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REPUBLIC DAY VIOLENCE

Day after: Police file 25 FIRs, book over 30 farm leaders part of talks

Also named in Delhi Police FIRs: Yogendra Yadav, Medha Patkar

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

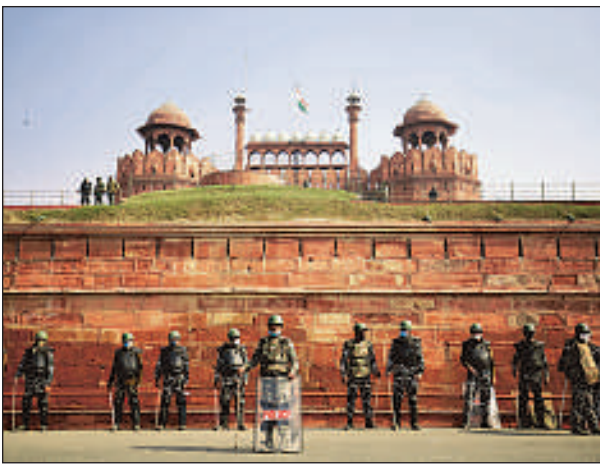
A DAY after the Republic Day violence, when hundreds of protesters forced their way into the Capital and stormed the Red Fort, the Delhi Police has registered 25 FIRs, including against over 30 of the 40 farm union leaders who were involved in talks with the Centre over the last few months.

One of the FIRs, on the Red Fort incident, names Punjabi film actor Deep Sidhu and Lakhbir Singh Sidhana alias Lakha Sidhana, gangster-turned-politician and president of the Malwa Youth Federation.

Thirty-seven farm union leaders, including six spokespersons of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), have been named in an FIR registered at the Samaypur Badli police station, in Outer Delhi, based on a complaint filed by Inspector Anil Kumar.

The six SKM spokespersons who have been named are: Jagjit Singh Dallewal, president, BKU (Sidhupur); Balbir Singh

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 4, 6



High security at Red Fort in Delhi on Wednesday, a day after protesting farmers entered the monument. *Praveen Khanna*

Deep Sidhu said in run-up: Picture abhi baki hai... Jan 26 plans up to Almighty

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 27

ON JANUARY 20, exactly a week before the Republic Day violence, when Delhi Police and farm unions were in talks over security rules for the tractor parade, Punjabi film actor Deep Sidhu, who has been named in the Delhi Police FIR on the Red Fort incident, went on Facebook to livestream several tractors en route from Punjab to Delhi and said: "Picture toh abhi baki hai mere dost".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



Cracks within, unions call off Parliament march, allege plot to break them

SOURAV ROY BARMAN, SUKRITA BARUAH & RAAKHI JAGGA
NEW DELHI, LUDHIANA, JANUARY 27

IT'S NEGOTIATORS with the government named in Republic Day violence FIRs and under pressure following cracks within over the direction of the protest, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella organisation of farmer unions seeking the repeal of new agriculture laws, Wednesday

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Weighing options

DAYS AFTER they rejected the Centre's offer on suspension of the farm laws, farmer unions are on the back foot. With the police lodging FIRs and the future of the dialogue process uncertain, the unions now have to weigh their options on the way ahead.

Farmers told to pay bonds, Allahabad HC seeks UP reply

Action needed or situation would have been same as in Delhi: Sitapur SDM

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 27

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has sought a response from government authorities in Sitapur on a PIL alleging "financial hardship" to farmers after the district administration demanded "exorbitant personal bonds" ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh from

them, plus sureties, "on the apprehension that they may violate law and order" given the farmers' protests on in the district.

In the PIL, activist Arundhati Dhuru said the Sitapur district administration issued the notices to farmers who own tractors on January 19, and police surrounded their houses to prevent them from joining the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
COMING TOMORROW

Bill Gates speaks on the pandemic, vaccines, technology and the way forward

'You can't hurt religious sentiments': SC rejects Tandav plea for relief from arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday declined to grant interim protection from arrest to the makers of the Amazon web series *Tandav*, who are facing

charges of hurting religious sentiments, but agreed to consider their plea for clubbing of FIRs registered in different states.

"Approach High Court," a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said as Senior Advocate Fali S Nariman, appear-

ing for the petitioners, urged the bench to direct that no coercive action be taken against the petitioners. The bench also issued notice on the prayer to club the FIRs pending in different states.

The bench did not seem to agree with advocate Siddharth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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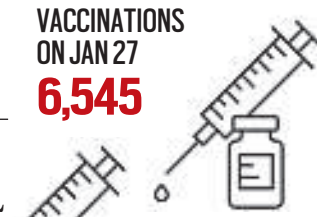
The Padma Vibhushan awardee led excavation at 'Ramjanmabhoomi'

Rohatgi reiterated that in Goswami's case, only the primary complaint was kept alive and others were quashed. But Justice Shah told him that the Goswami case was considered by another bench of which he too was a part and the FIR was not quashed.

3 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS
ON JAN 27
6,545



TOTAL CASES 6,34,325			Total	Vacant	
			HOSPITAL BEDS	8,729	8,011
			VENTILATORS	1,143	923
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Jan 26	157	218	7	64,973	
Jan 27	96	212	9	29,855	
Total	1,505*	6,21,995	10,829	1,04,95,046	

*Total active cases

Inside a VHP bike rally for temple funds: Businessman, insurance execs, children

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

"HUM HINDU jagaane aaye hain, Hum Hindu jaga kar jaayenge"; "Chamak rahi talwarein sab ki, chamak raha trishul hai, Hindu ko kamzor na samjho, ye dushman ki bhooh hai"; and "Hindustan me rehna ho to Vande Mataram kehna sikho, aur aukat me rehna sikho".

These were among songs that blared on a loudspeaker installed on a lorry on Tuesday as hundreds of motorbikes lined up behind it as part of a rally to raise awareness about the Ram Mandir fund collection drive. It had been organised by the Mayur Vihar unit of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal.

Most bikes flaunted saffron flags, three men shared many two-wheelers, and barely anyone wore a helmet. Some women accompanied them on scooters, while e-rickshaws in the back had the elderly, children and more women.

Manvendra Singh Senger, 36, was among the bikers waiting enthusiastically for the rally to begin. He had come with his 13-year-old son and 8-year-old nephew. Senger, who runs a water tank business, has been associated with the local RSS unit for a decade. "Sometimes I take my son along to the shakha. The RSS has made Hindus proud, so I have been associated with it," he said.

Busy on weekdays, Senger takes out time for Sangh work on Sundays and public holidays. "Now the task we have is to reach out to maximum families; there is a target that every household in Trilokpuri and Mayur Vihar has to be approached," he said.

As the rally moved towards the Sanjay Lake, his son, holding a saffron flag, raised a slogan: "Ram ji ke kaam mein taang jo adayega, Ram ki kasam wo laut nahi payega."

The VHP and Bajrang Dal have organised around 100 such bike rallies in different wards of Delhi so far, with more planned till January 31, after which the fund



At Mayur Vihar. VHP and Bajrang Dal have organised around 100 such bike rallies in different wards of the city so far

collection drive would start.

On a scooter were Anu and Pinky, both aged 23 and working in the insurance sector. "We are not members of the VHP or Bajrang Dal but many in our family are. We took part in the rally because we wanted to be part of the work being done for Ram Mandir," said Anu, a resident of Mayur Vihar Phase 1.

As the rally progressed, some youths raced their bikes forward, performing stunts.

Sanjeev Nagar, 27, who lives in Patparganj and works in a shop in Noida that sells sofas, said he started going to RSS shakhas after lockdown restrictions were lifted. "Hindus are forgetting their culture. I joined RSS after seeing what happened at Shaheen Bagh... Hindus had remained silent," he said.

The rally concluded at a temple in the area, where a programme was organised to honour kar sevaks from the locality

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Professor R.K. Singla, Chairperson

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NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING AND FIXATION OF RECORD DATE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held at New Delhi on Thursday, February 4, 2021, to inter-alia, consider, approve and take on record un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and nine-months period ended on December 31, 2020, after these results are reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Board. Interim dividend on the equity share capital of the Company for the year 2020-21 may also be, inter-alia, considered in the same Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Notice is further given that the Company has fixed Friday, February 12, 2021 as the "RECORD DATE" for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of the shareholders for payment of above interim dividend, if declared by the Board.

The Interim Dividend, if declared, shall be paid to those eligible members or their mandates whose names appear:-

- as Beneficial Owners as at the close of business hours on Friday, February 12, 2021 as per the list of Beneficial Owners to be furnished by National Securities Depository Limited and Central Depository Services (India) Limited in respect of the shares held in Electronic/Demat form, and
- as Members in the Register of Members of the Company after giving effect to all transactions in physical form lodged on or before Friday, February 12, 2021.

Further, pursuant to the changes introduced w.e.f. April 1, 2020 by the Finance Act 2020, in relation to the taxation of dividend, you may kindly refer to the communication uploaded for all the shareholders prospective shareholders on NTPC website under the tab **Investors/Dividend TDS Communication**.

The said Notice and any other further information may be accessed on the Company's website at www.ntpc.co.in and may also be accessed on the Stock Exchanges' website at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Requests for transfer, communication for change of address, Bank details, and ECS details should be sent to the respective Depository Participants of the shareholders in case of dematerialised shares. The above details in respect of shares held in Physical form should be sent to the Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company at the following address:

Alankit Assignments Limited, Unit: NTPC Limited
Alankit House, 4E/2, Jhandewalan Extension,
New Delhi-110055

Members holding equity shares of the company in electronic mode, who have not registered their e-mail address, are requested to register their e-mail address through their Depository Participant (DPs) to enable us to send documents through electronic mode in future. Members who have registered their e-mail-ID are requested to keep it validated with their DP.

Members holding equity shares in physical form, who have not registered their e-mail address, are requested to register their e-mail address with the Alankit Assignments Limited, Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company, to enable us to send documents through electronic mode in future.

For NTPC Limited
Sd/-
(Nandini Sarkar)
Company Secretary

Leading the Power Sector

SURGERIES, OPDs RESUME

Covid cases in double digits

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

OBSERVING A dip in the daily number of Covid-19 cases in the city, the Delhi government has decided to resume surgeries, OPDs and other medical services at all its hospitals. The move is expected to benefit hundreds of non-Covid patients who have been put on waiting lists due to the pandemic.

Delhi recorded 96 fresh Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, the lowest single-day figure recorded since April 30 last year. The positivity rate was 0.32% after the city conducted 29,855 tests.

An order issued by S M Ali, special secretary of Health and Family Welfare, directed all hospitals under the Delhi government, including the society hospitals, to restore the services.

"In supersession of all previous orders in this regard and in view of the decrease in the number of Covid-19 cases in Delhi, it is hereby directed that all kinds of surgeries/invasive procedures/IPD/OPDs and other medical services shall be started in all hospitals under the government of Delhi," the order stated.

The elective surgeries and OPD facilities in government hospitals were curtailed in March after witnessing a rise in the daily number of Covid-19 cases.

Seema Maheshwari, a former lecturer at Maitreyi College, sat in the audience. She said she is involved with the Rashtira Sevika Samiti, a women's organisation of the RSS, as yoga instructor and teacher. "It was a dream for us to see the Ram Temple come and we are lucky it is being fulfilled in front of our eyes," she said.

The massive drop in the number of daily cases on Wednesday can partly be attributed to the fall in the number of tests done during the day.

The infection tally in the city stood at 6,34,325 and the death

toll reached 10,829 with nine new fatalities. Earlier this month, the government had resumed the OPD services at Lok Nayak and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospitals, which were turned into Covid-only facilities.

At present, there are 8,729 beds for Covid-19 patients, out of which 8,011 (91.77%) are lying vacant.

Meanwhile, the city vaccinated 6,545 beneficiaries against the target of 8,100 on Wednesday — a turnout of 80.8%. Twelve cases of adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) were reported from the 11 districts on Wednesday, according to the government officials.

At present, the vaccination programme is being carried out at 81 sites across the city. According to sources, the process of increasing the number of sites by 25 is underway. "Twenty-five more session sites will be added to the existing number. The decision was taken after observing an improvement in the daily vaccination numbers," said a senior official from the state health department.

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- (1) Additional Director (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 15.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (2) Training Coordinator (MOOCs and Capacity Building) (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 08.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (3) Coordinator (Online Courses) (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 09.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (4) Coordinator (Swayam Examination) (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 10.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (5) Project Associates (02 Positions) Walk-in-Interview on 11.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (6) Data Entry Operator (02 Positions) Walk-in-Interview on 12.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (7) Driver (01 Position) Skill Test/Walk-in-Interview on 12.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (8) Multi Tasking Staff (03 Positions) Walk-in-Interview on 19.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
- (9) Hindi Officer (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 17.02.2021 at 11:00 AM
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- (11) Hindi Typist (01 Position) Walk-in-Interview on 18.02.2021 at 11:00 AM

The candidate should bring his/her Bio-Data along with one self attested photograph, original certificates along with self attested photocopy of the certificates at the time of Interview.

For detailed information regarding job description, educational qualification, experience and consolidated monthly remuneration for the above mentioned positions on contractual basis, please visit CEC website: www.cec.nic.in

Chief Administrative Officer, CEC

INGKA SERVICES LLP
Registered Office: Unit No.421, DLF Tower A, Jasola District Centre
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FORM NO. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of Sub-Section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies at Central Registration Centre ("CRC") at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122050 that Ingka Services LLP a Limited Liability Partnership registered under LLP Act 2008 may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a Company limited by shares.
2. The principal objects of the Company are as follows:

To establish a shared service center ("global business operations center") to manage operations that cover functionalities like assets, intra-corporate accounting like debit and credit records, vendor payables, assets tracking and non-finance operations like call center services, freight cost management and order processing for certain geographies and other backend office related and other ancillary services. Such services include following

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ITeS Support: HR Support Such as Payroll services, Employee data management & Recruitment services; Finance & accounting related functions such as processing & managing invoicing and billing, posting journal entries, performing general ledger accounting, Accounts receivables and bad debt recovery, Intra company billing and reporting, Business analytics support; Vendor data management, accounts payable and Sourcing & procurement operations; Supplier governance, such as offshore support, managing contracts; Application development support; Architectural design and testing such as solution and governance, application rationalization; and sales and marketing support; supply chain management support; process management, process improvement services, program management services, customer experience services to group entities; and any other support as may be requested by the Service recipient.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at Unit No. 421, DLF Tower A, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi 110044.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar of Companies at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122050 within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its registered office mentioned above at Para 3.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2021

For Ingka Services LLP
1. Ms. Lalitha Indrakanti [DIN: 06984353]
2. Ms. Divya Kumar [DIN: 08666521]

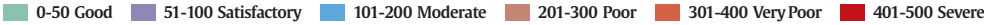
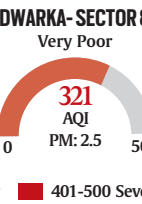
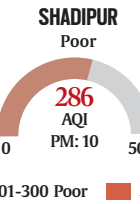
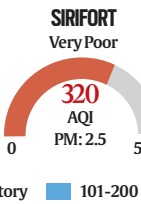
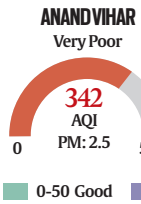
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FORECAST: Jan 28
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PROTEST SITE FEELS RIPPLES OF RED FORT RAID

Wind out of Singhu sails

Capital chaos dominates talk at subdued protest site, many admit fault but say unfair to discredit movement

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

SINGHU ON Wednesday appeared a little subdued and a lot emptier, its usual exuberance replaced by a sense of unease, a day after the violence during the tractor rally in Delhi.

The crowd thinned in the area that overflowed with protesters till Republic Day as many who had turned up for the tractor march started their return journey.

A 15-member contingent from Amritsar, which had arrived at Singhu on January 20, was among those that chose to leave. "All us belong to one family. We had specially come for the march. Our decision to return has nothing to do with what happened on Tuesday," said Sakattar Singh, steering the tractor-trolley. As the tractor made its way out of the area, an elderly Sikh farmer came running behind the tractor, appealing them to return soon. "We will *babaji*," Sakattar nodded.

As Delhi Police fortified entry points to the city, a fresh batch of concrete blocks left the lane leading to the protest site considerably narrower.

Across the protest site, the sequence of events that unfolded on Tuesday dominated the chatter. And the common thread that bound them was the consensus that protesters were unfairly stopped from entering the city and forced to make a U-turn from peripheral areas.

"All along we were told we will take the Ring Road. Then why did police put barricades? Don't we have any right to enter the country's capital?" said Sandeep Singh, a resident of Haryana's Kaithal.

Said Anand Jagnan, a resident of Panipat, "Many of us were told about the route late on Monday. Time was so less that it could not be conveyed to a large section."

In the absence of a robust machinery to convey decisions taken by the joint coordination committee leading the protests, the farmers have to rely on announcements made from the stage, and word of mouth.

In some cases, minivans fitted with microphones are deployed to make announcements while some unions also send messengers on bicycles.

Many voices betrayed a sense of unease over the act "by a section of protesters" to barge into Red Fort and unfurl the panthic flag of Sikhism. Many denounced the act, but added that the relentless focus on "the act of a few was aimed at sullyng the entire movement".

"We spent months on the railway tracks of Punjab. No one bothered. We have spent over two months here, everyday people are dying, but they are making it look like we are all extremists. No one is showing we were also showered with petals in many places," said Harjinder Singh from Patiala, who said he reached Red Fort but did not enter.

Participants of the march returned to the site through the night till early Wednesday morning. The Delhi government's langar seva remained suspended due to "vandalism" and will resume soon, AAP MLA Raghav Chadha said.

Gagandeep Singh from Kaithal said farmers had no intention of indulging in vandalism. "Lakhs of us have been camping here. There has not been one act of violence."

The farmers unions have claimed that unruly elements infiltrated the march, triggering confusion and chaos, a narrative echoed by protesters on the ground.

"The mob does not have any definite shape. When the floodgates open, water does not always flow in accordance with the set course of the river. It often leads to a deluge," said Jagnan, who runs a dairy trade in Panipat and supplies milk to protesters on a daily basis.



At Ghazipur Monday. Many who had arrived for the tractor parade on Republic Day have left. Prem Nath Pandey

At Tikri, a short march for course correction: 'This will improve our discipline for future parades'

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A DAY after chaos in the capital, farmers at Tikri border Wednesday largely agreed that the developments of Tuesday — including veering off the designated route, entering Red Fort and hoisting the Sikh religious flag atop it — were "wrong", though some insisted it was a "ploy" to defame protesters.

Crowd remained large at the border protest site Wednesday, with only those who had come just for the tractor rally having left. Many said going back was not an option. "We have been here from day one and will stay till the end. We will stay till 2024, until this government goes, if we have to," said Sukhdev Singh from Bathinda.

Most people were around the main stage, where speeches emphasised that only instructions of



Volunteers marched till Bahadurgarh bus stand. Aranya Shankar

the Samyukta Kisan Morcha be followed and asked protesters not to be "swayed". Late afternoon, volunteers took out a march till Bahadurgarh bus stand to mark their presence among farmers, after appeals from the stage to "march under flags of farmers".

Gurudutt Singh, a volunteer, said, "After yesterday's mistake, this is a way for us to register our presence among farmers and also improve our discipline for future parades."

At the stage, one speaker said, "This was a BJP ploy. Farmers were misled. They are the ones

who provoked us by making us sit here for 60 days. We will keep fighting."

Another said, "What happened at Lal Qila is not something we could have done. One must ask how this small crowd could enter Lal Qila and hoist a flag with police present there."

Many in the audience agreed. Major Singh, a farmer from Punjab, said veering off the route was not necessarily wrong but the Nishan Sahib flag should not have been hoisted at the Lal Qila. "People say permission was not given for the route some took. Even Bhagat Singh didn't have permission to enter the Assembly, but he did. If the government had listened to us, none of this would have happened. But the flag hoisting was wrong. We are here only under the Indian flag and flags of our farmer unions," he said.

Jagsir Singh, from Jagraon in Punjab, said, "There has been so

much frustration among people. Our people have died. They have killed themselves. There was no outrage then. But now farmers are being malignd. This was a reaction to an action."

However, some like Surinder Singh felt what happened on Tuesday was not wrong. "It was required. At least now the government knows our strength. We have been sitting here peacefully, and we have got nothing," he said.

The discomfiture with the Nishan Sahib being hoisted at the Red Fort was more palpable among farmers from Haryana.

Kishan Kumar from Jhajjar district said, "Whatever happened was completely wrong. This is not a protest of a single religion. It is a protest of farmers, and the farmers' flag should always be supreme. Routes should have been followed. This will create problems for our union leaders in future negotiations now."

Quieter, emptier: Ghazipur site, which first broke ranks

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

BY 2 pm on Wednesday, the green carpets in front of the stage at the Ghazipur protest site had been rolled up, marking an early end to the day's activities. A day after the tractor rally spiralled into violence, the gathering at the Ghazipur protest site had visibly thinned and the atmosphere was more subdued.

The Ghazipur site was from

where a large number of protesters first broke away from Tuesday's designated route to head towards Central Delhi. A farmer who died at ITO, Navreet Singh, had also left for Delhi from here. The few speeches made from the Ghazipur stage on Wednesday were tributes to him.

In days leading to the Republic Day rally, the gathering there had swelled to several thousand and their tractors and tents had occupied over 2.5 km both over and below the Ghazipur flyover.

On Wednesday, those present said the numbers seemed dwindled because most of those who had arrived just to participate in the rally had returned.

"Many had come from nearby districts and villages for the rally, and because of that the numbers had increased a lot in the last few days. They have returned to their villages after the rally. A few mischievous people had taken things out of hand yesterday but the protest will continue peacefully as before," said Jitender Singh

from Lakhimpur district.

The coordinators at the protest site have maintained that some "mischievous elements" had provoked and misled other protesters into breaking away from the rally.

"We are currently keeping a lookout for any mischievous elements and we are also telling all protesters to not be misled by anyone... Yesterday, some of these elements broke out early and the rest of the farmers followed them not knowing it was

not the correct time or route," claimed Jitender Singh, volunteer and security in-charge at Ghazipur.

This message was communicated from the stage on Wednesday as well. "We were told that there are some wrong people among us and we should be vigilant about them. If there are people who say provocative things, we should understand that they are not a part of our movement," said Jagtar Singh from Bareilly district.

Injured cops recall: 'Observed restraint because they are farmers, they did not'

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A DAY after violent clashes that left 394 police personnel injured, more than 80 were still admitted to hospitals across the capital, with most recalling how they were outnumbered by protesters carrying swords, lathis, glass bottles and chains.

Inspector P C Yadav, who was deployed at Red Fort, sustained injuries on his face, head, back and hand. "We saw a large number of people entering the fort and followed them. They then climbed walls and went to the rampart. We tried to remove them but they became aggressive and started attacking us with swords and lathis. One personnel was hit in the head and was bleeding. I went downstairs and was taking him to the hospital when they stopped us and thrashed us with lathis. I was wearing protective gear but my helmet broke after they hit me with the sword. I then lost consciousness. We did observe restraint because they are farmers, but they didn't," said Yadav, who received 12 stitches on his head.

Sandeep (32), who works as an operator for DCP (North) Anto Alphonse, sustained injuries on his hands, back and abdomen. At Tirath Ram hospital, he said he was "scared" when hundreds of farmers entered the Red Fort and shouted "*police ko maaro*" while brandishing weapons.

"I was at Red Fort when the protesters broke through the gates and were hoisting their flag. Around 3 pm, when some of the groups were starting to leave, more tractors came in and joined



At ITO on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

them. I was inside the fort when a group of 5-10 protesters charged at me. They beat me up with lathis. I ran with some other personnel and hid near a washroom, but they found us and shouted '*inko maaro*'. We were scared because most of us were injured. They again thrashed us and left. I called DCP sir and he sent me to a hospital," said Sandeep.

Teams from the Third Battalion, North district, Central district and CRPF were called in to assist police at Red Fort, but they too had a hard time controlling the crowd. Head constable Mahavir (48), who is posted in the Third Battalion, said he sustained injuries on his shoulders and head when trying to remove protesters from the fort. "They pelted stones at me. I fell on the ground and tried to save myself but they thrashed me with lathis. I was alone and rushed to save myself. The protesters were jumping walls and pelting stones and glass objects at us. They even tried to set fire to CRPF vehicles. We didn't take any action and were told to rescue other injured personnel. We went to a nearby school and waited for an ambulance as roads were blocked."

Protesters retreat as locals issue ultimatum

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JANUARY 27

A DAY after the tractor parades at Tikri, Ghazipur and Singhu culminated in violence, farmers who had been protesting at the Masani barrage on National Highway 48 for almost a month were Wednesday given an ultimatum by local panchayats to "clear the area within 24 hours". By close of day, the protesters had started moving back to the Haryana-Rajasthan border.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Satnarayan Nehra of the Nehra Khap said, "Some of the local people in the area held a panchayat and with the support of the administration gave us no option but to return to the border... Our own Republic Day parade was completely peaceful. We cooperated with the police and administration, but this violence has weakened our cause and left us with no defence."

It was at 10 am Wednesday that panchayats of 20 villages, in-

cluding Masani village, held a meeting and decided to give an ultimatum to the farmers. "The incident has shamed India and every person here is also responsible for this. We cannot tolerate such things...," said Lalram, sarpanch of Masani village.

He added that although the residents had been facing issues earlier itself, they had restrained themselves till now. "Some of the protesters had indulged in hooliganism; roads have been broken; crops have been damaged. Ours was an open defecation-free area but this is no longer true... (We) kept thinking that they are farmers and did not take any action," alleged the sarpanch.

In Palwal, a day after farmers protesting against the three farm bills tried to break through police barricades, an FIR has been lodged against more than 2,000 people regarding the incident. "The FIR has been registered against 2,000 to 2,200 people in 350 to 400 tractors who became violent with police officers," said Hanish Khan, the probe officer.

CULTURE MINISTER TAKES STOCK

Extent of Red Fort damage becomes clear, tableaux targeted too

ANANYA TIWARI, DIVYAA & ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

CCTV CAMERAS, metal detectors, glass windows and security equipment at the entrance of the Red Fort, where visitors deposit baggage and are cleared by security, lay ransacked and smashed, a day after protesters stormed the monument.

On Wednesday morning, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel visited the Fort with Delhi Police officers to assess the damage.

Patel tweeted: "I visited the Red Fort this morning along with Culture Secretary (Raghvendra

Singh) and ASI Director-General (V Vidyavathi). I have instructed them to prepare a report immediately and lodge an FIR."

The report will be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Even as the ASI refused to reveal the extent of damage, sources in ASI and the Ministry of Culture said there has been substantial damage and littering inside the premises, adding that even tableaux parked there after Republic Day were targeted.

The ASI report will be the basis for charges that the Delhi Police will press on the rioters, an ASI source said. The source said there has been damage to the flooring due to movement of tractors inside the premises, and



The entrance to Red Fort, Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

that some walls have been scratched and scraped in the process. A part of the grill of the iconic Lahori Gate also received

some dents, the source said.

Outside the premises, signs of destruction were visible everywhere — from the demolished

entry points to the ransacked cabins of security and Central Public Works Department officials. Audio-visual equipment given for tours lay battered while shards of windows and some lights were strewn across the floors. Outside the security area lay an upturned CISF Gypsy, and just inside the tall gates of the Red Fort, a bus stood with its windows broken. The railing lining the grassed moat lay tilted and a few bare pieces of chairs and railings lay beneath.

Red Fort has been shut since January 19 after cases of bird flu were confirmed inside its premises. On Wednesday, ASI declared it will remain shut from January 28 to January 31.

Damage at ITO

A visual assessment by the Public Works Department (PWD) revealed railings were broken in several areas in ITO and Netaji Subhash Marg, though the roads were not damaged. Officials said stainless steel railing, around 150 metres long, on the central verge near Vikas Bhawan at ITO had fallen on the ground and a few pots too had been damaged along the stretch.

"When barricades break, there would obviously be some damage to the footpaths and plants as well. Immediate repair work has started. Our teams are on the ground cleaning up the area, getting rid of debris," said a PWD official.

But it would take longer to replace the railings. "General repair work will take 8-10 days. A tender will be floated to replace the railings that are missing or have been completely damaged. The tender process alone would take a few weeks," said the official.

Similar damage was seen at Netaji Subhash Marg. In some portions, an official said, the median had also been broken.

A senior official said, "Since the damage occurred in the protests, we will intimate the police about the same. We are preparing a report on the damages. After the assessment, we will float a tender. It will take around three months for repair and replacement work."

India raises concerns over Khalistan flags at Rome embassy

New Delhi: India has raised with Italian authorities the issue of Khalistani flags being stuck on its embassy in Rome and has sought action.

Sources said flags and slogans on Khalistan were painted on the walls of the embassy on Tuesday night. The embassy took it up with Italian officials on Wednesday.

A source said, "We have been constantly raising our concerns with the Italian authorities and we had done so recently as well in view of Republic Day... We have taken up this specific incident with them... Safety and security of Indian diplomats... is the responsibility of the host government."

3rd Rafale batch arrives in India

New Delhi: The third set of Rafale aircraft reached India from France on Wednesday, flying non-stop for over 7,000 km, the IAF tweeted.

With the arrival of the three new planes, India has received 11 of the 36 fighters it had ordered in 2016 from France. All 36 are expected to be in India by the end of the year.

BIDEN ADMIN REACHES OUT
US NSA speaks to Doval, Def Secy dials Rajnath

KRISHN KAUSHIK & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A WEEK after US President Joe Biden was sworn in, two top US officials, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, spoke to their Indian counterparts, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and NSA Ajit Doval, in separate phone conversations Wednesday.

On the Doval-Sullivan call, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement where they flagged issues of "scourge of terrorism", "maritime security", "cyber security" and "peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond". All these issues have an oblique reference to China and Pakistan — from India's perspective.

The US Defence Secretary's call to Singh is significant since Austin has taken charge just two days ago, and has spoken to key allies of the US so far — Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, NATO and the UK. India is the first country outside the allies that he spoke to in a phone conversation.



