



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**

PROSPEROUS KARNATAKA

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

US DOLLAR 5 TRILLION ECONOMY



Due to the presence of E-Auction for the last 8 years, Karnataka iron ore industry is uniquely discriminated against its domestic & global peers with no freedom of sales.

Karnataka Iron ore is sold at \$45/tonne versus international price of \$135/tonne due to this discriminatory E-Auction & sales restrictions.

Removal of E-Auction & trade restrictions would generate thousands of crores per year of additional revenue to state government.

Increase in production will lead to massive job creation.

Ease of doing business will attract big ticket investments.



**Federation of Indian
Mineral Industries**

Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Southern Region
2nd Floor, No. 39 East West Centre,
4th Main Road, Nehru Circle,
Seshadaripuram, Bangalore - 560 020

Ref. No. 2528/M-2-04/SQM/outsource/2021 Dated: 25-1-2021

Press Notice for Consultancy Services of State Quality Monitoring under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadka Yojana (PMGSY), a centrally sponsored programme of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India aims at providing all weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitation. The Programme is being implemented by the State Government of Uttarakhand with *Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency (URRDA)* as the implementing Agency.
- The Consultancy services are required for independent quality monitoring under second tire at state level as provided in PMGSY Programme Guidelines issued by Government of India.
- The Agency invites Technical and Financial proposals on approved TOR from consulting engineering firms or bodies (hereinafter referred as the Consultant)/ corporate to undertake and perform the duties and functions of State Quality Monitors. The Technical Proposal will be evaluated as per the criteria subject to fulfillment of technical qualifications.
- This Invitation for the Proposals is open to all Consultants meeting the eligibility criteria. The applicant should be a private or government-owned legal entity or any combination of them with a formal intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a Joint Venture(JV).
- The relevant document can only be downloaded from pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. Scanned copy of demand draft of **Rs. 5,000** (Five Thousand only) exclusive of GST payable at Dehradun (Uttarakhand) in the name of CE, URRDA shall be submitted online on www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in and reach to URRDA before submission closing time. Physical document submission shall be through speed post or courier or hand delivery only. Last date of proposal submission is : **upto to 13.00 Hours on 23/02/2021**

S.No.	Stages	Date & time
1	Dates of release of invitation	31.01.2021
2	Date of submitting pre-bid queries in the CE office	09.02.2021 upto to 5:00 PM
3	Pre-bid Meeting	10.02.2021, At 12:00 PM
4	Bid submission start Date	15.02.2021, At 11:00 AM
5	Bid submission End Date	23.02.2021, At 1:00 PM
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	23.02.2021, At 3:00 PM

Date of opening of Financial Bid will be notified after evaluation of Technical Bid on e-procurement portal.
CE, URRDA, Dehradun

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

TAMILNADU SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENTPROJECT

Bid No.:1485/2020/E1, Date: 27.01.2021

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

E-Procurement Notice
(One Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

- 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 2001.
- 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 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 29.01.2021 to 19.02.2021 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. A non-refundable fee of Rs. (Inclusive of tax) is required to be paid (to be submitted along with other documents listed in paragraph 8 below) before the opening of the bid i.e. before **22.02.2021**. The mode of payment shall be in the form of **DD** drawn in favour of **The Commissioner, Devakottai Municipality** payable at Devakottai, from any scheduled Bank.
- 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, Devakottai 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 Part 9.
- Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before **15:00 hours on 19.02.2021** and will be opened online on **22.02.2021** at 15:00 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, Devakottai Municipality, No.3761, Thirupattur Road, Devakottai-630302, 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 15:00hrs** at the office of **The Commissioner, Devakottai 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
I	2	3	4	5
I	Providing B.T Surface using CMP paver machine with Storm water drain and RCC culvert @ ward no. 1, Ram nagar 3rd street, Kam nagar 2nd street, Kam nagar 1 st to 4th street and cross, Kam nagar 4th street to 6th street cross (EB sub station),Alagapuri nagar 5th st,Alagapuri nagar cross st,Alagapuri nagar (Park back side),Sanjeevi puram road and cross,ward no. 2, Somasundaram nagar cross st, Thanchi orani Burns colony main and cross road, New housing block ward, Thanchi Orani cross street in Devakottai Municipality.	2,54,378/-	Nil	6 Months
II	Providing B.T Surface using CMP paver machine with Storm water drain and RCC culvert @ ward no. 2, Thanchi orani cross road, Panipulan vayal road, Cross road, Thirupattur road cross road (Near TVS Show room), Thirupattur road cross road / Kanchi periyavar nagar / Jayankonda vinayagam road, Ward no. 3, Annasalai East 4th cross road, Vivekananthapuram East, Thirupattur road cross road(Muthanagar),Thirupattur road cross road (Opp.NSMPS),Ward no. 11, Corporation road Extension and cross and Corporation road (Thayamangalam Kovil road) in Devakottai Municipality.	2,55,320/-	Nil	6 Months
III	Providing B.T Surface using CMP paver machine with Storm water drain and RCC culvert @ Ward no.4, Sri Rengapuram East and cross road, Yoganarasimhan nagar road and cross, Avarankadu Extension area, Ward no. 5, Natarajapuram 1st street,Natarajapuram school road, ward.6, Eravasu pathai cross road, Ward no. 11,Vallappa chetti orani South and east street,Manthoppu street road,Manthoppu street cross road, Gnanananthagiri nagar main and cross road and Saraswathi wasaha salai cross street in Devakottai Municipality.	2,50,307/-	Nil	6 Months
IV	Providing B.T Surface using CMP paver machine with Storm water drain and RCC culvert @ Ward no. 5,Nehru street cross, Ward no. 7,Dharmannuveerar street, Ward no. 8,Sivankovil East and south street, Ward no. 9,Poosakara natchanapuram cross street, Ward no. 13, Anna nagar 1st street and cross street, Ward no. 17, Arunachalpoigai orani around road, Ward no. 18,Vattanam road cross (Andam Medical), Ward no. 19, Mullakkottu street, Ward no. 21 Chidambarananthapuram east cross,Ward no. 22, Jeevanagar road, Ward no. 23, Nithyakalyanipuram West and cross,Ward no. 24, Kaillasanthapuram cross road,K.V.R, RM street, P.L.S orani South and East road, ward.27, Thalamalai nagar, Kattuorani pathai in Devakottai Municipality.	2,45,042/-	Nil	6 Months
V	Providing Paver Block pavement with Storm water drain and RCC culvert to Ward. 2, Thanchi Orani cross, Panipulan vayal cross, Ward.3, Anna salai East 3rd street,Vivekananthapuram East street,Anna salai cross,Vivekanantha puram cross road, Ward.4, Renganna st, Naitalingaling cross street, ward.9, Sammanthar street cross road, Ward.11, Gnananathgiri nagar cross street, Ganananathgiri nagar cross street (Sai baba colony), Saraswathi wasaha salai cross street, ward.12, Thirupattur road cross (Near Buvaneshwari Amman Kovil), ward.23, Krishnaraja puram east cross, ward.25, Thennamani Orani south street and Ward.27, Athangarai cross street in Devakottai Municipality.	1,97,189/-	Nil	6 Months

* Bid security 1% of Estimate cost. DIPR.572/Tender/2021

Commissioner, Devakottai Municipality.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

RASIPURAM 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.:1335/E1/2020** **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 & Grant 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, 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 29.01.2021 to 19.02.2021 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 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, Rasipuram 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 Part 9.
 - Bids must be submitted online on www.tntenders.gov.in on or before 15:00 hours on 19.02.2021 and will be opened online on 22.02.2021 at 15:00 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 bid security in approved form; and (B) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **The Commisioner, Rasipuram Municipality,72,Bharathithasan salai, Rasipuram 637408, 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 05.02.2021 at 15:00 hrs. at the office of **The Commissioner, Rasipuram 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 Road to West colony, Kumarasamy st, Sivan Koll st, EB Colony, Indra colony and Cement Concrete Road to West colony lane and sivan koll lane.	197500/-	Nil	6 Months
2	Providing BT Road to SS Salai Angels colony, Singan st, Vallappa st and CC Road to MSP Subbarayan st, ERA Ramalingam st, Anumandha st, Muthusamy lane, Annamar st, and Sandhu veeri street.	196600/-	Nil	6 Months
3	Providing Paver block Road and Improvement of BT Road at Vallalar Salai, Subramaniam Nagar & Kesavan Layout, Vaitthiyalingam st, Ramasamy st 1,2,3 & 4 and CC Road to Amaichar Govindasamy street.	196500/-	Nil	6 Months
4	Providing BT to Housing board, Weavers colony, Ellappa colony, Koneripatty Ex.2, Mettukadu road, Kamarai colony (k.patty), and CC Road to Koneripatty Ex.1	197300/-	Nil	6 Months
5	Providing BT Road to Marrappan thottam (EB office), V.Nagar Road no. 2,3,9 & 10 and CC Road to Subbaraya st, Nanjappa lane, Angalamman Koll st and Sekkadi st.	196500/-	Nil	6 Months
6	Providing BT Road to Thattankuttal road, Kamaraj Nagar (ward 8), Kattur road (Angalamman koll rd) CC Road Malli street.		Nil	6 Months

COMMISSONER
RASIPURAM MUNICIPALITY

DIPR/611/Tender/2021

2



Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)
formerly known as *Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET)*,
Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals,
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India
Head Office: Guindy, Chennai 600032.
E-mail : cipetdgoffice@gmail.com Website : www.cipet.gov.in

INVITATION OF BIDS

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online) No.: CIPET_HO/Pur/Ten/2020-21/04

CIPET invites technical & commercial bids separately item-wise from the reputed suppliers / manufacturers for the supply & installation of R & D Equipment for various CIPET centres. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply through e-tender (online), website www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET, also visit CIPET website & CPPP for complete details on technical specification and commercial terms. *CIPET reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.*

Last date for the online submission of the bid : 22/02/2021, 03.00 p.m.

Opening of Technical bids : 22/02/2021, 03.30 p.m.

Opening of Commercial bids : After Evaluation of Technical Bids

For further clarification, please contact 044 22254787, 788 & 22254780, Ext. 240
Principal Director (T)

MAHARASHTRA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION			
(A Government Undertaking)			
583/B, Market Yard, Gultekad, Pune - 37			
Telephone 020 24206800/847, Email – mswc2k@yahoo.com/qcbranch.ho@mswc.in .			
E - TENDER NOTICE No. MSWC/BDQC/01/2021 Date: 29-01-2021			
Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / Its authorized dealers for Supply of Aluminium Phosphate Tablets to MSWC Centres as below through E-Tendering process only.			
Sr. No	Particulars	Quantity	Cost of blank tender form + 9% SGST + 9% CGSTor IGST@18% in Rs. (Non Refundable)
1.	Supply of Aluminium Phosphate Tablets.	100000 Kgs	Rs.15,500 + 1395 + 1395 = Rs. 18290/- only

Date of issue: 29/01/2021 to 09/02/2021
Last date of submission: Upto 09/02/2021 upto 2.00 pm
Date of opening: 10/02/2021 at 3.30 pm at H.O Pune

Agencies are requested to register themselves for E-tenders online. Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> The bid should be submitted in electronic format on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> under the Department of Co-operation, Marketing and Textiles Department. Tenders will be opened if EMD & Tender fee is deposited Online. For further details please access the said website. Agencies / their authorized representatives may remain present at the time of tender opening at their own cost.

Right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Chairman and Managing Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy Namely **Ankur Kumar S/o Praveen Singh** R/o Jhuggi No. 1349 near Shop of Dinesh Halwai, BSS Rajokri Pahari New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since date 07.01.2021 from the area of PS Vasant kunj, New Delhi. In this regard, a case FIR. No. 009/2021, U/s 363 IPC. Dated 07.01.2021 has been registered at **P.S. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi**. The description of the missing boy is as under.

Age: 16 Years 4 Month
Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5", **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Jacket, Blue Colour Jeans and Red Colour Sliper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/Kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the missing girl.

Ph: 011-23468638, 24368641
Fax No. 011- 24368639

Sd/- SHO
Vasant Kunj (South)
PH. 011-26139361

DP/476/SW/2021



ANKUR KUMAR



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



नोडा सेवा केंद्र
नोडा, हरियाणा

TENDER NOTICE

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

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

The detailed terms and conditions are given in tender document which can be purchased by paying cash, on any working day between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. Tender forms can also be downloaded from our website www.kvic.org.in, however, the cost of tender form will have to be deposited along with the tender form in the shape of demand draft/pay order drawn in favour of "Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi".

The Dy. C.E.O / General Manager has right to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Dy. C.E.O / General Manager



H.P. STATE HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM CORPORATION LIMITED
(A H.P. State Govt. Undertaking)
D-2, SDA Commercial Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009

TENDER FOR INVITING BIDS FOR ALLOTMENT OF DIFFERENT SALES COUNTERS OF CORPORATION IN DIFFERENT EMPORIA

Sealed tenders for allotment of Sales Counter(s) in different Emporia of the Corporation, as per following details are hereby invited:

Sr. No.	Name of Emporium	Total No. of Counters	Last Date & Time of receipt	Date & Time of opening of the Technical Bids	Date & Time of opening of the Financial Bids	Place of receipt/ opening of bids following the bid system
1.	New Delhi	11	10.02.21 1.00 PM	10.02.21 1.30 PM	10.02.21 4.00 PM	G-8 Bada Khark Singh Marg New Delhi (Contact No. 011-23283005)
2.	20th Shimla 20th Solan 20th Reckong Poo 20th Nahan	06 01 01 01	10.02.21 1.00 PM	10.02.21 1.30 PM	10.02.21 4.00 PM	Himalaya Emporia-8 The Mall Shimla-1 (Contact No. 0177-2651224)
3.	20th Chamba 20th Dharamshala 20th Delhi 20th Manali 20th Shimla	01 04 01 01 01	10.02.21 1.00 PM	10.02.21 1.30 PM	10.02.21 4.00 PM	Industrial Extension Centre, Palampur, Dist. Kangra, (Contact No. 01894-231215)

Aliotment will be made initially for a period of 2 years, which can be further extended upto 5 years from the date of initial allotment, subject to fulfilment of terms and conditions of allotment. The detailed advertisement and tender document can be downloaded from the official website of the Corporation <http://www.khadihpc.com>

The Corporation shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons.

Managing Director

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

It is the information of General Public that the Vehicle bearing Registration No. DL-01-LP-5775 belongs to Sh. Mahesh Chand S/o Sh. Bharat Singh, Resident of H.No. 202/3, Nurses Complex, Shri Niwas Puri, New Delhi and goods loaded therein i.e. Men's Round Neck Cotton T-Shirts, Quantity- 19200 Pieces will be put to the public Auction on 03.02.2021, (Wednesday) at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o Dy. Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Bikrikar Bhawan (Excise & Taxation Office), Near Sports Complex, Faridabad by the order of Proper Office Faridabad (West) under the provisions of Section 79 of the Goods and Services Act 2017. The details of conveyance and goods are mentioned below:

- Conveyance:** Registration No. DL-01-LP-5775
Closed Body Eicher Canter
Mfg. Eicher Motors Ltd.
Engine No. E483CDE531890
Chassis No. MC263ERC0BE224407
Model-2011
- Goods:** Men's Round Neck Cotton T-Shirts
HSN Code- 61091000
Quantity- 19200 Pieces
Value of Goods- 19682880/-

The bidders are invited for the auction of the vehicle mentioned above.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

The successful bidder has to deposit 25% on the spot on acceptance of the bid by Authority and remaining amount i.e. 75% within seven days.

After total payment the ownership will be transferred by the competent authority and the necessary certificate will be issued.

Endst. No. 4504 / Dated 18.01.2021

Sd/-
Proper Officer (GST)-cum-
Excise & Taxation Officer
O/o Dy. Excise & Taxation Commissioner,
Faridabad (West)



The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)



TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are re-invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 69442, (2) 69605 (Corrigendum), (3) 69611.

Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAM(M)/103/2021 **GENERAL MANAGER**

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER:

CHAYANGTAJO DIVISION PWD AP:

No. CD/DRG-03/2020-21/618 Date 28/1/2021

CORRIGENDUM

The NITs vide No. **CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/01, CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/02, CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/03** for e-Tender published on 26/07/2021 in various dailies were the result of technical glitch and due to re-submission of old emails by mistake. No such e-Tenders are being called. Hence, the mentioned NITs stand cancelled.

The packages vide NIT No. **CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/01** and CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018 19/02 are already awarded and works in progress while the package vide NIT No. CD/DRG 2/RIDF/2018-19/03 is under sub judice.

The inconvenience is highly regretted.

Executive Engineer
Chayangtajo Division PWD AP
DIPR No. ARN/16119-22 **Chayangtajo**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE


The Deputy Chief Engineer /Survey & Const., Tilak Bridge, Northern Railway, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:

Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Single Packet)
Tender Notice No.	257-W/SURVEY/TKJ/2020 Dated:-28.01.2021
Full name of work	Renovation of existing Survey and construction office space on first floor building of DyCE&S&C Office at Tilak Bridge, Near ITO, New Delhi.
Approx. cost	Rs.8399151/-(Rs. Eighty Three Lakhs Ninety nine thousand One Hundred and Fifty one only)
Completion period	05 months(Five months)
Earnest money amount	Rs. 1,68,000/- (Rs. One Lakh sixty eight thousand only)
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.02.2021 to 18.02.2021 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	18.02.2021 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer(s) on IREPS web site w.e.f. 04.02.2021 to 18.02.2021.
Date and time of opening of tender	18.02.2021 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2) in the office of Deputy Chief Engineer/Survey & Const., N.R.lly, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002.

This notice is available on www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in web site and documents on www.ireps.gov.in site is available.

Tender Notice No. 257-W/SURVEY/TKJ-2020 Dated: 28.01.2021 214/21

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IN INDIA, YOU DON'T SEE OIL, MINERALS, JUST PEOPLE... UNLEASH THIS POTENTIAL'
BILL GATES

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

A BOOSTER SHOT FOR HEALTH
BY K SRINATH REDDY
PAGE 12

India push for self-reliance will boost global supply chains: PM



PM Narendra Modi at the NCC Rally in New Delhi on Thursday. *Amit Mehra*

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

INDIA'S PUSH to strengthen its economy and self-reliance during the pandemic will help in strengthening global supply chains, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Dialogue virtually, Modi also pitched for multinational firms to participate in the \$26-billion worth of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes that the Government had announced after the Covid lockdown last year.

"Even during the (pandemic), India had upheld economic activity by starting trillions of dollars worth of infrastructure projects (and) running special schemes for employment. At that time, we had stressed on saving every single life. Now, every single life has come together for the development of the country," he said.

"Now, India has taken an oath to become self-reliant (Atma Nirbhar). India's wish for Atma Nirbharta will strengthen globalisation in a new way. Today, the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that we are driving is also fully

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 28

AS MANY as 21 cases involving communal violence and violence in the course of cow protection were dropped by courts in Karnataka between October and December last year, based on an August 31, 2020 order by the BJP government. The beneficiaries were the BJP MP from Mysuru Prathap Simha, 206 members of Hindu groups, and 106 Muslims.

The criminal cases were dropped ahead of a December 21, 2020 order of the Karnataka High Court, asking the state gov-

CLOUDS GATHER AS BUDGET SESSION STARTS; ECONOMIC SURVEY TODAY

Backing farmer protests, Oppn to boycott President's address today



Additional security personnel were deployed at the farmers' protest site in Ghazipur, on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, on Thursday. *Praveen Khanna*

Minister asks Oppn to reconsider; BJP says won't yield to pressure on laws

MANOJ C G & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

SETTING THE stage for a stormy Budget session of Parliament, 17 Opposition parties announced Thursday that they would boycott President Ram Nath Kovind's customary address to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Friday. They said this would be an expression of solidarity with farmer unions who have been protesting at Delhi's borders for over two months, demanding the repeal of new agriculture laws.

Responding to the announcement, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said: "I appeal to leaders of all parties not to boycott the President's address. The government is ready to discuss all issues threadbare, and as much time as is required will be set aside when the Business Advisory Committees of both Houses meet."

The Economic Survey is to be

EXPRESS NETWORK

BENGAL ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST FARM LAWS

SP: TRACTOR RALLY DEATH DUE TO HEAD INJURIES, NO BULLET WOUNDS IN AUTOPSY

MORE REPORTS, PAGES 6, 8

tabled Friday, and the Union Budget will be presented Monday. The monsoon session too had ended on a bitter note in September with chaotic scenes in Rajya Sabha over the passage of the agriculture laws.

Eight Opposition MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for "unruly behaviour" and the Opposition had stayed away from the two Houses on the last day. Four months later, the battle lines seem to have hardened.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tense night in Ghazipur: police, farmers face off, protests swell

ANANYA TIWARI & AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

TENSIONS ROSE at Delhi's Ghazipur border Thursday after the administration in neighbouring UP's Ghaziabad district issued orders for protesting farmers to vacate the site by night.

By evening, as police in anti-riot gear started spreading out at the site, the protesters camped

there and their leaders, including BKU's Rakesh Tikait, said they would not leave.

Tikait also issued an emotional appeal on stage at the site where he said that the agitation would continue. As videos of the farm leader breaking down started doing the rounds, farmers in Haryana blocked the Chandigarh national highway near Kandela village of Jind district.

Late Thursday, more farmers

started arriving in Ghazipur even as several appeals were made by leaders in western UP asking others to join Friday.

A mahapanchayat was also held in Tikait's native village of Sisauli in Muzaffarnagar, where a public gathering has been scheduled at GIC ground Friday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 8

Protesters attacked cops with swords, looted anti-riot gear: Red Fort FIR

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

CLOSE TO 1,200 people on 30-40 tractors and around 150 motorcycles and cars allegedly stormed Red Fort, where they chased down and assaulted policemen,

looted their anti-riot gear, held some of them hostage inside a public toilet and vandalised the ticket counter, according to an FIR filed in connection with the January 26 chaos at Red Fort.

The FIR, one of the 33 registered in connection with the violence during the tractor march, also states that the protesters al-

legedly tried to snatch MP5 guns and SLRs from policemen, but only snatched 40 live cartridges.

On Thursday, police said they were making a list of around 200 tractors along with their registration numbers. "We will find the owners with the help of the transport department and summon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

No bail for Munawar, HC points to evidence of 'disparaging' remarks

States' duty to ensure ecosystem of co-existence not polluted by negative forces, says Madhya Pradesh HC

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JANUARY 28

THE MADHYA Pradesh High Court Thursday rejected the bail application of comedian Munawar Faruqi while observing that the evidence suggests he made "scurrilous, disparaging utterances... outraging religious feelings of a class of citizens of India with deliberate" intention "under the garb of stand-up comedy".

Faruqi was arrested in Indore on January 1 following a complaint by Eklavya Singh Gaur, the son of BJP MLA Malini



Munawar Faruqi

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

A BIG STEP BACK
On *Tandav* and Munawar Faruqi, the court, so readily agreeing with the prosecution, shrinks space for free speech

PAGE 12

Singh Gaur and convenor of local outfit Hindu Rakshak, that the comedian allegedly hurt Hindu religious sentiments during a comedy show at a popular cafe that day.

The order was passed by a single-judge bench, of Justice Rohit Arya of the Indore bench of the High Court, which had reserved judgment Monday on the bail pleas of Mumbai-based Faruqi and co-accused Nalin Yadav.

"The evidence/material collected so far suggest that in an organized public show under the garb of stand-up comedy at a public place on commercial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'Some goons shamed us, don't use it to negate pain of farmers'

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 28

IT WOULD be unfortunate if the Centre uses the Red Fort incident as an "excuse" to close the door on farmers, said Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Thursday while strongly condemning the violence and calling for an independent probe to identify the "real culprits."

Excerpts from an interview to *The Indian Express*:

Has the Red Fort incident on January 26 hurt the farmer protests?

The incident was a shame on all of us, an insult to our nation. That the symbol of Independent India should be damaged and sullied in this manner is not something any proud Indian can sanctify. It is a disrespect also to our revered Nishan Sahib, which was used by some goons (they could not have been farmers) to undermine a peaceful protest.

As a Punjabi, I feel insulted on behalf of my community, which is bringing its sons wrapped in the national flag almost every second day from the nation's borders. But it would be wrong to malign the whole community, whose patriotism can never be questioned or doubted. It would also be wrong to defame the farmers, who have been protest-



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
AMARINDER SINGH
CHIEF MINISTER, PUNJAB

ing peacefully now for months, first in Punjab and for the past two-plus months at Delhi's borders, without causing an iota of trouble. It is the sons of these very farmers who are sacrificing their lives protecting our country's borders.

Those who indulged in the violence at Red Fort were not genuine farmers but some anti-social elements. Some of them have been identified, like this actor Deep Sidhu, who has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Exemptions list in new tax regime may get longer

Idea is to give more money in people's hands; indirect taxes could be cut

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

WITH AN aim to incentivise the new optional income tax regime introduced in the last Budget, the government proposes to tweak the list of eligible rebates and exemptions to allow some more categories of financial savings instruments for taxpayers.

The emerging view in the discussions in the run-up to the Union Budget is in favour of reducing the tax burden to push more demand by ensuring more disposable income. This is aimed to be done through tax proposals to incentivise the new tax regime rather than any major overhaul in the income tax slabs in the earlier regime, two officials involved in the exercise said.

"The new income tax regime did not pick up the way it was anticipated. So there is a consideration to include more exemptions like provident fund in the new income tax option," a government official told *The Indian Express*.

In several of the representations made before the Budget, demands have been placed to extend the leave travel concession cash voucher scheme,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



EXPLAINED

Pushing new tax regime

THE EMERGING view in North Block is that the new tax system, announced by the FM in the last Budget, has to be incentivised over the old tax regime. The new regime co-exists with the earlier tax system and was made optional for taxpayers from this fiscal onwards.

21 communal violence cases withdrawn after Karnataka govt order



BJP MP Prathap Simha

the Hunsur region of Mysore district between 2015 and 2018.

Among them was an inci-

dent from December 2017, in which Mysuru MP Simha allegedly drove his jeep into a police barricade erected to regulate a Hanuman Jayanti procession in the communally sensitive Hunsur town.

Police accused Simha of disobeying a public order, rash driving, preventing a public servant from doing his duty, and voluntarily hurting a public servant.

A Hunsur court dropped the cases on October 10, based on the August 31 order, saying "the state government has withdrawn the case against the accused", and "acting u/sec 321 (a) of CrPC the accused is dis-

charged...and the case is closed as withdrawn".

The other cases of communal incidents in Hunsur were all withdrawn on November 26 last year. Most of them were related to clashes between groups of Hindus and Muslims, mainly over Hanuman Jayanti celebrations or opposition to banners and posters. In all, cases against 142 Hindu youths and 40 Muslim youths were dropped in the Hunsur region.

Five cases involving communal violence that took place in the Honnavar region of Uttara Kannada district ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections, were

dropped on the request of the BJP MLA from Bhatkal, Sunil Naik.

The communal violence in Honnavar in December 2017 had led to the BJP taking up the cause of 19-year-old Pares Mesta, who died under mysterious circumstances following the violence. The BJP demanded a probe by the CBI - which was granted - and then BJP national president Amit Shah visited Mesta's home.

As many as 110 persons accused in the five cases were acquitted by courts in Uttara Kannada district based on the state government's August 31 order. Some of these cases per-

tained to violence that occurred at a peace meeting called by local authorities over the route of an annual Muslim procession near a Hanuman temple in Honnavar town, and a clash a few days later, between two groups. Following the clashes, Mesta was found dead in a pond in the town.

The Honnavar cases were dropped on October 13. Citing the August 31 order, a civil judge and judicial magistrate noted that the government "have decided to withdraw the case against the accused persons", and "this case is hereby dismissed as the case is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Soon after assuming office, US President Joe Biden announced an ambitious plan to tackle climate change – an important part of his election agenda. Among the executive orders he signed last Wednesday, one of the most significant orders deals with climate change.

The game often feels incomplete, repetitive and, simply put, boring

The actor talks about her first film, 'Gajamukta'

‘Some goons...’

I would only like to say to my former brethren: Stay calm. Don't let some mischievous elements provoke you into any kind of reaction. Stick to the peaceful means which have been the hallmark of your agitation all these months, and which have ensured immense support for you from around the world. Stay engaged with the Central Government, talk to them. I am sure that having come so far, they will be amenable to understanding your point of view and accept your

WITH DIVYAA IN NEW DELHI

Supply chains

committed towards the global good and global supply chain. India also has the capacity and capability of strengthening the

On Thursday, the situation started to escalate as soon as police reinforcements started arriving. It was then that Tinkaitia took to the stage and broke the

will get shot here if need be, and we shall die before we leave... I will hang myself... If anything goes wrong, the police and administration will be responsible... I have never said anything against BJP. I have respected them... We are ready for your lathis and bullets," Tikait told supporters.

While the BSP and TDP were not part of the joint statement, the AAP, which has been at loggerheads with the Congress especially in Punjab, issued a separate statement. "The Aam

Rajya Sabha. The Budget session will be in two parts. Parliament will go into recess on February 15. It will reconvene on March 8 and the session will conclude on April 8.

Karnataka order

“No court is bound by such a decision taken to withdraw from the prosecution. Even if an application is made under Section 321 of CrPC, the courts are duty bound to assess whether a prima facie case is made out or not and the court has power to reject the prayer.”

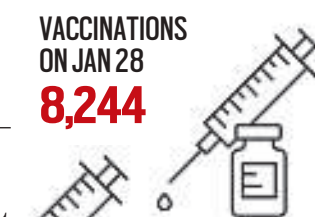
Pre-Budget discussions within the government have also focussed on ensuring lower indirect taxes rather than major changes in direct taxes, so as to protect the government's own revenues, and spread the benefits wider. Cuts in import duties for sectors where the scheme for production linked incentives has been introduced, could be in the offing. A cut in GST on some items may also be considered later, which will be outside the ambit of the Budget and as per the decision of the GST Council, officials said.

FULL REPORTS ON
indianexpress.com

5 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS
ON JAN 28
8,244



			Total	Vacant
			8,701	8,008
			1,141	941
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 27	96	212	9	29,855
Jan 28	199	119	6	57,993
Total	1,575*	6,22,114	10,835	1,05,53,039

*Total active cases

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Relatives of new AAP members can get tickets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE AAP'S national council Thursday approved allowing more than one member from a family to contest polls on a party ticket, but only in the case of people who join the party now. Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia said the change will apply only to those who joined the party now.

The council also ratified the leadership's decision to contest polls in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat. AAP members have also been barred to discuss issues related to the party and its leadership outside its forums.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said the changes in the party's constitution have been brought to help it expand smoothly. "Based on the experience of the last 9 years, we realised some clauses are creating practical difficulties, especially in states where the party is trying to expand. For example, so far, booth-level units were considered primary units. Now district level units will be considered so. MPs, MLAs will automatically be part of the national council and state councils of states they are elected from."

"Party members will have



CM Arvind Kejriwal at AAP's national council meet, Thursday

full freedom to discuss issues related to the party, leadership, behaviour of leaders in party forums. But they cannot air viewpoints that can damage AAP outside the internal forums. Also, our party constitution says only one person from a family can contest polls. There has been some amendment to this clause. While this rule will apply to existing members, it won't to those who join now," Sisodia said.

Asked if there was any decision on party supremo, Arvind Kejriwal's continuation as the national convenor, Sisodia said no and added, "He is the national convenor."

Addressing the national council meeting, Kejriwal said the party needs to expand across states to emerge as an alterna-

tive force to take on established parties which have "cheated the nation". In contrast, he said, the AAP has made work the centre-piece of its politics.

"Other parties seek votes in the name of religion. They appeal to Hindus to vote for a Hindu party, Muslims to vote for a Muslim party, to Thakurs and Pandits to vote for a Thakur or a Pandit party. They make people fight among themselves. We fight polls on the plank of work, education, schools," he said.

He said a "national party" talks about wrongs committed in 12th and 13th Century India instead of offering a vision of how 21st Century India should be: "We are not for AAP, we are for the country; AAP is just a vehicle to change the nation."

Conspiracy is hatched in secret, says court, dismisses Natasha bail plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

A DELHI court Thursday dismissed the bail plea of Pinjra Tod member Natasha Narwal, booked under the UAPA in a Northeast Delhi riots case, and noted that "not having a video was not so vital as generally conspiracy, by its very nature, is hatched in secrecy". Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat in his order said, "... not having videos of such a conspiracy was obvious rather than doubtful."

The court said that in a case of conspiracy, even the presence of an accused at a site was not sine qua non (essential condition) for establishing his or her role. "In the present case, the presence of ac-



Pinjra Tod member Natasha Narwal was booked under UAPA in a Delhi riots case

cused is established over a period of time. Thus, on perusal of chargesheet and accompanying documents, for the limited purpose of bail, I am of the opinion that allegations against accused Natasha Narwal are prima facie true," the judge said in his order.

The court noted there was "no gainsaying the fact that all citizens of the country under the Constitution have the right and freedom to protest, including the

right to oppose any legislation. However, it is not an absolute right but subject to reasonable restrictions."

It said the reliance by Natasha's counsel on videos or other material outside the chargesheet was of no assistance. It added that references to various other persons, who, as per the counsel for accused, had allegedly given incendiary speeches during Delhi elections or later on, was "not as such germane to the bail plea, since the court was considering bail plea of Narwal and not others, particularly those who are not accused in the present case."

"Thus, pre-planned vociferous agitation in the guise of Citizenship Amendment Bill coupled with other resultant activities of confrontation and violence

leading to riots would show it was meant to cause or intended to cause disaffection against India," the court said.

It further said it was relevant to mention that even taking the arguments of the accused's counsel at face value that only one side of the road was blocked, it would "still be a complete blockage preventing ingress and egress for people who are surrounded and for whom panic and terror was created".

"In fact, there was a reference to the accused regarding the distribution of red mirchi powder to women for attacking police and paramilitary dated February 23, 2020. Thus, there is contemporaneous record which cannot be wished away at this stage of bail," the court said.

Suspend proposal to hike councillor funds, Delhi govt tells North MCD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

The Delhi government has written to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation to suspend its proposal to increase councillor development funds from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore until the economic situation return to normal.

The letter written by the Department of Urban Development (Directorate of Local Bodies) to the commissioner North MCD said, "At a time when the MP and MLA Development Funds have been suspended due to unprecedented economic crises being faced by the country because of Covid-19 pandemic, it is beyond imagination that such a proposal is being mooted by North MCD. Moreover, all three MCDs are not



Hindu Rao doctors had gone on hunger strike for salaries. Pending bills for North MCD has reached Rs 800 cr

making payment of salary to staff on time taking the plea that they are facing financial crunch."

"Accordingly, the directions of Honourable minister, (UD) is hereby conveyed to North DMC to suspend the Councillor Development Fund rather than

enhancing the same from the existing Rs 25 lakh to 1.5 crore," the letter said.

The North MCD hit back saying it is a proposal subject to availability of funds, and the "AAP is doing politics over the issue".

Leader of the House, North MCD, Yogesh Verma said, "Just like any other budget, in MCD budgets too there is planning. This is subject to availability of funds after clearing salary bills."

"This is a planned amount, not a sanctioned one. Last year too it was Rs 1 crore, but allocation was only Rs 25 lakh. We cannot compromise with sanitation and nallah cleaning, else it will lead to spread of diseases. The budget has to be allocated everywhere, so that it is distributed if we have money in the future," he said.

Pending salary and pension bills for the North MCD has

reached Rs 800 crore, with all sections of its staff not being paid for 2-6 months. The issue had led to sanitation workers going on strike since January 7, leaving most parts of Delhi covered in garbage.

On this issue, AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said at a press conference, "Today, the Arvind Kejriwal government directed the BJP-ruled MCD not to increase councillor funds from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1.50 crore. Funds of MPs were curtailed by PM, CM Kejriwal has stalled various projects to provide best healthcare to citizens. Even after that, BJP has the audacity to increase councillor funds."

To which Verma said, "This is extra-judicial effort by the Delhi government. They have also not released Rs 938 crore which they claimed they had, due to which salaries are stuck."

