

RESHUFFLE TODAY

## Balancing act in Rajasthan: 5 Pilot loyalists set to join Gehlot Cabinet

Emphasis on SC, ST; no Independents, BSP MLA who joined Cong finds place

**HAMZA KHAN & MANOJ CG**  
 JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, NOV 20

FOR THE first time since it took charge in 2018 and about 16 months after a rebellion led by then Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot pushed it to the brink, the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan state government will see a Cabinet reshuffle.

The imperative is more political than governance. The new Cabinet, finalised by the Congress high command, will have five ministers who are seen as supporters of Pilot.

While Pilot loyalists Ramesh Meena and Vishwendra Singh will return to the Ministry, Brijendra Singh Ola, Hemaram Choudhary and Muralial Meena will make an entry. Muralial Meena will be inducted as a minister of state while the other four will be Cabinet ministers.

Pilot, who had the support of



CM Ashok Gehlot, Governor Kalraj Mishra at Jaipur Raj Bhavan on Saturday. ANI

**EXPLAINED**  
**Cong high command asserts**

AFTER PUNJAB, the expansion of the Gehlot cabinet signals an assertive Congress high command. By forcing Gehlot to induct five loyalists of rival Sachin Pilot, it has tried to paper over the cracks.

### THE WORLD

**EUROPE AGAIN COVID EPICENTRE, NEW CURBS TRIGGER RESISTANCE** [PAGE 14](#)

## For fifth year, Indore ranked cleanest city; Chhattisgarh cleanest state

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

INDORE HAS been ranked India's cleanest city for the fifth year in a row by Swachh Survekshan 2021, the central government's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Surat and Vijaywada were ranked second and third cleanest respectively in the category of cities with over 10 lakh population.

Among the smaller cities with population between 1-10 lakh, New Delhi ranked first, followed by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

Varanasi was ranked the cleanest in the "Ganga town" category, followed by Munger and Patna.

Among the states with over 100 urban local bodies, Chattisgarh was ranked on top for the third consecutive year, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan were ranked last.

Ahmedabad Cantonment was adjudged "cleanest cantonment", followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.

Presenting the awards on Saturday, President Ram Nath

## At Kartarpur border, Sidhu calls Imran 'bada bhai', draws BJP fire

**MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA**  
 KARTARPUR SAHIB (PAKISTAN), NOVEMBER 20

PUNJAB CONGRESS president Navjot Singh Sidhu was at the centre of a new row Saturday after he called Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan his "bada bhai" (elder brother) who had showered him "a lot of love".

Sidhu made this remark Saturday morning while being greeted by a Pakistani official at the Kartarpur Corridor border

## Hockey diplomacy after 7 yrs: Pak junior team arrives for World Cup

**SHUBHAJIT ROY & MIHIR VASAVDA**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

INDIA AND Pakistan have stepped up people-to-people engagement — from reopening the Kartarpur corridor earlier this week to restarting hockey diplomacy after seven years.

For the first time since 2014, the Pakistan men's junior hockey team reached Delhi on Saturday to participate in the Junior Hockey World Cup. The World Cup is being held in Bhubaneswar from November 24 to December 5.

### OFFICIALS START DRAFTING NOTE FOR CABINET

## Work begins to repeal farm laws, unions press other demands

SKM says MSP guarantee issue still pending, asks farmers to continue protests

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA & AMIL BHATNAGAR**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the three new agriculture laws will be repealed, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the body spear-heading the farmer protest, said it will continue the agitation to get "all demands" fulfilled.

The SKM called a meeting even as officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution began the process of drafting the repeal Bills which are expected to get Cabinet nod early next week.

The SKM appealed to farmers to gather in large numbers at protest sites on November 26, exactly a year after they first showed up at Delhi's border in Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur to lodge their protest.

It said a kisan mahapan-chayat, scheduled for November 22 in Lucknow, will go ahead as planned.

"The Kisan Andolan led by Samyukt Kisan Morcha continues the struggle to get all demands of protesting farmers fulfilled. While the PM announced repeal of the three farm laws, he chose to remain silent on other demands. Demand for statutory guarantee for a fair MSP is an



**SUNDAY STORY**  
**POSTCARDS FROM A PROTEST** [PAGE 11](#)



Tikait at Ghazipur border Saturday. Gajendra Yadav

**VARUN WRITES TO PM: COULD HAVE SAVED LIVES** [PAGE 6](#)

## Govt stand positive but big question on MSP: Tikait

**SANDEEP SINGH**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE PRIME Minister's announcement that the three farm laws would be repealed came as a "surprise" and it's a "positive" sign that the Government is

moving in the right direction, said Rakesh Tikait, farmer leader and national spokesperson of Bhartiya Kisan Union.

However, he made it clear, speaking to *The Sunday Express*, that farmers would not leave the protest site until the laws are

### BOMBAY HIGH COURT ORDER

## In Aryan bail, HC rebuts NCB: hardly any evidence to show conspiracy

Nothing objectionable in WhatsApp chats, says single-judge bench

**SADAF MODAK**  
 MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

IN ITS detailed order granting bail to Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan; Arbaaz Merchant; and model Munmun Dhamecha, the Bombay High Court has said that there was "hardly any positive evidence" to show conspiracy between the accused as alleged by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The court also said that "nothing objectionable" was noticed in the WhatsApp chats allegedly recovered from Aryan's phone to suggest that there was a conspiracy.

The single bench of Justice Nitin Sambre had granted bail to the three on October 28. They were arrested on October 2 after a raid on a cruise by the NCB. The 14-page order was made available Saturday.

"There is hardly any positive evidence on record to convince this Court that all the accused persons with common intention agreed to commit unlawful act. Rather the investigation carried out till this date suggests that Applicant/Accused nos. 1 & 2 (Aryan and Merchant respectively) were travelling independent of Applicant/Accused no. 3

#### WHAT COURT SAID

**NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD:** Conspiracy so all drug recoveries in the case, including commercial quantity, linked to all accused  
**BOMBAY HIGH COURT:** Hardly any evidence that accused had common intention to commit unlawful act.

**NCB:** Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha were to travel on the cruise together, hence were linked  
**HC:** Travelling together by itself not conspiracy

**NCB:** Accused admitted to consumption of drugs  
**HC:** Not admissible; no medical exam done

**NCB:** WhatsApp chats show Aryan's links with trafficking  
**HC:** Nothing objectionable in chats

(Dhamecha) and there was no meeting of minds on the aforesaid issue," the court said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



पतंजलि®

# Nutrela™

SuperFood

**SUPERFAST** ज़िंदगी के लिए



Get rid of **Animal** and **chemical based** synthetic nutraceuticals

Choose **Nutrela's** **Natural** and **Organic** Superfoods for balanced nutrition

## 3

IN ONE ADVANTAGE

- SUPERFOODS
- BOTANICAL EXTRACTS
- SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION





**Support Vitality, Muscle Health, Mood Stabilizer, Hair & Nail Health**

Added advantage of: Moringa, Fenugreek, Shankhpushpi, Ashwagandha, Shatavar, Glucosamine & Lutein

**Improve Muscle Mass, Active Growth, Memory & Brain Development**

Added advantage of: Almonds, Walnut, Flaxseed, Dates, Brahmi, Tulsi, Shankhpushpi, Cow Milk Calcium, Colostrum & Fiber

**Supports Immunity, Digestive Health, Bone & Joint Health, Muscle Health**

Added advantage of: Dates, Chia seeds, Quinoa, Almonds, Moringa, Boswellia, Ashwagandha, Glucosamine & Fiber

India's Most Certified Nutrition

**Ruchi** Online Store: Amazon, Orderme app, [www.nutrelanutrition.com](http://www.nutrelanutrition.com)  
 Retail Store: Available at All Patanjali Chikitsalyas, Patanjali Stores and all prominent stores near you.  
 Website - [www.nutrelanutrition.com](http://www.nutrelanutrition.com), E-mail - [wecare@nutrelanutrition.com](mailto:wecare@nutrelanutrition.com), Phone - 18601800180

## Bengaluru hacker broke into state's e-procurement site and 'stole' funds

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**JOHNSON TA**  
 BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 20

ONE OF six hard disks recovered from laptops belonging to hacker Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki, 26, who is at the centre of an alleged Bitcoin-for-bribes controversy that has hit Karnataka politics in recent

weeks, has revealed data of a hack carried out at the e-procurement cell of the state government where Rs 11.5 crore was stolen by a hacker gang in 2019.

The analysis of these hard disks from laptops seized from the hacker and an associate Robin Khandelwal, following their arrest in Bengaluru in November 2020, was carried out by private cyber forensics firm Group Cyber ID Technology Pvt Ltd earlier this year at the instance of the Bengaluru city cy-



Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki

bercrime police in a case of hacking of two poker gaming sites. The details of the analysis are

enclosed as a report in a chargesheet filed in the cyber case.

According to the cyber forensics report, one hard disk "marked 01" recovered from a Macbook belonging to Srikrishna contains "hacking data" for the alleged hacking of the eproc.kar.nataka.gov site of the e-governance cell of the Karnataka government and other sites.

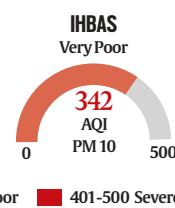
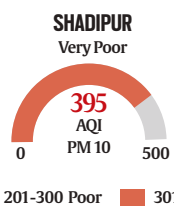
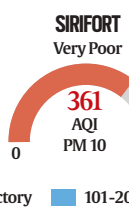
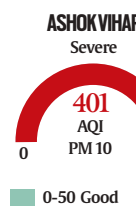
The report has cited a text file, created in 2018, that confirms the hacking of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2









**SKYWATCH**

**FORECAST: Nov 21**  
Mainly clear sky.  
Shallow fog in the morning.

**MAX: 27**  
0.8°C below normal

**MIN: 12**  
0.4°C below normal

# Farm fires down, Delhi air still 'very poor'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

DELHI'S AIR quality remained in the 'very poor' category on Saturday, when the contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi was "negligible," according to the SAFAR forecasting system.

The AQI, as a 24-hour average, was 374, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) bulletin. This is only marginally better than the 380 recorded on Friday. Local wind speed remains low resulting in poor dispersion of pollutants.

From Sunday to Tuesday, strong local winds are likely to help with the dispersion of pollutants, the SAFAR forecast indicates. Winds coming from the north or northwest during this period are also likely to help with flushing out local pollutants.

The farm fire count Saturday, according to the SAFAR system, was 752. The fire count peaked at a figure of around 5,450 on November 8. After a count of 5,317 on November 10, the count fell to 3,125 on November 15; 2,643 on November 17; and to 773 on November 18.

The contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels has also been declining. It stood at 48% on November 7, fell to about 27% on November 9, and climbed up again to about 35% on November 12. The share fell to around 12% on November 14, 10% on November 15, and 2% on



A tanker sprays water at TIO. *Praveen Khanna*

November 18. On Saturday, the figure stood at 5%.

Meanwhile, the spraying of the PUSA decomposer, which was meant to prevent stubble burning within Delhi and help decompose crop residue, has not been completed yet. Of around 4,300 acres, for which applications were received, around 3,800 acres have been covered so far, said A P Saini, Joint Director, Agriculture. The remaining area is likely to be covered over the next two days, he said.

An agriculture (extension) officer in North Delhi said that around 30 to 40 acres that were remaining would be covered in the next two days. Fields in some parts of North Delhi, like Nangal Thakran, are still waterlogged after the rains, he said.

"Farmers in this area usually sow wheat by around November 15. This has been delayed this year due to rain-fall. They are considering not sowing wheat this year and growing something else, like sunflower," he said.

## DDMA nod to 30 standing passengers per coach in Metro

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE DELHI Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Saturday allowed the Delhi Metro and buses to have standing passengers—30 persons per coach for the Delhi Metro, and 50% of the seating capacity in buses. Both buses and

Metro have been allowed to function at 100% capacity.

The DDMA order comes after the Delhi government sent a proposal to them to allow standing passengers in buses and the Metro. The proposal was sent by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on November 16.

In an order, Saturday, Chief Secretary Vijay Dev said, "In view

of the prevailing air pollution situation in NCT of Delhi, it has been felt to augment the carrying capacity of the public transport system (buses/Delhi Metro) so as to minimise the use of private vehicles to improve the ambient air quality of the city."

He partially modified the order dated November 15 "with regard to prohibited/restricted ac-

tivities in NCT of Delhi with effect from intervening night of November 15 and November 16 till intervening night of November 30 and December 1 or till further orders..."

"Transportation by the Delhi Metro shall be allowed with 100% seating capacity of the coach along with up to 30 standing passengers in a coach in the Delhi

Metro," he said.

"Intra-state (within NCT of Delhi) movement of buses (DTC as well as cluster) shall be permitted with 100% seating capacity of the buses along with standing passengers up to 50% of the seating capacity of a bus. In the case of buses, boarding shall be allowed only from the rear door while de-boarding shall be al-

lowed only from the front door," he added.

Dev said, "Transport Department, DTC as well as DMRC shall be responsible for strict compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour (viz social distancing, wearing of mask, use of hand sanitiser etc) as well as relevant SOPs of the respective departments/authorities in this regard".



# PwD App का बड़ा योगदान

## दिव्यांग पंजीकरण हुआ आसान

01 जनवरी 2022 तक यदि आपकी उम्र 18 वर्ष या इससे अधिक है और मतदाता सूची में आपका नाम दर्ज नहीं है तो **तुरंत पंजीकरण कराएं**

**दिव्यांगजनों के लिए सेवाएं**



**PwD App**  
(fully accessible)  
पूर्णतया सुगम

ऑनलाइन आवेदन एवं ट्रैकिंग

दिव्यांग श्रेणी में चिह्नित करें

व्हील चेयर व अन्य सुविधाएं

तमाम जरूरी जानकारीयां

**अंकुर धामा**  
पेरा एथलिट

अगर आपके पास वोटर आई डी है, तो अपना नाम सूची में अवश्य चेक कर लें

**मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, दिल्ली**  
ओल्ड सेंट स्टीफन कॉलेज बिल्डिंग, कश्मीरी गेट, दिल्ली-110006  
[www.ceodelhi.gov.in](http://www.ceodelhi.gov.in)

**चलो वोट करें**

**नीरज यादव**  
एथलियन पेरा गॉल्ड मेडलिस्ट

**हेल्पलाइन 1950**

**मुम्बई**

## Mega Opportunity for a New Beginning This New Year



### DDA ANNOUNCES MEGA E-Auction (14<sup>th</sup> Phase)

of Prime Commercial, Residential, Institutional, Industrial, Group Housing Plots, Built up Shops and Many More...

<b>40</b> RESIDENTIAL PLOTS (Freehold)	<b>69</b> INSTITUTIONAL PLOTS (Leasehold)
<b>109</b> BUILT UP SHOPS/UNITS (Freehold)	<b>32</b> INDUSTRIAL PLOTS (Freehold)
<b>36</b> COMMERCIAL PLOTS (Freehold)	<b>06</b> GROUP HOUSING PLOTS (Freehold)
<b>23</b> KIOSKS (Licence Fee Basis)	<b>17</b> EXPANDABLE HOUSING SCHEME (EHS) PLOTS (Freehold)
<b>21</b> MOBILE TOWERS (Licence Fee Basis)	<b>03</b> CNG SITES (Licence Fee Basis)
<b>18</b> FUNCTION SITES (Licence Fee Basis)	

#### IMPORTANT DATES for e-Auction

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2021:** Opening of Help Desk and Commencement of e-Registration

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (6:00 pm):** Closing time of e-Registration and Online EMD submission

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Online Bidding for Residential Plots, Institutional Plots, Built up Shops/Units

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Online Bidding for Industrial Plots, Commercial Plots, Group Housing Plots, Kiosks

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Online Bidding for Expandable Housing Scheme (EHS) Plots, Mobile Towers, Function Sites, CNG Sites

For details about Plots/Properties and procedure, kindly visit our e-auction website [www.ddaeuction.co.in](http://www.ddaeuction.co.in) Or Click the **e-auction** link available at our site [www.dda.gov.in](http://www.dda.gov.in) and download the same through "E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES" link available at home page of e-auction portal. Intending bidders may register themselves/their firms online at the above site through "REGISTER WITH US" link. Kindly note that digital signature of all the intending bidders are mandatory to participate in e-auction of DDA. A Help Desk has been opened at the Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Ground Floor, 'D' Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi which will start from **24.11.2021** to assist the intending bidders in the ongoing process of e-auction. For obtaining digital signatures and registration/training of prospective bidders and for any other clarification on e-auction process, please contact our Help Desk No. **011-49424365/8800991846/8800378610** from **11:00 am to 5:00 pm** (all working days) or at: [ddauction@etenderwizard.com](mailto:ddauction@etenderwizard.com)

**Sanjeev Kumar, Commissioner (LD-II)**




For further details contact: Commissioner (LD-II), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi - 110023, Ph.: 011-24622670

**DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Laying foundation for a better tomorrow


Visit DDA's Website: [www.dda.gov.in](http://www.dda.gov.in) or dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

[f ddaofficial](#) [t official\\_dda](#)



## STRENGTHENING THE INDIAN NAVY WITH STEALTH AND SECURITY

MAZAGON DOCK IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE FIRST 15B CLASS DESTROYER **VISAKHAPATNAM** TO THE NATION



COMMISSIONING BY:  
**Hon'ble Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh**  
On 21 November 2021

**Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking under Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production)

[www.mazagondock.in](http://www.mazagondock.in)  
[www.indiannavy.nic.in](http://www.indiannavy.nic.in)



## 4 THE CITY

CORONAVIRUS  
IN THE CAPITALVACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS  
71,183

TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS	ICU BEDS	Total	Vacant
			13,580	13,410
Nov 19	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
	30	67	0	56,689
Nov 20	32	32	0	54,249
Total	325*	14,15,217	25,095	3,04,04,086

\*Total active cases

## BRIEFLY

**DJB V-C files defamation suit: Delhi BJP chief summoned**

*New Delhi:* A Delhi court summoned four BJP leaders, including Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Delhi Jal Board vice-chairman Raghav Chadha for levelling allegations of a Rs 26,000 scam in the Jal Board on social media. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dharmender Singh, in his order passed Thursday, summoned Gupta, MLAs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Vijender Gupta, and BJP's Delhi unit spokesperson Harish Khurana in the defamation suit moved through advocate Prashant Manchanda. The court held that there were sufficient grounds for proceedings against the respondents and summoned them under IPC sections 500 (punishment for defamation) and 33 (common intention).

**Regional WorldSkills event: Delhi wins 21 medals**

*New Delhi:* Participants from Delhi won 21 medals in the regional competition of World-Skills in Chandigarh in skills like cyber security, fashion technology, beauty therapy. It was the first time that Delhi had participated in the regional competition at this level. Delhi's delegation of 53 participants in 28 skills were trained at Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University. "As a University, we will focus on training for our skill champions and support them in their holistic development to increase their chances to secure an excellent performance at IndiaSkills and make Delhi and India proud," said DSEU Vice-Chancellor Neharika Vohra. The 21 winning participants will now be trained by DSEU to participate in the IndiaSkills competition scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from December 23 to 27.

**2 arrested for illegally serving liquor, hookah**

*Gurgaon:* Two people in Gurgaon's Sector 72 were arrested for illegally serving alcohol and flavoured hookah to customers in their restaurant on Friday. The arrests were made after the CM flying squad and officials of the excise department conducted a raid at the restaurant. **ENS**

## SECOND DRAW OF LOTS PENDING

## In several small pvt schools, seats for EWS students are still vacant

SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

WITH A second draw of lots yet to be held for EWS admissions to Delhi's private schools, several small private schools say only half of their EWS seats have been allotted so far.

According to provisions of the Right to Education Act, 25% of all seats at entry-level classes in the city's private schools are reserved for students from economically weaker section (EWS), disadvantaged groups (DG) and children with special needs (CWSN) categories. However, so far this year, allotment has not taken place against all these seats. While the new academic year had begun in April, the first round of com-



Out of around 45,000 such seats across schools, around 32,000 were allotted through the first round. *Abhinav Saha*

puterised centralised draw of lots had taken place on June 16.

Out of around 45,000 such seats across schools, around 32,000 were allotted through the first round of draw of lots, an education official said.

As a result of this, several schools that are a part of the Private Land Public School Trust said they have been allotted students for about half of their reserved seats. In response to a grievance placed by one such

school on this, the department responded that it had taken the decision to make 100% allotment to schools running on government attached land and around 50% allotment on schools running on private land.

For instance, at Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Public School, there are 128 reserved seats at entry-level classes. Of these, students were allotted to 59 seats, and 54 took admission. The school now has 74 vacant reserved seats. At Vivek Modern School, there are 40 reserved seats, of which allotments were done against 20, and 17 students took admission, leaving 23 vacant seats.

"We are so many months into this academic year but there are so many seats vacant while students are waiting to get their admissions. A second

round should be held to fill these seats, it's not right that no students be allotted to them," said Chandrakant Singh, whose school, Ideal Radiant Public School, has 17 out of its 30 reserved seats vacant.

In the meantime, the cycle of admissions to the 2022-2023 academic session is set to start soon, with the process normally beginning in December in most years.

"We would ideally like to hold a second round of draw of lots. We are collecting data on how many seats have been filled so far and are trying to take a decision on holding it," said an education department official, adding that the limited allotment had been done based on the experience of how many students could be admitted last year.

## Man hires two hitmen to kill wife; 3 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

TWO DAYS after a 33-year-old woman was stabbed to death in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, her husband and two contract killers hired by him were arrested Saturday. Police said investigation revealed that the man, a cable operator, was having an affair and allegedly decided to kill his wife when she found out.

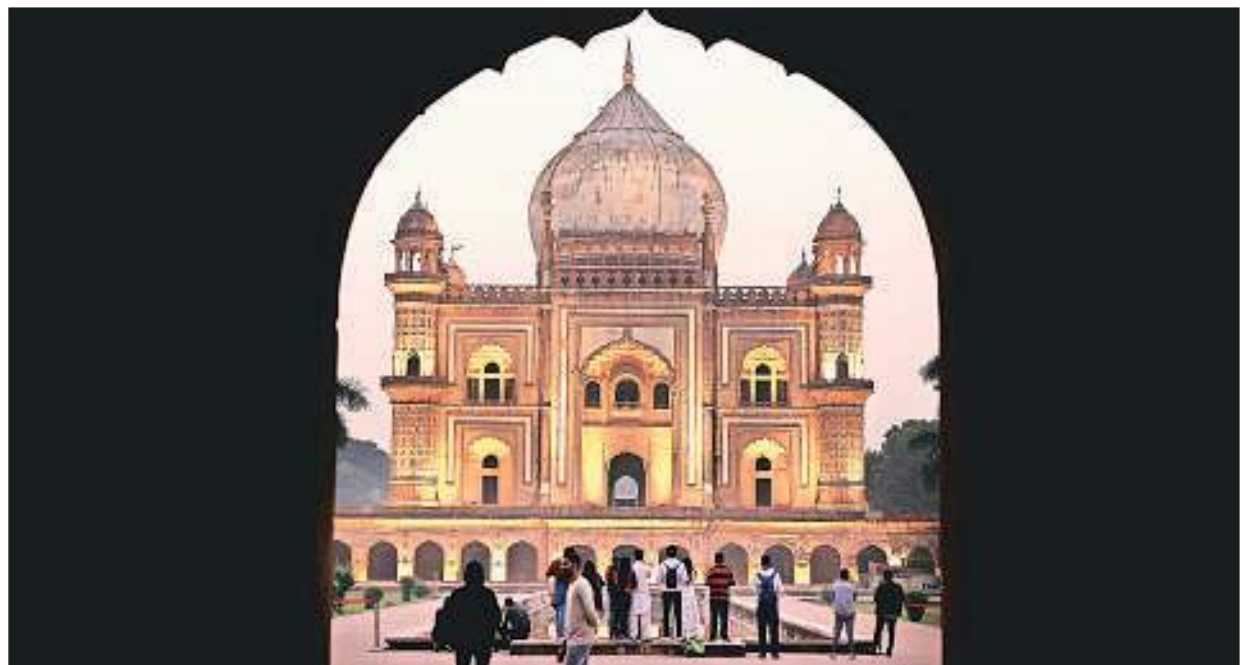
DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said, "The couple constantly fought over this. So, the husband decided to hire two contract killers, Rahul and Sonu." She said the woman was stabbed at least 17 times.

According to police, they found CCTV footage which showed two men entering the victim's house on Thursday but three persons leaving after some time. "We traced them to Pamposh Enclave in Kalkaji. The husband became a suspect after his call records showed he made multiple calls to one number, a woman he was in a relationship with. Call records also revealed he got a WhatsApp call from Rahul, to whom he promised to pay Rs 5 lakh after the murder," Jaiker said.

"When the husband was questioned, he initially misled police saying he had gone to see a homoeopathy doctor in Defence Colony with his son, and his wife was alone at home on Thursday afternoon. He then left his son at a barbershop and went to his office," the DCP said.

Police said after sometime, he called one of his employees to drop his son home after the haircut. "At 4:45 pm, he got a call from his employee saying his wife was lying in a pool of blood. He quickly rushed home and took his wife to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead," Jaiker said.

"During questioning, he confessed to having hired Rahul. He also sent the location of his house to the contract killer," she said.



## CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Visitors at Safdarjung Tomb, Saturday. World Heritage Week is being celebrated from November 19-25. *Praveen Khanna*

## 92 AUD teachers slam letter to six colleagues 'absent' from Sisodia event

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

OVER 90 teachers across the three campuses of Ambedkar University Delhi have issued a statement, under the general body of the AUD Faculty Association (AUDFA), "unequivocally condemning" a letter issued to at least six teachers to explain their "absenteeism" from the inauguration of an auditorium and multipurpose block by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. They have demanded that the letters be withdrawn.

The *Indian Express* had reported on November 10 that AUD had taken "serious note" of the matter and sent emails to the teachers from Karampura campus, asking them to provide "valid reasons" for their absenteeism from the November 2 event.

In a statement by the AUDFA

dated November 15, 92 of the total 130 faculty members said, "We the members of Ambedkar University Delhi Faculty Association unequivocally condemn the letter of explanation issued to some of our colleagues asking them to provide valid reasons for not being present at the inauguration of an auditorium and multipurpose block by the Deputy CM of Delhi on the Karampura campus of AUD on November 2, 2021."

"The inauguration was held in the first week of a much-delayed semester. The construction and inauguration of a multipurpose hall and auditorium are welcome; however, we must remember these infrastructures are meant to provide enabling support for effective delivery of teaching-learning activities. The issuance of a letter of explanation to the faculty for not attending such an inaugural event and for concentrating on their academic duties, including

teaching, preparation, supervision and research, is self-defeating and demoralising," the letter states.

They said such letters were "antithetical to the very fact that such an event is supposed to provide enabling institutional support to effective delivery of teaching-learning function at AUD".

"Such a punitive act defies the logic of infrastructure support which comes at the cost of academic commitment of faculty. This situation is a stark reminder of misplaced priorities of the university that teachers are being asked to show the reason for carrying out academic duties instead of mandatorily attending an auditorium inauguration. It needs to be underlined that AUD is an autonomous institution established by an act of the Delhi Legislature, and its academic integrity must not be sacrificed," they said.

"AUDFA General Body urges

the management to desist from the unwarranted disciplinary act ... We stand in solidarity with all our colleagues who have been carrying out their academic duties in extremely challenging conditions for the last 20 months. AUDFA strongly demands that this letter of explanation should be withdrawn with immediate effect," they said.

Earlier, AUD's PR office had defended its decision to *The Indian Express*, saying the event was a "University-level programme" and that "as per the records, some members of Karampura faculty were on duty but were not seen on campus". It had said the letters had been sent to "know where they were during working hours".

The teachers concerned, however, had said the invitation sent to them only said their "presence was requested" and not that it was "mandatory".

## IN GURGAON

## Apprehensions over Haryana's law to reserve jobs for locals

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA

GURGAON, NOVEMBER 19

THE HARYANA government notifying a law to reserve 75% jobs in the private sector for those from the state could severely impact firms in BPO, IT, manufacturing, and services, deter investment, and even force companies to relocate from Gurgaon in the long run, industry bodies and employers say.

"The move will lead to a shortage of skilled manpower in the state and affect competitiveness and productivity. A majority of manpower in manufacturing, services and allied sectors working in Gurgaon fall within the ambit of the quota... All these sectors would be severely impacted. The companies in IT and ITES sectors have to hire the best talent to remain competitive. Our position is that there should be no imposition and people should be allowed to work in any state," said Pranav Gupta, chairman, Haryana PHD Chamber of Commerce.

He said they are in consultation with the government to further lower the Rs 30,000 ceiling.

