic demand, following the Covid-induced compression since March last year, as businesses go through a "reset" phase, taking advantage of the lifting of lockdown curbs.

However, as pointed out by analysts, some amount of pent-up demand for raw materials may also have contributed to the rise in imports, although it's still an en-



couraging sign.

If inbound shipments continue to rise, import-sensitive exports, too, will get a boost but it will also mark a return to the usual high trade deficit trend.

The outbound shipment of core products (goods excluding petroleum and gems & jewellery), which reflects the economy's competitiveness, grew 5.5 per cent in December, against a 0.4 per cent fall in the previous month. Similarly, core imports rose 8 per cent last month, compared with a 1.7 per cent fall in November.

Overall, merchandise exports are still down by 15.7 per cent up to December this fiscal, while imports shrunk by 29 per cent. **FE**

'Revenue of IT companies to grow up to 9% in FY22'

Demand for digital technologies and resumption of normal economic activities will drive sales for IT firms, pushing their revenue growth up to 9% in FY22, an Icrs report said



Why is it important: There will be little impact on growth and profitability for the companies, and margins will be in line with pre-Covid-19 levels, in 2021-22 for such companies

~95%: Share of staff in IT companies that have transitioned to work-from-home, mitigating the pandemic impact

Key risks for companies:

- Increase in minimum wages
- Changes to eligible occupations
- Frequency and restrictions in issuance for H-1B visas

\$180 billion:

Estimated size of Indian IT sector, as per industry lobby Nasscom, including the business process outsourcing business

Estimated growth in revenues in 2021-22:

- 7-9% in rupee terms
- 5-8% in dollar terms

Source: Icrs Ratings/PTI

HCL Tech Q3 net surges by 31%

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

HCL TECHNOLOGIES on Friday posted a 31.1 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit at Rs 3,982 crore on the back of strong momentum in its digital, products and platform segment, and exuded confidence in clocking further acceleration in bookings in the coming quarters.

REVENUE UP 6.4%

■ HCL Tech's revenue grew 6.4 per cent to Rs 19,302 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 18,135 crore in the year-ago period.

The IT services major, which had registered a net profit of Rs 3,037 crore in the year-ago

period, has also crossed the \$10 billion revenue milestone in CY2020.

HCL Tech's revenue grew 6.4 per cent to Rs 19,302 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 18,135 crore in the year-ago period (as per US GAAP).

The company recorded revenue growth at 3.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter in constant currency, beating its own estimate of 1.5-2.5 per cent growth for the December quarter.

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

IMF MANAGING Director Kristalina Georgieva has praised India for taking "very decisive" steps to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences and asked the country to do more this year to support an accelerated transformation of the economy.

Participating in a global media roundtable on Thursday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief predicted a less bad outlook for India in the upcoming World Economic Update, to be released on January 26.

"When I called on everybody to stay tuned for January 26, that applies very much to India. You would see a picture in our update that is less bad. Why? Because the country actually has taken very decisive action, very decisive steps to deal with the pandemic and to deal with the economic consequences of it," Georgieva said.

With regards to the global picture, the IMF MD said that growth forecasts for 2021 paint a less dire picture than the previous estimates of October. **PTI**

IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva during a media roundtable. **PTI**

'Farm Bills have potential, but safety net is crucial'

Washington: The IMF believes the farm Bills passed by the government have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms, but a social safety net is needed to protect those who might be adversely impacted during the transition to the new system, a spokesperson for the global lender said.

Gerry Rice, director of

communications, IMF, said the new measures will reduce the role of the middlemen and enhance efficiency.

"However, it is crucial that the social safety net adequately protects those who might be adversely impacted during the transition to this new system," Rice said, responding to a question on the ongoing farmer protests. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

Nod to phase 3 trials of Sputnik

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories said Friday it has got approval from the Drugs Controller General of India for phase 3 clinical trials for the Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine.

SAILOFS: Govt may get ₹2.6K cr

New Delhi: The government expects to garner Rs 2,664 crore from offloading 10 per cent stake in steelmaker SAIL via an offer for sale (OFS), which was subscribed over five times on Friday.

Norms issued for air cargo

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday issued norms for airlines that want to carry cargo in passenger compartment of aircraft. **PTI**

IGL names new chairman

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) said that Arun Kumar Singh, Director (Marketing), BPCL, has also taken over as Chairman of IGL.

New format for biz responsibility

New Delhi: Sebi said Friday the proposed format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting for listed companies will bring in greater transparency. **ENS**

Xi asks ex-CEO of Starbucks to help fix US-China ties

JOE MCDONALD
BEIJING, JANUARY 15

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping is asking former CEO Howard Schultz of Starbucks to help repair US-China relations that have plunged to their lowest level in decades amid a tariff war and tension over technology and security.

A letter from Xi to Schultz reported Friday by the official Xinhua News Agency was a rare direct communication from China's paramount leader to a foreign business figure. Schultz opened Starbucks' first China outlet in 1999 and is a frequent visitor. Xi wrote to Schultz to encourage him and Starbucks to continue to play an active role in promoting Chinese-US economic and trade cooperation and the development of bilateral relations. Xinhua reported. No text of the letter was released. Xinhua gave no indication whether the letter reflected an initiative to ask American corporate leaders to help change policy after President-elect Joe Biden takes office next week.

