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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**FOOD MATHS:
IMBALANCES IN
CEREAL ECONOMY**
BY JEAN DRÈZE
PAGE 10

Bihar warns of action for online posts against govt; Opp calls it draconian

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 22

IN A move that has been described as “draconian and unwarranted” by the Opposition, Bihar Police have issued a circular warning that those making “objectionable and indecent” comments online against the state government, Ministers, MLAs, MPs and officials can be booked under the IT Act and the Indian Penal Code.

“We have been, of late, getting information about the use of objectionable and indecent language being used against the government, Ministers, MPs, MLAs and government officials through social media/ Internet. This is against provisions of the law and comes under the domain of cyber crime... For this act, it is apt to take action against such offenders,” states the circular issued by Bihar Police’s Economic Offences Unit (EOU).

The circular, which is dated January 21 and signed by Additional DGP (EOU and Cyber Crime) N H Khan, has been sent to principal secretaries and secretaries of all state government departments. It states that the EOU is the nodal agency for cyber crime, and that all principal secretaries and secretaries should bring “such matters” to its notice so that “action can be initiated”.

Reacting sharply to the circular, RJD leader and Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav tweeted that “in the birthplace of the Republic”, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar “has been ripping apart democratic values”.

Yadav said the Opposition will not allow the JD(U)-BJP government to “take away democratic rights of the people”.

JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said the government’s move is in accordance with the law and will “apply to everyone”. “There is nothing offensive about it,” he said.

ADGP Khan later said police will not take any *suo motu* action. “We will take action only if

NO DATE SET FOR NEXT MEETING

Talks break down, Centre tells farmers we have made best offer, reconsider

Some forces don’t want to see this resolved: Tomar

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA
& RAAKHI JAGGA**
NEW DELHI, LUDHIANA, JAN 22

TALKS BETWEEN the Centre and farmer unions demanding the repeal of the new agriculture laws broke down Friday after weeks of negotiation. The government made it clear to the farmers that its proposal to suspend the laws for 18 months was the “best” it could offer, and farmers could return to the talks table after a rethink.

The hardening of the Centre’s position was evident when, at the very start of the meeting, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar objected to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha’s announcement Thursday evening that the farmer unions had rejected the Centre’s offer to suspend the laws.

It is learned that Tomar told the unions that since the talks were scheduled Friday, they should have communicated their decision to the government instead of announcing it to the media first.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Farmers’ representatives after the meeting in New Delhi on Friday. Amit Mehra

Opp parties target ‘rigid’ Govt, plan to turn up heat in Parliament

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

WITH TALKS between the Centre and farm unions breaking down, Opposition parties Friday slammed the Government for adopting a “rigid” stand and signalled that they will raise the issue forcefully and “vociferously” during the

Budget session of Parliament starting next week.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that Congress president Sonia Gandhi is likely to convene a meeting of Opposition leaders ahead of the session to discuss strategy, and that they are already in touch with each other.

The Opposition parties have also decided to hold street agitations over the farm laws, with

NCP chief Sharad Pawar slated to participate in a protest in Mumbai on January 25.

“Parliament will reconvene in a week’s time. It is the Budget session, of course. But there are so many pressing issues of public concern that need to be debated and discussed fully. Whether the Government will agree however remains to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MSP to APMCs: SC panel puts up questions to draw farmers

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

■ Are you aware about the implications of legalising MSP?
■ Do you think there may be risk of acquiring land by the corporate sector or the contractor?
■ There are apprehensions that the provisions in the Act will collapse APMC markets. Do you feel so? If yes, how will it be responsible for the collapse of APMC markets?

These are some of the questions in a feedback form prepared by the Supreme Court-appointed committee seeking “suggestions” of farmers and other stakeholders on the three contentious farm laws and the demand for legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP).

The feedback form, available on the committee’s webpage, contains 20 multiple-choice questions divided into 5 sections. While Sections A, B, and C deal with the three farm laws, Section

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Faced pressure but went by scientists on vaccines: PM bid to dispel doubts

Suggests vaccination competitions by hospitals to move to 2nd phase quickly

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 22

CRITICISING POLITICS over coronavirus vaccines and trying to allay fears regarding the same, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that he had been under a lot of “pressure” but left the call on when to introduce the vaccines to scientists.

In a televised interaction with beneficiaries and vaccinators of the Covid vaccines in his constituency Varanasi, he also urged people to believe health workers and doctors, and suggested that hospitals initiate “competitions in vaccination” so that the country could move quickly to the second phase of the drive.

Without referring to ques-

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



tions raised regarding emergency use clearance to the indigenously developed Covaxin despite some missing data

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray with Cyrus Poonawalla and Adar Poonawalla in Pune on Friday. Ashish Kale

Fire loss Rs 1,000 cr; BCG, rota vaccines capacity hit: Serum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 22

VACCINE-MAKER Serum Institute of India has said it suffered losses worth at least Rs 1,000 crore in Thursday’s fire, although the production or supplies of the Covid-19 vaccine remained unaffected.

“The fire incident will not affect Covishield supplies, but it has damaged the rotavirus and BCG vaccine manufacturing and storage facilities. It is a big financial loss for us, more than Rs 1,000 crore,” Serum Institute

CEO Adar Poonawalla said at a press conference on Friday.

“By God’s grace, and prayers by all of us, the fire incident took place in another building and Covishield production and stock was not affected at all,” he said.

Five workers engaged in electrical and air-conditioning jobs were killed in the fire that engulfed the three upper floors of a newly-constructed six-storey building on the Serum campus in Pune’s Manjari area on Thursday.

“We were hoping that there was no loss of life. When we got an initial report that there has

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EXPRESS NETWORK

**ANOTHER MINISTER
QUITS IN BENGAL,
BJP INVITES HIM TO
JOIN THEIR PARTY**
PAGE 5

THE CITY

**NORTHEAST DELHI:
BJP PLANS 'RATH
YATRA' FOR RAM
MANDIR DONATIONS**
PAGE 3

CWC ASKS FOR JPC PROBE

‘All Ministers with us’: Arnab’s chats make BJP do some social distancing

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE BJP and the Centre have avoided reacting to the WhatsApp chats between Republic TV’s Arnab Goswami and former CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta submitted to the court by the Mumbai Police in the TRP case. But as the Congress calls for a JPC probe and

**His WhatsApp
chats with
ex-BARC CEO
submitted to
court**

flags Goswami’s claims of proximity with the government, that distancing will be tested once Parliament begins.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) Friday de-

mandated a “time-bound investigation” into “the breach of national security, violations of the Official Secrets Act and the role of the persons involved.”

Congress president Sonia Gandhi criticised what she called the “deafening” silence of the Government, adding that “those who give certificates of patriotism and nationalism to others now stand totally exposed.”

“Why should we enter

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rajasthan bats for retd IAS officer, now advisor to cricket body led by CM son

Files plea to withdraw corruption
case against him and two others

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 22

FOUR YEARS after chargesheets were filed against three bureaucrats, including an IAS officer — who is now retired and is an advisor to the Rajasthan Cricket Association led by Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot — for corruption in an alleged land scam, the state

government has moved an application at the trial stage to withdraw the case against them at a special court set up for hearing cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Two chargesheets against the three officials — GS Sandhu, IAS (now retired), Nishkam Diwakar (now retired, Rajasthan Administrative Service) and Onkar Mal Saini (serving RAS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
**Withdrawal
symptom**

IN ITS 2016 chargesheet, the state ACB had accused the three bureaucrats of criminal conspiracy for allotting land belonging to a housing society to a private construction company. The state has now moved a special court to withdraw the case.

Green laws passed at instance of foreign powers: NHAI in HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 22

THE NATIONAL Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has landed in trouble in the Karnataka High Court for claiming in a submission that the Environment Protection Act, 1986 was “passed by Parliament not only for protection of environment but also at the instance of foreign powers” while refer-

ring to a UN conference.

The submission was made by a Deputy General Manager of NHAI in objections to a writ petition filed by the NGO, United Conservation Movement, against a 2013 notification of the Union Environment Ministry doing away with environment impact assessment reports for widening national highways of over 100 km by more than 40 metres.

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PAGE 1
ANCHOR**BENITA FERNANDO
& LAXMAN SINGH**
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

SOMETIME IN the early 1990s, an imposing sculpture at Haji Ali Circle was lost to a road expansion project. Over two-storey tall, shaped like a peacock, the sculpture called Spark had been built by pioneering artist Pilloo Pochkhanawala. Years later, in 2002, a miniature version of the work was placed on a traffic island outside the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Colaba. As a Bal Thackeray statue, the first of the late politi-

cal leader in Mumbai, comes up on the island on Saturday, it has suddenly come to notice that ‘Spark’ has gone missing again — and may have been missing for months now.

The BMC is undertaking a makeover of the Colaba traffic island. Asked about the missing replica, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, A ward (Colaba, Fort), Chanda Jadhav said, “We are not aware of the whereabouts of the sculpture. I checked with our staff whether it was shifted to some other place or removed, but no such thing has taken place from our side.”

HSBC, which funded the

Spark replica and maintains the traffic island as per an arrangement with the BMC, did not comment on its current location. The Spark replica had been installed through a citizen’s initiative, including members such as Dr Pheroza Godrej, former director of the NGMA, and Zarir Cama, ex-CEO of HSBC India. Godrej made the replica based on Pochkhanawala’s scale model, which she owns. The replica was one-third the height of the original sculpture at Haji Ali.

Pochkhanawala, who died in 1986 and whose legacy is now almost forgotten, made notable contribution to modern Indian art,



A 2013 photograph of the sculpture in Colaba, Mumbai. Photo Courtesy: Pheroza Godrej; the statue of Bal Thackeray which is to be unveiled at the site. Ganesh Shirsekar



pushing sculpting beyond busts of royalty and dignitaries. She was among the few women sculptors at a time when the Indian art world was dominated by men and painters. Born in 1923 to the Adenwalla family that set up the firm Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros, she married into the family of Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala, one of the founders of the Central Bank of India.

While she started out working with an advertising firm, a Europe tour in 1950 introduced her to original works of Constantin Brâncuși, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Alexander Calder, among others,

and convinced her to become a sculptor. But her works were as inspired by American and European modernism as Hindu temple sculptures.

Spark was originally commissioned by BEST (Bombay Electric Supply & Transport), and Pochkhanawala made it welding scrap metal together — the heavy, industrial quality of the work set off by its light, bird-like features. Godrej says Pochkhanawala probably gave it that name due to BEST’s connection with electricity.

Pochkhanawala chose Haji Ali Circle as the location as she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

From economic liberalisation to Covid pandemic

What Tandav's cuts mean for OTT platforms, what the Biden administration could mean for US-India ties, and the fire that broke out at the Serum Institute

“The inquiry was conducted by the UDH committee as well as a committee of the

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited the Serum Institute campus on Friday and reviewed the damage caused by the fire. The only relief was that manufacturing or storage of Covishield was unaffected, he said.

The submission alleges that many organisations in India, which function as environmental action and human rights, “are actively involved in attacking development projects.

In a resolution, the CWC said the farmers are "fighting a decisive battle to save their farms and fields, their lives and livelihood, and their present and their future against a diabolical onslaught by the Modi Government determined to sacrifice their interests at the altar of a handful of crony industrialist friends."

The CWC, meanwhile, expressed grave concern at the "revelations exposing the sordid conversations that have undoubtedly compromised national security". "It is clear that among those involved are persons in the highest echelons of government and there has been a breach of secrecy concerning vital and sensitive military operations," it said in a resolution.

“For a city with so little engaging public art, it’s devastating to lose Pilloo’s Spark yet again. This piece was a key visual element of our art tour in tracing her journey from a sculptor working with scrap metal to the organiser of the Bombay Arts Festival. She was ahead of her time in her choice of material,” the Art Walks founders said.

But if Spark died unheralded, the traffic island has been given a makeover to receive the Thackeray statue, which will be inaugurated on Saturday, on his birth anniversary. It’s 11 feet tall and stands atop a pedestal.

JNU V-C Jagadesh Kumar gets extension

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU University Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar, who was scheduled to retire on January 26, was Friday asked by the Education Ministry to continue in office till his successor is appointed.

An advertisement had been put out in October for the same saying the V-C must possess “the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment”.

“The incumbent Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar, whose five-year term is to complete on January 26, is allowed to continue in the office, notwithstanding the expiry of the tenure till his successor is appointed,” P K Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of Education, said Friday.

Kumar has seen a fair share of tumult on campus during his tenure — starting from the February 9, 2016 sedition case against Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya for alleged anti-national slogans on campus to the disappearance of JNU student Najeeb Ahmed. The campus has also witnessed prolonged



M Jagadesh Kumar was scheduled to retire on January 26

protests in campus due to hostel fee hike and mandatory attendance for students and teachers.

Both the JNU Students’ Union and JNU Teachers’ Association have been at loggerheads with the V-C, with demands for his resignation being raised from time to time.

In January last year, the JNU campus had become the scene of violence when masked people went from hostel to hostel assaulting students and damaging property. Several members of the faculty were also injured in the attacks.

JNU had formed a panel to look into the violence, but — as reported by *The Indian Express* — that was later dissolved.

Year after Northeast Delhi riots, BJP plans ‘rath yatra’ in district to collect Ram Mandir donations

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

A ‘RATH’ yatra in a nine-seater van is being planned for his constituency by Manoj Tiwari, the MP from Northeast Delhi and former state BJP chief, during which he will collect contributions for construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Calling it the ‘Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Nirman Nidhi Abhiyan’, Tiwari said he will begin the yatra from February 1, which is also his birthday.

“I will reach out to all sections of society to collect contributions for a grand Ram temple. There are several brothers and sisters from the minority community who also wish to contribute, and I will go to their houses, shops and establishments too,” Tiwari said.

The Northeast Delhi constituency had last year seen communal riots that left 53 dead and hundreds injured.

BJP leader and Tiwari’s aide Neelkant Bakshi said the yatra



A nine-seater van will serve as the ‘rath’

will start from Timarpur and head to Chand Bagh and Yamuna Vihar. The next day’s programme is yet to be decided. Chand Bagh was among the areas that saw violence in February last year.

A nine-seater van will be fashioned into a rath, which will be decorated with photos of Lord Ram, the temple, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P

Nadda.

The idea is to collect as much money as possible for the temple trust, Bakshi said, adding that all efforts would be made to ensure harmony is maintained in the area during the yatra.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the BJP’s Delhi unit along with the RSS will also start a drive to collect donations for construction of the Ram Mandir, mobilis-

ing party workers right till the booth level from February 1 to 27.

VHP’s Delhi unit president Kapil Khanna had told *The Indian Express* that the cadres will reach out to 43 lakh families and inform them about the plan regarding the structure of the temple and its design. “While cadres will not contact non-Hindu households, everyone can contribute by reaching out to us,” he had said.

BJP MP from East Delhi Gautam Gambhir has donated Rs 1 crore for construction of the temple. “A glorious Ram temple has been the dream of all Indians. Finally this long standing issue has been put to rest. This will pave the way for unity and tranquillity. A small contribution from me and my family has been made in this endeavour,” he said.

Delhi BJP general secretary Kuljeet Chehal, who is looking after the fund collection drive, said several leaders and businessmen have started contributing already and the party will reach out to every section — be it industrialists or those living in slums.

200 samples from sero-survey missing

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE DIRECTORATE General of Health Services (DGHS) has issued a show cause notice to the chief district medical officer of the West district after officials were unable to trace 200 samples collected for the fifth round of the serological survey in Delhi.

In the notice issued by the DGHS, Dr Nutan Mundeja, officials have been asked to explain the reason behind the lapse within three days. “This is a serious lapse on the part of team of West district responsible for sero survey,” stated the notice, also marked to Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Delhi government.

The fifth round of the serological survey kicked off in Delhi on January 11. A total of 28,000 samples have been collected during the exercise which was expected to end on Friday. The West district had a target of collecting 4200 samples for the survey. The last sero survey was conducted in October. Results of the survey showed 29.1% people had antibodies in August, which dropped to 25.1% in September and later increased to 25.5% in October.

“This is the first time that the samples from any district have been misplaced. The whole purpose of the exercise is defeated if the officials will have to re-collect the samples. It seems that the samples got lost between the lab team and the district officials,” said a senior official from the state health department.

The first round of this exercise, conducted between the last week of June and the first week of July, had detected antibodies in about 23% of the volunteers.

A serological survey is an exercise to check the prevalence of the disease in a population, by detecting the presence of specific antibodies against the virus.

The survey includes IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test, which estimates the proportion of the population exposed to Sars-Cov-2 infection. The IgG test is not useful for detecting acute infections but it indicates episodes of infections that have happened in the past. The test has been approved by ICMR for its high sensitivity and specificity.

Meanwhile, Delhi saw 266 new cases and seven deaths due to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases in the city to 63,352.



Delhi’s R-Day tableau showing Chandni Chowk. Praveen Khanna

Ahead of R-Day, over 40,000 personnel at border protest sites

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

IN VIEW of the 72nd Republic Day celebrations, the Delhi Police has deployed a five-layer security in and around the city to maintain law and order during the parade and the proposed tractor march at the borders.

DCP (New Delhi) and PRO Eish Singhal said more than 6,000 police personnel will be deployed at Rajpath for the parade and award ceremonies. Sources in the police said over 40,000 police, ITBP and CRPF personnel will be deployed at Singhu, Tikri and Ghaziabad borders.

Following Covid protocols, only 25,000 people will be allowed to watch the parade at Rajpath as opposed to one lakh spectators who attend the parade every year. The tickets for the general public have been limited to 4,500 this year.

The parade will also be shorter this year. Instead of marching up to the Red Fort, the parade will end at National Stadium. Tableaux will be allowed to perform at Red Fort.

On the ground, police will use face-recognition cameras through CCTVs to maintain law and order. Verification drives and patrolling have been intensified in New Delhi, South, Southwest and Southeast districts.

DCP (Southeast) RP Meena said more than 20 commandos and police personnel have been deployed

at each entry point at Lajpat Nagar’s Central Market.

“We have also intensified checking and frisking in the district. Over 150 CCTVs have been installed at crowded areas — Veer Savarkar Marg and Central Market. Drones will also be used on Republic Day,” said DCP Meena.

To nab miscreants, frisking at airport, bus, Metro and railway stations has been tightened.

In Southwest district, police said more than 50 volunteers have been appointed as “eyes and ears” of the police. This is part of the anti-terror measures followed at the busy Sarojini Nagar Market.

DCP (Southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh said, “These volunteers are mostly shopkeepers and workers at the Sarojini Nagar market. They can keep a vigil during celebrations, and in case of terror activity, they can help the public and other shopkeepers evacuate the area.”

In South Delhi, police have deployed several teams for patrolling at malls and crowded markets. The local police are also encouraging RWAs to come to police stations and hold a meeting with officials.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, “Our staff is conducting tenant verification, domestic help verification, along with picket duties near borders. We have also interacted with security guards and asked them to inform us of suspicious activities near them. We are checking hotels and guesthouses as well.”

Finish phase 1 of Rani Khera biz park by May 2023: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Friday instructed officials to ensure the completion of the first phase of the proposed business park at West Delhi’s Rani Khera by May 2023.

The Rani Khera project, along with another one at Baprola, was first conceived in 2012. However, these projects did not take off over the years with the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructural Development Corporation (DSIIDC) Limited revising the completion deadlines multiple times.

On Friday, following a review meeting with DSIIDC officials, a government spokesperson said the Rani Khera project will be constructed in phases — with con-

struction commencing in May 2021, first phase to be constructed by May 2023, and second phase to be completed by May 2025.

“The construction of the project should be completed within the stipulated timeline,” Kejriwal said. He also reviewed the status of ongoing maintenance works in the industrial areas of DSIIDC.

The city has 29 planned industrial areas in places such as Bawana, Narela, Okhla, Wazirpur, Patparganj and Shahdara, among others. The Delhi Statistical Handbook 2019 puts the number of factories in Delhi at 9,121, employing 4.19 lakh workers.

Kejriwal had in November 2020 announced that the new industrial areas in Delhi will only have service-based and hi-tech industrial units.



Ministry of Culture
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by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

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Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata

Major highlights of the Parakram Diwas Celebrations

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- Unveil the book 'Letters of Netaji'
- Release Commemorative Coin and Memorial Postal Stamp
- Felicitate INA Veterans

Parakram Diwas Address by the Prime Minister



India will always remain grateful to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for his bravery and indelible contribution to resisting colonialism. He stood up for the progress and well-being of his fellow Indians



- Narendra Modi

Watch live on Doordarshan and All India Radio 4:00 PM onwards



New Delhi



		Total		Vacant
TOTAL CASES		9,053		8,135
6,33,542		1,176		934
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 21	227	246	8	81,550
Jan 22	266	319	7	71,850
Total	2,060*	6,20,693	10,789	1,02,12,593

*Total active cases

Capital becomes garbage central

With thousands of North MCD workers on strike over salary delays, roads in several areas are drowning in filth, with no resolution to the crisis on the horizon

Business hit in Karol Bagh and Sadar: 'No place to even walk'

ANANYA TIWARI
DELHI, JANUARY 22

IN WHAT could lead to a health hazard, mounds of garbage have continued to pile across several localities in North Delhi as thousands of sanitation workers protest non-payment of salaries. *The Indian Express* visited Sadar Bazar, Karol Bagh, Rohini, Delhi Gate and Kanhaiya Nagar on Friday — in many areas, so much garbage had collected that the roads were barely usable.

Satish Kumar (51), a maintenance worker for the North Delhi Municipal Corporation who heads the union representing 4th class employees of municipalities such as safai karamcharis, told *The Indian Express*, "For the past 6-7 days, safai karamcharis are not working as part of the strike. For 4-5 months, they have not been paid, bonuses are pending for 2 years, there are karamcharis who have not yet been made permanent despite working with the MCD for 15-20 years. Unless they pay our salaries and figure out a permanent solution to this, this strike shall continue."

At the prominent Sadar Bazar and Karol Bagh markets, the filth has brought business to a standstill.

Chaman Lal (76), who owns a shop in Sadar Bazar, said, "No one can work without salaries but we just wish cleanliness is maintained — we don't know what to

do with the stacks of garbage in front of our shops. It can lead to an illness. It has been around 8 days and everyone keeps throwing more garbage on the streets."

Gulshan (24), another shop owner, said, "In a few days the pile will become unmanageable. The authorities must find a solution." President of the Sadar Bazar traders association, Paramjeet Singh Pamma, said customer footfall has dropped drastically as a result.

Naveen Keshwani (41), who runs a shoe store at Karol Bagh, said, "We can't even walk on the road; the smell is so bad. Karol Bagh market was once a tourist spot and now it looks like this."

Jai Prakash, mayor of North MCD and the councillor of Sadar Bazar, said, "Today we cleared 2 months' worth of salaries to safai karamcharis, worth approximately Rs 154 crores." Urging sanitation workers to resume work, he said: "This is the capital of the country, and I appeal to the workers to go back to work. We are working on a permanent solution... and even the Delhi High Court is hearing the matter. We shall clear as many dues as possible of all employees by the end of the month."

But AP Khan, convener of the Confederation of MCD Employees' Union, drew a hard line: "Till they release salaries of all employees, including pensioners, and find a permanent solution, the strike will continue."

KANHAIYA NAGAR



SADAR BAZAR



GHANTA GHAR



KAROL BAGH MARKET



KAROL BAGH



LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL



Garbage piled up in different parts of the city Friday as civic workers continued their strike. Photos: Prem Nath Pandey

Behind cycle of salary delays: MCD structure, 2 parties at loggerheads

MALLICA JOSHI & ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

TRIFURCATION DATING back a decade, polls slated for next year and the BJP and AAP vying for control — these are some of the key reasons why Delhi's municipal workers are facing salary delays, and why filth has accumulated on the city's roads over the past weeks.

With hundreds of MCD employees going without salaries and former employees without pension, the Delhi High Court Thursday noted that their grievances had been reduced to a "political slugfest", and expressed "disgust" with the Delhi government and the corporations. It also ordered the Delhi government to pay any amount deducted or adjusted by it during the pandemic from funds to be released to the corporations, within two weeks.

The fight between the Delhi

government and MCDs, in court and outside, is not new — MCD employees have approached the court over non-payment of salaries in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The 2012 trifurcation

Trifurcation of the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi in 2012 was done to "decentralise" the large local body. However, senior officials say, it was also an attempt to fix political boundaries in such a way that the then Congress government in Delhi would be able to make inroads into the civic body which had become a BJP bastion.

After the trifurcation, the North and South Delhi Municipal Corporations were given 104 wards each, while the East MCD had 64, mostly in the trans-Yamuna area. Due to Delhi's demography, the South body ended

up with the most "posh" colonies — the A and B category taxation zones that paid higher property taxes. The North, on the other hand, got more unauthorised and lower taxation category colonies, which pay less tax, or not at all.

The split created a structure in which the South ended up earning around 30% of its internal revenue through property tax. For the North corporation, the share of internal revenue through property tax was around 15%, while for the East body, this figure was even lower at around 9%.

The Covid crisis

Because of the pandemic, both Delhi government and MCDs have suffered in terms of internal revenue collection. According to Delhi government officials, its revenue is at least 40%



At Karol Bagh Friday. Ananya Tiwari

lower than what it was last year. Corporations too have seen a more than 50% shortage in collection from advertising revenues, toll tax, health trade license and other sources of revenue.

The corporations earn the highest amount from property tax collections which too has

been affected, with South MCD collection being 20% less while the figure stands at 40% for East and North, senior officials said. In the city, several roles — sometimes referred to as cradle to grave — are fulfilled by corporations. Birth and death certificates, primary education (along

with Delhi government), health-care, maintenance of smaller roads, property tax, cleaning of roads, garbage disposal etc fall under their purview. But with a fall in revenue and amid a tussle with the Delhi government, officials say corporations are finding it hard to perform all their duties.

The politics

The tussle between AAP, which heads the state, and BJP, which heads the three MCDs, has meant there is little room for co-operation. The funding structure for corporations has remained the same for decades, but Sheila Dikshit's Congress government did not have a confrontational relationship with the Centre or the corporations, which have been ruled by BJP for the past 14 years.

The AAP, which wants to wrest control of the three civic bodies next year, has alleged corruption and financial irregularities in MCDs, which it says is the reason for the financial crunch. The BJP

maintains the Delhi government is withholding funds it is bound to pay the three MCDs, which is why salaries have been delayed.

Delhi, being a Union Territory with special powers, has a unique administrative structure where civic bodies do not come under direct control of the state government, but rather under the Centre. The Centre's grants to municipal bodies come under specific grants for projects, while Delhi government is supposed to pay a certain amount to the MCDs.

The state of play

According to a sanction order of Delhi government's department of urban development, from Wednesday, the corporations were owed around Rs 1,200 crore as per revised estimates with a 42% revenue decline under the basic tax assignment. Of this, Rs 862 crore had been released until December.