The law — a poll promise of the Jannayak Janta Party — comes into force from January 15. It stipulates that firms with 10 or more employees must reserve 75% of all jobs which offer a salary of less than Rs 30,000 a month to those having a domicile (resident certificate) of Haryana. The state government has made certain exemptions — lowering the upper limit of gross monthly salary from Rs 50,000 to 30,000. IT units and startups set up after January 15, 2022, will be exempted for two years from hiring local candidates under the law.

Manas Fuloria, co-founder of digital engineering and technology solutions firm Nagarro, said, "For an IT firm like ours, a few local jobs (security, housekeeping) and entry-level positions for trainees and freshers will be affected. It will not be feasible to hire them all in Haryana and in many cases, one will see such people being absorbed in operations in other states. It is strange that we

are being protectionist at a local level, while Gurgaon has emerged as an IT and BPO giant on a global stage, attracting talent from everywhere. We are nervous that the reservations can be expanded later and for manufacturing companies which have to make a large commitment in terms of setting up a business, such policy decisions will create a doubt."

Hiring managers said the government must invest in a programme to upskill the labour force before bringing in such a law. A former hiring manager of a BPO, said, "Talent cannot be snubbed in favour of a domicile law. There is already a shortage of skilled manpower in the state. For BPO jobs, voice and accent training, technical proficiency and soft skills are important and they can't be imparted overnight. The law infringes on the constitutional right of freedom to migrate for work and could cause friction at the workplace among employees."

"A focused skill development plan for providing the right kind of trained manpower to BPOs and KPOs should have been brought in. For unskilled manpower jobs, that is security guards, office boys, runner staff, the law will not have much of an impact," said Shweta Joshi, HR senior specialist at a Gurgaon-based consultancy.

Praveen Yadav, president of Gurgaon Udyog Association, said the law will act as an impediment to the growth of industries in the city. "Though certain exemptions have been given, the decision is not business friendly. New units, especially large manufacturing ones, will think twice before setting up business. There would be a lot of red tape in terms of implementation. The law is regressive and goes against the business-friendly image of Haryana. At a time (after Covid) when investments are needed, such restrictions should not be imposed," he said.

Another official from a city-based industries association, on condition of anonymity, said the association was exploring legal options to challenge the implementation of the law in court.

## Nigerian national held for hacking WhatsApp accounts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

A 40-YEAR-OLD Nigerian national was arrested from Bengaluru for allegedly hacking people's WhatsApp accounts and swindling money.

DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said the accused, Okwudiri Paschal, was arrested while he was withdrawing Rs 20,000 from an ATM in Bengaluru on November 16. He said the accused is part of an international cyber fraud racket and has allegedly duped hundreds across India.

"The incident came to light when one of the victims registered a complaint at Tilak Marg police station on November 2.

The complainant alleged he received a message on WhatsApp that the facilities on the platform were being upgraded for which the system was generating a six-digit code. He said as soon as he typed his mobile number followed by the 6-digit code provided by an unknown mobile number, his screen froze and the account was hacked," Yadav said.

Yadav said the hacker then sent messages to the victim's relatives via the latter's WhatsApp number and demanded money. Account numbers of several banks were provided by the accused to the victim's kin for transferring money. "During investigation, it was revealed he was prompting people to transfer money," the DCP added.

## NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FIRST IN CATEGORY OF CITIES WITH 1-10 LAKH POPULATION

## Swachh Survekshan 2021: North, East MCDs in bottom 10 among 48 cities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE NORTH and East MCDs have once again finished in the bottom 10 among cities with a population over 10 lakh, results of Swachh Survekshan 2021 show. The New Delhi Municipal Council, meanwhile, topped the survey in the category of cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population.

The North MCD ranked 45 out of 48 cities surveyed in the urban local body category with a population over 10 lakh, two places lower than last year's rank of 43 (of 47 local bodies). The East MCD, which ranked 40 this year, has seen a marginal improvement from last year's rank

of 46. Like 2020, the South MCD ranked 31 this year.

Indore topped the category of cities with a population above 10 lakh, followed by Surat, Vijayawada, Navi Mumbai and Pune.

The Delhi Cantonment Board ranked third in the Cantonment Boards category.

Swachh Survekshan ranks cities and urban local bodies on various parameters like waste segregation and garbage disposal, among others, as part of the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.

A senior New Delhi Municipal Council official said the result was due to the council's efforts to continuously pursue excellence in rendering services and civic amenities.



The MCDs are using trommel machines to clear waste at landfills, which have exceeded their capacity. *Archive*

The results have led to questions over the strategy of MCDs in ensuring waste segregation, waste dumping at landfills which have exceeded their capacity, and cleanliness of toilets.

The MCDs have, in the past, claimed that a fresh push is being given in these directions.

A senior official of the South MCD said, "The main problem area is segregation of waste at

the source, particularly in unauthorised colonies. We are reaching out with information and communication activities to work on this. Our wet waste processing capacity is also a little low. But a new waste-to-energy plant is coming up near Okhla, and we are also working on decentralised composting facilities. We are trying to improve our ca-

capacity for waste disposal."

North MCD standing committee chairperson Jogi Ram focused on the "achievement" which is that the MCD has performed well in terms of citizen feedback. "Segregation is also gradually beginning to be done. In some colonies, there are problems with segregation. At the Bhalswa landfill, trommel ma-

chines are being used," he said.

A senior North MCD official added, "Source segregation will have to be improved and we will also have to work towards 100% processing of waste."

At the East MCD, a spokesperson said, "We are trying to focus on problems like waste segregation and handling garbage burning. But spreading awareness on this takes time. We have tried to reach out through meetings with RWAs and awareness campaigns. At the Ghazipur landfill as well, trommel machines are running."

According to a senior EDMC official, an integrated waste processing plant is coming up to improve waste processing facilities.

**Gurgaon ranks 24 among 425 cities, Noida bags cleanest city award**

Gurgaon jumped several spots in the survey, ranking 24 among 425 cities in the category of cities with a population of 1 lakh to 10 lakh and recording its best performance in the past 6 years. As per officials of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, its performance in the survey has steadily improved over the years.

Meanwhile, Noida bagged the Cleanest City Award in the medium category which consists of places with a population of 3 lakh and less than 10 lakh. Noida has been ranked fourth in the overall survey in the population of cities less than 10 lakh category.



New Delhi





# The Nation Honours Our Consciousness for Cleanliness

## Chhattisgarh Declared India's Cleanest State



“ Receiving this award for the third consecutive year is an honour for the citizens of Chhattisgarh. This feat could not have been achieved in a day, continuous and dedicated efforts have been put in for this accomplishment. Linking this campaign with livelihood provided a rock solid foundation on which we could set forth to win maximum accolades for the state. For this achievement, I would like to congratulate the public representatives, officials and Swachhta Didis of the state ”

- Bhupesh Baghel  
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



Keeping Clean – Keeping Green



# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

TRINAMOOL'S MOVE 'NOT IN GOOD TASTE', SAYS REGIONAL PARTY'S CHIEF

## Alliance talks stalled, TMC lures away senior GFP leader

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 20

IN A “shock” to Goa Forward Party (GFP), its working president Kiran Kandolkar, second only to party chief Vijai Sardesai, joined Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Saturday, hours after he tendered his resignation from the GFP.

The TMC, latest entrant in the contest for Goa Assembly elections, inducted Kandolkar, his wife Kavita Kandolkar and 40 others, including sarpanches of five villages from Assembly constituencies of Tivim and Aldona in North Goa.

Sardesai said Kandolkar's move was “shocking and unexpected”, and “hasty”, and called TMC's action “not in good taste”.

The move comes days after discussions between TMC and GFP over a possible pre-poll alliance hit a dead end. The GFP, which has three MLAs in the 40-member Assembly, is once again



Kiran Kandolkar (centre, holding flag), with TMC leaders on Saturday. @AITCofficial

in talks with the Congress over a pre-election alliance.

While this was TMC's first grab from GFP, the development is seen as a setback to the regional party, as Kandolkar is a prominent Scheduled Caste leader and was seen as among its

“winnable” candidates.

Sardesai had met West Bengal chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on her visit to Goa on October 30. “Regional parties are strong parties and we want to see a strong federal structure. We don't want

outsiders' dadagiri (bullying) — we want insiders to work,” Banerjee had said after their meeting.

Talks between the two parties subsequently fell through. Kandolkar, a former MLA from Tivim, resigned from primary membership of GFP on Saturday morning and joined TMC hours later. He had not discussed the move with Sardesai until his resignation from the party, sources said.

TMC national vice-president Luizinho Faleiro and Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra, who recently took over as the party's in-charge for Goa, were among those present at the induction ceremony held at the International Centre in Dona Paula.

Kandolkar said, “No party apart from TMC is serious about defeating BJP in Goa. I quit GFP in protest against a possible alliance with Congress because the Congress has not shown any seriousness (in defeating BJP).

Congress is the B-team of BJP. Leaders like Rahul Gandhi fail to stand up to (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi. (AAP chief Arvind) Kejriwal only comes and promises to give this for free and that for free. Mamata-didi alone stands up to Modi and Amit Shah and is serious about packing the BJP off from Goa.”

He claimed that many of his supporters, including MLAs and ex-MLAs, are set to join TMC in the days ahead.

Kandolkar had joined GFP in November 2020 and was soon made the party's working president. On Saturday, Faleiro called the Kandolkars “agents of change”.

Sardesai told *The Sunday Express*, “No doubt this is a hit for us, but I am not someone who runs away from a fight.”

Maintaining that Kandolkar was “highly respected in our party”, the GFP chief said, “He had apprehension about being denied a ticket to contest if we

form an alliance with Congress. But we have not forged any alliance so far and his decision was based only on conjectures. Kiran's decision is hasty and we will get to know eventually why he took it. But now that he has joined another party, I wish him all the best.”

Kandolkar was expected to be GFP's candidate from Aldona constituency, and the party had already announced candidature of Kavita, a Zilla Panchayat member from Colvale, from Tivim constituency.

Kandolkar, however, said the Aldona seat may not remain with GFP if it forms an alliance with Congress, and pointed out that senior Congress leader P Chidambaram “was campaigning in Aldona yesterday”.

Sardesai said, “If we were to form an alliance, we would have fought for him and ensured that winnable candidates are not denied a ticket. But there is no alliance yet...”

## Gujarat BJP chief says no coercive action on non-veg carts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAJKOT, NOVEMBER 20



State BJP unit chief CR Paatil

GUJARAT BJP chief CR Paatil Saturday said he has instructed Mayors not to take coercive actions against those selling non-vegetarian food on roadside carts in the name of hurting religious feelings. The statement came after BJP-ruled civic bodies issued directives to remove all carts and stalls selling non-vegetarian food from the main roads.

“Everyone in this country has the liberty to decide what to eat. It is not appropriate to remove a person selling non-vegetarian food on a cart if people are buying from him. There is no such provision in the law either. People are free to sell anything that is not prohibited. So, there is no question of removing carts (from roads),” Paatil said Saturday in Rajkot.

However, when pointed out that the Rajkot Mayor and office-bearers of the Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation have ordered the removal of non-vegetarian food carts from the roadsides citing hurt to religious sentiments, the BJP president said: “They all have been instructed not to do any such thing.” Incidentally, the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) had launched a drive earlier this month to remove non-vegetarian food carts saying they were encroaching on the city roads and the public display of such food items was hurting the reli-

gious sentiments of the vegetarians. Soon, other civic bodies in the state followed the suit and took similar action.

However, Paatil as well Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel asserted last week that people were free to eat whatever they liked. At the same time, the CM had also said the removal of encroachments in cities was a decision of the respective civic bodies.

Meanwhile, addressing a gathering of industrialists in Rajkot Saturday, the BJP chief assured the government would facilitate the growth of industries by removing bottlenecks and providing facilities. However, he also asked industrialists to see to it that factories do not cause pollution. “There would be other problems, too, including pollution. But you are not raising them because we tend to think that causing pollution is our right,” Paatil said, adding the general perception about the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) among industrialists is that of a “police” who punishes polluters. “But its actual work is to educate people, to guide industries the type of plants and machinery to install to reduce pollution and within how much time. Only then can we solve the problem.”

## KCR: Withdraw cases against farmers, give Rs 25 lakh to kin of deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 20

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately take steps to withdraw all cases against farmers who have been protesting over the three contentious agriculture laws, and announce ex-gratia compensation of Rs 25 lakh each for the families of those who died during the agitation.



Telangana CM Rao

His statement comes a day after PM Modi announced that the central government will repeal the three legislations that sparked one of the largest farm agitations in the country last year.

There will be no meaning in continuing the cases when a policy decision has been taken to repeal the farm laws, the CM said. He also demanded that the case against environmental activist Disha Ravi be withdrawn. Ravi was accused of sedition and promoting enmity in connection with online dissemination of a “toolkit” related to the farmers' protest.

Rao echoed the farm union stand on bringing a new law to guarantee Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.



JUBILATION: At Singhu border on Saturday. Amit Mehra

## Varun writes to PM: Decision earlier could have saved lives

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on repeal of the contentious farm laws, BJP MP Varun Gandhi, who has been critical of these laws, on Saturday said that many “innocent lives” of farmers could have been saved had the decision been taken earlier.

Varun wrote to the Prime Minister seeking Rs 1 crore compensation for the families of these deceased farmers, to withdraw “politically motivated false FIRs” against the protesters, and to make minimum support price (MSP) legally binding.

In his letter, the Lok Sabha MP from Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, also asked Modi to take “strict action”



Varun Gandhi

against Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, whose son Ashish Mishra was arrested for the October 3 incident in Lakhimpur Kheri that led to the deaths of four farmers.

Varun is the first BJP leader to publicly seek action against the Union MoS. “The heart-breaking incident is a blemish on our democracy,” he wrote.

Varun said many top leaders had given “provocative statements”, and an “adversarial atmosphere” was “created”.

Beginning the letter by thanking Modi for his “large-

heartedness” in announcing repeal of the three farm laws and a statutory guarantee of MSP for crops, he wrote, “More than 700 of our farmer brothers and sisters have been martyred in this movement, as they peacefully protested in extremely difficult and hostile conditions. I believe if this decision had been taken earlier, all these innocent lives would not have been lost.” He urged the Prime Minister to express condolences to families of these farmers and announce Rs 1 crore compensation for them.

“Furthermore, all politically motivated false FIRs that have been registered as weapons of harassment against farmers during this movement must be immediately quashed,” he wrote. Varun also said MSP for crops should be legally binding.

## Don't share stage with MoS at conference: Priyanka in letter to PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20



Priyanka Gandhi

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him not to share the dais with Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Mishra ‘Teni’ — whose son has been arrested in connection with the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri — at a conference of Director Generals of Police (DGPs) and Inspector Generals of Police (IGPs) being held in Lucknow.

“If your intentions are clean, don't share dais with the Union Minister of State for Home. Dismiss him,” she said in the letter.

Responding to her comments, Uttar Pradesh minister Siddharth Nath Singh asked her since when the “corporate Congress” has started caring for farmers, according to a PTI report.

## Country understands everything, ‘suit-boot’ govt doesn't: Congress

New Delhi: Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Saturday said he could not explain the benefits of steps such as farm laws, demonetisation and CAA, but the country understands everything.

The party's attack on the PM came a day after Modi announced the government's decision to repeal the three farm laws that led to major protests, and also apologised to the people over his government not being able to “convince” a section of farmers about

the “benefits” of the legislations.

Calling the PM “*bhashan-jevi*”, Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Modi could not explain the benefits of the Land Acquisition Ordinance and those of demonetisation to economists and countrymen.

In a series of tweets, Surjewala said the PM also could not explain the benefits of GST to traders and the benefits of CAA to minorities.

“The country understands everything, the suit-boot government doesn't,” he said. PTI

## Farmer unity forced PM's decision: RLD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MEERUT, NOVEMBER 20



(RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary

IT IS the unprecedented unity among farmers that forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to decide to repeal the three farm laws, said Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary.

Addressing a gathering at a government college at

Muzzafarnagar's Baghra town Saturday, Chaudhary said farmers will have to remain alert till these laws are repealed in the Parliament as the PM may not have an academic degree but he

holds one on how to lie.

“Everyone will have to become an andolanjevi to claim their right,” he said.

He also said his party supported the decision taken by farmers agitating at the Delhi border. “You have won a prolonged battle with the government you voted to power. With our unity, we can force any government to kneel down if it does any wrong,” said the RLD chief.

## Nothing black in laws except ink: Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BASTI (UP), NOVEMBER 20



Union Minister VK Singh

WHAT IS black in the farm laws other than the ink used to write them, Union minister V K Singh asked Saturday. He claimed there was a fight for supremacy among farmer organisations, which are not thinking about benefits to small farmers.

The Minister of State for

Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation put the poser a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced his decision to repeal the three central farm laws in the upcoming parliamentary session.

“I asked a farmer leader to tell me what is black (in the farm laws). You people say this is a black law. I asked them what is black barring the ink (used),? the former Army chief told reporters here.

“In farmers' organisations, there is a fight for supremacy among themselves. These people cannot think about the benefits to small farmers,” he said.

## UP-Uttarakhand agreement: Rawat says Dhami ‘surrendered’ interests of state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 20



Former CM Harish Rawat

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has “surrendered” to his Uttar Pradesh counterpart over an agreement between the two states on the division of assets and liabilities.

Uttarakhand was carved out of UP in 2000.

Rawat told reporters in Dehradun that the Congress will oppose this in the state Assembly.

The former CM said the party would also explore legal ways to oppose the agreement.

“It is our allegation that in the meeting of Thursday between two chief ministers, not only have the present rights of Uttarakhand been sold out to Uttar Pradesh, but even the future rights related to water have been handed over. A state CM is

a state CM and is the advocate of the rights of their state. It appears that Uttarakhand CM has completely surrendered to the national stature of UP CM. I feel sad that Uttarakhand CM appeared very small in front of UP CM in advocating the welfare of Uttarakhand,” he said.

Rawat was referring to Dhami's meeting with UP CM Yogi Adityanath on division of the two states' liabilities and assets.

BJP spokesperson Shadab Shams said that Rawat is questioning the agreement only because he failed to do it during his tenure as CM.

## Health to education, TN brings out child rights policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 20



### Legacy of social welfare investment

KNOWN FOR pioneering the mid-day meal scheme — which was later picked up by other states in the past four decades — Tamil Nadu also has the lowest rates of infant and neonatal mortalities and prevalence of stunting. Its primary school enrolment rate is also among the highest in India. The latest policy drafted for children is in line with the state's track record of investing in social welfare systems.

average, the following are some issues that are preventable and needs the attention of the Government of Tamil Nadu: malnutrition, anaemia, infant

mortality rate, under 5 mortality rate, child sex ratio, full immunization, body mass index, gross enrolment ratio at high and higher secondary level, open

defecation, etc.” said the document.

The policy document was released by Chief Minister M K Stalin at a function held at the Secretariat, said a statement. The policy for children is intended to set benchmarks on all indicators on a par with international standards.

The document formulates guiding principles based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, National Policy for Children, 2013, the National Plan of Action 2016 and the UN document ‘Transforming our world, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.

The policy will focus on key health interventions and aspects such as investing in the first 1,000 days of children; addressing determinants of foeticide, child mortality and morbidity; taking measures to help people take informed decisions on birth; strengthening the public health system; and ensuring nutrition, safe institutional deliveries, and childcare access.

The policy also contains multiple measures on providing learning access and removing barriers to education such as gender and social exclusion, child marriage, child labour, gender and social exclusion.





# स्वच्छता को हमने 'आदत' बनाया मध्यप्रदेश का पचम फिर लहराया

75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव



प्रदेश के सभी  
सफाई-मित्रों और  
जागरूक नागरिकों  
के प्रति आभार



स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021 अवॉर्ड में मध्यप्रदेश ने हर बार की तरह  
एक बार फिर शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए कई पुरस्कार और सम्मान किये अपने नाम।

21 नेशनल अवॉर्ड | 17 वन स्टार रेटिंग | 70 प्रेरक दौर सम्मान

- इंदौर शहर ने 5 स्टार के साथ सफाई मित्र सुरक्षा चैलेंज के लिये भी पुरस्कार जीता।
- भोपाल को मिला स्व-संवहनीय राजधानी का खिताब और सफाई मित्र सुरक्षा चैलेंज में देश भर में तीसरा स्थान।
- मध्यप्रदेश राज्य को तीसरे सबसे स्वच्छ राज्य का पुरस्कार।
- मध्यप्रदेश के 27 शहरों को मिली स्टार रेटिंग।
- विभिन्न श्रेणियों में प्रदेश के 07 शहरों को राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार - इंदौर, भोपाल, उज्जैन, देवास, होशंगाबाद, बड़वाह और पचमढ़ी केंट को उत्कृष्ट अवॉर्ड श्रेणी के लिए सम्मान।
- 1 से 3 लाख जनसंख्या के शहरों में होशंगाबाद शहर को तेजी से बढ़ते शहर और देवास को नवाचार का सम्मान।
- उज्जैन शहर को 1-10 लाख जनसंख्या के शहरों में नागरिक प्रतिक्रिया में सर्वश्रेष्ठ सम्मान।
- छोटे शहरों की श्रेणी में खरगौन जिले के बड़वाह को जोनल रैंकिंग में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते शहर का सम्मान।
- सफाई मित्र सुरक्षा चैलेंज के अंतर्गत इंदौर शहर को 12 करोड़, देवास को 6 करोड़ और भोपाल को 03 करोड़ रुपये का पुरस्कार।
- स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण में पहली बार प्रेरक दौर का घटक शामिल किया गया। इसमें प्लेटिनम-दिव्य श्रेणी में - 1 शहर, गोल्ड-अनुपम श्रेणी में - 35 शहर, सिल्वर-उज्ज्वल श्रेणी में - 3 शहर, ब्रांज-उदित श्रेणी में - 27 शहर और कॉपर-आरोही श्रेणी में - 4 शहर सहित कुल 70 शहरों को इस घटक में रैंकिंग प्राप्त हुई।

इंदौर को लगातार  
5वीं बार मिला भारत के  
स्वच्छतम शहर का गौरव



मुझे गर्व और प्रसन्नता है कि स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021 में भी मध्यप्रदेश ने माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के सपनों और संकल्प को साकार किया है। इस सफलता के लिये मैं सभी मध्यप्रदेशवासियों और विशेष तौर पर सभी स्वच्छताकर्मियों को हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

- शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

- देश के 10 लाख से अधिक आबादी वाले टॉप 20 शहरों में मध्यप्रदेश के सभी 4 प्रमुख शहर इंदौर, भोपाल, ग्वालियर और जबलपुर हुए शामिल।

- 1 से 10 लाख आबादी की श्रेणी में देश के 100 शहरों में प्रदेश के 25 शहर।

## पश्चिमी क्षेत्र श्रेणी

- 50 हजार से 1 लाख आबादी की श्रेणी में देश के 100 शहरों में प्रदेश के 26 शहर शामिल।
- 25 हजार से 50 हजार आबादी की श्रेणी में देश के 100 शहरों में प्रदेश के 26 शहर शामिल।
- 25 हजार से कम आबादी की श्रेणी में देश के 100 शहरों में प्रदेश के 35 शहर शामिल।

## सफाई मित्र सुरक्षा चैलेंज

- इंदौर, देवास और भोपाल ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बनाया अपना स्थान। (चैलेंज में सीवर लाइनों और सेप्टिक टैंक की सफाई में मानव हस्तक्षेप को खत्म कर मशीनों द्वारा सफाई मित्रों की सुरक्षा को प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।)

## हम हुए पहले से अधिक बेहतर

- 295 शहर ओडीएफ डबल प्लस (ODF++) और 78 शहर ओडीएफ प्लस (ODF+) प्रमाणित। इंदौर को वॉटर प्लस प्रमाणन।

स्वच्छ, स्वस्थ, समर्थ - मध्यप्रदेश



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## Maharashtra slashes excise duty on imported foreign liquor by 50%

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

THE MAHARASHTRA government has slashed excise duty on imported foreign liquor by 50 per cent to curb inter-state smuggling and bring the prices of imported liquor on par with those of other states. State government officials said the measure was expected to increase the government's revenue by Rs 150 crore in a year.

State excise department officials said that excise duty on imported whisky, brandy, rum and vodka has been brought down from 300 per cent to 150 per cent of the manufacturing cost. "We expect that the sales will go up from the current 1 lakh cases per year to 2.5 lakh cases per year. The revenue is expected to increase from Rs 100 crore to Rs 250 crore," said Valsa Nair Singh, principal secretary of the state excise department.

**EXPLAINED**  
**Why excise duty was cut**

WITH MAHARASHTRA levying 300-per cent excise duty on imported whisky, the exorbitant rates of imported liquor in the state has meant there was a lot of smuggling, and black marketing from other states and UTs such as Goa, Daman, Delhi, Chandigarh, among others. The reduction in excise duty is expected to boost sales, and thereby lift revenues of the state excise department.

The excise reduction will apply only to imported liquor brands bottled and packed in the country of origin, and not to

those international brands that are bottled in India. It also does not apply to Indian Made Foreign Liquor brands. The new excise rates have come into effect from the date of the notification, on November 18, Nair said.

According to officials, the cut in excise duty will help boost declining sales of imported whisky in Maharashtra. The state government has earned revenue of approximately Rs 100 crore each in 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years, which is half of its revenue in 2018-19, from sale of imported whisky.

The excise rates were increased in January 2019.

Officials said the decline in revenue was due to high taxes on imported whisky. In fact, Maharashtra had among the highest excise duty on imported whisky of 300 per cent as compared to neighbouring states. Now, with the new notification, the excise duty has been brought on par with the other states.

## Maoists blow up railway tracks in Jharkhand, train services disrupted briefly

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

LATEHAR, MEDININAGAR, CHAIBASA, NOVEMBER 20

SUSPECTED MEMBERS of banned CPI (Maoist) blew up portions of railway tracks in Jharkhand's Latehar and West Singhbhum districts in the early hours of Saturday, disrupting train services on Barkakana-Garhwa and Howrah-Mumbai routes, police said.

A rail track between Sonua and Lotapahar stations in West Singhbhum, under Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway (SER), was damaged on Friday night in a blast that was allegedly triggered by the Maoists.

The banned outfit had called for a nationwide bandh on Saturday to protest against the arrest of its top leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore, by the Jharkhand Police.

Ajay Linda, the District Superintendent of Police, told PTI that suspected insurgents triggered a low-intensity blast



Officials at the site of the explosion on Saturday. PTI

between Sonua and Lotapahar and damaged some sleepers underneath the tracks.

Services on the Howrah-Mumbai line were restored via an alternate track from 8 am on Saturday and fully restored two hours later, he said.

In Latehar, too, a blast took place on the railway tracks between Richughuta and Demu stations around 12:30 am, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Palamu Range, Raj Kumar Lakra, said.

All police stations in Palamu, Garhwa and Latehar have been put on high alert, the DIG said.

## Narendra Giri death case: Disciple, two others charged with abetting suicide

**MANISH SAHU**

LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 20

THE CBI, which is investigating the death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chairman Mahant Narendra Giri, on Saturday filed a chargesheet against three men, including his disciple Anand Giri, on charges of abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracy.

The other two accused are Addhya Tiwari, priest of the Bade Hanuman temple in Prayagraj, and his son Sandeep.

The accused are presently lodged in Naiini Central Jail in Prayagraj.

The CBI is investigating the case on the recommendation of the state government.

"A chargesheet has been filed against Anand Giri, Addhya Tiwari and Sandeep Tiwari on charges of abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracy. Investigation is on," said an officer of the central agency.

On September 20, the seer was found hanging from the ceiling of his room at the Baghambari Math in Prayagraj.

## 25 killed, 17 missing as flash floods ravage Andhra Pradesh

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

AMARAVATI, NOVEMBER 20

HEAVY RAIN under the influence of a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal left 25 persons, including a member of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), dead in different districts of Andhra Pradesh since Friday, while 17 persons were reported to be missing, the state government said on Saturday.

The Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), SDRF, Police and Fire Services personnel saved at least 64 persons, including a police inspector, from the massive flash floods in Anantapuramu, Kadapa and Chittoor districts, the government said in a note.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy conducted an aerial survey in Kadapa, Anantapuramu and Chittoor districts to assess the damage.

He spoke to Collectors of Kadapa and Chittoor districts and obtained details about the devastation and asked the officials to conduct enumeration of the crop losses as soon as the floodwater receded.

The government announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of those killed.

The intensity of the rainfall reduced on Saturday, but brought little respite to people as several habitations remained marooned because of the flash floods. While the situation in Tirupati town still remained



A Naval helicopter conducts rescue operations in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

grim, with many areas inundated, the scene on the holy Tirumala Hills was relatively better, though pouring rain did inconvenience pilgrims. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams reopened the ghat roads for vehicular traffic,

though the two stairways meant for pilgrims to trek the Hills remained closed. Pilgrims who booked tickets online were being allowed for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

The deluge in the CM's native Kadapa district saw the

Annamayya project getting breached and left a trail of destruction in many villages downstream under the Rajampet constituency.

