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50,000 & still counting: liquidity pushes markets, all eyes on Budget now

**SANDEEP SINGH
& GEORGE MATHEW**
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI,
JANUARY 21

THE BENCHMARK Sensex Thursday breached the 50,000-mark for the first time before retreating to close at 49,624, a fall of 167 points or 0.34 per cent over Wednesday's closing.

The rise and rise of markets over the last few months has been driven by a combination of external factors: global liquidity, vaccine hopes, US election outcome, alongside the growing strength in the domestic recovery. But market experts said that the factors shaping its future momentum will be the nature of the government's spending programme to be unveiled in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

EXPLAINED
US, vaccines, recovery

THE 70%-SURGE since April 2020 is on the back of global liquidity, vaccine hopes, US elections and domestic recovery. Future momentum will depend on government's spending (Budget); duration of RBI stimulus and check on inflation.

EXPLAINED

YOUR MONEY
WHAT NEXT FOR INVESTORS
PAGE 13

For cricket stars, new test: 2 km in 8.30 mins

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

CITING THE "growing physical demands of international cricket", the Indian cricket board has introduced mandatory 2-km time trials to measure speed and endurance levels in its training programme for top players, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

It will now be mandatory for the BCCI's contracted players and those vying for a place in the Indian team to clear this trial, apart from the yo-yo test, to be picked in the squad.

"The Board felt that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Mohammed Siraj at his father's grave in Hyderabad on Thursday. PTI

RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 20



Some staff members of the Serum Institute of India after the fire broke out in one of the buildings in Pune on Thursday. PTI

Five killed in Serum Institute fire, Covishield production unaffected

Building has rotavirus, BCG labs; Covid vaccine units on nearby SII campus

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JANUARY 21

FIVE PEOPLE were killed after a major fire engulfed the three upper floors of a newly-constructed six-storey building inside one of the campuses of Serum Institute of India (SII), which is a key player in the global supplies of vaccines against the

novel coronavirus disease. SII CEO Adar Poonawalla told *The Indian Express* that the fire had caused "lots of damage".

Poonawalla, who is currently abroad, had earlier said the fire had not impacted the production of Covishield, the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 8

Migrant worker from UP raised alarm, among dead

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, JANUARY 21

BIPIN SAROJ, who was working on the fourth floor, was among the first to notice the fire. "Bhaaga, aag lagi hai (Run, there is a fire), we heard him shout. We ran out to save our lives. Later, we realised that Bipin himself could

not make it," said Sudhanshu, one of the survivors in Thursday's fire at Serum Institute of India's campus in Pune.

Saroj, a migrant worker from UP, was among the five who died in the blaze. The other four have been identified as Rama Shankar from UP, Sushil Kumar Pandey from Bihar, and Mahendra Ingle and Pratik Pashte, both residents of Pune district.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MEETING WITH GOVT TODAY

Farmers draw hard line, reject Centre's offer to stay laws

Divide within on turning down proposal; police say no to R-Day tractor rally in Delhi

RAAKHI JAGGA, LIZ MATHEW & JIGNASA SINHA
LUDHIANA, NEW DELHI, JAN 21

DRAWING THE hard line to press for the repeal of the new agriculture laws, farmer unions Thursday rejected the Centre's offer to keep the laws in abeyance for 18 months and form a joint committee to address grievances.

The unions, scheduled to return to the talks table Friday,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Pause or repeal: Govt may have to go back to SC or Parliament

APURVA VISHWANATH & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

AS FARMERS reject the government's proposal to keep the three contentious farm laws in abeyance for 18 months, experts have raised questions over the legislative options the Government has going forward.

The laws, passed by Parliament in September last year, were notified in the official gazette on September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent. While Parliament can repeal the law, there is no vocabulary in the Constitution or Parliamentary procedure for keeping a law in abeyance.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

EXPLAINED: WHY KAMALA HARRIS IS 49TH VICE PRESIDENT BUT JOE BIDEN IS 46TH POTUS
Kamala Harris made history on Wednesday by becoming the first woman, African-American and South Asian Vice President of the United States.

TECH

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ENTERTAINMENT

AMIT SADH ON 'JEET KI ZID'
'I feel lucky that I got to portray a real-life hero'

EXPRESS AUDIO

Farm deadlock; NIA probes Sikhs for Justice; death after vaccine

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Making sense of the latest developments in the farmers' protests; NIA probes Sikhs for Justice; and a Telangana health worker dies a day after vaccine shot.

FROM PAGE ONE

Farmers reject

were virtually split down the middle at a meeting to discuss the Centre's offer.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that of the 32 unions from Punjab, more than a dozen were in favour of accepting the offer, but the majority vote carried the resolution to reject the offer.

A statement on behalf of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of organisations spearheading the protest, released by Darshan Pal of Krantikari Kisan Union, stated: "In a full general body meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha today, the proposal put forth by the Government yesterday was rejected. A full repeal of three central farm acts and enacting a legislation for remunerative MSP for all farmers were reiterated as the pending demands of the movement."

The Morcha, the statement said, "pays homage to the 143 farmers who have been martyred in this movement so far... Their sacrifice will not go in vain and we will not go back without the repealing of these farm laws".

It referred to a meeting with Delhi Police officers earlier in the day and said while police had requested the farmers not to conduct a tractor parade in Delhi on Republic Day, they had reiterated that they intend to go ahead with their plan of a parade on the Outer Ring Road of Delhi.

Maintaining that their protest was becoming a "people's movement... nationwide", the Morcha said farmers were uniting in Karnataka, many parts of Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur and Rampur in Uttarakhand. "Farmers, labourers and common people under the leadership of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan are reaching Shahjahanpur border. Protests against neo-liberal policies are being conducted through puppets shows and songs," it said.

Ahead of the meeting of the Morcha, the Kisan Ekta Morcha, in a Twitter post, had said "jis kaam ke liye aaye the, usko poora kiye bina wapas nahi jayenge (we will not go back till we complete the work for which we had come)".

Earlier in the day, Delhi Police asked farmer leaders to reconsider the proposed route of the January 26 tractor parade.

Police suggested that the tractor parade be held at the protest sites at Singhu or Tikri or on the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways.

Farmer unions said they will not go towards Rajpath, the venue of the Republic Day parade, and will restrict themselves to the Outer Ring Road.

Pause or repeal

a Union Minister said that one option was to issue a notification cancelling the earlier gazette notification.

"We are waiting for the response from the farm unions to decide on our next step," he said. "Once the notification of a law is already done, another notification cancelling that can be issued. It just needs an executive order; it does not have to go to Parliament."

That's easier said than done, said former Secretary General of Lok Sabha, P D T Achary.

"In my view, the law cannot be put in abeyance by the government. Once a law is passed by Parliament... the government is only the implementing authority and it cannot stifle the law," he told *The Indian Express*.

This is echoed by Subhash Kashyap, another former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha.

"I have not seen such a situation where the government itself wants to keep a law in abeyance after it is given effect," Kashyap said. "Bills have been withdrawn, enforcement of laws has been delayed by not notifying them and laws have been repealed but keeping it in abeyance after the legislative process is over has never happened before."

The government's proposal to keep the laws in abeyance is distinct from the January 12 Supreme Court's stay on the laws when the court, in parallel, constituted a committee to hold talks with all stakeholders. That stay order can be vacated by the court once the committee submits its recommendations, expected in eight weeks.

"Only the Supreme Court has the power to stay a law, not the government. If the government can undo the act of the Parliament by simply backdating a notification, then what is the point of having a Parliament," Achary said.

While the government cannot stay a law, it can delay its implementation before rules are notified.

For example, the Citizenship Amendment Act, passed by both Houses in December 2019 was notified in the official gazette in January 2020. Parliamentary procedure dictates that the rules for the legislation are to be notified within six months from the date of publication in the gazette. However, the government is yet to notify the rules for the law to be implemented.

Similarly, the Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988 was not implemented for

almost 28 years till the rules were notified in 2016.

However, once the rules are notified, Achary says — as has happened with the farm laws — the only options before the government are to ask the Supreme Court to continue its stay order or take the laws back to Parliament. The Parliament can either amend or repeal the laws.

The Parliament's powers to repeal laws come from Article 245 of the Constitution, the provision which empowers it to make laws.

Laws are repealed when they have served their purpose and have no further reasons for their existence or, in some cases, to remove inconsistencies. Generally, when new laws are enacted, the old law on the subject is repealed through by inserting a specific repealing clause in the new law.

Serum fire

that Serum is manufacturing under licence.

"I would like to reassure all governments and the public that there would be no loss of Covishield production due to multiple production buildings that I had kept in reserve to deal with such contingencies...," Poonawalla said in a tweet before the five bodies were discovered. He subsequently told *The Indian Express* that he was in a "state of shock" because of the deaths.

All the five dead were doing welding and air-conditioning jobs at the building, which had been completed recently. Two of them were from Uttar Pradesh, and one was from Bihar. The other two workers were local people. None of them was an employee of Serum India.

The lower floors of the building have laboratory facilities for SII's rotavirus and BCG vaccines. The upper floors where the fire broke out were unoccupied. The production units and laboratories for the Covid-19 vaccine are located on another SII campus nearby.

Incidentally, the affected building was part of the facilities that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited last month, when he came to see Serum's vaccine-making processes.

Fire Brigade and police officers said the fire became big by feeding on inflammable material on the upper floors. "There was a lot of air conditioning material, including insulation material and objects used for fabrication. There were objects made from PVC, acrylic, plastic, plywood, and wood," a Fire Brigade official said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister

Uddhav Thackeray is scheduled to visit the Serum campus on Friday.

The fire began at some time between 1.45 pm and 2.15 pm, according to police and Fire Brigade officials, and was brought under control by 4.30 pm. At least ten fire tenders, four additional water tankers, and other equipment had to be deployed. More than 70 fire personnel were involved in the operation. Intense smoke could be seen coming out of the building from several kilometres away.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Namrata Patil said an investigation would be ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Migrant worker

Police are still collecting key details of those killed as their families are yet to reach the hospital. All of them were working for Suvidha Engineers, the firm carrying out air-conditioning work at the newly constructed building.

Saroj and his younger brother Avinash were among the nine people on the fourth floor, engaged in welding work and fitting air-conditioners.

"We were doing the work of AC insulation on the fourth floor when we noticed the smoke. Within a few seconds, the smoke became so dense that we were unable to see anything. We ran towards the window, and jumped down to a lower floor. There was debris lying there and we got hurt, but we ran down the steps and out of the building," Avinash said. "I kept shouting for my brother, and we all waited, but Bipin never came."

Exactly one month ago, on December 22, Bipin had come to Pune to work with his brother, who had arrived in the city two months earlier and was able to earn Rs 10,500 a month. The brothers, and Rama Shankar, belong to UP's Pratapgarh district.

Police and fire brigade officials said the fire had become intense because of the presence of inflammable material like PVC, plastic, plywood and acrylic at the site.

The bodies of those killed were taken initially to Noble Hospital and then sent for post mortem to the Sassoon general hospital.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Police commissioner Amitabh Gupta were among those who visited the hospital. Avinash said some of his family members would reach Pune Friday.

FULL REPORTS ON
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Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरेकार्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी३ प्लेयर	Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
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Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
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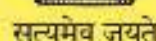
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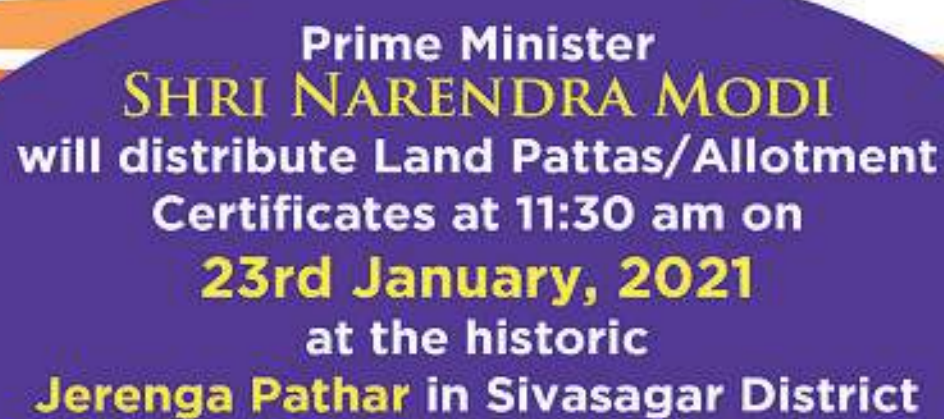


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4 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS
ON JAN 21
5,942



		Total		Vacant	
TOTAL CASES		6,33,276		9,102	
		HOSPITAL BEDS		1,177	
		VENTILATORS		920	
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	Total active cases
Jan 20	228	405	10	63,161	
Jan 21	227	246	8	81,550	
Total	2,120*	6,20,374	10,782	1,01,40,743	

BRIEFLY

Sisodia seeks aid extension for contract teachers

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday wrote to the Union education ministry, requesting continuation of the financial support till March to 2,766 contract teachers whose six-month service period ended on Tuesday. Sisodia referred to contract teachers under Samagra Shiksha — of whom 1,673 served in Delhi government schools and 1,093 served in schools run by the municipal corporations. According to his letter, the salary of these teachers was approved for six months by the Union ministry and their service period ended on January 19. Contract teachers under Samagra Shiksha are paid on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and state. Urging continuation of financial support at least till March 31, Sisodia wrote, "They not only stayed engaged with their students to keep teaching-learning activities going on with whatever limited resources they had but also assisted the administration in specific Covid-related duties. Having served the needs of society in its most difficult time, it would be unfair and tragic if any of them are now asked to leave their service at this point of time."

6 wanted criminals held

Gurgaon: Gurgaon Police claimed to have cracked around 60 cases registered in Delhi, Gurgaon and Jhajjar with the arrest of six criminals, whose arrest carries a reward of Rs 5,000 each. Officials said the accused have been allegedly involved in several cases, including that of murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, and dacoity. According to police, the accused were arrested from Dwarka Expressway Wednesday evening. "They were in search of their next victim when they were arrested in Gurgaon," said ACP (Crime) Preet Pal Sangwan. "We have seized two revolvers, a country-made pistol, 28 live cartridges, two magazines, a stick, an iron pipe, and an iron rod, in addition to the Scorpio car in which they were travelling at the time of their arrest," he said.

Four held for theft of cigarettes worth lakhs

Gurgaon: A Faridabad resident who was employed at a cigarette godown in the district until a year ago has been arrested by police for allegedly stealing cigarette packs worth over Rs 7 lakh from the premises over the last month. Police said they arrested three accomplices of the accused as well. According to police, the accused were arrested on January 17 while they were on their way to sell the stolen cigarettes, on the basis of a tip-off. **ENS**

Man held in bank fraud case

New Delhi: A 64-year-old man was arrested in connection with a case of bank fraud wherein loans were availed from banks using forged documents, police said Thursday. His associate, who is the main accused, has already been arrested. **PTI**

HC raps Delhi govt, MCDs on salary delay: 'Disgusted, ashamed of you'

'All of you behaving with... no sense of responsibility towards staff, pensioners'

SOFIA HASAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

PULLING UP the Delhi government and MCDs for non-payment of salaries to civic staff, the Delhi High Court Thursday said grievances of employees have been reduced to a "political slugfest". It said there was no real sense of concern or sympathy for the employees in the political establishment of Delhi government or corporations.

"We can't tell you how disgusted we are with all of you. You have absolutely no concern for employees... (As) far as Delhi government is concerned... this problem has arisen because Delhi government is sandwiched between central government and MCD, which belong to the opposite political party. This problem would not have arisen otherwise, pandemic or no pandemic," observed the division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli.

It added that the court does not want to point fingers but, "all of you are behaving completely irresponsibly, with no sense of responsibility towards these employees and pensioners".

The bench ordered the Delhi government to pay back the amount deducted or adjusted by



Civics doctors have protested against the salary delay in the past. *Archive*

it during the pandemic from the funds to be released to the corporations in two weeks.

It also ordered MCDs that funds it receives will be utilised only for disbursement of outstanding salaries and pensions till October 2020 on a fair and equitable basis. The remaining corpus will also be used for release of salaries and pensions in a manner to be worked out by heads of corporations, said the court.

The bench was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by MCD employees, both current and retired, for release of their salaries.

EDMC Thursday told the court that Rs 320 crore was required for release of November and December, 2020, salaries and Rs 87 crore for release of pension

of three months. The North MCD has a much higher amount of unpaid salaries and pensions.

The Delhi government said a sanction order was passed on Wednesday for release of Rs 337 crore to MCDs and other local bodies for the period of January-March 2021 without making any deductions towards the outstanding loan.

During the hearing, the court said it has no doubt the Delhi government was facing a revenue shortfall but questioned the number of advertisements it issued during the pandemic. "Please take out the publications of advertisements by the Delhi government in newspapers. How much money you have spent on advertisements, we want to know that. Half-page, full-page advertisements, newspaper after newspaper. You have money for all that. We will order an inquiry and ask the CAG to look into this," it observed.

It further said all this was happening because of politics: "When is the election due for the municipality? We can see that it must be round the corner... why all this is happening."

The government counsel submitted that it would have to revisit the initial budget estimates and funds to be released

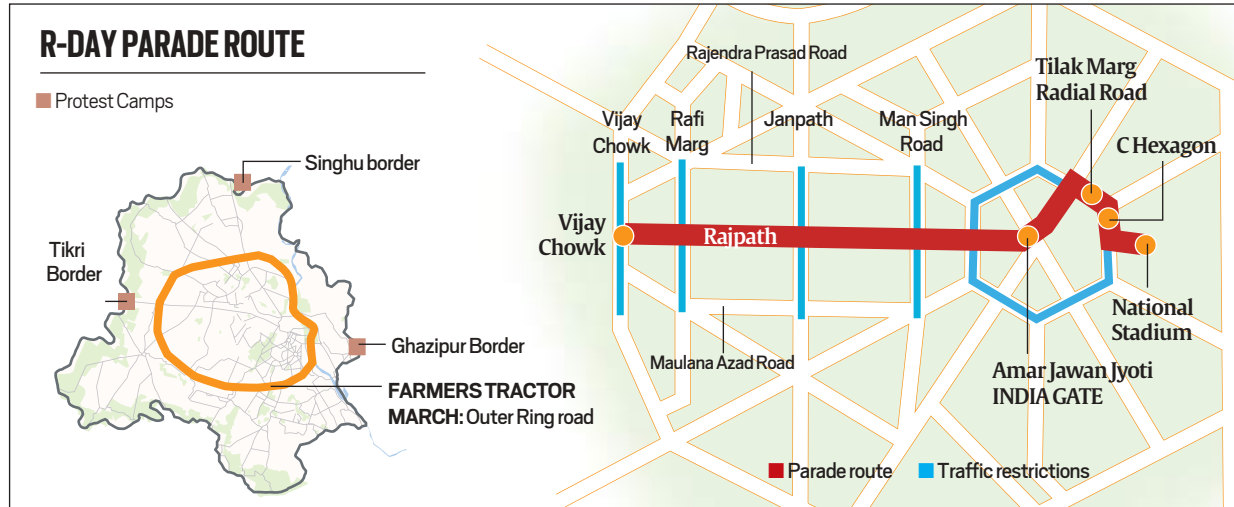
to the corporations, in case it is asked to return the loan amount. To which the court said: "You are not doing any charity. You think you can behave so irresponsibly. We are there to check that."

Observing that it will tell MCD employees to not come for work if they are not paid, the court said: "Let us see how your streets are cleaned and how your hospitals are run. We will put a lock on municipal offices also... We are ashamed of you and your leaders if this is the way you have to behave."

Meanwhile, when the government counsel requested the court to "tone down" an order — in which it said there was a political slugfest between Delhi government and MCDs — Justice Vipin Sanghi observed: "... People are making all kinds of irresponsible statements... all kinds of actions are being taken just for their personal interests and (to) further their political agenda, unmindful of what harm they are causing to society and the people of this country. We have to mature."

He added, "... We have to rise above all this. If this is the way things go, I won't be surprised if politicians and people who indulge in this are lynched by the public at large."

Farmers plan tableaux as thousands expected to join tractor parade



SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 21

PREPARATIONS for the tractor rally on January 26 are in full swing, with more and more farmers from Haryana villages joining the agitation and offering financial aid.

Gurnam Singh Chaduni, who was elected president of the Haryana Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, on Thursday said lakhs of tractors are expected to join the tractor parade from different parts of the country.

Talking about the meeting between farmer leaders and Delhi Police on Wednesday, Chaduni said, "We have made it clear that farmers will undertake a tractor parade on the Outer Ring Road on January 26. We have asked the administration to give permission and also make arrangements by managing traffic and vacating the road... We assured officers that we don't have any plan to interrupt the official Republic Day parade."



Tractors lined up at Singhu Thursday. *Amit Mehra*

Farmers have also planned to set up tableaux on tractor-trolleys during their parade. Chaudhary Joginder Ghansi Ram Nain, a Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader from Haryana told The Indian Express: "If all goes well, we will display tableaux of all states during the parade."

Daya Ram Ulania, a farmer from Chautala village in Sirsa district, who has been camping at

the border for the past two months, said there is great enthusiasm among farmers to join the rally: "The borders of Delhi are already jam packed with several farmers and their tractors."

At Nirban village in Sirsa district, farmers have started a registration system for those willing to join the parade. A villager said, "Out of a total of 239 tractors, owners of 100 tractors

have already given their consent to join the tractor parade in Delhi — which is 239 km away."

Kandela khap leader Tek Ram Kandela said a cavalcade of 1,000 tractors will move to Delhi from Jind district on January 24.

Meanwhile, at Tikri border, protesters held nagar kirtans and tractor rally rehearsals. A group of 50-60 ex-servicemen also joined the protesters and marched from the stage in support of the farmers. Gurdeep Singh (60), who served in the Indian Army and lives in Punjab, told The Indian Express: "I received a call from my friend who was at Tikri border inviting me here. I am happy that I will march with farmers on Republic Day. I have attended a lot of parades in Delhi but this will be different. The idea is to replicate what's happening in Delhi..."

Farmers also held a nagar kirtan on Wednesday and paid tributes to Guru Gobind Singh and those who lost their lives during the agitation.

FEW HOSPITALS SEE 100 INOCULATIONS

Walk-in boost for vaccinations in Delhi

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

WITH THE Centre tweaking the Co-Win app to allow walk-in vaccinations in a bid to boost figures, some hospitals across the city saw a better response on Thursday. On day 4 of the Covid vaccination drive at 181 sites, 5,942 people received the shot — up from 4,319 on Saturday, 3,598 on Monday and 4,936 on Tuesday — while 24 AEFI (adverse event following immunisation) were reported.

AIIMS saw 62 workers getting the shot, a slight increase from Tuesday's 55. RML and Safdarjung saw 35 and 34 vaccinations respectively, as compared to 27 and 30 on Tuesday.

One of the hospitals that hit the target of 100 vaccinations a day was Delhi government's Lok Nayak Hospital — it saw 32 vaccinations on Saturday, 12 on Monday and 35 on Tuesday.

Dr Amit Gupta, nodal officer at Lok Nayak, said: "By around 2.45 pm, we had already hit our target of vaccinating 100 people. Those who are coming are not necessarily on the list; with this new feature, any MCD hospital or dispensary staff — as long as

EXPLAINED What has changed

A drop box has been introduced in the Co-Win app to add a beneficiary, so anyone who is a registered healthcare worker or staffer can come for vaccination on any day, provided slots are available. Vaccination centres are open from 9 am to 5 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. According to district officials, the change in the app has helped numbers pick up.

they are registered — can come and get vaccinated, provided there are available slots. The app allows only 100 people to be vaccinated a day." There are more than 3,000 staff and healthcare workers at the hospital, he said.

Dr Namrata Sarin (58), a senior doctor from Hindu Rao hospital, was among those to get the shot at Lok Nayak. "I am feeling relieved, it is a good thing we were able to produce a vaccine

Pvt hospitals report better vaccine turnout in capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE FIRST four days of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Delhi saw more healthcare workers turning up at private hospitals to get inoculated as compared to government facilities. Till Thursday, 18,795 healthcare workers have got the shot across hospitals.

Data from 10 top hospitals in the city — both private and government — showed that a total of 1,151 (41%) healthcare workers were administered the vaccine against a target of 2,800 in seven government hospitals on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On the other hand, 1,035 (86%) healthcare workers at three private hospitals were vaccinated on the same days against a target of 1,200.

At Max hospital in Saket, 100 healthcare workers each were inoculated on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday. Similarly, at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Indraprastha Apollo, the target of vaccinating 100 healthcare workers was met on Tuesday and Thursday.

"Since the Co-WIN app was not working, we asked all healthcare workers who were willing to get the shot to turn up, and the number automatically improved. Maybe, this is one of the reasons why we are seeing a high turnout," said Dr D S Rana, chairman of board at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Among Delhi government hospitals, the lowest turnout was observed at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH) where 74 healthcare workers have been vaccinated in four days. However, Lok Nayak Hospital vaccinated 100 benefi-



Vaccination underway at a hospital in Rohini. *Amit Mehra*

AT 10 HOSPITALS

Hospital	Sat	Mon	Tue	Thu
AIIMS	95	8	55	62
RML	31	69	27	35
GTB	31	24	28	72
Lok Nayak	32	12	35	100
RGSSH	45	20	9	20
Safdarjung	72	20	30	34
LHMC	26	76	14	69
Apollo	72	73	100	100
Sir Ganga Ram	88	58	100	100
Max, Saket	100	44	100	100

ciaries Thursday — becoming the first government hospital in the city to achieve this daily target.

The response was comparatively better at Centre-run hospitals such as AIIMS, RML, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge Medical College, where healthcare workers are being administered Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

Experts attributed the trend towards the user-friendly environment in the private sector and easy walk-in process. Dr Suneela Garg, a public health expert, told *The Indian Express*: "It's a well-knit community as compared to the government sector. There is a difference in the provision of care at

government and private hospitals... the provider-beneficiary relationship is more towards having one-to-one communication in the private sector. Somehow, we may have to inculcate this in the government sector to see a better turnout in the coming weeks."

Said Dr Arun Gupta, president, Delhi Medical Council: "While doctors at both set ups are equally competent and knowledgeable, the number of healthcare workers getting vaccinated is relatively higher in the private sector. They might be carrying out the exercise more aggressively, while focusing on counselling health workers."

Electrician arrested for Rs 20-cr theft at Kalkaji jewellery store

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A DAY after jewellery worth Rs 20 crore was robbed from a store in Kalkaji, police arrested a 25-year-old electrician who worked there in connection with the crime. According to police, the accused, Sheikh Nur Rahaman, had worn a PPE kit to hide his identity. Police said they have recovered the stolen jewellery.

CCTV footage, purportedly from the store and shared on social media, shows a man in a PPE kit walking down the stairs of the building with two backpacks at 3.50 am Wednesday. According to police, the accused entered the



Sheikh Nur Rahaman

building at 9.40 pm on Tuesday and fled with 25 kg of jewellery.

DCP (Southeast) R P Meena said, "We found that a burglary had taken place on the ground floor of Anjali Jewellers. Most of the jewellery in cases and drawers was missing. It was suspected that the accused entered the third

floor of the building through the roof and then entered the shop. The lock on the iron grill gate on the third floor was also broken."

Police said teams were formed to check CCTV cameras at the store and nearby buildings. "We verified details of present staffers, ex-employees and guards, and found that an electrician was on leave since January 10. Though we were told he was in West Bengal, we traced him to Karol Bagh. We went to his residence and arrested him," said police.

Police said the accused wanted to take revenge on his colleagues for harassing him. On January 10, he went on leave and planned the heist. He bought tools like cutter, rope, and PPE kit.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A PROJECT to build a 37-floor high rise near Delhi University's North Campus will need new environmental clearance (EC), the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was told Wednesday. The submission was made by the realtor before the tribunal, which was hearing an application filed by Delhi University challenging the environmental clearance granted for the project.

After concerns about the project's impact on the area's air quality, traffic, groundwater and other issues were raised in the application and in February last

year, the Tribunal had suspended the EC by stating that the plan does not appear to be viable.

However, the project was later considered viable by an independent committee set up by the NGT, comprising representatives of the environment ministry, Central Pollution Control Board, IT-Kanpur, and School of Planning and Architecture, among others.

The applicant had submitted objections to the committee's report, stating that it included a member who was part of the State body that had granted the EC to the project.

The applicant had also said that some issues were not con-

sidered by the committee, including a restriction imposed on all tall buildings in the North Campus area under the Delhi Master Plan 2021.

In its order, the NGT principal bench headed by chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "When we took up the matter for final consideration, senior counsel for the project proponent made a statement that... the project proponent has to apply for fresh EC to the environment ministry and the impugned EC will not be acted upon."

It added, "Counsel for the appellant states that if the impugned EC is not to be acted upon and the matter is to be considered afresh by the MoEF&CC

on merits, the appeal may be disposed of as infructuous, without prejudice to the rights to challenge the fresh EC which may be granted."

Senior Advocate Dhruv Mehta for project proponent Young Builders said a new EC is required because the layout of the project has been revised as per the new building bylaws. No work can be done on the project site until the new EC is granted, he said.

The NGT bench said in the order, "In view of above stand of the parties, it is no longer necessary for this Tribunal to go into the merits and express any final view about viability of the project or otherwise."

AAP SAYS SHOULD FOCUS ON PAYING SALARIES

Halal or jhatka: SDMC claims move will help other communities

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A DAY after passing a proposal to make it mandatory for restaurants and shops to display if the meat and poultry they serve is 'halal' or 'jhatka', Leader of House in South MCD, BJP's Narendra Chawla, claimed along with raising awareness about what one consumes, the move will also increase employment opportunities among the Khatik community — some members of which slaughter animals using the jhatka method.

"Khatik community will get income benefits as they slaughter using the jhatka method, and if it is promoted, their sales will increase," he said. Khatiks are Scheduled Castes who live in Delhi and several parts of North India.

AAP's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak, meanwhile, said civic bodies should focus on paying salaries to employees than on such issues: "Whether meat is jhatka or halal is already mentioned in most places. BJP should instead have focused on cleaning the areas, which is a responsibility given to them, or controlling corruption in MCDs."

A resolution passed by the South MCD house Wednesday stated, "According to Hinduism and Sikhism, eating 'halal' meat is forbidden and against religion. Therefore, the committee resolves that this direction be given to restaurants and meat shops that it should be written mandatorily about the meat being sold and served by them that 'halal' or 'jhatka' meat is available here."

Chawla said the rule will increase transparency as people will now know what they are eating.

South MCD Mayor Anamika said this has been done "to give respect to every religion". "In Hindu religion, it is said that animals should not be cut brutally...



Restaurants, shops in South Delhi have to display if the meat and poultry they serve is 'halal' or 'jhatka'. Gajendra Yadav

other religions have their own rules. People are free to eat whatever they want — this rule is just to ensure transparency," she said. In 'jhatka', an animal is slaughtered in one go, while in 'halal', it bleeds out after cutting a vein.

Restaurants owners and associations have flagged that the new rule could create unnecessary issues for an industry which is still trying to recover from the financial hit it received since March because of the pandemic.