The Delhi government told the Delhi High Court that a sanc-

tion order was passed on Wednesday for release of Rs 337 crore to the MCDs and other local bodies for January-March 2021.

MCD officials say their calculations under the 3rd Financial Commission shows that between 2012 and 2016, Delhi government had to pay South MCD Rs 428 crore; the North was owed Rs 539 crore; while East had no due.

Similarly, the figures given by the three MCDs state that under 5th Finance Commission recommendations between 2016 and 2021, South is owed Rs 1,901 crore; East is owed Rs 1,624; and North is owed Rs 1,087 crore.

In a letter to the three MCD mayors in October, Sisodia had said, "It is clear that no major amount is due from Delhi government, and any figure the Mayors of MCDs are demanding is fictional and an attempt to divert the attention of public from the deep financial mismanagement and corruption inside the MCDs."

Three baolis set to get a fresh lease of life

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey of India has asked Delhi Jal Board to rejuvenate 12 water bodies, including Agrasen ki Baoli, Red Fort Baoli and Purana Qila Baoli.

A report containing details of the plan was submitted to the National Green Tribunal Wednesday by a monitoring committee headed by retired Delhi HC judge Justice SP Garg.

A no-objection certificate for rejuvenation of three water bodies under the ASI has already been issued to the DJB in September, the report stated.

"After much persuasion by the monitoring committee, it was agreed by the ASI that they will issue NOC to DJB for rejuvenation of water bodies as it (ASI) has no expertise of its own to rejuvenate them," the report said.

In December, the ASI had sought a proposal on the plan from the DJB chief executive officer. On December 16, a list of 12 water bodies was sent to the

Board and ASI asked for a detailed project report (DPR) on them, as per the report.

A DJB official said, "We have taken up three ASI water bodies — two at Tughlaqabad and one at Mehrauli — for rejuvenation at present. The ASI requested us to take up the others but we have not consented yet." An ASI official confirmed three NOCs have been issued to the DJB.

Among the 12 water bodies in the list are Gandhak ki Baoli and Rajon ki Baoli in Mehrauli, two Baolis at the Tughlaqabad Fort, Hazrat Nizamuddin Baoli and Arab ki Sarai in Nizamuddin, Feroz Shah Kotla Baoli, Hindu Rao Baoli and a Baoli at Wazirabad Gumbad in RK Puram, as per the report.

The Monitoring Committee report said, "After receipt of DPR of remaining water bodies, ASI would issue NOC for their revival... (DJB informed) that work at one water body... is under execution. Proposal for the second water body has been received... is at tender stage. Proposal of the third water body is yet to be received..."

Ahead of R-Day protest, farmers firm: 'Makes no sense to turn back now'

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

WITH FARMER unions rejecting the Centre's offer to keep the new farm laws in abeyance for 18 months, many farmers at the Singhu border said their movement would be "futile" if they turn back now, especially with thousands more expected to join them by Republic Day.

Jang Singh (73), a farmer from Ambala in Haryana who has been at the Singhu border since the protest began, conceded that "the government's offer to keep the laws in cold storage is definitely a win for us", but added that "we will not go anywhere until the laws are repealed... even if that means we have to stay for a few months".

Singh, whose children and grandchildren are also at the protest site now, said he has helpers to take care of his fields back home.

Affiliated to the Bharatiya



A protester at Singhu Friday. Abhinav Saha

Kisan Union, he said many more farmers from his district are leaving their homes to be a part of the march on January 26.

Harsh Gill (18), also from Ambala, said, "We cannot go back without a written guarantee that the laws will be repealed."

While some said that they go home from time to time to tend

to their fields, almost all said they will not stop protesting.

Gill said, "To fight the cold, we keep eating dry fruits and pinni that keep us warm. Our clothes are getting washed as there is a laundry service. We sleep well at night. Why will we leave until all our demands are met?"

Harinder Singh (38), a

farmer from Hoshiarpur in Punjab who is affiliated to the Doaba Kisan Sangharsh Committee, said the government needs to repeal the laws. "We have come so far, there is no point returning home now."

Four people from his 21-member family are at the protest site, said Harinder, adding that his wife and children visit on the weekends.

Hardeep Kaur (62) from Ludhiana, a member of the All India Kisan Mahasabha, said more women will also join the protest soon. "Our fathers and mothers who have been part of the freedom struggle have seen much worse than this. We draw inspiration from them and continue to fight for our rights here."

At Ghazipur, Haseeb Ahmed (40), a farmer from Uttar Pradesh's Rampur who is associated with the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said, "The government thought we would go back. But it is quite the opposite. We are now preparing to march to Delhi on January 26."

FIR against Sirsa over gurdwara fund 'misuse'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE DELHI Police's Economic Offences Wing has registered an FIR against Shiromani Akali Dal leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa for alleged cheating and misappropriation of funds of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) while he was its secretary-general.

Sirsa, when contacted, said he was being targeted for supporting the farmers' protest.

An FIR was lodged on Thursday evening based on a complaint filed by Bhupender Singh from Rakab Ganj Gurdwara.

In the FIR, Bhupender Singh said he is "one of the stakeholders in the funds received by DSGMC" and that Sirsa had allegedly embezzled money through the bogus purchase of tents, blankets and tarps worth Rs 1 crore.

"The accused made the purchase of the items from non-existing sham companies,"

claimed Bhupender Singh in his complaint.

The FIR also claims that Sirsa along with his personal assistant Narinder Singh misappropriated funds by not purchasing ACs and water coolers from authorised dealers but from a company owned by Narinder's brother. "They also took out cash from the chest of the Gurdwara Committee for personal use," claims the complaint.

A senior officer from the EOW said, "We are verifying the claims and looking into the allegations. The complaint has submitted some bills and documents. We are investigating the matter."

Sirsa said, "The case has been going on for two years in court. Last year, police themselves told the judge to remove my name from the case because there was no evidence. Now, they are filing a case against me. Both Delhi and UP Police are targeting me for supporting farmers in their protest against farm laws."

5 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TIMELY INTERVENTION

AFTER COMING across a video of a CISF man saving the life of a passenger who had suffered heart attack at a Delhi Metro station, Home Minister Amit Shah may not have publicly lauded the personnel, but has expressed his desire to meet him. Shah called the intervention of the CISF man an example of the “unwavering commitment towards serving the motherland and humanity” by Central Armed Police Forces. The incident took place three days ago when a passenger at the Dabri Mor Metro Station collapsed after suffering heart attack. The CISF man rushed to him and gave him Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or CPR. The timely intervention saved the passenger’s life.

SHOW OF LOYALTY

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot’s outburst against the letter-writing leaders in the Congress at the CWC meeting on Friday did not come as a surprise to many in the party. Some leaders felt it was classic Congress politics and a clever ploy by the veteran to try to kill several birds with one stone. Gehlot’s name is often taken whenever there is talk of a non-Gandhi for the post of Congress president. He was also personally close to many of the 23 leaders – who wrote to Sonia Gandhi seeking sweeping changes in the party – including Anand Sharma and Bhupinder Singh Hooda. There was a perception he was acceptable to the 23 leaders. His aggression on Friday, some feel, was to clearly distance himself from the letter-writers and showcase his loyalty to the Gandhis. Besides, Gehlot still faces a threat from Sachin Pilot in his home state. So it was perhaps also a message to the Gandhis that his loyalty towards them is unflinching.

BACK TO QUESTIONS

DURING THE monsoon session, which was held amid the pandemic with too many restrictions, the question hour was scrapped, drawing strong criticism from the opposition. So in the Budget session, it has been reinstated, extending the duration of the daily session to five hours. The MPs appear to be keen, as several of them have started sending in their questions for the government to answer. So far, the Lok Sabha MPs have sent 8,340 questions – both starred (to be answered in the floor of the House) as well as unstarred (for written answers) – to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Secretariat picks a ballot everyday for starred questions. So far, the ballots have been picked for dates up to February 11.

VACCINE GESTURE

AS INDIA sent Covid-19 vaccines to Brazil on Friday after a bit of delay, Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro thanked India with an image of Hanuman with the Sanjivani, flying from India to Brazil. He had made the same reference in April last year when he had asked for Hydroxychloroquine.

Kushwaha may align with JD(U), get education berth

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 22

RASHTRIYA LOK Samta Party chief and former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha is said to be in talks to align his party with the JD(U) and become the education minister in the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar.

A JD(U) source said: “There won’t be a merger of RLSP with JD(U). Since Kushwaha has been taking up education issues, he could become education minister,” the source said, adding that the RLSP leader would be nominated to the Upper House in Bihar soon.

The Bihar Cabinet is likely to be expanded next week, with the JD(U) and BJP reportedly agreeing to a 50:50 seat-sharing formula.



RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha

From the BJP, Syed Shanawaz Hussain is a front-runner for a ministerial berth. Other contenders from the party included Nitish Mishra, Samrat Choudhary, Nitin Navin, Rana Randhir Singh and Gyanendra Singh Gyanu.

Meanwhile, Chainpur MLA Jama Khan, the lone BSP legislator in Bihar, joined the JD(U) on Friday. Khan could be made a minister and be given the charge of the minority welfare department. Independent MLA Chakali Sumit Singh is also likely to become a minister from the JD(U) quota.

Kerala House passes resolution against CAG report: Factually wrong on KIIFB’s off-budget borrowings

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 22

IN AN unprecedented development, the Kerala Assembly on Friday passed a resolution against a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, which termed the off-budget borrowings through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) as unconstitutional and said that it encroached upon the powers of the Union government.

The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan,

was passed despite strong objections raised by the Opposition, which said the government was trying to destroy a Constitutional body. The resolution said the Assembly rejected CAG’s reference about KIIFB in its report.

The CAG report on state finances audit for 2019 was tabled in the assembly on January 19. It made adverse remarks against the off-budget borrowings, including the masala bond, of the KIIFB, which is the government entity for mobilising funds for infrastructure projects.

The resolution said the adverse references against KIIFB

Cong leaders clash over party polls, CWC says chief by June

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

OVER FOUR months after the Congress set in motion the process of holding election for appointment of a new president, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) Friday unanimously put off the exercise till June in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections, but not before the virtual meeting saw a heated exchange between veteran leaders Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Ambika Soni on one side and Anand Sharma on the other.

Sharma is one of the 23 senior leaders who had written an unprecedented letter to Sonia Gandhi in July demanding sweeping changes in the party, including elections to the CWC.

Sources said Rahul Gandhi intervened to say harsh words should not have been used by either side, and added that the issue of farmers’ agitation was more important and the leadership issue would be settled when the organisational elections take place.

The CWC met to approve the schedule and modalities of organisational elections. Sources said Ghulam Nabi Azad, one of the 23 signatories to the letter, said that elections be held both for the CWC and the Central Election Committee, a key body which finalises the party’s candidates for various elections, as provided by the party constitution. The remarks left both Gehlot and Soni agitated.

Significantly, senior leader P Chidambaram backed Azad, as did Mukul Wasnik, who even explained the provisions in the Congress constitution regarding holding of elections to the CEC.

After the meeting, AICC gen-



Congress leaders V.K. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala in New Delhi, Friday. Anil Sharma

eral secretary in-charge of organisation K C Venugopal told reporters that the party was willing to hold elections to the CWC – which were last held when Sonia Gandhi took over as Congress president in 1998. He also said the CWC had decided that the party will have a “new, elected” president by June “at any cost.”

However, Venugopal added, “As per our constitution, (a) little clarity is needed over whether the Congress president election and Working Committee can be together, or that after the Congress president election, Working Committee election has to be held. Definitely, according to that, election will be held. We are not saying that the CWC election will not be there. As per the practice, first the Congress president election is held and thereafter the CWC election. That is the usual practice. We need clarity on that.”

Interestingly, in her opening address, Sonia said the schedule and modalities for organisational elections had to get the CWC’s approval. After this, discussions began on the schedule sent by Madhusudan Mistry, who had been appointed chair-

person of the Central Election Authority in August.

Sources said that soon after Azad and Chidambaram suggested at the meeting that elections be held to the CEC as well, Soni questioned the insistence on holding elections and pointed out that elections were not held in the BJP as well. She said the need of the hour was to take on the BJP. Gehlot joined her, and in a full-blown attack on those seeking elections, asked whether they didn’t have faith in Sonia’s leadership. “Why are elections being brought up every now and then?” he asked.

At one point, he is learnt to have questioned the locus standi of those seeking elections. One leader said Gehlot used very harsh words, seen as directed at Azad. “He said, ‘Kaun pehchante hain aapko (Who recognises you)? What is your identity, your place? Nobody recognises you.’”

Sources said Sharma hit back, telling Gehlot, “Nobody has given you the right to be disrespectful.” He also pointed out that Gehlot and he both owe “everything” to the party, and had known each other and been in the party for

EXPLAINED The limbo continues

IT’S been more than six months since 23 leaders of the Congress wrote an unprecedented letter to Sonia Gandhi seeking sweeping changes in the party. As it puts off elections to party president by another six months, the limbo in the Congress clearly continues.

over four decades, signalling he was as much a Congressman as Gehlot. Sharma said there can be different perceptions and views, but there was a way to have a discussion. Rahul said he understood the viewpoints of both Gehlot and Sharma.

Sources said many leaders, including Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and A K Antony, demanded that party elections be rescheduled in view of Assembly polls.

Addressing the press conference along with Venugopal, Congress communication department in-charge Randeep Surjewala denied there was any “uttejana (excitement)” or “vaad-vivaad (disagreement)” at the CWC meeting, and said the talk of sparring between leaders was “mere rumours”.

The Congress also raised questions on the vaccination drive, arguing that “there is complete lack of clarity” about its availability. It said no timeline has been laid out for the programme beyond the first 3 crore people. The party demanded that the vaccine be administered for free to under-privileged and marginalised sections.

Ex-CJI Gogoi gets ‘Z+’ VIP security cover

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE CENTRE has accorded Z plus security to former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

Nominated to Rajya Sabha by the government months after his retirement in November 2019, Gogoi will be protected by around a dozen CRPF commandos at all times. A similar contingent will guard his residence.

Sources said the decision to accord him security cover under the highest category after the Prime Minister’s was taken after a threat assessment by intelligence agencies. Gogoi headed the five-judge bench that delivered the Ayodhya verdict in 2019.

Sources said Gogoi already had Z-plus security by local police in Assam and during visits to Delhi. “The security had been provided in anticipation of threat to him following the Ayodhya verdict. Security had been provided to other four judges as well, albeit low in category,” a Home Ministry official said.

Sources said the difference this time is that Gogoi will be covered by a specialised VIP force under the Centre’s control.



Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi

PM invokes Test win to highlight young India taking on challenges

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Friday said today’s young India has a new way of taking on challenges and used the example of the recent victory of the Test cricket team in Australia to highlight his point.

Virtually addressing the 18th convocation of Tezpur University in Assam, Modi said: “The cricket team faced many challenges. They suffered a crushing defeat but recovered and won the next match. They showed determination despite injuries.”

He added: “There were inexperienced players, but their morale was high and they grabbed the opportunity to create history. They defeated a better team with their talent and temperament.”



The Jerenga Pothar (field) in Sivasagar district where PM Narendra Modi will give out land documents on Saturday. PTI

The PM said the victory had lessons beyond the field.

“First, we should have confidence in our ability; second, a positive mindset begets positive results. The third and most important lesson is that if one has two options—one of safe exit and

the other a difficult one towards victory—one must go for the win,” Modi said.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the Northeast was seeing “rapid progress due to the PM’s unparalleled political will”.

New parties flag ‘unfulfilled’ promises

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 22

A DAY ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to poll-bound Assam, newly-formed regional outfits Assam Jatiya Parishad and Rajgor Dal Friday questioned the BJP government’s “unfulfilled promises”, particularly on the hot-button illegal immigration issue in the state.

“The BJP had said in its vision document that they would deport illegal foreigners from Assam... Now, as the PM visits Assam, we want to urge him to publish the names and details of those foreigners who have left Assam ‘with bag and baggage’ since he came to power,” BJP chief Lurinjyoti Gogoi told reporters in Guwahati, referring to an old statement made by Prime Minister Modi.

“This government is not serious about NRC (National Register of Citizens)... It has not realised that it was their responsibility to deliver an error-free, foreigner-free register of citizens to the people of Assam,” he said.

Bhasco De Saikia, chief convener of Rajgor Dal, said that according to its estimate, only 5 of the 476 promises made by BJP in 2016 have been fulfilled and 46 have been completed partially.

ODISHA-CENTRE ROW OVER RICE PROCUREMENT CAP

Paddy procurement sparks political war of words

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 22

THE ISSUE of paddy procurement in Odisha snowballed into a political slugfest with the opposition BJP holding a sit-in protest on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in Sambalpur and accusing the ruling BJD of ignoring farmers’ welfare and hampering procurement.

The issue comes amid the state government’s tussle with the Centre over the latter’s decision to cap parboiled rice procurement from the state at 50 per cent.

A scuffle broke out at the protest site among BJP workers and the police following which, 50 workers of the saffron party were detained and released later, officials said.

State BJP leaders allege that the BJD government has misled farmers with its centralised totem system, with many farmers unable to sell their produce. The BJD however, assured that the crop of “genuine” farmers would be procured.

The BJD had threatened a stir if the Centre did not retract the move to cap procurement.

Rajya Sabha MP and BJP in-charge of Odisha, Bijaypal Singh

BENGAL POLL RUN-UP



Rajib Banerjee with West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in Kolkata on Friday. Twitter @jdhankhar1

Another minister quits, BJP invites him to join party

Good riddance, won’t affect us: TMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 22

WEST BENGAL Forest Minister Rajib Banerjee resigned on Friday, dealing another blow to the Trinamool Congress fighting to stanch a steady stream of desertions to the BJP ahead of Assembly elections.

Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikari and Minister of State for Sports Laxmi Ratan Shukla had earlier resigned their posts in the government and party.

Rajib Banerjee had long been skipping meetings of the Mamata Banerjee cabinet, and had expressed unhappiness over the functioning of the party.

In his resignation sent to the Chief Minister and copied to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, Banerjee wrote that it had been a “great honour and privilege to serve the people of West Bengal”, adding: “I heartily convey my gratitude for getting this opportunity.”

Banerjee, the two-term TMC MLA from Domjur in Howrah district, later went to Raj Bhavan to hand his resignation to the Governor. Afterwards, an emotional Banerjee told reporters: “I had decided to leave the state cabinet two-and-a-half years ago, when I was removed as irrigation minister. I had expected the minimum courtesy from the CM as a co-worker that she would inform me about her decision before making the announcement. I came to know from the media when I was holding a party meeting. I had then decided to leave the cabinet and remain a party worker. Later, Mamata Banerjee pacified me and gave me new responsibilities and roles as a minister.”

He had taken up his grievances about the party with Mamata and other leaders over the last two-and-a-half years, Banerjee said. “Over the last two months, I have aired those grievances in public. But in last few months statements made by my co-workers have hurt me a lot. Personal attacks against me

made me take this decision.” “If only Mamata Banerjee had called me once over the phone, all issues would have been resolved,” Banerjee is learnt to have told aides.

TMC MP Sougata Ray said Banerjee’s resignation was expected. “Good riddance. He was not discharging his duties as a minister and party leader. We tried to change his mind. It is good that he resigned, else we would have taken action against him.”

TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said: “This will have no impact on the TMC. The party is like an ocean. There will be no effect if you draw two or three drops from it. If one or two leaves fall from a banyan tree, new leaves start growing.”

The TMC also moved swiftly to crush further dissent in the party, expelling MLA Baishali Dalmiya soon after she came out in Banerjee’s support on Friday.

Dalmiya, the daughter of the late cricket administrator Jagmohan Dalmiya, joined the TMC in 2016 and was immediately given the ticket to contest the Assembly election from Bally constituency in Howrah district. After Banerjee quit, Dalmiya said: “Rajibda resigning as state minister is a big loss to the party and the people. In Howrah district, we have faced a lot of disrespect from a section of the leadership.”

Within hours, the TMC disciplinary committee met and decided to expel her from the party.

Since December, nine TMC MLAs, including Suwendu Adhikari, have joined the BJP. Two Congress MLAs, an TMC each from the CPM and CPI, a TMCMP, and a former TMC MP too, have joined the BJP. Laxmi Ratan Shukla has taken a break from politics and Rajib Banerjee will likely join BJP later this month.

West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh appealed to Banerjee to join the party. “He has resigned as state minister but he is still an MLA of the TMC. We cannot do anything unless he resigns as MLA. But we will wait for him. He should come and join hands with the BJP,” he said.

EC says no bike rallies after model code kicks in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 22

THE ELECTION Commission Friday said bike rallies in the forthcoming West Bengal Assembly elections will be banned after the model code of conduct is enforced. In the last Assembly polls, bike rallies were allowed, but regulated.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said, “Once the election schedule is announced, the

model code of conduct will be enforced. After that, no motor-bike rally will be allowed for the poll campaign.”

Arora also said the ruling TMC’s allegations against BSF were “unfortunate”, and asked the party to prove its claim. TMC had Thursday claimed that the border force’s personnel were “terrorising” people to vote for BJP. The EC bench is on a three-day visit to the state to review preparedness for the polls in April-May.

Meanwhile, farmers, whose produce is yet to be sold, have started a night vigil at yards to guard against theft.

Ashok Pradhan, a farmer leader in western Odisha, said the centralized tokens of most farmers have expired. “Unlike other years, this year luckily there was no pest infestation or natural calamity, which is why the harvest was good. However, there have been a lot of issues pertaining to procurement, forcing farmers to sell below MSP in open yards,” Pradhan said.

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BRIEFLY



RJD chief Lalu Prasad.

JHARKHAND
Lalu's health
stable, say
RIMS doctors

Ranchi: A day after RJD supremo Lalu Prasad complained about ill health, doctors at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Ranchi said that he has improved marginally and is currently stable. Doctors said that he has tested negative for Covid-19. RIMS Director Kameshwar Yadav said: "There is a small patch of pneumonic consolidation due to bacteria not virus. From the distribution of patches, one can say it is favoring bacteria not virus. It is consistent with the reports. He is on antibiotic and showing marginal improvement." **ENS**

ANDHRA PRADESH
22 people fall
ill in Eluru, six
discharged

Amaravati: At least 22 people fell ill in Eluru city and a nearby mandal headquarters in West Godavari on Friday. This comes more than a month after several hundred people in Eluru fell ill with symptoms of nausea. "Six of these patients have been discharged after treatment while 15 were admitted to the District Hospital in Eluru. Another person was getting treated in the local hospital in Poola mandal headquarters," a senior official said. **PTI**

MADHYA PRADESH
4 held for
drugging,
raping teen

Indore: Four people have been arrested for allegedly sexually exploiting a 15-year-old girl and supplying drugs, police in Indore in Madhya Pradesh said on Friday. Two men, identified as Aman Verma and Akash alias Gazni, lured her with drugs and alcohol six months ago and had been raping her ever since after she got addicted, said ASP Rajesh Raghuwanshi. "They have been arrested along with a man and woman who supplied drugs to the duo. They have been charged under POCSO Act and IPC provisions. The girl is in a de-addiction centre," the official added. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH
15-year-old girl,
nephew killed,
rape suspected

Chitrakoot: A 15-year-old girl was hacked to death with an axe allegedly after being raped and her four-year-old nephew killed in a village in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Friday. A 30-year-old man from the girl's village has been arrested in connection with the crime which took place on Thursday, they said. An officer of the concerned police station said the girl was attacked when she was returning home after giving food to her father in the field. Meanwhile, an official spokesperson in Lucknow said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken note of the incident and announced a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh. **PTI**

Amarinder promises job to kin of farmers who died during agitation

Punjab Cabinet passes resolution: 'genuine demands must be accepted'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 22

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Capt Amarinder Singh Friday announced jobs for a member of the family of each farmer from the state who died during the ongoing agitation against the Centre's new farm laws. The announcement came soon after the state Cabinet passed a resolution "stressing that all the genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted".

Asserting that it will take all measures to protect the state's and its farmers' interests, the Cabinet, in a virtual meeting chaired by Amarinder, made it clear that "nothing short of repeal of the Centre's black farm laws, which are anti-farmer, anti-nation and anti-food security, would resolve the present crisis".

"The Central government is out of touch with the ground realities," an official statement quoting Amarinder said. It said that the Council of Minister declared unequivocally that "repeal of the farm laws was the only way out of the current imbroglio". The Cabinet demanded that "the Centre make minimum support price (MSP) a statutory right of the farmers", as per the statement.

Pointing out that even the Supreme Court has acknowledged the concerns of the protest-



Farmers at a protest in Panchkula on Friday. Jaipal Singh

ing farmers and recognised their pain and anguish, the state Cabinet said Centre should not make it a matter of prestige as the matter, if unresolved, could lead to devastating repercussions.

Later, in a formal resolution, the Cabinet reiterated its commitment to the resolutions passed by the Assembly on August 28 and October 20 last year, "stressing that all the genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted".

Later, Amarinder, during a Facebook Live session, said that in addition to the Rs 5 lakh compensation being given to the families of deceased farmers, his government will also give job to a member of their family.

Youth caught at Singhu border claims plot to kill farmer leaders

Chandigarh: A man caught by farmers at the Singhu border outside Delhi has claimed that he was trained to incite violence during the planned farmer agitation on January 26 and that that there was alleged plot to shoot four farmer leaders.

According to the man, he was caught by farmers in connection with charges of harassing a woman at the protest site. The farmer leaders produced him before the media late night before handing him over to the police. The youth claimed ten peo-

ple, including him and two girls — one of whom, he was charged with harassing — had been sent to incite violence during the agitation farmers have planned for January 26.

He also claimed they were asked to open fire during the agitation to lead policemen to think the farmers are using firearms. A farmer leader said: "The youth has identified photos of four farmer leaders who were to be targeted in some manner. The operation was to be executed after January 23." **ENS**

J&K approves new land allotment policy for entrepreneurs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 22

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration on Friday approved the adoption of a new policy for allotment of land to industrial entrepreneurs, proposing zoning of industrial areas at block and municipality levels after taking into account existing level of industrial development in the area, its location and level of urbanisation among others.

The Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, which was approved at the Administrative Council meeting chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, will also cover land allotment for health institutions/medi-cities and educational institutions/edu-cities, an official statement said.

Pointing out that it aims at evolving a highly structured industrial land band for promoting equitable industrial growth in the Union Territory, the statement said the new policy attempts to address various land-related issues impeding industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir by laying down a framework to regulate zoning of industrial areas, project appraisal and evaluation, and the subsequent process flow.

The policy provides for constitution of Divisional Level Project Appraisal and Evaluation Committees to scrutinise applications received for allotment of industrial land within 30 days; Apex Level Land Allotment Committee, High Level Land

The new policy will also cover allotment for health institutions and educational institutes, according to an official statement

Allotment Committee and Divisional Level Land Allotment Committee to decide and allot industrial land to the applicant within 45 days in cases of projects worth Rs 200 crore, Rs 50-200 crore and up to Rs 50 crore, respectively.