Sullivan (left) and Austin. File

The call was initiated by Austin, and the conversation lasted for about 15-20 minutes, sources said. Singh tweeted, "We exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest to strengthen our strategic partnership."

A Defence Ministry statement said Singh had previously congratulated Austin on his appointment. "During the telephonic talk, they reaffirmed their commitment to work together to strengthen the multi-faceted India-US defence cooperation and the strategic partnership" and "discussed bilateral, regional and global issues," the statement said.

Sources said that among the larger issues discussed, there was a focus on Indo-Pacific and China was part of the discussions. Pentagon's spokesperson

said that "Austin emphasized the Department's commitment to the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership, observing that it is built upon shared values and a common interest in ensuring the Indo-Pacific region remains free and open".

On the conversation between the NSAs, Ministry of External Affairs said Doval "underscored that as leading democracies, with an abiding faith in an open and inclusive world order, India and the U.S. were uniquely positioned to work closely on regional and international issues including combating the scourge of terrorism, maritime security, cyber security and peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond".

According to MEA, "NSA Sullivan stated that the US was looking forward to working together on the bilateral agenda and the common global challenges."

It said the two NSAs "agreed to work closely to further advance India-US relations, which are built on shared values and common strategic and security interests".

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

HC vacancies: SC questions govt over delay in action on Collegium recommendations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

EXPRESSING CONCERN over the government delaying action on the recommendations of the Collegium to fill up vacancies in the High Courts, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to apprise it of the Centre's timeline in the matter.

"Suppose you have reservations and send the names back, we can reiterate. But if you don't give comments for five months on Collegium recommendations,

it is a matter of great concern," Justice S K Kaul, part of a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, observed as a matter which raised the question of vacancies in the High Courts came up before it.

CJI Bobde told Venugopal that Justice Kaul has drawn up a chart about the vacancies in the High Courts and the proposals pending with the government and the Collegium. He said 189 proposals were pending and asked the Attorney General to study the same.

Justice Kaul pointed out that in five months, the Collegium

cleared nine names of which six are pending with the government.

The Attorney General referred to the pendency figures and said the numbers had reduced to 104 from 150 in December 2020.

CJI Bobde said the main objective was to speed up appointments and that the court was not asking about matters which the Collegium had deferred. "We all need to see a timeline to achieve this target," he said.

Justice Surya Kant said the government has taken more than a year to respond in some cases. "You say something is

pending with Intelligence Bureau and some Chief Minister has not responded. But we want to know your timeline," he told the Attorney General.

The bench also took note of the large number of vacancies in Delhi High Court and wondered why there has been no recommendation for a long time. The CJI said the High Court must respond when it hears the matter again next week.

Justice Kaul referred to the difficulties in getting enough names from lawyers in High Courts for consideration and said SC lawyers could be considered.

EXPRESS NETWORK

ADVERTORIAL

The Agriculture Sector Needs to Come to Terms with Reality!

CLAAS

"India has an unequal distribution of rainfall, temperature and weather patterns, creating an imbalance when it comes to farming in different parts of the country. Moreover, the farming community lacks awareness regarding various government benefits, sometimes due to their inability to comprehend rules regarding such benefits and sometimes due to misconceptions. Similarly, much awareness is needed to make them embrace technology and mechanise the farming process. Viability of small & marginal farmers is a big issue that needs to be addressed comprehensively. I sincerely believe we can reach the goal of achieving PM Modi's vision of doubling the farmers' income by 2022, if every industry stakeholder involved comes together", says **Mrityunjaya Singh**, Managing Director, CLAAS Agricultural Machinery Private Limited.



Mrityunjaya Singh

Why farming isn't viable these days? Do you think agricultural institutes should do more in creating awareness among farmers?

Due to the archaic Land Holding Act, the average land holding is going down among farmers over the generations. Today, 85% of Indian farmers are having less than a hectare of farmland. This limits the scope to mechanise and improve farm productivity. Another factor affecting profitability is dependence on traditional crops like paddy and wheat that yield lower returns. Farmers need to diversify, grow 3-4 crops including cash crops, or engage in organic farming.

Our agricultural institutions can do more in updating farmers, providing them with knowledge about various schemes, or making them aware about the benefits of crop diversification. Similarly, the farming community should be educated about the benefits of using agricultural machinery to improve farm productivity.

What is the role of your company in making the farming community aware about agricultural machinery?

CLAAS understands technology and its usage and benefits for the Agriculture sector. Across the globe, CLAAS educates the farming community about the benefits of bringing technology to farming. In India, we

have CLAAS Academies through tie-ups with several agricultural universities - at Rahuri and Akola (Maharashtra), Ludhiana (Punjab), Dharwad (Karnataka), Sabour (Bihar) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha). Further, we have our own state-of-the-art academy at Tumkur, about 60 km from Bangalore. At these Academies we update University faculty, students, dealers, customers and farmers regarding every technological development that can benefit their farming methodology and help improve productivity.

For operators a good quality training is also provided to enhance their skills in handling modern equipment. We have a CLAAS Operators Club under which machine operators who have been trained by us enjoy several benefits provided by CLAAS - scholarship for one child, subsidised advanced level training, personal accidental insurance, preview of latest machinery launch and better job prospects by connecting them to machine owners

CLAAS is well known for providing harvesting solutions that can address multiple crops. What is the state of maize mechanisation nowadays?

Yes, CLAAS harvesters do harvest mul-

tiplex crops like paddy, wheat, maize, soybean, pulses, sunflower etc. Mechanisation level of maize harvesting today is very low at about 10% or less. It is because the attention is lacking from the government to increase mechanisation for maize harvesting since more attention goes towards paddy and wheat, both accounting for over 200 million tonnes per year, compared to about 28 million tonnes of maize. However, the need for increasing area under maize is growing, particularly because the Government would like farmers to move away water-guzzling crops like paddy.



Farmers' earnings from maize can go up significantly if we increase adoption of mechanised harvesting. For example, the estimated cost of manual harvesting is Rs.6000 per acre. If this is mechanised, the cost comes down to Rs. 3000 per acre. There is also a substantial saving on time and a reduction in losses. It therefore makes tremendous economic sense to mechanise harvesting.

Finally, what are your suggestions to various industry stakeholders/enablers?

Firstly, the industry has to realise that it is not only the government's job to double farmers' income by 2022, it is every stakeholders' responsibility to see this vision become a reality. We should believe in the target and give it our best try. Secondly, if we continue to be purely profit-driven and do irreparable damage to our environment for the sake of our bottom-line, we're only going to hurt our future generations.


Thirdly, our small & marginal farmers should become viable and this can only happen when they are educated to adopt a non-traditional crop pattern, apart from the paddy-wheat cycle. Individual elements of the industry have to play a major role in providing an interface to farmers to create awareness regarding new agricultural processes, new crops, new ways of trading and even benefits of land consolidation to improve farming efficiency. All these messages have to go down to the grassroots level to make farming viable for small & marginal farmers. Every one of us from various fields have to come together to ensure that we create an ecosystem consisting of best practices so that the benefits of technology and market opportunity reach every farmer in the country.





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ACHIEVEMENTS: 2020

- NCC Training App: Launch of App to enable cadets' training during Covid-19
- Exercise Yogdan: Over 1,39,961 cadets & 21,380 staff participated in the exercise countrywide during Covid-19
- National Education Policy Awareness: Over 50,411 NCC cadets participated in online campaign and impacted over 1.74 lakh people
- Tree Plantation: NCC planted 3.5 lakh saplings during Tree Plantation Drives
- International Yoga Day: Celebrated online pan India with a participation of over 10.5 lakh NCC cadets
- Constitution Day: Over 9.63 lakh NCC cadets participated in activities, impacting a population of over 35 lakh
- NCC Expansion: One lakh cadets in Border/Coastal Taluks and Taluks Housing Air Force Stations
- Incentives: NCC Certificate Holders in recruitment in CAPFs
- Associate Member: NCC now an associate member of Hockey India

day 1011013/0001/2021

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



A LOT IN A NAME

AS THE Assembly elections in West Bengal edge nearer, political parties are using all kinds of names while attacking each other. If the TMC calls the BJP "Bargis" (marauders), the BJP insists on calling Mamata Banerjee "Pishi" (aunt) instead of her usual moniker — "Didi". Under particular attack of this name-calling has been the TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, Mamata's nephew and seen as next in line in the party. While the BJP has accused Abhishek of corruption and called him "Bhaipo" (nephew) repeatedly, Suwendu Adhikari, former TMC leader and state minister who recently joined the saffron party, added a new term in a speech on Tuesday. He called Abhishek "babushona", usually a term of endearment for a young child. Clearly though, in the political lexicon of Bengal this is not a term of endearment, but tries to paint the Lok Sabha MP as immature and inexperienced.

COSTLY AFFAIR

THE NEW menu card of Parliament canteen, which will now be run by ITDC instead of Northern Railways, has shocked many MPs. The prices of all items have been increased multiple times — for example, the price of fish and chips has gone up from Rs 25 per plate to Rs 110, mutton cutlet from Rs 25 to Rs 150, mutton curry from Rs 20 to Rs 125, and masala dosa from Rs 6 to Rs 50. According to some members, MPs from nearby states would be the worst affected, as they get many guests from their constituencies visiting Parliament during sessions. Even though visitors are not allowed in the Budget Session due to Covid-19 restrictions, visitors will be allowed in future. During their visit, it has been a regular practice that the MPs treat them with lunch or snacks in Parliament canteen. Now that subsidy is off, many may find it difficult to continue this ritual, members say.

FARMERS IN MIND

BJP LEADER and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday and is learnt to have discussed issues related to farmers and agriculture. The meeting comes at a time when farmers have been protesting against the new farm laws. Interestingly, Fadnavis was the convenor of the high-powered committee of chief ministers that recommended the agri-reform laws.



Chautala drives to Union Assembly in his tractor. *Jasbir Malhi*

INLD's Abhay Chautala quits as Haryana MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

INDIAN NATIONAL Lok Dal leader Abhay Singh Chautala Wednesday resigned as an MLA from the Haryana Assembly over the three new farm laws. Chautala, his party's only representative in the 90-member House, drove to the Assembly complex in his tractor to physically submit his resignation to Speaker Gian Chand Gupta.

"I have accepted it (resignation letter). He has referred to his earlier two letters that he had

sent to me citing the Union government's refusal to accept farmers' demands," the Speaker said.

Abhay said he was walking in the footsteps of his "grandfather Chaudhary Devi Lal who worked his entire life for the welfare of farmers". "If anybody works against the interest and welfare of farmers, our party will stand against it."

Earlier this month, Abhay had written to the Speaker urging him to consider the letter as his resignation if Centre does not accept the farmers' demands by January 26.



Trivendra Singh Rawat

A DAY after protesting farmers engaged in violent clashes with the police in Delhi on Republic Day, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Wednesday alleged that there were evidences of Pakistan's involvement in the farmers' agitation. Rawat also said that it appears that farmers' agitation has become Congress' movement.

Speaking to reporters in Dehradun, Rawat said, "It seems the farmers' agitation has now become the Congress's agitation.

Various forces which protested against CAA and GST, lobbies and factions that have always been opposed, leftists, and now evidence of Pakistan's involvement has also surfaced. This is unfortunate."

Rawat said farmers can never be involved acts that are not patriotic. "Certainly some anarchists have entered strategically with some agenda."

Govt for resuming talks only after farm unions agree to offer

LIZ MATHEW & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

WITH FARMER unions on the backfoot following the violence during the tractor rally in Delhi on Republic Day, official sources indicated that the government now wants to resume the talks only after seeing that its offers are accepted.

There have been informal talks with farm union leaders, with the government's representatives flagging the differences among them.

"The government has got the upper hand in the negotiation table now. We are pointing out that farm union leaders who have been engaging in talks with us have lost control over the agitators, and they should use this opportunity as a graceful exit and agree to the offers the government has made," a source in the govern-

ment said.

Sources in the government feel that farmers' leaders, who are protesting against the three laws, have lost "moral authority" in the wake of violent protests in the national capital on Republic Day. "The government has already given them (farmer leaders) a better proposal, but they did not accept it. They lost a good opportunity.... They have (now) lost the moral authority. Now, we have to see whether they accept that offer or they come with a counter proposal," a source said when asked about the possibility of resumption of talks between the Centre and representatives of farmers' unions.

While farmers have stuck to their demand for repeal of the laws, the government, which initially took a tough stand, on January 20 agreed that it could suspend the three laws for 18 months and set up a joint committee to discuss the laws in de-

tail. The farmers rejected that offer and decided to continue the protests.

However, after Tuesday's tractor rally turned violent in the national capital, one of the organisations part of the agitation, Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, announced that it was withdrawing from the ongoing agitation.

Sources indicated that the ruling dispensation expects more unions to move away from the agitation. "Now what we are looking forward to seeing is how many more would agree to the offers the government has made," the source said.

BJP leaders indicated that the party would unleash a campaign to "expose the differences among farmer unions". Its spokespersons, who were subtle in their stance on the issue, have already started toeing an aggressive line in their television debates.

"It was like a closed fist; now

it's open and the farmer unions have got exposed," a BJP leader said. "The so-called leaders do not have any control over them. Even if the government held discussions, what assurance can they (unions) give in making everyone agree to it? So, the government will have discussions only if it is sure that the stand-off is over."

The BJP leader also said the government would "naturally cash in on the Catch-22 situation the farm union leaders have got (themselves) in."

However, party leaders admitted that the government's concern over farm sector reforms still remains. "We may break the agitation and resolve the issue, but when the laws are in suspension our concerns over the agriculture sector remains," a party leader said. "The farmers in some states (Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh) have stalled the reforms despite the majority we have (in Parliament)."

PILs in SC seek probe, direction to media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A LAWYER on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a judicial inquiry into the violence on Republic Day in the national capital during a march by farmers protesting the Centre's new farm laws. Another PIL urged the court to direct the media not to declare farmers as "terrorist" without evidence.

In his plea, Advocate Vishal Tiwari sought the setting up of a commission headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and comprising two retired High Court judges to hold a time-bound investigation into the incidents. The plea also sought directions to the authorities concerned to register FIRs against individuals or organisations responsible for the violence and the protesters "causing the dishonour of our national flag" at Red Fort.

The other plea, by advocate M L Sharma, alleged a "planned conspiracy" to sabotage the farmers' protest and claimed that they were branded "terrorist" with no evidence to back it.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 27

THE FAMILY of a 23-year-old man from Punjab's Tarn Taran, accused of hoisting the Nishan Sahib, a flag sacred to Sikhs, at the Red Fort during the farmers' protest on Republic Day, Wednesday claimed that he was innocent and had climbed up the flagpole only after being instigated by a fellow protester.

Jugraj Singh's grandfather Mehal Singh claimed that his grandson went to the Delhi border with a group of farmers for participating in the agitation and the tractor parade. He said ever since the visuals of Jugraj hoisting the Nishan Singh were shared, media persons, police teams, and intelligence officials have been visiting their home at village Vaan Tara Singh.

"Jugraj had no such plans. A fellow protester asked him (Jugraj) to climb the flagpole after others could not do so. Jugraj then agreed to climb up the flagpole to hoist the flag. He is innocent," Mehal Singh said about his grandson.

The villagers said that Jugraj



Villagers said Jugraj Singh (23) often helped hoist the Nishan Sahib at local gurdwaras. *PTI file*

was a good man and often helped hoist the Nishan Sahib at local gurdwaras, and that could have been the reason the fellow protesters asked him to do the same at the Red Fort.

Fellow villager and ex-serviceman Prem Singh said, "There was no planning behind it. He had not gone to Delhi to hoist the Nishan Sahib. He didn't carry any flag with him. He was quick at climbing poles and hoisted the flag handed over by someone else. He is a good man."

There has been a massive outrage over the religious flag being hoisted at the Red Fort. Mehal Singh said he now fears that police would conduct raids at his house to arrest Jugraj, one of the three children of Baldev Singh. The family owns three acres of farmland in the village.

Tarn Taran police officials were tight lipped over the development. However, a source said that police was investigating if Jugraj had any relation with any banned outfit.

Blamed for Jan 26 violence, Lakha Sidhana not new to controversies

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 27

A GANGSTER-TURNED-SOCIAL activist, being blamed for instigating the protesters leading to violence on Republic Day, Wednesday claimed that he only marched up to the Outer Ring Road in the national capital and never had any agenda of going towards the Red Fort.

Lakhbir Singh Sidhana aka Lakha Sidhana, a native of Sidhana village in Punjab's Bathinda, accused the government and police of conspiring against the farmers' agitation while claiming that he always called for peace.

"I am pained at the incidents that took place on Tuesday but I am not involved in these. There is no video, photo or other evidence that shows that I instigated peo-



Gangster-turned-social activist: No evidence I instigated people

ple. We had marched towards the Outer Ring Road following our farmer leaders in a peaceful manner. We never had any agenda of going towards the Red Fort," the 40-year-old said.

Sidhana, who has been camping at the Singhu border since November 26, also denied allegations that he shared the stage with

actor Deep Sidhu, who is also being blamed for instigating violence, at the Singhu border on Monday night, claiming that he tried to calm down people who wanted to take out the march on the Outer Ring Road.

Sidhana claimed that nearly 20 farmer leaders went till Ring Road with their cadres in a peaceful manner and returned soon after. He claimed that popular sentiment was in support of going to the Ring Road as farmer unions had announced first on January 2 and then on January 17 that they will carry out the tractor rally there.

Sidhana, who heads Malwa Youth Federation which claims to do social welfare works in villages, has more than 25 criminal cases registered against him in Punjab. They include murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, and under Arms Act. A humanities graduate

from Punjabi University, Patiala, Sidhana claims to have quit the crime world for social work.

He joined the People's Party of Punjab in 2011, and quit in 2013. Since then, Sidhana gained popularity in the Malwa region, having helped marry off several girls from weaker sections and helping families in cash and kind.

He hit the headlines in October 2017 for allegedly defacing English signages demanding that they be written in Punjabi. He was arrested and sent to Faridkot Modern Jail from where he did a live session on Facebook appeal farmers not to burn paddy stubble. A cellphone was recovered from his barrack and he was booked in a case of cheating. In May 2019, he and 60 others were booked in an attempt to murder case while taking out a protest rally in Badal village.

WITH PTI INPUTS

Away from Morcha, union accused of 'plotting' with govt part of stir since Sept

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 27

THE Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella organisation of farmer unions protesting against the farm laws on Delhi borders, has accused the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) of being part of a government conspiracy to discredit the movement. At the same time, the Delhi Police has booked KMSC founder-president Satnam Singh Pannu, along with farm leaders of the Morcha, under sections of rioting, criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder and robbery.

Formed in 2017, with a substantial presence in both the Majha and Malwa regions of Punjab, the KMSC has in fact been at the forefront of the protests against the three new farm Bills — while refusing, at every step, to toe the Morcha's line.

On Tuesday, the KMSC pressed ahead with its demand to take out a tractor parade on Outer Ring Road, which was not the route agreed upon by the Morcha leaders with the Delhi Police. Many among their supporters then broke away and were part of the protesters who entered the Red Fort.

Pannu said they followed the Morcha's calls "most of the time" at Delhi borders, except on following the route decided by the Delhi Police for the January 26 parade. "The people had earlier been told about the Outer Ring Road route and, hence, wanted to go on that road. We listened to public sentiment. If any union has spoken against us, we are ready to debate with them and answer each and every thing. We are protesting for a cause and all allegations against us are baseless. We will talk with all the union leaders and keep co-ordinating with the Morcha. I am not going to say anything against them," Pannu said.

The KMSC has its own stage at the Singhu-Kundli border protest site, separate from the Morcha's. The Morcha's 32 farmer unions are protesting both at Singhu and Tikri borders, while the BKU (Ugrahan) has a presence at the Tikri border near Bahadurgarh, Haryana. The KMSC and BKU (Ugrahan) have often coordinated for joint press conferences at the protest sites, and addressed farmers from each other's stages.

Conspiracy with govt help, say Cong, CPM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A DAY after the violence in Delhi during the tractor rally, the Congress on Wednesday claimed it was a "concerted conspiracy aided and abetted" by the government to malign the farmers' movement. The party also demanded the sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah, arguing that there was a huge security and intelligence failure.

The CPI(M) also said the incidents were the "handiwork of agent provocateurs, some with links to the ruling party", and argued that the incidents cannot detract the focus from the main demand of the farmers of repealing the three laws. The CPI asked the government not to be rigid but be realistic and reasonable to accept demands of the farmers.

Even in Punjab, the KMSC had been protesting against the Bills on its own. In September, it issued a call to block bridges, going on to halt the Harrike bridge connecting Majha and Malwa, the Beas bridge on the Amritsar-Delhi highway and the Hargobindpur bridge in Gurdaspur for nearly a fortnight. The other farm unions did not join this protest, and when they in turn called three 'Lalkar' rallies, the KMSC stayed away.

Later, the KMSC held its own rail roko, separate from the other farm unions, in September-October. Its Amritsar-Ferozepur blockade on several rail tracks starting September 24 was supported by the BKU (Ugrahan) for two days. When Chief Minister Amarinder Singh held meetings with farm unions in October and November, appealing to them to lift the rail roko, the KMSC did not join.

In fact, the KMSC continued its rail roko at the Jandiala Guru Railway Station in Amritsar long after the Morcha and BKU (Ugrahan) ended theirs, saying they would allow only freight trains but not passenger trains till the farm laws were repealed. The KMSC dharna near the parking area of the railway station, in fact, is still on, with Pannu threatening to return to the tracks if any other train besides freight is allowed. As a result, a majority of the passenger trains still haven't resumed in Punjab.

When the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee gave a Delhi Chalo call on November 26-27, the KMSC again stayed away. Instead, it started from Punjab in a convoy of 1,500 vehicles on December 11, and started its dharna at Singhu-Kundli two days later.

The KMSC also stayed away from the initial rounds of talks of farmer unions with the Centre, on October 13 and November 13, as well as the first five meetings after the protests began at Delhi borders, saying these would not yield any results. It has been present though at the last six meetings with the Union ministers.

KMSC general secretary Sarwar Pandher said that in blaming them for the Red Fort incident, BKU (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal is hurting the movement. "We always corrected him at meetings and not in public," Pandher said, adding that the KMSC would still not attack him.



Prakash Javadekar

Javadekar: India won't tolerate manner in which Tricolour was insulted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

BREAKING ITS silence on Tuesday's violence, the ruling party on Wednesday said India will not tolerate the "manner in which Tricolour was insulted at the Red Fort".

Union minister Prakash Javadekar addressed the media at the party headquarters in the evening. His remarks came after the Congress claimed it was a "concerted conspiracy aided and abetted" by the government to malign the farmers' movement.

"Action should be taken against all those who instigated others. India won't tolerate the manner in which the Tricolour was insulted at the Red Fort," Javadekar said. "Rahul Gandhi was not merely supporting (farmers' protest) but was instigating. It happened at the time of CAA. There was talk of Congress rally and on the second day people came on the road. The same thing happened yesterday."

"A Congress tweet claimed the farmer who died in an accident was the victim of police brutality. When questions were raised from all over the country, Rahul-ji's statement came that violence is not the solution to any problem," the minister added.

Explain why legal action shouldn't be taken: Delhi Police writes to Krantikari Kisan Union chief

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE DELHI Police on Wednesday wrote to farmer leader Darshan Pal Singh, asking him to explain why legal action should not be taken against him and his organisation, Krantikari Kisan Union, a day after the national capital witnessed violence during the tractor march.

The letter, signed by DCP (HQs) Chinmoy Biswal, asked Singh to send his response in three days.

"You are asked to explain as

to why legal action shouldn't be taken against you and other members of your organisation... You are also directed to provide names of the perpetrators of such violent acts belonging to your organisation," it said.

Singh could not be reached for his response. Volunteers of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, a united front of the protesting farmers, said Singh has not received the letter yet.

The police said in the letter that they had come to an agreement with the farmer leaders to conduct the tractor rally along three designated routes, but Singh



Darshan Pal Singh

and other leaders acted in an irresponsible manner on Tuesday.

"Your wrong intent was apparent in the night of January 25 itself when militant component of protesting farmers and fabri-

cated tractors, who were on the rear of the dharna, were brought forward at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders. These militant elements occupied the stage and started provocative speeches right from the early hours of January 26," the letter said.

According to the police, the tractor rally started at 7.30-8.30 am from Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur, and not noon. They accused Singh of not waiting till the end of Republic Day parade and going ahead with the rally.

During discussions with the police, Singh had agreed to lead the rally from his organisation but he

was not found at the front. Further, Singh also violated the terms of the rally by taking out more than 5,000 tractors, said the police.

"The number of tractors were much higher than agreed upon. In gross violation of the conditions, many participants of your organisation carried weapons," said the police in the letter.

Calling the Red Fort incident an "anti-national act", the police said Singh's organisation was behind the clashes. The incident led to violence and vandalism in parts of Delhi and several police personnel were injured during the clashes.

Sasikala out of jail, fresh buzz of realignment in TN politics

Time has come to re-establish 'real Amma' govt, says nephew Dhinakaran

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 27

EXPULSED AIADMK leader V K Sasikala was officially released from a Bengaluru prison on Wednesday after completion of her four-year jail term in a disproportionate asset case in which former chief minister late J Jayalalithaa was also convicted. Sasikala's return to Chennai, however, may take a few more days as she is currently undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at a hospital in Bengaluru.

After visiting the hospital, TT V Dhinakaran, her nephew and leader of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), invoking Jayalalithaa, said time has come to re-establish the real Amma government in poll-bound Tamil Nadu again.

"I do not want to speak politics on a day my aunt is getting released from prison," he told reporters. When asked about Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurating a Jayalalithaa memorial on a day Sasikala was released, he said, "It means nothing but they are also celebrating the release [of Sasikala]."

He said recapturing AIADMK was the key objective behind the AMMK's formation. "We will continue to work towards that," he said.

While Sasikala never contested elections or spoke on stage for AIADMK, she commanded respect and wielded power in the party and AIADMK governments when Jayalalithaa was alive. She got the same backing when she picked O Panneerselvam for the Chief Minister's post after Jayalalithaa's death. Such was her influence that when Panneerselvam — allegedly with support from the BJP — revolted against Sasikala and was pushed to a trust vote, he could muster backing of only 11 AIADMK legislators, including himself, against 122 who voted with the Sasikala faction.

Before her conviction and surrender in the Bangalore prison in February 2017, the Sasikala faction managed to oust Panneerselvam and make Palaniswami, her most trusted aide, the Chief Minister. do not get the number of seats they demand in the AIADMK-BJP alliance. While PMK doesn't have a single MLA in the assembly, it commands a significant vote base in northern Tamil Nadu's

However, much has changed in the four years that followed. Palaniswami joined hands with Panneerselvam and Sasikala was not only removed as the party general secretary but also from primary membership. OBC-Vanniyar community. In the 2016 assembly polls, the party bagged a vote share of 53.2 per cent although it did not win a single seat.

Captain Vijayakanth's wife Premalatha, who had earlier

A week ago, after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Palaniswami ruled out chances of letting Sasikala return to the AIADMK. He said almost all Sasikala loyalists have abandoned her camp.

Still, multiple sources in the AIADMK said there are chances of a ceasefire. "If Sasikala is not encouraged to return to the AIADMK, we cannot rule out AIADMK that made Sasikala pick him for the top job while the AIADMK won the 2016 polls projecting Jayalalithaa as the Chief Minister.

Ahead of bypoll, BJP holds grand memorial service in Almora district

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 27

AHEAD OF the bypoll in Salt Assembly constituency of Almora district in Uttarakhand necessitated by the death of three-time BJP MLA Surender Singh Jeena, the party on Wednesday organised a grand assembly to pay tribute to the leader, with Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat listing out redressals of public grievances and announcing a memorial for Jeena.

Jeena is the third BJP MLA to have died in the last years — Pithoragarh MLA Prakash Pant and Tharali MLA Magan Lal Shah had died in 2019 and 2018, respectively. Events were held in their memory too, but not on the same scale as on Wednesday, BJP sources said.

Cabinet ministers Yashpal Arya and Dhan Singh Rawat, Almorah MP Ajay Tamta, and a few other MLAs and BJP leaders made speeches in the presence of local residents in Salt on Wednesday.

Win this poll for Amma: Palaniswami at Jaya memorial launch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JANUARY 27

CHIEF MINISTER Edappadi K Palaniswami on Wednesday inaugurated a memorial built for late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Chennai's Marina beach, next to the memorial built for her mentor and party founder M G Ramachandran, in a grand ceremony attended by all senior cabinet members, AIADMK leaders and hundreds of party cadres. The AIADMK's show of strength came on a day V K Sasikala was released from jail in Bengaluru.

With its design inspired from a phoenix, a metaphor for Jayalalithaa's political career, the 15-metre-high structure was built at a cost of Rs 80 crore with con-

sultations with experts from IIT-Madras. The foundation has been strengthened by 500 tonnes of steel and 1,068 cubic metres of concrete while the superstructure is made up of 300 tonnes of steel and 800 cubic metres of concrete.

During the inauguration, Palaniswami devoted most of his speech to list out all important policies and welfare schemes introduced by Jayalalithaa during her four tenures and called it the golden era of Tamil Nadu.

Reminding people about Jayalalithaa's popular slogans, Palaniswami said that winning the upcoming state polls in May would be the biggest sign of gratitude the party cadres can present to the late chief minister. "We are committed to retain Amma's (as she was fondly called by follow-

ers) government...We all have to work hard to achieve that...We should take our government's welfare schemes and services to each and every person in the state and win this election for Amma. Let us all take a pledge towards this," he said.

Either side of the memorial is inscribed with Jayalalithaa's most popular words – “makkalaal naan, makkalaalkaaga naan” (by the people, for the people). A knowledge park and a museum also captures the major landmarks in her life. With a minitheatre to watch videos on Jayalalithaa's life, it can accommodate about 100 people and also has a green area planted with 15,000 saplings, granite pathways, besides a 20kW solar system and high-mast ornamental lights.



