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WEB
EXCLUSIVE

TEMPLE BUILT IN MEMORY OF EX-CMS JAYALALITHAA, MG RAMACHANDRAN UNVEILED IN MADURAI

The shrine is built on a 12-acre site at T. Kunathur near Tirumangalam in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Senior AIADMK functionaries paid their tribute to their beloved leader.

EXPLAINED



WHAT ARE CANADA'S NEW COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS?

The govt announced strict new measures

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE



PADMA SHRI RAMCHANDRA MANJHI AND DULARI DEVI

Tale of two artists, and of art, caste and grit

EXPRESS AUDIO

Where does India-England stand in cricket rivalries

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

After the Test series win Down Under, Team India is preparing to take on England at home. We discuss if the England vs India rivalry is on a par with The Ashes.

FROM PAGE ONE

Tikait video effect

This has been coupled with heavy deployment of security forces at Singhu and Ghazipur borders which have also seen clashes between “locals” and protesters in the last couple of days.

Internet, voice, as well as other broadband telecom services, can be suspended citing public safety and security, either by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) or by the order of an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary or above, authorised by the Centre or the state home secretary in case of “unavoidable circumstances”.

Apart from Delhi, internet has also been suspended in at least 17 districts of Haryana, including the Delhi-bordering districts of Jhajjar, Palwal and Sonapat, all within a 2-hour driving distance from Central Delhi.

Internet services in the NCR were last suspended in December 2019, during the anti-CAA protests. Acting on a Delhi Police order, telecom operators had snapped all services, including voice and SMS, for four hours, between 9 am and 1 pm, on December 19, 2019.

Snapping the internet will hit the protests. For, all coordination between villages and the protest site, mobilisation of events and personnel are done via videos on social media or sent via WhatsApp.

The Tikait video set off mobilisation across Haryana prompting several khap panchayats to give a call for farmers to move to Delhi in large numbers. In Punjab, too, several panchayats passed resolutions asking people to send one person from every village. In all these cases, WhatsApp messages, audios and videos have played a key role.

Indeed, since the sit-in started in November, protesters at the three sites have also used social media to fight what they call “misinformation” and “biased” coverage in sections of the media. Young men and women recording Facebook lives is a common sight at the protest sites, and several Twitter handles from among the protesters have become popular online sources on the protests with addresses by farm leaders being streamed in real time.

“Many media houses run state-sponsored propaganda. There are senior journalists with a large numbers of followers putting up misinformation through their online handles. In that situation, social media is our only way to communicate with a large number of people to counter this,” said Garamneet Mangat, a committee member of the Ghazipur Kisan Andolan Committee.

There's a personal purpose, too. Many have been at the protest sites for almost two months now and they say video calls with families back home are the only way to stay connected. That has been interrupted, they said.

Roads blocked

Lok Dal (RLD) workers also sent water and food for farmers. Deshpal Singh, a member of BKU, who runs one of the langars on NH-24, said, “Earlier, we were cooking for over 1,000 people. Now, I think there are more than 3,000 farmers. My family members have also joined the protest. Everyone is giving us ration, and we have called two more cooks from Shamli to help prepare the langar.”

Singh said his brothers send five tractors from Baghpat and Shamli every day, with 5,000 water cans in each vehicle. “There's shortage of water here. The Delhi

government is helping, but we have more protesters now,” he said.

A group of RLD workers, farmers said, also sent vegetables from Muzaffarnagar and nearby villages.

With Delhi Police and UP Police having sealed almost four routes leading to the border, farmers are travelling via the Amroha-Ghaziabad road or Mohan Nagar in Ghaziabad to reach the protest site — navigating through three layers of barricading on the highway and other roads.

By Saturday afternoon, roads adjacent to the flyover were packed with protesters and langar stalls.

Shouting slogans in support of Tikait, farmers said they have called their relatives and friends to the border. “We don't want Tikait sahab to weep again. Police will continue to harass us; they have blocked almost all routes but they can't stop farmers who are ready to protest here for a year. I told my friends to come and join the protest. We will make weekly trips to take care of our farms, or our wives and children will stay there. For now, we need more people here to fight,” said Rakesh Gautam, a farmer from Shamli.

Anil Chaudhary, a sugarcane farmer from Meerut who joined the protest early in the morning, said, “We were told to get vegetables from our village for the langar. We came from Mohan Nagar because police don't let anyone enter from other directions. We have also told our friends to bring food via that route.”

Chirag invited

The Sunday Express: “I could not attend the meeting due to my health. I was feeling unwell so I have kept myself in the self-isolation.”

Incidentally, the meeting was virtual. Joshi, in his January 20 letter, had said that the link for the meeting will be shared in “due course.”

Speaking to *The Sunday Express* Saturday, JD(U)'s senior leader K C Tyagi said: “The Prime Minister himself declared in Bihar that the Nitish Kumar-led NDA has BJP, JD(U), VIP (Vikasheel Insaan Party) and HAM (Hindustani Awam Morcha), BJP president J P Nadda had categorically said it was the NDA... In Bihar, this alliance just scraped through. How can Chirag, who attacked the NDA so fiercely, be part of NDA now?”

Paswan's LJP quit the NDA in Bihar just ahead of the election objecting to the BJP's decision to fight the election under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. The LJP, which campaigned intensely against Kumar, contested almost all the constituencies where JD(U) had its candidates. But he praised Modi and sought votes in his name.

For all the noise, the LJP won only one seat but its campaign against Nitish is considered to have played a role in pulling down the JD(U) from 71 to 43 seats.

After the alliance won, JD(U) said the LJP cannot be taken back in the NDA at any cost. Indeed, BJP leaders came out against Chirag Paswan, who, many believed was prompted by the BJP to ensure that “Nitish was cut to size.”

The NDA has lost its traditional allies Shiv Sena and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) as well as the Hanuman Beniwal-led RLP. Both SAD and RLP walked out over the farm laws.

In the meeting, Modi urged allies to counter the Opposition on issues like farm laws. “The PM said that after the pandemic, a new world order is about to take shape and India has a big role to play in the

PM at all-party meet: offer to pause farm laws still on table, Agri Minister just phone call away

were watching television, including police, security forces and intelligence agencies, have seen those culprits on TV. However, in the name of violence on January 26, if innocent farmer leaders are framed, then this agitation will grow exponentially which the Government will not be able to manage,” he said.

Azad also demanded that the Government bring a Bill in Parliament immediately for restoration of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister told the leaders the government has an “open mind” on the farm laws. “He said that the government's stand is the same as it was on January 22, and the proposal given by the Agriculture Minister still stands,” an official statement said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, who was present at the meeting, underlined this: “In the 11th Centre-farmer negotiations, we had said that the government is open for discussion. The Prime Minister has said that the Agriculture Minister said he is just a phone call away... whenever you give a call he is ready for discussion. The PM told the political party leaders that the offer still stands good.”

In a bid to break the protracted deadlock, the Government had proposed that it could suspend the laws for 18 months and form a committee to address the issues the farmers have raised. However, farm union leaders rejected the offer and remained firm on their demand for the laws' repeal.

‘5 identified at Red Fort have criminal records in Punjab’

cameras, police have identified some men. “Details on the background of five to six of them have been verified with Punjab Police. Some have an attempt to murder case in the past, while others have been arrested over brawls,” said a source.

Sources also said some violent protesters have been identified as residents of Delhi and police are collecting evidence before making arrests.

Additional PRO (Delhi Police) Anil Mittal said they have so far registered 38 cases in connection with the farmers' rally,

The Prime Minister's statement is significant as the government had been silent on resumption of talks since the violence on Republic Day and the forcible entry at Red Fort. In fact, after the Red Fort incident, senior Government officials had indicated “there was not much to discuss.”

But the UP government's attempt to evict the farmers from the protest site at the Ghazipur border Thursday night has given a fresh lease of life to the agitation with more and more farmers from Western UP — drawing from the politically significant Jat community — joining the protests.

The Prime Minister also told leaders that the government is open to a detailed discussion on issues raised in today's meeting.

He reaffirmed the importance of the smooth functioning of Parliament and comprehensive debates on the floor of the House. There was a consensus that Parliament must be allowed to function smoothly.

The Opposition demanded discussions on several issues including: the ongoing tension with China at the borders; fuel price rise, ballooning unemployment and the economic slowdown.

TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay said that some 20 Opposition parties had boycotted the President's address which is a strong message for the Government to withdraw the farm laws.

He said the Prime Minister must convene a meeting of all party leaders on the protests and discuss the issue.

and arrested 84 persons.

On Saturday, a forensic team reached Red Fort to collect evidence. Sources also said probe officers are trying to get details of tractors using their registration numbers. “We will trace the owners and summon them for questioning. We will also match their details using a face recognition system,” said a senior police officer.

In a statement released Thursday, police had alleged that the protesters had a “pre-conceived and well-coordinated”

emerging new world order,” said Joshi.

“He said this decade is very important, just like the decade after World War II... and unlike in the past, we are not going to be a mute spectator. We will rise to the occasion based on our traditions and ideals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the PM said.”

TMC ex-minister

accompanied Banerjee to Delhi.

BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, who is the party in-charge for West Bengal, confirmed the meeting of the leaders with Shah and said they would join the party Sunday.

Earlier, before leaving for Delhi, Banerjee said: “After I resigned as MLA and gave up my primary membership of the TMC yesterday, I got a call from Amit Shah who invited me to Delhi for a meeting today. Party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya also reached out to me. I felt I should respond to Amit Shah's appeal. Therefore, I have decided to meet him today. After meeting him, I will join the BJP. I will always work for the development of the state.”

“For the development of Bengal, both the state and Centre must work together. At present, it is the need of the hour to join the BJP. I want nothing but development for the state and its people. So whatever role is assigned to me, I will accept,” he said.

Banerjee and the other leaders are to be formally inducted into the BJP at a party programme at Dumurjala stadium in Howrah Sunday. Union Minister Smriti Irani will be at the event where Shah too will address party workers via virtual mode.

In December, former state minister Suwendu Adhikari quit the TMC and joined the BJP along with Bardhaman Purbha MP Sunil Kumar Mondal, nine MLAs and several others at a Midnapore rally in the presence of Shah.

POCSO verdict

this convention, the collegium could not only set a precedent for direct intervention

when a judge's actions are closely scrutinised but also send a strong message to judges to abide by judicial propriety.

“The only issue that was flagged before the collegium was that of the quality of the judgments and nothing more. There is no question about the judge's probity or integrity,” a source told *The Sunday Express*.

On January 19, Justice Ganeswara acquitted a man of sexual assault on the grounds that pressing the breasts of a child over her clothes without direct “skin to skin” physical contact does not constitute “sexual assault” under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Saying that Section 8 of POCSO provides for stringent punishment of five years' of rigorous imprisonment, she observed that “stricter proof and serious allegations are required”. So the man was convicted “under minor offence u/s 354 of IPC and sentenced to undergo RI,” the judge said. The maximum sentence is five years and the minimum one year for an offence under this section. On January 27, the Supreme Court stayed this order.

Born in 1969 at Paratwada in Maharashtra's Amravati district, Justice Ganeswara was directly elevated as a district judge in 2007. She was a panel advocate for banks and insurance companies and also taught in various colleges in Amravati and the Amravati University.

For appointment as additional judge of the Bombay High Court, Justice Ganeswara's name was first recommended by the High Court in November 2017 and came up before the SC collegium in September 2018 along with five other judicial officers from the state. The collegium deferred her candidature.

“As regards Smt. P.V. Ganeswara, Judicial Officer... having regard to the material on record and all relevant factors, her case deserves to be deferred for some time. The proposal would be taken up for consideration by the Collegium after some time,” said the collegium statement on September 11, 2018.

The three-member collegium at that time comprised of then CJI Dipak Misra, Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Madan Lokur.

While BJD's Pinaki Misra demanded that the long pending Women's Reservation Bill should be taken and passed — he found support from TRS's K Keshav Rao and YSRCP's V Vijayasai Reddy — CPM's Kareem raised the anti-conversion laws in UP that, he said, are meant to deter inter-faith marriage.

Leaders of many smaller parties including TDP, TRS, YSRCP and Akali Dal argued they don't get adequate time to speak during debates. In his reply, Modi said that frequent disruptions meant smaller parties suffer and larger parties should ensure there are no disruptions and that smaller parties are able to voice their views in Parliament.

Misra said the Parliament should not be disrupted as this would effectively give the ruling party a free pass. While Shiv Sena's Vinay Rawat demanded free Covid vaccination for all BPL families and UT status for Belgaum in Karnataka, DMK's Tiruchi Siva raised the attacks on Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

YSRCP's Reddy demanded special category status for Andhra Pradesh and said the inter-linking of rivers must be made a national project wherein river flow must be checked every 15 days.

The Prime Minister condemned the desecration of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the US and said such an atmosphere of hate is never welcome in today's world. Sources said many leaders congratulated the Prime Minister for the successful rollout of the Covid vaccination drive.

plan to break the security agreement reached between the police and farm leaders for the tractor rally.

The Delhi Police has issued a Lookout Notice against several farmer leaders and their passports will be seized in the days ahead, a senior officer said.

“We have recovered more than 1,700 CCTV clips and footage from government agencies is also being retrieved. A team from Forensic University, Gujarat has been called in to analyse the videos,” a senior police officer said.

The High Court's recommendation was taken up again in January 2019 with the collegium comprising former CJI Ranjan Gogoi, former Justice AK Sikri and (then) Justice S A Bobde.

This time, on January 16, 2019, the collegium said: “Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Smt. P.V. Ganeswara, Judicial officer, is suitable for being appointed as Judge of the Bombay High Court.”

The Sunday Express has learnt that the collegium received two strong notes of dissent from consultee-judges of the Bombay High Court Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud. Despite these, the collegium sent its recommendation and she was subsequently appointed as additional judge.

“Even then the issue was the merit of her judgments. It seemed that the judge had more experience in teaching rather than in legal practice,” said a source.

Although three most senior judges of the SC, headed by the CJI, form the collegium that decides on appointment of judges to HCs, judges familiar with the working of particular High Courts are consulted for their views.

Additional judges to High Courts are appointed either from the Bar directly or state judiciary under Article 224 (1) of the Constitution for a period not exceeding two years.

The age of retirement for additional judges of high courts is also 62 years. Additional judge posts are constitutionally intended to deal with the “increased burden of the court” but are increasingly used as probationary periods for judges before they are promoted as permanent judges.

This is because once a judge is made a permanent judge, constitutional immunity kicks in to protect them for removal from office — under the constitution, impeachment of the judge is the only process to remove a judge of a constitutional court from office.

District judges are subjected to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the high court but there is no mechanism to scrutinise performance of a permanent judge.

If a member of the Bar appointed as an

additional judge is neither given an extension nor promoted as a permanent judge, she demits office automatically. However, in the case of a judge elevated from the state judiciary, as is the case with Justice Ganeswara, the judge may have to return to the previous office as a district judge.

Israel envoy

the Lashkar-e-Toiba. The IM though mostly used easily available ammonium nitrate as the explosive in its bombs.

The IED, it is learned, was packed with ball bearings in a can and dropped in a flowerpot across the road from the Israel embassy on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road.

The explosion took place shortly after 5 pm Friday, damaging a few vehicles parked nearby. Hours later, a bomb planted near the Israel embassy in Paris was also discovered. This has led investigators to look at the possibility of this being an attempt at launching a coordinated attack against Israeli establishments.

A similar series of events had taken place during the attack on an Israeli diplomat's car in New Delhi in 2012. On the same day, a bomb had been found under a car parked near Israel's embassy in Georgia while an attack took place near the Israel embassy in Thailand. An Iranian group was then suspected to have carried out all three attacks, but Iranian officials denied any role in the incidents.

“Here too, the suspicion is on some Iranian group. But involvement of the Islamic State or Al Qaeda cannot be ruled out. Access to PETN suggests involvement of either a trans-national terror group or a group sponsored by a State. The blast was deliberately kept low intensity as the aim, it appears, was to send a message,” a security establishment officer said.

Incidentally, a letter in an envelope addressed “to Israel Embassy ambassador” was found at the site of the Friday explosion. The letter contains a threat, and describes the explosion as a “trailer”, sources said. It also refers to two “Iranian martyrs”, Qasem Soleimani and Dr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Maj Gen Soleimani, assassinated in a United States drone strike in January 2020, was Iran's most powerful general, the commander of the Quds Force of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Fakhrizadeh, assassinated last November, was Iran's top nuclear scientist. Tehran suspects he was killed by Israel using a remote-controlled weapon.

Sources said multiple agencies have been pressed into action with considerable help from Israel's intelligence establishment.

“The CCTV cameras trained on that stretch were not working. Agencies have tried to scan other CCTV camera feeds from across the road, but the visuals are too grainy to come to any conclusion. DNA samples have been taken from the letter even as telecom tower dumps are being analysed,” another officer said.

Meanwhile, Israel's ambassador Ron Malka, in an interview to *The Sunday Express*, said that there had been “threats” in the last few weeks and the embassy was on a heightened state of alert, and prepared for such attacks.

“We are not scared, and no one can deter us, and we are going to continue to thrive and to grow, and even to expand the relations between Israel and India because if this was the target... So again, they're not going to achieve it, because you know yesterday when this evil attack was conducted, we just celebrated the 29th anniversary for the establishment of foreign diplomatic relations between Israel and India... So it might not be a coincidence. But it might be.”

Malka did not blame any country or grouping for the blast, and indicated that the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, was working with Indian agencies to investigate the incident.

Underlining that the investigation is in its early stages, he said: “We need to understand what happened there. Take the pieces, build the puzzle pieces of information from different places, evidence from the scene. So we are gathering all together, joint effort of Israeli security authorities and Indian security authorities. And I think that together, we are going to find out what happened, who is standing behind this and, of course, to bring him to justice.”

He said besides the Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval spoke to Israel's NSA Meir Ben-Shabbat and gave assurances that India is going to take all measures needed to protect Israeli representatives in India and will fulfil a “full investigation that will make out what happened here”.



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No. 63 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

Tender No. 50-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21

(i) Name of work with its location : Manpur-Sonenagar-Strengthening/rebuilding bridges on dedicated freight corridor feeder route under ADEN/GAYA (ii) Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 37085211.49

Tender No. 51-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21

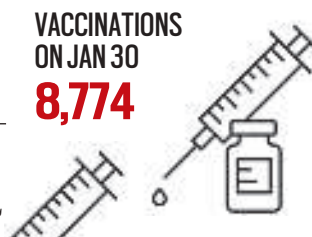
(i) Name of work with its location : Proposal for Diversion road of LC No. 67 under ADEN/Gaya (ii) Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 6628837.48 (iii) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender : 19.02.2021, Up-to 12:00 hrs. (iv) Website particulars of e-tendering : www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager,
 Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division
PR/1374/DDU/ENGG /T/20-21/36

3 THE CITY

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS
ON JAN 30
8,774



TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	8,617	7,951	
	VENTILATORS		955	
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 29	249	267	6	58,725
Jan 30	183	290	8	68,967
Total	1,436*	6,22,671	10,849	1,06,80,731

Total active cases

BRIEFLY

Sisodia gets award for education

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has received the Mahatma Award for Promoting Excellence in Education, instituted by the Aditya Birla Group. Speaking as the chief guest at the ceremony on Saturday, he said, "Delhi government is working towards setting up a minimum benchmark for quality education for our schools."

Garbage to be cleared in North Delhi

New Delhi: The garbage spread across North Delhi would be picked up from some parts on Sunday as some sanitation unions have called off their strike. AP Khan, convener of the Confederation of MCD Employees Union, said some unions have called off the strike as salaries have been paid for until December. However, some are still on strike as they want other dues to be cleared.

AAP concludes mohalla sabhas on MCDs

New Delhi: The AAP Saturday announced the completion of its mohalla sabhas campaign, through which it sought to "expose the corrupt practices of the BJP in the MCDs." During the 15-day campaign, 2,500 small public meetings were held, AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said. **ENS**

No clues from CCTVs outside Israel embassy

MAHENDERSINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A DAY after a low intensity IED blast near the Israel Embassy, around 10 teams of the Delhi Police Special Cell scanned footage from over 146 CCTVs but none have so far thrown up any clues.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that footage also included those from two security cameras installed at one of the gates of the embassy and opposite the building. "On scanning the footage, police found that the cameras were not covering the area where the bomb was planted. They are not clear about any suspicious vehicle/person so far," a source said.

A crude bomb went off near the Embassy of Israel on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road on Friday evening, shattering windscreens of three cars on the road. No one was injured in the explosion, which took place on the 29th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

On Saturday, a team from the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) of the NSG visited the spot for post-blast analysis. The findings will be shared with the Delhi Police team investigating the case in the days ahead.

The bomb appeared to have been planted in a flower pot on the road divider, police said. A letter in a white envelope addressed "to Israel Embassy ambassador" was found at the spot, police sources said. The letter contained a threat, and describes the explo-

On Saturday, a team from the National Bomb Data Centre of the NSG visited the spot. Its findings will be shared with the Delhi Police team in the days ahead

sion as a "trailer", the sources said. It also refers to two "Iranian martyrs", Qasem Soleimani and Dr Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, sources said, adding that "there are spelling errors in the message".

Maj Gen Soleimani, who was assassinated in a United States drone strike in January 2020, was Iran's most powerful general, the commander of the Quds Force of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Fakhri-zadeh, who was assassinated in November last year, was Iran's top nuclear scientist. Tehran believes he was killed by Israel using a remote-control weapon.

The investigation team is also ascertaining claims made by Jaish-e-Hind over their involvement in the blast. It is coordinating with the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and checking details of Iranians who recently came to India.

"Police also procured dump data — mass collection of mobile phone data of all nearby spots of the crime scene — to get leads," a source said.

On Friday, a cab driver had made a call about two suspicious Iranians but police later found that he was in an inebriated condition.

No institutional quarantine for UK returnees testing negative

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

TRAVELLERS ARRIVING in Delhi from the United Kingdom who test negative for Covid-19 are no longer required to follow the mandatory seven-day institutional quarantine, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) directed in an order issued on Friday.

The decision was taken after a review of the situation and "considering low positivity rate of UK returnees".

Following the detection of a new variant of the coronavirus in the UK, the DDMA had directed earlier this month that as



The decision was taken after 'considering low positivity rate of UK returnees'

a matter of precaution, passengers arriving from the UK — even if they test negative at the airport — were to be in mandatory institutional quarantine for seven days, followed by seven days of

home quarantine.

While the requirement for mandatory institutional quarantine has been done away with, arrivals testing negative will still be required to follow seven days of home quarantine.

India had suspended all passenger flights between the UK and India from December 23 to January 7. Limited flights originating from the UK were resumed on January 8. Following the resumption, the DDMA had ordered compulsory RT-PCR testing at the airport of those arriving from the UK.

Delhi recorded 183 fresh Covid-19 cases and 8 deaths on Saturday. Meanwhile, 8,774 beneficiaries were vaccinated

Gurgaon: Covid cases less than 40 per day

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JANUARY 30

WITH THE number of fresh coronavirus cases emerging in Gurgaon having reduced to less than 40 per day despite over 1,800 people being tested, the positivity rate of the district, officials from the health department said, has fallen below 2 per cent.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Virender Yadav said, "The weekly and daily positivity this month has been around 1 per cent. Sometimes it is 0.6 per cent, sometimes 1.2 per cent, but it has consistently remained below 2 per cent... The overall positivity rate

has also reduced to 6.8 per cent."

According to data with the health department, Gurgaon has recorded 1,326 fresh cases of coronavirus this month, with four people succumbing to the infection, down from 5,261 cases in all of December, when 16 fatalities had been recorded due to the infection. In November, the figures had peaked with 20,777 new cases and 106 fatalities being reported.

In the last six months, the lowest number of new cases and the lowest number of fatalities have been reported in January, records of the health department reveal. Consequently, the doubling rate of the district has increased to over 2,014 days, and the fatality rate has fallen to 0.6 per cent.

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18 Abu Road	27 Ajmer	58 Alwar	10 Balotra	04 Banswara
09 Bharatpur	24 Bhilwara	39 Boranada	38 Nagaur	02 Dausa
37 Kota	36 Udaipur	03 Rajsamand	40 Sriganganagar	

EMD START: 01 Feb., 2021 (10:00 AM) END : 18 Feb., 2021 (06:00 PM)	BID START: 19 Feb., 2021 (10:00 AM) END : 23 Feb., 2021 (05:00 PM)
31 Bhiwadi-I	12 Bikaner
07 Jhunjhunu	04 Jodhpur
18 Ghiloth	11 Jhalawar
07 Jhunjhunu	21 Neemrana
02 Churu	50 Pali
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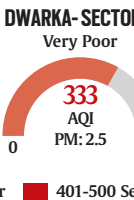
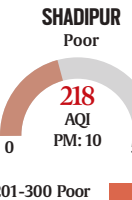
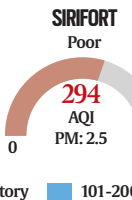
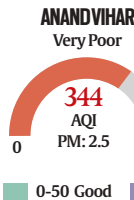
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- Don't forget to wear your mask to cover your nose and mouth
- Maintain distance of 2 yards
- Wash hands clean
- Avoid crowding

If feeling unwell

- Get prompt testing, no postponement required
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- Self isolate promptly

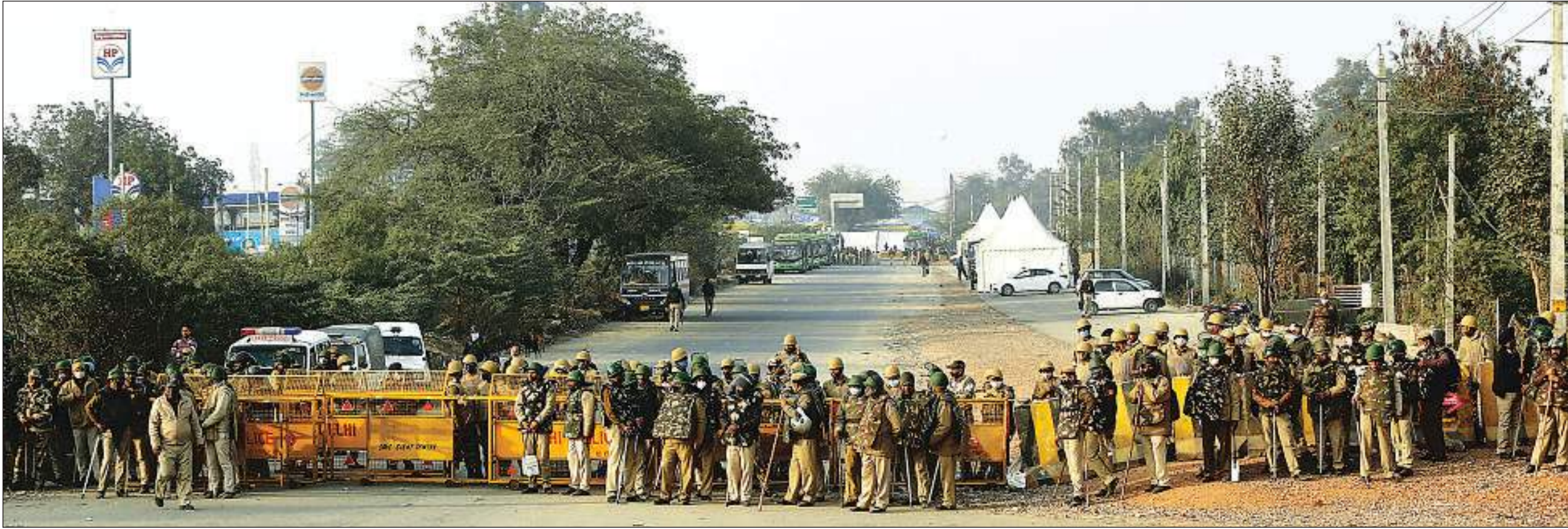
National Health Mission, Health Department, Haryana



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Jan 31
Mainly clear sky.
Shallow to moderate fog in the morning
MAX: 22 | **MIN: 5**
0.1°C below normal | 3.9°C below normal

INTERNET SUSPENDED AT SINGHU, TIKRI, GHAZIPUR

Disconnected



Security forces at the Singhu border on Saturday; (below) at the Ghazipur protest site. Photos: Praveen Khanna, Amit Mehra

ASHNA BUTANI
& ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE UNION Home Ministry's decision to suspend internet at the three main protest sites at the capital's borders — Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur — has created several hurdles for protesting farmers, already suffering from a patchy network over the past few days. From connecting to their families, staying updated on the news or sharing videos and photos on social media about the protest, many aspects of their day-to-day life have been hit, they say.

Singhu, epicentre of all Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)

activities, had no mobile network on Saturday. Harinder from the SKM's media team said that despite installing broadband internet in their room, information sharing was becoming a problem.

"Earlier, volunteers here would do live streams and upload from different spots using their own mobile internet. Now that is not possible. We all have to collect in this room and use the broadband, which is also not working well. It is creating a lot of issues," he said.

"We used to get information from the other protest sites as well. Now if someone from Tikri or Ghazipur wants to send us some video or photo, they have to step out and then send it to us.

There's a considerable lag," he added.