Under the policy, land will be allotted to the investors on lease for an initial period of 40 years, extendable to 99 years.

The allotted land will be liable to be cancelled in case of failure of the investor to take effective steps within the stipulated time of two years, failure of the industrial unit to come into production within three years, violation of provisions under the lease deed, and non-cooperation of an enterprise for a period of five years.

The policy also provides renting out of 60 per cent of the built-up area of a business enterprise for setting up an ancillary industrial enterprise through a tripartite agreement.

It aims at achieving inclusive growth through sustainable industrialisation and employment generation, and includes provisions for evolving a fair and transparent mechanism for land allotment for industrial use.



AIR POWER

Fighter planes fly in formation during a bilateral air exercise between Indian and French Air Forces in Jodhpur on Friday. PTI

Pakistanis jailed in Lanka pushing drugs into India through sea: NCB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

AN INTERNATIONAL drug racket operated by Pakistani drug traffickers jailed in Sri Lanka is increasingly pushing narcotics into India through the sea route using Lankan and Maldivian couriers, a recent investigation by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has found.

The drug network, NCB sources said, is spread across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Australia and India.

On November 26, in a joint operation with the Indian Coast Guard, NCB had detained Sri Lankan fishing vessel 'Shenaya Duwa' in the territorial waters of

India near Tuticorin port. A search of the vessel led to recovery of 95.875 kg of Heroin and 18.325 kg of Methamphetamine. Five pistols and magazines were found in possession of the crew and seized. The six-member crew, all of them Sri Lankan nationals, were arrested and are currently in jail.

Less than two months later, NCB on January 20 arrested two more Sri Lankan nationals, identified as MMM Nawas and Mohamed Afnas from Chennai for allegedly being part of the racket.

"Both Nawas and Afnas held important positions in the multinational heroin syndicate. They were controlling mid sea pick up and delivery of narcotic drugs from Pakistani and Iranian vessels. Both had fled Sri Lanka when au-

thorities closed in on them. It is also believed that there is an Interpol Red Corner Notice issued by Sri Lankan government against Nawas," an NCB statement said.

The NCB said intelligence shared by the agency with Sri Lankan authorities led to seizure of 100 kg of Heroin there.

"With increased vigil that our border guarding forces keep in the north western borders of India, the traditional route of Afghani-Pakistani heroin is becoming tougher to breach. This has also led to the increased use of sea route by heroin traffickers to smuggle the narcotic into India," an NCB official said.

According to NCB, the largest opium cultivation region of the world, the Golden Crescent com-

prising Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, has two important transit points for processed heroin in the island nations of Sri Lanka and Maldives. The heroin from this region is usually loaded in fishing vessels setting sail from the ports of Iran and Pakistan for mid-sea transfer into similar vessels of Sri Lanka and Maldives.

"However, the mid sea transfers happen in territorial waters of India or very near to its territorial waters. There is a big network of foreign entities controlling this lucrative trade. Very reliable intelligence developed by NCB and Indian agencies over the period indicates that Pakistani drug traffickers lodged in Sri Lankan prisons for drug offences control this trade..." an NCB statement said.

ter 10th grade and worked at a dry cleaner's shop for a few days. Since there was no radio or gramophone at home, Chanchal, who would crave music, would go to a nearby shop and sit there for hours listening to Mohammad Rafi and Manna Dey songs. He would memorise the songs and present them at the next available opportunity.

Appreciation followed soon from friends and his father's friends, who started giving him a little money to sing for them. Soon Chanchal was made part of a local music group, and he started performing in local weddings and jagrans to make a living. His group became famous in the city and was chosen by the I&B Ministry to entertain Army jawans at the India-Pakistan and India-China borders. It was due

to his popularity in the Army circuit that the invite for the Mumbai concert landed with him. After *Bobby*, he sang 'Main benaam ho gaya' for R D Burman in *Benaam* (1974), followed by 'Tune mujhe bulaaya' — a duet with his idol Mohammad Rafi in *Aasha* (1980). There were also songs in Gujarati, Bengali and Marathi besides Punjabi.

But Chanchal's career and success were most beyond films. He moved to Delhi and became one of the most famous and expensive jaagran singers in the country, travelling the world to sing at jagrans.

In his later years, Chanchal also founded many non-profit organisations, including Ekta Mission and Narendra Chanchal Institute for Non Formal Education.

CBI books Cambridge Analytica, GSRL for illegal data harvesting

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

TWO YEARS after it was handed over the probe into alleged illegal harvesting of data of Indian Facebook users by Cambridge Analytica, the CBI has registered an FIR against the UK-based company. The central investigating agency has alleged that the company, in conspiracy with Global Science Research Limited (GSRL), illegally harvested data of 335 Facebook users and their 5.62 lakh contacts across India through an application and used the data for commercial purposes.

The CBI has listed both Cambridge Analytica and GSRL as accused in its FIR registered under various sections of the IT Act and also accused them of criminal conspiracy under IPC.

Based on a complaint from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry against Cambridge Analytica in July 2018. Following completion of the preliminary investigation, the agency registered the FIR on January 19.

"Enquiry has found that Global Science Research entered into a

criminal conspiracy with M/s Cambridge Analytica (UK) Limited during 2014 and right to use the illegally harvested datasets was given to M/s Cambridge Analytica (UK) Limited for commercial purposes," the CBI FIR has said.

According to CBI, it was found that Dr Aleksandr Kogan, founder and director of GSRL, had created an application called "thisisyourdigitallife". According to the Facebook's platform policy, this application was authorised to collect specific data of users for academic and research purposes. The application, however, illegally collected additional unauthorised data of the users as well as of their friends' network on Facebook.

"This data was collected without the knowledge and consent of the App users. This data includes demographic information, pages liked on FB, contents of private messages etc. FB conveyed that 335 users in India had installed this App. They have estimated that data of approximately 5.62 lakh additional users who were part of the friends' network of these 335 users has also been unauthorisedly harvested by the App," CBI has alleged in the FIR.

According to the CBI, Facebook had collected written certificates

from Kogan and Cambridge Analytica during 2016-2017 declaring that all such data obtained by them through "thisisyourdigitallife" was accounted for and destroyed.

"This fact confirms that M/s Global Science Research Limited, UK illegally harvested datasets and provided the same to M/s Cambridge Analytica (UK) Limited for commercial purposes," the CBI said. It, however, said it could not authenticate the veracity of the claims of GSRL and Cambridge Analytica that they had destroyed the said datasets.

During the preliminary enquiry, although the 335 users of the application were contacted by the probe officer, only six of them responded and could be examined.

"They unanimously stated that they were misled by the App and were unaware of the fact that their personal and friends' data was harvested. They also stated that they would not have used the App if they knew it would do so," the CBI said.

The case was referred to the CBI after a series of media reports suggested Cambridge Analytica and GSRL had illegally harvested Facebook users data in India.

Colaba residents oppose statue of Bal Thackeray ahead of unveiling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

A 11-FT TALL statue of Bal Thackeray, the centerpiece of Shiv Sena's birth anniversary celebrations of its founder on Saturday, has found itself in a controversy with residents of Colaba opposing the structure that has been installed on a busy roundabout.

The statue, the first of Thackeray in the city, is coming up at the busy roundabout between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya and National Gallery of Modern Art on MG Road.

The Sena had proposed the statue a year ago.

Citizen groups from Colaba have opposed the statue being installed at traffic island citing a 2013 Supreme Court order that had said that state governments should not allow any statues on public roads and pavements.

"The proposal of installing statues has been in the public domain for over two years. That time nobody objected. The BMC has secured all required permissions. There are many other statues in the premises... no traffic issues have come up. I cannot understand the intention behind the complainant," said Mayor Kishori Pednekar.

The Sena has invited leaders from across the political spectrum for the unveiling of the statue on Saturday.

Govt: Rare disease policy will be finalised by March end

New Delhi: After a rap from the Delhi High Court, the Centre has said that a policy for rare diseases drafted last year was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic and will likely be finalised by March 31.

The High Court had told the Centre last week to provide a specific timeline for the finalisation and notification of the policy. The ministry, in its reply dated January 20, told the court that the 2020 draft policy was earlier placed in public domain for feedback, but its finalisation was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"In the meantime... DGHS constituted an Expert Committee to examine the comments/suggestions. The Expert Committee submitted its recommendations, which are under examination to finalise the draft policy," reads the reply. **ENS**

5 DEAD IN FIRE AT SERUM INSTITUTE FACILITY

Ailing father of 21-yr-old not informed yet, say kin

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, JANUARY 22

SANJAY PASHTE has been at a hospital for the past few days for hypertension and diabetes-related issues. So his family has not told him about the death of his 21-year-old son Pratik in the fire at the Serum Institute of India facility Thursday. Five labourers died in the fire, including Pratik, who was involved in the work of inverter installation. “We haven’t informed Sanjay that his son is no more,” said Ganesh Chanekar, Pratik’s maternal uncle. The last rites were performed by Sanjay’s elder brother. The family lives in a small house in Pune’s Deccan area. A family member said it was painful to identify the body. “It was charred.



A relative of one of the victims on Friday. Pavan Khengre

We had to identify Pratik from his clothes and other belongings.” Pratik was pursuing a diploma in telecommunication and also working for a private inverter firm. His colleague, Mahendra Ingle (30), also died in the fire. Pratik and Ingle went to the Manjri facility for inverter-related work Thursday.

“Employees of the firm where Pratik worked often visited the tea stall run by his parents. This is how he got to know about the firm. He joined as a trainee over a year ago,” Ghanekar said. Pratik earned about Rs 12,000 per month and funded his educational expenses, he added.

Will look into video conferencing plea of Kappan’s mother: UP to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

UTTAR PRADESH government Friday told Supreme Court that it will look into a plea of arrested Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan’s mother who has sought to meet him over video conferencing. Appearing for the state government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde to leave the matter to him after the court observed that it will allow the request brought to its notice by Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal. Sibal, who appeared for the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ), told the bench also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian that Kappan’s mother was aged over 90 and unwell and wished to see her son over video conferencing. “Please allow her the video conferencing option so that she can see her son... We have filed an application. Please allow us,” Sibal said while also pointing out that jail rules don’t allow it. “We will allow,” said CJI Bobde, following which Mehta quickly sought to assure, urging the

court to leave the matter to him. The bench adjourned hearing on the KUWJ plea by six weeks. Kappan and three others were arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police on October 5 last year while they were on way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped. All four are facing charges under various provisions of the stringent UAPA and IPC provisions relating to sedition. According to the KUWJ’s petition, Kappan, who has more than 10 years of experience as a journalist, was on way to Hathras to report on the gangrape and death of the woman when he was arrested in Mathura. Opposing his bail plea, the police have sought to link him to the banned SIMI and told the Supreme Court that he went there on the “instructions of” Delhi riots case accused Md Danish. In an affidavit, the state also said that Kappan “has been found associated with Popular Front of India (PFI)”, which “has been responsible for disrupting public peace of the State by provoking class and caste conflicts with an intention to destroy public order and tarnish the image of the

Government...”. The state added that “PFI has been involved in anti-national activities and keeping links with terrorist outfits like ISIS” and that “as per investigation till date, most members of PFI who are ex-office-bearers of banned organization SIMI” have been in close contact with Kappan. It said that several incriminating evidence have been found from Kappan’s house. The KUWJ, in an Additional Rejoinder, has accused the state of filing a “misleading affidavit, justifying the unlawful detention and malicious prosecution of” Kappan. It said “it is a matter of grave concern” that Uttar Pradesh has claimed that Kappan “committed very serious offences, despite there being no materials to support any allegations in the FIR, or in the investigation, other than vague statements, thereby seriously prejudicing the faith of the common man in the legal system and the procedure established by law”. On the allegation that Kappan was in touch with PFI members, KUWJ said he “would have been in touch with people from all walks of life, which is essential to discharge his professional duty as a journalist...”.

FSL collects samples, Crime Branch and fire agencies launch probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 22

PUNE CITY Police and fire fighting agencies on Friday initiated a probe into the fire at the Serum Institute of India (SII) building, in which five persons were killed. While the incident took place in Hadapsar police station area, considering the seriousness of the case, the Pune City Police Crime Branch has started a parallel investigation. A case of accidental death and burning incident has been lodged at Hadapsar police station. Teams of forensic science laboratory, fire brigade and electricity department visited the facility on Friday to ascertain the cause of fire. Pune Police Commissioner Amitabh Gupta said, “We have launched a probe. A forensics team visited the spot and collected samples. Crime Branch has also started a probe. Action will be taken based on the preliminary findings.”

Devendra Potphode, chief fire officer of Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Santosh Warick, chief fire officer of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, and Prashant Ranpise, chief fire officer of Pune Fire Brigade, visited the spot Friday. “We are yet to come to any conclusion regarding the cause of fire and how it spread. Further investigation is on,” said Potphode. According to officials from Pune Fire Brigade, the first call about the fire was received at the control room around 2.33 pm on Thursday. Officials said the fire could have started 15 to 20 minutes prior to that. Ten fire tenders, four additional water tankers, four Devdoot vans (small fire tenders), one hydraulic lift, and one van equipped with breathing apparatus were put into service to douse the fire, officials said. At least 10 fire officers and over 70 personnel were involved in the fire-fighting operation, they added.

संत लॉ गोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
(Deemed to be University under MoE)
Longowal-148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

NOTIFICATION NO. 05/2020 Dated: 22.01.2021

WALK IN INTERVIEWS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF GUEST FACULTY

The Institute intends to prepare panel of Guest Faculty in Mech. Engg., Food Engg. & Tech., Chemical Engg., Civil Engineering, Computer Science & Engg., Electronics & Communication Engg., Electrical & Instrumentation Engg., Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Management & Humanities (English) disciplines for the even semester of Academic Session 2020-2021. Last date of submission of applications through e-mail at ID_recruitment_Rgs@sliet.ac.in is 01.02.2021 upto 05:00 PM.

For more details with regard to educational qualifications, dates of walk-in-interviews, application proforma etc., please visit website www.sliet.ac.in

Registrar

(भारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB
[Established under the Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006]
(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

Adv. No. RGNUL/09/2021
Date: 22 Jan., 2021

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of RGNUL, Punjab. The Vice-Chancellor shall be an academician and outstanding scholar of law. He shall be whole-time officer of the University. The term of office of the Vice-Chancellor, shall be five years from the date on which he enters office, or until he attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. The post of Vice-Chancellor shall carry the basic pay of Rs. 75,000/- (Fixed) + Special Allowance Rs. 5,000/- and DA as per Punjab Government. The University shall provide rent free accommodation at RGNUL Campus to the Vice-Chancellor.

Nominations/self-nomination are invited by the Search Committee for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. Nominations/Self-nomination should be submitted either by email at searchcommittee2021@rnl.ac.in or by speed post addressed to: The Chairman Search Committee and be sent to The Secretary to Search Committee-cum-Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, Sidhawal, Bhadson Road, Patiala-147 006. The nominations/self-nomination must reach on or before February 22, 2021. Nominations/self-nomination shall be duly super-scripted on the envelope “Applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor”. For the application format and other information please see the University Website www.rgnul.ac.in.

Sd/-
Secretary
Search Committee cum Registrar

1025 Pb

Uttarakhand cabinet nod to provide land for sadhus’ burial ground

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 22

THE UTTARAKHAND cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to provide 4.38 hectare of land near the Ganga in Haridwar for ‘bhu-samadhi’ - where sadhus who die can be buried. Sources said the move follows objections from environmentalists over the current practice of ‘jal-samadhi’, in which the bodies are immersed in the Ganga. The sadhus themselves had been demanding land to start the practice of ‘bhu-samadhi’, so that there is no objection from others. Government spokesperson Madan Kaushik told reporters that 4.38 hectare land belonging to the Irrigation department in Haridwar district will be provided for burial of the sadhus. He said the burial ground was a long-pending demand of the sadhus. Kaushik said the land will be permanently used for bhu-samadhi, beginning the upcoming Kumbh Mela. A system will be developed by the sadhus of Akhara Parishad to regulate the practice of bhu-samadhi. Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad head Mahant Narendra Giri told *The Indian Express* that according to rituals sadhus are either immersed in water after death or buried. “Since there was no land earmarked in Uttarakhand for bhu-samadhi, the bodies were immersed in river. With the government now clearing the proposal to provide land for bhu-samadhi, this practice will start during the upcoming Kumbh Mela,” Giri said.

DISRUPTION DUE TO COVID-19 Not in favour of giving extra chance for UPSC aspirants: Centre to SC

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it was not agreeable to the demand for one more chance to civil service aspirants who exhausted their last opportunity to take the exam in 2020. The court was hearing a plea which contended that many aspirants had not been able to take last year’s exams due to disruptions on account of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore should be given one more chance. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that no further opportunity can be given to candidates who had their final chance in October last year. Taking note, the Bench also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Krishn Murari asked the Centre to say the same in an affidavit. The court will now hear the matter on January 25. **ENS**

6 killed near Meghalaya coal mine

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 22

SIX LABOURERS were killed in an accident involving a crane near an abandoned coal mine close to Sorkari, Deinshalu village, in Meghalaya’s East Jaintia Hills district on Thursday, a senior police officer said. “Prima facie the reason appears to be an accident of the crane, may be due to some defect... Five persons have already been identified,” Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui told the media. The deceased hailed from Assam. “A criminal case has already

been registered under Khliehriat police station, and investigation of the case is in progress to establish the whereabouts of the mine owner and the manager of the mine, who have been absconding since the time of the incident,” a police press statement said. A senior police officer told *The Indian Express* that there was no trace of fresh coal at the site. “The location is very remote... We will investigate whether there was any attempt at illegal coal mining,” the officer said. Coal mining in Meghalaya came into the spotlight in 2018, when at least 15 workers got trapped and died inside a mine in

Ksan in East Jaintia Hills district. The Ksan accident brought to light that illegal rat-hole mining, involving narrow tunnels dug into mountains for workers to move through and extract coal, had continued to thrive in Meghalaya despite an NGT ban in 2014. In July 2019, the Supreme Court had allowed mining operations to continue in the state on privately and community-owned land, subject to the condition that all necessary permissions and clearances were obtained. When allegations of illegal coal mining were raised in October last year, CM Conrad Sangma said the claims were politically motivated.

Reliance Industries Limited
Growth is Life

Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.
Phone: 022-3555 5000 • Fax: 022-2204 2268 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine Months Ended 31st December, 2020
(₹ in crore, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended
	31st December, 2020	31st December, 2020	31st December, 2019
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	137,829	367,143	169,221
Less: GST Recovered	13,832	35,713	12,056
Revenue from Operations	123,997	331,430	157,165
Profit before exceptional item and tax	15,103	34,234	15,139
Profit before tax	14,982	39,079	14,962
Profit for the Period*	14,894	38,744	11,841
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	6,351	72,300	9,685
Paid up Equity Share Capital, Equity Shares of ₹10/- each	6,445	6,445	6,339
Other Equity excluding revaluation reserve**			
Earnings per equity share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each) (Not Annualised)			
Basic (in ₹) – After Exceptional Item	20.33	55.65	18.24
Basic (in ₹) – Before Exceptional Item	20.51	48.14	18.52
Diluted (in ₹) - After Exceptional Item	19.93	54.86	18.24
Diluted (in ₹) - Before Exceptional Item	20.12	47.45	18.52

* Includes Non-Controlling Interest
** Reserve excluding revaluation reserves for the year ended as on 31st March, 2020 was ₹ 446,992 crore.

Notes:

1. The Audit Committee has reviewed the above results and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 22nd January, 2021. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.

2. Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended
	31st December, 2020	31st December, 2020	31st December, 2019
Value of Sale & Service (Revenue)	71,454	188,148	93,981
Less: GST Recovered	4,054	9,056	3,589
Revenue from Operations	67,400	179,092	90,392
Profit before tax	6,841	19,946	11,754
Profit for the period	8,628	24,468	9,585
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	9,161	27,183	8,297

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The full format of the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchanges' websites (www.bseindia.com / www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website www.ril.com.

For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Mukesh D. Ambani
Chairman and Managing Director

Date : 22nd January, 2021

www.ril.com

भारतीय थल सेना
JOIN INDIAN ARMY
RECRUITING DIRECTORATE WEBSITE
www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

अधिकारी प्रविष्टि

10+2 तकनीकी भर्ती स्कीम कोर्स (टी ई एस-45) (जुलाई 2021 में प्रारंभ) के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन www.joinindianarmy.nic.in में 01 फरवरी 2021 से 02 मार्च 2021 तक खुलेंगे।

OFFICER ENTRY

Applications are invited for 10+2 Technical Entry Scheme Course (TES-45) (commencing in jul 2021.) Online applications will open on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in from 01 Feb 2021 to 02 Mar 2021.

नोट :

1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।

2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

Note :

1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.

2. For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

davp 10601/11/0017/2021

ERODE SMART CITY LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING FOR SHORT TENDER

Roc.No.E1/45/SC/2021 Dated : 22.01.2021

Tenders are invited in Two Cover System by the Managing Director, Erode Smart City Limited or his authorized person. For Modernization and Improvement works around Vegetable Market in ABD area at RKV Road in Erode City Municipal Corporation, Total No of Work-2 Nos, Value put to the tender total cost of **Rs.25.03 Crores.** Tenders will be received upto **3.00 pm on 08.02.2021** and the tenders will be opened by the Managing Director or by his authorized person on **09.02.2021** at **3.30 pm.** in the presence of the contractors or their representatives present at the time. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website at free of cost up to **3.30 pm on 08.02.2021.** Further details can be obtained from engineering section of the Corporation in any of the working day if required. The Managing Director, Erode Smart City Limited reserves the rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason. Website address **https://tenders.gov.in, https://tenders.tn.gov.in"** for free downloading of tender document. For any queries please contact (E-Mail id: **commr.erode@tn.gov.in**, Phone No. **0424-2251616**),
Managing Director,
Erode Smart City Limited
DIPR/481/Tender/2021

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION

CIN: U40101KA2009PLC049582

No. A1 M1 B3/SCCL-ARR-CTA/YTPS/JANUARY 2021 Date: 22.01.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Tender Document System)

Name of Work: **APPOINTMENT OF COAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF COAL SUPPLIES FROM SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LTD., (SCCL) LOADING POINT/S TO YTPS BY ALL RAIL ROUTE.** Tenders are invited from reputed companies/persons for coal supplies from various loading point/s of SCCL & having adequate knowledge about movement, handling & delivery of approx. 39.00 Lakh MTs of coal per annum under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) by All Rail Route to YTPS including the works of liaisoning, supervision & monitoring of quality and quantity from SCCL Loading Point/s for a period of one year. Last date for receipt of completed bids: **22.02.2021, 17.00 Hrs.** The tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Superintending Engineer (Mines), KPCL, No. 82, Shakti Bhavan, III Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.** Telefax: 080-22203894, E-mail: **cefuelskpcl@karnataka.gov.in** Website: **www.karnatakapower.com** e-portal helpdesk/HP Helpdesk: **+91 80 46010000, 22631200.**

DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING GUJARAT STATE
(An ISO 9001:2008 certified organization)
Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Block No. 1, Third Floor, Gandhinagar - 382010, Ph. No. (079) 23253800
E-mail: ao-det@gujarat.gov.in
Online E-Tender Notice No. 03/2020-21
e-TENDER (EOI) NOTICE (Account)

Proposal in the form of BIDS is requested from agencies, willing to bid for Empanelment of Agency/Agencies for Internal Audit of various offices under Directorate of Employment & Training. The EOI document can be downloaded from the website **https://www.nprocure.com** from 22nd January 2021 onwards.
Tender Fee Rs. 5000/- (Non Refundable)

Date of Pre Bid Meeting	Dt. 03/02/2021 at 15.00 Hrs.
EOI Closing date (Submission of EOI documents)	Dt. 17/02/2021 at 18.00 Hrs.
Technical Proposal Opening date & Time	Dt. 18/02/2021 at 12.00 Hrs.

Right to accept or reject any tender in full or part thereof without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved. For more details please visit **talimrojar.gujarat.gov.in** or contact this office at address mentioned above.
Sd/- Director,
Employment and Training, Gandhinagar
INF/1853/20-21

Sood moves SC over illegal construction order

New Delhi: Actor Sonu Sood Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court order which dismissed his appeal against a BMC notice over

alleged illegal construction at his residential building in Mumbai.

Advocate Vineet Dhanda, who filed the plea, said that Sood has chal-

lenged the high court order.

While dismissing the actor's appeal and application, the HC said: "Law helps only those who are diligent."

PTI

TRP case: HC refuses urgent relief to former BARC CEO

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

THE BOMBAY High Court Friday refused to grant urgent relief to former Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) chief executive officer (CEO) Partho Dasgupta, arrested in alleged TRP scam case. Dasgupta had moved an urgent praecipe seeking his transfer to a private hospital after being discharged from state-run JJ Hospital. The ex-BARC CEO, who was being shifted to Talaja jail, claimed he was unfit to be discharged.

A single-judge bench of justice Prakash D Naik heard Dasgupta's plea in his chambers Friday evening after regular court hours.

Through advocate Arjun Singh Thakur, Dasgupta had moved a bail application before the high court after the sessions court on January 20 rejected his bail plea in the alleged TRP scam. In the plea, Dasgupta sought interim bail for two weeks or sought to be transferred to Hinduja Hospital for treatment.

The state government, through chief public prosecutor Deepak Thakare, opposed the plea and submitted that there was no urgent need for Dasgupta to be shifted to a private hospital since JJ Hospital had examined his health and declared him to be fit to be discharged.

Thakare said, Dasgupta was being taken to Talaja jail hospital where he would remain under observation. Medical officers there would examine him and only based on their decision, he would be taken inside the prison, he said. "If the medical officers from jail find it necessary at any point of the time that the applicant is required to be admitted to JJ Hospital again, they would take appropriate steps. In accordance with the discharge note, the applicant would be treated by medical officers in jail," Thakare added.

The court while permitting the bail plea seeking interim relief to be heard Monday, refused to grant any urgent relief and asked the state government to place before it documents pertaining to Dasgupta's health condition.

Need sanction to take cognizance of 'offences' by Kangana: Court

Mumbai: Hearing a criminal complaint against actor Kangana Ranaut, the metropolitan magistrate's court Friday said sanction from either the Centre or the state was necessary to take cognizance of the offences alleged to have been committed by her.

Last October, Mumbai-based lawyer Ali Kaashif Khan had moved the court alleging that Ranaut, through her social media account, had made "defamatory remarks" against the Mumbai Police in regard to the probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

"As per Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code, it is necessary to take the sanction of the central or the state government before taking cognizance of offences under (the above sections)," the court said. Khan said that he will write to the government in the coming week. **ENS**

4G curbs extended in J&K till February 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 22

THE Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday extended restrictions on 4G high-speed mobile Internet services till February 6, saying that the "threat perception on the security front" in the Union Territory "continues to be high".