Over 30 people were washed away from three villages along the Cheyeru river course, where water from the Annamayya medium irrigation project gushed in. At one point on Friday, two lakh cusecs of floodwater flowed out of Annamayya project while its normal capacity was just two tmc ft.

Kadapa, thus, reported the highest toll of 13 so far.

In Kadiri town in Anantapuramu district, a building under construction collapsed due to incessant rain and fell on an adjoining building, killing at least seven persons, including three children.

Police and revenue authorities rescued seven more persons from the mishap site.

In Chittoor district, four persons were killed in rain-related incidents, according to the government. In SPS Nellore district, a constable placed in the SDRF at Vizianagaram drowned while carrying out a rescue operation in Damaramadugu village.

A total of 243 relief camps were opened in the four districts where 20,923 persons evacuated from flood-hit areas were lodged.

Meanwhile, at least 10 Express trains have been cancelled on Saturday and Sunday due to flooding of the railway track in the Nellore-Padugupadu section in Vijayawada division.

## Bengal: 10 people arrested for child trafficking, 20 kids rescued

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 20

THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW of a former top civic body official and nine others were arrested early on Saturday for allegedly running a child trafficking racket from a home care centre in Kolkata. At least 20 children have been rescued from the home run by the woman for the last five years. Police also questioned the former civic body official.

According to sources, a family adopted a girl from the home two and a half years ago. The girl complained to her adoptive parents that she had been sexually abused at the home. The couple then lodged a police complaint.

Based on the allegations, police and the Child Welfare Department raided the home on Friday. Sources said officials found that the number of children at the home did not match with the government data. Police arrested the owner and nine others.

Child and Women Development Minister Sashi Panja said, "Whoever is the culprit, police will take action within the legal framework. Nobody will be spared."

## Out on survey work, forest guard mauled to death by tiger

**VIVEK DESHPANDE**

NAGPUR, NOVEMBER 20

A WOMAN forest guard was mauled to death by a tigress in the

core area of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district on Saturday.

According to TATR Field Director Jitendra Ramgaokar, 46-year-old forest guard Swati

Dhumane was doing a sign survey under All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2022 programme with the help of three forest labourers on foot when the tigress, known as Maya (aged about 10 years), attacked and killed Dhumane.

"Dhumane and three forest labourers started their work around 7 am and had walked about four km from the Kolara gate of TATR, when they spotted the tigress... They waited for her to leave for about 30 minutes. But as she didn't move, Dhumane decided to take a detour... It was then that the tigress followed the four persons and attacked Dhumane," Ramgaokar said.

## Antilia scare: Court grants bail to accused, NIA to approach HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**


MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

A SPECIAL court on Saturday granted bail to an accused in the Antilia terror scare case. Naresh Gaur is the first among the 10 accused, who were arrested, to be granted bail.

Gaur, however, will not be released immediately as the court has granted a stay on the order for 25 days after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said that it wants to approach the High Court against his bail.

Gaur was arrested in March for allegedly being involved in the procurement of SIM cards used by the other accused in the alleged conspiracy. His bail plea said that Gaur was never contacted by the alleged conspirator Sachin Waze, nor were there any meetings between them. It was also argued that there is no evidence to show that Gaur was part of or aware of the alleged conspiracy where gelatin sticks were planted in a car and parked near Antilia, the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani and the subsequent murder of Thane-resident Mansukh Hiran, linked to the car.

The NIA in its chargesheet had not invoked the charges of Unlawful Activity (Prevention) Act against Gaur.

<div>  <b>कार्यालय अधिसूचना अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, मेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून</b> </div>							
पत्रांक:- 671 / ई-निविदा / 2021-22				<b>ई-निविदा सूचना</b>		(दिनांक:- 20.11.2021)	
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डल, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी विड एवं कॉमिशियल विड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।							
निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	ई-निविदा प्रथम डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रथम निम्नानुसार जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी विड जमाने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	दिनांक :- 20.11.2021
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	वॉशक दूर अनुसंधान पर, Supply and installation of Domestic and Bulk tamper proof water meters as per standard conforming to IS-779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 with EEC/MID certification mark shall be with protection class of IP68 and with 2 years warranty anywhere in Uttarakhand कार्य।	24.11.2021 from 11:00 a.m	30.11.2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 04.12.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	06.12.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	07.12.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	29.11.2021 upto 11:00 a.m.
14	<b>अर्हता:-</b> EEC/MID certification license for domestic and bulk water meters as per standard conforming to IS-779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 certificate holder or authorized dealers of the manufacturers are allowed to take part in this tender.						
ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित संपूर्ण जानकारी एवं उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.uktenders.gov.in">www.uktenders.gov.in</a> एवं विभिनीय वेबसाइट <a href="http://ujls.uk.gov.in">http://ujls.uk.gov.in</a> पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।							
							<b>अधिसूचना अभियन्ता</b>

OFFICE OF THE SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE BAREILLY						
Address :- Near D.M Compound, Station Road, Bareilly						
E-Procurement Notice						
Letter NO: 1174/RED/Tender-Bareilly/ E-Tender/2021-22 dated: 12.11.2021						
1. THE SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE BAREILLY on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tenderingsystem from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B and C as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bid for any or all of the works.						
2. Name of work as per table.						
S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid document including GST (In Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Twarit Aarthik Vikas Yojna (Aonla)						
1	Bareilly	Laying work on Khadanja road from Rajpur Kala Amla road to village Bara Sirsa.	49.640	99300.00	2354.00	03 Month
2	Bareilly	Laying work on Khadanja from village intention Rampur to Jogithar.	55.995	112000.00	2354.00	03 Month
3	Bareilly	Laying work on Khadanja from in front of petrol pump on village Visaratganj Aliganj road to village Wehta.	40.328	80700.00	2354.00	03 Month
Note:- All Tenders are being invited in anticipation of the budget.						
3. Date of availability of Bid documents on website:- 23-11-2021						
4. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 12-12-2021 up to 12.00 Noon						
5. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement: 13-12-2021 at 12.30 pm.						
6. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.						
For further details please log on to <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a> and down load the bid document.						
(Anil Kumar Sharma) Superintending Engineer Rural Engineering Department Circle Bareilly On behalf of Governor of UP						
UPID-169954						

## Swachh 2021 rankings: Surat still in 2nd spot, Vijayawada follows

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

GUJARAT'S SURAT maintained its position as the second cleanest city in India with a population over 10 lakh after Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the Swachh Survekshan 2021, the Centre's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, swapped places with Navi Mumbai to move to the third spot from last year's fourth.

Among states, Karnataka and Mizoram were the 'fastest mover states' in the rankings in the big (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies) and small (less than 100 ULBs) state category, respectively.

"Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City' (in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category) with a jump of 274 ranks from 361st position in the 2020 rankings to the 87th position this year, thus securing a place among the top 100 cities," the Ministry of

Housing and Urban Affairs said Saturday.

In the state awards, Chhattisgarh emerged as the 'Cleanest State' for the third consecutive year in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies" while Jharkhand, for the second time, won the cleanest state award in the 'less than 100 ULBs category'.

The findings were released on Saturday by President Ram Nath Kovind. The second session of the event focused on commemorating World Toilet Day (November 19) and saw the top performers in the first-ever Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge being recognised.

Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore and Dewas emerged as the top performers, across different population categories among 246 participating cities in the Challenge, launched last year by the Ministry to eradicate human fatalities from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh bagged the award for best performing State and Union Territory respectively under the Challenge.

## IFFI kicks off; Top honours for Scorsese, Hema Malini

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**

PANAJI, NOVEMBER 20

THE 52ND annual International Film Festival of India (IFFI) began in Goa on Saturday with performances by Bollywood personalities including Salman Khan and Ranveer Singh, in a break from tradition.

The prestigious film festival, which will run eight more days, awarded Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese and Hungarian director Istvan Szabo with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.

In an acceptance video, Scorsese said he considers Ray one of his masters. Szabo, whose 1981 film 'Mephisto' won Hungary's first Oscar for best foreign film, said that he was honoured that Indians were aware of his work.



Union minister Anurag Thakur presents the Indian Film Personality of the Year award to Hema Malini in Panaji on Saturday. PTI

Former actor and BJP MP from Mathura, Hema Malini, received the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2021.

At the opening ceremony, Union

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur pitched India as a global content creation hub.

"The film and entertainment industry offers a huge employment op-

portunity as we leapfrog into the digital era of content and filmmaking, not to forget film archiving for future generations of film lovers," he said.

The film screenings will open with the international premiere of the Spanish musical 'The King of all the World', directed by Carlos Saura.

The nine-day event will see 12 world, 7 international and 64 national premieres. A total of 624 entries were received from 96 countries, and from India 44 movies in 18 languages will be showcased. A total of 48 international films from nearly 75 nations will be screened at the festival.

In another change from previous years, realising the significant role that OTT players now have in the entertainment industry, major OTT platforms including Netflix, Amazon, Sony among others have also participated in IFFI.



# 2008 Malegaon blast: Witness denies meeting Purohit, declared hostile

**SADAF MODAK**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

A WITNESS linked to Abhinav Bharat Trust denied having met 2008 Malegaon blast accused Lt Col Prasad Purohit and was declared hostile for not supporting the prosecution. This is the seventh witness so far to turn hostile in the case.

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), which initially probed the case, had said that Purohit was a founder-member of Abhinav Bharat Trust and it was allegedly being used as a platform to implement the extremist ideology of the accused. The ATS linked the Trust to the blast at Malegaon on September 29, 2008, which killed six people. The witness, who was said to have been

one of the trustees of the organisation, deposed before the court last week that she had never met Purohit, nor was Purohit present in meetings organised by Trust members in Pune after it was established in 2006. She also denied that Purohit had control on the expenditure of the Trust.

Asked about the statement part of ATS chargesheet, the witness told the court she could not remember whether her statement had been recorded at all.

The ATS had said the witness was a trustee of Abhinav Bharat and two accused, Purohit and Ajay Rahirkar, were its members. The statement was to establish their link to the Trust.

"I cannot assign any reason why these facts are mentioned in my statement. I never met Prasad Purohit," she said.

# After questioning journalists, Tripura cops summon editor

**DEBRAJ DEB**  
AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 20

**AFTER TWICE** questioning journalists Samriddhi Sakunia and Swarna Jha, who were arrested following their reportage on alleged vandalism in the state, Tripura Police has summoned their media organisation's associate editor for questioning in the case.

A statement by HW News Network, for which both Sakunia and Jha work, on Saturday said that their associate editor, Arti Ghargi, received a summons from Kakraban police on Friday. "The police asked her to appear before them today i.e; Saturday at 11am. However, she has submitted an application seeking an extension on the basis of her medical condition," the organisation stated.

A police official confirmed Ghargi has appealed for an extension of date.

HW News Network also said the two journalists were questioned earlier this week for nine hours and have been called again.

The two were booked in separate FIRs — a suo motu case on a communal clash being probed by Kakraban police in Gomati district, and another case registered at Fatikroy police station in Unakoti district, where the complainant, Kanchan Das, a local VHP activist, alleged that the journalists visited homes of Muslims in Paul Bazaar area of Fatikroy and “delivered instigating speech against Hindu and Tripura government”.

**BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY  
TRIBUNAL NO. III AT CHENNAI  
O.A.No.165 OF 2021**

**BETWEEN**  
Indian Overseas Bank  
Kilpauk Branch  
No. 477, Kilpauk Garden Road,  
Chennai 600010

IFSC Code: IOBA0000571 ...Applican  
AND

1. **M/s. SAR Ispat Pvt. Ltd.** Rep. by its Managing Director Mr. Sandeep Kothari, Corporate Office: "Arihant Plaza", III floor, Old No.84/85, New No.193/232, Walltax Road, Chennai-600003. Also at, No.770 Thiruvottiyar High Road, Near Toll Gate Bus Stop, Chennai-600081.

**2. Mr. Vikrant Sharma,**  
Director of M/s. SAR Ispat Pvt.  
Ltd. 4th Row House, 29,  
Ranganathan Avenue Road

**3. Mr. Sandeep Kothari,**  
Director of M/s. SAR Ispat Pvt.  
Ltd. 1/3, Rathina Sabapathy

4. Mr.Narendra kumar Kothari,  
(Guarantor)

1/3, Rathina Sabapathy Street,  
New Washermanpet,  
Chennai-600021.

1/3, Rathina Sabapathy Street,  
New Washermanpet,  
Chennai-600021.

**(Guarantor)** Director of M/s.AKS  
Alloys Pvt. Ltd., 1/3, Rathina  
Sabapathy Street, New  
Washermanpet, Chennai-600021

**7. M/s.Prudent Construction Pvt. Ltd., (Corporate Guarantor)**  
No.25, First Floor, C Block -  
Community Centre, Janakpuri,

8. **M/s. AKS Alloys Pvt. Ltd.,**  
(Corporate Guarantor)  
Factory: R.S. No. 81/1, 3 to 7,

Eripakkam Village, Nettapakkam  
Commune, Puducherry-605106.  
...Defendant

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

The above O.A.No.165 OF 2021 was listed before the Hon'ble Debt Recovery Tribunal No. III at Chennai on 16.11.2021 for your appearance with the Defendant No. 2.

Whereas Defendant Nos. 2 and 3 have failed to appear on the said hearing date even after the proper service of summons. The Hon'ble Debt Recovery Tribunal No. III

Chennai ordered the summons to be served by substituted service on Defendant Nos.2 and 7 by advertisement in English and

Vernacular News Paper in the proceedings dated **16.11.2021**. Hence the above Defendant Nos. 2 and 7 are called upon to make an appearance

either in person or through the authorised counsel on the forth coming **hearing date i.e., 31.12.2021** before Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal Noida.

called absent and set ex-parte and the above application of the bank will be determined and adjudicated in your absence in accordance with law by the

**K.K.Sivasshanmuga**  
**K.S. Sri Giri Prasa**

**Advocates, SSP Law Associates**  
No.15B, Gilchrist Avenue  
Harrington Road, Chetpet  
Chennai-600031, Ph: **044-4358421**

**OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL, GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN-248001 UTTARAKHAND**  
TEL: 9135-2726021-2726021 Email: doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com website: [www.gdmcuk.com](http://www.gdmcuk.com)  
Ref. No.: GDMC/Acdt./2021/7951 Dated: 20.11.2021

**WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENT /  
JUNIOR RESIDENT/ TUTORS/ DEMONSTRATOR**

A Walk-in-Interview for Senior Resident/Junior Resident/ Tutors/Demonstrator will be held in the office of Principal Government Doon Medical College, Patel Nagar, Dehradun for various clinical department on **27th November, 2021 from 10:00 AM**

The details can be uploaded in the website of Govt. Doon Medical College [www.gdmcuk.com](http://www.gdmcuk.com)

**Principal,  
Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun**

**प्रेस विज्ञप्ति**

आधार प्रमाणिकरण के माध्यम से आनलाइन शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस निर्गमन की व्यवस्था पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में **बारबाकी जनपद में दिनांक 23.08.2021** से प्रारम्भ कर दी गयी है।

इस व्यवस्था में शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस हेतु आवेदनकर्ता को कार्यालय आने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। अर्थात् वह व्यवस्था पूर्णतया एण्ड टू एण्ड आनलाइन एवं फेसलेस माध्यम से प्रदान की जा रही है। आवेदनकर्ता द्वारा सार्थी पोर्टल (<https://sarthi.parivahan.gov.in>) पर शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस हेतु आवेदन करते समय अपना आधार नंबर दर्ज करते तथा उसके सफल आधार प्रमाणिकरण के पश्चात आधार कार्ड पर संश्लिष्ट आवेदनकर्ता का नाम, पता / याता का नाम, पता, फोटो तथा जन्मतिथि स्वतः फेच होकर आवेदनकर्ता के आवेदन फार्म पर अंकित हो जाती है। इस प्रकार से आवेदनकर्ता के फार्म भरने की प्रक्रिया भी अत्यंत सरल एवं त्वरित हो गयी है तथा उसमें त्रुटियों की संभावना भी अत्यंत क्षीण होगी। आवेदनकर्ता को आवेदन करने समय यह सुनिश्चित करना होता है कि वह अनिवार्य रूप से आवेदन फार्म में वह वही मोबाइल नंबर अंकित करे जो उसके आधार कार्ड पर दर्ज हो।

आवेदनकर्ता को सफलतापूर्वक आवेदन फार्म भरने आवश्यक दस्तावेजों की स्वप्रमाणित प्रति अपलोड करने तथा निम्नानुसार फीस के आनलाइन भुगतान के पश्चात सार्थी पोर्टल पर ही सड़क सुरक्षा का टयूटोरियल (Dutortorial) आनलाइन रूप से पूरा करना होता है।

आवेदनकर्ता के आवेदन की कार्यालय स्तर पर फेसलेस स्कूटनी / जांच की जाती है, जिसमें आवेदनकर्ता को कार्यालय जाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं होती है। कार्यालय द्वारा स्कूटनी के समक्ष आवेदन के सही यथेष्ट जाने पर आवेदनकर्ता को उसके आवेदन फार्म पर दर्ज मोबाइल नंबर पर शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस के आनलाइन टेस्ट हेतु पासवर्ड / ओ.टी.पी.० प्रेषित किया जाता है।

आवेदनकर्ता द्वारा उत्पन्न मोबाइल नंबर पर प्रेषित पासवर्ड / ओ.टी.पी.० के माध्यम से वह घर बैठे ही अथवा किसी जन्मुषुधिका केन्द्र (Facilitation Centre) की मदद से सार्थी पोर्टल पर शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस का आनलाइन टेस्ट दे सकता है। अतः शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस टेस्ट हेतु भी आवेदनकर्ता को कार्यालय आने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है।

आवेदनकर्ता द्वारा आनलाइन शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस टेस्ट में सफलतापूर्वक उत्तीर्ण होने के पश्चात तथा संबंधित लाइसेंसिंग अधिकारी द्वारा अनुमोदन किये जाने के पश्चात आनलाइन रूप से अपना शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस डाउनलोड करने हेतु उसके आवेदन फार्म पर दर्ज मोबाइल नंबर पर ही लिंक प्रेषित किया जाता है, जिसके द्वारा वह घर बैठे ही अपने शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस को डाउनलोड / प्रिंट कर सकता है। अतः शिक्षार्थी लाइसेंस का प्रिंट प्राप्त करने हेतु भी आवेदनकर्ता को कार्यालय आने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं होती है।

**परिवहन आयुक्त  
उत्तर प्रदेश**

UPID NO.169862  
www.upgovt.nic.in



# हुनर हाट

क्राफ्ट, यथार्थ और कला का संगम

हॉल नं. 3 ग्राउंड फ्लोर, प्रगति मैदान, नई दिल्ली • 14 से 27 नवंबर 2021

**सांस्कृतिक एवं संगीत कार्यक्रम • 21-22 नवंबर, दोपहर 2:30 से 7:30 बजे**

ओपन एयर थिएटर, हॉल नं. 3 के सामने



विनोद सखेट



पूजा मिश्रा



विकास मिश्रा



गुनेत सखेट



भूपिंदर सिंह भुप्पी



रानी सिरदार



गौरव सखेट

**सर्क्स कलाकारों के हैरतअंगेज करतब**


**22, 24 नवम्बर**






अन्य आकर्षण: विभिन्न राज्यों के शिल्पकारों, दस्तकारों के शानदार उत्पादों की प्रदर्शनी एवं बिक्री

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE				
RAMPUR ROAD, HALDWANI, NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND-263139				
TEL.No. 05946-255255, 255926, 282578, FAX: 05946-282578 Website: www.gmchld.org. email: principal-gmchld-uk@gov.in				
Walk-In-Interview				
In order to strengthen the faculty position (Speciality & Super Speciality) for U.G./P.G. courses at Government Medical College, Haldwani (Nainital) a "Walk-In-Interview" will be held on 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Saturday) from 11:00 AM onwards, in the "Office of the Principal, Government Medical College, Rampur Road, Haldwani (Nainital) Uttarakhand". The appointments will be made on the contractual basis initially for one year, which may be further extendable annually, subject to a satisfactory appraisal report by the concerned Head of Department, for a maximum tenure of 03 years only or till regular appointment are made. The vacancy position in various departments is as given below:				
S.No.	Department	Designation		
		Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	Anatomy (MD/MS)	01	--	04
2	Physiology (MD)	--	01	04
3	Biochemistry (M.D.)	01	01	02
4	Microbiology (MD)	--	01	02
5	Pharmacology (MD)	--	01	03
6	Pathology (MD)	--	01	02
7	Forensic Medicine (MD)	--	02	01
8	Community Medicine	--	02	04
9	General Medicine	--	02	11
10	T.B. Chest	--	01	02
11	Skin V.D	--	01	01
12	Psychiatry	--	01	01
13	Paediatrics	01	01	04
14	General Surgery	--	03	09
15	Orthopaedics	--	02	03
16	E.N.T.	01	00	01
17	Gynaecology & Obstetrics	--	02	10
18	Radiology	--	02	04
19	Anesthesiology	--	03	04
20	Emergency Medicine	01	01	02
21	Neuro Surgery	01	--	--
22	Nephrology	01	01	01
23	Cardiology	01	01	01
24	Urology	01	01	--
25	Plastic Surgery	01	--	--
Emoluments per month :-				
(a)	Professor	:-	Rs. 1,43,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs 6000/-)	
(b)	Associate Professor	:-	Rs. 1,23,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs. 6000/-)	
(c)	Assistant Professor	:-	Rs. 95,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs. 3600/-)	
Age: As per MCI norms.				
Qualification for Faculty:- As per MCI Norms.				
Reservation: As per Uttarakhand State Govt. Rules.				
No TA / DA will be admissible for attending the interview. The Chairman, interview committee reserves the right to accept/reject any candidate without assigning any reason and also reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the post. Number of posts advertised may be increased or decreased as per requirement. Candidate must bring their resume along with original MBBS, MD/MS/DM/MCh/DNB degree, Medical Council/State Council Registration certificate, Experience Certificate and Undergraduate teaching certificate during MD/MS/DM/MCh/DNB course and other relevant documents, a set of photocopies thereof. Two recent passport size color photographs are needed at the time of Interview.				
				-sd-
				PRINCIPAL,
				GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, HALDWANI
Advt No. 216/GMC/Apptt. Date: 20/11/2021				


 <b>SBI State Bank of India</b> <b>STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH</b> 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001 Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in						
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES						
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.						
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the <b>CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION</b> of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on <b>"As is Where is", As is What is" and "Whatever there is"</b> basis on <b>08.12.2021 (Wednesday)</b> . Other details of the e-auction are as under:						
Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Description of the property (All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder)	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of demand notice under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold
						EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	M/s Mayank Enterprises, Prop.: Mrs. Kiran Kumari W/o Shri Amrendra Kumar Tiwari	₹30,93,008.00 as on 19.12.2019 with further Interest, Cost Charges, Other miscellaneous expenses etc.	All that land & building measuring 1 Kattha 10 Dhur or 0.04% Acres located at Mouza-Takiya, Ward No.-1/3/25, Anchal-Sasaram, Holding No.-1072, Thana-Sasaram, Thana No.-151, Distt.-Rohtas, Bihar. This land is covered under Khata No.269, Plot No.1182 and the Registered Mortgage/Simple Mortgage executed by Smt. Lacho Devi, Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari & Shri Binod Kumar Tiwari vide Deed No.-13297 dated 30/09/2015. The Boundaries of the land are:- North-Lalita Devi, South-Chandrika Mahto, East-Rasta 6 Feet, West-Niz Man Mokir. <b>Property ID: SBIN88538404588</b>	1. Shri Amrendra Kumar Tiwari 2. Smt. Lacho Devi W/o Shri Ramdarash Tiwari 3. Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari 4. Shri Binod Kumar Tiwari	30.01.2020	₹47,00,000/- ₹4,70,000/- ₹10,000/-
2.	M/s Rameshwar Enterprises, Prop. Shri Vishnu Shankar Tiwari S/o Shri Rameshwar Tiwari	₹23,12,609.00 as on 07.01.2019 with further Interest, Cost Charges, Other miscellaneous expenses etc.	Equitable Mortgage of all that land & building in the name of Shri Rameshwar Tiwari S/o Shri Ramadhar Tiwari vide Gift Deed No.-3367 dated 30/06/1997 located at Mouza-Dharupur, Thana & Anchal-Bikramganj, Bihar under Thana No.-526, Halka No.-3, Sub Registry Office-Bikramganj, Distt.-Rohtas, Bihar & Khata No.-296(new), Plot No.-2512(new), Area-01 Kattha 7% Dhur. Boundaries of Land: North-Rameshwar Tiwari, South-Plot No.-2507 & 2511, East-Ram Equbal Tiwari, West-PCC Road/Plot No.-2767. <b>Property ID: SBIN89879439821</b>	Shri Rameshwar Tiwari S/o Shri Ramadhar Tiwari	08.01.2019	₹17,00,000/- ₹1,70,000/- ₹10,000/-

**E-auction Terms and Condition**

- Date & Time of e-auction:** 08.12.2021(Wednesday): Time: 120 Minutes. From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.
- The auction sale will be "online" through e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
- The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) using their mobile number and email-id, and thereafter upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by the service provider (may take 2 working days), the Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount using online mode (NEFT) in his Global EMD Wallet. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, at least two days before the e-auction.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount deposit may be through NEFT/Transfer after generation of Challan in bidders Global EMD Wallet. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques, etc will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- MSTC Helpdesk Number (for any technical help): 033-40645207, 40645316, 40602403, 40628253. SBI contact no. (for property related enquiry): 9709119255 / 7033092051.
- The General Terms & Conditions of e-auction sale are available on the website:** <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002.