BRIEFLY

Rape accused gets bail over delay in FIR

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted bail to a rape accused after observing that there was a delay of 8 hours in registration of FIR. The victim in the case is two-and-half-years old. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait in an order said, "In view of the... fact that the prosecutrix being 2 1/2 years old, due to which her statement was not recorded, however, without commenting on the merits of the prosecution case and keeping in view the fact that there is a delay of 8 hours in registration of FIR, I am of the view that the petitioner deserves bail." According to the case registered at a South Delhi district police station last year, the complainant saw the accused in an intoxicated state and allegedly heard him "insisting the victim perform oral sex". The trial in the case is pending and is listed for arguments on February 2. **ENS**

Cold wave grips Delhi

New Delhi: A cold wave gripped the national capital on Thursday as the minimum temperature dropped to 3.8 degrees Celsius due to cold, dry westerly winds barreling through the plains, the India Meteorological Department said. An IMD official said cold wave conditions are likely on Friday as well. The minimum temperature is predicted to settle around four degrees Celsius. **PTI**

Somnath Bharti's jail term suspended

New Delhi: A Delhi court has suspended the two-year prison sentence awarded to AAP MLA Somnath Bharti, after he appealed against the judgment before an MP/MLA court.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull suspended the sentence till the appeal is disposed of by the

court, which ordered Bharti to furnish a personal bond of Rs 20,000 with one surety of the like amount. The arguments will be heard by the court on February 15 and a notice has been sent to the state.

The prosecution had argued that on September 9, 2016,

Bharti, along with other accused identified as Jagat Saini, Dileep Jha, Sandeep Sonu and Rakesh Pandey, and approximately 300 unknown associates of the MLA, had broken the fence of the boundary wall of AIIMS with a JCB machine to create an access to the hospital. **ENS**

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

BEATING RETREAT AND ILLUMINATION ON 29th JANUARY, 2021 (4:00 PM ONWARDS)

HELP US
SERVE YOU
BETTER

Beating Retreat Ceremony will be held on 29.01.2021 at Vijay Chowk, as part of the Republic Day Celebration, 2021. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangement for Beating Retreat Ceremony and Illumination of Rashtrapati Bhawan, North Block, South Block and Parliament House.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

The following traffic restrictions will be put in place on 29.01.2021 from 1400 hours to 2130 hours.

- Vijay Chowk will remain closed for general traffic.
- Traffic will not be allowed on the following stretches:-
 - Rafi Marg between R/A Suneehri Masjid and R/a Krishna Bhawan.
 - Raisina Road from R/a Krishna Bhawan towards Vijay Chowk.
 - Beyond R/a Dara Shikoh Road, R/a Krishna Menon Marg and R/A Suneehri Masjid towards Vijay Chowk.
 - Rajpath between Vijay Chowk and "C" hexagon.

General public/motorist are advised to take alternate routes i.e Ring Road, Ridge Road, Aurobindo Marg, Madarsa 'T' Point, Safdarjung Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Rani Jhansi Road, Minto Road etc.

DIVERSIONS FOR BUSES

D.T.C and other city buses shall be diverted from their normal routes from 1400 hours to 2130 hours on 29.01.2021 to facilitate the vehicles of invitees and spectators and to avoid traffic congestion on roads round the venue of the ceremony and India Gate.

- Buses bound for Central Secretariat and Connaught Place coming from Shanti Path - Vinay Marg - Sardar Patel Marg will take Panchsheel Marg - Simon Bolivar Marg - Vande Matram Marg - R/a Shankar Road - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Road.
- Buses bound for Central Secretariat will terminate at Udyan Marg and return via Kali Bari Marg - Mandir Marg - Shankar Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses will take Mandir Marg - Kali Bari Marg - G.P.O. - Baba Khadak Singh Marg and reach Connaught Place & return via Bhagat Singh Marg - Peshwa Road - Mandir Marg - Shankar Road and Vande Matram Marg.
- Buses coming from South Delhi on Tughlak Road and bound for Connaught Place/Central Secretariat will be diverted from Aurobindo Chowk to Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Panchsheel Marg - Simon Bolivar Marg and follow the route as mentioned at Serial No. 1.
- Buses coming to Mandi House and Feroz Shah Road and proceeding to Connaught Place via Barakhamba Road will terminate at Shivaji Stadium and return via Kasturba Gandhi Marg/Barakhamba Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses coming from Shahjahan Road will proceed to Shivaji Stadium via Aurobindo Chowk - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Panchsheel Marg and beyond.
- Buses bound for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmiri Gate coming from South side will take Ring Road from AIIMS towards Dhaura Kuan and then Ridge Road, Rani Jhansi Road.
- Buses bound from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmiri Gate coming from Ashram side will take Ashram Chowk - Ring Road towards Sarai Kale Khan and proceed further via Raj Ghat.
- Buses coming from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Kashmiri Gate and bound for South and South East will take Delhi Gate - Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg - Rajghat - Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan - Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Vikas Marg and bound for South will take Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan - Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Connaught Place via Kasturba Gandhi Marg towards India Gate will take Minto Road - DDU Marg - I.P.Flyover - Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan.

METRO STATION

Entry/ Exit gates at **Rail Bhawan & Udyog Bhawan/ Central Secretariat** Metro Station will remain closed from 02:00 PM to 06:30 PM on 29.1.2021.

PARKING

Parking will be available for those coming to see illumination at **Vijay Chowk** behind the water channels between **Rafi Marg** and **"C" Hexagon** (after 7:00PM).

INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

- In case of any unidentified object or suspicious persons being seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty.
- General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel and remain updated through Traffic Police Facebook page, Twitter handle and Traffic Police Helpline. People are requested to plan their journey accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

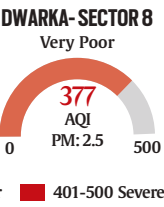
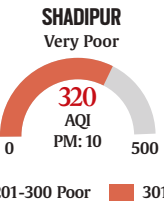
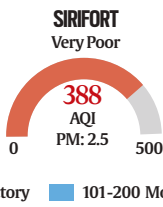
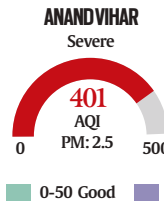
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FORECAST: Jan 29
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MAX: 20 MIN: 3
2.4°C below normal 5.9°C below normal

PROTESTERS FIELD ANXIOUS CALLS FROM KIN

Deployment up at Singhu, farmers stand ground



JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

POLICE PRESENCE has been heightened at the Singhu border since Wednesday, with deployment doubled and more barricades in place. More than five companies of police and security personnel held a joint training exercise on Thursday while senior officers visited the site and spoke to personnel.

This comes in the wake of violence during the tractor march in the capital on Republic Day.

Said a senior police officer: "Farmers attacked our personnel two days ago. Some of the agitated protesters are still trying to protest near the barricades. We have to be ready. This is our law and order arrangement for this area. Hundreds of police personnel come here every day, we want them to be safe."

In the wake of FIRs and look-out notices being issued against union leaders and protesters, farmers said they have been receiving calls from anxious families to return home. On Thursday, some protesters were seen packing up and leaving.

Ranbir (70), a farmer from Punjab's Dahisara village, was



Protesters at Singhu Thursday. (Top) After police barricading was increased at the protest site, police tents were moved farther away. Photos: Gajendra Yadav

among those who left. "I don't feel safe here anymore. The leaders keep telling us about the violence and that police will arrest the actor (Deep Sidhu) and other goons but I don't trust them. I have a 20-acre farm where I grow wheat. I am going back to take care of it. My son and wife told me that some of the protesters here will be arrested soon. I didn't even

participate in the parade," he said. Leaders of the Kranti Kisan Union said that while many farmers have left, they had only come for the Republic Day tractor march and will be back soon. To boost the morale of protesters, farm leaders and young protesters from Palwal and other areas of Haryana carried out a 'Sadbhavana tractor rally'. More

than 100 tractors joined in as farmers shouted, "We are with Punjab farmers, we won't leave", while they drove 30 km from the border till Sonapat and back. Volunteers from the Bharatiya Kisan Union said the rally was conducted to show "unity" among farmers from different states and to "fight back" against false allegations and ac-

cusations levelled by Delhi Police and government officials who are trying to "disrupt the movement".

Leaders from the Kirti Kisan Union, BKU (Ekta, Qadian, Lohkhal) attended the rally. Darshan Pal Singh and Balbir Singh Rajewal — who have been sent notices by police — also spoke on stage after the event.

Watching the rally were several elderly farmers who decided to stay. Reshmi Singh (60) and his friend Gurjit from Nawanshahr in Punjab said they don't want to leave the protest but said their families want them to.

"My wife wants me to come back. She fears the police will arrest me and won't release me. To be honest, the situation here is sensitive and we fear police presence, but we have been here for two months. I didn't go to ITO, I marched till Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar. Why would anyone arrest me? My children also called me today. They want me to come back. My brother has already left but I won't. The movement is still strong and we won't leave," he said.

Power cuts and poor internet connectivity have also become troublesome for farmers.

Boota Singh (50), a farmer from Jalandhar, said, "My wife is worried because she heard police are arresting farmers. I am not scared of being arrested, but what if the police attack us? Heavy police deployment here is unnecessary. Also, last night, there was a power cut for hours and there's hardly any internet connection here. My wife sent me a message last night but I received it today. My daughter asked me to come back. I might go back for a day but I can't leave this movement. I am representing my family here. We don't have big farms and need money to sell our rice produce."

Near the stage, state secretary of the Kirti Kisan Union Jatinder Singh Sheena said he isn't scared of the FIRs registered against members of his organisation. "We took out a peaceful rally. Police can do whatever they want. On that day, I saw them being easy on those who hijacked our march. They were rude to us and didn't let us march till KMP Expressway. I won't leave Singhu till the laws are repealed. Police can call us terrorists and anti-nationals, we will show them our parade. Our boys are carrying Indian flags... we are all farmers from India."

At Palwal, farmers return home

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JANUARY 28

FARMERS AT Palwal, who have been protesting on National Highway 19 for over a month, decided to pack up on Thursday, with leaders citing the low number of protesters as the reason for the decision. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Jaswant Singh, one of the spokespersons at the site, said, "We decided to return home, keeping in mind the low number of protesters here. Ours was anyway a smaller protest site than the others... We may come back a few days later, with more tractors and in a larger number."

The farmers, mostly from Madhya Pradesh, were carrying out a peaceful protest on NH-19 since December 4 after police refused to permit them to move closer to Delhi. The protest, however, had turned violent Tuesday when farmers clashed with police as they tried to move towards Faridabad.

Police had filed an FIR. Deepak Gahlawat, SP, Palwal, said: "...We suspect it is one of the reasons why the protesters have decided to return — a majority of them are anyway involved in this and fear police action. Furthermore, they have also lost local support..."

Meanwhile, the passage between Delhi-Noida at the Chilla border was clear after nearly two months Thursday, with protesting farmers having packed up. This comes after BKU (Bhanu) announced Wednesday that they are withdrawing from the agitation.

A protest against protest: 'Locals' want farmers gone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

LOCALS CLAIMING to be from nearby villages staged a protest against farmers at the Singhu border Thursday, complaining that the two-month-long agitation has made their daily commute difficult. Around 70-100 people who said they were from Bakhtawarpur, Hamidpur, Palla and other villages raised slogans against the protesting farmers and demanded their "removal from Singhu".

Naresh Goyal, a shopkeeper, said, "Because of these farmers, we have been struggling every day. My shop is on the route and I can't run it. We have to walk long distances to buy groceries and do other things. We have been quiet because they were protesting peacefully but now they have insulted our national flag. I want them to be removed."

Goyal was joined by others — mostly labourers and small businessmen — who shouted slogans like "Inko hatao... Bharat Mata ko bachao" and "Jai Bharat, Jai Ram".

"We are not here to support any party or agenda. Our only demand is to clear this road. We want to go back and work. The lockdown was bad for us. I don't want to face more losses because of these people who claim to be farmers," said Ashwani Kumar (38), a sports teacher in a school.



The protesters were turned away by police. Jignasa Sinha

The protesters said the farmers at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders insulted the national flag and disturbed Republic Day celebrations in Delhi.

Rakesh, who runs a godown in Kundli, said he has not worked for the last two months. "These farmers can eat all they want but my family doesn't have food. We want the protesters out of here. They can't block all roads and sit peacefully. People who work under me have also not earned money. Our fight is against the protesters. I saw how they insulted the national flag at Red Fort and thrashed policemen. They don't deserve to be here," he said.

Pradeep, a local from Hamidpur, shouted, "We will break through the barricades and remove the protesters if they don't leave soon."

While the police managed to convince the protesters to retreat, they said they would return with more people.

Shah meets injured cops: 'Proud of their courage'

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah visited two hospitals Thursday to meet personnel who sustained injuries during the clashes between police and farmers on Republic Day. As many as 394 personnel were injured in the violence at Delhi's ITO, Red Fort and other areas during the kisan tractor march.

Shah enquired about the health of police personnel admitted at Tirath Ram Hospital and Sushruta Trauma Centre (STC) in North Delhi's Civil Lines. He was accompanied by Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava and other officials. In a tweet, Shah said: "Meeting the injured Delhi Police personnel. We are proud of their courage and bravery."

At Sushruta Trauma Centre, he met two personnel and spoke to their family members and doctors.

Said Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Superintendent, STC, "Around 64 personnel were admitted on Tuesday after the clashes. Most of them sustained simple injuries and were later discharged; two were critically injured and admitted in the ICU. They are stable now. They had injuries on their head and had fractured their limbs. Shah sir came and enquired about their health. He also met the patients and thanked them for their service."

At Tirath Ram Hospital, Shah



Shah interacts with an injured cop Thursday

met five police personnel. Hospital medical superintendent Dr J P Singh said: "We had six patients yesterday, one was discharged today. The Home Minister met the five personnel and commended them for doing a great job on Republic Day. He also asked us to ensure proper treatment of the personnel. Some of them suffered a fracture in the elbow and some suffered multi-trauma injuries, which means they were hit multiple times. The personnel are under observation and are stable."

One of the injured personnel, head constable Punjab Singh, said, "I was at Red Fort when thousands of protesters broke through the barricades, entry gates and started climbing walls. We were told to maintain law and order there. I tried speaking to a group of farmers but they surrounded me and thrashed me. I hurt my hand and tried to run but they threw stones at

me... I am happy that the Police Commissioner and Home Minister met me and spoke to my parents."

Constable Rekha sustained multi-trauma injuries. Her husband, Naresh, who works at a private firm in Delhi, said she was beaten up with lathis and stones, and suffered internal injuries.

Police chief Shrivastava wrote a letter to his force Thursday, thanking them for showing restraint, patience and vigilance when the farmer's agitation turned violent. "Though we had the option to use force, we used our senses. Because of your work, we were able to fight this challenging protest... I would like to tell you that the coming days can be very challenging for us. So, we will have to be alert. We will have to remain patient and disciplined. I thank you for your patience and restraint," read the letter.

Tribal farmer dies while returning home to Nandurbar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

A 56-YEAR-OLD tribal and marginal farmer, who had joined the anti-farm law agitation at the Haryana-Rajasthan border 10 days ago, died Wednesday night, with members of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) claiming she died "due to the cold".

According to SKM's Sanjay Madhav, the woman, Sitabai Tadv, hailing from Nandurbar in Maharashtra, had arrived at the Haryana-Rajasthan border on January 16. "She had been protesting with us at the border since December 16 and had left for Maharashtra yesterday after she caught a chill. However, her condition deteriorated on the way and she passed away in Jaipur. We have been told she died due to extreme cold," said Madhav.

From Maharashtra's tribal-dominated Nandurbar district, Tadv was associated with the Lok Sangharsh Morcha (LSM) for the past 25 years and was active in various protests for tribal and farmer rights.

"She was in Delhi at Shahjahanpur border since January 16 and even took part in the January 26 Republic Day parade by farmers. When I last spoke to her on Tuesday evening, she said she was fine. However, on Wednesday, she complained that she was feeling cold and things deteriorated suddenly. She died even as she was being moved to a hospital in Jaipur," said Pratibha Shinde, leader of the Lok Sangharsh Morcha.

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat also tweeted about Tadv's death in Marathi, stating, "The news of the death of Sitabai Ramdas Tadv, a woman farmer from Ambabari village in Nandurbar, a participant in the farmers' movement in Delhi, is very painful. My heartfelt tribute to her. How many more farmers



Sitabai Tadv (56) hailed from Nandurbar in Maharashtra. She had arrived at the Haryana-Rajasthan border on Jan 16

will the central government sacrifice for its ego?"

The LSM has worked for tribal rights in Nandurbar. Tadv took up activism after she was uprooted from her village due to the construction of Ambabari dam on the Dehli river that ran close to her village.

"She was one of our leading activists. Every notable social activist in the state, while visiting Akkalkuwa taluka, would make it a point to visit her house. Her and her family's commitment to the tribal cause was immense. Her death is a massive setback to our cause," Shinde said.

Over the past 25 years, Tadv was detained and arrested a number of times for taking part in agitations espousing the cause of tribals and farmers in the state. She earlier visited Delhi in 2019 and took part in an agitation demanding the proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. She was at the forefront of every tribal and farmer agitation in the state, including the march against Reliance Industries in Mumbai on December 22.

Her funeral will take place at Ambabari village on Friday morning.

CM: Cops framing people, no action against real culprits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday alleged that police were framing people for the violence witnessed during the kisan rally on Republic Day and demanded action against the "actual individuals and the party" behind the episode.

Addressing the AAP's national council meeting, Kejriwal said the "unfortunate" turn of events during the rally does not imply that the movement has ended. A country where farmers have to fight for their survival can never be happy, the AAP national convenor said. "If they don't do so now, farmers know they will be unable to run their families...", Kejriwal said.

The Delhi Police has filed 33 FIRs and booked over 30 farmer leaders, who were involved in talks with the Centre over the farm laws, in connection with the violence, during which a large number of protesters stormed the Red Fort.

AAP has been supporting the farmers' movement demanding the repeal of the three farm laws. The Delhi government had also turned down a request from the Delhi Police to convert certain stadiums into makeshift detention centres when the farmers had just reached the city's borders two months ago.

The agrarian crisis has claimed the lives of around 3.5 lakh farmers in the last 25 years alone, the CM said.

Kejriwal termed as "unfortunate" the violence witnessed during the tractor rally on

Kejriwal termed as "unfortunate" the violence witnessed during the tractor rally and demanded action against the "actual individuals and the party" behind the episode

Republic Day. "Whatever happened on January 26 was unfortunate. Whoever is responsible for the turn of events, and I am not referring to the ones against whom fake cases have been registered, I am speaking about those who are actually responsible, whichever party is actually responsible, should be acted against sternly," Kejriwal said.

On the day of the violence, AAP had in a statement said the Centre allowed the situation to deteriorate. It had added that the violence "has certainly weakened the movement" which was peaceful and disciplined over the last two months.

On Thursday, Kejriwal said the movement remains alive as the issues are still unresolved: "I appeal to AAP workers to stand in solidarity with the farmers, and when you do so, leave your party's flag and cap behind."

Meanwhile, in a statement, AAP said that it will boycott the President's address during the Parliament session scheduled to begin on Friday. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said, "AAP Lok Sabha MP Bhagwant Mann and all three Rajya Sabha MPs will not attend the address."

PM: 1 lakh NCC cadets to be trained for role in coastal, border areas

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

REITERATING LAST year's Independence Day announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the armed forces will train around 1 lakh cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a new responsibility in coastal and border areas in nearly 200 districts, and that a third of them will be girl cadets.

"On August 15 last year, it was announced that in about 200 districts of coastal and border areas, NCC will be given a new responsibility. For this, the Army, Navy and Airforce are training around 1 lakh NCC cadets... one third will be our girl cadets who are being trained. The selection of these cadets is being included in all schools and colleges, be it private, Central or state government," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the government is also "rapidly increasing the training capabilities of NCC", pointing to the rise in firing simulators from "only one" to 98, microlight flight simulators from 5 to 44 and roving simulators from 11 to 60.

"These modern simulators will help improve the quality of NCC training further," he said.

The Prime Minister said that "in the past few years girl cadets



'A third of them will be girl cadets'
PTI

in NCC have increased by almost 35 percent" and said that "now every front of our forces is being opened for you". "India's brave daughters are still standing on every front to take on the enemy. The country needs your gallantry and a new high is waiting for you. And I am also seeing future officers in you."

Modi said the period of the pandemic was challenging but brought opportunities to "increase the country's capabilities, become self-reliant, to become extraordinary from ordinary, and from extraordinary to best". "The role of youth power and the contribution of youth power is the most important in achieving all these goals," he said, adding that "within all of you, I see a national servant as well as a national protector". Which is why, he stated, "the government has made special efforts to further expand the role of NCC" and its participation "is being increased to strengthen the network to protect and safeguard the country's borders and coastline".

Will be a game-changer, says BJP ahead of Budget

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28


THE BJP on Thursday said the Union Budget, which will be tabled in Parliament next week, will be a game-changer and will usher in a new era of economic growth in the country.

"Good economics is good politics that has been the motto of the Narendra Modi government. Working with the same theme, the Union Budget 2021 will be a game-changer," BJP spokesperson Gopal Krishan Agarwal said at a

press conference at the party headquarters here.

Citing a recent International Monetary Fund report, which projected India to grow at 11.5 per cent in 2021, Agarwal said the country's economy has witnessed a 'V' shaped recovery after being hit by the pandemic. He said the Index of Industrial Production figures and labour force participation also point that the economy is witnessing a 'V' shaped recovery.

Another BJP spokesperson, Zafar Islam, who accompanied Agarwal at the press conference, echoed the remarks.



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MEA: India-China border infra gap significant, consequential

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday outlined eight broad principles and three "mutuals" to mend strained ties between India and China, and said the two countries are truly at crossroads and their choices will have profound repercussions, not just for them but for the entire world.

Addressing an online conference organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Jaishankar said the developments in eastern Ladakh last year brought the relationship under "exceptional stress" and India is yet to receive a credible explanation for the change in China's stance or reasons for amassing troops in border areas.

The two countries are locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020.

The eight principles listed by Jaishankar to take bilateral ties forward include strict adherence to all agreements on border management, fully respecting the Line of Actual Control (LAC), making peace and tranquility along the frontier the basis for overall ties, recognising that a multipolar Asia is an essential constituent of a multipolar world, and managing differences effectively.

He mentioned the three "mutuals" as mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests and described them as determining factors for the ties. He noted that as rising powers, each country will have its own set of aspirations, and their

8 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MAKING A POINT

WITH THE Supreme Court completing 71 years since its first sitting on Thursday, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde asked Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta during a hearing why the day is not commemorated. The CJJ reminded that a six-judge bench sat on the first day, and it was also attended by Chief Justices of 13 High Courts, besides the Prime Minister and other ministers. The CJJ said that the occasion should be observed in the future.

MISSING FROM LIST

THAT THE BSP and AAP were not part of a joint statement issued by 16 opposition parties declaring their decision to boycott President Ram Nath Kovind's address to Parliament on Friday was not surprising. While the BSP has been keeping distance from the Congress for some time, the AAP and Congress are engaged in a bitter war of words in Punjab. The surprise was over the absence of the JMM – Congress's ally in Jharkhand – which had been demanding repeal of the farm laws. The JMM has one Rajya Sabha member – Chief Minister Hemant Soren's father and party founder Shibu Soren. Telangana's ruling TRS, which had opposed the farm bills in Rajya Sabha, too was missing. Interestingly, TRS's K Keshav Rao and AAP's Sanjay Singh were part of an opposition delegation led by Ghulam Nabi Azad which met President Kovind in September and urged him not to give assent to the farm Bills passed by Rajya Sabha.

THE WINDOW

IN LINE with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's directives, Pakistan's Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi held an e-Kachehri for Pakistan's nationals based in India. The session, which saw many of them calling from different parts of the country, was about renewal of documents, visas, and return to Pakistan, lasted for about two hours. It is expected to be held every month.

'MISINFORMATION' ON TRACTOR RALLY

UP Police book Tharoor, six journalists for sedition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

UTTAR PRADESH Police Thursday lodged an FIR against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and several journalists, including India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai, National Herald's Mrinal Pandey, Zafar Agha of Qaumi Awaz, and The Caravan's Anant Nath and Vinod Jose, for allegedly spreading misinformation on the farmers' tractor rally on January 26.

The FIR has been lodged under 11 IPC sections, including Section 124A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between groups), section 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings), Section 504 (intentional insult), Section 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 120B (criminal conspiracy to commit offence punishable by death).

It has been lodged against eight persons: Tharoor; Sardesai, who is consulting editor; Pandey, group editorial advisor; Jose, executive editor; Caravan editor Anant Nath; its editor-publisher Paresh Nath, editor-in-chief of Qaumi Awaz Zafar Agha and one unnamed person. The complaint was filed by one Arpit Mishra.

The FIR says the accused acted in "prejudice", which put national safety and people's lives in jeopardy. "These people deliberately made malicious, offensive, misleading and provocative

India Today takes Sardesai off-air, docks salary over wrong tweet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE INDIA Today Group Thursday took senior journalist and anchor Rajdeep Sardesai off-air for two weeks and deducted his salary for a month as part of disciplinary action over an incorrect tweet, and announcement on live television, that the man who had died during the farmers' tractor rally in Delhi on January 26 had been "shot".

Sardesai, a consulting editor with the India Today Group, had deleted his tweet and mentioned on air that the farmer had been killed in an accident after

his tractor toppled.

He had tweeted a video of the tractor overturning and posted that protesters had claimed that the man, Navneet Singh, was "shot at by Delhi Police", but the video "clearly shows" that the tractor had overturned, and that "allegations" of the protesters "don't stand".

Asked about the action against Sardesai, the India Today Group said in a statement: "Disciplinary action for breach of our code of conduct is a confidential matter and we would like to refrain from commenting on this."

Sardesai was not available for comment.

Ghazipur ripples in Haryana, Punjab; back-up calls go out

RAAKHI JAGGA & SUKHBIR SIWACH
LUDHIANA, CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 28

THE EVENTS at the Ghazipur border, where authorities gave an ultimatum to farmers to end their dharna, had a ripple effect in Haryana and Punjab where an impromptu campaign began late in the evening to send more protesters and tractors to the dharna sites as back up.

In Punjab, announcements began in several villages once again to send one person per house to Delhi to keep people at the protest sites charged up. Apart from all 32 farmer unions of Punjab passing on this message in the state, even people sitting on dharna at Singhu and Tikri borders started calling up their relatives and friends asking them "not to break the chain".

Soon after the news of moves being made to remove protesters from Ghazipur border spread in Haryana, farmers came out from their homes late in the evening to protest on the roads in several villages.

The Jind–Chandigarh National Highway near Kandela village of Jind district was blocked at 10 pm Thursday.

Not only this, several farmer groups moved to Delhi borders from their villages especially from districts like Jind, Hisar, Charkhi Dadri, Rohtak and Bhiwani around midnight to join protesters.

According to farmers, a video clipping of farmer leader Rakesh Tikait in which he appeared crying made them emotional.

"Farmers are angry over the way their voice is being suppressed," said Rajesh Kungur, a



Farmers block the Jind–Chandigarh National Highway on Thursday. *Express*

local farmer leader, who was present in a meeting held in the night in his native village Kungur of Bhiwani district.

"Rumours are being spread regarding the incident of Delhi's Red Fort to weaken the farmer agitation. But farmers know this agenda of falsehood. From our village, 50 tractors have moved to Delhi in the night itself. A large number of farmers from our village and neighbouring villages will move to Delhi Friday morning," Kungur told *The Indian Express*. After a similar meeting in Pabra village of Hisar district, a villager, Mandeep Kundu, said that some tractors will move to Delhi from their village Friday morning.

Till midnight, meetings were being held in several villages of Haryana to discuss the latest developments. The farmers have also planned increasing their presence at the toll plazas on highways from Friday with the Haryana government planning to operationalise toll collection system soon.

Meanwhile, khap panchayats of Haryana will hold meetings on Friday and Saturday to chalk out their next strategy. The khaps have actively participated in the current farmer agitation launched against three controversial farm laws.

While farmer unions in Punjab said that the movement of protesters from Punjab to Delhi protest sites was down to a trickle after the January 26 episode, they pointed out that the Ghazipur police build up had reenergised the ranks once again.

Prem Singh Bhangu, president of All India Kisan Federation, Punjab, said, "After January 26 episode, strength of people was huge at Tikri as well as Singhu borders but movement of people from Punjab to Delhi borders was very less. However on Thursday, as police started repression on people at Ghazipur and Palwal, a message started spreading to add more numbers at Singhu and Tikri. People started calling up their relatives saying that chain of people coming to borders should not break. One person per house

AFTER 40-DAY STIR, FARMERS AT BAGHPAT EVICTED BY POLICE

Meerut: Baghpat police forcibly evicted protesting farmers, who have been staging a sit-in against the three new farm laws for the last 40 days, in Baraut town of the district late Wednesday night.

The protesting farmers were sleeping in their tents around 11 pm on Wednesday when policemen chased them away, uprooted their tents and allegedly threw away their belongings on the road, said Brijpal Singh, one of the leaders.

Police claimed that the protesting farmers were removed as they were causing hindrance of the highway construction work.

Farmers in Baraut have said that they will hold a mahapanchayat on January 31 seeking the repeal of laws.

Local units of Bhartiya Kisan Union have decided to hold indefinite dharna outside all the police stations in Muzzafarnagar and Shamli districts from Thursday to protest the FIR against their leader, Rakesh Tikait. **ENS**

on rotation basis should keep on coming to borders as before."

Amandeep Kaur, president of Istri Jagriti Manch, Punjab, said: "Already people from Haryana have started moving towards Singhu. Meetings of their Khap panchayats have started. Haryana–Punjab brotherhood will add numbers at borders."

SFJ announces \$3.5 lakh reward for those who hoisted flag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 28

THE BANNED Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) has announced a reward of USD 3.5 lakh for protesters who hoisted a 'kesari flag' at Red Fort.

Chief of the US-based outfit, Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, said in Punjabi in a video: "We had announced \$2.5 lakh reward for hoisting flag at Red Fort on Republic Day. Now we have decided to give reward of \$3.5 lakh to those who hoisted Kesari flag of Khalistan and reaffirmed commitment of Raj Karega Khalsa."

Delhi Police registered a case against SFJ under UAPA on January 8 after it had made an announcement to reward the action of hoisting khalsa flag on India Gate.

Earlier this month, farmer union leader Baldev Singh Sirsa, actor Deep Sidhu and at least 27 others were summoned by NIA in relation with a case against SFJ.

Govt doing nothing about checking instigating content on TV: top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

STRESSING ON the need to check "instigating" content on television, the Supreme Court on Thursday said the government appeared to be "doing nothing about it".

"The fact of the matter is that there are programmes which have instigating effect and you being the government is doing nothing about it," Chief Justice of India S A Bobde told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, was hearing a plea by Jamiat-Ulema-I-Hind, which alleged that the issue of the Tablighi Jamaat congregation last year – during the onset of the pandemic – was reported in such a manner that it would spread communal hatred.

The CJJ also sought to draw a parallel with the restrictions placed on the Internet following



Navreet Singh's upturned tractor after the accident during the R-Day rally. *File*

told *The Indian Express*: "The postmortem report has completely ruled out bullet injuries. An X-Ray was done on the body; no traces of bullet were found. There were six injuries and he had suffered lacerations on face and legs."

The postmortem report says, "...the cause of death is shock and hemorrhage as a result of ante mortem head injury."

According to the police, Navreet died after the tractor he

was riding smashed into a barricade and toppled over at ITO in Central Delhi.

According to the post-mortem report, the youth suffered six injuries. He had lacerations near his eyebrow, near his mouth, over the right ear, and on his right thigh, it says. The autopsy report mentions he had swelling over the top of the skull on the left ear and had a contusion on right side of the chest.

On the accident which turned fatal, a senior Delhi Police officer said, "Some farmers were driving rashly in an attempt to hit us. We saw the tractor hitting the barricades. Our personnel went to rescue him, but a group of agitated farmers stopped them... It is suspected that he died because of the accident."

Navreet's father Sahab Singh said Thursday the family will decide whether to file a complaint against Delhi Police over the incident after February 4 – once all rituals are done.

INPUTS FROM ENS-DELHI

HARYANA

Former 3-time MLA leaves BJP: 'I stand with the farmers'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 28

IN SOLIDARITY with the farmers protesting against Centre's new agri laws, Haryana BJP leader and former chief parliamentary secretary Rampal Majra Thursday quit the party. A three-time former MLA from Kalayat constituency of Kaithal district, Majra had joined the BJP ahead of 2019 Assembly polls after resigning from the Indian National Lok Dal.

"I completely stand with the farmers, who are protesting against these laws. I feel that these laws are not only anti-farmer but when implemented will adversely impact other sections of the society too," he told reporters.

He had in September last year dubbed then Centre's farm bills as "anti-farmer", claiming that the apprehensions about the minimum support price (MSP) were not unfounded. Majra did not announce his future plans but hinted that he may join a "like-minded" party. "I will consult my supporters, friends and well-wishers before taking any decision," he said.

Majra alleged that violence that erupted at the Red Fort during the tractor parade taken out by farmers on Republic Day was



Rampal Majra

part of a conspiracy to defame the farmers.

"Photos (of the incident) have made it clear the persons responsible for the Red Fort violence were close to those who are in power. It was the duty of the government to prevent such an incident. The security agencies must have made adequate security arrangements," Majra said.

He also accused the ruling BJP of making efforts to divide the protesting farmers by levelling baseless allegations against them. "The farmers have been demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report to ensure profitable prices of the crops but the government introduced these anti-farmer laws. After introduction of these laws, the mandi system will collapse and will end the facility of minimum support price (MSP). The permission for unlimited storage of food items will lead to black marketing and ultimately hike prices of these commodities," Majra added. He hailed INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala's decision to resign as MLA.



CM Mamata Banerjee at a government function at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Thursday. *Partha Paul*

Bengal Assembly passes resolution against farm laws

Repeal laws or resign, Mamata tells PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 28

AS THE West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution demanding withdrawal of the farm laws enacted by the Centre on Thursday amid ruckus by BJP legislators, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation, saying "nothing is in the control of the Central government".

Speaking in the Assembly, Banerjee said the BJP pushed the farm laws in Parliament using "brute strength". "If the farmers suffer, there will be food shortage across the country. The new farm laws will not just affect Haryana and Punjab but will also impact Bengal. So, the BJP government should repeal the farm laws immediately," she said.

"The Prime Minister should convene an all-party meeting to discuss the withdrawal of farm laws. Either you withdraw the farm laws or resign," she said. She also hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the violence during the farmers' tractor rally. "If the violence had taken place in Bengal, the Centre would have sought an explanation... then Amit bhaiya would have said, 'kya hua?'... We strongly condemn the incident," the Chief Minister said.

"The laws are totally anti-farmer. They pushed it (in Parli-

ment) using brute force. We will not accept farmers being branded as traitors," she said. She also blamed Delhi Police for the violence on Republic Day. "What was Delhi Police doing? It was a complete intelligence failure," she said.

"In this country, whoever speaks against the Central government is labelled a terrorist. We will not tolerate farmers being branded as traitors. They are the assets of this nation," the Chief Minister said, accusing the BJP-led government at the Centre of being "insensitive" and "indifferent" to farmers' protest.

As soon as the resolution was tabled by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee in the Assembly, BJP MLAs, led by their legislative party leader Manoj Tigga, rushed to the Well of the House chanting "Jai Shri Ram". They later staged a walkout.

The resolution, which termed the three laws "anti-farmer" and favourable to corporates, was passed with one amendment. While the Opposition CPM and Congress supported the resolution, they proposed six amendments. The ruling Trinamool, however, accepted one.

So far, five non-BJP-ruled states – Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Kerala and Delhi – have passed resolutions in their assemblies against the laws.

Virbhadra Singh quits politics

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh's former chief minister Virbhadra Singh on Thursday announced his exit from electoral politics.

In an informal chat with the media at Kunihar in Solan district, Singh said that he will not contest any election in the future.

The six-time chief minister

said: "I am a Congressi and will remain Congressi till my death."

Talking about the recent Panchayat elections, the former chief minister stated that some Congress leaders worked indirectly to defeat candidates supported by the party.

These leaders should be exposed, he added. **PTI**

9

EXPRESS INTERVIEW

BILL GATES

‘In India, you don’t see oil, big mineral-type things, you see a mix of humanity... if we could unleash this human potential, it’s incredible’

ANANT GOENKA: Let me start with a book I read on your recommendation: Factfulness. Its central thesis is that facts show how the world is actually doing much better than it ever was, that it's less violent, more equal, less poor... How much has the pandemic derailed humanity from this thesis?

BILL GATES: The pandemic is certainly a gigantic setback, and it's actually hard to measure because although the economic figures are clear, there are lots of mental health problems; there's a lot of loss of education... Somewhere between two to five years from now, we will get back to where we were before the pandemic came so it's not a permanent reduction. It is almost like World War in terms of scale, because even countries without many deaths have seen their economies devastated.

This is assuming or not assuming that we will see another pandemic in that two to five years?

The chance of a pandemic and naturally caused pandemic is probably something like 2 per cent per year. And so, there's a good chance that we can go another decade without a pandemic. Now we shouldn't just assume that...we should make sure our governments are building up the diagnostic capacity, the therapeutics and vaccines so they could respond so quickly that an epidemic like this one would be a fairly minor event.

