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WINTER SESSION FROM NOV 29; 26 BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Govt plans Bills to bar pvt cryptocurrency with a few 'exceptions', repeal farm laws

Among Bills one on extension of tenures of CBI, ED chiefs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

HEADING INTO what could be a stormy winter session of Parliament, the government intends to bring a Bill to repeal the three new agriculture laws and another on prohibiting "all private cryptocurrencies in India" with "certain exceptions".

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, is listed for introduction — one of 26 Bills — in Lok Sabha in the winter session starting November 29.

The Bill seeks to "create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India". It also "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses".

Currently, there is no regulation or any ban on the use of cryptocurrencies in the country.

Prices of popular cryptocurrencies have been off their highs this month. While they were trading on an upward trajectory

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Release farm laws report, it is of public interest, SC panel member urges CJI

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

ON THE eve of the meeting of the Union Cabinet which is expected to initiate the process for repeal of the three new agriculture laws, Anil Ghanwat, one of the members of the Supreme Court-appointed committee on the laws, urged the court Tuesday to release

**Ghanwat: Ask Govt to form robust policy process. File**

the panel's report. Referring to the Prime Minister's announcement on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

6G technology launch likely by 2023-end or 2024, says Vaishnaw

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

INDIA IS working towards an indigenously developed 6G technology with the aim to launch it either by 2023-end or early 2024, Minister for Communication Ashwini Vaishnaw said Tuesday.

Speaking on 'New Technology and the Green Economy: Two Trends Shaping a New India?', the fourth in a series of online, agenda-setting webinars organised by the *Financial Times* and *The Indian Express*, Vaishnaw said requisite permissions have already

been given to scientists and engineers working on the technology.

"6G development has already started. That will be seen somewhere in the time frame 2024 or 2023-end. That is the direction in which we are going. We will have designed in India telecom software for running the networks, manufactured in India telecom equipment, served in India telecom networks which can go global," he said.

Apart from 6G, the launch of indigenous 5G is also on the cards, the minister said, with the development of a core software

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ministers Yadav (left), Vaishnaw at the event



OFF THE GROUND

Workers at the site of the proposed Noida International Airport in Jewar on Tuesday. PM Modi is set to lay the foundation stone for UP's fifth international airport on Thursday. *Gajendra Yadav*

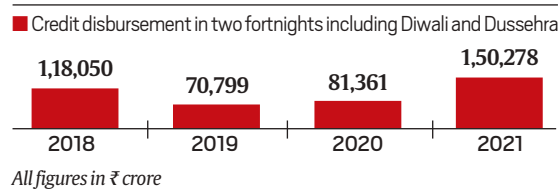
LOW RATE, CONSUMER SENTIMENT BEHIND SURGE

Navratri to Diwali: Credit flow this festive season hit a four-year high

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

SIGNALLING A revival in consumer sentiment on the back of an uptick in economic activity and brisk vaccination across the country, the incremental credit disbursement during the festive season this year surpassed credit disbursement seen in the last three years.

According to RBI data, credit disbursement in the two fortnights from October 8 to

RIDING ECONOMIC UPTICK & VACCINATION

November 5, 2021 — this covers Navratri, Dussehra and Diwali — amounted to Rs 150,278 crore, significantly higher than that in 2020, when it amounted to Rs 81,361 crore in the two fortnights

covering Diwali and Dussehra. Indeed, credit disbursement this year was even higher than in the two corresponding pre-pandemic festival fortnights of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

First real-world study: Covaxin effectiveness 50%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, NOVEMBER 23

TWO DOSES of Covaxin have 50 per cent effectiveness against symptomatic Covid-19, the first real-world assessment of the effectiveness of the vaccine developed in India suggests.

The study, published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal, assessed 2,714 hospital workers at AIIMS, New Delhi, who were symptomatic and underwent RT-PCR testing for the coronavirus between April 15 and May 15 this year.

The study period coincided with the second wave of the

pandemic in India, when the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 was dominant, accounting for approximately 80 per cent of all confirmed cases of Covid-19. It was carried out among a high-exposure population of health-care workers who were primarily given Covaxin, thus presenting a unique opportunity

to evaluate the real-world effectiveness of the vaccine.