Economists and political analysts say Biden is likely to try to revive cooperation with Beijing over North Korea and other political issues. But few changes on trade are expected due to widespread frustration in Washington over China's human rights record and accusations of technology theft.

The Cabinet press office didn't immediately respond to questions about what Xi wanted Schultz to do and whether he

Trump blacklists Xiaomi, CNOOC, Skyrizon, 6 others

Washington: The Trump administration took another swipe at China and its biggest firms on Thursday, imposing sanctions on officials and companies for alleged misdeeds in the South China Sea and imposing an investment ban on nine more firms.

The firms are Comac, Xiaomi Corp, Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment, Luokung Technology Corp, Beijing Zhongguancun Development Investment Center, GOWIN Semiconductor Corp, Grand China Air Co, Global Tone Communication Technology Co Ltd and China National Aviation Holding Co Ltd. **REUTERS**

contacted other American business leaders.

Schultz, who was Starbucks CEO until 2017 and chairman until 2018, led an aggressive expansion that made China its biggest market outside the United States.

Schultz said in 2019 that he was considering running for president as an independent but later dropped that. Xinhua said Xi was responding to a letter from Schultz that congratulated the Chinese leader on the completion of a well-off society under his leadership, Xinhua said. **AP**

Snapdeal, 4 shopping complexes in US Notorious Markets List

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

SNAPDEAL, ALONG with four shopping complexes, two of them in New Delhi alone, have figured in the 2020 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy issued by the Office of the US Trade Representative.

The four Indian markets that have found mention in the list are Heera Panna in Mumbai, Kidderpore in Kolkata and Palika Bazaar and Tank Road in Delhi.

"Holding intellectual property rights violators accountable and ensuring that American innovators and creators have a full and fair opportunity to use and profit from their works is critical for both physical and online markets," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said.

ROADS AND BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF KERALA LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
2nd Floor, Preethi Building, M.V. Road, Palativattom, Kochi-682025, Phone (484) 2338205, 2338206, Fax (91-484) 2533294
Website for Bids: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Email: rbdc_ktd@gmail.com, www.rbdc.com

Ref: No. RBDC/K/228/Vol. IV/70/2021

Date: 15.01.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

On behalf of Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala Limited, its Managing Director invites bids for the "Construction of Ponnani Harbour – Padinjarekkara Bridge" in Malappuram District, Kerala, India, as Cable Stayed Bridge, financed by **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**, under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode, through www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, under two cover system. (i) **Pre-qualification cum Technical bid (ii) Price bid.**

Approximate Value of work – Rs. 237.133 crores	Documents download start date – 20.01.2021
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More details may be obtained from www.rbdc.com and from the office of RBDC/K at the address given above.

Sd/-
Managing Director

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना 324/20-21

निविदा निविदा फॉर्म का पत्राचार करीब 15 दिनों में ई-निविदा प्रणाली के माध्यम से किया जायेगा।

कुल अनुमानित मूल्य (रु.)

Collection of Toll Tax on Sikar-Jhunjhunu-Luharu Road. UBN No. RRC2021WLOB00481 826.04 Lakh

अनुमानित निविदा प्रस्ताव दाखल करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.01.2021 प्रा. 09.00 बजे से 18.01.2021 प्रा. 06.00 बजे तक

निविदा के सम्बंधित समस्त विवरण एवं संशोधन के माध्यम से <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://roads.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। प्रत्येक निविदा को अपने निविदा निविदा के माध्यम से केवल <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर ही देना आवश्यक है।

सावरकर

एनएमडीसी लिमिटेड NMDCL Limited
(सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Government of India Enterprise)
राजधानी अफसर एनएच रोड स्टाफ, NMDCL हेड ऑफिस प्लॉट, पोस्ट- नगर्नगर (बस्तर) ज.ग. बि. 494001 Post - Nagarnagar (Bastar) C.G. PIN 494001
Email: aikhann@nmdcl.co.in
CIN: L13100TG1958G0001674; GSTIN: 22AAACN73254323

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

NMDCL Iron & Steel Plant (NISP), Nagarnagar, Jagdalpur, Dist- Bastar, Chhattisgarh is inviting sealed tenders in Three Bid System for the following purchase enquiries as per below mentioned details.

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Description of enquiry	Contract period	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer	Tender fee, Incl of GST	Earnest Money Deposit
1.	NISP/SP-293/LT Control Cable/5331 dtd.15.01.2021	Supply of different length of 35 types of LT control cable of 1.1 KV grade	4-6 Months	19-01-2021 (11:30 AM IST) to 19-02-2021 (01:00 PM IST)	19-02-2021 by 02.30 PM IST	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 75,000/-
2.	NISP/SP-294/LT Power Cable/5332 dtd. 15.01.2021	Supply of different lengths of 48 types of LT Power cable of 1.1 KV grade	4-6 Months	19-01-2021 (11:30 AM IST) to 19-02-2021 (01:00 PM IST)	19-02-2021 by 02.30 PM IST	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 75,000/-
3.	NISP/SP-295/33 KV HT Power Cable/5333 dtd.15.01.2021	Supply of different lengths of 8 types of HT Power cable of 33 KV grade	4-6 Months	19-01-2021 (11:30 AM IST) to 19-02-2021 (01:00 PM IST)	19-02-2021 by 02.30 PM IST	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 2,00,000/-

Interested bidders can download the tender documents from www.nmdcl.co.in or www.eprocure.gov.in websites in their tender section. Part – I (EMD) & II (Technical) portion of the tender will be opened on the same date and time as mentioned in tender conditions.