At the inauguration of the Jayalalithaa memorial, in Chennai, Wednesday. PTI

 		
<div> <div>INDIAN ARMY</div> <div>STRONG & CAPABLE</div> <div>PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS</div> <div>72nd Republic Day, 26 January 2021</div> </div>		
<p>PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> LT GEN SHASHANK TARAKANT UPASANI, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN TARANJIT SINGH, AVSM, VSM**, ARMoured CORPS (RETD) LT GEN SARANJEET SINGH, UYSM, YSM, INFANTRY (RETD) LT GEN RAJEEV SABHERWAL, AVSM, VSM, SIGNALS (RETD) LT GEN YENDURU VENKATA KRISHNA MOHAN, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY (RETD) LT GEN ANIL KUMAR BHATT, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY (RETD) LT GEN GOPAL R, UYSM, AVSM, SM, INFANTRY (RETD) LT GEN SANJAY VERMA, AVSM, VSM**, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (RETD) LT GEN CHANDI PRASAD MOHANTY, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN ASIT BHAILAL MISTRY, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN RAJ SHUKLA, YSM, SM, ARTILLERY LT GEN VADLAMANI SHANMUKHA SREENIVAS, VSM**, INFANTRY LT GEN KALISHPURI RAVI PRASAD, VSM, ARTILLERY LT GEN HARINDER SINGH, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN ANUP BANERJI, SM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (RETD) LT GEN SANJAY MANOHAR LONDHE, SM, AD CORPS (RETD) LT GEN NARDEEP NATHANI, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS LT GEN PAILOOR RAMACHANDRAN VENKATESH, SM, RVC MAJ GEN ALOK RAJ, AVSM, INFANTRY (RETD) 	<p>MAHAVIR CHAKRA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> COL BIKUMALLA SANTOSH BABU, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) <p>KIRTI CHAKRA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SUB SANJIV KUMAR, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) <p>UTTAM YUDH SEVA MEDAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> LT GEN HARSHA GUPTA, AVSM, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN SHANTANU DAVAL, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN RANA PRATAP KALITA, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN RAJU BAGGAVALLI SOMASHEKAR, AVSM, YSM, INFANTRY <p>ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> LT GEN MILIND N BHURKE, YSM, SIGNALS LT GEN TIRITALA SUBRAMANIAN ANANTHA NARAYANAN, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS LT GEN AMARDEEP SINGH BHINDER, VSM, ARMoured CORPS LT GEN SHASHANK SHEKHAR MISHRA, VSM, INFANTRY LT GEN NAV K KHANDURI, VSM, ARMY AIR DEFENCE LT GEN RAVINDRA KUMAR SINGH KUSHWAHA, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS LT GEN SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA, YSM, INFANTRY LT GEN ANIL PURI, SM, VSM, ENGINEERS LT GEN UPENDRA DWIVEDI, INFANTRY LT GEN ATULYA SOLANKEY, SM, INFANTRY LT GEN S HARIMOHAN IYER, ARTILLERY LT GEN TARUN KUMAR AICH, INFANTRY LT GEN MANOJ KUMAR KATTIAR, INFANTRY MAJ GEN BIPIN BAKSHI, VSM, ENGINEERS (RETD) MAJ GEN VIRENDRA SINGH, VSM, INFANTRY (RETD) MAJ GEN ARUP KUMAR SASMAL, ARTILLERY MAJ GEN JALAJ BHOLA, SIGNALS MAJ GEN BHANU PRATAP SINGH, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS MAJ GEN RAJESH KUMAR JHA, ENGINEERS MAJ GEN K NARAYANAN, SM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN SURENDER PAVAMANI, SM, ARTILLERY MAJ GEN ADOSH KUMAR, SM, ARTILLERY MAJ GEN RAVI MURUGAN, INFANTRY MAJ GEN RAM CHANDER TIWARI, SM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN AJAY KUMAR VERMA, INFANTRY MAJ GEN ANINDYA SENGUPTA, YSM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN SANDEEP SINGH BAJAJ, INFANTRY MAJ GEN PRAVEEN KUMAR, SM, VSM, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL MAJ GEN DEEPAK MEHRA, KC, VSM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN DINESH SINGH RANA, YSM, SM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN PRATIK SHARMA, SM, INFANTRY MAJ GEN SANJEEV CHAUHAN, YSM, INFANTRY <p>VIR CHAKRA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NB SUB NUDURAM SOREN, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV K PALANI, ARTILLERY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV TEJINDER SINGH, ARTILLERY NK DEEPAK SINGH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) SEP GURTEJ SINGH, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) <p>SHAURYA CHAKRA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> MAJ ANUJ SOOD, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS) RFN PRANAB JYOTI DAS, ASSAM RIFLES PTR SONAM TSHERING TAMANG, INFANTRY <p>YUDH SEVA MEDAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> MAJ GEN AMARDEEP SINGH AUJLA, SM, VSM, INFANTRY BRIG K RANJEEV SINGH, INFANTRY BRIG NAVEEN KUMAR NIJAWAN, INFANTRY BRIG AJAY KATOCH, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES BRIG ARINDAM SAHA, SM, INFANTRY COL VIKAS PRADHAN, INFANTRY COL RANDEEP KHARYAL, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES COL PRADEEP SINGH SAHAI, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES COL PRABHDEEP SINGH ATWAL, SM, INFANTRY COL PUNYABACHI MOHANTY, SM, INFANTRY COL ZORAWAR SINGH, INFANTRY <p>BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> COL ASHUTOSH SHARMA, SM**, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS) LT COL RAJKUMAR PALLAB GOHAIN, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ A SRINIVAS REDDY, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ MOHIT MALIK, SM, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES <p>SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> COL MOHIT THAPA, INFANTRY LT COL VIJAY KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES LT COL SURAJ BHAN SINGH, ARTILLERY LT COL SHANKAR PATI BANERJEE, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES LT COL SANDEEP KATOCH, ARMY AVIATION LT COL OINAM AKASH SINGH, INFANTRY LT COL NEERAJ KUMAR SINGH, INFANTRY LT COL VIRENDRA SINGH, ARMY AVIATION LT COL RAHUL OV, INFANTRY MAJ UDAY SINGH RANA, INFANTRY MAJ K SACHIN SINGHA, ARTILLERY MAJ LALIT MOHAN JOSHI, INFANTRY MAJ MANISH CHAHAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ DHARMINDER SINGH CHOUHAN, INFANTRY MAJ UTTAHAN SINGH PUNDIR, INFANTRY MAJ ROHIT DILIP BHOSALE, INFANTRY MAJ AVINASH PANDEY, INFANTRY MAJ RAHUL KUMAR MISHRA, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ RAHUL BALAKRISHNAN, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ AJAY KUMAR, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ PUNEET KUMAR, INFANTRY MAJ LATKAR PRITISH SATISH, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ SAIFUR RAHAMAN SK, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ VINOD KAPRI, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ ABHAY KATOCH, INFANTRY MAJ VINOD KUMAR, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ MUTHU VIGNESH M, INFANTRY MAJ MANJIT CHHAL, INFANTRY MAJ SIMRANPREET SINGH SEHGAL, ARMY SERVICE CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ D SOUZA CLIFF FRANCO, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ SUDHIR KUMAR, SIGNALS, ASSAM RIFLES MAJ RUPAM ROY, ARMY SERVICE CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES MAJ ADHIRAJ SINGH, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT NIRANJAN KUMAR, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT SAKET KUMAR SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT JAGTAJ JOHAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT VIGNESHWER RK, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT DAVIN SINGH MALIK, SIGNALS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES CAPT DIPAN GURUNG, SCOUTS CAPT MANISH KUMAR, INFANTRY CAPT RAHUL JHA, INFANTRY CAPT VISHAVDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> CAPT SUHAIL AHMAD, INFANTRY CAPT ARJUN DESHPANDE, INFANTRY CAPT HARI OM KUMAR, INFANTRY CAPT K BENJONGLUMBA CHANG, INFANTRY LT ROUNAQE SPARSH CHAUDHURI, ARTILLERY LT VIKRANT DAHYA, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS, SCOUTS LT VIKRANT SINGH RANAWAT, INFANTRY SUB YASH PAUL, INFANTRY SUB BHUPINDER SINGH THAKUR, INFANTRY SUB GUMAN SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES SUB KISHAN SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES SUB AMRENDRA SINGH PARMAR, INFANTRY SUB MIN BAHADUR GURUNG, INFANTRY NB SUB MANDIP SINGH, ARTILLERY (POSTHUMOUS) NB SUB SATNAM SINGH, ARTILLERY (POSTHUMOUS) NB SUB JAYA BAHADUR GURUNG, INFANTRY NB SUB NISAR AHMAD MIR, INFANTRY NB SUB SARJEET SINGH, INFANTRY NB SUB SONAM JORFALL, SCOUTS NB SUB HARINDER SINGH, ARTILLERY HAV DEVENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV MAHENDRA KUMAR TETARWAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES HAV VINAY KUMAR, INFANTRY HAV BIPUL ROY, SIGNALS (POSTHUMOUS) HAV RAKESH KUMAR, INFANTRY HAV RISHIPAL SINGH, INFANTRY HAV CHOUGULE JOTIBA GANAPATI, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV SUNIL KUMAR, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV SATISH KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES HAV TIKA RAJ GURUNG, INFANTRY HAV DIPAK KARKI, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS) HAV AMINUR IS

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA.
E-mail id : - sephsbp@yahoo.in / sephsbp@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SEPHSBP- 08 /2020-21 Dt. 20.01.2021

01. Number of Work : 10 nos.
02. Type of Bid : Two Bid system
03. Estimated Cost : Rs. 102.94 lakh to Rs. 267.44 lakh
04. Period of Completion : 3 (Three) to 4 (Four) Calendar Months
05. Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class.
06. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 Hrs. of dt. 28.01.2021 to 17.00 Hrs of 11.02.2021
07. Last date / time of seeking clarification : 17.00 Hrs of 03.02.2021
08. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 17.00 Hrs of 11.02.2021
09. Date & Time of opening of Technical bids : At 11.00 Hrs. of 12.02.2021
10. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, P.H. Circle, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po- Motjharan, Dist- Sambalpur-768 001.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **"http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
P.H. Circle, Sambalpur,
OIPR-13018/11/0007/2021

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CUM-DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
LATEHAR Ref no. :- 19 Date :-19-01-2021

EXPRESSION OF INTREST FOR :- Selection of Agency for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Solar Based Irrigation System for Promotion of Integrated Agriculture on Turnkey Basis in the Latehar district.

SL. NO	INFORMATION/SUBJECT	DETAIL
1	2	3
01	NAME OF WORK	Selection of Agency for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Solar Based Irrigation System for Promotion of Integrated Agriculture on Turnkey Basis in the Latehar district of Jharkhand.
02	DATE OF PUBLICATION OF BID	28-01-2021
03	EARNEST MONEY TO BE DEPOSITED	RS 1,00,000.00 (ONE LAC). The Bidder/Agency should deposit an Earnest Money (EMD) of Rs.1,00,000/- (One lac only) in form of DD must be drawn from a nationalized bank, in favour of "Deputy Commissioner, Latehar, payable at Latehar.
04	LAST DATE & TIME FOR BID SUBMISSION	17-02-2021, 05:00 pm
05	BID SUBMISSION PLACE	DEVELOPMENT SECTION, LATEHAR
06	DATE AND TIME FOR BID OPENING	18-02-2021, 03:00 pm
07	BID OPENING PLACE	CHAMBER OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, COLLECTORIATE BUILDING, LATEHAR
08	NAME AND OFFICE FOR INVITING EOI	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LATEHAR. COLLEGIATE BUILDING, LATEHAR.
09	HELPLINE NO. AND EMAIL ADDRESS	DDC, LATEHAR/dde- lat@nic.in/9431138603/7488236312

NOTE: - FOR FURTHER DETAIL PLEASE VISIT WWW.LATEHAR.NIC.IN

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LATEHAR.
PR 240221 Rural Development(20-21).D

SPECIAL TRAINS
In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following fully reserved Special Trains as per details given below:-

02751/02752 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Jammu Tawi - Hazur Sahib Nanded Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly)

Train No. 02751	STATIONS	Train No. 02752		
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
--	11:05	H. Sahib Nanded	15:50	--
10:10	10:25	New Delhi	17:05	17:20
23:05	--	Jammu Tawi	--	05:45

Days of Run: 02751 Ex Hazur Sahib Nanded from 29.01.2021 on (Friday) and 02752 Ex Jammu Tawi from 31.01.2021 on (Sunday) to till further advise.
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier
Stoppages: Purna Jn., Hingoli Deccan, Washim, Akola Jn., Malkapur, Itarsi Jn., Habibganj, Bina Jn., Jhansi Jn., Gwalior, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., New Delhi, Ambala Cantt., Patiala, Dhuri Jn., Malerkotla, Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt. and Pathankot Stations.

02781/02782 Tirupati - Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn. - Tirupati Superfast Special Express Train (Tri-Weekly)

Train No. 02781	STATIONS	Train No. 02782		
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
--	05:40	Tirupati	20:35	--
18:35	--	Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn.	--	05:20

Days of Run: 02781 Ex Tirupati from 03.02.2021 on (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) to till further advise and 02782 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn. from 05.02.2021 on (Wednesday, Friday & Sunday) to till further advise.
Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved 2nd seating.
Stoppages: Renigunta Jn., Cuddapah, Yerraguntla, Tadipatri, Dronachellam Jn., Kurnool City, Gadwal, Mahbubnagar, Kacheguda, Kazipet Jn., Ramagundam, Mancheral, Bellampalli, Sirpur Kagazhnagar, Balharshah, Nagpur, Bhopal & Jhansi Jn. Stations.

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

For any kind of Information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Please join us on   
204/2021

Visit RailMadad website:-
www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Always at your service
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

Serving Customers with a Smile

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 279 for 2020-21.
Letter No. 228/WE
Date: 21.01.2021

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender/ Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	
1	2	From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No.- 279	27.01.2021 at 11:00 A.M	11.02.2021 Up to 5.00 P.M.	10.02.2021 Up to 5.00 P.M.	12.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- E.P. K.Sahoo
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Circle, Balasore.
OIPR-25105/11/0014/2021

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Khanji Bhavan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Telangana, CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
Tender Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)/NISP/Maint/Inst/763 Dated:28.01.2021
NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for **Maintenance of Instrumentation Installation of RMHS, Cokeoven, By-product, Sinter Plant and respective auxiliaries for a period of 2 years for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagamar near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh State.**
For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. **NMDC/HO/103/20-21/ET/768**.
The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC website / CPP Portal / MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.
For further clarification, the following can be contacted:
Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No.-91-040-23534746, Tel.No.-91-040-23532800, email: steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in
Chief General Manager (Contracts)

MEGHALAYAN AGE LIMITED
(Govt Meghalaya Undertaking)

Request for Proposals
Meghalayan Age Limited (MAL), a Govt of Meghalaya undertaking invites Request for Proposals from eligible individuals for Individual Consultant for Project Management support to Meghalayan Age Limited.
Last date for Submission of the Proposal: on or before 27th February by 5:00 PM.
Details are available at www.mbdba.gov.in
All interested parties to keep themselves updated on any addendums through this website.
No further newspaper advertisements will be published.
Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below through registered post/speed post/ courier/ by hand/ email on or before 27th February 2021. Email id: meghalayanagelimited@gmail.com
Meghalayan Age Limited, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority C/o Meghalaya State Housing Financing & Cooperative Society Ltd., Upper Nongrim Hills, Shillong- 793003.Phone: 0364-2522921/2522992.
Sd/-
Chairman and Managing Director
Meghalayan Age Limited
MIPR No. 1694 dt. 27/1/2021

Govt. of Jharkhand Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development Department, Directorate of Employment and Training, Jharkhand, Ranchi

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Directorate of Employment and Training (DET), Department of Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development (DoLET&SD), Jharkhand, Ranchi inviting Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Project Management Consultant for providing Technical Assistance Support to Directorate of Employment and Training, Jharkhand, Ranchi for the World Bank Assisted Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)".
RFP Document can be downloaded from the website <http://niyojanprashikshan.nic.in>
The proposal shall be submitted in the format provided in the RFP document. The last date of submission is 04.03.2021 upto 12:30 P.M. at Dy. Director Training (HQ), Directorate of Employment and Training, Jharkhand, Ranchi Govt. of Jharkhand, Room No.-307, 3rd Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
The time schedule for the RFP is as follows:-

Sl.No.	Event Description	Date
1.	Issue of Tender/Bid Document	27.01.2021
2.	Sending prebid query by email	08.02.2021
3.	Prebid Meeting	09.02.2021 (12:30 P.M.)
4.	Publishing of prebid queries	12.02.2021
5.	Last date and time of bid submission	04.03.2021 (12:30 P.M.)
6.	Opening of Technical Bids	04.03.2021 (03:00 P.M.)
7.	Technical Presentation	04.03.2021 (04:00 P.M.)
8.	Commercial bid opening	To be announced later

Sd/-
Dy. Director Training (HQ)
Directorate of Employment and Training,
Jharkhand, Ranchi
PR 240172 (Labour Employment and Training)20-21"D

Government of Jharkhand Urban Development & Housing Department (Directorate of Municipal Administration)
JUPMI Building, 1st Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

Tender Notice
NIT No: DMA/06 Date: 27/01/2021

1.	Name of the Work	Selection of Firm/Agencies for Operation, Management and Maintenance of Shelter Homes for Urban Homeless in 5 clusters (41 ULBs and 79 Shelter Homes) of Jharkhand under Scheme of Shelters for Urban Homeless component of DAY - NULM.
2.	Tender Fee & EMD (In INR)	Tender Fee: Rs. 5000/- (Demand Draft - Non Refundable) EMD- Rs. 50,000/- (Demand Draft)
3.	Total time Period	36 Months (1095 days)
4.	Mode of Submission of Bids	Online Tender http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	28/01/2021 at 2:00 PM
6.	Last Date of submission of pre-bid queries	02/02/2021 till 05:00 PM, bidders must submit their queries through email only (director.ma.goj@gmail.com) in writing. Mail should contain Tender Reference no. and Tender Name in subject line.
7.	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	04/02/2021 at 03:00 PM (To address pre-bid queries submitted through email)
8.	Date and Time of Start of Submission of Bids	09/02/2021 From 11:00 AM
9.	Last Date/Time for submission of online Bids	18/02/2021 Up to 12:00 Noon
10.	Date of Technical Bid Opening (Online)	19/02/2021 at 12:00 Noon
11.	Tender Fee and EMD Submission Address	Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, JUPMI Building, 1st Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004 Land line- 06512401955
12.	Helpline no. of e-Procurement Cell	Note: Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Municipal Administration
PR.No.240169 Urban Development and Housing(20-21)D

NIA takes over probe into killing of Shaurya Chakra awardee in Punjab

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency Wednesday took over the probe into the killing of Shaurya Chakra recipient Balwinder Singh Sandhu in Punjab.

Sandhu, known for fighting

milnaty in Punjab, was gunned down at his home in Tarn Taran district's Bhikhiwind by two unidentified bikers on October 16. The attack took place months after the 62-year-old's security cover was removed by the state government. Sandhu's family termed the killing a terror attack, and blamed it on the decision to remove his security.

executed under a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan based Khalistani Terrorist Lakvir Singh Rode and his handlers in Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI. The killing of Comrade Balwinder Singh was executed through Sukhmeet Pal Singh alias Sukh Bhikariwal r/o village Bhikariwal, Kalanaur, District Gurdaspur, a gangster turned terrorist," NIA said in a statement.

In November, the Tarn Taran police had arrested eight persons in the case. But in December, the Delhi Police Special Cell arrested five suspected members of a banned terrorist group following a brief exchange of fire in East

Delhi's Shakarpur. While two were from Punjab, three belonged to Kashmir.

The two accused from Punjab were said to be associates of dreaded gangster Sukhmeet Singh, alias Sukh Bhikariwal, and were allegedly involved in the killing of Sandhu, a former CPI(M) member.

Police had then said they were working on the directions of Khalistan movement leaders sponsored by Pakistan's ISI and had allegedly killed Sandhu on their orders.

The two men were allegedly planning targeted killings in various north Indian states and the

police seized weapons, drugs, and other incriminating materials from their possession.

ANJU BOBBY SPORTS FOUNDATION
B12, GoodEarth Orchard, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560060

TENDER NOTICE
The Chairperson of Anju Bobby Sports Foundation (ABSF) invites item rate tenders in two-bid system from specialised Indian agencies for the following work.
NIT No: ABSF-20-21/001. Construction of **400 metre 8 lane Sandwich Type Synthetic Athletics Track** (World Athletics Class II certified, Class 1 category field tested) for Anju Bobby Sports Foundation at Sy.No 92, Kambipura, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560074.
Estimated Tender Value: INR. 5,25,00,000 (Rupees Five Crores Twenty Five Lacs Only). **Last Date** for Submission of Technical & Price bid: **3:00pm, 16th Feb 2021**.
Tender documents can be obtained from the Operations Office of ABSF at **Confluence Club**, GoodEarth Mallar, Kambipura, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560074 from 10am to 5pm on weekdays upon payment of INR. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) in Demand Draft or bankers Cheque in favour of "Anju Bobby Sports Foundation".
Email: anjubobbysf@gmail.com | Phone: +91-72594-36280

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Liner, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Single Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Supply and fixing of various types of electrical works during IOH/POH & Major repair at TMMD/TKD, LKO, KKDE & BTI and rectification & fault rectification of track machines at TMMDs & worksites all over Northern Railway under the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMCL/NDLS for a period of two years.
2. Completion period of the work	Two Years
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,22,45,371/- (Rs. One Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousands Three Hundred and Seventy One only)
4. Cost of Tender Document	Nil
5. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Nil. However, the tenderer has to mandatorily submit Bid Security Declaration Performa to get this exemption of submission of EMD (i.e. ANNEXURE-XXVII of tender document)
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15:00 hrs on 26.02.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 26.02.2021 .
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Document is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.02.2021 to 26.02.2021 . The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (If already not obtained) Issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board at the above office.
Tender Notice No.: 1-W-DyCETMCL-EW-09-20-21 Dated: 27.01.2021 201/2021	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice
L.No. JHS-ELG-W-T-18-2020-21 Date: 21.01.2021

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen), North Central Railway Jhansi invites open tenders through online (**E-Tendering**) for the following work.

Tender No.	Description of work
JHS-ELG-W-T-18-2020-21	Electrical work for: Part-A: BZM: Proposal for improvement of Goods platform at Bhimsen by release RCC sleepers. Part-B: Improvement to surface in DAA goods shed & other associated works. Part-C: Construction of RPF Post at Morena & Bhind station in ADEN/GWL, sub division. Part-D: Provision of first FOB with ramp at Karari, Dhaura, Orcha, Barwasagar, Khairi, singpurdumra, khurand & additional FOB with ramp at Jhansi stations (Only 08 stations). Part-E: JHS-East-Water supply connection from under ground water tank at JHS.

Tender value: ₹ 51,05,763/- only Earnest money: ₹ 0/- Cost of tender document: ₹ 0/- Closing date of tender: 19.02.2021 (upto 15:00 Hrs.) Completion period: 06 months. Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 19.02.2021 (upto 15:00 Hrs.) Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 94/21(D)

 North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in  @ CPRONCR

कार्यालय, निबंधक, सहयोग समितियाँ, झारखण्ड, राँची
(आई०सी०डी०पी० कोषांग, राँची)

अल्पकालीन पुर्न निविदा सूचना
कृषि, पशुपालन एवं सहकारिता विभाग (सहकारिता प्रभाग) झारखण्ड, राँची के अन्तर्गत राँची, खूंटी, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ एवं पश्चिम सिंहभूम (चाईबासा) जिला मे समकित सहकारी विकास परियोजना (आई०सी०डी०पी०) के क्रियान्वयन हेतु विस्तृत परियोजना प्रतिवेदन (डी०पी०आर०) तैयार किया जाना है। उक्त जिला मे विस्तृत परियोजना प्रतिवेदन (डी०पी०आर०) तैयार करने हेतु योग्य निविदादाता एजेंसी / संस्था से दिनांक 18.02.2021 के पूर्वान्हन 02:00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा दिनांक 18.02.2021 को अपराहन 03:00 बजे निविदादाता या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष निबंधक, सहयोग समितियाँ, झारखण्ड, राँची की अध्यक्षता मे गठित निविदा समिति की बैठक मे खोला जाएगा। निविदा सम्बन्धित विवरणी निम्न प्रकार है :-

क्र०सं०	निविदा विवरणी	सम्बन्धित जिला का नाम	अधिकतम निर्धारित राशि	अभियुक्ति
01.	प्रस्तावित समकित सहकारी विकास परियोजना (आई०सी०डी०पी०) का विस्तृत परियोजना प्रतिवेदन (D.P.R.) तैयार करना।	राँची, खूंटी, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ एवं पश्चिम सिंहभूम (चाईबासा)	4,00,000/- प्रति जिला (अधिकतम प्रति जिला चार लाख रुपया जी०एस०टी० सहित निर्धारित)	

ह०/-
उप-निबंधक,
सहयोग समितियाँ - सह - राज्य अनुश्रवण पदाधिकारी
समकित सहकारी विकास परियोजना कोषांग, राँची



PR 240166 Co-opretive (20-21)_D

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from Reputed firm/Agency/ Manufacturers fulfilling registration criteria.

System	Tender No./ No. of call	Work	Probable Amount	Completion Period	Purchase start date and End date	Date of Bid Sub-mission	Date of Tender opening
2021-MPHD-125059-1 1st Call		Building Extension work at Saman High School, Saman, Bawa (M.P.)	PAC-Rs. 65.00 Lacs Cost of Form- 10000/- GST-1800/- Total-11800/- EMD-36000/-	15 (Fifteen) Months I/C rainy Season	25.01.2021 10.30 A.M., and 16.02.2021 17.30 Hrs.	17.02.2021 17.30 Hrs.	19.02.2021 10.30 A.M.
2021-MPHD-125059-1 1st Call		Building Extension work at Sudarshan Kumar's Onis H.S. School, Bawa (M.P.)	PAC-Rs. 157.94 Lacs Cost of Form-12500/- GST-2250/- Total-14750/- EMD-157940/-	18 (Eighteen) Months I/C rainy Season	25.01.2021 10.30 A.M., and 16.02.2021 17.30 Hrs.	17.02.2021 17.30 Hrs.	19.02.2021 11.30 A.M.

1. Interested bidder can view the detailed NIT on website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>
2. The bid document can be purchased online only from (25.01.2021, 10.30 hrs. to 16.02.2021, 17.30 hrs.)
3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
Note : Tender related documents as per tender form are to be submitted online in the e-procurement portal as per key dates.
Visit us : www.mphousing.in
E-mail : eednhdbrwa@mp.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/99716/2021

 /mphiddb  /mphiddb

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DIVISION REWA, Ph. No. 9406912003

जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक छिलई नहीं।

police seized weapons, drugs, and other incriminating materials from their possession.

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
Dr. Y.S.R. Vidyut Soudha,
Corporate office, Besides Govt Polytechnic college, ITI Road, Vijayawada - 520 003

BID No: CGMP/PROJWB/LW/ENCB-11/2020-21 Dt: 28.01.2021
Bids through procure.ap.gov.in are invited from eligible bidders for extension of 3 Phase supply to 59 Nos Left Wing Extension (LWE) affected Villages in Guntur District of AP/CPDCL by erecting 11KV Lines 3 Phase Distribution Transformers and connected Lines on Turnkey basis. The information will be made available in CPP portal from 01.02.2021, 18.00 Hrs onwards.
Last date for bid submission online: 25.02.2021, 15:00 Hrs.
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR
APCPDCL - VIJAYAWADA

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Tenders are invited for supply of M.S. Forged Pins for 11 KV Pin Insulator (TN-1670) (UBN JVV2021GLOB00286), Galvanised Steel Stay Wire of Sizes 7/10 SWG (TN-1672) (UBN JVV2021GLOB00288), Line DP Sets for 33 KV & 11 KV (TN-1690) (UBN JVV2021GLOB00285).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.jdvvn.com and also at <http://spppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.
Raj.Samwadi/CD/2019173
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender No.: 24-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated 27.01.2021
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1. Name of work with its location	Outsourcing of PSI maintenance activity of 25 KV A Traction system over Delhi Division for a period of Two Years.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 5,27,24,605.76/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 0/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	08.02.2021 (00.00 Hrs.) to 22.02.2021 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	22.02.2021 (15.00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.treps.gov.in
205/21	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender Notice No. 61 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
1. Tender No. 24-DDU-DEN-HQ-20-21. Name of work with its location : Proposed S&T building near ECR at DDU under ADEN/HQ/DDU. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 77,01,731.79
2. Tender No. 25-DDU-DEN-HQ-20-21. Name of work with its location : GIS mapping and GIS/GPS survey by hand held devices in DDU Division under ADEN/HQ/DDU. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 21,47,746.79
Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender : 18.02.2021, Up-to 12.00 hrs. Website particulars of e-tendering : www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager/ ECR/PR, Deen Dayal Upadhyay PR/01349/DDU/Engg./T/20-21/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY e-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-
S.No. (1) e-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-C-S- ETEN -31 -20-21, Name of work : Construction of 3 nos Subway in lieu of existing level crossing no 21/C, 22/C & 23/C, in Between Gaya - Son Nagar section of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : 33,27,73,255.69, Cost of tender form in (Rs.) : 0.00, Earnest money in (Rs.) : 0.00, Period of work completion : 24 (Twenty Four) Months, Date and time for closing of tender : 15.02.2021 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only.
CAO/Con/South/MMX, Patna PR/1351/CONS/ENG/7/20-21/44

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Police clash with teachers in Agartala. PTI

TRIPURA Protesting teachers clash with police, many injured

Agartala: A demonstration by teachers demanding permanent jobs turned violent on Wednesday, with police fired water cannons at the protestors, burst tear gas shells and lathi-charged them following clashes between both sides. IGP (Law and Order) Arindam Nath said, "There were apprehensions of law and order deteriorations or that they could disrupt essential services." CPI(M) leader Bijan Dhar posted on Facebook, "We condemn the barbaric attack on peaceful demonstration... We demand to release them immediately and accept their demand of reinstating in government service." However, Tripura BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharjee claimed that a section of the protestors were acting at the behest of the opposition and "created" the clash with police. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA Financing fraud: Dilip Chhabria's sister arrested

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police on Wednesday arrested the sister of celebrity car designer Dilip Chhabria in connection with the cheating complaint given by comedian Kapil Sharma. An officer said that they had been on the lookout for Kanchan Chhabria, who was also involved in running the Dilip Chhabria Designs Private limited (DCDPL) company that was owned by Dilip. "We had a tip off that Kanchan was at a popular eatery in south Mumbai following which our team reached there and arrested her," an officer said. The officer said that she will be produced before the court on Thursday. **ENS**

JAMMU & KASHMIR BJP issues notice to leader for misconduct

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP unit Wednesday issued a show cause notice to Wasim Kohli, son of former cabinet minister Abdul Ghani Kohli, for "anti-party activities" that allegedly resulted in the defeat of a party candidate at the hands of the NC nominee in Kalakote during the District Development Council elections. **ENS**

BIHAR RJD ex-MP Sitaram Yadav, joins BJP

Patna: The RJD on Wednesday suffered a setback, with former Sitamarhi MP Sitaram Yadav and over a dozen Yadav leaders from different opposition parties joining the BJP in presence of Bihar party in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and state BJP president Dr Sanjay Jaiswal. After he joined, Bhupendra Yadav said, "Our party would only get stronger with presence of leaders like Sitaram Yadav." **ENS**

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINS TODAY

JD(S) eyes Chairman post, BJP looks to tighten Council grip

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 27

THE BJP government in Karnataka is set to renew efforts to gain control of the legislative council in the state legislature when it convenes on Thursday. Its prospects have received a boost with the opposition JD(S) offering support on the condition that its senior leader Basavaraj Horatti is made council Chairman.