Since October last year, the Delhi government has taken steps to help the industry recover, like allowing restaurants to open all day, doing away with health trade licences and permissions from the tourism department to set up a new restaurant.

"Delhi's restaurants are the pride of Delhi and provide employment to lakhs of people. I have directed all respective departments to remove unnecessary hassles in the smooth running of restaurants," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said after a meeting with restaurant representatives and government officials.

The Indian Express reached out to AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, leaders Atishi, Raghav Chadha, ministers Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain,

Kailash Gahlot and Rajendra Pal Gautam over the issue, but did not receive a response.

Officials in the South MCD conceded that it would be difficult to implement the policy as there's no method by which it could be identified if cooked meat is halal or jhatka.

While the corporation has jurisdiction over inspection of raw meat, it is the Delhi government health department that monitors quality control in restaurants.

A similar proposal was passed by the East MCD in 2018 for shop owners. However, there has been no enforcement, action or challans till now. Medical health officer of East MCD Dr Som Shekhar said. "We are presently sensitising traders that they should display what meat they serve, but there has been no action."

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Restaurants to move SDMC: 'Timing of decision wrong' 'In city, 80% of meat supplied is halal'

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

RESTAURANTS IN the city are planning to give a representation to the South MCD to reverse its order on 'halal or jhatka' meat, which they have to now mandatorily mention, as patrons hardly care about this aspect.

Priyank Sukhija, founder of First Fiddle F&B Pvt Ltd, which owns restaurants brands like Lord Of The Drinks, Warehouse Cafe, Dragonfly and Lazeez Affaire, said, "Not more than 10% of our patrons care if the meat being served to them is halal or jhatka, what they care about is whether it has been procured through hygienic places. Those who care ask us, and we always tell them so they can make an informed choice."

With seven of his restaurants falling under the SDMC's jurisdiction, Sukhija said the timing of the circular is wrong: "We are just trying to look up after the pandemic and lockdown-related setbacks. Only last week, we were arguing with the SDMC over the poultry ban issue, which they eventually took back. And now, this crops up."

He added: "At a time when the Delhi government is supporting us by formulating a more liberal excise policy, SDMC is trying to enforce more stringent rules. This kind of order is going to hamper our business. Through NRAI (National Restaurant Association of India), we are going to send a representation to the SDMC to take back this order before it comes into effect."

According to the SDMC order, appropriate action will be taken against those found violating the rules. "There are thou-



Restaurants say patrons don't care about the kind of meat being served. Archive

sands of restaurants in 104 wards of four zones falling under South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Out of these, meat is served in about 90% of restaurants but it is not mentioned whether the meat being served by the restaurants is 'halal' or 'jhatka'," said the resolution passed by the SDMC house.

Amit Bagga, who owns Daryaganj at Aerocity, said the order is very confusing for chain restaurants like his. "These things could lead to unnecessary logistical issues for business owners. It will be very difficult for us to keep two kinds of stock or get easy supply of both types of meat. People are free to ask this question from servers, and restaurants are obliged to answer," he said, adding that if it is indeed mandatory, they have no qualms mentioning that they are serving halal meat.

But he argued that there should be a uniform order for all of Delhi-NCR rather than different civic bodies coming up with zone-specific orders: "While this applies to our Aerocity outlet, it doesn't apply to other outlets in Delhi."

Most restaurants and deliveries across Delhi-NCR are serving halal meat for various operational reasons. Sukhija said, "Our vendor serves the best quality meat and that is what we are concerned about. Most butchers are Muslims, hence, we are getting halal meat."

Bagga added, "Halal is universally accepted, we have never had a consumer refuse an order because it's halal meat. Also, it is most widely available, it won't be possible to source good quality jhatka meat, if need be."

Chefs also said halal meat goes better with the Indian style of cooking. Chef Harangad Singh, who has helped the kitchen at several fine-diners across Delhi-NCR and now runs his own cloud kitchen called Parat, said, "Indian dishes requires meat to be cooked at high temperatures, above 100 degrees, which halal can endure. Jhatka meat, on the other hand, should be cooked within two hours, and its taste changes at high temperatures."

S. N. D. T. Women's University
1, N.T. Road, New Marine Lines, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020

70th ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The 70th Annual Convocation of the S.N.D.T. Women's University will be held on **February 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** in Sir Sitaram and lady Shantabai Patkar Dikshant Sabhagruha (patkar hall) of the University, 1, Nathibai Thackersey Road, Mumbai – 400 020. Degrees and Diplomas will be conferred to the students who have successfully completed their courses during **Oct-Dec, 2019 and Oct-Nov, 2020**. The Prize Winners alone will attend the Convocation and its rehearsal at **08:30 a.m.** on the **February 17, 2021** in the University's Churchgate Campus. Entry of prize winners with prescribed dress code for the function will be on "first come first serve" basis. Detailed information of the Convocation will be available on the University website www.sndt.ac.in For any clarification / information contact the Office of the **Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluation Tel.Nos. +91 22 2661 2877, +91 22 2660 8493 / 2660 4164 Ext. 2395; +91 22 2661 5138 Email Id - convocation@sndt.ac.in** (Dr. Subhash Wagmare) Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluation

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DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

FOR REPUBLIC DAY FULL DRESS REHEARSAL

ON 23RD JANUARY, 2021

ROUTE OF PARADE: Vijay Chowk ► Rajpath ► Amar Jawan Jyoti ► India Gate ► R/A Princess Palace ► T/L Tilak Marg Radial Road ► Turn right on "C" Hexagon ► Turn left and enter National Stadium from Gate No. 1.

INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

- In case, any unidentified object or suspicious person is seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty.
- Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi from 20.01.2021 up to 15.02.2021 (both days inclusive).
- General public and motorists are requested to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections. People are requested to plan their journey in advance and keep sufficient time in hand to avoid inconvenience.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

In order to facilitate smooth passage of the Parade, movement of traffic on certain roads leading to the route of the Parade will be restricted as under:
(1) No traffic will be allowed on Vijay Chowk from 06.00 PM on 22nd Jan, 2021 till Parade is over on 23rd Jan 2021.
(2) No cross traffic will be allowed on Rajpath intersections from 11.00 PM of 22nd Jan, 2021 at Rafi Marg, Janpath, Man Singh Road till Parade is over.
(3) 'C'-Hexagon-India Gate will be closed for traffic from 09.15 AM on 23.01.2021 till the entire Parade and Tableau enter National Stadium.
Road users are requested to plan their journey in advance accordingly and avoid the route of Parade, from 0900 hours to 1230 hours, for their own convenience.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

If the journey is unavoidable, the road users are advised to take following routes:-
For North to South and vice-versa:

- Ring Road – Ashram Chowk – Sarai Kale Khan – I.P. Flyover – Rajghat – Ring Road
- From Madarsa - Lodhi Road 'T' point - Aurobindo Marg – AIIMS Chowk –Ring Road – Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Shankar Road – Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Road or Mandir Marg.

For East to West and vice-versa:

- Ring Road - Bhairon Road - Mathura Road - Lodhi Road - Aurobindo Marg - AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Dhaula Kuan - Vande Matram Marg - Shankar Road - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Road or Mandir Marg.
- Ring Road - Boulevard Road - Barfi Khana Chowk - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Faiz Road - Vande Matram Marg - R/A Shankar Road.
- Ring Road - ISBT - Chandgi Ram Akhara - I.P. College - Mall Road - Azadpur - Punjabi Bagh.

BUS TERMINATING POINTS

Movement of the City Bus Services will be curtailed at the following points;

1. Shivaji Stadium	3. R/A Kamla Market.	5. Pragati Maidan (Bhairon Road)	7. Mori Gate
2. ISBT Sarai Kale Khan	4. Delhi Sachivalaya (IGI Stadium)	6. Hanuman Mandir (Yamuna Bazar)	8. ISBT Kashmiri Gate

INTER STATE BUSES:

(I) Buses from Ghaziabad bound for Shivaji Stadium shall take NH-9 (NH-24), Ring Road and terminate at Bhairon Road.	(III) Buses coming from Ghaziabad side will be diverted at Mohan Nagar towards Bhopra Chungi for Wazirabad Bridge.
(II) Buses coming from NH-9 (NH-24) shall take right turn on Road No. 56 and terminate at ISBT Anand Vihar.	(IV) All Inter State buses coming from Dhaula Kuan side shall terminate at Dhaula Kuan.

METRO SERVICES

Metro Rail Service shall remain available for commuters at all Metro Stations during the Full Dress Rehearsal Ceremony on 23rd Jan, 2021. However, Boarding/De-boarding at the below mentioned station will not be permitted as per schedule given below:

Name of Metro Station	Boarding/De-boarding not allowed
{Kendriya Sachivalaya} {Udyog Bhawan}	From 5.00 AM till 1200 Noon on 23.01.2021.

TSR/TAXIS

No TSR and Taxi will be allowed to enter or ply after 0700 hours on 23.01.2021 in the Area bound by:-
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6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



IN POLL MODE

AT A time when there is a strain in ties between the Congress and DMK in Puducherry, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday had a meeting with Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and Pradesh Congress Committee president A V Subramanian to review preparations for the forthcoming assembly polls. AICC in charge Dinesh Gundu Rao also attended the meeting. While the DMK issue did come up for discussion, the party decided to go ahead with poll preparations. Party leaders say it is getting feelers from many leaders of the opposition All India N R Congress, a regional party formed by N Rangaswamy after breaking away from the Congress. At least one leader claimed even Rangaswamy is willing to return provided he is offered the chief ministership but argued the party cannot make such a promise.

NEW ASSIGNMENT

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday named Jayant N Khobragade, an IFS officer of 1995 batch, as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. Khobragade, who is a joint secretary rank officer, was expected to go to Islamabad to be India's envoy, but the Pakistan government refused to accept his nomination since he was considered too senior for the position of acting High Commissioner. Islamabad had come up with this reason, after both sides agreed to downgrade their ties and stopped having full-time High Commissioners.

TALKING OF PARDONS

DURING THE hearing on Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict AG Perarivalan's plea for pardon and release from jail in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate General Balaji Srinivasan said that a gentlemen is furiously signing pardons elsewhere and it would have been good if the same could have been done in India too. The apparent reference was to former US President Donald Trump granting several pardons on his last day in office. The message was not lost on the Bench, which responded that it would have saved the court a lot of trouble too. Perarivalan has contended that the Tamil Nadu Governor was yet to take a decision on the state cabinet's September 2018 recommendation to grant remission and release him forthwith.

Procedures holding defence modernisation hostage: Army chief

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

STRESSING ON the need for self reliance in defence production, Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane on Thursday said India had made some advances in this area over the past few years but procedural bottlenecks were holding defence modernisation "hostage".

Speaking at an event organised by CII and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, General Naravane said, "There are certain procedural lacunae in the procurement process, which primarily arise due to the over-bearing nature of our rules and guidelines in trying to ensure zero error." He added that the problem "is also aggravated by

our own interpretation of rules," he said.

But he added that in the past few years, "we have tried to reverse this trend, by boosting indigenisation and focusing on dual-purpose high-end technology".

This approach, he said, "will not only ensure self-reliance, it will also hold good during times of contingency". Adding that tying to plug every loophole was causing delays in the process, Naravane said it, "results in the acquisition process being tied up in knots" and "what has happened is that the processes and procedures have become paramount rather than the product and these are holding hostage defence modernisation."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SC panel: Got ideas to improve law rollout

Panel holds its first meet with farmer bodies from 8 states

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A DAY after the Centre offered to keep the newly enacted farm laws in abeyance for 18 months to end the farmer protests at the gates of Delhi, the Supreme Court-appointed expert committee, already rejected by the protesters, held its first interaction with farmer organisations from eight states and said it had received "suggestions to improve implementation of the Acts".

Committee members Anil Ghanwat of Shetkari Sanghatana and agricultural economists Parmod Kumar Joshi and Ashok Gulati held discussions Thursday with 10 farmer organisations via video link to seek their views on the new laws that Punjab farmers were repealed.

In a statement after the meeting, the committee said 10 farmers organisations from 8 states -- Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh -- participated in the discussions.

The farmer unions, it said, "gave their frank opinion including suggestions to improve the implementation of Acts".

Opening the discussion, committee members requested farmer leaders to give their views "frankly" on the three agriculture laws -- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and, Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Tasked by the Supreme Court



Farm leader Ajay Anmol after the meeting of the Supreme Court committee in New Delhi on Thursday. *Abhinav Saha*

to get the views of all stakeholders on the farm laws, the committee has to submit a report within two months.

It was constituted as a four-member committee on January 12 by the bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

But on January 14, hours before the panel was to hold its first virtual meeting, one of the members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, president of BKU (Mann) and chairman of All India Kisan Coordination Committee, refused himself.

Farmer unions protesting at the borders of Delhi, the majority from Punjab, refused to appear before the committee, saying its members were in favour of the farm laws.

On January 19, the committee said it would "try to convince" the protesting farmers while seeking views of other farmer organisations and the government.

On Wednesday, the bench of

CJ Bobde took serious objection to "name calling" and "branding" of members of the committee.

"How can you play with people's reputation like this? We have serious objections to them being called biased and in saying that the court has an interest. You malign people according to majority opinion?..."

The Supreme Court appoints a committee and their reputation is torn to shreds," CJ Bobde said, while hearing a petition by the Kisan Mahapanchayat which sought reconstitution of the committee.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court committee has created a website to seek feedback from stakeholders about the farm laws and legal guarantee for minimum support price.

The text of the laws as well as the Supreme Court judgment has been uploaded to it. It seeks feedback and suggestions in the form of questions like: "Are you aware about the implications of legalizing MSP?" and "Will you be affected with the provisions of the Act?"



AT THE DOORSTEP

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday launched doorstep delivery of rice to ration card holders by flagging off a fleet of 2,500 mobile dispensing units from Vijayawada. The Chief Minister said he was moved by the plight of elderly and the differently-abled who had to wait in long queues to get ration supplies. The distribution will be done using the village and ward volunteers system. Each bag of rice is sealed and tagged with a unique code to prevent adulteration.

Told by NIA not to appear for now: Khalsa Aid

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 21

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has put appearance of international NGO Khalsa Aid's representatives on hold for now in two of the three notices. Significantly, the agency is also not strict about others who are intentionally not appearing on the given dates.

The NIA had issued notices to Khalsa Aid, farmer union leader Baldev Singh Sirsa, Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu along with journalists, radio host and mostly Sikh activists in relation with an FIR registered against banned outfit Sikhs For Justice under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act on December 15, 2020. *The Indian Express* has at least 28 such names who were issued notices in the same case.

All those who have received notices are active in the farmer agitation over three farm laws.

Khalsa Aid is present at Delhi borders helping the protesters.

"We have received a total of three notices. One of our trustees had appeared before NIA last Friday. They have not asked for reappearance. They also told us not to appear in the other two notices for now. NIA told us that they would call us if needed. This communication was before the latest farmer union meeting with the government. NIA asked about our projects and source of funding," said Amarpreet Singh of Khalsa Aid.

He said, "We had called farmer unions after seeing their press release following Wednesday meeting. We told them that we have also received notices. Farmer union representative told me to send a copy of notices..."

PM to distribute over 1 lakh land papers to indigenous people in poll-bound Assam

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will distribute more than 1 lakh land documents to people from indigenous communities of poll-bound Assam in Sivasagar district on Saturday.

Assam is expected to go to polls in April and this will be Prime Minister Modi's first visit to the state in the run-up to the election. The distribution of the land documents is in line with the promise made by the Sarbananda Sonowal-led government when it came to power in 2016—to protect "jati, mati and bheti (community, land and hearth)".

"It is for the first time that landless indigenous people will be freshly allotted land and given pattas," Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on the occasion. Beneficiaries will also include those who were allotted land earlier, but will now be given pattas.

The beneficiaries—over one lakh people across the state—have been identified by the sub-divisional land advisory committees in the districts, a government official said.

The Sonowal-led government has been allotted 1.10 lakh pattas over the last four-and-a-half-years, the official added. "Having a patta is very important and is useful for several other purposes as well. It will also allow them to secure bank loans against their land," the official said.

The distribution will take place at historic Jerenga Pothar (field) in Sivasagar. The field holds significance in Assamese history



PM Modi will arrive in Sivasagar district on Saturday

because it was here that the 17th-century Ahom princess Joyomti was said to have been tortured and killed by her brother-in-law for not revealing the whereabouts of her husband.

The alleged encroachment of land by "doubtful citizens" is a pivotal issue in Assam politics, and the BJP had campaigned strongly on this plank during the 2016 elections.

But in 2019, the BJP faced opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act in Assam over concerns that it was detrimental to the interests of the indigenous people. Two new political parties—the Assam Jatiya Parishad and the Rajior Dal—owe their genesis to the anti-CAA protests. Both are talking about an alliance against the BJP for the coming elections.

On the other hand, this week, the Congress and five other parties—the CPI, the CPI(M) and the CPI(ML); the AIUDF and the Anchalik Gana Morcha (AGM)—officially announced their pre-poll 'grand alliance'. The alliance is silent on who will be their chief ministerial face.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who sounded the poll bugle in Assam last month, had said that the newly formed political parties in Assam were trying to help the Congress win. BJP president JP Nadda, addressing a rally earlier this month in Assam, said the party will always protect Assam's culture.

BSF forcing people to vote for BJP: TMC complains to EC

Force dismisses charge; BJP alleges Rohingya in voter list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 21

WEST BENGAL Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim on Thursday claimed that the BSF was "terrorising" people in border areas into voting for BJP in the upcoming state elections.

The TMC government raised the issue with the Election Commission (EC) during an all-party meeting in Kolkata on Thursday.

BJP state chief Dilip Ghosh alleged that in some areas, the names of Rohingya refugees had been added to the electoral rolls and asked Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora to look into the issue.

"The BJP says lakhs of Rohingyas have entered the voter list, but the list has been prepared by the EC. This means the BJP is accusing the election body. We told the EC to check the BJP's efforts to spread communal hatred in Bengal," said Hakim.

The meeting was attended



Shashi Ghosh



Shashi Ghosh

TMC and BJP leaders after the all-party meeting with the EC.

by TMC leaders Hakim, Subrata Bakshi, Subrata Mukherjee and Partha Chatterjee; CPI-M leaders Rabin Deb and Samik Lahiri, and CPI leader Prabir Deb; Congress leader Soumya Aich Roy; and BJP leaders Dilip Ghosh, Mukul Roy, Shishir Bajoria and Swapan.

Replying to Ghosh's Rohingya remarks, Hakim said the allegation was an insult to the EC and claimed that the BSF was forcing voters to favour a certain political party.

"The BJP is sending the BSF to villages in border areas in West Bengal and terrorising people into voting for them. This is my

allegation. The Election Commission said we would cross-check it," Hakim said.

The BSF denied the allegation in a statement. "The BSF is a professional Border Guarding Force, which has in the past, and also in the present, guarded our international borders with total sincerity and dedication. We have actively checked on illegal infiltration and smuggling... The statements given by Sh Partho Chatterjee, Hon'ble Education Minister, and Mr Firhad Hakim, Rural and Development Minister of State of West Bengal, leveling allegations against the BSF is without any basis..."

BSY rejigs portfolios, some ministers skip meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 21

CHIEF MINISTER BS Yediyurappa on Thursday handed out portfolios to seven new ministers who were inducted into his cabinet on January 13, and effected changes to portfolios of 10 ministers, triggering immediate disgruntlement among some in his Cabinet.

In the biggest changes, Forest and Environment Minister Anand Singh—an accused in a CBI case of illegal mining and violations of forest laws—was divested of the forest portfolio and given tourism while senior minister J C Madhuswamy, who was in charge of law and parliamentary affairs, was divested of his entire portfolio and given the minor portfolios of medical education and Kannada and culture.

Madhuswamy's change of portfolio is being seen as a likely fallout of the unprecedented ruckus in the state legislative

EXPLAINED Karnataka CM tries a balancing act

WITH DISCONTENT brewing among core members over his choices for the Cabinet, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has attempted to balance interests of core party members and new entrants from the Congress and JDS, who helped the BJP come to power. The allocation indicates Yediyurappa is not keen on relinquishing control over some major ministries such as energy and Bengaluru development. The offer of such portfolios in future could also be used to control dissidence in the Cabinet.

council last year when the BJP tried to oust the Congress chairman. The law and parliamentary affairs portfolio has been given to Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Madhuswamy was among a bunch of seemingly unhappy ministers who did not turn up for a Cabinet meeting called Thursday by Yediyurappa. The other ministers who gave the meeting a miss were new in-

ductee M T B Nagaraj, who is reportedly unhappy with the excise portfolio, and KGopalaiah, who is left with horticulture after being divested of the food and civil supplies portfolio.

Soon after the new allocations were announced, Nagaraj, Gopalaiah and another unhappy minister K Sudhakar, who was divested of the medical education portfolio, held a meeting to discuss their concerns. Incidentally,

the three ministers are all new entrants to the BJP along with Anand Singh. They were among 17 Congress and JD(S) MLAs who defected to BJP in 2019 to help Yediyurappa come to power.

The BJP government played down concerns of dissidence.

Anand Singh, whose forest portfolio has gone to BJP veteran Arvind Limbavalli, said on Thursday: "The CM spoke to me about the change in my portfolio. I agreed and said I have some experience in the tourism ministry and cited it as a preference. The tenure as forest minister was an opportunity to learn about a new ministry." A four-time MLA and businessman with mining interests, Singh was appointed forest minister in February 2020 despite being accused of illegal mining and forest crimes in 15 cases since 2012, including CBI cases.

New Law Minister Bommai, who conducted the press briefing after the Cabinet meeting, said all the ministers who did not turn up

for the meeting had excused themselves. "Following the Cabinet expansion and changes in portfolios, the CM has spoken to many of the ministers. The ministers have spoken what is on their minds and the CM is looking at how these things can be addressed..." he said.

"Madhuswamy was in Tumakuru. Some others also sought permission and stayed away. There is no question of disgruntlement... There is no differentiation done on basis of whether MLAs are core BJP members or new entrants," he said.

Among the seven new ministers inducted on January 13, Murugeswari Nirani has been given the mining portfolio, C P Yogeshwar has been given minor irrigation, party veteran S Angara the fisheries and ports ministry, Arvind Limbavalli the forest ministry, R Shankar municipal administration, Nagaraj the excise ministry and Umesh Katti the food and civil supplies ministry.

Prominent Bengal cleric launches party: 'Want to be the kingmaker'

Open to Left, Cong alliance; plans to contest all 294 seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 21

AHEAD OF the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui, the 34-year-old cleric of Furfura Sharif in Hooghly district, Thursday launched a new political party and said that his party plans to contest all the 294 seats in the state with alliance partners.

His 26-year-old brother Nausad Siddiqui has been named chairman of the Indian Secular Front and Simul Soren the president of the party's working committee.

"Now, we will sit for talks with other parties, including AIMIM, and then we will make clear on how many seats we will contest in this election. For now,



Shashi Ghosh

Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui at the launch of his party in Kolkata, Thursday.

we are considering to contest all the 294 seats," Abbas Siddiqui told mediapersons at a press conference in Kolkata.

Stating that his "doors are open" for an alliance with the Left Front and the Congress, Siddiqui said: "CPI(M) and Congress leaders have sent feelers to us. Both the parties sug-

gested that we first launch our political platform. Let us wait and see."

He, however, ruled out contesting the elections. "I want to be the kingmaker. I will not contest the election but will do everything possible for the party. We will work for the betterment of Muslims, Dalits, tribals, and the poor. Our party is for all," said Siddiqui, one of the descendants of Pir Abu Baqar Siddiqui.

He rejected the charge that his party would enable the division of Muslim votes in the state.

Accusing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of failing to deliver, Siddiqui blamed the Trinamool Congress for "allowing BJP to get into Bengal".

Furfura Sharif is the second most prominent Sufi shrine in the country after Ajmer Sharif.

India issues strong demarche over death of 3 fishermen in Lanka waters

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, CHENNAI, JANUARY 21

INDIA ON Thursday expressed “shock” and lodged a strong protest at the death of three Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters, as it issued a strong demarche to the acting envoy of the island nation in New Delhi. “We are shocked at the unfortunate loss of lives of three Indian fishermen and one Sri Lankan national following a collision between their vessel and a Sri Lankan naval craft,” the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

“Our strong protest in regard to this incident was conveyed by our High Commissioner to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister today. A strong demarche was also made to the Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi,” it said.

“Expressing our deep anguish at the loss of lives, we emphasized the need to deal with issues pertaining to fishermen in a humanitarian manner. Existing understandings between the two governments in that regard must be strictly observed. Utmost efforts should be made to ensure that there is no recurrence,” the ministry said.

In Chennai, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, citing information from fishermen that the four died in an attack by the Sri Lankan Navy, condemned the island nation’s maritime force.

Palaniswami said he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate an appropriate inquiry through the Indian High Commission in Colombo into the incident, three days after Sri Lanka said an Indian fishing boat sank in its waters following a “collision” with its Navy vessel.

Condoling the deaths, the Chief Minister, in an official release, said he has ordered relief of Rs 10 lakh each to the fishermen’s families.

WhatsApp officials appear before House panel over privacy policy change

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE PARLIAMENTARY panel on Information Technology on Thursday questioned representatives of WhatsApp over proposed its changes in privacy policy and raised concerns of Indian citizens, sources said.

The WhatsApp representatives who appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology said the proposed changes are aimed at bringing in more transparency and the chat and calls on messaging platform still remain end-to-end encrypted, it is learned.

According to the sources, the representatives of WhatsApp said that there was no change in the privacy policy of 2016 and in fact it has become more transparent. A source said the representatives answered all the questions raised by the panel members and assured them that they would give in writing the responses to the questions for which they could not answer adequately.

The source also claimed that the company representatives agreed that data was being monetised.

The panel separately interacted with representatives of Facebook, Twitter and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

After the meeting, a

Uma urges Nadda for liquor ban in BJP-ruled states

Bhopal: Former Union minister Uma Bharti on Thursday urged BJP chief J P Nadda to enforce a ban on liquor in BJP-ruled states.

“Through this tweet, I publicly appeal to my national president @JPNadda ji to chart out a plan for a complete liquor ban in BJP-ruled states... Revenue losses can be made up through other means. However, rapes, murders, accidents and the cases of physical molestation of minor girls under the influence of liquor are horrendous and a blot on the society,” she said in a series of tweets. PTI

TN Governor to decide on pardon for Perarivalan in 3-4 days: Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A CALL on the Tamil Nadu government’s recommendation to pardon Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A G Perarivalan will be taken by the Governor within three-four days, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court Thursday.

Mehta told a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, S Abdul Nazeer and Indu Malhotra, hearing a plea by Perarivalan seeking release, that he had received an instruction to communicate that Governor Banwarilal Purohit will decide the matter “as per the Constitution” in a couple of days. Recording the submission, the bench adjourned the matter by four weeks.

In his plea, Perarivalan had said the Governor was yet to take a call on a recommendation by the state government on



A G Perarivalan

September 9, 2018, to grant him remission and release him forthwith. Hearing the matter in November last year, the Supreme Court had made clear its unhappiness over the pendency of the request for over two years.

It had asked Perarivalan’s counsel Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan if it could exercise powers under Article 142 of the Constitution — which allows the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary to do “complete justice” in any case — to request the Governor to decide on the matter. “You please tell us what... the Court can do in such cases. Can we ask the Governor to do that, as has been done in earlier cases?” the bench said.

Sankaranarayanan said while the matter was the prerogative of the Governor, in several instances, the court had exercised powers under Article 142. The bench had then said, “We don’t want to exercise our jurisdiction at this stage but we are not happy that a recommendation made by the government is pending for two years.”

While informing the court about Tamil Nadu’s decision of September 2018 recommending release of all seven convicts in the 1991 Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Advocate Balaji Srinivasan, representing the state, had argued that the matter involved a “larger conspiracy” and said the Governor was awaiting a report from the CBI.

However, Justice Rao had said to this that the “larger conspiracy” only dealt with whether other people were involved and not with those already convicted and in prison. The bench had also

noted that the “larger conspiracy” probe had been pending for years now.

Arrested at the age of 19 in the case, Perarivalan had been sentenced to death in May 1999 on the charge of purchasing an 8-volt battery used by the assassins to trigger the belt bomb that killed Rajiv Gandhi. In 2014, his sentence and that of two others, Murugan and Santhan (both Sri Lankans), was commuted to life. Soon after, the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu had ordered the release of all the seven convicts in the case.

While a pardon request moved by Perarivalan in 2015 was not considered by the Governor, a Supreme Court order on a related petition in September 2018 clarified that the Governor was “deemed fit” to decide on the pardon. Within three days, the AIADMK government had recommended that all seven convicts be released.

Concrete houses for all homeless farmers, labourers if re-elected: CM Palaniswami

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 21

THE AIADMK government will build concrete houses for all homeless farmers, labourers and the poor if it returns to power in the upcoming elections, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced on Thursday during a roadshow in northern Tamil Nadu.

Addressing party cadres at Cheyyar near Chengalpet, he also said that his government is in the process of collecting data about crop damage in the recent heavy rainfall and promised that relief will be given to the farmers soon after the process is completed.

“Farmers, labourers and poor people who are homeless in rural



Edappadi K Palaniswami

areas will get concrete houses, it is our key promise. Our farmers and working class population should be living with dignity. From rural areas to cities, all those who are homeless will get concrete houses,” he said.

Palaniswami’s speeches during the rally that covered several towns, including Thiruppurur and Cheyyar, mainly targeted the opposition DMK and its chief M K Stalin’s gram sabha model campaign programmes.

Terming most of the DMK ac-

cusations against the AIADMK as “uncivilised”, Palaniswami also targeted the DMK chief’s son Udhayanidhi Stalin, who heads the opposition party’s youth wing. He said: “Udhayanidhi Stalin is threatening police officers in public. What will happen if such people come to power in this state?”

In the recent past, Palaniswami, while mostly targeting DMK’s first family, has been making repeated statements about his own humble background, saying he studied in government schools unlike his political arch-rival Stalin, son of late M Karunanidhi.

On Thursday, he asked if Karunanidhi ever travelled to Delhi for the cause of Tamil Nadu or Tamil people. “All his trips to

Delhi were made to ensure power and position for his son and daughter and his close relatives...,” he said. “You see, every other DMK leader is a multimillionaire. And DMK is a corporate firm, not a political party,” he added.

The Chief Minister also defended Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam.

Referring to “false accusations” being raised against Panneerselvam at Stalin’s events, Palaniswami lauded his deputy as a leader “who spent his own money to bring back about 400 stranded Muslims at the beginning of Covid outbreak from Delhi on trains.”

“And he [Panneerselvam] ensured their well-being and treatment after reaching Chennai,” the Chief Minister said.

SP flags illicit liquor trade at ‘all police stations in Bihar’, shunted

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 21

THIRTEEN DAYS after he wrote a letter to his counterparts across the 40 police districts of Bihar about illicit liquor trade being carried out “at all police stations” with the connivance of officials and local public representatives, SP (Prohibition) Rakesh Kumar Sinha was transferred out. The same day, his successor Sanjay Kumar Singh withdrew the letter by Sinha, dated January 6.

Six other IPS officers were transferred on January 19 along with Sinha, who has been moved to the Special Branch. Bihar DGP A K Singhal could not be contacted despite several attempts.