Corrigendum(s)/Clarification(s)/Amendment(s)/Addendum(s)/Interpretations, if any to the above tenders will be published in www.nmdcl.co.in only. Bidders are advised to visit this website frequently for further details. For and on behalf of NMDCL Ltd. Sr. Manager (M&C)

हर एक काम देश के नाम

SBI
Digital and Transaction Banking-Products & Operations Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai.

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer RFP for Management of Enterprise Wide Loyalty Programme, No. SBI/EWL/RFP/001/2020-21 dated 01/01/2021, the same was published on 01/01/2021 in this newspaper. **Corrigendum** details are available on our website: <https://bank.sbi>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>, under 'Procurement News' and <https://etender.sbi/>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager
(Debit Cards)

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone Udaipur

No. ACE/Acc./Bhilwara/2020/17328

Date:- 29.12.2020

E-NIT No. 08/2020-21

Bids for Renovation of Meja Feeder, District Bhilwara are invited from interested bidders upto dated 19.01.2021 till 06.00 PM. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, www.water.rajjasthan.gov.in/wrd, www.dipr.rajjasthan.gov.in & <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>

Sd/-
(Bhuvan Bhasker)
Additional Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone Udaipur

SBI
CRM Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, Sector 10, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
(RFP No.SBI/GITC/CRM/2020/2021/746, Dated 14/01/2021)

State Bank of India Invites proposal from eligible bidders for "Procurement of Services for Round the Clock Monitoring, Troubleshooting, System and Database administration of Contact Centre Applications". For details refer RFP document which may be downloaded from Bank's Website www.sbi.co.in or <https://bank.sbi> under **Procurement News**. Bidders are required to upload their documents on <https://etender.sbi/SBI/>. Interested respondents may submit their bids on or before 08.02.2021 till 14:30 HRS. Amendment/modification IN RFP, if any, will be uploaded only on website.

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (CRM)

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
(Deemed to Be University)
Address :- Gen. A.K. Vaidya Marg, Film City Road, Santosh Nagar, Goregaon(E)-Mumbai- 400065, Maharashtra

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Eoi is invited from reputed & qualified vendors for the below mentioned work at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research at Goregaon (E), Mumbai-400065.

Name of Service	EMD Amount
Web Based ERP Software for IGIDR	₹ 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh Only)

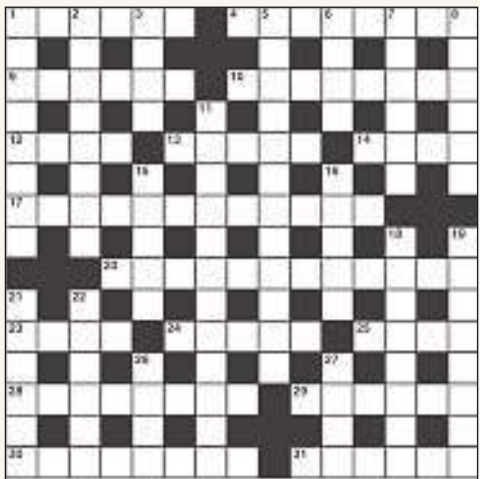
Eoi document for above shall be downloaded from our website <http://www.igidr.ac.in/tenders>

Last date of submission of Eoi documents is **02:00 PM on 05th February 2021**. Corrigendum if any regarding the above Eoi will be published on the Institute's website on above link.

IGIDR reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without assigning any reasons thereof.

Registrar

CROSSWORD 4329



ACROSS

DOWN

1

I ring Enid back for a healing application (6)

4

A piano tested and given the OK (8)

9

Discontinuation of issued order (6)

10

Very good article for cake decoration (8)

12

List a waiter may be asked for (4)

13

Goddess of light? (5)

14

Vote cast by objector? (4)

17

It doesn't become a grown-up (12)

20

A craft school for youngsters (8,4)

23

Felt sorry about union leader being bolschie (4)

24

Worry results when Harold gets short (5)

25

If there's a man around, he's from the U.S. (4)

28

Conditional statement? (8)

29

A deity father found outside a Chinese temple (6)

30

Masterful man I don't have to replace (8)

31

Work of a man who is good at figures (6)

1

The sort of speech that gets reported (8)

2

Say no to getting a record by mail order (8)

3

Outstanding feature of one's disposition (4)

5

Where you might go in America if you have time (12)

6

The knot sailors avoid (4)

7

Expresses requirements for a choir (6)

8

Monster in women's clothing? (6)

11

Drops from hard work (12)

15

Look well on (5)

16

American needs time for practice (5)