Prabhjyot Singh from Sangrur in Punjab, who has been at Singhu since the beginning of the protest, also said internet being down had cut him off from the outside world: "There is nothing to do here now... the internet was one way of connecting with the world outside, to get news about what is happening with regard to the farm laws. Now we can't do that."

At Ghazipur on Saturday afternoon, Pramod Kumar (52) walked a kilometre away from the protest site, struggling to get network so he could speak to his family. He said, "My mother, father, brother and three children



are in Meerut and I have been here for over 20 days. They are curious about what is happening here and they want to find

out if I am alright. But in the last two-three days, every time I call, it gets disconnected. If I try to send them WhatsApp messages,

they don't go through."

Gurpreet Atwaal (26) said calls go through sometimes but he is unable to video call his sister in Canada and his mother who is in his hometown, Rudrapur: "As I have been alone at the protests since it started, they want to know my whereabouts and often get worried if I am unreachable. The other issue is that we cannot share photos and videos of the protest."

Sudhir Kumar Ballu, a farmer from Chapauli village in UP, reiterated this: "I need the internet to speak to my family and do other work. How can they cut such services? Anything can happen here. We need updates on WhatsApp and Facebook. I also have to send videos and

photos to my friends. I want them to come here and support us. Also, in case of emergency, it's easier to send text or a photo on WhatsApp. How will I reply to such texts from my family? I have to walk through trenches and reach the market area to get signal."

For Joginder Kardhan (60), a farmer from Muzaffarnagar, missing out on important updates regarding the protests has been a low point: "We need to coordinate who all are coming from our villages, see what is happening at other borders and what decisions the leaders are taking, but that is impossible without the internet."

At Tikri too, farmers said that the internet has not been work-

ing for two days now. KD Pathak (25) said, "I manage to speak to my family in Ugara village in Haryana, but it is difficult to share updates and keep track of the news. It is a deliberate attempt by the government to ensure that we cannot coordinate with other farmers regarding the protests."

Baljinder Singh (29), from Moga district in Punjab, had a similar concern. "Internet has been available on and off for the last five days. Since this morning, we have had zero network. We are not getting protest-related updates as we cannot use social media apps like WhatsApp and Facebook."

(With inputs from Jignasa Sinha)

BJP hand in Red Fort violence, claims AAP's Sanjay Singh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AAP RAJYA Sabha MP Sanjay Singh Saturday alleged that the storming of Red Fort during the kisan rally was a "planned event of BJP", for which its leaders should be "booked for sedition".



AAP MP Sanjay Singh

Addressing a news conference, Singh also alleged that actor Deep Sidhu, who has been named in an FIR in connection with the Red Fort incident, is "close to the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and BJP MP Sunny Deol". "I want to tell you with full responsibility that the Red Fort incident was done by BJP people. BJP agents and goons were behind the shameful incident... They infiltrated certain routes and instigated violence. BJP leaders should be booked for sedition. We believe that BJP did this to malign the image of farmers. People who hold a very good relationship with the PM and the Home Minister of our country were leading this march and instigated the violence," Singh alleged.

He also displayed pictures of Sidhu with the PM and actor Deol, BJP's Gurdaspur MP. "This picture was taken at the PM's residence, which is a place where everyone cannot enter. I have been an MP for three years but I do not have any picture with the PM because to click a picture with him you need some security clearance. Any random person cannot just walk in and click a photo with him," Singh said.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged "BJP goons" were behind the assault on protesters at Singhu and Tikri.

Day after violence, farmers take matters into their own hands: 'Can't rely on police anymore'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
& ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

IN THE aftermath of violence at Singhu border, farmers have stepped up "internal security" — from increased vigils to checkpoints — to prevent any untoward incident and ensure "political agents" do not get a chance to incite violence again.

A group of 200 men had got past three layers of security barricades on Friday, claimed that the farmers' agitation had affected their livelihood, and damaged tents and shelters while clashing with farm protesters. Farmers alleged that the crowd had gathered at the behest of the BJP.

Said Rupinder Singh, president, Natujawan Bharat Sabha, "We have created a security room near the main stage, 10 people are present there at all times. We are also monitoring the situation on the ground through volunteers. Fewer people are being allowed near the stage after increased checks. Youth wings of unions have been told to guard their trolleys and remain on standby in case there is a situation to control. We will not let BJP and RSS break our protest since it was them who



Volunteers are manning entry and exit points to the protest site. Praveen Khanna

sent people to attack us."

On Saturday, most volunteers were seen walking around with large wooden and bamboo sticks. According to farmers, volunteers working in two shifts, between 8 am and 8 pm, are stationed at key entry-exit points to guard it — at least five stand at the main entry point of the protest to ensure filtered movement. While the stage committee manages the speeches, an extra team of 25 persons maintain vigil nearby. Another trolley next to the main stage has 10-15 volunteers who can be called for assistance round the clock. Further within the

protest site, security teams have set up three checkpoints along the Kundli stretch — at the Khalsa Aid camp, a KFC outlet and TDI mall — where volunteers keep watch on entry points. A message has been sent across to protesters to immediately alert volunteers in the event of a "threat".

"There are at least 1,500 people keeping a close watch on the protest, 24x7. We have been peaceful since day one, yet so many people managed to enter the site. Now the onus is on us to protect ourselves..." said Rupinder.

Around 4.30 pm, as a rumour spread that more people had col-

lected at the site, scores of farmers rushed towards the barricades holding lathis in a matter of minutes. Amarjeet Singh from Moga district in Punjab said the heightened vigilance was necessary after Friday's incident: "Volunteers and some others are doing *pehra* (rounds) of Singhu to make sure no miscreants have got in. What happened yesterday has made our belief strong that there's a conspiracy to break our movement."

Behind the extra security is farmers' distrust of police forces as well. "Yesterday, police stood and watched what happened. We can't rely on them and their

barricades. So we decided to take this step of doing rounds. However, it has been made clear to everyone not to fall prey to rumour mongering, and not act unless it is in self-defence. We don't want our protest to be painted as violent," said Surinder Singh from Haryana's Ambala, who has been at the protest since the beginning. Jwamal from Haryana's Kaithal said, "We just want to keep our protest site secure; we don't want any violence. BJP and RSS workers are infiltrating and provoking people. Our constant rounds are enough to maintain order."

From the stage, BKU leader Gumam Singh Chaduni also sent out a "warning" to the government about Friday's attack. "I want to warn this government that they should leave this *gundagardi* (hooliganism). An FIR should be filed against those who are coming here and doing *danga* (riots)," he said.

Addressing the farmers, he said there was no going back now even if there is a crackdown. "If the police crack down on us, whether it's night or morning, we won't leave, we will die here (*praan tyag dene hain*)," he said, reiterating that farmers should continue to keep the protest peaceful.

From Bahadurgarh, hundreds set out to 'stand guard' at Singhu

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, BAHADURGARH, JANUARY 30

HUNDREDS OF men from Pakora Chowk in Bahadurgarh, part of the Tikri border protest, left for Singhu on directions of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) to "protect" farmers there, a day after stone pelting and violence broke out when a group of 200 men entered the site. Hundreds of farmers from Haryana, meanwhile, made their way to the Tikri protest site in tractors on Saturday, saying they are joining "for the long haul".

On Friday, a group of people, claiming to be local residents, had gotten past three layers of security barricades to reach the protest site at Singhu border where violence broke out.

Hardeep Singh (40) from Moga district in Punjab, who has been at the protest site at Bahadurgarh for the last two months, was among those who left for Singhu border on Saturday. "We are just going to guard the entire protest site. Police and BJP's men created violence there. We will go and en-

sure this doesn't happen. We are not there to fight but just to protect, support and defend them. We will be on guard," he said. "For two months we have been peaceful. There is only so much we can tolerate."

With Hardeep were Gyan Singh (63) and a few younger men. Gyan Singh said, "We are only going there to guard the site. Goons were disturbing the peace there, tearing tents and pelting stones."

Darshan Singh (40), a member of the stage management committee at Pakora Chowk, told *The Indian Express*, "Around 300 tractors have left for Singhu today. They are going there so that no *gundagardi* happens."

At the new bus stand in Bahadurgarh, where BKU Ugrahan leaders have stationed themselves, Jaswinder Singh Longowal (40), a leader of the group, said, "Around 900-1,000 men have gone from here to support them. If any such group approaches the site again, we will stop them."

Meanwhile, hundreds of tractors from Haryana made their way via the Rohtak bypass to Tikri border protest site on Saturday.

WANT FARMERS TO END PROTEST

Injured cops, families stage protest: 'Beaten up mercilessly'



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

OVER 200 people, including Delhi Police personnel who were injured during the kisan tractor march on Republic Day and their families, staged a protest at Shaheed Park on Saturday. They said they are against the attack which led to 394 personnel being

(Left) At the protest. Amit Mehra

injured, some of whom are still undergoing treatment. It was organised by Delhi Police Mahasangh, an organisation started by retired police officials. Head constable Ashok Kumar, who was deployed at Red Fort on January 26 and sustained injuries on his head, back and legs, was among those at the protest with his family. He said, "They behaved like goons and surrounded us at Red Fort. We tried to take the underground stairs and hide but they pelted

stones and thrashed me with lathis and swords. I want them to go back." Families alleged that protesters attacked the policemen with an intent to "kill them" and should be arrested. They also demanded that the borders be cleared so that protesters go back and police personnel stay safe.

Ritika, a student who is preparing for UPSC exams, said, "My uncle is in the Delhi Police, he was on duty at the time of the clashes. I am against the attack on policemen. I know how police

showed restraint but the unruly mob thrashed them mercilessly." Among the protesters were several children holding placards of 'Police Lives Matter'.

ACP Ved Bhushan, a retired Delhi Police officer, said, "I'm disappointed with what the farmers did to our personnel. The Delhi Police helped the farmers and gave them three routes for their march but farmers betrayed and attacked them... The clashes were unfortunate but the government must remove the farmers."

6 GOVT & POLITICS



During the Tiranga Yatra in Ludhiana. *Gurmeet Singh*

BJP cancels Tiranga Yatra after face-off with farm stir supporters

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 30

TENSION PREVAILED in the Old City area of Ludhiana Saturday after traders and shopkeepers, raising slogans in support of protesting farmers, did not allow a Tiranga Yatra by the BJP to proceed forcing the saffron party to cancel the programme. The local BJP unit later said that the yatra has been 'postponed' following orders from party's state leadership.

The BJP had planned to take out a 'Vishal Tiranga Yatra' to condemn the January 26 violence in Delhi during the farmers' parade. The yatra was to start from MC Zone A office and move via Meena Bazaar Chowk, Girjagar Chowk, Kesarganj Mandi Chowk before culminating at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Ludhiana.

The BJP workers carrying the Tricolour and led by district president Pushpinder Singal start the yatra while raising slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Tirange ka apmaan nahi sahaga Hindustan', and 'Vande Mataram'.

Soon, a group led by traders and shopkeepers from Akalgarh market started protesting. The protesters, carrying the national flag, Nishan Sahib and one supporting farmers' agitation, raised slogans such as 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', 'Vyapari Kisan Ekta Zindabad', 'Hindu Sikh Ekta Zindabad'. They also blocked the way and did not allow BJP yatra to proceed.

As the situation turned tense, Joint Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Deepak Parikh, appealed to both sides to remain calm. Parikh managed to persuade BJP leaders to cancel the march in the interest of peace and communal harmony, according to the police.

Plea in SC seeks CBI or SIT probe R-Day violence

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A PETITION before Supreme Court has sought probe by the CBI, Special Investigation Team (SIT) or a judicial commission into the January 26 violence in Delhi.

In their petition, advocates Vishal Thakre and Abhay Singh Yadav, both practising in Delhi, also urged the top court to call for records of the Union and Delhi governments on "action or steps taken by them over the violence" and ask the inquiry commission to submit its report in a time-bound manner and take action on it.

The petitioners said, "The permission was granted for a peaceful protest and a tractor rally on Republic Day, but the liberty given by the Central government and police was misused by some of the hijackers who were in the garb of farmers... therefore, in the interest of justice, Police Office be directed to find the violators... and punish them as per the law".

DIPANKARGHOSE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FORMER VICE President Hamid Ansari has said in his new autobiography that "authoritarianism, nationalism and majoritarianism" played a role in the 2019 election and that a "subversion of core values is now underway".

The book, *By Many a Happy Accident*, is on Ansari's life as a diplomat, AMU V-C and then Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman for two terms. It also contains several accounts of Ansari's interactions with Prime

Punjab sees protest revival as more people head for doors of Delhi; resolutions passed

ANJU AGNIHOTRICHABA & RAKHI JAGGA
JALANDHAR, LUDHIANA, JANUARY 30

AFTER SEEMINGLY going on the backfoot following the violence on Republic Day during the tractor rally in Delhi, farmers' unions of Punjab are now witnessing a renewed vigour, with many village-level committees sending a large number of people – and not just farmers – to support the movement against the new agricultural laws.

In several villages, people said they were moved by the video of farm leader Rakesh Tikait getting emotional over how farmers were being branded as terrorists. They said several farm leaders in Punjab needed to learn from Tikait's dedication.

Around 150 vehicles proceeded towards Delhi on Saturday from Phagwara under the leadership Kirpal Singh of Bharti Kisan Union (BKU) Doaba, while a large number of youths accompanied the BKU (Rajewal) leaders.

Meanwhile, to shore up the dwindling numbers at protest sites, several panchayats in Punjab have started passing resolutions asking people to send one person from each village home to the dharmas on the borders of Delhi.

Virk Khurd village panchayat in district Bathinda passed a resolution on January 27 mandating that one villager from each household will go to the Delhi borders and stay there for at least one week. The resolution said that those not complying with the decision will be fined Rs 1,500 and if a person refuses to



Farmers, their families at Mansa railway station to board a train to Delhi to join the protests. *Express*

pay the fine, the village will boycott that person.

The resolution also stated that if any villager's vehicle gets damaged during the Delhi morcha then panchayat will bear expenses for its repair. With signatures of over 1,700 voters, the resolution carries the signatures of the sarpanch – Manjeet Kaur.

Gurpreet Singh, one of those who signed the resolution, said: "Though we are regularly going to the borders (of Delhi) since November 26, this fresh announcement has been done to beat the rumours that after Republic Day episode morcha is about to end and people have started coming back."

In another resolution passed by Nangal Kalan village of Mansa,

it has been stated that one villager from each house will go to Delhi morcha for minimum seven days and the ones who cannot go will give Rs 1,500 that can be contributed to the ongoing struggle.

"This fund can be used for fuel expenses or even for repair of tractors going to Delhi," said Nazam Singh, one of the villagers.

Addressing the media in Chandigarh on Saturday, BKU president Balbir Singh Rajewal said, "It (protest) was hit for a day-and-a-half. Now farmers are again rushing to Delhi borders to protest. We are thankful to Tikait-sahib. We will invite him to Punjab and honour him."

He also appealed farmers to ensure that the agitation remained peaceful.

Haryana khaps decide to use temple speakers to beat internet curbs

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 30

AS HARYANA government extended the mobile internet suspension in state's 17 districts for another day "to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order", the farmers protesting against the agri laws hit upon an idea to bypass the ban. They have decided to use temple loudspeakers to make their voice heard and make messages reach all villagers.

During a panchayat, leaders of 17 khaps of Jind district decided to form committees in each of the 306 villages in which they have influence to ensure quick reaction in case government makes any effort to forcibly remove protesters from dhama sites.

The panchayat was held at Khatkar toll plaza on Jind-Patiala

highway in which a large number of women too participated. The new strategy was formulated after the authorities tried to remove farmers from Ghazipur border of UP-Delhi Thursday night.

"If any such move is repeated anywhere, quick announcements will be made from the loudspeakers of village temples asking the farmers to gather. Not only this, thikri pehras will be undertaken by the farmers in villages to remain alert round the clock. We may plan blockage of roads, if the internet services are not restored early as the move is affecting on-line studies of students ahead of exams," said Azad Palwa, leader of Dhadan khap of Jind district. Palwa is also Jind district president of the BKU. The agitators feel that internet services have been suspended to check the growing agitation of farmers in Haryana.



At Khatkar toll plaza on Jind-Patiala highway. *Manoj Dhaka*

ACCUSED OF MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN COORDINATED CONSPIRACY

Sedition FIRs against Tharoor, journalists now in five states

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, BHOPAL, GURGAON, NOIDA, BENGALURU, JANUARY 30

FIRS HAVE been filed in five states, the latest being in Delhi Saturday, against Congress Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor and six journalists over their allegedly "misleading" tweets on the violence and death of a protester during the farmers' tractor rally in Delhi on Republic Day.

The cases name Tharoor and journalists Rajdeep Sardesai, Mrinal Pande, Zafar Agha, Paresh Nath, Anant Nath, and Vinod K Jose. Most of them invoke IPC sections of sedition, criminal intimidation, promoting enmity, provocation to break public peace, criminal conspiracy, outraging religious feelings, among others.

FIRS were lodged against the seven at Gurgaon (Haryana) and Bengaluru on Friday, in Noida (UP) on Thursday. Four similar cases in different districts of Madhya Pradesh earlier.

The FIR in Delhi was lodged on complaint of advocate Chiranjiv Kumar, a Central government lawyer at Delhi High Court. Kumar refused to comment on the FIR.

The complainant stated that the accused spread fake news about protester Navreet Singh's death in Delhi on January 26 by blaming Delhi Police to "instigate violence".

Navreet Singh died of head injuries when his tractor toppled after hitting a police barricade.



Shashi Tharoor

The post mortem ruled out any bullet injuries.

The complainant stated that the "accused" posted tweets that day and spread fake news about Singh's death by calling it "killing".

Jasmeet Singh, DCP (central), tweeted, "Due to misleading and false information by The Caravan that a farmer protester has died due to police firing, a case has been registered in IP Estate Police station. FIR includes certain others also who also tried to mislead the public."

In Gurgaon, a case was registered at Cyber Crime police station on a complaint by Pankaj Singh, a resident of Jharsa village.

"We have lodged an FIR based on the complaint given by a local resident who is a private citizen and does not appear to have any political affiliations so far... The case has been lodged against seven named accused and unidentified others. The matter is being investigated," ACP (DLF) Karan Goel said.

In his complaint, Singh identifies himself as a "law-abiding and concerned citizen... who is deeply aggrieved by widespread riots". He has alleged that "ac-

tions" of the seven named in FIR have caused "grave prejudice to the security of the nation".

In Bengaluru, a social activist named Rakesh Shetty, alias Rakesh B S, filed a complaint of sedition, criminal conspiracy and other charges against the seven.

Shetty's complaint was registered at Parappana Agrahara police station on Friday.

According to the complainant, the tweets by those named in the FIR amounted to incitement, damaging of national integrity, creation of enmity between different religious groups and division in society.

In Madhya Pradesh, four separate FIRs have been registered naming Tharoor and the six journalists for allegedly instigating farmers with unverified and unauthentic information for "personal and professional advantage".

The FIRs have been registered in Bhopal, Hoshangabad and Betul districts, based on written applications by complainants who have submitted almost similar applications – the one submitted in Hoshangabad is in Hindi, while that in Bhopal and Betul are in English. In all four FIRs, complainants have accused the seven of starting a misinformation campaign in a coordinated and well-timed conspiracy about the Delhi Police shooting dead Navreet.

In Noida, the FIR was registered at Sector 20 Police Station on a complaint by local resident Arpit Mishra for "riots and damage".



Rakesh Tikait at the Ghazipur border on Saturday. *ANI*

After decades, Tikaits of west UP take centre stage in capital again

DAKSH PANWAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

BETWEEN 1987 and 2001, a series of political misadventures triggered a steady decline in the aura of the country's most charismatic farm leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, and with it Sisauli, a bustling Muzaffarnagar village nestled amidst sugarcane fields which went from being called "Kisano ki Rajdhani" (farmers' capital) to "Jaton ki Rajdhani" (capital of the Jats) to "Baliyano ki Rajdhani" – capital of the Balian khap headed by Tikait.

And then he would get a second wind. In 2001, Tikait, on whose call lakhs occupied the Boat Club lawns in the national capital in 1988, was struggling to muster numbers for a protest at the Muzaffarnagar town hall. Thinking that the modest gathering was being a nuisance, an overzealous sub-divisional magistrate ordered lathi-charge, and in the ensuing chaos the sexagenarian farm leader fell with an injury to his forehead. Images of a wounded Tikait in the papers the next day led to an outpour of support for the farmer leader hadn't seen in years.

Twenty years later, on Thursday night at the Ghazipur border, a similar chord was struck, this time by his son Rakesh, who broke down during a press conference as police personnel moved in to clear the site of protesting farmers – inadvertently galvanising protesters in western UP and Haryana. The reinforcements came in as a ray of hope for an agitation that has faced intense pressure after the January 26 violence, and in the process, Rakesh found his moment under the sun.

Political debut

On the 33-km drive from Muzaffarnagar to Sisauli, there is a chance one may encounter youngsters running alongside bullock-carts and tractor-trolley – not aspiring marathoners but preparing for the next "Dilli Police ki bharti". In these parts, they say a Delhi Police sipahi is equal to a 100-bigha farmer, sorted for life. Sisauli alone has sent hundreds of foot-soldiers to Delhi Police. One of them was Rakesh Tikait.

Had he not quit the job at 28 and joined his father when he was leading his breakthrough demonstration – in 1987 against electricity bills near Shamli – who knows he might have been on the other side of the divide today, trying to implement the government orders against protesters.

But Rakesh, second of Tikait's four sons, has always been a bit of a rebel. While his father tried hard to maintain an apolitical image, Rakesh dabbled in politics and failed miserably. In 2014, he contested Lok Sabha elections from Amroha on Ajit Singh's Rashtriya

Lok Dal ticket, but couldn't save his deposit. In 2007, he contested from Khatauli in the UP Assembly elections, but finished fifth. In fact, there were murmurs that he was colluding with the government when he was invited to meet Home Minister Amit Shah on December 8.

The murmurs arose, too, because if the BJP is a force in western UP, according to observers, the Tikaits have directly and indirectly played some part in it. And not least by voting for the BJP, as Rakesh said on Thursday he did.

Rise and fall

When he was on the rise, Tikait senior was seen as a leader upholding secular values. At the 1987 Karmu Khari agitation, he brought Jats, Muslims and Gurjars on a single platform – a Jat and a Muslim farmer died side-by-side in the protests. This image was reinforced in 1989 when he led the demonstrations after the alleged rape and killing of a Muslim woman. This led to a national newspaper declaring that "Another Mahatma is born".

However, his support would gradually erode. The first to leave him were the Gurjars and what triggered the exodus was Tikait's secretary making statements against the Mandal Commission report. Then, following the 1992 Babri demolition and the subsequent mid-term elections necessitated by the fall of Kalyan Singh's government, Tikait told his supporters to vote in "the name of the antaratma (conscience) and Ram". That didn't go well with the Muslims, who left him. Later a silent power struggle with Ajit Singh during the '90s restricted his influence primarily to his khap, which has 84 villages in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli.

"Mahendra Singh Tikait... was a product of the time and circumstances. There was a vacuum after Charan Singh, and he came along. He had rustic charm, the farmer associated with him, but he was a man of contradictions as well... he would always maintain he was apolitical, but his own sons went into politics while he was alive. And people saw it," said a former associate of Tikait who didn't want to be named.

Two years after Tikait's death, his eldest son Naresh, who heads the Bhartiya Kisan Union, and Rakesh were accused of giving inflammatory speeches during the mahapanchayat that led to the 2013 riots in Muzaffarnagar and the subsequent polarisation which strengthened the BJP in UP.

With the emotional appeal on Thursday and by stiring the government down, Rakesh has put the BJP in a quandary. They can't be seen resolving it by force. For, unlike Haryana, where BJP is seen as the party of the non-Jats, across the Yamuna, it relies on the Jat vote to maintain its hold in western UP.

Authoritarianism, majoritarianism played role in 2019 polls: Ansari in new book

Minister Narendra Modi, one of them being when he had just become Vice President and was called on by Modi, then Gujarat Chief Minister. "I referred to the post-Godhra happenings in his state in 2002 and asked why he allowed it to happen. He said that people look at only one aspect of the matter and pay no attention to the good work he has initiated, particularly for the education of Muslim girls. I sought its details and suggested that he should publicize it; 'that does not suit me politically' was the revealingly candid response", the book says.

Ansari also says that for many decades after Independence, a "pluralist view of nationalism and Indianness" characterized India's thinking, but recently has been supplanted by one that "threatens to rule out dissent".

"More recently, a version of nationalism that places cultural commitments at its core and promotes intolerance and arrogant patriotism has tended to intrude into and take over the political and cultural landscape. One manifestation of it is 'an increasingly fragile national ego that threatens to rule out any dissent however innocent. Hyper-



The book, *By Many a Happy Accident*, is on Ansari's life as a diplomat, AMU V-C and then Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman

nationalism and the closing of the mind is also a manifestation of insecurity about one's place in the world," he says.

Ansari writes in the book: "The success of populism (rightly depicted not as an ideology but rather a strategy to obtain and retain power, and thriving on conspiracy, criminalization of all opposition, playing up external threats) proved itself in the 2019 general election. It was assisted by authoritarianism, nationalism and majoritarianism. This ideological potion, premised simplistically on the desirability of one-

ness of language, ethnicity, religion, territory and culture was administered successfully to a little over a third of the electorate... It is evident that a subversion of core values is now underway, an exercise that touches every citizen and leaves none untouched. Its impact is compounded by the abdication or failure of other social and political forces to comprehend its true nature and the urgency to counter it."

The book also touches on the Centre's steps in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. "The sleight-of-hand tactics

adopted do little credit to the regime of Rule of Law and the principles of democracy professed by the Republic. They amount to what has been called 'a show of brute majoritarianism,'" it says.

Ansari also recounts that around "2014-15" Prime Minister Modi himself walked into his Rajya Sabha office unscheduled and sought to know why he was not passing a Bill amid the din in the House. "I replied that the Leader of the House and his colleagues, when in Opposition, had appreciated the ruling that no bills will be passed in the din and

that normal procedures of obtaining consent will be observed. He then said that the Rajya Sabha TV was not favourable to the government. My response was that while I had a role in the establishment of the channel, I had no control over the editorial content and that a committee of Rajya Sabha members, in which the BJP was represented, provided broad guidance to the channel, adding that from all accounts, the channel's programmes and discussions were appreciated by the viewers," the book says.

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7 SUNDAY STORY

BUDGET '21



COUNTDOWN IN & OUT OF COVID SHADOW

At the start of the joint session of Parliament on Friday, PM Narendra Modi said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had already announced 3-4 mini budgets and that the 2021-22 Budget should be seen as an extension of the same effort. As the country recovers from Covid and one of its worst years as an economy, UDIT MISRA unscrambles the A to Z of what to expect tomorrow

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Some are born *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant/self-sufficient), some achieve *atmanirbharta*, and some have *atmanirbharta* thrust upon them. This is likely to be the dominant theme for different sectors of the economy in the coming Budget. Oddly enough, the push towards *atmanirbharta* may not mean a reduction in the government's intervention in the economy and a decided move towards a greater play of market forces. Far from it. It will likely be a mix. For instance, if you are a farmer, the state may recede in favour of the private sector but if you are a steel manufacturer or dairy producer, the state may protect you from international competition.

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE...

...of consumers and businesses. One of the most important things to watch out for in the Budget would be the policy tools employed by the FM to change the behaviour of different economic entities in the economy.

Covid not only forcibly reduced consumption in the short-term but also crimped incomes and scared people into saving more than usual. But if consumers continue to spend less, then it will delay economic recovery. The RBI has already brought down interest rates to disincentivise savings. For its part, the government can cut direct taxes — indirect taxes are within the ambit of the GST Council — as it did in the LTC cash voucher scheme last October. Similarly, Budget may announce steps to incentivise the purchase of affordable houses, cars etc.

Similarly, investments by businesses had been falling even before Covid hit. Unsure if consumers will spend, businesses continue to hold back fresh investments. In 2019, the government cut corporate income taxes. Now it will have to find other ways to incentivise investments.

CESSES AND SURCHARGES

Of the two certainties of human life — death and taxes — only one can be compounded. When a Central government imposes a new tax on an existing tax, it is referred to as a Cess (if it is for a specific purpose, say, Swachh Bharat Cess) or a surcharge (if purpose not specified). For taxpayers, a tax by any other name would cost just as much. But for Centre, Cesses and surcharges smell sweeter than regular taxes because such revenues don't have to be shared with the state governments. Don't be surprised if a Covid Cess makes an appearance on Monday.

DEBT

There is tough competition for this letter this year. You are likely to hear a lot about Digitalisation — across fields. You might also learn how pent-up Demand has led to India's 'V-shaped' recovery or what the Budget will do to bolster India's Defence against Chinese aggression. But the most important word this year could well be "debt". Or, to be precise, Debt-to-GDP ratio. The Budget may signal a shift away from targeting fiscal deficit (or total borrowings) as a percentage of GDP to targeting total debt as a percentage of GDP. Total debt is nothing but the debt of the past years plus the borrowings in the current year. The significance: this shift may allow the government to spend more (breaching the existing fiscal deficit norms) in the next few years and still appear to be fiscally responsible.