And we saw in some countries that moved quickly like Australia, South Korea, that in fact the damage to their countries has been far far less.

When the pandemic does happen, you think we are better equipped today, but still, not as well as we could be?

The warnings that were made through my TED talk and through other experts back in 2015 were largely ignored. A group called CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) was created that has made some contributions to this pandemic. But you know (that's) not even 5% of what should have been done.

The workers normally funded to do polio or malaria work have been shifted over and that helped a lot but we don't have a large core of people — like 3000 or 4000 — standing by to help with pandemics.

There are clear things we need to get started on: better diagnostic tools; surveillance; tonnes of R&D efforts building on the successes that we had during this pandemic.

So we won't be fully ready for the next pandemic for over five years. We have to hope you're right that we don't get struck again when we don't have all these these tools in place.

Is there any other lesson from the pandemic... linked to the way we live, how a lot of it is quite at odds with nature? Do you think the pandemic is a wake-up call? Or, is the correlation between the way we live and this pandemic not clearly established yet?

Usually, when you have a near-term crisis, your focus on problems that are further out is greatly reduced...Fortunately, with this pandemic, it's not the same. We've had enough bad weather events and enough, young people talking about the climate problem that interest levels are quite high. And so you see governments taking some of the recovery money, like the European Union, and designating that to climate-related projects.

This is good news. We have a lot of energy, about climate, but we don't really have a plan, because there's so many sources of emissions — cement and steel, it's not just cars or electricity, it's many other things as well. And so realising your government needs to think ahead on your behalf and avoid big problems, hopefully, that's been enforced by this pandemic... that you need those experts.

So what we saw in the pandemic, we have Pfizer working with BionTech. We have AstraZeneca working with Serum; these types of connections formed just to solve the problem — they are not driven by normal market, profit-seeking, but rather just humanity coming together for the coronavirus enemy, I think it's really exciting.

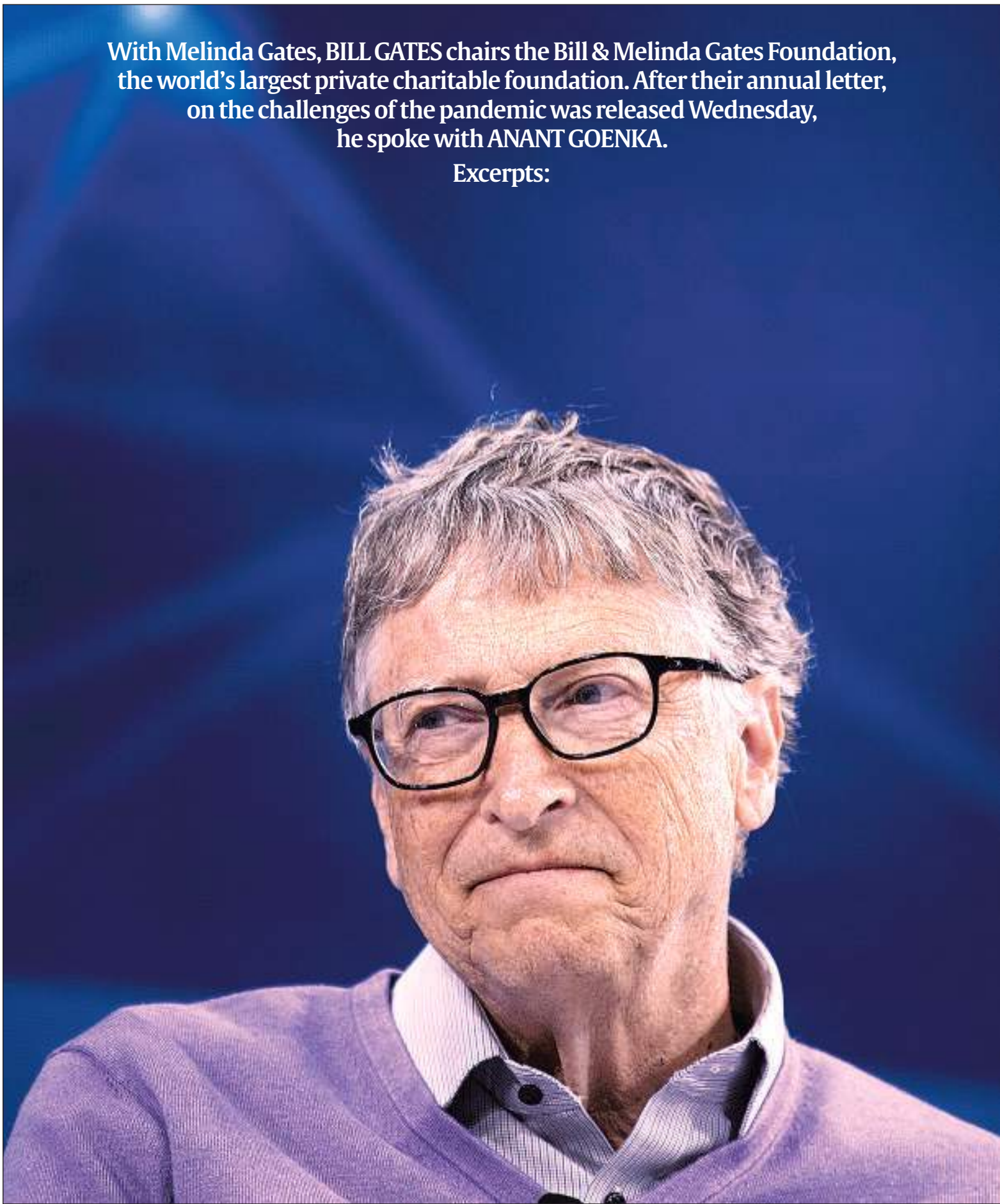
The world's highest-volume vaccine factories are Indian and that's why our foundation has close relationship with those manufacturers and we arranged payments for the vaccines that have got the high-quality approvals.

I know that your relationship has largely been with Serum. Do you have a view on the indigenous vaccines being developed locally in India?

Worldwide, there are almost 150 efforts to make vaccines. And that's fantastic. You know most of those, even won't work, or they won't arrive in time. And so, the vaccines that really count are the ones that have gone through the gold standard regulators, because people do worry about safety and effectiveness and that they can be made at low cost and very high volume. mRNA vaccines of Pfizer and Moderna

With Melinda Gates, BILL GATES chairs the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the world’s largest private charitable foundation. After their annual letter, on the challenges of the pandemic was released Wednesday, he spoke with ANANT GOENKA.

Excerpts:



Calla Kessler/The New York Times

are fairly costly and they are hard to scale up so they are part of the solution, but we won't get many of those vaccines for developing countries.

You know Pfizer committed 40 million, and yet we need more than 2 billion. And so our hopes are really pinned in terms of getting there quickly to create equity, they're pinned on Astra Zeneca, Johnson and Johnson, and Novavax that will have, you know, high quality Phase 3 trials.

Whether other vaccines, you know, get that type of data, and can be made in volume is unclear — if so, that would be great. The more the better. But right now, those 5 are likely to be the primary ones that immunize the world.

One of the mysteries is how the Covid curve has behaved differently in India and developing countries versus in the US, Europe, UK. Last week, India clocked 1 in a million infections, US clocked 65 per million infected. What do you make of this?

One piece of good news about this pandemic is that if you are younger, if you work outdoors, the risk is much, much lower. So countries at India's level of economic development, or earlier than that, very few of them have had a bad epidemic in terms of death rate. Now some countries have lots of multi-generational households, and that works against you, because then the risk

of infection in the household is higher, that somewhat offsets, you know, the urban density of Indian and those multi-generational households. But you're absolutely right, the fatality rate in the younger population is nowhere near as high as some of the countries in the West where their age pyramid looks very different.

Let's switch gears to charity that you evangelise. In getting them to be philanthropists, is there any difference you find while speaking to a billionaire from a rich country and one from a country like India?

Well, the only difference is that if you're a billionaire in a rich country, you should consider sending some of your money outside of your country, you will probably want to spend some in the country, you know, to reward the great atmosphere that allowed you to have the success like our foundation spends on United States education, trying to improve that since Melinda and I benefited from having great education.

If you're a billionaire in, say, India, or in Africa, you will probably give most of your money in your own country because India has plenty of primary health care problems... tropical diseases that are very bad there. And I'm always trying to get Indian billionaires interested in these causes. I hope we can get them even more enthused about health or education, dealing with the

basic inequities.

Do you see a distinction between the Eastern way of giving versus the Western way of giving?

The main difference is that when you have families that have been rich for a long time, they are like a dynasty and they mostly give away their income, they don't give away their principal. When you have someone who's made a recent fortune, like in technology, they are often willing to give away, 50% to 90% of all of that, because they don't think of their family as having that fortune, they think that there was a stroke of good luck. So Mark Zuckerberg plans to give 99% away, I plan to give 95% away, you know, so we are not starting an ongoing thing, even though we will be generous to our children.

One of the things your and Melinda Gates's annual letter talks about is exaggeration of inequities... there has been a setback on the gender front.

The condition of women in poor countries is even worse than that of men — their access to education, their ability to even get out and talk to other women. They are doing very tough menial work for very, very long hours, often the entire day. And their ability to protect themselves from violence or to make choices is very restricted. So economic development, fortunately, starts to change that... the more urban areas start to change that.

So when you have a huge setback like this (pandemic), we need to remind ourselves that this is tougher on the woman. Even in rich countries... women often do more of the housework, and helping the kids with their online education, often falls to the Mom... Melinda's very articulate there are gender-focused policies that can reduce

some of the increased burden on women.

Is there any technology solution that you see coming in to bridge these inequities that have suddenly gotten exaggerated?

We have certainly accelerated investments in online learning. Right now online learning requires an internet connection and, you know, a PC-like device. And then it requires teachers who created that content and figure out how to engage the students...

I'm an optimist that online has a huge promise for improving education even after the pandemic. Kids can immediately get feedback when they're confused, they can meet up with other students even though they're not in the same place. And, of course, if we improve education, that helps the entire economy. Human resources are the main resource in all countries, particularly in India. So how can the Indian education system be better — that's fascinated me. Because it's key to how fast the country moves forward.

The pandemic has underlined how irreplaceable technology is...What are your thoughts on the rules of engagement with technology...do you think there has to be a new way for citizens and for regulators to think about engaging with Big Tech.

Well that's constantly evolving. You

know what, how do we make sure that all companies are innovating on behalf of their users and what should the boundaries be.

India has ruled that Amazon can't sell their own products on their marketplace and other countries don't have that, but I do think other countries are debating... As technology evolves, particularly now that it's gotten into the communications realm and the delivery of news... the government's going to be looking at how do you stop anti-vaccine misleading things from being promoted... something (that pits) one ethnicity against another... how do you curb that? Even a politician might say something that is stirring up trouble, how you moderate those things will be discussed, including telling the technology companies how the country wants it handled.

You have spoken about the extent of polarisation in societies around the world. Do you think Big Tech has a role to play in making societies less polarized? Or is that not their job at all?

The key job is for the government to decide what those rules (of engagement) are. And to make them clear to the tech companies... (Like) don't expose young people to sexual things and then expect the companies to build up a lot of that capacity... what do you think about, you know, inciting ethnic tensions or, you know, saying that all vaccines are bad — that's going to be a political decision that, hopefully, is written in a clear way so that the tech platforms know what to do.

I am going to ask you to indulge me with a rapid fire series of questions, where I'll ask you for a quick response:

...Destiny or free will ?
I'll say free will

Education or experience ?
Well, I'm pretty big on education, but you know I admit you need both.

A missed opportunity?
An example of a missed opportunity. You know, Microsoft didn't end up doing the phone operating system well enough. You know, so that you know I made mistakes there that I regret.

If you were entasked to rebuild the internet ground up, what's the one thing you'd change about it?

Well, the, the basic assumption that you're anonymous... That causes some difficulties, and some of the inability to control the security causes some difficulties. The internet has been unbelievable but the identity part and the security part — we're kind of having to layer that on and it's not as natural as it should be.

Is there one lesson that India has taught you? In all your trips, one thing that you've taken back from India?

In India, there's so much potential, you see streets teeming with people. You meet really bright people who somehow got through the education system. You don't see oil or, you know, big mineral-type things, you just see people. The mix of humanity is just mind-blowing and you think okay if we could educate and unleash all this human potential. It's incredible.

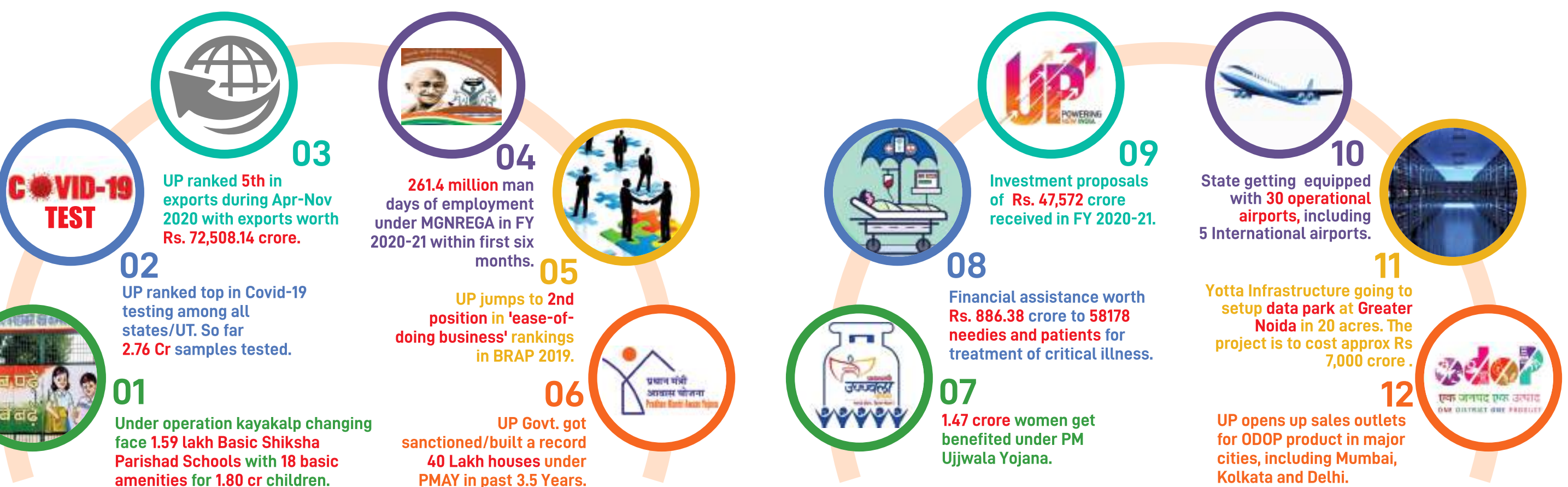
And then, you know, if you go to the foundation office or Microsoft Office you see people who have had the best Indian education and you see how smart they are and what they're contributing. And yet you know most of the country doesn't get that opportunity so you know if you want to see the stark potential of, you know, human capability, and you get a little frustrated that it's not being tapped in... I always feel that way

What's your advice today to the young Indian entrepreneur, who says I want to be like Bill Gates.

Starting out, with that in mind, the chance of success isn't, you know, super high. It's great to be ambitious but it's probably best to pick the area you want to contribute.

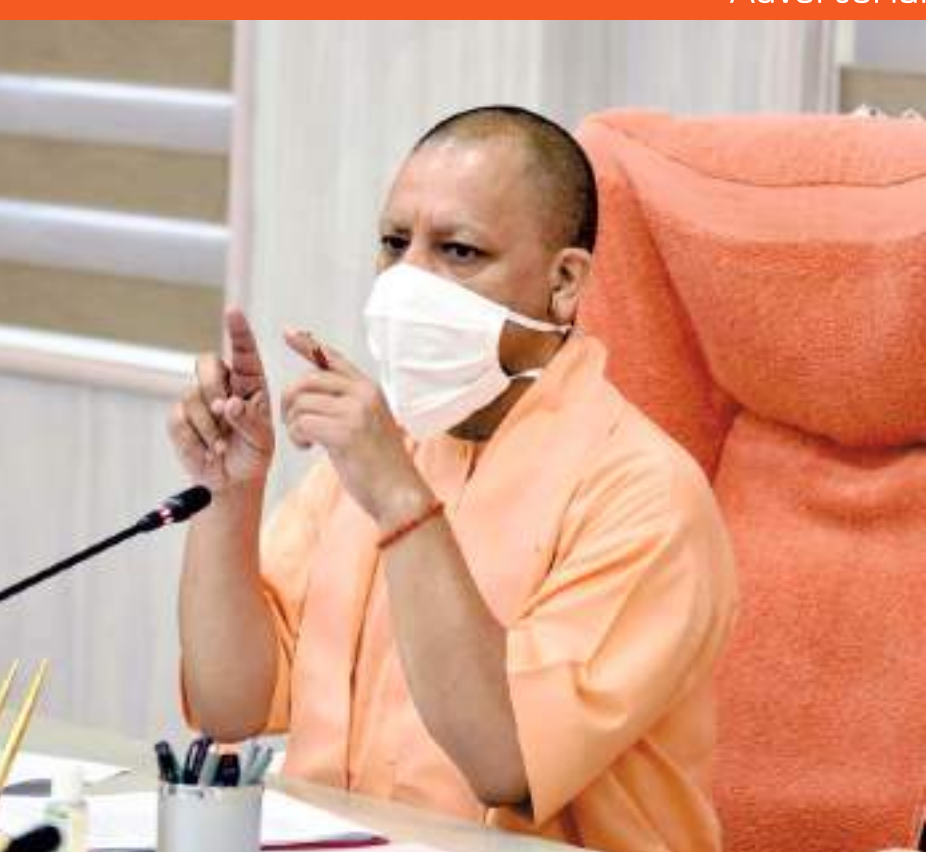
Do you want to make better robots than anybody's ever made or do you want helping people in research topics and helping them organise their time and money and get things done? You know there are frontiers in software. There are frontiers in medicine, there are frontiers in climate change. And so if you define yourself in terms of really caring about one of those things and getting deeply educated, whether or not you get a big company and, you know, lots of money, you're guaranteed to have fulfillment if you tackle the biggest problems of humanity.

'A Triumphant Uttar Pradesh'



The UP government has fully integrated itself with the goal of self-reliant India. The 'Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan' for migrant workers is a very good example of the double engine that I always mention about. Aatmanirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan for migrant workers will make India self-reliant.

—Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Under the able guidance of our honourable prime minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we are coming out triumphant in our battle against Covid, we have also managed to turn all the challenges into opportunities for the state. We took the challenge head on, and my team went into mission mode right from the beginning.

—Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

'Mission Rozgar' 25 Lakh Get Employed

2.5 Crore people get rozgar under MSME and ODOP



THE UNFORESEEN 'Mission Rozgar' campaign launched by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on December 5 last year, aiming to provide 50 lakh jobs by March 2021. Where so far provided employment to nearly 25 lakhs people.

Chief Minister has also given instructions to start the recruitment process on 5 lakh vacant posts in government departments. It may be recalled that more than 3.75 lakh appointments on government posts have been so far. Apart from govt. jobs, state govt. has so far created more than 2.5 crore jobs including 1.5 crore youth linked to self-employment under MSME.

- Over 3.75 lakh youth appointed in government services
- 2.5 Crore people get rozgar including 1.5 crore youth linked to self-employment under MSME and ODOP
- 17,57,489 youth have been provided employment in various MSMEs during last one month.
- 58,000 women given jobs as 'Banking Correspondent Sakhi' and 59,000 women associated with SHGs engaged in working at community toilets given jobs.
- Women's self Help Groups given employment opportunities through engagement in uniform and sweater making.
- Associating youth with opportunities through Common Service Centre-3.0 Project. Service charges and transaction charges reduced.

"Under Mission Rozgar, more employment and self-employment opportunities will be created in various departments, organisations, corporations, councils, boards and various local bodies of the state govt."

Help desks

Under the mission, an employment help desk has been created in every government department. It informs the youth about employment programmes in respective departments. Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal had revealed that the opportunities will include govt. enabled jobs directly or indirectly. Generating employment opportunities in more than six lakh MSME units in the state is part of the Mission Rozgar.

The 'Mission Rozgar' is being run under guidance of the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC) while a high level committee headed by the Chief Secretary monitors the progress of the campaign.

In districts, too

In addition to the state-level structure,

District Magistrates in each district have also been entrusted with heading the district level committees to provide job opportunities to the youth in the government departments, councils, corporations as well as private sector. The Directorate of Training and Employment, in collaboration with private industries, will organise employment fairs and resolve all pending recruitment cases.

50,000 grade 'C' employees and 50,000 teachers to be recruited soon

In order to meet targets under Mission Rozgar, Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, has directed UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) to carry out at least 50,000 recruitments for Grade 'C' employees by March 2021. The Higher Education Service Commission was also asked to expedite recruitment of 50,000 teachers. State govt. spokes-person said, UPSSSC decided to adopt a two-phase examination system on lines of Public Service Commission to expedite the process. A preliminary examination will first be conducted for screening of candidates and shortlisted candidates will appear for a main examination as per departmental requirements and related service manuals. UPSSSC will also start a 'Know Your Candidate' (KYC) system. Now, a candidate will have to register only once on the commission website and not separately for every exam.

Skill Mapping

The government has set a target to provide skill development to 7.43 lakh youths. While about 6.00 lakh youths and artisans will be provided certification on prior learning, and about 1.43 lakh will be given training under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Scheme.

ODOP engine to make UP Atmanirbhar



THE UTTAR Pradesh government's unique initiative ODOP has emerged as a thumping success in spurring economic growth and creating job opportunities in the state. It has also resulted in unprecedented growth in exports from the state. In the FY 2018-19, the first year of the ODOP scheme coming in force, the growth was 28%. With the government support and thrust on the sector, its potential of creating job opportunities is increasing and by 2021 it is poised to create around 1.5 crore jobs.

The unprecedented success and unfathomable potential of the programme has attracted attention of the union and other state governments. Taking a leaf from UP, the Government of India recently decided to prepare an institutional mechanism to promote the ODOP scheme at the national level. The Union Government wants to propagate it in the form of a movement in the country.

The very unique 'One District One Product' scheme evolved on the fact that almost every district of Uttar Pradesh has one or other renowned traditional product. Before ODOP, the units producing traditional products, in spite of being the mainstay of MSME sector in the state, were more often than not failing units with a lot of problems as there was no policy to protect and promote them. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath identified the problem and

launched the scheme with the aim of protecting and developing traditional and indigenous-to-UP crafts, skills and products.

An elaborate exercise was undertaken to identify problems of every individual industry and ways to overcome challenges in making them viable and qualitatively better. One product or product group from each district was identified and Common Facility Centres were set up in all 75 districts to address specific problems of these units as well as international, technical and managerial support for their proliferation.

As a result of UP government's proactive role in branding and marketing of ODOP products like the Terracotta products of Gorakhpur, Moong grass products of Sultanpur and Allahabad, Durries and carpets of Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Jaunpur, flutes of Pilibhit, locks and hardware products of Aligarh, sports goods of Meerut and wood craft of Saharanpur and Bijonore etc have scaled new heights in domestic as well as international markets. Other Products taken up under the scheme include utensils of Kanpur Dehat, wall-hangings of Ghazipur, wooden toys of Chitrakoot, wheat stalk artifacts of Bahraich, Mahabharat's Gaura stone craft, Mainpuris Tarkashi art products, Rampurs brocade and patchwork and tribal crafts of Lakhimpur Kheri.

PUBLIC HEALTH services in Uttar Pradesh have improved a great deal in the recent past. Steps have been taken to augment the medical eco-system in the state. The infrastructure has been upgraded besides increasing medical education opportunities to allay shortage of medical practitioners as soon as possible. Improvement in the healthcare infrastructure that started with the Ayushman Bharat scheme got into the top gear in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The preparedness to take on challenges has seen the state improve its coronavirus testing facilities from almost non-existent to the maximum in the country. The number of government and private laboratories offering this facility is more than 234 now, and, UP has conducted more than 2.76 crore tests so far, which is way higher than all other states.

Also, in a short span of three-and-a-half years, the government has taken steps to set up a medical university and 29 new medical colleges, 14 of which have already started functioning, besides two AIIMS in the state. The hospitals associated with these medical colleges have improved the quality of available advance medical services in the state.

Covid vaccination is the top priority of the UP govt

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has defined Covid vaccination as the top priority of the state government. Doing everything possible to ensure smooth conduct of the process, CM himself has been taking feedback on preparations in various districts. UP is the only state to go through three dry runs.

Chief Minister asserted that the guidelines of the vaccination issued by the Centre have to be followed and the sequence of the vaccination should not be tampered with. Holding a video conference with the district officials, the CM also told them to ensure safety, transportation and cold chain of the vaccines in the most efficient manner even as medical officers have already been deployed to look after the arrangements. The CM also asked the officials to ensure that no citizen faced problem in the vaccination process. CM Yogi had already issued elaborate



instructions to follow the drill as per the guidelines of central government. Under the guidelines, first of all the government and non-government health workers will be vaccinated. In the second phase, the police, jail personnel, home guards, sanitation workers of urban bodies, revenue personnel engaged in the work of civil defense and surveillance etc., will be vaccinated. In the third phase, people above the age of 50 years, and those below 50 years who suffer from serious diseases like cancer, diabetes etc., will be vaccinated.

UP to start Genome Sequencing to identify new strain of coronavirus

The King George Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow, will soon start Genome Sequencing of novel coronavirus for the detection of new strains on a larger scale. Genome study will also start at Banaras Hindu University, CDRI, and NBRI. This exercise for identification of the strain will not only assist in determining the

variety and severity of the strain, but will also help in providing scope for better treatment and management of the pandemic. The initiative was taken at the instance of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Head of Department of Microbiology at KGMU, Dr. Amita Jain, said that earlier samples of 10 corona-positive patients were examined with the help of Genome Sequencer Machine, but samples can be examined on a larger scale after purchase of reagent kits. New strain was not found in any of the 10 tested samples.

Genome Sequencing is mandatory to check which strain is present in the patient suffering from COVID-19. This is done in sample found positive in RT-PCR test. Earlier, the samples were sent to Pune for the test.

It may be recalled that the first COVID-19 test lab named 'BSL Level three lab' in Uttar Pradesh, was established in the Department of Microbiology, KGMU, Lucknow. Setting a record in COVID-19 testing, so far over 11 lakh samples have been examined.

Pro-investor policies showing results

Rs 20,000 Cr investment in Electronics Manufacturing

part of the state. Uttar Pradesh government, in view of the successful investment scenario in the sector, has also upwardly revised the target to bring fresh investments of Rs 40,000 Crore and further generate 4 lakh employments in the next five years.

Under the 2020 policy, three Electronics Manufacturing Clusters— an Electronic City near the Jewar Airport on Yamuna Expressway, Defense Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (DEMC) in Bundelkhand and a Medical Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Lucknow— Unnao-Kanpur zone— have been proposed. Besides, various financial incentives have been given for establishing manufacturing industries in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions.

Achieved five-year targets in three years

Big economic achievement hopes pinned on MSME

UTTAR PRADESH has high hopes from the MSME sector. It is the sector that has given outstanding performance even during the COVID-19-hit times. Around one crore MSME units in Uttar Pradesh have potential to generate large scale employment opportunities in shortest possible time-frame. Thus, to speed up unhindered establishment of MSME units in the state, the UP government has introduced a new MSME Act that simplifies the establishment process of MSMEs.

The Act provides for a single-window system for no objection certificates (NOCs) from 29 departments and power connection of up to 20 KW within three days of filing an application. The District Level Nodal Agency (DLNA), is mandated to issue an acknowledgment within 72 hours of receiving an application through a 'Declaration of Intent'. The acknowledgment is sufficient to be able to



establish a unit. The application will be made online through the Nivesh Mitra portal.

Awards for Digital Excellence to MSME depts
The excellent work of the MSME

department has been recognized and has received 'Elets Awards for Excellence' along with four other digital ventures of the state. The award has been given for excellence in digital governance and services.

More than Rs. 36,000 cr working capital infused to 11 lakh MSMEs

Apart from facilitating setting up of MSME units, the government has actively taken steps to ensure strengthening the existing and new MSME units. In the lockdown and post-lockdown periods, the government has extended working capital loans to the tune of more than Rs 36,000 crore to almost 11 lakh MSME units in the state. The Additional chief secretary, Navneet Sehgal claims that, this capital infusion in the sector has created around 20 lakh fresh employment opportunities. "The state government is targeting to provide institutional credit to 20 lakh MSMEs in the current financial year to generate 80 lakh employment opportunities," he added.

Industrial parks to be developed along the Expressways in Uttar Pradesh



IN ORDER to further promote industrialisation of the state, UP government is preparing land banks along the expressways. These land parcels will be utilised for setting up industrial parks and units in the future. Initially, land banks will be created along the Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the Purvanchal Expressway. Setting up industrial units along these expressways will help in transporting goods within 10 to 12 hours across any corner of the state. Transportation has already started on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway and by the end of March 2021, the Purvanchal Expressway will be open for light vehicles.

Places that have been marked for the development of industrial parks are: Hargano Village along the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Firozabad district, Mohabbatpur village on Agra-Lucknow expressway in Mainpur district, Buhana Village connecting Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway, Pohara Village along the Bundelkhand Expressway in Chitrakoot district and the Bara Village on Purvanchal Expressway in Barabanki district.

It is worth mentioning that currently five expressways are in different phases of construction in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from the Purvanchal Expressway, construction work has started on Bundelkhand Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway. Also, the projects for Ganga Expressway and Ballia Link Expressway have been proposed. Also Defence Industrial Corridor in under construction by linking six-nodes viz. Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow with the network of different Expressways in the state.



MOVING AHEAD of the schemes to revitalize the agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' as an initiative for surround welfare of the farmers and the farm-sector.

Launching the programme in Dadpur village in Sarojani Nagar Block of Lucknow, the Chief Minister lamented the apathy shown towards the farm sector in period before the Modi government in the Centre.

Under the 'Kisan Kalyan Mission', various programmes have been planned for the well-being of the farmers. Meetings will be organised for the farmers in which scientists and

Kisan Kalyan Mission for welfare of farmers

other farmers will take inspiration from the success stories of the progressive farmers. Farmers Producing Organisation (FPO) functionaries constituted at the block level will also be invited to the event. Along with giving certificates, the approved farm machinery bank and equipments will also be distributed to the farmers seed sowing. The entire campaign is being monitored at the governance level and the Agriculture Department is creating a microsite of Kisan Kalyan. All information will be posted on the portal of the department. District-wise information will also be collected about how many farmers were interacted during the campaign. Mobile and WhatsApp numbers of the concerned farmers will also be collected and a database will be maintained. A committee has been constituted at the government level under the chairmanship of Agricultural Production Commissioner (APC) to conduct the campaign. Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, and Secretaries of all the departments associated with the event will be the convenors of the event.

- Measures being taken to double farmers' income
- 2.30 crore farmers received sufficient irrigation water
- 20 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 15 irrigation projects established with the help of Agriculture Universities
- For boosting farm productivity, agriculture linked to technology
- More than 2.13 crore farmers received Rs. 27,101 crore PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme
- Paddy procurement done in current season is 1.5 times that of the last period
- More than Rs 44,000 crore paid to farmers against MSP procurements
- 20 sugar mills expanded and modernized
- Sugarcane farmers received Rs. 1.18 lakh crore towards payment of cane prices

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

IF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS TAKEN AWAY, THEN,
DUMB AND SILENT, WE MAY BE LED, LIKE SHEEP TO THE
SLAUGHTER — GEORGE WASHINGTON

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A BIG STEP BACK

On 'Tandav' and Munawar Faruqui, the court, so readily agreeing with the prosecution, shrinks space for free speech

THE SUPREME COURT'S remarks while denying interim protection from arrest to the maker and actor of the web series *Tandav* and, a day later, the Madhya Pradesh High Court's rejection of bail to comedian Munawar Faruqui point to a disturbing abdication. In the frequent run-ins between religious belief and the freedom of speech and expression, the balance appears to be tipping away from constitutional freedom, and the courts are showing quiescence or complicity in this process. The makers of *Tandav* face an array of FIRs in various states, despite having deleted scenes which allegedly offended the religious sentiments of some viewers. Faruqui and five other accused have been in jail for close to a month, having been arrested on charges of "insulting" Hindu gods. In both cases, it appears the artistes have been arraigned for the exercise of their creative freedoms — though, in Faruqui's case, the Indore police are on record stating they have no video evidence of him even making the jokes. In both cases, the individuals have not found relief from the courts.

These observations make a break from past judgments in which the highest court has upheld that the arts represent a realm of thought that must be protected from overzealous cultural police (on the film *Padmaavat*, and the Malayalam novel *Meesha*). To the argument from the counsel for an actor in *Tandav* that he cannot be held responsible for the lines of the character he plays, the SC bench pointed out that he had read the script, and said: "you cannot hurt religious sentiments of others". The SC response is a let-down also given that, in the past, it has laid out that even under Section 295 A of IPC, an "insult" cannot be held as an offence without proving that it was deliberately malicious, an aggravated form of insult to a religion, and a risk to public order. The remarks of the court risk making the artist community even more vulnerable, especially when the apparent democratisation of the right to be offended is producing a growing army of vigilantes eager to settle all debates over artistic expression with the blunt force of criminal law.

Last year, the SC, while granting bail to television anchor Arnab Goswami, had argued that the courts remain "the first line of defence against the deprivation of liberty of citizens", that "bail, not jail" was fundamental to the legal system, and that "deprivation of liberty even for a single day is one day too many". In both the *Tandav* and Munawar Faruqui cases, the court seems to be stepping back from this constitutional promise. In times when the political class shows a marked reluctance to come to the defence of individual liberties, and when spaces for minority rights and freedoms seem especially imperilled, the role of the judiciary as the custodian and defender of the Constitution is even more important and urgent. But be it its clampdown on criticism of itself, or reluctance to intercede on behalf of journalists and activists charged under draconian laws or teenagers jailed for slogans, the court, in so readily agreeing with the prosecution, doesn't do justice to itself.

ON THE UPSWING

IMF pegs India's GDP growth at 11.5 per cent. But higher growth expectations should not lead to policy complacency

THE ECONOMIC FALLOUT of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world is likely to be less severe than previously expected. Not only is the extent of contraction in 2020 likely to have been shallower than expected, but as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the pace of recovery in 2021 is could surpass earlier expectations, as the rollout of the vaccine is expected to power economic activity. The Fund now believes that the global economy is likely to have contracted by 3.5 per cent in 2020, lower than its earlier expectation of a 4.4 per cent contraction, as "economic activity appears to be adapting to subdued contact-intensive activity with the passage of time". A shallower contraction, coupled with additional policy measures, suggests that the prospects for 2021 are brighter — the Fund now expects the world economy to grow at 5.5 per cent, up 0.3 percentage points from its earlier forecast.

For India, the IMF now expects the economy to contract by 8 per cent in 2020-21, marginally higher than the 7.7 per cent projected by the National Statistical Office in the first advance estimates. However, considering that the data on economic indicators used by the NSO in arriving at its estimates was only available till October/November, and that economic activity has remained healthy in the months thereafter, there is a possibility of the contraction actually being lower. For 2021-22, the IMF now expects the Indian economy to grow at 11.5 per cent, 2.7 percentage points higher than its previous forecast. While this upswing is in part due to the base effect, several caveats are in order. First, as the official estimates do not tend to accurately capture the informal economy, they may be underestimating the stress in the economy. Second, despite faster growth, the economy is likely to reach pre-COVID levels only by the end of 2021-22. However, the rate the economy is expected to grow at in the next fiscal year assumes significance as it will form the basis of the Union budget's estimates — the nominal GDP growth rate will have a bearing on the government's revenue expectations and the space it has for enhanced spending.

Expectations of higher growth should not lead to policy complacency. The recovery has been uneven. And the sharp slowdown prior to the pandemic suggests that medium-term challenges to growth remain. The possibility of another surge in infections, vaccine hesitancy and logistical problems in distribution disrupting economic activity cannot be ruled out. The economy will continue to need careful policy support.

FIGHTING WORDS

Name-calling ahead of elections has plenty of takers in times when words speak louder than actions

AT A RALLY in east Midnapore ahead of the upcoming Assembly election in West Bengal, newly-inducted BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari took a potshot at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, calling him "*babu shona*" — a term of endearment for young boys in Bengal. Adhikari's intention, of course, was not to shower affection on his erstwhile party colleague. He was only carrying forward a tradition of political rhetoric that infantilises opponents and reduces them to caricatures.