18

Our haste ruined the distribution (5-3)

19

Wise step in the present era (5,3)

21

Conducted an examination in favour of retirement? (6)

22

Blamed for an uproar (6)

26


A study about a distinguished academic (4)

27


Is unable to play the hypocrite figures (4)

Solutions Crossword 4328: Across: 1 Sprag, 8 Lei, 9 Totem pole, 10 Essence, 11 Tower, 13 Traits, 15 Amatol, 18 Liege, 19 Feather dusters, 21 Beardless, 23 Och, 24 Screech, 25 Tides. Down: 1 Solvent, 2 Reinstate, 3 Get on, 4 Duties, 5 Symptom, 6 Ego, 7 Shear, 12 Watchword, 14 Treadle, 16 Larches, 17 Afresh, 18 Lobes, 20 Asset, 22 Air.


OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

When one __, one __, -Charlotte Whitton (4, 3)

DNSAS

EHNOCU

FUTON

EGORUM

Answer: When one can, one can. -Charlotte Whitton

SUDOKU 4354

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4353

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions

Difficulty Level

3 4 8 9 6

6 7 3

7 6 1 8

6 2 7 5

4 1 3 9

5 7 9 4

9 2 5

7 1 5 6 9

7 8 5 6 2 1 9 4 3

3 1 9 8 5 4 6 2 7

6 2 4 9 3 7 8 5 1

5 3 6 7 8 9 2 1 4

2 4 7 5 1 6 3 9 8

8 9 1 3 4 2 5 7 6

1 5 2 4 6 3 7 8 9

9 6 8 1 7 5 4 3 2

4 7 3 2 9 8 1 6 5

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-III

STP YAMUNA VIHAR, WAZIRABAD ROAD DELHI-110053

Tele- 22814128, Email: eesdw3.djb@nic.in

Addendum

In reference in NIT No. 04 (2020-21) dated: 08.10.2020 [Tender ID-2020_DJB_195411_1] all prospective bidders are hereby inform to download the reply of bidders query received in Pre-bid meeting dated: 26.10.2020 from the portal of <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

Sd/- (Bhushan Verma) Exe. Engineer (SDW)-III

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 322 (2020-21)

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAINING HAND HYGIENE"

DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR. III

Kanhaiya Nagar, Delhi - 110035

Phone: 011-27394876 Email: eecdr3@gmail.com

STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

PRESS NIT NO- 05 (2020-21) (Re-invited)

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Providing/ Laying balance portion of outfall sewer of Subhadra Colony by open cut & Microtunneling	1,61,49,791/-	Exempted	1000/-	14.01.2021 / 2021_DJB_198712.1	15.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(C) DR-III

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 321 (2020-21)

DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS DEPARTMENT

PANCHAYATI RAJ, PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION

KARNAL

CORRIGENDUM

उपरोक्त विषय के अंतर्गत इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 8215 दिनांक 06.01.2021 द्वारा जिला करनाल के गांव सरवन मांजरा खण्ड इंद्री में गोबरधन प्रोजेक्ट हेतु आनलाईन टेंडर मांगा गया है जो कि दिनांक 07.01.2021 शाम 17.00 बजे से दिनांक 21.01.2021 शाम 16.00 बजे तक सोसायटीयों व दिनांक 23.01.2021 शाम 16.00 बजे से दिनांक 30.01.2021 शाम 16.00 बजे तक सोसायटीयों व ठेकेदारों द्वारा डाले जाने हैं। प्रशासनिक कार्यों की वजह से टेंडर रद्द किया जाता है।

हस्ता./- कार्यकारी अभियंता पंचायती राज, करनाल।

1413/7/HRY

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



LAUNCH - INDIANOIL

Naveen Patnaik, CM, Odisha and Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for PNG & Steel jointly launched Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning project at Bhubaneswar recently.



INAUGURATION - PNB

Punjab National Bank Ghaziabad recently inaugurated its Digi Hut for customer convenience in Signature Mall, Govindpuram. It was inaugurated by V Dubey, ED of the Bank.



ACHIEVEMENT - INDIANOIL

IndianOil Aviation recently fuelled the historic Air India flight from San Francisco to Bengaluru. S Sahay, ED (Aviation), HO and H Rathore, CGM (Aviation), SR were at the airport to welcome and greet the crew.



AWARD - POWERGRID

POWERGRID received SKOCH Silver Award for its transformational performance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic & its Skill development and employment generation program for sustainable growth of 200 underprivileged Women in Damoh.



MEETING - TRIFED

TRIFED recently reviewed the progress of MSP for MFP Scheme and other tribal development schemes in Chhattisgarh. Pravir Krishna, MD, TRIFED, met with senior state government officials for the meeting.



CONTRACT - GRSE

GRSE recently signed a contract for 01 Ocean Going Passenger & Cargo Ferry Vessel for Republic of Guyana. Govt. of Guyana signed the contract with the shipyard to build an Ocean-Going Vessel at a cost of 12.7 MU\$.



MOU - IREDA

PK Das, CMD, IREDA & AK Singh, CMD, NHPC, signed a MoU, in presence of other senior officials from both the organizations, to support NHPC in Green Energy projects for the next 5 years.