Pointing out that except for the districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur, the Internet speed on mobile data services shall continue to be restricted to 2G, an order issued by the UT's Principal Secretary Home, Shaleen Kabra, said there was credible intelligence inputs about preparedness of terrorists "to infiltrate from across the IB/Loc".

"These restrictions have helped thwart the nefarious designs of the radical and terrorist organisations operating in the UT of J&K to misguide, provoke and incite the youth in furthering their anti-India

Admin says 'threat perception' on security front is still high

agenda since regulation of high speed mobile internet prevents easy streaming/ dissemination/ downloading of such material/videos," the order said.

"Reports further suggest that data services that rely on availability of high speed Internet are extensively utilised for coordinating and facilitating infiltration," it pointed out, adding that "in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India", the Internet services shall not be provided to pre-paid SIM card holders, unless verified as per the norms applicable for post-paid connections.

For fixed-line Internet subscribers, connectivity shall be continued to be made available with Mac-binding, the order said.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Public Works, Dharwad Division, Dharwad
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Department of Public Works, Dharwad Division, Dharwad
Publication of Short term tender

Sl. No.: EEDPWD / PB-8 / Tender/2020-21/6975 Date: 22-01-2021

KW – 4 (Through Standard Document)

The tender for the following works has been invited for the following works on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka by the Public Works Department from a qualified contractors. Eligible contractors can participate in the tender by confirming the date and other details as published in the e-Governance Center or website. **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further information can be obtained from the office. Other details of the works are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Total Estimate in Rs. Lakhs	Filled Tenders Receiving Date (e-Proc)	Opening Date of Technical Bid (e-Proc)	Opening Date of Financial Bid (e-Proc)
1	Construction of Sports Complex at Kalghatgi Taluk, Dharwad District (WORK_INDENT 135006)	500.00	24-02-2021	25-02-2021	26-02-2021
2	Construction of Sports Complex at Annigeri Taluk, Dharwad District (WORK_INDENT 135002)	500.00	24-02-2021	25-02-2021	26-02-2021
3	Construction of Valmiki Bhavan at Survey No. 80/1 (behind the new bus station) at Gulaganji Koppa, Ward No. 3, Dharwad District. (WORK_INDENT 134995)	200.00	24-02-2021	25-02-2021	26-02-2021

Sd/-Executive Engineers,
Department of Public Works,
Dharwad Division, Dharwad.
DIPR/651/2020-21/DWD/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION 1ST SRINAGAR
CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Construction of Service road (5.5m width) along NH-44 bypass (both sides) From Ch. 1+900 to 4+500 & Ch. 11+900 to 17+800 (except km 13.145 to km 14.027, Bemina flyover) (length=15.236 km) and renewal coat on main existing 4-lane carriageway from Ch. 4+500 to 11+500 in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on EPC mode Complete job

Reference: This office Fresh Nit No. NIT No PCD-RnB-63 of 2020-21 Dated:21/12/2020 issued Vide endorsement No PCD-1st/NIT/7141-50 Dated: 18-12-2020.

Sr. No.	In RFP Instead Of	Please Read
1	2.2.2.1 BID Capacity N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which Bid is invited. (1 Year)	2.2.2.1 BID Capacity N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which Bid is invited. (1.5 Years)
	In Schedule instead Of	Please Read
1.	SCOPE OF WORK: Improvement Allowed: a) Construction of service road Note:-The provision of price escalation has been considered for six months (beyond 1 year, project duration is 18 months) @2.5% of allotted civil cost of the project.	SCOPE OF WORK: Improvement Allowed: a) Construction of service road Note:- Deleted.
2.	Geometric Design and General Features (i) General Improvement & geometric standards are not applicable. The scope of Project shall only include road Geometric design and general features of the Project Highway shall be in accordance with Section 2 of the Manual.	Geometric Design and General Features (i) General The scope of Project shall include road Geometric design and general features of the Project Highway in accordance with Section 2 of the Manual.
3.	2. Geometric Design and General Features (i) Type of shoulders (b) In open country, earthen shoulders of 1.0-1.5 m width shall be provided as per attached typical cross sections in Annexure-B-1	2. Geometric Design and General Features (v) Type of shoulders (b) In open areas, earthen shoulders of 1.0-1.5 m width shall be provided as per attached typical cross sections (TCS I & TCS II) in Annexure-B-1
4.	Pavement Design (i) Pavement design shall be carried out in accordance with the provision of relevant Manual i.e. IRC 37-2018. The Project road shall include construction of service road. Thus, existing road shall be overtopped, which shall be provided 30mm BC, 60mm DBM, 150mm WMM and 150mm GSB, as given in tables below. The crust composition applicable for approaches of Bridges shall be following as per design requirements-	Pavement Design (i) Pavement design shall be carried out in accordance with the provision of relevant Manual i.e. IRC 37-2018. The Project road shall include construction of new service road and renewal coat on existing Highway. Thus, new road shall have to be provided with pavement composition as, 30mm BC, 60mm DBM, 150mm WMM and 150mm GSB, as given in tables below and renewal coat of 40mm BC over existing Highway.
5.	(Schedule-D) Specifications and Standards for Construction 1. Specifications and Standards (i) General All Materials, works and construction operations shall conform to the Manual of Specifications and Standards for Two-Laning of Highways IRC: SP- 73-2015, referred to as the Manual if applicable anywhere, and MORTH Specifications for Road and Bridge Works. Where the specification for a work is not given, Good Industry Practice shall be adopted to the satisfaction of the Authority's Engineer.	(Schedule-D) Specifications and Standards for Construction 1. Specifications and Standards (i) General All Materials, works and construction operations shall conform to the Manual of Specifications and Standards for Four-Laning of Highways IRC:SP-84-2019, referred to as the Manual if applicable anywhere, and MORTH Specifications for Road and Bridge Works. Where the specification for a work is not given, Good Industry Practice shall be adopted to the satisfaction of the Authority's Engineer.
6.	Schedule – J Project Completion Schedule 2. Project Milestone-I (i) Project Milestone-I shall occur on the date falling on the 128th (One Hundred Twenty Eight) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- I"). 3. Project Milestone-II (i) Project Milestone-II shall occur on the date falling on the 219th (Two Hundred Nineteen) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- II"). 4. Project Milestone-III (i) Project Milestone-III shall occur on the date falling on the 310th (Three Hundred Ten) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- III"). 5. Scheduled Completion Date (i) The Scheduled Completion Date shall occur on the 365th (Three Sixty-five) day from the Appointed Date.	Schedule – J Project Completion Schedule 2. Project Milestone-I (i) Project Milestone-I shall occur on the date falling on the 192nd (One Hundred Ninety Two) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- I"). 3. Project Milestone-II (i) Project Milestone-II shall occur on the date falling on the 329th (Three hundred Twenty Nine) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- II"). 4. Project Milestone-III (i) Project Milestone-III shall occur on the date falling on the 465th (Four Hundred Sixty Five) day from the Appointed Date (the "Project Milestone- III"). 5. Scheduled Completion Date (i) The Scheduled Completion Date shall occur on the 547th (Five Hundred and Forty Seven) day from the Appointed Date.
7.	Submission of Performance Security (PS) and Additional Performance Security (APS), if any	The provision of Performance Security (PS) and Additional Performance Security (APS), will be as per Latest office Memorandum of Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure procurement Policy Division vide their No.F/4/2020-PPD dated:- 12/Nov/2020 (The bidder has to provide 3% of PS within 30 days of receipt of LOA)

No:-NIT/Corr/7798-7805
Dated: 19-01-2021
DIPK-11997
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
R&B Project Circle Division 1st, Srinagar.

STOP CORONA [WEAR MASK] [WASH YOUR HAND] [FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING]
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS (W)
ROOM NO. 306 VARUNALAYA PH-II, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
Email: proyap32018@gmail.com, Phone No- 011 2355 0843
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

S. N.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost For each group (Rs.)	Bid security deposit For each group (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Last dt/Time of receipt of Bids
1	Selection of Partner NGOs to carry out Public Participation, Advocacy and School Outreach Programme under Public Outreach Component for YAP-III, in specified Region of Delhi.	Lump Sum	Nil (Declaration form to be filled)	36 months	16.03.2021 up-to 15.00 Hours

Further details in this regard can be seen at DJB website i.e **www.delhijalboard.nic.in** under "Expression of Interest" link.
Sd/-
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER) Advt.
No. J.S.V. 335/2020-21
Dy. Director (PR)
Delhi Jal Board

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in
(1st Call)
System Tender No. : 70835 /NIT No. : 35/SAC/2020-21, Durg, Dated : 20.01.2021
Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works upto to 10.02.2021 at 17:30 Hour
Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF TEMRI STOP DAM IN BLOCK DHAMDHA AND DISTRICT DURG.
Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 136.63 Lakhs
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (**https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in**) from **Date 27.01.2021, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.**
(1) All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (**https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in**) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Tandula Water Resources Division,Durg
for, Superintending Engineer,
Shivnath Circle, Durg (C.G.)
86486

KHADI GRAMODYOG BHAWAN
KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India)
Office: K-Block, Chaudhary Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-1
Showroom: 24, Regal Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-1
Ph. : 011-23416758, 23411651, Fax : 011-23418126,
E-mail: kgbndgs@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited from the interested parties/ Agencies/ Firms for Empanelment for providing following services:

Sr. No.	Description	E.M.D./ Security in Rs.	Date for the sale of tender	Last Date for sale & submission of tender	Cost of Tender Form in Rs.
1.	Rental Taxi Services for Delhi & NCR & outside Delhi.	0.50 Lac	23.01.2021 to 12.02.2021	12.02.2021 sale upto 14.00 hrs. Submission upto 17.00 hrs.	1000 Plus 18% GST
2.	Trucks & Tempo Services for loading, unloading & transportation of Goods in Delhi & NCR & outside Delhi.		10.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs on all working days.		

The detailed terms and conditions are given in tender document which can be purchased by paying cash, on any working day between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. Tender forms can also be downloaded from our website **www.kvic.org.in**, however, the cost of tender form will have to be deposited along with the tender form in the shape of demand draft / pay order drawn in favour of "Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi".
The Dy. C.E.O / General Manager has right to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
Asstt. Director

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

Corrigendum Notice Inviting E-Tender
Tender reference No.: ENIT-5/2020-21/BLB
Name of Office: Addl. Superintending Engineer, BBMB, Ballabgarh (Faridabad)
Name of work: Re-Construction, Strengthening and raising the height of boundary wall behind B-Type residences & Subordinate Rest House at 220KV S/Station, BBMB, Ballabgarh.

Estimated cost	₹ 8.4 Lacs
Last date of submission of pre-qualification documents	09.02.2021 upto 17:00 hrs
Last date of receipt of tender	16.02.2021 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For detailed tender may be downloaded from website **https://bbmbproc.abcpncure.com & www.bbmb.gov.in**
1294-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders 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** & **http://etender.up.nic.in** Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
A) (1) 51/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/20-21 Strengthening of W/s (Shifting of Water & Sewer line Alignment Elevated Flyover Aghapur to Sector-106) Noida Rs. 40.28 Lacs
The above tenders can be uploaded by date 04.02.21 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.02.2021 at 11.00 AM.
Office
Sector-5
SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-I
NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Office of Satna Smart City Development Limited (SSCDL)
373/1, ICCB Building Collaborator Campus, Dhawari, Satna (M.P.) -485001

E-TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No/SSCDL/2021/Tender/02/21 Satna, Dated: 20.01.2021
Tender No: 2021_UAD_124804_1
Online tender through e-tendering is invited by Satna Smart City Development Limited (SSCDL), Satna, M.P. for the work of Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Development of Amoda Talab with Operation and Maintenance of entire facility for period of Five years including Marketing, collection of Revenue during Operation and Maintenance period (Second Call) in Satna, Madhya Pradesh.
The brief details of the project are as below:
(i) Estimated Project Cost: INR 4.24 Cr (Including Maintenance)
(ii) Document Download/Sale Start Date: 21.01.2021, 18:00 Hrs
(iii) Bid Submission Start Date :21.01.2021, 18:30 Hrs
(iv) Bid Submission Closing Date: 18.02.2021, 15:00 Hrs
For eligibility details, EMD and terms & condition of the tender please visit **https://mptenders.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Satna Smart City Development Limited
Satna (M.P.)

EXPRESS NETWORK

Missing since 2008, Kutch cattle herder released from Pakistan jail, reaches Amritsar

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, JANUARY 22

ISMAIL SAMA, a cattle herder from Nana Dinara village in Gujarat's Kutch district who went missing in 2008 and was later found in a Pakistani jail, was released on Friday following an order by the Islamabad High Court on January 14.

Ismail reached the Indian Red Cross Society's branch in Amritsar after Pakistani officers handed him over to Indian authorities.

Nana Dinara village is located near Khavda, around 50 km from on the Indo-Pakistan border in Bhuj taluka of Kutch district.

Ismail went missing on August 28, 2008, and his wife Kamabai believes that her husband lost his way and inadvertently crossed over to the Pakistan side of the border or was abducted by Pakistani border guards.

For about a decade, the family had no news about him until



(Above) Ismail Sama; (left) His son Ataulla and wife Kamabai near their home in 2018. *Express*

Rafiq Jat, a native of a nearby village returned home after being released from Pakistan in October, 2017, and informed them that he and Ismail were together in a Karachi prison.

Ataulla, 33, the eldest of Ismail's nine children, confirmed that his father had reached Amritsar. "At 6 pm on Friday, we received a phone call on my father's mobile number. He had left his phone back home when he went missing and I had been using that number since. He re-

membered that number and dialled it after reaching Amritsar. He is coming home after 13 long years," Ataulla told *The Indian Express* over phone from Allaiya Vandi area of Nana Dinara.

"He spoke to me, my mother Kamabai and my younger brother Qayum. My uncle Yunus and deputy sarpanch of our village, Fazalla Sama, are already on their way to Amritsar to receive him," Ataulla said.

Citing documents he accessed under the Right to

Information (RTI) Act, Jatin Desai, former general secretary of the Indian chapter of Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD), said that Ismail was awarded a five-year jail term by a Pakistani court in October 2011 on espionage charge. His prison term ended in October, 2016 but the cattle herder continued to languish in a Pakistani detention centre for more than four years as Indian authorities took time to confirm his nationality.

During a hearing in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case on January 2, India reportedly brought it to the notice of the Islamabad High Court that Ismail Sama continued to be detained in Pakistan even after he had served his prison term. The High Court, while hearing the matter again on January 14, had ordered Ismail's release on January 22.

"Apparently Ismail was released on Thursday... Four years is a very long time after one has served his jail term. Both the countries should adopt a mechanism by which citizens of the other country are repatriated the very next day after his or her legal custody ends," Desai told *The Indian Express*.

Noormamad Sama, sarpanch of Nana Dinara, said Fazalla and Ismail's stepbrother Yunus had boarded a train from Gujarat on Thursday for Amritsar after being informed by Desai that Ismail was likely to be handed over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border.

Fazalla Sama and Yunus

reached Ghaziabad by Friday evening.

"We have reached Ghaziabad and are expecting to reach Amritsar by train on Saturday morning. I received a call from Ismail on Friday evening informing me that he was at the Indian Red Cross Society branch in Amritsar," Fazalla, who also runs Shri Manav Seva Panchham Vistar Vikas Navjivan Trust, an NGO working for the welfare of people of western Kutch, said.

Desai said, "The cattle-herder lives in a village on the border and is jailed by Pakistan for walking a few kilometres from his home. It takes more than a decade for him to be released and more than a 2,000-kilometre long journey to come back home." Desai has also been advocating a no-arrest policy at sea in cases when fishermen inadvertently cross the maritime boundary.

A spokesperson for the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi confirmed that one fisherman was repatriated on Friday.

Elephant dies after burning tyre attack in TN, two held

ARUN JANARDHANAN & NITHYA PANDIAN
CHENNAI, COIMBATORE, JANUARY 22

AN ELEPHANT has died near Ooty due to severe bleeding caused by a burning tyre thrown at it by local residents on January 8. Two days after its death, Tamil Nadu Police on Friday arrested two people in this connection.

According to a senior forest official, the elephant was attacked on January 8 after it had damaged a luxury car parked at Mavanahalla near Masinagudi. A video of the attack emerged on social media, following which an investigation was conducted.

"They threw a tyre filled with kerosene at the elephant, which was already being treated by the forest department for a deep back injury," he said.

LCS Srikanth, deputy director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Buffer Zone), who is in charge of the area, said they booked one more person and he was out of station.

"The two persons detained were arrested today and will be sent for remand," he said.

The arrested have been identified as Reymond Mallan Malcolm (28) and Prasath Sugumaran (36). According to local residents, the elephant was attacked after it came close to a resort run by Malcolm.

The residents said people from the resort frequently used to call the forest department to chase the elephant away from



A videograb of the attack on the elephant near the resort in the Nilgiris; (right) the two who have so far been arrested.



residential areas, and have accused the forest staff of not monitored the animal properly.

Nilgiris District Collector J Innocent Divya confirmed that orders have been passed to seal the resort.

Vijay Krishnaraj of the Nilgiris-based United Conservation Movement (UCM) Movement, said the injured elephant was being treated for about 45 days by the forest department. "They were administering medicine and feeding fruits. While handling it was tough, there was one forest watcher who was taking care of the elephant all these days," Krishnaraj said.

The forest official and Krishnaraj said the reason for the death was severe bleeding. "After they threw the flaming object, it had damaged the ear lobe leading to severe bleeding. There were efforts to save the animal but it died on January 19. Similar incidents are increasing in Mudumalai region," said Krishnaraj, referring to the poisoning of two tigers recently.

An autopsy report revealed that it had severe injuries on the back and burn injuries on the ear.

Meanwhile, Bellan, 55, an anti-poaching watcher at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve who was assigned to take care of the elephant, has been unable to control his tears since its death.

"We named the elephant 'SI' because it walked like a strict police officer. SI frequently visited our village before and it never did any harm to the villagers... Its condition was getting better and the forest department employed four more employees to monitor it with me..."

"One night, SI wandered away towards Mavanahalla in search of food... The people at the resort treated it badly and threw a burning tyre on it," Bellan told *The Indian Express*.

"It was tired, had lost a lot of blood and was in pain. Two veterinary teams tranquillised it with the help of Kumki elephants... We tried to shift it to Theppakadu Elephant camp, about 1 km away... But we just lost it," he added.

IRAM SIDDIQUE

BHOPAL, JANUARY 22

THE OLD Bhopal area in Madhya Pradesh remained under heavy police bandobast Friday after the district administration gave possession on January 17 (Sunday) of a disputed land parcel measuring 2.88 acres, claimed to be a graveyard by Muslim community, to Rajdev Janseva Trust, an NGO, many of whose trustees are BJP and VHP leaders.

The Trust is now in the process of constructing a boundary wall and plans to build a community hall in the area.

On Thursday, the residents in the area who had approached the Wakf Tribunal for a stay on construction work, shut down their shops in protest. The Wakf Tribunal is scheduled to hear the ongoing title suit on January 23.

Earlier on Sunday, curfew had to be imposed in the jurisdiction of three police stations close to the disputed site while section 144 was invoked in several places in the area. Though the curfew was lifted Monday, people's movement close to the disputed site remains restricted and nearby markets are shut.

Pitambar Rajdev, Vice President, Rajdev Janseva Trust, said the trust which had constructed the Sindhi colony, will develop a community hall in the disputed land.

Of the 15 members of the Trust, many hold positions in BJP, VHP and are workers of RSS. Trust member Alok Sharma, former mayor of Bhopal, is now the



Barricades near the disputed site. *Express*

vice president of BJP in MP; another trustee Vishnu Khatri is the sitting BJP MLA from Berasia; Bhagwandas Sabnani, another trustee, is state general secretary of BJP; Shashibhai Seth, another trustee, was the Sangh Sanchalak in RSS.

Asked about the affiliation of the trust with RSS, Pitambar Rajdev, who is a VHP Prant Pramukh, said a few members are affiliated with the RSS but the trust is an independent entity and carries out social welfare work.

"The curfew had been imposed to ward off the repeat of 2001-like situation sensing the sensitivity of the matter," pointed out DIG Bhopal, Irshad Wali. Back then, the area had turned tense when the trust tried to take possession of the land.

When asked if the district administration can allow the possession of the disputed land when its still pending hearing in the Wakf Tribunal, a court to set-

tle the dispute over Wakf property, Bhopal Collector Avinash Lavania said, "As per the Revenue land records, the land belongs to the Trust and there is no stay from any court that prohibits them from going ahead and taking possession. The issue of receiver has been resolved by the SDM; hence, legally, the trust was well within its rights to construct a boundary wall to take possession of its property."

However, Sarwat Sharif Khan, lawyer at the Madhya Pradesh Wakf Board said the matter to decide the final owner of the land (title suite) was sub-judice before the Wakf Tribunal, the highest court to settle the dispute of Wakf properties. "The next hearing is on January 23. However, the Trust illegally took possession of the disputed land with the help of the district administration," he alleged.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

ABUSE AT BILASPUR SHELTER

State WCD dept recommends closure of Ujjawala home

GARGI VERMA

BILASPUR, JANUARY 22

The Chhattisgarh Women and Child Development (WCD) department on Friday is learnt to have recommended to the Centre that the Ujjawala home in Bilaspur, where several women have alleged sexual abuse by the staff, be shut down. The recommendation has been made on the basis of a report submitted by officials of the department on the situation at the shelter, run by NGO Shivmangal Shikshan Samiti.

The Samiti's president Jitendra Mourya, who has been charged with sexually abusing women staying at the shelter and arrested on Thursday, was sent to judicial custody on Friday.

According to sources, officials of the state WCD department conducted a "sudden examination" at the Ujjawala home on January 18, a day after three women escaped from the shelter home with the help of the family members of one of them.

These women later went to the police station and complained about sexual and physical abuse at the shelter. The police then registered an FIR under bailable sections. After the women's statements were recorded in front of a civil judge in the district court on Thursday, the police added sections of rape and assault to the FIR and nabbed Mourya.

It is learnt that the report submitted by the WCD department director and her team says

that women at the home were scared and not ready to speak. Of the seven women at the home, two are learnt to have told the panel that they were kept there forcefully after police took them there.

One of them, a 27-year-old woman, is learnt to have told the panel that she had left her home to start working and living independently. She said that after living at the shelter home for a week, she tried to leave and her family came to take her home, but the staff did not let her meet them.

Out of the seven women, one each is from Assam, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, and four are from Chhattisgarh.

The report, it is learnt, states that the women have revealed in separate interviews that they were not given enough food or articles of daily use like soaps, and medical supplies. They were "verbally abused, beaten and intimidated", it noted.

The report states that the superintendent Aarti Verma and president Mourya used indecent language with the inmates. Further, the staff couldn't explain the allegations or the visiting hours of Mourya.

The panel that examined the home has evacuated the home out of safety concerns.

"Three of the women were handed over to their families after both sides accepted repatriation. The rest have been accommodated in other centres for women," an official said.

So far, police have not questioned any of the women staff at the Ujjawala home.

ED searches offices of Viva Group, run by Vasai MLA's kin

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN

MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) Friday searched the offices of Viva Group run by the family of Vasai MLA and leader of Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, Hitendra Thakur, and two consultants to the group in connection with its probe into the alleged Rs 6,200 crore fraud perpetrated by Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) at Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.

Thakur is a six-time MLA and his party currently has three MLAs in the Maharashtra Assembly, including Thakur's son Kshitij. The party has extended support to the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Sources said searches were conducted at five locations after the agency allegedly found transfers of about Rs 250 crore from HDIL to a clutch of companies associated with Viva Group. These transfers, the ED has alleged, were done to siphon money from HDIL.

When contacted, Hitendra Thakur said, "I am not sure what the ED is looking for. However, all our transactions are through cheque and we will give our justification to the agency."

4 held in Greater Noida over medical student abduction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 22

IN A joint operation, Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) and Gonda police on Friday arrested four people, including an Ayurvedic doctor, in Greater Noida and rescued a 19-year-old medical student who was abducted last week.

Additional Superintendent of Police, STF, Raj Kumar Mishra said, "While four people have been arrested, one person is absconding."

Resident of Bahraich district, Gaurav Haldar is a first-year student of Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) at a college in Gonda and stayed in hostel. Police said the accused had demanded a ransom of Rs 70 lakh from his father, Nikhil Haldar.

Those arrested have been identified as Dr Abhishek Singh,

his cousin Rohit Singh, Nitesh Kashyap and Mohit Singh – all in their twenties.

Main accused Abhishek has a BAMS degree from a Bangalore college and works at a Delhi hospital. Police are conducting raids to trace Abhishek's colleague Dr Preeti Mehra who was also involved in the abduction and is at large. "Preeti started calling Abhishek and talked to him for nearly four days. She asked Gaurav to meet her outside his college in Gonda on January 18," said Inspector, STF, Saurabh Vikram Singh. "When Gaurav reached the spot to meet Preeti, the accused dragged him inside the car," said Singh. He was then taken to Delhi, Singh added.

On getting calls for ransom Gaurav's father, Nikhil Haldar, approached the police. The accused were arrested after police laid a trap for them at Knowledge Park in Greater Noida.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS (JAN 22)

2,28,563

Total: 12,72,097

NUMBER OF ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER IMMUNIZATION

267

Total: 1,520

326
DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 1,06,25,428

ACTIVE CASES: 1,88,688

DEATHS: 1,53,032

TESTS: 19,01,48,024 | RECOVERIES: 1,02,83,708

	CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
JAN 21	14,545	163	18,002	8,00,242

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES		
	CASES (JAN 21)	TOTAL
Kerala	6,334	8,70,530
Maharashtra	2,886	20,00,878
Chhattisgarh	674	9,34,252

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS		
	DEATHS (JAN 21)	TOTAL
Maharashtra	53	51,848
Kerala	21	3,593
Punjab	15	5,535

Data as on January 21, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments. Often the numbers released every day contain data from previous days as well. As such, trends based on daily numbers are only indicative and not definitive

About a boy who ran away from home, a lonely room and 5 months of online classes

KAMAAL SAIED

SURAT, JANUARY 22

IT HAD been months. He missed his friends, teachers, the chatter in the classroom, and playing cricket. Online classes were not the same. "I could see on a tiny mobile phone screen the teacher writing something on a blackboard. I could neither read what they wrote nor hear what they said," he says.

On January 18, carrying a water bottle, chips, and his bicycle, the 14-year old Class 8 student ran away from his home in Surat to an uncle in Bhayander, Mumbai, 280 km away.

He left the phone behind, and a note: telling his parents he was sorry for the trouble but he was going "far away"; "Yeh online classes mein kuchch samajh nahin ata (I can't get anything in these online classes)".

On Thursday, his parents got him back. His school plans to send over two teachers home for counselling.

The principal of the school, an English-medium, grant-in-aid institution, says the 14-year-old is a good student but has

been irregular since the online classes began five months ago. While he scored 74 per cent in Class 7, he didn't appear in the recent school exams.

The Rander police are not planning any action, apart from sending over some personnel to talk to the teenager. "We trust his statement. He has not committed any crime. The boy has returned safely," says an inspector.