In his letter to the SPs, a copy of which is with *The Indian Express*, Sinha asked for a probe

into the properties owned by constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors of the Excise Department and urged that their mobile phones and those of their relatives be kept under surveillance to monitor connections with liquor mafia. However, Sinha did not name anybody.

“Even though Bihar government has imposed prohibition, liquor sale is being carried out clandestinely under jurisdiction of all police stations with constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors of Excise Department getting bribed,” says the letter. It adds that several “local public representatives have been in illicit liquor trade and the liquor law is openly being violated”.

Sinha said if there was a probe into the “legal and illegal property” of excise constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors,

“the government system would be shaken”.

While not directly addressing issues raised by Sinha’s letter, Bihar Education Minister Ashok Kumar Choudhary told *The Indian Express*: “The CM has already put in place a system of annual declaration of assets by public representatives for transparency. If there is any specific finding by the police about some public representatives, it must be looked into by the competent authority.”

JD(U) spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad said the party had “no knowledge of this letter”.

“But the state government is committed to taking stringent action against the liquor mafia,”

The same day, Rakesh Kumar Sinha’s successor Sanjay Kumar Singh withdrew the letter dated Jan 6

Prasad said.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari said Sinha’s letter should be taken seriously. “The government must look into the properties owned by excise, police or even local public representatives. We have been saying all along that the prohibition law is an absolute failure”.

Securities, said that this reflects the expectations of a turnaround in the economy post-Covid vaccinations and continued FPI inflows. “After the Budget, we may witness a temporary brake to the uptrend and further up move from hereon will depend on the pace of economic and corporate earnings growth and the trajectory of inflation and interest rates in India and the world,” Jasani said.

Significantly, the surge has not been restricted to a few stocks and sectors. If the Sensex has risen by 68 per cent, the mid and small cap indices at BSE are up 80 per cent and 93 per cent respectively in the same period. Among sectoral indices, while Auto index has jumped 117 per cent, metal and IT indices are also up by 110 per cent and 105 per cent respectively. Technology, capital goods and healthcare, banking and consumer durable indices, too, are up by over 60 per cent.

Indices include better-run firms and so the rise is also reflective of the fact that good and strong companies have done well. Investors have to be cautious while venturing into random stocks in the mid and small cap space.

Indices include better-run firms and so the rise is also reflective of the fact that good and strong companies have done well. Investors have to be cautious while venturing into random stocks in the mid and small cap space.

Waqar Naqvi, CEO, Taurus Mutual Fund, said the rally in banking, PSU, metals, auto and IT sectors helped Sensex touch 50,000. “If midcap stocks join the party, which is a high probability, on the back of the vaccinations and anticipated announcements in the central Budget to boost demand, the stock markets should continue to do well in the foreseeable future. From this level, minor ups and downs are not going to bother investors,” he said.

“Overall, we expect the upward journey to continue on the back of healthy corporate earnings, strong liquidity, positive developments on the vaccine front, broad-based economic recovery and low interest rates,” said Motilal Oswal, MD&CEO, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. “Buzz around the upcoming Budget has also added strength to the markets.”

While the gain of 5,000 points in Sensex has come in around 32 trading sessions, Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC

batsmen, wicket-keepers and spinners, the standard will be 8 minutes and 30 seconds. The minimum yo-yo level for all remains at 17.1.

To place the new norm in perspective, elite athletes are expected to complete 2 km in around 6 minutes, and amateurs in 15 minutes.

The contracted players were informed about the new mark, which has been approved by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, in Australia. They were told that the Board has created three windows to carry out the test this year: February, June and August/September.

For now, the Board has made an exemption for those who were part of the Test series in Australia. However, those who are in contention for the white-ball series against England will have to undergo this test. It will also be a key criterion in selection for the T20 World Cup, which will be held later this year.

The test — the criteria will be updated later — will be held in the presence of a strength and conditioning member from the BCCI or National Cricket Academy.

Former India team trainer Ramji Srinivasan says a time trial is better than the yo-yo and “most effective” test. “It is more functional towards cricket. This will test speed, threshold zones, how you plan your running pace. And you can’t cheat as this is time-based,” he said.

The BCCI had introduced the yo-yo test a few years ago, and it became a key parameter for selection to the national team. Players like Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav and Sanju Samson had failed the test before, which resulted in them being excluded from the squad.

In the yo-yo test, two cones are placed 20 metres apart, and the athlete has to run between them when the beep goes off. The beeps become more frequent after one minute, and if the athlete fails to reach the line within that time, he is expected to catch up within two more beeps. The test is stopped if the player fails to catch up before the beeps run out.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to rename train no. 12311/12312 Howrah-Kalka Mail as "NETAJI EXPRESS" on resumption of its normal service. However, with effect from 23.01.2021, the 02311/02312 Howrah-Kalka Special will also be named as 02311/02312 Howrah-Kalka NETAJI EXPRESS SPECIAL.

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

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166/2021 Please join us on

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A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/s M/s Shri Ram Rice Mill, Prop : Sri Devendra Prasad, S/o Sri Baban Prasad, Ahirauli, Arrah Buxar Main Road, Buxar - 802101, Bihar (Borrower) have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

S. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Details of properties / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (as on the date of Notice)
1.	M/s Shri Ram Rice Mill, Prop : Sri Devendra Prasad & Sri Devendra Prasad, S/o Sri Baban Prasad,	Part - I - (Hypothecation of Movable Properties): Hypothecation of properties viz. Current Assets including Stocks, Stocks in Trade, Receivables, Consumable Stores and Spares and entire current assets and Hypothecated Movable Plant and Machinery etc. of the borrower mentioned in the documents. Part - II - (Simple Mortgage of Immovable properties): 1. Equitable Mortgage of all that plot of land measuring 2 Kathha, in the name Smt. Fulkumari Devi, under Mauza - Ahirauli, Thana - Buxar, Thana No. 335, Pragna - Bhojpur, Khata No. - 30, Khesra - 2134, District - Buxar, Bihar of Deed No. 10352, dated 03/10/2012, Boundaries of Land - North -Road NH 84, South - Ramkumar Tiwary & Devendra Kumar Tiwary, East - Harendra Sah, West - Jagdish Upadhyay. 2. Equitable Mortgage of all that plot of land measuring 13 dhur, in the name of Sri Harendra Kumar, Devendra Prasad, Nagendra Kumar S/o Baban Prasad and Rajkumar S/o Lalai Prasad, under Mauza - Ahirauli, Thana - Buxar, Thana No. 335, Pragna - Bhojpur, Khata No. - 80, Plot - 2135, District - Buxar, Bihar of Deed No. 4181 dated 05.05.2010, Boundaries of Land - North - Mokir Alehem, South - Mokir Alehem, East - Sachchidanand Choubey, West - Chandradeep Upadhyay & others. 3. Equitable Mortgage of all that plot of land measuring 4 kathha 19 dhur (A. 1 Kathha 07 dhur and B. 3 Kathha 12 dhur), in the name of Sri Harendra Kumar, Devendra Prasad, Nagendra Kumar S/o Baban Prasad and Rajkumar Prasad S/o Lalai Prasad, under Mauza - Ahirauli, Thana - Buxar, Thana No. 335, Pragna - Bhojpur, Khata No. - 80, Plot - 2135, District - Buxar, Bihar of Deed No. 1942 dated - 08/03/2010, Boundaries of Land (A) North - Ara Buxar Road, South - Bhuvneshwar Singh, East - Sachchidanand Choubey, West - Chandradeep Upadhyay & others, Boundaries of Land (B) North - Ara Buxar Road, South - Dhanji Yadav Kabaledge, East - Sachchidanand Choubey, West - Chandradeep Upadhyay & others. 4. Equitable Mortgage of all that plot of land measuring 1 Kathha 8 Dhur, Out to total 4 Katha 32 Dhur (Deed No. 4181 of 05.05.2010 having 13 dhur and Deed No. - 1942 dated 08.03.2010 having 4 Katha 19 Dhur), in the name of Sri Harendra Kumar, Devendra Prasad, Nagendra Kumar S/o Baban Prasad, under Mauza - Ahirauli, Thana - Buxar, Thana No. 335, Pragna - Bhojpur, Khata No. 80, Khesra - 2135, District - Buxar, Bihar of Deed No. 4181 dated 08.03.2010, Boundaries of Land - North - Mokir Alehem, South - Dhanji Yadav Kabaledge, East - Sachchidanand Choubey, West - Chandradeep Upadhyay & others.	04.11.2020	28.12.2019	Rs. 1,38,94,544/- as on 04.11.2020 Plus further interest, cost charges etc.
2.	Sri Nagendra Kumar, S/o Sri Baban Prasad (Guarantor)				
3.	Sri Harendra Kumar S/o Sri Baban Prasad (Guarantor)				
4.	Smt. Fulkumari Devi W/o Sri Baban Prasad (Guarantor)				

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 20.01.2021
Place: Patna

Sd/- Authorized Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna

CRPF chief: Have taken all steps to empower commandos on VIP security duty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

AGAINST the backdrop of an attack on a convoy of BJP president JP Nadda in West Bengal in December, CRPF DG AP Maheshwari Thursday said the force has taken all steps to “empower” its commandos deployed for security duties of VIPs and that they have “plugged the gaps”. Nadda enjoys Z-plus security of the CRPF.

“We have improved our VIP security skills. We are following the best security standards... we are working to match our skills with the best standards of the SPG,” he said at a press meet here.

Regarding the incident in which some BJP leaders were injured, he said, “Whatever happened in the outer ring is in the domain of the state government and I believe the authorities concerned are doing their job. We have a security system in place and have the capability of carrying out our VIP from such situations like safe and secure.”

Maheshwari said the CRPF has gone into “past data and trends” to see areas where security can be improved, and is in touch with all stakeholders involved in this task, including the state police forces.

The CRPF at present has 62 VIPs under its cover, including Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and former PM Manmohan Singh.

Apart from the CRPF, CISF and NSG provide such cover under the central VIP protection charter.

The CRPF chief said that aspects of “upgrading technology for surveillance or assessment or in organising an armed or tactical response” have been worked upon. “I can assure that it is as best as it can be.”

The CRPF is also “considering” inducting women soldiers into its elite jungle warfare force, the CoBRA. The CoBRA battalions largely engage with Maoists in the interiors of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. “We already have a unit of women commandos who have been pressed into combat duties in Bastar. Now we are considering inducting them into CoBRA,” Maheshwari said.

He also said that in Jammu and Kashmir, security forces had killed 215 terrorists, including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Riyaz Naikoo, in the past one year. Regarding Left Wing Extremism, he said 340 Maoists were made to surrender in 2020 and added that CRPF established bases in 18 forward areas of which four each are in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Police: 3 held for kidnapping, killing 10-yr-old boy in Kasganj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 21

THREE PERSONS were arrested Thursday in connection with the abduction and murder of a 10-year-old boy at Pithanpur village in Sidhpura police station area of Uttar Pradesh’s Kasganj district.

Police said the boy was kidnapped on Monday evening over enmity between the two families, which are related to each other. The three accused have been identified as Ajay Kumar, Amar Pal and Raj Bahadur.

Circle Officer (Patiyal) Gaveendra Pal Gautam said Lokesh was kidnapped from near his house. “Lokesh’s body was recovered on Wednesday, following which we launched a search for the accused,” said Gautam.

He added, “The two families live close to each other and have neighbouring farm lands. The dispute started after Lokesh’s family objected to installation of some irrigation equipment by the family of the accused. Three people then kidnapped the boy.”

A police statement issued on Thursday said, “On January 19, a complaint was received from Kishanveer Singh that his 10-year-old son Lokesh was missing. A case was lodged under 364-A (kidnapping). Three teams were formed for the case.” Lokesh’s body was recovered from a field outside the village, said police.

Police said Ajay was intercepted Thursday following a tip-off. “During a brief confrontation with police, he suffered a bullet wound in his leg... The remaining accused were also arrested on Thursday,” the statement said.

SC grants bail to Kannada actor in drugs racket case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to Kannada actor Ragini Dwivedi, who was arrested in connection with the Sandalwood drugs racket case. The actor was arrested in

September 2020 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Appearing for Dwivedi, Senior Advocate Sidharth Luthra said she had been in custody for 140 days

while her co-accused had got bail. He also contended that the case against her was based on the statement of a co-accused and no contraband had been found in her possession. The only charge that

remained was that of consumption of less than 1.5 gm, he said.

Opposing this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said it was not a case of mere personal consumption and that messages were ex-

changed between her and drug peddlers cautioning each other to be careful about police. There was also tampering of evidence with urine samples being replaced with water, he added. **ENS**

DEENBANDHU CHHOTU RAM UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MURTHAL, DISTT. SONEPAT (INDIA)-131039
(Established by State Legislative Act 29 of 2006 & Approved under Section 2 (f) & 12 (B) of U.G.C. Act, 1956)
NAAC 'A' Grade Accredited State Govt. University
Website: www.dcrustm.org & www.dcrustm.ac.in Advt. No.03/2021

Advertisement for Six AICTE Doctoral Fellowships

Six Ph.D seats (CSE: 1, ECE: 1, EE: 1, CHE: 1, CE: 1, BT or BME: 1) with ADF scholarships are available in DCRUST, Murthal. Eligible students may apply within 21 days of the date of this advertisement. Detailed eligibility conditions regarding Age, GATE score, minimum academic level and rules for admission are available on the University website www.dcrustm.ac.in/ www.dcrustadmission.org

REGISTRAR

1490/7/HRY

Notice for Loss of Shares

Notice is hereby given that We, Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, have lost the following share certificate of Bihar Air Products Ltd. and applying to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates :

Folio No.	Certificate No	DistinctiveNo.	No of Shares
2	1 to 3	1	30
	5 to 8	41	81570
	12	162371	187648
	17	220862	228027
	19	228028	264013
	23	300001	306000
	81	600001	701938
28	55	382209	501004
			118796

The public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing with the above share certificates in any way and any person (s) who has any claim in respect of these shares, must lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office at Phase V, Tayo Complex, Adityapur Industrial Area, Gamharia- 832 108 (Jamshedpur) Dist. Seraikella -Kharaswan, Jharkhand, within 15 days from the date of this publication.

Place : Patna Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation Limited
Dated : 20.01.2021 Name of the shareholder(s)

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED

Registered Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020
Tel : 022 - 22863900 Fax : 022 - 22872992
Website : www.hindustanpetroleum.com Email : corphqo@hpcl.in
CIN : L23201MH1952GOI008858

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, February 04, 2021 to consider, inter-alia, the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Third Quarter ended December 31, 2020.

The said Notice can be accessed on the Company's website at <http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com>. Notice to this effect has also been given to NSE & BSE.

As communicated to the Stock Exchanges earlier, it is further informed that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is under closure from January 01, 2021 to February 06, 2021 for all 'Insiders' as per the Insider Trading Code of the Company which is available on the Company's website www.hindustanpetroleum.com

Place : Mumbai V. Murali
Date : 21-01-2021 Company Secretary

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030.
Tel. 040-24594509 Fax: 040-24015388
website: www.manage.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

MANAGE invites applications for the Post of Junior Stenographer on Direct Recruitment basis in the Pay Matrix Level 04, Pay Rs.25,500/- to Rs.81,100/- under un-reserved category. For further details, please visit www.manage.gov.in

Last date for receipt of application along with Demand Draft for Rs.300/- drawn in favour of **MANAGE** payable at Hyderabad is **20/02/2021**. Those who are in Govt. Service should forward their application through proper channel. However, an advance copy of the application may be submitted on or before the last date. Applications routed through proper channel should reach at MANAGE, Hyderabad within 10 days after the last date. Director General, MANAGE, reserves the right to cancel this Employment Notice without any notice.

Sd/-
Dy. DIRECTOR (ADMN)

SPECIAL TRAINS

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

02455/02456 DELHI SARAI ROHILLA - BIKANER JN - DELHI SARAI ROHILLA SPECIAL TRAIN (Daily)

Train No.: 02455		STATIONS	Train No.: 02456	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
----	22:45	DELHI SARAI ROHILLA	07:20	----
13:20	----	BIKANER JN	----	16:45

DAYS OF RUN: 02455 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla Daily from 27.01.2021 to till further advice & 02456 from Bikaner Jn Daily from 28.01.2021 to till further advice.

STOPPAGE: Rohtak Jn, Jind Jn, Jakhal Jn, Sangrur, Dhuri Jn, Barnala, Rampura Phul, Bhatinda Jn, Giddarbaha, Malout, Abohar, Shri Ganganagar, Kesri Singhpur, Shri Kanpur, Gajsinghpur, Rai Singh Nagar, Jaitisar, Suratgarh Jn, Lunakansar & Lalgarh Jn Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

01073/01074 LOKMANYA TILAK (T) - PARTAPGARH JN LOKMANYA TILAK (T) SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN (Bi-Weekly)

Train No.: 01073		STATIONS	Train No.: 01074	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
----	16:25	LOKMANYA TILAK (T)	05:30	----
19:35	----	PARTAPGARH JN	----	01:50

DAYS OF RUN: 01073 from Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Tuesday & Sunday from 31.01.2021 to till further advice & 01074 from Partapgarh Jn on every Thursday & Tuesday from 02.02.2021 to till further advice.

STOPPAGE: Thane, Kalyan Jn, Nasik Road, Bhusaval Jn, Bhopal Jn, Jhansi Jn, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly & Amethi Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

Security Helpline No. 182 **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Special Express trains as under:-



Train No. & Name	Days of run	Presently Notified Upto	Extended Upto
02323 Howrah Jn.-Barmer Special	Fri	29.01.2021	26.03.2021
02324 Barmer-Howrah Jn. Special	Wed	03.02.2021	31.03.2021
02331 Howrah Jn.-Jammu Tawi Special	Tue, Fri, Sat	30.01.2021	30.03.2021
02332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah Jn. Special	Thu, Sun, Mon	01.02.2021	01.04.2021
03019 Howrah Jn.-Kathgodam Special	Daily	31.01.2021	31.03.2021
03020 Kathgodam-Howrah Jn. Special	Daily	02.02.2021	02.04.2021
02549 Kamakhya-Anand Vihar(T) Special	Daily	30.01.2021	01.02.2021 to 31.03.2021
02550 Anand Vihar(T)-Kamakhya Special	Daily	01.02.2021	03.02.2021 to 02.04.2021

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

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.

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

Security Helpline No. 182 **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : nr.indianrailways.gov.in
Please join us on   

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE
(Ministry of Defence)
Government of India

ENGAGEMENT AS CONSULTANT (SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS)

1. Online applications are invited from retired Indian Nationals, who have worked as Senior Directing Staff (SDS) at National Defence College, New Delhi for engagement as Consultant (SME) at NDC.

2. **Description of Post.**
(a) **Name:** Consultant (SME).
(b) **No. of Posts:** 02.
(c) **Remuneration:** Rs. 80,000/- per month.
(d) **Age-Limit:** Age of the candidate should not be more than 65 years as on 31 Dec 2021.
(e) **Period of Engagement:** 11 Months (extendable).
(f) **Last Date of application:** 05 Feb 2021.

3. For detailed advertisement please visit www.ndc.nic.in or www.mod.gov.in

Publication Notice

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
O.A. NO. 411/2019
LIBI Applicant **Vs SAMARDEEP MATHUR & ORS. Defendants**

D-1 SAMARDEEP MATHUR (PROPRIETOR)
M/S SUMMER INTERNATIONAL HOUSE NO 15, KHASRANO NO. 111,
VILLAGE MAJRI, PO KARALA, DELHI-110081

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 01.03.2021 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 11th day of JAN 2021

By Order of the tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ZILA PARISHAD, MAHENDRAGARH AT NARNAUL NOTICE

Sealed Tender/Quotations are invited from reputed Firms/Individual for Bio-Toilets under World Bank Incentive Grant. Tender Forms/Terms, Conditions can be obtained from office of undersigned w.e.f. **22.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 upto 10.00 A.M.** on cash payment of **Rs. 2000/-** each (Non-refundable) or by way of Demand Draft in favour of undersigned. Tenderer shall submit bids in separate sealed envelopes i.e. in one envelope the Technical Bid and in 2nd Financial Bids and both bids shall be submitted in a duly sealed single envelope for each tender upto **27.01.2021 at 12.00 Noon**. Tenders shall be opened on same day i.e. **27.01.2021 at 03.00 P.M.** in the office of undersigned in the presence of all interested Firms/Individuals. No tender shall be accepted after due date and time. Unsealed/Open tender shall not be considered.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any Tender/Bid without assigning any reason(S).

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad,
Mahendragarh at Narnaul.

1505/7/HRY

Public Awareness Bulletin - 13

Three Tier Grievance Redressal Structure

Consumer Grievance / Complaint like: New Connection, Temporary Connection, Load Enhancement, Load Reduction, Permanent Disconnection, Reconnection, Shifting of Meter and Service line, Name Change, Category Change, Billing, Reading of Meter, Metering Problems (Faulty/Burnt/Slow/Fast/Stolen), No Current/failure of power supply, Voltage fluctuation, Load shedding/scheduled outages, Non -working of Street Light, Reporting of theft of electricity/ Unauthorized Use of Electricity.

TIER –I DISCOMS

Channels for registration of complaint				
DISCOM	BRPL	BYPL	TPDDL	NDMC
24x7 Toll Free No	19123/39999707	19122/39999808	19124/1800-208-9124	19121/011-49993555
Customer Care Centers	(Mon-Fri 09:30AM to 05:30PM & Sat -09:30 AM to 01:00PM)			
Discom's Website	www.bsedelhi.com	www.bsedelhi.com	https://tatapower-ddl.com	https://www.ndmc.gov.in
Mobile App	BSES APP	BSES APP	TPDDL Connect	NDMC311
Official Email ID for Filing Complaint	brpl.customercare@relianceada.com	bypl.customercare@relianceada.com	customer-care@tatapower-ddl.com	care@ndmc.gov.in

NOTE:
The distribution licensee shall also provide the details for Pull/ Short Code SMS Service and Web Chat for registration of complaint by consumer.

If complaint is not resolved timely or complainant is not satisfied with the response/ resolution provided, and if desires, the complainant may approach to the below officials for further clarification/ resolution, at their respective Division customer care centres: -

STEP 1: Customer Care Officer/ Customer Relation Executive
STEP 2: Business Manager / Customer Service Manager / Dist. Manager
STEP 3: Circle Head/Divisional Chief

If still not satisfied with the resolution, consumer may write at:
STEP 4: Head Customer Care of DISCOM (BRPL, BYPL, TPDDL & NDMC) mentioned below according to area of operation.

Postal Address for forwarding complaint in writing	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL) Customer Care, BSES Bhawan, Behind Nehru Place Bus Terminal, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL) Head, (Customer Care, Jhilmil Corporate Annex Building, CBD-III, Karkardooma Delhi -110032	Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.(TPDDL) Customer Complaint Analysis Group (CCAG) at TATA Power –DDL, CENCARE Building, Opposite Block, Lawrence Road, Keshavpuram, Delhi -110035	New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Executive Engineer Commercial Department New Delhi Municipal Council Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Gole Market, New Delhi -110001
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TIER –II CGRFs

If complainant is not satisfied either with the response of the Licensee or there is no response from the Licensee within the stipulated time complainant may approach CGRFs of respective DISCOMS mentioned alongside:	BRPL: Secretary, CGRF -BRPL, Sub Station Building, Sector-V, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi -110017. Email-cgrfbrpl@gmail.com BYPL: Secretary, CGRF-BYPL, Sub-Station Building, Shakti Kiran Building, Near Karkardooma Courts, Karkardooma, Delhi –110032. Email-cgrfbypl@hotmail.com TPDDL: Secretary, CGRF -TPDDL, Sub Station Building, Police Colony, Model Town -II, Delhi -110009. Email-cgrfredressal.forum@tatapower-ddl.com NDMC: Secretary, CGRF -NDMC, Shop No.67-68 & 71-73, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Gole Market, New Delhi –110001. Email-ecgrfndmc@gmail.com
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TIER –III Ombudsman

Complainant aggrieved by non -redressal of his grievance by the CGRF may make a representation to the Ombudsman at the following address:
Electricity Ombudsman
B-53, Paschimi Marg, Opp. Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi –110057
Email: elect_ombudsman@yahoo.com

NOTE:

- ❖ The Forum shall not entertain a grievance if it pertains to the same subject matter for which any proceedings before any court, authority or any other Forum is pending or a decree, award or a final order has already been passed by any competent court, auth ority or forum.
- ❖ The Forum shall not entertain grievances falling under sections 126,127,135 to 139, 142, 152 and 161 on matter related to Assessment, Appeal to appellate authority, Theft of Electricity, Theft of electric lines and materials, Punishment for receiving stolen property, Interference with meters or works of licensee, Negligently breaking or damaging works, Punishment for non-compliance of directions by Appropriate Commission, Compounding of offences and Notice of accidents and inquiries respectively of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- ❖ In matters related to Unauthorized Use of Electricity (UUE) under section126 of Electricity Act, 2003, complainant may prefer an appeal under section 127 of Electricity Act, 2003 before the Additional District Magistrate of the district being the Appellate Authority.
- ❖ The Jurisdiction to deal matters related to theft of electricity lies with Special Court.
- ❖ This Public Awareness Bulletin No. 13 shall supersede the earlier PAB-8.

Issued in Public Interest by
Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017
Telephone: 011-41080417, Website: www.derc.gov.in

DIP/Sabdharth/0568/20-21



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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

IT'S NOT DOING WHAT IS RIGHT THAT'S HARD FOR A PRESIDENT. IT'S KNOWING WHAT IS RIGHT.

— LYNDON JOHNSON

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LAWS ON PAUSE

This is exactly what the Opposition had asked for— and the Government rejected. This should help farmers come to the table

THE NARENDRA MODI government's offer to suspend the implementation of its three agricultural reform laws for at least 18 months marks a significant departure from its stated let's-keep-talking position in the deadlock with agitating farmer unions. It, effectively, amounts to a repeal of the laws, in their current form, as the unions are demanding. Coming after the government—and the party's—insistence that all criticism was motivated and political, this is an unequivocal admission of the lack of stakeholder consultation and haste that marked the passage of the legislation. Unlike the Labour Code bills referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee or the Personal Data Protection Bill now being scrutinised by a joint house panel, the farm laws were enacted through the ordinance route in June. The Modi government, even at the time of their introduction in Parliament, refused to heed the Opposition's request to place the bills before a Select Committee. Instead, it got them passed in September with hardly any debate or informed discussion. This was despite these laws, by the government's own contention, being as game-changing for Indian agriculture as the 1991 reforms for industry, services and the external sector.

The proposal to put the farm laws on hold and constitute a committee to come out with a mutually-agreed resolution basically substitutes for work that should have been Parliament's remit. Had the bills gone to a select or joint committee that would have invited comments and suggestions from agriculture experts, farmers and other stakeholders, it may not have created the situation of distrust manifested in the ongoing protests at Delhi's borders. The Modi government clearly underestimated the strength of the agitation and is looking for a face-saver short of an outright repeal of the laws. One hopes the unions, too, step back from their hard repeal-or-nothing-else line, accept this offer and join the committee that, unlike the parallel Supreme Court-appointed panel, should have representation from both votaries and critics of the laws. This is as good as the legislation being repealed, redrafted and reenacted.

While the Modi government must shoulder the blame for ramming through the farm laws and also mishandling of the protests that ensued, one cannot, however, find fault with the reforms themselves. Dismantling the monopoly of state-regulated mandis in agricultural produce marketing, doing away with stocking restrictions and allowing processors, organised retailers and exporters to enter into contract cultivation agreements with farmers are all steps in the right direction. The fundamental reality today is that India has transitioned from being a structurally deficit to a surplus farm producer. That, in turn, presents a new challenge of finding markets both within and outside the country, which only the private sector can address. The government's job is to be an enabler, as it did for other sectors in the first two decades of reforms. Agriculture has waited too long and its reforms call for deft political management. Hopefully, the deadlock with farmers has helped the government realise that to effect meaningful change, 300-plus seats in the Lok Sabha also needs some humility and a willingness to listen.

BIDEN'S BURDEN

The challenge before the new US president is to reunite America and redefine its role in the world

TAKING CHARGE OF the United States, amidst what he called a "winter of peril and promise", Joe Biden celebrated the restoration of American democracy and issued a stirring call for unity in the deeply divided nation. Referring indirectly to the questioning of the election results by the outgoing president, Donald Trump, who skipped the swearing in of Biden, and his incitement of a mob attack on the US capitol earlier this month, Biden declared that American democracy has been tested, but prevailed in the end. Biden pointed to the multiple challenges confronting the nation—the COVID-19 pandemic whose toll is approaching nearly half a million, deepening domestic inequality, entrenched racism, climate change and new questions about the American role in the world. Dealing with these simultaneous challenges, Biden argued, demands an end to the "uncivil war" that has enveloped America.

Biden's soaring sentiment on reuniting the nation was rightly rooted in realism. More than 70 million voters chose Trump and a large section of them continue to believe the election was unfair. Biden's call for unity was not only directed at Trump's supporters, but also his own party, many of whom are itching for political revenge. It will not be easy, however, for him to translate the soaring sentiment to reunite the nation into concrete outcomes. Many of his first steps at reversing Trump's policies—on immigration, climate change, and American participation in multilateral institutions—touch deeply contested domestic political terrain. Biden's economic agenda on minimum wages and raising taxes runs into intense opposition from the business groups, including the big tech companies of Silicon Valley, that rallied round him in the election. He also has to deal with a Congress that is so evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans and is not amenable to productive legislative action.

Four years ago at his inaugural, Trump set the dark tone for his presidency by talking about an "American carnage" that was devastating the nation. Biden, in contrast, has chosen to raise hope by reminding America that its "better angels" had prevailed in the crises that came before. With his nearly five decades-long political career in Washington, he is probably better placed than his peers in navigating dangerous political waters. A record of ideological flexibility and the ability to reach across the political aisle gives Biden the opportunity to rebuild a bipartisan political centre that can produce long overdue economic, political and social change that is so essential for American unity and renewal.

SLAYING THE DRAGON

Kalamam is a beginning. More goodies await renaming

AS IT TURNS out, Gobi Manchurian was not the biggest blow that India could have dealt to Chinese national pride. No, that could only happen by renaming dragon fruit because, according to Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, the common English name makes one think of China—a strict no-no given current geopolitical circumstances. And, so, the fruit with the spiky, fuchsia peel will henceforth be known as "kalamam", thanks to its resemblance to our national flower. Any tip of the hat to a certain political party is purely coincidental.

But why stop at dragon fruit which, as a matter of fact, is of Central American origin? Considering how far back Indo-Chinese relations go, there are plenty of other things to rename, starting with white sugar aka *cheeni*. It would be very non-*atmanirbhar* of us to not come up with our own name for it. And what about chai, which originates in the Chinese word for tea, *cha*? We also propose that Malayalis should hereafter stop referring to their *karahis* as *cheenachatti* because that word is a clear reference to the wok's Chinese antecedents. Nobler minds have already suggested that foods of Chinese origin should be banned, so there's no point repeating it, although it would be remiss of us to not point out that chowmein and manchow soup probably have more to do with Surat than Suzhou.