INAUGURATION - SBI

Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI, inaugurated the renovated Branch of SBI at P-Block, Connaught Circus, New Delhi. Vijay Ronjan, CGM of SBI, New Delhi Circle along with other senior officials were also present.



CSR - POSOCO

Sobha K. Baba, President, and Dr. Meenakshi Davar, Director (HR), POSOCO, distributed blankets and adult diapers to the elderly people in Guru Vishram Vriddh Ashram, Delhi, for their betterment in harsh winters.

ICSI recently organised the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance 2020. The Award recognises the impeccable performances by Corporates and Professionals in the Corporate Governance arena. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Justice AK Sikri, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India & International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court, was the Chairman of the Jury for the Awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on Dr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, whereas the Honorary Degree of the ICSI conferred on Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla.

NBT India The over a month-long 9th International Adolescent Summit, 2020: Life Skills, Health, Safety & School Wellbeing closed recently in a Valedictory function over a virtual event. Organized by Expressions India with NBT India as the Knowledge Partner, the event was inaugurated Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education, GoI, on 18 December 2020. Nearly 14,000 students and teachers involving over 1200 schools from all over India participated in the summit. Rajat Sharma, Chairman & Editor-in Chief, INDIA TV News, was the Guest of Honour at the event.

UT of Lakshadweep The Administration of UT of Lakshadweep has issued a revised SOP with effect from 28th December, 2020 by doing away with the quarantine system at Kochi as well as in the islands. Anyone can visit the islands from mainland with a negative test report of RT-PCR obtained 48 hours before the travel. Lakshadweep has been able to keep the situation normal and ensure the smooth functioning of all government offices, schools, hospitals and all other establishments. Praful Patel, Administrator, UT of Lakshadweep, has appealed to all the citizens of the UT to remain peaceful and follow the revised SOP in letter and spirit.

Embassy of Kyrgyzstan Early elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and a referendum on the form of governance of the Kyrgyz Republic were held recently. 3,563,574 voters were registered on the voter list. There were 2,474 polling stations set up for holding the elections, out of which 48 were abroad. According to the Central Commission for Elections & the Referendum of the Kyrgyz Republic, as per the preliminary voting results, Sadyr Zhaparov won with 79.18% of the votes in the early elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. According to the preliminary results of voting in the referendum, 81.29% of voters chose the presidential form of governance.

POWERGRID has won the SHRM HR Excellence Award at the SHRM20 India Annual & Tech Conference. This is the first award that the SHRM body has awarded to any PSU in India. POWERGRID won the award after competing with almost a dozen PSU organisations and more than 360 organizations participating in the overall awards process. The award was presented to K. Sreekant, CMD, POWERGRID and V.K. Singh, Director Personnel, POWERGRID in person at POWERGRID Corporate Office.

NTPC Ltd's very first unit, which was commissioned 38 years ago at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh, has achieved the highest Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 100.24% among all thermal units in the country between April 2020 to December 2020, data published by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed. The 200 MW unit was commissioned in 1982 and the robust PLF signifies the exceptional operational and maintenance efficiency at India's largest power generation company.

IRCTC has announced the launch of various air tour packages to leisure & pilgrimage destinations in India to promote Domestic Tourism in the new year. These fixed departure tours have been strategically planned for a very short duration in the next three months considering the Long Weekends and Holiday combinations for Service Class Employees & General Public. Tour Package to Andaman is LTC Compliant for Govt. Employees.

IGNOU has been accorded A++ grade by NAAC. Informing this, the Registrar of the University said that IGNOU is the first HEI in the ODL system to be accredited by the NAAC. As on date, IGNOU has 30 lakh students on roll and with this recognition by NAAC, ODL and online learning will play a major role in access and equity to higher education.

HNLU recently conducted its Fourth Convocation, wherein two research scholars were awarded Ph.D., while 223 and 750 students got LL. M. and B.A.L.L.B. (Hons.) degrees respectively. There were 61 gold medal recipients from across the batches of 2015 to 2019. Most of the gold medals were awarded to the Girl students. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, the Chief Justice of India & Visitor of the University, delivered a special address on the occasion and Bhupesh Baghel, CM of Chhattisgarh, delivered the Convocation address.

18 SPORT

MIHIR VASAVDA & SRIRAM VEERA
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

WHEN FAST bowler Navdeep Saini hobbled off the field at The Gabba on Friday, after suffering a groin injury, he completed India's 'Injured 11' line-up from the tour to Australia.

The unprecedented number of walking wounded in just one tour is the highest-ever toll for Team India, be it an away series or home. Sports science experts have reason to believe that in a season after a pandemic-forced break, more squad rotation and effective workload management of the players could have helped prevent injuries.

"Muscle injury doesn't happen overnight. It starts with a niggle and then it gets bigger. It can be a result of load and also from certain actions," Ramji Srinivasan, India's strength and conditioning coach during the 2011 World Cup, told The Indian Express.

"Forget the impact injuries that Ravindra Jadeja or Mohammad Shami suffered. That can happen to anybody, anywhere but load-management injuries are different."