EDUCATION

Apart from the hit to the physical health of Indians, especially child malnutrition, Covid's second-biggest long-term adverse impact is the disruption of educational attainment. Even without Covid, India's educational achievements were alarmingly poor as showcased repeatedly by annual ASER reports. The past year has deepened inequalities thanks to the digital divide. Expect the Budget to redouble the government's efforts to bridge the digital divide. If this happens, it will be a small price to pay to put up with a slew of rather inelegant policy names starting with "e—".

FDI AND FPI

For a country that suddenly decided to become *atmanirbhar* after Covid, it is quite remarkable how India routinely celebrates every increment of foreign investment — direct or portfolio. Of course, India is a capital scarce (read poor) country and so it makes a lot of sense to acknowledge foreigners investing in India. PM Modi has promised to be the bridge between the cash-rich foreign businesses and India.

GDP GROWTH

The government aims to turn India into a gas-based economy (no pun intended). This involves improving gas pipeline connectivity as well as turning farmers from 'Anna (food)-data (giver)' into 'Urja (energy)-data'. However, the more important question that the Budget has to answer is: What will drive fast economic growth in a sustainable manner? India's growth rate decelerated sharply from 8.3% in 2016-17 to 4.2% in 2019-20. In other words, just before Covid hit India at the end of 2019-20, India grew by just about 4% with almost all engines of growth — private consumption, business investments, and exports — faltering. Government spending, the last engine, can boost growth in the short-term but fast growth cannot be sustained without private consumption and business investments.

HEALTHCARE

The central takeaway from Covid is that India's private healthcare infrastructure — as efficient and as affordable as it may appear in global comparisons — is neither as efficient nor as affordable in times of a crisis. The upshot being: India needs to boost investments in public healthcare provisioning. For a country of India's size and GDP, Indian governments have spent abysmally low on healthcare. But the massive demand for healthcare is also an opportunity for India to grow and create new jobs. If a once-in-a-century pandemic can't induce a quantum leap in healthcare budget, what can?

INFRASTRUCTURE

No matter which way one looks at it, the past year has seen a massive rise in inequality. The rich have got richer and the poor have got poorer. For instance, in 2020, India's per capita income has fallen to levels last seen in 2017 and the average GDP contracted by over 7%. Yet, listed companies retrenched employees and cut expenditure to notch up 20%-25% profits on average.

In essence, the losses of the have-nots were far deeper than what the average decline shows. Informal, unskilled, young, women — all have found themselves significantly worse off. But, given the parlous state of government finances, it is unlikely that inequality will elicit a significant response.

JOBS

Persistently high unemployment not only reflects poorly on the government but also threatens social order. Even before Covid, India was witnessing very high levels of unemployment — the highest in several decades. Covid just made that worse. The government can either focus on financing ever-growing social securities or take a leaf out of Thomas Sowell's book when he says that "the real minimum wage is zero unemployment".

KISAN

The farm sector suffered due to back to back droughts in 2014 and 2015 before demonetisation in 2016 turned out to be an even bigger strain. Since then, however, farmers have enjoyed political heft via forcing massive loan waivers and the first-of-its-kind direct cash transfers scheme — the PM-Kisan (Kisan Samman Nidhi) Yojna. But since the passage of three farm laws last year, the distance between the farmers and the PM seems to have increased. Raising the outgo under PM-Kisan is one way to assuage hurt farmers.

LABOURER

Last year saw lakhs of migrant labourers first getting stranded away from their homes and then, in the absence of timely and adequate support from the government, literally walking back thousands of miles. What made matters worse for them was when several states decided to summarily disband almost all labour laws under the misplaced notion that setting aside even minimum wage and the most basic safety requirements would somehow lead to a surge in corporate investments. For a while, they were provided succour through the much-maligned rural jobs guarantee scheme. But as the economy returns to the normal rate of functioning, there is a need to ensure that India's labourers — migrant or otherwise — do not suffer the same way again.

MEDIUM-TERM

Each year, the government's Budget documents include a thin note called the "Medium term fiscal policy cum fiscal policy strategy statement". This is rarely read by most because budgets are, by definition, annual exercises. But this year, there is more curiosity about India's "medium-term" prospects — roughly the period between 1 to 5 years hence. Why? To ease the demons of uncertainties and provide a predictable policy environment for all economic agents to get back to normal economic behaviour.

NPAS

It can be argued that the biggest macroeconomic hurdle facing the Indian economy between 2010 and 2020 (until Covid hit) was the high level of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking system. These, in turn, hit the bank's profitability. In the past decade, several public sector banks suffered such high NPA levels that even their viability came under question. Covid is expected to almost double the level of NPAs when India starts recognising the true extent of damage next financial year. The FM would thus need to budget for money that the government would need to "recapitalise" public sector banks. In other words, just like India has pent up demand driving the recovery, it also has pent up bankruptcies that are less talked about.

OUTPUT LOSS

In the current financial year, India's growth will contract by almost 8%. Next year (2021-22), it will

SKILLS

Data shows that even without Covid, formal manufacturing in India has grown more and more capital intensive over the years. In other words, firms are replacing labour with capital (read machinery). This is true even for the so-called labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and jute. While this may be great for consumers, for the large swathes of unemployed and lowly skilled Indians, this is a terrifying prospect. The government hopes that the private sector (see W) will create the millions of jobs required to soak up India's labour force. But that may not happen thanks to a continued preference for automation to drive down costs. Skill up-gradation and re-skilling is no longer a question of policy choice; it is an imperative.

TAX RELIEF

Before every Budget there are two innocent-sounding demands from the people. One, they want the government to spend more and two, they want the government to reduce their taxes. Of course, both things can't happen because the government's money is nothing but the taxpayer's money. From the government's perspective, the trick lies in choosing who to tax for raising the additional revenues. In 2019, for example, before the Lok Sabha election, the government provided income tax relief for individual taxpayers. After the elections, it sharply cut corporate tax rates. This year, though, it is unlikely that any massive tax relief will happen because the government is already struggling to meet its expenses.

URBANISATION

That India lives in its villages is no longer just a fact but the articulation of a problem. If India has to grow — that is, if India's per capita GDP has to rise — then Indian cities have to grow and prosper. There are just too many people in rural India and not enough scope for increased productivity in our villages. The question is: Do our cities have that potential? Can they provide basic amenities for India to transition into a broad-based modern economy? Does our Budget reflect this vision?

Vaccination

Even though India prides itself for taming the Covid curve, the return to normal growth will depend on how quickly and effectively

India vaccinates itself. The global collaboration around finding the Covid vaccine also puts in perspective the calls of being "vocal for local".

WAGES VS WEALTH CREATORS

Over the years, the relative size of the Central government budget has reduced. Today, all the states spend 1.5 times the Centre. The Centre cannot be the prime job creator for the country. The push towards disinvestment and privatisation should be seen in this context. PM Modi has repeatedly exhorted the importance of "wealth creators" in a move to present businessmen and women in a more positive light. This is happening at a time when wages — the fruits of labour (as a factor of production) — have barely grown. In fact, according to International Labour Organisation's Global Wage Report 2020-21, in India, formal workers' wages were cut by 3.6% while informal workers have experienced a much sharper fall in wages of 22.6%. Contrast this with over 20% profits booked by listed companies (entrepreneurs) last year.

X-FACTOR

India is coming back from its worst year as an economy. On paper, the coming year will likely see double-digit GDP growth rates. It is unlikely that the FM will not capture the essence of this confidence in the form of some poetry. So which poet will it be this year? Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar has already been pressed into service far too often. President Ram Nath Kovind has already quoted Malayalam poet Vallathol. The odd-on favourites is Tulsidas with some rousing couplet from *Ramcharitmanas* but, given the farmer protests, the dark horse is Guru Tegh Bahadur.

YOUTH

According to the UN Population Fund, India will continue to have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030. It is also true that India has the most number of malnourished children in the world, one of the most malnourished adolescents population, the highest number of poor on the planet. On education too, India's massive technical pool cannot hide the millions of unskilled (read unemployed) and unemployed youth. As the first one for this decade, this Budget has its job clearly defined.

ZZZZZ

Abraham Lincoln, the greatest American President before Donald Trump (according to Trump), once apologised thus: "I'm sorry I wrote such a long letter. I did not have the time to write a short one." Last year, FM Sitharaman delivered the longest-ever Budget speech — lasting almost 2 hours 40 minutes. Hopefully, she has had the time to write a significantly shorter one this year.



Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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I don't wish to anticipate the Budget. There is a universal demand for increase in investment in health infrastructure and increase in defence expenditure, and I support that demand. The FM may provide more funds under the two heads. Otherwise, I have no expectations of this government. In the past, they have been exceptionally obstinate and impervious to good advice, and I do not see any change in their approach or behaviour

No expectations, no disappointment

NOTHING IS going well for the government. The farmers are angry, the protests have spread to other parts of the country, and the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are deeply hurt by what they believe to be the machinations of the central government and the BJP. China has dug its heels and has refused to vacate Indian territory that its troops have occupied. The Budget is being presented under extremely strained circumstances with lower revenues and higher demands. All but one ally have left the NDA; the crypto-allies (YSRCP, TRS, BJD, BSP) have distanced themselves on contentious issues; and the alienation between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition is complete.

The President's Address did not contain any new or imaginative agenda. The speech revealed that the government was looking at the country's future through the rear-view mirror. The next opportunity is the Budget for 2021-22.

DISASTER TO CATASTROPHE

I hope the Budget does not share the fate of the previous Budget (for 2020-21). That Budget began to unravel within weeks of its presentation. The Finance Minister herself unmade many of the announcements she had made. Even without the pandemic, the economy would have continued on the downward path that had begun in the first quarter of

2018-19 and continued for *eight* successive quarters ending March 31, 2020. The pandemic pushed the economy into an abyss: -23.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 and -7.5 per cent in the second quarter. Ms Sitharaman has the distinction of presiding over the first recession in forty years.

It is now acknowledged that the year 2020-21 will end with negative growth. The revenue target will be missed by a large margin, capital investment will take a hit, the revenue deficit will be close to 5 per cent and the real fiscal deficit will cross 7 per cent. Budget 2020-21 was a disaster at the start and will be a catastrophe at the end of the fiscal year.

The reality is that the economy is in a recession; current unemployment rates are high (rural: 9.2 per cent and urban: 8.9 per cent); anti-farmer laws and retrograde import/export policies for agricultural produce have hindered agricultural growth; the industry sector has not attracted huge investment; exports and imports are in the doldrums because of the government's protectionist policies and because the world's economy is limping; and inequalities have grown. India may have earned the prize for being home to the largest number of poor people, overtaking Nigeria. The foregoing is the contribution of the Modi government at the end of seven years!

K-SHAPED RECOVERY

There will be no V shaped recovery.

To search for one will be Vain and to predict one will be Vanity. The Chief Economist of IMF, Dr Gita Gopinath, has stated that the Indian economy will reach pre-COVID levels only in 2025. If there is a recovery of sorts, it will resemble the letter K — some will see their income and wealth grow while the majority will suffer pain and economic loss. That is exactly what happened in the pandemic-affected year (2020-21) as revealed in a study by Oxfam titled 'Inequality Virus'.

I don't wish to anticipate the Budget. There is a universal demand for increase in investment in health infrastructure and increase in defence expenditure, and I support that demand. The FM may provide more funds under the two heads. Otherwise, I have no expectations of this government. In the past, they have been exceptionally obstinate and impervious to good advice, and I do not see any change in their approach or behaviour.

I shall make my wish list secure in the knowledge that they will be ignored by the government! In the unlikely event of some suggestions being accepted, it would certainly not be acknowledged!

My Wish List

Here goes my list (and I have deliberately limited it to 10):

1. Impart a large fiscal stimulus to the economy, even if it is belated.
2. Make direct cash transfers to 30 per cent of the families at the bottom of the

economy for a period of six months and review the situation afterwards.

3. Devise a rescue plan for MSMEs in order to reach pre-slowdown production levels and recover the jobs that were lost.

4. Reduce tax rates, especially the GST rates, and the crippling taxes on petrol and diesel.

5. Increase government's capital expenditure. In the current year, the capital expenditure of the central government and state governments are falling woefully short of the budgeted amounts.

6. Lending must be increased. Hence, recapitalize public sector banks urgently and encourage them to lend without the fear that every loan will be probed by the investigating agencies.

7. Protectionism is outdated and wrong. Protectionism has hurt Indian industry. A current account surplus in a developing country is not a matter of celebration. Abandon the bias against imports, re-engage with the world and enter into bilateral trade agreements.

8. Formulate sector-specific revival packages for sectors such as Telecommunication, Power, Construction, Mining, Aviation and Travel, Tourism & Hospitality.

9. Review and rescind amendments to tax laws that are widely viewed as tax terrorism.

10. Review the regulations made by various regulatory bodies and correct the effect of over-regulation.

Since I have no expectations I am prepared to be disappointed on February 1.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Settle with the farmers, please

THE ONLY time I met the Pakistani father of the Khalistan movement he said something that I have remembered often in recent days. General Hamid Gul was in retirement in Rawalpindi when we met. It was just after Benazir Bhutto was killed and we had a long chat in his small, cozy living room. When the interview was over, he asked if I were a Sikh. I said I was, and he said with a note of regret in his voice, "The Sikhs should never have gone to India. They should have stayed here." My response was to say nothing, but Pakistan's first jihadist General's words have remained imprinted in my memory. As have those years of terrible violence when going to Punjab was so dangerous that most Delhi journalists never went till after Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was dead.

Often in the past few weeks as I have watched senior ministers call Sikh farmers 'Khalistanis', and famous TV anchors paint the farmers protest as nothing more than an attempt by the Sikhs to revive Khalistan, the words of General Gul have come back to me. They came back to me most terrifyingly last week when I saw the Khalsa flag raised on that sacred flagpole on the ramparts of the Red Fort, where only the Indian flag has ever been raised since August 15, 1947. There was much vandalism that day, but this was more than vandalism, it was a profanity.

It was also a reminder that Pakistan would like nothing more than to see a revival of the Khalistan movement. This was so essential a part of Pakistan's endless, cowardly, undeclared war against India that one of the founders of the R&AW revealed in an interview that when Benazir became prime minister and asked Hamid Gul, then head of the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence), to stop what he was doing in Punjab, he refused. He reportedly said, 'Madam, keeping Punjab destabilized is equivalent to the Pakistan army having an extra division at no cost to the taxpayers.'

After what happened on Republic Day it should be clear to even the stupidest of advisors in the Prime Minister's echo chamber that the farmers protest has become something bigger and more dangerous. On the farm laws, all that is left to say is that there is a total breakdown of trust. Farmers believe the new laws will destroy existing farm markets and throw them into the hands of private traders. They believe this is happening because the government is too broke to pay that Minimum Support Price (MSP) that guarantees them their meagre profit.

This may or may not be true but what is true is that there are very few rich farmers in India. On government friendly 'private' TV channels I have been astonished to hear commentators vent their rage against 'rich, greedy farmers'. If there were rich farmers there would be no need for a minimum support price. This is something that the 'agricultural experts' who devised the new farm laws appear not to have noticed. There is no question that reforms are needed in agriculture and a good first step might even be opening access to private markets but if farmers believe that this will leave them at the mercy of rich and ruthless traders, they will never see the new laws as an attempt at reform. It is true that they have been obdurate and unrelenting about their demand that the three laws be repealed but should the government not be trying to find out why?

It is possible that by the time you read this there would have been an attempt to crush the protests with police action. Signs of this became evident last week. What also became evident if you watched TV news is that a crackdown has the fullest support of the media. Anchors have made their loyalty to the government more than clear by raving on about how wrong it is to allow 'anarchists' to challenge the might of the Indian state.

My fervent hope is that if there is a crackdown it will not include the casual brutality that we usually see in such situations. My fervent hope is that somehow a way is found to persuade the farmers that they have won their battle and can now go home in victory. I am not given to fervently hoping for anything in this column but this time I do sincerely, for the reason that the thought of Punjab sliding back into another period of violence and chaos is too awful to think about. It could happen because this is exactly what the jihadist military men next door are trying to achieve. They have worked hard and long to stir up secession through shady Sikh organisations in north America who could not win an election in Punjab if they tried. What they can do, though, is destabilise India at a time when there is already enough trouble in another (former) state on our northern borders.

There is no question that it is Pakistan that has encouraged violence in Kashmir and Punjab. But, there is also no question that the door has been opened for this to happen by bad policies made in Delhi. The Prime Minister must desist from making the repeal of his farm laws a prestige issue because since last week there are signs that the problem India faces is much bigger and infinitely more dangerous than angry farmers.

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



SHRINKING SPACE

IT WAS apparent at the start of the Lok Sabha on Friday that the old order in Parliament has yielded to a completely new, unfamiliar world, at least for the media. Part of the change is the landscape. For instance, the landmark seated statue of the Mahatma has been shifted from the portico entrance in preparation for constructing a new parliament. Much of the compound has been dug up to relocate pipes, cables and other infrastructure. Entry for newpersons is through the Parliament Annexe. The number of journalists covering Parliament has been restricted to a bare minimum. The Railway canteen which handled catering for the Parliament complex, probably since its inception, has been replaced by the far more expensive India Tourism Development Corporation. Central Hall, the famous hub which served as a meeting place for senior scribes, MPs and ex- MPs, is out of bounds for all except sitting members. Some of these changes can be due to the pandemic and the building activity for a new parliament. But the reason for not renewing Lok Sabha passes for accredited journalists in the Long and Distinguished category seems part of a larger pattern for shrinking the media space.

NO HURRY

Indian diplomacy got a booster shot with the Covid vaccine exports. Our diplomats in the neighbouring countries pressed the MEA for getting the first batch of vaccines for the host countries to earn goodwill. In the running were: the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka. Brazil, with the second largest fatalities after the US, was first to make a down payment for a consignment. In the end, the government opted to dispatch the first batch to Bhutan. Ironically, the Bhutanese will not utilise the vaccines for well over a month since an inauspicious period, 'Dana', begins shortly and would end only in early March. The Bhutan government intends to launch a vaccination drive at the end of Dana.

NO PHOTO-OP

Amit Shah cancelled his trip to Chennai on January 14 where he was to be the chief guest at the anniversary celebrations of the *Thuglak* magazine now edited by the Sangh ideologue S Gurumurthy. Instead, he flew to Ahmedabad for a kite flying festival. Shah

who met Tamil Nadu CM E K Palaniswami later this month in Delhi expressed annoyance that the BJP in Tamil Nadu had wasted a precious six months because Gurumurthy had led the party to believe that actor Rajinikanth would ally with them. He also vetoed Gurumurthy's proposal to include V K Sasi-kala in the AIADMK-BJP alliance. Incidentally, there was much speculation in the Tamil media as to why Narendra Modi was missing in the posters showing EPS and Shah together announcing the BJP-AIADMK alliance. The explanation was simple: Modi was sitting at one end of the 12-foot-long Cabinet table in Delhi and EPS at the opposite end. It was hard for lensmen to capture them in the same frame. And because presenting shawls and garlands is banned due to the pandemic, there was no photo-op.

NEW AVATAAR

In his earlier stint as Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan prided himself on running an inclusive and conciliatory administration, which ensured all sections of society were on board, in contrast to UP CM Yogi Adityanath's divisive image. For instance, Madhya Pradesh's *kanyadaan* scheme for newly-weds included minorities. He hosted Iftaar parties for Eid where he donned a skull cap. He allowed exemptions to those not singing *Vande Mataram* or reciting the *bhajan mantra*. But in his new avataar, Chouhan appears to be modeling himself on Adityanath with a headline Hindutva approach since he can no longer risk displeasing Modi and Shah. Chouhan has introduced love jihad laws and imposed harsh penalties. Recently, the state police arrested comedian Munawar Faruqui for offending religious sentiments, even before the performer had actually uttered an offensive word.

YEDI'S 9 LIVES

In the last few months, it seemed as if the scandal-hit Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa might finally be on the way out. A powerful lobby led by BJP's general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh is against him. Besides, the unenviable task of meeting ministerial aspirations of MLAs who had defected from other parties and the old BJP loyalists was proving to be a huge headache. Yet, despite some hiccups, the 78-year-old war horse seems to have pulled it off again. Apparently, PM Modi and Amit Shah were against replacing Yediyurappa, fearing it would risk the fall of the government given its wafer-thin majority in the Assembly. Yediyurappa expressed gratitude, comparing Shah to Sardar Patel, both being Gujarati home ministers, which no doubt pleased Shah immensely. As Home Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, L K Advani, dubbed as Loh Purush, likewise was compared with the Sardar.

history
HEADLINE

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WHILE RAJINIKANTH'S on again-off again flirtation with politics seems indefinitely suspended for now, it adds another chapter to the ties between Tamil Nadu politics and its film industry. And though MGR remains its most successful link — for reasons beyond his stardom — this story doesn't begin or end with him.

If S S Rajendran, Sivaji Ganesan, Jayalalithaa, Captain Vijayakanth are the more known examples, and Kamal Haasan hopes to join their ranks, there were others who fell along the way. The common thread is that unlike other parts of the country, cine stars entering politics in Tamil Nadu have failed to click without a solid grounding in political ideology.

A scholar of South Asian cinema, Gopalan Ravindran, who teaches at the Central University of Tamil Nadu, points out that the founder of Dravidian movement, Periyar, didn't view film stars favourably. "But Annadurai (Periyar's disciple who left to set up the DMK) was a theatre artiste and writer, and roped in his followers like Karunanidhi and MGR to communicate with people. Annadurai used a combination of mediums... There were also many factors... cinema was not seen as a separate entity unlike today," Ravindran says.

The actors too belonged to the post-Independence era where nationalism was often reflected that, along with themes of socialism.

One of Annadurai's first choices was K R Ramaswamy or KRR. A much-in-demand actor at the time (1950-60s), who starred in both theatre and films, Ramaswamy was a committed DMK functionary who kept aside his entire remuneration for the party. Soon after, the DMK had two more actors in its ranks, S S Rajendran a.k.a SRR and Sivaji Ganesan. More popular than Rajendran, Sivaji too was a diehard DMK functionary. It was when he got too busy with his movie career, and branched onto mythological movies (seen at variance with the DMK's professed atheism) that the space vacated by him in the DMK was filled by M G Ramachandran.

Gopalan says that unlike Sivaji, MGR

The common thread is that unlike other parts of the country, cine stars entering politics in Tamil Nadu have failed to click without a solid grounding in political ideology



On December 29, Tamil superstar Rajinikanth announced that he would not enter politics owing to his ill health. *File*

was clear about his political ambitions and worked on this. "He picked roles where he was cast as an idealistic man, and cultivated an image of being benevolent to the poor. He marketed and branded himself for the masses." If J Jayalalithaa was his protege, M Karunanidhi wrote the scripts for many of MGR's films, with both eventually joining politics. Karunanidhi carved a separate space on the strength of his writings, both for theatre and film, and his poetry.

This is where the older film stars differ from Rajinikanth's ambitions, despite the latter's unsurpassed success and name recognition that extends to North India.

Tamil film historian Theodore Bhaskaran calls a comparison between MGR and Rajinikanth "foolish". "Right from his 30s, MGR was active in politics, initially in the Congress and then the DMK. When he left the DMK to form the AIADMK after party founder C N Annadurai's death, the followers he took along with him were not mere film fans but a highly political, homogenous set of people, unlike Rajini-

kanth's heterogenous fans," he says.

Apart from this, MGR was a powerful orator with complete command over the Tamil language, Bhaskaran says, with Rajinikanth trailing on both accounts.

This is why, Bhaskaran feels, that despite all the hype surrounding any announcement by Rajinikanth regarding politics, he will fail if he rests on "mere stardom", without firm politics or ideology.

One of the most recent examples of this is Captain Vijayakanth, whose DMDK blazed to the second-highest number of seats after the winner AIADMK in the 2011 Assembly polls, but is now reduced to zero MPs and MLAs. Kamal Haasan's party Makkal Needhi Maiam failed to open an account in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, with its vote share not crossing even single digits.

Kalaippulli S Thanu, a veteran Tamil film producer known for several Rajinikanth superhits including *Kabali*, says the success of film stars in politics is a thing of the past, and not just because they are not as rooted in politics as before. Actors had a certain aura, Thanu points out, with a larger-than-life image, accessible only on the big screen. "Also, unlike the past, fans too are no longer political."

She
SAID

SHRUTHI RAMAKRISHNAN

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THE JUDGMENT of the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, which held that groping "without skin-to-skin contact" does not amount to "sexual assault" under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, has evoked immense criticism. While the Supreme Court has now stayed the controversial order, the interpretation of the offence and the Act by the High Court is problematic at several levels.

In the case, the perpetrator pressed the 12-year-old victim's breast and attempted to remove her salwar, at which point the child screamed and was swiftly rescued by her mother. The accused was convicted by the trial court under Section 8 of the POCSO

Bizarre interpretation, problematic order

Act, read with IPC Sections 354 (sexual assault and criminal force with intention to outrage the modesty of a woman), 363 (kidnapping), and 342 (wrongful confinement).

Section 7 of the POCSO Act defines sexual assault of a child as "whoever, with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus, or breast of such person...." In a marked departure from the most obvious interpretation of the clause that has been applied in the last nine years, the single judge HC bench stated, "as per the definition of sexual assault, a 'physical contact with sexual intent without penetration' is an essential ingredient of the offence", with "physical contact" requiring "skin-to-skin contact" and not just any contact.

The judge did not interpret the offence to constitute an attempt to commit sexual assault under the POCSO Act, and instead

chose to apply Section 354 of the IPC, a colonial provision that punishes "assaults" or use of "criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage... her modesty", which carries a significantly lenient punishment.

The high court's bizarre interpretation has even more absurd implications for the other provisions of the POCSO Act. For instance, Section 3 defines 'penetrative sexual assault' as being committed whenever there is a penetration of any object, penis, or hand to any part of the vagina, anus, mouth, or urethra of the child; or if the accused "applies his/her mouth to the private parts of the child". This section, like Section 7 does not explicitly state 'direct contact'. Then, the Bombay HC's 'logic' would mean that if a perpetrator uses a condom while penetrating the child, it would not constitute an offence since there was no 'direct contact'.

Also, sexual assault under the POCSO Act, 2012, carries a minimum of three years imprisonment which may extend to five years, in addition to a fine. In comparison, Section 354 of the IPC carries only one year of minimum imprisonment. If the impetus for such a judgment was to spare the perpetrator from the stringent punishment of the POCSO Act, this reluctance warrants close inquiry.

A look at the trial court's judgment also reveals another gross oversight. The birth certificate of the child accepted by the trial court shows she was born on May 25, 2005, and at the time of the offence (December 14, 2016), she was 11 years old. So, in fact, it's not sexual assault under Section 7, but aggravated sexual assault under Section 9 of the POCSO Act which carries a minimum of five years imprisonment. In most POCSO cases, the defence

aggressively questions the victim's age to remove the application of the Act which only applies to those below the age of 18. In the recent case, the defence did not raise the issue as it would only sabotage their case, and neither of the courts undertook the inquiry.

This oversight, coupled with the case being delayed for nearly four years, and the tactless interpretation of the HC seriously impairs the effective implementation of the POCSO Act. While the Supreme Court has stayed the order after it was argued that the judgment was "likely to set a dangerous precedent", it remains to be seen how the apex court responds to this unprecedented interpretation of the POCSO Act.

Shruthi Ramakrishnan is a legal researcher working on child rights. National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JANUARY 31, 2021

9 ECONOMY

STRENGTH RISES TO 713 AS OF NOV, COMPARED TO 669 AS OF MAR: ECO SURVEY

Growing airline fleet in India bucks Covid distress trend

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDUCTION OF 44 new aircraft by India's largest airline IndiGo — the highest delivered to any single airline by French manufacturer Airbus in 2020 across the globe — and a three-fold increase in number of dedicated air freighters to 20 ensured that India's fleet strength number bucked the trend of aviation industry's poor performance in a year marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. As per information provided in the Economic Survey for 2021-22, tabled before Parliament on Friday, the total fleet strength of Indian carriers increased to 713 as of November 2020, compared to 669 as of March 2020.

This was in variation with most major indicators such as passenger traffic, cargo tonnage, deployed capacity and airline revenues,



A fleet of airplanes at the IGI airport in New Delhi. Express file

which buttressed the fact that 2020 was the worst year for the aviation sector in history.

Airframe maker Airbus said that it delivered 57 aircraft in 2020 to Indian carriers, of which 44 were to IndiGo. In addition to this, IndiGo also inducted ATR turbo-prop planes. "We are honoured to have delivered 57 aircraft to our customers in India in 2020, which was a little over 10 per cent of all

Airbus commercial aircraft deliveries for the year ... This shows the intrinsic strength and resilience of the Indian commercial aviation sector. It also demonstrated our ability to adapt quickly ... we remain cautiously optimistic as we begin 2021, although challenges and uncertainties remain high," Remi Maillard, president & MD, Airbus India & South Asia told *The Sunday Express*. The remaining air-

craft by Airbus were delivered to airlines such as Vistara and GoAir.