**This publication is also a 15 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.**  
**NB:** 15 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice then this E-auction sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

<b>Date : 20.11.2021</b> <b>Place : Patna</b>	<b>AUTHORISED OFFICER</b> <b>STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA</b>
--	--

		<h1>STATE BANK OF INDIA</h1> <p>STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, PATNA 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001 Ph. No. (Office):- 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax No.:- 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in</p>					
<h2>E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE</h2>							
<b>SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.</b> The undersigned as Authorized Officer of <b>State Bank of India</b> has taken over constructive possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on <b>"As is where is, As is what is and Whatever there is" Basis</b> . The Auction will schedule on <b>22.12.2021</b> . The other details of the Auction are as under:-							
Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI Notice)	Description of Property	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of 13 (2) Date of 13 (4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below (Rs.) which the property will not be sold EMD Bid Increment Amount	
1.	<b>Sri Dayanand Mishra S/o Late Ramakant Mishra &amp; Smt. Sandhya Kumari W/o Sri Dayanand Mishra</b>	<b>₹ 15,02,378/-</b> (Rupees Fifteen Lac Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight only) as on 29/11/2019 with further interest from 30/11/2019 plus other charges, costs etc.	1. Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures vide <b>Sale Deed No. 982 dated 28.01.2015 in the name of Sri Dayanand Mishra</b> located at Mauza- Katar, Thana No. 176, Halka-09, Khata-83, Plot-991, Dehri, Sasaram, Rohtas, Area: 2.459 Decimal, This landed property is <b>bounded</b> by: North- Nirmala Sinha, South-Kunti Devi, East- Indra Dubey, West-Rasta. <b>(Property ID- SBIN71192347455)</b>	<b>Sri Dayanand Mishra S/o Late Ramakant Mishra</b>	29.11.2021 22.09.2021	₹ 10,95,000.00 ₹ 1,09,500.00 ₹ 10,000.00	
2.	<b>M/s IT Care (Proprietor: Samarjeet Singh S/o Sri Bijay Singh)</b>	<b>₹ 20,36,848/-</b> (Rupees Twenty Lac Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Eight only) as on 19/07/2021 with further interest from 20/07/2021 plus other charges, costs etc.	Registered mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures <b>in the name of Sri Bijay Singh, Mr. Samarjeet Singh, Sri Bhanu Pratap Singh, Sri Amarjeet Singh, Smt. Rajni Singh and Most. Urmila Kuer</b> , situated at Mauza- Dehri (161), Ward No. 10/33, Holding No. 229, Dalmianagar, Municipality Board Area, Rev. Thana- Dehri, Khata No. 125, Plot No. 1065, Area: 3 decimal, Distt- Rohtas of Registered Mortgage No. 1984 date 15/02/2014. This landed property is <b>bounded</b> by: North- Bhagat Jee, South- Govt. Lands, East- Ram Sagar Singh, West- Gali. <b>(Property ID- SBIN71190496330)</b>	<b>Sri Bijay Singh, Mr. Samarjeet Singh, Sri Bhanu Pratap Singh, Sri Amarjeet Singh, Smt. Rajni Singh and Most. Urmila Kuer</b>	19.07.2021 08.10.2021	₹ 25,75,000.00 ₹ 2,57,500.00 ₹ 10,000.00	
3.	<b>M/s Jagdamba Enterprises (Prop: Shailendra Kumar Singh S/o Bikhari Singh)</b>	<b>₹ 24,58,516/-</b> (Rupees Twenty Four Lac Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen only) as on 17/11/2019 with further interest from 18/11/2019 plus other charges, costs etc.	Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures. 1. Measuring 5 Dhr in the name of <b>Sri Shailendra Kumar Singh and Sri Kalendra Kumar Singh</b> under Mauza: Pali, Tola- Mohanbigha, Thana no. 160, Thana & Nagarpalika-Dehri, Ward No. 05, Khata No.36, Plot No.81, Rohats of Registered Mortgage Deed No. 10305 date 03/07/1989, 2. Measuring 7 Dhr in the name of <b>Sri Bikhari Singh</b> under Mauza: Pali, Tola- Mohanbigha, Thana no. 160, Thana & Nagarpalika- Dehri, Ward No.05, Khata No.36, Plot	<b>Sri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Sri Kalendra Kumar Singh, Sri Bikhari Singh &amp; Smt. Fulpati Devi</b>	18.02.2020 23.06.2020	₹ 27,63,000.00 ₹ 2,76,300.00 ₹ 10,000.00	
No.81, Rohtas of Registered Mortgage Deed No. 10304 dated 03/07/1989, 3. Measuring 6 Dhr in the name of <b>Smt. Fulpati Devi</b> under Mauza: Pali, Tola- Mohanbigha, Thana No.160, Thana & Nagarpalika-Dehri, Ward No. 5 Khata No. 36, Plot No. 81, Rohtas of Registered Mortgage Deed No. 10307 date 03/7/1989, <b>Boundaries</b> of the entire land : (Deed No. 10305, 10304 & 10306), North: Nij House, South: Satsang Bhawan, East: Rasta, West: Munshi Sharma. <b>(Property ID- SBIN71197281656)</b>							
4.	<b>Sri Lavkush Kumar S/o Sri Ramjee Sao &amp; Smt. Kanchan Devi W/o Sri Lavkush Kumar</b>	<b>₹ 13,74,866/-</b> (Rupees Thirteen Lac Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six only) as on 19/05/2020 with further interest from 20/05/2020 plus other charges, costs etc.	Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures vide <b>in the name of Kanchan Devi W/o Lavkush Kumar vide Deed No.4170 dated 31/05/2013</b> situated at Mauza- Dhanav Khalsa, Thana & Aanchal- Nasriganj, Sub-Registry Office- Bikramganj, Distt-Rohtas, Thana- No.48, Halka No. 4, Khata No. 71, Khesra No. 133 me se, Area: 01 Kaththa, This landed property is <b>bounded</b> by: North-Niz, South- Rasta 4 ft, East- Niz, West- Gramin Sadak. <b>(Property ID- SBIN71213243445)</b>	<b>Kanchan Devi W/o Lavkush Kumar</b>	19.05.2020 22.09.2021	₹ 18,26,000.00 ₹ 1,82,600.00 ₹ 10,000.00	

**e-Auction terms And Condition**

- 1. Date & Time of e-auction : 22.12.2021; Time : 120 Minutes. From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.**
- 2. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction".** The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
- 3. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>)** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction.
- 4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through NEFT/ Transfer After generation of Challan from (<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet.** NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Transfer the bidder has to visit Indian Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques, etc will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- 5. MSTC Central Helpdesk Number (for any technical help):033-40645207, 40609118, 40645316, 40602403, 40067351, 40628253. SBI contact no. (for property related enquiry): 9693532979/8811060438/7004036112**
- 6. The General Terms and Conditions of e-auction sale is available on the website: <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/-auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.**
- 7. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest act, 2002.**

**This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.**

**NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice then this E-auction sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service. The other terms and conditions of the e-Auction are published in the following websites. 1. <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.**



Classifieds

PERSONAL

**I,INDIRA GUPTA W/o SUDHIR KUMAR GUPTA R/o 173-A, POCKET-C, MAYUR VIHAR,PHASE-2, DELHI-110091** have changed my name to **INDRA GUPTA** for all purposes.

0040592741-1

**I,Dharam Vir Singh,S/o Sher Singh,R/o Village-Parnala Bahadurgarh, Distt.,Jhajjar,Haryana-124507,**have changed my name to **Dharam Vir**

0040592767-1

**I,BALJINDER SINGH,S/o JOGINDER SINGH, H.NO.97, IIIRD-FLOOR, STATE-BANK COLONY, DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR SON HARJAS SINGH JABBAL TO HARJAS SINGH.**

0040592767-3

**I,ANIL KUMAR BHATIA,S/O HAR GOBIND BHATIA,R/O I-92,FIRST-FLOOR,ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-1,DELHI-110052,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL BHATIA.**

0040592767-2

**I, hitherto known as PATI KUMAR alias PATIL KUMAR S/O LATE SHRI PHOOL SINGH, employed as Head Constable in the Delhi Police residing at VILLAGE-BUTRADI, PS-PHUGANA, TEHSIL-SHAMLI, DISTT-SHAMLI, UTTAR PRADESH-247776** have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **PATIL KUMAR.**

0040592707-1

**I, Saif Ahmad Khan S/o Nadeem Ahmed R/o-A-48, Vivek Vihar, PH-2, Delhi** have changed my name to **Saif Ahmed** permanently.

0070762194-1

**I,SHYAM TAK S/o POONAM CHAND TAK R/o F-288, GF, Back Side portico, Mansarovar Garden, Delhi-110015** have changed my name to **SHYAM SUNDER TAK.**

0040592745-1

**I, Maninder Kaur w/o Tejinder Singh Kohli, R/o 15/40, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026** have changed my name to **Maninder Kaur Kohli**

0040592762-1

**I, Kavita w/o Raman Wadhwa r/o 46, White avenue, distt Amritsar-143001** have changed my name to **KAVITA WADHWA.**

0040592744-1

**I, Kamal Kumar Chopra, S/o-Devender Mohan Chopra, residing-B-116, Swasthya Vihar, Delhi-110092,**have changed my name to **Kamal Chopra,**for all purposes.

0040592771-1

**I,LALAN YADAV,S/o-Domi Yadav,R/o-107/12,IVTH Floor,Room No.1,Gali No.5,Krishna Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave,New Delhi-110029,**have change my name to **LALAN KUMAR YADAV,** for all purposes.

0040592767-4

**I,Nishi Bidhuri D/o Vinod Bidhuri,W/o Abhishek Basoya R/o/House. No.275, Churiya-Mohalla, Madanpur-Khadar, Sarita -Vihar,New Delhi-110076,** have changed my name to **Nishi,**for all purposes.

0040592767-5

**I,RIKABU SHAH R/o-SADAN RAM GARH CHANDAULI,CHANDAULI-UTTAR PRADESH-232107,** have changed my son's name,from **MUHAMMAD ADIL SHAH** to **MUHAMMAD ADIL,**vide- affidavit,dated-17-11-2021.

0040592771-4

**I,Haimt S/O Ashok Kumar born on 11-08-1988** residing at **Wz-2121 2nd Floor Rani Bagh Delhi-110034** have changed my name to **Hemant Malhotra** vide affidavit dated 16-11-2021

0050187510-1

**I,hitherto known as ANIL AGARWAL alias DHANANJAI AGARWAL S/O SHRI CHAMAN PRAKASH AGARWAL residing at A-2, HAUZ KHAS, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110016** have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **DHANANJAI AGARWAL.**

0130022658-1

**I,Deepa Akhilesh Shukla alias Deepali Shukla D/o Sh. Akhilesh Shukla R/o D-2, 6-Aurangzeb Road, Nirman Bhawan, Central Delhi, Delhi-110011** have changed my name to **Deepali Shukla** for all purposes.

0040592716-1

LOST & FOUND

**I,Manju Devi W/o-Govind Singh,D-4,Institute of Economic Growth(D.U)-110007,govindsingh71@gm ail.com** have lost my,File of Yogender Tyagi to Yogesh Sharma and Previous Files of Sanjeev Kohli,of flot measuring 50sq.yds., Khadra.no.10/2-18/22,at Kamal Vihar,Burari,Delhi-110084.

0040592771-5

PROPERTY FOR SALE

**13.33 Cents** at Oruvathilkotta, Trivandrum, near Lulu Mall. Call 94444 97711

0050187439-1

**KHATRIS/ARORAS**

**PQM** for infosos working, 5'3". 24 August 86, 13.05, Chandigarh. Match for tricity area. WhatsApp 9988851055

0050187483-1

**OTHERS**

**Suitable** match for Agarwal man, divorced 57 yrs NRI England, medium build 5'6" looking for family oriantal, cast / religion no bar. sudeshgupta912@gmail.com

0050186802-1

**JAISSWAL GROOM**

**Nagpur-based b'ful Girl, Dentist, 28y 5'4"/60, affluent biz-family**

**Seeks well educated**

**Groom from Affluent reputed, metro- settled family, same caste**

**luckysmit@gmail.com**

**OR WhatsApp 8766326480**

MALYALEE KERALITE

**Hindu**

**Maruthuvar/Vilakkuthalai Nair ,fair,tall ,26yrs engineer seeks suitable groom. Contact 9486407217**

0050186735-1

SIKH/PUNJABI

**Required** Suitable match for beautiful Weaver Girl M.A.(Eco), B.Com, B.Ed. Aged about 35 years, working as Govt. Elementary Teacher since 2009. Boy residing Patiala, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana and Malerkotla, Districts preferred. Contact +91-7506780727, +91-9465225114

0020429815-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**for loss of Lease Deed**

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Lease Deed dated 31st March 2010, executed between New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (THE LESSOR), and M/s. Shri Radhe Govind ICE & Cold Storage (P) Ltd (THE LESSEE) for the property bearing addresssed at FH-34, Sector 128, New Okhla Industrial Development Area Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P has been lost/misplaced. All person are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If found please contact us on sriradheceandoccl@gmail.com.

Sd/- The Lessee

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Pooja, who claimed to be owner and in possession of the Property admeasuring 2 Marla and 5 Sarsai (73 Sq. Yds. approx.) out of Ghat Road No. 837, Mu. No. 187, Killa No. 21(2/5-12), Situated at Jara, Nagarpalka Ward No. 5, Sohna, Tehsil, Sohna, Distt. Gurgaon Haryana-122103 (the Property) by virtue of Sale Deed dated 27.05.2011 executed by Mrs. Raj Rani in favour of Mrs. Pooja. A Sale deed executed on 13.07.2009 by Mr. Devender in favour of Mrs. Rajrani in respect above-mentioned Property has been misplacelost. Now Mrs. Pooja agreed to sell aforesaid property to Mr. Lokesh and now Mr. Lokesh has approached Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/demand regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd. is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-56,LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave-Part-I, New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be It Known to Public at large that Sh. Mayank Madhukar has lost original Allotment Certificate, Allotment Agreement and Possession Letter All dated 07.05.2013, issued by M/s SG Estates Limited, in his favour in respect to the Flat bearing No. A-302, in "SG Impressions", Sector- 4B/GH1, Vasundhara Chazababad, Let it be crystal clear if anyone found these documents it should be handed over to Mayank Madhukar-mob no. 9354509139/ Mr. MS RAVAT- 9971557818 without fail. Any misuse of these documents by anyone else previously, thereafter or hereinafter henceforth in any manner whatsoever shall attracts both civil & criminal action.

**Sunil Senraawat Advocate A-4/2 G.F., Sec-16, Delhi-69 9241930624, 7827249904**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, KRISHNA DEVI wife of Sh. Ram Kanwar, resident of C2U/46, West Enclave, Pilampura, Delhi, is the owner and in possession of Property No.46, in Block C-2(U), land area measuring 84 sq.mtrs., situated at West Enclave, Pilampura, Delhi. DDA Possession Letter, site possession Building Plan Sanctioned Letter, Form 'C' & 'D' and other related documents & correspondences pertaining to the said property have been lost/misplaced and not traceable till date against which the Complaint has been lodged vide LR No.95029/2021 on 16.11.2021, if any body found, the same may be submitted or contact to me.

**KRISHNA DEVI Mob.: 9212263065**

**TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN**

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Gulshan Gulati s/o Late Kundan Lal Gulati alongwith his wife, Mrs. Alka Gulati and his daughter Ms. Sushy Gulati all R/o A-121, Third Floor, Shankar Garden, Vapekarpi, Delhi-110018 have severed all their relations with their son and brother respectively. My client Mr. Shivanish Gulati due to bad habits and deeds. My above-mentioned clients have also disowned and disowned their son and brother respectively from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Mr. Shivanish Gulati will do shall own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Mr Shivanish Gulati.

Sd/- **NIKHIL MALHOTRA (ADVOCATE) ENROLLMENT NO.-0247320 189, GANGOTRI APPARATUS, VIKASPURI**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

All concerns are hereby informed through this public notice that my client Smt. Parvathi Shankar W/o Late M.S. Shantaram R/O Flat No. 103, Link Apartment, I.P. Extension, Delhi-10092 is the owner and in occupation of Flat No. 103, Link Apartment, I.P. Extension, Delhi-10092. My client has lost/misplaced the original allotment letter cum possession letter dated 24/02/1991, GPA, Agreement to Sell, own risk and Receipt all dated 01/08/1995 regarding her above said Flat. An NCR vide LR No. 947581/2021 dated 18/11/2021 P-S- Crime Branch, Delhi to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest or having any objection or found in possession of above original documents may write/submit with above said client or to her son Sh. Venkatesh Shantaram at phone number 9741790142 or me.

Sd/- **VIKAS GOYAL (ADVOCATE) CHAMBER NO. 735 L. WESTERN WING TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110084 M-8588827659**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for information of General public that my client Smt. Pragati Saxena W/o Sh. Rahul Saxena absolute owner of the Residential Dwelling Unit bearing No. 311/GC-10, on 3rd Floor, in Tower-B, Gaur City-2, at Plot No. C/4/3, in Sector-15-C, Greater Noida, Distt. G. B. Nagar, U.P., misplaced & lost the original Sub Lease Deed dated 23.01.2017 executed between GND&A & M/s. Gaursons Promoters Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Smt. Pragati Saxena, registered as document No. 1392. That complaint had been lodged at Police Station Barash Greater Noida, 07.09.2020 U.P. If any persons finds the above stated document, it is requested to hand over the same to the undersigned And if any persons have any claim whatsoever with respect to the above said property, he/she is required undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication forming basis of such claim, failing which it shall be concluded that there is no claim whatsoever against the abovesaid property and my clients can proceed with the intended object pertaining to the abovesaid property.

Sd/- **Suresh Kumar Advocate En. No. D5672909 2648, DSIDC, PKT-2, Mayur Vihar Ph-I, New Delhi-110091**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Re: Entire First Floor, without roof rights "said floor" part of Property bearing No.E-79, area measuring 200 sq. yds., Khosra No.104/4/1 Village Polam, Delhi, abt. Colony Rajpuri, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi; herenafter referred to as "said property". is hereby given to the public that the said floor is being given to the public for selling, Banking, Financial Institutions, etc., that our clients, Mrs. Samvati Devi W/o Shri Satyendra Singh R/o A-51 F/1 Block, Keshav Nagar Park, Uttar Nagar, Delhi-110059 (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mrs. Gupta W/o Shri Anil Gupta R/o C-12 B/2 Part, K. No. 6, DK Mahan Garden, Delhi-110059 (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In his connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the owner of the said floor by virtue of sale deed executed by M/s/Gentral Associates in her favour in respect of the said floor and the said Deed is registered as Document No.7497 in Book No.1 Volume No. 10558, pages 122-129, on the 10.12.2020 in the office of Sub-Registrar-IK. The seller further informed that the said floor was purchased by Gentral Associates from Mr. Dalgia Kumar & Jhender Kumar vide Sale Deed registered as Document No.10482 dated 24.12.2019. It was also informed by the seller that the said floor was owned by Mr. Krishna Devi and upon her death and the death of her husband, the said property was inherited by their legal heirs vizt., S/Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Smt. Kumar, Dalgia Kumar and Jhender Kumar. S/Shri Sanjeev Kumar and Smt. Kumar executed a Ratification Deed registered as document No.9551 dated 11.08.2014. In respect of their share in the said undivided property in favour of Dalgia Kumar and Jhender Kumar, The said Dalgia Kumar and Jhender Kumar became the joint owners of the said property. The seller has further informed their clients that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or diptide or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered Ad Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/ Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

**Anil Kumar Khurana, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LGF, New Delhi-110024, before Call-110024.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be It known to all that my client SLB WELFARE ASSOCIATION intended to publish this notice in continuance of the notice dated 11.06.2021, that the SLB WELFARE ASSOCIATION is a registered society and the said association started construction and development of SAHARA DDA LINA Project situated at Plot No. GH-08B, Sector CHV-Y, Greater Noida, UP, under the official order of UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority dated 8.6.2020. As per the said office order we inform to all the buyers of the said project that they must come and join the said association and claim(s) their respective flat(s) to the project site within 30 days from the publication of this notice and submit all the original documents. It is also for the information that all the existing buyer(s) must produce original documents related to their earlier allotment letter, Allotment Letter, Builder Buyer Agreement, Applications, Bank Statement details, All the receipts in original, payment schedule plan, copy of address proof(Aadhar/Passport) with original, copy of ID Proof/PAN/Voter ID(Bank statements) with original and all of other documents related to their allotment.

(Any buyer/s) having any claim and/or upon the said project for their respective flat(s) by virtue of their allotment, inheritance, mortgage or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby requested to notify the same in writing along with the supporting documents required within 30 days, from the date of publication of this second notice, failing which my client shall conclude and closed the process of receiving any claim and/or any objection, if any, shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client.

Sd/- **Kaushal Narayan Mishra (Advocate) Office-Plot no GH-08B, Sector CHV-Y, Greater Noida, UP, 9899999688**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

MY CLIENT JAI KISHAN KANTH S/O GHOSHAI LAL KANTH AND ARUNA KANTH W/O JAI KISHAN KANTH R/O A-51, GULAB BAGH, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-59 SEVERE ALL RELATIONS AND DEBARRED THEIR SON RAHUL KANTH & HIS WIFE ARSHYA KANTH FROM ALL MOVEABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AS THEIR CONDUCT IS HIGHLY IMMORAL AND UNRESPONSIBLE. MY CLIENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTS AND CONDUCTS. THE PERSON WHO DEALS WITH THEM WILL BE SOLE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.

Sd/- **AJAY KUMAR JHA D90310 (ADVOCATE) Chamber-303, Dwarka Court, Dwarka, Delhi**

**Govt. of Jharkhand**

**Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs**

**(Department of Tourism, Art-Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs)**

**Birsra Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi, Ranchi**

**Email: kheljharkhand@gmail.com**

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) on GeM Portal**

**Bid No. GEM/2021/B/1688505 Dated: 19.11.2021**

Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Tender for the following work through GeM Portal in two parts Part-I (Technical Bid) and Part-II (Price Bid) from the eligible and reputed Bidders having good experience of following similar type of works and having sound financial status:-

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost in Rs./-	Earnest money to be deposited in Rs./-	Cost of Bid Document (Non-Refundable in Rs./-)	Time of Supply	Place of Supply
Supply of Volleyball Kits for Sports Competition	Rs.8,00,000/- (Eight Lakhs Rupees)	Rs.40,000/- (Forty Thousand Rupees) Only	Rs.10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only)	within 7 days from the date of award of contract	Khunti, Simdega, Gumla, Sarakela-Kharswan, W. Singhbhum
Availability of tender documents on GeM Portal	From 19.11.2021 to 30.11.2021				
Last date and time for uploading of Tender on GeM	Up to 30.11.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.				
Last date and time for physical submission of original Demand Draft towards cost of bid document and Earnest Money.	Up to 30.11.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.				
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-I (Technical Bid)	At 11:30 a.m. on 30.11.2021				
Date and time for opening of tender Part-II (Price Bid)	will be communicated later on				
Tendering Officer and address for communication	Director, Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Birsra Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi, Ranchi.				

- Tender documents and BOQ including terms & conditions, Specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on GeM Portal.
- Cost of tender fee, Earnest Money deposit (EMD) shall be deposited as per the above schedule in the office of Director, Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Birsra Munda Volleyball Stadium, Morhabadi, Ranchi. Only those tenders will be entertained whose cost of tender/BOQ and Earnest money deposit is received till 11:00 a.m. on 30.11.2021.

Sd/-  
Director,  
Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi.  
PR 257400 (Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs) 21-22 (D)

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, KASHMIR PHE JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**e-NIT No. 71 OF 2021-22 Dated: 17.11.2021**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir/Jammu invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of Eligible Contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for HILLY AREAS (GRAVITY) falling in District Baramulla for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works costing above 50 lacs up to 100 lacs (GROUP III)", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for each district/geographically different zone for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of: - <b>a.</b> Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. <b>b.</b> Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/Scheme wise details given in Section-II of tender document	1000/-		180 Days	
Group- III		Above 50 Lacs upto 100 Lacs		0.50		90

**Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**

The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

**Note:** In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

I	PUBLISH DATE	18.11.2021
II	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE START DATE	18.11.2021
III	CLARIFICATION START DATE	18.11.2021
IV	BID SUBMISSION START DATE	23.11.2021
V	CLARIFICATION END DATE	10.12.2021
VI	PRE-BID MEETING DATE	23.11.2021
VII	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE END DATE	14.12.2021
VIII	BID SUBMISSION END DATE	14.12.2021
IX	DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	16.12.2021

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir/Jammu, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar/Jammu.
- a.** Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.
- b.** The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/E challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/E-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
- Queries by email if any should be made at [kmphed@gmail.com](mailto:kmphed@gmail.com)

No: CE/PHE/27551-62  
Date: 17.11.2021  
DIPK-12995/21  
Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM**

**SIXMILE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22**

Web site : [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in), [www.dmeassam.gov.in](http://www.dmeassam.gov.in), email:dme@assam.gov.in, [dmeassam@gmail.com](mailto:dmeassam@gmail.com).

**No. DME/Ophtha/270/2021/20881**

**INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)**

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

E-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) from the intending Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for supply & installation of various equipment related to **Ophthalmology Department** for all Medical College Hospitals of Assam, under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam.

The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paisa) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara,Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender					
Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e- Tender Publishing	21-11-2021	12.00 Noon	-	-
2.	e- Tender Download	22-11-2021	12.00 Noon	18-12-2021	12.00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	04-12-2021	11.00 AM	Venue - Room No. 4C, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Guwahati- 32	
4.	Bid Submission	06-12-2021	02.00 PM	18-12-2021	02.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	18-12-2021	03.00 PM		

Sl No.	Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/ Installation schedule/ Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
1.	Supply & installation of various equipments related to <b>Ophthalmology Department</b> of Medical College Hospitals of Assam	Rs. 3.00 Lakh	25 days	Rs. 5000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited Dealer

The detailed information of bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e. through website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e- procurement may obtain the same by registering in the [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in). The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SBI-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

Sd/-  
**Janasanyog/C/8034/21**  
Director of Medical Education, Assam

“IMPORTANT”

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**UJVN Limited**

H.Q.: "UJ/VAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Okhla-248006

Telephone: 01135-3733026, Fax: 01135-3733536

CIN No. U43101UR2015GC25166, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

Letter No: 676  
Office of the (Designation and complete address of the tender calling office), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
**Tender No 21e/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22** for "Supply of miscellaneous consumables items for maintenance at Chibno Power House".  
**Estimated cost: Rs. 6,67,707/- GST Extra**  
**Date of availability of bid document on website : 21.11.2021 from 11.00 Hrs**  
**Last date for submission of bids on website :13.12.2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.**  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"  
EE[Gen], CHP

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE</**



# 11 SUNDAY STORY

**360 DAYS  
& COUNTING**

Number of days since the protest began at Delhi borders

**2,500+ TEMPORARY  
SETTLEMENTS**

at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur protest sites

**100+ PAKKA  
DHARNAS**

in Punjab since October 1 last year

**4 LAKH  
TRACTORS**

turned up at Delhi's borders on January 26 this year

**20 KM**

length of protest site at Tikri

**15KM**

length of protest site at Singhu

Source: SKM

## POSTCARDS FROM A PROTEST

For a year, farmers and their families, mainly from Punjab, camped at Delhi's border protesting against the farm laws. After the Prime Minister announced a repeal, RAAKHI JAGGA retraces their journey: from the village where the spark of an agitation was lit to one where the earliest death was recorded. Along the way, she meets some women who led from the front, shaped the groundswell — and got the Centre to yield



### DUGGAN, SANGRUR, ONE OF THE EPICENTRES OF THE AGITATION

## ‘We will be in Singhu again. But this time, on a happy note: we won’

IT BEGAN with a small motorcycle rally that wound its way through the lanes of the village. That was on June 7, 2020. The entire country was under a lockdown to control the pandemic, but in Duggan, a village in Sangrur district of Punjab, there was something else that agitated the villagers: a couple of days ago, three farm ordinances had been promulgated by the President of India and some of the villagers, among them over a 1,000 retired government employees, thought it was important to educate the small farmers of the village about the “dangers” in the proposed laws.

“We understood the ordinances, and quickly realised that we are not ready for this 360-degree change in farming. This village has over 3,700 acres of farm land and nearly 60 per cent of the farmers own less than 5 acres. We knew that these new laws would kill the small farmer. A few of us sat together and discussed the ordinances on June 5 last year, when few people even noticed them,” says Kuldeep Joshi, 63, a villager who retired as inspector from the Punjab Police’s Vigilance Bureau.

And thus, a spark was lit, with the movement soon spreading across the state and later

to neighbouring states and the national Capital.

“A little more than 17 months have passed and we are still strong. Dilli Chalo (when farmers marched to Delhi) happened on November 26, when 35 tractor-trolleys from our village went to Delhi. But we Punjab villages were up in arms much before that,” says Joshi.

“A number of villages slowed down after the Republic Day violence or stopped the agitation for a while, but Duggan village kept at it. They have been the most consistent village,” says Jagmohan Singh Patiala, state general secretary of BKU Dakaunda.

Joshi says 52 farmers represented Duggan village at the Muzaffarnagar mahapanchayat. Besides, every Sunday, a bus would take 40-45 villagers to Singhu or Tikri and bring back a batch of those who had already been protesting there. “This is our own struggle. We did all on our own, using our personal expenses. We never stopped,” he says.

This village, with a population of 10,000, has 52 acres of *nazool* land, common land that has been given on annual lease for Rs 70,000 an acre. “We usually use this fund for development work in the village. But

**6,000+**

Estimated number of Punjab villages that “actively participated” in the agitation, according to farmer unions



(Top and above) Protesters in Duggan at a meeting at the village gurdwara on Saturday, a day after the PM announced a repeal of the farm laws. Gurmeet Singh

since the *marcha* began, we have been using the money to sustain the agitation,” adds Joshi, adding that the village spends around Rs 25,000 every week on the agitation.

Gurcharan Singh, 65, another villager,

says, “We collect ration from time to time and deposit it in the village gurdwara. So whenever one *jatha* leaves for Delhi, they take some stock out of that pooled ration. We send 100-200 litres of milk every week for

which every house contributes, even if it is one glass.”

Satnam Singh, 33, another villager who owns 15 acres, says, “I spent around six months at Singhu and Tikri. In my absence, my neighbour took care of my crops and I did the same when he went to Delhi. People called us ‘rich farmers’. But the fact is, we managed only because we helped each other and had the heart to donate. It took the Central government over a year to understand everything.”

Gurmail Kaur, 60, president of the women’s wing of the farm union in the village, says, “Women from the village went regularly to Delhi and to local *morchas* in Sangrur city, toll plazas etc. We not only did *langar sewa* but also managed the *morchas*. We can manage a protest site as well as we do our homes.”

Gurmail says the gurdwara langar in the village regularly supplied sweet rice and dal-roti to the protest site at the Sangrur railway station.

For now, the villagers are preparing for the next trip to Singhu, on Sunday (November 21). Roop Kaur, 65, will be part of this batch of 40.

On Saturday, as she packs for the trip, she says, “We will continue our protest till the laws are repealed in Parliament. But this time, we going on a happy note: we won.”

### Some of the women leaders who stood up, spoke out

OVER THE last year, as men, young and old, set off to Delhi and elsewhere to protest against the laws, back home, a largely invisible force held up the other end — their wives, mothers, daughters and daughters-in-law, who worked the fields and tended to families. Yet, there were several women who took the plunge, joined the agitation and led from the front.

#### MALAN KAUR, 70



General secretary of the women’s wing of BKU Ugrahan in Bathinda district, Kaur, who has never gone to school, says it was son’s teacher who inspired her son and later her to speak up for farmers and their rights. Since 2004, she has been part of the women’s wing of BKU Ugrahan.