The teenager, who aspires to become a pilot, says he felt "ghunglaman (suffocated)" since the Covid lockdown began.

The family's one-bedroom flat on the sixth floor of an apartment building in Adajan is bare but for a divan, a television case with no TV in it, and a few chairs. Once his parents, who are tobacco vendors, left for work, he would spend days alone in the room, staring at the mobile phone -- days which quickly turned to months. He has no siblings.

Almost the only time he stepped out was to help his parents carry tobacco bags up. "I love playing cricket, but all my friends stay far away," he says.

Meanwhile, he kept falling

behind in studies, with tuitions also stopped and no one to help him with problems.

The school principal says they called his parents three times for a meeting, concerned about the "above average, well-behaved" teenager skipping classes.

"But they didn't come. Knowing that the family is not well-off financially, we had waived his fees for six months. We also gave the boy books," the principal said.

The 14-year-old could only think of one escape, to his grandmother and uncle, who live in Bhayander. His parents and he also lived in Bhayander till six years ago, but moved to Surat in the hope of a better life. He had last met his uncle and grandmother before the pandemic began.

When he left for Bhayander, on the bicycle gifted by his uncle, he thought he would "never return", he says.

"We used to go to Mumbai by road on my father's motorbike, so I was aware of the route and that it was 280 km away," he says, claiming to have taken lifts with truck drivers, choosing only

the elderly ones to be safe, and riding his bicycle alternately, to make it to Mumbai. He claims to have spent a difficult, cold night at the back of a truck, till a guard lent him a blanket. He says he thought of calling his parents to tell them he was safe, but was scared they would be very angry or come with the police. "I am afraid of the police."

Around 10.30 pm on January 19, he knocked on his uncle's door. "They were happy to see me. I just ate and slept. My uncle knowing I had left home without telling my parents called up my father to tell him where I was."

The Rander police was also on his trail, having figured out with the help of CCTV footage of the apartment that he had left home on his bicycle.

On January 20, his parents arrived in Bhayander to get him back. Sitting with him at home, the father says they would never nag him to study again, or "leave him alone at home". "We work hard to ensure he has a comfortable life, now we will work to keep him happy."

This Sunday, he will drive his son to his friend's house to play.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Home, alone

A false hierarchy of gender and caste practices has devalued domestic and care work. The pandemic has only sharpened this inequality



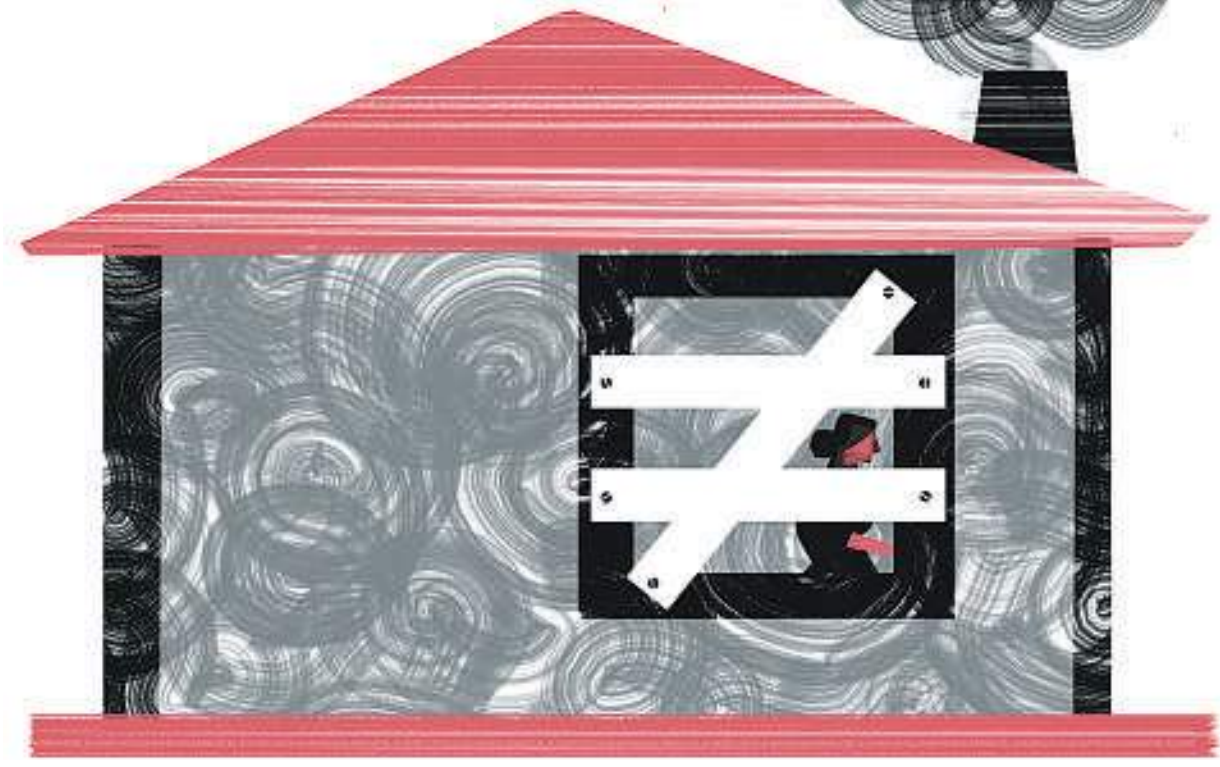
AMRITA DUTTA

THE KITCHEN IS A place of nourishment and skill — but also of the exhausted, unvoiced rage of Indian women. That anger simmers in the just-released Malayalam film, *The Great Indian Kitchen*. But before it boils over, the camera lingers on the hands of women at work: Slicing carrots, peeling tapioca, washing cups, scrubbing dishes, grinding coconut into a chutney on a stone slab, sweeping, mopping, washing. Breakfast follows lunch follows dinner. The men read the newspaper or stretch into a yoga-sana, call out for tea (with milk for him, and without for someone else). They ask for the toothbrush to be handed over and know hot dosas will find the plate, unasked. Scene after scene looks at the never-quite-finished women's labour at home — as well as the easy, polite entitlement with which men receive the fruits of that work, not even a haldi stain on the assumption that this is how it should be.

This unsettling look at domestic drudgery — both in Jeo Baby's *The Great Indian Kitchen* and the Bengali film *Tasher Ghawr*, about a housewife trapped with her abusive husband in lockdown — is rare in contemporary popular culture. Indeed, to many of us, food is daily pleasure and aestheticism, a link to cultures and histories that make us. But like the salt that disappears into a sambhar or a dal done right, the arduous labour of women in the kitchen and home (and their lack of choice in opting out of it) is an essential — and ignored — ingredient of Indian lives. Here are the facts: The NSSO time-use survey 2019 of nearly 4.5 lakh Indians reveals that women spend nearly five hours every day on unpaid domestic work, compared to 98 minutes by men. Less than 6 per cent of Indian men are involved in cooking, compared to 75 per cent women.

The home is where the majority of Indian women perform work that sustains households and enables men (and privileged women) to take up productive paid jobs in the economy. Even for those women who take up work outside the home, domestic responsibilities shape their choice of work and professional progress. The drag on Indian women's labour force participation (one of the lowest in the world) is not only a function of low education and social status, but also, to a significant extent, of culture — the basket of values that, by tying women's identity tightly to the supervision of children and home, nudges them out of the workforce. "Why do you want to take up a job, when the work you do at home is more important than that of ministers?" says the father-in-law to the newly-wed daughter-in-law in *The Great Indian Kitchen*. Like Schrödinger's cat, the domestic work performed by wives and daughters is both priceless, and of little value.

No matter the strides in education and social practices, in the political and cultural discourse about women, marriage and home are still seen, unquestioningly, as the rightful and natural context for women's lives. So much so that economist Swaminathan Aiyar can prescribe work-from-home (WFH) as a fix to the



C R Sasikumar

problem of too few women in the workforce because a) "they do not have to leave home and face molestation or badnaami" and b) because it can make it feasible for them to do "both office and family chores". The Supreme Court Chief Justice finds it possible to suggest that women farmers from Punjab give up their space in democratic protests and return home, rather than bargain for their economic rights. It is the same daddy complex that leads to anti-conversion laws meant to "rescue" Hindu women in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from the exercise of their own will — and return them to their families, their homes.

For a brief while last year, the middle-class lockdown home — by becoming a simultaneous space for salaried work and unpaid housework — made it impossible to ignore the toil that sustained a house. In the absence of domestic help, schools and childcare, women were stretched thin — but men, too, did more at home. A study by economist Ashwani Deshpande found that the gender gap in domestic work shrank during the lockdown, but widened again by August, when many men returned to employment.

Around April, I had stepped into full-time kitchen work for the first time in my life, ears ringing with the mocking prophecy of aunts ("In the end, no woman escapes the pressure cooker"). All my life I had determined that I would not turn into my mother, an immensely capable woman whose talent and energy ought not to have been circumscribed by the dazzling meals she cooked, and the exacting, punishing standards of domestic work by which she ran her life. But, here, I was. Working with my mother in the kitchen, I learnt with my hands what I knew in theory — that this is work that demands skill, creativity and organisation; that like all physical labour, it rewires and restores the rhythm of the body; that it allows the sharing of pleasures that makes us human. Why, then, do men not feel the need to acquire this life still?

Could a salary for housework paid by the state, as Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) leader Kamal Haasan has promised Tamil Nadu women voters, be a way to value this work? While a refreshing acknowledgement of the

The home is where the majority of Indian women perform work that sustains households and enables men (and privileged women) to take up productive paid jobs in the economy. Even for those women who take up work outside the home, domestic responsibilities shape their choice of work and professional progress. The drag on Indian women's labour force participation (one of the lowest in the world) is not only a function of low education and social status, but also, to a significant extent, of culture — the basket of values that, by tying women's identity tightly to the supervision of children and home, nudges them out of the workforce.

labour that subsidises the economic activities of society, the proposal leaves the fundamental hierarchy of the patriarchal home unchanged — that a woman's place is in the home — and absolves it of change. A salary also presupposes a worker's ability to bargain for higher wages, and exit her workplace. Can these negotiations take place in the home, which places men's needs and pleasures at the centre of its workflow? More importantly, how can women determine a fair price, when the labour that sustains homes is so consistently devalued? These are important questions, given that the economic shock of the pandemic is bound to push more women out of the workforce — and into unpaid domestic service. According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, while men recovered most of their lost jobs by November 2020, women didn't — 49 per cent of job losses were of women.

A false hierarchy of gender and caste practices has, indeed, devalued the essential work that sustains us — whether cleaning or cooking or the care of infants and elderly. It allows caste-privileged women and nearly all men to pass on this work to those from "lower castes" and the impoverished — for low wages. This fundamental inequality robs women of self-worth, but also stunts men into pre-fabricated social roles. It radiates out of the home into the public sphere. It shapes workplaces that reward 24x7 male workers who can afford to ignore the demands of the home; eases out women who shoulder precisely that burden or confines them in supportive, secondary roles. It leads to abysmal wages paid to domestic workers. Care work performed by women, largely from the lower castes, remains devalued even in the middle of a pandemic, as is evident in the struggle of ASHA workers. Even professions such as teaching, that tend to employ more women, remain low-paying.

Dismantling these hierarchies — and expanding the imagination of women as citizens independent of the home — might make the family a nourishing place, not only for men.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"China can be a partner with the US in fighting COVID-19, resolving climate problems and promoting growth. Compared with confrontational policies, the China-US cooperation is obviously more conducive to realising Washington's new ambitions."
—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The listening deficit

The fundamental reform India — and the world — needs is the process of listening to other perspectives



ARUN MAIRA

"THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS cannot be allowed to be subverted through unlawful protests," Prime Narendra Minister Modi tweeted, commenting on the storming of the US Capitol by Donald Trump's supporters. Meanwhile, thousands of farmers are camped in bitterly cold weather around India's capital. They are peacefully protesting amendments to farm laws the government has rammed through without a discussion in the country's elected Parliament. They threaten to carry out a peaceful tractor march in Delhi on the nation's Republic Day if their demands are not conceded by then. These protests in the world's two largest democracies raise questions about the health of the global democratic enterprise.

What is a "lawful" protest? Who determines whether the purpose of the protest is lawful? And which methods of protest are lawful? If such questions should be discussed within a democratically-elected Parliament (or Congress), and if elected institutions do not function, should the people not protest? They must protest, albeit non-violently, in a manner that will make their protest heard as the Indian farmers are, and the protestors in Shaheen Bagh were.

Experts advising the government are prepared for discussions with the farmers provided the discussions are "evidence-based", they say. Which raises more questions. What is evidence required for? What is acceptable as evidence? The experts have their own scientific models about what is important. The farmers have their experience of what matters. Experts want more hard data. Whereas farmers' mistrust of the government's intentions is based on their experience, including the way in which the reforms are being rammed on them. That's not how democracy is supposed to work, they protest.

Liberals everywhere are feeling threatened by the rise of autocratic leaders. Elected leaders may say they work for the people and listen to them. However, the experts who advise them plug people as numbers into their scientific models, even looking down on them as uneducated masses. When leaders rely too heavily on expert advisers for solutions, trust in elected leaders breaks down. Trump rose up on a global wave of citizens' mistrust in the way democratic institutions are functioning. Trump may have fallen, but the wave of illiberalism has not passed. It has risen due to the failure, so far, of two projects to meet citizens' expectations of improvements in the human condition — the project of electoral democracy, and the project of scientific rationality.

The Indian government is being urged by economists and industrialists to implement economic reforms firmly. The people who are the intended beneficiaries are not convinced, as the farmers' are saying. Even experts disagree amongst themselves whether the reforms are the right ones. Indian econ-

omists have been very critical in recent years of the Supreme Court's "interference" in the economy, with its decisions in tax matters, etc. It does not have the necessary expertise for economic policies, they say. Caught in the impasse of agriculture reforms, the government now seems inclined to let the Supreme Court decide what should be done. Is this not an admission that the government and the economists who advise it do not have the expertise required for democratic governance?

The expansion of the idea of human rights is the mother force of democracy. Democracy is deepened by the realisation that those who rule always have more power than those they rule over. The nobility over peasants; white people over coloured people; upper castes over lower castes; employers over workers; men over women. The advance of ill-regulated capital across the world in recent years, to promote the ease of doing business rather than ease of living, has given those with more wealth greater power to frame rules than citizens who have no wealth. Democracy must correct this.

The fault-lines in democracy are: ill-regulated capitalist markets are corroding democracy; experts are misinformed about realities; global elites, who are connected in a global community transcending national borders, are disconnected from common people. They think "global" and believe that thinking "national and local" is going backwards whereas people within countries everywhere, especially those left behind in the global race, want their governments to look inwards to their needs first.

The Edelman Trust Barometer, an annual global survey of citizens' trust in institutions reported, in 2020, that: "A growing sense of inequity is undermining trust in all institutions — government, business, the media, even NGOs." Government, the media, and NGOs are supposed to serve the people. Even businesses realise they must be trusted by the people for their license to operate. They should not have to turn to the government to convince citizens that big corporations are good for the people. Because then the people will believe that the government and corporations are in cahoots to serve corporate interests, and they will lose faith in their own government.

Trust is decreasing because no one is listening to others. The government is not listening to the people, neither are experts. Experts in their specialised silos are not even listening to experts in other silos. Social media is forcing people further into gated communities of "people like us" who are unable, and unwilling, to listen to "people not like us". Democratic governance is breaking down because no one is willing to listen to people they don't understand or agree with.

The fundamental reform India needs (and the world too) is a "no tech" one. It is the process of listening to people who do not seem to think like we do. By listening to other perspectives, we will comprehend the system of which we are all small parts; and economists will improve their science too. Moreover, by listening better to each other we can trust each other, and then we can work together, democratically, to make the world better for everyone.

Maira, a former member, Planning Commission, is the author of *Listening for Well-Being: Conversations with People Not Like Us*



ATANU PURKAYASTHA

Rollback is not the answer

Farm laws are only way to push agriculture out of low-income trap

INDIAN AGRICULTURE GREW at about 1 per cent per annum in the 50 years before Independence. It has grown at about 2.6 per cent per annum in the post-Independence era to become the world's second-largest food producer. This transformation has been possible through increasing the area under cultivation and adoption of modern production technologies. Though agriculture is India's main occupation, its contribution to GDP hovers around 17 per cent because farm productivity has almost stagnated. Feeding the world's second-most populated country remains a prime responsibility and the government has to find ways to retain farmers' interest in agriculture.

Compared to the world average of 11 per cent, around 51 per cent of India's area is already under cultivation, with rainfed drylands constituting 65 per cent of the net sown area. There is no further scope to increase the area under cultivation and agriculture research fatigue has strangled crop productivity. According to the last agricultural census, of 14.57 crore agricultural holdings in the country, 12.56 crore (86.21 per cent) are small and marginal holdings (less than 2 hectares) representing 47 per cent of the total operated agricultural area. With an average of at least four members per family, agriculture is the source of livelihood for this half a billion people, generating an approximate monthly income of Rs 6,000 — Rs 50 per person per day. It is this segment of the farming community whose income from agriculture needs to be

enhanced to stop their migration to the non-agriculture sector.

World over, it is the farmer who decides the market price of his produce, but in India, it is decided by intermediaries. During harvest, agricultural production centres see a glut of produce at throwaway prices whereas shortages and high prices rule the roost at consumption centres. About 16 per cent of fruits and vegetables and 10 per cent of oilseeds, pulses and cereals perish before reaching the consumer's table, while the Global Hunger Index (GHI) of International Food Policy Research Institute ranked India 100th out of 118 countries in 2018. The 15th Finance Commission observed that power subsidies imperil our already-stretched groundwater resources. India's electricity consumption in agriculture is far greater than any comparable country and withdrawal of groundwater is more than China's and the US's put together.

Over the years, influenced by government interventions like MSP, seed, fertiliser subsidies, our agriculture production system has been primarily rice-wheat centric. These interventions were once essential for food security. Once achieved, they should have been tweaked to enforce reforms to bring agriculture in tune with market demands, incentivise crop diversification, and create infrastructure to modernise agriculture. The economic boom of the last 25 years is due to the opening up of the economy that began under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. This is ex-

actly what is required in the agricultural sector. The three farm laws reforming the agriculture sector are much-needed.

Processing is the mantra to generate higher income from agri-produce and calls for private investment. However, private investment entails profit-making and for this to happen, the investor needs to have a say in the sale of the agriculture produce. This is possible when the investor has a legal agreement or "contract" with the farmer-producer guaranteeing sale of produce at pre-determined quality, quantity and price. This is what the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement On Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 provides for. The Act envisages the investor to provide farm services in the form of technology infusion for achieving the desired production, protection against acquisition of farmer's land and dispute redressal mechanism. The apprehension that this Act would lead to the exploitation of farmers is unfounded.

Not receiving the right price is the main reason for farmers' dissatisfaction. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 now gives liberty to the farmer-producers to sell their produce to any trader or through modern electronic platforms to any place at a price decided by him. The Act also defines who is the trader of agricultural commodities, sets the time limit for payments and includes a dispute redressal system. This Act liberates the sector from the APMC Act, which provided

an opportunity for the middleman to dictate prices and pocket a lion's share of profits.

Creation of storehouses etc. makes it possible inter alia to store perishable agri-produce and make them available during the off-season when prices are high and maintain year-round supply of agri-raw materials for processing factories. Keeping these requirements in mind, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 was passed to regulate the supply of certain foodstuffs only under extraordinary circumstances. To prevent the black marketers from taking the advantage of this well-intended law, a rider could have been added setting limits on the storage of directly-consumable products.

The three Farm Acts intended to break the logjam in the agriculture sector. How they hamper farmers' interest has not been explained by any of the agitating farmers' organisations or their political sympathisers. The argument that these laws would result in loss of state revenue is absurd as the state cannot earn revenue by keeping farmers in perpetual poverty.

If the farm laws are to be repealed, it would sound a death knell for the efforts to improve the agriculture sector, for no political party in government would ever dare carry out agricultural reforms again, much like how the family planning programme has been forgotten in the country.

The writer is former agriculture secretary, government of West Bengal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HASTE, WASTE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Laws on pause' (IE, January 22). The failure of the government to implement the well-intended and pro-farmer but hastily-enacted farm laws should make it realise that laws enacted without the participation of the stakeholders are counterproductive. Its reluctance to put in practice the labour codes and Citizenship Amendment Act and the willingness to defer the farm laws should teach it that a delayed but doable decision is better than a good but undoable decision.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

A CONTRADICTION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'PM to distribute over 1 lakh land papers to indigenous people in poll-bound Assam' (IE, January 22). CM Sarbananda Sonowal's announcement that landless indigenous people will be allotted land means that the government has recognised the existence of indigenous people in Assam. This is at odds with the Centre's negation in the UN Declaration that within the country, the Indian state provides no such recognition to any communities, except as Scheduled Tribes.

LR Murmu, Delhi

GOOD START

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Biden's burden' (IE, January 22). The US may never have been as severely divided as it is today. With Donald Trump having se-

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● BEATING CHINA'S FAIT ACCOMPLI TRAP: AMEYA PRATAP SINGH

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cured more than 70 million votes despite being on the losing side and the kind of violence we have seen in Washington recently, the ball would be in President Joe Biden's court to bridge this ever-deepening divide. He seems to have started on a positive note by passing a slew of executive orders on his first day in office.

Bal Govind, Noida

NAME GAME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Slaying the dragon' (IE, January 22). Changing the name of a fruit just because it hints at (incorrect) Chinese origins is illogical. If India wants to become a great Asian country, name-changing is not the way to go about it.

Barad Krishnapalsinh, Ahmedabad



New Delhi



SIMPLY PUT **QUESTION & ANSWER**

The cost of guaranteed MSP

Apart from repeal of farm laws, farmers are demanding guaranteed minimum support prices, which have no legal backing. A look at what the implications would be if the govt did provide the guarantee

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

FARMER UNIONS protesting on Delhi's borders are raising two fundamental demands. The first is for repealing the three agricultural reform laws enacted by the Centre. The second is to provide legal guarantee for the minimum support prices (MSPs) that the Centre declares for various crops every year. Currently, there is no statutory backing for these prices or any law mandating their implementation. What are the implications if the government were to accept the farmer unions' demand?

How can MSP be made legally binding?

There are two ways it can be done. The first is to force private buyers to pay it. In this case, no crop can be purchased below the MSP, which would also act as the floor price for bidding in *mandi* auctions. There's already a precedent: In sugarcane, mills are required by law to pay growers the Centre's "fair and remunerative price" – Uttar Pradesh and Haryana fix even higher "state advised prices" – within 14 days of supply. In no other crop is the compulsion to pay the government-announced MSP thrust on the private trade/industry.

The second route is, of course, the government itself buying the entire crop that farmers offer at the MSP. In 2019-20, government agencies – Food Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) – procured 77.34 million tonnes (mt) of paddy and 38.99 mt of wheat, worth roughly Rs 140,834 crore and Rs 75,060 crore at their respective MSPs. Further, they purchased 105.23 lakh bales of cotton (MSP value of Rs 28,202 crore in terms of raw un-ginned *kapas*), 2.1 mt of chana or chickpea (Rs 10,238 crore), 0.7 mt each of *arhar* or pigeon-pea (Rs 4,176 crore) and groundnut (Rs 3,614 crore), 0.8 mt of rapeseed-mustard (Rs 3,540 crore) and 0.1 mt of *moong* or green gram (Rs 987 crore).

But how much of farmers' produce can the government buy at MSP?

The MSP is now applicable on 23 farm commodities: 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, *bajra*, *jowar*, *ragi* and barley), 5 pulses (*chana*, *arhar*, *moong*, *urad* and *masur*), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, soyabean, rapeseed-mustard, sesame, sunflower, nigerseed and safflower) and 4 commercial crops (sugarcane, cotton, copra and raw jute).

The chart shows that the MSP value of the total production of the 23 crops worked out to around Rs 10.78 lakh crore in 2019-20. Not all this produce, however, is marketed. Farmers retain part of it for self-consumption, seed for the next season's sowing and also for feeding their animals. The marketed surplus ratio for different crops is estimated to range from below 50% for *ragi* and 65-70% for *bajra* (pearl-millet) and *jowar* (sorghum) to 75% for wheat, 80% for paddy, 85% for sugarcane, 90% for most pulses, and 95%-plus for cotton, jute,



Paddy crop in Patiala district. The total value of India's paddy production works out to Rs 3.2 lakh crore, going by MSP. *Express Archive*

soyabean and sunflower. Taking an average of 75% would yield a number of just over Rs 8 lakh crore. This is the MSP value of production that is the marketable surplus – which farmers actually sell.

So, is this the money that the government would have to spend in order to ensure farmers get MSP?

Not really. To start with, one must exclude sugarcane from the calculations. The onus for paying cane MSP, as earlier pointed out, lies on sugar mills and not the government. Secondly, the government is already procuring many crops – especially paddy, wheat, cotton and also pulses and oilseeds. The combined MSP value of the procured quantities of these would have exceeded Rs 2.7 lakh crore in 2019-20.

Thirdly, government agencies don't have to buy every single grain that comes to the market. Mopping up even a quarter or third of the market arrivals is usually enough to lift prices. Take cotton, where CCI has so far procured 87.85 lakh bales out of the current year's (October 2020-September 2021) projected crop of 358.50 lakh bales. The state-owned corporation's intervention has led to open market prices crossing the MSP for *kapas* in most mandis, thereby not necessitating further official purchases.

Fourth, the crop bought on government account also gets sold. While such sales in wheat and paddy – which are distributed at super-subsidised rates under the National Food Security Act – entail heavy losses, those are far less in the remaining MSP crops. The revenues realised from sales would partly offset the expenditures from

MSP VALUE OF PRODUCTION

CROP	VALUE
Paddy	3,20,821.57
Wheat	2,07,110.75
Sugarcane	97,817.50
Cotton	95,117.65
Chana	55,331.25
Groundnut	51,388.64
Maize	50,406.40
Soyabean	41,607.65
Mustard	40,338.30
Arhar	22,214.00
Bajra	20,560.00
Moong	17,343.00
Jowar	12,061.50
Urad	11,628.00
Copra	7,140.75
Jute	6,691.93
Masur	5,664.00
Ragi	5,481.00
Sesamum	4,863.75
Barley	2,577.25
Sunflower	1,226.05
Nigerseed	249.48
Safflower	156.45
TOTAL Value	10,77,796.88

(Prices in Rs crore; for 2019-20)

MSP procurement.

All in all, the additional fiscal outgo, from the government undertaking the maximum required procurement for guaranteeing MSP to farmers, may not be more than Rs 1-1.5 lakh crore per year.

That isn't much, right?

The government undertaking to buy at MSP is definitely better than forcing private players. If the record of sugar mills – their inability to pay farmers on time despite statutory provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act – is any guide, no trader or processor will purchase crops at prices beyond what the market supply-demand dynamics permit. Their going out of business would ultimately hurt farmers most.