Globally, Airbus delivered 566 aircraft in 2020, down from 863 in 2019. Vistara also took deliveries of two Boeing 787 wide-bodied planes from the American plane-maker during the year — the first of which was delivered in February. In addition to passenger aircraft, airlines such as SpiceJet also continued to expand their cargo fleets given the disproportionate fall in capacity when compared with the fall in demand for air cargo transport. In August 2020, SpiceJet inducted the Airbus A340 aircraft its first wide-bodied cargo aircraft. With this induction, SpiceJet's dedicated freighter fleet had nine aircraft comprising five Boeing 737s, three Bombardier Q-400s and one Airbus A340. Between then and December, the airline inducted eight more freighter planes. Continued to take in more planes well

into the new year and added two more wide-bodied freighters — Boeing 767 and Airbus A330 — to its fleet in January. After the inductions of these two planes, the company's total cargo fleet size increased to 19, including five wide-body aircraft.

Apart from SpiceJet, logistics firm BlueDart operates a fleet of six Boeing 757 wide-bodied aircraft in the country. Meanwhile, the Economic Survey predicted that air passenger travel and aircraft movements would reach pre-Covid level in early 2021 "as a result of swift and decisive interventions and effective measures put in place by the government". Currently, these numbers are operating at around 70 per cent of pre-Covid level. The government has imposed a restriction allowing airlines to operate only 80 per cent of their scheduled flight capacity on the domestic sectors.

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT & MD, MG MOTOR INDIA

‘GST rationalisation, scrappage policy a must for spectacular growth’

THOUGH THE passenger vehicle segment has witnessed a good recovery over last three months, there is a sense that for the growth to continue, the economy has to grow. RAJEEV CHABA, president and MD, MG Motor India, told SANDEEP SINGH that besides road infrastructure that is speeding at a good pace, the industry needs reforms such as rationalisation of GST and scrappage policy for a strong growth going forward. Having already launched an EV in Indian market, he said the company is working to bring another EV at price point of less than Rs 20 lakh. Edited excerpts:



Rajeev Chaba

While the industry has seen growth in the last quarter, do you see it sustaining?

After the pandemic and lockdown the situation was grim. Unemployment started in June-July and, by September, the industry started doing fine. By December, enough people started coming to showrooms. While demand rose on account of preference for personal mobility and pent-up demand, these factors can only sustain demand for this quarter (January to March). After that, it has to be more than feel good and individual factors and has to align with the economy. So, in medium to long run it will depend on economy. We all hope that the Budget would be good and the real factors would come into play for the economy.

What is your plan on EVs?

Electric vehicle is a strategic play for us and government is also pushing it. EV was our second product in India. We are not only working on the product side but on the overall ecosystem. We are working with students, startup world and institutions that are pioneering innovation. We are working with enablers to get the game going on technology side.

You will hear more news in future on battery technology in terms of mileage, consistency of mileage, range of 500 km and we are hopeful that we will launch that in 18 months. We are also exploring if we can do a car that is under Rs 20 lakh. We are thinking of a second EV in two years time and

also talking of battery assembly and having serious engagement with certain players to do that in India. We are also collaborating on chargers, end of life cycle-battery disposal system, battery mining system (can we have second life of the battery), among others.

There is a border situation with China and it does play on people's mind. How has it been a challenge for you?

In general, politics is something else. Government comes out with right policies for the country and for sectors where they want investment or don't want investment. So, that we will leave it to the government and comply with all government guidelines. As far as consumers are concerned, I think that normally consumers don't go by origin of the country consideration. For them the whole value proposition has to be good. Our brand pillars which hold us in good shape are — technology, customer experience and community diversity. There would always be some customers who would not buy product of a certain country because of their beliefs or biases, or experiences be it China, Japan, Germany or America. What we need to ensure is that our product remains relevant to consumers.

Does this border situation cross your sponsors mind in holding back plans for India?

Overall, obviously, if there is no change ... We don't know about the future because it all depends upon

the situation. But, as of now, our cars are doing well and we are receiving good response from consumers and we are able to sell and are expanding. I don't know about the future, how it will shape up but we are expanding our capacity to up to 1 lakh cars.

Over last five years, we have seen a decline in pace of industry growth. What are the biggest factors impacting it?

Even pre-Covid, 2-3 factors limited the growth auto sector. Automotive sales growth is linked clearly to the country's economy. Our GDP growth has been pretty average and anaemic and that has been one reason. Second is that the cost of buying kept going up because of various regulations, features and also because of cost of operations as gasoline prices rose. The third factor, I would say is that the big cities like Mumbai, Delhi were not growing at same pace because of shared mobility and consumption peaked and started to decline. These were some reasons that limited the growth of automotive. I don't expect spectacular growth unless there are big reforms such as rationalisation of GST and scrappage policy, which is a must. The third is the road infrastructure, which is speeding at a good pace. These all could lead to spectacular growth.

You operate in a segment that has been doing well — SUVs. What are the localisation levels you have achieved?

We have three SUVs and they have all been doing well. Now, we plan to launch our fourth product which will also be an SUV. For EV and the Gloster, the volumes are small, but for Hector, which is a volume player, we are at 70-80 per cent depending on model range. We intend to raise localisation by another 8-10 per cent over the next 18 months and we are looking at investing more money in localisation efforts.

We have already committed Rs 3,000 crore and, this year, we should be doing another Rs 1,500 crore for new product, enhancing capacity in the plant and on vendor localisation.

TELECOM WATCH NEW SERVICES

5G roll-out: How cut in notice period will smoothen process

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) on Thursday reduced the notice period for telcos to 6 months for rolling out new service by using new technology. This notice period was earlier one year for telcos.

Why do telcos need to give notice before launching new services?

As part of the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), whenever a new company wants to enter into the telecommunications market or an existing telecom company wants to launch a new technology, a notice period of one year had to be given to the DoT so that the authorities could make arrangements for the spectrum required. The first NFAP released in 1986, has since then been revised multiple time to suit the growing number of users in the country as well as the demands of the telecom companies. The Union government owns all the publicly available assets within the geographical boundaries of the country, which also include airwaves. With the expansion in the number of cellphone, wireline telephone and internet users, the need to provide more space for the signals arises from time to time.

The spectrum waves, however, are also used by agencies such as the Indian Space Research Organisation and defence systems for secure communication. Some companies

also buy some spectrum for establishing secured communication between their various locations. The DoT thus mandates that all such new technologies being launched for commercial purposes give a notice period.

How will the reduced period help in faster 5G roll out?

In the notice inviting applications for the spectrum auctions to be held in March, the DoT amended the clause by cutting down the notice period to 6 months from one year. A total of 2,251.25 MHz of spectrum across 7 frequency bands at a reserve price of Rs 3.92 lakh crore has been put up for sale.

While in this auction the government has put up, on auction, frequency bands only for 4G services could mean that the telecom companies could start limited commercial testing of 5G services on frequency bands that are being auctioned in March. For example, on Thursday, Bharti Airtel 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 level of mobile telephony.

The network has been rolled out on a use case basis on a non-standalone basis on the 1,800 MHz frequency band. The roll out on a non-standalone basis means that network can fall back on 4G if there are some glitches in the 5G network.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

RBI: Non-food bank credit grows at 5.9% in December

Non-food credit growth of banks stood at 5.9 per cent in December 2020, compared to 7 per cent in the same month of the previous year, Reserve Bank of India data showed



15.3% Growth in credit to medium industries, compared to 2.5 per cent a year ago

1.2% Growth in credit to micro and small industries in the reporting month as compared to 0.1% a year ago

Under pressure: Credit growth to rubber plastic and their products, cement and cement products, all engineering, beverages and tobacco, infrastructure, basic metal and metal products and construction decelerated/contracted

Source: RBI/PTI

Survey purpose not clear, says Chidambaram

New Delhi: Congress leader P Chidambaram has said the purpose of the Economic Survey is not clear as it aids the self-congratulatory conclusion that the Modi dispensation implemented "far sighted policy response for economic recovery".

The former Union Finance Minister took to Twitter to say that the "best decision" taken by the government is the decision not to print the Economic Survey.

"Now, the Survey has apparently a different purpose, although the purpose is not clear," he said in a tweet.

"All this in aid of the self-congratulatory conclusion that government implemented 'far sighted policy response for economic recovery,'" he said.

The government did not print the Economic Survey, presented in Parliament on Friday, and only a digital version was made available. PTI

Q3: ICICI Bank net rises 19%, asset quality improves

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

PRIVATE SECTOR lender ICICI Bank has reported a 19 per cent year-on-year rise in net profit at Rs 4,940 crore in the quarter ended December, compared to Rs 4,146 crore in the year-ago period.

The bank's asset quality improved, with gross non-performing assets declining to 4.38 per cent in the latest quarter from 5.95 per cent last year. The bank held aggregate Covid-19-related provision of Rs 9,984 crore, including contingency provision for proforma NPAs amounting to Rs 3,509 crore for loans not classified as non-performing in the wake of the Supreme Court's interim order.

The bank said the asset quality

Loans worth ₹8,280 cr were not classified as NPA, owing to the Supreme Court order, according to the bank

indicators are seeing an improvement. According to the bank, loans worth Rs 8,280 crore were not classified as NPA, owing to the Supreme Court order. This included retail loans worth Rs 7,521 crore and Rs 759-crore worth corporate and small business loans.

The bank said total deposits grew by 22 per cent year-on-year to Rs 874,348 crore, with 19 per cent growth in average current and savings account (CASA) deposits in Q3 of 2021.

Biyani: Amazon playing dog in the manger

New Delhi: Future Group promoter Kishore Biyani has alleged that Amazon is "playing the dog in the manger" and trying to create a confusion about the group's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Industries.

"... Amazon is playing the dog in the manger, going all out to create a ruckus ... For reasons we never believed earlier but quite evident today, this battle is about ownership of the Indian customer at any cost," he said in his letter written on Friday. Meanwhile, Amazon did not respond to emailed query on the matter.

Biyani said Amazon's policy of "vexatious litigation and harassment" was akin to Greek conqueror Alexander's ruthless ambition to scorch the earth.

Biyani said the Future Group was the target of a new form of attack and that a "corporate battle" is being fought for supremacy over Indian customers. PTI

Need to make efforts to get rating upgrade in line with fundamentals: CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIA WILL have to persistently make efforts for improvement in its sovereign rating by different global agencies in line with its economic fundamentals, Chief Economic Adviser K V Subramanian said on Saturday.

The Economic Survey presented in Parliament on Friday expressed concern over lower sovereign rating assigned by agencies like Fitch, S&P and Moody's to India despite its strong economic fundamentals. "We have made the case very very forcefully (to rating

agencies)... These changes happen over time. They don't happen instantaneously, but you have to continue making efforts," he told PTI in an interview.

The Survey said sovereign credit ratings methodology must be amended to reflect economies' ability and willingness to pay their debt obligations, and suggested that developing economies must come together to address this bias and subjectivity inherent in sovereign credit ratings methodology.

He added the country would witness revival of 'animal spirits' of private enterprises with the economy staging a 'V-shaped' 11 per cent growth in the next fiscal.

Delhi shifts stance, tweaks quarantine rules for UK flyers

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DELHI government has lifted the requirement of mandatory 7-day institutional quarantine for passengers arriving from the UK and testing negative for Covid-19 at the airport. This assumes significance as the Delhi government had earlier this month brought in the now revoked rule without sufficient notice — something which caught hundreds of passengers by surprise.

Rule for passengers arriving from the UK into Delhi

Earlier this month, with the Centre resuming flights from the UK that were banned on account of the mutated Covid-19 strain, the Delhi government had deviated from the Union Health Ministry's guidelines and mandated each and every passenger arriving from the UK to undergo institutional quarantine for seven days upon arrival. This was a surprise for more than 200 passengers onboard an Air India flight from London to the UK, given that the new rule had been notified after the flight took off from London. Air India, however, has contested this and said that passengers were informed about the change in rule at the London airport.

Norm relaxed

In a fresh order, the Delhi government has said that the situation has been reviewed and considering the low positivity rate of the UK returnees, it has been decided that the additional measure of compulsory institutional quarantine of travellers testing negative may not be required.

Status with UK flights



Sample for Covid test being collected at Indira Gandhi International Airport. File

Last month, the Indian government had decided to suspend all flights from the UK — and these were partially resumed January 8 onwards. This was done in light of the spread of the mutated coronavirus strain, which originated in the UK, and spread to over two dozen countries at the time, including in India. After assessing the situation pertaining to this mutated strain, the central government decided earlier this week to further extend the restrictions on number of flights from the UK till February 14.

Passenger guidelines

The travel guidelines for passengers remain the same in the extended restrictions. In line with the guidelines for other international arrivals, all inbound passengers from the UK will have to submit self-declaration form on the online portal (www.newdelhairport.in) at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel. All the passengers arriving from the UK also need to carry negative RT-PCR test report, for which test should have been conducted within 72 hours prior to undertaking the journey.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

New SBI Card MD & CEO

New Delhi: SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) on Saturday said Rama Mohan Rao Amara has taken charge as the new MD & CEO of the company.

TVS group firms to merge

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company on Saturday said the boards of TVS Holding Companies and TVS Investments and Holdings have approved a composite scheme of amalgamation and arrangement, which is to be filed with NCLT soon. PTI

GameStop 'tulip' may be a case for investor caution

REUTERS

NEW YORK, JANUARY 30

IT SOUNDS like the start of a parable: Investors stuck inside during a pandemic begin to bid up an asset until its price becomes untethered to reality. The value soars until one day the market runs out of buyers and freezes, causing prices to plummet and some unlucky few to lose fortunes more than ten times their annual incomes in the span of a few hours.

The date: February 3, 1636. On that day, the infamous Dutch tulip bubble burst during an outbreak of the bubonic plague, illustrating that asset prices can plummet just



GameStop Corp has soared 1,625% since January. Reuters file

as quickly as they soar, leaving only pain behind.

Now, almost exactly 385 years and another pandemic later, Wall

Street waits to see how long it will take for history to repeat itself.

Shares of video game retailer GameStop Corp have soared 1,625 per cent since the start of January. Driving the rally are individual investors who have been stuck at home for the last 10 months.

These amateur investors are buoyed by savings built up over the pandemic, two rounds of stimulus and near zero interest rates. "The reality is that GameStop doesn't hurt Wall Street. It might hurt a couple of hedge fund managers out there, but no one is going to cry for them. The people who will be losing life savings are small retail investors," said Ben Inker, head of asset allocation, GMO.

10 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



The Wockhardt plant in Wrexham. Reuters

BRITAIN

Man charged over package sent to AstraZeneca vaccine plant

A MAN has been charged after a suspicious package was sent to a factory in Wales that produces AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine resulting in a temporary suspension of manufacturing, British police said on Saturday. The Wockhardt plant in Wrexham provides so-called fill-and-finish capacity for AstraZeneca's British supply chain, which is the final manufacturing step of putting vaccines into vials or syringes and packaging them. Police said Anthony Collins, 53, was charged with dispatching the package in the post. It was "not a viable device", police said. **REUTERS**

IRAN

Tehran rejects new participants to nuclear deal

IRAN'S FOREIGN ministry rejected any new negotiations or changes to the participants of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, after French President Emmanuel Macron said new talks should include Saudi Arabia. "The nuclear accord is a multilateral international agreement ratified by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which is non-negotiable and parties to it are clear and unchangeable," Iran Foreign Ministry said. **REUTERS**

USA

11 soldiers hospitalised after drinking antifreeze

ELEVEN SOLDIERS at Fort Bliss in Texas remained hospitalised on Friday, one day after they drank antifreeze, believing it was alcohol, during a field training exercise, military officials said. Initial lab tests showed the soldiers were experiencing ethylene glycol poisoning after ingesting the antifreeze on the final day of a 10-day training exercise. Lt. Col. Allie Payne, a spokeswoman for the First Armored Division at Fort Bliss, said at a news conference. Colonel Payne declined to discuss the episode in detail, saying it remained under investigation by US Army Criminal Investigation Command. **NYT**



A municipal worker disinfects Eleftheria square in Nicosia, Cyprus, on Saturday. A steady decrease in new coronavirus infections three weeks into Cyprus' nationwide lockdown is allowing for the start of the gradual, targeted lifting of closures and restrictions, the country's health minister said last week. Reuters

WHO drops its opposition to vaccinating pregnant women

APOORVA MANDAVILLI
JANUARY 30

THE WORLD Health Organisation on Friday changed its guidance for pregnant women considering a Covid-19 vaccine, abandoning opposition to immunisation for most expectant mothers unless they were at high risk.

The change followed an outcry to the WHO's previous stance, which stated that the organisation did "not recommend the vaccination of pregnant women" with the vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

Several experts had expressed disappointment on Thursday with

the WHO's earlier position. The experts noted that it was inconsistent with guidance on the same issue from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and would confuse pregnant women looking for clear advice.

The vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, while they have not been tested in pregnant women, have not shown any harmful effects in animal studies. And the technology used in the vaccines is generally known to be safe, experts said.

The WHO's new phrasing reflects this information:

"Based on what we know about this kind of vaccine, we don't have any specific reason to

believe there will be specific risks that would outweigh the benefits of vaccination for pregnant women." The recommendation is now closely aligned with the CDC's stance.

Experts praised the shift.

"I was very pleased to see that WHO changed their guidance regarding offering the Covid-19 vaccine to pregnant women," said Dr Denise Jamieson, an obstetrician at Emory University and a member of the Covid expert group with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The association was among the many health organisations that had urged Pfizer and Moderna to speed up vaccine tests in pregnant women. **NYT**



The UAE's economy has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices, prompting tens of thousands of expatriates to leave. Reuters

UAE adopts amendments to grant citizenship to investors, professionals

REUTERS
DUBAI, JANUARY 30

THE UNITED Arab Emirates has adopted amendments that would allow the Gulf state to grant citizenship to investors and other professionals including scientists, doctors and their families, the government said on Saturday.

"The UAE cabinet, local Emiri courts and executive councils will nominate those eligible for the citizenship under clear criteria set for each category," Dubai's ruler and UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said in a twitter post.

"The law allows receivers of the UAE passport to keep their existing citizenship," Sheikh Mohammed added.

It was unclear if new passport holders would benefit from

the public welfare system. The UAE spends billions of dollars each year on free education, healthcare, housing loans and grants for its estimated 1.4 million citizens.

Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to employment. The government in recent has made its visa policy more flexible, offering longer residencies for certain types of investors, students and professionals.

Last year, the government extended its "golden" visa system which grants 10-year residency in the Gulf state - to certain professionals, specialised degree-holders and others.

An oil and gas producer, the UAE's economy has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices, prompting tens of thousands of expatriates to leave.

HD MEDIA SAYS GOOGLE 'THREATENS THE EXTINCTION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS' IN U.S.

West Virginia newspaper publisher sues Google, FB

TALI ARBEL
JANUARY 30

A WEST Virginia news publisher has filed an antitrust suit against Google and Facebook, who together receive roughly half of all digital ad dollars in the US and are facing antitrust charges from federal and state authorities.

The company, HD Media, owns several papers in the state, including the *Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington and the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*.

HD Media claims Google has



Daniel Pearl was killed while he was in Pakistan in 2002

Spokesperson Ned Price said on Friday that Blinken reinforced America's concern over Pakistan Supreme Court's ruling acquitting Pearl's killers.

"Blinken and Qureshi discussed how to ensure accountability for convicted terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and others responsible for the kidnapping and murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl," Price said in a readout of the call.

In addition, Blinken and Qureshi discussed the impor-

ance of continued US-Pakistan cooperation on the Afghan peace process, support for regional stability, and the potential to expand our trade and commercial ties, Price said.

The Pakistan Foreign Office said in a statement that the two leaders discussed "recent developments in the Daniel Pearl case" and Qureshi "underscored that it was important and in the mutual interest that justice is served through legal means".

Qureshi congratulated Secretary Blinken on assuming his office, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to forging a comprehensive partnership with the United States based on the convergence of interests on a whole range of issues, it said. **PTI**



Federal antitrust authorities have sued both Google and Facebook in recent months

so monopolised the online ad market that "it threatens the extinction of local newspapers across the country". The suit also alleges

that Google and Facebook conspired to further their dominance with a secret agreement, referring to a suit filed by 10 Republican attorneys general in December.

The company does not specify the impact on its business of the behavior of Facebook and Google beyond saying that it has hurt its ability to "effectively monetise its content" because Google is enabled to take an uncompetitive share of the news publisher's ad revenues.

It's the first antitrust lawsuit against a tech platform focused on news publishing, said David

CDC orders sweeping US transportation mask mandate as Covid rages

Face cover must on planes, trains, buses, taxis from Monday

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

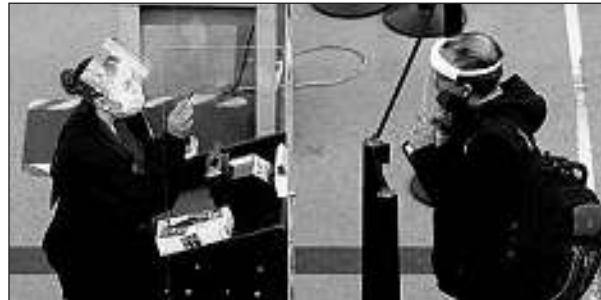
THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a sweeping order late Friday requiring the use of face masks on nearly all forms of public transportation as the country continues to report thousands of daily Covid-19 deaths.

The order, which takes effect on Monday, requires face masks to be worn by all travellers on airplanes, ships, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares and at transportation hubs like airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations and seaports.

US President Joe Biden on January 21 ordered government agencies to "immediately take action" to require masks in airports and on commercial aircraft, trains and public maritime vessels, including ferries, intercity bus services and all public transportation.

Under Donald Trump, who was president until Jan 20, a CDC push to mandate masks in transit was blocked and the agency instead only issued strong recommendations for mask use. Trump also rejected efforts by Congress to mandate mask use.

"Requiring masks on our transportation systems will protect Americans and provide con-



The order says passengers must wear a mask in transit except for brief periods, such as to eat, drink or take medication. Reuters

Govt backing for airlines' rules

MOST AIRLINES already require passengers to wear masks. But a number of travellers in the US have relentlessly refused to wear face coverings, leading to conflict with flight crew.

EXPLAINED

The new order by the CDC is expected to make it easier for airlines to enforce the requirement to wear masks, because a refusal to comply would be a federal offence.

fidence that we can once again travel safely even during this pandemic," said the 11-page order signed by Marty Cetron, director for CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine.

The CDC said people violating the order could potentially face criminal penalties but suggested civil penalties would be more

likely if needed. The order will be enforced by the Transportation Security Administration and federal, state and local agencies.

The order says passengers must wear a mask in transit except for brief periods, such as to eat, drink or take medication. Masks may be either manufactured or homemade. **REUTERS**

Myanmar's military allays coup fears, says it will protect constitution

REUTERS
YANGON, JANUARY 30

MYANMAR'S MILITARY said on Saturday it would protect and abide by the constitution and act according to law, a move that could allay concerns that the armed forces might attempt to seize power.

The statement comes a day after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Western embassies in Myanmar expressed serious concerns about the possibility of army intervention in Myanmar, a country ruled by the military for 49 years after a 1962 coup.

The military, known as the Tatmadaw, said recent remarks

by its commander-in-chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, about abolishing the constitution had been misinterpreted.

"The Tatmadaw is protecting the 2008 constitution and will act according to the law," it said. "Some organisations and media assumed what they want and wrote as Tatmadaw will abolish the constitution."

Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy Party (NLD), which won November's election in a landslide, called the statement a "suitable explanation". NLD spokesman Myo Nyunt told Reuters the party wanted the military to be an organisation "that accepts the people's desire regarding the election".

4-yr-old Sikh girl becomes one of youngest in UK to get into Mensa

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, JANUARY 30

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD British Sikh girl has become one of the youngest in the UK to be accepted into the elite Mensa club for people with a high intelligence quotient (IQ).

Dayaal Kaur, who lives with her family in Birmingham, had displayed exceptional learning abilities. She expressed an enthusiasm to appear for the Mensa test, conducted online from home due to the coronavirus lockdown, and achieved an IQ score of 145, which puts her in the top one per cent of the UK's population in the "very gifted or highly advanced" category.

"We are delighted to welcome Dayaal to Mensa, where she joins a community of about 2,000 junior and teen members," said John Stevenage, British Mensa's chief executive.

"Her family can make use of the supportive parents' network that has developed and we hope that as she grows up, Dayaal makes many lifelong friends and experiences some of the many learning and network opportunities that Mensa offers," he said.

Dayaal, whose dream for now is to become an astronaut and also to have a stable full of horses, took the test just before her fourth birthday in October last year. **PTI**

'WE NEED THIS CATALYST, NOW'

As protests grip Russia, Putin critics of many stripes rally around Navalny

ANTON TROIANOVSKI
MOSCOW, JANUARY 30

ALEKSANDR PASECHNIK, a socialist, sees the jailed opposition leader Aleksei Navalny as part of the "liberal intelligentsia". Mikhail Svetov, Russia's best-known libertarian, recoils from Navalny's economic populism. Olga Nikiforova, a monarchist, long refused to believe that Navalny was poisoned.

Yet despite their misgivings, all three risked arrest to join the protests that swept across Russia last weekend calling for Navalny's release — and were considering doing so again on Sunday.

"Entering a phase of intense crisis is a lesser evil than this slow degradation of the country," Pasechnik, 42, said. "We need this catalyst, now."

Opposition to President Vladimir Putin has come in many hues — from Stalinists who dream of resurrecting the planned economy, to nationalists who want to restrict migration and annex more of Ukraine, to liberals who long for democracy and closer ties with the West. Rarely have these disparate groups come together as they have in the last week around Navalny — because the moment has arrived, more and more Russians say, when they can no longer abide passive acceptance of Putin.



"Entering a phase of intense crisis is a lesser evil than this slow degradation of the country," said Aleksandr Pasechnik, a socialist. NYT

"Navalny has, for the first time, sparked a Russian protest movement against the President," said Konstantin Gaaze, a sociologist at

the Moscow School for Social and Economic Sciences. "It is a historic moment for the country."

Putin is in position to ride out

the protests, as he has in the past, using a sprawling security apparatus adept at stifling discontent while avoiding large-scale repression that could inflame passions further. Even many of the protesters themselves said it would take far bigger crowds to persuade the Kremlin to change course.

Still, the latest flash of discontent is notable because it unites right and left, old and young; and the protesters, rather than vaguely targeting government officials, are unabashedly attacking Putin himself.

That means Putin faces an unusually volatile moment — as evidenced by the extraordinary spectacle recently of the President

personally denying Navalny's accusation that he had built himself a secret palace on the Black Sea.

Putin's usually atomised critics have come together around the figure of Navalny, 44, not for his political views but because he is perceived as a symbol of the main source of the anger that many Russians feel toward the Kremlin: injustice.

Vladimir Milov, a former deputy energy minister and now an adviser to Navalny, said the opposition leader's team did not view ideology as an important factor in mobilising protesters.

"The vast majority of people who come out are not partisans of any ideology or have specific views

— they just want change in the country," Milov said.

Navalny made a name as an anticorruption blogger in the early 2000s, but also engaged in nationalist politics, turning off many liberals. Three-quarters of the viewers of his "Navalny Live" YouTube channel were men, its director, Lyubov Sobol, told *The New York Times* last May. Sobol attributed that phenomenon to Navalny's brusque, radical style.

Yet last weekend, about 45 per cent of those at Navalny's rally in Moscow were women, and 42 per cent said they had never protested before this year, according to a group of sociologists who surveyed the crowd. **NYT**

BRIEFLY

CHHATTISGARH
Govt seeks list of Ram temple donation takers
Raipur: After complaints of fraudulent transactions surfaced in the name of Ram temple, the Chhattisgarh government has written to the Shriram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra Trust to list out the authorised personnel to whom funds can be donated. Chief secretary Amitabh Jain wrote to the general secretary of the Trust, alerting him about an incident in the Bilaspur district. "Some anti-social elements through individual, group and trust have been collecting money by getting fake receipts printed," the letter sent on January 28 read. "With the disclosure of the authorised list, the money donated by public would actually go towards building the Ram Mandir and the fraudulent activities not be repeated," the letter read.

ENS

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Two militants surrender after gunfight: cops
Srinagar: Two militants surrendered to security forces after an exchange of fire on Friday evening in Pulwama district, the Jammu and Kashmir police said Saturday, adding that one of them was injured and is being treated. Police said Akeel Ahmad Lone and Rouf Ahmad were affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen. They said Akeel was injured in the "initial exchange of fire" and was shifted to a hospital for treatment after his surrender. The gunfight broke out after a joint team of the J&K Police, Army and paramilitary forces cordoned off Lelhar village.

ENS

UTTAR PRADESH
Over 1,000 new Ganga aarti sites planned
Lucknow: In its bid to develop villages along the river Ganga as tourist spots and make people aware about the cleaning of the river, the Uttar Pradesh government is planning to build over 1,000 platforms in as many villages for daily Aarti, along with renovating temples and religious places here. According to information provided by the government, a total of 1,038 villages from Bijnor district in west to Ballia in east have been chosen for the project, and daily Aarti would be conducted with the help of public participation.