Kaur was 60 when she first went up on stage to speak. Since then, she has motivated several women in Bathinda to step out of their homes. “I cannot read or write so I listen to recorded videos or ask my daughters-in-law to read out to me. That’s how I learnt more about the farm laws.”

#### JASBIR KAUR NATT, 60



A state committee member of the Punjab Kisan Morcha, Jasbir has been managing the stage at Tikri border since the first week of December last year.

“I have been at Tikri all these days and went home only once to see my sick mother,” says Jasbir, who retired as a clerk from the electricity board.

#### HARINDER KAUR BINDU, 42



Vice-president of the BKU Ugrahan, Harinder, from village Ramgarh Bhagatwana in Faridkot district of Punjab, has

been associated with the farmer union for over 16 years. “I am a farmer, a mother, a daughter. But since June 2020, I have had just one purpose: getting the farm laws revoked. My teenage son came once to meet me at the Tikri border. I miss them. But you need to make some sacrifices to set an example for others,” she says.

#### BALBIR KAUR SIDHU, 40



A practising advocate, Balbir is in charge of BKU Dakaunda’s Mansa unit. “Women were not very active and

farmer unions hardly had any women’s wings. I joined BKU Dakaunda in 2010. Today, most of the villages in Mansa have women’s wings of farm unions. I was able to mobilise a number of women to step out of their homes and travel to Delhi to protest. Many of them also lead *morchas* in Punjab. Our hard work has paid off.”

#### SURJIT KAUR AKLIA, 75



Member of the Mansa unit of BKU Dakaunda, Surjit Kaur, from Akliya village in Mansa, is part of the langar

committee at Singhu. “My sons are both farmers. I stayed in Delhi for 70 days and came home only on March 7. After that, I kept going for shorter durations,” says Kaur, who spoke into a mic for the first time during the protest in Delhi. “I have never been to school and didn’t think I would be able to do this... I got this strength after this struggle started.”

### DHANNA SINGH, 45 AMONG THE FIRST DEATHS IN THE DELHI CHALO MORCHA

## ‘This is no time for tears... Sacrifices of my father, others led to this victory’

SITTING ON a *charpoy* in their two-room house, Sukhdeep Kaur, 17, says not a single day goes by when she doesn’t think of her father Dhanna Singh. The 45-year-old died in a road accident in the early hours of November 27, 2020, while on his way to Singhu border to protest against the three farm laws, making him among the earliest casualties of the ‘Delhi Chalo’ *marcha*, when hundreds of farmers from Punjab and Haryana had marched to the Capital.

Now, with the farm laws repealed, Sukhdeep says she misses her father sorely but this “is no time for tears. Crying

make you weak. This is a big victory of farmers that was possible because of the sacrifices of many, including my father.”

That day, Dhanna Singh, with Baljinder Singh, 28, and a few other villagers, were on their way to Delhi from their village Khyali Chehlan Wali in Mansa district when a truck hit their tractor trolley from the rear. Dhanna came under the tyre of the tractor while Baljinder’s left hand was crushed. Driver Gora Singh, 38, sustained minor injuries.

Baljinder recalls, “After the accident, his family did get financial help, but no money can make up for the void they feel.

**670**

The estimated number of farmers who died during the protest against the farm laws, according to Samyukta Kisan Morcha, with over 500 of them from Punjab



At Dhanna Singh’s home in Mansa district on Saturday. The 45-year-old died in an accident last November, while on his way to Delhi. Gurmeet Singh

His children keep saying that they wish their father had only sustained injuries like me. At least he would have been with them now.”

Baljinder says he is still undergoing treatment at PGI, Chandigarh, for his damaged arm. Dhanna Singh was the village *granthi* and secretary of the village unit of Bharatiya Kisan Union, Dakaunda faction.

His wife Manjit Kaur, 40, says, “He used to motivate people to be part of the Dilli Chalo *marcha*. We had sent him to Delhi with a lot of hope; instead, it was his body that came back. Though my husband died much before he could reach Delhi, my children and I have visited Singhu and Tikri a number of times,” Kaur said.

Her son Harvinder Singh, 14, adds, “I also

visit *dhamas* in Mansa often.”

After Dhanna Singh’s death, the Punjab government gave Kaur a job on compassionate grounds — as a peon in a government senior secondary school where Harvinder is in Class 8.

With Kaur drawing a monthly salary of Rs 18,000, the family decided to let out their 2.5-acre farm land on contract to Dhanna’s younger brother. Kaur was also given a compensation of Rs 5 lakh by the Punjab government, Rs 4 lakh by the Haryana Government and Rs 1 lakh by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). Some help poured in from NRIs too.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing a repeal of the farm laws, Kaur says her husband’s soul will be at peace. “I am glad that the announcement came on Babaji’s (Guru Nanak) birthday,” she says, as her children interrupt firmly: “We will struggle till the time the laws are not actually taken back.”

Kaur nods. “Yes, we have been protesting from Day 1 of the ordinances. I wish the PM had understood the spirit of the farmers... So many precious lives could have been saved,” she says, before adding, “*Zindagi taan jeeni hai... bachhe kuchh vadda kar jaan* (Anyway, this life has to be lived. I hope the children do well.”



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter: @Pchidambaram, IN

The Tamil Hindus have lived for centuries with people practising other religions, especially Christianity, for over 2,000 years and Islam for over 800 years. Muslim and Christian scholars and writers have made remarkable contributions to Tamil literature and the development of the language. To my knowledge, no Tamil Hindu king waged a war to establish the supremacy of the Hindu religion over other religions

I WAS born in a village in what is now Sivagangai district, then Ramanathapuram district, of Tamil Nadu. I am proud that Kaniyan Poongunranar was born a few kilometres away in a village called Poongunram (now Mahibalanpatti) in the same district. He was a poet who lived in the Sangam age between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE. He is best known for his 13-line poem starting with the words ‘Yaadum oore yaavarum kelir’. A simple translation is ‘Every place is my village, every one is my relation’. There are other gems in the poem.

The first line is inscribed on the walls of the United Nations. The poem is believed to reflect the way of life of the Tamils 2,000 years ago and earlier.

THE WORD ‘HINDU’

Tamil literature records the religions of that age as *Saivam* and *Vaishnavam*. *Samanam* (Jainism) and *Bouddham* (Buddhism) were later religions. The words Hindu and Hinduism are in not found in ancient Tamil literature. According to Mr Shashi Tharoor, “the word ‘Hindu’ did not exist in any Indian language till its use by foreigners gave Indians a term for self-definition”.

Most Tamils are born in families that practise Hinduism. They worship many gods (including village deities), celebrate festivals like Pongal and Deepavali, and observe rituals like *pongal*, *pal kudam* and

*kaavadi*. The Tamil Hindus have lived for centuries with people practising other religions, especially Christianity, for over 2,000 years and Islam for over 800 years. Muslim and Christian scholars and writers have made remarkable contributions to Tamil literature and the development of the language. To my knowledge, no Tamil Hindu king waged a war to establish the supremacy of the Hindu religion over other religions.

What is Hinduism apart from the name of a revered religion? Although I had read books by Dr S Radhakrishnan and Swami Vivekananda, I never felt it was necessary to undertake that inquiry. From what I have read, heard, gathered and gleaned, it seems to me ‘What is Hinduism?’ can be answered in a few simple paragraphs:

SIMPLE TRUTHS

■ Hinduism does not claim to be the only true religion. Swami Vivekananda said, “I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true.”

■ Hinduism does not have One Church, One Pope, One Prophet, One Holy Book or One Ritual. There are many of each, and a Hindu is free to choose among the many or reject all. Some scholars have argued that one can be a Hindu as well as a

believer or an agnostic or an atheist!

■ In its secular aspects, Hinduism does not prescribe one system of marriage or one system of succession/inheritance. The Hindu law reforms (1955-1956) tried to bring about uniformity but there exist myriad variations even today.

■ Hinduism allows a Hindu to worship other gods and saints. Thousands of Hindus go to worship at the shrine in Velankanni or pray at the Golden Temple in Amritsar or offer obeisance at the Dargah Sharif in Ajmer. Historians are not agreed whether the Sai Baba of Shirdi was a Muslim or a Hindu; he was perhaps both because he did not see any difference between the two. One of his famous epigrams was *Allah Malik* (God is King).

■ Dr Wendy Doniger, Professor of History of Religions, University of Chicago, who studied Sanskrit and ancient Indian religion for over 50 years, has observed: “Scholars have known for centuries that the ancient Indians ate beef.” She has quoted texts such as Rig Veda and Brahmanas as well Yajnavalkya and M N Srinivas. Currently, most Hindus eat meat, fish and eggs, but not beef; many Hindus are vegetarian.

■ Dr Doniger also points out that Gandhiji never called for banning cow slaughter, and quotes him as having said: “How can I force anyone not to slaughter cows unless he is himself so disposed? It is not as if there were only Hindus in the Indian Union. There are Muslims, Parsis,

Christians and other religious groups here.”

However, many Muslims and Christians do not eat beef and many non-vegetarians do not eat red meat at all.

I DON’T NEED  
HINDUTVA

In his famous undelivered speech (1936) ‘Annihilation of Caste’, Dr B R Ambedkar, after tracing the conflict between the Indian National Congress (founded in 1885) and the Indian National Social Conference (founded in 1887), and noting with regret that the ‘political reformers’ had vanquished the ‘social reformers’, posed a series of questions to the “political minded Hindus”, that included the following: “Are you fit for political power even though you do not allow them to wear what apparel or ornaments they like? Are you fit for political power even though you do not allow them to eat any food they like?” These questions ring true even today, but in a different context.

Like Mr Tharoor, “I was born a Hindu, grew up as one, and have considered myself as one all my life.” I am one among 81.6 per cent of the Hindus who said in a Pew survey that they were raised as Hindu and currently identify themselves as Hindu. I am happy with my Hinduism and with Kaniyan Poongunranar’s simple lesson ‘every one is my relation’. Why do I need Hindutva?

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen\_singh



Well done  
PM Modi

IN THE end it was not about the farm laws but about democracy and the right to protest. Democracy won. The most powerful Prime Minister India has seen for more than three decades bowed to the wishes of the people last week when he announced the repeal of the three farm laws. Those who believe that, in repealing these laws, Narendra Modi has reversed necessary agricultural reforms miss the point. If farmers were ready to risk their lives to protest laws that they believe would have left them at the mercy of corporations, then there was no point in the reforms. When he announced their repeal, the Prime Minister said that farmers would be consulted when his government initiated future reforms. This is good.

There is no question that agricultural reforms are needed. It was the manner in which these three laws were rammed through Parliament that led to a breakdown in trust between the government and the people, which it believed would benefit from them. On top of this came ugly attempts to stop protesting farmers from reaching Delhi and uglier attempts to malign people desperate enough to spend seasons of heat, rain and extreme cold in the open to make their point. Modi must take personal responsibility for the malignant campaign. It was his decision not to meet those who sat in protest on Delhi’s borders, and his decision to mock them as professional protesters by declaring them ‘*andolanjeevis*’ in Parliament.

Long before this inopportune comment, his army of social media trolls, blind followers and sycophants had started to shriek about Khalistanis and ‘anti-nationalists’ having infiltrated the protest. To seriously believe that Greta Thunberg and Rihanna were in league with the Khalistan movement is to seriously need your head examined, but till last week this was believed by many who shook know better.

Will they know better in future? Will they give up bootlicking for real analysis? Possibly not. But, it is probably time for the Prime Minister to acknowledge that his devotees have done more damage to his image than his worst critics. They have done this by spending most of their waking hours spreading hatred and venom, and it is this that has led to Modi being seen as a man who has divided India’s communities. And, not as the reformer he would like to be seen as. For a while now he has made abundantly clear that what he really wants is for India to walk more swiftly on the path to prosperity, and not continue with the agenda of hatred that has come to define Hindutva. But, if he has conveyed this message to his devotees, they show no sign yet.

Before he announced the repeal of the three farm laws, people already noticed that he was trying to change the agenda. Those who have the unhappy task of being forced to spend more time in government offices than necessary report that, in recent weeks, they had begun to observe that ministers dealing with the economy were suddenly eager to hear suggestions on how they could make the economy move faster. The Prime Minister himself is believed to have complained privately that he could not understand why businessmen had to deal with so many ‘compliances’. If it was these things that his devotees and the BJP’s army of social media trolls emphasised, the man they see as India’s saviour would perhaps not have such a hard time convincing his critics that he is working to make life better for the average Indian. And, most importantly, that he believes that democracy is to be cherished not just during elections but after they have been won.

When he announced the repeal of the farm laws last week, many of his most devoted devotees seemed visibly confused and clearly tongue-tied, as the much weaker social media army that supports Rahul Gandhi gloated openly. They posted video clips of their hero saying that the government would be forced in the end to repeal the farm laws. In doing this they showed that they had not understood that, in this moment, they needed to show grace, not gloating. For a powerful Prime Minister to have shown the humility to publicly acknowledge a mistake is a good moment for India.

The farmers understood this and celebrated by distributing sweets at their protest site. When reporters asked them why they were so happy, they admitted on camera that they believed that the repeal of the hated laws was a victory for them and a vindication of their long protest. They showed the grace to say that if the Prime Minister came and shared the sweets with them, he would be welcomed. They seem to have understood better than carping critics and know-all political pundits that this was a good day for India and a great day for Indian democracy.

It was a good day for Modi. He showed that he was a bigger man than he has been given credit for. He showed that he was ready to acknowledge that the will of the people is greater than the will of the most powerful political leaders. For the moment it is not about agricultural reform but about celebrating the strength of Indian democracy. This columnist is counted among Modi’s sharpest critics, but what he did last week has restored some of the faith that I once had in him.

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



BANERJEE KA GUSSA

PRIYANKA GANDHI Vadra is keen to pacify Mamata Banerjee, fearing the Trinamool Congress is nibbling into the Congress vote share outside West Bengal. But Banerjee is in no mood to respond. She is still fuming over Rahul Gandhi’s behaviour after the TMC victory in Bengal. Rahul did not telephone to congratulate Banerjee and took two days to put out a tweet. Nevertheless, when Sonia Gandhi requested Banerjee to come to Delhi to talk about a possible grand alliance, the Bengal Chief Minister agreed to fly down. What Banerjee did not bargain for was that Rahul would casually walk into the room during the meeting, though she had not been informed of it. Rahul did not stay for long, and the next day, Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury issued a statement attacking the TMC for unleashing violence in Bengal. Banerjee believes both of Rahul’s protégés in the state, Chowdhury and Abdul Mannan, target the TMC thinking the Congress would be better off aligning with the Left in Bengal. Even in UP, Banerjee has given the Congress something to think about. The TMC’s latest recruits include Kamalapati Tripathi’s grandson Rajesh Pati and his great grandson Lalitesh Pati.

ORDER OF ORDINANCE

On the basis of an ordinance, the Ministry of Personnel last week put out a somewhat confusing notification amending rules of the Central Government of India in public interest. In sum, it put a cap of two-year extensions for the Secretaries of Defence and Home, Director, Intelligence Bureau, and Secretary, RAW. However tenures for directors of investigative bodies, such as the CBI and Enforcement Directorate, it said, can be extended up to five years. Clearly those who frame intelligence and policy require less continuity than those in charge of investigation, and can turn the screws on those whom the government desires.

CLEAR FAVOURITES

Extensions are always available for favoured officers in the Modi government. Some examples: Director, Enforcement Directorate, S K Mishra was recently granted another term, before his three-year tenure ends this month. Director, Intelligence Bureau, Arvind Kumar; Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla; and RAW

She  
SAID

SHALINI LANGER

shalini.langer@expressindia.com



DOES ANYONE talk for the women of Uttar Pradesh? Remember those? The ones found hanging from trees, or poisoned next to fields, strangled to near-death, or shamed over ‘love jihad’? The Congress can be faulted for many misdemeanours in the country’s most populous state, which has among India’s largest women numbers, the highest proportion of young women, the lowest health indicators and the maximum crimes against them — but, surely, speaking up for one-half of UP can’t be one.

Even if she and her party don’t get far in the state, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could have got this part right. She has followed up her offer of

40% seats for women in the coming Assembly elections, an empty promise that few now buy, with a slogan that is much more powerful in its simplicity: “*Ladki hun, lad sakti hun* (I am a woman, I can fight)”. On Wednesday, in Chitrakoot, Vadra added a poem to her reach-out to women — “*Suno Draupadi, shastra uthalo, ab Govind na aayenge* (Hey Draupadi, pick up arms, no god is coming to defend you now)”.

This being an easily outraged India, the message is lost as we focus on the messenger. BJP Union minister Smriti Irani countered Vadra with: “*Ghar par ladka hai, par lad nahin sakta* (There is a man at home, but he can’t fight)”. One would have expected better from the feisty leader, who has risen from being an outsider to the top ranks of a party fronted by aggressive men. Regarding the poem Vadra recited, BJP

supporters latched on to the fact that its author Pushyamitra Upadhyay said he didn’t want what he had written, amidst the anger following the 2012 Delhi gangrape-murder, to be used for “cheap politics”, and that he didn’t support the Congress’s ideology. As for the essence of Upadhyay’s exhortation — including “*Kal tak keval andha raja, ab goonga-behra bhi hai. Honth si diye janata ke, kaanon pe pehra bhi hai* (The king who was just blind yesterday, is now deaf and dumb too. The public’s lips are sealed, its ears shuttered)” — it unsurprisingly didn’t ring any bells.

The huffing and puffing over Vadra using the poem brewed alongside cases against stand-up comic Vir Das for daring to suggest in a poem that India’s diabolic contradictions include worshipping women in the day and gangraping them at

history  
HEADLINE

GHANSHYAM SHAH

ghanshyam.shah2008@gmail.com



IT WOULD not be incorrect to say that Gujarat’s geography has impacted its cuisine. Gujarat has a long coastal length of more than 1,250 km, and a rich history of trading with the outside world. Then, towards the east is the tribal area. As a row brews over non-vegetarian food stalls in the state, the truth is there is a wide variety among the food habits of tribals, the fisher-folk along the coastal areas and those in central Gujarat. Similarly, the fertile South Gujarat has altogether different food habits from the North, which is dry and arid.

During the pre-colonial period, the state was ruled by a number of small princely states, and areas that saw Mughal dominance. The parts inhabited by the Koli, Bhil tribals etc were isolated. However, the different regimes that ruled the state were not monolithic — they largely focused on collecting revenue and left the people to themselves. This meant that till early 19th century, Gujarat was a pluralistic society. One proof of this is that more than 20% of the words in the Gujarati vocabulary have roots in Persian and Arabic. The first history of the state, *Gujarat No Itihas*, was written in Parsi.

The food found across the state is no different, being an amalgamation of different tastes. The first attempt at “homogenisation” by a regime, which made it simpler to govern the people, was made during the colonial period. Questions by the Census and gazetteers demanded that people identify themselves with a particular structure. One of those who labelled Indian history as “a Hindu period” and “a Muslim period”, “an Islam period” and “a British period” was John Mill, who had never visited the country.

The beneficiaries of this British rule and demarcation were obviously those in business and the upper strata of society — the Brahmins and Baniyas — who were already several steps ahead when it came to education. As their influence increased, they also reconstructed the history of Gujarat as they perceived it.

Today, when we say Gujarat is a vegetarian state, I recall my own experience. I come from an upper strata of society, from the relatively vegetarian Vaishnav community, where even eating eggs is a taboo. Around 70 years back, when I was young, my father gave me eggs because they were good for health, inside several layers of wrapping. I would go to the roof of our building or *pol* to eat them.

My understanding of Gujarat growing up was that it was a kind of *samaj*. Today

Gujarat: The myth of  
a vegetarian state



An egg stall in Ahmedabad, where many such kiosks were removed. Express

when you ask a Gujarati what is a *samaj*, they invariably talk about their caste. Therefore you see the Patidar *samaj*, Kshatriya *samaj* and others. Similarly, when you talk about Gujarat or Gujarat’s food habits or business, invariably we talk about the perceptions of the upper strata of society, mainly the Brahmins and Baniyas and very lately the Patidars.

However, even between them, there are variations — between the Nagar Brahmins, who were writer-advisors in courts, and the Anavil Brahmins of South Gujarat, who were largely tillers and are often called “*Khato-Pito Brahman*” as they eat and drink without inhibition.

According to a study by anthropologist K S Singh, with which I was associated, only about 26% of Gujarat’s population is actually “pure vegetarian” — meaning they never eat eggs or meat — and most people are better classified as “frequent vegetarians” and “frequent non-vegetarians”. When I was in college, I spent a couple of sleepless nights once over a Brahmin friend eating omelette! The fact also is that while they classify as non-vegetarian, many communities in Gujarat, including Muslims and tribals, can hardly afford meat regularly in their meals.

When we talk about vegetarianism and Gujarat, we are really talking about a very small section of society, whose world view is transferred and imposed, and later

gains popularity and spreads.

Gujarat has seen the influence of both the Bhakti and Sufi movements, which were egalitarian. However, the later movements, such as of the Swaminarayan sect, were Brahminical and impacted food habits. They found their first followers among the Baniyas or the Vaishnavs. In fact, even Mahatma Gandhi blessed a movement that encouraged that the Panchmahal Bhil tribes be recognised as “backward Hindus” rather than as Adivasis. Another example are the *Machhimaars* who, through co-option, have been made to feel guilty about their traditional food habits.

Among others who eat non-vegetarian food too, there is a moral cost attached, with meat or alcohol to be shunned on “auspicious” days.

Interestingly, a survey in 2016 found that people in Gujarat who identified themselves as non-vegetarian outnumbered those in Punjab and Haryana, which make no boasts or claims about being vegetarian states. As Chief Minister, Narendra Modi did not venture into this territory (in fact, he belongs to a caste in which non-vegetarian food is traditionally not taboo), and this is perhaps why BJP chief CR Patil and CM Bhupendra Patel have played down calls for action against non-vegetarian stalls along main roads in cities.

The writer is a political sociologist  
As told to Ritu Sharma



# 13 ECONOMY

LABOUR MINISTER CHAIRS 229TH MEETING OF CENTRAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## EPFO board meet: Investment in AIFs on case-to-case basis; centralised database

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE CENTRAL Board of Trustees (CBT) of retirement fund body EPFO on Saturday approved investment of up to 5 per cent of its annual deposits in new asset classes of alternative investment funds (AIFs), including infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

The Board has empowered the Finance Investment & Audit Committee (FIAC) to decide upon the investment options, on a case-to-case basis, for investment in all such asset classes. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) would go for investments in public sector bonds. At present, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Power Grid Corporation (PGCIL) have launched public sector InvITs.

The decision was taken at the

229th meeting of the EPFO's CBT, chaired by Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav.

In April, the Labour Ministry notified changes in investment options to include units issued by Category I and Category II AIFs regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The EPFO can invest up to 15 per cent of investment in equity, as per the pattern of investment notified by the central government and the internal guidelines of the EPFO approved by the CBT. It had invested Rs 7,715 crore in equity till June 30 this year.

Asked whether the EPFO will invest in private sector InvITs, Yadav told reporters, "At present we have decided to invest in only newly added government instruments (bonds and InvITs). There is no percentage for that. It will be decided on case to case basis by the FIAC."

Labour Secretary Sunil

### 15.41 lakh subscribers net added in Sept

New Delhi: EPFO net added 15.41 lakh subscribers in September 2021, reflecting a growing trend in net payroll additions post the second wave of the pandemic. For September, the net subscriber addition has increased by 1.81 lakh (or over 13 per cent) over August when it was 13.60 lakh. **PTI**

Barthwal told reporters, "There are certain instruments (prescribed in norms) where we were not able to invest due to various reasons. Now, we would be in a position to invest in those instruments."

"In a significant decision that

will yield a higher rate of return, the earlier ban on investment pattern by CBT was lifted and FIAC has been empowered to approve on a case to case basis," said CBT member and employers' representative KE Raghunathan.

The Board also approved development of centralised IT-enabled systems by C-DAC. Following this, the field functionalities will move on a central database in a phased manner which will facilitate de-duplication and merger of all provident fund (PF) accounts of any member. It will also remove the requirement of transfer of account on change of job.

The CBT meeting saw a low participation rate from the states, a point which is learnt to have been raised as a concern by the Labour Minister. CBT members also discussed the risky investments in DHFL, YES Bank,

Indiabulls, with some members advising for a careful encashment of those investments.

The draft 68th annual report on the functioning of the EPFO for the year 2020-21 was also approved in the meeting, with the recommendation to place it before Parliament.

The Board also decided to constitute four sub-committees, comprising members of the board from employees' and employers' side as well as representatives of the government. Two committees on establishment-related matters and futuristic implementation of Social Security Code will be headed by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment.

The remaining two committees on digital capacity building and pension related issues will be headed by the Union Labour and Employment Secretary, an official statement said.

SAUDI OIL CO, RELIANCE TO 'RE-EVALUATE' PROPOSED INVESTMENT

## RIL focus on green energy, Covid hit for Aramco: Why both cos put O2C deal on hold

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd (RIL) and Saudi Arabia's national oil company Saudi Aramco on Friday decided to "re-evaluate" a proposed investment by the latter in RIL's O2C business.

### What was the proposed investment?

In August 2019, RIL and Aramco signed a non-binding letter of intent for the latter to acquire a 20 per cent stake in Reliance's oil-to-chemical (O2C) business in a deal worth \$15 billion. The deal was expected to benefit RIL's O2C business in terms of higher feedstock security for its tilt towards higher crude to petrochemical conversion. Reliance had applied to hive off its O2C business in line with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). In October, RIL also named Saudi Aramco chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan to its board as an independent director.

### What are the factors that have led to the deal being called off?

Covid-19 played a significant role in delaying the planned investment by Aramco, as the pandemic caused crude oil prices to crash in line with demand for petroleum products. Experts said

### DEAL TO PURCHASE 20% STAKE

■ In August 2019, RIL and Aramco signed a non-binding letter of intent for the latter to buy 20% stake in Reliance's O2C business

■ In October, Reliance also named Saudi Aramco chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan to its board as an independent director

this likely impacted Aramco's ability to acquire the 20 per cent stake in the RIL's O2C business. Further RIL's announcement to become a net zero carbon emitter by 2030 and plans to optimise its Jamnagar refinery to produce on jet fuels and petrochemicals may have impacted Aramco's interest in investing in the O2C.

"RIL and Aramco have mutually determined that it would be beneficial for both parties to re-evaluate the proposed investment in O2C business in light of the changed context," RIL said in a statement. The company also said that the Jamnagar complex, which is a key part of the company's O2C business, would be the centre of Reliance's renewable energy & new materials business, supporting its net zero carbon emissions commitment.

"These plans are counterintuitive to Aramco's interest and

EXPLAINED

E

world view. Oil producing nations have been making the case that fossil fuel assets need to be given more time and investment so that the energy transition can be gradual," said an equity analyst who wished to be anonymous.

Jamnagar is set to be the site for RIL's 'Green Energy Giga Complex', which is set to include an integrated solar photovoltaic module factory, an advanced energy storage factory, an electrolyser factory and a fuel cell factory.

The analyst said Aramco may have also had concerns that a large part of its investment could be used to repay loans to RIL, which the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate may then use to fund its green energy related projects. After reorganisation of the O2C business, the new entity would have had a \$25 billion loan from RIL on its balance sheet, as per an investor presentation by RIL.

## RBI WATCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE

## Forex reserves fall for second week in a row, down \$763 mn

CURRENCY ASSETS FUEL SLIDE		
	Nov 5 2021	Nov 12 2021
Foreign currency assets	577,581	575,487
Gold	38,778	40,239
SDRs	19,287	19,184
Reserve tranche position	5,228	5,201
Total	640,874	640,112

in million US dollars; source: Reserve Bank of India/Reuters

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE FOREIGN exchange — forex — reserves fell by \$763 million to \$640,112 billion in the week ended November 12, according to data released by the RBI.

In the preceding week ended November 5, the reserves decreased by \$1,145 billion to \$640,874 billion. They had touched a lifetime high of \$642,453 billion in the week ended September 3.

During the reporting week, the decline in the forex reserves was primarily on account of a slide in foreign currency assets (FCA). Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released Friday showed.

FCA, a major component of the overall reserves, dropped by \$2,094 billion to \$575,487 billion in the report-

ing week, according to the central bank data.

Expressed in dollar terms, the FCA include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies such as the euro, pound sterling and Japanese yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$1,461 billion to \$40,239 billion in the reporting week.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped \$103 million to \$19,184 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$27 million to \$5,201 billion in the week, as per RBI.

Falling forex reserves may cause issues for the government and the RBI in managing the nation's external and internal financial issues.