Name-calling ahead of elections has become a part of hyper-aggressive political strategem, gaining traction over the last decade among all parties. In the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP repeatedly referred to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi as "Pappu", a moniker that has chased him since; pre-poll campaigns in 2014 also saw Mamata Banerjee referring to then-Prime-Minister aspirant Narendra Modi as "Danga Babu (Mr Riot)". More recently, in October last year, at a rally in the state ahead of the assembly elections in Bihar, the Prime Minister referred to the RJD's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav as "*Jungle raj ke yuvaraj* (crown prince of anarchical governance)".

This culture of one-upmanship, where words speak louder than action, has plenty of takers, given that election campaigns have now come to be driven by the cult of personality. Barbs and insults guarantee instant visibility on social-media platforms, laughter and the satisfying thunder of applause at election rallies. What they fail to do, however, is to take the conversation in a meaningful direction. Perhaps it's time for elected representatives to rethink poll rhetoric. Because once the dust settles on campaigns and the task of governance begins, it is not the tall talk that matters, but the willingness of leaders to listen.

A booster shot for health

The nation's economy rides on the health of its people.
Budget 2021 must acknowledge that



K SRINATH REDDY

THE UNION BUDGET of 2021 is interposed between a year when COVID-19 drove its viral spikes into many cells of our economy and a year when all of India will be joyfully celebrating 75 years of independent nationhood. The budget should reflect hope for the future as we look ahead with optimism, tempered by the sobriety of lessons learnt from the year gone by. Health and economy were closely intertwined in our priorities last year. They should remain so even when the pandemic abates. For, to forsake health would be a grave error for the economy. Not only because a health crisis can derail the economy, but also from the recognition that investments in health can boost economic growth.

The budget must, therefore, provide higher allocations to health. If we have to move towards the already announced goal of raising public expenditure on health to 2.5 per cent of India's GDP by 2025, from the present 1.3 per cent, this year's budget must reflect that commitment through a 20-25 per cent increase in the overall allocation to health in comparison to the past year. The years to follow should keep up the momentum to reach the 2.5 per cent target which is minimalist in any case. Even if the total expenditure on health stagnates at 5 per cent of the GDP, a public financing level of 2.5 per cent will represent only 50 per cent. We will still be left with high out-of-pocket expenditure, as coverage from employer paid and privately purchased insurance is low. Insurance paid through mandatory salary deductions ("labour taxes") is not a feasible option in a country where much of the workforce is in the informal sector. Writing in *Health Affairs* (May 2020), eight leading global health economists made a "case against labour-tax financed social health insurance for low and middle income countries".

If we are to achieve the recommendation by the World Bank and the World Health Organisation that programmes of universal health coverage should aim to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure to 15-20 per cent, we need to do much better in terms of public financing of health. Our out-of-pocket expenditure on health is still around 58 per cent. Ideally, total health expenditure should rise but with public financing contributing the largest share. The states, too, must step up

their allocations for health but the pace will be set by the Centre.

Within the health budget, allocations must meet both the urgent priorities of the pandemic response and the longer term need to build a stronger health system that can provide a broad range of health services with an assurance of sustained efficiency and equity. A convergence of these priorities would be best reflected in increased allocations for both rural and urban primary care. From health literacy for COVID-appropriate behaviour, early case detection and contact tracing to home care for most infected persons and chronic care for long-term effects of the virus, primary care services will need to be strengthened for an efficient pandemic response. The Urban Health Mission, which lies in cold storage, must be activated to capably stall transmission of infection and also effectively detect and care for co-morbidities which enhance its risk. Primary health-care serves the whole population, offers the largest package of services and is cost-optimising both in low-cost services and preventing the need for high-cost care of avertable complications. The budget must reflect the commitment made by the National Health Mission to allocate two-thirds of health financing to primary care.

Financing mechanisms must enable comprehensive, continuous and connected care for many chronic diseases, with efficient, bidirectional linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana must link with the National Health Mission to provide coverage for out-patient care, including essential drugs and diagnostics, while expanding coverage to cover the "missing middle" of our population who too are vulnerable to health shocks. Elderly care must receive greater attention, as must disability services and mental health. Higher taxes on all varieties of tobacco products, ultra-processed foods and beverages, alcohol and luxury vehicles can raise more revenue to expand the general revenue pool, permitting higher allocation to health from the general budget even if earmarked taxes are an anathema to finance ministries.

Even as we welcome evidence of an ebbing epidemic, emergence of more infec-

tious mutants still poses a threat. Surveillance systems and laboratory capacity must receive support, including One Health eco-surveillance that traces microbial migration from wildlife to veterinary and human populations. Upgrading of district and medical college hospitals must also be accorded high priority. Expansion of a multi-layered, multi-skilled health workforce, through investments in training institutions which are widely distributed across the country, must be financed in partnership with the states. We cannot cope with a public health emergency and simultaneously provide all other needed health services if we stay short in size and skills in most categories of our health workforce. Multi-disciplinary public health expertise, needed for design and delivery of health programmes, must be fostered by supporting and expanding training institutions and creating public health cadres at the Centre and states. The recommendation of the National Health Policy 2017, for creation of such cadres, will be earnestly implemented only when catalysed through centrally financed mechanisms and guidelines.

Health research must be funded more, especially in the area of implementation research to ensure that more money for health translates to more health for the money. Health technologies need to be incentivised to enhance the effectiveness and equity of health services, through appropriate and affordable innovations. "Make In India" must support domestic pharmaceutical, vaccine and medical equipment makers for stepping up quantity and quality.

The funding provided to health in 2020, including the additional allocations for COVID-19 response, was only a priming shot. A more potent booster shot of financial allocation is needed for the health system to deliver sustained benefits of better health and brighter economy to the nation. The nation's economy rides on the health of its people. That, in turn, depends on how much the government values health. The budget will tell.

The writer, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). He is author of Make Health in India: Reaching a Billion Plus. Views are personal

LETTING DOWN THE VULNERABLE

Bombay HC's interpretation of POCSO risks making the law redundant



MUKTA SATHE

RECENTLY, THE NAGPUR Bench of the Bombay High Court in the case of *Satish Bandu Ragde v. The State of Maharashtra* held that "skin-to-skin" contact is essential to constitute the offence defined under Section 7 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) which deals with sexual offences against minors. The honourable court held that the act of pressing the breast of the child aged 12 years, in the absence of any specific detail as to whether the top was removed or whether he inserted his hand inside it, would not fall in the definition of "sexual assault" under Section 7 of the Act. Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which deals with outraging modesty of women and which provides for a lesser sentence, was held to be applicable in such cases. This ruling raises several concerns.

While holding that the stringent nature of punishment provided for the offence requires stricter proof and serious allegations, the court said the punishment should be proportionate to the seriousness of the crime. The principle of proportionality is an important principle in criminal jurisprudence. Nevertheless, while adjudging the seriousness of the offence the court has not given consideration to the fact that the victim, a minor, is entitled to greater protection.

The POCSO Act was enacted with the specific intention of protecting children from sexual assault and sexual harassment. It took into consideration the standards prescribed

by the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations to which the Indian government acceded to on December 11, 1992. The Act acknowledges the special vulnerability of children and that special protection, above and beyond that provided in the IPC, is required when the victim is a child. The severe punishment provided under the Act is not due to the severity of the condemned illegal sexual act in itself but because the act is committed in relation to a minor who is more vulnerable. The major concern is that the interpretation of the court seems to defeat the purpose of the POCSO Act. In making the Act inapplicable to cases of sexual harassment of a minor and applying the IPC in its stead, the honourable court seems not to have given due consideration to this legislative history and object.

The honourable court also held that to fall within the definition of sexual assault, the condemned act must be of the same nature as the acts prescribed under Section 7 of POCSO, which defines sexual assault as "Whoever, with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, or does any other act with sexual intent which involves physical contact without penetration is said to commit sexual assault." The court has concluded that the touching of the breast without skin-to-skin contact is

not similar to the abovementioned acts and, therefore, does not fall within this definition. The court seems to have followed a rather pedantic approach to reach this conclusion. The fact that the trauma of the child whose breasts were groped through a cloth could be of the same nature and severity as direct touching of the breast is not discussed. And if the trauma is the same, the mere existence of cloth should not affect the applicability of the POCSO Act.

This interpretation also lays down a dangerous precedent. Other actions, which would thus escape punishment under this Act, could include intrusive touching of vagina through an underwear or forcing a child to touch a penis through a cloth or even a condom which are all extremely violative acts. Therefore, if such an interpretation is followed, there is a threat that the POCSO Act in itself might become redundant as a wide range of sexually violative activities would be excluded from its ambit due to lack of "skin-to-skin" contact.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had asked the Maharashtra government to appeal this decision in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has currently stayed the acquittal of the accused under this judgement. Whether the Supreme Court accepts the interpretation given by the high court remains to be seen.

The writer is a lawyer and novelist

JANUARY 29, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

NAM ON KABUL

BEHIND THE SCENES, the 93 Non-Aligned nations seemed to have reached a consensus on Afghanistan, the issue that seemed to have split the Foreign Ministers Conference, beginning in Delhi on February 9. The formula on the anvil is that the Soviet Union will be mentioned by its name for its intervention in Afghanistan but without any word of criticism or direct condemnation. The direct declaration circulated by India among NAM members through its officials may be amended accordingly. There may be a suggestion that the parties concerned seek a political solution. However, there will be no effort to compromise with the inde-

pendence, integrity, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. The conference is expected to make a special reference to the UN but without saying what kind of role it is expected to play.

ARAB DEMANDS

THE 36 FOREIGN ministers gathered in Tayef in Saudi Arabia for the Islamic Summit are of the view that the most pressing world issue, that of the Middle East, of which the Palestinian question is the core one and which united the Islamic nations, will be equally instrumental in uniting the NAM countries. Though Iran and Libya boycotted the summit, they are

likely to attend the foreign ministers' summit in Delhi. Yet another Arab demand at Delhi will be the expulsion of Egypt, one of the founders of NAM.

OIL STRIKE ENDS

PUMPING OF CRUDE oil from Upper Assam's oil fields to Bihar's Barauni refinery was resumed today by employees of Oil India ending their 13-month non-cooperation with the management over the foreigners' issue. A top Oil India official said that the work resumed after an ultimatum from the company's management about initiating disciplinary action against the striking employees.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE



AMRITH LAL

KANNAI KATTI KOLLAATHAE, *kandathai ellaam nambaathey/Kaakkai kuyilaay aagaathae thoazhaa/Thaadigal ellaam Taagooraa, meesai-gal ellaam Baarathiyaa/Vaeshathil ae-maaraathae thoazha.*

(Don't be blinded, don't believe all that you see/A crow can't turn into a koel, comrade/Are all bearded men Tagore? And the ones with moustaches Bharathi?/Don't be fooled by disguises, comrade!)

So crooned Anandan, a character modelled on MGR, in the Mani Ratnam film *Inruvar* (1997) while rebelling against his parent party. *Inruvar* was a layered take on Tamil politics, especially the succession battle within the DMK in the late 1960s and the rise of MGR as a charismatic politician following the founding of AIADMK in 1972. With assembly elections round the corner, politics in Tamil Nadu is in a flux: Too many actors crowd the script with no director seemingly in charge. The scene also has its share of pretenders and disguises that it may seem tough to figure the real act.

Until recently, and for near five decades, politics in Tamil Nadu has revolved around three charismatic figures, who claimed the legacy of the Dravidian movement: DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi defined one pole of state politics while MGR and Jayalalithaa occupied the other end. MGR left the arena in 1987, Jayalalithaa in 2016 and Karunanidhi in 2018. The upcoming elections are also a battle for their legacy even as parties, who have so far been in the political periphery, sense an opportunity to reshape the consensus forged by the Dravidian movement. So far their leaders have only projected themselves as showboats by dressing up in *veshti* and *angavastram* and discovering and endorsing local traditions and festivals such as Pongal and Jallikattu. This reductionism, wherein a powerful idea of federal politics, regional identity, linguistic pride and social justice is acknowledged through guest appearances and cultural references, perhaps, stems from a misunderstanding that all politics in Tamil Nadu is mere spectacle. Spectacle is a key part of Tamil politics of course; but it is that and much more.

On Wednesday, the AIADMK-led government hurriedly inaugurated a memorial for former chief minister J Jayalalithaa at her burial site on the Marina beach. The inauguration coincided with the end of the prison term of Jayalalithaa's aide, VK Sasikala, who had been convicted in a corruption case along with her boss. Clearly, the current AIADMK leadership including CM Edappadi Palaniswami did not prefer the presence of Sasikala at a function meant to memorialise Jayalalithaa's legacy. In fact, Palaniswami, who was hand-picked by Sasikala to lead the government, had said there was no space for the latter in the AIADMK. Sasikala, once *chinnamma* to the AIADMK cadres and deemed the mother figure for the party after the death of Jayalalithaa, was left to fend for herself in prison though her nephew, TTV Dinakaran, has kept her claim to Amma's legacy by floating his own outfit. Sasikala's last public act before leaving for prison was to visit Jayalalithaa's burial site — her thumping at the

Staging a new act

The star cast in Tamil Nadu politics is large, but there are no superstars this time



CR Sasikumar

grave was interpreted by Sasikala's followers as pledging to "overcome hurdle(s), treachery and (the) plotting" (against her). The very same site had earlier witnessed another spectacle, when then CM and confidant of Jayalalithaa, O Paneerselvam, visited the site and seemingly sat in meditation before staging a revolt against Sasikala. His rebellion failed, caused a split in the AIADMK and eventually, the anointment of Palaniswami as CM by Sasikala. In the past four years, friends have turned foes and enemies have become allies as savvy politicians, driven, of course by self-interest and preservation, and, perhaps, some nudge from the ruling party at the Centre, held the AIADMK together to complete a full term in office. But with Sasikala out of prison, it is unlikely that the Palaniswami-led AIADMK's claim for Jayalalithaa's legacy would go unchallenged in the elections. And that may produce its own share of spectacle, and even influence the political dynamic in Tamil Nadu.

In fact, spectacle and ideology have gone together in the making of the Dravidian movement, right from the days of Periyar E V Ramasami. The self-respect agenda of Periyar, with its emphasis on social justice, Tamil identity, atheism etc, established itself as the dominant political narrative in Tamil Nadu by holding public campaigns that bordered on the spectacle. His follower, C N Annadurai, found a powerful medium in the idiom of cinema, again exploiting its potential for the spectacular and its scope for melodrama. When the DMK split after the passing of Annadurai, the AIADMK under MGR focussed more on the spectacle aspect whereas the DMK under Karunanidhi, who scripted some of the most powerful propaganda films with MGR as hero, stressed on ideology. In fact, the two leaders knew their strengths and focussed on them to win public support. Both the DMK and AIADMK invested heavily in building a welfare state and furthering Tamil identity. In the process, Tamil Nadu, despite sending 39 MPs to Parliament, became a "marginal" player in national politics for most part of the last half a century, but this "marginality" has also been the reason behind its rise as an industrial powerhouse and helped it to stay strong as a secu-

The upcoming elections are also a battle for their legacy as parties, so far in the political periphery, sense an opportunity to reshape the consensus forged by the Dravidian movement. So far their leaders have only projected themselves as showboats by dressing up in *veshti* and *angavastram* and discovering and endorsing local traditions and festivals such as Pongal and Jallikattu. This reductionism stems from a misunderstanding that all politics in Tamil Nadu is mere spectacle. Spectacle is a key part of Tamil politics of course; but it is that and much more.

lar society.

Any new entrant who wants to break into Tamil Nadu politics will need to acknowledge this legacy of the Dravidian parties, and build on it. Rajinikanth had sought to transcend it by presenting himself as an ideological alternative to the Dravidian parties and claiming to offer a vague agenda that he described as "spiritual politics". If Rajinikanth did not openly challenge the political inheritance of Periyar, Hindutva outfits attacked his legacy as anti-Hindu and anti-national. Around the same time, the state BJP had sought to build a narrative around the popular deity, Murugan, with its Vel Yatra, which flopped. Soon, the seasoned actor recognised that challenging established political outfits wasn't as easy as pulping villains on screen. With the pandemic in full swing, he announced the end of his flirtation with electoral politics.

The other superstar of Tamil cinema, Kamal Haasan, though claiming to challenge the Dravidian parties, has, in fact, stayed on course with the Periyar legacy. However, his politics, like his recent films, is focussed so much on himself that his script, which has interesting poll promises such as salary for homemakers, has been pushed to the background. After all, politics, like cinema, needs not just a hero with good intentions but also a good script, support cast and an efficient crew to succeed.

The DMK has recognised this fact, that the polity is now far too fragmented for any single party or leadership to dominate. It has so far been accommodative of allies, which presently includes the Congress, Communist parties, and the Dalit outfit, Viduthalaï Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK). There are, of course, a set of fire-breathing heroes, whose radical rhetoric and vision satisfy a niche audience but lack the organisational muscle or political nous to influence an election — for instance, the Naam Tamilar party leader Seeman. They spice up the spectacle but have little impact on the final outcome. The fact is that voters have a transactional relationship with political parties and tend to see through the disguise.

amrith.lal@expressindia.com

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Boris Johnson expresses sadness without taking responsibility. He is sorry that so many died, but not for his failure to prevent their deaths. He says lessons will be learned but 'now is not the time to reflect'". — THE GUARDIAN

Navigator in chief

The central bank may have been the main game in town in 2020. But fiscal policy will likely play a bigger role in shaping the growth recovery in 2021



PRANJUL BHANDARI

NEW DAILY CASES of COVID-19 have fallen 80 per cent in three months, the economy is at 94 per cent of its pre-pandemic levels, and the Senex is near the record 50,000 mark. Against this positive backdrop for India, what role could the government's budget on February 1 and the RBI's policy meeting on February 5 play?

To answer this, we first need to put India in a global context. As fiscal spending falls gently in the rest of the world, we expect it to remain unchanged and at elevated levels in India. And with inflation north of the 4 per cent target, we think India may be amongst the first to gently start raising interest rates.

With that, there is likely to be a changing of the guard between policymakers. Central bank officials may have been the key players in 2020 as they slashed interest rates. But the government will likely play a more prominent role in setting the contours for a growth recovery in 2021.

To explain why, we believe four large shifts are needed to sustain the recovery, and a closer look suggests each of these will need fiscal support.

One, while demand for goods is back to healthy levels, demand for services is still 30 per cent below normal and needs to catch up. A successful roll-out of the government's vaccination drive will be necessary for this important shift to take place.

Two, as more activity restarts, there is likely to be a shift from rural spending to urban spending. The labourers who went back to their village homes during the lockdown may want to return to their city jobs, but some may find those jobs do not exist anymore. As a result, welfare benefits may need to be extended for a longer period.

Three, large firms and high-earners have fared much better than small companies through the pandemic, but it's these tiny and informal enterprises that make up 85 per cent of the labour force, and whose health will be instrumental for a sustainable recovery. Again, a continuation of social welfare spending, particularly to support those at the bottom of the pyramid, will be important.

Four, a move from consumption to capital spending is important to raise the economy's capacity to create jobs. But it may not come easily at a time when many private factories are idle. Public capex and structural reforms may need to take the lead here.

Can the budget accommodate all of this, and yet show some responsible fiscal consolidation? We think it can.

We expect government expenditure to remain elevated at 15.4 per cent of GDP. This will enable Delhi to spend generously on the vaccination rollout, social welfare schemes and capex. In particular, we forecast the capex outlay to rise by 0.5 per cent of GDP. That's because with 2020 mired in a lockdown, 2021 could see two years' worth of replacement capex.

And despite elevated government spending, we expect the fiscal deficit to fall gradually to 5.8 per cent in 2021-22 from 7 per cent in 2020-21. That's thanks to a sharp rise in tax revenues — around 30 per cent (year-on-year), double the year's nominal GDP growth. A disproportionate amount of business is moving to the larger and listed firms. The formalisation under-way can lift tax revenues in the short run. Higher income from disinvestments could also help, particularly in view of the buoyant capital markets.

As growth continues to rebound and gets increasing support from fiscal policy, attention is likely to turn to inflation. If 2021 turns out to be a year when pent-up demand for services is released, it could come with a negative side effect of rising services inflation. Service providers tend to raise prices once a year. Given that this wasn't possible in 2020, they may double the increase in 2021.

Also, inequality can be inflationary. High-earners, who have done well through the pandemic, tend to consume more services, like travel and education, than goods. Add to this elevated commodity prices, and high inflation could well be a problem. We see inflation averaging 5.0-5.5 per cent in 2021-22, above the 4 per cent target but below the 6 per cent upper limit of the tolerance band. How would the RBI react to above-target inflation?

Perhaps, one way forward for the RBI would be to differentiate between a short-term cyclical recovery and medium-term potential growth. The RBI could manage liquidity in line with the cyclical recovery. As pent-up demand leads to an economic rebound, the RBI can gradually draw some of the excess liquidity out of the system. The aim would be to gradually nudge overnight lending rates up and closer to the benchmark repo rate of 4 per cent. This would also help push real rates out of negative territory, which in our view is an important step to keeping inflation contained.

But, perhaps, the RBI will not tinker with the benchmark repo rate yet. We believe that India's potential growth has fallen throughout the pandemic. As long as investment remains low, the RBI may want to keep the repo rate at the current benign level of 4 per cent.

Just as inflation forecasts are critical for an inflation targeting regime, growth forecasts will become important for fiscal and monetary policy as the country navigates its way out of the pandemic.

The writer is chief India economist, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Pvt Ltd



YASHWANT SINHA

MUCH HAS BEEN written about the merits/demerits of the three farm laws passed by Parliament. In this article, I intend to discuss the procedure adopted by the government to get these laws passed and implemented — though it has recently announced, under pressure no doubt, that the laws may be put on hold and their implementation delayed by 18 months. The problems faced by the agriculture sector are as old as agriculture itself. Some areas are in dire need of reform, but, perhaps, not in the manner the government has attempted to implement the three farm laws.

These laws — they relate to trade and commerce in farm produce, farmers' agreement on price assurance and farm services and amendments to the essential commodities act — were first promulgated as ordinances in June, 2020. There is much to be said about the manner in which they were passed by the two Houses, especially Rajya Sabha, in clear violation of rules and procedures. But why were they promulgated as ordinances in the first place?

The Constitution gives powers to the President to make laws through ordinances. But the procedure, which has evolved over the last 70 years, also lays down the circumstances under which this power has to be exercised. A brief look at M N Kaul and S L Shakhder's *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* would show how this issue was a matter of animated discussion between the first Lok Sabha

Go back to Parliament

Farm laws must be redrafted, sent to standing committee on agriculture

speaker G V Mavalankar and the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. In a letter to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, dated November 25, 1950, Mavalankar said, "The procedure of the promulgation of Ordinances is inherently undemocratic." The reply to this letter was sent by Nehru himself. He wrote: "I think all my colleagues will agree with you that the issue of ordinances is normally not desirable and should be avoided except on special and urgent occasions." In his letter of July 17, 1954, Mavalankar reiterated that "the issue of an ordinance is undemocratic and cannot be justified except in cases of extreme urgency or emergency". He went on to warn the government by adding, "it is not a question of the present personnel in government but a question of precedents; and if this ordinance issuing is not limited by convention only to extreme and very urgent cases, the result may be that, in future, the government may go on issuing Ordinances giving Lok Sabha no option but to rubber-stamp the Ordinances." We realise now how full of foresight his observation was.

It seems that nobody in this government cared to read Kaul and Shakhder, perhaps not even those in the bureaucracy who are advising the government. Or are they too scared to speak? There is no doubt, however, that passing these laws through the ordinance route was bad in law and in clear violation of established parliamentary practices. There was nothing urgent which could not have waited

for Parliament to assemble.

Over the years, the procedure for passage of bills in the two Houses of Parliament has been refined. In most cases, the bills, after introduction, are referred to the concerned standing committee for examination and report. Only in rare cases are they passed directly by the two Houses. This was the procedure earlier and almost meticulously followed, even during the UPA regime. As chairman of the standing committee on finance between 2009 and 2014, I can vouch for the fact that we used to be extremely preoccupied with the examination of pieces of legislation and in preparing reports on them. In fact, the Companies Amendment Bill was examined by the committee not once but twice despite the opposition of the then corporate affairs minister Veerappa Moily and because of the support I received from Pranab Mukherjee. During the UPA regime, over 70 per cent of the bills introduced were referred to standing committees. The figure came down to 25 per cent during NDA 1, and I understand that during its second avatar not a single bill has been referred to the standing committees so far. Naturally, this list also includes the three farm bills.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the passage of the bills as "a watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture". The farmers are not equally convinced. But PM Modi had also bowed his head at the steps of the Parliament building when he first entered it as PM in 2014 and again before the

Constitution when he was reelected in 2019. Which is real, these acts of obeisance or giving the short shrift to Parliament and the Constitution? I leave it to your judgement.

The procedures established by Parliament over the years, the conventions, practices and precedents provide safeguards to ensure that the two Houses do not err in the passing of bills and the bills serve the public purpose for which they are meant. Yet, it is possible that it may make mistakes and that is why we have the power of review vested in the courts of law. The Supreme Court has stayed the implementation of the laws. There is enough ground for it to set these laws completely aside — for not following the established procedure, stepping over the power of states, the government itself agreeing, however reluctantly, to keep them in abeyance for 18 months and the opposition mounted by the farmers for whose good all this is being done.

Governments make mistakes, and at times, even commit blunders. The government has already eaten crow. My recommendation is that it should withdraw the laws entirely, redraft them if necessary and send them to the standing committee on agriculture. Passing legislations is the preserve of Parliament. Do maintain that sanctity. An obstinate attitude will only invite interference from unwanted quarters, including the judiciary, and invade the sanctity of this exclusive turf.

The writer is a former Union minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KEEP TALKING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Punjab ki baat' (IE, January 28). The travails and trials of the people of Punjab because they inhabit a border state, their participation in the freedom movement and their filling granaries to the brim are well-acknowledged and appreciated by the nation. But the same nation is dismayed at the acts of vandalism by some misguided youth from this state. The NDA government while arraigning the guilty for their misdeeds must keep the door open for talks to break the deadlock on the three farm laws.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

GETTING IT WRONG

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The wrong precedent' (IE, January 28). The Bombay HC's decision to punish the offender under section 354A and not prove him guilty under Section 7 of the POCSO Act suppresses remedy. The misinterpretation of "touch" by the HC, taking it to mean only direct touch and not indirect touch runs counter to principles of justice.

Komal Pugalia via e mail

DEAL WITH HESITANCY

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Between vaccine and victory' (IE, January 28). Covaxin was rolled out with insufficient evidence of its efficacy. It is certainly early days, and inoculation will presumably pick up pace in the days ahead. However, the government is yet to explain why the

much-awaited vaccine has not seen an enthusiastic response. This is, in spite of the fact that adverse events have been negligible. A way for the government to inspire confidence is to monitor, report and be forthright about the challenges it is facing. There should also be greater coordination between the Centre and the states on sharing, investigating and publicising reasons for hesitancy.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

ROAD TO EQUALITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'No republic for women' (IE, January 28). The discrimination faced by women in everyday life is largely ignored in policy and law making. Ending gender discrimination, like caste discrimination, will also require changing mindsets.

Aachal Jagati, Guwahati

14 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



K D Sethi was 93

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Last surviving member of J&K Constituent Assembly dies

Jammu: Krishan Dev Sethi, the last surviving member of the Constituent Assembly that framed the Constitution of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, passed away here on Thursday morning. He was 93. He is survived by son Achal Sethi, Secretary, Law Department, in Jammu and Kashmir, and daughter Dr Poonam Sethi. Sethi was born on January 1, 1928 in Mirpur, now part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He was a members of the Constituent Assembly from 1951-57 and is known to have played a key role behind the then Sheikh Abdullah dispensation bringing land reforms abolishing big land holdings and waiving debts owed to money lenders. **ENS**

ASSAM

2 killed in firing by suspected militants

Guwahati: Two persons were killed when suspected militants opened fire during a traditional feast in Assam's Karbi Anglong district late on Wednesday night, police said. Karbi Anglong SP Debajit Deori said, "The firing was done by suspected militants belonging to the Dimas National Liberation Army (DNLA)..." The motive could be something personal rather than that of the extremist organisation." Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condoled the deaths. Deori said a large number of men from the Dimas community in the area have been former members of the DHD. **ENS**

GUJARAT

HC suspends warrant against senior journalist

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Thursday suspended a non-bailable arrest warrant issued by a lower court against senior journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta on a criminal complaint filed by Adani Power in 2017 for defamation. The temporary suspension of the trial court order was granted on the ground that Thakurta will give an undertaking assuring of his presence at the next hearing before the trial court, scheduled for February 9. The court of Justice BN Karia issued notice to Adani Power on a petition by Thakurta seeking quashing of the lower court's order. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL

Angioplasty performed on Sourav Ganguly

Kolkata: Doctors on Thursday performed an angioplasty on BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, said an official of a private hospital where he is admitted. Two stents are likely to be implanted to clear blocks in a coronary artery of the 48-year-old former Indian cricket captain, he said. The decision to conduct an angioplasty was taken after noted cardiologist Devi Shetty went through reports of tests conducted on Ganguly. **PTI**

TN, Jharkhand among six states lagging in vaccine rollout: Centre

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

IN THE first two weeks of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, 11 states and Union Territories administered the first dose of the vaccine to at least 35 per cent of their frontline workers, the Union Health Ministry said Thursday.

It also flagged six states that need to "improve their performance" on vaccinating their priority group. "Jharkhand (14.7 per cent), Delhi (15.7 per cent), Tamil Nadu (15.7 per cent), Uttarakhand (17.1 per cent), Chhattisgarh (20.6 per cent), and Maharashtra (20.7 per cent) need to improve vaccination performance. We are having a constant dialogue with these states" Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

Almost a year after India reported its first case of the coronavirus, the Centre also said that the country has "flattened its Covid-19 graph" as no new cases were reported in 146 districts in the last seven days. "India has flattened its Covid-19 graph—146 districts have no new cases since last 7 days, 18 districts since the last 14 days, 6 districts since



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan

21 days and 21 districts since the last 28 days," Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said at the meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers on Covid-19 Thursday.

Vardhan also said that that out of the 1.73 lakh active cases in the country, only 0.46 per cent is on ventilators, 2.20 per cent is in the ICU and 3.02 per cent is on oxygen support.

Bhushan said that three states and UTs have completed giving the first dose of the vaccine to over 50 per cent of its registered health care workers: Lakshwadeep (83.4 per cent), Odisha (50.7 per cent), and Haryana (50 per cent). Five states and UTs have coverage of over 40 per cent: Andaman (48.3 per cent), Rajasthan (46.8 per cent), Tripura (45.6 per cent),

Mizoram (40.5 per cent), Telangana (40.3 per cent).

Three other bigger states—Andhra Pradesh (38.1 per cent), Karnataka (35.6 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (35.5 per cent)—have completed giving the first dose of the vaccine to more than 35 per cent of its health care workers, the health ministry said.

ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava Thursday said two vaccine manufacturers have approached the regulator to make changes in the fact sheet to allow use of the vaccine on people using blood thinners. "The relative contraindication regarding blood thinners is mentioned in the fact sheet of both the vaccines; both companies have written to the DCGI regarding changing this point in the fact sheet. Blood thinners are two categories: one are anti-platelets, which are aspirin or clopidogrel, which is not a problem at all; and second are anti-coagulants, like heparin, where tendency in these patients to bleed is higher. The only worry is that there can be local swelling can occur at the injection site. Anti-coagulant can be stopped for two days prior to the vaccination," Bhargava said.

NITI governing council to meet, discuss vaccine management

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

AMID THE Covid-19 inoculation drive, the NITI Aayog will likely call a meeting of its governing council to discuss vaccine management in states, sources said.

The governing council is chaired by the Prime Minister and has Chief Ministers and Lt Governors as its members. The Council last met on June 15, 2019, soon after Prime Minister Modi returned to power.

The date for the forthcoming meeting has not been finalised, but it is likely to be held soon, sources said. Besides vaccine management efficiency, issues such as Covid-19's impact on the economy, river linking, recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, and Atmanirbhar Bharat may be discussed.

Before the vaccine roll-out, PM Modi had met CMS and administrators of states and UTs.

SC on completion of 71 years: Faced many challenges, Covid pandemic unprecedented

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE SUPREME Court ensured access to justice remains unabated despite the pandemic-induced nationwide lockdown starting March 23 last year, according to a press communication issued on the occasion of the top court completing 71 years of functioning on Thursday.

The press release said the Supreme Court held its inaugural sitting on January 28, 1950 and that in all the years since, the court under the mandate given to it by the Constitution of India "has relentlessly marched towards ensuring the protection of rights and liberties of the citizens, upholding rule of law and the constitutional values".

"The Supreme Court was faced with various challenges in its journey, but it remained committed to its duties and ensured that the access to justice remains unhindered," it said.

"One such major and unprecedented challenge recently faced in the year 2020 was the wide spread of highly contagious coronavirus," the release issued by the apex court said. But even "during these unprecedented challenges, the court remained functional throughout, though number of benches was reduced".

Despite Covid year, roads, railways set to achieve new records

Rlys freight bounces back in Jan; more highways built this fiscal

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

IN A year that saw almost all economic activities grinding to a halt for months due to the pandemic, infrastructure sectors such as highways and railways are looking to set new performance records.

In the highways sector, an average of 28.56 km per day has been constructed so far this fiscal, slightly more than the 28 km that was built by the end of March last year. From January 8 to 18, the country constructed 547 km of roads. At this rate, the ministry said, that by the end of this fiscal, the average would be at least 40 km per day. So far, around 1,000 km more highways have been built than during the same period last fiscal.

"Years ago, when I first said India would build 40 km of roads per day, people used to laugh. But now we are actually going to see it happen," Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport and Highways Minister, told The Indian Express.

Government officials said that based on this year's performance, a huge allocation in the infrastructure sectors, especially highways and railways, is expected in the upcoming Budget, to keep up the momen-

tum of public spending and economic revival.

By the end of January, Indian Railways may end up clocking the highest volume of freight ever loaded by it in a month, either touching or breaking a record set two years ago in March 2018.

The total freight loaded by Railways this month is around 103 million tonnes so far, which is 8.5 per cent more than the comparable period last year. But officials said that going by the outlook for the rest of the month, it is likely to touch 119.7 million tonnes, which was the monthly record set in March 2018.

"In any case, it is and will continue to be more than what it was last year, which is a big deal, all things considered," said a senior Railway ministry official.

In terms of revenue from freight, the earnings are still around 8 per cent less than last year, at around Rs 93,000 crore. But this month alone, it has earned over Rs 10,000 crore, which is some six per cent more than what it was during January 2020.

To compare the whole year's performance, the national transporter has moved over 972 million tonnes of freight till now, which is just about one per cent less than what it was by this time last year. Officials claim the fig-

ures will scale a new high by the time the financial year ends, crossing well over 1,200 million tonnes.

In the highways sector, one of the measures Gadkari took to enable "unlock" and infuse confidence in the construction space post lockdown was release of funds every month to contractors to give a fillip to their liquidity. The ministry has recently extended the validity of all those relief measures to June 2021.

In Railways, the movement of critical items such as foodgrains, petroleum, coal and the like never stopped even during the lockdown. Besides, the national transporter introduced a series of discounts in freight rates on a large number of commodities and waived traditional season surcharges to attract volumes. This has also resulted in expanding the freight basket to include commodities that otherwise went by road. "This business model has worked and that shows in the numbers," said the senior Railway official quoted above.

The passenger train service, however, is still down in terms of numbers. Around 70 per cent of long-distance trains are back in service while the earnings in this segment is down by around Rs 9,000 when compared to the same period last year.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS (JAN 28)
4,91,615
Total: 28,47,608

NUMBER OF ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER IMMUNIZATION
293
Total: 2,065

332 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 1,07,01,193

ACTIVE CASES: 1,73,740
DEATHS: 1,53,847

TESTS: 19,43,38,773 | RECOVERIES: 1,03,73,606

JAN 27	CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
	11,666	123	14,301	725,653

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES

	CASES (JAN 27)	TOTAL
Kerala	5,659	9,05,592
Maharashtra	2,171	20,15,524
Tamil Nadu	512	8,36,315

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS

	DEATHS (JAN 27)	TOTAL
Punjab	21	5,581
Delhi	9	10,829
Tamil Nadu	8	12,333

Data as on January 27, 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

ON WAY TO LANKA

India sent 5 lakh coronavirus vaccine doses to Sri Lanka on Thursday. Another consignment of 1 lakh doses reached Bahrain as part of grants assistance. India has gifted over 55 lakh doses of vaccines to its neighbours so far, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. *Twitter/MEAIndia*

UP to drop over 10,000 cases linked to Covid protocol violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 28

THE UTTAR Pradesh government has decided to withdraw cases lodged for violating Covid protocols under the Epidemic Diseases Act during the lockdown.

According to an official, the decision would benefit thou-

sands of people across the state.