The BJP needs the support of the JD(S) to oust current Chairman K Prathapchandra Shetty against whom the party has moved a fresh no-confidence motion after an earlier motion taken up in the winter session – amid confusion over JD(S) support for it – was rejected by the Chairman on the grounds that it not in order.

The BJP has 31 members in the 75-member Upper House while the Congress has 29 (including Chairman) and the JD(S) 13 – following the death of

Deputy Chairman S L Dharmegowda last month. The council has one Independent member. The Congress has been in control of the council in alliance with the JD(S) since 2018.

Since the BJP came to power, the JD(S) has shown inclination to support it in an issue-based manner and at the end of the winter session all 14 of its MLCs had given a letter to the secretary of the legislative council expressing support for the no-confidence motion against the Chairman.

On Wednesday, Horatti, who is also the JD(S) leader in the council, indicated that talks were on between his party and the BJP for an alliance in the council on the grounds that the Chairman's position is given to him.

"I had a meeting with the Chief Minister yesterday. Our 13 MLCs, party leaders H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy have held discussions. We have decided to ask for the council Chairman's post and to support them (BJP) for the Deputy

Chairman's post," said Horatti, a former Chairman of the House. "I am a senior member in the House and there is general opinion among everyone that I should be made Chairman. We are asking for the post."

The BJP is most likely to accept the offer as it needs a hold in the council. It needs the JD(S) support in the council to push through legislation on its agenda such as the Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, 2020, which was not tabled in the winter session, and new labour laws defeated in the monsoon session by the Congress-JD(S) combine.

The JD(S), however, supported the BJP in passing a land reforms amendment law in December in the council.

The winter session of the council ended in pandemonium after the BJP government got the Governor to direct council chairman Shetty to reconvene a legislature session – with the express purpose of ousting him. This was a few days after the

winter session had been adjourned sine die by the chairman after rejecting a no-confidence moved by the BJP members.

The council witnessed unruly scenes with BJP members locking the chairman out of the house and getting deputy chairman Dharmegowda of the JD(S) to occupy the chairman's seat. Dharmegowda was pulled out of the chair by Congress legislators before the chairman was allowed to enter the House and adjourn the proceedings sine die.

While the BJP and JD(S) were finalising strategies for a tie-up in the council – with the chairman's post going to the Horatti – Dharmegowda committed suicide on December 28, citing among other things the insult he suffered in the council.

In the absence of a deputy chairman to conduct proceedings – in the event of the no-confidence motion against the chairman being taken up – the House will have to elect a deputy chairman first, council officials have indicated.

SC stays arrest of BSY, former minister in corruption case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

IN A relief to Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and former minister for industries Murugesh Nirani, the Supreme Court Wednesday protected them from arrest in a case pertaining to alleged forgery over withdrawal of approval for a parcel of land in the state.

The top court however refused to stay the January 5 order of Karnataka High Court, by which it had allowed restoration of the criminal complaint against the Yediyurappa.

"You (Yediyurappa) are a sitting Chief Minister. Who can issue arrest warrant against you," the top court observed.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, which issued notices to complainants, one A Alam Pasha and others, in the case agreed to examine the pleas of Yediyurappa and Nirani challenging the order of the high court restoring the complaint.

"Issue notice. There shall be stay of arrest in the meantime," the bench said in its order.

'NO SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT'

SC stays HC order acquitting man under POCSO Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday stayed the Bombay High Court order acquitting a man of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on the ground that groping a child over her clothes without direct "skin to skin" physical contact does not constitute the offence under the Act. The court had instead convicted the man under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde stayed the acquittal after Attorney General K K Venugopal brought the matter to the court's notice and said it is "unprecedented" and is likely to "set a dangerous precedent".

"It is a very disturbing conclusion," the A-G told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian. Urging the court to take suo motu notice, Venugopal said he will file a petition on Thursday.

Allowing the A-G's request, the court stayed the acquittal un-

der Section 8 of POCSO Act and issued notice to the accused. Section 8 of the POCSO Act provides for a sentence of rigorous imprisonment of three to five years.

On January 12, the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court, modified the ruling of a sessions court, which convicted 39-year-old Bandu Ragde under Section 8 of the POCSO Act and sentenced him to three years in jail. The high court convicted him under Section 354 of the IPC, which deals with assault or use of criminal force to any woman with an intent to outrage her modesty, and sentenced him to one year in jail.

"...It is not the case of the prosecution that the appellant removed her top and pressed her breast. As such, there is no direct physical contact i.e. skin to skin with sexual intent without penetration," the court said, acquitting the accused under Section 8 of POCSO Act.

The high court also held the accused guilty under Section 342 of the IPC for wrongful confinement of the prosecutrix. The sentences were to run concurrently.

Odisha man dies after vaccine, Health Ministry says unrelated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A SECURITY guard at Odisha's Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital died Tuesday, three days after being administered the Covid-19 vaccine, with the Health Ministry maintaining that his death was unrelated to the inoculation.

"Total 9 deaths have been reported so far. None of these deaths have been causally linked with COVID-19 vaccination. In the last 24 hours, one person aged 23 years, a resident of Odisha has died. The post-mortem report is awaited," the ministry said.

Nanikaram Keunt's family said he complained of nausea on Monday while on duty and was admitted to the hospital he same evening. The 27-year-old was then referred to a hospital in Sambalpur as his health deteriorated. He died on Tuesday night.

Keunt's brother said: "He had informed us that he was feeling a bit uneasy after the vaccination... Late in the evening we were informed he was unwell and was shifted to Sambalpur. He was not suffering from any disease and was healthy prior to the vaccine. We demand his death be properly investigated."

The Odisha Health Department stated the death is unrelated to the vaccination.

"One 27-year-old male from Nuapada district died in VIMSAR, Burla this morning with provisional diagnosis of bleeding disorder with severe anaemia and intracerebral haemorrhage," it said. "However, as per medical inquiry, the cause of death is not related to COVID vaccination."

Nuapada Chief District Medical Officer Kaliprasad Behera

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS (JAN 27)
2,99,299

Total: 23,28,779

NUMBER OF ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER IMMUNIZATION
123

Total: 1,772

331
DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 10,689,527

ACTIVE CASES: 1,76,498
DEATHS: 1,53,724

TESTS: 193,613,120 **RECOVERIES: 10,359,305**

	CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
JAN 26	12,689	137	13,320	5,50,426

	STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES	
	CASES (JAN 26)	TOTAL
Kerala	6,293	8,99,933
Maharashtra	2,405	2,013,353
Karnataka	529	9,36,955

	STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS	
	DEATHS (JAN 26)	TOTAL
Maharashtra	49	52,092
Kerala	19	3,691
Chhattisgarh	14	3,644

Data as on January 26, 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

also denied the death was due to an "Adverse Event Following Immunization" (AEFI). "When he was admitted, his White Blood Cell count had fallen and platelet count was high. We are still awaiting his post mortem report, but as per preliminary investigations, he died due to intracerebral haemorrhage," Behera said.

So far, Odisha has reported

four cases of AEFI since the initiation of the vaccination drive in the state. All are stable right now.

The Health Ministry said that in the last 24 hours, one person suffering from "bacterial sepsis" has been hospitalized at Apollo Hospital, Chennai.

"No case of serious/severe AEFI/Death attributable to vaccination till date," it said.

SETS TONE FOR KERALA CAMPAIGN

UDF does not represent secular values: CPM-led LDF

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 27

THE RULING CPI(M)-led LDF alliance in Kerala on Wednesday set the tone of its campaign for the coming Assembly elections, saying the Congress-led UDF is attempting to forge an alliance with religious fundamentalists.

After a meeting of the LDF allies, its convener and CPI(M) state secretary A Vijayaraghavan said: "The Congress is being led by Indian Union Muslim League [the second leading partner in UDF]. Congress wants to make stronger the electoral understanding the UDF has made with religious fundamentalist outfits. At the same time, they are also planning for a deal with the BJP."

He said a major development of the day is the visit of senior Congress leaders Omomen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala to Panakkad – the hometown of



LDF is planning rallies across Kerala in February. File

IUML state president Sayed Hyderali Shihab Thangal. "The message of the visit is very clear. It indicates that the Congress leaders have reduced the party agenda to strengthen its alliance with religion-based forces. The UDF does not represent secular values. They are also going for an electoral understanding with the BJP. In the local body elections, we have seen Congress leaders urg-

ing people to vote for the BJP symbol. The LDF would start a massive campaign against this political approach of the UDF," said Vijayaraghavan.

The LDF convener has set the tone of the election campaign as the ruling front is planning two regional political rallies across Kerala from the second week of February. The rallies are envisaged to activate the party ma-

chinery for the elections.

"Our campaign would be mainly based on developmental initiatives of the LDF government and agenda of protecting secularism. UDF cannot politically face the people. They have no qualms to solicit votes for religious fundamentalists," said Vijayaraghavan.

In the recently-held local body elections, which saw the LDF making gains, the CPI(M) had played to hilt the UDF alliance with Welfare Party of India, the political outfit of right wing Jamaat-e-Islami. The Congress later admitted that the tie-up contributed to its poor show in the civic body elections.

Subsequently, the Congress has pushed UDF convener M M Hassan, who forged the deal with the Welfare Party of India, to the backburner of the front's political deliberations. The party has also openly stated that it would not go for any alliance with the Welfare Party of India. Christian community, tradi-

tionally pro-Congress, have also been critical about the UDF alliance with Welfare Party of India and saw the IUML as a bridge with right-wing Islamic groups.

To retain the political tempo of the local body elections, the CPI(M) continued to attack the UDF over the alleged dominance of IUML in the front. That campaign gained further ground after IUML MP P K Kunhalikutty decided to return to state politics. Besides, the IUML is set to demand more seats from the UDF in the elections, a move which would serve another opportunity for CPI(M) to buttress its argument that IUML is calling the shots.

PK Firoz, general secretary of Youth League, the youth wing of IUML, said the CPI(M) agenda is to communalise the elections and this would only help the BJP. "The CPI(M) may be able to win a few seats in the elections by creating Islam phobia. But in the long run that would help on BJP," he said.

Cong leaders file police complaints against Arnab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

CONGRESS LEADERS in Mumbai on Wednesday gave a written complaint against Republic Media editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami to the Santa Nagar police station in Kandivali. Another complaint was given against the TV anchor at Nirmalnagar police station Bandra east.

The complaints sought registration of an FIR against Goswami over purported WhatsApp chats between him and former BARC CEO Partho Dasgupta where he is alleged to have told Dasgupta about a 2019 airstrike planned by the Indian Air Force in Balakot.

Congress leader Sachin Sawant who submitted the com-

plaint later tweeted, "Officially Filed complaint at Kandivali's Samtanagar police stn with ACP Mohite & Senior PI Hake against Arnab Goswami demanding his immediate arrest for breaching Section 5 of OSA & investigate. It needs to be known as to Who gave him info regarding Balakot strike?"

An officer from the Samta Nagar police station confirmed receipt of the complaint. The chats between Dasgupta and Goswami are part of the chargesheet submitted by the Mumbai police in connection with the TRP case in which Dasgupta along with 14 others have been charged. Dasgupta is currently behind bars.

The Nirmal Nagar complaint was given by Congress MLA Zeeshan Siddique.



Varavara Rao

have dementia. However, we do not rule out dementia completely."

The court pointed out that Rao's earlier reports by JJ Hospital and St George Hospital issued last year had mentioned dementia, brain atrophy or shrinkage of the brain. ASG Singh submitted that the earlier reports noting dementia were discussions among doctors to check for dementia and delirium.

The HC said, "See the list of medicines you (authorities) are giving him every day. He is sustaining on those. So, it means he is under continuous medical support. Just see how many tablets he takes in a day."

To which, ASG Singh responded, "Most of these pills are age-related..."

However, senior counsel Anand Grover representing the petitioner opposed NIA's submissions and said that no question of shifting Rao to JJ Hospital arises as the hospital is 'hotbed of infections' and might lead to relapse in Rao's health conditions.

The court sought fresh medical report from Nanavati Hospital on Rao's condition by Thursday morning and adjourned hearing on his bail plea to January 28 afternoon.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The pandemic plateau

Observations from CSIR’s nationwide survey provide grounds for cautious optimism — the worst may be behind us. But it is still important to keep wearing masks, avoid crowded indoor spaces



SHEKHAR C MANDE
AND ANURAG AGRAWAL

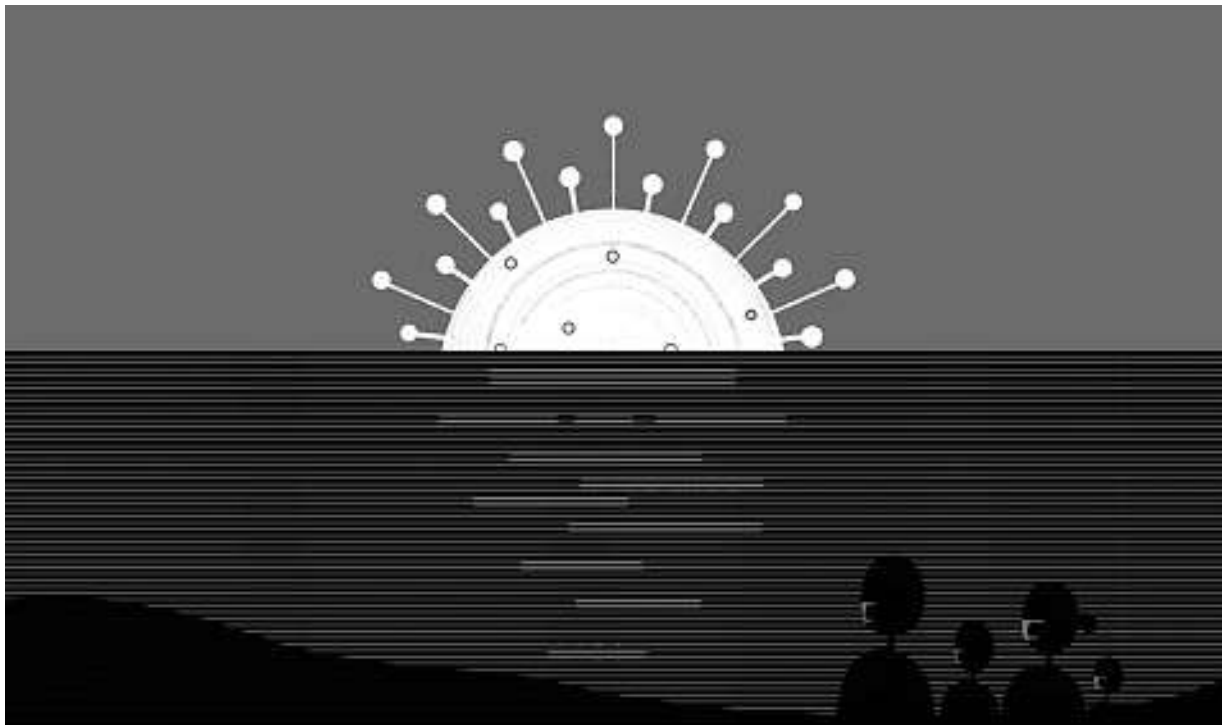
THE LAST year has been among the most disruptive in mankind’s recent history. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which broke out about a year ago, has tested many governments as to their abilities to deal with extraordinary emergency situations rapidly. Moreover, it has also tested the abilities of the scientific community in terms of mitigating the situation and finding solutions at an unprecedented speed.

One of the important aspects of this pandemic is that an infected person can transmit the infection to others in the community in the pre-symptomatic but infectious stage. While the disease is severe or fatal in only a few, its spread in the community happens at a much higher rate than we know. The most striking evidence for this difference comes from serosurveys, where we test people for the presence of SARS-CoV2-specific antibodies — a reliable marker of infection and recovery.

In India, the first serosurvey was conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research in May 2020. This survey showed less than 1 per cent positivity. The lockdown had substantially contained the spread of the disease. Subsequently, with the unavoidable lifting of the lockdown, the disease started to spread. The serosurveys carried out later in highly-affected cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Pune showed as high as 20-40 per cent population being affected, far greater than the known number of cases. It suggested that due to the emergence of large pools of recovered people with immunity, though we were far from herd immunity, outbreaks could become less severe after initial large waves.

Beyond these local surveys, it was important to understand the spread of the disease across the country in this intervening period. So, we decided to leverage the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and its 37 constituent laboratories and centres, which are spread all over the country and represent a wide range of ethnicities, geo-social habitats and occupational exposures, towards creating a cohort. The CSIR cohort includes permanent staff, families of staff members, students and temporary employees providing support services such as security, sanitation, house-keeping, etc. This is a diverse microcosm of India, encompassing multiple socioeconomic groups and has the advantage of permitting deeper assessments. Results from phase 1 of this longitudinal study covering the critical period of August to September 2020 were reported by CSIR recently.

In all, CSIR studied 10,427 adults out of which 1,058 people showed the presence of antibodies to one of the virus proteins. Interestingly, more than three-fourths of them had no recall of any symptoms whatsoever. This positivity rate of 10.1 per cent is a crude rate and the true rate could be higher as many asymptomatic infections do not lead to antibody formation. The survey also showed high seropositivity in densely-populated big cities compared to less densely-populated regions. This was expected since the pandemic in India,



CR Sasikumar

as anywhere else in the world, originated in bigger cities with large numbers of travellers, and subsequently penetrated the community.

In regions where CSIR laboratories had 10 per cent or greater seropositivity, new cases seemed to be plateauing or declining. In hindsight, future outbreaks were seen in regions where seropositivity was low (less than 5 per cent). If the seropositivity of 10 per cent in CSIR laboratories were to be extrapolated for India, it would mean over a hundred million people had been infected and recovered by September 2020. Most of these would be in densely-populated urban areas. Since this group is likely to contain people with high exposures and contact with others, the ability of the virus to spread would be reduced since they would be difficult to reinfect. Indeed, the decline in the number of cases across India after October appears to support this.

Another interesting finding of the CSIR study was that the odds of a person being seropositive doubled if they were either using public transport or working in jobs such as security, sanitation, housekeeping, etc, where the interaction with other people is greater. The CSIR study had also collected careful background data about the different habits of people in order to correlate the risks of contracting the virus, and if this had any bearing on the spread of the disease. If any correlation were to emerge, it was also clear that correlations of habits of people may or may not have bearing on causation of the disease.

We further noted many interesting, thought-provoking facts.

We found that smokers were less likely to be seropositive, as were vegetarian or those with O blood group. This may be due to one or more of three reasons. First, they may be less likely to get infected. Second, they may get infected but fail to make antibodies. Third, they may quickly lose such antibodies. While there is some global evidence that smokers are less susceptible to catching the infection, if infected, they may develop more severe illness, especially those with lung disease. Moreover, smoking is known to be strongly correlated to many other diseases, including cancers, and should not be seen as a protective. It is carefully noted that our findings are

In regions where CSIR laboratories had 10 per cent or greater seropositivity, new cases seemed to be plateauing or declining. In hindsight, future outbreaks were seen in regions where seropositivity was low (less than 5 per cent). If the seropositivity of 10 per cent in CSIR laboratories were to be extrapolated for India, it would mean over a hundred million people had been infected and recovered by September 2020. Most of these would be in densely-populated urban areas. Since this group is likely to contain people with high exposures and contact with others, the ability of the virus to spread would be reduced since they would be difficult to reinfect. Indeed, the decline in the number of cases across India after October appears to support this.

only associations, not causal links, needing to be explored further.

The other important finding from the CSIR cohort was the ability to measure antibodies at different points of time in the same person. An interesting finding was that general antibodies were increasing at three months and remained positive at six months. To understand whether these antibodies meant immunity, an assay was performed that mimics the ability to block virus entry into cells in a test tube — what is called as the neutralising assay. While imperfect, it is a useful surrogate for the ability of the patient’s blood to neutralise the virus. Such neutralisation activity was seen to have declined but was still positive at six months.

The study helped in understanding the trajectory of infections in India. The study indicates that with the pool of recovered people, with immunity to reinfection, we might get close to scenarios where the total immune fraction is high enough to reduce outbreaks by large amounts.

And what do the findings mean? Although this study is yet to be peer-reviewed, the observations are reassuring — the worst might possibly be behind us. Total infections must have grown further from August-September 2020 when our survey was done. A higher fraction of asymptomatic infections and recovery with immunity should have created pools of immune people in our big cities that were most affected. However, this may not yet have happened everywhere and caution must still be maintained. It also appears that a higher fraction of Indians has asymptomatic infections as compared to the West. The reasons for this difference are not clear and need exploration. Finally, it is important to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks, avoiding crowded indoor spaces. We may have slowed down the virus spread, but many of us are still at risk. Hopefully, with the vaccination drive, this number will keep shrinking.

Mande is Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and Secretary, DSIR. Agrawal is Director, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, CSIR

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Putin’s real problem is not his jailed opponent, but the Russian people whose dissatisfaction he harnesses. Their daily experiences do as much to erode the Kremlin’s authority as Alexei Navalny’s viral videos.” — THE GUARDIAN

Between vaccine and victory

People’s reluctance to take the shots could be a key hindrance in achieving herd immunity sooner



SANTANU PRAMANIK
AND SONALDE DESAI

AS THE nation begins its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive vaccine rollout, the entire focus is on identifying the priority groups, the logistics of vaccine distribution, and whether the vaccine is a private or public good. The fact that people’s willingness to take vaccines might play a major role in ensuring that herd immunity is achieved for life to get back to normal is not fully acknowledged.

The Delhi-NCR Coronavirus Telephone Survey-round 4 (DCVTS-4), administered between December 23, 2020, and January 4, 2021, provides some evidence of vaccine hesitancy. The DCVTS-4, conducted by the NCAER National Data Innovation Centre, resurveyed randomly selected households contacted in the earlier rounds of DCVTS from Delhi-NCR — this includes Delhi as well as rural and urban areas from selected districts of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

DCVTS-4 asked its respondents, “In a few months if vaccines were to be available to prevent COVID, will you be willing to take it?” The findings show that about 20 per cent respondents are certain about not taking the vaccine, with significant rural (22.4 per cent) and urban (17.5 per cent) differences being observed. An additional 4 per cent mentioned that they will not take it as they were already infected. Another 15 per cent are unsure about taking the vaccine. Combining all these three categories, one can argue that at this point, vaccine hesitancy is quite high (39 per cent).

No significant association was observed between age, gender of respondent and vaccine hesitancy. The less educated (0-4 years of education) are more hesitant to take the vaccines (52 per cent). Even after adjusting for education, Muslims and Scheduled Caste respondents are significantly more likely to register hesitancy in getting vaccinated. Hesitancy among minority groups is also seen in other countries. A recent PEW poll in the US found that while 61 per cent of White respondents would definitely or probably get vaccinated, only 42 per cent of Black respondents would. Improved trust in vaccine development and approval process, as well as the overall trust in government health systems, may play an important role in reducing vaccine hesitancy.

The development, testing and approval of COVID-19 vaccines have been achieved within record time. On the one hand, this is an unprecedented achievement, but on the other, it might lead to vaccine hesitancy due to concerns regarding compliance, protocols and approval process.

Evidence of vaccine efficacy is the key in any vaccine approval process. Efficacy is defined as the percentage reduction in disease between participants who were vaccinated and those who received placebo in a randomised controlled trial set-up.

Efficacy data of the sister vaccines of Covishield came from four ongoing blinded, randomised, controlled trials done across the UK, Brazil, and South Africa which were published in the general medical journal *The Lancet* on December 8. Between April 23 and November 4, 2020, roughly 24,000 participants were enrolled for an evaluation of the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of this vaccine and data from more than 11,000 participants was included in the interim efficacy analysis. The overall efficacy of the vaccine was found to be around 70 per cent, which is above the WHO recommended threshold of 50 per cent. Approval of Covishield in India is based on these results as well as safety and immunogenicity data from the Covishield phase 2 clinical trial in India led by SII.

For Covaxin, Bharat Biotech undertook a large phase 3 clinical trial involving roughly 26,000 participants across 26 sites in India to assess its safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy. However, no efficacy data from this trial was available for approving the vaccine as the phase 3 trial started only in mid-November. A phase 2 trial of Covaxin involving 380 participants found tolerable safety outcomes and enhanced immune responses. However, the results from the phase 2 trial do not permit efficacy assessments.

The effect of any vaccine on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic is complex and there are many potential scenarios after mass vaccination starts. Clinical trials, particularly those conducted within an expedited timeframe, do not allow us to fully evaluate the ability of a vaccine to protect against severe disease and prevent death. Moreover, side-effects in specific populations may only emerge once mass vaccination starts with a larger sample size under real-life conditions for all individuals, without any exclusion criteria. Hence, it is crucial that the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with other research organisations, continue doing post-marketing surveillance studies of vaccine effectiveness and monitor the side effects over a longer period.

Vaccine hesitancy cannot be addressed by pharmaceutical companies alone: Governments and health policymakers need to play a proactive role in promoting vaccination by educating the public and implementing policies that take care of health and financial risks associated with adverse events following vaccination. Health providers will need to be trained in responding to questions and identifying and treating potential side-effects. People will need to understand where and when to go for vaccination, the doses and schedules, what side-effects to expect and how to handle them, and how to receive medical care for treatment of adverse events, if any. Special outreach efforts may be needed for low-literacy populations and those who do not find it easy to trust medical systems.

The beginning of the vaccination programme suggests that the end is in sight. How quickly we reach the goal post depends on how well prepared we are as we enter the race.

Pramanik is senior fellow and deputy director NCAER National Data Innovation Centre, Desai is professor and director, NCAER NDIC. Views are personal



MANAS RAY

WITH THE rapid advance of the manufacturing sector and deeper penetration of the global market since the Second World War — what is known as the Great Acceleration — the emission of carbon dioxide increased in geometric proportions. The Keynesian revolution from the 1940s to the beginning of the 1980s made massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of increasing demands. It has been observed that Keynesianism did not replace capitalism but made it ordinary, acceptable to the masses.

In the mid-1980s, the Thatcher-Reagan joint economic regime dismantled the welfare system of the previous decades and heralded the turn towards neoliberalism. The transformation of the social into a mere extension of the economy being complete, every human affair could be explained in market terms. With the rise of digital, virtual, and biotechnological systems from the 1990s, capital could operate as an integrative, hermetic bind transforming itself into a rationalised regime of the projective calculation for the market like never before. The combined result is humankind’s entry into an era where everything they do will have a direct impact on the planetary history from now on. In other words, mankind has entered the Anthropocene era leaving behind that of the Holocene.

The argument that the Anthropocene emerged dialectically from the contradiction of capitalism and nature, however, is prob-

The ecological is political

The Anthropocene era has placed an ethical challenge before the human race

lematic and has influential detractors. It can be conjectured that had the entire world gone socialist after the Russian Revolution, it would have produced more, and not less, greenhouse effect since the equitable distribution of resources across the population would have meant more purchasing power on a global scale.

Interestingly, the figure of the Anthropocene has now been constructed as the ultimate test of humanity’s capacity for self-overcoming through technological solutions. Apart from ensuring the faith of the global populace in the prevailing economic-technological order, it offers capitalism a new market. Bioengineering in the form of genome science is posing as the new form of a political messiah. Calling it a genetic bomb, French philosopher Paul Virilio explains the promises of this new science in terms of the installation of a new human being with a smaller ecological footprint because it uses fewer proteins, oxygen, and water, a creature made compatible with an earth of dwindling resources. The damage of ecology that so long promised conditions suitable for human biological existence now paves the way for the success of a new techno-market solution. If the bomb signalled the destruction of human life, decoding the human genome heralds the industrial production of life.

Is it possible even now for us as a collective to work out an escape from the impending doom? Can the Anthropocene be made live-

able for humans? Time has come to develop a species sense, the sense that we as a species were born through the longue durée of geological and biological changes. The weave through which we are related to one another is the weave of power be it at the global, national, professional, or familial level. But along with this, we need what may be called an ethical understanding at the level of species. Though not connected intrinsically, the issues of power and ethics can be brought on the same plane through patient reflection.