Higher reserves are a big cushion in the event of any crisis. **WITH PTI**

## 'Global cos set to deliver record dividends this year'

Global corporate dividends are set to reach a record high this year, as a rebound in business activity and a rise in consumer demand boosted profits, as per an analysis of Refinitiv data



Source: Refinitiv/Reuters

**Survey details: The analysis of Refinitiv data was for 3,394 global companies with market capitalization of at least \$1 billion**

### DIVIDENDS SLUMPED LAST YEAR

against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic for companies in most sectors globally and as regulatory constraints and government pressures to restrict payments weighed

**EUROPEAN COMPANIES'** payouts in 2021 are estimated at \$252.4 billion, a 25% rise over last year

**US DIVIDENDS** are expected to grow to \$562.3 billion, an 8.6% increase

**MINING FIRMS** led the dividend payouts globally, boosted by a surge in commodity prices this year

**FINANCIAL SECTOR** is also expected to deliver higher dividends, as global central banks relaxed restrictions on dividends and buybacks imposed last year

## Zomato a great bet: Uber CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

UBER CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said the company's partnership with Zomato has been a "great bet" and he is pleased with how the model has grown, continued to gain share and its successful initial public offering (IPO).

Khosrowshahi said Uber is witnessing an increase in demand as cities open up after COVID-induced lockdowns, and also expects the driver shortage easing.

"The India food delivery mar-



DARA KHOSROWSHAHI  
CEO, Uber

File

ket has been incredibly competitive and really are partnering up with Zomato was a bet on

Deepinder Goyal, the founder, and CEO there and I would say it has been a great bet and certainly one that we are very pleased about in terms of how the model has grown, how the model has continued to gain share, and obviously the incredibly successful IPO," Khosrowshahi said in an interview to CNBC-TV18.

In 2020, Zomato had announced the acquisition of the Indian business of Uber Eats in an all-stock deal that gave Uber 9.99 per cent stake in the Indian food delivery and restaurant discovery platform.

## Musk: Tesla app coming online after server outage



ELON MUSK  
CEO, Tesla

Reuters File

New York: Tesla Inc chief Elon Musk said on Friday that the company's mobile application was coming back online after an app server outage earlier prevented many owners from connecting to their cars. Musk was responding to a Tesla owner's tweet, who said that he was experiencing a "500 server error" to connect his Model 3 through the iOS app in Seoul.

About 500 users said they faced an error at Friday, 21:40 GMT, as per outage monitoring website Down detector. **REUTERS**

## Apple says workers 'free' to discuss wages, working conditions

JULIA LOVE

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 20

APPLE DELIVERED a message to employees on Friday that was striking given its reputation for secrecy: a reminder that workers may discuss wages, hours and working conditions. The notice came as some employees have been pushing Apple to do more to ensure there are no unfair gaps in pay across the company.

In a post on an internal site, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, Apple said its policies do not preclude employees from "speaking freely" about working conditions. "We encourage any employee with concerns to raise them in the way they feel most comfortable, internally or externally," it states. A spokesperson for Apple declined to comment.

Apple's business conduct policy already included language stating that workers were not restricted in their ability to discuss wages, hours and working conditions, which is generally protected

### In a post on an internal site, Apple said its policies do not preclude employees from "speaking freely" about working conditions

under US law. But employees who have spoken out in recent months have faced resistance, said former Apple program manager Janneke Parrish.

Parrish, who was fired after playing a leading role in employee activism, said she is hopeful that Apple's message will ease the path for others.

Apple has previously said it doesn't discuss specific employee matters and is "deeply committed to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive workplace." The move comes amid a broader push by Silicon Valley workers to speak out about their working conditions and the impact of technology on society. **REUTERS**

## National mining conclave: Focus on exploration, auction regime

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS of the mining industry will participate in a national conclave next week and hold strategic discussions on major issues and opportunities in the sector to bring in higher growth and facilitate ease of doing business, the government said on Saturday.

To be held on November 23, the fifth National Conclave on Mines and Minerals will have many significant segments that will encourage exploration activities, auction regime and sustainable mining practices.

An award ceremony for five-star rated mines for noteworthy performance will be another highlight of the one-day conclave, an official statement said.

The mines ministry introduced the concept of National Mining Conclave in 2016 to provide the right platform for interaction among all stakeholders like government officers, industrial sector and associations. **WITHPTI**

## BRIEFLY

### Japan oil release

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Saturday his government is considering releasing oil from its reserves in response to rising crude oil prices, Kyodo news agency said. It would be the first time for Japan to release oil reserves to lower prices. **REUTERS**

### West Elm foray

New Delhi: Global design home retailer West Elm has entered India, with the launch of two stores in partnership with Reliance Brands. It opened its first brick-and-mortar store in October at Jio World Drive, followed by a store at the Ambience Mall in Gurgaon this week.

### Ola Electric test

New Delhi: Ola Electric said it has expanded the customer test rides for its electric scooters across India. With this, customers in over 1,000 cities and towns will be able to test ride and experience the Ola S1 electric scooter, a statement said. **PTI**

## Govt puts on sale MTNL, BSNL assets at base price of ₹970 cr

New Delhi: The government has listed for sale real estate assets of state-run telcos MTNL and BSNL at a reserve price of around Rs 970 crore, according to documents uploaded on the DIPAM website.

BSNL properties located in Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Bhopal and Kolkata have been posted for sale at a reserve price of around Rs 660 crore. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website has listed MTNL assets located in Vasari Hill, Goregaon in Mumbai for sale at a reserve price

### BSNL properties have been posted for sale at a reserve price of around ₹660 crore, and those of MTNL at around ₹310 crore, as per DIPAM

of around Rs 310 crore.

"This is the first stage of asset monetisation at MTNL and BSNL. Bids have been invited for BSNL assets worth Rs 660 crore and

MTNL assets worth Rs 310 crore. We plan to complete the entire process within one-and-half months," BSNL Chairman and MD PK Purwar said.

MTNL's 20 flats located in Oshiwara have also been put up for sale as part of the asset monetisation plan of the company. The flats include two units of 1-room set, 17 units of 1 bedroom hall and kitchen (BHK) and one unit of 2 BHK. Their reserve prices range from Rs 52.26 lakh to Rs 1.59 crore. The e-auction for MTNL assets will take place on December 14. **PTI**

## Failure to report old deals: Alibaba, Baidu among China tech cos fined

REUTERS

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 20

CHINA'S MARKET regulator said Saturday it was fining companies including Alibaba, Baidu and JD.com for failing to declare 43 deals that date as far back as 2012 to authorities, saying that they vi-

olated anti-monopoly legislation. Enterprises involved in the cases would be fined 500,000 yuan (\$78,000) each, it said, the maximum under China's 2008 Anti-Monopoly Law. Alibaba, Baidu, JD.com and Geely did not immediately comment.

China has been tightening its grip on internet platforms, citing

the risk of abusing market power to stifle competition, misuse of consumers' data and violation of consumer rights. The earliest deal listed was a 2012 acquisition involving Baidu and a partner, and the most recent was the 2021 deal between Baidu and automaker Zhejiang Geely Holdings to create a new-energy vehicle company.

### CRUDE WATCH

## OIL SLIPS FOR 4TH WEEK ON THE TROT

New York: Oil benchmarks fell for the fourth straight week, for the first time since March 2020, amid surging Covid-19 cases in Europe. Brent crude was at \$78.42 a barrel, while US WTI crude reach \$76.11 per barrel. **REUTERS**



# 14 The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



AP

### USA NASA seeks ideas for a nuclear reactor on the Moon

IF ANYONE has a good idea on how to put a nuclear fission power plant on the Moon, the US government wants to hear about it. NASA and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab on Friday put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system. NASA is collaborating with the US Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to establish a sun-independent power source for missions to the Moon by the end of the decade. "Providing a reliable, high-power system on the moon is a vital next step in human space exploration, and achieving it is within our grasp," Sebastian Corbisiero, the Fission Surface Power Project lead at the lab, said. The reactor would be built on Earth and then sent to the Moon. **AP**

### UNITED KINGDOM

### England plans ban on single-use plastic cutlery

SINGLE-USE CUTLERY and plates could be banned in England as part of a public consultation and call for evidence launched to tackle so-called problematic plastics on Saturday. Throwaway plastic plates, cutlery, expanded and extruded polystyrene cups and food and beverage containers could all be phased out in the latest UK government bid to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said. Under proposals in a 12-week public consultation, businesses and consumers will need to move towards more sustainable alternatives. **PTI**

### EUROPE

### Poland reports fewer bids to cross Belarus border

THE NUMBER of migrants trying to force their way into Poland from Belarus fell again on Friday after an apparent change in tack by Minsk that could help calm a crisis that has mushroomed into a major East-West confrontation. The Polish Border Guard said there were 195 attempts to cross the frontier on Friday, down from 250 on Thursday and 501 the day before. Europe accuses Belarus of flying in thousands of people from the Middle East and pushing them to cross into the EU. **REUTERS**



At a protest against Covid curbs in Vienna, Austria, on Saturday. The banner reads: 'Control the border. Not your people.' *Reuters*

## In Europe, again Covid's epicentre, new restrictions provoke resistance

ELIAN PELTIER & MELISSA EDDY  
NOVEMBER 20

RIOTERS SET fires on the streets of Rotterdam and attacked police officers at a demonstration against Covid measures in the Netherlands on Friday night. Austrians protested a newly announced nationwide lockdown and plan to make coronavirus vaccinations compulsory. And protesters gathered in Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

A year and a half after the coronavirus swept through Europe with devastating effect, prompting strict lockdowns, the continent is once again the epicentre of the pandemic. And as governments increasingly return to measures limiting public life and introduce vaccination requirements, protests pushing back



Police arrive at a protest in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on Friday. *AP*

against those rules are also rising. With infections soaring and antiviral drugs to treat the coronavirus not yet available, governments have doubled down on calls for people to get vaccinated, including with booster shots. They have also shifted from voluntary measures to mandatory ones as they lose patience with people who are resisting inoculation. Frustration among members

of the public also appears to be growing on both sides. Although recent anti-vaccine protests have fizzled in countries like France and Italy, they have flared up in the Netherlands, where a three-week partial lockdown is in place in an attempt to quell a fourth wave of coronavirus infections. On Friday night, police officers in Rotterdam fired warning shots and used water cannons against

hundreds of protesters who were demonstrating over the country's pandemic restrictions. Seven people were injured and dozens were arrested amid what the city's mayor, Ahmed Aboutaleb, described as "an orgy of violence". In Austria's capital, Vienna, thousands protested on Saturday over a vaccination mandate that is set to come into force in February and a nationwide lockdown that begins on Monday.

Those actions, which were announced Friday and would have been considered unthinkable just months ago, are the strongest recent measures taken in a Western democracy to tame the pandemic. Portugal may also face new lockdown restrictions, and the Czech Republic, which is facing its highest caseload of the pandemic, will require proof of vaccination for entry into restaurants, bars and hair salons starting Monday. **NYT**

## Pak lifts ban on TikTok after assurances to control 'immoral and indecent' content

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 20

PAKISTAN'S TELECOM regulator has for the fourth time lifted a ban on TikTok following assurances by the popular Chinese video-sharing platform that it would control "immoral and indecent" content.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had banned it in July after complaints that it was uploading and disseminating immoral content.

"PTA has restored the services of TikTok on assurances by the platform (that it would) control immoral and indecent content," the regulator said on Friday.

According to the PTA statement, the authority had last blocked access to the application on July 20 and since then, it had been communicating with TikTok management on the issue.

"As a result of continuous engagement, senior management of the platform assured (the) PTA of its commitment to take nec-

essary measures to control unlawful content in accordance with local laws and societal norms," the statement said.

It further said that the social media company had also given the assurance of blocking the users for their continuous involvement in uploading "unlawful content" on TikTok.

"Keeping in view the assurances, the authority has decided to lift the ban on TikTok forthwith," the statement said, adding that the PTA would continue to monitor the video-sharing platform to ensure that "unlawful content, contrary to Pakistan's law and societal values, is not disseminated".

This is the fourth time that the PTA has lifted a ban on the platform after blocking it for various reasons.

TikTok was banned in Pakistan for the first time in October 2020, but it was lifted after just 10 days following an assurance by the company to block accounts "spreading obscenity". **PTI**

## Flood-hit Canadian province limits fuel, non-essential travel

REUTERS  
HOPE (BRITISH COLUMBIA), NOVEMBER 20

BRITISH COLUMBIA imposed temporary restrictions on fuel and non-essential travel on Friday to ease supply chain disruptions and support recovery work after floods and mudslides destroyed roads, houses and left thousands stranded in the western Canadian province.

The orders, announced by Deputy Premier Mike Farnworth in a briefing, limits people in some areas, including the Vancouver Island, to 30 litres (7.9 gallons) of fuel per visit to a gas station until Dec 1. Non-essential travel along severely affected highways will also be prohibited.

## Prominent Afghan doctor kidnapped, killed

*Kabul:* A prominent doctor was kidnapped and killed in northern Afghanistan, his family said Friday.

Mohamed Nader Alemi was abducted two months ago in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, and his kidnappers demanded a ransom for his release, his son Roheen Alemi said. The family eventually paid



On a flooded road in Abbotsford, British Columbia. *Reuters*

"These orders will help keep commercial traffic moving, stabilise our supply chains and make sure everyone gets home safely," Farnworth said.

The storms, which started on Sunday, forced the closure of the

## US CDC endorses Covid vaccine booster shots for all adults

APOORVA MANDAVILLI  
NOVEMBER 20

FACED WITH rising infections and an anticipated surge in holiday travel, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday endorsed booster shots of the coronavirus vaccines for all Americans over 18.

The recommendation fulfills President Joe Biden's pledge in August to make the extra doses available to all adults, and caps months of scientific debate over whether most people really needed boosters. The shots are already available at many drugstores, doctors' offices and vaccination centres.

The CDC said that Americans over age 50, as well as those 18 and older living in long-term care facilities, "should" get booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. All other adults over age 18 "may" get booster doses, the agency decided.

Recipients of Johnson & Johnson's one-dose vaccine already were cleared to get a booster at least two months after the initial shot. **NYT**

## Singapore set to begin easing curbs next week

SINGAPORE SAID on Saturday that it would begin easing its pandemic restrictions next week, another sign that the city state is recovering from a recent surge of hospitalisations that delayed its reopening plan.

From Monday, fully vaccinated people will be allowed to gather in households and restaurants in groups of up to five, an increase from the current two, government ministers on Singapore's Covid task force told a news conference. **NYT**

### MEANWHILE

## TRUMP PUBLISHING NEW PHOTO BOOK

Donald Trump is publishing a book of photographs celebrating his time as US President, according to a statement from his office. Titled 'Our Journey Together', the book includes more than 300 photographs and captions written by Trump.

## US seeks balance as fears grow that Russia may invade Ukraine

NOMAAN MERCHANT  
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 20

THE BUILDUP of Russian troops near Ukraine has left US officials perplexed, muddying the Biden administration's response.

Some Republican lawmakers have been pressing the US to step up military support for Ukraine. But that risks turning what may be mere muscle-flexing by Russian President Vladimir Putin into a full-blown confrontation that only adds to the peril for Ukraine and could trigger an energy crisis in Europe.

But a weak US response carries its own risks. It could embolden Putin to take more aggressive steps against Ukraine as fears grow he could try to seize more of its territory. And it could cause more political damage for President Joe Biden at a time his popularity is dropping.

Knowing how to strike the right balance would be easier if the US had a better understanding of what Putin was trying to accomplish. But top officials admit they don't know.

"We're not sure exactly what Mr Putin is up to," US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday.

Rep. Mike Quigley, an Illinois Democrat and member of the House Intelligence Committee, said better understanding Putin's intentions was critical "to avoid the mistakes that have started great wars".

"This is a tough, tough area to try to gain information," he said. "It's a challenge that's as tough or tougher than it's ever been. It has a pretty serious impact on our ability to make the correct decisions."

Russia seized Ukraine's

## EXPLAINED Few good options for Washington

THE RUSSIAN troop buildup near Ukraine has left the US with very few good options, as the Biden administration tries to make sure its response is perceived as neither too weak nor too aggressive. Talks between US, Russian and Ukrainian officials have taken place in recent weeks, but they seem to have had little effect on Russia's aggressive stance. Experts say more US sanctions on Russia are also unlikely to sway Putin. There have been calls for the US to provide more weapons and infrastructure to Ukraine and for it to deploy a larger presence of its own to the Black Sea. But these measures risk Russia increasing its troop numbers at the Ukraine border, and even retaliating by cutting energy exports to Europe.

Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and an ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine between Kyiv and Russian-backed rebels in the region known as Donbas has left an estimated 14,000 dead. Now, Ukraine says an estimated 90,000 Russian troops have massed near the border.

The buildup could be a prelude to another Russian invasion. Speaking to Ukraine's foreign minister this month, Blinken said Putin's "playbook" was for Russia to build up forces near the border and then invade, "claiming falsely that it was provoked." **AP**

## Pentagon chief seeks to reassure concerned Middle East allies

IDREES ALI  
MANAMA, NOVEMBER 20

US DEFENCE Secretary Lloyd Austin sought on Saturday to reassure allies in the Middle East that President Joe Biden's administration was committed to the region despite Washington increasingly turning its attention towards countering China.

It was unclear how much impact Austin's speech would have with Washington's allies in the Middle East, since it was not backed by any announcements of further deployments or new weapon sales in the region.

Gulf Arab states, heavily reliant on the US military umbrella, have expressed uncertainty about Biden's focus on the region, especially after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. They are now closely watching efforts to revive a global-powers nuclear pact with Iran.

In a speech in Bahrain during a trip to the Gulf, Austin acknowledged concern in the region and globally that the United States was solely focussed on



US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

China's challenge.

"Let's be clear: America's commitment to security in the Middle East is strong and sure," Austin said.

He said the United States was committed to countering Iran, even as Washington works to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

"We remain committed to a diplomatic outcome of the nuclear issue. But if Iran isn't willing to engage seriously, then we will look at all the options necessary to keep the United States secure," Austin said.

The Pentagon chief said that Washington would be coming to the indirect negotiations on reviving the deal starting on Nov. 29 in Vienna in good faith. **REUTERS**

## RIGHTS GROUPS WARN THAT THE WORKERS COULD BE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OR EVEN SLAVERY

# Vietnamese workers at Chinese factory in Serbia desperate for help

DUSAN STOJANOVIC  
ZRENJANIN, NOVEMBER 20

THEY ARE shivering in barracks without heat, going hungry and have no money. They say their passports have been taken by their Chinese employer and that they are now stuck in a grim plainland in Serbia with no help from local authorities.

These are the Vietnamese workers who are helping build the first Chinese car tire factory in Europe. The Associated Press visited the construction site in northern Serbia where some 500 of the workers are living in harsh conditions as China's

Shandong Linglong Tire Co. sets up the huge facility.

The project, which Serbian and Chinese officials tout as a display of the "strategic partnership" between the two countries, has already faced scrutiny from environmentalists over potentially dangerous pollution from tire production.

Now, it has caught the attention of human rights groups in Serbia, which have warned that the workers could be victims of human trafficking or even slavery.

"We are witnessing a breach of human rights because the Vietnamese (workers) are working in terrible conditions," Serbian activist Miso Zivanov of the

Zrenjaninska Akcija (Zrenjanin Action) nongovernmental organisation told The Associated Press at the drab one-storey warehouses where the workers are living.

"Their passports and identification documents have been taken by their Chinese employers," he said. "They have been here since May, and they received only one salary. They are trying to get back to Vietnam but first need to get back their documents."

Workers sleep on bunk beds without mattresses in barracks with no heating or warm water. They told the AP that they have received no medical care even when they developed Covid-19-like symptoms, being told by



Vietnamese workers near the Serbian town of Zrenjanin. *AP*

their managers simply to remain in their rooms.

Nguyen Van Tri, one of the workers, said nothing has been

fulfilled from the job contract he signed in Vietnam before embarking on the long journey to Serbia. "Since we arrived here, noth-

ing is good," he said. "Everything is different from documents we signed in Vietnam. Life is bad, food, medicine, water ... everything is bad."

Wearing sandals and shivering in the cold, he said about 100 of his fellow workers who live in the same barracks have gone on strike to protest their plight and that some of them have been fired because of that.

Linglong did not respond to an AP call seeking comment but denied to Serbian media that the company is responsible for the workers, blaming their situation on subcontractors and job agencies in Vietnam. It said the company didn't employ the

Vietnamese workers in the first place. It promised to return the documents it said were taken to stamp work permits.

The company denied that the Vietnamese workers are living in poor conditions and said their monthly salaries were paid in accordance with the number of working hours.

Populist-run Serbia is a key spot for China's expansion and investment policies in Europe, and Chinese companies have kept a tight lid on their projects amid reports they run afoul of the Balkan nation's anti-pollution laws and labour regulations.

Chinese banks have granted billions of dollars in loans to Serbia

to finance Chinese companies that build highways, railways and factories and employ their own construction workers. This is not the first time rights groups have pointed out possible breaches of workers' rights, including those of Chinese miners at a copper mine in eastern Serbia.

After days of silence, Serbian officials spoke against "inhuman" conditions at the construction site but were quick to downplay Chinese responsibility for the workers' plight. Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said she "would not rule out that the attack against the Linglong factory" is organised "by those against Chinese investments" in Serbia. **AP**



# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eve

## SPOTLIGHT

### Birds of a Feather

A peep into the world of the Great Slaty, now the largest woodpecker in the world

## BOOKS

- Review of Wole Soyinka's *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth*
- Review of Ranjit Hoskote's *Hunchyprose*

# NEVER MORE ALIVE

## What makes Vicky Kaushal one of the most dependable contemporary actors

Alaka Sahani

WHILE SHOOTING for Shoojit Sircar-directed feature *Sardar Udham*, actor Vicky Kaushal found himself amid a sea of bodies. This was expected. He had already gone over this unsettling sequence, which recreates the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, several times on paper. Yet, Kaushal, who essays the titular character of the revolutionary Sardar Udham Singh in the movie that released last month, was overcome with numbness. This pre-climactic sequence of a young Singh's deep shock and desperate attempt to save lives turned out to be emotionally and physically draining. "It was like undergoing commando training," says the actor. The scene marks Singh's transition from a loved-up youngster to a brooding revolutionary, who carried the scar of this horrific incident for two decades.

Sircar, who often borrows his filmmaking methods from theatre, kept it organic and realistic. As the actor rushed to the aid of the injured, with a three-camera set-up focussing on him, he was asked to instinctively pick the injured persons he would attend to. "In the course of the shoot, it hit me that there were real cries for help and bloodshed when the firing left so many people dead and injured. That numbed me," says Kaushal.

During the re-enactment of this tragedy, Kaushal had another challenge to deal with: The 33-year-old actor had to maintain the innocence and body language of a 19-year-old. The biopic of the 1899-born Singh, now streaming on Amazon Prime Video, tells the story of the revolutionary at different stages of his life. The movie shows him as a youngster in love, a young idealist rebel influenced by his friend Bhagat Singh, an activist who moves to London and tries to rebuild the HSRA (Hindustan Socialist Republican Association) movement, and an undertrial who won't plead guilty after he shot Michael O'Dwyer, former lieutenant governor of the Punjab and a mastermind of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Kaushal's character-driven roles have cemented his reputation as a dependable leading actor in Hindi cinema. Many have commented that this is his best performance so

far. For a while, it even diverted attention from his talked-about December wedding with actor Katrina Kaif.

"It's a great feeling when the audience grasps the soul of the movie. What's overwhelming is that the film has initiated a discussion about the sacrifices that have gone into creating a free world and equality," says Kaushal, who sports the tattoo "Ram Mohammad Singh Azad" on his arm in the movie. That's the name the revolutionary went by during the later years of his life as a signifier of unity and secularism.

The elder son of the prominent action-director Sham Kaushal, Kaushal is an industry kid. Yet, he is not. He was born in a 10x10 house in a Mumbai *chawl*, after his father, who had shifted from Punjab with a master's degree in English, tried to make a living as a stuntman in the Hindi film industry. Even after Sham became a successful action director, Kaushal and his brother, actor Sunny, hardly visited the sets or mingled with people from the industry. Like most Indians, he was fascinated by movies and cricket. Engineering was a natural choice since he was good at mathematics, and for a brief while, he even dreamt of a job in the US.

But at 21, Kaushal's dream changed. After he visited an MNC in the second year of his engineering course at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Versova, he realised he wasn't cut out for a nine-to-five job. As he wondered what would make him happy, he thought of all those times he was on the stage for school plays and skits. "With my curly hair and *sanwla* (dusky) complexion, I didn't have the confidence that I could become an actor,"

recalls Kaushal. Nonetheless, he decided to give it a shot.

With that, Kaushal's parents' eagerness that he would be the first member of the family to have a stable job was replaced by their concern that it wouldn't be an easy ride. Sham, who sat Kaushal down, recalls: "Just because I work in this industry, I didn't want my son to assume that it would be a cake-walk. He had to learn the craft if he wanted to be an actor and, most importantly, be prepared for rejections." Kaushal took his father's advice. He worked with Manav Kaul's Mumbai-based theatre group, Aranya, acted in the play, *Laal Pencil*, assisted Anurag Kashyap and made a blink-and-you-miss-it appearance in *Gangs of Wasseyapur* (2012). He got more screen time in *Luv Shuv Tey Chicken*



## ROCK SOLID

(Clockwise from top) Vicky Kaushal; stills from *Sardar Udham*; *Manmarziyaan*; *Masaan*

*Khurana* (2012) and *Bombay Velvet* (2015). However, it would be *Masaan* (2015) that would turn it around for Kaushal.

It has been six years since Kaushal earned the "fine actor" tag for his breakout performance as the guileless and grieving Deepak in *Masaan*. Since then, he has carved out an impressive filmography as he refuses to be boxed in. A year after he appeared in Kashyap's *Raman Raghav 2.0* (2016) as a volatile cop with a drug addiction, he has had five releases in 2018. He delivered a riveting performance as a sensitive Pakistani officer in *Raazi* that proved to be the perfect foil to Alia Bhatt's lead spy act; in *Sanju*, he grabbed attention as the titular character's loyal friend Kamli; and in the Karan Johar-directed segment of the anthology *Lust Stories*, he was convincing as the husband unaware of his newly-wed wife's desires. Another talked-about performance that year was as the commitment-phobic DJ in *Manmarziyaan*.

Even as he showed amazing consistency,

what bolstered Kaushal's status as a crowd-puller and a star was the box-office success of *Uri: The Surgical Strike* (2019), which earned nearly Rs 350 crore at the box-office. His captivating performance as an Indian Army Major who leads a covert operation against militants, won him the National Film Award for Best Actor that same year.

However, it is through his powerful yet restrained performance in *Sardar Udham* — the late Irrfan Khan was Sircar's original choice — that Kaushal has shown that he can completely immerse himself in a role.

It was surreal for Kaushal when Sircar cast him as Udham Singh. In 2019, the actor had messaged Sircar, expressing his wish to be part of the director's celluloid world. Within two weeks, they met and the conversation veered towards Singh.

"Coming from a Punjabi family, of course, I knew about him. My ancestral home in Hoshiarpur district is two hours away from Jallianwala Bagh," says Kaushal, who saw this as an opportunity to tell the story that he had

heard from his parents and grandparents. Sircar, however, went through his share of dilemmas before zeroing on Kaushal. "It wasn't easy to make the transition from Irrfan to Vicky. As we contemplated who can play the role, Ronnie (Lahiri, co-producer of *Sardar Udham*) said, 'Why not Vicky?'. We spent several days looking at Vicky's images and revisiting *Masaan*. After a couple of meetings, I realised that Vicky is aware of that history," says the director of *Madras Cafe* (2013), *Piku* (2015) and *Gulabo Sitabo* (2020).

Kaushal's journey thus far has been propelled by his dedication to his craft and perseverance. "For *Masaan*, I spent three weeks in Benares, learning the local language and soaking in its world. I learnt Gujarati for *Sanju*. While doing *Uri*, my focus was on getting the body language and physique right. *Sardar Udham* was different. Shoojit da told me to work more on the character's state of mind than his actions," says Kaushal.

Some preparations, though, were external. Kaushal lost weight for filming the por-

tions of 19-year-old Singh and gained 14 kg for the older character. To isolate his real self from the historical figure he was essaying, Kaushal never used the phone once he was in costume. The film left Kaushal, who recently sported a hoodie with Singh's words "Tell people I was a revolutionary" imprinted on it, with some realisations.

"Till I acted in this film, I thought the concept of freedom was confined to a country. They (revolutionaries) had an open mind to think of the entire world. The film talks about equality, free speech, and sharing," says Kaushal, who adds that he still has to fully comprehend the "politics of left, right and centre".

What helps Kaushal bring authenticity to his performances? "No matter what role he plays, there is a dedication and consistency in his craft," says Meghna Gulzar. When she was casting for *Raazi*, the writer-director remembers that Kaushal came "with no baggage or set image". She says, "It was important for me to get someone who would be completely malleable to fit the part of a Pakistani officer. Vicky's part had fewer dialogues; he used his eyes and the power of silence to express himself."