Of course, at some point, we'll remember that no aspect of culture remains static, especially in an interconnected world as ours. To use a metaphor from Chinese cuisine (forgive us), it's a bit like the broth in a hot pot to which various ingredients are added—thinly-sliced chicken, maybe some bean sprouts, followed by noodles and, perhaps, shrimp balls and fried tofu—until it becomes far richer and more appetising than it would have been on its own.



ANAND KRISHNAN

TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST are two major—and interrelated—pillars of public policy decision-making. Transparency is the principle of allowing those affected by decisions to know about the outcome and the process that led to those decisions. Transparent governance means that government officials act in an open manner, with citizens being informed of the decisions they are making. Transparency has many components—availability of all relevant information in the public domain, a public discourse or debate based on this information and a final decision by the government, which acknowledges and addresses the issues raised during the debate.

Trust is the foundation upon which the legitimacy of public institutions is built and is crucial for the success of public policies that depend on behavioural responses from the public. Trust is earned by keeping the promises made and, perhaps, is not a "unitary" entity. A government could be trusted to do some things right and it cannot be relied on in some other respects. For example, trust in police services may be different than, say, in the judiciary, and within the judiciary, there could be a difference between the lower and higher judiciary. It is influenced by the integrity of the people and system, the perceived fairness and openness of these institutions. The robustness of institutional mechanisms depends on checks and balances. If the autonomy of institutions is compromised, trust is weakened.

The responsibility of maintaining transparency is with the government and given the fact that "trust" has to be earned, the responsibility of the government is again more important. Indians are brought up to trust higher authorities, including parents, and questioning them is considered rude. Thus, most Indian governments start off with an advantage; they must work hard to lose that trust. This has been repeatedly confirmed by the global trust surveys where India has always ranked high in trust of government. For example, in the 2018 Edelman Global Trust Survey, 70 per cent of the public had trust in the government—a

Dismissing criticism of vaccines in nationalist language doesn't help in building trust

Shots in the dark

high percentage, though a five-point decline from the previous year. However, in an apparent paradox, Indians do not really trust the capacity and fairness of public institutions in doing things the right way.

Let us review the decisions regarding the vaccine through these two prisms. The regulatory approval has been faulted on all the three counts of transparency, but primarily on the first criteria—the one related to the availability of data on safety and efficacy of the approved vaccines in public to enable a free and fair discussion among all stakeholders, and not just scientists and experts. The evidence regarding at least one of the vaccines had not yet been vetted by peers and there was no debate in the public. The Subject Expert Committee probably had a good discussion, but its details are not in the public domain. Finally, the decision was itself couched in terms which was not understood by large sections of people, including public health experts. Even though the government issued a clarification, the fact that it was compelled to do so says something—this situation was eminently avoidable.

We really do not have adequate platforms to have an open dialogue and debate on any public matter and that should be worrying. The media is, perhaps, the only such space available and it plays a critical role—by holding public institutions to account, it helps build trust in them. While in general, the media has asked the right questions on the vaccine issue, they have also contributed to erosion of trust by the tone and tenor of these questions—television is more culpable than the others. It has often failed to maintain the thin line separating responsible journalism of questioning the government on its decision and hounding or eulogising the government—both erode trust.

Public trust is critical for greater compliance with government guidelines during emergencies, be it COVID-appropriate behaviour or the acceptance of vaccination institutions. The offices of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Drugs Controller General of

India (DCGI) and their capacity have come under scrutiny and there is a general feeling among scientists and public that these institutions have not performed their role appropriately. Only posterity will judge how well these institutions performed their role—or, at least, when we have travelled some distance from the pandemic. However, questions about their competence and autonomy are not good for generating public trust in the interim. It is difficult to say how much of the current vaccine hesitancy can be attributed to lack of transparency and trust, though undoubtedly, they have contributed to it.

The importance of transparency and trust in governance is to ensure that there is no "undue" influence in the government decision-making—political or commercial. In some ways, the decision on the vaccine has become less of a scientific one and more of a commercial and political one, especially with India wanting to lead the world in vaccine supply. Such opaqueness has also led to concerns about the cost of vaccination. The responses of some ministers that seem to be heavy on vaccine nationalist tones have not helped matters.

One could argue that in cases of emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, these values can be compromised. However, one could also argue that these situations call for more rigour in holding to these values.

It is in national interest that we promote transparency and trust in governance. This is not optional. We desperately need to cultivate public spaces for healthy dialogues, where all opinions are respected. Do we expect governments to pay only lip service to these values and not follow them in practice? An open and measurable accountability framework for governance in health is the need of the hour. We have enough theoretical frameworks for them but little operationalisation. It is time we bring it up as a priority public health agenda.

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ANAMIKA

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION Policy-2020 (NEP-2020), the fourth since Independence, was rolled out in July 2020 and has led to intense discussion on school and higher education. The most challenging aspect of the policy is the implementation of even those aspects on which there is some sort of consensus. The earlier education policies (1968, 1986 and the 1986 revised in 1992) were lauded as documents with clear vision. However, these policies could not yield much due to faulty implementation.

There are many provisions in the policy for improving the quality of higher education. For the first time, internationalisation of higher education has been highlighted as an objective. One such provision is to invite the top 100 World Class Universities to open international branch campuses (IBCs) in India. The underlying assumption is to raise the standard of research and teaching to international levels and slow down the out-bound mobility of Indian students. The biggest challenge would be the inclination of top universities to establish a campus in India. Not many such universities have such policies in place. At the same time, many universities are yearning to turn truly global and hold institutional mobility as a prerequisite.

Internationalisation of higher education in India has a pre-history. Many top foreign universities collaborate with Indian higher education institutions such as IITs and central universities for research and knowledge transfer. The collaboration has been strengthened by government's schemes such as GIAN and SPARC. Conventional wisdom dictates that the

AFTER THE OFFER LETTER

Getting top foreign universities to open campuses requires more institutional autonomy

existing research and academic collaborations between foreign and Indian institutions would facilitate the entry of IBCs in India.

To explore the potential of the policy of branch campuses and gauge the mood of top universities' interest in India, a series of conversations have been held with experts, academic administrators and global heads of foreign universities. The discussions throw up interesting points. Top foreign universities are willing to respond positively provided there is sufficient clarity in areas essential for operationalisation of branch campuses in India. Interestingly, such universities are not looking forward to state sponsored infrastructure of the kind that the Dubai Knowledge Hub has offered—ready to move in campus, office space, and other facilities. A closer look at the IBCs suggests that these campuses are driven by the desire to accumulate profit in the manner of business enterprises. This implies that India will have to allow IBCs to repatriate income. The outflow of the money may not necessarily be 100 per cent of what these universities earn in India, but it will have to be a significant amount. As of now, there does not seem to be a viable model to balance the ploughing back of the resources earned in India and cash remittances to the parent university.

A key issue in the internationalisation of higher education is the preference for subjects and the areas of research considered rewarding. Social sciences and humanities do not generally figure in the imagination of decision makers—they are not seen as profitable ventures. There does seem to be a heartening change in this respect. However,

here, and in a much greater measure compared to the science and business-oriented courses, foreign institutions demand more autonomy in framing and changing curriculum, daily functioning of the institution, the freedom to say no to industries, and even in the manner the institution is branded. The favourably inclined foreign universities also expect to be treated on par with Indian institutions in matters of government funding and scholarships. In return, they are willing to implement the Indian policy of social inclusion in higher education in their IBCs.

A related aspect of internationalisation of higher education is India's keen interest on increasing the inflow of foreign students. The Study in India programme was launched in April 2018 with generous scholarships. Top universities encourage their students to go abroad for a semester or a year. Exposure to multiple cultures, subjects and pedagogies is deemed to be an asset and part of cultural capital. India is no doubt a potential destination for such study abroad experiences although it must be admitted that it is not happening on a large scale. The establishment of IBCs in India would gel well with the Indian quest for the in-bound mobility of students and scholars. The international standards maintained by the IBCs would be attractive enough for international students to explore and experience Indian education and culture.

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JANUARY 22, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

KARNATAKA VIOLENCE

AT LEAST FIVE people were killed in the police firings at the HAL in Bangalore and in Chintamani, Kolar district, Karnataka. Three students were killed when the police opened firing in Chintamani, about 70 km from Bangalore. In Bangalore, two people were killed when the police opened fire to quell a riotous mob during the bandh called by the striking employees of the public sector units. The police opened fire after their attempt to disperse the stone-throwing mob through lathicharging and teargassing failed. In fact, the mob snatched a constable's rifle and set fire to a police officer's motorcycle and a few cycles. The forum of public sector employees de-

manded a judicial inquiry into the police firing and called on workers to observe January 25 as a black day.

MADRAS CJ RESIGNS

THE CHIEF JUSTICE of the Madras High Court, M M Ismail, is resigning in protest against his transfer to Kerala "without" his "consent". Sources close to him said that a straightforward and honest judge opposed to any form of authoritarianism had no other alternative but to tender his resignation. They said that Ismail was not opposed to the transfer per se but the manner in which it was imposed on him. He sat on court on January 21 and is likely to sit on January 22 as well.

WHO TRAINS COPS?

THE POLICE TRAINING institutions in Punjab and Haryana, responsible for training "the guardians of the law" and "friends of the public" seem inadequately equipped to discharge their functions. They are staffed by "condemned" and "shelved" police personnel, an investigation by this newspaper has revealed. These institutions also have inadequate facilities and are run according to a dated curriculum framed in British times.

HOOCH TRAGEDY

FIVE PERSONS DIED after drinking illicit liquor in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Two others were admitted to hospital.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The case for Rahane

Gabba win provokes the question: Does India need Virat Kohli the great batsman or Virat Kohli a mediocre captain? In the larger interest of Indian cricket, Rahane should lead in Tests



BISHAN SINGH BEDI

I MUST CONFESS I am still in a state of inebriation after the Indian flag fluttered on Tuesday evening at the Gabba. I did in fact tell my wife, that it was all so orgasmic!

A place far away from home, an intimidating arena, and an Australian fortress now feels so desi, so Indian, a future tourist attraction where cricket-loving Indians from all over the world will take their kids and say, "Look, feel, savour, here is where our cricket team swaggered with their broken bodies and unearthed that intangible quality of character and earned respect."

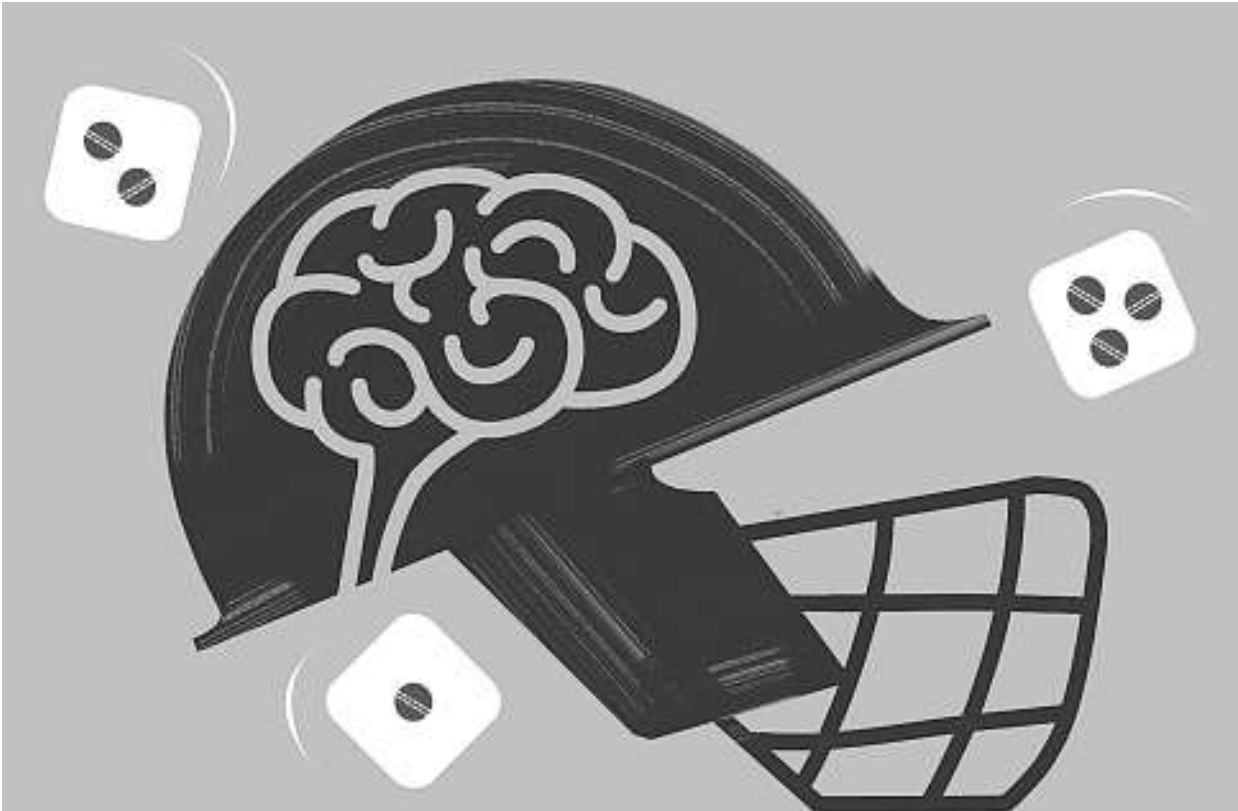
My Twitter handle exploded as I struggled to come to terms with the awesomeness of it all. The media went to town trying their best to describe the Brisbane goosebumps. Social media, however, was miles ahead, devouring every bit of each and every player's family members, who understandably thoroughly enjoyed their reflected sunshine.

However, I didn't understand one particular aspect in this celebration. I don't quite get the need to overemphasise the modest back stories of players. Someone being a rickshaw driver's son has nothing to do with his cricket: On a sporting field all are equals. Those adjectives, intended praise perhaps, seem like slurs. If youngsters are competing on equal terms then where's the need to indulge in pity of any sort? I get that the people want to highlight the hardships involved in the journey to the Indian team for inspiration. But the way it plays out on social media and WhatsApp forwards, it's stripped off those nuances and comes across as insensitive.

Another of my peeve is the hyping tag of "the greatest win ever". It reduces some of the truly great memories of the past as mere footnote-moments. I have tried to get to the bottom of this phenomenon and have concluded that Mother Nature doesn't allow us to keep our memory bank bursting with a distant past. Only recent memories stay alive and kicking. They call it recency bias. And a momentous event like the Gabba glory turns into instant gratification — the need to glorify the present ends up in erasure of the past. The past recedes into a distance, almost out of realms of reality; this is purely a psychological ploy to process the present.

The context of the pandemic, which became the backdrop of this great achievement, also has added further layers. In India, we have had to cope with man-made disasters also. So, this cricket series was played in an environment of doom and gloom. Ajinkya Rahane & Co. have worked wonders to bring smiles to our drab faces. For that we can't be grateful enough, appreciative enough.

Personally, I am floored with the way Rahane conjured magic from broken bodies around him. The way he handled his meagre resources reminds me of Tiger Pataudi, who throughout his captaincy tenure was woefully short of a well-rounded unit but his leadership alone gave Indian cricket fresh legs. It was Pataudi who defined an "Indianness" in our



C R Sasikumar

cricket. He infused in us a thrilling sense of being together in this ride.

Mind you, when Tiger was thrown at the deep end, his biggest qualification was his royal upbringing, the very thing that could have jeopardised his and our chances. The country had chosen democracy, reducing the kings and queens to mythology, to children's games. Tiger never flaunted his regal heritage and got into his groove fairly soon to leave a stamp of utter selflessness and humility — the soul of leadership. I find all these qualities in Rahane and he is a seasoned campaigner unlike Patuadi, who had to find his way in the captaincy maze.

I've observed Rahane pretty closely on this tour. The hallmark of any captain is his ability to handle the bowling resources. This is where yours truly has become an absolute "mured" of Rahane. Three Tests is good enough time to assess a captain's bowling changes and fielding placements. I tried hard but I couldn't find a single Rahane move which could be questioned by armchair critics like me.

Let me keep my views away from the context for a while and lend an ear to Chappell (Ian Chappell), someone not in a habit to be appreciative of foreign captains on Australian soil. Actually, most of the Australian media is pretty notorious when it comes to truly complimenting the leaders of the visiting teams. However, Rahane came in for raving praise from Chappelli and all and sundry in print as well as electronic media.

For me personally, it was more important that the Indian bowlers thrived under Rahane's quiet but watchful eyes. Ravichandran Ashwin is not easily satisfied with himself or even with the man at the helm. But it was heartening to see him at peace with himself and also the captain. You could see him all involved in the final Test even when he wasn't in the playing XI. The obvious sign of a disgruntled dressing room are sulking faces of those carrying drinks.

Even to a critical eye, it was pleasing to see a captain who was unperturbed, unruffled and least demonstrative. What sealed my vote for him was his gesture at the end of the Test.

I've observed Rahane pretty closely on this tour. The hallmark of any captain is his ability to handle the bowling resources. This is where yours truly has become an absolute "mured" of Rahane. Three Tests is good enough time to assess a captain's bowling changes and fielding placements. I tried hard but I couldn't find a single Rahane move which could be questioned by armchair critics like me.

Watching him hand over the glittering Border-Gavaskar Trophy to T Natarajan, a rookie on his first away tour, would have had the cricketing Gods looking down at him with kind eyes. This for me was pure and simple leadership at its honest best.

The great Richie Benaud famously said, "Captaincy is 90 per cent luck and 10 per cent skill. But don't try it without that 10 per cent." Rahane has both, though with a minor change in proportion. He has 50 per cent luck and 50 per cent skill.

I hope I'm not giving the impression of bending my back to build a case for Rahane to take over as Test captain. If anything my sincere aim is to prolong Virat Kohli's batting career for the country. Shared responsibilities in cricket are different from corporate/political fields whence individuals are almost vying for cut-throat glory. In sports, especially cricket, captains can be seen swimming or sinking with the teams they lead.

Another ticklish thought pops up in my mind: Does India need Virat Kohli the great batsman or Virat Kohli a mediocre captain in the long run? Providence has provided us with an instant option. Rahane can lead in Tests while Kohli and Rohit Sharma can share the duties in white-ball cricket. I am certain none of the selectors would want to own up this responsibility. Maybe Kohli can offer to make an honourable way for Rahane to take over during the series against England at home. I can assure no bad blood would be caused when we ensure that the larger picture on the canvas is Indian cricket.

Postscript: Not for a moment am I suggesting that given an opportunity to lead Indian Test side, Rahane will not commit a blunder. Far from it. Having played this game long enough I can safely confide that cricket has a great knack of bringing down a haughty head with a thud. Chances of Rahane meeting with that fate are slender — because he doesn't seem to possess a haughty head, not yet anyway.

The writer captained the Indian cricket team in the 1970s

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Saner media outlets and moderate political elements in India need to address this unhealthy trend before brinkmanship, fuelled by a pliant, cheerleading media, leads to a potential disaster in South Asia.” —DAWN, PAKISTAN

For Super Middlemen

Centre's farm laws transgress Constitution's federal structure. They will create monopolies in agriculture production and trade, hurt farmers



DUSHYANT DAVE

THE CONSTITUTION of India is a "fundamental document", as declared by B R Ambedkar on September 17, 1949 during the Constituent Assembly debates. To him, this document defined the powers and functions of the three organs of the state — the legislature, executive and judiciary: "...in fact, the purpose of a Constitution is not merely to create the organs of the State but to limit their authority because if no limitation was imposed upon the authority of organs, there will be complete tyranny and oppression... it would result in utter chaos."

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (Act 20 of 2020), Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (Act 21 of 2020) and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act (ECA), 2020 (No. 22 of 2020), have been enacted by Parliament, and seemingly step beyond its authority, creating chaos.

Let us examine them from a constitutional perspective. The Supreme Court (SC) has consistently held agriculture to be a state subject. A constitution bench in *ITC Ltd. v. Agricultural Produce Market Committee* (2002) held: "The Constitution of India deserves to be interpreted, language permitting, in a manner that it does not whittle down the powers of the State Legislature and preserves the federalism while also upholding the Central supremacy," holding that Parliament is incompetent to legislate on agriculture.

By Act 22, Parliament has virtually made the ECA, 1955, redundant. Central and state governments can now control the supply and price of essential commodities only in exceptional circumstances. Far from sub-serving the "interests of the general public", interests of large businesses will be served.

Act No. 20 and 21 of 2020, enacted by Parliament are clearly referable to Entry 14 and Entry 28 of List II, which include "agriculture" and "markets". The Constitution distributes in Schedule VII, subjects or matters to be legislated thus: List I for Parliament, List II for state legislatures, and List III for concurrent exercise by both, subject to limitations. Clearly, the Constitution-framers wanted states to deal exclusively with matters relating to agriculture.

T T Krishnamachari, member of the Drafting Committee, made the following pertinent point in the Constituent Assembly on June 14, 1949: "I am one of those who believes, and believes very firmly, that wherever we assign a field to the provinces in which they can act we must leave that province in sole charge of that field..."

Shibanlal Saxena moved an amendment seeking "...that agriculture and land revenue systems all over India should be amenable to planning on an all-India scale". This amendment was not accepted by Krishnamachari

and was rejected. Brajeshwar Prasad proposed an amendment arguing that "agriculture is a vital subject... but here I am only saying that the power to legislate on this subject must remain exclusively in the hands of the Centre." Krishnamachari rejected this saying, that "agriculture happens to be the principal industry in this country, and practically one of the main functions of the State, and beyond taking certain powers for the purpose of co-ordination, I do not think the Centre is at all capable of handling this vast problem..."

The two farm laws, ostensibly meant to create an ecosystem where farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to the sale and purchase of farmers' produce, contain extraordinary provisions opposed to the regulation of markets by states for the sale and purchase of agricultural produce. In *M.C. V. S. Arunachala Nadar Etc vs The State Of Madras & Others*, the SC, speaking through J Subba Rao, asserted "that cultivators suffer from many handicaps; to begin with he is illiterate and in general ignorant of prevailing market prices especially in regard to commercial crops... The establishment of regulated markets must form an essential part of any ordered plan of agricultural development in this country." The Court observed: "The aforesaid observations describe the pitiable dependence of the middle-class and poor ryots on the middlemen and petty traders, with the result that the cultivators are not able to find markets for their produce wherein they can expect reasonable price for them."

The new farm laws, far from providing regulated markets, purport to leave cultivators to the mercy of the free market. A farming agreement for one or five years, providing for various facets of the field of produce, including time, standards and price and other related matters, the power of inspection and rejection can create serious hurdles for the illiterate and ignorant cultivator. State laws do not apply once a farming agreement has been entered into and no stock limit applies to quantities of farming produce purchased thereunder, notwithstanding the ECA. The freedom to carry on inter-state or intra-state trade and commerce in farm produce is now absolute. No levy or fee can be levied under the state APMC Act or any other law of the state.

The farm laws are clearly aimed at creating trading giants in agricultural produce who can control agricultural activity. These laws create "super middlemen" to replace the existing smaller middlemen, hurting the cultivators even more. The availability of regulated markets and the hope for fair prices stand shattered. Farm laws run counter to the state's policy, inter-alia, to distribute material resources to sub-serve common good, a Directive Principle.

In its 2019 election manifesto, the BJP had made 12 promises to farmers declaring, "at the very beginning of our current term, Prime Minister Modi embarked on a mission to double farmers' income. We will make all efforts to achieve this goal by 2022." So, what made it take a complete U-Turn? And why is the PM not willing to keep up his promise? We will never know.

The writer is a senior advocate and former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association



BIBEK DEBROY

TIMES CHANGE and economies evolve. If one hangs on to policies simply because of a historical legacy, that will be an inferior response. There was an Air Corporations Act of 1953, repealed in 1994. It is unlikely anyone will want the pre-1994 monopoly of Indian Airlines and Air India simply because this was perceived to be important in 1953. The Essential Commodities Act (ECA), dated 1955, is roughly of the same vintage. That's not quite correct — ECA's antecedents are of an earlier vintage. It goes back to war-time shortages and the Defence of India Act, 1939. When World War II was over, there was no possible justification for that particular Defence of India Act and it was repealed. However, there was justification for government control over "essential" commodities, "essential" being defined as necessary and indispensable.

Accordingly, there was first an ordinance and then an Act in 1946, the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act. The preamble and title indicated this was meant to be temporary. Meanwhile, we had the Constitution and under Article 269, the Union government had powers to enact laws for items on the State List, as if they were on the Concurrent List. But only for five years "from the commencement of the Constitution". That took us to 1955 and we can skip the details of how Entry 33 in the Concurrent List was amended so that the ECA permanently entered the statute books.

Footwear may be essential, in the sense of being indispensable. That doesn't necessarily mean the government should "control the

Necessary, not essential

Need to control prices of certain commodities is historically contingent

production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce" in footwear. At least that's what most people will think now. However, if we cast our minds back, in 1973, a Planning Commission "Committee on Essential Commodities and Articles of Mass Consumption" concluded that the following were essential items — cereals, pulses, sugar, gur and khandasari; edible oils and vanaspati; milk, eggs and fish; common clothing; standard footwear; kerosene oil and domestic fuels; common drugs and medicines; bicycles, bicycle tyres and tubes; matches, dry cells and hurricane lanterns; soaps and detergents; textbooks and stationery. Hence, it felt, "in the urban sector the requirement would be to make available one or two common types of footwear — called 'Janta' shoes or chappals — at reasonable prices." The distribution of "common clothing, standard footwear and soaps and detergents may be entrusted to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation".

Over time, in addition to those listed by Planning Commission, the essential products list included aluminium, art silk textiles, cement, cinema carbon, coarse grains, coconut husks, coir retting, cold storages, collieries, copper, cotton, drugs, dry batteries, electrical appliances, electrical cables and wires, ethyl alcohol, fertilisers, food grains, fruit, furnace oil, electric lamps, diesel oil, household electrical appliances, cars, maize, insecticides, iron and steel, jute and jute textiles, kerosene, linoleum, LPG, lubricating oils and grease, meat, molasses, mustard oil, newsprint, oil

pressure stoves, paper, paraffin wax, petroleum products, plants, fruits and seeds, pulses and edible oils, groundnut oil, rice, salt, sugar and sugarcane, synthetic rubber, tea, textiles, tractors, two-wheelers, tyres and tubes, vegetable oil, wheat. The ECA has a schedule (Section 2) of what is "essential" and if an item is in that schedule, it is axiomatically "essential". Before liberalisation, there were around 80 Union government-level orders and around 150 state government-level orders decreeing various items as "essential". Note that if an item is not in the schedule, under that same Section 2, when circumstances warrant, it can be put back on the schedule, sometimes for a limited period of six months.

The progressive tightening of the ECA manifested itself through more and more items being added to the schedule. In addition, offences were made non-bailable and there were special courts. For example, in 1974, an amendment noted, "The hoarders, black-marketeers are playing hell with the lives of millions of people in the country." Hence, offences were made non-bailable. We shouldn't forget the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act of 1981 or the 1980 Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act either.

Hording has a negative nuance attached to it, though hoarders often perform a useful function of reducing price volatility. In contrast, black marketing has a uniformly negative nuance. But black markets exist only when there

is a shortage. Just because an item like footwear is indispensable, there is no call for the government to intervene in the market. The antecedents were because of war-related shortages. The subsequent shortage was created through industrial licencing. Licencing led to entry barriers and shortages. Shortages led to price controls and government intervention. In 1973, the Planning Commission also recognised this: "Assured supply of specific essential commodities and articles of mass consumption at reasonably stable prices will not be a practical proposition if domestic availability of these items does not expand in line with the growing demand." But, in that day and age, it didn't recommend an end to licencing.

When delicensing occurred, there was no longer any shortage of manufactured products and several items have progressively been removed from the essential items schedule. Why are people upset that cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes have been removed from the schedule? If necessary, they can always be put back, hopefully temporarily. More importantly, there is an issue of de-seasonalising prices of agricultural commodities, often subject to cycles. But the ECA doesn't solve that problem. It is solved by ensuring storage and processing, allowing markets to function, not through limiting them.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMERICAN MESSAGE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'America afresh' (IE, January 21). Democracy has returned to America. As Joe Biden his Inaugural Address he said, "This is America's day... This is democracy's day." And, "We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts". That was a message not just for America but for all nations of world.

Melville X D'Souza, Mumbai

LAW NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Legal loophole' (IE, January 21). Since WhatsApp issued its new privacy policy, it has been a topic of discussion among millions of users in India. The consequences of not accepting the policy was clearly mentioned — a possible deletion of the account. The language and the nature of the consequence is offensive to WhatsApp's largest market in the world. The root cause is that India doesn't have a personal data protection law, which has been in the pipeline for years.

Ayushi Singh, Agra

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Legal loopholes' (IE, January 21). WhatsApp's decision to delay the update of its privacy policy is an implicit acknowledgement of the increasing role played by perceptions about privacy in the continued well-being of a popular service. Privacy of a billion citizens is too impor-

IDEAS ONLINE

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tant a thing to be left just to the practices of a commercial enterprise. It will be reassuring if it is guaranteed by a strong law.

SS Paul, Nadia

WELCOME BIDEN

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'I will be President for all Americans: Joe Biden' (IE, January 21). Biden's words are a solace for every American. That society, riven by his predecessor Donald Trump's racist words and actions, needed this moment. Biden is so unhappy with Trump's discriminatory policies that he signed as many as 17 executive orders to nullify them on his first day.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

BRIEFLY



Havildar Nirmal Singh

Army Havildar killed in Pak firing in Poonch

Jammu: An Army Havildar was killed on Thursday after Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district. Identifying the soldier as Havildar Nirmal Singh of 10 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, an Udhampur-based Army PRO said he was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries. Indian troops had responded "strongly" to the enemy fire, he added. Havildar Nirmal Singh was a brave, highly motivated and a sincere soldier, he said, adding that the nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA
Govt: Can move Varavara Rao to JJ hospital ward

Mumbai: Prison authorities told the Bombay High Court on Thursday that Telugu poet Varavara Rao, who is an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, can be moved to the prison ward of the state-run JJ Hospital. The state government also submitted that Rao's family members will be allowed to visit him based on hospital protocols during the Covid-19 pandemic. A division bench was hearing a plea filed by Rao's wife, seeking his bail on grounds of poor health. **ENS**

TELANGANA
Man sets son on fire for delay in getting beedis

Hyderabad: A 10-year-old boy, who was allegedly set ablaze by his father for delay in getting beedis from a shop, died at a hospital here, police said on Thursday. He was set on fire on the night of January 17 as his father was also angry with him for not focusing on his studies, police said. The boy, who suffered 90 per cent burns, was shifted to a hospital and succumbed to injuries Wednesday night, a police officer said. The father, an alcoholic, allegedly set him on fire after pouring turpentine oil, police said. He was subsequently arrested and is currently under judicial custody, police said. **PTI**

PUNJAB
53,000 poultry birds to be culled at Mohali

Chandigarh: About 53,000 birds of two poultry farms in Punjab's Mohali are to be culled after some samples from there tested positive for avian flu, a senior official said on Thursday. The reports of samples taken from two poultry farms at Behra village in Dera Bassi were received from National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases lab in Bhopal on Wednesday. "The culling of around 53,000 birds will either start today evening or tomorrow," said VK Janjua, Additional Chief Secretary (Animal Husbandry and Dairy). **ENS**

PM to interact with beneficiaries, vaccinators in Varanasi today

Modi, other elected representatives may take jab in phase 2

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

WITH NEARLY one million health workers getting the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Friday speak with some of these beneficiaries on their inoculation experience in order to boost confidence among the people.