Consider this: Bumrah, who has not played a lot of cricket since suffering a stress fracture on his back after the 2019 World Cup, bowled



Navdeep Saini walked off with a groin strain on Day 1 of the Gabba Test. *AP*

60 overs in the IPL, 27.3 overs in the 3 ODIs against Australia and 117.4 overs in the three Test matches he played.

After not stepping out of his house for almost four months due to the lockdown, the leader of India's bowling attack has bowled 205.1 overs in the last four months. This is besides the hours he would have bowled in the nets, ran on the field and, occasionally,

EXPLAINED Why Australian players were better prepared

Australia's lockdown wasn't as harsh as India's and nearly all their players began training in June and local leagues began later that month. This meant they were prepared for the season in terms of match-fitness. Additionally, several Australian players who are in the Test squad were not a part of the IPL, which reduced their workload. Some of their players have had a comparatively lesser workout in the middle as well, as illustrated by Bumrah's stats vis-à-vis Cummins. Mitchell Starc skipped the last two seasons of the IPL to focus on ICC tournaments.

wielded the bat.

In contrast, his Australian counterpart Pat Cummins has bowled 42 less than him (163.1 overs) during the same period.

While the cricketers are used to a hectic

schedule, what makes this season different is they began playing competitive matches without proper pre-season because of the lockdown rules that were in force back then. A pre-season allows the body to get used to the rigours of playing day-in and day-out.

Lockdown woes

"During the lockdown, even if you were training, it's not at a competitive level. When it's a competition, the pressures are way more. And no matter how much you train, the body forgets the rigours of a tournament," physiotherapist Nikhil Latey, who has worked with leading Indian sportspersons, said.

Srinivasan said there is a tendency to plateau in the lockdown, which also affected the aerobic fitness of the bowlers. Without good running mechanics, he added, there is a 'potential risk for an injury because of the demands of bowling – the foot landing, the way you transfer weight, release and follow-through all matter.'

"Suddenly after bowling four overs in IPL, you find yourself in Australian conditions," Srinivasan said. "Cricket is a running game. Under lockdown, running fitness has been hit. That's why bowlers are getting more injured." Michael Harding, who was the physio of

EB SCORE LATE EQUALISER VS KERALA

Scott Neville scored with a stunning header in the dying minutes to help SC East Bengal secure a 1-1 draw against Kerala Blasters in a Hero Indian Super League match at Tilak Maidan, here on Friday. Jordan Murray put Kerala ahead in the 64th minute before Neville's stoppage-time equaliser (90+5) ensured that SCEB extended their unbeaten run to six games.

PTI

BRIEFLY

Not a memorable senior debut for Arjun

Mumbai: Left-arm pacer Arjun Tendulkar made his Mumbai senior team debut on Friday in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Haryana, which the hosts lost by eight wickets. In the Elite E League group clash played at the suburban BKC ground, Mumbai made 143 after opting to bat first, a target which Haryana overhauled in 17.4 overs. Arjun had an off day with the ball as he returned with rather unimpressive figures of 1/34 in the three overs that he bowled. He dismissed Haryana opener Chaitanya Bishnoi (4) cheaply after he edged a delivery to wicket-keeper Aditya Tare to claim his maiden wicket for the Mumbai senior team. Incidentally, Tendulkar's last Ranji Trophy game was against Haryana back in 2013.

BRIEF SCORES: Haryana 144 for 2 (Rana 75*, Chauhan 43*) beat Mumbai 143 (Ankolekar 37, Jaiswal 35, Jayant Yadav 4-22, Chhapra 3-22) by eight wickets

Saurabh smashes world record

New Delhi: India ace Saurabh Chaudhary smashed the finals world record with a stunning 246.9 to win the 10m air pistol T1 men's trials at the ongoing national shooting trials on Friday. Haryana's Manu Bhaker also emerged victorious in the T1 women's 10m air pistol trials at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range. Both world number 4 Saurabh and 2 Manu topped their qualification rounds before going on to win the finals. Saurabh shot a sizzling 590 in the 60-shot qualification round, before producing a record score of 246.9 in the final to annihilate his opposition. N Korea's Kim Song Guk holds the finals world record with a score of 246.5. Manu, on the other hand, shot 580 in qualifying which was enough to give her the top spot.

AGENCIES

SANDIP G
JANUARY 15

IN SEPTEMBER last year, January 2021 seemed far away. T Natarajan left home in Chinnappampatti, near Salem, for the Indian Premier League already thinking of his return flight in mid-November, the month he would become a father for the first time.

He had already decided on the temples he should visit and the rituals he should perform after returning home, besides growing a beard till the child was born.

Some 360 kilometres south of Chinnappampatti, in Chennai, Washington Sundar was restlessly awaiting the day he would leave for the UAE. Bereft of competitive cricket, his life, he said in a Royal Challengers Bangalore video, felt lifeless. "I wish I could just keep on playing cricket non-stop," he said.

Not overawed

Four months later, beyond their wildest dreams or fantasies, necessitated by a chain of unusual incidents and unprecedented circumstances, both found themselves as Test cricketers, playing a pre-eminent role on the opening day of the decisive fourth Test at the Gabba.