Gulzar is teaming up with Kaushal next for *Sam Bahadur*, a biopic of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. "It is such a difficult part to play and direct. We did a look test to see how close we were to depicting Sam Manekshaw. In the first test, we got the result that stumped us both. That makes it evident the kind of actor that he is and what he does with his eyes. He just becomes the part," says the director of *Talvar* (2015) and *Chhapaak* (2020).

Notwithstanding the success and stardom, Gulzar finds Kaushal "rooted as a person". "Vicky has seen tremendous success early in his career but has that changed his approach to his craft? Not yet. I have not seen it and I don't think I will either. The kind of person he is makes him the kind of person he is," she says. This is, probably, something that's instilled into Kaushal by his family.

Urging Kaushal to always be "genuine in his relationships and professional life", Sham says, "If he wants something, he gives his best to it — be it friendship, profession or personal relationship. He did face a lot of rejections earlier but he didn't let that affect him."

Soon after wrapping up the strenuous *Sardar Udham* shoot, the actor found himself on an unscheduled break owing to the lockdown. This worked for him because Kaushal usually tries to take a month-long break between films — "to exit the world of one movie before entering a new one". During this period, he mostly travels to Hoshiarpur. "My village is just like what you see in the movies — *kheton ke beech gaon*. For my village folks, I am still that kid who used to be in a *chaddi*. I can walk into anyone's home, relax there, eat, or play cards. My childhood friends still live there. These are the people who know what I am," says Kaushal.



New Delhi





# DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## The Octopus's Garden

Lessons from My *Octopus Teacher*

I FINALLY managed to see Craig Foster's Oscar-winning *My Octopus Teacher* and promptly saw it again. Foster might have learnt a lot from his octopus friend, but there are huge takeaways for anyone interested in nature or spreading the message via media ( TV channels).

I would imagine that channels like National Geographic and Discovery would have a lot to take home and quietly ponder over after seeing this film. All they seem to be doing these days is making Hollywood-style nature blockbusters — where blood, gore, dismemberment, appalling violence, and the ever-present threat to us — are highlighted as, in series such as *Animal Fight Club*, overly melodramatic with killer voice-overs and music. "Survival experts" out in the wild seem firmly convinced that every living creature out there — in their home territories — is hell-bent on attacking us. The message coming through is clear: Mother Nature is a vindictive, unpredictable old witch armed with canines and talons, subject to ferocious temper tantrums. She is out to rip you apart, so, watch it. Sure, there are film-makers who have spent years in the field studying their subjects and producing exemplary films — but they seem to be as endangered as the animals they film.

Foster has shown what can be done by nearly anyone with a camera in their local patch — or as in this case, in the small, 200 m patch of kelp forest near his home. You don't need half of Africa to make a grand nature film. But yes, there are other requirements, most of which today, especially youngsters, professing to be interested in nature, fall short of. First, you need curiosity and lots of it. You must be interested in the whys, wherefores and why-nots of the dazzling world around you. Equally important is observation. Too many so-called nature lovers these days seem only to think in terms of lists and go off to national parks and sanctuaries — as if they were out shopping. So, yes you must tick off the "big five", the bird roll-call must be longer than what it was last time and, at a glance, you must be able to name a species, its subspecies, and know what the bird ate for breakfast that morning, by the expression on its face: all this to be done instantaneously, so you can rush off to the next destination lickety-split and repeat the procedure.

Observation means spending hours just quietly watching. Even when nothing seems to be happening, it's about



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### THROW IT IN THE SEA

Forget social distancing, when your octopus friend beckons

hanging around, waiting, wondering: day after day, hour after hour, and after hours, too. Only then will the subject of your observation begin to reveal what hitherto was its secret life and bring you a deeper understanding of what's going on. It was only this kind of observation that made Foster realise that his canny octopus friend was actually thinking out her strategies and learning from each experience — for example, using him as a shield to help her hunt.

Then there's persistence. You've got to be at it day after day. If you are following a particular animal or species, this is the only way to eventually win its confidence and allow you into its private world. It must know you're non-threatening. A careless move can easily break the built-up trust.

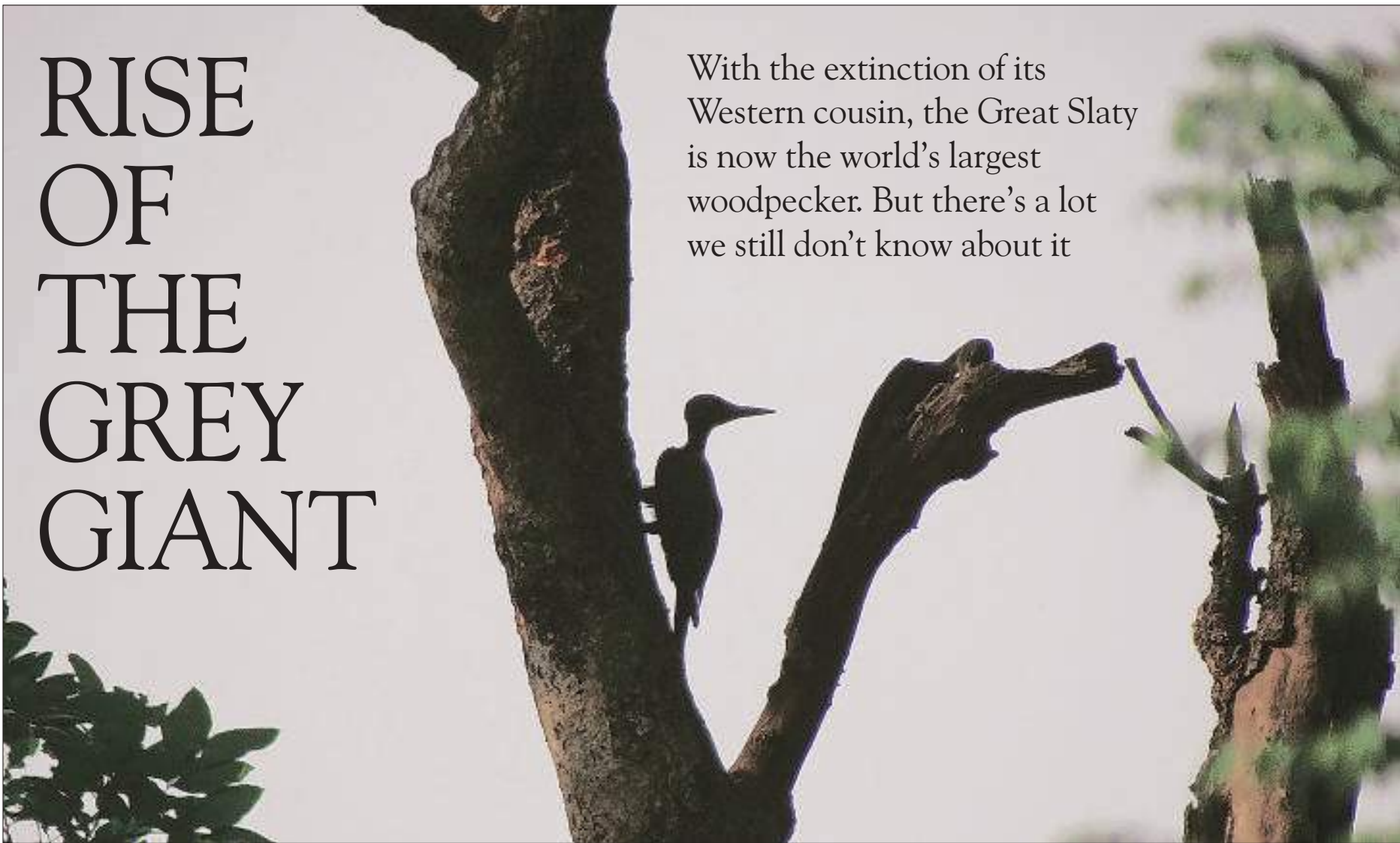
Something as simple as feeding birds in your garden/terrace can prove equally rewarding. A gentleman I met in Delhi many years ago would give breakfast to crows every morning on his terrace by calling them down: each bird flew down only when called by name! He knew their family history: who was whose son, whether he was trying to take over his father's territory, fascinating details which can only be revealed through persistence and observation.

I spent hours observing the rhesus macaques at the Nicholson Cemetery next door (and got a book out of it!), and they're not exactly my favourite. Apart from learning to recognise their calls: threats, or warnings that the monkey-catcher was around, there were other revelations. Hefty dons would sometimes goof around with thrilled toddlers — like politicians kissing babies: they were doing it to cadge favour with the formidable matrons, whose approval heavily counted in their ascension to and retaining of power!

Apart from the crystalline photography in *My Octopus Teacher*, the film's serene pace made it so memorable. Of course, there was drama — the attack by the hilariously named pyjama shark — but also its aftermath, the slow eventual and astonishing recovery of the octopus. Foster believed the little patch of kelp forest worked as a single living entity — with each creature playing its part — the Gaia concept. Scientists like Richard Dawkins might have issues: he believes it's just the genes' demented ambition to propagate which made the entity they belonged to to behave the way it did. If that assisted the survival of the community, so be it, there was nothing deliberately altruistic going on.

The most rewarding part of such an interaction is when the animal accepts you and seems as curious about you as you are about it! Making physical contact is probably the high-point of this relationship: something which many scientists frown at. But when your octopus friend rushes up to give an affectionate hug, social distancing rules don't apply!

# RISE OF THE GREY GIANT



RAMAN KUMAR

Raman Kumar

THEY CALLED it "the Lord God bird", and not without reason. This fabled bird was the protagonist in several books; it even made its way to the music charts with a song dedicated to it. It made news when it lived, and now haunts the headlines with its extinction. Expeditions were dispatched to search for this "Elvis Bird" but it remained elusive, with its last sighting more than 70 years ago, until finally the ghost of wishful thinking was laid to rest in September this year when the US formally declared this fantastic bird extinct.

The Ivory-billed woodpecker, measuring a phenomenal 50 cm from beak to tail, reigned as the world's largest woodpecker. It inhabited the swamp forests of southern US and Cuba, dominated by giant trees until they were logged, and the bird suffered a fate aptly described as "rarity unto death" by science writer David Quammen.

The Ivory-billed's extinction also robbed it of its long-held status as the planet's largest woodpecker, and the spotlight moved to the opposite side of the globe. The Asian Age in the woodpecker world was thus ushered; the Great Slaty woodpecker — an Asian giant — was crowned the world's biggest woodpecker without ceremony or fanfare.

Though comparable in size with its American predecessor, the 45-cm-large Great Slaty hardly fits the bill as a poster boy. While the Ivory-billed resembled a soldier smartly dressed in ceremonial black-and-white uniform with a scarlet helmet, the Great Slaty with its inconspicuous grey plumage and devoid of any headgear brings to mind a commando in combat fatigue.

Its representation of the Asian ethos also extends to its behaviour: The Great Slaty lives in close-knit family groups — the fledged offspring



VINAYAK OHRI

### KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR

(From top) Great Slaty woodpecker feeding on ants on a dead sal tree; Great Slaty woodpecker male at the nest

continue to stay with parents to help them raise younger siblings, a stark contrast to the nuclear family living seen in most other woodpeckers.

Despite its physical and behavioural differences, the Great Slaty is ominously similar to the Ivory-billed in one aspect. The fact that it occurs half a world away by no means cushions it from the threats that its transcontinental cousin succumbed to. Looking at the distribution map of the species can lead you to the happy misconception that a species spread over 15 countries — from India all the way to the Philippines — could hardly be in trouble. However, the Great Slaty population has plummeted by a dramatic 90 per cent in recent decades. The main cause is the all-too-familiar spectre of deforestation, destroying large chunks of its largely tropical habitat. The sharpest declines have been recorded in South-east Asia — particularly Borneo and Malaysia — which used to be the species' mainstay.

Paradoxically, the Himalayan foothills — a region at the margins of the Great Slaty's range which hardly qualifies as "tropical" — seems to be an area where this newly-crowned largest woodpecker appears to be doing well. This

landscape is dominated by sal forests, that in India have been protected either as national parks and sanctuaries, or reserved forests. For instance, in Uttarakhand, it is possible to see Great Slaties without much difficulty in Corbett and Rajaji national parks and the reserved forests adjacent to them.

Despite its celebrity status, surprisingly little is known about the ecology of the Great Slaty. We do know that it lives in joint families of generally half-a-dozen individuals. We also know that the Great Slaties tend to sleep in family dorms made in dead or decaying trees with multiple cavities. These dormitory trees are veritable heritage structures that are used by generation after generation of woodpeckers. Such trees, unfortunately, are often deemed useless and marked for removal during routine forestry operations. The nest cavities, built in live trees, are large and deep enough to hold three to four full-sized woodpeckers. Since these nest cavities are spacious and safe refuges, they are keenly sought after by a wide variety of other animals (that cannot excavate tree holes themselves) for their homes and nurseries. These beneficiaries include hornbills, owls, mynas, monitor lizards, bats, flying squirrels and bees, among several others.

It is obvious that large-sized woodpeckers cannot make nest cavities in trees with thin trunks. This means that the XXL-sized Great Slaty woodpecker needs old forests with thick-stemmed trees to get by. And that is a resource which is in short supply globally. Most people, including politicians and administrators, miss the point that growing old-growth forests cannot be fast-tracked, especially in forests of slow-growing trees like sal that are preferred by Great Slaties. While a sal tree can attain near-maximum height relatively soon ("soon" in tree chronology easily being 50 years!), it can take considerably longer (say, 200 years!) for it to attain a respectable girth. This makes conserving the Great Slaty a greater challenge.

Sacrificing large-sized trees and then compensating for the loss by planting scores of new trees is as absurd as replacing a truck tyre with two dozen bicycle tyres.

This woodpecker also displays some interesting behaviours. For instance, at the start of their day, the Great Slaties of a group routinely assemble on a "staging" tree — something like a roll call. They then perch on the upper branches and repeatedly flick open their wings in synchrony, also emitting whinnying calls simultaneously. This ritual is not unlike a team huddle accompanied by battle cries to invoke the spirit of camaraderie before a match. They then take off to forage, with individuals sometimes breaking ranks to fly off in different directions.

The Great Slaty has a special appetite for ants. Scientists believe that the species lacks a typical woodpecker crest and sports an unusually long neck because these traits make it easier for the Great Slaty to raid ant colonies with minimum fuss.

However, we are still in the dark about most ecological aspects of this Asian giant. How big is its territory? How far does it travel to forage daily? How long does it live? How many nests does it lose to predators and squatters? How big a forest patch is required for it to survive?

Will we be able to find answers to these questions in time? Or will the Great Slaty woodpecker, too, follow its predecessor into the black hole of extinction? If it does, then an ecological meltdown is inevitable with catastrophic effects on scores of other animals that are dependent on its home-building skills. Knock on wood!

Raman Kumar is an ecologist who studies how human-induced changes in the environment impact birds, particularly woodpeckers. Based at Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun, he also works to create awareness among people at large — especially children — about nature

# ‘I was very struck by Bhakti poetry’

Author and musician Amit Chaudhuri on his latest music album which travels back in time

Suanshu Khurana

Was the release of your latest album, *Seventeen*, around the same time as your book, *Finding the Raga: An Improvisation on Indian Music, a conscious decision?*

No, it just kind of happened. Adam Moore, who plays the guitar with me when I perform in England, mastered the songs to reduce some of the radio static. Then I just let it lie, became busy with other things. I talk about my singer-songwriter period in the book so I thought I must back this up.

Was it hard to create English songs as a young adult when most of India wasn't listening to them?

When writing these songs, I was already making my way through Hindustani classical music. A lot of the music I sang was inspired from there. I sang *Armistice Hour* (in *Seventeen*), for my teachers who were invited home after I had not done too disgracefully in my ICSE exams at the age of 15. I participated in a college talent competition, judged by (rock vocalist) Nandu Bhende. Everybody sang covers but I sang a song of my own, *Shout*. People began heckling me, but in the end, gave me a rapturous applause. I did win that competition. At the competition was activist Sanjay Ghose (abducted and killed by the ULFA in 2008). He'd arranged to get a slot on Bombay All India Radio, so I went with a guitar to sing. During broadcasts, my mother would record my songs on a two-in-one. Once AIR found out I was singing my own stuff, they stopped inviting me.



A lot of musicians tend to cringe at their old work. How do you see *Seventeen*?

I don't see it as my old work, I see it as the work of a different self. It doesn't matter if the self was still evolving at that time in terms of its ideas to do with poetry and literature. So, I want to look at this self that is not trying to be somebody else, not trying to be Paul McCartney or Bob Dylan, but working with something. And that's why I put it out there.

What was your sense of the self while writing these songs?

From 1979-83, I went into complete isolation. The only people I mixed with were my gurus and parents. I didn't have any friends. I had withdrawn from that world. I'd always felt a kind of resistance to Bombay's unquestioning embrace of the so-called pedigree of the English language, and of Hollywood and Western pop, mainly because I'd been exposed to Bengali culture — a modern

culture with its own literature, songs, radio programmes. Why must we always in Bombay, do this in English? I was also becoming disenchanted with the corporate world, though my father was doing well in it. I was composing these songs in the context of this self-imposed loneliness. In *Shame*, I was conceiving, feeling intensely for and intensely bereft of, a beloved who wasn't there. Bhakti poetry or the *bhajans* my mother sang were exposing me to this idea of love for invented beings.

What were the outside influences, what were you reading and listening to besides



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

### RAGA FINDER

(Above) Amit Chaudhuri; jacket of his music album *Seventeen*, released earlier this year

poet William Blake and Bengali literature?

I was very struck by Bhakti poetry. And I was very struck by the idea of *viraha*, which is of interest to (Rabindranath) Tagore and which comes to him from his interest in Kalidasa. *Meghdoot* is all about *viraha*. This whole concept of being separated from somebody whom you don't actually see, the truth and veracity is far more than being with that person, the separation being a state of being that produces its own meaning. I had spent so much time listening to that, to people in, as I call it, the American or Canadian singer-songwriter tradition. There was Neil Young, and Joni Mitchell, the greatest

songwriter of the generation among others. I loved the sustained chords — there was a beautiful ambivalence about that.

You didn't have much love for Bob Dylan?

I had mixed feelings about him. I like some of his songs very much, especially (the albums) *John Wesley Harding* (1967) and *Blood on the Tracks* (1975). Musically, as a songwriter, he interested me deeply, but didn't put me in a spell. With songs like *Expecting to Fly* or *I Am a Child* by Buffalo Springfield (Young's band, 1968) or Mitchell, I was in a spell. I couldn't figure out what that spell was. I wasn't in that state of enchantment with Dylan. He also deliberately cultivated this all-knowing persona. I wasn't interested in the irony of that persona. I love the sense of surrender I felt when listening to Mitchell. However complex the songwriting, there was always a dreamlike dimension to it.

Why did you choose to be only known as a writer, and not a musician, all this time?

I thought that there would be scepticism about the fact that a writer who's publishing novels and doing a PhD could be a serious Indian classical musician, which is what I was by that time. It was a very different time and you held back rather than advertise. I didn't have the time to promote myself as a musician. In order to make a headway, you need to be part of a *gharana* with patronage. I was the only disciple of my generation in Kunwar Shyam Gharana but my guru Govind Prasad Jaipurwale died at the age of 44. And I was already fairly well known as a writer. To go and sit outside somebody's office, waiting to be admitted into some conference, is something I felt a lot of prejudice against... Music manifests a particular kind of aesthetic pride. It was definitely one of the things besides the reticence and shyness, which also were a manifestation of that pride... I mentioned it finally, after (the album) *This is Not Fusion* (2007). That's when people began to say to me that you really have to do a bit more than you're doing to disseminate your work.







# Prayagraj Smart City Limited (PSCL)

1st Floor, P Square Mall, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh- 211001

## Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

for

### Implementation of Advance Surveillance System & Smart Components in Prayagraj City

(RFP No.: 1909 /PSCL./2021

Dated:-20.11.21)

Prayagraj Smart City Limited invites online tender for "Implementation of Advance Surveillance System & Smart Components in Prayagraj City" from the bidders meeting the basic eligibility criteria as stated in the RFP document.

1. Start Date & Time for Tender Download	23-11-2021(Tuesday) from 16:00hrs
2. Bid Processing Fees (Non- refundable)	Rs. 5,900 (Rupees Five Thousand and Nine Hundred Only)including applicable taxes by Demand Draft
3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	EMD of Rs. 2,50,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lakhs Only) in the form of Demand Draft or Bank Guarantee of any nationalized/scheduled banks
4. Last date to submit the Pre-Bid Queries	Bidders shall have to post queries by email to <a href="mailto:missionmanager.ascl@gmail.com">missionmanager.ascl@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:assistantmanager.pscl@gmail.com">assistantmanager.pscl@gmail.com</a> on or before 28.11.2021 (Sunday) till 17:00 hrs
5. Pre-bid conference (Date, Time & Venue)	Pre-Bid conference will be held on 29-11-2021 (Monday) at 15:00 hr Venue of Pre-Bid conference: Prayagraj Smart City Limited, 1st Floor, P-Square Mall, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-211001*
6. Last date of Bid Submission	14-12-2021 (Tuesday) up to 15:00 hrs
7. Mode of Bid Submission along with EMD & Bid fee	Online through e-Procurement system <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a> EMD & Bid Fee should be submitted in sealed envelope strictly through Speed Post/Courier which should reach to us on or before 14-12-2021 (Tuesday) up to 15:00 hrs addressing to "Chief Executive Officer, Prayagraj Smart City Limited, 1st Floor, P-Square Mall, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-211001"
8. RFP Document Availability	<a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>
9. Technical Bid opening date	14-12-2021 (Tuesday) at 16:00 hrs
10. Contract Details for queries (if any)	1. Mission Manager (Technical), Prayagraj Smart City Limited Email: <a href="mailto:missionmanager.ascl@gmail.com">missionmanager.ascl@gmail.com</a> Contact Number: +91-9565555552 2. Assistant Manager (Civil), Prayagraj Smart City Limited and assistantmanager.pscl@gmail.com Contact Number: +91-9415191331

The right to accept/reject any or all bid(s) received is reserved without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

(Sanjeev Kumar Sinha)  
Mission Manager (Technical)  
Prayagraj Smart City Limited

पत्रांक डी-1835/ब.सम्प्र.अधि./2021, दिनांक: 20/11/2021



# Australian Open chief to Djokovic: No proof of vaccine, no entry

Medvedev, Nadal, Serena have confirmed their participation in Melbourne

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 20

THE BALL is back in Novak Djokovic's court. Australian Open chief Craig Tiley confirmed on Saturday that everyone who attends the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of 2022 will need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, including all the players. That continues to leave the status of defending and nine-time champion Djokovic in question. Djokovic, who has refused to say if he's vaccinated, would be attempting to win a record 21st Grand Slam singles title. The tournament is scheduled for January 17-30. The Victorian state government had earlier said only vaccinated persons would be allowed into the site for the tournament, and Tiley reiterated that on Saturday. "Everyone on site, the fans, all the staff, the players, will need to be vaccinated," Tiley said at the tournament's official launch. "There's been a lot of speculation about Novak's position, he's said it's a private matter. We would love to see Novak here, but he knows he needs to be vaccinated in order to play. He's always said that the Australian Open is the event that puts the wind in his sails."

### Vaccinations mandatory

The no-vaccine, no-play edict was made by the Victorian state government in late October. It means the Australian Open will become the first Grand Slam tournament to require mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for the players. Victoria has been the hardest-hit state in Australia, with 1,268 pandemic deaths out of the country's total of 1,922 and 109,000 of 194,000 overall cases as of Saturday. Melbourne and many other areas of Victoria have been subject to lengthy lockdowns and overnight curfews over the past 18 months. "It's been made very clear, when the premier (Daniel Andrews) announced several weeks ago that in order to participate at the Australian Open, to come into Victoria, you'll need to be fully vaccinated," Tiley said earlier on a morning television program. "Immediately we communicated that to the playing group, it is the one direction that you take that is going to ensure everyone's safety." Among the top male players, Tiley, who is the tournament director, said Rafael Nadal and Daniil Medvedev, who beat Djokovic in the final of the U.S. Open, preventing the Serbian player from completing a calendar-year Grand Slam, plan to be in Melbourne in January.



Djokovic, the nine-time Australian Open champion, has refused to declare his vaccination status, but will need to do so to defend his title in Melbourne. AP

## Medvedev reaches final of ATP Finals

*Turin:* Defending champion Daniil Medvedev stormed into the final of the season-ending ATP Finals tournament in Turin on Saturday after crushing Norway's Casper Ruud 6-4 6-2. Russian Medvedev will face either Novak Djokovic or Germany's Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final. The match marked world number two Medvedev's ninth win in a row at the ATP Finals. **REUTERS**

Roger Federer, who continues to recover from right knee surgery, has already said he won't be coming. He, Nadal and Djokovic are all tied with 20 singles majors each. Top-ranked Ash Barty of Australia will make another attempt to win her home major, and defending champion Naomi Osaka has also confirmed she'll play, Tiley said. He said he'd been "on the phone" with Serena Williams in the past few days and Williams, who has 23 Grand Slam singles titles and needs one more to tie Margaret Court's all-time record, is training and plans to play. Tiley, who said he'd also been in contact with Djokovic and his team, said it will be apparent by mid-December who will be coming. He said international players were currently going through the travel visa process

with the Australian government and that entry for the Australian Open closes in December. "I know that he wants to play, he's clearly indicated that and he knows the conditions that he would have to undergo in order to be eligible to play," Tiley said of Djokovic. "Entry in here will be determined by around early to the middle of December on the entry deadline. So you'll know when a player's entered an event... so in the next couple of weeks you will have really good indication of where everyone's at because at that point there's an official list of who's going to be here." Tiley said there will be full crowds for the tournament, meaning Rod Laver Arena will return to its capacity of about 15,000, as will the other main arenas. The second week's schedule has changed for January's tournament, with both women's singles semifinals to be played Thursday evening ahead of the Saturday night final. The men's singles semifinals will be split over the afternoon and evening session on Friday, with the final on Sunday night, Jan. 30. Also, Victoria state Sports Minister Martin Pakula announced that Melbourne Park will host the Australian Open until 2044 under a new deal negotiated with Tennis Australia. There's been speculation for several years that Sydney and New South Wales state wanted to poach the tournament from Melbourne, but Saturday's announcement appears to have ended any speculation about a move northeast to Australia's largest city.

# Hope to play my last T20 in Chennai: Dhoni

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 10

MS DHONI has confirmed that his last T20 game will be in Chennai, putting his Indian Premier League (IPL) retirement speculations to bed. "I have always planned my cricket. My last ODI that I played in India was in Ranchi. Hopefully my last T20 will be in Chennai. Whether it's next year or in five years' time, I don't know," Dhoni said at the Chennai Super Kings felicitation – The Champions Call – in Chennai on Saturday. During the IPL, when asked by the TV presenters/commentators, the CSK captain had kept his retirement options open, although a CSK official had earlier told this paper that Dhoni would be having his farewell game at Chepauk, in front of a full house. Today, the skipper attested that. He spoke about his association with Chennai. "I am a bit of a wanderer. My parents are from Uttarakhand. They came to Ranchi. I was born there. I went to Kharagpur in West Bengal for my job. "My association with CSK started in 2008, but my association with Chennai started before that, when I made my Test debut here. I never knew I would be picked by CSK. I was at the auction. (Coming here) helped me understand a different culture," Dhoni said. He spoke about CSK's fan base, which according to him goes "much beyond the state of Tamil Nadu and beyond the borders of India." He lauded the fans for their sportsmanship and also keeping the franchise relevant through their unflinching support on social media, when they were out for two years. "Sachin paaji (Tendulkar) got one of the biggest ovations here even when he was playing for Mumbai Indians."

### Overcoming failure of 2020

Last year was tough, when for the first time CSK failed to reach the playoffs. "2020 gave us a chance to test the real character of the franchise. Since 2008, it has been smooth sailing and it's easy when you are doing well. This time, the boys stood up to be counted and they walked the talk," Dhoni said. CSK bounced back to win their fourth IPL title this year. They showed a similar resolve in 2018 after returning from a two-year ban. N Srinivasan, the vice-chairman and managing director of the India Cements Limited, recounted a rare occasion when he saw Dhoni emotional, upon CSK's return to the IPL. "He just said, 'we have to win'. And we won that year." The former BCCI president highlighted Dhoni's leadership skills, say-



Dhoni has skippered CSK since 2008, leading them to four IPL titles. TNCA

**"I am a bit of a wanderer. My parents are from Uttarakhand. They came to Ranchi. I was born there. I went to Kharagpur in West Bengal for my job. My association with CSK started in 2008, but my association with Chennai started before that, when I made my Test debut here. I never knew I would be picked by CSK. I was at the auction"**

### MS DHONI

ing: "Any player will give his best under MS Dhoni irrespective of his talent." A bit of wisecrack followed. "People keep bugging him, are you continuing? *Aare* he is there, he hasn't gone anywhere." The legendary Kapil Dev called Dhoni a hero, while BCCI secretary Jay Shah revealed that the ex-India captain agreed to mentor the squad for the recently concluded T20 World Cup without taking a penny. Shah also confirmed that the next season of the IPL would be played in India. As a batsman, Dhoni had a poor IPL this term – 114 runs from 16 matches. But this is completely irrelevant to everybody related to CSK. Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin spoke for the fans when he said: "Dear Dhoni, we want you to lead CSK for many more seasons."