Mere criticism of capitalism will not suffice. We need to imagine a feasible global systemic alternative where the human considers itself a part of the natural order and actively cooperates with it. The planet is not for humankind’s loot. The task is to reconfigure the political. The incorporation of the geobiological into the human calculus is oftentimes seen as an escape from the pressing issues of hunger and injustice. There is little awareness at present that unless the question of ecological impact is woven into the question of justice in human affairs, it will be of less and less practical relevance. The compass of the political must include ecological.

So far, human-social thinking has taken the natural and planetary world as constant, not affecting human affairs. The tree I see from my window will bloom at a particular time of the year; the planets and the sun will reside in their stately domains and have the same effect on our planet, and so forth. As a

matter of fact, those functions of the human that resembled the animal world like food, nutrition, and reproduction were left out from the centre of human knowledge. Only those aspects of the human beings that are specific to our species being like language, justice, and the fight for it were considered the proper domain of human investigation. Hence, the difference between human-historical time and the time of geology thus never bothered us. History became the study of human consciousness.

The irony is in their attempt to transcend nature, humans made an abrupt fall into nature, allowing fundamental earthly forces to dictate their lives and unleashing the beast of geophysical forces that cannot be controlled by human endeavour. The pandemic moves around the world at great speed while climate change is a slow process occurring over centuries. Only a drastic reduction of the global population to half the present number in the next 30 years and a practice of ascetic life can save the planet. It is difficult but not impossible. The textures of our comportment as we conduct our lives and engage in different transactions with not only humans but nature at large deserves its due importance. This is the domain of spirituality. Today’s politics begins from here.

The writer is former professor in cultural studies at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIOLENT DAY

THIS REFERS to the editorial, ‘Law & Disorder’ (IE, January 27). Those who indulged in well-planned vandalism in the capital wanted their acts to mar the Republic Day celebrations. Unfortunately, they have succeeded. The unsavoury images of farmers running riot on the roads of New Delhi took centre-stage. And the so-far peaceful agitation of the farming community has been thoroughly soiled by such acts.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS to the editorial, ‘Law & Disorder’ (IE, January 27). The chaos brought about by a so-called “section” of protesting farmers seems to have been orchestrated by someone very powerful. It is possible that sowing disorder was an effort by the state to turn the peaceful protests violent and render them unpopular. Or it could have been funded by the Opposition to prove how unsuccessful the government has been at managing the affairs of its people.

Komal Pugalia, Silchar

DIGITAL DIVIDE

THIS REFERS to the article, ‘A widening learning gap’ (IE, January 27). The right to education under Article 21A of the Constitution has received a major setback during COVID. And the worst hit are the children from economically weaker sections and remote and rural

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● AT VICTORIA MEMORIAL, AN OVERREACTION: ARINDAM GUPTA

● GIS IMAGERY FOR CITIZENS’ AGENCY: SHILPA KUMAR

www.indianexpress.com

areas where “digital India” doesn’t exist. Immediate action is required as children are the future of this country and their education should not be compromised at any cost.

Sarachana Sisodia, Delhi

THIS REFERS to the editorial, ‘A widening learning gap’, (IE January 27). A majority of children in rural India didn’t have access to technology needed for online classes. It’s the obligation of the government to address this issue. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back. Only urban citizens shouldn’t be granted access to all the facilities.

Aditi Seth, Jabalpur

Three journalists booked over ‘fake news’ about UP Diwas event

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 27

THREE JOURNALISTS have been booked in Kanpur Dehat district for allegedly running fake news on a TV channel about students of a government school shivering in the cold during an event held on January 24 on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh foundation day (UP Diwas), officials said Wednesday.

The police identified the channel as K News, but did not say if all the three journalists work for the channel. The three were identified as Mohit Kashyap, Amit Singh and Yasin Ali. An FIR was lodged against them at Akbarpur police station on January 25.

Videos of the students performing yoga and exercises in the cold at the government event in Eco Park have been shared widely

on social media. They were wearing shorts and half shirts. State technology minister Ajit Singh Pal, and other MLAs and officials attended the event.

In his complaint, based on which the FIR was registered, Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Sunil Dutt wrote, “In the programme, students from the Basic Shiksha Department’s Upper Primary School, Sarsi, under the Akbarpur Block performed yoga and other physical exercises. Mr Mohit Kashyap, Amit Singh and Yasin Ali without even being present at the event made unfitting comments and spread news that the children shivered while the DM and the BSA were busy at the event. It is not possible to do yoga in warm clothes and one needs loose clothes for it naturally. The students had taken off the warm clothes and put on loose clothes

during the exercise and yoga and had later on worn warm clothes. The three spread the news through their channel without being present there and without checking the facts. This has resulted in the students, teachers and yoga guru’s feelings being hurt. There is anger among the students over the incident. When I spoke to the journalist over the phone, Mohit Kashyap said they have done what they had to do and that I can do what I want.”

District Magistrate Dinesh Chandra Singh told reporters, “I am sad that some journalists who were not even present here have circulated such information that the pupils were shivering.”

Inspector Tulsi Ram Pandey said the journalists were booked under IPC sections 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Soldier killed, 3 injured in IED explosion in Kulgam

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 27

ONE SOLDIER was killed and three others suffered injuries in an IED explosion in South Kashmir on Wednesday, the year’s first militant attack in the Valley.

Police said the low-intensity IED was placed inside an abandoned school building — at Subh-annora village of Kulgam district — frequented by the soldiers.

On Wednesday morning, it exploded with the soldiers inside the school.

“Preliminary investigation revealed that a rudimentary IED with a low-powered explosive and ball bearings was planted in an abandoned building inside the school premises, where the Army jawans used to visit on routine basis,” the police said in a statement. “The IED was planted by terrorists probably during the night hours.”

Four soldiers injured in the blast were rushed to a nearby hospital. They were then shifted



Security personnel inspect the area after the militant attack in Kulgam on Wednesday. PTI

to the Army’s 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar, where one of them died. “In this incident, 04 jawans of 24 RR (Rashtriya Rifles) sustained injuries and were evacuated to nearby hospital for the treatment of their injuries,” the police statement said. “Among the injured one Army jawan succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom.”

The school building was sub-

stantially damaged in the explosion. Soon after the blast, a joint team of J&K Police, Army and paramilitary forces cordoned off the area and launched a hunt for suspects. No one has been arrested so far.

Police have registered a case. “Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime,” the police said.

Ground-breaking ceremony of Ayodhya mosque held on R-Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 27

WITH THE hoisting of the national flag and planting of nine fruit-bearing plants on Republic Day, the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) Trust marked the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a mosque and other amenities on the five acres allotted in Ayodhya’s Dhannipur village.

IICF office-bearers said the Tricolour was hoisted at 8.45 am on Tuesday. The event was attended by IICF chief trustee Zufar Ahmad Farooqi, five other trustees and local villagers. Last month, during unveiling of the proposed blueprint of the project, Trust authorities had said that in Islam, there is no tradition of a grand celebration for the foundation stone laying ceremony of a mosque.


Once the project was completed, a celebration could follow, they had said. They had chosen January 26 for the ground breaking ceremony, saying that on this day our

Constitution came into effect.

Following the Supreme Court direction, the five-acre land in Dhannipur was provided to the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board to construct a mosque. In July 2020, the Board had announced that an Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Trust will construct the mosque.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, IICF secretary and spokesperson Athar Husain said as per an early estimate, the entire project will cost nearly Rs 110 crore, including Rs 100 crore for the hospital.

“There was a lot of enthusiasm among the local people. Some people who have committed major donations joined in. These people want to contribute for the hospital. The thumb rule for the hospital is that nearly Rs 50 lakh is required for each bed. Our plan is to construct a 100-bed hospital in phase-1 and then increase the capacity to 200 beds. So we will need nearly Rs 100 crore for the hospital. Around Rs 5-7 crore will be needed for the mosque and related projects,” he said.



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

TIRUNELVELI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TAMILNADU SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

E-Procurement Notice / (One Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid No.:55/2020-21 Date: 27.01.2021

1. The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed below.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures agreed with the World Bank. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the World Bank's Guidelines Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2021.

3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the World Bank's Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. The Commissioner invites online bids for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein.

5. Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in from 29.01.2021 to 18.02.2021 at free of cost.

6. For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from the one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: www.tntenders.gov.in at free of cost.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation**. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 8.

8. Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before 15:00 hours on 18.02.2021 and will be opened online on 19.02.2021 at 15:30 hours. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids.

9. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand drafts towards the cost of bid document and registration on e-procurement website (if not previously registered); (b) original bid security in approved form; and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **The Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, No.1, SN High Road, Tirunelveli- 627 001**, Tamilnadu before the opening of the Bid i.e. before 19.02.2021, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.


10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 10.02.2021 at 11:00hrs. at the office of **The Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of "Instructions to Bidders" of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.

Package No.	Name of Works	Bid Security * (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
I	Providing B.T.Surface at Sasthi Nagar, Gomathi Nagar I, Gomathi Nagar II, Srinivasa Nagar, Thirumangai Nagar 1st to 5th streets and Annamalai nagar, Annamalai nagar extension and Gandhimathi nagar in Ward No: 48 in Tirunelveli zone area and Providing BT Surface at Kruba Nagar Ward 12, Providing BT Surface at Muppidiattamman East Street Ward 14, Providing BT Surface at Ambikar Nagar in Ward 16, Providing BT Surface at Santhi nagar 23th Street & 28th Cross Streets and adjacent Street Ward 16, Providing BT Surface at 2 Bus route road Ward 21, Providing BT Surface at Sivan North Car Street Ward 22, Providing BT Surface at Sivan East Car Street Ward 22, Providing BT Surface at old Police station Road Ward 22, Providing BT Surface at Prasanna vinayagar kovil street no.24, Providing BT Surface at Medai Police station Road Ward 24, Providing BT Surface at Palay Ward Office Approach Road Ward 24, Providing BT surface at MCC Approach Road at Compost Ward in Palay zone	7,13,000/-	Nil	6 Months
II	Providing and Renewal of B.T.Surface at 1) Chidambaram nagar North Extension cross street, 2) Gokul Nagar, 3) Chidambaram nagar south Extension 4) Naimappur Nagar, 5)Thamarai street, 6)Selvaivignesh nagar, 7)Chidambara nagar North Main road, 8) Krishnanagar Last. cross street, 9) Karaiyurpur (B.S. Nagar) in ward No. 1, 2 & 3 at Thachanallur Zonal Office and Providing of B.T. Surface at 10) Gnanivarappa Nagar, 11) Periyakothba Pallivasal South & North West Street and Basheerappa Street,12) Kutty Moopan Street & Samayina Sheik Moopan Street in Ward No. 33, 36 & 38 at Melappalayam Zonal Office	7,87,000	Nil	6 Months

Bid security 1% of Estimate cost. DIPR/603/TENDER/2021

Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

TIRUNELVELI SMART CITY LIMITED

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)


Tender Notice No.9/Smart City/2020-21/SCM Dated: 27.01.2021.

Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned from the bona fide and experienced contractors for 3 works under Tirunelveli Smart City Limited.

Details, Terms and Conditions are available at Main Office of Tirunelveli Corporation & <https://tntenders.gov.in> website

A two cover bidding procedure will be adopted. The bidders shall satisfy the qualification criteria and the financial criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. The bidding documents will be available from 29.01.2021 to 09.02.2021. A pre-bid meeting to be held on 03.02.2021 on 11.00 hours. Tender documents can be downloaded from the web site <https://tntenders.gov.in>. The bidder shall upload their bids on or before 15.00 hours on 09.02.2021. The tender will be opened on 15.30 hours on 10.02.2021.

DIPR/604/TENDER/2021 Managing Director (D), Tirunelveli Smart City Limited



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy – 620 020.

PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER

FORM OF CONTRACT – LUMPSUM (Two Cover System)

Tender Notice No. 11 / 2020 - 2021 / D1 / MCBC / Trichy / Dated 27.01.2021

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy** invites tender for the following work, at his office upto **3.00 PM on 26.02.2021** in two sealed covers containing (i) Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and (ii) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put the above two covers into one common sealed cover from the experienced and 1st Class PWD competent or equal contractors as for the work as mentioned below. The tender will be opened on **26.02.2021 at 3.30 PM** by the **Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy** in presence of the Tenderers or their authorized agents.

“Rehabilitation of the components of Kattalai Barrage near Mayanur village of Krishnarayapuram Taluk in Karur District”

Name of the work details of EMD remittance and other details can also be available from the Government Designated website : (<http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>) and in the office of the **Superintending Engineer, WRD, Special Project Circle, Trichy**. The tender schedule can also be downloaded at free of cost from the above website upto **25.02.2021 - 5.45 PM**.

Any corrections / Corrigendum / Extension, if any will be issued in the above web site only.

Superintending Engineer, WRD., Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy - 20.

DIPR/559/TENDER/2021

DEFAMATION CASE BY M J AKBAR

No human accused of sexual harassment can be person of high reputation: Ramani to court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

RESPONDING TO former Union minister M J Akbar's rebuttal, journalist Priya Ramani, facing trial in a criminal defamation case, told a Delhi court through her lawyer on Wednesday that “no human being accused of sexual harassment can be a person of high reputation”.

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

The submissions were made by Senior Advocate Rebecca John on behalf of Ramani before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Rabinadra Sange Kumar Pandey. Her response could not be concluded and will continue on February 1.

In the first half of the hearing, Senior Advocate Geeta Luthra concluded her rebuttal on behalf of Akbar by telling the court, “I have been harmed, I seek justice from this court. I have no other way.”

John began her response by saying that the *Vogue* article's introduction was “not the whole piece” and that “the rest of the article was about the behaviour of male bosses and allegations against Harvey Weinstein”. She said that “under no stretch of imagination” could it be argued that the entire article was

on her experience with Akbar.

On the charges of plagiarism in the article, John said, “Priya Ramani in her evidence stated that these portions were taken from these articles as a representation of what Harvey Weinstein did to multiple women... Priya used these phrases to show what men like Harvey Weinstein do... These are examples of what women go through while being sexually harassed by their bosses. To say it is plagiarism is absurd.”

On Akbar's reputation, John told the court that “the contestation of Akbar's reputation is on the basis of the allegations against him”. “They opened the door of Akbar being a man of great reputation. I have every right to contest it through my own evidence and the evidence of Ghazala Wahab.”

On Ramani calling Akbar a predator, Luthra told the court, “We have to look at it through her lens unless there is perversity. For predator, my friend cited two legal dictionaries. When ordinary people write, they don't use legal dictionaries. Ordinary people understand ordinary meanings.”

John told the court that “ten women had admittedly made allegations against Akbar”. “She is naming them and if this doesn't show predatory behaviour, nothing does.”

“Till October 10, ten women had narrated their personal experience. This usage was not defamatory. The imputation is the truth. You cannot look at defamation in isolation,” John told the court.

MP: Tigress dies after getting trapped in snare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, JANUARY 27

A TWO-YEAR old tigress was found dead in the buffer zone of Kanha tiger reserve on Tuesday afternoon in the Baihar tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district. The tigress, one of the 115 tigers in the reserve, died after getting trapped in a snare laid by local villagers, forest officials said.

Forest officers said such snares are common and are mostly used by tribals to trap animals such as rabbits for consumption.

The matter was brought to the notice of forest officers after a patrol party spotted a tigress in Bamhani beat of Khapa range on Tuesday afternoon. Officers noticed that the tigress had a clutch wire wrapped tightly trapped around its neck.

Six villagers have been detained on the suspicion of laying the trap. Deputy Director of Kanha Tiger Reserve Naresh Singh Yadav told *The Indian Express*, “The six people have been detained by forest officials based on the leads of the dog squad and the Tiger Protection Force and the local police station concerned has been informed of the detention. Soon after something concrete comes of the questioning, a case will be registered under relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act.”

Online rummy: HC notice to Kohli, Tamannaah, Aju Varghese

Kochi: The Kerala High Court Wednesday served notices to cricketer Virat Kohli, and actors Tamannaah Bhatia and Aju Varghese in connection with a petition demanding a ban on online rummy games. The three celebrities have endorsed platforms where online rummy games are played. The court underlined that online betting was a grave social evil and asked the state government to clarify its stand on the matter.

The petition by Kochi-based Pauly Vadakkam argues that online rummy games are against the law and difficult to control. It says certain platforms

running such games are using celebrities to endorse them in a bid to attract the youth and trap them financially.

The court sent notices to Play Games 24*7 and Mobile Premier League which purportedly run rummy games. Kohli is brand ambassador of Mobile Premier League and Tamannaah has acted in an advertisement. Malayalam actor Varghese has endorsed rummy circle. ENS

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता

मध्य गंगा नहर निर्माण खण्ड-३,

अमरोहा।

ई-प्रोक्वायमेंट/अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-02/ई.ई./2020-21

माहातीय राजस्वगत उत्तर प्रदेश को ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अस्तित्व में की-व्यावहारिक/प्राथमिक बिड एवं फाइनलियल बिड सिंचाई विभाग में कॉन्क्रीट श्रेणी में संबन्धित फर्मो/केटगोरी से दिनांक 03.02.2021 को अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे तक अभियन्ता को जारी है। ई-प्रोक्वायमेंट/अल्पकालीन निविदा दिनांक 03.02.2021 को अपरान्ह 12.30 बजे मुख्य अभियन्ता, मध्य गंगा नहर परियोजना, सिंचाई एवं जल संरक्षण विभाग, व.उ.अ. अखण्ड द्वारा निर्धारित शर्तियों के समक्ष अधिशासी के कार्यालय कक्ष में अस्तित्व में होती जावेगी। कार्यालय बंद अवकाश छुट्टी होने की दशा में यह बिड अगले कार्य दिवस में उसी समय होती जावेगी।

निविदादाता अपने बिड दिनांक 28.01.2021 को पूर्वान्ह से दिनांक 03.02.2021 को अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे तक डाटावलेज/अवलेज कर सकते हैं। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बिना नोटिस करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अधिशासी को होगा।

निविदादाता निविदा अवरोध करने से पहले निम्न व शर्तों का ध्यानपूर्व अध्ययन कर लें।

क्र.सं./लॉट संख्या	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में)	धरोहर राशि (लाख रु. में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-रु.रु.नं. - GST	पंजीकृत श्रेणी	अधिशासी अभियन्ता जिसके पक्ष में प्रतिस्पर्धित बन्धक की जाती है।
01	Construction of V.R.B at KM 1.520 and RACHETA MINOR from km. 1.495 to KM. 1.545 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	8.25	0.17	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
02	Construction of D.R.B at km 0.450 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	15.50	0.31	03 month	300+500+41= 854.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
03	Construction of D.R.B at km 0.980 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	10.00	0.20	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
04	Construction of V.R.B at km 2.580 and Shahpur Minor from km 2.555 to km 2.605 of M.G.C Stage-II	10.80	0.22	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
05	Construction of D.R.B at km 1.540 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	18.00	0.36	03 month	300+500+41= 854.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
06	Construction of V.R.B at km 1.760 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C Stage-II	8.50	0.17	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
07	Construction of Shahpur Minor from km 1.575 to km. 2.800 of MGC Stage-II	8.60	0.18	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
08	Construction of V.R.B at km 2.180 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	7.50	0.15	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
09	Construction of V.R.B at KM 1.100 and MANAUTA Minor from KM. 1.075 to KM. 1.125 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
10	Construction of V.R.B at km 2.450 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	8.00	0.16	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
11	Construction of D.R.B at km 2.820 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
12	Construction of V.R.B at km 3.240 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	9.00	0.18	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
13	Construction of Main canal under V.R.B at km. 34.980 in 35 m. length of MGC Stage-II	25.00	0.50	03 month	300+500+54= 854	बी एवं उच्चतर	
14	Construction of V.R.B at km 3.240 of Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	8.50	0.17	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
15	Construction of V.R.B at KM 0.065 and MANAUTA Minor from k.m.. 0.040 to km 0.090 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	13.00	0.26	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
16	Construction of Jogipura Minor From km. 2.000 to km 2.950 of M.G.C. Stage-II	7.00	0.14	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
17	Construction of V.R.B at km 1.908 and Shahpur Minor from km 1.883 to km 1.933 of M.G.C. Stage-II	9.50	0.19	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
18	Construction of V.R.B at KM 0.460 and RACHETA MINOR from KM. 0.435 to KM. 0.485 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
19	Construction of V.R.B at km 0.130 Jogipura Minor of M.G.C. Stage-II	10.00	0.20	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
20	Construction of V.R.B at KM 1.120 and RACHETA MINOR from km. 1.095 to KM. 1.145 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	8.00	0.16	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
21	Construction of V.R.B at KM 0.890 and MANAUTA Minor from KM. 0.865 to KM. 0.915 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	10.50	0.21	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
22	Construction of Ramp and approach Road for D.R.B at km. 34.980 of MGC Stage-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
23	Construction of RACHETA Minor from KM. 0.00 to KM. 1.095 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	11.00	0.22	03 month	225+500+54= 854	सी एवं उच्चतर	
24	Construction of Main canal under V.R.B cum Aqueduct at km. 38.780/ 39.115 in 33 m. length of MGC Stage-II	25.00	0.50	03 month	300+500+54= 854.00	बी एवं उच्चतर	
25	Construction of Manauta Minor from km. 0.00 to KM. 0.865 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	9.00	0.18	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
26	Construction of Manauta Minor from KM. 0.915 to KM. 1.500 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	7.50	0.15	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
27	Construction of V.R.B at km 0.124 and Shahpur Minor from km 0.099 to km 0.149 of M.G.C. Stage-II	8.00	0.16	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
28	Construction of V.R.B at km 0.590 and Shahpur Minor from km 0.565 to km 0.615 of M.G.C. Stage-II	8.00	0.16	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
29	Construction of V.R.B at km 1.125 and Shahpur Minor from km 1.100 to km 1.150 of M.G.C. Stage-II	10.00	0.20	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
30	Construction of RACHETA Minor from KM. 1.145 to KM. 2.000 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	300+500+54= 854	सी एवं उच्चतर	
31	Construction of V.R.B at KM 0.780 and RACHETA MINOR from KM. 0.805 M.G.C.C. STAGE-II	9.50	0.19	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
32	Construction of Shahpur Minor from km 0.000 to k.m. 1.525 of MGC Stage-II	11.40	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
33	Construction of Ramp on D.R.B at km. 37.900 of MGC Stage-II	8.50	0.17	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
34	Construction of V.R.B at km. 8.440 for Handalpur dy. Of MGC Stage-II	14.65	0.30	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
35	Construction of V.R.B at km. 9.180 for Handalpur dy. Of MGC Stage-II	11.50	0.23	03 month	225+500+41= 766	सी एवं उच्चतर	
36	Construction of Jogipura Minor From km. 0.000 to km 0.970 of M.G.C. Stage-II	14.50	0.29	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
37	Construction of Ramp and approach for on V.R.B cum aqueduct at km. 38.760/ 39.115 of MGC Stage-II	9.00	0.18	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
38	Construction of Jogipura Minor From km. 1.000 to km 1.980 of M.G.C. Stage-II	17.00	0.34	03 month	300+500+54= 854.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
39	Construction of Jogipura Minor From km. 3.000 to km 4.000 of M.G.C. Stage-II	8.00	0.16	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	
40	Construction of V.R.B at km. 12.500 for Goverdhanpur dy. Of MGC Stage-II	13.00	0.26	03 month	225+500+41= 766.00	सी एवं उच्चतर	

यह निविदा बिड <http://tenderup.nic.in> एवं ३३४. सकार को वेबसाइट <http://upgov.nic.in> तथा सिंचाई विभाग को वेबसाइट <http://www.idup.upgov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। निम्न एवं सर्व सिंचाई विभाग एवं ई-टेण्डरिंग को वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता-अधिशासी अभियन्ता

मध्य गंगा नहर निर्माण खण्ड-३, अमरोहा।

UPID NO. 159424 DATE-27/01/2021 www.upgov.nic.in

Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur

Letter No:- 441/E-Tender/20-21 Date :- 18-1-21

(Short Term E-Tender)

1. The Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Rampur on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, Class A, B, C (for Road work) The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note

ED again arrests Yes Bank co-founder over Rs 200-cr loans to 'Wadhawans' firm

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has once again arrested Rana Kapoor, the former chairman and co-founder of Yes Bank Ltd, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for allegedly sanctioning six loans worth Rs 200 crore to MackStar Marketing Pvt, a company owned by Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, the jailed promoters of HDIL who are accused of defrauding the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank of Rs 6,000 crore.

According to the ED, Mack Star got six loans of Rs 200.3 crore between 2011 and 2016 "in criminal conspiracy with Rana Kapoor" and then diverted it to HDIL, which in turn used the money to settle its loans with Yes Bank.

The case against Kapoor is based on a FIR filed by the CBI in September.

The ED has alleged that these loans were taken by Mack Star without the "approval or the knowledge" of DE Shaw Group - a Mauritius-based investment firm that owns 78.09 per cent stake in the company. The Wadhawans own the remaining 21 per cent in Mack Star and were in-charge of the day-to-day operations of the firm.

The ED has also alleged that the actual purpose for sanctioning these loans was "to siphon off the amounts and transfer the misappropriated funds to struggling HDIL group companies and it was used to evergreen the accounts of HDIL with Yes Bank to



Rana Kapoor

save them from becoming NPA (non-performing asset)".

"The entire circulation of funds was happening within the Yes Bank system (loans disbursed by Yes Bank into Mack Star's Yes Bank account were immediately diverted to Yes Bank accounts of HDIL group companies, which used these funds on the same day to discharge liabilities owed by these HDIL group companies to Yes Bank)," said ED.

A local court has sent Kapoor to ED custody till January 30.

Last year, Kapoor was arrested by ED for allegedly taking kickbacks in lieu of granting loans to several companies, including Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) and Cox and Kings Ltd, that have now defaulted on repayments.

The ED has alleged Kapoor received kickbacks of over Rs 600 crore for loans given to DHFL alone. In the case of Cox and Kings, the probe agency has alleged that Kapoor sanctioned loans to the travel firm by bypassing norms. The company has defaulted on repayments and the bank has a total outstanding of Rs 3,642 crore in Cox and Kings Group of companies.

Kapoor, who has denied the allegations, is currently in judicial custody.

The Bombay High Court earlier this week rejected his bail application in the case.

Escaping girl's house, teen crosses border in Barmer, stranded in Pak

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 27

SITTING NEXT to a house with a thatched roof in their village Kumharon ka Tiba in Rajasthan's Barmer district, Jamaram Meghwal and his wife Amku Devi hold on to a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The letter, with the thumb impression of Meghwal, requests the PM to help bring back their 18-year-old son Gemaram, who mistakenly crossed into Pakistan two-and-a-half months ago while trying to escape after being caught at a friend's house.

The police say the Pakistani Rangers confirmed to the BSF at a flag meeting on January 5 that Gemaram, a Class 11 student, was in their custody. "He had gone to meet a girl in his neighbourhood on November 4-5 night. At around 1-1.30 am, the girl's family members spotted him and he fled, and ended up crossing the border, which is near their house. We got to know about the incident when a missing report was lodged by his family on November 16," said



The parents of Gemaram Meghwal, at their village in Barmer district. Express

Jetha Ram, SHO Binjrad Police Station, adding that they had contacted the BSF.

Gemaram and the girl, who is a minor, were in love, says his elder brother Jugtaram. "Since schools have been shut since the Covid-19 lockdown, he had been working in Jodhpur at a furniture shop. He had returned on November 4 and the same night went to meet his friend... When we tried calling his mobile on November 5, the call didn't go through," says Jugtaram, who also works in Jodhpur.

The girl's family, however, de-

nies any relationship between her and Gemaram.

Jugtaram says the girl's family had called him up the same night and informed what had happened. "Ever since, they have been troubling us. They also put pressure on us to not search for my brother, saying it will jeopardise their honour," says Jugtaram. He adds that they got the first inkling that Gemaram had crossed the border when BSF officials came enquiring about him 10 days later.

They are 12 siblings, with Gemaram the eighth. The family

migrated from Pakistan in 1971.

The girl's father says Gemaram had entered their house with "the wrong intention". The family says they were not even friends, though in the same school, and the girl had complained of being harassed by him and his brothers.

Having approached numerous officials, including the district SP, with memorandums for his release, Gemaram's family has finally decided to write to the PM. Congress leader Manvendra Singh, an ex-MP and former MLA from the constituency that covers Gemaram's village, tweeted on Monday that requisite documents had been sent to the Pakistan Foreign Ministry. "Now, officials at the Indian Embassy in Islamabad will complete the requisite action," he said.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Barmer, Narpat Singh said: "On January 5, the BSF came to know during a flag meeting with the Pakistani Rangers that Gemaram is in Pakistan and in judicial custody. Efforts to bring him back are being made at the government level."

Uttarakhand CM on Kumbh: No Markaz repeat

Dehradun: Two days after the Centre advised Uttarakhand to cap the number of devotees attending Kumbh Mela and examine curtailing the event's duration, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Wednesday said no risk should be taken which might result in another "Wuhan" or a "Markaz".

Rawat said India has set a record by its steps taken to control the spread of Covid-19.

"No risk should be taken that turns Haridwar into Wuhan or a markaz. With that thought, the Government of India has issued guidelines so that Haridwar does not become a reason of infection transmission," Rawat said.

Nine held under new conversion law in Indore

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JANUARY 27

FOLLOWING A complaint from a 25-year-old woman, Indore Police have arrested nine people, including her parents, under the newly passed Freedom of Religion Ordinance 2020 for allegedly forcing her to embrace Christianity.

In her complaint to Bhanwarkau police station on Tuesday, Shalini Kaushal said she was tricked into visiting an alleged conversion event at a Christian community hall - Satyaprakashan Sanchar Kendra. She told the police that her parents, Rakesh Kaushal and Rani Kaushal, took her there on the pretext of visiting her grandmother's house.

She alleged that at the Kendra, she was made to sit through the ceremony where people forced her to embrace Christianity. "They told me that now I am under the guidance of Lord Jesus and that all my problems will be resolved," she said in her statement.