However, even assured government MSP-based procurement is fraught with problems. The coverage of MSPs today does not extend to fruits, vegetables and livestock products that together have a 45% share in the gross value of output of India's agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. The value of milk and milk products alone is more than that of all cereals and pulses combined.

Extending MSP to all farm produce and guaranteeing it through law is hugely challenging, fiscally and otherwise. It also explains why economists increasingly are in favour of guaranteeing minimum "incomes" rather than "prices" to farmers. One way to achieve that is via direct cash transfers either on a flat per-acre (as in the Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu scheme) or per farm household (the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) basis.

When Parliament passed Bills but govt did not give effect to those laws

CHAKSHU ROY

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

IN THE ongoing stalemate between protesting farmers and the Centre, the government has repeated its offer of keeping the three contentious farm laws on hold for one to one-and-a-half years, while the farmers have rejected the offer and insisted that the laws be repealed. Over the years, Parliament has repealed several laws – and there have also been precedents of the government not bringing a law into force for several years after it has been passed.

Bringing/removing a law

Parliament has the power to make a law and to remove it from the statute books (a law can be struck down by the judiciary if it is unconstitutional). But the passing of a Bill does not mean that it will start working from the next day. There are three more steps for it to become a functioning law. The first step is the President giving his or her assent to the Bill. Then the law comes into effect from a particular date. And finally, the government frames the rules and regulations to make the law operational on the ground. The completion of these steps determines when the law becomes functional.

The first step is the simplest. Article 111 of the Constitution specifies that the President can either sign off on the Bill or withhold his consent. The President rarely withholds their assent to a Bill. The last time it happened was in 2006 when President A P J Abdul Kalam refused to sign a Bill protecting MPs from disqualification for holding an office of profit. A Bill is sent to Parliament for reconsideration if the President withholds his or her assent on it. And if Parliament sends it back to the President, he or she has no choice but to approve it.

Most Bills receive the President's approval in a few days. President Ram Nath Kovind signed the three farm Bills into law within a week of their passing in September 2020. In 1986, President Zail Singh made use of a loophole in the Constitution. A Bill criticised for violating the privacy of personal correspondence was sent to him for approval seven months before the end of his term. The Constitution does not specify a time limit for the President to approve a Bill. So President Singh decided not to take any action on the Bill until the end of his term.

The next step is deciding the date on which the law comes into effect. In many cases, Parliament delegates to the government the power to determine this date. The Bill states that the law "shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and in different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act". For example, Parliament passed the Recycling of Ships Act in December 2019. In October 2020, the government brought Section 3 of the law into force. This section empowers the government to designate an officer to supervise all ship re-

cycling activities in India.

Giving effect to a law

There are also instances when the government does not bring a law into force for many years. Two examples are the National Environment Tribunal Act and the Delhi Rent Control Act, which Parliament passed during Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's tenure. The government never brought these laws into force, which were passed in 1995 and cleared by the President. The National Green Tribunal Act finally repealed the environmental tribunal law in 2010. And a Bill to repeal the Delhi Rent Control Act introduced in 2013 is still pending in Rajya Sabha.

There are also multiple instances where a law specifies when it will come into effect. The 2013 land acquisition law put an outer limit of three months for the Centre to bring it into force after the President approved it. A Bill can also specify the exact date on which it will come into effect. Bills replacing ordinances sometimes do that. In such cases, the Bill sets the date on which the President signed the ordinance (since Parliament was not in session) as the day the law will come into force. For example, the law banning e-cigarettes came into effect from September 18, 2019 (Ordinance date) after Parliament passed the Bill to replace the Ordinance on December 2, 2019. Similarly, the three farm Bills replacing their ordinances came into force on June 5, 2020.

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IN FACT

Rules & regulations

A Bill passed by Parliament is the outline of a law. For the law to start working on the ground, individuals need to be recruited or given the power, to administer it. The implementing ministry also needs to finalise forms to gather information and provide benefits or services. These day-to-day operational details are called rules and regulations. And Parliament gives the government the responsibility of making them. These regulations are critical for the functioning of law.

If the government does not make rules and regulations, a law or parts of it will not get implemented. The Benami Transactions Act of 1988 is an example of a complete law remaining unimplemented in the absence of regulations. The law gave the government power to confiscate benami properties. For 25 years, such properties were immune from seizure in the absence of framing relevant government rules. The law was finally repealed in 2016 and replaced with a new one.

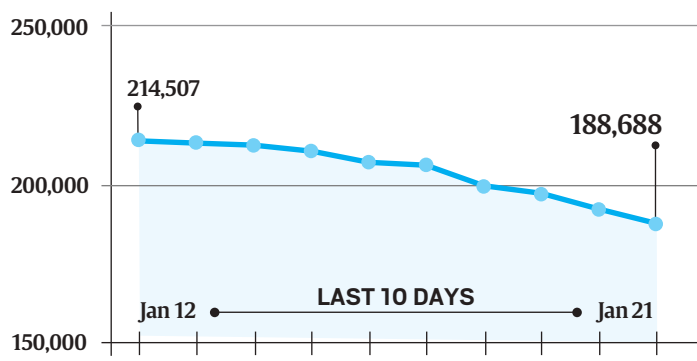
Parliament has recommended that the government make rules within six months of passing a law. But parliamentary committees have observed that this recommendation is "being followed in breach by various ministries". The government not only has the power to make rules but can also suppress rules made by it earlier. In the case of farm laws, the government has made some rules in October 2020.

The author is Head of Outreach, PRS Legislative Research

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

188,688



Note: The Jan 21 figure in this graph is based on the Health Ministry update on Jan 22

SARS-CoV-2 triggers antibodies from past coronavirus attacks

THE RESULTS of a new study suggest that the immune systems of people infected with Covid-19 may rely on antibodies created during infections from earlier coronaviruses (other than SARS-CoV-2) to help fight the disease.

The study sought to understand how coronaviruses ignite the human immune system and conduct a deeper dive on the inner workings of the antibody response. The published findings appear in *Cell Reports Medicine*.

This knowledge could help researchers design new diagnostics, evaluate the healing powers of convalescent plasma, develop new therapeutic treatments and – importantly – help



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

design future vaccines or monoclonal antibody therapies capable of protecting against mutations that may occur in the Covid-19 virus.

The researchers used a tool called PepSeq to finely map antibody responses to all human-infecting coronaviruses. PepSeq is a novel technology being developed at Translational Genomics Research Institute and Northern Arizona University.

Besides SARS-CoV-2, researchers examined the antibody responses from two other potentially deadly coronaviruses: MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-1.

Source: Northern Arizona University

At PM venue today, recalling an Assam icon

TORA AGARWALA

GUWAHATI, JANUARY 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Assam on Saturday, January 23 – his first in the run-up to the Assembly elections likely in April. The venue for Modi's programme – where he will launch an Assam government initiative to distribute over one lakh land *pattas* (documents) to indigenous communities of the state – is the historic Jerenga Pothar in Upper Assam's Sivasagar district.

Formerly known as Rangpur, Sivasagar was the seat of the powerful Ahom dynasty, who ruled Assam for six centuries (1228-1826). It is part of Upper Assam, which saw strong opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) last year.

What is the historical significance of Jerenga Pothar?

Jerenga Pothar, an open field in Sivasagar town, is popularly connected to the valour of 17th century Ahom princess Joymoti. While the courage of Ahom kings is well-documented, Joymoti's story – little-known until the latter part of the 19th century – is today celebrated and invoked as a symbol of inspiration.

"From 1671 to 1681, the Ahom kingdom was undergoing a period of tumult under 'ministerial superiority', meaning the nobles and prime ministers were more important than the king, who were often puppets," said Dr Jahnnabi Gogoi, a Dibrugarh University professor who specialises in the medieval history of Assam.

It was at this time that Sulikhpaai – also known as 'Lora Raja' or the boy prince – and his prime minister Lalkusala Borphukan were tracking down, and killing, possible heirs, to ensure a clear passage to the throne.



Jerenga Pothar in Sivasagar, venue of Modi's rally. Historical and cultural icon Joymoti was tortured to death on this ground. *PTI*

Prince Godapani, Joymoti's husband, was next in line, but he escaped to the Naga Hills before Lora Raja and his men could capture him. "It was then that Lora Raja sought out Godapani's wife Joymoti, hoping she would tell him about his whereabouts," said Dr Gogoi. "However, despite being tortured for days, tied to a thorny plant, in an open field, Joymoti refused to divulge any information." She died, sacrificing her life for her husband, who ultimately became the king, ushering in an era of stability and peace in Assam.

The place Joymoti was tortured to death was Jerenga Pothar.

How did Joymoti become a nationalist icon?

According to historians, the Jerenga Pothar episode is not officially recorded in any *buranjis*, or Ahom-era chronicle. "These were mostly written by men, or on the king's orders," said Dr Gogoi, "So it is possible that this episode wasn't considered important enough to record. However, the

story was passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth."

Dr Gogoi said that the turn of the 20th century saw a number of publications record the episode, beginning with one in *Jonaki* magazine by Ratneshwar Mahanta. In 1935, cultural icon Jyoti Prasad Agarwala made the first Assamese feature film, *Joymati*, based on Lakshminath Bezbaroa's drama *Joymoti Konwari* (1915). "That is when the public became aware of her sacrifice and strength," said Dr Gogoi.

Cultural historian Ankur Tamuli Phukan said this paved the way for Joymoti to become a nationalist icon. "Joymoti's story signified not just the strength and loyalty of the Assamese woman, but her resistance and courage represented the relationship between familial/domestic life and national life," he said.

What is the significance of Jerenga Pothar today?

While the Jerenga Pothar itself is not a

protected archaeological site, its vicinity includes a number of protected sites, including the Na Pukhuri tank to its east and the Pohu Garh, a natural zoo built during the Ahom era, to its west. Close by is the large Joysagar tank, built by Ahom king Swargadeo Rudra Singha in 1697, and the Vishnu Dol temple.

According to Jiten Borpatra Gohain, a retired professor of history in Namrup College, the Jerenga Pothar was initially called Jerenga Haabi or Jerenga forest. "In *Orunodoi*, the first Assamese journal, there would be references to wild buffaloes killing people in Jerenga Pothar," he said.

He said it was only in 1707 when Rangpur (erstwhile Sivasagar) was established as the capital of the Ahom kingdom, and many monuments came up in the vicinity (Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, Kareng Ghar), that the area developed.

Sivasagar-based Sonaram Barua, a retired principal of Sibsagar Girls' College, said Jerenga Pothar is situated in a low-lying area, and remains flooded during the monsoon even today. "Jerenga Pothar is an open field, flanked by villages on all sides. On rare occasions it is used for important events," he said. In 2017, the field was used for the centenary celebrations of the apex and influential literary body, the Asam Sahitya Sabha.

Preparations are in full swing for PM Modi's land *patta* distribution event on Saturday, which is in line with the BJP's 2016 poll plank to protect the Jaati, Maati and Bheti (community, land and hearth). According to Tamuli Phukan, the choice of venue is interesting because Upper Assam is where the strongest opposition to the BJP-led government's CAA came from. "Not just Jerenga Pothar, but Sivasagar is historically important, and represents the Assamese 'nation'," he said.

TOP OF THE WORLD



The National Rifle Association's office in New York. Reuters

USA

Judge dismisses NRA bid to end New York case

A NEW York state judge on Thursday rejected the National Rifle Association's bid to dismiss or move a lawsuit by New York Attorney General Letitia James seeking to dissolve the gun rights group. Justice Joel Cohen ruled six days after the NRA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to protect itself from lawsuits, and said it would reincorporate in the more gun-friendly Texas after 150 years in New York. James had sued the NRA, Chief Executive Wayne LaPierre and others last August. She accused the group of violating state laws for nonprofits by diverting millions of dollars to fund luxurious trips for officials and other suspect expenses. **REUTERS**

IRAQ

IS claims responsibility for Baghdad blasts

THE ISLAMIC State claimed responsibility for a rare suicide attack that rocked central Baghdad, killing 32 people and wounding dozens. The bombing targeted "apostate Shias," the group said in a statement on an IS-affiliated website late Thursday. The US-led coalition recently ceased combat activities and is gradually drawing down its troop presence in Iraq, sparking fears of an IS resurgence. The group has rarely been able to penetrate the capital since being dislodged by Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition in 2017. **AP**

SYRIA

Children among four killed in strikes by Israel

ISRAELI WARPLANES fired several missiles toward central Syria early Friday, killing a family of four — including two children — and wounding four others, state media reported. State-news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying the attack took place shortly before dawn when Israeli warplanes flew over neighbouring Lebanon. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked military targets in Syria over the years. But it rarely acknowledges such operations. **AP**

House to send impeachment article to Senate Monday, triggering Trump trial

Turns down Republican leader McConnell's request to delay trial until February

NICHOLAS FANDOS
JANUARY 22

THE US House of Representatives will send its article of impeachment charging former President Donald Trump with "incitement of insurrection" to the Senate on Monday, triggering the start of a trial unlike any in American history, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York said on Friday.

Schumer, the majority leader, said the decision had been relayed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi but he declined to elaborate further on how the trial would run. Once the article arrives, Senate rules say the chamber must almost immediately be transformed into a court of impeachment and sit in judgment until a verdict is reached.

Schumer and Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, his Republican counterpart, have been negotiating for days over



Speaker Nancy Pelosi will send to the Senate the impeachment article that was passed in the House where 10 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting to impeach Trump. AP

further parameters for the trial in hopes of settling on bipartisan rules. Democrats are intent on trying to set up a dual track whereby the Senate could still confirm President Joe Biden's

Cabinet nominees before the trial starts each day.

Pelosi's decision to move on Monday, a little less than two weeks after the House's bipartisan impeachment vote, rebuffed

EXPLAINED Trial may not start right away

THE SENATE is bound to begin a trial soon after the House sends over impeachment article. But there is reportedly some willingness from Democratic Senators to give the GOP some time to prepare. So, even though the GOP may not get the whole of one month that they asked for, Senators could come to a deal to procedurally delay the start of oral arguments in the trial.

a request McConnell made on Thursday to delay the trial to provide Trump's newly appointed legal team time to prepare. He had asked that the heart of the trial not begin until mid-February. **NYT**

SENATE CONFIRMS LLOYD AUSTIN AS DEFENCE SECY



Lloyd Austin

Washington: The US Senate on Friday confirmed President Joe Biden's nominee, retired Army General Lloyd Austin, to serve as Secretary of Defence — the first Black American in the role. The vote was an overwhelming 93-2 in the 100-member chamber, far more than the simple majority needed. Lawmakers from both parties said they were pleased that Austin would be installed to lead the Pentagon just two days after Biden was sworn in as President on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

FAUCI IN 'LIBERATING' RETURN TO WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ROOM

Washington: Most of the times Dr Anthony Fauci made an appearance in the White House briefing room in 2020 — before eventually being banished from public view for his grim assessments of the pandemic — he had President Donald Trump glowing over his shoulder. On Thursday, Fauci, the US' foremost infectious disease specialist, was back, this time with no one telling him what to say. And he made no effort to hide how he felt about it. "The idea that you can get up here and talk about what you know — what the evidence, what the science is — and know that's it, let the science speak," Fauci said, pausing for a second. "It is somewhat of a liberating feeling." **NYT**

White House: Harris as V-P cements US-India ties

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 22

THE HISTORIC inauguration of Kamala Harris as America's vice president has further cemented the importance of the relationship between the United States and India, according to a top White House official.

Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, 56-year-old Harris 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 from California was



US Vice President Kamala Harris and husband Doug Emhoff at a Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service on Thursday. AP

sworn in just before Joe Biden, 78, took the oath of office to become the 46th President of the United States.

Addressing reporters at her daily news conference on Thursday, White House Press

Secretary Jen Psaki said President Biden respects the long bipartisan successful relationship between the two countries.

"President Biden, of course, has visited India many times, respects and values the long bipar-

tisan successful relationship between leaders in India and the United States. It looks forward to a continuation of that," Psaki said responding to a question on India-US relationship under the new Biden administration.

The historic inauguration of Indian-origin Harris, she said, further cements this relationship.

"Obviously, he (Biden) selected and yesterday, she (Harris) was sworn in as the first Indian-American to serve as president or vice president. Certainly, a historic moment for all of us in this country but a further cementing of the importance of our relationship," Psaki said. **PTI**

Moscow welcomes US bid to extend nuclear treaty

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW, JANUARY 22

THE KREMLIN on Friday welcomed US President Joe Biden's proposal to extend the last remaining nuclear arms control treaty between the two countries, which is set to expire in less than two weeks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that Russia stands for extending the pact and is waiting to see the details of the US proposal.

The White House said

Thursday that Biden has proposed to Russia a five-year extension of the New START treaty.

"We can only welcome political will to extend the document," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. "But all will depend on the details of the proposal."

The treaty, signed in 2010 by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance. It expires on February 5. **AP**

EU lawmakers want tech giants' CEOs at Feb hearing

FOO YUNCHEE
BRUSSELS, JANUARY 22

EU LAWMAKERS have invited the chief executives of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Alphabet to a February 1 hearing in Brussels as they try to crack down on the powers of US tech giants.

The European Parliament will in the coming months provide input into proposals by the European Commission to force the companies to play fairly with

rivals and to do more to tackle online fake news and harmful content or face hefty fines.

"The purpose of the planned hearing is to have an exchange with the chief executive officers of the four globally leading platform companies to learn about their current business models and future concepts as they face the challenges of altering market conditions," said an invitation sent to the firms. People familiar with the companies doubted they would accept the invitation. **REUTERS**

3 Nepal ex-PMs join protest against Parliament dissolution

GOPAL SHARMA
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 22

THREE FORMER Nepali prime ministers joined thousands of demonstrators on Friday to protest against Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's abrupt move to dissolve parliament and call snap elections.

Judges in the Supreme Court are hearing arguments on more than a dozen petitions challenging Oli's plan to seek elections

about two years before his government's tenure ends.

Oli, 68, has said internal squabbling and a lack of cooperation from members of his party had paralysed decision-making, forcing his December 2020 move to seek an early vote.

On Friday, the protesters demanded that he withdraw his "unconstitutional" move that has plunged the young republic already battling the pandemic into political turmoil.

"We will all continue our protests to pressure Oli to realise his mistake and correct it," former PM Madhav Kumar Nepal told the rally in Kathmandu.

Former PMs Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Jhal Nath Khanal, were also at the rally. All three former prime ministers are from Oli's party but oppose the dissolution.

Police said around 25,000 people had gathered to protest near Oli's office Friday. **REUTERS**



At a protest against the dissolution of Parliament, in Kathmandu on Friday. Reuters

UK PM: New virus variant may carry higher risk of death

MICHAEL HOLDEN & ALISTAIR SMOUT
LONDON, JANUARY 22

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday the new English variant of Covid-19 may be associated with a higher level of mortality although he said evidence showed that both vaccines being used in the country are effective against it.

"We've been informed today that in addition to spreading more quickly, it also now appears that there is some evidence that the new variant — the variant that was first discovered in London and the southeast (of England) — may be associated with a higher degree of mortality," he told a news briefing.

The warning about the higher risk of death from the new variant, which was identified in England late last year, came as a fresh blow after the country had earlier been buoyed by news the number of new Covid-19 infections was estimated to be shrinking by as much as four per cent a day.

Johnson said, however, that all the current evidence showed both vaccines remained effective against old and new variants.

Data published earlier on Friday showed that 5.38 million



Boris Johnson said all evidence showed that vaccines remained effective against old and new variants

people had been given their first dose of a vaccine, with 409,855 receiving it in the past 24 hours, a record high so far.

England and Scotland announced new restrictions on January 4 to stem a surge in the disease fuelled by the highly transmissible new variant of the coronavirus, which has led to record numbers of daily deaths and infections this month.

The latest estimates from the health ministry suggest that the number of new infections was shrinking by between one and four per cent a day. Last week, it was thought cases were growing by much as five per cent, and the turnaround gave hope that the spread of the virus was being curbed, although the ministry urged caution.



People line up for a Covid test in Beijing on Friday. Reuters

More travel curbs around the world

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 22

A YEAR into the worst global health crisis in a century, and much of the world feels frozen in place.

Countries that had loosened up their frontiers after imposing restrictions earlier in the pandemic are now tightening them again, worried about new, more contagious variants of the coronavirus. Some are tightening travel restrictions or imposing new rules on travelers.

In the United States, President Joe Biden signed a series of executive orders aimed at thwarting the pandemic, including a requirement that travellers coming from abroad quarantine after arriving in the US, though it is not clear how that will be enforced.

European Union leaders agreed to limit nonessential travel within the bloc and from nonmember countries in a bid to slow the spread of two variants that are already present in multiple countries in the region.

Leaders from the bloc's 27 nations, meeting via teleconference late Thursday, agreed to

take coordinated action in response to the variants, which scientists believe originated in Britain and in South Africa and appear to be significantly more contagious than others.

In Britain, which completed its exit from the bloc on Jan 1, flights from Latin America and Portugal were banned over fears of a variant first discovered in Brazil. Flights from South Africa, where another highly contagious variant was discovered last month, are also banned.

And in China, where the virus spiraled out of control during the Chinese Lunar New Year in 2020, officials are discouraging travel over the holiday, which begins Feb 12. The new year is usually the occasion for the largest annual human migration in the world.

Beijing is restricting the number of passengers allowed on public transit and has extended the quarantine period for travellers returning from overseas. Schools have been closed, and the authorities said on Wednesday that people returning to rural areas for the holiday must test negative for the virus and quarantine at home for 14 days.

BITCOIN PROCESSING CENTRES ARE BEING SEEN AS A BURDEN ON THE COUNTRY'S POWER GRID

Iran, pressured by blackouts and pollution, cracks down on Bitcoin

NASSER KARIMI & ISABEL DEBRE
TEHRAN, JANUARY 22

IRAN'S CAPITAL and major cities plunged into darkness in recent weeks as rolling outages left millions without electricity for hours. Traffic lights died. Offices went dark. Online classes stopped.

With toxic smog blanketing Tehran skies and the country buckling under the pandemic and other mounting crises, social media has been rife with speculation. Soon, fingers pointed at an unlikely culprit: Bitcoin.

Within days, as frustration spread among residents, the gov-

ernment launched a wide-ranging crackdown on Bitcoin processing centres, which require immense amounts of electricity to power their specialised computers and to keep them cool — a burden on Iran's power grid.

Authorities shuttered 1,600 centres across the country, including, for the first time, those legally authorised to operate. As the latest in a series of conflicting government moves, the clampdown stirred confusion in the crypto industry — and suspicion that Bitcoin had become a useful scapegoat for the nation's deeper-rooted problems.

Since former US President Donald Trump unilaterally with-

drew in 2018 from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, cryptocurrency has surged in popularity in the Islamic Republic.

For Iran, anonymous online transactions made in cryptocurrencies allow individuals and companies to bypass banking sanctions that have crippled the economy. Bitcoin offers an alternative to cash printed by sovereign governments and central banks — and in the case of Iran and other countries under sanctions like Venezuela, a more stable place to park money than the local currency.

"Iranians understand the value of such a borderless net-



An unlit street during a blackout in Tehran on Wednesday. AP

work much more than others because we can't access any kind of global payment networks," said Ziya Sadr, a Tehran-based Bitcoin expert. "Bitcoin shines here."

Iran's generously subsidised electricity has put the country on the crypto-mining map, given the operation's enormous electricity consumption. Electricity goes for

around four cents per kilowatt-hour in Iran, compared to an average of 13 cents in the United States.

Iran is among the top 10 countries with the most Bitcoin mining capacity in the world — 450 megawatts a day. The US network has a daily capacity of more than 1,100 megawatts.

On Tehran's outskirts and across Iran's south and north-west, windowless warehouses hum with heavy industrial machinery and rows of computers that crunch highly complex algorithms to verify transactions. The transactions, called blocks, are then added to a public record, known as the blockchain. "Miners" adding a new block

to the blockchain collect fees in bitcoins, a key advantage amid the country's currency collapse. Iran's rial, which had been trading at 32,000 to the dollar at the time of the 2015 nuclear deal, has tumbled to around 240,000 to the dollar these days.

Iran's government has sent mixed messages about Bitcoin. On one hand, it wants to capitalise on the soaring popularity of digital currency and sees value in legitimising transactions that fly under Washington's radar. It authorised 24 Bitcoin processing centres that consume an estimated 300 megawatts of energy a day, attracted tech-savvy Chinese entrepreneurs to tax-free zones in the

country's south and permitted imports of computers for mining.

Amir Nazemi, deputy minister of telecommunications and information, declared last week that cryptocurrency "can be helpful" as Iran struggles to cope with sanctions on its oil sector.

On the other hand, the government worries about limiting how much money is sent abroad and controlling money laundering, drug sales and criminal groups. Iran is now going after unauthorised Bitcoin farms with frequent police raids. Those who gain authority to process cryptocurrency are subject to electricity tariffs, which miners complain discourage investment. **AP**

15 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹48,861



RUPEE

₹72.97



OIL

\$55.56



SILVER

₹66,032

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2300 IST

SENSEX: 48,878.54 ▼ 746.22 NIFTY: 14,371.90 ▼ 218.45 NIKKEI: 28,631.45 ▼ 125.41 HANG SENG: 29,447.85 ▼ 479.91 FTSE: 6,662.67 ▼ 52.75 DAX: 13,775.24 ▼ 131.43

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
ONLINE NEWS

In Google and FB's Australian tussle, issues of concern for India as well

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

MARKING AN escalation of the slugfest between the Australian government and global tech platforms over the sharing of royalties with news publishers, Google has threatened to remove its search engine from the country, and Facebook has said it could block Australian users from posting or sharing news links if proposed norms on royalty payments are rolled out. Representatives of both tech majors were appearing at a Senate hearing in Canberra on Friday.

The showdown is being closely watched by regulators and digital platforms across geographies. Policymakers in India have so far focussed on the dominance of intermediaries such as Google and Facebook, which are positioned in a way that service providers cannot reach customers except through these platforms.

The issues being thrashed out in Australia and elsewhere could have broader implications for the regulation of the digital economy in India in the longer term. A substantial discussion on the impact of intermediary platforms on the health of news media outlets is yet to commence in any meaningful way here.

According to a FICCI-EY report on India's media and entertainment sector for 2020, there are 300 million users of online news sites, portals and aggregators in the country — making up approximately 46 per cent of Internet users and 77 per cent of smartphone users in India at the end of 2019. With 282 million unique visitors, India is the world's second largest online news consuming nation after China.

Paying for news feed by itself appears to be less of an issue for the tech giants, given that Google entered a new agreement to pay news publishers in France just hours before threatening to remove its search functions in Australia. The showdown in Australia seems centered rather, on how much control these companies would get to retain on their payout process — operational aspects such as deciding the quantum of payments for newsfeed sources, and having to reveal changes in their algorithms. Hefty fines proposed by Canberra are being seen as an added disincentive.