"The world's largest vaccination drive is underway in India. Our frontline warriors are getting vaccinated across the nation. At 1:15 PM tomorrow, 22nd January, I would interact with beneficiaries and vaccinators of Covid vaccination drive in Varanasi, via video conferencing," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

Sources in the PMO indicated that as another step towards creating vaccine confidence, the Prime Minister and other elected representatives will likely take the vaccine in the second phase, when the priority group above the age of 50 will be inoculated.

"The PM also is likely to take the vaccine. In the first phase, it was meant for health workers and frontline workers. Now, it will not be out of turn for political leaders," said a source.

The Union Health Ministry Thursday said the cumulative number of vaccinated healthcare workers had touched 9,99,065 till 6 pm. The Prime Minister said the virtual interaction "would give first-hand opportunity to hear their experiences as well as feedback" on vaccination.

"The interaction follows continuous dialogue and discussion by the Prime Minister with scientists, political leaders, officials and other stakeholders to proactively ensure smooth conduct of



A consignment of Covishield vaccines sent by India arrives in Dhaka on Thursday. India on Thursday delivered two million doses of Covishield to Bangladesh and one million doses to Nepal, while commercial supply is expected to start on Friday with shipments to Brazil and Morocco. *PTI*

the world's largest vaccination drive," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

On the demand by several states, including BJP-ruled Bihar, that elected representatives be included in the first priority group, Modi during his interaction with Chief Ministers had earlier said: "...This is my personal suggestion. First are the corona warriors, second are frontline workers. The people's representatives are not included in this category."

The Health Ministry said that on Thursday, 4,041 vaccination sessions were conducted across the country and 1,92,581 beneficiaries were vaccinated till 6 pm. "187 Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) have been reported till 6 pm on the sixth day of the vaccination drive," the ministry said.

The Health Ministry said one hospitalisation following immunization has been reported from Rajasthan—however, the event was "not related to vaccination". The beneficiary was vaccinated

on January 16 and four days later suffered from intracranial hemorrhage and was admitted to an Udaipur hospital.

On Thursday, Odisha (26,558), Telangana (26,441), Karnataka (16,103) and Bihar (15,798) recorded the maximum vaccinations in the country.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Health Ministry unveiled an "Information, Education and Communication" campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. "Let us put a stop to these falsehoods. All eminent doctors of well-known hospitals have taken the vaccine and praised the exercise for its desired end," Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, said during the launch. "...The paradox is that countries across the globe are asking us for access to the vaccines while a section of our own is fomenting misinformation..." Vardhan said while urging everyone to seek correct information from credible and authentic sources.

4.3 lakh frontline railway staffers to get shots

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

MORE THAN 4.3 lakh railway employees have been selected to receive the coronavirus vaccine as part of the country's frontline work force. They include station masters, engine drivers, security personnel, ticket checkers and trackmen.

After discussions with the Health Ministry, Railways started compiling a list of its frontline staff. More than 30,000 railway employees have so far contracted Covid-19 and around 700 have died from it.

With freight train operations in full swing and passenger train services getting back to pre-lockdown levels, it was decided to insulate the critical staff of the national transporter engaged with public interface work as well as backroom operations such as maintenance from the virus.

The majority of the shots will be received by commercial staff associated in public interface work such as ticket checking. Around 36,000 station workers, including station masters, are on the list. More than 70,000 are inspectors, ticket checkers and others who are on trains and stations.

Around 70,000 are from the Railway Protection Force, while 41,000 loco pilots and 44,000 assistant loco pilots will get the vaccine. This apart, 8,000 trackmen and around 6,000 shunters have also been identified. Healthcare staff of the Indian Railways will also be insulated. Around 32,000 health workers and around 5,000 contractual staff are on the list.



Expelled AIADMK leader V K Sasikala being taken to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday. *PTI*

Sasikala tests positive for Covid, condition stable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JANUARY 21

V K SASIKALA, the close aide of late J Jayalalithaa, tested positive for the Covid-19 on Thursday night. Ahead of her release from the Bangalore Parappana Agrahara Central prison on January 27, where she was a convict in a disproportionate assets case, Sasikala was taken to Bowring Hospital Wednesday after she complained of breathlessness.

Following her family's request, she was shifted to Victoria Hospital on Thursday. She was be-

ing treated in the ICU for Severe Acute Respiratory Infection.

Sources close to her family said some family members were allowed to visit her and that her condition is stable. A medical bulletin from Victoria Hospital on Thursday, before the Covid-19 test result came in, said she was being treated for Severe Acute Respiratory Illness with antibiotics, an antiviral, besides insulin, steroids and other supportive measures. Sasikala was reportedly unwell at her prison cell for about a week and she was shifted to hospital after she developed a high temperature and complained of breathlessness.



The unseasonal supply crunch being seen at present is basically a lagged effect of the lockdown. *Express file*

six-year high is good for Indian farmers. It also opens up export possibilities, especially of white butter and ghee," said RS Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). Anhydrous milk fat (ghee) prices soared 172% to \$5,398 per tonne in the latest GDT auction, while

butter was traded at an average of \$4,735. That latter works out to around Rs 346 per kg, which is, in fact, above the Rs 305-310 being realised by Indian dairies on domestic sales.

Hardening of milk prices is nevertheless unusual at this time. The calving season for animals, when more milk starts

SC issues notice on petition against web series 'Mirzapur'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday issued a notice to Amazon Prime Video and Excel Entertainment, the makers of 'Mirzapur', on a plea seeking a ban on the second season of the web series on the ground that it "has completely tarnished the historical and cultural image of the city/district". The petition also sought setting up of a pre-screening committee for programmes directly launched on online platforms.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde also sought the response of the central government on the petition filed by Sujeet Kumar Singh, a 38-year-old farmer from a village in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur.

Rudra Vikram Singh, the petitioner's lawyer and younger brother, said he had not moved against 'Mirzapur 1' as it had already been released. The petition was filed on September 22 last year, seeking a ban on the second season which was due for release in October. It came up for hearing on Thursday.

After 'Tandav', another UP police team lands in Mumbai to probe 'Mirzapur' FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

ANOTHER TEAM of Uttar Pradesh police arrived in Mumbai on Thursday to investigate into a case against makers of web series 'Mirzapur'. On Wednesday, a team from Lucknow had landed in Mumbai to probe a case registered against makers of 'Tandav'.

Senior officials from the Mumbai Police said UP police approached officials from the Bandra police station on Thursday, seeking help with the investigation into the FIR registered at Kotwali Dehat police station of Mirzapur. The FIR was registered on a complaint lodged by Arvind Chaturvedi, who alleged that the show "has hurt his religious sentiments".

Akbar to court: Ramani destroyed evidence by deleting Twitter account

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

FORMER UNION Minister M J Akbar, who has filed a criminal defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani over allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment, told a Delhi court through his lawyers on Thursday that she "deliberately, intentionally, maliciously" destroyed evidence by deleting the Twitter account.

Akbar has sued Ramani over allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment. With several other women making similar allegations against him, Akbar re-signed as Minister of State for External Affairs in October 2018.

The submissions were made by senior advocate Geeta Luthra on behalf of Akbar before

The petition was filed on September 22 last year, seeking a ban on the second season, which was due for release in October

According to the petition, the web series "has shown every resident of Mirzapur as goon, vagabond and adulterer in front of the country", so much so that its residents "feel shy and hesitant" when people outside Mirzapur look at them with suspicion after watching the series. It is full of "nudity, vulgarity... and abusive language", the petition said.

Such shows "are clear violation of the dictum of the Supreme Court to block the publication or transmission of obscene material containing sexually explicit act or conduct and also publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act or conduct and also publishing or transmitting material depicting children in sexually explicit act or conduct forthwith", it said.

The complainant has also said the show promoted social enmity, showcased abusive content and presented the district in poor light and even showed illicit relations on screen.

The FIR has named show producers Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar and Bhaumik Gondaliya under sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC along with sections of the Information Technology Act.

A senior official from the Mumbai Police said they will co-operate with the UP police. "They need help in getting office and res-

Singh said Mirzapur was founded in AD 1700 and was at one point in time the greatest trading centre in northern India. It is famous for its brass ware and carpet industry, he said. Besides the Vindhyachal Temple, which is one of the 108 Shaktipeethas, the place is also home to Kantil Sharif Dargah and Ashtabhuj Temple.

Also, it was the workplace of Rashtra Kavi Nirala, who lit a flame of revolution against the British, Singh said in his petition, among other things that make Mirzapur famous. All this notwithstanding, the series portrays "that the city/district belongs to the goons only". It shows the district administration and judiciary bowing down to goons, the petitioner said, adding that women are shown as promiscuous and in some cases incestuous.

The petition urged the government to ban the show's sequel, 'Mirzapur 2', and to make certification mandatory before releasing any web series, movie or other programmes on any online platform. Petitioner Sujeet Kumar Singh, 38, is a farmer from Pasaiya Dagmagpur village who grows wheat and mustard crops.

idental addresses of persons named in the FIR and we have helped them with that," an officer said.

The team from Lucknow, meanwhile, is set to leave for UP on Friday as it could not find anyone affiliated with 'Tandav'. Inspector Anil Kumar Singh said, "We went to the residential addresses of director Ali Abbas Zafar and writer Gaurav Solanki in Andheri (West), but they were not at home. While we even visited producer Himanshu Mehra's office address in Andheri, it seems that he vacated that office two years ago."

Officials said as the UP police could not find them, they were unable to serve notices to them. Singh further added that they will start their journey for UP on Friday.

KUTCH VIOLENCE
36 arrested for rioting, probe into migrant death continues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, JANUARY 21

THREE DAYS after two groups belonging to different communities clashed, leaving a migrant worker dead and several injured in Kidana village near Gandhidham town in Kutch district, 'B' Division police station of Gandhidham has arrested 36 people for rioting even as a fourth FIR has been registered in connection with that incident.

"We arrested 36 people yesterday in connection with the case of rioting registered after the violence in Kidana. Those who have been arrested are the people who were rounded up after the violence," Mayur Patil, Superintendent of Police, Kutch (east), said.

Those arrested belong to the both the groups that clashed in Kidana village on January 17 during Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) rath yatra to collect funds for the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya. "For us, who belongs to what group is not important. All that matters is that they were involved in the offence," the SP added.

The FIR, the basis, on which the arrests were made, said violence started when leaders of the rath yatra started raising religious slogans loudly when the rath reached Masjid Chowk.

In the clashes, Arjun Sovaiya, a 30-year-old migrant worker from Jharkhand, was allegedly stabbed to death and the auto-rickshaw he was travelling in was set on fire. The murder charge is in the FIR lodged by the auto driver Nurmamad Chavda at the same police station.

Patil, however, said no one was arrested in connection with the murder. "Investigation is going on but we are collecting more evidence. We are analysing CCTV footage and video clips recorded in phones," said the SP.



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

FROM 40,000 TO 50,000 IN A YEAR AND A HALF, LAST 5,000 IN A MONTH AND A HALF

JUNE 4, 2019 40,000 On hope of RBI cutting repo rates in its forthcoming monetary policy statement amid subdued inflation CLOSING VALUE: 40083.5	NOV 27, 2019 41,000 Optimism around signing of first phase of US-China trade deal CLOSING VALUE: 41020.0	NOV 9, 2020 42,000 Pfizer announces high efficacy of its vaccine CLOSING VALUE: 42597.0	NOV 10, 2020 43,000 Vaccine hope lifts markets further CLOSING VALUE: 43277.0	NOV 18, 2020 44,000 Strong FPI inflows and more vaccines coming in fray CLOSING VALUE: 44180.0	DEC 4, 2020 45,000 RBI said GDP will contract by 7.5% for the year as against its previous projection of -9.5% CLOSING VALUE: 45079.0	DEC 9, 2020 46,000 Hope of vaccine, stimulus package and FPI inflows CLOSING VALUE: 46103.0	DEC 28, 2020 47,000 UK- EU announced Brexit deal and Donald Trump gave go ahead to Covid relief CLOSING VALUE: 47353.7	JAN 4, 2021 48,000 SEC gave approval to two vaccines between Jan 1 and Jan 2 lifting investor sentiment. CLOSING VALUE: 48176.8	JAN 11, 2021 49,000 Hope of mega stimulus by Biden administration as he called for spending spree in trillions of dollars CLOSING VALUE: 49269.3	JAN 21, 2021 50,000 Joe Biden takes oath as US President and calls for unity, peace and growth. Dow Jones hits all time high. CLOSING VALUE: 49,624.76
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EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Sensex @50,000, what next for investors

The non-stop bull rally on the stock markets has taken the benchmark over the milestone of 50,000. But several questions loom over the market horizon: Is the rally for real? Why is it happening? Will the bull run continue?



SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW

How has the Sensex moved and changed over time?

Launched on January 2, 1986 (base year: 1978-79 = 100), the country's first equity index has risen from 124 in April 1979 to 50,000 today, a compounded annual growth rate of 15.9% over 42 years. From 1990, when it hit 1,000, the CAGR of the S&P BSE Sensex is 13.5%.

Thirty-five years ago, there were no IT companies and banking stocks in the benchmark index; it now has 9 stocks from banking and finance, and 4 information technology companies. Only five companies that were initially part of the index retain their place — Reliance Industries, HUL, ITC, L&T, and M&M.

What is behind the unhindered rise of the market?

The continuous rally that followed the crash triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic in February and March 2020, was driven by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs); since April 1, 2020, inflows have hit a record Rs 2.41 lakh crore. The system is flush with liquidity, which is one reason for the non-stop rally.

The latest spike that has pushed the Sensex past 50,000 is primarily on account of the smooth transition of power in the United States after the deadly January 6 siege of the Capitol. As President Joe Biden offered hope — promising to take all Americans along and hinting at improving relations with the rest of the world — market sentiments were lifted. Biden's proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus is

likely to keep global markets at elevated levels for now.

Analysts expect the combination of strong capital inflows, low interest rates, leaner corporate balance sheets, and steps taken by the government, to quicken the pace of economic recovery in India. GDP, which contracted by 23.9% in the June quarter, is expected to rise by 0.1% in the December quarter. In the first half of 2021-22, the economy will grow at 14.2%, according to a Reserve Bank of India study. Apart from robust FPI inflows, a big reason for the rally has been the impressive corporate results in the second and third quarters.

Is the rally broad-based, or limited to only a few stocks?

The Sensex, which fell by 36% between February and March 23, 2020 — when it closed at 25,981 — has risen by 68% since April 1. On Thursday, it hit an all-time high of 50,184, before retreating to close at 49,624. While this has been the gain for the 30-stock index at BSE, the broader markets too have been part of the rally.

Over the same period, the BSE mid cap index has risen over 80%, and the small cap index by over 95%. Almost all major sectors have participated in the rally — the auto index has jumped 117%; and metal and IT indices have risen 110% and 105% respectively. The technology, capital goods and health-care, banking and consumer durable indices have risen by over 60%; the oil and gas index by 47%; and the telecom and FMCG indices by 46% and 24% respectively.

At this point, is there optimism about the future?

There is optimism for several reasons. The sharp decline in Covid-19 numbers and the beginning of mass vaccination have raised hopes for normalisation of the economy, and the strong showing by companies in the third quarter has been a positive sign.

With the uptick in demand for steel, cement, and real estate, as well as in consump-

tion, analysts expect to see a restarting of investment by the corporate sector over a period of 12 months from now.

While the low interest rate scenario is likely to continue for sometime both on the domestic and global fronts, there is talk of a fiscal stimulus in the Budget on February 1, which could provide a fillip to the economy and markets. Many see the Budget exercise as an opportunity for the government to showcase its agenda for reforms and growth of the economy going forward.

Finally, the soothing words from President Biden at his inauguration have brought hope of improvement in the global trade environment, and a rebuilding of trust and better trading relations between countries.

Does this mean the market will continue to rise?

As of now, the bulls seem energetic — and barring temporary blips, markets are likely to remain at elevated levels, and rise further. While the transition in the US is comforting for markets, there is expectation of additional stimulus, some of which are likely to find its way into Indian equity markets. There is hope that the worst of the pandemic is over, and that rapid vaccination will bring confidence and define the pace of recovery in the economy.

The Indian rally has been driven by the huge liquidity in global markets, and FPIs are expected to bring more funds into Indian equities in the coming financial year as global interest rates remain low and India's economic fundamentals make the country an attractive investment destination.

Are there any concerns, and reasons to be cautious?

While investors want the rally to continue, they know that the markets are trading in an expensive zone, and a dose of negative news may just pull the trigger for a correction. Vaccines have been great news for markets since November 2020, but some concerns remain over new mutant strains of

the virus, and the effectiveness of vaccines against them.

Many feel that the duration of the stimulus programme will be key. If the central banks decide to pull the plug earlier than expected, then the markets could see correction as economies need to come back on track before the stimulus is rolled back.

"As of now, liquidity is pushing up the market. When the liquidity tap closes, there could be some correction. The RBI can't keep on pumping liquidity into the system as it will push up inflation. Some marketmen also feel fundamentals are being ignored. Retail investors should not blindly put money in stocks. Retail investors have burnt their fingers several times in the past," a veteran stock broker Pawan Dhamidharka said.

The aspect of inclusivity has been flagged. Small businesses and individuals at the bottom of the pyramid were worst hit by the pandemic, but the recovery so far remains largely limited to large and medium corporates. "The government's fiscal support will have to take care of this, because if growth is not inclusive, it will not be sustainable in the long term," the CEO of a leading mutual fund said.

Analysts say that the rise in inflation, tightening of monetary policy, and increase in interest rates will also be critical for the markets. If the US decides to increase rates, money will start flowing back from emerging market equities to US treasuries, and that may result in a correction.

"Investors should not get carried away by the euphoria of this bull run. At high

levels, markets are vulnerable to corrections," V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Should you book some profits now?

It won't be a bad idea to book some profits on investments that have achieved their targeted growth, and for investors who need to go for asset allocation. However, one has to be clear on the new investment destination, as booking profits to reinvest when markets fall, may not pan out as expected.

It must always be remembered that while investments should be made in a regular and disciplined manner, redemption or profit-booking must be planned and executed when the markets are on a high, or when the expected gains have been achieved. Experts say it is better to pull out from individual stock investments, and to allow the mutual funds to play out because mutual fund investments are diversified and less risky.

Feb 2014 to Jan 2015

The Sensex rises sharply from levels of 20,000 to 29,000, or around 45%, with the surge beginning amid expectations of victory of the BJP-led NDA under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

Feb 2006 to Dec 2007

The Sensex doubles from 10,000 to 20,000. The is driven by high economic activity, high GDP growth rates and strong inflow from foreign portfolio investors.

Jan 2004 to Dec 2005

The Sensex rises sharply from levels of around 6,000 to 9,000, led by low interest rates in the economy, high pace of infrastructure development and a revised GDP growth rate for 2005-06.

July 1991 to April 1992

The Sensex almost trebles from levels of around 1,500 to 4,500, following the hugely reformist budget presented by then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh in July 1991.

Trump's presidency, reflected in his golf

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

IT WON'T quite make the second impeachment dossier amid the litany of other offences. But caddies can testify that outgoing President Donald Trump killed trees on a golf course.

He would carry a can of red spray paint in his golf cart. "Whenever his ball hit a tree that he didn't think was fair, he'd go up and paint a big X on it," Rick Reilly writes in *Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump* in 2019. "The next day the tree was gone," a caddy told Reilly of Trump's whims on the golf course, which turned out to be a microcosm of his presidency.

When the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of America revoked hosting rights of the 2022 PGA championship of the Bedminster golf course he owned, Trump was said to be furious. Talk of impeachment had already incensed him, but after the PGA's dumping, he is said to have worked up an altogether different level of frenzy.

It is no secret that Trump consistently sought refuge in golf. The grass was always greener on that side. Though, when it wasn't — like at Pinehurst one year — he raged about turtlebacks on the course: "Disgraceful... ugly ... burnt... just to save water."

"I would make golf aspirational, instead of trying to bring everybody into golf, people that are never gonna be able to be there anyway."

Obama shouldn't play

When trying to win the presidency in 2016, Trump got stuck into incumbent Barack Obama's golfing, tweeting about it 27 times between 2011 and 2016, *SB Nation* counted. "Can you believe that, with all of the problems and difficulties facing the US, President Obama



At Trump National Golf Club in Virginia in November 2020. *The New York Times*

spent the day playing golf. Worse than Carter," he said in 2014.

If elected, he promised, he'd have no time for a round. But in his first year itself, Trump made between 87 and 94 trips to the golf course. His Mar-a-Lago golf property in Florida became the "Winter White House". Bedminster was White House for summers.

In 2017, *Newsweek* reported that a giant white box truck blocked camera views of photographers who would click the identifiable red cap from behind hedges. This was Golfgate. The US Secret Service had to release a statement saying: "The USSS is in the business of protection and investigations not in commissioning vehicles to block the media's view of the President's golf swing."

Golf and diplomacy

Trump's presidency had milked the prop-

erty at Bedminster by doubling the initiation fee to \$200,000 (which went up to \$450,000 by 2019). A press detail always accompanied him to his properties; POTUS would even plug his properties in UN speeches. And the Secret Service spent \$150,000 in golf cart rentals (their largest spending) to tail and protect Trump, USA Today reported in 2018.

Lobbyists had figured that the President could be easily accessed (and flattered) with a casual membership of his club — where they could "run into" him.

But it was the company of the pros that Trump sought — from Tiger Woods to Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau. Annika Sorenstam and Gary Player were receiving Presidential Medals of Freedom a day after the January 6 storming of the Capitol.

Trump hosted heads of state such as the Chinese premier and Japanese former PM Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago. The then Australian PM had to lean in on golf legend Greg Norman for Trump's cell number, while the New Zealand premier was asked by Trump to pass on a fanboy-message and request a meeting with the 1963 British Open champ Bob Charles, 80, who quipped that he might be a rare New Zealander Trump actually knew, solely on account of golf.

But diplomacy took a sinister turn when a couple of former Presidents of Colombia turned up at Trump's Florida golf club and met him unofficially, persuading him that a peace process underway with rebels back home would best be scuttled, according to a report by *mclatchydc.com*.

Trump's golf diplomacy emboldened Republican fundraiser Elliot Broidy to try and set up a "golf date" with Trump for a former Malaysian PM to lobby for resolving corrup-

tion charges that would help Broidy's financial interests in 2017. Though the outing never happened, Broidy, who pleaded guilty to undisclosed lobbying later, received one of the 74 Presidential pardons announced on Tuesday.

His eccentricities

While acquiring a Scottish golf course (one of 18 he owns on either side of the Atlantic, Dubai and Indonesia), intending to rebuild it, Trump declared the surrounding wind farms "stupid" because they spoil his view. But his cheating on the course filled up an entire Reilly book. He could bump up scores because they "sounded better" to those he gloated to later, he tampered with them when writing, blamed an opponent for distracting, made rules as he went along and moved the ball to mask his wretched chipping game. Caddies would call him 'Pele' for kicking the ball into fairways out of bunkers. And he rationalised cheating: "Opponent cheats. So one needs to cheat to beat them. If it's all the same and everybody's cheating, then it's no cheating at all."

He claims his handicap is 3; caddies say it could be 8 or 9 — including a few who cheated on his behalf. "He's always got four balls in his pocket. He fizzes [botches] his ball on every hole. All 18. I promise you. Every hole," Reilly was told by caddies. At times, he simply self-improved scores from 78 to 72 as the day wore on, gloating to different people.

Just like his "club championships" had bulged to 18. "Whenever I open a new golf course," Reilly quotes him, "I play the official opening round and then I just call that the first club championship."

"I'm a winner," he would crow about his golf titles, at Presidential campaigns in 2016. A lie that bookended his term, as it turned out.



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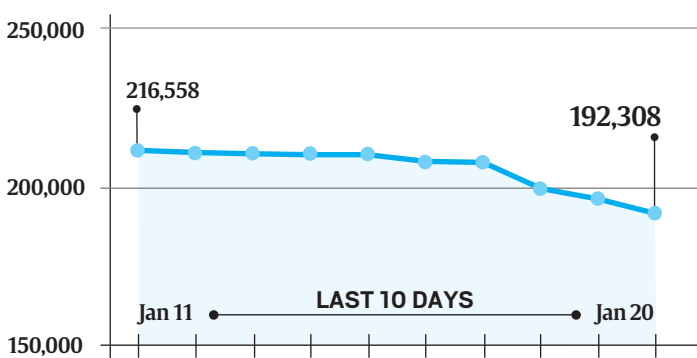
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CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

192,308



Note: The Jan 20 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Jan 21

INDIA TOTAL CASES
10,610,883

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Jan 21

WORLD TOTAL CASES
97,008,069

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Jan 21

TOPOF THE
WORLDRescuers drill a new channel to reach the miners. **AP**

CHINA

Trapped miners must wait 15 more days

WORKERS TRAPPED in a gold mine in China since January 10 may have to wait another 15 days before they can be rescued because of a blockage on their intended escape route, officials said Thursday. A total of 22 workers were trapped underground after an explosion at the Hushan mine in Qixia, a major gold-producing region under the administration of Yantai in Shandong province. One is confirmed to have died, while 11 are known to be alive. The remaining 10 are missing. Rescuers were drilling new shafts to reach 10 of the men in the middle section of the mine, over 600 metres from the entrance. **REUTERS**

RUSSIA

Web firms told to stop promoting Navalny protests to minors

RUSSIA HAS asked social networks, including video-sharing app TikTok, to stop the spread of posts encouraging minors to take part in unsanctioned rallies on Saturday in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic, was detained at the weekend and later jailed for alleged parole violations after flying back to Russia for the first time since being poisoned by a military grade nerve agent. He accuses Putin of ordering his murder, something the Kremlin denies. **REUTERS**

USA

3 die in National Guard helicopter crash in NY

A NEW York Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter on a routine training mission crashed in a rural area south of Rochester on Wednesday evening, leaving three Guard members dead, the authorities said. It was not immediately clear what caused the aircraft, a UH-60 medical evacuation helicopter, to crash. Sheriff Todd K. Baxter of Monroe County said that people had called 911 and reported seeing a helicopter flying very low before the crash. **NYT**

On 1st full day in office, Biden focuses on Covid, requires mask use for travel

Initiates strategy to ramp up vaccination, open schools; Fauci announces renewed US support to WHO

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

DEEP IN the deadliest coronavirus wave and facing worrisome new strains, President Joe Biden will initiate a national Covid-19 strategy to ramp up vaccinations and testing, reopen schools and businesses and increase the use of masks — including a requirement that Americans mask up for travel.

Biden also will address inequities in hard-hit minority communities as he signs 10 pandemic-related executive orders on Thursday, his first full day in office as the Commander-in-Chief.

Biden has vowed to take far more aggressive measures to contain the virus than his predecessor, starting with stringent adherence to public health guidance. He faces steep obstacles, with the virus actively spreading in most states, slow progress on vaccination and political uncertainty over how willing congressional Republicans will be to help him pass a \$1.9 trillion economic relief and Covid response package.

Biden's top medical adviser on Covid-19, Dr Anthony Fauci, also announced renewed US support for the World Health Organisation after it faced blistering criticism from the Trump administration, laying out new commitments to tackle the coronavirus and other global health issues. Fauci said early Thursday that the US will join the UN health agency's efforts to bring vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to people in need, whether in rich or poor countries and will resume full funding and staffing support for WHO.

The US mask order for travel being implemented by Biden will apply to airports and planes, ships, intercity buses, trains and public transportation. Travellers from abroad must furnish a negative Covid-19 test before departing for the US and quarantine upon arrival. **AP**

President Joe Biden, flanked by Vice President Kamala Harris and other officials, signs documents in the President's Room at the US Capitol after the Inauguration. **AP**

China strikes optimistic tone with Biden administration

CATE CADELL
BEIJING, JANUARY 21

CHINA STRUCK an optimistic tone towards US President Joe Biden's new administration on Thursday, saying "kind angels can triumph over evil forces" and playing down early irritants as the result of an atmosphere poisoned by Donald Trump's term in office.

"I believe if both countries put in the effort, the kind angels can triumph over evil forces," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday.

Taiwan's de facto ambassador to Washington attended Biden's inauguration with an official invitation, a first that indicated that the new president's administration would continue with Trump's increased support



Chinese govt spokesperson Hua Chunying

for the democratic island that Beijing claims as part of China.

Also on Wednesday, the new Biden administration criticized China's move to impose sanctions on former Trump administration officials including Pompeo as "unproductive and cynical".

Asked about both, Hua defended the sanctions and reaffirmed China's opposition to any official contact between the United States and Taiwan. She said China would fight back against any moves that undermine its sovereignty or interests. **REUTERS**

Twitter locks account of Beijing's embassy in US

Shanghai: Twitter has locked the account of China's US embassy for a tweet that defended China's policy towards Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang, which the US social media platform said violated its stand against "dehumanising" people. The Chinese Embassy account, @ChineseEmbInUS, posted a tweet this month that said that Uighur women had been emancipated and were no longer "baby-making machines", citing a study reported by state-backed newspaper *China Daily*. The tweet was then removed by Twitter and replaced by a label stating that it was no longer available. **REUTERS**

Clinton, Bush, Obama record rare joint video

Washington: Former US presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Barack Obama recorded a rare joint video through which they sent their wishes to President Joe Biden while rooting for his success in leading the country out of the challenges faced by it. In the video, which was aired on Wednesday night, the three former commanders-in-chief also talked about the significance of a peaceful transition of power and said the Inauguration signalled a "tradition of a peaceful transfer of power that is over two centuries old". **PTI**

Praise for Biden's speech written by Indian American

Washington: US President Joe Biden's inaugural speech, penned by Vinay Reddy, has received glowing tributes for its emphasis on the importance of democracy, unity and hope.

Reddy — an Indian American from Telangana — has been praised for his "calming" and "inspiring" words.

Michael Beschloss, a presidential historian, described Biden's inaugural speech as "modest, austere, grave, calming, cleansing" and "inspiring" in a tweet, while other commentators and media columnists said the President "gave the speech the moment demanded". **PTI**

After oath, Harris highlights 'American aspiration'

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

IN HER first remarks to the nation as US Vice President, Kamala Harris has highlighted "American aspiration" and underlined that President Joe Biden has summoned the people to look beyond crisis and aspire to unite.

Harris, 56, made history on Wednesday when she was

sworn in as the first female, first black and first Asian-American US vice president. The former senator was sworn in just before Biden took the oath of office to become the 46th US President.

"In many ways this moment embodies our character as a nation. It demonstrates who we are, even in dark times. We, not only dream, we do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be. We shout for the Moon,

and then we plant our flag on it. We are bold, fearless and ambitious. We are undaunted, in our belief that we shall overcome, that we will rise up. This is American aspiration," Harris said outside the Lincoln Memorial.