She named Ganesh Ninami, Lavina Hatesingh, Jitendra Meda along with six others as organisers of the event, who told the gathering that Lord Jesus will cure everyone. "When I tried to leave, I was forced to sit through it and was told that people come here of their own will but are not allowed to leave on their own," she alleged.

The complainant alleged that there were many other Hindus like her who were forced to embrace Christianity at the event.

The incident came to light Tuesday afternoon following a complaint by Bajrang Dal workers who barged into the Kendra and created a ruckus alleging that religious conversion was being carried out.

Bajrang Dal's Indore city in-charge Tannu Sharma told The

Indian Express that a fellow member, Pappu Chandel, got information that a programme was being conducted at the Kendra to convert people and it was only after confirming it that they informed the police and then entered the community centre.

"We saw that around 250 people had assembled. They were being brainwashed by constantly being told that Christianity is a better religion and it provides all answers. Everything will be done by Jesus. They even lured people into embracing Christianity by offering to provide for them. All these people coming from different districts were called there by issuing pamphlets," alleged Sharma.

He said that he had informed the Bhanwarkau police station and when the police came in, Shalini told them about it.

According to Santosh Kumar Doodhi, town inspector of Bhanwarkau police station, while there were around 250 people, an FIR was registered against 11 people based on Shalini's complaint. Nine of them were arrested under relevant sections of the MP Freedom to Religion Ordinance 2020.

Father Babu Joseph, the in-charge of Satyaprakashan Sanchar Kendra, said, "We give out the hall for various events and in this case, it was given to Jitendra Meda for a prayer service and a leadership programme. But Bajrang Dal workers barged in and began shouting 'conversion' and began breaking things inside the hall." However, he said he was himself not present at the event.

Maria Stephen, PRO of Christian community in Madhya Pradesh, said, "Hindu right-wing groups are misusing the newly passed law and manipulating the word conversion to harass the Christian community. There is no regard for one's human rights or even law and order."

Protester who died in Delhi cremated in Rampur village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 27

THE BODY of a 27-year-old protester who died during Tuesday's anti-farm law agitation in Delhi was brought to his home in Rampur district on Wednesday morning, and cremated later in the day.

Several residents of Dibdiba, including government officials, were present when Navreet Singh's body reached the village.

"Post-mortem of the body was conducted in Rampur today and its report stated that there were five injuries on the body. The report stated cause of death occurred due to head injury," said Bilaspur Station House Officer Brijesh Yadav, adding that there was no law-and-order problem after the body arrived.

Later in the day, Singh's final rites were conducted in the presence of his family members, said the family's neighbour Arvinder Cheema.

Singh's wife Manseet Kaur, who is in Australia at present, could not attend the final rites. "She could not come because flights from Australia are suspended," said the deceased's father, Sahab Singh, a farmer.

Singh, who completed schooling in Rampur, went to



Navreet's tractor. PTI

Australia for further studies. "Navreet had gone to Australia for completing his graduation. While staying in Australia, Navreet married Manseet Kaur. Navreet returned from Australia around over a year back while his wife is still there," added Sahab Singh.

Several people from Rampur went to Delhi to participate in the protests. According to an official, Singh's family said they did not know that he was at the demonstration as he had left home three days ago, claiming he was going to meet his relative in Uttarakhand's Bajpur city.

Sahab Singh, however, said the family was aware of Navreet's presence at the protests.

Cabinet increases MSP of copra to Rs 10,335

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra for the 2021 season by Rs 375 to Rs 10,335 per quintal. The government said in a statement that the MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been increased from Rs 9,960 per quintal last year, marking a jump of around 3.8 per cent. The MSP for ball copra has been increased by Rs 300 to Rs 10,600 per quintal from Rs 10,300 per quintal in 2020, around a 3 per cent increase.

Copra is an important contributor to Kerala's economy. The state is likely to go to polls in May. **ENS**

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, DELHI 4TH PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under Section 194(i) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993 in the matter of: **ICICI BANK LTD.** - Applicant
Vs. **RAKESH PATEL** - Respondent
To: C-1, Sh. Rakesh Patel, S/o. Sh. Chandrakant Prasad R/o. 445, Street No. 2, Indian Railway Mall, Godam, Main Sanyam Park, Shahdara, Ghazipur, New Delhi-110051, UP.
ALSO AT: Registrar of MIs, Shaheen Logistics, Plot No. 5, G-22, Ganesha Complex, Vindhyavan Garden, Andhradevi Road, Shahdara, Ghazipur-110051, UP.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not to serve you in ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 28.01.2021 at 10.30 AM.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose: (i) All the Eligible Applicants shall download the e-CMS (e-Case Management) application software (ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next (iii) Date of appearance shall be available one day prior to the next date of DRT (Official Portal) i.e. dt. gov.in under the Public Notice Head. (iv) In any emergency case that, the 23.06.2020. Applicants can contact the concerned official at P.N. No. 23062020.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 18th day of Dec, 2020.
By Order of this Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi

RECLINING BUDDHA

Artists work on a massive Buddha statue that will be sent to Bodh Gaya, in Kolkata on Wednesday. *Shashi Ghosh*

Bihar BJP spokesman shot at in Munger, teacher held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JANUARY 27

BIHAR BJP spokesperson Azfar Shamshi was shot at in Bihar's Munger on Wednesday by unidentified assailants. He has been admitted to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) where his condition is said to be critical. Munger police have arrested a college teacher for the attack.

Police said the incident took place at around 11.30 am at a college campus in Jamalpur, Munger where Shamshi teaches. He suffered bullet injuries to his head and stomach and was first taken to Munger Sadar Hospital, from

where he was referred to PMCH.

Bihar health minister Mangal Pandey said: "We are providing best possible medical attention to Shamshi." Rajya Sabha MP and former deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi also talked to the family of the BJP spokesperson.

An FIR was lodged after the injured made a complaint. Munger SP Manavjit Singh Dhillon said, "We have arrested Jamalpur college principal Lalan Prasad Singh, who had an argument with Shamshi over some administrative issues in the college."

Police are also looking into other possible reasons for the attack.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand), INDIA

WALK-in/Online INTERVIEW
A Walk-in/online interview is scheduled at Media & Extension Division, ICFRE HQ Building, ICFRE, FRI Campus, Dehradun on **18 February 2021 at 11.00 A.M.** for recruitment of one SPF in the component titled "**Operationalisation of Forestry Extension Strategy and Action Plan for ICFRE**"

Position	Educational requirement/ Experience	Consolidated fellowship/ Stipend per month (in Rs.)	Duration
Senior Project Fellow (SPF)	M.Sc in biological science/ agriculture extension/extension & communication with two years of working experience. Desirable: Working knowledge of Microsoft office, report writing, media reporting, handling social media.	Rs. 23,000/- (Twenty Three Thousand) only. Age limit as on 01-06-2021 is 32 (relaxation in age limit of the candidates belonging to SC/ST/ OBC/Women and Divyangjan upto 5 years).	02 Years

Last date: For online interview last date for submission of documents is **15-02-2021** through email at **adg_mx@icfre.org**
Note: For details please see ICFRE website **https://www.icfre.org/recruitment**
ADG (Media & Extension), ICFRE, Dehradun

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) STATION CELL MATHURA EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics noted against each for a period of 12 / 11 months, renewal for additional period.

Sr. No.	Vacancy	ECHS POLYCLINIC	MATHURA	ALIGARH	HATHRAS
(a)	Office-In-Charge	-	01	-	-
(b)	Medical Officer	-	01	-	01
(c)	Dental Officer	-	01	-	-
(d)	Nursing Assistant	02	-	-	-
(e)	Pharmacist	02	-	-	-
(f)	Laboratory Technician	-	01	01	-
(g)	Dental A/T/H	01	01	-	-
(h)	Radiographer	-	01	-	-
(i)	Clerk	01	01	01	-
(j)	Chowkidar	-	01	-	-
(k)	Driver	-	01	-	-
(l)	Safaiwala	01	01	-	-

2. For terms and conditions Qualitative Requirement, application forms and remunerations, kindly see the website **www.echshs.gov.in**. For details please contact /approach ECHS Cell, Station Headquarters Mathura Tele No 0565-2470041 and email id **echsmathura1@gmail.com** & **shamathura@echshs.gov.in**. Working knowledge of computers and choice of ECHS Polyclinic with reserve Polyclinics in order of priority is mandatory for consideration. Last date of receipt of application alongwith photograph contact tele / mob /email and photocopy of testimonials, experience and medical fitness certificate is 16 February 2021. 3. Date of interview of eligible applicants / verification of documents will be intimated later. Candidates will bring original certificates, degree, testimonials and experience certificate as applicable at the time of interview. (For Hindi version advt see Amar Ujala (Agra Edition) dated 28 January 2021.

ICAR-INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
IZATANGAR-243 122, BAREILLY (U.P.)

Walk-in Interview
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement of **One Young Professional-II (YP-II) and one Unskilled under "Patho-epidemiology of elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus infections affecting Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in India"** project by DST-SERB. The engagement is purely on temporary/contractual basis, co-terminus with project or earlier, depending upon performance of the candidate. The services of person so engaged will automatically stand terminated with termination of the project and the institute will have no responsibility for payment of emoluments/regular employment after termination of the time bound project. Likely completion of the project is Dec 2023.

Eligible candidate may send an advance application along with CV to Dr M Karikalan, Scientist & PI of DST project, CWL. Email id:karyvet11@gmail.com latest by **08/02/2021** and attend the walk-in-interview on **12/02/2021 at 11:00 AM** along with all original documents, one set of self attested photocopy and colored passport size photograph

The details regarding the interview will be informed to the eligible candidates by email or over phone. The candidates will not be paid any TA/DA for attending the interview. For more details regarding Age limit, desirable qualification, eligibility, remuneration etc. candidates may log on to institute's website **http://www.ivri.nic.in**.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, KALYANI
KALYANI – 741235, WEST BENGAL
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Govt. of India)

Advt. No. IIITK/Rectt/20-21/NF/10 Dated : 27.01.2021

Applications are invited for the following positions at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Kalyani.

1) Assistant Registrar : 1 Post (UR)
2) Junior Assistant : 3 Post (UR-2, OBC-1)

Details regarding essential and desirable qualifications, experience, pay scales along with other benefits and the prescribed application form may be obtained from Institute's website **www.iiitkalyani.ac.in**

Last date of receipt of complete application is 02/03/2021.
Deputy Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Naadatum Makkal Katchi. The office of the party is located at, No.4/330, Duwargana Nagar, Manali New Town, Chennai-600103, Tamilnadu. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:
President: J. Agni Selvaraju, 122, Sorayapattu, Thiruvonkari T.K., Kallakurichi Dt-605754. General Secretary: M. Vinuth Kumar, 4/330, Duwargana Nagar, Manali NT, Chennai-600103. Treasurer: S. Gomathi, 4/14, Baraniputhur, Kundrathur T.K., Kanchipuram Dt-605122. If anyone has any objection to the registration of Naadatum Makkal Katchi they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Newwanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi –110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
National Awards for e-Governance 2020-21
NOTICE INVITING NOMINATIONS

With a view to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the Government of India presents National Awards for e-Governance every year.

Nominations are invited from Central Ministries/ Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Central and State PSUs, Academic and Research Institutions (whether government or non-government) for consideration in 6 categories as per eligibility criteria detailed in the Award Scheme.

Modalities for sending nomination along with Guidelines and other details of the Award Scheme are available on the Department's website **www.darpg.gov.in / www.ncegg.gov.in**. All nominations are to be submitted online as per details given in the Award Scheme. Nominations sent by email/ hand/ post/ courier/ fax or any other form of hard copy shall not be taken into cognizance.

Last date for submission of Nominations : **26.02.2021**

Contact Details: **Ms. Vibhuti Panjiyar**, Under Secretary (e-Gov), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001. **e-mail:** **vibhuti.panjiyar@nic.in;** **Tel.** +91-11-23367966

davp 32101/11/0002/2021



MEANWHILE

INDONESIAN VOLCANO ERUPTS

Indonesia's most active volcano erupted Wednesday with a river of lava and searing gas clouds flowing nearly 10,000 feet down its slopes. No casualties were reported. The sounds of the eruption could be heard 30 km away, officials said. It was Mount Merapi's biggest lava flow since authorities raised its danger level in November.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Park Won-soon died last year

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul ex-mayor harassed his secretary: report

A TOP human rights watchdog in South Korea has released a report confirming that the former mayor of Seoul, who disappeared in July only to later be found dead, had sexually harassed and verbally humiliated a secretary. The National Human Rights Commission led an investigation into the allegations against the former mayor, Park Won-soon, whose body was found on a wooded hill in the South Korean capital just one day after one of his secretaries filed a police report accusing him of making unwanted physical advances and sending her obscene messages and photos late at night. In a statement, the watchdogs said the victim's claim was credible. **NYT**

PAKISTAN

Owner of Raj Kapoor's ancestral home refuses to sell at govt rate

THE OWNER of Indian film legend Raj Kapoor's ancestral home in Peshawar has refused to sell the building at the rate fixed by the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, saying the prime-location property has been severely undervalued. Earlier in the month, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had approved the release of Rs 1.5 crore for Kapoor's ancestral home, with the aim to turn it into a museum in honour of the movie star. **PTI**

GERMANY

Governor says sorry for 'little Merkel' remark

A GERMAN state governor has apologised for referring to Chancellor Angela Merkel as "little Merkel" during a recent online event, saying he had unintentionally displayed macho behaviour. Bodo Ramelow, who governs the state of Thuringia, told German weekly *Die Zeit* that he greatly regretted using the term "Merkelchen" while talking with other politicians and the public on the social networking app Clubhouse. *Die Zeit* on Wednesday quoted Ramelow saying that he should have used the diminutive form only in reference to male politicians. **AP**

ONLY 5 GOP SENATORS JOIN DEMS IN VOTING TO GO FORWARD WITH TRIAL

Republicans rally against impeachment trial, signalling likely acquittal for Trump

NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 27

SENATE REPUBLICANS rallied Tuesday against trying former US President Donald Trump for "incitement of insurrection" at the Capitol, with only five members of his party joining Democrats in a vote to go forward with his impeachment trial.

By a vote of 55-45, the Senate narrowly killed a Republican effort to dismiss the proceeding as unconstitutional because Trump is no longer in office. But the numbers showed that loyal Republicans are again poised to spare him from conviction, this time despite his role in stirring up a mob that violently targeted lawmakers and the vice president Jan. 6 as Congress met to fi-



Senator Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader, at the Capitol on Tuesday. **NYT**

nalise the election.

"I think it's pretty obvious from the vote today that it is extraordinarily unlikely that the president will be convicted," said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of the five Republicans who voted to proceed to trial. "Just do the math."

It would take two-thirds of

senators — 67 votes — to attain a conviction, meaning 17 Republicans would have to cross party lines to side with Democrats in finding Trump guilty. If they did, an additional vote to disqualify him from ever holding office again would take a simple majority.

Aside from Collins, the only

Republicans who joined Democrats in voting to reject the constitutional objection and proceed were Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska and Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania. All five had said they were open to hearing the House's impeachment case, which was adopted in a bipartisan vote a week after the attack.

With the facts of the case still spilling forth and the meat of the trial delayed for two weeks, senators could change their views. Several Republicans who voted Tuesday to uphold the constitutional challenge, which would have effectively killed the trial, rushed afterward to clarify they remained open-minded about the trial, which next convenes February 9. **NYT**



SENATE NOD FOR BLINKEN AS SECRETARY OF STATE

Washington: The US Senate on Tuesday confirmed President Joe Biden's nominee, veteran diplomat Antony Blinken, to serve as secretary of state. Blinken is a long-time Biden confidant who has been confirmed by the Senate before, most recently to serve as No 2 at the State Department during former President Barack Obama's administration. **REUTERS**

'ZERO TOLERANCE' RULE FOR MIGRANTS SCRAPPED

Washington: The US Justice Department rescinded a Trump-era memo that established a "zero tolerance" enforcement policy for migrants crossing the US-Mexico border illegally, which resulted in thousands of family separations. Acting Attorney General Monty Wilkinson issued the new memo to federal prosecutors across the nation on Tuesday, saying the department would return to its long-standing previous policy and instructing prosecutors to act on the merits of individual cases. **AP**

Biden aims for most ambitious US effort on climate

MATTHEW DALY & ELLEN KNICKMEYER

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 27

IN WHAT would be the most ambitious US effort ever to stave off the worst effects of climate change, President Joe Biden is aiming to cut oil, gas and coal emissions and double energy production from offshore wind turbines through executive orders Wednesday.

A significant shift in approach

BIDEN'S EXECUTIVE orders mark a significant shift in the US government's approach to dealing with climate change. Apart from

EXPLAINED laying out specific measures, the orders also make climate change a core part of all future decisions on foreign policy and national security.

The orders awaiting his signature target federal subsidies for oil

and other fossil fuels and halt new oil and gas leases on federal lands

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS CASES SURPASS 100 MILLION

Countries tackle Covid-19 vaccine shortages

REUTERS & AP

JANUARY 27

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS cases surpassed 100 million on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, as countries around the world struggle with new virus variants and vaccine shortfalls.

Almost 1.3% of the world's population has now been infected with Covid-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, and more than 2.1 million people have died.

The worst-affected countries — the US, India, Brazil, Russia and the UK — make up more than half all reported Covid-19 cases but represent 28% of the global population, according to a Reuters analysis.

As the worst-affected region in the world, Europe is currently reporting a million new infections about every four days and has reported nearly 30 million since the pandemic began. Britain on Tuesday reached 100,000 deaths.

On Wednesday, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson indicated the lockdown in England would last until March 8 when schools could start to reopen. Schools, pubs and restaurants have been closed in England since the start of this month.

Despite securing deals for vaccine supplies early on, many European countries are facing delays in shipments from both Pfizer and AstraZeneca.

AstraZeneca pulled out of a meeting with the European Union to discuss delayed vaccine commitments to the bloc, an EU official said. The official said the



Harris receives a vaccine dose on Tuesday. **AP**

■ US Vice President Kamala Harris received her second dose of Moderna's vaccine against the novel coronavirus on Tuesday at the National Institutes of Health near Washington.

EU would "insist on them" coming back to the negotiating table to explain the delay in deliveries once the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine gets approved for use by the European Medicines Agency. Wednesday's talks with the EU Commission and member states were slated to be the third in as many days, as an ever angrier EU is demanding an explanation about the delays.

Amid growing frustration over vaccine shortages, President Joe Biden announced that the US would ramp up deliveries to hard-pressed states over the next three weeks and expects to provide enough doses to vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of the summer or early fall.

As richer nations race ahead with mass vaccination campaigns, Africa is still scrambling to secure supplies as it grapples with concerns about more-infectious variants of the virus first identified in South Africa and Britain.



Health workers prepare to start vaccination in Kathmandu on Wednesday. **Reuters**

Nepal kicks off inoculations with vaccine sent from India

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, JANUARY 27

NEPAL ON Wednesday launched a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive with the one million doses of vaccine provided by India.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli inaugurated the vaccination campaign at his official residence in Baluwatar. At the same time, government hospitals across the country vaccinated doctors and other frontline health workers.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, Oli said all Nepalis would get the vaccine free of cost within three months.

Dr Sagar Rajbhandari, director of Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Teku, was the first among the front-line workers to receive the jab, according to Health Ministry sources.

According to officials, around 430,000 frontline workers will be inoculated in 65 districts across the country.

The one million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine donated by India last week was jointly de-

Omar Sheikh's letter says he had 'minor' role in Daniel Pearl killing

Admission upends 18 years of denials

KATHY GANNON

ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 27

IN A dramatic turn of events, a man convicted and later acquitted in the 2002 killing of American journalist Daniel Pearl admitted a "minor" role in his death, upending 18 years of denials, the Pearl family lawyer said Wednesday.

A letter handwritten by Ahmad Saeed Omar Sheikh in 2019, in which he admits limited involvement in the death of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter, was submitted to Pakistan's Supreme Court nearly two weeks ago. It wasn't until Wednesday that Sheikh's lawyers confirmed their client wrote it.

The high court is hearing an appeal of a lower court's acquittal of Sheikh, charged with murder in the death of Pearl. The appeal was filed by Pearl's family and the Pakistan government.

The 38-year-old reporter from Encino, California, was abducted Jan. 23, 2002. His body was later found in a shallow grave in a southern Karachi neighbourhood.

Pearl family attorney Faisal Siddiqi called Sheikh's confirmation that he authored the letter a "dramatic development" demanding the conviction and death penalty be reinstated.

"This is very, very important because for the last 18 years the position of Omar Saeed Sheikh is that he did not know Danny Pearl, he never met Danny Pearl,"



Ahmad Saeed Omar Sheikh had been acquitted in the case by a Pakistani court

he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "He has taken a position of complete ignorance regarding this case, but now in a hand-written letter he has admitted to at least a limited role."

"He has not asked that he be acquitted. He accepts his guilt but asks that his sentence may be reduced," he added.

In the hand-written letter, a copy of which the AP has received, Sheikh writes "my role in this matter was a relatively minor one, which does not warrant the death sentence".

He also admits to knowing who killed Pearl, naming Pakistani militant Atta-ur-Rahman, alias Naeem Bokhari, who has since been executed in connection with an attack on a paramilitary base in southern Karachi.

Sheikh's lawyer, Mehmood A. Sheikh, who is no relation, said his client wrote the letter — dated July 25, 2019 — under duress and denies he knew Pearl or had any connection with Pearl. **AP**

Indian-origin boy in Singapore held for planning to attack mosques

GURDIP SINGH

SINGAPORE, JANUARY 27

A 16-YEAR-OLD Singaporean boy of Indian ethnicity was detained last month under the Internal Security Act (ISA) after planning to use a machete to attack Muslims at two mosques in March, on the anniversary of New Zealand's Christchurch attacks.

The teenager, who was not named, is the youngest person to be detained under the ISA for terrorism-related activities, the Internal Security Department (ISD) said on Wednesday.

He is the first detainee in the city-state to be inspired by far-right extremist ideology, Channel News Asia reported, citing the ISD media release.

The ISD said that the teen was influenced by the 2019 terror attacks at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in which 51 people were killed.

The teen had planned to carry out his attacks on March 15 this year, on the anniversary of the Christchurch attacks.

"He was self-radicalised, motivated by a strong antipathy towards Islam and a fascination with violence," the ISD said.

He watched the livestream video of the attack on the two mosques in Christchurch on March 15, 2019, and read the manifesto of the attacker, Brenton Tarrant, it said. He had also watched ISIS propaganda videos, and came to the erroneous conclusion that ISIS represented Islam, the ISD said. **PTI**

Auschwitz survivors mark anniversary virtually

KACPER PEMPEL & JOANNA PLUCINSKA

OSWIECIM, JANUARY 27

MARIAN TURSKI, a 94-year-old survivor of the Auschwitz death camp, will mark the 76th anniversary of its liberation by Soviet troops on Wednesday only virtually, aware that he might never return as the coronavirus pandemic drags on.

Survivors and museum officials told Reuters they fear the pandemic could end the era where Auschwitz's former prisoners can tell their own stories to visitors on site. Most Auschwitz survivors are in their eighties and nineties.

"Even if there was no pandemic, there would be fewer

survivors at every anniversary," Turski told Reuters in a Zoom interview from his Warsaw home.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Memorial preserves the Auschwitz death camp set up on Polish soil by Nazi Germany during World War Two. More than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews, perished in gas chambers at the camp or from starvation, cold and disease.

Wednesday's ceremony marking the camp's liberation will take place virtually starting at 1500 GMT, with speeches by survivors, Poland's President Andrzej Duda and Israeli and Russian diplomats, as well as a debate on the Holocaust's influence on children. Other virtual ceremonies will also take place to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day. **REUTERS**

FIRMS INSPIRED BY CRYPTOCURRENCY ARE CREATING SOCIAL NETWORKS WITHOUT ANY CENTRAL AUTHORITY

They found a way to limit Big Tech power: using Bitcoin design

NATHANIEL POPPER

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 27

JACK DORSEY, Twitter's chief executive, wrestled this month with the question of whether his social media service had exercised too much power by cutting off Donald Trump's account. Dorsey wondered aloud if the solution to that power imbalance was new technology inspired by the cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

When YouTube and Facebook barred tens of thousands of Trump's supporters and white supremacists this month, many flocked to alternative apps such as LBRY, Minds and Sessions. What

those sites had in common was that they were also inspired by the design of Bitcoin.

The twin developments were part of a growing movement by technologists, investors and everyday users to replace some of the internet's fundamental building blocks in ways that would be harder for tech giants like Facebook and Google to control.

To do so, they are increasingly focused on new technological ideas introduced by Bitcoin, which was built atop an online network designed, at the most basic level, to decentralise power.

Unlike other types of digital money, Bitcoin is created and moved around not by a central



A movement seeks to replace some of the web's fundamental building blocks in ways that would be harder for tech giants to control. **Reuters**

bank or financial institution but by a broad and disparate network of computers. It's similar to the way that Wikipedia is edited by anyone who wants to help, rather than a single publishing house. That underlying technology is called the blockchain, a reference to the shared ledger on which all of Bitcoin's records are kept.

Companies are now finding ways to use blockchains, and similar technology inspired by it, to create social media networks, store online content and host websites without any central authority in charge. Doing so makes it much harder for any government or company to ban accounts or delete content.

showing that private entities could decide who gets to stay online and who doesn't.

"Even if you agree with the specific decisions, I do not for a second trust the people who are making the decisions to make universally good decisions," said Jeremy Kauffman, the founder of LBRY, which provides a decentralised service for streaming videos.

That has prompted a scramble for other options. Dozens of startups now offer alternatives to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Amazon's web hosting services, all on top of decentralised networks and shared ledgers. Many have gained millions of new users over the past few weeks. **NYT**

17 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹48,421	₹72.92	\$56.07	₹65,614

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 0000 IST

SENSEX: 47,409.93 ▼ 937.66 NIFTY: 13,967.50 ▼ 271.40 NIKKEI: 6,600.98 ▼ 53.03 HANG SENG: 13,673.29 ▼ 197.70 FTSE: 28,635.21 ▲ 89.03 DAX: 29,297.53 ▼ 93.73

International market data till 1900 IST

BUDGET WATCH
GOLD DEPOSIT, LOAN

Norms of scheme to be tweaked to nudge fund allocation away from physical buying

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to tweak the existing gold deposit and gold metal loan schemes to wean away investors from excessive investment in physical gold. The changes will make it eligible for a larger number of people to open gold deposit accounts as the minimum amount of deposit required in these gold accounts will be reduced substantially and other changes introduced to make these more attractive.

Despite the government's emphasis on gold monetisation over the last few years, including issuing gold bonds as part of its borrowing programmes, investment in physical gold and purchases of jewellery continues to outpace investment through financial channels. Sources said the existing scheme will be made far from attractive from investment convenience and taxation aspects. "A number of amendments have been finalised in existing revamped Gold Deposit Scheme, revamped Gold Metal Loan Scheme and India Gold Coin Scheme. These changes have been recently reviewed by the Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman)," said a government official. The Finance Ministry has held a series of discussions on these schemes over the last few months.

"There has been discussions at the highest levels on these schemes in the government, to make them more favourable to the smallest of investors, including people wanting to buy gold for jewellery purpose," the official said. The government could unveil these changes in the Union Budget on February 1. Under the revamped gold

MINIMUM AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT

■ The changes will make it eligible for a larger number of people to open gold deposit accounts as the minimum amount of deposit required in these accounts will be reduced substantially.

deposit scheme, investors can earn 2.25 per cent interest on medium- and long-term gold deposits having 5-7 years and 12-15 years tenure. Gold is accepted in the form of raw gold including gold bars, coins, jewellery excluding stones and other metals under the scheme. But investors need to bring in minimum of 30 grams of gold, which is roughly worth Rs 1.5 lakh at current prices under the scheme. Sources said this amount will be substantially reduced to ensure that large number of people are able to open gold deposit accounts. The minimum requirements of 30 grams could be reduced to 1 gram. Interest earnings and capital gains under the scheme will continue to be exempt from capital gains tax, wealth tax and income tax.

Amendments are also being planned in gold metal loan (GML) scheme, which is used by jewellery manufacturers to borrow gold metal and settle the GML with the sale proceeds obtained. Banks offer GML for 180 days in case of domestic jewellery manufacturers and for 270 days in case of exports. The government has been regularly issuing sovereign gold bonds as part of its overall borrowing programme to support debt requirements as well as to provide a safe avenue for gold ownership without physical possession.

ALL SECTORAL INDICES, BARRING FMCG, CLOSE WITH LOSSES

Sensex slides 938 pts on FPI pullout, US stimulus worries

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors led the selling spree on the domestic stock markets on Wednesday amid uncertainties about the US stimulus and FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting, combined with not-so-encouraging earnings announcements and caution ahead of the Budget and scheduled derivatives expiry.

The Sensex plunged by 938 points, or 1.94 per cent, to 47,409.93 and the NSE Nifty Index fell by 271 points, or 1.91 per cent, to 13,967.50. On Wednesday, FPIs pulled out over Rs 1,688 crore from the markets. They had withdrawn Rs 765 crore on Monday and Rs 635 crore on January 22, taking the total withdrawals in the last three sessions to over Rs 3,000 crore.

In the US, by 12:32 p.m. ET the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 371.41 points, or 1.20 per cent, at 30,565.63 and the S&P 500 was down 61.96 points, or 1.61 per cent, at 3,787.66.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

WITH WEDNESDAY'S fall, the Sensex is now 2,600 points down after hitting 50,000 last week.

What led to the selling pressure?

After a weak start, the benchmark indices gradually drifted lower as the day progressed and settled around the day's low. Several factors like negative foreign flows, uncertainty about the US stimulus and US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting combined with not so encouraging earnings announcements dented the sentiment. Besides, caution ahead of the Union Budget and scheduled derivatives expiry also added to the selling pressure. In line with the benchmark in-

US Fed holds policy steady

Washington: The US Federal Reserve left its key overnight interest rate near zero and made no change to its monthly bond purchases, pledging to keep economic pillars in place until there is a full rebound from Covid-triggered recession. **REUTERS**

known that a fall in FPIs inflows will be the biggest risk to the liquidity-driven rally.