The argument made by the companies in the Senate hearings is that the media industry is already benefiting from traffic being routed to them by

Tech giant Google has threatened to remove its search engine from Australia

each of the digital platforms, and that the new rules proposed by the Australian authorities would expose them to "unmanageable levels of financial and operational risk."

The fundamental difference in the approach taken by the French and Spanish authorities on the issue is that they've specifically linked payments to copyright, without putting a forcing device into the agreements. Australia's code is almost entirely focussed on bargaining power of news outlets vis-à-vis the tech majors, and has some coercive features as well.

Australian regulators had initially proposed a voluntary code of conduct, but have since stepped up pressure citing the "unequal bargaining position" between news media outlets and tech platforms that could prevent the code from getting implemented on a voluntary basis.

In a statement earlier this week, Google said its new platform News Showcase, which is made up of story panels that give participating publishers the ability to package the stories that appear within Google's news products, now has on board over 450 publications across a dozen countries. These include *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, and *Libération* in France; *El Cronista* and *La Gaceta* in Argentina; *TAG24* and *Sächsische Zeitung* in Germany; and *Jornal do Commercio*, a newspaper from Pernambuco in Brazil. In December, the company announced it would "soon start offering people access to paywalled content in partnership with select news publishers". The company had said it would pay participating partners to provide limited access to paywalled content for News Showcase users.

In India, digital advertising spends in 2019 grew 24 per cent year-on-year to Rs 27,900 crore, according to EY estimates, and are expected to further grow to Rs 51,340 crore by 2022. Globally, Facebook and Google together command 61 per cent of the market share in digital ad spends, according to Edelweiss Research; Google leads with a 37 per cent market share.

In a separate note, Edelweiss said that it expected digital spends to be further accelerated led by a substantial jump in online activity further accentuated by Covid-19.

BASE, MIDDLE, UPPER AND A POSSIBLE TOP LAYER

RBI proposes 4-tier structure for tighter regulation of NBFCs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a tighter regulatory framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) by creating a four-tier structure with a progressive increase in intensity of regulation.

In its discussion paper on revised regulatory framework for NBFCs, the RBI has said the regulatory and supervisory framework of NBFCs should be based on a four-layered structure: Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer and a possible Top Layer. It has also proposed classification of non-performing assets (NPAs) of base layer NBFCs from 180 days to 90 days overdue. NBFCs in lower layer will be known as NBFC-Base Layer (NBFC-BL). NBFCs in middle layer will be known as NBFC-Middle Layer (NBFC-ML). An NBFC in the Upper Layer will be known as NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and will invite a new regulatory superstructure. There is also a Top Layer, ideally supposed to be empty.

Once an NBFC is identified as NBFC-UL, it will be subject to enhanced regulatory requirement at



The RBI has proposed classification of NPAs of base layer NBFCs from 180 to 90 days overdue. File

least for four years from its last appearance in the category, even where it does not meet the parametric criteria in the subsequent year. "Hence, if an identified NBFC-UL does not meet the criteria for classification for four consecutive years, it will move out of the enhanced regulatory framework," it said. The NBFC sector has seen tremendous growth in recent years. In last five years alone, size of balance sheet of NBFCs (including HFCs) has more than doubled from Rs 20.72 lakh crore (2015) to Rs 49.22 lakh crore (2020).

The RBI paper said regulatory framework anchored on proportionality can be introduced.

BASE LAYER: If the framework is visualised as a pyramid, the bottom of the pyramid, where least regulatory intervention is warranted, can consist of NBFCs, currently classified as non-systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND), NBFC2P lending platforms, NBFC-CAA, NOFHC and Type I NBFCs.

MIDDLE LAYER: As one moves up, the next layer can consist of NBFCs currently classified as systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND-SI), deposit taking NBFCs (NBFC-D), housing finance companies, IFCs, IDFCs, SPDs and core investment companies. The regulatory regime for this layer will be stricter compared to the base layer. Adverse regulatory arbitrage vis-à-vis banks can be addressed for NBFCs falling in this layer in order to reduce systemic risk spillovers, where required, the RBI said.

UPPER LAYER: Going further, the next layer can consist of NBFCs which are identified as systemically significant among. This layer will be populated by NBFCs which have large potential of systemic spill-over of risks and have the ability to impact financial stability.

There is no parallel for this layer at present, as this will be a new layer for regulation. The regulatory framework for NBFCs falling in this layer will be bank-like, albeit with suitable and appropriate modifications, it said.

TOP LAYER: It is possible that considered supervisory judgment might push some NBFCs from out of the upper layer of the systemically significant NBFCs for higher regulation/supervision. These NBFCs will occupy the top of the upper layer as a distinct set. Ideally, this top layer of the pyramid will remain empty unless supervisors take a view on specific NBFCs. In other words, if certain NBFCs lying in the upper layer are seen to pose extreme risks as per supervisory judgement, they can be put to higher and bespoke regulatory/supervisory requirements, it said.

In view of the recent stress in the sector, it has become imperative to re-examine the suitability of this regulatory approach, especially when failure of an extremely large NBFC can precipitate systemic risks, the RBI paper said. The regulatory framework for NBFCs needs to be reoriented to keep pace with changing realities in the financial sector, it said.

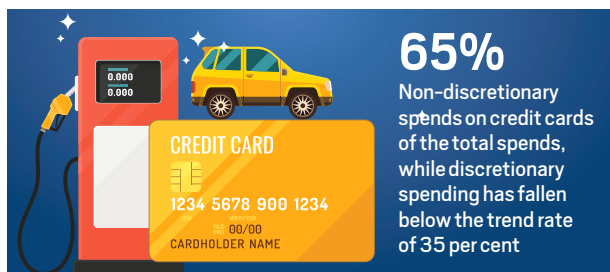
'Soaring fuel prices crowd out other spends on credit cards'

Massive rise in retail fuel prices crowded out other discretionary spends on credit cards in December, according to a report by SBI Research

SPEND ON oil has crowded out in December spending on other essential items such as health, grocery and utility services which was the trend in earlier months

SINGLE BIGGEST factor that has

driven this change is the massive spike in inflation between April and November, which on average stood at 120 bps lower than NSO inflation numbers at 6.3 per cent. This has happened as spends on oil have crowded out other essential items



URGENT REDUCTION in oil prices through tax rationalisation needed otherwise, "non-discretionary spends will

continue to get distorted and crowd out discretionary expenses," according to the report

Spending habits of consumers significantly changed during the pandemic and that too within essential/non-discretionary and non-essential/discretionary items. The share of discretionary spending had crashed to 15 per cent of total cards spending in April

Source: SBI Research/PTI

RIL Q3 profit rises 12.55%, Covid eats into revenue

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

DESPITE THE disturbances caused by the Covid pandemic, Reliance Industries, India's largest firm by market capitalisation, on Friday reported a 12.55 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 13,101 crore for the quarter ended December 2020 (Q3), as against Rs 11,640 crore in the same period a year ago.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the net profit rose 37 per cent from Rs 9,567 crore in the September quarter. The net profit before exceptional item for the December quarter was Rs 15,015 crore, higher by 41.6 per cent, RIL said.

Consolidated revenue from operations declined 21.1 per cent to Rs 123,997 crore as against Rs 157,165 crore in the year-ago period. "The outbreak of coronavirus pandemic globally and in India is

JIO NET PROFIT

15.5%

■ For Jio Platforms, RIL's digital arm, revenue including access revenues for the quarter was Rs 22,858 crore, higher by 5.3 per cent. The net profit for the quarter was Rs 3,489 crore, registering a growth of 15.5 per cent.

causing significant disturbance and slowdown of economic activity. The group's operations and revenue during the period were impacted due to Covid-19," the company said.

For Jio Platforms, RIL's digital arm, revenue including access revenues for the quarter was Rs 22,858 crore, higher by 5.3 per cent. The net profit for the quarter

was Rs 3,489 crore, registering growth of 15.5 per cent. Jio's total customer base as of December 2020 was 410.8 million, showing a net addition of 5.2 million customers. ARPU (average revenue per user) during the quarter of Rs 151 per subscriber per month as against Rs 145 per subscriber.

The company said Reliance Retail's revenue for the quarter was Rs 37,845 crore, lower by 7.9 per cent. However, the net profit for the quarter rose to Rs 1,830 crore, a growth of 88.1 per cent.

RIL Chairman and MD Mukesh D. Ambani said: "At a time when the economy is poised for a confident recovery, we at Reliance are humbled that we have been able to contribute with our impressive performance in the third quarter of FY21. We have delivered strong operational results with a robust revival in O2C and retail segments, and a steady growth in our digital services business."

GOVT AMENDS CSR RULES

Cos can undertake multi-year projects

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE GOVERNMENT Friday amended various rules pertaining to the corporate social responsibility (CSR) regime, including allowing corporates to undertake multi-year projects and making registration compulsory for agencies implementing CSR activities on behalf of companies.

Besides, companies have been allowed to set the excess amount spent under CSR up to three succeeding financial years. Non-compliance with CSR provisions has been decriminalised by shifting such offences to penalty regime, as per the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME

Self-reliance push: 3 cos to manufacture priority bulk drugs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE GOVERNMENT on Friday gave the green light to three drug makers, including one public sector firm, to set up capacities under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to promote self-reliance in critical drug ingredients in the country. The firms — Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL) and Kinvan Pvt Ltd — will be the first to make select bulk drugs under the recently approved scheme.

India is presently "fully" dependent on imports for these products — penicillin G, 7-aminocaptholporanic acid (7-ACA), erythromycin thiocyanate (TIOC) and clavulanic acid — which is why they were considered for approvals on priority.

The firms have committed to a total investment of around Rs 3,761 crore for setting up these plants, according to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, which expects commercial production to commence from April 1, 2023. The government would be disbursing up to Rs 3,600 crore in PLI over the agreed six-year period of the scheme. Aurobindo, through subsidiary Lyfius Pharma, will be setting up greenfield capacities to make penicillin G as well as 7-ACA (used to make cephalosporin antibiotics and intermediates). The Hyderabad firm will also be building capacities to make TIOC through subsidiary Qule Pharma.

KAPL will also be manufacturing 7-ACA, while Kinvan will be making clavulanic acid, according to the ministry.

"Setting of these plants will make the country self-reliant to a large extent in respect of these bulk drugs," said the ministry in a release about the development.

The government in March 2020 had announced its intent to launch a PLI scheme for critical bulk drugs, including key starting ma-

THE COMPANIES

■ Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals

■ Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd

■ Kinvan Pvt Ltd

terials (KSMs), drug intermediates (DIs) and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). The announcement came a couple of months after Covid-19 cases in China had surged, causing the neighbouring country to shut down several bulk drug manufacturing plants in its Hubei province. This led to the government announcing a restriction on exports of various key drug ingredients. Over the last three decades, India has slowly grown more dependent on imports from China for such ingredients, leading to firms with indigenous capacity to make these raw materials to shut shop, industry executives earlier told *The Indian Express*. It relies on China for about 70 per cent of its bulk drug imports, as per government figures.

With rising tension between India and China last year and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for India to be more self-reliant in various sectors, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) last year launched the PLI scheme with a total outlay of Rs 6,940 crore. It sought applications from Indian drug makers to set up greenfield capacity in 36 bulk drugs by November 30, 2020.

A total of 215 applications were received and were to be processed and decided upon by February 28, 2021, according to the Ministry. While the first four bulk drugs that the government has given approvals for come under the first of four target segments of key ingredients, applications under the other three segments are proposed to be taken up for approval in the next 45 days.

FB's policies difficult to understand: Signal COO

ANUJ BHATIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

"PEOPLE ARE coming to realise that Facebook does not build products for them, but rather Facebook builds products for their data," said Aruna Harder, chief operating officer of Signal Messenger, adding from the user's point of view the social network's policies are very difficult to understand.

Signal has seen a spike in new users from India following the up-roar over WhatsApp's new privacy policy. It has been among the top downloaded app in India most of January. In an email interaction, Harder says the unique aspect of Signal is that it does not know anything about anyone. "We collect no data, have no ads ever, and are not driven by profit."

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

IL&FS addresses ₹32K-crore debt

New Delhi: IL&FS board said it addressed Rs 32,000 crore of the group's overall debt. The board retained its target of addressing a debt of over Rs 56,000 crore by FY22.

Power demand at all-time high

New Delhi: Power demand touched an all-time high of 187.3 GW on Friday, Power Minister RK Singh said.

Petrol crosses ₹92 in Mumbai

New Delhi: Petrol price in Delhi touched Rs 85.45 and Rs 92.04 in Mumbai. Diesel climbed to Rs 75.63 in Delhi and Rs 82.40 in Mumbai. PTI

Global cues, selling pressure pull Sensex down by 746 pts

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

AFTER HITTING the 50,000-level on Thursday, stock markets on Friday came under selling pressure amid weak global markets and persistent worries over Covid pandemic and economic recovery. The benchmark Sensex fell 746 points, or 1.50 per cent, to 48,878.54 and the Nifty50 plummeted 218 points, or 1.50 per cent, to 14,371.90 on across-the-board selling.

The benchmark equity indices ended lower for the second straight day, correcting further after making a record high on Thursday. This was the biggest single-day drop for the benchmarks in a month. Friday's correction marked the end of an 11-week gaining streak for the frontline indices, which was the longest since



2009. Among the sectors, bank, PSU bank, metals and realty fell the most while auto index gained.

Adding to investor worries, data showed the flash eurozone purchasing managers index dropping in January to a two-month low of 47.5, coming close to the expected 47.6 — from 49.1 in December. Ajit Mishra, VP-re-

search, Religare Broking, said sectoral indices traded in tandem with the benchmark wherein banking and metal ended as the top losers. Selling pressure was visible on the broader front, too, as they ended in the range of 1-1.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the rupee clawed back lost ground towards the tag-end of the session and settled with a marginal 2 paise gain at 72.97 against the US dollar on Friday, supported by easing crude oil prices.

In midday trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 117.4 points, or 0.38 per cent, to 31,058.61, the S&P 500 lost 6.81 points, or 0.18 per cent, to 3,846.26 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 14.89 points, or 0.11 per cent, to 13,516.03. The risk-off mood followed a period of relief after the transition of power in the United States.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.

Corrigendum

With reference to NIB issued vide no. F2.1(78)/RISL/Acct/2020-21/12863 Dated: 31/12/2020 (UBN No. RIS2021SLOB00042) for "Hiring services of a registered Chartered Accountancy firm under E-Mitra Project in RISL", now bid security/EMD can be submitted in Bid Security declaration form in lieu of Demand Draft/B.G. Further last date of submission is 29/01/2021 upto 03:00 PM.

Details can be seen on the websites <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://doite.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> and <http://risl.rajjasthan.gov.in>.

Raj.Samwadi/C/20/9077

Director (Finance)

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited from experienced, resourceful, reputed and bonafide Suppliers/Service Providers/Agencies/Contractors (as applicable) for the following:-

- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE TESTING OF DOUBLE HEAD SHEET COUNTING MACHINES TO BRNNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER No. 043/SAL/PUR/2020-21.
- CASUAL HIRING OF ESCORT VEHICLES ALONG WITH DRIVER(S) FOR ESCORT DUTY ON ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR FIVE YEARS ON YEARLY RENEWABLE BASIS- WITH YELLOW NUMBER PLATE AT BRNNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER No. 044/SAL/PUR/2020-21.
- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE TESTING OF BATTERY OPERATED FORK LIFT - 3 TON CAPACITY AT BRNNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER No. 045/SAL/PUR/2020-21

Last date of submission of all the above tenders is 26.02.2021 by 11:30 Hrs. For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website www.brnnmpl.co.in. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our website only

General Manager

1621/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF SANGPUR TO DHAILRA (ID 592) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (RE-INVOICE) + 1 OTHER WORK	28.01.2021 10.02.2021	48.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237834 pawd-pwd@yamnunaga.gov.in
2	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, BHAWANI	REMODELING OF LEGHA MINOR RD 0 TO 16900 OFF TAKING AT RD 45500-R IN JULI CANAL AND LEGHA KAIRU LINK CHANNEL FROM RD 0 TO 9600 OFF TAKING AT RD 16900+ LEGHA MINOR +20 OTHER WORKS	16.01.2021 25.01.2021	679.48 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9990070405 xen-julim@hry.gov.in
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, REWARI	REPAIRING OF DAMAGED PATCHES ON NIKHRI DIFTY. FROM KM. 0.000 TO TAIL + 3 OTHERS WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.01.2021	23.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9354205852 sarinw2m@gmail.com
4	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, CHDADRI	DODGING / DESULDING OF POND VILLAGE BIRHE + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 02.02.2021	12.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01290297003 xeni-lisodrjm@gov.in
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KARNAL	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF BRIDGES IN KARNAL WATER SERVICE DIVISION, KARNAL + 4 OTHER WORKS	19.01.2021 28.01.2021	38.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2255291 krindiv035@gmail.com
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, GURUGRAM	DISTEMPERING PAINTING EXTERIOR ACRYLIC EMULSION PAINT AND MISC REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT IN F47 24 CANAL COLONY AND + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 08.02.2021	9.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9553630001 xengwgqjrm@hry.gov.in
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, AND COMMISSIONING OF 300 DIGITAL WATER LEVEL RECORDER (DWLR) (NON-VENTED PRESSURE TYPE /ACUSTIC TYPE) WITH TELEMETRY, INCLUDING FENCING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM ALONG WITH ITS MAINTENANCE FOR REAL TIME GROUND WATER LEVEL MONITORING.	21.01.2021 22.02.2021	5.10 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2560080 xentnfp@gmail.com
8	BPS GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN KHANPUR KALAN SONEPAT	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASING OF 04 NOS. MANNEQUIN	22.01.2021 09.02.2021	40,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KATHIAL	LAYING OF DRY STONE PITTINGS OF KOTHAUT TIRTH AT VILLAGE KEDRAK BLOCK, KATHIAL	21.01.2021 27.01.2021	129.06 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94161-91639 Preseeng.kt@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CONVENTIONAL LAMPS WITH LED LAMPS OR INSTALLATION OF NEW LED STREET LIGHTS WITH NEW POLES AND CABLES (AS THE CASE MAY BE) ALONG WITH CENTRALIZED CONTROL & MONITORING SYSTEM (CCMS) WITH 07 YEARS OF OPERATION & MAINTENANCE IN THE MAHAAGRA VILLAGES AND OTHER SELECTED VILLAGES IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	18.01.2021 29.01.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7876821204 preseengdec.amb@hry.nic.in
11	FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHKULA	CORING LINING OF POND NO. 45, 46 AT NATIONAL FISH SEED FARM, JYOTISAR DISTT., KURUSHETRA + 9 OTHER FARMS WORKS	23.01.2021 31.01.2021	2.28 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416775039 fisheries@hry.nic.in
12	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILA PARISHAD, KATHIAL	SUPPLY OF 224 TRICYCLE/GARBAGE ROCKSWAY REHRI AS PER SPECIFICATION SEM-G & RATE	21.01.2021 27.01.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9990044626 ktheshdm@gmail.com
13	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILA PARISHAD, KATHIAL	SUPPLY OF 174 SANITARY WASTE DISPOSAL MACHINE (INCINERATOR)	21.01.2021 27.01.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9990044626 ktheshdm@gmail.com
14	DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES, (TB) PANCHKULA, HARYANA	PRINTING MATERIAL: BLACKOUT STAR FLEX WITH DIGITAL PRINTING WITH 4 EYELET TO HANG AND BROCHURE (E-TENDER)	CLOSING DATE 05.02.2021	30,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	1725029841
15	DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES, (TB) PANCHKULA, HARYANA	PRINTING MATERIAL: WALL CALENDAR PRINTING AND PAMPHLETS	CLOSING DATE 05.02.2021	15000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	1725029841

1620/HRY

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

haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

DIPR/468/Tender/2021

 **JUVV Limited**
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Mahatma Bagh, GMS Road, Oshadipur-248005
Telephone-0135-2763601, Fax No -0135-2763560
CIN No. U40101UR2001SO029366, Website: www.uttarakhandjuvv.com

R/R No 59 "E-Tender Notice" Dt 21-01-2021

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITER

Office of the (Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulik Barrage Rishikesh), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

Tender Notice Reference:
MIT No. 20/2020-21/EE(C)/Pashulik Barrage ; Construction of Cofferdam/Banchara for Closure Work at Virbhada Barrage, Pashulik Rishikesh.
Estimated Cost :- Rs. 67,96,019.00 Only.
Date of availability of bid document on website :- From 17:00 hrs. of 21 January, 2021.
Last date for submission of bids on website :- Upto 17:00 hrs. of 28 January, 2021.
Full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uk.tenders.gov.in",

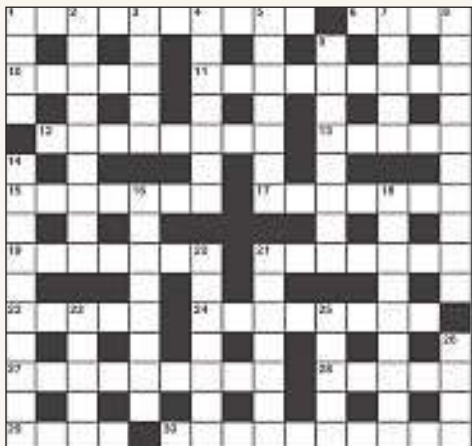
Executive Engineer (Civil)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

3. The school administration reserves the right to cancel all or any of the viable candidates or administrative/policy reasons.

able candidates or administrative/policy reasons.

CROSSWORD 4335



ACROSS

1 Call the boss an instigator of trouble (10)

6 Nuts - crack almonds to start with (4)

10 He doesn't win in a close-run race (5)

11 Such a rite is suited to a solemn sacrament (9)

12 Playful recreation which takes a deal to get started (4,4)

13 Mails sorted for the Mohammedan world (5)

15 Wreck aground despite exercising caution (2,5)

17 Cunning action made with the French in view (7)

19 It may appear smart on the stern of a boat (7)

21 Hackneyed tour now reorganised (7)

22 Out of practice, but try us anyway (5)

24 Remarking upon a mixture of gin and tonic (8)

27 It sounds a beastly form of warfare (9)

28 Rascal with a strange love urge! (5)

29 Tom's first beer account (4)

30 Sex gene produces a criminal (10)

DOWN

1 It's made to measure (4)

2 Lost again maybe, and longing to get home (9)

3 Sensational piece of luck getting free (5)

4 Be a clumsy fat lover of Heloise (7)

5 They produce pictures around Chester (7)

7 Marie Louise embraces the spirit of Shakespeare (5)

8 Men of many parts (10)

9 Clear evidence of what a ship is carrying (8)

14 Not left out at the start, being outspoken (10)

16 They test metal for a ship, taking years perhaps (8)

18 Usual wish for a happy retirement? (4,5)

20 Fellow in no condition to work on a tough paper (7)

21 To argue about indecent behaviour (7)

23 Well up with inflation (5)

25 It's about time! (5)

26 A solar-powered cycle? (4)


Solutions Crossword 4334: Across: 1 Cordial, 5 Padre, 8 Facetious, 9 Nat, 10 Stern, 12 Magician, 14 Pathos, 15 Bertha, 17 Admitted, 18 Dyak, 21 Rib, 22 Architect, 24 Elect, 25 Nummy. Down: 1 Cafes, 2 Roc, 3 Iota, 4 Looftah, 5 Pastimes, 6 Dentistry, 7 Estoria, 11 Estimable, 13 Contract, 14 Prairie, 16 Deacon, 19 Kitty, 20 Sign, 23 Eye.

JUMBLED WORDS


Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

— is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshipped - Calvin Coolidge (10)


EEERR




MPSUTY



HTIOS



MORTPP



SOLUTION: REFERR, HORSE, STUMPY, PROMPT. Answer: Promptly is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshipped.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Reconditioning of worn out Points and Crossings in the jurisdiction of ADEN/NDLS
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.62,23,039.94 (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Twenty Three thousand Thirty Nine & Ninety Four paisa Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposit	Rs.1,24,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Only)
Cost of tender document	Rs.0.00/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	16.02.2021 at 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

•The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

•For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

•No manual offers are acceptable.

•Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/36/2020-21/W-3
Dated : 21.01.2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

169/2021



National Innovation Foundation-India

Grambharti, Amrapur, Gandhinagar-Mahudi Road, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382650

Notice Inviting Tender No. NIF/2021/ADM/001

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 1000 Hrs.

S/D Director

davp 36118/11/0001/2021

Government of Gujarat

Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar Department

Tender Notice No.29 of 2020-2021

1	Name of work	Renovation & upgradation of HT, LT power supply (including replacing old overhead conductors by new underground cables), transformers, LT panel, APFC panel, external lighting (including new LED flood lights on existing high mast poles, New LED street-light fittings with new poles at dykes1, 2, 3, 4 and inside dam campus), Replacement of Passenger elevatorfor gallery inspection and other miscellaneous electrical works like point wiring, fans, light fittings etc. at the Dharoi dam and Dharoi colony, at Dharoi, Dist. Mahesana, Gujarat Estimated cost (Rs. 3 crore)
2	Date of Online Tender Submission	08/02/2021 to 08/03/2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.
3	Last Date of Submission of Physical Document	09/03/2021 to 16/03/2021 up to 18.00 Hrs.
4	Office Name and address	Executive Engineer, Irri. Mech. Div. No.7, "Bahumali Bhavan", B-Block, 4 th Floor, Manjushree Mill compound, Girdharnagar, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380004, Phone No. (079-29703375)

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 also be seen on www.statetenders.com and www.nwr.nprocure.com

No.INF/ABD/1314/2021

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong




SUDOKU 4361

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 4360



DAY TODAY


BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)




According to the theory of the harmony of the spheres, when the planets are arranged in such a taut fashion they play a very delicate tune. This is why your difficulties may so easily become massive advantages. It is strange, as you'll discover, the way that fortune can change at a moment's notice.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)




If you are totally resistant to change you will be oblivious to today's emotional planetary picture, but if you are ready to move on, you will realise that life is becoming more adventurous by the day. Some of you will be driven by professional ambitions today, others by a need to come top in your community.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)




This is one of those profound moments when the planets draw your attention to higher spiritual truths. If you're in tune with your celestial patterns you'll act only out of the highest of motives. But, in relationships, what matters most is a mental rapport, a sense that you and your partner are on the same wavelength.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)




The moment is now absolutely perfect for a windfall of some kind. The Gemini who doesn't end the weekend richer, or at least feeling much more prosperous, will be a rare and unfortunate creature. Even your relationships will be tangled up with what you can afford.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)




It is difficult to imagine more helpful stars than those which currently occupy your chart. Your lunar picture is profoundly auspicious, especially for those of you who are having a party this weekend. Plus, a secret ambition will move one very discreet step forward.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)




You have played to win - although the results have not always been exactly what you expected. Your current feelings don't reflect your real achievements, so look on the bright side. Is the glass half empty - or half full? It all depends on how you look at it, doesn't it?