A statement issued by the government said the Law Ministry has issued directions to officials to drop the cases and that the FIRs caused unnecessary trouble to "common people".

Law Minister Brajesh Pathak told *The Indian Express* said cases will be dropped against traders, but migrant workers and others can also submit an

application to seek the relief. "Based on the report from concerned District Magistrates (DM), their cases would also be dropped. There are more than 10,000 such cases against traders in the state, mainly under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the IPC and the Epidemic Diseases Act," the minister added.

MP cops: Cattle smuggling racket busted, BJYM leader among 20 accused

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JANUARY 28

POLICE HAVE busted a cattle smuggling racket in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district with the arrest of 10 people who were caught while allegedly taking the bovines to slaughterhouses in neighbouring Maharashtra. Among others, the police have named the district general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM)—the BJP's youth wing—as an accused in the racket.

According to the police, 165 cows and oxen were being smuggled through the forest route from MP's Bakoda village to slaughterhouses in the bordering district of Nagpur on January 24 night when they were intercepted.

A police patrolling party from Lalburra police station reached the spot after receiving information that some drunk men were trying to cross a stream between Belgaon and Bakoda with the cattle in tow. The police found that the men, who were from neighbouring villages, did not have the

required papers to show purchase of the cattle or their medical certificates.

On further questioning, the men told the police that the cattle belonged to BJYM leader Manoj Pardhi and one Arvind Pathak. They said Pardhi and Pathak had asked them to take the cattle to Nagpur for slaughter, said Town Inspector of Lalburra Police Station Raghunath Katarkar.

"We then arrested the 10 men from the spot and registered a case against a total of 20 people. We are gathering more evidence to establish the extent of involvement of Manoj Pardhi and Arvind Pathak who will be subsequently arrested," said Katarkar.

State BJYM president Vaibhav Pawar, when contacted, told *The Indian Express*, "I have just learnt of the matter. We'll look into it, the truth behind it, and subsequently act accordingly."

Inspector Katarkar said cattle smugglers have started taking the forest route to Maharashtra following a crackdown on illegal bovine transport on the roads.

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

THE NAGPUR bench of the Bombay High Court recently held that acts like "holding the hands of a minor" and the accused "opening of zip of the pant" does not amount to sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The court on January 15 held that such acts would be liable for punishment for sexual harassment under Section 354-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 12 of the POCSO Act.

A single judge bench of Justice Pushpa V Ganediwala passed the ruling while hearing an appeal against the October 5, 2020 order of a Gadchiroli court, which convicted Libnus Kujur (50) of offences under sections 354-A (sexual harassment) and 448 (house trespass) of the IPC, along with sections 8 (sexual assault), 10 (aggravated sexual assault) and 12 (sexual harassment) of the POCSO Act.

In the January 15 ruling, the bench noted that on February 12,



Justice Pushpa V Ganediwala

2018, the mother of a 5-year-old girl had filed a police complaint a day after she found Kujur holding the hands of her daughter and taking her into a room while his trousers were unzipped.

As per the police complaint, when the mother left for work, her two daughters—aged around three and five years—were alone in the house. Her husband was out of station. She alleged that on returning home, she saw a man holding the hands of her elder daughter. As she raised an alarm and her neighbours gathered, the accused ran away. The mother said in the complaint that her daughter told her that the accused had removed his private part from his unzipped trousers

and asked her to come to the bed to lie down with him.

The HC noted that as per the definition of "sexual assault" under POCSO Act, "physical contact with sexual intent without penetration" is essential for the offence.

In light of this, the court observed, "The acts of 'holding the hands of the prosecutrix', or 'opened zip of the pant', as has been allegedly witnessed by the prosecution witness, in the opinion of this court, does not fit in the definition of 'sexual assault'."

The HC quashed Kujur's conviction under sections 8 and 10 of the POCSO Act, but upheld his conviction on charges of sexual harassment and house trespass.

Noting that the minimum sentence for the offence of sexual assault is five years of imprisonment, it observed, "Considering the nature of the offence and the sentence prescribed, the aforesaid acts are not sufficient for fixing the criminal liability on the appellant/accused for the alleged offence of 'aggravated sexual assault'. At the most the minor offence punishable under Section

354-A(1) (i) of the IPC read with Section 12 of the POCSO Act is proved against the appellant."

The court said it was modifying the sentence and noted that Kujur has so far undergone five months in prison. Justice Ganediwala said, "Considering the nature of the act, in the opinion of this court, the imprisonment which he has already undergone would serve the purpose." Disposing of the criminal appeal, Justice Ganediwala added: "The sentence is modified to the extent he has already undergone. As the appellant/accused is in custody, he shall be set free, if he is not required in any other criminal case."

On Jan 19, Justice Ganediwala had passed an order acquitting a man of sexual assault under POCSO Act on the grounds that pressing the breasts of a child over her clothes without direct "skin-to-skin" contact does not constitute "sexual assault" under the Act.

The HC had then convicted the man under Section 354 (punishment for assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the IPC.

IMA to launch nationwide relay hunger strike against 'mixopathy'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 28

THE INDIAN Medical Association is set to intensify its agitation against 'mixopathy' "to restore the purity of the modern medical profession" and has asked all IMA members and modern medicine doctors across the country to begin a relay hunger strike from February 1 till February 14.

Appealing to the Centre to consider the anguish of the medical fraternity and safety of the general public, the IMA will also launch a massive awareness drive as part of its 'Save Healthcare India Movement'.

The association is giving immediate directives to all members, Dr J A Jayalal, President of IMA (HQ), said while addressing a virtual media conference.

This comes after the nationwide protest on the issue on December 8 and 11.

"IMA is constrained today to intensify the agitation as the steps towards implementing 'mixopathy' are not being taken back," said Dr Jayesh Lele, IMA's honorary secretary general.

"IMA acknowledges that the Indian population needs different systems of medicine for different conditions of diseases and for promoting wellness. However, we strongly oppose the proposal to make a single doctor practicing all systems together as it will hamper quality and safety as he will lack in-depth knowledge on the particular system of medicine. IMA supports polyopathy but not 'mixopathy' and kitchadification of healthcare systems," Dr Lele said.

IMA members will be on relay hunger strike at more than 50 places across the country. All specialty associations across the country will join the strike through the Federation of Medical Associations under the aegis of IMA. The dental association and modern medical allied health organisations will also participate. Local branches will have hunger strike centers. Women doctors will be on hunger strike all across the nation on February 7.

IMA has instructed its Medical Students' Network (MSN), Junior Doctors' Network (JDN), IMA Womens' Wing, IMA Hospital Board, In-service Doctors, Medical Colleges to participate.

ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

HC asks NIA about apprehensions if Varavara given bail on health grounds

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

EMPHASISING ON the need to strike a balance between the fundamental rights of a prisoner to have a healthy life and the facilities available for treating ailing inmates in jails, the Bombay High Court (HC) on Thursday sought to know from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) about its apprehensions in the event that octogenarian Telugu poet and Elgaar Parishad case accused P Varavara Rao is released on bail on medical grounds.

The court's query was based on the fact that while Rao was deemed fit to be discharged from private-run Nanavati hospital in Mumbai, his family had opposed proposal of the NIA and the state to shift him to state-run JJ hospital on the ground that there was every chance of him suffering a relapse and having to be shifted again to the private hospital. Hence, he should be either shifted to Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai, where he was lodged, or allowed to go home to



P Varavara Rao

Hyderabad, the family had said.

A division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice Manish Pitale was hearing a plea filed by Rao's wife Pendyala Hemalath, seeking his release on bail on grounds of poor health from Taloja jail.

Justice Pitale sought to know from the NIA what were its apprehensions if Rao was allowed to go home in view of his advanced age. "Can we take a step further and say what is quality of life for a person above 80 year old? What if the same episodes of the medical emergency happen again? The court is faced with this situation. If we reject bail and if such a situation hap-

pens, he (Rao) will again have to be sent to the hospital. Whether continued detention is detrimental to the health of undertrials is what we are examining," Justice Pitale said.

The bench sought to know from NIA why Rao cannot be released on bail with stringent conditions.

Justice Shinde said, "We have to strike a balance after the concerns of the accused's family as well that of the state and central agency are taken into consideration. While the family says that prisoner has fundamental right to healthy life and state and NIA are bound to provide the same, the authorities say they are willing to provide it but then again there is a fact that Rao had to be shifted from J J hospital to Nanavati hospital (for Covid-19 treatment)."

"This is a dialogue (between court and lawyers), but we are expected to go beyond the existing procedure in light of the age of the accused and his medical condition. Ultimately law has to exist in society. We have to consider law and humanity."

CBSE board exams date-sheet on February 2

New Delhi: The complete date-sheet for the 2021 CBSE board examinations will be released on February 2, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said

on Thursday. He made the announcement during an interaction with the heads of around 1,000 CBSE-affiliated schools. CBSE examinations for Classes X and XII are scheduled to begin on May 4 and continue till June 10, it was announced earlier.

ENS

DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND EVALUATION
EMPAANELMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR SECURING FUNDS UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR AND CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

Request for Proposal (RFP)
(e-procurement mode only)
No. DPSE/III/FT/CS-CSS/176/2021/257

Goa : Goa is a well-established and globally popular tourist destination. The tourist inflows in the state have been growing by leaps and bounds. However in order to improve the experience of visitors to the state and increase employment and livelihood development opportunities, the Government of Goa is keen to augment physical and other infrastructure in the state. To help in this endeavor the state wishes to tap into the various schemes of the Government of India. It is felt that the State Government Departments and Agencies need to leverage effectively the Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes by securing the funds under the same. In this regard, the Authority is desirous of empaneling consultant(s), in different sectors, for the purpose of securing funds from various Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes for various Government departments in Goa.

Project Brief : The Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, Goa, seeks to empanel Consultancy firms for securing funds under Central Sector and Centrally sponsored schemes for the state of Goa. The tenure of empanelment is 3 years with a provision of extension of 2 more years, subject to approval from the Authority or board or any empowered committee.

Bidding Process : Proposals are invited ("Single Stage" bidding process) for determining the Successful Consultancy Firm, wherein the prospective Consultancy Firm ("Successful Bidder") would submit their Proposals on/ before the Proposal Due Date. The Bidders shall submit the detailed Technical Proposals for the Empanelment along with financial quote for each sector as set out in this RFP document. **The RFP may be download for viewing from www.goaenvida.gov.in from 29.01.2021 (Friday)**

Schedule: Last date for Submission of pre bid queries shall be 23.02.2021 (Tuesday). The last date for submission of Proposals through e-procurement mode in the form prescribed in the RFP document shall be 19.03.2021 (Friday), 1530 Hrs IST

In case of any queries/clarifications, please contact the Directorate of Planning and Statistics at the details mentioned below :

dir-dpse.goa@gov.in

For assistance on e-tendering contact Helpdesk : 1800212680680

Celebrating 60 years of Goa's Liberation

DI/ADVT/1520/2021

"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ

punjab national bank

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Circle SASTRA Aurangabad Circle Office, Abhay Bhawan IInd Floor, Patna

POSSESSION NOTICE
Possession Notice for Immovable Properties of borrower by the Authorised Officer (For Immovable property)

Whereas Punjab National Bank/ the Authorized Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned in the account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned in the account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of said notice(s).
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred to him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned in the account.
The borrower's guarantor/s/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account/ Borrower	Name of the Owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice/Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of demand notice
Old GT Road, Aurangabad	M/s Saraswati Mini Rice Mill, Prop.: Sri Shyam Bihari Prasad, At- Prasad, At- Vill+PO-Tengra, PS-Barun, Distt.- Aurangabad, Pin-824112	Sri Shyam Bihari Prasad S/o Sri Chattan Prasad	Property covered under Equitable Mortgage vide Sale Deed No.-2020 Dated 19.02.2013, Khata No.-21, Plot No.-477, Area-25 Desimal located at Mauja-Tengra, Thana No.-129, PS-Barun, Distt.-Aurangabad, District Registry Office-Aurangabad, Bihar-824101 in the name of Sri Shyam Bihari Prasad S/o Sri Chattan Prasad. Boundry: N-Ram Pravesh Mandal, S-Upendra Singh, E-Bindhyachal Singh, W-Pind & Chhaur.	13.10.2020/ 25.01.2021	₹28,17,255.16 (Rs. Twenty eight lac seventeen thousand two hundred fifty five and paise sixteen only) + Interest and other charges w.e.f. 01.07.2020
Old GT Road, Aurangabad	Sh. Anand Kumar Singh S/o Ram Kumar Singh & Smt. Sandhya Devi W/o Anand Kumar Singh	Smt. Sandhya Devi W/o Anand Kumar Singh	Property covered under Equitable Mortgage vide Sale Deed No.-7960 Dated 09.06.2015, Khata No.-03, Plot No.-06, Area-20 Desimal located at Mauja-Shekhupura, Thana No.-582, PS-Aurangabad, Distt.-Aurangabad, in the name of Smt. Sandhya Devi W/o Anand Kumar Singh. Boundry: N-Chamru Ram & Krishna Singh, S-Sita Ram, E-Karha, W-Road.	17.07.2019/ 25.01.2021	₹5,86,131.85 (Rs. Five lac eighty six thousand one hundred thirty one and paise eighty five only) + Interest and other charges w.e.f. 01.07.2018
Old GT Road, Aurangabad	Sh. Mukesh Giri S/o Ramchandra Giri At-Chitragupta Nagar, Club Road, PO+PS-Aurangabad, Distt.- Aurangabad, Pin-824101	Smt. Kalawati Devi W/o Ram Chandra Giri	Property covered under Registered Mortgage vide Deed No.-2959 Dated 15.02.2016, Khata No.-165, Plot No.-341, Area-3 1/8th Desimal located at Mauja-Bharatpur, Thana No.-559, PS-Aurangabad, Distt.-Aurangabad, in the name of Smt. Kalawati Devi W/o Ram Chandra Giri. Boundry: N-Prem Lal, S-Lilawati Devi, E-Rasta, W-Ramchandra Giri.	22.07.2019/ 25.01.2021	₹5,49,333.08 (Rs. Five lac forty nine thousand three hundred thirty three and paise eight only) + Interest and other charges w.e.f. 01.04.2019

Date : 25.01.2021
Place : Aurangabad

(Authorised Officer)
Punjab National Bank

EIH Associated Hotels Limited

A MEMBER OF THE OBEROI GROUP

CIN : L92490TN1983PLC009903

Registered Office: 1/24, G.S.T. Road, Meenambakkam, Chennai - 600 027

Ph.: +91-44-2234 4747 Fax: +91-44-2234 6699

Website: www.eihassociatedhotels.in

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020

	3 months ended 31.12.2020 UNAUDITED	9 months ended 31.12.2020 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.12.2019 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	3,710.85	5,571.41	8,825.70
2 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (before Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	38.82	(3,583.23)	2,867.25
3 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	38.82	(3,583.23)	2,867.25
4 Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	13.66	(2,578.92)	2,037.04
5 Total Comprehensive Income/(loss) for the period	14.44	(2,576.61)	1,996.20
6 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - Rs. 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
7 Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) in the audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2020			31,469.13
8 Earnings per Equity Share on net profit after tax (fully paid up equity share of Rs. 10) :			
(a) Basic	0.04	(8.46)	6.69
(b) Diluted	0.04	(8.46)	6.69

Notes :

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results is available on the Company's website (www.eihassociatedhotels.in) and on the websites of the National Stock Exchanges of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

2 The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meetings held on January 28, 2021. The statutory auditors have carried out a limited review of these financial results.

VIKRAMJIT SINGH OBEROI

MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIN : 00052014

New Delhi

28th January, 2021

EXPRESSIAN

Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Hissar
E-mail : recovery.hissar@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISION RULE 6(2), 8(6) AND 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULE, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Office of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is whereis", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis of recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Branch/ Telephone Nos./ e-mail	Name of Account & address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgagor(s)	Details of immovable property	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price, EMD amount, Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession	Property Inspection date & Time
1.	Bahadurgarh Phone No : 0398000973, Email: bahadur@bankofbaroda.com	M/Sri Krishna Engineering Company (Prop.Sh.Krishna Mitra) Guarantor- Mrs.Vijay Laxmi W/o K.K.S.Miran	All that part and parcel of the property admeasuring 10 Marla (300 sq yards) comprised in Khewat No 169/127, Khata No 239, Mustil No 36 & Kila No 18(7-19) within the revenue estate of Village Sarai Aurangabad , situated at Krishna Nagar Colony Behind Power House, Bahadurgarh , within the MC Limit of Bahadurgarh , Tehsil Bahadurgarh , District Jhajjar, property in the name of Vijay Laxmi. Bounded: On the North by : Plot of others On the South by : Plot of Shri Suresh On the East by : Gali (20 ft wide) On the West by : Plot of Others	Rs.55,61,432.06 plus Interest from 01.09.19 to till date	16.02.2021 time: 02.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.	Rs. 38,70,000/- Rs. 3,87,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	12.02.2021 time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.
2.	BEHWANI (e-VB) Ph. No.01664-244163 Mobile : 9152941323, 777599876 e-mail: vjhwani@bankofbaroda.com	M/s M.S. Stone Crusher, Gramudiyog Mandal, Dadam President: Ms. Kiran Sharma, Secretary: Mr. Rajkumar Sharma, Guarantor: Ms. Krishna Devi.	A) Land measuring 11 Kanals 13 Marlas, Khewat No. 81/68, Khatoni No. 117, Khazra No. 3/23/1 (5-16), 22/2 (0-12), 10/3/1 (4-18), 2/1 (0-9), village Dadam, Tehsil Tosham, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana), in the Name of M/s M.s. Stone Crusher Gram Udyog Mandal Dadam (B) Land Measuring 8 Kanals 11 Marla, Khewat No. 81/68, Khatoni No. 117, Khazra No. 23/2 (1-0), 24 (5-11), 3/2 (2-0), Situated at Village Dadam, Tehsil Tosham, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana), in the Name of M/s M. S. Stone Crusher Gram Udyog Mandal. (C) Plant & Machinery : (A) Plant and Machinery i.e Stone Crusher Plant consisting of Loading Conveyor, Intake Hopper, Jaw Crusher, Magnetic Separators, Vibrating Screens, Roller Crusher, Vibrating Grizzly Main Conveyor, Granular Machine, Inc of Erection and Commissioning of the Plant., (D) Electrical Transformer (1) CAP : 500 KVA	Rs. 34,43,741/- plus further interest and cost thereon	16.02.2021 time: 02.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.	Rs. 89,88,000/- Rs. 8,98,800/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	12.02.2021 time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.
3.	BEHWANI (e-VB) Ph. No.01664-244163 Mobile : 9152941323, 777599876 e-mail: vjhwani@bankofbaroda.com	M/s Bhawani Plastic Prop. Ms. Laxmi D/o Jai Prakash, Proprietor sh. Salbir Singh S/o Sh. Atar Singh Guarantor's Neeetu W/o Sri Parveen Kumar	EM of land & building 1 Kanai 19 Marla khazra no. 264/16min (1-0), 25/1 (0-19) i.e. 3/95 share of land measuring 61 kanai 65 marla comprised in khazra no. 264/14(2-4-0), 16(8-0), 24/1 (4-2), 25/1 (0-19), 265/1 (18-0), 13/2 (1-11), 18(8-0), 19(6-6), 20min (8-11) 23(4-6) situated at Village Tigrana, Tehsil & District Bhiwani Haryana in the name of Mrs. Neeetu W/o Sri Parveen Boundries:- North: Road, South: Rajpura Minor Rajwaha. East: Road, West: Plot of Shri Krishna Changvia and Plot of Sh. Lili.	Rs. 53,48,837.75 as on 31.07.2019 & Intt. thereon at the contractual rate plus charges & expenses till date of payment.	16.02.2021 time: 02.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.	Rs. 22,96,000/- Rs. 2,29,600/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	12.02.2021 time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.
4.	Bahadurgarh (e-VB) Phone No : 01276-231672, 250060 Email: vjbagr@bankofbaroda.com	M/s Saini Glass And Aluminium Fabrication, Proprietor sh. Salbir Singh S/o Sh. Atar Singh Guarantor's Ganga Devi W/o Satbir Singh, Suril Kumar S/o Zile Singh, Ashok Kumar Bajaj S/o Krishan Lal Bajaj	Freehold property, Commercial shop with roof rights situated at mahavir mandir wali gali, old Jhajjar road near jhajjar mad kabadi market Bahadurgarh-124507, in the name sh. Salbir Singh S/o Sh. Atar Singh. Total Covered area 23.42 sqm. shop area 28.00 sq yards. Boundaries: North 32'-0" shop of rajesh chopra, South : 32'-0" shop of krishan chawla, East: 6'-0" House of others, West: 6'-0" gali 8 ft wide	Rs. 17,77,649.00/- as on 31.07.2019 & Intt. thereon at the contractual rate plus charges & expenses till date of payment.	01.03.2021 time: 02.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.	Rs. 27,50,000/- Rs. 2,75,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	26.02.2021 time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized office, at Respective Branches mentioned in table in above,

STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Dated: 28.01.2021

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

NORTHERN RAILWAY
FINAL NOTICE

It is for the information of Sh. Rahul Yadav S/o Sh. Ram Kishore JE.P.Way/USFD/UMB, that you have been absenting unauthorisely from your duties since 08.01.2018. The disciplinary authority i.e. Sr. DEN/C/UMB has issued you a major penalty charge sheet (SF-5) vide letter No. Sr. DEN/C/UMB/D&AR/77/18-19 Dated 11.05.2018 and sent through Speed post at your last known residential address.

Sh. Rahul Yadav S/o Sh. Ram Kishore Yadav, JE/P.Way/UMB, House No. 3287, Street No. 85, B-Block, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi-84

The competent authority had appointed Sh. M.P. Singh, DEN/UMB as inquiry officer in this case, who had sent you a notice earlier vide his letter No. 12-E/D&AR dt. 07.09.2018, 21.09.2018 & 03.10.2018 to attend inquiry on 15.09.2018, 28.09.2018 & 10.10.2018. Another inquiry officer, Sh. Nirmal Singh, DEN/Spl./UMB was nominated to inquire this case on 10.10.2018, 20.11.2018 to attend enquiry on 23.10.2018, 05.11.2018 and 28.11.2018 in his office, but you did not attend his office. A notice was served to you vide this office letter of even No. Dated 26.11.2019 by the then Sr. DEN/C/UMB for giving you last opportunity to attend this office to submit your defence within 10 days of receipt of the notice which was delivered personally to your father Sh. Ram Kishore in the presence of two witness but you failed to give any response Due to retirement of Nirmal Singh inquiry officer, a new inquiry officer Sh. Kulbir Singh DEN/Spl./UMB was nominated to inquire the case as no findings were submitted by earlier E.Os. who has sent you a notice vide his letter No. DEN/Spl./KSR/D&A/Dt. 26.02.2020, 02.06.2020 & 12.06.2020 to attend enquiry on 12.03.2020, 11.06.2020 and 22.06.2020 in his office, but you did not attend his office. After sending findings of enquiry report to your address through speed post vide letter dated 05.01.2021, you have neither submitted any representation nor you reported to SSE/USFD/UMB or this office. It seems that you are not interested to work in Railways.

Now to meet the ends of justice, a public notice is being issued through newspaper to Sh. Rahul Yadav S/o Sh. Ram Kishore Yadav to submit representation in your defence if any, on or before **10.02.2021** in the office of undersigned, failing which ex-parte decision would be taken without any further notice.

Sr. DEN/C/UMB, N.Rly., Ambala Cantt.

208/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our client has negotiated and agreed to take on leasehold basis property described in the **Schedule-I** hereunder (the "**Leased Premises**") from various Owners ("**Lessors**") as per **Schedule-II** hereunder.

Any person having any claim, demand, right, benefit or interest in respect of or against or to the Leased Premises or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, encumbrance, occupation, maintenance, easement, pre-emption, inheritance, bequest, possession, development rights, right of way reservation agreement, its pendens, family arrangement, settlement decree or order of any court of Law, partnership of whatsoever nature or otherwise howsoever, are required to make the same known in writing supported by authenticated photocopies of valid/effectual documents to the undersigned at their office within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication hereof, otherwise the lease of the Leased Premises in favour of our client will be completed without reference to such claims and the same if any will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE-I
[Description of the Leased Premises]

ALL THAT commercial premises measuring 26,832.82 Square Feet (carpet area) i.e 28,250 Square Feet (covered area) equivalent to 39,166 Square Feet (super area), comprised in Units as described in Schedule II hereunder along with the right to use internal passage measuring 250 square feet situated in Tower-B, Ground Floor, commercial building known as "**Spazedge**" ("**Building**") alongwith the right to use the exclusive loading and unloading area, 150 car parking spaces in Basement Level-1 and 2, area on terrace for installation of Vsat Antenna, exclusive entry/exit points in Building situated at Sohna Expressway, Sector-47, Tehsil and District Gurugram, constructed on land measuring 7 Bigha comprised in Rectangle No. 13, Killa No. 23 (2 Bigha 3 Biswa), 24 (3 Bigha 18 Biswa) and 25/1 (0 Bigha 19 Biswa), Revenue Village Tikri, Tehsil and District Gurugram, Haryana butted and bounded on East Platinum Tower, on West Pushta Road, on North Sohna Road and on South Malibu Town.

SCHEDULE-II
[Details of Lessors with specific Unit Number and Exact area of Unit]

Sr. No.	Name of Lessors	Unit Nos.	Unit Area (Super Area in Square Feet)
1.	Mr. Varun Agarwal (previously Ms. Kusum Agarwal originally Ms. Reena Singh	ATM-02	203
2.	Mr. Anil Kumar Wadhwa	ATM-03	201
3.	Ms. Neelam Sethi	13	1207
4.	Mr. Atam Dev Arora	13A	603
5.	Mr. Birendra and Mr. Naveen	14	1030
6.	Mr. Aadesh Kumar and Mr. Manoj	15	1030
7.	Ms. Priyanka Bharti	15A	350
8.	Ms. Satinder Taneja	15B	806
9.	Ms. Prashansa Bharti	15C	350
10.	Ms. Preetika Bharti	15D	335
11.	Ms. Ritu Grover and Mr. Gulshan Grover	16	1203
12.	Ms. Rita Chaudhary and Mr. Pankaj Chaudhary	16A	1203
13.	Ms. Bimla Devi	17	920
14.	Mr. Narayan Nath Jakhar and Ms. Mahender Jakhar	17A	500
15.	Ms. Avantika Sawhney Baluja	17B	517
16.	Ms. Simran Jeet Kaur	18	1150
17.	Ms. Achla Dhawan	19	1150
18.	Ms. Achla Dhawan	20	1150
19.	Mr. Krishan Pal and Ms. Nisha	21	1150
20.	Ms. Shyama Devi and Ms. Sanjana Malik	21A	1150
21.	M/s. RCM Broking Services Limited	21B	1150
22.	Ms. Shyama Devi and Ms. Sanjana Malik	21C	1150
23.	Mr. Desraj Kalra, Ms. Kamlesh Kalra and Mr. Ashok Kumar Chugh	22	1859
24.	M/s. Meteor Properties Private Limited	23	2162
25.	Mr. Rishi Khosla	23A	646
26.	Ms. Deepthi Lakhwani (earlier Ms. Ruchi Lakhwani)	24	1841
27.	Ms. Smriti Dhawan, Ms. Sangeeta Dhawan and Mr. Sunil Dhawan	24A	1100
28.	Mr. Ravinder Jit Singh and Mr. Ishan Arora	24B	1100
29.	Mr. Harpal Singh	24C	1029
30.	Mr. Naveen Kumar Vij	24D	1028
31.	Mr. Sikander Sultan Batla	25	711
32.	M/s. Alben Chemicals Private Limited	25A	1626
33.	Ms. Asha Malik and Mr. Munishwar Chand Malik (earlier Mr. Ashish Malik)	25B	1600
34.	Mr. Kanwardeep Singh	25C	710
35.	Ms. Surinder Kaur	26	1221
36.	Ms. Jyoti Chandhok	28A	450
37.	Mr. Manish Chandhok	28B	659
38.	Mr. Pankaj Chaudhary and Ms. Rita Chaudhary	29A	900
39.	Mr. Dharmender Thakran, Mr. Parvinder Thakran and Mr. Ravinder	29B	1008
40.	Mr. Dharmender Thakran, Mr. Parvinder Thakran and Mr. Ravinder	30	1008
	Total		39166

Gurugram, Haryana dated this 29th day of January 2021.

For Kanth and Associates,
Attorneys and
International Legal Consultants,
A9, Nizamuddin East,
New Delhi-110013, India.

New Delhi

One in 4 cops in Bihar a woman, highest among states: report

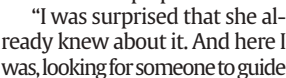
The lack of representation of women as judges in high courts is telling. Sikkim tops the list

The report also noted that an overwhelming two-thirds of all prisoners are undertrials awaiting a conviction.

state honours, officials said. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "Shaibal Gupta made a big name for himself in the field of economics, not just in Bihar but internationally. He was instrumental in several economic reforms in Bihar. I am deeply saddened with his death."

"I shared a personal bond with him. His death has caused a huge loss in the fields of education, economics and social sci-

Since its release in 2009, Minecraft has become a cultural phenomenon. It is the highest-selling video game of all time, with over 200 million copies shipped, and the most-watched title on YouTube with 21 billion views last year alone. Players mine, and craft, 3D building blocks in a generated world, collect resources, shape tools, alter landscapes, build structures or even put together a functional computer inside the game. It is the open-world, block-building, sandbox nature of Minecraft that has made it increasingly



complex chapter, every tough subject her schoolmates stumbled over was reshaped as Minecraft guides.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, (भवन/सड़क) अम्बिकापुर मण्डल अम्बिकापुर (छ.ग.)	
संक्षिप्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संशोधन क्र. १	
<p>इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा एन.आई.टी. नंबर 126 (आनलाईन) टेण्डर नंबर 70503) दिनांक 02.01.2021 जो नंबर 86102 अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।</p>	
निविदा डालने की तथा लिफाफा प्राप्त एवं खोलने की वर्तमान तिथि दिनांक 21/01/2021 दिनांक 23/01/2021 दिनांक 25/01/2021	निविदा डालने की तथा लिफाफा प्राप्त एवं खोलने की वर्तमान तिथि दिनांक 04/02/2021 दिनांक 06/02/2021 दिनांक 08/02/2021

Last February, she met Satya Nadella in Bengaluru, and the Microsoft CEO concluded his keynote by saying, “I was ener-

FULL REPORT ON
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The DGP said that during preliminary interrogation, Inderjeet had revealed that two foreign-based Khalistani activists contacted him in March 2020 on Facebook due to his radical posts. He has said they motivated him to kill Sandhu. Gupta claimed in a statement here. The suspect, he said, had said that one of the two handlers, who identified himself as Sunny, a resident of Canada, initially tasked him to rectify Sandhu's residence and later helped him get in touch with Sukh Bhikhariala, a notorious absconding gangster for the execution of their plan.

“We don't have any other money. We are a struggling news

The SAT has fixed their appeals against the SEBI order for hearing on February 10.

SRL 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 BAR, NARNAUL	CONSTRUCTION OF 50 BEDDED HOSPITAL INTO 100 BEDDED HOSPITAL AT MOHINDERGARH IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT. (RE-INVITED)	27.01.2021 17.02.2021	2096.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01280251267 pwd-narnaul@hry.nic.in
2	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SMP REQUIRED UNDER IIDS IN YAMUNANAGAR DISTRICT	23.01.2021 08.02.2021	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8168823480 dpoymc.wd@gmail.com
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ, FARIDABAD	REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF PHC AT VILLAGE - BUDIPUR BLOCK - BALLABGARH CLUST. - FARIDABAD + 5 MOS OTHER WORK	30.01.2021 05.02.2021	8.15 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129-4313645 proceeng.fbd@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN KHEL STADIUM AT VILLAGE BADESARA DISTRICT BHUWANI + 2 OTHER WORK	27.01.2021 04.02.2021	10.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7876821204 proceeng.ecr.am@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONSTRUCTION OF IPS STREETS AND DRAINS AT VILLAGE SOHANIA BLOCK BARAA + 1 OTHER WORK	27.01.2021 03.02.2021	19 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9417560685 proceeng.am@hry.nic.in
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE SIDE VERTICAL WALL ON LEFT SIDE FROM RD 99400 TO 102900 AND LAYING INTERLOCKING TILES FOR SERVICE ROAD FROM RD 99400 TO 100750 OF MEHAM DRAIN (UP TO PUMP HOUSE).	27.01.2021 15.02.2021	613 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9096410404 xswrodrctn@gmail.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA SIRSA	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF V. R. BRIDGE AT RD 20570 KEWAL, DISTY. AND DS OTHERS	CLOSING DATE 11.02.2021	6.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466751554 xswrodrctn@rediffmail.com
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA SIRSA	REPAIRING OF FALL AT RD 47000 OF SHERMANALI PARALLEL CHANNEL	CLOSING DATE 05.02.2021	1.48 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	sirsa-ws@hry.gov.in
9	BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK , ISMAILABAD DISTT KURUKSHETRA	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK 80MM IN VARIOUS VILLAGE OF BLOCK ISMAILABAD DISTT KURUKSHETRA	28.01.2021 05.02.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0613320066 bdpo.ismailabad@nic.in
10	BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK , ISMAILABAD DISTT KURUKSHETRA	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK 50 MM IN VARIOUS VILLAGE OF BLOCK ISMAILABAD DISTT KURUKSHETRA	28.01.2021 05.02.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0613320066 bdpo.ismailabad@nic.in

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SANDEEP SINGH

THE DOW JONES Industrial Average, the premier index in the United States, fell over 2 per cent on Wednesday, as the Federal Reserve underlined its commitment to providing support to the American economy. Indian indices too fell 1.1 per cent; over the last five trading sessions, the benchmark Sensex at BSE has lost 2,918 points or 5.9 per cent.

There are growing concerns over rising Covid-19 cases across several countries and the global economic recovery, stretched valuations in equity markets, outflows by foreign portfolio investors, and anxiety over the Budget to be presented on Feb 1.

What did the Fed say?

After its first meeting after Joe Biden became President, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) under the chairmanship of Jerome H Powell said it will maintain an ac-

commodative stance on monetary policy, and keep interest rates between 0 and 0.25 per cent. The Fed will continue to buy treasury securities worth \$80 billion and mortgage backed securities worth \$40 billion every month, injecting a monthly aggregate \$120 billion into the economy to support the flow of credit to households and businesses.

Why did the markets fall?

While the Fed is likely to continue with the stimulus programme until 2023, there are concerns that the markets are running ahead of economic fundamentals, and are driven by liquidity. There are also worries over the Covid curve and pace of vaccination in the US.

“The pace of recovery in economic activity and employment has moderated in recent months, with weakness concentrated in the sectors most adversely affected by the pandemic,” the FOMC statement said. “The ongoing public health crisis continues to weigh on economic activity, employment, and inflation, and poses considerable risks to the economic outlook.”

There are also concerns of a bubble, as stocks of several companies are rallying irrespective of their business fundamentals. On Wednesday, shares of GameStop Corp and AMC Entertainment jumped 130 per cent and 300

per cent respectively. GameStop shares have risen 15 fold over the last 10 trading sessions on account of what is called ‘short squeeze’ – in which short sellers who had placed their bets on a stock to fall, rush to hedge their positions or buy the stock in case of an adverse price movement, leading to a sharp rise in prices.

What is impacting the Indian markets?

Indian markets fell for the fifth straight trading session on Thursday. The Sensex, which fell 1.13 per cent on Wednesday, has declined 5.8 per cent over the last five trading sessions. While the fall has been in line with global markets, many feel the correction was expected after the strong rally over the last two months. If expensive valuations have been discomforting for some investors, profit booking is being cited as a major reason for the correction.

Participation by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who have contributed the most to the market rally, has weakened in the last few days, adding to the sense of gloom. The outflow has not been huge in itself – while the net inflow for January stands at Rs 23,254 crore, FPIs have sold net holdings worth Rs 1,206 crore over the last three trading sessions. But in the absence of strong domestic institutional investor (DII) participation – investors have been booking profits – the FPI outflow led to

a sharp fall in markets.

Market participants said several large investors are waiting to see the government’s impetus to the economy in the Budget before taking fresh positions. “We generally see some weakness in the market ahead of the Budget (when there has been a rally) as several investors book profits. They will now wait for the Budget announcements...” said a fund manager with a leading fund house.

So, will the markets remain weak, or will they rise again?

“Unless there is a reversal in global liquidity flow, I do not see any reason why the market should go down,” said CJ George, MD, Geojit Securities. Many others agree that if easy monetary policies continue globally, the markets will continue to rise – and the continuation of the stimulus programme by the Fed aids that.