What are the issues ahead for the markets?

The markets are eagerly awaiting the Union Budget which is scheduled for February 1. The market is worried about the impact of Covid on fiscal deficit and the borrowing programme. Besides, there are worries over new tax proposals of the government which is seeking new revenue sources. FPIs are expected to take a view after considering the US stimulus programme which is yet to be formalised. Global investors are also awaiting the statement of the US FOMC about the economy and interest rates. A major reason for the global stock rally this month was a liquidity surge in most countries, including India.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Health, hygiene and nutrition push HUL net up 18.9% in Q3

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

WITH KEY verticals showing double digit growth, FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Wednesday reported an 18.87 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 1,921 crore for the quarter ended December 2020 against Rs 1,616 crore in the same period a year ago.

HUL's total income rose 20.21 per cent to Rs 11,959 crore in the quarter from Rs 9,948 crore. "We have significantly dialed up investments behind our portfolio and in building future-fit capabilities. Net revenue management and savings agenda has enabled us drive healthy bottom line," it said.

HUL chairman and MD Sanjiv Mehta said: "With Covid cases coming down sharply and increasing mobility, economic activity in

INCOME JUMPS 20.21%

■ The income rose 20.21% to ₹11,959 crore in the quarter from ₹9,948 crore

the country continues to improve. The rapid rollout of vaccines will give further impetus to growth."

"Higher mobility, consumer relevant innovations and investments behind market development are driving business momentum. Our business fundamentals remain strong with 86 per cent of our business gaining penetration. Health, hygiene and nutrition forming 80 per cent of our portfolio continues to grow in double digits and we have seen significant improvement in discretionary categories," HUL said.

COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES 2014 AMENDED

Public cos converting to private: Deemed approval clause axed

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE MINISTRY of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended the Companies (Incorporation) rules 2014 on conversion of public companies to private ones by removing a provision that would provide deemed approval to any such application which is not approved or rejected by the government within 30 days.

Private companies have a lower compliance burden compared to public companies which can issue shares to the general public. Further, while shareholders of a public company are free to transfer their shares, those of a private one can be restricted in their ability to transfer shares based on a company's articles of association.

The Companies (Incorporation) Amendment Rules, 2021 also empower a regional director (RD) to approve a proposal for conversion of a public company to a private company despite objections from stakeholders if the RD is satisfied that the conversion would

not be against the interests of the company and that the conversion is not intended to contravene any provisions of the Companies Act.

RDs are officials of the MCA in-charge of the functioning of the Registrar of Companies in their regions. Previously, RDs were required to reject any proposal for which a consensus on approval was not achieved within 60 days of filing of a conversion application. The RD will only be permitted to approve conversion if any inquiry, inspection or investigation has been initiated against the company or any prosecution is pending against the company.

Experts said this move would enable ease of doing business and prevent conversions from being stalled by unreasonable objections. "The move is aimed at improving ease of compliance by giving the RD the discretion to overrule objections against the conversion in the interest of the company," said Ankit Singh, partner at law firm Corporate Professionals.

The move comes after the conversion of Tata Sons from a public company to a private one.

PM set to address WEF event today

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will address the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on Thursday and interact with global CEOs.

Over 400 industry leaders from across the globe will attend the session, wherein the Prime Minister will be speaking, through video conferencing, on the Fourth Industrial Revolution — using technology for the good of humanity.

The Prime Minister's speech and interaction with CEOs come at a time when the Indian and the world economies are going through an extraordinary period of slowdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **FE**

Information, incentives, institutions key to limit air pollution: World Bank

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A WORLD Bank study on air pollution in three major cities — Delhi, Beijing and Mexico City — has found that the key to policy and behaviour change to improve air quality depended on: high-quality information to generate popular support for pollution mitigation; a strong incentive

programme to ensure implementation of measures to curb pollution; and for institutions to work together to create air pollution management strategies.

The study noted that while air pollution in a number of developing countries had reached a turning point, South Asian countries including India, Pakistan and Nepal were witnessing a rise in pollution intensity with economic growth. Delhi has consistently fea-

tured in the World Health Organization's list of most polluted cities in the world over the past few years. The government has committed to reducing India's emissions intensity by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are witnessing the greatest increase in air pollution relative to growth in incomes according to the report.

ByteDance cuts India workforce

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

BYTEDANCE IS cutting the size of its 2,000-plus India team and is unsure when it will make a comeback, the company told employees in an internal memo on Wednesday, months after its popular TikTok video app was banned.

The move came after India this month decided to retain its ban on TikTok and 58 other Chinese apps

following responses from the companies on issues such as compliance and privacy.

"We simply cannot responsibly stay fully staffed while our apps remain un-operational... we don't know when we will make a comeback in India," ByteDance wrote in the memo sent by Reuters.

Meanwhile, China said the decision to keep the ban was a violation of the World Trade Organization's fair rules of business.

IMF: Extend Covid support measures

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 27

AHEAD OF the Union Budget presentation on February 1, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Economist Gita Gopinath has favoured the extension of the pandemic support measures, thrust on investment in infrastructure

BRIEFLY

₹12,351 crore to 18 states

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has released Rs 12,351 crore to 18 states for giving grants to rural local bodies.

Petrol over ₹100 in Rajasthan

New Delhi: Premium petrol crossed Rs 100 a litre in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar, while in Delhi it hit Rs 86.30. **PTI**

Power Grid files InVITI PO

New Delhi: Power Grid has filed a draft offer document with Sebi, to monetise some assets via its infrastructure investment trust (InvIT). **FE**

737 MAX gets nod in Europe

London: Boeing Co's modified 737 MAX is safe to return to service in Europe, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency said. **REUTERS**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TAMILNADU SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Notice
(One Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid No.: Roc No.5231/2019/E1 Date: 27.01.2021

- The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures agreed with the World Bank. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2021.
- Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders. **Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract.** In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the World Bank's Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, invites online bids for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein.
- Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in from **28.01.2021 to 18.02.2021 at free of cost.**
- For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the [website: www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) at free of cost.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, POLLACHI Municipality** Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 9.
- Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before **15:00 hours on 18.02.2021** and will be opened online on **22.02.2021 at 15:00 hours**. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discounts) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids.
- The bidders are required to submit (A) original bid security in approved form; and (B) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **The Commissioner, POLLACHI Municipality, PALAGHAT ROAD, POLLACHI 642001, Tamilnadu** before the opening of the Bid i.e. before **22.02.2021**, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held on **10.02.2021 at 11:00hrs.** at the office of **The Commissioner, POLLACHI Municipality** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.

Package No	Name of Work	Bid Security * (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Providing BT Surface at Various Streets in Pollachi Municipality under Package-1	4,00,000/-	Nil	6 Months
2	Providing BT Surface at Various Streets in Pollachi Municipality under Package-2	2,00,000/-	Nil	6 Months
3	Providing BT Surface at Various Streets in Pollachi Municipality under Package-3	2,00,000/-	Nil	6 Months
4	Providing BT Surface at Various Streets in Pollachi Municipality under Package-4	2,00,000/-	Nil	6 Months

THE COMMISSIONER, POLLACHI MUNICIPALITY,
PALAGHAT ROAD, POLLACHI, Tamilnadu - 642001
DIPR/ 563 /TENDER/2021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TAMILNADU SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Notice
(One Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid No.: E1/2835/2020 Date: 27.01.2021

- The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures agreed with the World Bank. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the World Bank's Guidelines: **Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2021.**
- Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders. **Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract.** In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the World Bank's Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation**, invites online bids for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein.
- Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in from **27.01.2021 to 22.02.2021 at free of cost.**
- For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the [website: www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) at free of cost.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation** Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 9.
- Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before **15:00 hours on 22.02.2021** and will be opened online on **24.02.2021 at 15:30 hours**. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids.
- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand drafts towards the cost of bid document and registration on e-procurement website (if not previously registered); (b) original bid security in approved form; and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, Municipal Office Road, Tiruppur-641003, Tamilnadu** before the opening of the Bid i.e. before **24.02.2021**, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held on **08.02.2021 at 15:00 hrs.** at the office of **The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.

Package No	Name of Work	Bid Security * (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Relaying, Renewal & Restoration of BT Road in Ward No.1,4,5,6,8,9,11,14, Construction of SWD, Culvert & Relaying of BT Surface in Ward No.3,7,10 & 15 in Tiruppur Corporation under Package No-1.	2,49,400/-	Nil	6 Months
2	Relaying, Restoration of BT Road in Ward No.16,17,18,20,23,25,26 & 27 Formation of BT Road Ward No.21,24 Restoration of BT Road and Construction of SWD and Culvert in Ward No.22,28,29,30 & 33 in Tiruppur Corporation under Package-2.	3,06,050/-	Nil	6 Months
3	Construction of SWD, Culvert and Formation / Relaying of BT Surface at Kannagi Nagar in Ward No.13, Restoration of BT Surface Ward No.34,38,41,47,48 & 56 in Tiruppur Corporation under Package-3.	4,28,600/-	Nil	6 Months
4	Restoration of BT Surface in Ward No.36,52,54 Formation of BT Surface in Ward No.37,58,59 & 60 & Construction of SWD and RCC Culvert in ward No.57 in Tiruppur Corporation under Package-4.	2,00,000/-	Nil	6 Months

DIPR/ 561 /TENDER/2021 Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER-CUM-CHAIRMAN
STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, ODISHA, CUTTACK.
 JJ-32
 Ltr. No. LXVII-24/2018(RS)/ 975/TC Dtd: 22.01.2021

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
REFERENCE LTR.NO. LXVII-24/2018(RS)/13/TC, DTD. 01.01.2021
 In reference to the above, please refer to corrigendum on RFP for development of system for Intelligent Enforcement Management System on NH-16 between Panikoli & Rameswar wherein ANPR cameras will be installed to monitor disobeying vehicles and generating e-challan. For details, please visit <http://odishatransport.gov.in> and/or <http://www.odisha.gov.in> for amendments corresponding to queries, modifications and submission of responses.

Sd/-
Transport Commissioner,
 Odisha
 OIPR-38003/11/0006/2021

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
 Name of the work: "Cleaning of Debris from Roads, Berms, Backup space and disposal of Dredging materials from the stretch from TT-8 Junction to MPB via CQ and EQ for the year 2020-21". EMD cost: Rs. 1,99,305/- Last date and time of submission of Bid: 15.02.2021 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please refer our Website <https://eprocure.gov.in/> eprocure/app.

Executive Engineer
 Harbour Works Division No. 1
 PPT/PR/375/20-21 Dt. 25/01/2021

RITES LIMITED
 (A Government of India Enterprise) CIN No.: L7489DL1974GOI007227

NOTICE INVITING E-R-TENDER
 The General Manager/EXPOTECH, RITES Ltd. invites Open tender online bid in single packet system for the following:

Item & Quantity	Engagement of freight forwarder for export of consignment as mentioned below ex. Mumbai Sea Port to Beira sea port, Mozambique on CIF basis:
	• 06 Cape Gauge Locomotives and its spares ex. BLW, Varanasi, U. P.
	• Approx 300 CBM Spares ex. BLW, Varanasi/ RITES Ware house, Delhi

Tender Reference RITES/EXPOMOZLOCO/122020
 Last date & time of submission of bid 06.02.2021 at 18:00 Hrs.
 The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://ritesitd.com> and CPP portal <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

UJVN Limited
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763808 ; Fax- 0135- 2763508
 CIN NO. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com

RO. No. 84 DATE EXTENSION Date: 27.01.2021

E-Tender No. 21/EE(Maint)/Khodri/2020-21-Procurement of Various T & P items of Khodri Power station.
 Due to unavoidable reason above tender dates in tender documents of the above tender shall be read as below, all other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged:
 Last date for submission of bid : 06.02.2021 (upto 16:00 Hrs)
 Date of opening of bid : 09.02.2021 (11:00 Hrs.)
 For downloading tender documents and other details, Kindly visit portal "https://www.uktenders.gov.in" Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

West Central Railway
E-TENDER NOTICE
Date - 25.01.2021
 E-Tender is invited from reputed and experienced contractor by the undersigned for and on behalf of the president of India, for the following:-
Tender No. - ELECT-GEN-T-01-2021, Name of Work - Habibganj: provision of Railway electric power supply at ACVP (Automatic Coach Washing Plant) site. (Electrical work), **Completion Period -** 02 Months, **Estimated cost in Rs. -** 322355.16, **Date and Time for Closing of tender -** 19/02/2021 at 11:00 hrs, **Validity of offer -** 45 Days, The details of Complete tender documents and its related information may be seen at <https://www.iimps.gov.in> and notice board of this office. Manual offer, for above said tender is not acceptable and if any manual offer submitted will not be considered. Corrigendum/Updating, if required, will be uploaded on website, it may be seen at above said URL and Notice board of this office, till the date of closing of tender.
Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer (General)
West Central Railway, Bhopal

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT TENDER
 The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari District Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invite the item rate/lump sum contract bids from the eligible Contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central Govt. or State Government under takings. The bidders who have experience in construction of similar work and have established organization for taking up such work and who satisfy the qualification criteria of bid document need only apply. The scope of the work will be as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of Form
1.	Providing CAD works to Lift Irrigation Scheme to Baroti, Mandap Jodhan area & their adjoining villages in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP	29,14,83,067/-	29,14,831/-	One year	2500/-

1. KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:

a	Date of Online publication	25.01.2021 at 5:00 PM
b	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 25.01.2021 at 5:00 PM to 09.02.2021 at 5:00 PM.
c	Date of submission of e-tender	From 25.01.2021 at 5:00 PM to 09.02.2021 at 5:00 PM.
d	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Upto 11:00 A.M. on 10.02.2021
e	Date of opening of bids:	
	1) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria	On 10.02.2021 at 11.30A.M.
	2) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
f	Site Visit	From 28.01.2021 to 01.02.2021 along with the Assistant Engineer/ Concerned Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Sub Division Mandap & Tifra
g	Pre-Bid Meeting	On 05.02.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Engineer-in-Chief Jal Shakti Vibhag, Jal Shakti Bhawan Tutikandi Shimla. The queries of the bidders to be discussed during Pre-bid shall be submitted till 4:00 pm on 04.02.2021. No queries shall be entertained afterwards.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hptenders.gov.in
 Executive Engineer
 Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari
 5349/HP

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: CHAYANGTAJO DIVISION
PWD, AP:
No. CD/DRG-03/2020-21/608 Date 25.01.2021

PRESS RELEASE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Chayangtajo Division, PWD AP invites on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Item Rate Contract Single Stage Bidding Process under One Cover System (Both Technical Bid and Financial Bid) from eligible bidders of appropriate class as per conditions laid down in the **Arunachal Pradesh District Based Entrepreneurs and Professionals (Incentives, Development and Promotional) (Amendment) Act, 2020** for the execution of work as detailed in table below.

Sl. No.	NIT No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Bidding Document (in Rs.)	Period of Completion of work	Eligible class of contractor
1	CD/DRG-03/2020-21/01	C/o Community Hall at Chankyu & Saliwa Yangfo.	Rs. 96,13,844.00	Rs. 96,138.00 for APST Contractors & Rs. 1,92,277.00 for Non- APST Contractors	Rs. 1000.00	12 (Twelve) Months	Class IV & III

The Tender form and other details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Chayangtajo Division, PWD AP, Camp- Seppa on all working days on payment of non refundable Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand) w.e.f. 28.01.2021. The last date of receipt of application to purchase tender form will be 03.02.2021 at 1600 Hrs.

Intending bidder should produce following original documents before tender form issuing authority and the attested copy of same document should be enclosed along with the application to purchase tender form:-

- Valid firm registration for required class of Contractor.
- Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC).

Note : Detail information of the work and conditions of contract may be seen in the tender document.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Chayangtajo Division
PWD AP, Chayangtajo
 DIPR NO. ARN/16082-84

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DIVISION (PHE) BIJBEHARA
E- NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
(e-mail: phebijbehara230@gmail.com Telephone/Fax:01932-234230)
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Fresh -e-NIT S.No.29/PHB of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Single Cover System) on Item Rate Basis are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://tenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Bijbehara and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No. 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://tenders.gov.in>.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) shall be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of TD (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
1.	Retrofitting of WSS Thimran by way of providing, Laying/Fitting of pipes, const. of crate protection works at head site, Renovation of existing intake Chamber/PST/collecting Tank improvements to existing pipe system and Repairs to existing barbed wire and ornamental grill around various structures including successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	36.19	72380	500	30 Days	AAY/BEE
2.	Retrofitting of WSS Kachmulla by way of providing, laying/Fitting of pipes, improvements to existing pipe network, Chemical plastering to existing service Reservoir and successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	24.60	49200	300	20 Days	BEE/CEE
3.	Retrofitting of WSS Brimmar by way of providing, laying/Fitting of pipes, improvements to existing pipe network, Providing and Laying Filter media to existing 0.30 lac gallons SSFP and successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	36.02	72040	500	30 Days	AAY/BEE
4.	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Pathribal Panchalthan by way of PL/fitting of pipes, RCC jacketing/dome to existing 0.10 lac gallons capacity masonry SR and improvements to existing pipe network/ realigning of existing intake main from paddy fields incld successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	79.43	158860	1000	60 Days	AAY
5.	Retrofitting of WSS Gawan by way of providing, laying/Fitting of pipes, improvements to existing pipe network, Chemical Plastering to existing service reservoir and successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	17.86	35720	200	15 Days	BEE/CEE
6.	Retrofitting of WSS Narsar by way of providing, Laying/Fitting of pipes, construction of crate protection works at head site, Replacing of 0.30 lac gallons SSFP, RCC Jacketing to collection Tank and improvement existing pipe system including successful commissioning of entire system and maintenance for a period of 3 years including 01 year DLP after successful completion (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	69.11	138220	1000	60 Days	AAY

Possition of AA : Accored Position of Funds: Available

TENDER DOCUMENT:
 The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "http://tenders.gov.in" as per schedule of dates given below:

Sr. No.	Description	DATE			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	26	1	2021	10.00 AM
2	Download start date	26	1	2021	10.00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	26	1	2021	10.00 AM
4	Pre-bid meeting date	03	02	2021	11.00 AM
5	Bid submission end date	06	2	2021	02.00PM
6	Bid opening date	08	2	2021	11.00 AM
7	Place for opening of bids and address for communication	Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (phebijbehara230@gmail.com)			

FINANCIAL CRITERIA:
 I. As a proof of sufficient financial capacity, the tenderer/s should have an average annual turnover of at least 30% of advertised cost, which shall be calculated for the last three years out of last five years ending on 31st. March 2021.

Note: Certificate Annual reports/turn over incl profit & loss statement, account checked & issued through chartered accountant to be annexed/uploaded

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir
 Executive Engineer
 (J&K) PHE Div, Bijbehara.
 No.: PHEB/6875-91
 Dated: 25.01.2021
 DIPK-12173

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, COIMBATORE

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.09/2020-2021/SDO, Dated: 27.01.2021
 For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage / Schedule tender** through online only will be received upto **01.03.2021, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Coimbatore for **SI.No.1 under Work Announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister During Budget Demand 2019-2020 & S.No.2 under Work Announced by Hon'ble Highways & Minor Ports Minister During Budget Demand 2017-2018** pertaining Salem (H) Projects Division.

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from **04.02.2021**. If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
PROJECTS CIRCLE, COIMBATORE-43
 DIPR/614/TENDER/2021

MAGH MELA 2020-21
Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmelpamp@gmail.com

Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Procurement of Floating Jetty and Beautification of Prayagraj huts for Prayagwal Mela Authority

The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Bids for **Tender No.21/MM-2020-21** for "RFP for Procurement of Floating Jetty for Prayagraj Mela Authority" and **Tender No. 22/MM-2020-21** for "RFP for Beautification of Prayagwal huts for Prayagraj Mela Authority". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available from the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 27/01/2021 for **Tender No. 21/MM 2020-21 and Tender No. 22/MM-2020-21**. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 1000 hrs 27/01/2021 till 1400 hrs 01/02/2021 for **Tender No. 21/MM 2020-21 and Tender No. 22/MM-2020-21** via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received by interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders at 1600 Hrs on 01/02/2021 for **Tender No. 21/MM 2020-21 and Tender No. 22/MM-2020-21**. Details regarding the tender shall be made available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

District Magistrate, Prayagraj
/Vice Chairperson,
Prayagraj Mela Authority

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE STOP SAKHI CENTRE AT FATEHABAD IN FATEHABAD DISTT.	25.01.2021 16.02.2021	24.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0166720120 pws-wepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, KARNAUL	UP-GRADATION OF PNC INTO AB-HWC AT VILLAGE UJHA, SEWAH, ATTA, PATTI, KALYANA DISTT. PROVIDING SPECIAL REPAIR TO E/I AND 2 OTHER WORKS	25.01.2021 02.02.2021	5.35 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842269595 pwd-road-harnaul@hry.nic.in
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	FDG. E.I. IN VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AT VILLAGES BADOLI, PALI, GH BAO, ALANPUR, TIKRI KHERA DISTT., FARIDABAD + 6 OTHER WORKS	27.01.2021 02.02.2021	25.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7876821294 ppanchayat@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF STP BASED ON ADVANCED HBRB TECHNOLOGY OR BIO FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY AT DIFFERENT VILLAGES OF HISAR. DISTRICT	27.01.2021 10.02.2021	5.15 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9463251900 ppanchayat@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS 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 (CMS) WITH 07 YEARS OF OPERATION & MAINTENANCE IN THE HANAGRAM VILLAGES AND OTHER SELECTED VILLAGES IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	25.01.2021 02.02.2021	TENDER FEE 25000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356025623 ppanchayat@hry.nic.in
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIRSA	REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, LAYING OF FIRE LINE AND PROVIDING FIHT CONNECTION AT VILLAGE MAZADELA KHURD, DISTT. SIRSA + 01 OTHER WORK	28.01.2021 04.02.2021	45.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666221025 ec2sirs@phcdharyana.gov.in
7	HEALTH DEPARTMENT HISAR	RATE CONTRACT/ FOR PROCUREMENT OF TYRES AND TUBES FOR AMBULANCE UNDER REFERRAL TRANSPORT SCHEM 206	27.01.2021 10.02.2021	EMD 10000/-	www.nhmharyana.gov.in	7015994499 dm.his@hry.nic.in
8	WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, FARUKH	SPECIAL REPAIR/REHABILITATION OF 01 NO. OF 150 CS VT AXIAL FLOW PUMP (P-14) AT PUMP HOUSE NC-1 OF MYGARH CANAL HAVING LIFT 23.02'. (+ 5 NO. WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 11.02.2021	55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467638473 sanyal@hry.nic.in
9	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	FOR PROCURING FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED UNDER ICDS IN YAMUNANAGAR DISTRICT	23.01.2021 08.02.2021	41.16 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8388823490 dpoynr.wcd@gmail.com
10	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER BADLI (JHAJARI)	SUPPLY OF RAW & BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK BADLI DISTT JHAJARI	25.01.2021 05.02.2021	EMD 2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416380547 bdpbadli@gmail.com
11	DISTRICT FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CONTROLLER, REWARI	PROVIDING OUTSOURCING OF SERVICES OF PR CHOWKIDAR AND PART TIME SWEEPER IN FOOD AND SUPPLY DEPT REWARI FOR THE YEAR 2021-22	01.02.2021 10.02.2021	EMD 30000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466730868 dfoewr@hry.nic.in

1559/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

CROSSWORD 4339

ACROSS

DOWN

1

Appropriate change of accent is made (10)

8

Supply a trace-out (5)

9

Martine changes apparel (7)

10

Vain yet possibly showing simplicity (7)

11

Equally determined to gain an advantage (5)

12

Unit is possibly Roman naturally placed (2,4)

14

It's worn by a woman for a dance (6)

17

It comes back to beat a giant (5)

19

Little devil learning to beg (7)

21

Making a submission to a higher authority (7)

22

They are driven to join things (5)

23

In touch certainly and holding one's share of the deal (4-2-4)

2

Gets messing about in boats (7)

3

In favour of church power (5)

4

Stragglers revealed in street lights (6)

5

A stirring instruction to the player (7)

6

The first woman to get two points draws level (5)

7

A rest is not arranged for paper sellers (10)

8

Firm belief may lead to imprisonment (10)

13

One isn't shaken though it may make one shake (7)

15

Geological term for beach wear possibly (7)

16

Creature ailing badly (6)

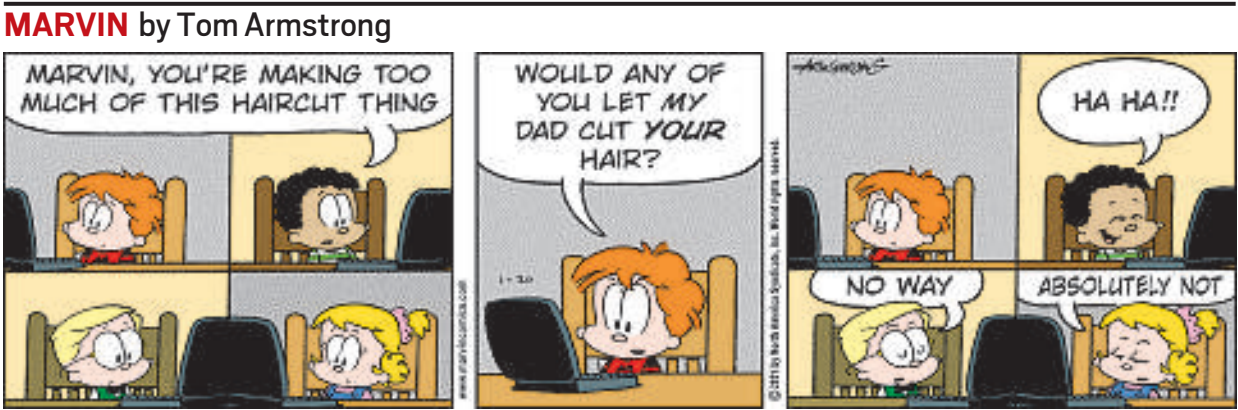
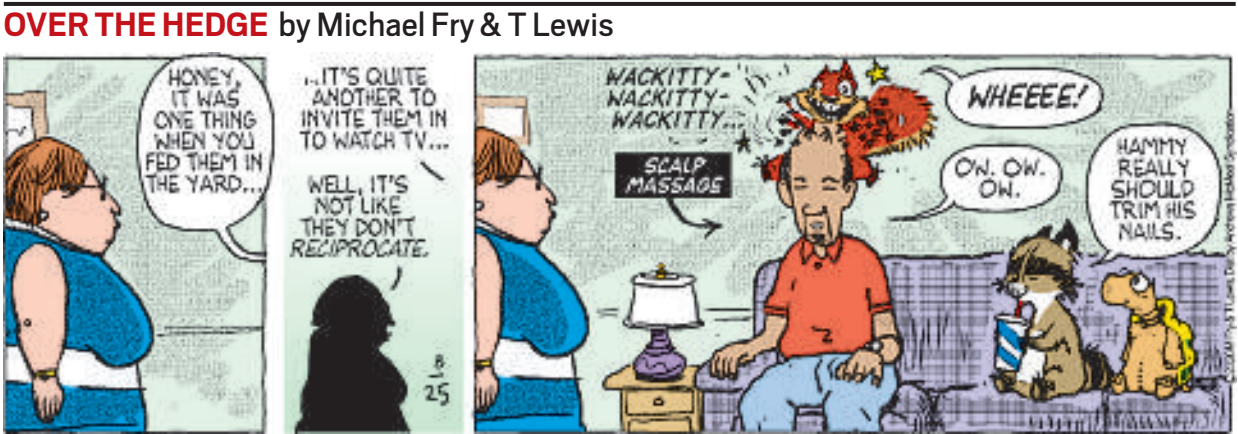
18

Consumer items that are cut and polished (5)

20

A blow Judy had to contend with (5)

Solutions Crossword 4338: Across: 1 In part, 4 Abess, 9 Stadium, 10 Upper, 11 Erato, 12 Liberty, 13 Presumption, 18 Rangoon, 20 Award, 22 Dhows, 23 Express, 24 Ernest, 25 Tendon. Down: 1 Instep, 2 Plaza, 3 Ruinous, 5 Blurb, 6 Esparto, 7 Strays, 8 Small-minded, 14 Run-down, 15 Traipse, 16 Bridge, 17 Edition, 19 Oasis, 21 Ahead.



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.

1. ___ where the last man ____ - Thomas Edison (5, 4, 3)

BVAER

EEMLT

CUOST

LUYFFF

SOLUTION: BRAVE, SCOUT, METTLE, FLUFFY

SUDOKU 4366

Difficulty Level 1s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4365

7	8	6	9		
	5	2	6	1	
9	3	7	1	5	
	8		4	6	5
1					9
5	9	4		3	
1	4	8	3	2	
3	7		6	5	
2		9	7	8	

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You have a tough choice to make, perhaps one that affects you and you alone as much as other people. Whichever side of the fence you come down on, you will open yourself up for a set of very interesting personal experiences. It's also time to take a sober look at a couple of suggestions that you've been treating rather frivolously.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

We have to face the fact that you may not be affected by current circumstances in the same way as other people. It's possible, therefore, that you'll have to watch while partners take the limelight, but not for long. The advantage is that you could be left in peace to get on with your own schemes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Someone is enchanting you. But, from their point of view, they may be more under your spell than you are under theirs. Whatever the truth of the matter, it seems certain that a meeting of minds is inevitable. And, out of that, could come a new, solid commitment.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You may be on tenterhooks. The obvious response to your concerns is 'relax, it might never happen'. You may find this unsympathetic but then, in more ways than one, you have been here before, haven't you? In fact, and here's a strange twist, what you're thinking about might already have happened - without your noticing.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It should be particularly easy to express yourself at the moment. Even for those who are not interested in what you have to say, your views will eventually prove to be deeply pertinent, prophetic even. In general, though, you can begin to wind down the pressure in a number of areas.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You are probably spending far too much, not to mention thinking about money more than is really necessary. After a momentary lapse, you may come to realise that your security relies more on emotional contentment than the quantity of coins in your pocket.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Today's planetary formation is like a sort of small birthday shared by everyone born under your sign all at the same time. After a period of contemplation, work out what your top priority is and make a personal wish. Implement whatever you decide without delay.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Forget the real world - it's time for some heavy day-dreaming. If you have chores and responsibilities you really can't shelve, then make whatever time for yourself you can. In love, play it cool - but don't be too fussy. And don't pretend that feelings don't matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Your charms are definitely coming to the fore again, which will be very useful as far as your long-term interests are concerned. One thing I would say is that you must be prepared to lay out some cash up front if you are pursuing important schemes.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is no reason for any unpleasantness, so don't allow yourself to be easily provoked. Authority needs to be respected and you, in your turn, must exercise power with dignity. There'll be moments when you have to stand back and let partners take first place - it's all in the timing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Although you, and people around you, may be rather edgy, you need to be making stalwart resolutions about where you are going, and how. Travel influences are exceptionally strong, so take the opportunity to develop all overseas and long-distance contacts.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It is inevitable that money will loom large in your consciousness. Some may pick up bargains. Others will make a smart, long-term investment. But remember that if you do have to spend extra cash, it should be on items you need rather than want.