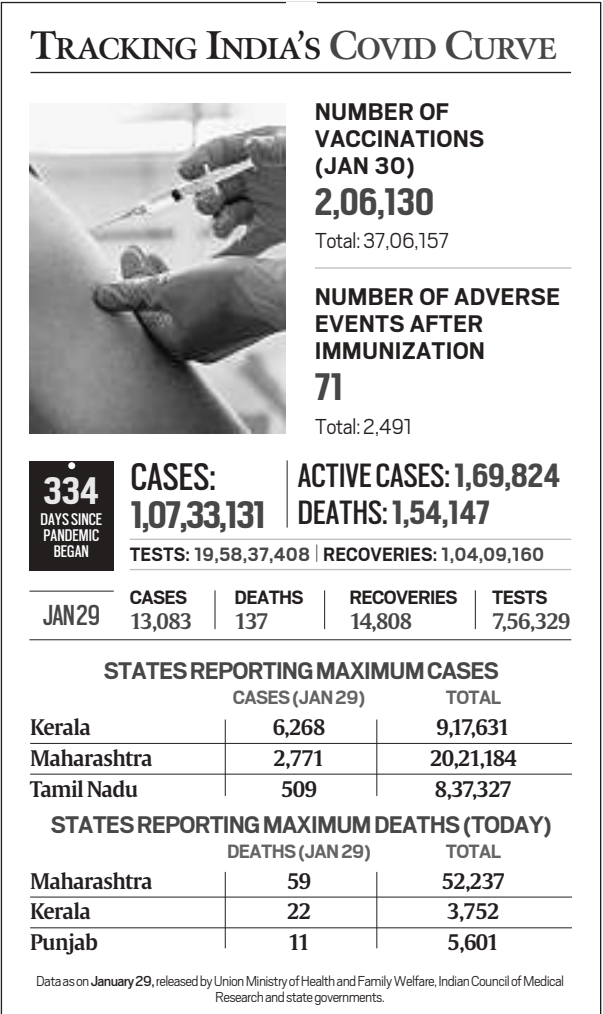
ENS

STATE BANK OF INDIA
LOCAL HEAD OFFICE, PATNA- 800001

INFORMATION
Applications are invited for premises for **SBI HOLIDAY HOME, PATNA**. Interested people/entities are requested to submit their application till **04.02.2021 by 3:30 PM**. For more details please visit Bank's website **www.sbi.co.in/procurementnews**
Assistant General Manager (HR)
State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Patna

FORM NO.15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL,
Wing: A, B & F (2nd Floor), Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchari Parisar (GPOA) Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, PATNA 800025
O.A. No. 66 OF 2020

Applicant..... State Bank of India, SARB, Patna.
Vs
Respondant defendants **M/S Janta Tubewell & ors.**
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.
TO,
1. **M/s Janta Tubewell** through **Sri Bhim Prasad (Prop.)**, Fida Hussain More, P.G. Road, Jehanabad 804408.
2. **Smt. Urmila Devi**, W/o **Sri Bhim Prasad**.
3. **C/o M/s Janta Tubewell**, Fida Hussain More, P.G. Road, Jehanabad 804408.
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for the Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 39,93,873/- (Rupees thirty nine lacs ninety three thousand eight hundred seventy three only)**
The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **03.03.2021 at 10.30 A.M** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned Herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **12th day of Jan., 2021.**
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA



Workers in Jammu on Saturday sanitise a classroom ahead of reopening of educational institutions after 10 months. PTI

NITI governing council to meet, discuss vaccine management in states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AMID COVID-19 vaccination drive, the NITI Aayog may soon call the next meeting of its governing council to discuss the issue of vaccine management in states, it is learnt.

Sources said the think tank has suggested a tentative six-point agenda for the meeting, for which a date has not been finalized yet.

The meeting comes in the middle of a massive, nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had chaired a meeting with chief ministers and administrators of all states and Union Territories to review the status and preparedness for Covid-19 vaccination, days before the national roll-out of the drive from January 16.

The council is chaired by the Prime Minister. Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors are its members. The council last met on June 15, 2019, soon after Modi returned to power. In the next meeting, the council is also expected to discuss the status of the global and Indian economy and the impact of Covid, sources said. Besides, issues related to water management, including "inter-river linkages", are also expected to be discussed, it is learnt.

Issues related to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission and Atmanirbhar Bharat are also on the tentative agenda, sources said.

Polls coming, Mamata shifts focus to party

Bengal CM spending more time on shaping poll campaign

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 30



Mamata Banerjee

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee has been concentrating more on the daily activities of Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders and the party's campaign over the past month, TMC leaders in the know said on Saturday.

Sources said that while earlier the chief minister concentrated on government work and regular administrative meetings, a group of senior leaders looked after the party's daily activities. At present, Banerjee is looking into the smallest details of the party's grassroots campaign.

"So far, her concentration was on providing good governance to the people of Bengal. She gave more time as a chief minister. But in the past month, things have changed. Now, she is spending more time on the party. She is not only infusing confidence in the rank and file, but is also personally looking into grassroots-level politics in the districts," said a senior TMC leader close to Banerjee.

The shift in focus has come at a time the BJP is trying to get several Cabinet ministers and MLAs over to its side. While the TMC chairperson has said that those seeking to leave the party should do so immediately, she is also personally looking into the genuine grievances of a section of the leadership. "Not only that she is listening to grievances personally but also preparing an alternative to leaders and MLAs who have left or are suspected would leave soon. She has already put in place an alternative list of leaders, ones better compared to those who have left or will leave. Some of the MLAs who have left would not have got tickets from the TMC this time," said a TMC leader.

Since last week, Banerjee has started chairing closed-door meetings with party leaders from each district. She has also held meetings with senior leaders. On Friday, she chaired a meeting with MPs, MLAs and leaders at her home in Kalighat in south Kolkata. Sources in the TMC said that such meetings would now be held regularly.

"She is planning everything. She is keeping an eye on the public statements made by leaders. The CM is implementing a roster for every leader. She has asked MPs and Cabinet ministers to give more time to the campaign. She has asked all leaders to hit the streets from February and take on the BJP. She is personally keeping a tab on all 294 Assembly seats in the state. It is like the old days," said a TMC MP who attended the Kalighat meeting.

It is learnt that Banerjee herself has decided to address more public meetings. The parliamentarian added, "She is personally looking into the details of the campaign — what our leaders should say to the public, how they will reach out to the people. She has also clarified the points through which we will target the BJP."

Matusas upset with Shah change of plans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 30

THE MATUA community on Saturday expressed dismay after Union Home Minister Amit Shah cancelled his public meetings in Matua strongholds Thakurnagar and Bongaon in North 24 Parganas district.

To placate the community, BJP national vice-president Mukul Roy and other party leaders rushed to Thakurnagar and promised that the revised schedule of Shah's trip would be announced in the next 48 hours. Shah, who was scheduled to hold public meetings on Saturday and Sunday, deferred his visit at the eleventh hour with the state BJP citing "unavoidable circumstances" and the "situation in Delhi" as reasons.

Matusas had expected Shah to clear the air on the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Matusas belong to the Scheduled Caste community and trace their ancestry to East Bengal. Many entered West Bengal after Partition.

Matua leaders claim that they comprise around 20 per cent of the state population and hold sway in around 35 to 40 Assembly seats.

Roy and other BJP leaders held talks with Matua representatives, including Bongaon BJP MP Shantanu Thakur, in Thakurnagar. When the meeting was on, a group protested the absence of Shah. Several Matusas had come to Thakurnagar from different parts of Bengal.

The TMC accused the BJP of misleading Matusas on the issue of citizenship. In a press conference in Kolkata, state Panchayat Minister Subrata Mukherjee said, "They (Matusas) are already citizens of the country. But the BJP wooed them during the Lok Sabha polls saying it would grant them citizenship. The BJP got Matua votes and got an MP elected from that area. But Matusas have voter cards. The state government has given them ration cards. They are already citizens. The state government gave them land deeds. If they are not citizens how could they get land deeds? The BJP misled them for votes."

CPM and Cong hit out at TMC, BJP in joint rally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 30

AT A joint rally of the Congress and the CPI(M) here on Saturday, CPI(M) politburo member Mohammad Salim said the Trinamool Congress and the BJP were two sides of the same coin, pointing out that the ruling party's leaders were now joining the saffron outfit.

Congress and CPI(M) leaders marched from Ramlila Maidan to the Gandhi Ashram in Belegata.

After the rally, Left Front chairperson Biman Bose said, "BJP always worshipped Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi. Now they are worshipping Netaji Subhash Chandra Basu to prove their patriotism. They are basically trying to create unrest in Bengal."

The Left and the Congress will contest the upcoming Assembly polls together, and are involved in seat-sharing talks with present. According to sources, they have already reached an understanding on 193 of the state's 294 Assembly seats.

SII applies for trials of another vaccine

Pune: Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla Saturday said his firm has applied to start the trials of another COVID-19 vaccine and that it hopes to launch it by June 2021.

SII has already produced Covishield, co-developed by the University of Oxford and British-Swedish company AstraZeneca. In a tweet, Poonawalla said, "Our partnership for a COVID-19 vaccine with @Novavax has also published excellent efficacy results. We have also applied to start trials in India. Hope to launch #COVOVAX by June 2021!"

PTI

Uttarakhand: 62 dead in human-animal conflict in 2020; over half in Sept-Dec

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 30

DATA RELEASED by the Uttarakhand Forest Department has revealed that 56 per cent of the human deaths in man-animal conflicts in 2020 occurred in the last four months of the year -- after the free movement of people resumed following the easing of curbs due to the pandemic-induced lockdown.

As per the records of the Forest Department, 62 people died and 286 were injured in man-animal conflicts in 2020. The maximum number of casualties – 30 deaths and 85 injuries – were by leopard attacks, followed by snake bites (15 deaths and 53 injuries), elephant attacks (11 deaths and 8 injuries) and bear attacks (86 injuries).

Wildlife experts say that during the lockdown, wild animals

EXPLAINED

Shrinking territory for animals

Uttarakhand has around 38,000 sq. km of forests—almost 71 per cent of its geographical area—and a significant human population resides in villages located in and around forest areas, both in the hills and plains. Forest officials say that as more and more people venture into wild animals' territories, and an increase in the population of animals has resulted in a rise in man-animal conflicts and an increase in the number of casualties of both humans and animals.

like leopards, tigers and elephants expanded their territory as human movement ceased. After the lockdown ended and as restrictions were eased, people entered these newly expanded territories and came in contact with wildlife, resulting in man-animal conflicts.

An analysis of the data reveals

that 35 human casualties (almost 56 per cent) and 146 injuries (51 per cent) were recorded between September and December.

According to a forest official, after the unlock, people started venturing into the forest more and more to collect wood and fodder, especially preparation for winter. This increased the possibility of

conflict with wild animals.

"Typically, young leopards and tigers like to travel long distances and start exploring new areas... When human activities stop, wild animals expand their territories and start using these areas," Wildlife Institute of India (WII) dean Dr Y V Jhala said.

Another takeaway from the Forest Department data was that despite lockdown and restrictions for large parts of the year, 2020 actually recorded a higher number of human casualties as a result of man-animal conflicts when compared to the figures of 2019 (58 deaths) and 2018 (52 deaths).

Head of Forest Force, Rajiv Bhartari said, "Department is planning to train members of voluntary village protection force in the villages for their capacity building and enhance their knowledge so physical barriers can be maintained properly."

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
DELHI SUBORDINATE SERVICES
SELECTION BOARD
FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092
www.dsssb.delhi.gov.in
F-55 (1474)/Exam/DSSSB/2019/Pt.file/2317 Dated: 22/01/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CONDUCTING OF SKILL TEST OF DIFFERENT POST CODES

All the Candidates those who are shortlisted in Written Examination for the following Post Codes are hereby informed that their Skill Test will be held at:

- Bhai Parmanand Institute of Business Studies, Near Vikas Marg Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.**
- Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University For Women, Kashmer Gate, Delhi-110054**

Sr. No.	Post Code	Post Name	Department	Date of Skill Test
1	21/18	Stenographer Gr.-III-	Services Department	09.02.2021 to 16.03.2021
2	65/14	Jr. Auditor (LDC)	MCD	
3	19/15	Jr. Clerk	DTC	19.02.2021 to 19.03.2021
4	41/15	Data Entry Operator	DAMB	
5	45/12	Data Entry Operator	NDMC	
6	65/15	Translator (Urdu)	DIP	
7	51/13	LDC	MCD	

The schedule date, time & place of skill test, Post Code wise and complete details are given in the Notice Number F.55(1474)/ Exam/ DSSSB/2019/Pt.file./2278 dated 18.01.2021 and Notice Number F.55(1474)/ Exam/DSSSB/2019/ Pt. file./ 2315 dated 21.01.2021 which are uploaded on the Official Website of DSSSB.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary (Exam)
DSSSB
DIP/Shabdarth/0586/20-21

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
DELHI SUBORDINATE SERVICES
SELECTION BOARD
FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092
www.dsssb.delhi.gov.in
No. F.55(1537)/Exam/DSSSB/2020/2343 Dated 22.01.21
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CONDUCTING DRIVING SKILL TEST OF DIFFERENT POST CODES

All the Candidates who are shortlisted in Written Examination for the following Post Codes are hereby informed that their Skill Test will be held at **IDTR, Adjoining Loni Road Flyover, Main Wazirabad Road, Delhi-110094 & IDTR, Adjoining ISBT, Sarai Kale Khan, Main Ring Road Delhi-110013 as per the given schedule:**

Sr. No.	Post Code/Post Name/ Department	Name of Centre	Exam date
1	154/14, Staff Car Driver, Delhi Prison	IDTR, Adjoining Loni Road Flyover, Main Wazirabad Road,	15.02.2021 16.02.2021 17.02.2021
2	73/12, Driver (Male) (LMV), Department of NCC	Delhi-110094	17.02.2021
3	72/12, Driver (Male) (HMV), Department of NCC		
4	74/12, Driver Heavy Motor Vehicle (Male), Directorate of Home Guards and Civil Defence		17.02.2021
5	154/14, Staff Car Driver, Delhi Prisons	IDTR, Adjoining ISBT, Sarai	15.02.2021 16.02.2021 17.02.2021
6	155/14, Driver, College of Arts	Kale Khan, Main Ring Road	17.02.2021
7	71/12, Driver (Male), Directorate of Higher Education	Delhi-110013	

The complete details are given in the Notice Number F.55(1537)/ Exam./ DSSSB/2020/2325 dated 22.01.2021 which are uploaded on the Official Website of DSSSB.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary (Exam)
DSSSB
DIP/Shabdarth/0585/20-21

ASI finds ancient structure in Odisha, triggers heritage buzz

Structure found near Bhubaneswar’s Shree Lingaraj Temple, possibly a platform on which shrine stood

VKAUSHIK KUMAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

WORKERS AND officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) engaged in a preservation and excavation exercise near Shree Lingaraj Temple, the most prominent temple of Bhubaneswar, have stumbled upon an ancient stone structure — possibly a platform on which one among the oldest shrines in Odisha once stood.

The structure could be older than the 11th century Shree Lingaraj Temple, ASI’s top official in Odisha Arun Malik told *The Sunday Express*. He said the structure was found while the ASI was carrying out scientific cleaning of a piece of land near the Suka and Sari temple complex, close to the Shree Lingaraj Temple.

The discovery of the structure has created a buzz of excitement in the state, with Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who hails from Odisha, writing to Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel on Saturday to seek his intervention in the preservation of heritage. Pradhan also sought a visit by a team of experts from Delhi to study the structure.

“The structure must be a contemporary of the Shree Lingaraj Temple, if not older,” said Malik, the ASI Odisha circle superintendent.

“The ASI looks after 28 tem-



The structure was discovered during a preservation exercise in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ASI

ples in the Ekamra Kshetra [Old Town area of Bhubaneswar that has several temples] and it is our responsibility to protect the ancient heritage,” he said.

He said the Odisha government undertook a beautification project in the area around the Shree Lingaraj Temple in 2019. This was to essentially clear up the congestion and encroachment in the area. “But the demolitions were carried out in a manner that was not conducive for a heritage site,” said Malik.

After several interventions and meetings, the ASI began cleaning up the rubble to look for damaged structures that may have been of historical value. That was when the ancient structure, which is believed to be from the Somavamshi period, was discovered.

On the importance of the structure, Malik said the Suka and Sari temple complex may have been built on the Panchayatana

model, in which four smaller temples surround the main temple. “Since three of the temples have been discovered now, we will look for the fourth temple,” he said.

Pradhan, in his letter to Patel, said, “Suka-Sari temple complex and Lord Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar are protected by the ASI under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act. There is an urgent need to act quickly in order to salvage and preserve what remains of this priceless ancient Odishan architecture.”

“The ASI also discovered two other structures, believed to be the remains of small shrines, and a portion of the Sari temple. These findings have led ASI experts to believe that the Sari temple complex was built on the Panchayatana model where the main temple is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines. This means that there is a high chance of additional heritage structure lying buried under encroachments in the Ekamra Kshetra,” he wrote.

Odisha scheme floated in lockdown for urban poor to be made permanent

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 30

THE ODISHA government plans to convert an urban poor employment initiative launched during the lockdown into a full-fledged scheme from April this year.

The Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan, or ‘Mukta’, was launched on April 18 for six months before being extended for another six. A sum of Rs 200 crore was sanctioned of which, Rs 140 crore has been spent so far, Urban Development Department officials said.

“As a rapid response to the migrant movement which began after the lockdown, we had launched the initiative. Based on the field feedback, the state government has decided to continue it as a regular scheme. It will be going to the Cabinet soon and will come into effect from April 1,” G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary at the department, told *The Indian Express*.

“... community members will identify demand for wage employment. Based on the demand, feasibility of possible projects will be assessed. Like parks, storm water drainage, road repairs, creation of community centres, etc. The technical feasibility of the project will be identified and then employment will be provided to those in need,” he added.

Wages under the scheme will be similar as minimum wages for skilled labourers and will directly be credited to their account through Direct Benefit Transfer. Ahead of the roll-out, a tentative budget of Rs 200 crore for one financial year has been fixed for it.

Fathers kidnapped, unwell son, sleepless daughter await return

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 30

OVER A month after they were kidnapped by militants of the ULFA-I and the NSCN, oil drilling company employees Ram Kumar, whose five-year-old son suffers from blood cancer, and PK Gogoi, whose 13-year-old daughter is passing sleepless nights worrying for her father, remain captive.

The insurgents have now issued an ultimatum amidst rescue operations by security forces.

In the evening hours of December 21, Gogoi, a drilling superintendent at the Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Limited, and Kumar, a radio operator at the company, were kidnapped by around a dozen armed militants from a drilling site near Innao in Changlang district. Quippo is an asset and service provider company that provides onshore drilling services.

Gogoi belongs to Sivasagar district in Assam, while Kumar is from Bihar’s Khagaria district.

Ramkumar Diwakar, the father-in-law of Kumar, from Samastipur in Bihar, told *The Indian Express* the family was deeply worried. “My 5-year-old grandchild Aditya Raj — Ram Kumar’s son — suffers from blood cancer.

He is being treated at AIIMS Patna for the last ten months. Ram Kumar has another daughter who is only seven. How can the family survive if he is killed by the militants? Please understand our situation.”

Gogoi’s wife Namita broke down over the phone. She told *The Indian Express*, “My only prayer is that the company



Gogoi, Kumar were kidnapped by ULFA-I & NSCN on Dec 21



should talk to the abductors and ensure that my husband is released immediately. It has been over a month since we have not seen him...”

Gogoi has two children, a 20-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. “The family is in disarray. The children are very very worried. Please let my husband return to us,” Namita said.

In a January 27 statement, the banned militant outfit United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) said, “If the company does not take appropriate steps to secure the release of the duo by February 16, then on February 17 we will take action on their Indian employee Ram Kumar.”

The ULFA-I statement signed by the outfit’s publicity cell member Rumel Asom said the deadline will not be extended under any circumstance. Moreover, it threatened that if the company doesn’t meet the outfit’s demands, it will not be allowed to operate in “Assam and South East Asia”.

In another strongly worded statement issued on Saturday, the ULFA-I said Quippo and the governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh were using “delaying tactics” in the negotiations even as the security forces, police and intelligence agencies

were conducting their operations in the hope of rescuing the duo.

The statement said they were certain that instead of rescuing the two men alive, the forces will kill them and put the blame on the ULFA-I. It said it was “certain” that as the security operations by government forces are ongoing, something “unfortunate” could happen to the two men.

If that happens, the statement said, the entire responsibility for that will have to be borne by the CMs of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and the government forces.

It is learnt from sources in the know that the initial ransom demand by the abductors was that of Rs 20 crore, but it has come down to half the amount following negotiations.

Changlang SP, Mihin Gambo, told *The Indian Express*, “Our rescue operation is ongoing.”

Another Arunachal Pradesh government official, who did not wish to be named, said extensive search operations were carried out jointly by the Arunachal Pradesh police, Indian Army and Assam Rifles.

The search is ongoing in areas of the Namdapha National Park and other densely forested areas of Namsai district. “There has been no success as of now,” the

official said. Ram Kumar’s father-in-law Diwakar said, “What have we done to the ULFA that they have taken our son? Please help us.” “Cancer treatment is expensive. Moreover, there is the small daughter. Please consider their situation. My appeal to the government of Arunachal Pradesh and the Central government, please ensure his release.”

Earlier this month, the abductors released a video featuring Gogoi and Kumar. In the video, both the men appealed to Quippo and their respective state governments to work to secure their release.

A Quippo spokesperson told *The Indian Express*, “We are in continuous discussions with the extremist outfit. Also, we are talking daily to multiple government agencies to ensure the rescue of our employees. We are also in touch with the families of both the men and supporting them emotionally and financially.”

“The ransom demand is illogical and unreasonable — but we do realise that the safety of our employees is of utmost importance and hence we are trying our best,” said the spokesperson. He said the company will ensure that Kumar’s son’s treatment does not face any financial constraints.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान

जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कॉलोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक : 895 / ई-निविदा / 2020-21

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक : 30.01.2021

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डल, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दृ-बिड सिस्टम (संकीर्ण) बिड एवं कॉम्पिशियल (बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	धरोतर धनराशि रु.	निविदा प्रपत्र जमाने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	संकीर्ण बिड साबित करने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	बि-बिड नीतिगत की तिथि एवं समय
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	आईएम दर अनुबन्ध पर, Instruments and Equipments - (i) pH meter, (ii) Conductivity Meter, (iii) Turbidity Meter, (iv) UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, (v) Weighing Balance, (vi) Weighing Box, (vii) Micropipettes (100 to 1000 microliter), (viii) Micropipettes (10 to 100 microliter), (ix) Ultra Water Purification System for ICP MS, (x) -186° C Horizontal Deep Freezer, (xi) Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Analyzer की आपूर्ति / अधिप्राप्तन।	4,00 Lacs	01.02.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	15.02.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	16.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	06.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
	अर्हता— Only manufacturer of above lab instruments and equipments or agency authorised by manufacturer are allowed to take part in this tender.						
27	आईएम दर अनुबन्ध पर, Instruments and Equipments - (i) Laboratory Vertical Autoclave, (ii) Bacteriological Incubator, (iii) Laboratory Refrigerator, (iv) Bio Safety Cabinet, (v) Humidity Meter, (vi) Water Purification System, (vii) AC, (viii) Hot Plate की आपूर्ति / अधिप्राप्तन।	8.00 Lacs	01.02.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	15.02.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	16.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	06.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
	अर्हता— Only manufacturer of above lab instruments and equipments or agency authorised by manufacturer are allowed to take part in this tender.						
28	आईएम दर अनुबन्ध पर, Instruments and Equipments - Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) की आपूर्ति / अधिप्राप्तन।	3.00 Lacs	01.02.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	15.02.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	16.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	06.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
	अर्हता— Only manufacturer of above lab instrument or agency authorised by manufacturer are allowed to take part in this tender.						

ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित समस्त जानकारी एवं शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktdenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.ujswsuk.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://ujs.uk.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D Bijnor (HQ-Najibabad)									
Letter No. 35/E –Tender /20-21					Dated : 06-01-2021				
(E-Tender)									
1. The Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Bijnor on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A,B,C & D (for Road work). The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Experience of Guide Book construction is mandatory along with road work. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in ITB Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.									
2. Details of the works are as following :									
Sl. No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimat ed Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Renewal with PC on State road/MDRODR & VR in year 2020-21									
1		Meerut Pauri road to Chaukpur road	2.50	0.25					
2		NH-34 kmr 43 to Shekhpura Lahak Kalam road	28.00	2.80					
3		Fazalpur fatak to Humayunpur road	12.00	1.20					
4		Meerut Pauri road to Pratapnagar road	8.00	0.80					
5		Meerut Pauri road km 110 to Ghazipur road	14.00	1.40					
6		NH-34 to Nangla Pithura link road	4.50	0.45					
7		Husaunpur to Fatehullapur road	26.00	2.60					
8		Mandawali Maujampur road to Sikrauda primary school road	9.00	0.90					
9		NH-34 to Shahpur Meer road	2.00	0.20					
10		Najibabad Nagina road to Argapura Pyara road	2.50	0.25					
11		Kiratpur Shakha (Haravanshpur Dharam)	11.00	1.10					
12		Akbarabad Bundki road to Moh. Aashikpur Bhure road	2.50	0.25					
13		Najibabad Nagina road to Bundki road	2.50	0.25					
14		Najibabad Nagina road to Laadpur road	2.00	0.20					
15		Najibabad Nagina road to Begampur Bhamuawala road	6.50	0.65					
16		NH-734 to Khushalipur Madia road	8.00	0.80					
17		Raipur Sadat to Chamru Nawada road	1.50	0.15					
18		Nagina Raipur Kotkadir road to Kadapur Namu road	3.50	0.35					
19		Kasampur Garhi to Masjid to home of Yakub	7.00	0.70					
20		Budhanpur to Shahpur Harre road	16.00	1.60					
21		Budhanpur to Shahpur Harre road Ruppur road	4.00	0.40					
22		Saitonangli to Berkheda road	14.00	1.40					
23		NH-734 km 65 to Aasfabad Chaman road	4.00	0.40					
24		Ajpalgarh Kalagarh road to Kuankhedra road via Gurdawara Baba wala pul	11.00	1.10					
25		Harewali Bairaj road to Shahjahanpur road	10.00	1.00					
26		Bhogpur to Beerbhanwala road	28.00	2.80					
27		NH-734 to Ghansurpur Amrauli road	4.50	0.45					
28		Khurampur Dallu Korawala road	4.00	0.40					
29		Nagina Kotwali road to Bhawanpur Kailan road to Kannu road	7.00	0.70					
30		Karonda Chaudhar road km 01 to Roshanpur Pratap road to Naraini road	7.50	0.75					
31		Meerut Pauri road to Shahpur Sukkha road	5.50	0.55					
32		Mandawali Maujampur road to Kalanpur road	7.00	0.70					
33		Nangla Urban to Najampur road	6.50	0.65					
34		Humayunpur Madarsa to Jwali Lala road	6.00	0.60					
35		NH-34 km 49 to Alipura road	4.50	0.45					
36		Kalheri to Ramnawala Harwad road	19.00	1.90					
37		Mota Aam to Najibabad bypass road	11.50	1.15					
38		NH-34 to Daudpur Nahoda road	6.00	0.60					
39		Shaymiwala to Ramdawal road	11.00	1.10					
40		PWD road to Surangpur Behda road	21.00	2.10					
Bijnor									
Bijnor-654,100/- (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking)									
02 Months including rainy season									
Construction Division-2 P.W.D. Bijnor (Hq Najibabad)									
Rampur Circle P.W.D. Rampur									
Moradabad Zone P.W.D. Moradabad									
The Rate adopted in the BOQ including all Other taxes but excluding GST.									
The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 and 6 in the table.									
Bids must be downloaded online from 10:00 AM on date 30.01.2021 to 5:00 PM on dated 04.02.2021 and the technical bids will be opened online date 05.02.2021 at 12:30 PM in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order No. 1/2018/3078-2-2918/42 11/2017 (22) Dated 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.									
All terms & conditions can be seen on website http://tender.up.gov.in The bidder have to login on Prashant URL http://www.upgovt.gov.in/Prashant to upload required documents as per Government order no. 879/1323-7-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/41.C/2020 dt.27.08.2020									
UPID NO-159633 DATE: 30.01.2021 www.upgovt.in									

Chhattisgarh Rural Roads Development Agency VIKASH BHAVAN, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No. 578, 579, 580 & 581 /TC-T/CGRRDA/2020,

Dated: 28/01/2021

Chief Engineer (Tender Cell), CGRRDA, Raipur on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites package wise bids in electronic tendering system for Construction & Maintenance of Roads Under PMGSY year 2018-19, PMGSY Renewal maintenance, PMGSY Defect Liability, sanctioned for different districts of the state as per B.O.Q. from the eligible contractors / Firms registered with unified registration system (e-registration) for the works mentioned below. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:

S. No	NIT No	Work Name	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Districts	Rate invited
01	578	PMGSY Defect Liability	Total Cost: Rs 701.15 Lakhs	Balodahoon, Kankagpur, Dang, Rajahmundry, Raigarh, Raipur	percentage Rate SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur
02	579	Construction & maintenance of roads under PMGSY year 2018-19	Total Cost: (including 5 year maint. Cost.) Rs 2770.14 Lakhs (including 12% GST)	Bijapur, Salma, Kanker	percentage Rate SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur
03	580	Construction & maintenance of PMGSY Renewal Maintenance	Total Cost: (including 5 year maint. Cost.) Rs 108.14 Lakhs (including 12% GST)	Bilaspur	percentage Rate SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur
04	581	Construction & maintenance of PMGSY Renewal Maintenance	Total Cost: (including 5 year maint. Cost.) Rs 607.75 Lakhs	Garudipendra-mawahi	percentage Rate SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eprnc.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on our website <https://eprnc.cgstate.gov.in> from 02.02.2021 from 5:00 PM. In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of this website.

sd/-
Chief Engineer (Tender Cell)
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency
Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.)
E-mail: pmgsyrc4@yahoo.co.in

27661

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Pawandev singh R/o 194-195, 1st Floor, Flat no 2, khasra no 556, sultanpur, South Delhi-110030, have changed my Daughter name, from Jasveen Kaur Bhatia to Jasveen Kaur.
0040561824-5

To whom so ever it may concern that i, Mrs. Kanchan Prasad, W/o Vinod Prasad, R/o E-1101, Vijaya Apartment, Ahinsa Khan-2, Indraprastha-201014, District- Ghaziabad, do hereby declare that my real name is Mrs. Kanchana Prasad. This declaration is true and correct.
0040561894-1

I, mani ram jaiswal s/o sh. Ram kulare, R/o C- 1/477, GF, KH. No. 141-142, gali no-6, pusta-2-1/2, sonia-vihar khajoori khas, north east delhi-110094, has changed my name to mani ram, for all future purposes.
0040561948-10

I, Sahil S/o Prakash Chandra, R/o Gram Halal Post-Office, Simarkhal, Distt. Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand-246131, have changed my name to Sahil Kumar.
0040561937-10

I, SUMAN NIMAL W/o-DEVENDRA KUMAR NIMAL, ADD-313, 13/29, FIRST-FLOOR, NEAR-ROCK GARDEN-WEST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, changed my name to SUMAN DEVENDRA NIMAL, for all, future purposes.
0040561937-6

I, RAJ SHREE D/O OM PRAKASH KHANGWAL R/O H-1/380, C-BLOCK, SULTANPURI, DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJSHREE KHANGWAL.
0040561922-2

I, PUNIT KUMAR, S/O, DESH BANDHU GUPTA, ADD-313, HARI-NAGAR ASHRAM SOUTH EAST DELHI-110014, changed my name to PUNIT SINGHAL, permanently.
0040561937-2

I, Naman S/o Rajat Verma, House, no-500/17, nai-basti, Gurgaon, have changed my name to Naman Verma.
0040561948-9

I, Mohd Irshad S/o Mohd Khalil R/o 2645 Main Bajar, Shadipur, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi-110008 have changed name of my minor son date of birth 31-8-2011 from Mohd Zueb to Mohd Zohaib for all future purposes.
0040561858-1

I, KAPIL S/O JAGDISH CHAND, R/O H-78, A, FIRST-FLOOR STREET, NO-2 GARHWALI MOHALLA NEAR LALITA PARK LAXMI-NAGAR EAST DELHI-110092, changed my name to NEW.. KAPIL KUMAR, permanently.
0040561937-7

I, Shilpa or Shilpa Gupta, W/o Varun Aggarwal, R/o 1/2824 Street, No.11, Ram-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Shilpa Aggarwal.
0040561937-9

I, Haleema Begum alias Zoonza Begum widow of Late No- 9071569, Rifleman Mohd Akbar, am presently receiving dual family pension in two names i.e. Mst. Zoonza Begum from the defence side (JAKALI) and Mst. Haleema Begum from Civil side (2 FOD). That my husband has erroneously recorded two names i.e. Zoonza Begum and Haleema Begum in the army and in civil departments. where as both the names pertains to one and same lady i.e. Mst. Haleema Begum who is legally wedded wife of Late Mohd Akbar. It is published for the information of general public that if anybody have any objection in this regard may approach to JAKLI record office/Zila Sainik welfare Officer Srinagar. Mst. Haleema Begum, alias Zoonza Begum, W/o- Late Mohd Akbar, R/O Beerwa (Budgam) Mob-9542146926.
0020417136-1

I, HARISH SHARMA, S/O-RAM DUTT SHARMA, ADDRESS-B-4/80, YAMUNA-VIHAR, NORTH EAST-DELHI BHAJANPURA DELHI-110053, changed my name to HARISH CHAND SHARMA, permanently.
0040561937-8

I, Bhanu Priya Bhatt, D/o Late Girish Chandra Bhatt, R/o Kesar Colony-Village Lahariya Sal Talla P.O. Katghariya, Haldwani Nainital Uttarakhand-261339, have changed my name to Bhumi Bhatt.
0040561949-6

I, AVTAR SINGH S/O BUDHA SINGH R/O WZ-136, GALINO-8, GURU NANAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AVTAR SINGH.
0040561927-1

I, VIDYA VINASH GODBOLE, W/O, AVINASH RAJARAM GODBOLE, ADD-D-162, SARITA-VIHAR NEW DELHI-110076. Changed my name to VIDYA GODBOLE, permanently.
0040561937-3

I, Tishewah Devi W/O Late Sh. Sita Ram Mahto R/o Railway Colony, River side, Bhurkunda, Dundua, Bhurkunda, Ramgarh, Jharkhand-829135, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Anita Devi.
0070729398-1

I, SUSHILA DEVI W/O SHAMSHER SINGH R/O H.No. B-56, Rajal factory road, Nanak piou-2, Gopal Nagar, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 in my husband's passport my name wrongly mentioned as SUSILA DEVI but my correct and actual name is SUSHILA DEVI for all purposes.
0070729394-1

I, Ramesh Devi W/O Vedpal R/o 43, Vill- Ghikara, P.O.- Fatehgarh, Teh- Charkhi Dadri, Dadri (147), Charkhi Dadri Hsg-ii, Haryana- 127306, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Poonam Devi.
0070729380-1

I, Raj Kumari alias Rajesh Bidhuri W/o Balraj Bidhuri R/o B-32 second floor, Pamposh Enclave, Greater Kailash-1, Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rajesh Bidhuri.
0070729397-1

I, Preeti Gupta, spouse of Shailendra Kumar Gupta resident of Village and Post-Sataon, Distt-Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh-229122, have changed my Name from Preeti Gupta to Preeti Sahu vide Affidavit No. IN-DL374391296085897 dated 28 Jan 2021.
0070729379-1

I, Pavan Kumar B S/O Bandaru Yobubabu R/o Near ECI Church, Santharavuru, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-52318, have changed the name of my minor daughter Deepa Bandaru aged about 4 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Bandaru Deepa Swarakamalni.
0070729439-1

I, Mohan Chandra Joshi S/o Prayag Dutt R/o H-65, 3rd Floor Block-H, South Extension-1, Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Mohan Chander.
0040561866-1

I, MOHD WASIM ANSARI S/o Md. SIDDIHKAANSARI r/o WZ-447, 2nd Floor, Naraina Village, New Delhi-110028 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD WASIM.
0040561867-1

I, MAMTA SHARMA, W/O-VIRENDRA KUMAR BHARDWAJ, ADD-B-118, A, DUGGAL-COLONY DEVI-ROAD KHANPUR SOUTH DELHI-110062, changed my name to MAMTA BHARDWAJ, permanently.
0040561937-4

I, Lakshminarayana C D S/O Durga Rao C H R/o Rangarao Camp, Harihara Taluk, Nittur, Davangere, Karnataka-577530, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Navadeep CD.
0070729382-1

I, Kunal S/o Bipin Kumar R/o-D-40, II-Floor, Street No-2, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Kunal JR.
0040561948-5

I, KM. Shakila W/o-Mohammad Alam, R/o E-49/J-286-287, Gali No-10, Janta Mazdoor Colony, Welcome, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Shakila.
0040561948-4

I, Janki Raman S/O Awadhes Singh, R/o Ward No. -03, PO- Lagma, Vill- Ballua, Sitamarhi, Bihar-843323, declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Raushan Kumar Kashyap in my Pancard No.- EDSPK8472H and in my Driving Licence No- WB-4120150284559. The actual name of Mine is Janki Raman, which may be amended accordingly.
0070729383-1

I, Harpreet Kaur W/o Vipulh Arora R/o C34/128 B Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Harpreet Kaur.
0070729386-1

I, GS Panwar S/o Matlab Singh Panwar R/o-RZ-74C, Block, Mahavir Enclave, Palam-Village, N.Delhi-45, have changed my name to Gopal Singh Panwar.
0040561948-7

I, Dhapa Devi W/o Lala Ram R/o-155 DDA-Janta Flats-Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi-110029, have changed my name to Dhapan.
0040561949-5

I, ASHOK KUMAR, S/O-Brij Mohan Sharma, residing-F-153, LIC Colony, Jeevan Niketan, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi, have changed my name to Ashok Sharma, for all purposes.
0040561948-1

I, AYSHA REHMAN, D/O MUJIBUR REHMAN KHAN, H.NO-1D-59, IDGAH COLONY SECTOR-6, FARIDABAD HARYANA-121006, changed my name to AYSHA REHMAN KHAN, permanently.
0040561937-5

I, ANKUR BHARDWAJ son of RAJIV BHARDWAJ R/o H.NO-168, PARTPAR GANJ, DELHI-110091, have changed my name to DIVYAM BHARDWAJ.
0040561948-6

I, Neeraj Jain S/O Niranjan Lal Jain, R/o 1/205 Professor's Colony, Hari Parvat, Agra, Civil Line, Uttar Pradesh-282002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Neeraj Benara.
0070729385-1

I, Shahnaz Ahmed W/o-Shakeel Ahmed R/o-1015 Mohalla Kishan Ganj, Telihwara Azad Market, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Shahnaz for future.
0040561948-2

I, Nazma Ahmed W/o-Naseem Ahmed R/o-1015 Mohalla Kishan Ganj, Azad Market, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Nazma for future.
0040561948-3

I, Muneesh Kumar S/O Devendra Kumar R/O Vill Govindpur Gyanpur Chhajeli Moradabad UP-244501 have changed my name to Manish Yadav vide affidavit dated 28/01/2021
0050174776-1

I Hemante Singhal S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Singhal R/o H.No.595, Faridabad, Sector-16, Faridabad, Kheri Kalan (113), Kheri Kalan, Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to Hemante Kumar Singhal for all purposes.
0040561860-8

IEKANT S/O-NARESH KUKREJA R/O-H.NO-19/5 EAST PARK ROAD KAROL BAGH DELHI-110005 CHANGED MY NAME TO EKANT KUKREJA ALL FUTURE PURPOSES
0070729409-1

I Aman Yadav S/o Sh. Somnath R/O H3/27, Ground Floor, Vikas Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Aman Vaid for all purposes.
0040561860-7

I ASHWANI S/O SALIK RAM R/O-H.NO-B-236 BLK-B SHIV MANDIR ROAD SWAROP NAGAR DELHI-110042 CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHWANI GARG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES
0070729413-1

I ANUJ GOSWAMI, S/O UTTAM KUMAR GOSWAMI, R/O J-1/96, Khirki-Extn, Malviya-Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to ANUJ GOSWAMI.
0040561937-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Nitish Kumar, S/o Ram udgar yadav, R/o Rzc/133 st. no-10, mahavir-enclave, gurudwara road DELHI, have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2018 Rollno-8742932 CBSE-DELHI.
0040561927-7

I, Rahul Sharma, S/o Pradeep kumar Sharma, R/o-C-13 pradhan-enclave purabi delhi-84, have lost my original-Pass certificate class-12th year-2016, Rollno-9141210, CBSE-DELHI.
0040561927-8

I, Shubham kumar sharma, S/o Ravindra Thakur, H.no. 49/A-block, G.no.3 nathupura mor shastripark, Delhi-84, Have lost my original-pass certificate class-12th year-2014 Rollno-9129822 CBSE-DELHI.
0040561927-9

I, Gaurav Kumar, S/o satish kumar, R/o G-16, prithviraj lane near-khan market, new delhi, have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2017 Rollno-8184131 CBSE-DELHI.
0040561927-10

PROPERTY FOR RENT

First And Second Floor Available for Rent at prime location of Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon, Please contact Owner-Sumit Kapoor -9910967755
0040561890-1

MATRIMONIAL

Ashok Kumar Tyagi (Advocate)
A-5, Main Najafgarh Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

Bride wanted

BRAHMIN

Brahmin, 33, 6', Lpa-7.8, Working Asst. Prof.(ME, PHD Pursuing), Seeks working professional, DOB, POB must, nmmtree34@gmail.com, 8551075664
0050174637-1

Groom wanted

OTHERS

Beautiful Oad girl divorcee age 29 working in Canada for 5 years seeking suitable match. Parents are in government job. Contact- 7009863883
0050174475-1

Suitable match for October 1993 born high-status Garg girl. Slim, 5'3", healthy lifestyle, holds M.com. from St. Colledge, Chandigarh and master's in finance from University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Preferred well settled industrious/ high status business Boy in the Tricity. 9463301713, gpranav71@gmail.com <mailto:gpranav71@gmail.com>.
0050174197-1

SIKH/PUNJABI

Punjabi 81 Born Beautiful MBA Divorcee Issueless Girl. Expects Punjabi Educated Decent Well Settled Family Boy. Mob 9975514848
0090280999-1

I, Nazma Ahmed W/o-Naseem Ahmed R/o-1015 Mohalla Kishan Ganj, Azad Market, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Nazma for future.
0040561948-3

I, Muneesh Kumar S/O Devendra Kumar R/O Vill Govindpur Gyanpur Chhajeli Moradabad UP-244501 have changed my name to Manish Yadav vide affidavit dated 28/01/2021
0050174776-1

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS 13

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Sh Lila Ram S/O Late Mohan Lal R/o C-10/89, Mangoli Puri, North West Delhi, Delhi-110083 disowned their Son Kalash Palwal and his wife Nirmla, Raj Palwal alias Kalu Ram and his wife Nirmala, his daughter Mani W/o Subhash Bagoriya and Kaushlya W/o Subhash Bagoriya from their all movable, immovable properties due to his misbehavior & bad conduct. Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever will be doing at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility.
PARKASH CHAND (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D-9065/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that **Freehold Property Bearing No. 2-B/59, Measuring 100 Sq. Yds., Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi** is presently owned by Sh. Sanjay Chadha (25% share) by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regt. No. 58/90, dated 24.05.2018 and (1) Smt. Jyoti Chadha (Undivided 55% share) (2) Smt. Suman Lata (Undivided 10% share) and (3) Smt. Rajni Atuja (Undivided 10% share) by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regt. No. 5986, dated 27.05.2019. My client entered into an Agreement to Sell in respect of Third Floor with roof/terrace rights out of the captioned property and the deal is almost concluded. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/ company/ Bank, financial institution (except the person mentioned) having claim any charge, interest or lien on or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above or court order/ judgment or otherwise and/or objection to the Sale deed thereof, he/ she they may lodge with the same to the undersigned with 15 days from the date of publication, failing which any further future claim shall be rejected and my client(s) as a **bona-fide** purchaser shall proceed further and complete the Sale/Conveyance of Sale.
Sd/- **NIRMAL KUMAR ADVOCATE**
Chamber No. 561, 1st Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi-110017. Mobile- 857898187.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Bharat Gupta S/o Sh. Lachmi Ram Gupta is the registered owner of One Half (1/2) Share in Build-up property bearing no. 127-B KAILASH PURI GALI NO 9A PALAM COLONY DELHI 110045 vide WILL executed by Late Mrs Rajni Gupta w/o Mr. Bharat Gupta dated 17.12.2019 at Delhi. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien or any objection whatsoever regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.
Vishal Mehan (Advocate)
Ch. No. E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is to inform the public at large that my client, Sh. Mahender Kumar Sekhri S/o Lt. Sh. Trilok Chand Sekhri, R/o A-84, Preet Vihar, Shakarpur, East Delhi, New Delhi, has severed and cut off all his family relations and has disowned his son Mr. Anil Kumar Sekhri, Mr. Anil Kumar Sekhri, Mr. Anil Kumar Sekhri, his wife, daughter and son are disowned and disowned by Our Client from all the entire moveable/immovable properties due to their disobedient and quarrelsome nature. Our client was notified notwithal not be responsible for any act or omission done by Mr. Anil Kumar Sekhri, Mrs. Rachana Sekhri, Mrs. Eesha and Mst. Krish in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- **JF Associates (Advocates and Solicitors) CHAMBER (SCO): 120, (OLD) LAWYERS CHAMBERS, SUPREME COURT COMPOUND, NEW DELHI, INDIA OFFICE: 1-33, LGF (REAR), KALASH COLONY, NEW DELHI, INDIA**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client Smt. Channaji Kaur W/o late Shri Wasan Singh, R/o H-23A, VISHNU GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110018 has severed all her relations with her son Ravinder Singh and daughter-in-law Channaj Kaur and disowned them from all her moveable and immovable properties as all of them have become disloyal and disrespectful to my client and has been acting against her interest. Anybody dealing with the son and daughter of my client shall be doing so at his/her own cost and responsibility and my client shall not held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any of their acts.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA S/O SH. CHAND RAM BHADWAI AND PREET BHADWAI W/O SH. VIJAY KUMAR BHADWAI R/O D-283, SECOND FLOOR, PRASHANT VIHAR, DELHI-110058, address of SHOP NO- 42, GROUND FLOOR, CSD NO. 2, SECTOR-13, PUNEH ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI (83.81 sq. mts.) located in the residential colony of Kakaji, New Delhi-110019. That Sh. Chandra Bharu S/o Sh. Prem Singh failed to pay the balance consideration amount to my client within the stipulated time. Therefore, this agreement dated 29.03.2019 will get revoked itself within 15 days of publication of this notice and the property will be free to be sold to any third party by my client.
K.K. Sharma (Advocate)
Ch.No. 385, Patalia House New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA S/O SH. CHAND RAM BHADWAI AND PREET BHADWAI W/O SH. VIJAY KUMAR BHADWAI R/O D-283, SECOND FLOOR, PRASHANT VIHAR, DELHI-110058, address of SHOP NO- 42, GROUND FLOOR

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
Email ID – eedwsd.jamshedpur@gmail.com

ई. निविदा

सूचना संख्या:—RWSS - 07 / JSR / 2020—21 दिनांक:—29.01.2021

The undersigned, on behalf of the Government of Jharkhand, invites bids for the work mentioned in table below through e-Procurement from eligible and approved Contractors, registered in with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand, Central Government/ State Govt. or any PSU or any agency of International or National reputed may participate in the bid but registration with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand will be essential within a period of two months from date of award after issue of Letter of Acceptance. The bid shall be submitted online in the Website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

क्रमांक	विवरण	विस्तृत विवरण
1	कार्य का नाम	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, 50 Mtr. Long & 3.00 Mtr. Wide Gangway 1.35 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir – 2 nos., Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Approach road, Railway Crossing, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Barajuri and Adjoining villages Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Jamshedpur on turnkey basis."
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	105121000.00 (दस करोड़ एकानव लाख इक्कीस हजार)
3	अग्रिमजमानतकी राशि	1052000.00 (दस लाख बानव हजार)
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00 (दस हजार)
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	24Month+3 Month (Trial and Run)
6	बेबसाईड पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	03.02.2021 को 9:00 पूर्वाह्न
7	प्रो बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	10.02.2021 को 11.30 पूर्वाह्न, अतिथ्यप्रभाग, आदित्यपुर। राँची के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
8	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	22.02.2021 को 4.00 अपराह्न तक
9	परिमाण विपत्र एवं अग्रिमजमानतकी राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि (मूल रूप में) एवं स्थान	23.02.2021 को 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	23.02.2021 को 5.00 बजे
11	निविदा करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर PHEDकॉलोनी, आदित्यपुरग्रामगं, आदित्यपुर।
12	निविदा खोलने वाले पदाधिकारी एवं कार्यालय का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
13	निविदा करने वाले कार्यालय का संपर्क संख्या	0657 — 2371051
14	ई. प्रोक्युरमेंटसेल का हेल्पलाईन नं०	0651 — 2480345

नोट—1. केवल ई—निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।

2. विस्तृत विवरण बेबसाईट—https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

3. प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

PR 240487(Drinking Water and Sanitation)20-21"D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल जमशेदपुर

EXTENSION OF CANCELLATION/REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF TRAINS

This is notified for the information of all concerned that in continuation to Public Notice published in various newspaper on 16.12.2020 regarding cancelled/Frequency Reduction/Partial cancellation of special trains during foggy weather 2020-21 from 16.12.2020 to 31.01.2021, now Railways have extended the Cancellation/Frequency Reduction of the following Mail/Express Trains upto the dates shown against each.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No.	Train Name	Frequency/ Day	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
09611	Ajmer-Amritsar Special	Thu, Sat	04.02.2021 to 27.02.2021
09614	Amritsar - Ajmer Special	Fri, Sun	05.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
05933	Dibrugarh-Amritsar Express Special	Tuesday	02.02.2021 to 23.02.2021
05934	Amritsar - Dibrugarh Express Special	Friday	05.02.2021 to 26.02.2021
05909	Dibrugarh-Lalgarh Express Special	Daily	01.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
05910	Lalgarh - Dibrugarh Express Special	Daily	04.02.2021 to 03.03.2021
02357	Kolkata-Amritsar Special	Tue, Sat	02.02.2021 to 27.02.2021
02358	Amritsar - Kolkata Special	Thu, Mon	04.02.2021 to 01.03.2021
03413	Malda Town-Delhi Jn. Special	Mon, Thu, Sat	From 01.02.2021
03414	Delhi Jn. - Malda Town Special	Wed, Sat, Mon	From 03.02.2021
05483	Alipurduar-Delhi Jn. Express Special	Daily	01.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
05484	Delhi Jn. - Alipurduar Express Special	Daily	03.02.2021 to 02.03.2021
02357	Danapur-Anand Vihar Terminal Special	Daily	01.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal-Danapur Special	Daily	02.02.2021 to 01.03.2021

REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY

Train No.	Train Name	Frequency/ Day	Trip Cancellation Day	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
02226	Delhi Jn. - Azamgarh Kaifiat Express	Daily	Wed, Sat	03.02.2021 to 27.02.2021
02225	Azamgarh - Delhi Jn. Kaifiat Express	Daily	Thu, Sun	04.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
02179/ 02180	Lucknow Jn.-Agra Fort- Lucknow Jn. Special	Daily	Sat, Sun	06.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
01803/ 01804	Jhansi-Lucknow-Jhansi Intercity Express Special	Daily	Sat, Sun	06.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
02397	Gaya-New Delhi Special	Daily	Mon, Fri, Sun	01.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
02398	New Delhi - Gaya Special	Daily	Mon, Thu, Sat	01.02.2021 to 01.03.2021
02367	Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar (T) Special	Daily	Tue, Thu	02.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
02368	Anand Vihar (T) - Bhagalpur-Special	Daily	Wed, Fri	03.02.2021 to 26.02.2021
02393	Rajendra Nagar - New Delhi Samporna Kranti Special	Daily	Wednesday	03.02.2021 to 24.02.2021
02394	New Delhi - Rajendra Nagar Samporna Kranti Special	Daily	Thursday	04.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
02561	Jaynagar-New Delhi Special	Daily	Thursday	04.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
02562	New Delhi - Jaynagar Special	Daily	Friday	05.02.2021 to 26.02.2021
03307	Dhanbad - Firozpur Cantt. Special	Daily	Thursday	04.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
03308	Firozpur Cantt. - Dhanbad Special	Daily	Saturday	06.02.2021 to 27.02.2021
05273	Raxaul - Anand Vihar (T) Special	Daily	Thursday	04.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
05274	Anand Vihar (T) - Raxaul Special	Daily	Friday	05.02.2021 to 26.02.2021
02553	Saharsa - New Delhi Special	Daily	Tuesday	02.02.2021 to 23.02.2021
02554	New Delhi - Saharsa Special	Daily	Wednesday	03.02.2021 to 24.02.2021
02557	Muzaffarpur - Anand Vihar (T) Spl.	Daily	Wednesday	03.02.2021 to 24.02.2021
02558	Anand Vihar (T) - Muzaffarpur Spl.	Daily	Thursday	04.02.2021 to 25.02.2021
02391	Rajgir - New Delhi Special	Daily	Monday	01.02.2021 to 22.02.2021
02392	New Delhi - Rajgir Special	Daily	Tuesday	02.02.2021 to 23.02.2021
02571	Goalkhampur - Anand Vihar (T) Humsafar Express	Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	Wed, Sun	03.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
02572	Anand Vihar (T) - Goalkhampur Humsafar Express	Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun	Mon, Thu	04.02.2021 to 01.03.2021
02549	Kamakhya-Anand Vihar Terminal Express Special	Daily	Wed, Fri, Sun	03.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal-Kamakhya Express Special	Daily	Fri, Sun, Tue	05.02.2021 to 02.03.2021

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SPECIAL TRAINS

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

02444/02443 Jodhpur Jn. - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jodhpur Jn. Superfast Special Train (Daily)					
Train No. 02444	STATIONS		Train No. 02443		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	10:55	Jodhpur Jn.	18:00	--	--
22:10	--	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	--	07:05	--

Days of Run: 02444 Ex Jodhpur Jn. and 02443 Ex Delhi Sarai Rohilla from 05.02.2021 (Daily) to till further advise.

Accommodation: First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper and Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppages: Merta Road Jn., Degana Jn., Chhoti Khatu, Didwana, Ladnun, Sujargarh, Ratangarh Jn., Churu, Sadulpur Jn., Rampura Beri, Loharu Jn., Satnali, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Pataudi Road, Gurgaon and Delhi Cantt. stations.

09709/09710 Udaipur City - Kamakhya - Udaipur City Special Train (Weekly)					
Train No. 09709	STATIONS		Train No. 09710		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	16:00	Udaipur City	00:35	--	--
13:50	14:00	Lucknow	02:25	02:35	--
00:35	--	Kamakhya	--	18:30	--

Days of Run: 09709 Ex Udaipur City from 08.02.2021 on every (Monday) to till further advise and 09710 Ex Kamakhya from 11.02.2021 on every (Thursday) to till further advise.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper and Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppages: Ranapratnagar, Mavli Jn., Chanderiya, Bhiwara, Ajmer Jn., Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Bandikui Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Achhnera Jn., Mathura Jn., Hathras City, Kasganj, Farrukhabad Jn., Kanpur Anwariganj, Kanpur Central Jn., Lucknow, Faizabad Jn., Ayodhya, Mankapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Bhatni Jn., Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Kathiari Jn., Barsoi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Dalgao, Alipur Duar Jn., Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon and Goalpara Town stations.

02847/02848 Ranchi Jn. - New Delhi - Ranchi Jn. Special Express Train (Tri-Weekly)					
Train No. 02847	STATIONS		Train No. 02848		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	16:25	Ranchi Jn.	11:20	--	--
11:10	--	New Delhi	--	16:10	--

Days of Run: 02847 Ex Ranchi Jn. from 05.02.2021 every (Monday, Tuesday and Friday) to till further advise. and 02848 Ex New Delhi from 07.02.2021 every (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday) to till further advise.

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages: Muri, Barkakana Jn., Tori, Latehar, Daltonganj, Garwa Road Jn., Japla, Nabinagar Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram Jn., Bhabua Road, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn. and Kanpur Central Jn. stations.

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

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

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MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SECTION-1
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :

S. No.	System Tender No.	Work	Disrtict	Probable Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Completion Period (Months)	Date of Submission of Bid	Date of Opening of Tenders
1.	2021 MPHID-126362	Renovation, Barrier free and New Construction work at Govt. Kamla Nehru College Balaghat and Govt. College Lari Distt. Balaghat.	Balaghat	PAC - 461.69 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 4.61	15 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 12.02.2021 17:30 P.M.	15.02.2021 12:30 P.M.
2.	2021 MPHID-126363	Renovation, Barrier free and New Construction work at Govt. PG College Matlaghat and Govt. Rani Durgawati College Paraswada Distt. Balaghat.	Balaghat	PAC - 368.82 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 3.67	15 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 12.02.2021 17:30 P.M.	15.02.2021 12:30 P.M.
3.	2021 MPHID-126364	Renovation, Barrier free and New Construction work at Govt. SSP College Waraseoni and Raja Bhoj Govt. College Katangi Distt. Balaghat.	Balaghat	PAC - 309.52 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 3.0952	15 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 12.02.2021 17:30 P.M.	15.02.2021 12:30 P.M.
4.	2021 MPHID-126365	Renovation, Barrier free and New Construction work at Govt Degree College Chhapara & Swami Vivekanand Govt. College Lakhnadon Distt. Seoni.	Seoni	PAC - 423.27 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 4.233	15 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 12.02.2021 17:30 P.M.	15.02.2021 12:30 P.M.
5.	2021 MPHID-126366	Renovation, Barrier free and New Construction work at Govt. PG College Seoni Distt. Seoni.	Seoni	PAC - 345.16 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 3.455	15 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 12.02.2021 17:30 P.M.	15.02.2021 12:30 P.M.