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)




You may appear to be just slightly muddled - perhaps because your mind is elsewhere. Events over the next few days will show that the correct approach is flexible and romantic. At a time when your mood is about to change dramatically, you'll do well to keep your options open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)




It may be a good idea to allow others' needs at home or at work to take precedence over yours. The reward for such selflessness will follow soon! Plus, you will both avoid a number of problems and find new vistas opening up. And, once that happens, you'll be ready to leap into the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)




The entire world will be in a Sagittarian frame of mind. Mercury teams up with Jupiter, your ruling planet, in a marvellous pattern which enables you to seize the advantage. And not before time, you might say. Yet, while the pace is hotting up, the planets sound a warning against impatience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)




It's a confusing sort of a time. Partners may lack judgment, but their words do contain a core of wisdom that you'd ignore at your peril. Rarely do the stars combine such spiritual depth with amazing potential for pleasure. Plus, a spot of shopping therapy may lighten the atmosphere!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



Spare a thought for your general state of health, both emotional and physical, and get yourself into shape at every level of your being. Happily, romantic trends are positive but quiet. That gives you the chance to have your way with a minimum of fuss.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)



It's time to set free what the psychologists call your 'inner child'. Artistic Pisceans should be on top form. Even those Fish who have not learnt a particular creative skill, should be introducing more spontaneity, colour and fun, and possibly a dash of culture, into everyday life.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHAHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

(Central University)

B- 4, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi -110016

S.No.: F. 7(514)/LBNSU/UWD/2020-21 Dated: 21.01.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned work from the approved and eligible CPWD contractors / specialized agencies. NIT No. 07/2020-21/LBSU/UWD (T.I.D. No.2021_SLBS_585120_1) Infrastructure development of the university during 2020-21(S.H.- S/I/T/C of Public Address System etc. in Swarna Jayanti Sadan basement). Estimated cost - Rs.8,93,257/-, Earnest Money - Rs.17,865/-, Time Allowed - One (1) Month, Tender Fee - Rs. 1000/- (Non-Refundable). Last date & time of receipt of applications : 10/02/2021 up to 4.00 P.M. Date & time of issue of tenders : 12/02/2021 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time of Submission of tenders : 17/02/2021 up to 3.00 P.M. Date & time of opening of tenders : 17/02/2021 from 3.30 P.M. For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum, if any, please visit websites : www.slbsrsv.ac.in & www.eprocure.gov.in

REGISTRAR

कार्यपाल अभियंता का कार्यालय

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, सिमडेगा

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कूरडेग-कनजोबा एवं आसन्न ग्रामीण पाईप जलापूर्ति योजना के निर्माण हेतु इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DWSD/KUR/RPWS/SIM-05/2020-21जो विभिन्न सामाचार पत्रों में PR – 239251 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 20-21(D) द्वारा प्रकाशित है, को निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है—

Last Date Of Submission of cost of BOQ & EMD (Hard Copy)	02/02/2021 up to 05:00 P:M at Office of the 1.Executive Engineer, DW&S Div. Simdega. 2. Superintending Engineer, DW&S Circle, Gumla. 3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W.& Dept. Ranchi Region, Ranchi
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कार्यपालक अभियंता
अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, सिमडेगा
PR 239971 Drinking Water and Sanitation(20-21).D

Government of Gujarat

Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar Department

Tender Notice No.7 of 2020-2021

1	Name of work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of D.G. Set 320 KVA-2 Nos. at-Dharoi dam site and Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 40 H. P. Polder submersible pump set 2 Nos with required all accessories etc. in Drainage gallery at Dharoi Dam site. Dist.- Mahesana, Gujarat Estimated cost Rs. 72,00,000/-
2	Date of Online Tender Submission	08/02/2021 to 08/03/2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.
3	Last Date of Submission of Physical Document	09/03/2021 to 16/03/2021 up to 18.00 Hrs.
4	Office Name and address	Executive Engineer, Irri. Mech. Div. No.4, "Bahumali Bhavan", B-Block, 4 th Floor, Manjushree Mill compound, Girdharnagar, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380004, Phone No. (079-29703314)

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 also be seen on www.statetenders.com and www.nwr.nprocure.com

No.INF/ABD/1320/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Kumkum Sharma

Akhil

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely Kumkum, Sharma with her son Akhil age 13 years, W/o Sh. Vikas, R/o H. No. 437/2, Laxmi Vihar, Burari, Delhi, Age: 36 years, Height: 5'4", Built: Strong, Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Green Colour Suit and Salwar, Pink and White Colour Sandal in her feet has been missing from her home since 13.11.2020 at 7.00 am. In this regard a vide DD No. 76A, dated 13.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/888/N/2021

SHO
P.S. Burari, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 27616844/8750870132

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely Sunder D/o Raghunath Gupta R/o H.No. 638, Gali No. 06, Arvind Nagar, Ghonda, Delhi has been kidnapped since 15.01.2021 from her house. In this regard, FIR No. 16/21, dated 15.01.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jafraabad, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Sunder, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** about 16 years, **Height:** 4', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Identification:** Mentally abnormal, **Wearing:** Maroon colour frock, pink-white colour sweater, black colour pajami and slippers on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this kidnapped girl, kindly inform SHO/Jafraabad, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/539/NE/2021



Sunder

SHO
P.S. Jafraabad, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-22560191, 22170773

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

COMMISSIONERATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

2nd Floor, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Roc.No.685 / WW-1(1) / 2021 Date: 22.01.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Manufacturers of gold coins and jewellery/ Dealers in gold coins who are engaged in the business of Gold Jewellery / Gold Coins, its import and export, towards the supply of 1,22,330 numbers (One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Only) of 22 carat purity Gold Coins (each eight grams), to be issued to the beneficiaries under the 5 Marriage Assistance Schemes implemented by the Department of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu State, from 23.01.2021 to 08.02.2021 upto 3.00 p.m. The Tenders will be opened on 08.02.2021 at 3.30 p.m. at the Commissionerate of Social Welfare, Chennai-15, by the Tender Scrutiny Committee in the presence of the Commissioner of Social Welfare and the representatives of the tenderers who choose to be present. The Tender document with all conditions can be obtained in person on all working days from 23.01.2021 to 08.02.2021 upto 1.00 p.m. at the above address by paying document (application fee) fee of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque or by downloading the same from the website www.tenders.in.gov.in at free of cost. An EMD of Rs.4,89,32,000/- (Rupees Four Crores Eighty Nine lakhs and Thirty Two Thousand only) has to be remitted by means of Demand Draft drawn from any one of the Nationalised / Scheduled Bank in favour of Commissioner of Social Welfare, Chennai-15 along with the tender in the technical bid cover.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 27.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m. at the above address.

All other conditions are specified in the tender document.

DIPR/452/TENDER/2021 Commissioner of Social Welfare

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



AABID

General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Aabid, S/o: Jafir, R/o: H.No. F-997, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Hair: Black, Wearing: White Jacket & White Pant has been missing/kidnapped since 08.01.2021 from Bawana Nahar J.J. Colony, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 16/2021, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 08.01.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/732/ON/2021

SHO
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27787592, 27787593 & 7065036324

PROCLAMATION OF THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Lakshay, S/o Gulshan, R/o B-56, Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, Delhi, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 420/19 U/S 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Lakshay cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Lakshay has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Lakshay of FIR No. 420/19 U/S 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.03.2021.

By Order
Ms. Neetika Kapoor,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 05, Ground Floor,
Dwarka Courts, Delhi

DP/325/WD/2021(Court Matter)

NOTICE

Regt. No. 100050428 CT/GD NEERAJ KUMAR S/o SH. RAJBIR CHOUDHARY, VILL- H.NO.- 190/1/B SEC-23 SANJAY NAGAR, PO-KAVI NAGAR, PS- KAVI NAGAR, DISTT- GHAZIABAD (UTTAR PRADESH)- 201002 is hereby informed that you have been absenting from 22ND BN I.T.B.P. Force Tigri Camp New Delhi w.e.f. 08.01.2020 without permission of the competent authority. You were directed to report for duty in the office of the undersigned, but you did not report for duty till date. Thus a Court of Inquiry was ordered against you and as per recommendation of the Court of Inquiry you were declared Deserter w.e.f. 08.01.2020.

2. You are hereby directed to report for duty in the unit at 22ND Bn Tigri Camp, New Delhi-80 within 30 days of the publication of the notice, failing which you will be dismissed from service without further notice.

Sd/-
Commandant
22nd Bn. ITB Police

davp 19112/11/0184/2021

Olympic-size dilemma

As organisers press ahead with the Olympics, anticipation makes way for anxiety on ground

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

AROUND THIS time last year, a Japanese city roughly 400 km from Tokyo was preparing to roll out the red carpet for a part of India's Olympics-bound contingent.

Yoga workshops were being held across the town and food recipes played out on local channels as the residents of Kurobe tried to understand Indian culture before they would host the archery team in the build-up to the Games.

A year on, the cultural sensitisation drive has been put on the back burner. Instead, the people in Kurobe are familiarising themselves with pandemic protocols. "I went there last week for a yoga workshop. People there are anxious about what's going to happen," says Randeep Rakwal, a professor at the University of Tsukuba who is also the liaison between Kurobe city officials and India's sports ministry.

Organisers determined, people worried

On Friday, after *The Times* reported that Japan was looking to cancel the Olympics because of the pandemic, the country's government said in a statement that Prime Minister (Yoshihide) Suga has expressed his determination to hold the Games.

A day earlier, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach too had said the Games would go ahead as scheduled, from July 23 to August 9.

"We have, at this moment, no reason whatsoever to believe that the Olympic Games in Tokyo will not open on the 23rd of July. This is why there is no Plan B," Bach told Kyodo News. But on the ground, the anticipation for the world's biggest sporting event has made way for anxiety. "I feel people are more worried now," Japan's hockey coach Siegfried Aikman tells *The Indian Express* from the team's training base in Kakamigahara. "In the area where we train, there is no Covid. But the increasing cases in Tokyo are a concern for many."

Rakwal, a Delhi-born Japanese resident, adds that public opinion about the Olympics "was not so good even before the pandemic." Now, it has worsened. In a poll earlier this month, more than 80 per cent of Tokyo residents said they wanted the Games to be either postponed (44.8 per cent) or cancelled (35.3 per cent).

Safety and monetary issues

The reasons for this are various, according to Rakwal, but primarily because of the health and financial stress caused by the pandemic. "People wonder how things will be managed if



Japan and the IOC stood firm on their commitment to host the Olympics this year. Reuters

double the number of people land up in Tokyo for a month. Job losses are severe, poverty has increased and come out in the open," he tells this paper. The issues extend beyond the Games themselves. As per *Kyodo News*, athletes and support staff from roughly 180 countries are to be hosted by approximately 500 municipalities across Japan under the Tokyo Olympics' host-town initiative.

One of the host towns is Kurobe and Rakwal says there are underlying concerns in the city, a virtual Covid-free zone, about hosting athletes from a country with more than 10 million cases. The town officials are scrambling to put in place a plan to create a secure environment for the Indian archers, which has to be submitted to the Games organisers next month.

"They are wondering how many PCR tests to conduct on players, what should be their mode of transport, how to monitor them, who will be the people to take care of them... They do not know what to do because they have not experienced this; they are in remote areas which are almost Covid-free," Rakwal says. Public interaction was the most important aspect of the host-town initiative. Indian archers were to visit people at their homes, share meals and meet children during their stay. "That becomes very difficult now," he says.

Ready to play?

Aikman, the Dutch coach of Japan's hockey team, points to the other issue – preparation

leading up to the Olympics.

The Olympics are the end product of a rigorous qualifying system, which has gone haywire because of the pandemic. So far, only four sports – cycling, equestrian, hockey and softball – have completed their qualifying events. For the remaining 29, the timelines have been extended and processes modified. But the prevailing travel restrictions and protocols mean it is still not clear if qualifying for all sports will be completed in time.

And for those who have qualified, like Aikman's Asian Games champions, there are few opportunities to play matches. Japan has imposed restrictions on teams entering the country and getting clearances to play overseas has become tougher after the emergence of new virus strains.

"We are allowed to practise and there are tournaments being played within Japan. But it is almost a year since we last played an international match," Aikman says.

Political call

The future of the Tokyo Games, according to Ray Saito from the faculty of culture and sport policy at the Tooin University in Yokohama, will also be influenced by the general elections scheduled later this year. The cancellation costs, Saito told *The Ticket* podcast, would sway public opinion as well.

With Tokyo's reputation on the line and money at stake for the IOC, the organisers are

EXPLAINED

Qualifying a challenge for athletes

With the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Japanese government putting their foot down and insisting that the rescheduled Games will open on July 23, the question is how will they look.

Amidst all the uncertainty over the Olympics, what is known for sure so far is that the Games will be far different from any of the previous editions. The opening ceremony will be scaled down, athletes will be advised to come as late and leave as early as possible, their movement will be restricted inside the Games Village, and only half of the 11,000-odd athletes will be a part of the opening ceremony, Japanese media has reported there will be close to 10,000 doctors and nurses on site at different venues. The two unanswered questions, though, pertain to the qualification process, which in some sports runs until June, and the prospect of having fans. Roughly 4,700 athletes are still to make the cut for the Games and the process might get complex due to the pandemic-forced restrictions.

Regarding fans, the organisers are reported to be working on scenarios of having full capacity crowds, 50 per cent capacity and empty stadiums. A decision is also pending on whether to allow fans from outside Japan during the Olympics. One way or another, it is expected that the fate of the Tokyo Olympics will be known by March.

pressing ahead with the Games, with the only point of contention being whether to allow fans from abroad.

Asahi Shimbun reported on Friday that the organising committee has come up with three options regarding spectator numbers at the venues: no limit, 50 per cent capacity, or no fans at all. The final decision in this regard will be taken by March-end, it said.

Chennai Tests behind closed doors

KOLKATA: CLOSED-DOORS TESTS, three rounds of Covid testing in the lead-up to the first game, team hotel blocked for outsiders – India's home international season is set to commence in a fortnight. After a gap of nearly a year-and-a-half – the last home Test was played in November 2019 – India would be hosting a home Test series, and the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) secretary RS Ramasaamy confirmed that the first two Tests of the four-match series against England, to be played in Chennai, would be held behind closed doors.

"We have been instructed (by the BCCI) that crowds would not be allowed. Not even the press would be allowed. That's the situation now," Ramasaamy told *The Indian Express*.

The BCCI, however, is not increasing the hosting fee for the staging association, which remains Rs 2.5 crore per game and without fans the TNCA would miss out on gate receipts – nearly Rs 1 crore over five days by a rough estimate.

"Both teams are staying at the Leela Palace. The entire hotel has been blocked. Upon arrival, they will undergo Covid tests followed by two more rounds of testing (before the match). This is applicable to everybody, including some of the ground staff," the TNCA secretary said. **ENS**

Mathews rolls back years, steadies Lanka

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO, JANUARY 22

AN UNBEATEN hundred by Angelo Mathews helped Sri Lanka to 229-4 at stumps Friday on the first day of the second test against England. Mathews came in to bat at 7-2 after James Anderson had dismissed both Kusal Perera (6) and Oshada Fernando (0) in the morning session. The former Sri Lanka captain was then tested by a probing spell of fast bowling by Mark Wood, who had him in trouble with a couple of short deliveries. Wood was constantly bowling to Mathews on middle and leg-stump with a leg-guy in place expecting the batsman to flick one.

Mathews did not take the bait but a bouncer struck his glove and landed where there was no fielder before crossing the boundary rope. That brought up Mathews' half-century.

"We lost the openers early unfortunately and we just had to see through a few overs and get the ball slightly older and look for runs," Mathews said. "Scoring runs was tough although the wicket was flat. England were on the money not giving away too many loose balls."

Lahiru Thirimanne gave solid support to Mathews. Sri Lanka added 69 runs for the



Angelo Mathews brought up his fifth Test century on home soil and the first against England. Reuters

third wicket before Anderson struck in the second ball after lunch as Thirimanne nicked one to the wicketkeeper.

Stand-in captain Dinesh Chandimal then joined Mathews and the duo produced a 117-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Wood was persisting with some high quality fast bowling on a flat wicket where there was hardly any assistance for the seam bowlers.

He had Chandimal in trouble with a

bouncer that hit the batsman on the head. His perseverance paid off when he trapped Chandimal leg before wicket. The batsman, who made 52 for his 20th half-century, unsuccessfully reviewed the decision.

"It was hard work bowling out there," Wood said. "This pith was tougher than the last one. We knew it was going to be harder. They played well and it didn't spin as much as it did in the first test. We intend to make early inroads tomorrow morning."

Mathews, who missed Sri Lanka's recent tour of South Africa with a hamstring injury, reached his 11th test hundred and the third against England with a single off Jack Leach to point region. It was his first test hundred in Galle, a venue where he had made his test debut 12 years ago.

England took the new ball soon after it was available but weren't able to make the breakthrough as Niroshan Dickwella and Mathews were involved in an unfinished 36 run stand for the fifth wicket.

The Sri Lankan wicketkeeper has been promoted to sixth in this series and is under fire after a string of rash strokes brought about his dismissal in recent tests.

Anderson finished with 3-24. Ten of his 19 overs were maidens.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 229 for 4 (Mathews 107*, Dickwella 19*) vs England.



A Youtube video grab of Ravi Ashwin and R. Sridhar's chat.

ASHWIN'S CHANNEL

Message Shardul didn't deliver, Shastri said 36 is a badge of honour

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

OFF-SPINNER Ravichandran Ashwin spoke to India's fielding coach R Sridhar in a two-part chat show called 'Kangaroo Bhoom!' on his YouTube channel, covering the first three Tests in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The frank yet light-hearted discussion was full of nuggets. Excerpts

Adelaide, 1st Test SHASTRI ON FLOOR AFTER DROPPED CATCH

Ravichandran Ashwin: We dropped some 715 catches in that game, your thoughts as fielding coach?!

R Sridhar: I thought I would lose my job after that game [smiles]. Before that, in the one-dayers we had dropped some 363 catches! They were 111 for 7 (Australia's first innings at Adelaide). We dropped three catches. I was wondering how will I show my face to the head coach (Ravi Shastri). But the head coach was not even in his chair! I looked down and he was literally lying on the floor 'Arre yaar' he shouted in utter disappointment (when Paine was dropped). It was one of the best scenes of the Test match for me.

SLAP ON CHEEK, HAND ON BACK AND SUGAR PILLS

Ashwin: As coaches how do you get the team to bounce back?

Sridhar: First of all when emotions are running high we don't react. You make bad decisions when emotions are running high. If we want to tell a player something we run it by each other to see if we are communicating properly. There is a filtration process among the four of us (bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Vikram Rathore, Shastri). Each player responds differently. For one you put a hand on the back, one you give a slap on the cheek [smiles as Ashwin places his hand on his cheek]. A lot of times you have to give sugar pills also (sugar-coated firing).

'AAHS' AND 'OOHS'... TOLD PANT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

Ashwin: Team was out for 36 in Adelaide and was troubled.

Sridhar: This is from my point of view. Overnight we were 9 for 1. (Rishabh) Pant wanted to practice wicket-keeping. The match was to start at 2:30 pm so we said 'bye' to Mayank Agarwal and went to the nets. In 10 minutes we could hear sounds like 'aahs' and 'oohs'. Then we started hearing sounds for every ball. So I told Rishabh, 'this doesn't sound good let us go and see'. He said 'yes let's go'. We were like what happened. Ashwin and Vihari are batting. It has been just 20 minutes right?!

DAY-OFF AFTER 36 ALL-OUT.

Ashwin: Adelaide Alaparaigal (Adelaide Shenanigans) is over. Mission Melbourne began in Adelaide only. Virat Kohli was leaving like in these college farewells. We were like 'even you are leaving? Please don't go, [laughs].

Sridhar: On the day we were bowled out

for 36, Virat Kohli messaged me asking 'what are you doing? It was 12:30 am. Head coach, Arun sir, Vikram sir, all of us were sitting together. Kohli said 'I will also come'. Ravi Shastri made a point in that chat. "This 36, wear it like a badge. This 36, is what will make this team great" [mimics Shastri's boisterous tone!] We were a bit confused at that time [laughs]. Ajinkya joined the next morning. When a team is out for 36, usually a team strengthens its batting. But Shastri, Virat and Ajinkya decided to strengthen the bowling. Virat Kohli was replaced by Ravindra Jadeja. It was a masterstroke.

Ashwin: What was the thought process behind canceling practice (day after 36 all out)?

Sridhar: It was Arun sir's idea. He felt if the boys practiced, it will be out of frustration and they will tend to overthink and over-analyze which is not good for their minds. We had that dinner that night and had a few games (dumb charades and karaoke) and got the boys together.

Melbourne, 2nd Test

'ASSHHH, GET THE BALL IN THE FIRST 10 OVERS'

Ashwin: In Melbourne Tim Paine wins the toss... Shastri came into the dressing room and boomed, ASSHHHH, 'get the ball in the first 10 overs'. I thought to myself 'in Melbourne he wants me to bowl in the first 10 overs'. (Ashwin imitating Shastri) 'It might be damp, it might spin, I have told Jinks (Rahane). Bumrah bowled a good spell. Jinks then gave me the ball and the first ball I bowled, it spun a lot and bounced as well. I was like wow.

Sridhar: My first thought when I saw you bowl and the ball spinning was 'how is Rishabh Pant going to keep against you on this wicket?' [smiles].

Sydney, 3rd Test

'SHABASH' SAID 249 TIMES

Sridhar: When you and Vihari were batting we used the word Shabhash 249 times! (smiles). As a ball was bowled, Shastri would lean towards the edge of the chair and go 'Shabash Ash!' Pant had put them on the back-foot, Puji (Pujara) had played an outstanding knock. Ravi Shastri got annoyed with Vihari's injury. 'How can he tear his hamstring by running just a single? Why? How?' (smiles).

THE MESSAGE SHARDUL NEVER CONVEYED

Sridhar: Ravi Shastri calls Shardul and tells him (to give a message to Ashwin and Vihari) that Ashwin should take care of this end (Lyon) and Vihari should bat from the other end (pacers). 'Ashwin is the best batsman against Nathan Lyon in this entire team', Shastri said. 'Vihari is managing Starc and Cummins very well... ask them to continue'.

Ashwin: We are oblivious to it... Thakur comes running in and he is panting. I tell him just tell me what the message is. Shardul after a while says, 'they told me many things in the dressing room, I am not going to say any of it. You guys are already doing a great job. So continue. I told him, Is this the message? Why did you come all this way for this?' (smiles). After the match, he tells me what the message was (laughs).

Satwik the enforcer helps doubles stars earn their stripes

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 22

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY is thrilled to be on the badminton court with his strategy: attack, attack. He doesn't actually go ballistic, trying to mangle every shuttle that floats in his orbit. He can sting even standing, like someone catching a butterfly. But the burly enforcer knows the thunderous trick that bulges up his sleeve - his ability to kill a rally with one swing of the axe, the moment he pleases.

On Saturday, along with his partners Ashwini Ponappa and Chirag Shetty, Satwik provided Indian badminton the solid rocket booster separation - for the first time two doubles pairings will be in semifinals of a Super 1000. Singles players PV Sindhu and Sameer Verma exited before the business end kicked in, losing their quarters.

It's taken a while, but Indian doubles pairings have finally taken centre stage. Satwik-

Ashwini beat their quarterfinal opponents World No.7 Malaysian opponents Peng Soon Chan--Liu Ying Goh 18-21, 24-22, 22-20 shirking off a couple of match points.

This is the CVG champion mixed doubles pairing's first Super 1000 semifinal, India's best result on the circuit in XD in a dozen years. Jwala Gutta - V Diju had made the Super Series finals in 2009.

More expectedly, Satwik combined with Chirag Shetty to beat back Malaysian Ong Yew Sin - Teo Ee Yi 21-18, 24-22 in 37 minutes, where they looked scratchy, but did what all top international pairs do - win on a bad day.

All talk of Satwik needing to focus on one event looking ahead at the Olympics, might run into a massive wall: Satwik's choice.

"We didn't see our opponents. Doesn't matter if we lose or win," he would say after knocking off the Malaysians who held their three match-points, like match sticks flaming too close to the finger: with great trepidation.



Satwik combined with Chirag Shetty to beat Ong Yew Sin - Teo Ee Yi 21-18, 24-22. Badminton Photo

The reason was Satwik standing right there at the net - with a racquet for a ringmaster's whip. "On court we just want to play 100 percent. If we lose also, doesn't matter. One year we are resting. So we want to play more matches, more tournaments. That's my strategy," he would say.

Ashwini had worked up nervous energy

that wrecked her composure. But she brings the most precious commodity to this partnership - her honesty. So, she let Satwik take over. "Satwik held his nerves. Mine were all over the place. He took charge. He dealt with situations much better. I was a little too excited, a little too eager, so ended up making a few easy mistakes. When needed, he was calm," she told BWF.

Satwik's attack is the sort that can make match-points seem inflammable because opponents realise he will roar and rev up his attack from half a metre away. Satwik used the bulky smash to put them under pressure in the second, and the confidence carried him through to the end.

Liu Ying Goh is formidable but recuperating from back pain. She would parry attacks from Satwik and was engaged in some top notch repartee shots with Ashwini, but the Indians managed to unsettle their focus.

Satwik was only warming up for the men's doubles pairing of Malaysians. The Indians would trail a tad with their attack los-

ing its sting at halfway stages of both sets, as the Malaysians defended well.

Shetty would help hold on steering the game towards variation smashes, cutting on the pace and drops. But Satwik would soon fetch up right next to him on the forecourt and push them back to finish in straight sets.

"First time I'm playing both men's doubles and mixed doubles semis. Very excited. It'll be really challenging. I'll be ready. We have to keep calm," he would say.

The man is 20, fit and raring to slay two events. It'll be pointless to wrap the Hulk in cotton wool and ask him to ration his rage for just one event.

Sindhu ready for finals

PV Sindhu made plenty of unforced errors losing 21-13, 21-9, to Intanon Ratchanok, with her lifts going all over the place to exit Thailand Super 1000 on Friday. But the week-end's best used to prepare for the big one next week -- World Tour Finals. "Didn't play 100 pc. Made a lot of unforced errors. It was 13-

14 at one point but I continuously gave her points. There were rallies, but those lifts were going out. I was playing comfortably earlier but they kept going out. I was nervous and made simple errors."

Sameer 'Warrior'

Anders Antonsen whose focus was in and out throughout his match with Sameer Verma, had a tough time quelling the opponent and his sly defense. "Sameer is a warrior. Tough match," he would say, as the Indian wrung out Antonsen's depleting reserves and pushed him to the very end in the most exciting match of the day. Defending every shot and transitioning many retrieves into winners, Sameer would leave Antonsen gasping.

At one point the World No.4 Dane would tell his coach quite astounded that Sameer was picking the tough shots, but was a tad vulnerable when going for the easy kills. The Indian's precision wasn't the best. But he dissected every Antonsen attack for 80 odd minutes before going down 13-21, 21-19, 20-22.