She cited the accomplishments of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, who "saw a better future and built it with land grant colleges, and the transcontinental railroad".

She also highlighted how Martin Luther King Jr fought for racial and economic justice.

"In the middle of the civil rights movement, Dr King fought for racial justice and economic justice. American aspiration is what drove the women of this nation, throughout history, to demand equal rights," Harris said addressing "Celebrating America", a primetime special that wrapped up Inauguration Day. **PTI**

Row after EU diplomats don't get full status in UK

REUTERS
LONDON, JANUARY 21

BRITAIN IS resisting an EU demand that it grant full diplomatic status to the bloc's ambassador in London, causing a row between the recently divorced parties that spilled out into the open on Thursday.

Britain, an EU member for 46 years, voted to quit in 2016 and completed its tortuous journey

João Vale de Almeida, EU's ambassador to London. **AP**

out of the bloc on Dec. 31, when Brexit fully took effect.

The BBC reported that the

Foreign Office was refusing to grant the same diplomatic status and privileges to EU ambassador Joao Vale de Almeida and his team as it gives to envoys of countries, on the basis that the EU is not a nation state.

The Foreign Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The European Commission, the 27-member bloc's executive body, said the EU's 143 delegations around the world had all

been granted a status equivalent to that of diplomatic missions of states, and Britain was well aware of the fact.

"Granting reciprocal treatment based on the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is standard practice between equal partners and we are confident that we can clear this issue with our friends in London in a satisfactory manner," said Peter Stano, the commission's spokesman for foreign affairs.

Lanka opens to tourists after 10 months

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO, JANUARY 21

SRI LANKA reopened to foreign tourists Thursday after a nearly 10-month pandemic closure that cut deeply into the Indian Ocean island nation's lucrative travel industry.

Full operations also resumed Thursday at the island's two international airports, accommodating the commercial flights.

At the site of the bomb attack in Baghdad on Thursday. **AP**

32 dead in Baghdad suicide bombings

SAMYA KULLAB & QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
BAGHDAD, JANUARY 21

TWIN SUICIDE bombings ripped through a busy market in the Iraqi capital Thursday, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens, officials said.

The rare suicide bombing hit the Bab al-Sharqi commercial area in central Baghdad amid heightened political tensions over planned early elections and a severe economic crisis. Blood was splattered on the pavement of the busy market amid piles of clothes and shoes as survivors took stock of the disaster in the aftermath.

No one immediately took responsibility for the attack, but Iraqi military officials said it was the work of the Islamic State group.

Iraq's Health Minister Hassan Mohammed al-Tamimi said at least 32 people were killed and 110 were wounded in the attack. He said some of the wounded were in serious condition. Iraq's military previously put the number of dead at 28.

Maj. Gen. Tahsin al-Khafaji, spokesman for the Joint Operations Command, which includes an array of Iraqi forces,

EXPLAINED
First big attack in 3 years

WEDNESDAY'S BLAST in a crowded market in Baghdad was the first major suicide attack in the city in 3 years. The Islamic State group, which was driven away in 2017 from all territory it held in Iraq, carried out a blast in Baghdad in 2018 that killed 27. For 3 years since then, it had not succeeded in carrying out a major attack in the Iraqi capital. But experts say Wednesday's attack bears the marks of an IS strike, raising fears that this could signal a re-activation of the IS in the area.

said the first suicide bomber cried out loudly that he was ill in the middle of the bustling market, prompting a crowd to gather around him — and that's when he detonated his explosive belt. The second detonated his belt shortly after, he said.

"This is a terrorist act perpetrated by a sleeper cell of the Islamic State," al-Khafaji said. **AP**

At least 15 killed in fire at Ukraine nursing home

REUTERS
KYIV, JANUARY 21

AT LEAST 15 people were killed and 11 injured in a fire in a nursing home in the eastern Ukrainian town of Kharkiv, the Ukrainian state emergency service said on Thursday.

The fire broke out in the afternoon on the second floor of the two-storey building. There were 33 people inside, the service said.

The service published a photo of the building with bars on the windows of the first floor. Smoke could be seen billowing out of broken windows of the second floor.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the interior minister to open and

Firefighters at the nursing home in the eastern Ukrainian town of Kharkiv. **Reuters**

take charge of an inquiry into the incident.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general said authorities had launched a criminal investigation and the preliminary cause of the tragedy was the "careless handling of electric heating devices".

THE LIST OF PROFESSIONS THAT RUSSIA BARS WOMEN FROM TAKING UP HAS BEEN SHORTENED

Russian women in driver's seat as ban on some jobs lifted

ANASTASIA ADASHEVA
MOSCOW, JANUARY 21

MUSCOVITE SOFIA Dorofeyeva had always been drawn to the trains travelling across the vast expanses of her native Russia but until this year she and her female compatriots had been barred from occupying the driver's seat.

This month, Russia shortened the list of jobs it bars women from holding because of their physical demands or hazardous nature, allowing them to become metro drivers, train conductors and lorry drivers.

After graduating in 2020

from a college that trains public transportation workers, Dorofeyeva eagerly awaited the start of the year to become an assistant train driver.

"All of us women who wanted to get this job had been waiting for a very long time," said the 21-year-old, who for years had been sketching anime-like illustrations of trains and female conductors, foreshadowing her profession.

"At first we couldn't believe it, but then of course we felt great joy as well as a sense of calm. Instead of fighting, we could finally just take this job after passing our exams."

The battle for Russian

At a rally to support women's rights in St Petersburg. **Reuters file**

Scores of professions still remain out of reach for Russian women

women to have access to professions deemed too demanding or hazardous by the state began long before Dorofeyeva's time.

In 2009, Anna Klevets, a student in St. Petersburg, responded to an advertisement on the metro calling on men to apply to become assistant metro drivers.

When her application was rejected because of her gender, Klevets took her case to court. It eventually reached the

Constitutional Court in 2012, but women remained barred from operating metro trains.

"I understood that it would be a long process," Klevets told Reuters. "But of course I didn't think it would take 10 years."

Klevets has been pleased to see her legal battle stir debate, even though scores of professions, including some that require exposure to explosives and chemicals, remain out of reach for Russian women.

"Everything should be available" to women, Klevets said. "Because a woman can decide on her own what to choose, where to go, who to be and what to do." **REUTERS**

Italian mafia crackdown nets centrist politician

CRISPIAN BALMER
ROME, JANUARY 21

ITALIAN POLICE arrested 50 people on Thursday and placed a prominent centrist politician under investigation in a crackdown on the 'Ndrangheta mafia that prosecutors say lays bare its efforts to launder cash and buy influence.

The 'Ndrangheta is based in the southern region of Calabria, the toe of Italy's boot, and has surpassed Sicily's more famous Cosa Nostra to become the most powerful mafia group in the country — and one of the largest crime gangs in the world.

"This investigation makes clear what we have been saying for decades. The 'Ndrangheta shoots less and has more and

more ties with business and politics," said prosecutor Nicola Gratteri, who last week launched one of Italy's biggest mob trials.

Among those placed under investigation was Lorenzo Cesa, head of the small UDC party, who was in the national spotlight last week after he rejected overtures from Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to join the ruling coalition, which has lost its absolute majority in Parliament.

Gratteri said Cesa was suspected of offering to procure contracts for the 'Ndrangheta in return for favours. Cesa, who is a member of the European Parliament representing southern Italy, denied the accusation, but said he would resign as head of the UDC "given this particular moment our country is going through". **REUTERS**

GOLD

₹49,125

RUPEE

₹72.99

OIL

\$56.02

SILVER

₹66,699

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2330 IST

SKILL DEVELOPMENT
PROFESSIONAL COURSES

‘Hybrid roles, the new norm: IELTS, Azure, software testing in demand’

MOST SOUGHT AFTER

INDIA	SINGAPORE	AUSTRALIA
Microsoft AZ-900	Storytelling	Microsoft AZ-900
Software testing	Design thinking	API testing
IELTS	Business English	Microsoft Teams

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

COURSES PERTAINING to Microsoft’s cloud platform Azure, software testing, English language test IELTS, Microsoft Certifications and e-mail etiquettes were the most sought after professional skills in India, according to the 2021 Workplace Learning Trends Report published by the open online course provider Udemy.

The report is based on data from the global companies using the Udemy for Business platform and a survey of more than 500 learning and development professionals.

“In the spirit of agile project management, many technical teams are moving employees away from single domain expertise. Instead, hybrid roles are becoming the norm. Leaders are encouraging employees to build expertise in more than one subject related to their job function. The technical skills related to this trend, like software testing and infrastructure architecture, saw sizeable growth in countries across the APAC region — including over 5,200 per cent year-over-year growth in Japan,” the report stated.

Compared to the skills being sought in India, those in demand in developed Asian economies like Singapore, Japan, South Korea included design thinking, marketing strategy, information security, leadership, machine learn-

ing, storytelling, business English, listening skills and personal productivity.

In Australia, the top five courses in demand were Microsoft Azure’s AZ-900 course, API testing, Microsoft Teams, Drawing and Google Cloud.

The report added that the slow but steady shift to remote work over the last few years has already called for a range of new behaviours and skills. But in 2020, leaders across every industry were forced to quickly prioritise solutions that enable entirely distributed teams to collaborate effectively.

“COVID-19 has really accelerated the shift from ‘remote-accessible’ to ‘remote-first’ thinking in collaboration design,” says Sprintkick founder and Udemy instructor Evan Kimbrell. Collaboration was a major priority throughout the APAC region, taking the top spot for year-over-year growth in India, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Professional skill development platforms that offer courses and certifications online like Udemy and Coursera have been in high demand in the post-Covid era. Indian startups offering higher education courses have also attracted virtual eyeballs.

Higher education edtech platform upGrad, for example, saw its customer base double to 1 million between April and December 2020. During 2019-20, the company reported Rs 230 crore in revenues.

AMAZON HAS OPPOSED THE PROPOSED DEAL

Exchanges give go ahead to Future-Reliance Retail deal

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

AFTER MARKET regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), stock exchanges have given their approval to Future Retail’s Rs 24,713 crore deal to sell its retail assets to Reliance Retail, part of Reliance Industries Limited, with certain riders.

The BSE and the NSE, in their separate reports, have stated that the comments on the draft scheme of arrangement are “subject to the outcome of any of the ongoing litigations/arbitration/legal proceedings involving the draft scheme and/or the decision by any competent authority/competent court in this regard”.

Sebi has also given a go-ahead to Future Group’s scheme of arrangement and sale of assets to RIL. US-based Amazon had written to the Sebi asking the regulator to stop the deal, saying that the Future group had violated certain agreement with the US firm. Approvals from the Sebi and bourses are mandatory for the deal to be completed.

The stock exchanges, in their reports dated January 20, have advised Future Group to ensure that the details of the complaints

EXPLAINED

Approvals key for deal to be completed

SEBI HAS also given a go-ahead to Future Group’s scheme of arrangement and sale of assets to RIL. Amazon had written to the Sebi asking the regulator to stop the deal, saying that the Future group had violated certain agreement with the US firm. Approvals from the Sebi and bourses are mandatory for the deal to be completed.

made by Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC (Amazon), the submissions of Future Retail Ltd and the counter submissions of Amazon are brought to the notice of the shareholders of the listed entities involved in the scheme while seeking their approval.

Companies involved in the scheme are advised that any future disputes, complaints, regulatory actions or proceedings, or orders issued therein involving the draft scheme, if any, shall be brought to the notice of shareholders prior to the approval by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

The stock exchanges have

also asked Future to ensure shareholders are informed that 74.2 per cent of the business value of the Future Enterprises Ltd, post amalgamation of all the transferor companies, is getting transferred to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Ltd and that these two companies would not be seeking listing post the scheme of arrangement.

In October, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre passed an interim award in favour of Amazon with a single-judge bench of V K Rajah barring Future Retail Ltd from taking any step to dispose of or encumber

financial crisis of 2008-09 and is still growing and is granular and broad-based, and not concentrated in the hands of the rich

THE BREAKDOWN:

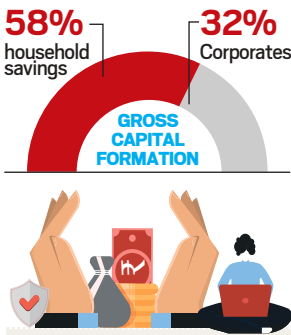
Bank deposits and insurance/pensions form 14 per cent each of the total household savings, while 19 per cent constitute claims on government and a whopping 135 per cent are in hard currency

Savings flowing into equity markets have picked up, but remain less than 5 per cent of the total savings. But this 5 per cent is much higher than the FPI inflows in the past two years combined, which jumped 25 per cent on-year in 2020

Source: UBI/PTI

‘Lockdown boosts household savings to 20-year high’

Household savings, which had been falling between 2014 and mid-2019, have scooped up \$200 billion in extra savings, a 20-year high, amid the lockdown, as per a UBS report



CASH IS KING:

A vast portion of this savings is in cash only, which soared by a whopping 135 per cent during the lockdown months

Slowdown in spending by the households through the lockdowns has resulted in \$200 billion extra net savings in financial assets, which is as a percentage of GDP is close to the peak seen post-global

its assets or issue any securities to secure any funding from a restricted party.

Sebi has cleared the Future-RIL deal with some riders. Sebi has asked Future Group to specifically mention the litigation pending before the Delhi High Court and arbitration proceedings by Amazon contesting the deal to the shareholders and the NCLT.

The market regulator has also directed Future Group to ensure that suitable disclosure about the latest financials of the companies involved in the scheme being not more than six months old are made before filing the same with the NCLT.

In August 2019, Amazon had agreed to purchase 49 per cent of one of Future’s unlisted firms — Future Coupons Ltd — with the right to buy into the flagship Future Retail after a period of 3 to 10 years. Future Coupons holds 7.3 per cent equity in the BSE-listed Future Retail, which operates popular supermarket and hypermarket chains like Big Bazaar, through convertible warrants.

Amazon had dragged Future Group to arbitration at SIAC, arguing that Future violated its contract by entering into the deal with rival Reliance.

RBI: Cost of green bonds issuance high in India

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

THE COST of issuing green bonds has generally remained higher than other bonds in India, largely due to asymmetric information, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study said. “The average coupon rate for green bonds issued since 2015 with maturities between 5 to 10 years have generally remained higher than the corporate and government bonds with similar tenure,” the report on green bonds said.

For the US dollar-denominated green bonds with tenure of more

2019 PRIVATISATION OF SIX AIRPORTS

32 bids received from 10 entities: AviationMin

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE MINISTRY of Civil Aviation said Thursday that the 2019 privatisation of six airports — Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram — was conducted in a “competitive and transparent” manner, with 32 bids having been received from 10 different entities during the bidding process.

Responding to *The Indian Express* report titled “Finance Ministry and Niti Aayog had raised red flags before Adani’s clean sweep of six airports”, published on January 15, the Ministry said that the assertion made in the article was “factually incorrect”. On the objections raised by both Ministry of Finance and Niti Aayog about the bidding process, the Ministry said that an Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS) “took a conscious decision not to put any restrictions on the number of airports to be bid or to be awarded to a single entity” given that the six airports handled only 9.5% of the passenger traffic. On the issue of ignoring the recommendations of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Niti Aayog, the state-

ment from the Ministry noted that both these agencies were represented in the EGOS, where the issues were deliberated. The concession agreement for Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports, the Ministry said, was signed on January 19, 2021 and not September 2020, when the Letter of Award for these three airports had been issued by the Airports Authority of India.

The Indian Express replies:

As stated in the news report, the objections raised by the DEA and Niti Aayog were recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) dated December 11, 2018 and it is these interventions were reproduced in the January 15 news report. The report duly acknowledged the decision taken by the EGOS pertaining to the specific point flagged by the DEA about restricting the number of airports to be awarded to the same bidder, and those raised by the Niti Aayog about stipulating prior experience as one of the bidding requirements. The news report also noted the PPPAC’s response on Niti Aayog’s objection that the EGOS had already decided on not having prior airport experience as a prerequisite for bidding.

Green bonds constituted 0.7% of all bonds issued in India since 2018

than or equal to 10 years, the coupon rate was, however lower than the corporate bonds, it said. It may be mentioned that most of the green bonds in India are issued by the public sector units 17 or corporates with better financial health. “It is evident from the fact that the private sector issuers of green bonds, on average, reported lower debt-to-assets ratio compared to the non-issuers of green bond,” the RBI report said.

Green bonds constituted only 0.7 per cent of all the bonds issued in India since 2018, and bank lending to the non-conventional energy constituted about 7.9 per cent of outstanding bank credit to the power sector, as of March 2020, the RBI study said.

“High borrowing cost has been perhaps the most important challenge and our analysis indicates that it could be due to the asymmetric information,” it said. Therefore, developing a better information management system in India may help in reducing maturity mismatches, borrowing costs and lead to efficient resource allocation in this segment, the study said.

RBI withdraws 3 circulars on excess pension recovery

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday withdrew three circulars on recovery of excess payments made to pensioners as the documents didn’t follow guidelines and court orders.

In a circular issued on March 17, 2016, the RBI had said as soon as the excess payment made to a pensioner comes to the notice of the paying branch, the branch should adjust the same against the amount standing to the credit of the pensioner’s account to the extent possible including lumpsum arrears payment.

If the entire amount of over payment cannot be adjusted from the account, the pensioner would be asked to pay forthwith the balance amount of over payment.

‘Fintechs see spike in delinquent accounts’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

WITH A huge spike in delinquent accounts post the pandemic, fintechs have seen a sharp deterioration in their portfolios. At 43 per cent, fintechs had eight times more delinquent accounts than private banks for whom the comparable figure was 5 per cent for August 2020, TransUnion Cibil said in a joint report with the Digital Lenders’ Association of India.

There is a need for fintechs to place greater focus on collections in light of heightened delinquencies and a riskier customer base, said the report. “Compared to peer members, the huge volumes sourced by fintechs were largely small-ticket loans and from riskier segments,” the report said, adding that in contrast, banks have generally been lending to consumers in prime and above risk tiers and those with a relatively stable flow

At 43%, fintechs had 8 times more delinquent accounts than private banks for whom the comparable figure was 5% for August, 2020, TransUnion Cibil said

of income, while also leveraging liability base to acquire personal loans. “At the same time, fintechs have onboarded consumers with low credit scores and leveraged more alternative data.”

The rise in delinquent accounts calls for a closer look at portfolios and emphasises the need for better collection strategies, the report said. In the current situation, as the moratorium has ended, more consumers will enter delinquency buckets and make the collection process even more challenging, the report said. FE

Govt planning to open up coal marketing to streamline process

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE GOVERNMENT is considering opening up coal marketing, Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain said on Thursday. Currently, production by Coal India is allocated through a number of different methods, including multiple sector-based auctions and coal linkages based on recommendations by the Union government, and Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs).

India produced about 729 mil-

COAL INDIA’S SHARE

80%

India produced about 729 million tonnes of coal and imported about 248 million tonnes last fiscal. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic production.

lion tonnes of coal and imported about 248 million tonnes in the

previous fiscal. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic production. “It’s about time that coal marketing was opened up. All the knots, which have tied up coal linkages, PPAs, FSAs and bidding have to be opened up,” said the secretary, adding the freeing up of coal marketing would give an assurance to buyers that they will be able to get the product, if they want it, without having to go through multiple processes.

The government, in June 2020, opened up coal mining for commercial use.

BRIEFLY

ComMin for duty on China chemical

New Delhi: The Commerce Ministry recommended imposing anti-dumping duty on Chinese chemical ‘Aniline’.

Bandhan Bank Q3 profit falls

New Delhi: Bandhan Bank on Thursday reported 13.5 per cent fall in net profit at Rs 632.6 crore for third quarter ended December 31, 2020.

PwC India tax suggestion

New Delhi: The government could look at providing deductions for expenses incurred by salaried employees while working from home in the upcoming Budget as it looks to boost demand, PwC India said. PTI

ECB stays put but warns about Covid

Frankfurt: The ECB warned the recent surge in infections posed a risk to euro zone’s recovery and reaffirmed its pledge to keep borrowing costs at record lows. REUTERS

Morgan Stanley, LEAP India deal

New Delhi: Morgan Stanley and LEAP (Leading Enterprise in Advanced Pooling) have announced that Morgan Stanley India Infrastructure has made an investment of Rs 180 crore to acquire a stake in LEAP. ENS

CRUDE & NATURAL GAS

Covid, lack of key infra, lower offtake hurt output in Dec

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

INDIA’S CRUDE oil and natural gas production fell by 3.6 per cent and 7.1 per cent, respectively, in December on the back of lower production by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd and private sector players, according to the government data released on Thursday.

India’s total crude oil production in December stood at 2,556.7 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT), down 3.6 per cent from production of 2,650.8 TMT in the year-ago period. ONGC reported that lack of availability of key infrastructure, including mobile portable offshore units and implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, had led to

lower crude output.

ONGC’s crude production was down 2.75 per cent, compared to the year-ago period, while output by private sector players was down 11.6 per cent, compared to December 2019.

Natural gas production during the month was 2,424.9 million metric standard cubic meters (MMSCM), compared 2,610.4 MMSCM in December 2019, which was impacted by lower offtake of natural gas from customers as well as delays in operationalisation of new gas discoveries due to Covid-19. Crude oil processing in December was up 0.9 per cent, compared to the year-ago period, with Indian refiners processing 21,024.4 TMT of crude in December, compared to 20,829.8 TMT in the year-ago period.

Zyklus Cadila starts enrolment for late stage vaccine trial

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

LATE STAGE human trials of Zyklus Cadila’s three-dose Covid-19 vaccine begun in the country this week, with the enrolment and vaccination of participants underway. *The Indian Express* has learnt. This puts the Ahmedabad-headquartered company right behind Dr Reddy’s Laboratories in the pipeline of vaccines that the country may be adding to its arsenal against the virus that has killed 1.5 lakh and infected over a crore.

“Enrolment began (at some of the sites) this week,” said a person close to the development on condition of anonymity. According to another, some other trial sites are still in the process of site inspections — a check by reg-

TRIAL SITES

The trials are expected to take place at five sites across four cities — Surat, Nashik, Jaipur and Ahmedabad.

ulatory authorities of the place where the clinical trials will take place, following which clearance is given to enrol and vaccinate participants.

Queries sent to Zyklus Cadila on Wednesday remained unanswered by press time on Thursday.

The trials are expected to take place at five sites across four cities — Surat, Nashik, Jaipur and Ahmedabad, according to information from the Clinical Trials Registry of India.

FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH US TECH GIANT WILL PAY FOR CONTENT ONLINE

Google inks deal with French news publishers

REUTERS

PARIS, JANUARY 21

GOOGLE AND a French publishers’ lobby said on Thursday they had agreed a copyright framework under which the US tech giant will pay news publishers for content online, in a first for Europe.

The move paves the way for individual licensing agreements for French publications, some of which have seen revenues drop with the rise of the Internet and

LICENSING DEALS

The move paves the way for individual licensing agreements for French publications.

declines in print circulation.

The deal, which aims to provide a sustainable way to pay publishers, is likely to be closely watched by platforms such as Facebook, a lawyer said.

Alphabet-owned Google and the Alliance de la presse d’information générale (APIG) said in a statement the framework included criteria such as the daily volume of publications, monthly internet traffic and “contribution to political and general information”. Google has so far only signed licensing agreements with a few publications in France, including national daily newspapers *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro*.

Google’s vehicle for paying news publishers, called Google

News Showcase, is another new product it has developed which allows publishers to curate their own content online. It is so far only available in Brazil and Germany.

Google and APIG did not say how much money could be distributed to APIG’s members, who include most French national and local publishers. And details on how the remuneration would be calculated were not disclosed.

The deal follows months of bargaining between Google, French publishers and news agencies.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Monika Vipen Garg, alias Mona Garg W/o Vipen Garg, R/o Vichumbhe-B-204, B-1, Krishna Vondana Complex, Panvel Raigrah Maharashtra-410206, have changed my name to Monika Vipen Garg permanently. 0040558515-2

My original documents of property no.USB-229, Shop No.1, Ground Floor, Area Measuring 7x11 Sq. Fts., Chander Vihar, Mandawali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092 has been lost. Ashok Kumar S/o Sunder Lal Mobile- No.9654946009. 0040560914-3

It is for general information that I, M.D. Saleem Khan, S/o-Fiddu Khan R/o-4375 Gali No.21, Shanti Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar Delhi-110031, inform that name of my father has been wrongly-written as Mohd.Fida Ali Khan in my Passport-No.L8370656. The actual-name of my father is Fiddu Khan which may be amended accordingly. 0040560907-9

It is for general information that I, Hussain Ahmed, S/o-Fiddu Khan, R/o-4309, Gali No.19, Shanti Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, inform that name of my father has been wrongly-written as Mohammad Fida Khan in my Passport-No.T2311391, the actual-name of my father is Fiddu Khan which may be amended accordingly 0040560907-10

I, Yogesh Sharma S/o-Sh. Nand Kishore Sharma R/o-615/22, Gali.No.2, Shivji Park, Khandsa Road, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name to Yogesh Kumar Sharma, for all, future purpose. 0040560897-10

I, Umesh Kumar Singh S/o-Late Mahavir Singh R/o-H-215, Second-Floor, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52, have changed my name to Umesh Singh. 0040560902-9

I, Tanya vashistha, D/o-Trilok Chand sharma, W/o-Arpit Sharma, R/o-15, Gopal park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name after marriage from Tanya Vashistha to Tanya Sharma for future. 0040560907-7

I, Sonia Arora W/o Prashant Sood R/o AH-40, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-88, have changed my name to Sonia Sood. 0040560897-3

I, Sobinder Singh S/o Indraj Singh Nagar R/o Tilpata Karanwas, 2, G.Noida, U.P.-201306, have changed my name to Sovindra Singh, for all purposes. 0040560920-7

I, Sikander S/o-Ram Ujagir R/o L-84/2, Saurabh Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Sikander. 0040560902-6

I, Shri Ram S/o-Late Sh. Heera Lal R/o-House.No.333, Gali.No.10, Ambekar Colony, Chakkarpur, Gurugram, Haryana, inform that Shri Ram and Sri Ram both name are same, person. My correct name is Shri Ram. 0040560987-11

I, Shibli Ahmed/Ahmed Shibli S/o-Nooruddinsiddiqui R/O-B 1/10, Shakti Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201014 Have Changed My Name To Shibli Siddiqui. 0040560856-8

I, Santosh Gupta S/O-Awadhes Kumar Gupta R/O-Q-11005, Stellar Jeevan, Plot-No-Gh-03, Sector-01, Greater-Noida West, Kulesara, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar-Pradesh-201306 Have Changed My Name To Santosh Kumar Gupta 0040560856-2

I, Ritu Rani D/O-Rikhi Ram R/O-14/107, 3rd Floor, Subash Nagar, Delhi-110027 Have Changed My Name To Ritu 0040560914-1

I, Sanjay Kumar Punyani S/o-Harbjhan Lal R/O-4565/52, Raigar Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar. 0040560902-7

I, Ritu Rani D/O-Narayan Jha R/O-H-10-99/102, Supertech-3, Rajender Nagar, Sector-5, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar-Pradesh-201005 Have Changed My Son Name Vivaan Mohan Garg To Vivaan Kumar. 0040560856-1

I, Rasam Vinayak Suryakant, S/o Suryakant Rasam Daji Rasam, R/o-C-301, LEO Housing-Complex opp Cosmos School Janta Market Koka Nagar Bhandup (west) Mumbai Maharashtra-400078, have changed my name from Rasam Vinayak Suryakant to Vinayak Suryakant. Vide-Affidavit, date-19-1-2021. 0040560920-2

I, Prem Chand S/O-Gopi Ram Jain R/O-836, Gali No.1-B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi-110040 Have Changed My Name To Prem Chand Jain Permanently. 0040560856-5

I, Rupesh S/O CHATTAR SINGH R/O FLATNO.A-3-BLOCK,NO.4827, GALINO.112/2,B-6, PLOT, SAINT-NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI-110084.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RUPESH KUMAR. 0040560907-6

I, Pawan Kumar S/o-Sita Ram Bansal R/o-156, Kewal Kunj Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Bansal Permanently. 0040560856-7

I, Nishikar Chouhan S/o-Dilip Singh Chohan R/o-BA-30, BA-Block, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, changed my name to Nishi Kar Chouhan. 0040560902-2

I, Naveen Kumar Jain s/o-Baij Nath Jain R/o-1/5624, Street.No-12, Balbir Nagar Extn., Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Naveen Jain. 0040560902-1

I, Nancy Narang W/O Inder Preet Singh R/O-94, Ambica Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Nancy Kaur. 0040560897-5

I, Munish Kumar S/o-Pawan Kumar Bansal R/o-156, Kewal Kunj Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Manish Bansal Permanently. 0040560856-6

I, Megha Chaturvedi W/o-Mr. Shivam Chaturvedi R/o-Flat No.-SP3.H.No.-11/155, Shyama Apartment, Near-Kanha Complex, Sector-3, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. have changed my name from Megha Pandey to Megha Chaturvedi for all future purposes. 0040560902-4

I, Master Ashu D/o-Atar Singh R/O-H.No.4/97,38, Madhur Mandir, Awas-Vikas, Hathras, Uttar-Pradesh-201101 have changed my name to Astha Mathur. 0040560856-3

I, Kapoor Chandra S/o Devi Charan R/O Chithara, G.Noida U.P.-203207, have changed my name to Kapoor Chand, for all purposes. 0040560920-6

I, Harish S/O-Aishi Lal Verma R/O-134-135, Second-Floor, Sector-22, Rohini, pocket-4, Begumpur, Delhi-110086 Have Changed my Name to Harish Verma. 0040560856-4

I, GEETA RANI, W/O-DHARMENDER KUMAR BATRA, R/O- FLAT, NO-E-401, ALAKNANDA SOCIETY GH-45, SECTOR-56, GURGAON HARYANA-122011, changed my name to GEETA BATRA. 0040560920-1

I, GEETANJALI W/O ARUN KUMAR R/O-T-238/C, NEAR ADARSH MODEL SCHOOL, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-59, have changed my name to GEETA. 0040560897-6

I, Sajana Pai, R/O-F-304, Designer's Park, B-9/1A, Sector-62, Noida-201309 have changed my name to Sajana P Pai 0070728111-1

I, GAGAN KANSAL S/O SOHAN LAL GUPTA R/O A-3, SANGAM APARTMENT, SECTOR-9, ROHINI, DELHI-110085. CHANGED MY NAME TO GAGAN GUPTA. 0040560907-3

I, DILBAG RAI S/O LACHHAMAN DASS SINGLA R/O FLATNO.202, NEW SWASTIK-APARTMENT, SECTOR-9, ROHINI, DELHI-110085. CHANGED MY NAME TO DILBAG RAI SINGLA. 0040560907-1

I, Avpreet Singh Bhatia S/O-Mehta Singh Bhatia R/O-WZ-362, Lane-20, Shiv Nagar, Delhi-110058 Have Changed My Name To Avpreet Singh 0040560914-2

I, Aushotosh S/o Abhimanyu, R/O 107 F-1 Sultanpuri Sultanpur Mazra Nithari, Delhi-110086, changed my name to Aushotosh Kumar. 0040560897-9