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website http://mptenders.gov.in
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 01.02.2021 at 10:30 A.M. to 12.02.2021 at 17:30 Hrs.
3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
Visit us : www.mphousing.in
M.P. Madhyam/99780/2021

/mphidb /mphidb
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Division Balaghat (L.R. Kushre)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RS.	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT
1.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	LOT# CONTRACT OF 100 MARKED BOTTLES OF 500ML 200MM*4MM & 250MM*6MM	30.01.2021 03.03.2021	Nil	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, distt/haryana.gov.in
2.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	PURCHASE OF 100 MARKED POLY ALLUMINUM CHLORIDE IN POWDER FORM.	30.01.2021 03.03.2021	Nil	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, distt/haryana.gov.in
3.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	PURCHASE OF 100 MARKED BLEACHING POWDER.	30.01.2021 03.03.2021	Nil	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, distt/haryana.gov.in
4.	ISI HEALTH CARE HARYANA	APPLICATION FOR TIE-UP OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS FOR SECONDARY HEALTH CARE OF SHARED PRISONER UNDER SSI SCHEME AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN ANIMAL & DISTRICT (HARYANA)	02.02.2021 23.02.2021	PHD 2 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, 7899221470 -ed@hry.nic.in
5.	DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY BHUPAL	EE-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND PRINTERS	30.01.2021 15.02.2021	20 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, distt/haryana.gov.in
6.	HOTEL RANU SCHOOL OF SPORTS, SAT, SONPAT	PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND STATIONERY (TENDER ID:- 2021_HRY_157899_1) & 1 OTHER WORK	29.01.2021 15.02.2021	1.27 Crore	https://tenders.hry.nic.in, 807008159410 -mehar@rediffmail.com

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

छावनी परिषद् बरेली
बंगला नं. 54, सरपेंटाइन रोड
बरेली छावनी (उ.प्र.) पिन-243001
दूरभाष: 0581-2421127, ईमेल: ceobare-stats@nic.in
“हर काम, देश के नाम”

दिनांक 19 Jan., 2021
E-TENDER NOTICE
Cantonment Board Bareilly invites E-tender/bids through Central Public Procurement Portal of Govt. of India (www.eprocure.gov.in) under two bids/cover system i.e. Technical Bid (Cover-1) and Financial Bid (Cover-2) for Grant of License for Use of Defence Land For Placing Cell Towers on Wheels (CoWs) at various locations/sites to extend communication network in Bareilly Cantonment.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Tender ID
2,00,000/-	2021_DGDE_610467_1

For Schedule of Activities/Dates for E-Tendering and for further details of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) please log on to website at www.eprocure.gov.in
SD/-
(Vivek Singh)
Chief Executive Officer
Cantonment Board Bareilly

TAMIL NADU STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION (KUMBAKONAM) LIMITED, KUMBAKONAM.
TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No. 2/2021-2022
Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, (Kumbakonam)Limited, Kumbakonam from the Registered Contractors of Government Departments like PWD, Municipal Corporation etc., for the following works upto 02.00 PM on 31.03.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, (Kumbakonam)Limited, Kumbakonam (or) his authorized official in the Corporate Office on the same day at 03.00 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through https://tenders.in.gov.in on or before 28.02.2021 up to 04.00 P.M. Any other information may be obtained from the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, (Kumbakonam)Limited, Kumbakonam at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, (Kumbakonam)Limited, Kumbakonam has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons. The tender schedule may also be obtained on Payment of cost of tender schedule along with Postal Charges Rs.50 from the Deputy Manager (Civil-Comp) Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Limited, Kumbakonam, No: 27, Railway Station New Road, Kumbakonam 612 001.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Schedule (Rs.)	Contractor Class
1.	Construction of Additional Melusil Bus Stand with Buildings for Commercial Complex and infrastructure facilities at Thonakapatt village, Kanur	40.00	40.00	15,000 + GST 18%	I Class

Managing Director

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
Email ID – eedwsd.jamshedpur@gmail.com
ई. निविदा

सूचना संख्या:—RWSS - 09 / JSR / 2020—21 दिनांक:—29.01.2021
The undersigned, on behalf of the Government of Jharkhand, invites bids for the work mentioned in table below through e-Procurement from eligible and approved Contractors, registered in with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand, Central Government/ State Govt. or any PSU or any agency of International or National reputed may participate in the bid but registration with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand will be essential within a period of two months from date of award after issue of Letter of Acceptance. The bid shall be submitted online in the Website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

क्रमांक	विवरण	विस्तृत विवरण
1	कार्य का नाम	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 5.0 M dia R.C.C. Intake well cum pump house, Gangway 40 mtr. length and 3.00 mtr. Wide, 1.0 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant, 1 No. ESR, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw/Clear Water rising main & Laying Distribution Network, Supplying and Installation of Vertical turbine and Centrifugal pump motor, five years Operation and Maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for work of anas Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division/Jamshedpur on turnkey basis. Year 2020-21.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	49132292.00 (चार करोड़ एकानव लाखबीस हजारदो सौ बानस)
3	अग्रिमजमानतकी राशि	492000.00 (चार लाख बानवहजार)
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00 (दस हजार)
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	24Month+3 Month (Trial and Run)
6	बेबसाईड पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	03.02.2021 को 9:00 पूर्वाह्न
7	प्रो बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	10.02.2021 को 1.00 अपराह्नशेखरीय मुख्य अभियन्ता,राँची प्रखेत्र, राँची, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
8	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	22.02.2021 को 4.00 अपराह्न तक
9	परिमाण विपत्र एवं अग्रिमजमानतकी राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि (मूल रूप में) एवं स्थान	23.02.2021 को 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	23.02.2021 को 5.00 बजे
11	निविदा करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमश

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Bat?

A fair hearing to the creature at the receiving end of pointed fingers every time there’s a virus scare

BATS HAVE been squarely blamed for starting the COVID-19 catastrophe, so, *Down in Jungleland* went deep into a bat cave in a remote forest to find out what the bats have to say for themselves. A host of assorted creatures joined the conversation:

Dijf: Good evening, god, it smells here... Well, sir, what’s your take on the fact that humans were blaming your species for spreading this scourge around the world? Scientists have admitted that they were bitten by some of you who were already infected.

Bat: What the hell were your precious scientists doing fingering us in the first place? Of course, we’ll bite if you take such liberties. You were researching us for some nasty viruses, weren’t you — which you could then raise and develop and use as bio-weapons on your own kind? Well, we gave you one for free, so, why are you complaining? You humans make us sick — you have evil intentions towards your own kind and, when things boomerang, you blame us. Thousands of us have been slaughtered by panicky people. All we want is to be left alone so that we can continue pollinating your bananas, durians, and a host of other food plants. If we stopped, you would starve.

Dijf: But a lot of this research is aimed at developing medicines so we can make sick people well. There are so many medicines that are based on animal parts and products. People have been using these traditional medicines for thousands of years.

Bat: None of which have been scientifically proven to actually work. You people are good at running such money-making rackets. It’s amazing how a country which wants to rule the world still believes that “eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog” will make you well.

(*There’s a stir as some other animals — among them, a ragged-looking Siberian tiger, dog, pangolin, dehorned rhino, and buffalo — join in.*)

Tiger: Do you know what I am? A farmed tiger. Have you ever heard of anything more shameful? There are thousands of us in so-called tiger farms — where you humans intend to kill us and use our bones, blood and pri-



RANJIT LAL

HIGH AND DRY

If bats stopped pollinating food plants, humans would starve

vate parts for making foul concoctions which, you think, will turn you into Casanovas. There are more of us in captivity on farms than there are in the wild.

Dijf: Take it as a compliment, we humans think you are so virile and macho that we need your body parts.

Siberian Tiger (growling): Shame on you!

Pangolin (piping up): You make soup and wine with our fetuses thinking it’s good for you. You really are sick.

Dog: Only your species will think of eating what you call your best friend. As for using our private parts, I would rather not get into that — it’s too revolting for words. Why on earth do we still wag our tails when you get back home from work!

Bear (shambling in, grunting): And you keep us captive and suck our bile out with syringes — to make your precious so called-medicines.

Rhino (snorting): Look at me, sir, just look at me! My pride and joy has been hacked off! To you, our horns are more precious than gold because you stupidly believe that it, too, will turn you into Casanova studs. Our horns are just compressed hair, eat your nails if you want keratin. Are you really the planet’s so-called intelligent creatures or plain imbeciles?

Tiger: Your species, especially your gender, has a major confidence problem. How do you impress your ladies with such an attitude?

Dijf: But you have to admit that not all of us disrespect you: in India, cows are considered sacred by millions and cow dung and urine are treated like elixirs.

Buffalo: So, why are there more starving cows roaming the streets eating plastic bags than anywhere else in the world? Eating the planet!

Dijf: Well, what message should I take back to my species when I return to civilisation?

Animals (in chorus): Just leave us alone to continue our work in keeping the planet in running order! Why must young men jump on the backs of young heifers, take them by the horns, so they go berserk? What have they done to you? We know you use us for meat — many of us also hunt — but that is to live. You harass us for your entertainment, use us for diabolical, dubious purposes. Be warned, you don’t know quite what you’re meddling with: this COVID-19 calamity could be just the tip of the iceberg. Haven’t you lost enough of your people to it? Haven’t you suffered enough?

Bat: Don’t mess with us anymore.

Animals (in chorus): Just leave us in peace!

Reclaiming Our Bodies

A letter to young women on body diversity, body positivity and social justice



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

DEAR YOU,

Walking in a park in the winter sun, among families sprawled on the lawns for Sunday picnics, I was particularly drawn to a little girl, maybe around seven years of age, dancing to a Bollywood song. Carefree and completely oblivious to the people around, their stares or smiles, as if transported to another world, she swung her hips and swayed her hands, with eyes closed and a smile on her lips.

I walked on, but that sight stayed with me. My initial delight and warmth gradually gave way to a sense of unease. When would this little girl lose this disinhibition and start becoming aware of the constant “gaze” that follows women? When would the indulgent smiles turn into looks of judgement? When would she start finding her thighs too fat, voice too loud, spirit too wild? When would she start checking what she says, how she says it, measuring her worth through her body measurements?

When would self-consciousness creep in, making her suck her cheeks in, tuck in her tummy or pull and push at different bits of flesh in despair? Taking selfies, adding a flattering filter before putting it up on Instagram, anxiously waiting for the world to acknowledge her worth. Maybe scrolling down and checking other accounts with Insta-perfect bodies and glowing skins with a sinking “I’m such a failure” feeling, and slowly shutting herself off or starving herself.

Many adults reading this might dismiss it as “girls these days!” As if they are the problem. I’ve often heard words like “obsessed with their looks”, not realising that the problem actually lies in our society’s constant judgement of women’s bodies. Women have not been allowed to own their bodies — there are strict norms on how “good girls” carry their bodies — cover up, kowtow, have meek voices and try to be “thin, fair and lovely”. Social media and the diet, beauty and fitness industry have exploited it with minimal regard to the damaging impact on young women or complete disregard for ethics. For

decades, we were force-fed the idea of Body Mass Index (BMI) as a criterion of fitness and obesity only to discover that all it did was fatten the weight-loss industry.

In my work with young girls, I’ve found that this “gaze” or judgement hounds us through these tactics:

Comparing: Pushing young girls to evaluate their bodies and worth through self-surveillance. A 13-year-old told me, “Every time I meet someone or see a picture on social media, the first thing I check is if she’s thinner or fatter than me. It’s become an automatic reaction.”

Convincing: Another 15-year-old shared, “I live 24x7 with the shame of being so ugly”. The voice of judgement is so compelling that it’s difficult to fight it alone. What happens if all the women in our lives are also going through similar battles, and body shaming becomes a taken-for-granted way of relating with ourselves and each other?

Concluding: The trickiest bit is that judgement keeps us always dissatisfied with our bodies, as we never match up to the toxic perfect-body advertising incessantly fed to us and conclude we are “weak”, “lazy”, “not good enough”.

I’m not here to advise you, we know that does not work. Instead, let’s sit back and reflect on the workings of this judgement and ask a few questions of ourselves:

— Do you see how it isolates each of us into little cocoons and makes us believe we are the problem? Doesn’t the problem lie in the way women’s bodies have been judged and controlled over centuries?

— Do you think it is fair that judgement (comparing, convincing and jumping to conclusions) robs us of joy, confidence, self-worth and peace of mind?



GETTY IMAGES

— Do you think it is unjust that the problem has been located in women’s bodies rather than the problematic cultural notions of beauty?

In my collaborative work with young women, we’ve found three effective steps to flip the gaze on the judgement and reclaim our agency, our bodies:

Micro acts of resistance: Sanna (name changed), 21, shared with me that she had experienced intense body-shaming as a child and now was committed to taking tiny steps by not letting other people’s comments define her. “I’ve found my own style of dressing that expresses my identity,” she said, adding that it was

“a daily battle but I look at myself in the mirror every morning and say, I’m hot, I’m gorgeous, and I’m not letting anybody steal that away from me.” She has informed her family and friends of these “respectful boundaries”, and they are her biggest allies now.

Documenting these resistances: What would it look like if we started a counter-culture that objectifies the “gaze” rather than let it objectify us? We need to raise our voice, write about it, make online videos to question

the narrow idea of beauty. Social media is a double-edged sword where, on the one hand, it indoctrinates constant preoccupation with perfection, while on the other hand, it’s witnessing a movement where women are resisting this oppressive idea of beauty by posting pictures with unbridled, unfiltered swag.

Solidarity: Self-judgement can isolate us into locating the problem in ourselves, but what if we refused to let it pit us against each other? What if we stopped body-shaming ourselves and each other and committed to finding beauty in all shapes, sizes and colours? Sanna said she will do whatever it takes to ensure that her 12-year-old cousin doesn’t have to go through what she had to because “If I do not look out for her who will?”

Standing up for body diversity is not a personal battle but an issue of social justice. We owe it to that little dancing girl and millions like her. Are you ready?

In solidarity,
Shelja

Dr Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder, Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her shejla.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

We need to raise our voice, write about it, make online videos to question the narrow idea of beauty

In the Dead of Night

The road has been long and hard for Assam’s anti-witch-hunt crusader, Birubala Rabha, recently honoured with the Padma Shri

Tora Agarwala

SOMETIME IN 2010, Birubala Rabha thought she was going to die. Afloat the Brahmaputra, with a film crew who was interviewing her, the wooden boat suddenly capsized, throwing overboard the camera, a crew member and Rabha, 61 at the time. Gasping for breath, she somehow managed to swim to safety. “The water was very deep and I told myself, ‘Okay, today is the day I am going to die,’” Rabha chuckles at the memory more than a decade later. “But then again, I have never been afraid of death. And that is probably why I managed to live,” she adds.

It is this fortitude that has guided Rabha, Assam’s plucky crusader against witch-hunting, through a remarkable life. A life that was honoured with one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri, last week. “I think this one is more special than the others,” Rabha says, at her home in Goalpara district, lined with mementos of different shapes and sizes. “I’m getting double the phone calls I usually do. But I am telling them, awards are well and good, but the point is for humans to help other humans, for us to be brave and unafraid.”

Just like Rabha has been through her 72 years of life. She wasn’t afraid when she travelled to a village in Meghalaya, in the dead of night, responding to a call of a woman accused of being a “*daini*” or witch by her neighbours, she wasn’t afraid when a mob surrounded her with *daos* (a flat-blade sword) and sticks, threatening to beat her up at the entrance of the village, and she wasn’t afraid when in 2000, in a public village meeting held to decide the fate of five women who were branded witches near Lakhipur in Assam, she stood up before hundreds and boldly announced: “There are no witches, witchcraft does not exist.”

The very next day, hundreds of villagers surrounded her house, to compel Rabha to sign a disclaimer that she was wrong to say what she did, and that, in fact, *dainis* do exist. But Rabha remained resolute, refusing to sign the document, and thus began a life devoted to fighting the malaise of witch-hunting in the state. “After that incident, they ostracised me and branded me a witch too, but instead, I



TORA AGARWALA

used the time to work towards eradicating the practice,” she says. Since Rabha was already an active member of her village’s local Mahila Samiti (women’s self-help group) fighting social evils like alcoholism and domestic violence, her new avatar as a voice against witch-hunting came to her all too naturally.

“At one point, even I believed that there was a truth to all this, that witches do exist,” says Rabha, who has studied up till Class V. “But then my son, Dharmeshwar, who has a mental problem, fell ill in 1985, and a local quack said that he was possessed by a fairy, and would die in three days.” He did not. For Rabha, the incident was nothing short of an awakening. “I realised that innocent villagers were being duped,” she says.

In the years that followed, with the Samiti’s support, Rabha went from village to village whenever she heard there was a case of witch-hunting. “Raneshwari, Padumi, Anjali,

ANY WITCH WAY

Birubala Rabha

Sanabala, Lakshmi...,” she reads out the names of those she and her team have rehabilitated over the years, a list of around a hundred.

In Assam, where witch-hunting is rampant, most causes of witch-hunt murders are *prima facie* based on superstitious beliefs that the “witch” — often a single woman, a widow, or, sometimes, a man, too — has magical powers to bring about death and disease in the community. But a deeper dive into most of the cases shows they are usually a means to settle personal scores — jealousy, property conflicts or familial strife — in the name of superstition.

While states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan have already criminalised the practice, the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Protection and Prevention) Act, 2015 came into effect only in 2018. Rabha’s work and the organisation formed in 2011 under her name, Mission Birubala, played a key role in bringing about

this law. “We began to look at underlying causes of why these incidents happen,” says Dr Natyabir Das, a Goalpara-based physician, who has long been associated with Rabha’s work. “Biru *baideo* (sister), being a villager, may be a little superstitious herself, but over the years, she has understood that the root cause of all this can be traced back to the lack of education and healthcare facilities, and the general lack of development,” he adds.

Today, in villages across Assam, Mission Birubala — which is a network of social activists, witch-hunt survivors, lawyers — holds awareness meetings, where Rabha, dressed in a *patani* (the traditional attire of the Rabha tribe, found across Assam’s Goalpara and Kamrup districts, and parts of Meghalaya, West Bengal and Bangladesh), hair tied back in a tight bun, delivers long rousing speeches about her life, to the roaring applause of the crowds. “She may be small and unassuming, but when she speaks, everyone just listens,” says Usha Rabha, a close aide. In 2005, Usha saw a photo of Rabha delivering a speech in the local paper. “Everything about the picture was so inspiring that I went seeking her,” says Usha, 55, “Now I am her shadow.”

Together, Usha says, they have walked — and sometimes run — long hours to meet women in remote villages through scorching sunshine and raging thunderstorms, climbing hills, navigating through cemeteries, swimming across rivulets. “The thing about her is that she never gets tired,” says Usha, “On several occasions, we have met people who have threatened to kill us, brandishing sticks and knives. But Biru *baideo* says, ‘*Katile kaat, maarile maar, moi norokhu* (kill me if you have to, I won’t stop).”

Over the years, Rabha has maintained a diary where she records the incidents of her life in case her memory fails her ahead of an interview. On Thursday, when we visited her, two interviews had already happened, and there is another in the queue. After they leave, Rabha says she will feed her chickens, fetch water, and if there is time, finish weaving a half-done *pajor*, a traditional Rabha scarf, she is working on. And if, in the midst of it, she gets a call from a woman in distress, she will leave it all, and run.

BRIDGE

Dealer: South, Vulnerable: North South

NORTH				
♠	Q872			
♥	J2			
♦	1094			
♣	Q865			
SOUTH				
♠	AJ10964			
♥	Q105			
♦	AKJ7			
♣				

South plays in 5S after a competitive sequence. South was a little optimistic with his 5S bid but in fairness, North should have doubled 5C. That would have gone down two or three tricks.

South got the lead of the jack of clubs, which he ruffed. With two heart losers and potential losers in spades and diamonds, South was not a big favourite. The bidding, however, had been informative. South found a line based on the bidding that told him that East had the high card points and West had the clubs. Obviously, South might decide to lay down the ace of spades in search of a singleton king. That is against the odds. Probably, finessing for the king of spades is a better idea. Assuming South is going to do that, how should he play the hand?

The West Hand: S - K 5 H - 8 6 4 3 D - 8 6 C - K J 10 7 4 2

The East Hand: S - K 5 H - A K 9 7 D - Q 5 3 2 C - A 9 3

South needs to get to dummy. One way is to ruff a heart. Another way is to set up a heart trick to discard one of dummy's diamonds. That will let South ruff a diamond to dummy. So is it hearts first?

It is. Lead a heart to the jack. East will win and will return the ace of clubs, which South ruffs. Continue hearts, losing this trick to East, who continues with another club. You ruff and cash the top heart. Dummy's diamond goes on this trick and now you do not have any diamond losers.

Following the original plan, South plays the ace and king of diamonds. If West ruffs in, the plan falls apart. Do you think there is any chance that West will ruff the second diamond? How often will that happen?

Virtually never. Whatever West has in clubs, they cannot have been overly attractive. If he had a singleton diamond he would have been happier leading that.

BRIDGE TIP: Players lead singletons all too often as it is. If someone makes a boring lead, he does not rate to have a singleton.

Given that West does not have a singleton diamond, you can ruff a diamond in dummy. This will succeed almost all of the time. When you get to dummy with a diamond ruff you can take the spade finesse, making 5S when East has the king. West's 5C bid. He expected that South could make 4S and his 5C bid was an effort to either escape for a small penalty or to push South to 5S. This was a good bid by West.

Dealer: North, Vulnerable: North South

NORTH		SOUTH (YOU)	
♠	AK92	♠	QJ873
♥	A73	♥	JS2
♦	Q864	♦	A3
♣	A9	♣	Q64
WEST		SOUTH	
1NT	2H	3S	
Pass	4H	dbl	4S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ten of hearts. Not wishing to win the ace and let them have two heart tricks at their leisure, South played low, allowing East to win with the queen. Back came the ten of diamonds. Is East giving you an early birthday present? What is your plan?

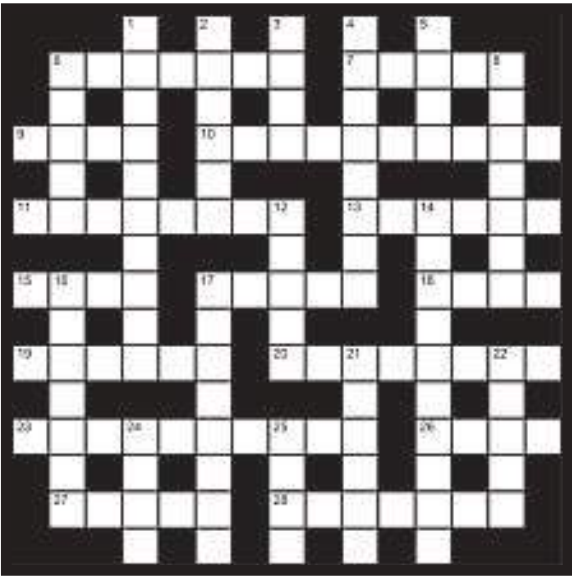
SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2306

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Suggests or gives a cue ? (7)
 - Extreme (5)
 - Means of moving water (4)
 - Faltering, foundering or wavering (10)
 - Disparage (8)
 - Demand or assert (6)
 - Double reed (4)
 - Label differently (5)
 - Drumbeat (4)
 - (Degree) from Cambridge (abbr. (6)
 - By a hair's breadth, in a way ? (8)
 - Paralysis of both lower limbs (10)
 - From (2,2)
 - Nonsense (5)
 - Mauve flowers (7)
- DOWN**
- Tribute (10)
 - Outcome (6)
 - United States Information Service, acronym ? (4)
 - Full of activity (8)
 - Coup d' ____ : change of Govt. (4)
 - Short break (5)
 - Memory loss (7)
 - Pop singer ____ John (5)
 - Stified (10)
 - Brazenly obvious (7)
 - Revolted (8)
 - Logic (6)
 - Vandalizes or robs (5)
 - Musical solo (4)
 - Hand over (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Average life span in selfish times ? (4,3)
 - Lofty operator responsible for Blair being without one-to-one (3,2)
 - Too much chlorine in this lump of dirt? (4)
 - Comic representation countenanced by Katisha (10)
 - May find what's wrong with instrument (8)
 - These assets are available: 51 old English pounds (6)
 - Ruler of some terrible contrivance (4)
 - The gun we hid inside fell out (5)
 - Debt instruments found in piousness (4)
 - Heard it's highly valued so got to



- work with a jemmy (6)
- Supporter of public enlightenment (8)
 - Stified (10)
 - It's wonderful being godlike (10)
 - A presage for me: no going back outside! (4)
 - Bring back sin to the north and become energetic (5)
 - Practical joke - enough to land you in for a stretch (3-4)
- DOWN**
- They enable supporters to rise above the head (10)
 - Cowboy developing a cough (6)
 - Some people appear allergic to such fruit (4)
 - Spotted American filmstar in a toboggan (8)
 - Get needing in a big way (4)
 - The toast of former opera-goers (5)
 - Composer less curtailed about skill (7)
 - Stair post in very recent Spanish article (5)
 - Money you don't get for nothing ? (4,3,3)
 - Royal organisation taking over trade union in all but name (7)
 - Bird a newspaperman has to quiten in a row (8)

Solutions to 2305

- QUICK CLUES Across:** 6 Dribble, 7 Planner, 9 Skein, 10 Enunciate, 11 Replica, 13 Ethane, 15 Paraphernalia, 19 Aplay, 20 Nouveau, 23 Fireproof, 24 Wharf, 26 Rustles, 27 Systole. **Down:** 1 Dice, 2 Ubangi, 3 Telepathy, 4 Calcutta, 5 One at a time, 6 Desires, 7 Four, 8 Reeled, 12 Plegiarism, 14 Transfuse, 16 Abruptly, 17 Pay for, 18 Ruffie, 21 Unwise, 22 Dots, 25 Anon. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 6 Gnocchi, 7 Plunger, 9 Inkle, 10 King's Head, 11 Refusal, 13 Instill, 15 Safety-matches, 19 In gear, 20 Kindled, 23 Look ahead, 24 Genie, 26 Dangled, 27 Whipped. **Down:** 1 Monk, 2 Ockers, 3 Pink Floyd, 4 Subsonic, 5 A great deal, 6 Goltze, 7 Pant, 8 Riddle, 12 Flat ground, 14 Backdown, 16 Erasable, 17 Billed, 18 Advent, 21 Noggin, 22 Tend, 25 Nape.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 31

Confusion regarding children and younger relations should be cleared up with a little extra attention to detail. If there's one item of valuable advice, it is listen to the facts,

Monday February 1

Prosperous stars lie ahead. There'll be nobody as skilled as you at making a profitable investment. At work, you have the best ideas, and if colleagues fail to listen, that's their problem.

Tuesday February 2

You're a combination of great vulnerability and fiery confidence. That's a recipe for success if you can promote your own goals and ambitions with sensitivity and an awareness of what family members need.

Wednesday February 3

It hasn't been easy over the past year, but nobody can deny that you've gained in stature after all you've been through. You'll soon know that the future is much brighter.

Thursday February 4

There's much going on behind the scenes, and you'll be keeping secrets from people who ought to know what's going on. Both at work and at home, be fair with all.

Friday February 5

Dynamic aspects over the next few weeks set the scene for a moment of opportunity and growth in six months time. When generous offers arrive, respond graciously.

Saturday February 6

Mercury's relationship with Neptune is inspired and romantic, but could be confused. Before you get too muddled, friends might just mean what they say.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Mars, your ruling planet, is still offering you solid support, even if it is a little over-emotional. Your energy may therefore swing from one extreme to another, yet always the general movement will be in a positive, forward direction.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)



Current communication difficulties will be eased by the relationship of Mercury to your sign, which is helping you to think clearly. Mars and Saturn, on the other hand, are sending you challenging patterns, indicating that you must take a more flexible attitude, abandoning some of the your expectations.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)



Mercury, your ruling planet, is behaving itself for once. Mind you, you might have to resign yourself to the fact that partners could disagree with you, and may even decline to offer you the support that you believe you deserve. From your point of view, it's best to listen carefully.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)



Although your personal prospects are still looking good, and you are busier than usual, see this as a period of caution; a time to push ahead with your own plans as conscientiously as possible and to respect the fact that colleagues have their own ideas which are every bit as valid as yours.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



You have a natural tendency to over-dramatise situations, never more so than when an emotional planet such as Venus is creating tension and raising the passionate temperature. Deal with personal problems correctly and the coming period will be a time to rejoice in the company of your family and friends.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)



Judging from your solar chart, it seems unlikely that a major upheaval is on the way. Instead, you'll be presented with a series of opportunities to breathe fresh air into situations which you have sometimes found restrictive. Partners must allow you to find your own way and travel in a direction which suits you.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)



The group of planets which will be aligned with your sign over the coming months is urging you to make fundamental reforms in your whole life. However, your experience, wisdom and maturity mean that, in the future, you will have much greater control over the final outcome of your actions.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)



This week is not exactly set to be a time of peace and quiet, at least not as far as the celestial spheres are concerned. You have everything going for you, yet somewhere along the line it looks as if you might make a blunder, perhaps betraying a confidence or revealing secret plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)



Mars is still the critical factor, driving you forward with its relentless power. Yet possibly your major period is mid-week when your financial fantasies will collide with the real world. Hopefully, the result will be a profit! You may have to travel in search of social or romantic fulfillment.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)



Solar planets bring to mind the ancient proverb to the effect that, if you think you are confused, you shouldn't worry because the next person is probably much more muddled than you are. In fact, this is a period of supreme inspiration, so dream your dreams, and see where your imagination leads.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



You should follow your ruling planet's down-to-earth disposition by making more effort to implement your plans. Too often, you have had ideas which can only be described as brilliant, but have lacked the will or the ability to put them into practice. Now is the time to change for the better.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



Mars is still making its prolonged passage through sensitive regions of your chart, forcing you to face up to your attitude to work, career questions and adventurous ambitions. It does look as if some of your hopes have been realistic just as long as you are prepared to learn from circumstances.