Sundar heckled the wicket of the most prolific batsman in contemporary Test cricket, Steve Smith, before Natarajan's twin strikes, of centurion Marnus Labuschagne and Matthew Wade, limited the damage Australia would have inflicted on India. But for their timely strikes, the day's final score (274/5) would have assumed monstrous proportions.

Natarajan was vying with Kuldeep Yadav for the fifth bowler's slot. Sundar's batting, bowling control and potential plans of leg-trap against Smith and Labuschagne made him a sure shot to replace Ravichandran Ashwin.

The team management felt that it would be wiser to go with Natarajan for his control, left-arm's angle, and ability to



Washington Sundar celebrates with Rohit Sharma after dismissing Steve Smith. (Above) Marnus Labuschagne after reaching his ton. *AP*

SCORECARD	
AUSTRALIA vs INDIA	
THE GABBA	
Toss: Australia, chose to bat	
AUS FIRST INNINGS	274/5 (87 ov)
D Warner c Sharma b M Siraj	1 (4b)
M Harris c W Sundar b Thakur	5 (23b)
M Labuschagne c Pant b Natarajan	108 (204b, 9x4)
S Smith c Sharma b W Sundar	36 (77b, 5x4)
M Wade c Thakur b Natarajan	45 (87b, 6x4)
C Green not out	28 (70b, 3x4)
T Paine not out	38 (62b, 5x4)
■ Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 5)	13
■ FoW: 1-4 (Warner, 0.6 ov), 2-17 (Harris, 8.1 ov), 3-87 (Smith, 34.1 ov), 4-200 (Wade, 63.4 ov), 5-213 (Labuschagne, 65.5 ov)	
■ Bowling: M Siraj 19-8-51-1, T Natarajan 20-2-63-2, S Thakur 18-5-67-1, N Saini 7.5-2-21-0, W Sundar 22-4-63-1, R Sharma 0.1-0-1-0	
DAY2, LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK, 5:30AM	

reverse from round the stumps.

On the most overwhelming day of their careers, neither debutant underwhelmed. At no point did it weigh on them that one was replacing arguably the finest fast bowler in India's history, and the other the finest off-spinner of this generation. They exuded an unreal composure.

Truth stranger than fiction

Neither would have nurtured even faint hopes of making their Test debuts on this tour. Washington was part of just the T20I squad, Natarajan was chosen among the reserves before Varun Chakravarty picked up an injury and he was named as the replacement. He was picked for the third ODI, and then the T20Is. Washington featured in all three T20Is.

Both were supposed to leave after the white-ball leg, but were asked to stay back as net bowlers. Both were thrilled, though Natarajan was longing to see his daughter. But his childhood coach A Jayaprakash called him to say "not to worry about things back home." "I told him just to keep his fo-

cus on his game. It was the best chance in his life. I told him to take every net session as a Test match," says Jayaprakash.

Natarajan's rise is a remarkable, class-transcending moment in Indian cricket too — the son of a porter and tea-shack vendor playing Test cricket. There have been several famished-to-famous stories in the IPL, but few in international cricket.

Washington's is a more straightforward tale; he progressed through the conventional route, playing the U-19 World Cup, making his First-Class debut at 17, IPL debut a year later and putting on the India jersey at the end of 2017.

Different styles

Unlike Natarajan, who exudes a rustic charm, Washington is a metro-boy with oodles of confidence and a hint of swagger. The big stage hardly frazzles him. Like in 2017, after Rising Pune Supergiant's chief spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was injured, he was called for trials.

Unfazed by bowling to Smith, MS Dhoni and Ben Stokes in the nets, Washington

cause of the scheduling of the matches. What could have prevented this, instead, is managing the players' workload.

Sports physiotherapist Heath Matthews said the most crucial factor to minimise the risk of an injury is to go slowly. "It's all about what we call load management. How much load are you putting your body under? And are you giving your body enough time for recovery and developing strength over a period of time?" Matthews, who is the head of sports science and medicine at HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai, said.

Srinivasan wondered if the load monitoring of Indian players has been done properly. "There is some missing link somewhere that I can't answer without data. Was load monitoring done properly? What were the IPL trainers doing?" he questioned.

He added that repetitive injuries to players like Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and Ishant Sharma are also a 'worry'.

"Forget IPL, go back in time and see the data. Data can't just be for one-and-half months. Is the load monitoring deciphered properly? Why are the same injuries happening to the same guy over a period of time? Repetitive injuries are a worry, be it Bhuvaneshwar Kumar or Ishant Sharma."

On the culmination of their scarcely-believable journey to Test debuts, Natarajan & Sundar show they belong at that level

swiftly earned a contract. He was thrown straightaway into the deep end, and didn't look back. He featured in all their remaining games and ended up with the second-best economy rate in the league.

"I know how important it is to latch onto every single chance you get at any level of the game. You can take nothing for granted," he had told this newspaper once.

Breaking stereotypes

However, both had one big myth to bust on their debuts. That they can be more than useful with the red ball. Both have modest First-Class experience — Washington has grabbed 30 wickets from 12 games while Natarajan has 64 from 20.

There was always a rider that hung to their necks: Are they good with the red ball? Can they bowl long spells? Do they have Test-match temperament?