George added that the low interest rate environment heats up both the markets and the economy as the cost of capital goes down, and that has the potential to take things forward. “The first change should happen on the consumption side – and if that rises and people start spending, then the Capex cycle will also start,” he said.

The Budget can play a key role in long-term structural positivity for the economy and mar-

kets. Experts feel that the Budget may set the tone for this; however, if it disappoints, the correction may be extended.

Some experts feel that the correction is being seen in stocks that had rallied significantly, and it isn’t a cause for concern. “A correction of 5-10 per cent after a strong rally is healthy, and it has been in line with the global weakness. I don’t think there is too much to worry about this correction,” said Pankaj Pandey, head of research at ICICIdirect.com. Pandey added that an improvement in GST collections and tax-to-GDP ratio will provide impetus to the markets.

Over the last five days, while the Sensex fell 5.8 per cent, mid and small cap indices fell 4.9 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. This indicates that the correction has been more in large cap stocks, that rallied a lot in a quick time.

There are also hopes of Capex revival alongside rising capacity utilisations. Analysts say the cement sector, which has seen capacity utilisations cross 80 per cent, is likely to see the beginning of the Capex cycle in three to six months – something that could be witnessed in other sectors too, as demand and consumption grow. “The last infra cycle was seen when interest rates were low. Even now, rates have gone down significantly, and we can witness an uptick in economic activity,” said Pandey.

Many feel that real estate and construction will be a big mover for the economy going forward. Nilesh Shah, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said, “Stars are aligned for revival of India’s housing and construction sector, which is key for India’s growth as it has the ability to lift a large segment of the economy. Low interest rates, improvement in affordability, cut in stamp duty, decline in inventory, and need for homes for all will ensure faster growth for the housing sector. It may start contributing 1 percentage point to the GDP going forward.”

Is there reason for caution?

Indeed, some are advocating caution. “Unless I see a rise in real consumption, I won’t be too convinced with the rally. The liquidity flow has to be backed by a rise in economic activity, which includes consumption and investment,” said the head of a financial services firm who did not wish to be named.

Also, given that the recovery has led to market share moving from unorganised sectors to organised sectors, many feel that India needs to ensure there is inclusive growth. While the movement of business to the organised segment will help lift GST collections, it will impact the micro, small and medium enterprises, which are the biggest generators of employment.

SIMPLY PUT

President’s address in House

The year’s first Parliament session begins today with President Kovind’s address. How did this tradition begin, what is the protocol followed, and what have the speeches dwelt on over the years?

CHAKSHU ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

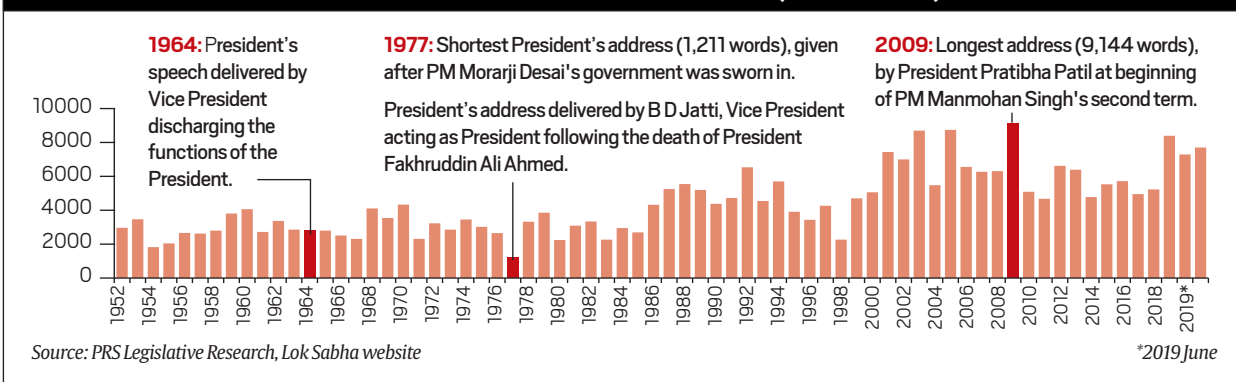
THE FIRST Parliament session of 2021 will begin on Friday with President Ram Nath Kovind addressing members of both Houses of Parliament. If he does not stand for reelection, it will be his second-last address to Parliament. In his speech, there will be an indication of the government’s plans and focus areas for the year ahead. While his address will mark the beginning of the session, it will not constitute a joint sitting of the two Houses.

History & precedent

In the United Kingdom, the history of the monarch addressing the Parliament goes back to the 16th century. In the United States, President George Washington addressed Congress for the first time in 1790. In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament can be traced back to the Government of India Act of 1919. This law gave the Governor-General the right of addressing the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State. The law did not have a provision for a joint address but the Governor-General did address the Assembly and the Council together on multiple occasions. There was no address by him to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) from 1947 to 1950. And after the Constitution came into force, President Rajendra Prasad addressed members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the first time on January 31, 1950.

The Constitution gives the President the power to address either House or a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. Article 87 provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a joint sitting. The first is to address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election. The second is to address the first sitting of Parliament each year. A session of a new or continuing legislature cannot begin without fulfilling this requirement. When the Constitution came into force, the President was required to address each session of Parliament. So during the provisional Parliament in 1950, President Prasad gave an address before every session. The First Amendment to the Constitution in 1951 changed this position and made the

TOTAL WORDS IN PRESIDENT’S SPEECH (1952-2020)



President’s address once a year.

By the govt, about the govt

There is no set format for the President’s speech. The Constitution states that the President shall “inform Parliament of the cause of the summons”. During the making of the Constitution, Prof K T Shah wanted the President’s address to be more specific. He suggested that the language be changed to specify that the President shall inform Parliament “on the general state of the Union including financial proposals, and other particular issues of policy he deems suitable for such address”. His amendment was inspired by the US Constitution, according to which the President “shall from time to time give to the Congress information on the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient”. But Prof Shah’s amendment was rejected by the Constituent Assembly. The address of the President follows a general structure in which it highlights the government’s accomplishments from the previous year and sets the broad governance agenda for the coming year.

The speech that the President reads is the viewpoint of the government and is written by it. Usually, in December, the Prime Minister’s Office asks the various ministries to start sending in their inputs for the speech. A message also goes out from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs asking ministries to send information about any legislative proposals that need to be in-

cluded in the President’s address. All this information is aggregated and shaped into a speech, which is then sent to the President. The government uses the President’s address to make policy and legislative announcements.

For example, in 1985 President Giani Zail Singh announced that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s government intended to introduce a new national education policy and the anti-defection law. In 1996, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s 13-day government announced its intention of giving statehood to Uttaranchal and Vananchal (Jharkhand) and 33 per cent reservation to women in legislatures. During his second stint in 1999, Prime Minister Vajpayee’s government mooted the idea of a fixed term for Lok Sabha and state Vidhan Sabhas. After the devastating tsunami of 2004, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s government used the President’s Address to announce the creation of a national law for disaster management. And in 2015, President Pranab Mukherjee voiced the Narendra Modi government’s plan to expedite financial sector reforms and its endeavour for the smooth conduct of legislative business and enactment of progressive laws in Parliament.

Procedure & tradition

In the days following the President’s address, a motion is moved in the two Houses thanking the President for his address. This is an occasion for MPs in the two Houses to have a broad debate on governance in the country. The Prime Minister replies to the

motion of thanks in both Houses, and responds to the issues raised by MPs. The motion is then put to vote and MPs can express their disagreement by moving amendments to the motion. Opposition MPs have been successful in getting amendments passed to the motion of thanks in Rajya Sabha on five occasions (1980, 1989, 2001, 2015, 2016). They have been less successful in Lok Sabha. For example in 2018, Lok Sabha MPs tabled 845 amendments of which 375 were moved and negated.

The President’s address is one of the most solemn occasions in the Parliamentary calendar. It is the only occasion in the year when the entire Parliament, i.e. the President, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha come together. The event is associated with ceremony and protocol. The Lok Sabha Secretariat prepares extensively for this annual event. In the past, it used to get 150 yards of red baize cloth from the President’s house for the ceremonial procession. An officer of Lok Sabha would also be instructed to remind the ADC to the President to bring the water and tumbler from Rashtrapati Bhawan for the President’s use. The President arrives at Parliament House escorted by the Presidential Guards and is received by the presiding officers of the two Houses, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and the Secretaries-General of the two Houses. He is then escorted to the Central Hall where he delivers his address to the assembled MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Chakshu Roy is Head of Outreach, PRS Legislative Research

Data from 221 countries suggest Covid is seasonal

In a paper in *Evolutionary Bioinformatics*, researchers show that Covid-19 cases and mortality rates, among other epidemiological metrics, are significantly correlated with temperature and latitude across 221 countries. “One conclusion is that the disease may be seasonal, like the flu,” senior author

Gustavo Caetano-Anollés said in a statement released by the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences. First, the researchers downloaded relevant epidemiological data (disease incidence, mortality, recovery cases, active cases, testing rate, hospitalisation) from 221 countries, along with their latitude, longitude, and average tempera-



ture. They pulled the data from April 15, 2020. The research team then used statistical methods to test if epidemiological variables were correlated with temperature, latitude, and longitude. The expectation was that warmer countries closer to the equator would be the least affected.

“Indeed, our world-wide epidemiological analysis showed a statistically significant correlation between temperature and incidence, mortality, recovery cases, and active cases. The same tendency was found with latitude, but not with longitude,” Caetano-Anollés was quoted as saying.

Source: University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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Who can take the Covid-19 vaccine, and who are advised not to

Is it safe for pregnant women, people out of hospital, or those with a chronic illness? ANURADHA MASCARENHAS takes stock of govt advisory

Delay after hospitalisation

1 The Health Ministry on January 14 circulated a note on precautions and contraindications (reasons not to give the Covid-19 vaccine to certain people). The vaccine is only for people above the age of 18. Interchangeability is not allowed, which means that the second dose should be of the same vaccine (Covishield or Covaxin) that was given as the first dose. For acutely unwell or hospitalised patients due to any illness, vaccination can be deferred for four to eight weeks after recovery.

Not for pregnant women

2 Pregnancy alters the body’s immune system and its response to viral infections in general, which can occasionally be reflected in more severe symptoms. This holds true for Covid-19 as well. Pregnant or lactating women have not been part of any Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial, and so women who are pregnant or not sure of their pregnancy, as well as lactating women, should not receive the vaccine at this time, experts have said. This is also part of the Health Ministry advisory.

Those with weaker immunity

3 The Ministry has advised caution in vaccinating persons with a history of bleeding or coagulation disorder. A Bharat Biotech fact sheet says the vaccine is not advisable for persons with allergies, bleeding disorder or weaker immunity, or on medicine that affects the immune system. Dr Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India, said that for those with compromised immunity, “I would say inactivated virus (Bharat Biotech vaccine) is safer but it is up to the treating doctor to decide.”

Chronic illness no bar

4 Among those who are not contraindicated and can take the vaccine are persons with a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, those with a history of chronic diseases and morbidities (cardiac, neurological, pulmonary, metabolic, renal, malignancies), or immunodeficiency HIV, and patients on immune suppression due to any condition. This was part of the advisory sent by Dr Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on January 14 to chief secretaries across states, mission directors and state immunisation directors.

Diabetics & the obese

5 Dr V S Chauhan, former director of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (known for his efforts to develop a vaccine for malaria), said those with diabetes and obesity must be in the priority list. “Anyone who is susceptible to allergies – if they decide to take the vaccine – have to be observed very carefully. However, for those people who are heavily immune-compromised, the vaccine does not really hurt them but the system for mounting antibodies responses would be slow,” Dr Chauhan said.

Voluntary, but advisable

6 Individuals who have one or more co-morbid conditions can take the vaccine as they are at high risk, and their medication will not interfere with vaccine efficacy, said Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS, during an audio-visual session on questions on the vaccine; the video has been posted on the Health Ministry website. Vaccination is voluntary but it is advisable to protect oneself and close contacts, Dr Guleria said. Over 28 lakh health workers have been vaccinated in India in 13 days.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Police at the residence of Oleg Navalny, brother of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. AP

RUSSIA

Court rejects Navalny appeal; his allies held

A RUSSIAN court on Thursday rejected opposition leader Alexei Navalny's appeal of his arrest while authorities detained several of his allies and issued warnings to social media companies after tens of thousands swarmed the streets in over 100 Russian cities last weekend demanding his release. The 44-year-old Navalny, the most well-known critic of President Vladimir Putin's government, was arrested Jan. 17 upon returning from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. His brother, Oleg Navalny, was among his allies who were detained on Wednesday. AP

POLAND

Near-total abortion ban takes effect

A CONTENTIOUS near-total ban on abortion in Poland went into effect late Wednesday, despite rampant opposition from hundreds of thousands of Poles who began protesting in the fall in the largest demonstrations in the country since the 1989 collapse of communism. Thousands of outraged women, teenagers and allies returned to the streets Wednesday night bundled up against the cold after word that a ruling that halts the termination of pregnancies for fetal abnormalities — virtually the only kind of abortion performed in Poland — would come into force. NYT

GERMANY

Neo-Nazi gets life term for murder of Merkel ally

A COURT in Frankfurt convicted a German neo-Nazi of murdering a politician and sentenced him to life in prison on Thursday for what the prosecutor called the country's first political assassination by far-right extremists since the end of World War II. The court found Stephan Ernst, 47, guilty of the 2019 murder of Walter Lübke, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's party who had defended her welcoming refugee policy. He was sentenced to life with no parole. NYT

'Independence means war': China sharpens language towards Taiwan

Beijing says increased military activity in the region a response to provocation, foreign interference

REUTERS

BEIJING, JANUARY 28

CHINA TOUGHENED its language towards Taiwan on Thursday, warning after recent stepped up military activities near the island that "independence means war" and that its armed forces were acting in response to provocation and foreign interference.

Taiwan, claimed by China as its own territory, reported multiple Chinese fighter jets and bombers entering its southwestern air defence identification zone last weekend, prompting Washington to urge Beijing to stop pressuring Taiwan.

China believes that Taiwan's democratically-elected government is moving the island towards a declaration of formal independence.

Europe's vaccine row: EU tightens export oversight

PAUL SANDLE & PHILIP BLENKINSOP

LONDON, BRUSSELS, JAN 28

EUROPE'S FIGHT to secure Covid-19 vaccine supplies intensified on Thursday when the European Union said it would tighten oversight of exports after a row with AstraZeneca and Britain demanded that it receive all the shots it paid for.

The EU, whose member states are far behind Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States in rolling out vaccines, is scrambling to get supplies just as the West's biggest drugmakers slow deliveries to the bloc due to production problems.

As vaccination centres in Germany and France cancelled or delayed appointments, the EU publicly rebuked Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca for failing to deliver and even asked if it could divert supplies from Britain.

The EU Commission, which has coordinated vaccine orders, said it would on Friday detail a mechanism to require both notification and authorisation of Covid-19 vaccine exports from the bloc. REUTERS

German panel: Give AstraZeneca shots only to those under 65 yrs of age

Berlin: AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine should only be given to people aged under 65, Germany's vaccine committee said in an update to its vaccine recommendation, citing a lack of sufficient data to recommend use in older age groups. "There are currently insufficient data available to assess the vaccine efficacy from 65 years of age," the committee said in the resolution made available by the German health ministry on Thursday.

"The AstraZeneca vaccine, unlike the mRNA vaccines, should only be offered to people aged 18-64 years at each stage." REUTERS



An H-6 bomber of Chinese PLA Air Force flies near a Taiwan F-16 last year. China has recently stepped up its military activities near Taiwan. Reuters file

ence, though Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has repeatedly said it is already an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name.

Asked at a monthly news briefing about the air force's recent activities, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said Taiwan is an inseparable

part of China.

"The military activities carried out by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in the Taiwan Strait are necessary actions to address the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and to safeguard national sovereignty and security," he said.

"They are a solemn response to external interference and provocations by 'Taiwan independence' forces," he added.

Wu said a "handful" of people in Taiwan were seeking the island's independence.

"We warn those 'Taiwan independence' elements: those who play with fire will burn themselves, and 'Taiwan independence' means war," he added.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council said China should think carefully and not underestimate the island's determination to de-

fend its sovereignty and uphold freedom and democracy.

The Chinese incursions coincided with a US carrier battle group entering the disputed South China Sea to promote "freedom of the seas".

China routinely describes Taiwan as its most important and sensitive issue in relations with the United States, which under the former Trump administration ramped up support for the island in terms of arms sales and senior officials visiting Taipei.

US President Joe Biden's government, in office for a week, has reaffirmed its commitment to Taiwan as being "rock solid", potentially auguring further strains with Beijing. Taiwan has denounced China's threats and efforts at intimidation, and Tsai has vowed to defend the island's freedom and not be coerced.



Cloris Leachman

Oscar-winning, 'irreplaceable' Cloris Leachman dies at 94

LYNN ELBER
LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 28

CLORIS LEACHMAN, an Oscar-winner for her portrayal of a lonely housewife in *The Last Picture Show* and a comedic delight as the fearsome Frau Blücher in *Young Frankenstein* and self-absorbed neighbour Phyllis in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, has died. She was 94.

Leachman died in her sleep of natural causes at her home in Encinitas, California, publicist Monique Moss said Wednesday. Her daughter Dinah Englund was at her side, Moss said.

A character actor of extraordinary range, Leachman defied typecasting. In her early television career, she appeared as Timmy's mother on the *Lassie* series. She played a frontier prostitute in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, a crime spree family member in *Crazy Mama*, and Blücher in Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*, in which the very mention of her name drew equine commentary.

"Every time I hear a horse whinny I will forever think of Cloris' unforgettable Frau Blücher," Brooks tweeted, calling Leachman "insanely talented" and "irreplaceable".

Salutes from other admiring colleagues poured in on social media. Steve Martin said Leachman "brought comedy's mysteries to the big and small screen." "Nothing I could say would top the enormity of my love for you," posted Ed Asner of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. "Applause on every entrance and exit," said Rosie O'Donnell. AP



STRANDED DRIVERS GET VACCINES

The health workers were driving back from a vaccination site in Cave Junction, Oregon, when they got stuck in a snowstorm on the highway with many other motorists. They were taking the remaining doses to people in Grants Pass, normally 45 minutes away, but they quickly realised the snowstorm would keep them stuck on the road for hours, and the vaccine doses could expire before they reached their destination. So the workers made the decision to walk from car to car administering the doses to stranded drivers who agreed to get the shots right there on the spot. Josephine County Public Health Department, via Twitter

WHO team in Wuhan departs quarantine for Covid origins study

EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA
WUHAN, JANUARY 28

A WORLD Health Organisation team emerged from quarantine in the Chinese city of Wuhan on Thursday to start field work in a fact-finding mission on the origins of the virus that caused the Covid-19 pandemic.

The researchers, who were required to isolate for 14 days after arriving in China, left their quarantine hotel with their luggage — including at least four yoga mats — in the midafternoon and headed to another hotel.

The mission has become politically charged, as China seeks to avoid blame for alleged missteps in its early response to the outbreak.

Yellow barriers blocked the entrance to the hotel, keeping the media at a distance.

Hotel staff waved goodbye to the researchers, who were wearing face masks. The bus driver



Members of the WHO team of experts prepare to leave on a bus after ending their quarantine at a hotel in Wuhan Thursday. AP

wore a full-body white protective suit. They drove about 30 minutes to a lakeside Hilton resort-like hotel.

Former WHO official Keiji Fukuda, who is not part of the team in Wuhan, has cautioned against expecting any breakthroughs, saying it may take years before any firm conclusions can be made about the

EXPLAINED Questions over access

OVER A year after the start of the Covid outbreak, and after months of delays, a WHO team will finally begin its probe into the origins of the pandemic. But it remains to be seen whether China, which has sought to play down any criticisms regarding its initial handling of the outbreak, will allow the team to visit all the sites relevant to its investigation and to talk to the scientists and doctors who were involved in the early stages.

virus's origin.

"This is now well over a year past when it all started," he said earlier this month. "So much of the physical evidence is going to be gone." AP

Biden admin scraps move to rescind work authorisation for H-1B spouses

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 28

A WEEK after his inauguration, US President Joe Biden has withdrawn a Trump-era rule rescinding work authorisation for H-4 visa holders, who are spouses of those possessing H-1B work visas. A majority of H-4 visa holders are highly-skilled Indian women.

An H-4 visa is issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members (spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the H-1B visa holders, most of whom are Indian IT professionals.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The H-4 visa is normally issued to those who have already started the process of seeking employment-based lawful permanent resident status in the US.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) on Monday said the proposed rule titled, "Removing H-4 Dependent Spouses from the Class of Aliens Eligible for Employment Authorisation," was being withdrawn.

Spouses of Indian professionals on H-1B visas, mostly women, are the biggest beneficiary of the Obama-era rule that gave employment authorisation cards.

Soon after coming to power, the Trump administration in 2017 announced that it would rescind that rule. However, it was not able to complete the process in the four year of its rule. During



Ahead of the 2020 election, the Biden campaign had promised to withdraw the Trump administration's move if elected

U.S.: HIGHER RISK OF DOMESTIC EXTREMIST VIOLENCE AFTER CAPITOL ASSAULT

Washington: The United States could face a heightened threat of domestic extremist violence for weeks from people angry at Donald Trump's election defeat and inspired by the deadly storming of the US Capitol, the Department of Homeland Security warned on Wednesday. The advisory — which said there was no specific threat at this time — comes as Washington remains on high alert after hundreds of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan 6 as Congress was formally certifying Joe Biden's election victory. REUTERS

the presidential election, the Biden campaign had promised to withdraw the Trump administration's move.

Soon after his electoral victory, a group of 60 members of the US House of Representatives in a letter urged Biden, a Democrat, to "unilaterally extend" the expiration work authorisation documents for holders of H-4 visas. PTI

Pakistan receives Geographical Indicator tag for its Basmati rice

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 28

PAKISTAN HAS received the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for its Basmati, paving the way for creating a local registry for the particular strain of rice and making a case in the international market, as the country fights a case in the EU against India's move to get Basmati rice registered as its product.

A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess origin-based qualities and reputation in the region.

Pakistan is fighting a case in the European Union against India's move to get Basmati rice registered as its product.

Laws require that before applying for registration of any product in the international market it has to be protected under the geographical indication (GI) laws of that country.

"I am glad to inform you that Pakistan has registered Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indication (GI) under the Geographical Indications Act 2020. Under this

Pakistan is fighting a case in the EU against India's move to get Basmati rice registered as its product

Act, a GI registry has been formed which will register GIs and maintain the basic record of proprietors & authorised users of GI," Commerce Advisor Abdul Razak Dawood announced on Twitter.

"This will provide protection of our products against misuse or imitation & hence will guarantee that their share in the international market is protected. I encourage you to send your suggestions of products that can be registered as GIs to the Intellectual Property Organisation of Pakistan," he said.

It is believed that a GI tag would strengthen Pakistan's case in the EU. The issue of protecting Basmati rice as a product of Pakistan came to the forefront after India submitted an application to the EU claiming ownership of the commodity in September last year. PTI

BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS SAY CLOCK'S POSITION WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM 2020

Doomsday Clock: World remains '100 seconds' from disaster

MARIA CRAMER
JANUARY 28

HUMANITY IS 100 seconds away from total annihilation. Again.

That is according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a non-profit organisation and publication whose signature Doomsday Clock has been estimating — in the stark terms of "minutes to midnight" — how close the world is to apocalypse since 1947.

"The collective wisdom of our group is that it's a wildly dangerous time with some incredibly important bright spots," Rachel Bronson, the executive director and publisher of the bul-

letin, said Wednesday.

The clock remains set at "100 seconds to midnight" — unchanged from last year, when its hands were moved as close as they had ever been to midnight. At the time, the bulletin said the shift was meant to reflect heightened tensions and deteriorated communication between the United States and other countries, including Russia and Iran.

This year, scientists pointed to the woeful response of leaders to the Covid-19 pandemic, the erosion of the public's faith in science and government institutions, the acceleration of nuclear weapons programmes, and the persistent threat of climate change.



The Doomsday Clock. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

The time has been inching closer to midnight since 2018, when the clock was set at two minutes to 12.

The last time it was that close was in 1953, after the United States and the Soviet Union tested their first thermonuclear weapons.

"Next year, as always, we hope to move the hands of the Doomsday Clock away from midnight," Bronson said.

Even though scientists decide what time will be shown on the clock, it is not a scientific or even a physical instrument, but a symbolic one.

And the annual warning has generated some scepticism.

"If I'm being charitable, I say, OK, they are part of a broader effort to focus collective attention on pressing immediate concerns or longer-term things that could have catastrophic consequences, like climate change," said Andrew Latham, a professor of international relations at Macalester

College in St. Paul, Minnesota. "But it's like the boy who cried wolf," he said. "After a certain period of time, we're not going to pay attention."

The board has projected optimism about the world's future before. In 1990, as the Cold War drew to an end, the clock was set at 10 minutes to midnight. The next year, it was a full 17 minutes away, the farthest humanity has been from projected annihilation since the introduction of the Doomsday Clock.

The board said this year there was reason to have hope, pointing to US President Joe Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris Agreement and his intention to rejoin the Iran nuclear deal. NYT

Indian-origin paediatrician shoots another doctor, himself after taking hostages in Texas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON, JANUARY 28

A 43-YEAR-OLD Indian-American paediatrician diagnosed with terminal cancer shot dead another doctor and then shot himself after taking hostages at a medical office in Austin, according to police in the capital city of the US state of Texas.

The armed man was identified as Dr Bharat Narumanchi. Police said he had recently been turned down for a volunteer position at the medical facility.

Police received a call on Tuesday saying a man walked into the offices of Children's Medical Group (CMG) with a gun and was holding hostages

inside the building, CNN reported, citing Austin Police.

Initially several hostages were being held, police said, but many escaped and others were allowed to leave, except a paediatrician named Katherine Dodson.

The hostages who escaped the office told officers on the scene that the man was armed with a pistol and what appeared to be a shotgun, police said.

The suspect had terminal cancer and had only been weeks to live, police Lt. Jeff Greenwalt said Wednesday.

After repeated attempts, SWAT officers entered the building where they found Dodson and Narumanchi dead from apparent gunshot wounds.

Pakistan seize control of 1st Test with 3 late wickets

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KARACHI, JANUARY 28

PAKISTAN GRABBED three late wickets through its spinners and left South Africa in trouble at 187-4 in its second innings at stumps on day three of the first Test on Thursday.

Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen led South Africa's resistance in overturning a 158-run first-innings deficit. Their half-centuries in a gritty 127-run stand nosed the Proteas ahead after tea, but both batsmen were dismissed within the day's last 33 balls, along with Faf du Plessis for 10.

South Africa was effectively 29-4 with two days to play. Leg-spinner Yasir Shah bagged 3-53 and Nauman Ali 1-27.

Aiden Markram made 74 and Van der Dussen 64, digging in together for nearly 3 1/2 hours. At stumps, captain Quinton de Kock was yet to score and nightwatchman Keshav Maharaj was 2 not out.

Shah ended the threatening stand by having Van der Dussen caught close to the wicket, and then had du Plessis plumb leg before wicket off a sharp googly. Du Plessis made a successful lbw video referral before he scored and was also dropped on 6.

Nauman secured Pakistan's advantage when he induced Markram forward to block and the ball nicked the bat's shoulder and gave Abid his second catch at silly point.

Earlier, Pakistan was bowled out for 378 in the morning, Shah leading the tailenders with an unbeaten 38 valuable runs.

South Africa scored only 47 runs in the middle session and lost only Dean Elgar, for 29 to Shah when wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan dived full length in front of the stumps and plucked a stunning two-handed catch. Markram and Van der Dussen rode their luck. Markram survived a video referral on 22 and was dropped four runs later by captain Babar Azam at 71-1.

Van der Dussen was adjudged lbw by umpire Aleem Dar off seamer Faheem Ashraf soon after reaching his half-century but the South African got the decision overruled.

Van der Dussen overhauled the deficit in the same over when he guided Ashraf through gully to third man for a boundary before falling to Shah.

Shah ended Pakistan's innings in the first hour with a flourish, making an unbeaten 38 off 37 balls and sharing a 55-run, last-wicket stand with Nauman, 24.

BRIEF SCORES: Day 3, Stumps South Africa 220 and 187 for 4 (Markram 74, van der Dussen 64, Yasir 3-53) lead Pakistan 378 (Fawad 109, Ashraf 64, Rabada 3-70, Maharaj 3-90) by 29 runs



Yasir Shah after dismissing South Africa's Faf du Plessis at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday.

AP

England's strength: Conditioning

How the visiting team with a very busy schedule is dealing with pandemic-time challenges of bubble burnout

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

THE CONTEST was on a knife's edge and it was up to Sam Curran to do something special. His team depended on him. Five extra quiz points up for grabs if someone danced, announced the quizmaster - the difference between winning and losing. Curran stood up and delivered to be the star of England's team-bonding session ahead of the tour of Sri Lanka.

"He did a hilarious trot; something from a Tik-Tok viral thing apparently. That was the most hilarious thing that sticks out in recent times," Phil Scott laughs down the wireless. He is England's strength and conditioning coach, who has been busy sculpting the players' bodies for a gruelling cricketing year.

His team's cup is full this year: 17 Tests, 19 T20Is, 9 ODIs, in addition to IPL and a T20 World Cup on the cards later this year. It is in this light that England has adopted a rotational system. It's the reason Jonny Bairstow isn't available for the first two Tests in Chennai and Jos Buttler plays just one Test in the series. It's also why Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer didn't travel to Sri Lanka and the James Anderson-Stuart Broad duo weren't paired in the last two Tests. It's down to the likes of Scott to keep them fresh and ready.

Not many teams prepare as well for an away series as England. The fitness preparation started early in the lockdown phase. Training equipment was sent to the players' homes. In conjunction with nutritionist Emma Gardner, Scott prepared an online form that the players had to fill up every day from home. "How long and hard they trained, and we asked them to rate their sessions. It gives us a number (to measure the load) to work with. It gives us an idea of how much to build up for a game," he tells this paper.

It had to take into account the month of Ramadan, as England have the likes of Moeen Ali, Adil Rashid, and Saqib Mahmood. "Emma the nutritionist comes in here. There's no point topping fitness without the adequate fuel in the tank and so we pulled back the amount of workload and intensity of these players. If we had pushed them then, we would do more damage. They could fuel up on match days - that was allowed in their faith - and we did that. It was all tailored to individual players."

Unique bowlers drill

It came down to a routine Scott and Rob Ahmun, the overall fitness coach across teams for ECB, devised. "We called it 'bowl-non-bowl' sessions. The bowlers double their run-up and slam some medicine balls at the end. It replicates bowling without putting extra stress on the front-foot loading. This isn't fast bowling but when you break it down to the elements, it works the same neuromuscular components. Bowlers have to get the weight through the legs as though they were delivering the ball."

During the lockdown, when he wasn't there to help out, the players would run in parks and have their friends or wives slam the medicine ball, Scott says. "They also did a lot of trunk work. It's no coincidence that someone like James Anderson is 38 but seriously fit." Scott's work with England runs right up to match days, from general fitness to raising confidence levels. "When you do exercise at high intensity and a specific set of drills, we have noticed a spike in testosterone and body temperature six-eight hours after the workout. So we do this in the morning of a T20 game and get them primed up.

"It has an effect on cognitive behaviour



How long and hard they trained, and we asked them to rate their sessions. It gives us a number (to measure the load) to work with. It gives us an idea of how much to build up for a game."

PHIL SCOTT
ENGLAND'S STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH

and even confidence levels. For a T20 game, we do two sets of lifting, with sprinting involved as well. For those who don't want to lift, we do a customised biking session. We have five 40-metre sprints," Scott says.

For Test matches, the workout is done the previous day. "Here too, there are observable spikes after 24 hours."

Taking care of mental health

The quarantine can have a detrimental effect on the psyche of players and this is where the psychologist comes in. "He has a chat with players almost every day. We encourage players to speak up when they have the slightest signs of any downtime. Rotation of players helps in this regard."

The support staff is also encouraged to travel with families. "For example, Paul Collingwood [former player who is an assistant coach] is off to England for a break and will join the team in two weeks," Scott says. Scott has a kid and is expecting twins this March. During winter tours, his family travels with him.

And then there is the player-support coach Mark Saxby. The long-serving team massage therapist was promoted in October 2019 under new head coach Chris Silverwood to take care of the behaviour, wellbeing, and mental health of players. "He coordinates with the psychologists and other medical practitioners," Scott informs. When England won the World Cup in 2019, Saxby was carried on the shoulders by the likes of Buttler during the victory lap around Lord's.

Customised training

India ran into fitness problems during the Australia tour and according to experts, a few developed muscle injuries from the soft outfields, load management, pre-season training, and the sudden shoot of intensity from lockdown to a competitive series. England has been more careful.

"Prior to going to Sri Lanka, we had players in our academy, where we had constructed an outdoor tent on grass. The players could sprint on the outfield and there wasn't much of a shock going from UK grass to Sri Lanka's outfields," Scott says.

World Cup 2019 is one of the highlights of Scott's career. "I joined the team in 2014 and that World Cup stands out. No injuries, we were one of the fittest teams. Now, too, seeing how well the tour of Sri Lanka went. The bowlers remained fit. And Joe Root hits a double ton and got right back on the field. Not a single injury on the tour. All the hard work before Christmas is paying off."



England's fitness preparation started early in the lockdown phase with equipment sent to the players' homes.

Sri Lanka Cricket

Why are Bairstow, Buttler being rested for a part of the Test series against India?

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

FOR A series accorded marquee status, England's four-Test rubber in India has generated more noise than usual about the players likely to miss at least some part of the contest. And not due to injury or illness either. Due to these pandemic-affected times and the hectic schedule, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has decided on a policy to rotate its multi-format players to keep them fresh and ensure their physical and mental well-being. While this has been hailed as a right move in several quarters, many others - including former England captains - have opined that the strongest possible squad should be employed for such a high-profile series.

Who are the players being rotated by the England selectors?

Jonny Bairstow, acknowledged as one of the best contemporary England players of spin, has been rested for the first two Tests of the series after playing the recent series in Sri Lanka while dynamic wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler will go home after the first Test against India. Speedster Mark Wood and left-handed all-rounder Sam Curran will miss at least the first two Tests.

Earlier, star all-rounder Ben Stokes and pace bowler Jofra Archer were rested for the Sri Lanka tour and they return for the India series. Veteran new-ball bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad were alternated during the two Tests in Galle, and there is a

chance that England's two highest-wicket-takers in Test cricket may not play every game in tandem in India either.

What is the reasoning behind the policy?

Starting with the series in Sri Lanka, England play 17 Tests in 2021, in addition to the Twenty20 World Cup in India. Some of their best players will also be featuring in the lucrative Indian Premier League in the summer. And with all these matches being held inside bio-bubbles, ECB thinks it's not mentally and physically feasible for any player to be in such a situation for an extended length of time.

"We're resting in the best interests of the players and to get the best out of them long-term," said England head coach Chris Silverwood. "We've decided to rest and rotate; we've decided we need to look after the players. I do believe we have to be proactive in looking after them, rather than wait until there's a problem."

Playing inside bio-bubbles adds another dimension to this debate.

Even though the players are very well taken care of, life in a "luxury prison" - in the words of Kagiso Rabada - can get to the most mentally-strong individuals.

What are the opposing views on this issue?

Former England captains Nasser Hussain, Michael Vaughan and Kevin Pietersen have slammed ECB's rotation policy. Pietersen, one of the heroes of England's

2-1 series win in India in 2012, ECB needed to pick its strongest squad.

"Winning IN India is as good a feeling as winning in Aus. It's disrespectful to ENG fans & also @BCCI to NOT play your best team," Pietersen wrote in a tweet. "Bairstow has to play! Broad/Anderson have to play!"

Where does the IPL figure in this debate?

The IPL is a permanent feature of the cricket calendar, and one cricket boards around the world need to work around. The 2020 IPL was held in September-November in a bio-bubble in the UAE. The next edition will be in the Indian summer, most probably in a similarly cocooned environment.

Players like Bairstow, Stokes, Buttler, Curran and Archer are key men for their respective franchises and would be keen to feature. That the IPL summer clashes with the early-season Tests in England queers the pitch. They may have to be excused for the two Tests against New Zealand during that time. With the T20 World Cup in India later in the year, England's key players getting a taste of conditions in the IPL may not be such a bad idea for them.

Why is Buttler being preferred for T20Is over Tests?

Buttler is one of the best short-format players in the world and in a year with the T20 World Cup in India, he and England could gain by featuring in the T20 series after the Tests. With 50+ over World Cup winning captain Eoin Morgan now an immensely influential figure in English cricket, he may have been keen on a full-strength T20 squad in India before the big event.