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 clue.

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we ____ than when we ____ - William Wordsworth (5, 4)

EPAOR



EGOOST



HPWOO



ARTYPS



ANSWER: WISDOM IS OFTENTIMES NEARER WHEN WE STOOD THAN WHEN WE SOAR - William Wordsworth

SUDOKU 4369

Difficulty Level 3s

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 4368



RICO E-TENDER NOTICE

RICO invites tenders/bids costing more than **Rs. 200** lacs through eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in from 10.00 a.m. onwards and received before 05.00 p.m. on 29.02.2021. This is to inform all the prospective bidders/contractors registered in appropriate class in any department or public undertaking of any state in India/GOI, that they may download & submit online tenders/bids for following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)
1.	Sr. Regional Manager, Boranada	
1.1	Up-gradation of water Supply Lines at Industrial area Boranada UBN-RCD2021/WSOB01166	341.76

For details information and instruction for online submission of tender/bid, please log on www.rico.co.in and www.eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in. For queries please contact : Sr. DGM (Civil), Ph: 0141-4593212

RICO Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302 005, Phone : 0141-2227751, 4593201 Fax : 0141-4593210 E-Mail : rico@rico.co.in Website : www.rico.co.in

Raj.Samwad/C/209281

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT

MEGA e-AUCTION SALE DURING FEBRUARY 2021 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

MEGA E-AUCTION AT RATLAM DIVISION

Western Railway is conducting **Mega E-Auction at Ratlam on 05.02.2021**. It consists 11 Diesel Loco, 3000 MT P-Way Scrap and 1MT other scrap and 184 units abandoned railway structures. The Interested parties are hereby invited to participate in the e-auction.

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers.

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Ratlam	Ph: 07412230080, 09752492750
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Note:- (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.reps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatories, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

No. : S III/Auction Programme-II/Feb-2021, Dated: 28.01.2021.

Deputy Chief Materials Manager (Sales) For PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

D-0620

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHE DIVISION, PULWAMA (JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT))

از دفتر ایگزیکٹو انجینئر (جل شکتی) پی ایچ ڈی - ڈویژن پلوامہ

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT S. NO: 104/PHEP of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) are invited on Turn Key basis with operation & maintenance for a period of Three Years which includes DLP of one year from reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of reputed in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jitenders.gov.in> for the subject work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Srinagar and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of tender documents (Form, etc.) 25.05.2021 are accepted. The tender document and Specifications can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jitenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the charge of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Tender Opening Authority	Class of Contract
1	Composite Tender for (Seven No. Water Supply Schemes) under Languishing Programme including operation & maintenance for a period of 3 years which includes 12 months DLP:- 1- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.50 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of 1 no sluice chamber and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes for WSS Bhatnagar (LUP 2388) 2- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.70 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of 1 no sluice chamber, pump operator quarter, Chowkidar quarter and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes including Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of various Electro-Mechanical Equipments for WSS Khilan-Gundi-Musa (LUP 2405) 3- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.50 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head, 0.22 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant including Construction of 2 no sluice chambers, double storied pump operator quarter and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes for WSS Pahoo (LUP 2407) 4- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.22 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of 2 no sluice chambers, Nallah training works, Development of premises, approach road PST, 0.30 Lac gallons capacity Clear Water Sump, pump house, face lifting and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes for WSS Nawah (LUP 2406) 5- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.50 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of 1 no sluice chamber and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes including Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of various Electro-Mechanical Equipments for WSS Niloora Pachipora (LUP 2400) 6- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.70 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of 2 no sluice chamber, chain link fencing, pump house, Chowkidar quarter, leveling dressing and providing and laying of G.I/D pipes for WSS Pulwama Town (Thaman) (LUP 2392) 7- Design, construction, successful testing and commissioning of 0.70 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank including Construction of chain link fencing around structures, providing laying of different dia of pipes, construction of sluice chamber, pump house, chowkidar quarter and leveling and dressing including Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of various Electro-Mechanical Equipments for WSS Kisirgam (LUP 2399)	₹ 1644.37 lacs	₹ 11000/- (Favoring Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama under MH 0215)	Bid Security Declaration as specified	24 months	Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Srinagar	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of reputed in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.

Head of Account :- Languishing Programme (JKIDFC) Position of funds :- Available

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal <http://jitenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	29	01
2	Download start date	29	01
3	Pre-Bid Meeting (in the office of Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Srinagar	06	02
4	Last date of submission of bid queries	15	02
5	Bid submission start date	29	01
6	Bid submission end date	27	02
7	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	01	03

No. :PHEP/ 5889-90 Dated:- 29-01-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Sd/- Executive Engineer, JSD (PHE) Div, Pulwama,

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Annu Kumari, D/o Munna Thakur, R/o House No. D-307, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.** Age 21 yrs., Height 4'10", Shallow complexion, Medium built, Round face, wearing yellow colour suit, leggings and sandle in feet is missing since **06.01.2021** from her house.

Annu Kumari In this regard a DD No. 33-A, Dt. 07.01.2021 has been lodged at PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046
011-23015218
DP/330/ED/2021

S.H.O., PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-22610839, 22610954

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the convenience of Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the run/trips with revised timings and stoppages of the following Trains as under :-

09731/09732 Jaipur - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jaipur Special Train (Daily)				118 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 09731		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 09732	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
---	07:55	Jaipur		19:50	---
08:05	08:08	Gandhi Nagar Jaipur		19:01	19:04
08:15	08:17	Gator Jagatpura		---	---
08:50	08:52	Dausa		18:22	18:24
09:14	09:16	Bandikui Jn.		17:58	18:00
10:25	10:30	Alwar Jn.		17:10	17:13
11:53	11:55	Rewari		16:15	16:17
12:50	12:52	Gurgaon		15:20	15:22
13:14	13:16	Delhi Cantt.		15:02	15:04
13:45	---	Delhi Sarai Rohilla		---	14:45

Days of Run : 09731 from Jaipur and 09732 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla from **01.02.2021 to 31.03.2021**

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, AC Chair Car, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Mother Dairy, a unit of KMF Bangalore is inviting E-Tenders for Supply of following items to Mother Dairy,B.lore

A. IFT.NO./MD/PUR/ E-Proc T-179/2020-21 Date:15-01-2021

I. Supply on One Time Basis: 1) 10kg Tins for Packing Whole Milk Powder - 80,800 Nos 2) 7 Ply Corrugated Boxes for Packing 10kg WMP Tins with Upper & Lower, Middle Partitions -40,400 Nos 3) Soldering of 10Kg WMP Tins (Material+Labour) Job Work- 1 Job Pre-bid Meeting for Supply of Tins on **03-02-2021 at 11.00 am** at Mother Dairy Board Room.

B. IFT.NO./MD/PUR/ E-Proc T-166 Call-2/2020-21 Date:22-01-2021

I. Supply on One Time Basis: 1) Personal Computers (on buy back policy)-30 Nos. The manufacturers, dealers or interested eligible tenderers are requested to participate on-line only.

For further details, Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from **28-01-2021** and submitted on or before **11-02-2021 upto 17.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Director, Mother Dairy

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

PCE/RCF acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on website www.reps.gov.in closing date: **24.02.2021 at 11.00 a.m.** Bidders will be able to submit their original sealed bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal. Manual payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Contract Type : Works **Tender No. : RCF-CE-WA-EOT-02-20-21. Name of Works :** Renovation work in STP RCF, Kapurthala. **Date of Opening :** 24.02.2021 at 11.05 a.m. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 24.02.2021 at 11.00 a.m.

In the firing line

Australian coach Justin Langer's headmaster-like approach is not working, says a report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 30

AFTER THE Test series loss against India, Justin Langer's coaching style has come under scrutiny. Sources close to the team told *The Sydney Morning Herald* that the Australia head coach's "headmaster-like" style of management "wore thin" with players. According to the report, Langer's intensity and mood swings have drained experienced players, who have spent months on end in either quarantine or bio-bubbles.

The reality sandwich

According to the report, during the final Test in Brisbane, Langer ordered a player to stop habitually stuffing a toasted sandwich in his pocket before walking onto the field.

"You're walking on against India, we're trying to win a Test match and one of our players walks on with a toasted sandwich in his hand," Langer — whose contract as a three-format coach and selector lasts another 18 months — was quoted as saying. "I spoke to (the player) about it at length yesterday. I said, 'How do you reckon it looks, mate?' Is that not something I should say?"



Coach Justin Langer's contract lasts another 18 months.

Micro-managing bowlers

SMH also reports that some senior players are frustrated by the micro-management, with Langer bombarding bowlers with statistics and instructions during lunch breaks. Langer denied the accusation: "It's actually the opposite of what happens. I never talk about statistics to the bowlers, ever. I don't go to any of the bowlers' meetings. That's what the bowlers' coach is meant to be doing. And the learnings of the last few months are I should start looking at that more."

Langer's response

On Friday, Langer said any suggestion of deteriorating relationships with players "couldn't be further from the truth" but added, "leadership isn't a popularity contest".

"If players just want someone to tickle their stomachs all the time then I'm not doing my job."

Not the first time

A previous confrontation between Langer and his players over his coaching style — after Australia failed to regain the Border-Gavaskar trophy two years ago — was a prominent theme of the Amazon-produced documentary *The Test: A New Era for Australia's Team*.

The coach was given a stern message during a team meeting after the 2018 Boxing Day Test drubbing.

Captain Tim Paine wanted Langer to be more positive and batsman Usman Khawaja asked him to not make things "too complicated" for the team.

"We can't always control the result. You get better as individuals, players, staff, everyone, be in better control of that emotion, be more level-headed, without trying to make it too complicated," Khawaja was seen saying. "I think that's what the boys are trying to say. Does that make sense? If it doesn't then..."

When asked where the message was coming from by Langer, Khawaja replied: "Um, I think the boys are intimidated by you, Alf. I think there's a bit of the walking-on-eggshells sort of thing. I feel like I think the boys are afraid to say it."

An old New Year's Resolution

After the 2-1 defeat in 2018-19, Langer resolved to be more mellow for the ODI series in India. The team came back from a 0-2 deficit to win a five-match series.

After the 1-wicket defeat in Leeds during the Ashes, Langer waited a day before conducting a post-mortem to avoid an emotionally-charged feedback session. Australia struck back to win at Old Trafford and, while they lost at The Oval, managed to retain the Ashes.

All seemed well last year. Then India came visiting again.

ENS

Sonam snares big fish on mat

18-yr-old uses superior upper body strength to get the better of Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik

MIHIR VASAVDA
AGRA, JANUARY 30

IT WAS only five years ago that Sonam Malik started regularly competing against girls. And before she could even get a hang of it, she almost was forced to stop wrestling.

Today, the 18-year-old girl who grew up wrestling with the boys in her village in Haryana and overcame a career-threatening arm injury is regarded as the next big thing in Indian wrestling. Ironically, on the strength of her arm locks. On Saturday, Sonam provided evidence of it as she out-manoeuvred Rio Olympics bronze medalist Sakshi Malik to be crowned as the new national champion in the 62kg weight category in Agra.

The result is significant for several reasons. This is the third straight time Sonam has defeated Sakshi — her two earlier wins came during selection trials for international tournaments — thus making the hierarchy in the 62kg class amply clear. Crucially, the result also solidifies her chances to make the cut for the qualifiers of the Tokyo Olympics at the expense of Sakshi. So, when the referee raised Sonam's right arm and declared her as the winner of the final, the symbolism of the moment couldn't be missed. Ironically, the same arm was the reason why her career nearly crashed before it actually took off. "In 2018, she damaged a nerve so badly that her arm went limp," Sonam's father Raj says.

The incident took place during the 2017 cadet world championships. Shortly after she won the gold medal, Sonam felt a bit of uneasiness in her arm.

At first, her coaches believed it was a routine injury and tried all the *desi nuske*. But the pain remained and braving that, she continued to take part in domestic tournaments. That year, during a state championship, her arm stopped moving. "If we lifted the arm over her head, it would fall right back," Raj says.

It wasn't a momentary thing. Sonam lost her grip and the arm would not do what her mind would say. "The doctors felt even if she regained full strength, wrestling was not an option for her anymore," Raj says.

For Sonam, who started wrestling when she turned 11, quitting wrestling was unimaginable. She joined an akhara started in her village, Madina in Sonapat district, by a retired Army Subedar. "There were not many girls in our neighbourhood who wrestled. So Sonam, for the first five years or so,



SATURDAY'S RESULTS (OLYMPIC CATEGORIES):

50KG: GOLD: Minakshi (Haryana); SILVER: Henny Kumari (Haryana); BRONZE: Swati Shinde (Maharashtra) and Kirti (Delhi)
57KG: GOLD: Anshu (Haryana); SILVER: Lalita (Railways); BRONZE: Raman Yadav (MP) and Mansi (Haryana)
62KG: GOLD: Sonam (Haryana); SILVER: Sakshi Malik (Railways); BRONZE: Pushpa (MP) and Manisha (Haryana)

competed only against boys from our village," Raj says.

Soon, she started winning at the district and state levels, which earned her a place on the national team.

In her first global meet, the 2017 world cadet championship, she won the gold before injuring her arm.

"Four months after her arm stopped responding, it regained movements and it took her a few more months to rebuild the lost strength," Raj says.

When she eventually returned on the mat, it looked like she was never away. In 2018, Sonam won a bronze medal at the cadet worlds followed by a gold in 2019, thus becoming the only Indian wrestler after two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar to win two cadet world championship gold medals.

On Saturday, Sonam endured acute pain in the stomach — and even took medication for spasms after her second-round match — to outlast Sakshi in a thrilling final, in which she made a comeback after being 0-4 down to win 7-5 by using her superior upper body strength to her advantage.



THE WOMEN's national wrestling championship got underway at a school in the outskirts of Agra on Saturday. The two-day event has attracted about 240 wrestlers in 10 weight categories.

WRESTLING IS the first major Olympic discipline to conduct the national championships since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. All wrestlers had to submit Covid negative results.

HOWEVER, AS was the case during the men's championship, social distancing guidelines were flouted as spectators mingled with the wrestlers and a majority did not wear a mask.

Mihir Vasavda

You want your strongest team, but rotation is important: Buttler

VISHAL MENON

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

IN 'NORMAL' times, Jos Buttler, England's first-choice wicketkeeper-batsman in long-form cricket, would have featured in all four Tests in India. But as things stand, he will be rested for the final three, only to return for the subsequent five-match T20I series. With a spot in the World Test Championship final theoretically still up for grabs (England need to blank India 3-0 to stand a chance), and given the squad's inexperience of playing in India, wouldn't the visitors be better served having Buttler for the entire duration of the Test series? A combination of factors seems to have prompted the selectorial call.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) believes the upcoming T20I series gives them the perfect opportunity to prepare, fine-tune their skills, and chart a blueprint for the T20 World Cup, scheduled in India later this year. This is why they have yielded to their limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan's request to have their strongest squad for this leg of the tour. Buttler being vital to England's T20 World Cup hopes, it's no secret they want him

fresh at the back-end of the India sojourn.

While this may seem like a pragmatic approach, there are many who reckon that Buttler, a seasoned IPL regular, would get hardened and battle-ready for the ICC event by facing some of the finest Indian and international recruits in the T20 league. "I think the IPL does give you familiarity with the wickets. If you haven't faced someone like Jasprit Bumrah, who has a bit of unique action, it can be a bit of a problem. It takes some (time) getting used to it," Buttler said during a virtual press conference from Chennai.

Even as he spelt out the benefits of playing in the IPL, the five-match T20 series against India, Buttler argued, is equally important, since it gives a relatively young team ample time to gel together and get familiarised with their respective roles.

Settled team is important

"We had a very settled team during the ODI World Cup, as guys had played for a long period of time, and I think that was a huge plus for us going into that tournament. As far as this T20 side is concerned, we haven't had time to play together as a group and get familiarised in the respective roles,

so to play against a brilliant side like India gives us the perfect preparation for the World T20," he said.

Buttler defended England's rotation policy, which he says was necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic and a packed international schedule.

"You want your strongest team out every time, but unfortunately, that doesn't seem possible at the moment... You do find it challenging having to stay away from your families, being in quarantine and locked up in hotels. ECB has been forward-thinking in rotating players for this series," he explained.

Buttler is in the midst of a rich vein of batting form in red-ball cricket. He conjured up a career-resurrecting 152 against Pakistan in Southampton in the final Test of the English summer, followed by significant knocks of 55 and 46 not out in the second Test against Sri Lanka at Galle.

Getting rotated out of the Test squad could surely hamper his momentum, but Buttler isn't perturbed. If anything, he looks at the positives. "The pandemic has had people whose world has been turned upside down and we are very fortunate to play cricket and do our job that we love."

Ranji Trophy shelved

Mumbai: The Ranji Trophy won't be held during the truncated 2020-21 season, instead the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to conduct the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy and the senior women's One-day tournament. This is the first time in 87 years that the prestigious tournament has been dropped for a season.

In a letter to state associations on Friday, BCCI secretary Jay Shah while highlighting the time lost because of the pandemic, wrote, "It is extremely important for us to ensure that women's cricket takes place and I am extremely happy to inform you that we are going to conduct the Senior Women's One day tournament simultaneously with the Vijay Hazare Trophy and follow it up with Vinoo Mankad Trophy Under 19. This has been decided after having received your feedback on the domestic season 2020-21."

However, the BCCI has decided to compensate domestic players for the match fees they would have earned during the Ranji Trophy, approximately Rs 40000 a day.

It is learnt that Vijay Hazare will be played along the lines of the on-going Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy — in six designated bio bubbles. The venues will be finalised next week and the teams will enter the bio-bubble in the first week of February.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

Egg-flip and a strong brew of discipline: How coach Nambiar groomed Usha

NIHAL KOSHIE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

ONE OF PT Usha's earliest dreads was the thought of reaching late for coach OM Nambiar's training session at 6 am. An old-school coach and a stickler for discipline, Usha came under Nambiar's wings when she joined the hostel of the Sports Division in Kannur as a Class 8 student. "If anyone reached at 6:05 am, they would be punished. You had to run with your pair of spikes held over your head around the ground. I had to run like that once or twice just after I joined the hostel, but not after that," Usha recalls.

To reach on time, it was crucial to wake up by 4:45 am at least. The hostel had just two toilets and three bathrooms for 80 trainees. A long bathroom queue was not an excuse the retired air force sergeant-turned-coach would accept. "I would get up really early and stand in the queue. At times I would tell someone to hold my place in the queue and have a quick shut eye before my turn," Usha says.

The police ground, in the middle of the city, did not have any structures blocking the view. "If you were punished the whole town literally knew about it," Usha says.

Coach Nambiar was a taskmaster but also incentivised training. "Whoever did the warm-up drills the best would get a toffee. I am the one who got the most toffees," Usha says of the early days of the successful coach-athlete partnership which began in the late 1970s. A fourth-place finish at the Los Angeles Games and multiple medals won by Usha at the Asian Games and Asian Championships earned her the moniker of Golden Girl. Nambiar, her coach, mentor and constant shadow became a household name in the 1980s.

Earlier this week Nambiar was named as a Padma Shri winner. At 89, he is suffering for Parkinson's, rarely gets off the bed and needs assistance to walk. "When he heard about being awarded the Padma Shri he was very happy. He felt he should have received it earlier, but better late than never," Suresh his son says. Nambiar won't be able to travel for the award ceremony, Suresh confirms. "Haven't thought about it yet. Maybe a family member will have to represent him. The only time he leaves the house is for a medical check-up."

On Monday, hours before the list of award winners was officially announced, Usha had visited her coach. "We had gone for the engagement of my husband's niece. It took

place close to Nambiar sir's house. So I dropped in. He insisted that I have a cup of tea," Usha says. "Whenever I meet him a lot of memories come flooding back."

In the 80s, the support system wasn't great so Nambiar had to wear many hats, one of them being a nutritionist. When training at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, Nambiar hit it off with the wrestling squad. "Wrestlers were big into badam milk. He would always get a glass for me. After a point the wrestlers would keep badam milk for me," Usha says.

It was Nambiar who asked Usha, a pescatarian to start consuming eggs and adopt a non-vegetarian diet. At first, Usha found it hard because she didn't like the smell of eggs. But as 'sir' was insisting, she knew it would only benefit her on track and during training.

"I was a vegetarian who would eat fish. In the sports hostel, I would not eat the boiled egg and would store it away in my bag. But eventually, Nambiar sir found out and gave me a yelling. There were so many eggs in my bag and they started smelling," Usha says. Over the years, Usha got used to the egg-flip — raw egg mixed in a glass of hot milk and stirred till it froths — which Nambiar would



PT Usha during a training session with coach OM Nambiar. *Usha's album*

make for her every other day. "I would close my nostrils with my fingers and drink it. As Nambiar sir was giving it to me I drank it."

By the early 1980s, Usha knew she

needed Nambiar by her side. The concept of a personal coach was unheard of in India, Usha says. Once an athlete was part of the Indian team, coaches at the national camp took over. Usha was adamant to change the system. She first tried to convince athletics federation officials, but when that failed she went to the sports ministry. Finally, she knocked on the door of prime minister Indira Gandhi. "The prime minister was not in her office but I met PC Alexander (principal secretary) and told him why it was crucial for Nambiar sir to travel with me. Mr Alexander said, 'don't worry, it will be done'."

Decision to target hurdles

This was around the time Nambiar had proposed the idea of Usha focussing on the 400 metres hurdles for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics which was a year away. It was a smart move by the coach as the event was relatively new and was to be part of the Olympics for the first time. Usha was still smarting from bagging only the silver in the 100m and 200m at the Asiad in Delhi and the coach was keen to challenge his ward.

The Asian Track and Field meet in Kuwait is where Nambiar tested Usha's potential by making her run in the 400 metres. She won

the gold at Kuwait City, which made Nambiar confident of being on the right track. "Nambiar sir told me I have a good stride pattern and he said I have the potential to become a top 400 metre hurdles runner," Usha says.

How the tilt at Olympic glory ended in a heart-breaking fourth place finish at Los Angeles has been retold over the years. In Usha's latest retelling her coach was inconsolable. "At first when they announced the top-three finishers my name was third. Then they started going through the slow-motion camera for half an hour. I was in the dope room when it was officially announced that the Romanian came third. Nambiar sir broke down. He wouldn't stop crying. I was hurting inside, but I didn't want my coach to see it. So I held myself together and consoled him. 'Don't worry we will win a medal at the next Olympics' I told him."

Usha and Nambiar minted medals in Asia, but the Olympic medal remained an unfulfilled dream. 'A great regret' is what both have called it.

She is full of gratitude though as her coach is being bestowed a prestigious award. "Without Nambiar sir's guidance I would not have been able to achieve what I did for the country."



Over 3000 Scholarships Worth Rs 25+ Crores For Class 12th Students, Thanks To Mindler Scholarship Hunt

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Mindler has launched 2021's biggest scholarship hunt offering 3000+ scholarships to class 12 students worth over INR 25 crores**
- **The Mindler Scholarship Hunt will also be rewarding the top 10 students with a scholarship offer for any university of choice in India**
- **The initiative has been outlined and curated to identify and reward talent across multifarious career domains**

With uncertainty being the norm, universities are still implementing changes to their admission and selection processes for the academic year 2021. Grade XII students are overwhelmed and anxious about what the year has in store for them. While it's encouraging to see an increasingly high proportion of students with high college and career expectations, most do not feel prepared to do so. This is where a comprehensive career guidance platform such as Mindler steps in. Mindler serves the perfect blend of education, technology of excellence, experience coupled with an unmatched passion to make sure that every student progresses on the right path.

To further this pursuit in student interest, Mindler has launched 2021's Biggest Scholarship Hunt offering 3000 + scholarships to Grade XII students worth over INR 25 Crores. The Mindler Scholarship Hunt has been outlined and curated to identify and reward talent across multifarious career streams by connecting them with the leading universities of their own choice.

The assessment of this scholarship tests students on a variety of parameters such as their aptitude, leadership quotient, emotional quotient, personality traits, working style and much more. The assessment results coupled with past academic performances of the students along with their co-curricular & extracurricular achievements will help arrive at a combined score. What this methodology ensures is that every student has

an equal opportunity to earn a scholarship to the top Universities by receiving a fair chance to outdo the others. As a part of this scholarship, students will be able to make unconventional career choices to pursue their dream career.

Not only this, but the top ten students will also have the golden opportunity to choose any university in India of their choice. Mindler will be awarding these students a 50% scholarship to the university of their choice. This will put them ahead of everyone, and allow them to stand apart from the crowd. Given the delays and deferrals we have seen over the last year, it goes without a doubt that the competition will be stiffer this year. And with this having a scholarship to the dream college, would only boost their confidence ever so much.

“The pandemic has affected people across various industries. One of the most affected is the educational sector leaving class 12 students in a state of confusion with ambiguity. We all stress on the importance of this grade because it ends up defining our career choices, but unfortunately this year has been a struggle for our students. Our clear objective is to support students gain clarity in the face of this adversity and steer in the right direction despite of the current circumstances.”



- **Prateek Bhargava**
Founder & CEO, Mindler

Key Benefits For Students

Apart from the 3000+ scholarship offers from participating universities, the Mindler Scholarship Hunt will also be rewarding the top 10 students with a scholarship offer for any university of choice in India. The top 10 students will be selected by Mindler and the Founding Advisory Committee & Jury of the Mindler Scholarship Hunt. Additionally, the Mindler Scholarship Hunt will not only help students earn potential scholarships but will also enable them to get comprehensive career profiling using Mindler Scholarship Assessment and discover best-fit career paths based on their unique talents and strengths.

Students will have the unique opportunity of exploring their best fit career through the Scholarship Assessment which is part of the Scholarship Hunt Process. This Mindler Scholarship Assessment will provide comprehensive career profiling for class 12 students, and help them make a decision about the right course for their undergraduate education.

Once done with the Scholarship Assessment, the students will then be able to identify their unique talents and strengths. This will enable them to make informed decisions about not only their future colleges, but also give them clarity on the most suitable careers for them.

This coming at no cost to the students, is already a boon for the entire student community in the country. To top it all off, students will get to explore courses and connect with the Universities in-sync with their best fit careers. The Mindler Scholarship Hunt is the one-stop-solution for a student's university admission woes, offering from career selection to scholarships.

This is the perfect opportunity amidst this pandemic to earn something productive all while sitting at the comfort of your homes.

Register for Free to avail these benefits:
SCAN CODE



Register for free at:
scholarship.mindler.com

Deadline to Register:
20th FEB 2021

For queries contact:
scholarship@mindler.com

Partner Universities



About Mindler



Mindler is a venture conceptualized and run by alumni of ISB, IIT, IIM, Harvard and the world's preeminent psychometricians. The Mindler platform equips students, counsellors and schools to have a career planning platform which is future-ready and empowers all the concerned stake-

holders. Mindler has been awarded and commended by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of State (UAE Government), Entrepreneur India, ISB D-Labs, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Education World, Economic Times and CII at IIM Ahmedabad.

About Affairs



Affairs is India's leading education enabler in K-12 to Higher Education with over 25 years of expertise. Affairs has played a pre-dominant role in promoting India as a global study destination in over 10 countries through education fairs, conferences & global summits.

In collaboration with:



Class 12 Students in a State of Confusion

High-school students are mostly unsure about the careers they would like to pursue, or what the pathway is to achieve the same. If this confusion was not enough, the unprecedented circumstances because of COVID-19 have made the career decision-making process all the more difficult for high school students. The confusion no doubt has sprung from the continuous delays and postponement of classes, school opening, board examinations, national entrance examinations and the list is quite long. The students are thus in a situation that is unseen in its literal sense that no one has dealt with this before, which makes it all the more difficult for them.

Career guidance platform Mindler launched the Mindler Scholarship Hunt to make things a little easier for students. Supporting Mindler in this endeavour is AFAIRS (one of Asia's leading education enabler for student-university outreach) and Education World.

The Scholarship Hunt has been a blessing in disguise for class 12 students who have been anxious

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about their future prospects considering the year gone by. Parents have had an equally difficult time coping with the challenges. College and course selection has been more confusing than ever. With this initiative, Mindler not only aims towards providing class 12 students an edge in their career journeys, but also towards enabling the students choosing their best fit careers.

Mindler Advisory Board & Jury for the Scholarship Hunt



Mr. Himmat S. Dhillon
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The Lawrence School, Sanawar



Dr. Jagpreet Singh
Headmaster,
The Doon School, Dehradun



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