On Friday, they ticked all those boxes. They bowled with self-awareness, craft and cunning. They were barely frazzled when bowling to the likes of Smith and Labuschagne.

It has been a feature of India's debutants in this series. They are not overawed by the stage or the reputation of the opponents. Mohammed Siraj, in fact, is doing a mini-Stuart Broad on David Warner, knocking him out twice in three bouts.

In the company of Shardul Thakur and Natarajan, he compensated for the injured Navdeep Saini on Friday.

Together against adversity

It reflects the team ethos. There is a sense of togetherness. Even though Jasprit Bumrah was not fit to play, he was lurking near the boundary rope, offering advice to Siraj, Saini and Natarajan. Ashwin would be seen alongside Washington.

Nobody is detached, everyone is involved. It's the hallmark of great teams. From this cohesiveness emerges a sense of courage that one could ride the roughest of waves and repel the fiercest of storms, a conviction that no setback could set them back.

How catching standards in the series have dropped

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
JANUARY 15

The first day of the Brisbane Test ended with Australia having their nose slightly in front. Without three dropped catches, the hosts, however, would have finished the day losing at least seven wickets instead of five. Dropped catches have become routine in this series, with both sides benefitting from fielding errors. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne has ridden his luck more than anyone else.

How many catches have India dropped so far?

Going by statistical data from different sources, India have dropped 31 catches during their ongoing Australian tour so far, starting from the ODI series. In the three ODIs, India dropped seven catches followed by 12 in the three-match T20I series. In the Adelaide Test, the visitors put down four catches followed by one in Melbourne, four in Sydney and three more in Brisbane on Friday.

How many catches have the Aussies dropped in the Tests?

So far in three Tests, Australia have grassed 13 catches — one in Adelaide, seven in Melbourne and five in Sydney.

How have Australians benefitted from India's errors?

There are examples aplenty. To point out a few: In the first Test, in the 18th over of



Ajinkya Rahane dropped Marcus Labuschagne when he was on 37. *AP*

Australia's first innings, Labuschagne survived a sitter, as Jasprit Bumrah dropped him off Mohammed Shami. The batsman was on 12 then. In the 23rd over, Prithvi Shaw dropped Labuschagne off Bumrah when he was on 21. He went on to score 47. In the 55th over, Mayank Agarwal dropped Tim Paine off Bumrah on 26. The Australian skipper ended up on 73 not out.

Cut to Brisbane on Friday, when Ajinkya Rahane dropped Labuschagne off Navdeep Saini's bowling when he was on 37 and Australia under pressure at 93/3. Ten overs hence, Cheteshwar Pujara dropped him at first slip off T Natarajan on 48. Labuschagne rode his luck to score his fifth Test century.

In the 80th over, Shardul Thakur let go a simple caught-and-bowled opportunity to al-

low Cameron Green a reprieve on 19. That was just before India took the second new ball and a dismissal would have had Australia six down. Green stayed till the end of the day to tilt the balance in the hosts' favour.

How have the Indians benefitted from dropped catches?

In the 81st over during India's first innings in Melbourne, Steve Smith dropped Rahane when he was on 73. The India captain scored 112 to take the game away from Australia.

In the third Test, Rishabh Pant survived on three during India's second innings, when Paine dropped him off Nathan Lyon. Pant was new to the crease after Rahane had been dismissed in the second over on Day Five. The left-hander went on to score 97, which raised the prospect of an improbable Indian victory-push. Eventually, his innings set the platform for a memorable draw.

In the 101st over of India's second innings in Sydney, substitute Sean Abbott floored Ravichandran Ashwin when he was on 15, and with nine overs remaining, Paine dropped Hanuma Vihari off Mitchell Starc. Ashwin and Vihari remained unseparated till the end to secure a great escape.

Why Labuschagne is one of the luckiest?

A CricViz Analyst tweet mentions that he has been dropped 10 times in his Test career, which is currently 18-Test-old. In 29 innings before Friday's match, Australia's No. 3 had

scored 1,752 runs at an average north of 60. Another tweet from the same handle points out: "Since the start of the 2019 Ashes, only Ben Stokes has been dropped more often in Test cricket".

Who should be held responsible for India's catching glitches?

Rahane's drop on Friday was a one-off, for he is one of the safest catchers in the team. But India's overall fielding/catching standards during the ongoing tour have been way below par, to put it mildly. Some sitters have gone down and while the errors have been made by Test cricketers who are supposed to take those catches, fielding coach R Sridhar has a lot to answer for. Two years ago, the erstwhile MSK Prasad-led selection committee had re-appointed Sridhar, ignoring South African Jonty Rhodes's candidature. It would be interesting to see if the current selection committee, headed by Chetan Sharma, or the BCCI hierarchy call for an explanation from Sridhar after the tour.

Any fixed template to improve catching?

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin, arguably the country's greatest-ever all-round fielder, had one during his playing days. "It's imperative to take at least 150-200 catches during practice every day. As a fielder, you should always want the ball coming at you and the more you take those catches (in practice), the more you feel comfortable. You are always game-ready," Azhar told this paper during a conversation last year.