# Ole on the brink as Man United lose 4-1 to Watford

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WATFORD, NOVEMBER 20

THE WHEEL seems to be coming off for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United. The pressure on the Norwegian manager reached new levels Saturday after the team's latest Premier League setback, a dispiriting 4-1 loss to struggling Watford. The result was bad enough but the performance was so lackluster – even before two late goals padded the scoreline for Watford – that it left Solskjaer's future in serious doubt, with United dropping to seventh place in the standings. Solskjaer has been able to ride out previous stretches of underperformance, in part because of his popularity with fans – whose chants of "Ole's at the wheel" used to be a display of confidence in the former striker's ability to turn United back into a title challenger. However, that line is now chanted with glee by opposing fans whenever United struggles – which is increasingly often. This was United's fifth loss in their last seven Premier League games – the previous two coming to biggest rivals Liverpool and Manchester City. This one could have been even worse, but Ismaila Sarr missed two chances to convert an early penalty – both of them saved by David De Gea – after the first was retaken because of encroachment. Joshua King still put Watford ahead in the 28th and Sarr made amends by netting the second just before the halftime break for Claudio Ranieri's team. Solskjaer responded by making two half-time substitutions – including bringing on the little-used Donny Van De Beek, who has struggled to get chances under the Norwegian since signing for United last year. The Dutch midfielder responded by pulling a goal back in the 50th after being set up by Cristiano Ronaldo. United captain Harry Maguire was then sent off for a second yellow card after a clumsy challenge in the 69th, with Ronaldo having an equalizer ruled out for offside shortly afterward. Watford then added two goals in injury time to complete the rout.

### RESULTS

Leicester City	0 3	Chelsea
Newcastle United	3 3	Brentford
Burnley	3 3	Crystal Palace
Aston Villa	2 0	Brighton
Watford	4 1	Man United
Wolves	1 0	West Ham

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None

NORTH

♠ 852  
♥ AKJ9  
♦ 962  
♣ 1054

SOUTH

♠ K104  
♥ 82  
♦ AK43  
♣ A762

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

pass

1H

pass

INT

pass

pass

pass

pass

West led the six of spades to the ace. Back came the jack. South held up but West overtook and continued spades. When South won the trick he noted that West had started with five spades, as East played a small diamond on the third spade. You have six top tricks. Where might number seven come from?

The West Hand: S-Q9763H-10753D-JC-K93  
The East Hand: S-AJH-Q64D-Q10875C-QJ8

It might come from either minor suit. If clubs or diamonds divide 3-3, there could be an added trick there. You might get an extra trick by finessing in hearts, too. Which play is best?

The best play is one not mentioned yet. Try finessing the nine of hearts and if it loses to the ten, later finesse the jack of hearts. You will make INT if West has the ten or queen of hearts, a pretty good chance. Finessing hearts is the winner. Playing for one of the minors to divide is not hopeless either but I think the two chances in hearts add up to the best shot. Of importance is that you see the potential in hearts.

Dealer: West Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH

♠ KJ87  
♥ QJ1042  
♦ 542  
♣ 2

SOUTH

♠ AQ964  
♥ 63  
♦ AQ6  
♣ A76

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

1C

pass

pass

1S

pass

2S

pass

3S

pass

4S

pass

pass

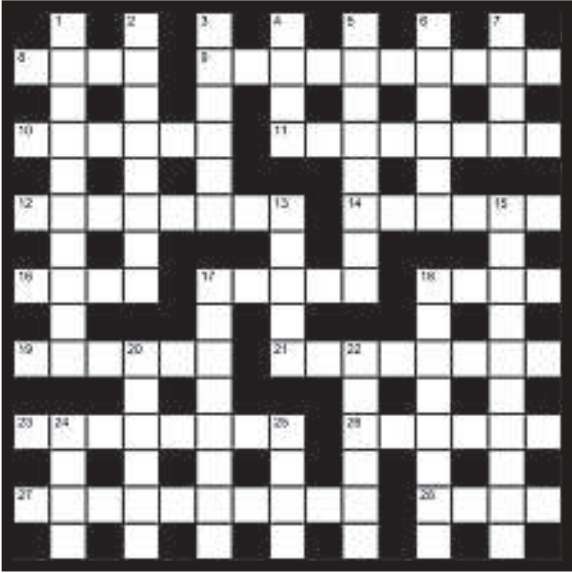
West leads the king of clubs, which South won. What should the next card out of his hand be?

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2348

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
8. Ex-India batsman Pravin \_\_\_\_ (4)
  9. Decrepit (10)
  10. Meal (6)
  11. Physically active and strong (8)
  12. Disadvantage (8)
  14. Refined people (6)
  16. Made up a story (4)
  17. A small rodent (5)
  18. Asks for alms (4)
  19. Clergyman's discourse (6)
  21. Trade or occupation (8)
  23. Farm vehicles (8)
  26. Cricket ball pitched under bat (6)
  27. Adornment (10)
  28. Quarry (4)

- DOWN**
1. Expressive of command (10)
  2. Duly compensated (8)
  3. Faultfinder (6)
  4. Village People hit (4)
  5. Netherlands' famous city? (3,5)
  6. Movable or fixed partition (6)
  7. High; prefix (4)
  13. Exactly vertical (5)
  15. Enrolled, enlisted or cataloged (10)
  17. Our former PM Dr \_\_\_\_ Singh (8)
  18. Bust in business (8)
  20. Millionth part of a metre (6)
  22. Starting suddenly, as from fight (6)
  24. Spool (4)
  25. Do not sink? (4)

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS**
8. Common noun in new form (3-1)
  9. If I am, it's no thanks to you! (10)
  10. A tool for the boatman who travel regularly on the route (6)
  11. Keep down a meal that finally seems wrong on a ship (8)
  12. Work to improve quality of foreign language to a higher degree (6,2)
  14. Attempt to hide another wad that is cheap and showy (6)
  16. Love to sit back with lift designer? (4)
  17. Be embarrassed, though not financially (5)
  18. Join avuncular American touring England (4)
  19. Talk about more disgusting food vendor! (6)
  21. Population growth in tiny period



- of prosperity (4,4)  
23. Nuts are found in them, and bolts (8)  
26. Attack or shun, perhaps (6)  
27. It takes the father and mother of a mind to produce it! (5-5)  
28. Coins central to Aztec usage? Vital to French currency, too! And Europe's, also! (4)

- illegal acts (8)  
20. Plant which yields tin cap (6)  
22. She's fairly feminine (6)  
24. Do better than, when catching river fish (4)  
25. Like the average girl's chance of achieving a model figure (4)

### SOLUTIONS TO 2347

**QUICK CLUES Across:** 6 Slaves; 7 Owned; 9 Mere; 10 In the clear; 11 Admiring; 13 Fasten; 15 Peon; 17 Shell; 18 Mesh; 19 Beadle; 20 Nomenclature; 23 Discovered; 26 Tofu; 27 Spurn; 28 Awesome; Down: 1 Redesigned; 2 V V Gir; 3 Isit; 4 Powerful; 5 Anil; 6 Speed; 8 Deadens; 12 Glenn; 14 Simulation; 16 Enemies; 17 Shelving; 21 Midget; 22 Gaffe; 24 Club; 25 Reap.

**CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 6 Geraint; 7 Hying; 9 Raki; 10 Totem poles; 11 Calculus; 13 Orbits; 15 Dail; 17 Norsk; 18 Oxy; 19 Held on; 20 Yosemite; 23 Traffic jam; 26 Kurd; 27 Dhotti; 28 Heronry; Down: 1 Brain-child; 2 Pestil; 3 Stat; 4 Shamrock; 5 Kilo; 6 Ghana; 8 Greatly; 12 Spray; 14 Bookmaking; 16 Averred; 17 Non-rigid; 21 Sombre; 22 Tany; 24 Foot; 25 Jehu.

## JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

GNEII

EESYLM

PLATS

IKNTGH

SOLUTION: GENIE, SPILT, SEEMLY, KNIGHT  
Answer: There are certain shades of lime that can wreck a girl's complexion. - Audrey Hepburn (9)

## SUDOKU 4661

**Difficulty Level 5s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4660



## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Anything could happen. And it probably will. After a slightly mysterious start to the week you'll finally get the message by Friday. If you're confused, just remember that nobody will be quite sure what is going on. A romantic connection could be the source of some pride.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Higher forces are at work this week. The total pattern of your planets seems to have great significance regarding the sectors of your chart ruling work, business, the law, higher education and long-term hopes and goals. Don't be surprised if personal matters are squeezed out.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
You may well press ahead with extra work this week, but can aim to take more time off after Thursday. By Wednesday, you will become very much more concerned with the social dimension, and anxious to see that friends get on with each other.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You may want one thing, while partners desire another. By Wednesday you should reach an amicable compromise, if all goes well. Your emotional affairs are rather predictable and helpful and you should be in no doubt that pleasant conditions will return this time next month, only better.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Life is so much smoother if you have a plan, and stick to it. Get all business decisions and transactions out of the way by midweek if possible, and that includes purchases of all shapes and sizes. After Wednesday you may focus on broader issues, perhaps the moral consequences.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Your intriguing Venus-Neptune picture unites the planet of love with the ruler of dreams, deepening your romantic imagination and spiritual sensitivity. This is wonderful for Virgoans in love, and excellent for anyone connected with almost any imaginative activity.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
There's been a fair bit of tension in the air, but, happily, an argument is about to be peacefully resolved. As the days pass you will have to concede that other people really do have a right to be heard. In fact, you might have to admit that someone else was right all along.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**  
Focus on what is important to you, rather than trivial frills. The emotional pattern is clear, and there can be no doubt that your main need now is security. If you are confused as to your real feelings, you may make a promise you can't keep.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**  
It's a sensitive period. You are very vulnerable at the moment, and very susceptible to appeals for cash and emotional support. Yet, if you have romantic dreams, you may have to back your hopes with money. At home, Tuesday and Wednesday could be your most positive days.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
There is a nicely poetic feel about this week's stars which implies that if you really want to convince someone that up is down, that left is right or right is wrong, you'll be able to get away with it. In love, be sure to let your special partner know exactly how you're feeling.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Get all routine, practical, daily chores out of the way as soon as you can. Cash considerations are important, but probably not as much as you imagine. Far more necessary is a sense of belonging – that mysterious and intangible feeling that you really do have a place in the material world.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
It's a week of two halves, the first down-to-earth, the second inspired and imaginative. Important business matters should be tackled early in the week, so get on with urgent shopping, or harassing your bank manager. Social developments still seem to be the most important, on the other hand.



BRIEFLY

Hamilton wins pole for inaugural Qatar Grand Prix

*Losail (Qatar):* Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen qualified 1-2 for the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix, setting up a showdown between the Formula One championship contenders at the very start of Sunday's race. Hamilton won the 102nd pole of his career, fourth of the season and first since the Hungarian Grand Prix in August. Hamilton trails Verstappen by 14 points in the championship fight with three races remaining. He beat Verstappen by 0.455 seconds Saturday to win the pole at Losail International Circuit. The race is the first in a 10-year deal between F1 and Qatar. Hamilton on Friday debuted a helmet that sported a rainbow in the colors of the Progress Pride flag that recognizes the LGBTQ+ community. **AP**

Syed Mushtaq Ali: K'taka-Tamil Nadu to clash in final

*New Delhi:* Karnataka defeated Vidarbha by four runs in a thrilling semifinal to enter the summit clash of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy national T20 tournament on Saturday. Asked to bat, Karnataka rode on Rohan Kadam's 87 off 56 balls to post 176 for seven and then restricted the opposition to 172 for six with right-arm pacer Vidyadhar Patil (1/29) defending 14 in the final over. Earlier, rookie medium pacer P Saravana Kumar starred with a fifer as defending champions Tamil Nadu outplayed Hyderabad by eight wickets. The TN bowlers backed skipper Vijay Shankar's decision to field first as they bundled out the hitherto unbeaten Hyderabad for 90 in 18.3 overs with Saravana finishing with 5 for 21. **BRIEF SCORES:** Karnataka 176 for 7 in 20 overs (R Kadam 87, M Pandey 54; D Nalkande 4/28) beat Vidarbha 172 for 6 in 20 (A Taide 32; KC Cariappa 2/27) by four runs; Hyderabad 90 all out in 18.3 overs (PS Kumar 5/21) lost to Tamil Nadu 92 for 2 in 14.2 overs (V Shankar 43n.o.) by eight wickets

Erigaisi takes sole lead in blitz event

*Kolkata:* Indian teenager Arjun Erigaisi raced into the lead in blitz event a day after his stunning triumph in the rapid section of the Tata Steel Chess tournament here on Saturday. He will go into the final day of the blitz event as the sole leader. A day after Erigaisi held off a strong challenge from world number four Levon Aronian in the final round to clinch the rapid title, the 18-year-old, who is rated highly by Viswanathan Anand, was on 6.5 points at the end of the ninth round on Saturday. **PTI**

SPORTLINE India's new T20 skipper is tactically shrewd but his strengths also lie in his communication skills, shooting straight, grooming juniors and utilising experienced seniors

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
NOVEMBER 20

IN AN *Instagram* Live session with Rohit Sharma last year, Yuvraj Singh shared an assessment of the current Indian dressing room.

"I just feel that there are very few guys to look up to and I feel that a sense of respect towards seniors, that has become a thin line now... They do what they want to. *Koi bhi kisi ko kuchh bhi keh deta hai* (anyone can say anything to anyone)," Yuvraj told Rohit, a long-time admirer-turned-close friend.

Yuvraj isn't one to tolerate perceived slights. Being relegated to the Mumbai Indians bench for the 2019 Indian Premier League final by captain Rohit, however, wasn't one of those moments. Those in the team say all it took was a quick chat between the two. The friendship didn't suffer, and Rohit's Mumbai beat Chennai Super Kings to win the fourth of their five IPL titles.

Setting the obvious tactical acumen aside, Rohit's strengths as a leader lie in his communication and man-management skills, honing juniors and utilising seniors.

Those who have played with, and under, the new India T20I captain, talk about Rohit's instincts. Pragyan Ojha, former India international and childhood friend, saw it in the initial years of the IPL when the two played together at Deccan Chargers.

"We all know Rohit Sharma became the Rohit Sharma with Mumbai Indians. But I feel it all started from Deccan Chargers. Credit should go to Adam Gilchrist, who saw something in him and made him vice-captain, despite having so many senior players in the side," Ojha recalls. "Rohit assessed situations and provided inputs that helped the team."

The elder brother to the generation after him, the Team India mainstay in all three formats treats everybody as his equal; is calm when he listens and caring when he speaks.

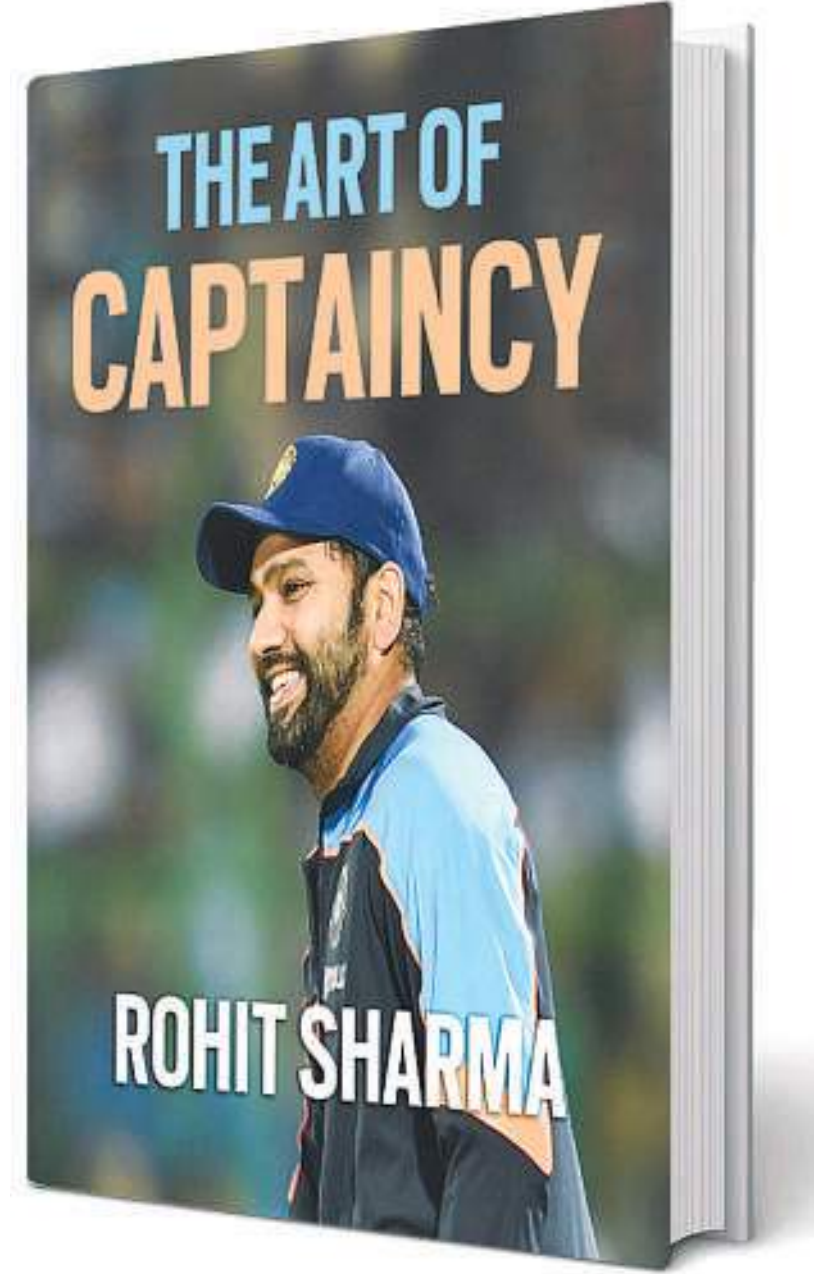
Mumbai Indians seamer Dhawal Kulkarni says it is easier to remain focused thanks to Rohit's down-to-earth attitude and tendency to back each player.

"Rohit knows *ek player ko kharab situation se acche situation me kaise lana hai* (How to improve a player's situation). It's the quality that makes him different from others," Kulkarni explains. "What does a player want?"

That his captain talks to him, gives him a clear idea about the team and shares his thinking about the player and how he can improve. Rohit does just that."

In the national set-up, though Virat Kohli was the long-time India captain for all three formats, Rohit had gradually begun handling things. He has often been the one to speak up when it comes to pointing things out in the dressing room.

During a recent discussion to drop Ajinkya Rahane after a disappointing tour of England, Rohit backed the batsman. During the 2018 Boxing Day Test against Australia, it was Rohit's suggestion that led to Jasprit Bumrah bamboozling Shaun Marsh with a slower yorker.



With a rise in stature, Rohit has gained trust and respect from Indian players. One of them, who does not wish to be named, reveals how after a hard-fought game against Mumbai Indians, captain Rohit came through with some productive advice, wanting him to do well in the future.

Parthiv Patel, former India wicket-keeper and Mumbai Indians talent scout, feels that Rohit maximises players' potential by giving them the freedom to express themselves.

"He understands their minds because he spends time with everyone individually. He allows bowlers to think and backs their plans," Patel said.

Going by instinct

His composure has been compared to MS Dhoni's. Like Dhoni, Rohit too isn't long-winded in team meetings, choosing instead

to keep the discussions brief. And though the Mumbai Indians set-up is brimming with friends, Rohit has never pushed for a name into the playing eleven.

Another interesting facet about Rohit is his approach to the 'match-ups' fad that has taken over the cricketing ecosystem, especially in T20s. It has led to a situation where captains prefer to use low-quality off-spinners just because there are left-handers at the crease. Or keep the left-arm spinners away from left-handed batsmen.

Rohit isn't one of those new-age captains who gets carried away with match-ups, preferring to let quality bowlers do their thing irrespective of the kind of batsmen on strike.

"He is not the one who believes in match-ups," says Ojha. "Nowadays, captains think about various match-ups. 'For this batsman, let's bring on that bowler'

SMITH A CANDIDATE FOR AUS CAPTAINCY

Batting mainstay Steve Smith on Saturday emerged as one of the candidates for Australian Test captaincy after the selectors had reportedly approached the country's cricket board with a proposal to hand over the reins to the former skipper. Though vice-captain Pat Cummins remains the frontrunner for the top job, Smith is also in the reckoning. **PTI**

In Rohit's words

*In his first media interaction as India's T20 captain, Rohit Sharma spoke about giving players the confidence to perform respective roles and setting a template for the team before the next T20 World Cup*

Freedom to play fearlessly

"The pressure is always there. We certainly will keep an eye on that aspect; that's where the entire set-up will play a big part that wherever that individual bats, and how we want him to bat, goes and does the job for us. If he doesn't then we instill confidence in him that we have full faith in you, just go and do the role for the team. As long as they're trying to do the role for the team, we are happy."

ROHIT AS LEADER

Knows how to lift a player

"Rohit knows *ek player ko kharab situation se acche situation me kaise lana hai* (How to improve a player's situation). It's the quality that makes him different from others. What does a player want? That his captain talks to him, gives him a clear idea about the team and shares his thinking about the player and how he can improve. Rohit does just that."

DHAWAL KULKARNI,

FAST BOWLER

Backs his instincts

"He is not the one who believes in match-ups. Nowadays, captains think about various match-ups. 'For this batsman,

His vision for the T20 World Cup

"Template is a very important one and we need to set it right. We've got some time to do that. India has been brilliant in this format, it's just that we haven't won the ICC tournament. We've played well and performed well as a team. Of course, there are little holes we need to fill and make sure they're looked after. That will be the biggest challenge we'll have as a team."

let's bring on that bowler' and vice-versa. Instead, like MS, he will back his instincts and take decisions on the spot. Rohit is old school. At the same time, he has a lot of match awareness."

PRAGYAN OJHA,

LEFT-ARM SPINNER.

Smart use of bowlers

"...He knows which bowlers to use and when. Like he didn't bowl Kieron Pollard much in the last season of IPL and the team still won. The way he used Pat Cummins in the first leg of IPL and Nathan Coulter-Nile in the second leg. It showed how clear he was in his thought process. He knows how to use his bowlers."

SAURABH TIWARY,

MI BATSMAN

**During a recent discussion to drop Ajinkya Rahane after a disappointing tour of England, Rohit backed the batsman. During the 2018 Boxing Day Test against Australia, it was Rohit's suggestion that led to Jasprit Bumrah bamboozling Shaun Marsh with a slower yorker.**

Unverified photos of Shuai posted online

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NOVEMBER 20

UNVERIFIED PHOTOS of Peng Shuai have been posted online by a state-affiliated journalist as international concern mounts for the Chinese tennis star not seen publicly since accusing a former vice-premier of forcing her to have sex.

The Twitter account @shen\_shiwei, labelled "Chinese state-affiliated media" by the social network, posted four undated images of her late Friday. In a tweet, @shen\_shiwei said the pictures, which could not be independently verified by AFP, were shared on Peng's WeChat Moments, a function often restricted to friends, to wish her followers a "good weekend".

One photo shows the smiling player with a cat in her arms, with stuffed animals, a trophy, a Chinese flag and certificates visible in the background. Another shot shows a selfie of Peng with a toy from the children's animation Kung Fu Panda, with an image of Winnie the Pooh in the background. The children's character is often censored online in China as critics say Chinese leader Xi Jinping resembles the cartoon. Requests for comment from the user @shen\_shiwei were not immediately answered. Twitter is blocked in China and only people with a VPN-type workaround can access it. However, many Chinese diplomats and official state media have accounts to defend China's point of view.

Earlier this month, the former Wimbledon doubles champion alleged on Chinese social media site Weibo that Communist Party grandee Zhang Gaoli, now in his 70s, had forced her into sex during a long-term on-off relationship.

Her message was quickly scrubbed from the Chinese web, and Beijing has repeatedly refused to comment on the case.

The United States on Friday demanded proof of the 35-year-old's whereabouts and well-being, with the United Nations also call-



**The photos were shared on Peng's WeChat Moments, a function often restricted to friends, to wish her followers a "good weekend".** *Twitter*

ing for a fully transparent investigation into Peng's claims.

Players speak up

Some of the world's most famous tennis players, distraught by the disappearance of colleague Shuai, are challenging China's Communist Party to get answers.

So far it's a standoff with little visible impact as tennis players like Naomi Osaka, Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic — joined by tennis governing bodies, human rights groups, retired players, and several athletes' lobbies — try to turn their profiles into power.

Athletes may sense a pressure point. China is just 2 1/2 months from hosting the Beijing Winter Olympics, which is facing a diplomatic boycott over allegations of crimes against humanity involving at least 1 million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities. NBA player Enes Kanter has



been the most outspoken in defense of the Uyghurs, calling Xi a "brutal dictator."

Peng's case is unique. She is a star athlete and has a platform and credibility that few other women in China share. The effort to silence Peng reflects the Communist Party's determination to squelch criticism of its leaders and to prevent any organized public response. Athletes are especially sensitive politically because they are well-known and admired. The ruling party publicizes their victories, especially those of a three-time Olympian such as Peng, as evidence it is making China strong again.

Using smart angles and variations, Patel makes an immediate impact

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
NOVEMBER 20

ANXIETY WRIT large on Harshal Patel's face. He had just claimed his maiden international wicket, but the umpires asked New Zealand opener Daryl Mitchell to wait, as they were checking for a no-ball.

Harshal had delivered a well-disguised cutter from wide of the crease, so wide that he ran the risk of cutting the return crease. The TV umpire concluded that Harshal didn't transgress. Mitchell was done in by the angle, and also the lack of pace.

Figures of 2/25 from four overs on debut had been an achievement to savour. It also earned Harshal the Man of the Match award in the second T20I in Ranchi. One of the standout features of his bowling was how he used the crease — bowling away-goers from wide of it and bringing the ball into the batsmen from close to the stumps. Taking the pace off the ball served him well.

Harshal is not a 140kph bowler. To make up for that, he needed to load his bowling with variations to graduate to the international level. Slower bouncers, variations in yorkers and cutters became his staple. Using the crease to optimum effect came naturally to him.

"Angles have always been a big part of my game and I use them to good effect. I think that's another thing I realised that I can add to my repertoire without trying too many different things," the medium pacer said at the post-match presser.

Even as a teenager, he was 'playing' with the angles — bowling outswingers on the fourth stump line from wide of the crease. When he went close to the stumps, despite having his front toe pointing towards first slip, he brought the ball into the batsmen.



**Figures of 2/25 from four overs earned Harshal Patel the Man of the Match award on his debut.** *AP*

Back then, Harshal was too young to understand the dynamics or physics of the whole thing. But the trained eye of Ashwani Kumar, director coaching of Haryana Cricket, spotted the speciality.

"He wasn't aware of it and at that age, you actually don't care. But there's something special in his bowling that he can bowl late outswing from wide of the crease and inswing from close to the stumps despite not having the perfect alignment at the time of loading and release. The alignment of his left shoulder and front ankle is not what you should call a copybook and it makes his action a tad injury-prone as well. But the ability to use the crease is natural and all I did was a bit of fine-tuning," Kumar, who also runs the Shri Ramnarayan

**There's something special in his bowling that he can bowl late outswing from wide of the crease and inswing from close to the stumps despite not having the perfect alignment at the time of loading and release. The alignment of his left shoulder and front ankle is not what you would call a copybook and it makes his action a tad injury-prone as well. But the ability to use the crease is natural.."**

**ASHWANI KUMAR,** DIRECTOR COACHING OF HARYANA CRICKET ON HARSHAL'S BOWLING

Cricket Club in Rohtak, said.

Harshal's journey hasn't been linear. He played for India U-19 from Gujarat, but wasn't considered good enough to represent the state team at first-class level and eventually migrated to Haryana after 2009. Kumar readily spotted the potential.

Training sessions are specific at the Ramnarayan Cricket Club where Harshal honed his skills. Morning sessions are reserved for fitness, strength and endurance training. In the afternoon/evening, trainees hit the nets.

"Harshal was unorthodox from the outset. He wasn't side-on, the ideal action to bowl outswing. But he made the ball swing away with an openish action. He wasn't quick. The challenge was to turn his weaknesses into his strengths, which he has done," Kumar said before giving his slower deliveries a special mention.

**LIVE:** India vs New Zealand Third T20I from 7pm on Star network and Hotstar