I, Arshpreet Kaur Walia W/O-Abhishek Solanki R/O-WZ-14, C, Asatapur, Janak Puri, New-Delhi-110058 Have Changed my Name to Arshpreet Kaur. 0040560902-3

I, Amrit Pal Singh Chitkara S/O Jiwan Singh Chitkara R/O94, Ambica vihar, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Amrit Pal Singh. 0040560897-4

I, Amla Mary Francis, D/o Mariyadas Francis, R/o-505 Block-C, J.J.Colony Old Seelampur, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Amla Mary, for all purposes 0040560907-8

I, Akshita Lalit Shah alias Akshita L Shah D/o-Lalit A Shah W/o-Yash Jain R/O-B-42,F.F, Pushpanjali, Enclave, Pitampur a, Delhi-110034, after marriage, changed my name to Akshita Yash Jain. 0040560902-8

I, ASHOK KUMAR S/O Shyam Lal R/O 703A, Parmanand Enclave, Ali Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036 Have Changed my Name to ASHOK KUMAR VERMA for all purposes 0070728138-1

I, ARUN KUMAR GAUTAM S/O RAM PYARE R/O-T-238/C, NEAR-ADARSH MODEL SCHOOL, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-59, have changed my name to ARUN KUMAR. 0040560897-7

I, AKASH S/O NARENDER, HOUSE.NO.606, GALI.NO.02, CHAUHAN MOHALLA, VILLAGE-RANGPURI, MAHIPALPUR, NEW DELHI-110037, changed my name to AKASH CHAUHAN. 0040560897-2

I, shri chand s/o gagan das Address m-42nd floor old-double storey lapjat-nagar-4, delhi-110024, changed my name to shri.chand panjwani. 0040560897-8

I, Shweta D/o MOHINDER LAL, R/o DDA Site-1, Flat No.205, 4th Floor, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 have changed my name to Shweta Nahar for all purposes. 0040560869-1

I, Savinay Singh Bindra S/o Tarvinder Singh R/o WZ-46/7A, Mukherjee Park Extn., Chowkhandi Rd., Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Savinay Singh. 0040560902-10

I, SHANTI DEVI W/o ASHOK VERMA R/O 703A, Parmanand Enclave, Ali Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036 Have Changed my name to SHANTI VERMA for all purposes 0070728137-1

I, Renu Bala, W/O Ishwar Chand R/O-111, Vivekanand Puri, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Renu Goel for all future purposes. 0040560891-2

I, Pradeep Kumar S/O Rampal Singh R/O Y-47, Sector-12, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Pradip Saini for all purposes. 0040560871-1

I, Pawan Kumar Misra, S/O Ramapati Misra, Address-352-E/10A Room.No-4 Munirika Village-110067, changed my name to Pawan Kumar Mishra. 0040560907-4

I, Farlah Khatoon W/O-Mohd Anas R/O-299, Gali-Garhaya, Matia Mahal, Jama-Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Fariya Khatoon 0040560902-5

I, Kalpana Upadhyay wife of Gunanidhi Upadhyay, address L-269, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25 Noida, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Kalpana Devi Upadhyay for all future purposes. 0040560880-1

I, Inderpal Verma S/O Sh. Kandhey Verma R/O.C-1/128, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, have changed my name, to Indrapal Verma for all future purposes. 0040560891-1

I, Harmeet Kaur W/o Inderjeet Singh R/O B-128, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Nagar Delhi-110018 Have Changed My Name to Harmit Kaur for all purposes 0070728134-1

I, Vijaya Bhadra, W/O JN Bhadra, Add-D-87 A, Block-D, East-of-Kailash, New Delhi-110065, changed my name to Bijay Bhadra. 0040560897-1

I confirm that my name has been wrongly written as Chanderlekha in passport of my minor son, Chirag Chauhan. My correct name is Chander Lekha Chauhan w/o Harish Kumar Chauhan R/o 228, U/G/F, Block-B, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 0040560873-1

I Yugeshwar Rai S/O Vijay Yadav R/O-S-140, Gali No-18, Parampuri, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Yogesh Yadav 0070728121-1

I Santosh Narayan S/O Aditya Narayan R/O 405, Galaxy Apartment, Kakraula Village, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Santosh Narayan Banerjee 0070728160-1

I Sachin Kumar S/O Jagdish Chander Kumar R/O House No-411B, Heel Kurenja Scooter Mkt, Geeta Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Sachin Kumar Gill 0070728126-1

I Prakash Kumar Himmatmal Gandhi alias Prakash Kumar Himmatmal Gandhi alias Prakashkumar Himmatmal Gandhi alias Prakash Himmatmal Gandhi alias Prakashkumar Himmatmal Gandhi S/o Himmatmal R/o 115/1, Raitara Beedi, P J Extension, Davanagere, Karnataka-577002, have changed my name to Kumar Himmatmal Gandhi 0070728129-1

I Muneesh Kumar S/O Devendra Kumar R/O Village Govindpur Gyanpur, Chhajlet, Moradabad, UP-244501, have changed my name to Manish Yadav 0070728127-1

I Karamjeet Singh Namdhari S/O Darshan Singh Namdhari R/O 262, Ward No-4, Gurudwara Road Ellenabad Sirsa Haryana-125102 changed my nameto Karamjeet Singh. 0040560907-5

I Kamaljeet Kaur W/o Charan Singh Deol R/O 780, Ward No-19, Bakkar Khana Road, Khanna, Ludhiana, Punjab-141401, have changed my name to Kamaljeet Kaur Deol 0070728123-1

I DHERAJ S/O-SATYA NARAYAN R/O-A-765 SECTOR-2 ROHINI DELHI-110085 CHANGED MY NAME TO DHEERAJ HOODA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES 0070728120-1

I, SAURAN SINGH S/O DHARAMVEER R/O VILLAGE SHAHDABBAR P.O.SHAHPUR, MUZAFFARNAGAR, UTTAR-PRADESH-251318. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SORAN SINGH. 0040560907-2

I Vikram Jit Singh Bakshi S/o Kamaljit Singh Bakshi R/o Shubham Apartments Flat No-123, Sector-12, Pocket-4, Dwarka, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Viikkrum Bakshhi 0070728117-1

EDUCATIONAL

National Central council of Vocational Training invited application for start Training and Study Centre www.ncvt.in Mob.7499647774/ 9823647194 0090280356-1

LOST & FOUND

I Surenדר Pal S/o Sh.Kesar Dass R/O 529/13, Jheel Kuranja, Delhi-110051 have lost Partition Deed as family settlement executed on 18.04.1979 , a deed by DDA executed on 13.10.1966, Regd.as document No.14074, Book No.1, Vol.No.633 on pages 32-36, dated 19.10.1966 and a Payment Receipt executed on 09.01.1985 by Sh.Mahender Kumar Gupta of above said property. Finders may contact at above address. 0040560858-7

I, Paritosh Singh, S/O Anil kumar, R/O-58 kabir ganj etawah-206001, have lost my original certificate/marksheet Class-10th (2009) Rollno-5197918 CBSE Delhi class-12th (2012) Rollno-114126 UP-BOARD. 0040560920-5

My file of flat No.BW-63A, Shalimar Bagh in the name of my wife Late Mrs. Pratima Nijhawan, containing allotment letter, possession letter, receipts of payments given to DDA and other relevant documents in view of the flat is lost. Anybody who finds it, please inform Vinod Nijhawan, Cel-9971824394 0040560856-9

Public notice is hereby informed that Mr. Subhash Chand Jain & Mr. Hans Kumar Jain has claimed to be the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property No.-P-75, measuring area 50 sq.yd. (41.80 sq.mtr) of part of Plot No-B-26/1, falling under Kharsa No.618 situated at Gali No.4, Behari Colony in Village Chandrawali alias Shadara, village Shadara Delhi and has agreed to sell it to Mr. Sunil Kumar & Ms. Rajni who has approached the Magma Housing Finance Limited Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, AB-18, Mainwai Nagar, Delhi-110087. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

Public Notice This is to inform general public at large scale that my client Shri Baldev Singh Sh Late Shri Lakha Singh age about 78 years R/O D-142, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi also R/o Vill. Nanowal Khurd, P.O. Bhattian, Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab have disown from his all movable and immovable properties and severed all relationship from his son Balvinder Singh/Binder, daughter in law Neetu Saini and grand daughters Jaspreet Kaur/Jessli & Kirandeep Kaur/Kinnal are R/O D-142, 1st Floor, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi with immediate effect due to them being out of control, misbehavior, lie threat and damaged reputation in society. If anyone dealing with them should do it his/her own risk and consequences. My above named client shall have no concern with their act and omission in future, in any manner whatsoever. Nadeem Ansari, Advocate Ch. No. 865, Lawyers Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

Public notice is hereby informed that my clients Rakesh Sharma and his wife Anita Sharma, R/o, House no 18/125 East Moti Bagh, Sarai Rohilla New Delhi-110007, has severed all kinds of relations with their son Tarun Sharma and daughter in law Meenakshi Sharma and has disown from all movable and immovable properties due to their disobedient and misbehaviour towards my clients. Anyone deals with them, shall do at their own responsibility. My client shall not be held responsible for any act and deed in the above mentioned son and his wife in future. Himanshu, (Advocate) Office : Chamber No. 71, Western Wing, Tia Hazrat, District Court, New Delhi - 110054

Public Notice I, Robin Kama advocate on behalf of My client Smt. Prem Wati W/o Lt. Sh. Hari Ram R/O D-629/604, Gali No-11, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083 caused this notice to inform the general public that my client has debarrred and disownd her son namely Yogesh Kumar S/O Lt. Sh. Hari Ram from all her movable and immovable properties in all manners be it by his conduct, my client has no concern with if any one deals with him in any manner, but if any person deals with above said eldest son of my client, in any way, in that case such works should be doing so at their own risk. Robin Kama (Advocate) Office : D68/104 OFFICE AT: 61, SACHDEVA TOWER, COMMUNITY CENTRE, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI-110085.

Public Notice at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Roshan Lal S/O Net Ram and Smt. Mayra Devi W/O Roshan Lal Both Resident of H.No.- 1/1702 Meerz Gali Panchsheel Garden Naveen Shahdara East Delhi 110032 have severed all their relation and debarrred/disownd their son, Sh. Rohit Kumar and his wife Yojti Kishore from all of their movable and immovable properties, due to differences. If any one deals with them on behalf of my clients, he/she will do so at his/her own risk, cost and consequences. My clients shall not responsible in any manner whatsoever for the same and shall have no liability and responsibilities. Sd/- SANDEEP KHATRI ADVOCATE Ch. No. 28, Post Office Lane, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

Public Notice at large is hereby informed that my client "Smt. Santosh Garha W/o Late Smt Nath Garha R/O H. No. D-140, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has severed all her relations from her daughter Ms. Heera Monga D/o Late Smt Nath Garha (present address not known) for want of control and her extortive conduct and has disownd her from her all movable and immovable properties. Henceforth, any person dealing with aforesaid Ms. Heera Monga shall be doing so at his/her own risks, costs and consequences and same shall not be binding on my client in any manner, whatsoever. Sd/- (AJAY KUMAR) ADVOCATE (Enrt. No.-0-1368/05) CH. NO. 51, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054.

It is informed that my client Sh. Dalip Kumar S/o Sh. Tale Ram R/O H.No. D-473, Qutub Vihar, Tajpur Khurd, New Delhi-71 his Disownd & debarrd her son Sandeep & his wife smt. Sangeeta from his entire movable/ immovable properties My client shall not be responsible in any way for his acts or claim as he broken all links whatsoever him forever. Sd/- M.K. Sharma (Advocate) Reg.No. 563/2004, D.C. Office, Kapashera, New Delhi

Be it known to general public that my client SMT. PUSHPA KUMARI W/O SH. VIJAY KUMAR & SH. VIJAY KUMAR S/O SH. PREM NATH BOTH R/O HOUSE NO-3026, GALI NO-8, RANA PARK, SARAPUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110062 have debarrred and disownd their son PHOOL KUMAR and his wife SMT. SUNITHI and their son DIVANSH from all their movable and immovable properties because of their bad behavior towards my client. In future anyone dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk, civil and criminal, consequences and responsibility. My clients family will not be responsible for any act done by them with anyone. SURENDER KUMAR (Advocate) Enrt. No. D/152/1988

Known to General public that my client Aasha Sethi is going to purchase property i.e. SFS 2ND AND 3RD FLOOR DUPLEX FLAT NO.-F-63, PLOT-E, SARITA VIHAR, NEW DELHI from Shreeen Malhotra who is the legal heir of L. Venu Narayana and further mortgage with AXIS Bank Ltd. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heir of L. Venu Narayana or in any manner or said mortgage then they may contact the undersign within 07 days of publication of this Notice. For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Durgam Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 M-8999013918

Public Notice Known to General public that my client Aasha Sethi is going to purchase property i.e. SFS 2ND AND 3RD FLOOR DUPLEX FLAT NO.-F-63, PLOT-E, SARITA VIHAR, NEW DELHI from Shreeen Malhotra who is the legal heir of L. Venu Narayana and further mortgage with AXIS Bank Ltd. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heir of L. Venu Narayana or in any manner or said mortgage then they may contact the undersign within 07 days of publication of this Notice. For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Durgam Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 M-8999013918

Public Notice This is to inform general public at large scale that my client Shri Baldev Singh Sh Late Shri Lakha Singh age about 78 years R/O D-142, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi also R/o Vill. Nanowal Khurd, P.O. Bhattian, Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab have disown from his all movable and immovable properties and severed all relationship from his son Balvinder Singh/Binder, daughter in law Neetu Saini and grand daughters Jaspreet Kaur/Jessli & Kirandeep Kaur/Kinnal are R/O D-142, 1st Floor, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi with immediate effect due to them being out of control, misbehavior, lie threat and damaged reputation in society. If anyone dealing with them should do it his/her own risk and consequences. My above named client shall have no concern with their act and omission in future, in any manner whatsoever. Nadeem Ansari, Advocate Ch. No. 865, Lawyers Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

Public Notice This is for the information to the general public that my clients Sh. Narender Prakash Aggarwal S/o Sh. Late Sh. Chhote Lal Aggarwal and Smt. Rakeshwari Aggarwal W/o Sh. Narender Prakash Aggarwal, both R/o L-128, Vijay Vihar, Phase-I, Gali No.6, Sector-04 Rohini, New Delhi-110085 have disownd and severed all their relations and connections from their son Sh. Gaurav Aggarwal and my clients have also disownd Sh. Gaurav Aggarwal from their moveable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him shall be doing so at his own risk and cost. Sunil Lalwani (Advocate) Add.- R-501, Basement, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-50

Public Notice Public is hereby informed that Mr. Subhash Chand Jain & Mr. Hans Kumar Jain has claimed to be the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property No.-P-75, measuring area 50 sq.yd. (41.80 sq.mtr) of part of Plot No-B-26/1, falling under Kharsa No.618 situated at Gali No.4, Behari Colony in Village Chandrawali alias Shadara, village Shadara Delhi and has agreed to sell it to Mr. Sunil Kumar & Ms. Rajni who has approached the Magma Housing Finance Limited Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, AB-18, Mainwai Nagar, Delhi-110087. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

Public Notice This is to inform general public at large scale that my client Shri Baldev Singh Sh Late Shri Lakha Singh age about 78 years R/O D-142, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi also R/o Vill. Nanowal Khurd, P.O. Bhattian, Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab have disown from his all movable and immovable properties and severed all relationship from his son Balvinder Singh/Binder, daughter in law Neetu Saini and grand daughters Jaspreet Kaur/Jessli & Kirandeep Kaur/Kinnal are R/O D-142, 1st Floor, Saurav Vihar, Jaipur, Badarpur, New Delhi with immediate effect due to them being out of control, misbehavior, lie threat and damaged reputation in society. If anyone dealing with them should do it his/her own risk and consequences. My above named client shall have no concern with their act and omission in future, in any manner whatsoever. Nadeem Ansari, Advocate Ch. No. 865, Lawyers Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India) P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006, Uttarakhand Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) invites REOI from eligible individual for 'Procurement Consultant' under Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP). Details of REOI along with Terms of Reference and necessary documents for submission of REOI proposal are available on ICFRE website (www.icfre.gov.in). Last Date for submission of REOI proposal to Project Director, ESIP, Room No. 143, ICFRE, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun is 01 February 2021 (5:30 PM). Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE

UJVN Ltd. (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises) H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com. TENDER NOTICE Date: 21.01.2021 Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Mohanmadpur Power House, Gurukul Narsan - Hardwar invites sealed tenders from experienced firms for following works/supply for Mohanmadpur Power House:- NIT No. 20/EE(M&G)/MPH/2020-21-Annual Maintenance for Routine Work of Mohanmadpur Power House. NIT No. 21/EE(M&G)/MPH/2020-21- Removal of Debris From Trash Pit and Rack of Mohanmadpur Power House. Estimated Cost:-Rs 17.63, 860.00 (Taxes Extra), Rs 9.49, 270.00 (Taxes Extra) Date of acceptance of tenders on website - 20-01-2021 (17:00 Hrs) Date of Receipt of the tender - 11-02-2021 up to (16:00 Hrs) For all details, bidders are advised to visit our website www.ujvnl.com Executive Engineer (M&G)

General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Small, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Pajama and Upper part without Cloth was found Unconscious, Near Hanuman Mandir Inside Toilet, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 17.01.2021. He was admitted in LHMC Hospital, New Delhi and Doctor declared him brought dead Vide MLC No. 131/21. In this regard a DD No. 50A, dated 17.01.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi DP/199/NDD/2021 Ph.: 011-8750870525, 011-23364139

CLASSIFIED AD DEPOT (CAD) Book classified ads at your nearest Express Group's authorised Classified Ad Depots EAST PATPARGANJ : CHAVI ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9899701024, 22090987, 22235837, PREET VIHAR : AD BRIDGE COMMUNICATION, Ph.: 9810029747, 42421234, 22012710, SHAKARPUR : PARICHAY ADVERTISING & MARKETING, Ph.: 9350309890, 22519890, 22549890 WEST JANAKPURI : TRIMURTI ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9810234206, 25530307, KAROL BAGH (REGHARPURA) : K R ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9810316618, 9310316618, 41547697, KARAM-PURA : GMJ ADVERTISING & MARKETING PVT. LTD., Ph.: 9310333777, 9211333777, 9810883377, NEW MOTI NAGAR : MITTAL ADVERTISING, Ph.: 25178183, 9810538183, 9555945923, MOTI NAGAR : UMA ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9312272149, 8800276797, RAMESH NAGAR : POSITIVE ADS, Ph.: 9891195327, 9310066777, 65418

	<p align="center">कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, निर्माण विंग उत्तराखण्ड प्रेजल संसाधन विकास एंव निर्माण निगम (उत्तराखण्ड प्रेजल संसाधन विकास निगम) 403/01, हुनिन नगर, देहरादून-248001, दूनिया/फोन: 0135-2784075 e-mail : cgmmniraming@yahoo.com, gmmniraming@gmail.com</p>	
	<p align="center">Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice</p>	
	<p>Bid Identification no: 241/Nivda (Garhwal)Srinagar07 Date: 21.01.2021</p>	
	<p>1. Name of the Works CONSTRUCTION OF I.T.I. SRINAGAR GARHWAL, DIST. PAURI</p>	
<p>2. Estimated Cost :-</p>	<p>Rs. 1741.60 Lakh (With GST)</p>	
<p>3. Period of Completion</p>	<p>18 Months</p>	
<p>4. Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-</p>	<p>25.01.2021 - 18:00 Hrs,</p>	
<p>5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-</p>	<p>10.02.2021 - 16:00 Hrs.</p>	
<p>6. Name and Address of Officer inviting the Bid :-</p>	<p>General Manager Construction Wing Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam Dehradun</p>	
<p>7. Pre bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :-</p>	<p>20.01.2021 - 15:00 Hrs.</p>	
<p>8. Details of subsequent addendum / corrigendum / cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website:-</p>	<p>"http://www.uktenders.gov.in"</p>	
<p>Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://www.uktenders.gov.in"</p>		
<p>जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाव / वैधानिक बेतानी - जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना दण्डनीय अपराध है ।</p>		

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
 A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture
 Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
 Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-delhi.com
 CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-ddl.com

<div> <div>NOTICE INVITING TENDERS</div> <div>Jan 22, 2021</div> </div>			
TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:			
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/400022976/20-21 Tender for SITC of SPV Plant of Grid Interactive Roof Top Solar of Various Capacities under Open Category (2 MW)	75 Lac/ EMD-N.A.	25.01.2021	15.04.2021;1500 Hrs/ 15.04.2021;1600 Hrs Bids shall be submitted in 3 Lots.
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001272/20-21 Two Year's AMC for Fire Extinguisher & Refilling at TPDDL	37.86 Lac/ 47,000	22.01.2021	12.02.2021;1500 Hrs/ 12.02.2021;1530 Hrs
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION			
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids	
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001249/20-21 Rfx. 5000001991/5000001906 PO for SITC of IEDs and RTUs in PAN TATA Power-DDL	22.10.2020	27.01.2021 at 1600 Hrs/ 27.01.2021 at 1630 Hrs	
Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents			
Contracts - 011-66112222			

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
 (CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa,
Ranchi - 834004.

Email:- cccer2418@gmail.com, Fax: 0651-2400799

INVITING EMERGENT SHORT E-TENDER BID
NIT No. 93/PARBVN/2020-21

For Selection of "Service Agency for Engaging & Managing Ujra Mitras (Meter Readers) for Operationalization of Android based Smart Mobile (With Printer), Photo Spot Energy Billing System in Electric Supply Area, Dumka"

Timelines for participating in the all the above e-tender is detailed below :

Sl. No.	Event	Timelines
i.	Date of Publication of Notice in Newspaper	21.01.2021
ii	Start date & time for downloading the tender documents	From 21/01/2021 at 10:30 Hrs.
iii	Last date & time of receipt of bid documents (Online)	Upto 28/01/2021 at 18:00 Hrs.
iv	Last date of physical submission of Tender Fee & EMD	Upto 01/02/2021 at 13:00 Hrs.
v	Due date for opening of Technical Bid (Part-I)	01/02/2021 at 18:00 Hrs.

Bid uploading / opening will be through e-tendering norms only. The complete Tender documents can be downloaded through website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Bidder may contact help desk of e-Procurement system at the following web address: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Contact Officials:-
General Manager (Revenue)- 8987504018
Electrical Executive Engineer (Revenue) – 9661842194

CAB Counter 24 x 7
 1800346620 / 1800138784
 Controlled Complete NO. 1812

Sd/
General Manager (Revenue)

PR 239827 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)20-21'D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़
email :- eercdpakur-jhr@nic.in, Phone & Fax No. 06435-220592

ई०-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट सूचना
—अल्पकालिन निविदा—
निविदा सूचना सं०- RCD /PAKUR/37/2020-21
दिनांक : 21.01.2021

1.	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़ अन्तर्गत पाकुड़-महेशपुर पथ (MDR-242) के 0. 00 से 27.046) तक का IRQ कार्य है। वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु०)	रु० 14,21,45,278 /—(रु० चौदह करोड़ इक्कीस लाख पैतालीस हजार दौं सौ अठ्ठतर मात्र)
3.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	06 (छः) माह
4.	ई०-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	09.02.2021 के पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक
5.	ई०-निविदा का बेंबसाईट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	27.01.2021 के पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से
6.	ई०-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़।
7.	ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट अधिकारी का सम्पर्क नं०	06435-220592
8.	ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट सेल का सम्पर्क सहायता नम्बर	0651-2401010

विशेष जानकारी <http://tharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

E-Procurement Cell OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT NAGAR PANCHAYAT JAMTARA, JHARKHAND.		
<u>Very Short e-Procurement Notice (Double Bid)</u>		
E-Tender Reference No.- NPJ/SBD/03/2020-21 Date:-19/01/2021		
1.	Name of the work	Construction of roadwith RCC drain/footpath and street light at Gaichhand near Vadav Tola near shop of Sudheer Mahto to G.N.M hostel under Nagar Panchayat, Jamtara.
2.	Estimated Value (May Be Changed)	Rs. 4,66,34,000.00 (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Six lakhs Thirty Four thousand only)
3.	Time of Completion	24 Month
4	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 4,67,000.00 (Rupees Four Lacs Sixty Seven Thousand only)
5	BID document fees (Non-Refundable)	10,000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand only)
6	Date of Publication of Tender on website	21/01/2021 15:00 hrs
7	Closing date/Time for receipt of Tender on website	28/01/2021 15:00 hrs
8	Date & Place of Receiving of Hard Copy Tender Fee/EMD/Copy of all uploaded Documents	29/01/2021 (11:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs) at Nagar Panchayat Office Jamtara.
9	Opening date/Time for Technical Bid of Tender on website	29/01/2021 15:00 hrs
10	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of Executive officer,Nagar Panchayat Jamtara
11	Contact no. of Procurement officer	+91 99344 34611 (Mr. Ramashrya Das)
12	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	+91 94317 27140 (Mr. Manishwar Hembram)
13	Helpline number ofPMC	+91 93040 19860 (Mr. Shubham Singh)
<i>Note: Authority reserves right to cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.</i> <i>Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</i>		
Executive officer Nagar Panchayat Jamtara		

<div data-bbox="530 31 596 65">18</div>	
	<p data-bbox="592 78 970 97">Natioanl Innovation Foundation - India</p> <p data-bbox="592 100 970 131">Grambharti, Amrapur, Gandhinagar- Mahudi Road, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382650</p> <p data-bbox="592 134 970 144"><u>Notice Inviting Tender No. NIF/2021/ADM/001</u></p>

Tender No. NIF/2021/ADM/001 - Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of Machines, Equipment's, and Software's for Workshop. Last date & time of bid submission is 12.02.2021 at 10:00 Hrs.

davp 36118/11/0001/2021

S/D Director

<p align="center">Government of Gujarat N.W.R.W.S. AND K. DEPT. E-TENDER NOTICE No. (7) of 2020-21</p>	
<p>On behalf of The Governor of Gujarat state online tenders for following works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Mechanical Division No. 3, Block No. 9, 9th Floor, New Sachivalay, Gandhinagar - 382010.</p>	
1	<p>Name of Work</p> <p>Repairing & strengthening of skin place top portion & dismantling, providing and fitting new components in CDU and providing new stop log sets (08 Tire) with testing at site of Radial Gates size - 49' x 37' - 12 Nos. of Dharoi Project as per drawings and specifications. At Dharoi, Dist. Mehansana (Estimated Cost Rs. 2,50,000,00/-)</p>
2	<p>Date of Online Tender submission</p> <p>08/02/2021 to 08/03/2021</p>
3	<p>Dates of submission of physical documents</p> <p>09/03/2021 to 16/03/2021</p>
4	<p>Office Name & Address</p> <p>Executive Engineer, Irrigation Mechanical Division No. 3, Block No. 9, 9th Floor, New Sachivalay, Gandhinagar - 382010 (Phone No. 079-23207240).</p>
<p>Any kind of amendments will be published only on online & will be final & binding to all. For further details contact to this office during office hours. Detailed Tender Notice can be also seen on www.statetenders.com and www.nprocure.com.</p>	
<p align="right">INF/1819/20-21</p>	



U.P. JAL VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Enterprise)

12th Floor, Shakti Bhawan Ext., 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001

Website: www.upjvn.org

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 04/EE(DSIGN)/2020-21

Online E-Tenders in two parts are hereby invited from manufacturers or their accredited representative for **Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2 No. Elevators (1 No. 2.0 Ton Passenger cum Goods Elevator for Obra HEP and 1 No. 544 Kg Passenger Elevator for Rihand HEP)** complete in all respects after dismantling & Buy-back of existing old elevator at Rihand&Obra HEP, Distt.-Sonbhadra (U.P.). Cost of Tender & EMD shall be Rs 3540/- (including GST)&Rs. 1,20,000/- respectively. Part-I of the e-bid shall contain uploaded techno-commercial bid along with documents in support of deposition of tender fee & earnest money (EMD). If EMD is submitted in form of BG then the original copy of same shall be submitted along with hardcopy of techno-commercial bid. Bid without tender fee and EMD shall not be considered. Part-II shall contain price bid. Tender can be downloaded from and uploaded on e-procurement website: www.etender.up.nic.in. Tender (Part-I) shall be opened on 03.03.2021 (at 15.00 hrs). Last date for submission of e-bids online and hardcopy of techno-commercial bids shall be 01.03.2021 (upto 14.00 hrs.) and 03.03.2021 (upto 11:00 hrs.). Date of opening of price bid shall be intimated later. Undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. Bidders should keep themselves updated in regard to publication of corrigendum (if any) by visiting e-procurement portal regularly. If the date of opening will be a holiday, the tender shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DESIGN)

"Save Electricity in the interest of Nation"

<p align="center">Government of Jammu and Kashmir RESIDENT COMMISSION</p>	
<p>5, Prithivraj Road, New Delhi-110011, Telephone: 011-24611210, 24611108, Fax No.: 011-24627047, 24601277, Email: jknsdelhi@gmail.com</p>	
<p>KRC/Misc/Laundry/19/410-12/2021</p>	
<p>Subject: Invitation of quotations for laundry services.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sealed quotations are invited from firms/agencies for providing laundry services at 5-Prithvi Raj Road, 7-Akbar Road and Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi 2. Interested firms/agencies may submit bid rates in sealed envelope duly addressed to the Manager, J&K House, 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi till 10 days from the date of publication of the notice. 3. The quotations shall be opened on the next working day and the representatives of the bidders may be present at the time of opening of quotations. 4. Interested bidders shall collect the tender documents along with the list of washing items for which rates have to be quoted by them from Resident Commission Office, Jammu and Kashmir Government, 5 Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi-110011 any working day upto 5.00 PM. 	
<p>Terms & Conditions</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The successful bidder shall be decided on the overall lowest rates offered by the agency. II. Any cuttings, overwriting on the rates quoted shall not be entertained and in case of double rates quoted the lowest rates shall be taken into consideration. III. Validity of quotations shall be for a minimum period of three months. IV. Principal Resident Commissioner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof. V. The successful bidder shall attend to the laundry work at the respective sites as per the requirement of this office. VI. The successful bidder shall be held responsible for any damage/defect caused due to laundry work and they shall be liable to pay for the damages if any, as calculated by the Manager concerned. VII. The rates shall be inclusive of GST and all other taxes presently in vogue. VIII. No conditional bid shall be accepted by this office. IX. The validity of the contract shall be for a period of one year from the date of its commencement. However, it shall be extended by the competent authority of the Resident Commission after the expiry of the said period as per the requirement of this office. X. The bidder should be a registered supplier of Laundry services and shall have successfully supplied the laundry services to any authorized office with satisfactory service. XI. The bidder shall have GST registration and shall have successfully filed the GST returns. 	
<p align="right">Under Secretary Resident Commission J&K Govt. New Delhi</p>	
<p>No.: JKBI/Advt/1897-99/2021 21.01.2021</p>	