BRIEFLY

Hyderabad FC score late to hold Bengaluru

Vasco: Two late goals in a span of five minutes broke Bengaluru FC hearts as Hyderabad FC came from behind in dramatic fashion to draw 2-2 in an Indian Super League match here on Thursday. BFC led 2-0 through goals from Sunil Chhetri (9th) and Leon Augustine (61st). However, Aridane Santana pulled one back in the 86th minute before Fran Sandaza scored a 90th-minute equaliser, as BFC's winless run extended to eight games. Interim coach Naushad Moosa handed a first start to Leon Augustine while Harmanjot Khabra returned to the starting XI for Bengaluru. For Hyderabad, Manuel Marquez started with Liston Colaco and Joao Victor. Bengaluru were forced to make an early substitution after Juanan pulled his hamstring in the fifth minute. The Spaniard was replaced by Parag Srivas. Soon, Moosa's side got their noses in front from yet another set-piece. Cleiton Silva whipped in precise delivery into the box. Chhetri lost his marker and jumped above the rest to find the back of the net. Hyderabad were doing everything right except in the final third. Akash Mishra executed a one-two pass with Halicharan Narzary and the left-back crossed into the box, but none of his teammates could get on the end of it.

'Mindless idiots': Utd hits back at racist trolls

London: Manchester United says it is disgusted by the online racial abuse targeted at players Axel Tuanzebe and Anthony Martial following their 2-1 home loss to last-placed Sheffield United. The perpetrators were "anonymous mindless idiots," Man United said on Thursday in a statement. Sheffield United's winning goal on Wednesday at Old Trafford in the English Premier League struck Tuanzebe's outstretched leg and went in off the underside of the crossbar. Abuse targeting the players, who are both Black, included racist terms and emojis on their most recent Instagram posts. "Everyone at Manchester United is disgusted by the racial abuse received by players via social media after last night's game," the team said without identifying the players. "We utterly condemn it and it is encouraging to see other fans condemn this on social media also." The club said it has "zero tolerance" of any form of racism or discrimination. "Identifying these anonymous mindless idiots remains problematic. We urge social media platforms and regulatory authorities to strengthen measures to prevent this kind of behavior." Captain Harry Maguire was among the supportive voices online, saying "UNITED against racism."

AGENCIES

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

THERE WAS a year-long phase in PV Sindhu's career right before the 2016 Olympics when she wasn't winning titles - or matches even. Not even the yearly World Championship medal - of which she has 5 now. But she played the most entertaining and exacting games on the women's circuit, all engaging battles without silverware except her mandatory season-ending lower tier title at Macau.

These were hard-fought three setters - some 20 such thrillers - including 12 match-point see-saw situations (19-all in the third) all going upwards of the 1-hr mark. It was nothing to write home about, except it was the nuts and bolts groundwork for the Rio silver medal.

Consistency in winning might not be the best indicator of what unfolds heading into the Games, but consistency in fighting is definitely a good harbinger. And so, Kidambi Srikanth can reference those pages from Sindhu's tale as he himself processes back-to-back 77 minute matches these last two days, where he's fought impressively but not won. On Thursday in his second pool game against Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei at the World Tour Finals, Srikanth was up against an attacking player, simultaneously wary of and determined to not let Srikanth dictate. "I was happy I didn't make it easy for him to do what he wanted," Wang would



Badminton Photo

say after a 19-21, 21-9, 21-19 victory over the Indian, that assured him that he had tamed a dangerous player.

For Srikanth, coming off an isolation stint and a rough start to Thailand, his unslumped shoulders tell the end pointed to a steel in his resolve that's been missing for quite some time. His smashing errors - he sent the last one wide after narrowing the gap from 16-20 to 19-20 - remain a major concern. And they'll haunt him till he starts reversing the scorelines. But for once, the tame submissions, the sulking face is gone. Replaced by an angry cat man who is constantly scratching at tunnels to effect a jail-break. Wang is a combative opponent, trained by the Chinese 1983 All England legend Luan Jin, who's ventured out for stints in

I have to figure out a way to pull out these close matches. I was dominating him for most part of third game. I think it's about match practice, playing against top players continuously. We haven't played for a year, and before that I wasn't playing against top eight players continuously. I feel I'm almost there. After 15-all or 16-all it's a matter of a few points."

KIDAMBI SRIKANTH
FORMER WORLD NO 1

Singapore and Hong Kong. When Wang was 18 and upcoming, he was fined according to Badminton Planet, for not adhering to brand name on the apparel. To shell out the fine so he could keep playing, his parents worked doubly hard selling meat buns in a night market. The hunger to prove himself remains intact all these years later. Against Srikanth, Wang's strategy he later would say was all about "don't let him dictate."

For Srikanth was imperious when he broke away at 8-all, constructing points using every inch of the court for his winners. He had both the backhand cross sliced drops, and even the immensely difficult backhand down the line winners to corner the first set 21-19.

He even bent the shuttle beautifully as it curved back to fall right on the side line to

cause misjudgement to clinch the set.

While retrieves went corner to corner, Srikanth would watch the second set slide. While the decider saw plenty of eyeball confrontations in net exchanges - both playing dribbles well, Srikanth was teasing out errors by now. Except, he was making plenty of his own at the same time.

Wang, not one to give up, would sharpen his offense and stay focussed when smashing, while Srikanth floundered over-hitting the smashes. Coach Park hopped over to the Sindhu match, as trainer C Kiran took the coach's chair relaying precise advice. He saved three match points, but capitulated on the fourth.

The effort was more than what Srikanth had been putting in the last three injury plagued seasons. It wasn't enough to earn him the semis berth. But noone would fault the sincerity of his fight. Qualification for Olympics begins in March, and Srikanth will draw hope from the fight while the hunger stays intact.

Sindhu exits

PV Sindhu was totally off colour after leading 11-6 in the opener, before she lost 21-18, 21-13 to Ratchanok. With two losses in as many days, she failed to qualify for the semi-finals after Tai Tzu Ying slumped against Pornpawee Chochuwong, sending the Indian out. "It wasn't my day. Losing the first game made the difference. My timing was a bit off, so a bit disappointed," she said.

ADVERTORIAL

Dabur: A Living Experience in Building a Healthy Society

A leading and trusted global FMCG brand, Dabur India Ltd., located in NCR, Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh, offers a hefty portfolio consisting of four distinct flagship brands encompassing over 250 herbal and Ayurved products. In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, Dabur, lived up to its 135 years of rich legacy and credibility by responding with a new range of immunity boosters formulated on the tried and trusted wisdom of the ancient and traditional practice of Indian system of medicine-Ayurved.

IN THE wake of the Covid pandemic crisis where a cure was not in sight, health supplements based on Ayurved came to the rescue of millions of people alleviating anxiety and fear and providing protection against infections. Deeply committed to its vision and mission "Dedicated to the health & well-being of every household", Dabur came up with an exclusive range of immune boosters, stress busters and anxiety relaxants establishing the power of Ayurved in fortifying the body against the unprecedented viral attack. The products became a rage with many takers for its efficacy and affordability. Dabur once again proved its leadership in the anti-Covid war even as rest of its products in the categories of Hair Care, Oral Care, Health Care, Skin Care, Home Care and Foods continued to do well even in the sluggish economic situation, post pandemic.

Irrespective of the pandemic, today's man is far more burdened mentally and emotionally in a highly competitive milieu professionally, socially or as an individual fighting his own personal stress. Persistent stress can adversely impact immunity weakening the body to fight infections, which is most prevalent in society with 89 per cent of millennials in India affected by the scourge growing at an epidemic proportion. The condition is increasing health burden leading to heart attacks, heart failures, and several other health complications rendering individuals non-productive economically to their family and society. As they say the best cure is prevention. And Dabur make products to halt the progression of any chronic sickness with its Ayurved medicines and supplements.

DABUR STRESSCOM

The launch of the product Dabur Stresscom in Ayurvedic Stress Management Category has come as a boon, bringing relief to the teeming population suffering with stress, anxiety and poor immunity. It is the best therapeutic solution to address stress related health disorders and associated risk factors. The capsules contain best quality ashwagandha, which is an effective anti-stress agent and one of the most potent adaptogens as recommended by Ayurved. Stresscom helps fight stress and boosts immunity and was in much demand post Covid.

One of the most ancient medicinal herbs used in traditional medicine, Ashwagandha, as the name suggests is the smell of horse! (Ashwa translates to horse and gandha means smell). Known by several names, it is popularly called Indian ginseng and winter cherry, but its botanical name is *Withania somnifera*. Unique in smell and packed with the power of horse, which means it increases strength and stamina, the herb has been used from the past 3000 years to relieve stress, increase energy levels, and improve concentration. Loaded with several medical benefits, Ashwagandha, helps the body manage stress, boost brain function, lower blood sugar and cortisol levels, boost fertility and testosterone in men, besides fight bouts of anxiety and depression.

Highlighting the goodness of Ashwagandha an important ingredient in most of the Ayurved formulations including in Dabur Stresscom, Senior physician, Dr Hari Om Prakash Panday, stated, "Alongwith being a remedy for physical pain, Ayurveda alleviates mental trauma. Ashwagandha, Brahmi and Guduchi not only boost immunity but also provide relief from stress. Dabur has formulated Stresscom capsule using ashwagandha. Where ashwagandha is 100 percent effective in removing stress, it also helps to strengthens immunity. Take one capsule each, every morning and at night."

Dr Amar Srivastav, said, "Corona has caused, both physical and mental trauma to people. For those suffering from mental stress, Dabur has launched Stresscom."

Urging people to take Stresscom formulated by Dabur particularly for those suffering from depression, Dr Sunil Arya, said, "It is essential to keep mental stress and depression under control. In this direction, Dabur has come up with Stresscom which is very useful in protecting people from stress and depression. Stresscom on one hand reduces stress and on the other it increases body's immunity. It is so effective that it also removes muscular aches and pains. Alongwith taking Stresscom people must strictly follow the mandatory Covid protocol as precaution from the virus till a vaccine or medicine is not discovered to fight it."

Taking Dabur Stresscom as a supplement, therefore, is an effective way to improve one's overall health and well-being.



DABUR IMUDAB

Made with immunity building ingredients like Giloy, Amla, Bala etc., Dabur ImuDab syrup is packed with natural anti-oxidants that fight damage caused by free radicals, which are essentially toxic molecules. ImuDab helps improve immunity and protects children from infections, respiratory problems etc., and therefore it is considered as one of the top ayurvedic medicines for immunity and strength for children formulated using various medicinal plants as recommended by Ayurved in India. ImuDab comes in the form of syrup as it can be easily and quickly absorbed by the blood circulatory system of the body to prevent sore throat as well as increase body's immunity against infections, more effectively.

DABUR GILOY KI GHANVATI

Giloy is a time-tested and trusted herb and its excellent Rasayana is very potent in building immunity against cold, pollution related problems. Giloy Ki Ghanvati comes under immunity category in tab form which is available in easy to consume and palatable format.

A powerhouse of antioxidants, Giloy is known for its multiple capacity to effectively counter a host of diseases by protecting the body against free radicals or any infections. Giloy flushes out toxins, purifies blood, fights bacteria that causes diseases and also combats liver diseases and urinary tract infections.

In Covid times, Dabur has introduced its unique formulation, Giloy Ki Ghanvati packed with the medicinal goodness to boost immunity, treat chronic fever, improve digestion, treat diabetes, improve vision, reduce stress and anxiety, treat arthritis, and also reduce asthmatic symptoms and fight respiratory problems. To top it all it has anti-aging properties and keeps the wrinkles at bay that keeps you looking young and radiant.



DABUR RATNAPRASH

Falling under Immunity, Energy category, Ratnaprash was developed after extensive research by Dabur Research and Development Centre, as well as had delved deep into the age-old wisdom of Ayurveda. Dabur Ratnaprash contains the nutritive goodness of Chyawanprash with value added benefits of Moti, Musli and Kesar that helps improve strength, stamina, vigour and energy. Clinically tested, Dabur Ratnaprash improves energy levels by 50% in 12 weeks and builds strength and stamina as it is formulated with ingredients rich in immunity like Amla, Ashwagandha, Guduchi, Pippali, Yastimadhu. This health potion is indeed a value added premium Chyawanprash for the entire family.

These health products by Dabur have redefined the outlook towards health and happiness. In the new normal the relevance of Ayurved stands unflinching to protect precious lives.

Dabur has consistently propagated the goodness of Ayurved and is leading by initiating intense research to develop new health products addressing various psychosomatic, physical and health impacted by environmental stress. The company in a social empowerment initiative is collaborating with local NGOs and communities across the country to identify environmentally sensitive species of medicinal plants and herbs and develop methodologies to address their sustainable concerns. It has helped revive a host of endangered species of herbs and medicinal plants which are the basic ingredients necessary for making Ayurved medicines, supplements and personal hygiene and care products. Dabur is set to conquer new territories and work towards universal health and wellness for a healthier society.



21 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹48,183



RUPEE

₹73.05



OIL

\$55.52



SILVER

₹65,031

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

SENSEX: 46,874.36 ▼ 535.57 NIFTY: 13,817.55 ▼ 149.95 NIKKEI: 28,197.42 ▼ 437.79 HANG SENG: 28,550.77 ▼ 746.76 FTSE: 6,499.13 ▼ 68.24 DAX: 13,534.82 ▼ 85.64

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
TELECOMMUNICATIONSAirtel conducts
5G demo; Prasad
says permits soonENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

BHARTI AIRTEL on Thursday announced the successful demonstration of its live 5G service over a commercial network in Hyderabad, the first in India, showcasing the readiness of its network for the next general of mobile telephony. However, India's second largest telecom company underscored that the full impact of 5G will be available to its customers when adequate spectrum is made available and government approvals are received.

The development comes just days after Airtel's rival and India's largest telecom company Reliance Jio announced that it has begun advanced 5G tests on its network and bring 5G in India as soon as this year.

Meanwhile, Telecom and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Thursday that core 5G network should be Indian and the country should move faster on next-generation technology with indigenously made telecom gears. He added that the testbed is ready for 5G and the government will soon grant a permit for trials.

Speaking at a National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated event, he said, "We lagged in 2G, 3G and 4G but in 5G India should move at a speed faster than the world with made in India 5G. We have made a testbed and we are soon going to permit it. Core network should be Indian."

Airtel's 5G demonstration was conducted on Swedish equipment maker Ericsson's radio infrastructure and was used on Chinese smartphone maker Oppo's devices.

The Telecom Department had earlier set a target to start 5G trials in 2019 and roll out the next-generation service in 2020. However, claims by the Defence Ministry and space department on part of the spe-

5G, new tech:
Notice period
now 6 months

New Delhi: The government on Thursday eased the path for 5G rollout in the country by reducing to six months the notice period for offering any new technology using the spectrum being put up for auction in March. Earlier, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had asked telecom operators to give one-year notice before starting any technology using spectrum across the seven frequency bands that will be offered in auction on March 1. **PTI**

ctrum that was identified for 5G services led to the delay.

While the demonstration in Hyderabad was conducted on the 1800 MHz spectrum band, Airtel said that future spectrum allocations in the 3.5 GHz frequency will be ideal for 5G rollout. "If permitted by the authorities, in a matter of months, Airtel customers can start experiencing 5G. Over 20 commercially available 5G smartphones in India will be ready for Airtel 5G," it added.

The telco said that during the demonstration, Airtel's 5G was capable of delivering 10 times the speed compared to existing technologies.

"When we launch 5G and make it available commercially, it must have a full power of 5G instead of marketing. Delivering experience is a must and you need more spectrum, especially in the mid-band. That doesn't mean 1,800, 2,300 and 2,100 MHz can't be used," said Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO, Bharti Airtel.

STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED ON FEASIBILITY, EXPORT SOPS

Electronics: IT Min looks to
restart production under ITAAASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is looking to restart manufacturing and export of electronic goods under the multinational Information Technology Agreement (ITA), sources in know of the development told *The Indian Express*.

"We will conduct a study on the various aspects of it, such as whether the manufacturing under ITA is feasible for domestic companies and export sops that need to be given," an official said.

Under the ITA, first signed in December 1996, signatories

ITA RULES

■ As per the rules of the ITA, all the signatories have to "eliminate and bind customs duties at zero for all products specified".

agreed to the manufacture and export of the then high-tech products such as computers, conductors, semi-conductors, testing equipment, and software. All the signatories are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

As per the rules of the ITA, all the signatories have to "eliminate

and bind customs duties at zero for all products specified". Though India joined the ITA in 1997, it could not scale up electronic manufacturing or export under the scheme due to the lack of a suitable ecosystem.

In a meeting of the WTO in 2012, India had highlighted the skew of the domestic ecosystem of electronics and related component manufacturing by arguing that each vertical was dominated by a handful of companies, most of which were foreign. This, India had then said at the WTO, was a huge barrier for entry of new companies and prevented large scale participation in the innovation process. Domestic companies had, as late as 2015, flagged

the issue of viability and competition they faced from global electronic manufacturing giants.

Subsequently, however, with the introduction of electronics manufacturing and production-linked incentive schemes, the number of domestic as well as foreign companies making electronic products have increased significantly, the official said.

"The idea is to check for all products covered under ITA that can be manufactured at scale in India. Once we have checked for what can be manufactured and exported, the next step will be to prepare efficient strategies for curbing the imports of items under ITA by looking at global examples," the official explained.

DIGITAL PAYMENTS
43% annual
growth in
10 years: RBIENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

DIGITAL PAYMENTS have registered a rapid growth and registered a 43 per cent compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) in the last ten years, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

From 498 crore transactions with a value of Rs 96 lakh crore handled during FY 2010-11, digital payments have grown to 1,623 crore transactions with a value of Rs 3,435 lakh crore in FY20. This represents a CAGR of 12.54 per cent and 43.01 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively, the RBI said. "The acceptance and growth of digital payments has been exponential over the years."

According to the RBI, within the digital payments, retail electronic payments comprising credit transfers — NEFT, fast payments (IMPS and UPI) — and direct debits (ECS, NACH) have shown a rapid growth over the past ten years at a CAGR of 55 per cent and 43 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively.

COVID-19 IMPACT

'Gold demand down by a third in 2020'

India's gold demand fell by 35.34% in 2020 settling at 446.4 tonne, but a rebound this year is most likely, amid normalcy and steady course of reforms, the World Gold Council (WGC) said

42% Fall in total jewellery demand in volume terms, from 544.6 tonne in 2019 to 315.9 tonne in 2020

690.4 tonne: Demand for the yellow metal in 2019

14% Dip in gold demand in value terms, from Rs 2,17,770 crore in 2019 to Rs 1,88,280 crore last year

22.42%: Fall in jewellery demand in value terms, from ₹1,71,790 cr to ₹1,33,260 cr



Source: WGC/PTI

Future Retail deal: ED probing
Amazon over FEMA violationsEXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has registered a case of alleged foreign exchange violations against Amazon over its deal with Future Retail and started a probe under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

It comes after the ED's receipt of a reference from the Commerce Ministry seeking "necessary action" against e-commerce players

NOT AWARE OF ANY
NEW CASE: AMAZON

■ A spokesperson said Amazon is "not aware of any new case by the ED against Amazon India."

like Amazon and Flipkart on suspicion of alleged FDI violations. An observation in this regard had also

been made recently by the Delhi High Court in the case of Amazon.

The HC had said the attempt by Amazon to control Future Retail via a conflation of agreements it has with an unlisted unit of the Indian company will be considered as violative of FEMA and foreign direct investment (FDI) rules. In response to the development, an Amazon spokesperson said, "We are not aware of any new case by the ED against Amazon India."

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Scooters India
closure gets nod

New Delhi: State-owned Scooters India Ltd said Thursday the government has approved its closure and shutting down operations. **PTI**

US GDP shrank
3.5% in 2020

Washington: The US economy shrank by 3.5 per cent last year, but grew at a 4 per cent annual rate in the final quarter of 2020. **AP**

Sensex dives
536 points

Mumbai: The Sensex fell 536 points to 46,874.36 and the NSE Nifty Index fell 150 points to 13,817.55 amid a global sell-off. **ENS**

IMF: Tightening
policy damaging

New Delhi: IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said it would be damaging for India to start tightening policy support amid the pandemic.

MoU: Karnataka,
Amazon India

Bengaluru: Amazon India has signed a MoU with Karnataka government to drive e-commerce exports. **PTI**

Bank of India
raises ₹750 cr

New Delhi: Bank of India has raised Rs 750 crore via Basel III Compliant Additional Tier 1 bonds on January 27 on private placement basis. **ENS**

Sundaram AMC buys Principal MF

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

SUNDARAM ASSET Management Company, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Ltd, has acquired the asset management businesses of Principal Asset Management. However, it did not disclose the cost of acquisition.

Sundaram will acquire the schemes managed by Principal AMC and its 100 per cent of the share capital, Principal Trustee Company and Principal Retirement Advisors Pvt Ltd. The transaction is subject to the receipt of necessary regulatory approvals and Sebi-prescribed processes, and Principal will continue to operate the businesses until the deal

is closed, it said in a statement.

Sunil Subramaniam, managing director, Sundaram AMC, said, "This transaction will strengthen our presence in the marketplace with the addition of a range of schemes with a good long term performance track record across the large and mid-cap segments. This will complement our business".

'Optional experiences' for businesses with new WhatsApp update

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

FACEBOOK-OWNED WHATSAPP is in the process of updating its privacy policy and terms of service to reflect "optional experiences" for businesses, Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of parent company Facebook, said in an earnings call early Thursday. This is in sharp contrast with WhatsApp's earlier notification to users suggesting that they will be required to agree to the new terms and policy to continue using the messaging app post February 8. WhatsApp had subsequently extended this deadline till May 15.

"Many businesses need more than a phone to manage their customer service, so we're building tools to let businesses store and manage their WhatsApp chats using our secure hosting infrastructure if they would like. We're in the process of updating WhatsApp's privacy policy and terms of service to reflect these optional experiences," Zuckerberg said.

The updated policy and terms were first announced by an in-app notification in early January to users, who were asked to accept them by February 8, failing which they would lose access to their accounts. These changes sought




Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said WhatsApp will give time to understand what the update means. **AP file**

user approvals, which the company deemed necessary to introduce new ways to message businesses via WhatsApp Business. Zuckerberg said business messages will only be hosted on its infrastructure if business choose so.

"We want everyone to know the lengths we go to protect your private messages, so we're moving the date of this update back to give everyone time to understand what the update means," he said.

WhatsApp's new policy and terms of service have drawn flak for different rules for Indian users vis-à-vis European users.


**RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
KONKAN RAILWAY, RATNAGIRI**

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that the Work of Railway Electrification is completed in Roha-Ratnagiri Section of Ratnagiri Region of Konkan Railway. The Overhead Conductors/Wires shall be considered Live on High Voltage at all times. General Public is warned that going close to or touching these wires can be Dangerous and Fatal.

**Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RE
KRCL/Ratnagiri**

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
SUPERINTENDENT, MATHURADAS MATHUR HOSPITAL, JODHPUR
 (Attached with Dr. S.N. Medical College Jodhpur)
 Tel No.:- 0291-2438655, E-mail:- supdt.mdmh.jdh@rajasthan.gov.in
 No. :- Acc./MDMH/2020-21/927 Date: 18.1.2021


E-TENDER NOTICE No. 05(2020-21)

Online Bids are invited from eligible bidders i.e. Manufacturer/Authorized Distributors/Dealers to provide various Items & Services at Mathura Das Mathur Hospital Jodhpur attached to Dr. S. N. Medical College Jodhpur as per tender conditions. Tenders are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. The tender documents may be downloaded from above mentioned website. The tender document may also be seen on <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids which, are not digitally signed will not be considered. The bid fee is Rs. 400/- and Processing fee for Items No. - 1, 4, 6, 7, is Rs. 1000/- and for Item No. - 2, 3, 5, is Rs. 500/-

Item No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Document Download & Submission start at 1.00 PM on Date mention below	Date of Pre Bid Meeting at MDMH Date mention below at 11.00 AM	Bid Document Download & Submission end at 4.00 PM on Date mention below	Date and Time for submission of DD/BC (Bid fee, Processing fee) & Bid Security Declaration and Sample Physically on or Before 1.00 PM	Technical Bid Opening at 10.30 AM on Date mention below
1.	Supply of Cardiology Implant UBN-SMC2021GLOB00348	200.00	19.01.2021	27.01.2021	10.02.2021	10.02.2021	11.02.2021
2.	Supply of Neurosurgery Implant UBN-SMC2021GLOB00349	20.00	19.01.2021	27.01.2021	09.02.2021	09.02.2021	10.02.2021
3.	Supply of Absorbent Cotton Wool UBN-SMC2021GLOB00350	30.00	19.01.2021	28.01.2021	09.02.2021	09.02.2021	10.02.2021
4.	Supply of Reagents & Chemicals for Microbiology UBN-SMC2021GLOB00351	100.00	19.01.2021	28.01.2021	10.02.2021	10.02.2021	11.02.2021
5.	Supply of Reagents & Chemicals for Biochemistry UBN-SMC2021GLOB00352	30.00	19.01.2021	29.01.2021	08.02.2021	08.02.2021	09.02.2021
6.	Supply of Reagents & Chemicals for Pathology UBN-SMC2021GLOB00353	60.00	19.01.2021	29.01.2021	08.02.2021	08.02.2021	09.02.2021
7.	Cleaning & Sanitation Work UBN-SMC2021GLOB00354	220.00	19.01.2021	28.01.2021	10.02.2021	10.02.2021	11.02.2021

Sd/-
**Superintendent,
Mathura Das Mathur Hospital
Jodhpur**

DIPR/C/884/2021


**UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research
(Formerly Inter University Consortium for DAE Facilities),
(An Autonomous Institution under University Grants
Commission, MHRD, Government of India)**

Mumbai Centre, 246-C, 2nd Floor, CFB, B.A.R.C., Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085.
Phone: +91 22 2550 5327, 2559 4727, 2559 7117 Fax : +91 22 2550 5402
Email: udcsr.mum@csr.res.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Mumbai Centre invites Offers in sealed cover, from eligible bidders for supply of the under mentioned:

Tender Nos. & Date	Description of Item
07/2020-21 Dated 27 th January, 2021	Heavy Duty Compact Package Water Chiller of 5TR cooling capacity capable of operating 24x7 mode round the clock throughout the year and as per technical specifications in Tender Document.

- The last date of submission of sealed Offer is **18th February, 2021**.
- Corrigendum and/or Addendum if any, shall only be hosted at www.csr.res.in. Bidders are requested to see the website for such information.
- The tender documents shall be available at <http://www.csr.res.in/tender.html>

Administrative Officer-I

Rajasthan Cooperative Recruitment Board, Jaipur
10-B, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur
Phone- 2707669 Fax: +91-141-2710072
Website: rajcbr.rajasthan.gov.in

No. F- () RCRB/2020-21/1904 Dated: 27.01.2021

Notification

Recruitment for various posts in the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd. (RCDF), Jaipur and its affiliated various Zila Dughd Uptadak Sahkari Sanghs (DUSS).

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates to fill up the 503 posts in the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd. (RCDF), Jaipur and its affiliated members Zila Dughd Uptadak Sahkari Sanghs (DUSS) as indicated below:-

S. No	Name of the Post	No. of Post	S. No	Name of the Post	No. of Post
1	General Manager	04	11	Electrician	23
2	Deputy Manager	27	12	Junior Accountant/ Purchase/ Store Supervisor	48
3	Assistant Manager	96	13	Operator-II	77
4	Assistant Accounts Officer-II	01	14	Livestock Supervisor-II	07
5	Assistant Dairy Chemist	10	15	Refrigeration Operator	20
6	Boiler Operator (I)	09	16	Fitter	15
7	Boiler Operator (II)	22	17	Welder	06
8	Junior Engineer (Civil)	01	18	Helper	27
9	Lab Assistant	46	19	Dairy Supervisor (III)	13
10	Dairy Technician	31	20	Dairy Supervisor	20

The Board reserves the right to increase or decrease in any of the above posts at its sole discretion.

Candidates who are interested to apply for the above posts are required to visit our website www.rajcbr.rajasthan.gov.in for detailed information and procedure to fill up the application forms online only.

For submission of online application, a link on our website will be available from 29.01.2021 to 26.02.2021. The candidates are required to submit applications complete in all respects by this closing date and time.

In case of any query applicants may contact on telephone no. **0141-2707669** or seek the same by e-mail at helpdesk.rajcbr@rajasthan.gov.in. Further applicants are advised to visit our website regularly for any updates and related information.

Sd/-
**(Shilpi Pande)
Member Secretary**

DIPR/C/909/2021

कार्यालय निदेशक मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान एवं विकिसंस्थान, आगरा

पत्रांक :- नि/ निविदा/2020-21/ 3497 दिनांक 28.01.2021

ई- निविदा सूचना (अल्पकालीन) शुद्धि पत्र

दिनांक 12.01.2021 को निम्नांकित समाचार पत्रों में पत्रांक 3277-3279 से प्रकाशित निविदा-सूचना के क्रम में सुचित किया जाना है कि शासनदेश संख्या 11/2017/523/18.02.2017-97 (ल.ऊ.) / 2016 दिनांक 23.08.2017 को संदर्भित करते हुये शासनदेश का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जाना है एवं ऐसी सामग्री जो जेम पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है, के लिये बिड मान्य नहीं होगी विस्तृत सूचना etender.up.nic.in वेब साइट पर देखें। तदनुसार निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि 01.02.2021 के स्थान पर दिनांक 15.02.2021 माना जाये तथा निविदा खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 18.02.2021 मानी जाये।

चिकित्सा अधीक्षक अध्यक्ष देण्डर एवं कुटेशन उपसमिति

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), A Government of Odisha Undertaking
Regd Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

Eoi for Lease of Building
 Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), A Government of Odisha Undertaking has recently constructed a Multi-storied building measuring 80,000 (approx.) Sqft of super built up area in the prime business district of Bhubaneswar. This space is proposed to be let out on long term lease basis to reputed government / business organization for their office / commercial purpose. To handle complete leasing of process, OPTCL invites sealed quotations from experienced parties having 3-5 years of experience in handling similar type of leasing business of not less than Rs.25.00 lakhs rental value per month.

The interested parties may submit their Sealed Quotations along with a brief profile including their (i) Turn over & audit report for last three years with certification of C.A (ii) credentials for at least three previous assignments (iii) Statutory documents like PAN/ TAN/ GST Nos. (iv) If Company then Memorandum as Associations (MoA) and offer related documents. The documents complete in all respect should reach to the Office of the Company Secretary, OPTCL, 3rd Floor, Multi-storied Building, Janpath, Bhubaneswar- 751022 within 15 Days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The Corporation reserves the right to cancel the whole process of EOI and amend the terms and conditions at any point of time and may reject any offer without assigning any reason.

HPFR-33020-21 OIPR-04011/11/0099-21 DIRECTOR (P&P)

MEGHALAYA 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.mbdagovt.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. 27/11/2021

**Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HPHDP) (Govt. of Himachal Pradesh)****Dyerton Bizhub, Talland Bypass, Shimla, H. P. 171001****Request for Application for Matching Grant Scheme from eligible applicants/entrepreneurs**

Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HPHDP) is inviting applications for Matching Grant Scheme from eligible applicants/ entrepreneurs interested to invest in horticulture value chain in Himachal Pradesh.

The grant (30% of the eligible project cost) for male applicant and 35 % in case of female applicant or specially abled applicant, with max grant amount capped at 60 Lakhs for all categories will be provided on competitive basis with mandatory equity contribution by the applicant/entrepreneur. The Request for Application (RFA) i.e. application form, eligibility criteria and other necessary information are available on the Project website (www.hds.hp.gov.in). The duly completed application may be submitted via email (hdp-pd-hp@gov.in) or can be procured from and submitted at HPHDP project office, Shimla (Ph-8894497175) or office of Deputy Director of Horticulture (DDH), Kangra (Ph- 7781004578) or DDH, Mandi (Ph-9811185010) or DDH, Solan (Ph-9311108839) during office hours on or before 15/02/2021.

Project Director
 Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HPHDP)
 0685/HP

**यू पी ओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**

(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN:U15209UP1978SGC004285
 प्रकृत कार्यालय : बाया द गेनरी बेलन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
 फोन : 0522-2288945/6/7/8 ई-मेल : upproj@hdp.in Website : upprojects.org

पत्र सं 6081 / पीसीएलओ/सुख्याय एवं-रेण्डर दिनांक 28/01/2021

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक अति अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा

यूपीओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड लखनऊ को 'जल जीवन मिशन 100 दिन योजना' के अंतर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश के विभिन्न जनपदों के पैकेजवार निविदाओं, आगनबाड़ी केन्द्रों एवं आगमशालाओं में शुद्ध पेयजल उपलब्ध कराये जाने के कार्यों हेतु इस कार्यालय के राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा संख्या 88/यूपीओपीसीएलओ/जीएमटी/ई-रेण्डर/2020-21 दिनांक 28.01.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदाये मूल निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि फर्म से आमंत्रित की जाती है। यह निविदाये <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 29.01.2021 से उपलब्ध रहेगी जिसको दिनांक 29.01.2021 से 04.02.2021 के अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड किया जा सकता है। एवं निविदा दिनांक 04.02.2021 के सायं 4.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण व शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखा जा सकता है।

महाप्रबन्धक (तक0 एवं परि0)

महाप्रबन्धक (तक0 एवं परि0)

NORTHERN RAILWAY**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, 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 of crimped fitted Hydraulic Hose assembly for Track Machines during IOH/POH at TMMD TKD, LKO, KKDE, BTI, JRC & MB and during breakdown at work sites (Track Machines) under the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMC/LN/NDLS for a period of one year.
2. Completion period of the work	One Year
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 22.93,295/-
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 Form 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 web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 26.02.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Document is available on Railway web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site 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 of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 1-W-DyCETMCL-HL-10-20-21 Dated : 28.01.2021 213/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Tender No.86 Date : 28.01.2021

Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), UJVNL, Ganga Valley, Haridwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender Specification No. 05/EE(Test)/GV/2020-21
 Name of Work: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Transformer differential protection relay at Chilla Power Station
 Estimated Cost : Rs 582000.00 Only + GST extra as applicable
 Date of availability of bid document on website : 30.01.2021 (11:00 Hrs)
 Last Date for submission of tender : 22.02.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs
 For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. Tender documents can be downloaded from Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer(Test)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)**ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना**

क्र./निर्माण/2019 दिनांक 25.01.2021

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) अनलॉन्ड निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

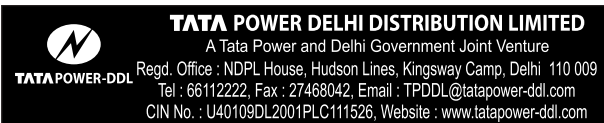
क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
1	वाई क्र. 42 रुमगर बस्ती में केनाल के उपर पुल निर्माण कार्य (डीएसएफ मर) (तृतीय निविदा)	317.18	08.02.2021 (T.No. 71052)

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साइट www.korbanunicipal.in एवं www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

11 स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण में योगदान है।

हस्ता/-
 अधीक्षक अभियंता
 नगर पालिक निगम
 कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

37585



A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture

Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
 Tel : 66112222 Fax : 27468042 Email : TPDDL@tatapower-dcl.com
 CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526 Website : www.tatapower-dcl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001273/20-21 Procurement of 380 Nos. of Laptops	1.90 Crs/ 4.75 Lac.	29.01.2021	19.02.2021/1700 Hrs/ 19.02.2021/1800 Hrs
TPDDL/PMG/Tender/Non-Solar/ Purchase-2021/01 Notice inviting bids for procurement of Up to 350 MW of Solar-Wise and RTC Renewable Power (Non-Solar) under Short Term arrangement for the period from 16.05.2021 to 30.09.2021.	As per Guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of power amended vide resolution dated 30th Dec' 2016	From 29.01.2021	17.02.2021/1500 Hrs/ 19.02.2021/1500 Hrs

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001267/20-21 SITC of 11Kv Incomer & Bus Coupler Kiosk Panels at Pandav Nagar, Delhi	06.01.2021	05.02.2021 at 1700 Hrs/ 05.02.2021 at 1730 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001268/20-21 Rfx.- 5000001977 Tender for Services of Digital Media Management & Search Engine Optimization (SEO)	12.01.2021	12.02.2021 at 1500 Hrs/ 12.02.2021 at 1600 Hrs (Pls. see the revised QR)

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dcl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
 Contracts - 011-66112222

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION)**KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED EXHIBITION GROUNDS, SRINAGAR**

E-mail: ce.mre.kash@gmail.com, Tel No: 0194-2452001 Fax No: 0194-2453863

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in two cover system, Part I - Techno-Commercial Bid & Part II - Price Bid) are hereby invited from SI's (System Integrators) who are Authorized Oracle UGBU (Utilities Global Business Unit) Partners having experience in implementation of IT infrastructure for "Up gradation of existing ORACLE CCB 2.3 version to CCB 2.7.0 version along with its integration with existing IT applications developed under R-APDRP, Part-A"

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully.

Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available on website <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 12.01.2021 : 0900 Hours
B	Clarifications start date	12.01.2021 : 0900 Hours
C	Clarifications end date	22.01.2021 : 1500 Hours
D	Pre Bid Conference Date & Venue	22.01.2021 in the Office of Chief Engineer Distribution, KPDCI, 1400 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	25.01.2021 : 1400 Hours
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	06.02.2021 : 1400 Hours
G	Online Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	08.02.2021 : 1400 Hours
H	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCI, Srinagar
J	Estimated Cost inclusive of taxes	INR 5,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Five Crores only)
K	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 4,000.00 (Rupees Four Thousand only)
L	Earnest Money deposit (EMD)	Bid Security Declaration Required

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft from any Schedule Commercial bank pledged to Chief Accounts Officer, Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCI payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bid but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCI by or before the schedule date of technical bid opening.

4. In line with the circular issued by Finance department, Govt of J&K, vide No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895 dated 22/12/2020, the bidders shall be required to submit EMD in the form of Bid Security Declaration in the format given in the SBD. The hard copy of the declaration must be signed by the person authorized to bid and submitted to the office of Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCI, Srinagar by Registered post/courier/By Hand and should reach before the scheduled date of the technical e-bid opening. The bid security declaration shall also be uploaded with the technical bid.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at the office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCI, Srinagar.

NOTE: In case of bidder being a registered Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE), they shall be exempted from payment of cost of tender document subject to furnishing of relevant valid certificate for claiming exemption.

- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table.
- The purchaser reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/ deviation is found. The decision of purchaser will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- Only those bidders shall be considered who deposit the tender cost and submit the bid security declaration.
- Corrigendum, if any would be published on the website.
- No hard copy of the technical bid is required to be submitted.

Chief Engineer (D)
 KPDCI

DIPK-NB-5317/20



Headquarter, 4, Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur-302004

Phone: 0141-2716808, Email: member-secretary@rpcb.nic.in

Tollfree Helpline No.: 18001806127 Ext. 7

नीलामी सूचना

मण्डल में अनुपयोगी सामान (प्रयोगशाला उपकरण एवं अन्य यथा सोफा, कुर्सी, फ्रीज एयरकन्डीशनर इत्यादि एवं अन्य अनुपयोगी सामान) की नीलामी की जाती है। नीलामी की तिथि 22.02.2021 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे निर्धारित है। उपस्थित बोलीदाता/ उनके प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष बोली लगाकर सामान नीलाम किया जायेगा। नीलाम किए जाने वाले सामान का पुस्तकांकित मूल्य राशि रुपये 1,65,57,230/- (रुपये एक करोड़ पैंसठ लाख सत्तान हजार दो सौ तीस मात्र) है। विस्तृत विवरण राज्य मण्डल की वेबसाइट (<http://environment.rajasthan.gov.in/rpcb>) पर उपलब्ध है।

Raj.Samwad/C/9198/2020-21 सदस्य सचिव

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO.1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**Tender Notice (1st Call)**

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System (e-Registration) invited Online tenders for the following works:-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
163/71029	Construction of Vehicle Parking Shed & Garage at Vidhansabha New Residential Campus, Raipur	Rs. 142.91 Lakh
166/71030	REPAIR WORK IN SCHOOL, COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & OTHER MAJOR GOVT. BUILDING UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO.2, RAIPUR	Rs. 54.97 Lakh
164/71031	CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROADS FOR VARIOUS GOVT. BUILDING UNDER M.M.S.S.Y. BLCOK DHARSIWA 1) High School Building Mohandi (L-215 M.) 2) ITI Building Mangsa (L-245 M.) 3) High School Building Jarrauda (L-250 M.) 4) Higher Secondary School Building C.C.I. Mandhar colony (L-195 M.)	Rs. 103.29 Lakh

Last Date of Tender Download up to 15.02.2021 17.30 PM.

● Note:- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled in the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-
 Superintending Engineer
 P.W.D. Raipur Circle No.-1
 Raipur (C.G.)

86690

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**OFFICE OF SENIOR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE- I) SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**

SOURA, SRINAGAR-190011 TELE/FAX No.: 0194-2403929

Email ID: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in,

E-NIT No: SIMS 325 (PI) Tender 01 of 2021

DATED: 27.01.2021

Subject: Abbreviated NIT for supplying surgical disposable items for SKIMS Hospital, Soura, Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K).

e-tenders are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, through Director, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar from original Manufacturers or through their authorized distributors/Stockiest for supplying surgical disposable items to be submitted under two bid cover system as per following:

S. No.	Description	Tentative Quantity	Tender Fee
1.	Surgical disposable caps with adjustable elastic or flaps for comfortable fittings. The material used should be smooth and soft Green.	1,00,000 Nos.	
2.	Polythene examination disposable gloves Medium/ Big size sterilized/ Non-sterilized/ transparent.	15,000 packets of 100 No per packet	Rs. 1000/-
3.	Disposable Gowns non-woven fabric (40GSM), standard quality and sterile by E.O. Gas.	1,00,000 Nos.	

Nomenclature	Schedule
Bid submission end date	16/02/2021 upto 4.00 PM
Sample submission end date	17/02/2021 upto 3.00 PM
Technical bid opening date	18/02/2021 at 2.30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tender portal- www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.

Sd/-
 Sr. Materials Management Officer
 Purchase I

NO: SIMS 325 P (I)-Tender 01 of 2021-471-77

Dated: 27.01.2021

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH MISSION DIRECTORATE, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ARUNACHAL PRADESH ::NAHARLAGUN

No. NHM/PPP/AMBU2020-01

Dated 27th January, 2021

Tender Notice for 108 Emergency Ambulances and 104 Health Helpline Service

- Competitive bids are invited for "Operation and maintenance of Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulances through Centralized Call Centre, (108) Medical Emergency Response Services and Health Helpline (104)" for the State of Arunachal Pradesh under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The tender fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only in form of Demand draft or online payment, in favour of **A.P State Health Society (NHM)**, and receipt should be collected from the office of Mission Director, National Health Mission, C-Sector Naharlagun upto 1100hrs on 9.02.2021.
- The detailed scope of services and terms and conditions governing operation of the 108 Ambulances and 104 Call Centre services are contained in the "Tender Document".
- The tender document is to be downloaded from e-Procurement website of Arunachal Pradesh i.e. www.arunachaltenders.gov.in.
- The documents shall be submitted online through the e-t

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Dibya Bharoti Saha, D/o Gopal Sikdar R/O Flat No. 1049/10D, 4th Floor, Govind Puri Lane 10 New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Divya Sikdar for all purposes.

0040561496-4

To Be know to all that I, Smt. Shilpi Gupta, D/O-Late Shri G. P Beriwral, R/O-F-105, Second Floor, Sector-54, Sun City, Gurugram, All Original documents issued by Omaxe of the above said flat i.e. Document of property, agreement, power of attorney, sale deed, payment receipt, Chain of document of seller NOC from LIC has been lost. F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged in the Police station on Dated. 25/01/2021

0040561334-6

It is for general information that I, Prince Rachhoya, S/o Mange Ram, R/O-4163, Gali No. 65, Raigar Pura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Mange Ram Rachhoya and Veena Rachhoya in my educational Documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are Mange Ram and Veena respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040561684-6

I, Vijay Awasthi s/o Dharam Chand R/O-935, Janta-Flats, Nand-Nagari, Mandoli, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Awasthi, permanently.

0040561676-2

I, Urgesh Kumar Tiwari, S/o Shiv Shankar Tiwari, R/O Village- Amaw, P.O.-Atraila- (12) Rewa M.P.-486226, inform that my wife Poonam Tiwari D.O.B is wrongly-mention 05.01.1985 but wife correct-D.O.B is 05.01.1981. civil dokument, adhar card, pancard, 10th-certificate.

0040561677-2

I, Surender Kumar, S/o Ratan Lal R/O-B-323, Patel-Nagar-2, Ghaziabad (UP)-201001, have changed my name to Surender Kumar Goel.

0040561676-9

I, Sumitra Gupta, W/O Mohan Goel, R/O-122, Block-C, Pocket-3, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sumitra Goel in future.

0040561671-1

I, Shrutiika Sood W/o Anuj Datta R/O House-No.-8/11, Kalkaji Extension, PO-Kalkaji, District-South Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Shrutiika Datta for all future purposes.

0040561643-2

I, Rekha W/O Manoj Kumar Bhargava, R/O A-98, Phase-2 Vijay-Vihar, Sector-4, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Rekha Bhargava.

0040561671-4

I, Ramvir Singh, S/O Ranjeet Singh, R/O H.No.-115, Gali No-18, Gautam-Colony Narela Delhi-110040, have changed my nameto Rambir Singh.

0040561677-2

I, Rakesh Kumar, S/o-Ram Narn, residing-B-123, Kiran Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi, I also known, as Rakesh, Rakesh Soni and Rakesh Kumar Soni but in future, I shall-be known, as Rakesh Kumar

0040561684-2

I, Raj Kumar S/o Rameshwarnath Gupta, R/O B-701, Puja CGHS Ltd, Plot No.77, I.P.Extn, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Rajkumar Gupta, permanently.

0040561676-1

I, RAJENDRA KUAMR/RAJENDRA KUMAR, S/O GANGA PRASAD, R/O-C-509, RAJEEV-COLONY, MOHAN-NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201007, Changed my name to RAJENDRA KUMAR SONI.

0040561679-2

I, Pooja Juneja, W/o Yogesh Kumar presently, R/O-Ho.No.47/3, New Willingdon Camp Air-Force Station, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name, from Pooja Juneja to Pooja, vide-affidavit dated-27-01-2021.

0040561671-9

I, PAWAN KUMAR, S/O RATAN LAL R/O H.NO.-A-444, SECTOR-2, POCKET-00, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL.

0040561676-6

I, NARENDER KUMAR SIANI S/O HARKESH CHAND, R/O 148, MALI-CHOUPAL KE PASS, HOLAMBI KANAN, DELHI-110082, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARENDER.

0040561676-5

I, Meena Kumari/Meena singh, w/o Deepak kumar, house, no-C-83, galaxy-Appartment, golf course-road, sector-43, Gurgaon, changed my name to Meena.

0040561677-4

I, Rupam Punia, D/o Randhir Singh Punia, R/O 500A/15, Arya Nagar, Jhajjar, Haryana-124103 have changed my name to Rupam.

0070728996-1

I, Ruchika D/o Tilak Raj R/O F-230 Ground Floor, Gali No. 3, Rishi Nagar, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Ruchika to Ruchika Wadhwa for all purposes.

0040561565-1

I, Meena Goel, w/o Navneet Kumar, R/o M-503, 5th-Floor, Tower-M, The Golden Palms, Sector-168, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, Uttar-Pradesh, have changed my name to Meena Mittal, permanently.

0040561676-3

I, Manoj S/O-Rajinder Bhargava R/O A-98, Phase-2 Vijay-Vihar, Sector-4, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Manoj Kumar Bhargava.

0040561671-3

I, Mamta Bagla, w/o Sh. Anshu Bagla, R/O H.No.87, Surya-Vihar, Deepnup-Najafgarh South, West/Delhi, New Delhi-43, have changed my name/ Mamta Bagla to Mamta Jasuja, for all future purposes. That both names/ Mamta Jasuja and Mamta Bagla/ being the same person.

0040561676-8

I, Madhusmita Mahapatra D/o Mohit Kumar Pramanik R/O Flat-No.-131, GC Emerald Heights Tower-1, Ramprastha, Greens Vaishali, Sector-7, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Madhusmita Mohapatra for all purposes.

0040561643-1

I, Km. Manju w/o Manish Krishna, R/o-140-B, J-and-K-Pocket, Dilshad-Garden, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Manju Varshney, permanently.

0040561676-7

I, Kaushalya Chauhan, W/o Makan Chauhan, R/O 151-C, Kamna Sec-I, Vaishali Shahibabad, Ghaziabad UP, have changed my name to Kaushliya Chauhan.

0040561671-5

I, KARUNA RANI SRIVASTAVA, W/O SANJAY VERMA, R/O C-1506, PRATEEK LAUREL, SECTOR-120, NOIDA, NEAR-OIDB BUILDING, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR, U.P.-201301, changed my name to NEELAM VERMA.

0040561671-2

I, Agum Singh Abbot S/o, Amarjeet Singh R/O 89, Sukhdesh Vihar New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Tejaqum Abbot for all purposes.

0040561593-1

I, Amandeep singh S/o Amarjeet singh, R/O KC-14, Ashok Vihar-1, Delhi-52, have changed my name Amandeep Singh Khurana, Permanently.

0040561684-5

I, Yatish Talvadia S/O Prabhu Lal Talvadia, R/O 102 Tower S 19 Emaar Palm Drive, Emaar Palm Drive, Golf Course Extension, Sector 66, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed the name of my minor Daughter Atiye aged about 2 Month Years and She shall hereafter be known as Atiye Talvadia.

0070728960-1

I, Tej Bahadur son of Late Shri Sarvijet Singh, R/O E-97, Shivaji Marg, Karampura, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Tej Bahadur Singh.

0040561558-1

I, Shehnaz Khan w/o Mohd Nazim Khan R/o H.No.59/3 E/3, Sona Nagar, West Arjun Nagar, Agra-282001, UP state that before marriage, my name was Shehnaz. I was married with Mohd Nazim Khan in the year 2005, consequently my name was changed from Shehnaz to Shehnaz Khan.

0040561648-1

I, Shaikh Moinuddin S/O Shaikh Sadru Woola, R/O Behind Water Filter, Foy Sagar Road Ajmer, Rajasthan-305001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rohan Malhotra.

0070728981-1

I, Shabana D/O Md Shami, R/o Ujjain Tola, West Champaran, Bihar-845438, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Seema Praveen.

0070728992-1

I, Sumit Anand, S/o Satinder Kumar Anand, R/O House.No-530, Sector-23, Palam-Vihar, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana, have change my Minor Son name Shaurya Anand to Shaurya Veer Anand, for all Purposes.

0040561677-1

I, SUSHILA DEVI W/O SHAMSHER SINGH R/O H.No. B.56, rail factory road, Nanak plou-2, Gopal Nagar, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 in my husband's passport my name wrongly mentioned as SUSAILA DEVI but my correct and actual name is SUSHILA DEVI for all purposes.

0070728977-1

I, Ram Rati (Mahli Devi), W/O Shiv Chand R/O Karanwali(10), Rewari, Haryana- 123411, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mahli Devi.

0070728994-1

I, Ram Parihar S/O Shri Shubh Bahadur R/O 265/13, Sarai Khwaja, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana 121003 have changed my name from Ramu Thapa to Ram Parihar for all purposes.

0040561559-1

I, Rajan Sharma@Raju Sharma S/O Late Janardan Lal Sharma, R/O E-15, New Seelaspur, Delhi-110053, inform that Rajan Sharma and Raju Sharma both are the name of same person.

0040561677-8

I, Shashi Paswan S/O Rambriksh Jathu Paswan, R/O 23/Tungbhadra DAE Quarters Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400094, have changed the name of my minor Son Master Sachin Kumar aged about 13 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Aryan Kumar.

0070728963-1

I, Harshit Dhingle, S/O-Shri Suresh Pal, R/O-C-3/89-90, Second Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Harsh Dhingile.

0040561679-5

I, GAURAV JOSHI S/O YOGESH KUMAR JOSHI, R/O-HO.NO-E-1004, PLOT.No-26, ANTRIKASHAPARTMENT, SECTO R-4, N.S.I.T.DWARKA, DELHI-110078, have changed my name to GAURAV JOSHI.

0040561676-4

I, Gunjan, D/o-Shri Sunil Kumar Harish, R/O-E-3/5, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Gunjan Harish for all purposes.

0040561679-4

I, Divy Priyank S/O Babu Singh Premi, R/O C-1/206, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, changed my name to Divy Priyank Singh.

0040561677-6

I, Cheenu D/O Late. Ratan Singh R/O-H.No.4 Subhash Gali, Gopal-Park Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Cheenu Kaur, for all purposes.

0040561677-5

I, CHANCHAL SHOKEEN S/O JAGBIR SINGH R/O-372 Dichaon Kalan, Delhi, have changed my name to ABHINAV SHOKEEN.

0040561677-3

I, Bhupendra Sharma, S/o Prem Raj Sharma, Address- WZ630, Naraina-Village, New Delhi-110028, have changed my minor Daughter's name Angel to Lavanya Sharma, for all, future purposes.

0040561671-7

I, Beena Devi, W/o Late. Pyare Lal Gupta R/O- UA-28/5885, jawahar-nagar, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007, Inform that Veena Devi and Beena Devi one are The same person.

0040561671-6

I, Anjali D/O-Manoj Kumar Bhargava, R/O A-98, Phase-2 Vijay-Vihar, Sector-4, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Anjali Bhargava.

0040561671-2

I, Akashra Dadhich D/O Bhanwar Lal Sharma, R/o Ward No.4, Khedi Mohalla, Bagar, Jhunjhunpur, Rajasthan-333023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Akshara Dadhich.

0070728986-1

I, Abdul Ghafoor Bukhari, S/O-Syed Yahya Bukhari, R/O-Gate.No.4, Jama Masjid Complex, Jama-Masjid, Delhi-110006, changed my name, to Syed Abdul Ghafoor Bukhari, for all purposes.

0040561684-1

I, Seema Rani W/O, Sunil Arora R/O 1-3/28 GF Block-i, Pkt-3, Sec-16 Rohini Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Seema Arora for all purposes.

0040561586-1

I, Puru S/O, Mukesh Kumar R/O H.No. 168, Lane No.16, Onkar Nagar-B, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Puru Gautam for all purposes

0040561579-1

I, Pardeep Kumar Rewri S/O Shri Karam Chand R/O H.N.621, Sector-12, Hudda Panipat have changed my Name Pardeep Kumar to Pardeep Kumar Rewri for All Purposes.

0040561560-1

I, Nirmalesh W/O, Baleshwar Tiagi R/O House No. 63, post Office Najafgarh, Rewla Khanpur, South-west Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Archana Tiagi for all purposes.

0040561588-1

I, Monika D/o Sh. Lachman Rai W/O Sh. Chandar Shekher R/o 4820/21, Phatak Namak, Hauz Qazi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name after marriage to Monika Indora for all purposes.

0040561556-8

I, Joy Samuel R/O H.No.63-A, Saint John Church Compound, Mehrauli, South Delhi, New Delhi-110030 have changed my minor son's name from Jonathan to Jonathan Samuel for all purposes.

0040561578-1

I, Jagdesh Prasad S/O, Ghasi Ram Bhairwa R/O B-33, rajeev Nagar Phase II, Begum Pur, Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Jagdish for all purposes.

0040561584-1

I, Ginisha Verma D/O Sh. Babu Lal Verma R/O B-125/1, Block-B, Swaroor Nagar, Samai Pur, North West Delhi-110042 declares that my father's name is mentioned in Govt. issued documents in two different form like Babu Lal Verma is mentioned on his Aadhar Card No.3806 2719 2067 & elector voter identity card No.TS00590588 and Babu Lal is mentioned on his Driving License No.DL0119980076071 and Pan Card No.AGSP/L4449G. Both names are one of one and the same person.

0040561556-7

I, Reeta, W/o-Rakesh Kumar, residing-B-123, Kiran Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi, I also known, as Reeta Soni but in future, I shall be known as Reeta.

0040561684-3

I, Dharminder Singh S/O Sh. Tulsı Dass, R/O Near Gordwara, Mataur (427), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh -176001, Declare that Name of My Wife has been wrongly written as Anjana in my Service Record No.- GS-158396P. The actual name of My Wife is Lamu Sherpa Chowdhury, which may be amended accordingly.

0070728961-1

I, Birendra Kumar S/O Keshwar Prasad, R/O New Thana More, Near old Chakbandi Office, Main Road OBRA, Vill + PO-OBRA, Dist- Aurangabad, Bihar- 824124, have changed the name of my minor Son Siddharth aged about 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Siddharth Gupta.

0070729028-1

I, Bhupendra Kumar S/O Tufani Ram, R/O 74, Jhungiya Tehsil-Gorakhpur Sadar Distt-Gorakhpur (Up)- 273013, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kabeer.

0070728990-1

I, Anjna Kumari , W/O Prem Vohra R/O Ward No- 10 Mohalla Attari Wala Anandpur Sahib Rupnagar, Punjab-140118, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Anju Vohra.

0070728978-1

I, Anil Kumar s/o Naresh Kumar Sharma R/O 7849A, Katra Nawab, Roshanara Road, Delhi-110007 have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Sharma

0040561570-1

I, Amita Kumari Thakar D/O Gulshan Rai, W/O Jitender Kalra R/O House No- 232, Sector-5, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Manju Kalra.

0070728983-1

I, Akashra Dadhich D/O Bhanwar Lal Sharma, R/o Ward No.4, Khedi Mohalla, Bagar, Jhunjhunpur, Rajasthan-333023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Akshara Dadhich.

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I, Abdul Ghafoor Bukhari, S/O-Syed Yahya Bukhari, R/O-Gate.No.4, Jama Masjid Complex, Jama-Masjid, Delhi-110006, changed my name, to Syed Abdul Ghafoor Bukhari, for all purposes.

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I, Seema Rani W/O, Sunil Arora R/O 1-3/28 GF Block-i, Pkt-3, Sec-16 Rohini Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Seema Arora for all purposes.

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I, Puru S/O, Mukesh Kumar R/O H.No. 168, Lane No.16, Onkar Nagar-B, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Puru Gautam for all purposes

0040561579-1

I, Pardeep Kumar Rewri S/O Shri Karam Chand R/O H.N.621, Sector-12, Hudda Panipat have changed my Name Pardeep Kumar to Pardeep Kumar Rewri for All Purposes.

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I, Nirmalesh W/O, Baleshwar Tiagi R/O House No. 63, post Office Najafgarh, Rewla Khanpur, South-west Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Archana Tiagi for all purposes.

0040561588-1

I, Monika D/o Sh. Lachman Rai W/O Sh. Chandar Shekher R/o 4820/21, Phatak Namak, Hauz Qazi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name after marriage to Monika Indora for all purposes.

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I, Joy Samuel R/O H.No.63-A, Saint John Church Compound, Mehrauli, South Delhi, New Delhi-110030 have changed my minor son's name from Jonathan to Jonathan Samuel for all purposes.

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I, Jagdesh Prasad S/O, Ghasi Ram Bhairwa R/O B-33, rajeev Nagar Phase II, Begum Pur, Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Jagdish for all purposes.

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I, Ginisha Verma D/O Sh. Babu Lal Verma R/O B-125/1, Block-B, Swaroor Nagar, Samai Pur, North West Delhi-110042 declares that my father's name is mentioned in Govt. issued documents in two different form like Babu Lal Verma is mentioned on his Aadhar Card No.3806 2719 2067 & elector voter identity card No.TS00590588 and Babu Lal is mentioned on his Driving License No.DL0119980076071 and Pan Card No.AGSP/L4449G. Both names are one of one and the same person.

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I, Reeta, W/o-Rakesh Kumar, residing-B-123, Kiran Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi, I also known, as Reeta Soni but in future, I shall be known as Reeta.

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I, Dharminder Singh S/O Sh. Tulsı Dass, R/O Near Gordwara, Mataur (427), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh -176001, Declare that Name of My Wife has been wrongly written as Anjana in my Service Record No.- GS-158396P. The actual name of My Wife is Lamu Sherpa Chowdhury, which may be amended accordingly.

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I, Bhupendra Kumar S/O Tufani Ram, R/O 74, Jhungiya Tehsil-Gorakhpur Sadar Distt-Gorakhpur (Up)- 273013, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kabeer.

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I, Reeta, W/o-Rakesh Kumar, residing-B-123, Kiran Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi, I also known, as Reeta Soni but in future, I shall be known as Reeta.

0040561684-3

I, Dharminder Singh S/O Sh. Tulsı Dass, R/O Near Gordwara, Mataur (427), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh -176001, Declare that Name of My Wife has been wrongly written as Anjana in my Service Record No.- GS-158396P. The actual name of My Wife is Lamu Sherpa Chowdhury, which may be amended accordingly.

0070728961-1

I, Birendra Kumar S/O Keshwar Prasad, R/O New Thana More, Near old Chakbandi Office, Main Road OBRA, Vill + PO-OBRA, Dist- Aurangabad, Bihar- 824124, have changed the name of my minor Son Siddharth aged about 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Siddharth Gupta.

0070729028-1

I, Bhupendra Kumar S/O Tufani Ram, R/O 74, Jhungiya Tehsil-Gorakhpur Sadar Distt-Gorakhpur (Up)- 273013, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kabeer.

0070728990-1

I, Anjna Kumari , W/O Prem Vohra R/O Ward No- 10 Mohalla Attari Wala Anandpur Sahib Rupnagar, Punjab-140118, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Anju Vohra.

0070728978-1

I, Anil Kumar s/o Naresh Kumar Sharma R/O 7849A, Katra Nawab, Roshanara Road, Delhi-110007 have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Sharma

0040561570-1

I, Amita Kumari Thakar D/O Gulshan Rai, W/O Jitender Kalra R/O House No- 232, Sector-5, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Manju Kalra.

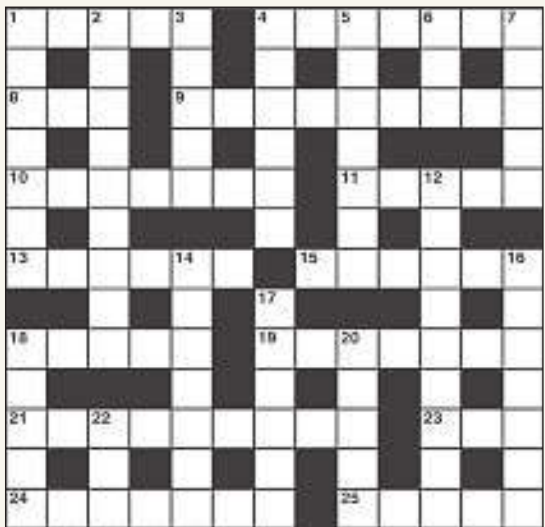
0070728983-1

I, Akashra Dadhich D/O Bhanwar Lal Sharma, R/o Ward No.4, Khedi Mohalla, Bagar, Jhunjhunpur, Rajasthan-333023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Akshara Dadhich.

0070728986-1

I, Abdul Ghafoor Bukhari, S/O-Syed Yahya Bukhari, R/O-Gate.No.4,

CROSSWORD 4340



- ACROSS
- 1 Return works of deception (5)
- 4 Stop a girl working behind the bar (7)
- 8 Spirit shown by rebel fighters (3)
- 9 The canter adjusted for a jump (9)
- 10 A lot I've to disturb and disrupt (7)
- 11 Gems in a ring belonging to a friend (5)
- 13 Games left on board (6)
- 15 Insult by leaving on purpose (6)
- 16 Peru's new money (7)
- 19 Girl I took on for a job (7)
- 21 A worker on a plane? (9)
- 23 It's very cold when I go to church (3)
- 24 Survey the whole lot with a girl (7)
- 25 Mother and her boy in the building trade (5)
- DOWN
- 1 Bundles to haul on board (7)
- 2 Blue and not feeling well (3-6)
- 3 Girl fared badly (5)
- 4 Swimmer out of breath (6)
- 5 Say something quickly and stagger away (4,3)
- 6 Refuse to observe a request for silence (3)
- 7 Fruit goes out of fashion (5)
- 12 Drinks for parties, if stirred (9)
- 14 There's a girl's name put together here (7)
- 16 Prison for a debt-collector who has gone wrong (7)
- 17 In which to find a forger's block (6)
- 18 Quietly acts on agreements (5)
- 20 Pushing forwards (5)
- 22 Batter with butter (3)

Solutions Crossword 4339: Across:: 1 Confiscate, 8 Cater, 9 Raiment, 10 Naivety, 11 Asset, 12 In situ, 14 Bolero, 17 Titan, 19 Implore, 21 Obeying, 22 Nails, 23 Hand-in-hand. Down: 2 Obtains, 3 Force, 4 Strays, 5 Agitato, 6 Evens, 7 Stationers, 8 Conviction, 13 Tension, 15 Erosion, 16 Nilgai, 18 Teeth, 20 Punch.

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.

Do not acustom yourself to use ____ for little matters - Samuel Johnson (3,5)

DEHOR



PILLS



DEGODG



AMOTBW



Answer: Do not acustom yourself to use **big** words for little matters - Samuel Johnson

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4367

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4366



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
What a strange time this is. Friends are being unpredictable and events are no longer running true to form. For every tie or association which now enters your life, another could come into being next month. The only difference will be that they'll be growing gradually softer.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It's difficult to think of a busier time but, when all the planets are occupying such distinctive positions in your horoscope, you must pace yourself properly. Stretch yourself by all means, but relax as well. And in matters of the heart, put your feelings first, social pressures second.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Rewards for recent endeavours will come your way before long, possibly today. You should end the week feeling wealthier, wiser and more secure. If you're aware of the affection that others feel for you, you will also feel more loved. And that in turn will encourage success in other areas of your life.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You're such a worrier, but never give way to negative thoughts. Don't allow events close to home to undermine you, but please do understand that it's getting to grips with intimate and family affairs that will set you up for the future. Bury your head in the sand no longer.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your mind seems to be cluttered up with so many thoughts, it's hard to know what to do next. The sages of old used to talk about the virtues of emptying the mind of all trivia, but then that's easier said than done! Whatever the case, do try to make some time for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
There is still plenty of tension around, but you can afford to take a deep breath and plan for a future free from certain imaginary worries and illusory fears. The next week could bring its share of mystery, so have your answers ready – and get a grip on the facts.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
An additional factor is introduced into your horoscope today – the need to pay for your plans. You're on the crest of a wave, but a strong nerve is necessary to carry you forward. Don't let petty distractions get you down. After all, you still have much to achieve that is so worthwhile.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You can think about what exactly you need to do next. You could use your time to bring family and domestic affairs into the open. The Moon indicates that you could be somewhat volatile, but that you are also entitled to insist only on the highest standards.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Whoever you are, whatever you have been through, and no matter how much has been stirred up, you must understand that what happens to you is part of an unfolding pattern. Recent events have given you the chance to move a little closer towards your destiny.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Being mistress, or master, of your own future, is more important to you than it once was. You should make an almighty effort to attain your major ambitions, both professional and otherwise. And, if you have a chance to put a loved one's mind at rest, please do so without delay.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
The next few days may be emotionally challenging, but you should not run away from difficulties. The truth is that other people will be offering you very good advice, together with a totally new way of looking at yourself. You can now concentrate on boosting your self-esteem.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Inspiration begins to take over from purely routine and mundane considerations. A world cruise would suit you down to the ground. Failing that, how about a spot of spiritual investigation? In other words, you have a choice between a trip into outer space and an exploration of inner space.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS

72nd REPUBLIC DAY



CRPF On the occasion of 72nd Republic Day, GC CRPF, Langling, Imphal organized various programmes. Chief Guest Randeep Datta (PMG), IGP M&N Sector hoisted the national flag.



NTPC The Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd.) DK Joshi, flagged-off fleet of electric buses on Republic Day. The project for 40 electric buses is being executed by NVVN, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC.



PNB MD & CEO CH. SS Mallikarjuna Rao hoisted the national flag at New Delhi, in presence of EDs, CVO, CGMs and senior officials of PNB. PNB also contributed generously to CSR activities through the 'PNB Prerna' initiative.



NSIC celebrated 72nd Republic Day 2021 with patriotic fervour. Shri Vijayendra, CMD, NSIC unfurled the national flag in the presence of P. Udayakumar, Dir. (P&M), NSIC and employees of the corporation.



INDIAN OIL Suresh Chopra, Executive Director I/c (Projects), IndianOil, led the 72nd Republic Day celebrations of Refineries Division, at IndianOil Nagar Residential Colony in Noida, while strictly observing all COVID advisories.



NFL Virendra Nath Datt, C&MD, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) addressing the employees during 72nd Republic Day Celebrations held at Corporate Office, Noida.



INDIAN BANK On the occasion of R-Day, flag hoisting was done at Shantiniketan branch of Indian Bank. Indian Bank Field GM Vikas Kumar appealed to all the branch managers to contribute significantly in the development of the country as a bank employee.



NHPC AK Singh, CMD, NHPC saluted the National Flag on 72nd Republic Day, in presence of NK Jain, Dir. (Personnel), YK Chaubey, Dir. (Tech), RP Goyal, Dir. (Fin), B Basu, Dir (Pro-jects), AK Srivastava, CVO, senior officers & staff of NHPC.



OIL celebrated the 72nd Republic Day at its CO in Noida. SC Mishra, CMD, OIL, unfurled the national flag, in presence of Members on the Board and senior officials of OIL.



CWC On the occasion of 72nd Republic Day, AK Shrivastava, MD, CWC unfurled the national flag at Corporate office & delivered message through Video Conferencing, asking staff of CWC to serve the society, CWC and Nation with dedication.



BHEL Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, unfurled the Indian tricolour on the occasion of India's 72nd Republic Day at an impressive function at the company's township in Noida. He addressed a gathering of BHEL employees and their families.

APPOINTMENT

ICSI CS Sudhir Kumar Banthiya has been elected as the Chairman of the Eastern India Regional Council of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (EIRC of ICSI) for the yr 2021 effective 19th Jan. 2021. Banthiya is a Fellow Member of the ICSI. He was the VC of the EIRC of ICSI in the yr 2020. Banthiya is a renowned Company Secretary and has been associated with VISA Group since 2013. Currently, he is working as the Company Secretary of the GKW Limited, a K K Bangur Group Company. He is a regular faculty at ICSI & other eminent professional bodies & is also associated with various social bodies and organisations.



AWARD - GAIL

GAIL has been awarded the 'City Gas Distribution – Established Company of the Year' by FIPI. The award was given by Dharmendra Pradhan, MoPNG & Steel, to M Jain, CMD, GAIL, & MV Ravi Someswarudu, CEO, GAIL Gas.



VISIT - NHPC

AK Singh, CMD, NHPC met Sonam Lama, Minister of Rural Management & Development, Govt. of Sikkim and discussed various pending issues related to 520 MW Teesta-IV HE Project in Sikkim.



CAMP - INDIAN BANK

Indian Bank recently organized one Retail and MSME mega credit camp at Gurgaon. Indian Bank FGM V Kumar and ZM H Kansal graced the occasion.

POWERGRID handed over three ambulances to the Civil Surgeon, Ferozpur, Punjab on 22nd January 2021 as part of CSR efforts for the aspirational district of Ferozpur. The keys of the three ambulances were handed over by Vibhag Kumar, Chief General Manager (AM), Bhavna Mathur, Senior General Manager (HR) and P. Biswas, Senior General Manager, POWERGRID in presence of Gurpal Singh Chahal, District Collector, Ferozpur. **GAIL** celebrated 72nd Republic Day 2021 at its Corporate Office in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Jain, CMD, GAIL said that it is an appropriate time for the Company to augment natural gas infrastructure by revisiting scale, speed and scope. He mentioned the relentless efforts of the GAIL workforce in executing natural gas pipeline projects, and enhancing the reach of infrastructure to provide cleaner energy and reduce pollution levels in various CGD cities. **CRPF** Inspector/GD Pintu Kumar Singh of 92 Battalion CRPF, along with HC/GD Shyam Narain Singh Yadava and C/GD Vinod Kumar have been awarded with Kirti Chakra (Posthumously) for their indomitable courage and selfless devotion. Rahul Mathur, Deputy Commandant of CRPF Valley QAT has been awarded with the Kirti Chakra. ASI/GD Mohan Lal of 110 Bn CRPF has been Posthumously Awarded with President's Police Medal for Gallantry. Congratulating all the medal recipients of the force, Dr. AP Maheshwari, DG CRPF expressed his gratitude to the nation for recognising the gallantry and valour of the CRPF personnel.



RECOGNITION - PFC

PFC recently received Certificate of Appreciation for "Best CSR practices & Covid-19 Relief Work" from Govt. of Haryana. PK Singh, Dir. (Comm), PFC received the certificate on behalf of PFC.



VISIT - CWC

S Pandey, Secy, Ministry of Cons. Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, visited the IGMRI/Training Institute, FCI Depot, Hapur, along with Jt. Secy. (Impex & IC), Dy. Commissioner (S&R), MD & Dir. (Pers) of CWC & other officials from the State Govt.



AWARD - NCL

NCL has been conferred with the prestigious 'Coal Minister-2020' award by Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. for outstanding performance in production and productivity in the year 2020.



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