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

CORRIGENDUM-2

Please refer RFP for Management of Enterprise Wide Loyalty Programme, No. SBI/EWLP/RFP/001/2020-21 dated 01/01/2021. Notice of which was published on 01/01/2021 in this newspaper. Please also refer Corrigendum Notice dated 15/01/2021 which was published on 16/01/2021 in this newspaper. **Corrigendum-2** details are available on our websites: <https://bank.sbi>, <https://www.sbi.co.in> under "Procurement News" and <https://etender.sbi>.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 28.01.2021

Dy. General Manager
(Debit Cards)

Pooja

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Pooja**, D/o Ramher Singh, R/o H. No. 83, Vill-Khedha Kalan, Delhi, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Sky Blue Colour Suit and Blue Colour Salwar and Sandal in her feet has been missing from her home since **12.01.2021**. In this regard a **DD No. 77A** dated **12.01.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Alipur, Outer-North Distt., Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. if any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/748/ON/2021

SHO
P.S. Alipur,
Outer-North Distt., Delhi
Ph.: 011-27202265/7065036325

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Storm Water Drain, (West Zone), 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 560 011.

No: EE/SWD/WEST/TEND/01/2020-21
Date: 27.01.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (STD-KV-4) - 2nd Call

The Executive Engineer, (SWD) West Zone, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Construction of RCC Retaining Wall on LHS of V-200 at CH:9700m in Manasanagara beside Government School in Ward No:128.	102.60	NIL-(Declaration as in Annexure to be Submitted)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **29.01.2021**. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **08.02.2021** at 4:00 pm. (3) Last Date for Receipt of the Filled Tender Document is **12.02.2021** at 4:00 pm. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on **16.02.2021** at 4:30 pm. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated at a later date. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or the website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
SWD (West Zone)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TENKASI MUNICIPALITY**
TAMILNADU SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Notice
(One Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid No.: 1039/2020/E1 Date: 27.01.2021

1. The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed below.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures agreed with the World Bank. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011.

3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/ Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders. **Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract.** In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the World Bank's Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. The Commissioner, invites online bids for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein.

5. Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in from 28.01.2021 to 18.02.2021 at free of cost.

6. For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: www.tntenders.gov.in A non-refundable fee of Rs. (Inclusive of tax) is required to be paid (to be submitted along with other documents listed in paragraph 9 below) before the opening of the bid i.e. before 19.02.2021. The mode of payment shall be in the form of DD drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, Tenkasi Municipality** payable at 'TENKASI', from any scheduled Bank.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, Tenkasi Municipality** Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 9.

8. Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before 15:00 hours on 18.02.2021 and will be opened online on 19.02.2021 at 15:30 hours. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids.

9. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand drafts towards the cost of bid document and registration on e-procurement website (if not previously registered); (b) original bid security in approved form; and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **The Commissioner, Tenkasi Municipality, Annaikarai Street, Tenkasi 627811, Tamilnadu** before the opening of the Bid i.e. before 18.02.2021, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 05.02.2021 at 15:00 hrs. at the office of **The Commissioner, Tenkasi Municipality** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.

TABLE

Package No	Name of Work	Bid Security * (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Providing Black Top Surface at Kalakodi Street in Ward No: 3 Mount Road Nadupettai Street in Ward No: 16 Iynthuvannam Periyar Pallivasal Street in Ward No: 24 Pulikutti Vinayagar Kovil Street and Uchi Mahali Amman Kovil 1st Street in Ward No: 31 and South East and West Kovilakk Street in Ward No: 25 in Tenkasi Municipality	184700/-	Nil	6 Months
2	Providing Black Top Surface at Sakthi Nagar in Ward No: 1 Azad Nagar in Ward No: 27, Puliyur Street, Anna Street and Nehru Street in Ward No: 33 & Old Bus Stand in Ward No: 20 in Tenkasi Municipality	198000/-	Nil	6 Months
3	Providing Black Top Surface at Ponniparai Street to Kodimaram, Ponniparai Street to Veempadi Pallivasal & Kadaya Street in Ward No: 18, Kulasekara Nathar Kovil Street and Keela Mutharamman Kovil Street in Ward No: 27 & Muduku Vinayagar Kovil Street and Shenbaga Vinayagar Kovil Street in Tenkasi Municipality	160000/-	Nil	6 Months
4	Providing Black Top Surface at New Bus Stand (North Side, South Side & Two Wheeler Park Stand) in Ward No: 1, Abdulkalam Nagar in Ward No: 2 & Railway Feeder Road (Infront of Tmt. Majamma Girls Govt Hr Sec. School) in Ward No: 6 in Tenkasi Municipality	194000/-	Nil	6 Months
5	Providing Black Top Surface at Rail Nagar and Thaibala Nagar in Ward No:1, Kalidas Nagar and Anna Nagar in Ward No: 1, MGR Nagar and Suriya Nagar in Mangammal Salai in Ward No: 2 (in Tenkasi Municipality	198300/-	Nil	6 Months
6	Providing Black top Surface at Tamilnadu housing Board Colony in Ward No: 1, Pariyadi Main Road and Cross Streets in Ward No: 10, Puthumanai 1st street in Ward No: 30, USP Nagar in Ward No: 31 & Uchi Mahali Amman Kovil 2nd and 4th Street in Ward No: 32 in Tenkasi Municipality	180000/-	Nil	6 Months

COMMISSIONER
TENKASI MUNICIPALITY

DIPR/607/Tender/2021

Marketing & Communications Department, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, 9th Floor, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

State Bank of India has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for empanelment of agency for Strategy Planning & Execution of Marketing Initiatives for SBI (RFP No.CC/M&C/2020-21/07). kindly visit Bank's website <https://bank.sbi>. Check "Procurement News" section for detailed RFP document. For future announcements, if any, in this regard, please keep referring to the website.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager
(Marketing & Communications)

Place: Mumbai
Date: 21.01.2021

कुटेशन नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन कुरुक्षेत्र में वाहनों की सुरम्त के लिए हाईवेयर/पैटी आईटम्स/मिसलेनियस आईटम् की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है। इस्कु सलायर दिनांक 25.02.2021 तक अपनी सीलबंद कुटेशन "महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, कुरुक्षेत्र" के नाम भेज सकते हैं। जिसके ऊपर स्टोर आईटम् कुटेशन लिखा होना अनिवार्य है। स्टोर आईटम् की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय, कुरुक्षेत्र में संपर्क कर सकते हैं। कुटेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी भी कार्यदिवस में आकर 200/- रुपए जमा करवाने उपरंत महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, कुरुक्षेत्र से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

हस्ता./-
महाप्रबंधक,
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, कुरुक्षेत्र।

15537/HRV

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala - 147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SG033813,
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER/TS, B-1, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA
Tel/Fax: 0175-2303093, E-Mail: ce-ts@pspcl.in, setransdesign@gmail.com
TENDER ENQUIRY NO. TSQ-1114/PSPCL/TD-I

Tender is invited through e-tendering under three part bid system for manufacture, fabrication, galvanization, testing, supply and delivery of 5440 MT, 66 KV Tower Material and Sub-Station structure as per Corporation's Tender Specification No. TSQ-1114/PSPCL/TD-II.

IMPORTANT DATES:
1. Start Date for Downloading of Tenders: From the date of publication
2. Last Date of Downloading of Tenders: 20.02.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.
3. Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: 20.02.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.
4. Date & Time of Opening of Bid: 22.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

NOTE:
1. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (GePNIC Portal))

2. Detailed NIT and Specification can only be downloaded from e-tendering website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (GePNIC Portal))

Sd/-
Dy. CE/TL (Design)
PSPCL, Patiala.

C- 30/21
1100/PB

राजस्थान साहित्य अकादेमी
CIN:U31200RJ2003SG027480

राजस्थान साहित्य अकादेमी द्वारा आयोजित ई-निविदा संख्या -28/SE/EDCH/2020-21 & 50/SE/EDCH/2020-21, जो दिनांक 24.11.2020 को 12:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा के माध्यम से स्वीकार की जानी थी तथा जिनके खुलने की नियत तिथि 24.11.2019 के 15:00 बजे तक की है, में निविदाकार द्वारा पीठक्यूसीडी की शर्तों को पूर्ण न किये जाने कारण उक्त ई-निविदाओं को री-टेंडर किया जाता है। अब उक्त ई-निविदाएं दिनांक 12.02.2021 को 12:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा के माध्यम से स्वीकार की जायेंगी तथा इन ई-निविदाओं का तकनीकी भाग (प्रश्न भाग) दिनांक 12.02.2021 को 15:00 बजे अथवा रात्रि 12:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट पर खोली जायेगी।

अधीनस्थ विनिर्माण, हमीरपुर
2012/विनिर्माण/निविदा/निविदा/निविदा/निविदा

राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(WORKS)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.35-DY.CE-WS-PER-2020-21-OT, Dt.: 04.03.2021

Tender Notice No.36-DY.CE-WS-PER-2020-21-OT, Dt.: 04.03.2021

Tender Notice No.37-DY.CE-WS-PER-2020-21-OT, Dt.: 04.03.2021

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Work Shops/Perambur, Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 023 invites e-tender for the following works as per notice inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.irps.gov.in. The tenders/contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.irps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple banks' net-banking, debit card and credit card.

Name of work : 35. CW/PER - Replacement of corroded and damaged gutters, replacement of damaged rain water, down pipes and replacement of damaged high roof AC sheets in AC Deluxe, HCR MMW, spring shop, water tank section, wagon repair, Airbrake shop CSS ward, AC deluxe ward, WSS ward, etc. at CW/PER.

36. CW/PER - Proposed shed room & Electronic testing room for new LHB shed at CW/PER and rack arrangements in LHB shed at CW/PER.

37. CW/PER - Proposed Construction of store ward shed (size : 50.00 x 24.00) near saw mill at CW/PER.

Approximate Cash value (Rs.): 35. CW/PER - 83,28,701.80, 36. CW/PER - 32,55,842.65, 37. CW/PER - 1,25,55,322.56

Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 35. CW/PER - 1,66,600.00, 36. CW/PER - 65,100.00, 37. CW/PER - 2,12,800.00

Cost of tender Form (Rs.) : 35. CW/PER - 5,600.00, 36. CW/PER - 3,360.00, 37. CW/PER - 5,600.00

Period of Completion in month(s) : 35. CW/PER - 6, 36. CW/PER - 6, 37. CW/PER - 6

Closing/Opening Date @ 14.30 hrs/14.30 : 35. CW/PER - 04.03.2021, 36. CW/PER - 04.03.2021, 37. CW/PER - 04.03.2021

For further details refer to website portal www.irps.gov.in or contact office of the Dy. Chief Engineer/Work Shops/Perambur, Chennai - 600 023.

Deputy Chief Engineer/Work Shops/ Southern Railway, Perambur, Chennai - 600 023.

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20 SPORT

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE OWNER of Bengaluru FC, one of country's most successful football clubs of the last decade, in a letter to Nita Ambani, the Founder Chairperson of the Indian Super League (ISL), said they are incurring losses in excess of Rs 25 crore every season and raised concern about the 'fragile financial condition' of the country's premier league.

Bengaluru FC owner Parth Jindal wrote the 'losses increased dramatically' during the Covid-19 pandemic because of lack of ticketing revenue, losing sponsorship and the additional cost of maintaining the bubble. Reliance Foundation suspending the youth subsidy (of up to Rs 2 crore) to teams has been a 'severe blow', according to Jindal. The 2021 season of the ISL started on November 20 and is being played in a bio-secure bubble in Goa.

As it was becoming 'very difficult for



Bengaluru FC has in its ranks several national team players, including captain Sunil Chhetri.

Bengaluru FC and JSW Sports to justify and sustain the losses being incurred,' Jindal has sought Ambani's 'counsel and guidance on this matter'. Ambani launched the ISL in 2014, in partnership with Star Sports. The

league was granted the status of being India's premier football league by the Asian Football Council in 2019. ISL's 11 teams are owned by corporates, movie stars and even cricketers, including former and current India captain, MS Dhoni (Chennaiyin) and Virat Kohli (FC Goa) respectively.

Jindal's team played in the erstwhile top division I-League before moving to the ISL in 2017.

"Not having ticket revenue, losing out on sponsorships as well as the additional costs due to maintaining the COVID bubble have resulted in losses increasing dramatically. Since we have joint (sic) the ISL we have been losing in excess of Rs 25 crores every season and this season the numbers are even worse," Jindal wrote.

Bengaluru FC is not the only club to feel the burden of the financial strain. In 2019, Pune City shut shop due to financial problems and in the same year, the Delhi team shifted its base to Odisha to cut its losses. An ISL team's major expenses are on

player salaries. This season, the league has one of the finest ensembles of foreign players ever, with footballers having experience of playing in Europe and Australia flocking to India as the clubs offered better wages.

But while the main source of income for football clubs around the world is from the revenue generated by selling television rights of the league, that has not been the case in India since the broadcaster is also the league's co-owner. In absence of TV revenue, there are few sources of income for the teams.

The ISL has measures like a salary cap (Rs 16.5 crore) to keep a check on clubs' spending and provide a subsidy of up to Rs 2 crore to incentivise youth development. Jindal, though, felt it wasn't proving enough.

He wrote: "Moreover, the already fragile financial health of the ISL has been worsened by the suspension of the youth subsidy usually granted by Reliance Foundation to qualifying teams and inadequate sanctions being imposed on teams flouting

player salary cap rules using one loophole or another. Investing in youth is the only way Indian football is going to grow and stopping the youth subsidy is a severe blow to clubs like ours that are spending on this front."

Bengaluru has been a trailblazer of sorts in Indian football. The team, which has in its ranks several national team players, including captain Sunil Chhetri, has won the erstwhile I-League twice and lifted the ISL trophy in their debut season in 2017-18.

Jindal added 'it might be prudent' for franchise owners and league organisers to 'chart out the future path to commercial sustainability'. "Today, I am not aware how franchises like BFC will become profitable or even break even and would love to deliberate and understand along with the other team owners what the future holds," Jindal wrote.

The ISL spokesperson didn't respond to calls and text messages from *The Indian Express*.

BRIEFLY

Ganguly taken to hospital 'for check-up'

Kolkata: BCCI president and former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata after he felt heaviness in the chest on Wednesday morning, according to his family sources. It is learnt that Ganguly felt uneasiness last evening and had mild chest pain this morning after which his family members decided to take him to Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals. "Mr Sourav Ganguly, 48 years old male, has come for a checkup of his cardiac condition. There is no change in his parameters since his last hospitalisation and his vital parameters are stable," said a hospital statement. Ganguly is at the hospital's critical care unit where he has been undergoing tests. Angioplasty was done on Ganguly's right coronary artery at Woodlands Hospital after he suffered a heart attack earlier this month. Treating doctors decided that the other two damaged coronary arteries, too, needed angioplasty at a later date. Since his discharge from the Woodlands Hospital, Ganguly has been under constant medical vigil at his home. **ENS**

Kerala HC issues notice to Kohli

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli and the state government in a plea seeking ban on online gambling in the state. Besides Kohli, a division bench, headed by Chief Justice S Manikumar, also issued notices to Malayalam actor Aju Varghese and South Indian actress Tamanna Bhatia. The celebrities are the brand ambassadors of online rummy games. The petitioner submitted that at present the law governing gaming activities in the state, the Kerala Gaming Act 1960, does not bring within its purview any online gambling, wagering or betting activities. **PTI**

Baroda stun Haryana by 8 wickets

Ahmedabad: Vishnu Solanki helped Baroda pull off a last-over heist against Haryana with a sensational 71, which included a six off the game's final ball, to fire his team into the semi-finals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Wednesday. Baroda first restricted Haryana to 148/7 in the third quarterfinal, and then it was Solanki, who hammered four fours and five sixes in his 46-ball unbeaten knock to get his team over the line after 18 runs were needed off the final over. In the evening game, Rajasthan bowlers held their nerves as they defeated Bihar by 16 runs, in their quarter-final. **BRIEF SCORES:** Haryana 148/7 (H Rana 49, S Chauhan 35; K Kakade 2/7, A Sheth 1/27) lost to Baroda 150/2 (V Solanki 71 not out, K Devdhar 43, Y Chahal 1/15) by 8 wickets; Rajasthan 164/5 (M Lomror 78 not out; B Sharma 38, S Kashyap 2/28, A Aman 2/31) won against Bihar 148/4 (M Mahroor 68 not out; V Yadav 27 not out; C Singh 1/21, A Choudhary 1/25) by 16 runs. **PTI**

Alam century leads Pakistan to 308-8 versus South Africa

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KARACHI, JANUARY 27

FAWAD ALAM'S third test century put Pakistan in charge on the second day of the first test against South Africa on Wednesday. The 35-year-old Alam hit nine fours and two sixes in a patient 109 off 245 balls, compiled in just under six hours, to help his team reach 308-8 at stumps. Faheem Ashraf also scored a fluent 64 off 84 balls as Pakistan opened up a first-innings lead of 88 runs on a slow wicket. He and Alam shared a stand of 102 for the seventh wicket.

Debutant Nauman Ali was 6 not out and Hasan Ali, who was bowled by Keshav Maharaj off a no-ball late in the day, was unbeaten on 11.

Alam, who bats in an unorthodox style and exposes all three stumps to the bowler, was out in the last session when he flicked a ball from Lungi Ngidi (2-55) straight to mid-wicket.

Pakistan was in trouble overnight on 33-4 after South Africa had been skittled out for 220 on an eventful first day when 14 wickets fell on an uneven wicket. But Alam showed lots of determination to keep the Proteas at bay. The home team went close to dismissing him for 35 just before lunch when Dean Elgar failed to hold onto a sharp low catch in the slips.

Alam had long been ignored by Pakistan after scoring a debut test hundred against Sri Lanka in 2009. He finally got his chance against England last year and the left-handed batsman made his second Test century, 11 years after his first, against New Zealand last month.

On Wednesday, Alam shared a 94-run, fifth-wicket stand with Azhar Ali (51) before his partner was caught behind off left-arm spinner Maharaj (2-71). Mohammad Rizwan then made 33 until he was removed by Ngidi.

Alam reached his century by lofting Maharaj, who shared the new ball with Kagiso Rabada (2-45), over long on for his second six.

Ashraf, who smashed Rabada for two boundaries in an over with the new ball, was dismissed when he dragged a full delivery from Anrich Nortje (2-84) onto the stumps.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan 308 for 8 (Fawad 109, Faheem 64, Rabada 2-45, Ngidi 2-55) lead South Africa 220 by 88 runs at Day 2, stumps

SHIVANI NAIK
JANUARY 27

IN TEST cricket's season of spectacular stubbornness, Kidambi Srikanth tried his hand at gritting it out in badminton. And though he ended up losing after 77 minutes on the day, the uncharacteristic playing style raised hopes that the talented Indian can become more than just a fast-court, aggressive, speed merchant, who drops off in big events at the first sight of a slow, dragging shuttle.

Srikanth played two strokes more than he normally would in any given rally in his opener of the World Tour Finals against Anders Antonsen on Wednesday. For anyone accustomed to admiring his attacking style, it was a matter of great exasperation. Playing percentage is almost demeaning for Srikanth - he's allergic to patience - and his resistance to learn another way renders him a dead weight when conditions aren't in his favour.

He needs to only look at PV Sindhu, who despite boasting the attacking chops, has learnt to give herself a chance to stay in a long match, from where she can step up the offence.

Antonsen, still reeling from last week's run to the final, was leaden-footed and dragging his own game - a cue for Srikanth to hurry up and get the win. His winners were coming from accelerations and net rushes, evoking nostalgia circa 2017, prompting questions over why he wouldn't go for broke.

And yet, Srikanth stayed in the long rallies, played those two extra shots that cost him the match 21-15, 16-21, 18-21, given his inadequate strength and stamina at this stage. But it prepped him for the path to the top, hurdles such as Kento Momota, Chen Long, Chou Tien Chen, Viktor Axelsen, all prepared to slug it out in long rallies and enforce shuttle's version of death-by-monotone.

Conditioning a worry

Srikanth loves artistry which he can fashion into brutal attacks of quick kills. The problem these last few years has been that



Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth lost 21-15 16-21 18-21 to world number three Anders Antonsen of Denmark in a 77-minute contest. Badminton Photo

opponents won't indulge him in a style he revels in. And so, he must learn to survive the long rallies, and the slow, heaving shuttle, in order to sneak in the net-rushes and mic-drop smashes he thrives on.

Here's where Srikanth is woefully behind the pack - the lack of top-of-the-shelf conditioning that can help him dictate his style, his lack of precision leading to mistakes when closing out games, when his attack gets too exuberant and he overdoes the power in the smash which falls limp at the net. The fatigue and errors are linked, and a sprightly Momota won't serenade him into a decider, finishing him in two games instead.

Flashes of brilliance

But Srikanth assured that even his grit won't be grimy. At 13-all in the opener,

Antonsen smashed to Srikanth's right and the Indian's return was straight from the Matrix movie - bringing his racquet at hip-height and rebounding it for a cross-court winner.

His body defence is a work of art - there was a low backhand retrieve at 16-16 in the decider, the wrist trained for amazing control. Antonsen had the literal gobsmacked scratch-the-head reaction an opponent will give when such unreal defensive winners are secured. But the smashing errors, and late-game wobbles at the net put paid to the Indian's hopes.

"I can't say I'm happy with the way I played today, because I was playing much better in training before I came here. I had my chances today, I could have won from 17-16 in the third. Main motto for me is to play as many matches as possible, because

Playing percentage is almost demeaning for Srikanth - he's allergic to patience - and his resistance to learn another way renders him a dead weight when conditions aren't in his favour.

I haven't been winning matches over the last two years. So I really want to play matches with the top four, top eight players," Srikanth would say.

Staying in a long rally also means Srikanth punctuates those prolonged exchanges with quick bursts of speed mid-rally, mixing the punch clears with smashes. Only, now he has the composure to wait it out on the follow-up if the return fetches up, and not throw it all away in a huff, frustrated about his attack not getting the desired result. A 40+ shot rally is a test of Srikanth's patience, as his every instinct is to rebel and assert his kill shot. Much of playing and beating the top players will be about acing those 40-shot rallies on bad days. 2021 has only just begun.

Spirited Sindhu loses to Tai Tzu

Sindhu started her campaign managing to wrong-foot Tai Tzu-Ying once in the match, but couldn't tangle her up enough, losing 21-19, 12-21, 17-21.

Using tosses and her superior reach, Sindhu kept things neck-and-neck in the first and third games, and summoned the big smash that can overpower opponents. But her body defence was shabby, and follow-ups half a step slower, which meant that the Indian couldn't sprint the home straight.

Still, Sindhu looked more assured at the net than she has in a long time. And her flicks from mid-court tied up the Taiwanese in knots. But it is criminal to find a yawning open court against the World No. 1 and sail a smash long. So, though a great workout before she runs into Ratchanok Intanon on Thursday, Sindhu couldn't tame this one.

FRESH TWIST

For Australia, searching for the next great leggie, hope comes via Jalandhar

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

ON WEDNESDAY, Indian-origin spinner Tanveer Sangha was included in the Australia squad for the T20I series in New Zealand next month, on the back of a prolific maiden Big Bash season.

Playing for the Sydney Thunder, the 19-year-old has emerged as the third-highest wicket-taker, with 21 dismissals at the end of the group stage, at 16.66 runs each and an economy of 8.04 runs per over - leaving behind established leggies such as T20 stalwart Rashid Khan and compatriot Adam Zampa. The batsmen left foxed include Australia limited-overs captain Aaron Finch and Peter Handscomb and Chris Lynn.

The national call-up comes as vindication for father Joga. He migrated to Sydney's south-west suburbs from Rahimpur Kala Sanghian, a village 20 km from Jalandhar, in 1997. Joga worked on a farm in Brisbane before becoming a taxi driver in Sydney.

"I never watched cricket in India. I played kabaddi, volleyball and wrestling. Here, we have tournaments for those sports in winters and Tanveer would often accompany me and play in the junior bouts," Joga tells *The Indian Express*. "When he was ten years old, we got him enrolled in the Ingleburn RSL Club to play cricket. I picked up and dropped Tanveer from our home in Ingleburn to the club and that meant I had to skip some of my taxi rides and work early morning or late at night."

Sangha responded by putting in the work. And when not letting it rip on the pitch, the youngster would devour YouTube compilations of Shane Warne and - more recently - India star Yuzvendra Chahal.

In the Big Bash, Sangha has been used in the Powerplays and at the death. To curb the run rate against a red-hot Glenn Maxwell and to deliver breakthroughs. Fans have labelled him "the true heir to Nathan Lyon" and Thunder coach Shane Bond has used the adjective "outstanding".

Signed by Thunder as a development rookie in 2018, Sangha had become the third-youngest BBL recruit the following year. He finished last year's Under-19 World Cup in South Africa as Australia's most successful bowler. Last month, he took a wicket off the third delivery on his BBL debut.

Those in the know aren't surprised. Anthony Clark, the development coach at Cricket New South Wales, who has been working with Sangha since his Under-16 days, says, "It's the desire to learn and listen. Even now, there will be a message after the game, asking a question... He is a lot more mature than what his age says. He wants big challenges, bigger occasions... just the amount of bowling he does... We get players to log how many balls they bowl and his number is so much higher than any other bowler in the country."

Growing up, like father Joga, Sangha Jr wasn't consumed by cricket either. Between volleyball sessions at the local Gurudwara, falling for cricket happened gradually, over the summer vacations spent at his ancestral village.



Tanveer Sangha playing for Australia in an Under-16 game against Pakistan. NSW

Soon, Sangha would bring tricks learnt in the Rahimpur fields to Campbelltown parks, and later to his school ground.

Despite boasting of the Waugh brothers and five-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer Ian Thorpe as alumni, the East Hills Boys High School is not a "sports school". And that worked perfectly for Sangha.

"A lot of people told me to go to a sports school," Sangha told *The Sydney Morning Herald* last month. "I had friends that went to

a sports school and had training after school, training before school and during school. For me, it wasn't cricket, cricket, cricket all the time. I 100 per cent loved going to a normal public school. I could just chill out and then I could focus on cricket."

Byron Hackshall, Sangha's high school coach and PA teacher, remembers Tuesday afternoons futilely deliberating over which sport to play. "Rather than trying something different, he just wanted to play cricket,"

Hackshall laughs. "Very vocal and energetic in the field, he is an outstanding role model for our school."

Back issues

Last season, the sheer amount of bowling he does left Sangha with back issues. "He slowed down and worked on specific drills. When he was finally cleared for the national Under-19 tournament last year, he was like a kid on Christmas Eve. He got crucial wickets, scored some runs and helped us win the final," says Clarke.

Last year Sangha also got a chance to mingle with the New South Wales heroes. When not sending down over after over to Steve Smith, Sangha picked the brains of off-spinner Nathan Lyon on how to set up dismissals. But it was all-rounder Moises Henriques who truly took him under his wing.

"They were bowling and batting against each other and Moises kept an eye on his game. That was nice, why aren't you doing that more? Few other guys in the Blues group also kept talking to him," says Clark, adding that the Covid restrictions helped, by keeping training groups small. "It made it much better for the younger players because conversations with senior players were more consistent."

Sangha has emerged as a find at a time when Australia is looking for spinners, especially with no clear successor to 33-year-old Lyon. In Sheffield Shield 2019-20, the top 20 wicket-takers were all pacers; 21st was Steve O'Keefe, the 36-year-old left-arm orthodox.

"With our fast bowlers we've got a long list...

doing well. But with spin, we've got Nathan and that's it. What are we doing to help the kids develop?" O'Keefe told *Wide World of Sports* at the time.

While comparisons with past leg-spinning greats have followed, these are not just wildly premature but also extraneous. "I wouldn't liken Sangha to any of those great bowlers from a technical point of view. He is a more subcontinental sort of leg-spinner," says Clark. "And although he's doing really well in T20, he has a lot of layers. The consistency and variations, as well as the ability to change the flight, is something not a lot of young players have. He has got players out with balls out of the front of his hand, with a nice wrong 'un."

Hackshall says "it's a generational thing", with Sangha coming into professional cricket through the T20s. "There's a high price put on being able to bowl six different balls. In Test or Shield cricket, it's about trying to build pressure, ball after ball in the same spot," says Hackshall. "I don't think we've seen the best yet. The more longer-format cricket Tanveer plays, the better his control will get."

Joga meanwhile is looking back and dreaming ahead.

"Tanveer accompanied me and my friends to watch India play Australia in a T20 match at SCG in 2018 and later said that one day, we will be watching him play in Australian colours from the same spot," says Joga. "We know it's too early to say but to watch him play in the T20 World Cup in India this year at the stadium or TV will be a dream come true for him."

WITH INPUTS FROM NITIN SHARMA