 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA		
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE
1	FOREST DEPARTMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	CONST. OF RETAINING WALL AT VILLAGE FOR MUGALWALI BEAT IN SANITPUUR BLOCK SADHANA TENDER JIN YAMUNA NAGAR
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR	TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF 302 NOS KASHAW REH VILLAGES OF DISTT H
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN FIRST FLOOR ZILA PARISAD B
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF ANGANWADI CENTRE AT V
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, FATEHWAD	CONST OF GOBAR DHAN PROJECT AT VILLAGE I DISTT. FATEHWAD
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SIWANI	GHANSAVA VILLAGE ESTIMATE FOR AUGMENTATION LAYING OF PIPE LINE UNDER JIM CATEGORY-B BRICK Lining 1 NO. 585 TANK, RCC 1 NO. HT, SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF PUMPING MACHINE AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONT
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NARNAUL	LAYING RCC PIPELINE 450MM I/D NP-2 FOR CON FOR FILLING KHERKI GAUSHALA POND AT KM 5.5 WORKS
8	DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH PANCHKULA	OUTSOURCING OF MANPOWER SERVICES IN SECURITY SERVICES FOR Q/D DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, HARYANA, PAN
9	DIRECTOR GENERAL PRISONS, DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF DIETARY ARTICLES TO WARD

15071HRY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KIND



यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्रथम तह, कोमिशिनल गौन्समेन्ट, सेक्टर-ओगेना-1, (बी-2)
स्टेड नीडा सिटी, जनपद-कोल्लमुद नगर, फोन नं. 0120-2395152
वेबसाइट: www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक – आई030700 / GM(P) / 2021 / 456 दिनांक 21.01.2021

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केंद्र सरकार / राज्य सरकार / केंद्र शासित / अर्द्धशासित / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के कार्यों का काम से कम चार बर्ष का अनुभव रखने वाले ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से ई-निविदाये आमन्त्रित की जाती है। ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेवोल्जुशना द्वारा निविदाये द्विस्तरीय पद्धति से खोली जाएगी।

कार्यालय आदेश संख्या : आई.ई.ई. / GM(P) / 2021 / 455 दिनांक 21.01.2021 के अनुसार पत्रांक में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की कार्यों में संविदाकार द्वारा बिल ऑफ मैटेरियल (बीओ0कयु0) पर लार्ड गये 10 प्रतिशत कम दरों तक 0.5 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर तथा उसके पश्चात 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक कम दरों पर 1.00 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर सिस्कोरगिरी / परफॉर्मैन्स गारन्टी प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा परफॉर्मैन्स गारन्टी एफडी0ओA0R0 / सी0डी0ओA0P0 / बैंक गारन्टी / एन0एफडी0R0 के रूप में न्यूनतम संविदाकार द्वारा अनुमत्त गठन से पूर्व देनी होगी, जो कार्य के अन्तिम बीजक होने के बाद वापिस होगी।

क्रम सं०	कार्य का नाम / वक्त सफल	अनुमानित लागत
1	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE MAKANPUR BANGER, YEAWC-6	₹0 3.54 लाख
2	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE IN VILLAGE TAKIPUR, YEAWC-6	₹0 4.36 लाख
3	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE USMANPUR KAUTHI, YEAWC-6	₹0 5.90 लाख
4	PROVIDING AND LAYING DRY BRICK AND KHARANJAIN VILLAGE FALEDABANGER, YEA WC-6	₹0 7.07 लाख
5	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE DERIN GUJRAN, YEA WC-6	₹0 9.31 लाख
6	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM DANKAUR, JHAJHAR ROAD TO DANKAUR MIRZAPUR ROAD IN VILLAGE-DANKAUR, YEA WC-6	₹0 14.17 लाख
7	PROVIDING AND FIXING INTERLOCKING TILES IN VILLAGE MOHAMMADABAD KHEDA, YEA WC-6	₹0 17.25 लाख
8	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE MUKIMPUR SIVARA, YEA WC-6	₹0 21.40 लाख
9	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE IN VILLAGE THORAGARH, YEAWC-6	₹0 23.82 लाख
10	PROVIDING AND FIXING INTERLOCKING TILES IN VILLAGE KALLUPURA, YEA WC-6	₹0 26.11 लाख

क्रम सं०	कार्य का नाम / वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
11	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE JAFRABAD, YEA WC-6	₹ 29.22 लाख
12	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE IN VILLAGE THORA, YEA WC-6	₹ 32.61 लाख
13	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE IN VILLAGE USMANPUR DAIRIN, YEA WC-6	₹ 32.62 लाख
14	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE KISHORPUR, YEA WC-6	₹ 33.24 लाख
15	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE IN VILLAGE AKALPUR, YEA WC-6	₹ 39.37 लाख
16	CONSTRUCTION OF BRICK DRAIN IN VILLAGE JAGANPUR AFZALPUR, YEA WC-6	₹ 43.01 लाख
17	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE ROAD IN VILLAGE FATEHPUR ATTA, YEA WC-6	₹ 54.15 लाख
18	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE KHWAJPUR, YEA WC-6	₹ 74.63 लाख
19	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING TILE WORK IN VILLAGE JAUNCHANA, YEA WC-6	₹ 80.10 लाख
20	PROVIDING AND FIXING INTERLOCKING TILES IN VILLAGE THASRANA, YEA WC-6	₹ 92.41 लाख

जिन्हें दिनांक 27.01.2021 से 05.02.2021 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालीफिकेशन दिनांक 08.02.2021 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

महाप्रबन्धक (परियोजना)

<p style="text-align: center;">झारखण्ड सरकार पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (प्रथम आमंत्रण) सूचना संख्या-05/2020-21</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">अति-अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-05/2020-21</p>		
1.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	
2.	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडिंग) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	
3.	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता यांत्रिक नागरिक प्रमंडल, राँची में परिभाषण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	
4.	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	
5.	तकनीकी बीड खोलने का स्थान	
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम	
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का पता एवं टेलीफोन नम्बर	
8.	ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन संख्या	
क्रम सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (रु0 लाख में)
01.	<p>Supplying, installation and commissioning of Horizontal split casing centrifugal pump of Kirloskar/Jyoti/Mather & Platt make capable of discharging 1704 m³/hr, against a total head of 76 meters and mounted on common base plate by suitable coupling with TEFC squirrel cage induction motor of ABB/ Kirloskar/BHEL make operated on 11 Kv±15%, 3 phase, 50 c/s AC. supply having speed 950-1500 rpm including C.I.D.F. 5V and ZV/V valve with RCC foundation for Clear water pumping plant at Ukka - 2 nos. pump sets.</p> <p>Supplying and laying 400 mm² 3 core Al XLPE armoured cable from pole to VCB panel- 150 mtr. with termination kit and 185 mm² 3 core XLPE armoured cable -175 meters with termination kit from VCB to motor for above pump sets.</p> <p>Supplying, installation and testing 11 KV, indoor floor mounted VCB horizontal draw out type 630 Amp, 11 KV, 25 KA for 1 sec (1 no incoming and 2 nos. outgoing) - 1 No.</p>	157.34784

नोट- (i) केवल ई-निवृद्धि ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।
(ii) उपरोक्त किसी तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होने पर अगला कार्य दिवस की तिथि
(iii) ऐसे निम्ना / निम्ना के अधिकृत विकल्प जिन्हें पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड में भाग ले सकते हैं अर्थात् कि वैसे निविदादाता को एकरारनामा के पूर्व पेयजल प्राप्त कर लेना होगा।
(iv) निविदा की सूचना तथा नियम शर्तों की जानकारी वेबसाईट www.prjdharkhand.com प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निवृद्धि की जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट <http://jharkhandtenders.com>

PR 239879 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 20-21 (D) पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

Government of Maharashtra
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO.2, BEED**
e-Tender Notice No. Beed/4 of 2020-21

e-Tenders for (05) works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 2, Beed (Phone No. 02442-224273) from the registered Contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the Roads/ Repairs of Roads/ Repairs of Buildings/ Construction of New Buildings in Tal. Ashti/ Patoda/ Shirur, Dist. Beed. The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website

1) www.mahapwd.com 2) <https://maharashtra.etenders.in>
(Sd/-) - **Executive Engineer,**
(dgipr/2020-21/1919) Public Works Division No. 2., Beed

 **JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED** 
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id:- pdt.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Ref. PR No.: 237284
NIT No.: JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/TA/BMSPP/2662/2020/360
Tender ID:- 2020_UDD_46716_1

**Project Title:- “Appointment of Transaction Advisor to
Develop,manage,operate and maintain the facilities
developed at Birsu Munda Smriti Park & Museum on
basis of Public-private partnership (PPP) mode”**

The tender of NIT No.: JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/TA/BMSPP/
2662/2020/360 and Tender ID:- 2020_UDD_46716_1 is
canceled due to no bids received. All bidders are therefore
requested to wait for future correspondence regarding fresh
tender.

Sd/-
(Ramesh Kumar)
Project Director (Technical)

PR 239779 (Urban Development) 20-21 (D)

	<p align="center">NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</p> <p>Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com</p>
<p align="center"><u>E-TENDER NOTICE</u></p>	
<p>E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.</p>	
(A)	<p>1. 72/NOIDA/CGM/SM(WC-9)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:- D/o Village (C/o Open Hall in Community Center in Village Raipur), Noida, Cost- Rs. 40.14 Lacs</p>
2.	<p>73/NOIDA/CGM/SM(WC-9)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:- D/o Sector-124 (Balance R.C.C. Drain work in Sector-124), Noida, Cost- Rs. 41.70 Lacs</p>
3.	<p>75/NOIDA/CGM/SM(WC-9)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:- D/o Sector-163 to 167A & 167B (C/o Park Boundary wall in Sector-164), Noida, Cost- Rs. 61.93 Lacs</p>
4.	<p>49/CGM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:- M/o Road (Road Marking Paint on Internal Road and Peripheral Road of Sector-155 and 156), Noida, Cost- Rs. 34.54 Lacs</p>
5.	<p>42/CGM/SM(WC-6)/2020-21, Name of work:- Internal Development of sector-75, 76, 77, 78 & 79 (C/o RCC Column & G.I. Chain Boundary wall of near Civitech Stadia and sports wood society in Sector-79), Noida, Cost- Rs. 95.03 Lacs</p>
<p>Which can be uploaded by date 04.02.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.02.2021 at 11.00 AM. <p align="center">Chief General Manager, Noida</p> <p align="center">CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA</p> </p>	

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION

**REPLACEMENT OF MECHANICAL
LIFTING BARRIER**

**E-Tender Notice No. DRM-RJT-20-21-
SNT-E-09, Dt. 13-01-2021 Tender No.
DRM-RJT-20-21-SNT-E-09, Dt. 13-01-
2021**

Replacement of Mechanical lifting barrier
with electrical lifting barrier batch at 6 LCs in
Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra, Rajkot-
Bhaktinagar, Wankaner-Maliya-Navalkhi
section of Rajkot division. LC No. 6, 19, 26
and 27 in Wankaner-Maliya section and LC
No. in Rajkot-Bhaktinagar section & LC
No. 20, 70 in Wankaner-Maliya- section of
LC No. 27, 604 31 (3) EMD: ₹ 45,500.00 (₹)
Date and time for file submission: On
15-02-2021, 12.00 to 5.00 PM (₹)
Address of the Office: Divisional
Railway Manager (S&T), Western
Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360
001. Web site: www.irpgs.gov.in RJT-093

Follow us on twitter.com/WesternRail

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

No: SG-664-11-Tele-2020-21
Dhanbad, dt. 14.01.2021

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

Details : Sl.No. 1. Name of the work : Integration of Electronic in Motion Rail Weighbridges of NCL with FOIS connectivity and CCTV. 2. **Approx Cost of the work :** ₹.1,31,21,008.66 3. **Earnest Money :** ₹. 2,15,600.00 4. **Date & time for closing of tender :** 05.02.2021 (12:30 बजे) 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/ FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firms 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.irops.gov.in> Note:- Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/ corrections etc. in response to this E-Tender.

Sr. D.S.T.E. Dhanbad

PR/1331/DHN/ S&T /20-21/36

"IMPORTANT"

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19 SPORT

CITY'S AGUERO TESTS POSITIVE

Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero has tested positive for the coronavirus, saying Thursday he has experienced some symptoms. The Argentine had already been self-isolating after being identified as a close contact of someone infected. "I had some symptoms and I'm following doctor's orders for recovery. Take care, everyone," Aguero wrote on Twitter.

Satwik-Ashwini put up a flawless show in Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK, JANUARY 21

THE MIXED doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa made it to the quarterfinals of the Toyota Thailand Open with a stunning 22-20 14-21 21-16 win over world no. 17 German duo of Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich in a match that lasted close to an hour. Satwiksairaj also paired up with Chirag Shetty in the men's doubles to notch up an upset 21-18 23-21 win over seventh seeds Korean combination of Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae.

"We served and received pretty well, that made the difference for us. Overall, we are getting back to the way we were playing in 2019," said Chirag.

Satwik said he was "very happy with the performance." "We want to play our game. We want to be our best on the day. We were lacking in service and returns in our last match. We didn't want to make the same mistakes in this match," he said.

Prannoy, however, failed to cross the second round hurdle, going down 17-21 18-21 to Malaysia's Daren Liew, a day after battling through pain to upstage Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie in a gruelling three-game match.

Also bowing out of the competition were MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila after losing 9-21 11-21 to English pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy.

Big guns fire

Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Sameer Verma stormed into the quarterfinals of the Toyota Thailand Open after registering straight-game wins but HS Prannoy bowed out of Super 1000 tournament here on Tuesday.

Olympic silver medallist Sindhu expectedly outclassed Malaysia's world no. 92 Kisona Selvaduray 21-10 21-12 in a lop-sided second-round contest that lasted just 35 minutes. She will face either Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon or Korea's Sung Ji Hyun next.

World no. 31 Sameer also continued his impressive run, stunning world no. 17 Rasmus Gemke 21-12 21-9 in just 39 minutes for his third victory over the Danish player. The Indian, who had shocked Malaysia's eighth seed Lee Zii Jia in the opening round, will face third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark, who received a walkover, in the quarterfinals.

SHARDUL THAKUR INTERVIEW

'We knew Australia hadn't rested their bowlers and they could be getting tired'

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

THE FLIGHT from Brisbane to Dubai to Mumbai suddenly seemed longer for Shardul Thakur. Pride in winning the Test series in Australia jostled with desperation to finally go home. It had been five months since he'd seen his parents, the longest he had been away from home.

Cricket during Covid-19 had thrown a new challenge at cricketers. Reaching home at Palghar, Thakur spoke to *The Indian Express* about his crucial 67 runs in the first innings at Gabba, and the 7-wkt match haul.

EXCERPTS:

Has the win sunk in?

No, we are still on a high. It's a big victory for us. Everyone is talking about it from the stadium to the airport, till I reached home. I was only hearing praises. Beating Australia and winning a game at Gabba was so special. It was a young team and everyone put their hands up and delivered. Be it bowling or batting, somebody stood up, it was a collective effort.

Did it ever cross your mind that the last Test could be slipping away from the team?

Never. We all went for a win. As the game got closer and closer we knew we would pull it off. I think the only time we all had a doubt was in the first innings when we had lost six wickets for some 180 runs. When I and Washington Sundar batted and crossed the 300 run-mark, we both saw the scoreboard and felt the lead was not that big. We can pull this game off in second innings if we get them out sooner.

When you walked out to bat what was running through your mind?

Our batting coach Vikram Rathour came and said play the ball as per merit, don't play any silly shot. I told Sundar that let's hang around because their bowlers were getting tired. Australia hadn't given rest to any of their seamers in the entire Test series, it was the same bowling attack playing and we



India all-rounder Shardul Thakur's mother receives him at their residence in Palghar, Maharashtra, on Thursday.

Express

could sense that they were getting tired. The more they got tired the easier it would get. And it happened, their bowlers did get tired. We had to just apply our mind and back our instincts.

You looked in total control in your batting?

I told myself that if I can hang around for two hours, I have all the shots to play. I always enjoy playing fast bowlers, I have never been scared of speed. Am not scared to face even 145 kmph plus. Maybe it's because of how my cricketing career started. We have a ground in my village where my first few years of cricket were played on matting wickets. The pitch in Palghar had uneven bounce, so handling bounce came naturally to me. At the same time I faced throwdown

specialists regularly in the Indian team nets, so am used to playing pace.

Being a tailender, you looked so comfortable in your batting?

Since school days I used to play as an all-rounder. I always enjoyed batting and I always want to showcase my talent with the bat. I might bat lower down the order but my mind works like a batsman.

Did you know you will play the fourth Test?

There was confusion due to a lot of injuries in the team. I was told to be prepared but it was on the day of the game before the toss I was told that I will be playing.

How tough is life in a bubble?

It's very tough. Everyone can't get their family on the foreign tour. I left home on August 19 for IPL and from there we went to Australia. It was one of the longest tours and due to the bio bubble we can't go out. We were totally disconnected with the outside world. The only source of information was social media. Many hotels didn't have a balcony, so we didn't get fresh air for days. Staying in a hotel was a challenge but at the same time we were lucky to play cricket in times of Covid.

Didn't you get frustrated, wasn't the waiting game taking a toll on your mind?

I did, tell me who wants to sit out but at the end of the day only 11 can play. I have sat out before for two series and waited too. I'm human and I do get demotivated. I look out for my motivation. Be it carrying drinks or cheering, I kept busy in these activities.

You had a terrible Test debut in 2018 which lasted ten balls? Did it ever cross your mind?

For me it was *ab agla mauka kab aayega?* That wait between two Tests has changed me as a person. There were two options, either I crib and say, *yaar yeh agla mauka kab aayega* or just go there and keep working. Keep working was the only option. My father is a farmer and all our life we are taught to keep trying. Keep working hard, keep pushing. *Agar ek saal kheti kharaab ho jaye*ga iska matlab yeh nahi ke next time I won't do farming. Same is in cricket, I will again try.

Did you speak to anyone during this long gap between two games?

I spoke to Ravi *bhai* (Shastri) one day. I asked him that sometimes I get only one game per series, I always feel pressure on me when I play. What should I do? He replied, if you see this opportunity as pressure, then I will certainly feel pressure in my game. But if you feel that you want to win, then except the game pressure, there won't be any add-on pressure.

You must be pleased with your bowling? Took seven wickets in a game?

I was a bit nervous in the first innings because I was playing a Test match after a gap of two years. My first Test match lasted for ten balls, it was the second Test match but it was as good as the debut game. In the last three years, I haven't played many first class games. I was more concerned about my rhythm but with wickets coming, I gained some confidence. In the second innings I said if I can get wickets in first, why not in second. I was high on confidence.

Did you get carried away while bowling to Cummins, you kept bowling him bouncers?

We knew in the second innings that their lower order would try getting quick runs. The boundaries are big, so it was a plan that if Cummins goes to pull, there is a chance for a catch.

How did the dressing room react to your batting, Ashwin compared your strokes to Viv Richards?

He said jokingly, he came and said that after a long time he saw a bowler, hitting such a great cover drive. He appreciated it, many knew I could bat, so it was not surprising.

How did you counter sledging?

They did, but I didn't listen to them. They wanted to disturb my concentration but I just ignored them. The only time I couldn't understand Australia players was when they passed a humorous comment, it's hard to pick whether it was just a comment, or sarcasm.

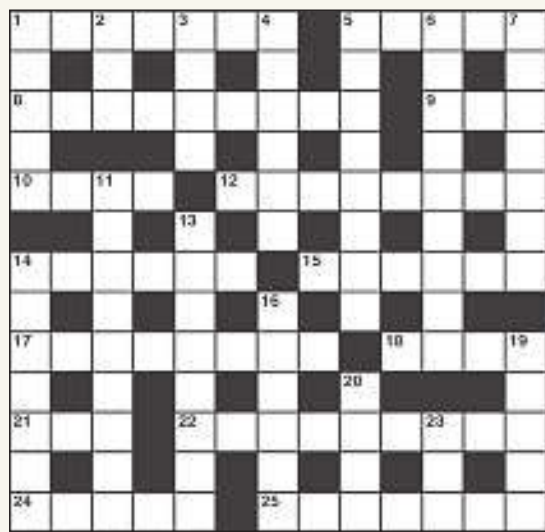
What did you miss most most in five months? How did your family react?

I missed my family, my home cooked food, my bed. When I came today my mother said *ki kitna patlaa ho gaya hai tu*. *Khane ko nahi milta tha kya?* It's a line which any mother says. The day the series ended, I was just hoping that I will reach home soon. Suddenly the flight seemed very long, the drive home took very long too. I just wanted to reach home ASAP.

What has been more tough for you, getting a seat on the crowded Dahanu shuttle, or facing Australia attack?

Getting a seat in a train, it required skill and timing. Facing fast bowlers is much easier.

CROSSWORD 4334



ACROSS

- Warm drink with a fruity flavour (7)
- Minister of the armed forces (5)
- Disagreeing about one point, tongue-in-cheek (9)
- The senator's middle name (3)
- Stock check (4)
- Bethlehem visitors can include one conjurer (8)
- The sadness of Father Thomas (6)
- Girl out of breath (6)
- Allowed income? (8)
- At heart somebody akin to a Malaysian (4)
- Make fun of Eve's origins (3)
- He is trained to come up with constructive ideas (9)
- Choose to act democratically (5)
- Where to see women in retreat (7)

DOWN

- In which one may buy cups of tea or French coffees (5)
- Bird seen in September, October (3)
- Jot down the first nine letters (4)
- Cleaning brush barely used (6)
- Hobbies make time pass (8)
- Work in the surgery, yet Dr isn't involved (9)
- Result of converting sea into land (7)
- Good French is written so I can follow it (9)
- Final bid to secure an agreement? (8)
- It was plain to early American settlers (7)
- Find company in one churchman or another (6)
- Girl in the pool (5)
- Make one's name as a traffic controller perhaps (4)
- Look up and down (3)

Solutions Crossword 4333: Across: 1 Set right, 5 Alec, 9 Rabid, 10 Leonine, 11 Self-portrait, 13 Nausea, 14 Chosen, 17 Horse thieves, 20 Radical, 21 Rotor, 22 Dire, 23 Nightcap. Down: 1 Sure, 2 Tableau, 3 Indifference, 4 Hollow, 6 Lella, 7 Cheating, 8 Cost the earth, 12 Anchored, 15 Sceptic, 16 Chilli, 18 Radar, 19 Trip.

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.

Things are seldom what they seem, _____ masquerades as ____ - W S Gilbert (4,4,,5)

FERIA



EIOCOMM



ELILS



AARKKM



SOLUTION: Things are seldom what they seem, skim milk masquerades as cream - W S Gilbert

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4360

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4359



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You'll be turning a corner at work before long, perhaps at the beginning of next week. But the real point that your stars are trying to make is that firm foundations are necessary to worldly success. But, then, so are good ideas, so get your thinking-cap on.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Travel stars are reaching yet a new peak and you may be feeling strangely restless. Let me warn you, though, that this is no time for complacency. Drop your guard and you'll make a silly mistake, one which is so easily avoided: check, re-check and check again.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There is no knowing where an invitation or proposal will take you now or over the weekend. It's very much a case of following the positive path and letting fate weave its wonderful web. You could be making rash promises, so ensure that you're prepared to follow them through.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There is simply no way to get plans off the ground without the full support of partners and colleagues. Someone older or more experienced holds the key, perhaps in the form of financial backing. Your strong point now is your charm - and your irresistible ability to wrap partners around your little finger.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

It's time to pamper yourself. You're coming to the end of a period when there's been continual pressure on your expenses, but it's still too early to relax. Wait for the offers to flood in. Keep your diary open, just in case you get a better social offer.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You may be pushed into making a snap decision but, if you know what's good for you, you will draw back from a final commitment. Romantic Virgos can expect events to move their way, and about time, too. But don't let anyone blame you for past misdemeanours - when they're not your fault.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

A battle royal is taking place between family commitments and worldly ambitions. The next major lunar pattern is seeing to it that the personal side of life will win out over your public duties. If you've felt hard-done-by recently, don't worry - you're about to turn the tables on a rival.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You may be inclined to act the firebrand. Far better, though, to stand aside and to let other people fight their own battles. There is absolutely no point in getting involved, especially as you might make a bad situation worse. Oh, and isn't it about time you told someone you loved them?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

The general mood should alter around early evening, taking you into more serious realms. Prepare for a change of plan and keep your schedule open for the next few days. A mystery could be cleared up, but, confusingly, there could be more than one answer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Life is certainly hotting up and you'll put the health of your relationships, both personal and professional, before everything else. Romantic Capricorns are in for a treat, but don't rush it - the next four weeks bring pleasant emotional planets. Be sceptical of amazing financial offers, though.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Get things moving while a great many decisive planets are so very active. You must remember, though, that others have contributed to your happiness and offer them the recognition and gratitude they deserve. After all, while life is heading your way, you need to carry partners with you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

There can be few Pisceans who are not enjoying a love affair of sorts at the moment, whether with a long-term partner, a new friend, or even a place, a pet or a favourite dream! Social and emotional pressures in your horoscope are overwhelming, and there's a sense of freedom and infinite possibilities.

Stokes, Archer
to return for
India tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, JANUARY 21

Explosive all-rounder Ben Stokes and pacer Jofra Archer on Thursday returned to a 16-member England squad named for the first two Tests of the upcoming four-match series against India.

The England selectors also named six travelling reserves for the first and second matches, to be held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai from February 5.

Both Stokes and Archer missed the ongoing two-match Test series in Sri Lanka as part of England's policy to rest their all-format players, while Rory Burns was at home for the birth of his first child.

The team will continue to be led by Joe Root. Surrey's Ollie Pope will travel to India and will be added to the squad when passed fit. Pope is recovering from a shoulder injury sustained in September during the Test series against Pakistan. All-rounder Moeen Ali, who was the only cricketer to return COVID-19 positive on arrival in Sri Lanka, has fully recovered and was included in the team.

The national selectors have provided rest to Jonathan Bairstow, Sam Curran and Mark Wood. The three players, who are currently in Sri Lanka, were on Thursday named in the playing XI for the second Test against the islanders but will head home after that.

"This is consistent with the selection policy of finding a block of rest for all multi-format players at some point during post-Christmas winter schedule," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a release.

In Wood's absence, Olly Stone has been retained in the squad to provide captain Root with a second genuine pace option after Archer. With Archer and Stokes returning, and subject to fitness of the rest of the squad, Somerset's Craig Overton will return home after the Sri Lanka series.

The fast bowling department will be spearheaded by veteran James Anderson in the company of his seasoned teammate Stuart Broad, Archer and Chris Woakes.

English players travelling from Sri Lanka will fly to Chennai on a charter flight after the conclusion of the second Test in Galle.

After Chennai, the action will shift to Ahmedabad's Motera, currently the largest cricket stadium in the world with a capacity of 110,000.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
JANUARY 21

'AJINKYA AALA re, aala (Ajinkya is here)... 'people sang. It didn't have the grandeur of Shammi Kapoor's 'Govinda aala re, aala', but to paraphrase Ajinkya Rahane's former Mumbai Ranji team mate Vinayak Samant, the people in and around W-54 housing complex in Matunga revelled in their Amol Palekar-like down-to-earth affinity. India's (stand-in) captain-fantastic returned home on Thursday morning, and his neighbours and fans rolled out the red carpet.

Rahane has been playing Test cricket since 2013. Never before in his life had he returned home from an overseas tour to such a hero's welcome. Then again, never before in the history of Indian cricket had the Gabba toir been breached and a depleted India bounced back so spectacularly to conquer Australia in their own backyard. As the captain, Rahane presided over the turnaround.

The Mumbai contingent in the Indian team - Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Shardul Thakur, Prithvi Shaw and head coach Ravi Shastri - landed in the Maximum City in the morning. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) officials were present to receive them at the airport. A cake was cut there itself to celebrate the achievement.

At the housing complex in Matunga, where Rahane lives, his fellow residents had organised a special reception. The man of the moment didn't forget to wear a mask. He held his two-year-old daughter Aarya and was accompanied by wife Radhika. Rose petals were showered on the boy-next-door hero, while the sound of dhols filled the air.

At the ground floor of his apartment, a special board displayed Rahane's Test record as captain - four wins and a draw in five Tests, and three Test series victories. The 32-year-old stood in front of the specially-designed board, as camera shutters went into overdrive.

Three years ago, Rahane was dropped from the Test XI in South Africa despite having the best overseas batting average in the group at that time. Cricket is a great leveller.

About 100 kilometres away, firecrackers greeted Shardul Thakur's homecoming at Palghar. Thakur's seven wickets and 67 runs in the first innings in Brisbane proved to be game-changing.



'We will play'

Upon his arrival in Hyderabad, Mohammed Siraj headed straight to his father's grave from the airport. Siraj's father, Mohammed Ghouse, breathed his last on November 20. The Indian team management gave the option to the 26-year-old pacer to return home, but Siraj chose to stay and ended



(Captions clockwise from top) Frenzy awaited India fast bowler T Natarajan when he returned to his village Chinnappampatti, south of Salem. A special procession was also arranged from the bus stop to his house; India Test skipper Ajinkya Rahane arrives at the Mumbai airport with coach Ravi Shastri on Thursday; Cheteshwar Pujara with his family.

up being the most successful Indian bowler in the Test series - 13 wickets from three matches.

In Sydney, he and Jasprit Bumrah were allegedly racially abused by some fans. During a press conference later in the day, Siraj said that match officials had allowed the Indian team

the liberty to leave the game following the incident, but Rahane turned down the offer.

"I faced abuses in Australia. The case is going on, let's see whether I get justice or not. My job was to report the incident to the captain," Siraj told reporters, adding: "The umpires of-

The Indian team's Mumbai-based cricketers have been granted 'special exemption' from the mandatory 14-day quarantine rule after returning from overseas.

ferred us to leave the game but Rahane bhai said we won't leave the game. 'We did no mistake, so we will play'. The abuses which I faced in Australia made me mentally stronger. I didn't let them affect my game." India lodged an official complaint with ICC match referee David Boon and Cricket Australia offered an unreserved apology for the incidents.

Natarajan rides a chariot

Down south in Salem, T Natarajan was put on a chariot, as hundreds gathered on the streets to celebrate one of the most heart-warming stories in Indian cricket. For someone from Chinnappampatti, a village 36 kilometres off Salem in Tamil Nadu, it's been a fairy-tale rise for the 29-year-old. His hardship as a child and teenager and how without his exceptional cricket skills, he could have ended up as a weaver like his father have been well documented.

Natarajan went to Australia as a net bowler, made a seamless progression to white-ball internationals and returned home as a Test cricketer after playing at the Gabba. His team mate from Tamil Nadu, Washington Sundar, would be late to check in, scheduled to return home in the early hours on Friday.

Quarantine relaxation

Meanwhile, the Indian team's Mumbai-based cricketers have been granted 'special exemption' from the mandatory 14-day quarantine rule after returning from overseas. The stipulation includes a seven-day quarantine in a hotel provided the in-bound passengers test negative at the airport.

But the home Test series against England is commencing on February 5 and the players will have to report in Chennai on January 27. After about six months in various bio-bubbles, for the Indian Premier League and in Australia, they will enter another bubble for the next series. Family time would be short, but that's how it is in a Covid-affected world.

New Year

NEW HOPE AND NEW CAR

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR FAVOURITE MARUTI SUZUKI CAR.

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