Covaxin, developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech along with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the research name of BBV152, is a Vero cell-derived, inactivated whole-virion vaccine formulated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Global push to cap oil prices: India to release 5 mn barrels from reserves

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

INDIA IS set to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its strategic reserves as part of a co-ordinated move along with the US, China, Japan and South Korea aimed at lowering international prices. The US will release 50 million barrels of crude oil from its reserves as part of the effort.

The move is being seen as a strategic step to rein in spiralling global crude oil prices and to keep them under check. In response, the OPEC+ group of oil exporting countries, which accounts for about 50 per cent of global crude supply, has indicated that it may reconsider plans to restore production over the coming months.

"India has agreed to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserves. This release will happen in parallel and in consultation with other major global energy consumers, including the USA,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E Targeting economic recovery

BENIGN INFLATION and crude oil prices are key to sustain economic recovery. The global move to rein in crude oil prices could also be a precursor to check other commodity prices, such as that of steel and basic raw materials.

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New Delhi



FROM PAGE ONE

Govt plans Bills

Tuesday, no significant movement was witnessed in the prices of these currencies following the announcement this evening of the Lok Sabha business. According to coinmarketcap.com, while Bitcoin was up 0.09 per cent in a 24-hour period, the price of Ethereum was up 2.68 per cent.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a meeting on cryptocurrencies with senior officials. Indications are that strong regulatory steps might be taken to deal with the issue.

There have been significant number of advertisements, featuring even film stars, promising easy and high returns on investments in cryptocurrencies. There are concerns that such currencies are allegedly being used for to lure investors with misleading claims.

Last week, the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by BJP's Jayant Sinha, met representatives of crypto exchanges, Blockchain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC), among others, and came to the conclusion that cryptocurrencies should not be banned, but regulated.

The RBI has repeatedly underlined its strong view against cryptocurrencies, saying these pose serious threat to macroeconomic and financial stability of the country. It has also raised doubts on the number of investors trading on cryptocurrencies and their claimed market value.

Earlier this month, RBI

Governor Shaktikanta Das reiterated his opposition to cryptocurrencies, saying these pose a serious threat to any financial system since they are unregulated by central banks.

The RBI announced its intent to come out with an official digital currency in the face of proliferation of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, about which the central bank has had many concerns.

Private digital currencies/ virtual currencies/ cryptocurrencies have gained popularity in the past decade or so. But regulators and governments have been sceptical, and are apprehensive about the associated risks.

On March 4 this year, the Supreme Court set aside an RBI circular of April 6, 2018, prohibiting banks and entities regulated by it from providing services in relation to virtual currencies.

The four-week session of Parliament is also expected to witness the introduction of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill to de-lisence power distribution and increase competition, and Bills meant to extend the tenure of the directors of the CBI and ED from two to five years. The proposed legislation on both have already drawn criticism from Opposition parties.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha has also demanded withdrawal of the electricity Bill.

The extension of tenures of the CBI and ED chiefs via ordinances has already been opposed by the Congress and Trinamool Congress.

Among the Bills listed for passage during the session are the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill, 2020 (Surrogacy Bill) and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, the banking amendment Bill and the IBC amendment Bill.

SC panel member

repealing the laws, he asked the Supreme Court to consider directing the government to "develop and implement an exemplary, robust policy process" so that "a fiasco of this sort is not repeated" and "valuable time of the Court not wasted in the Government's fruitless, unproductive endeavours".

In a letter to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, Ghanwat, leader of the Shetkari Sanghatana, said: "On November 19, 2021, the Prime Minister announced the Government's decision to repeal the farm laws. But it is important to ensure that while the specific laws may no longer exist, the reform impulse that was reflected in these laws is not diluted."

"After the Government's decision to repeal the farm laws in the coming Winter Session of Parliament, the Committee's Report is no longer relevant with regard to those laws but there are suggestions in the Report on farmers' issues that are of great public interest," he said.

"The Report can also play an educational role and ease the misapprehensions of many farmers who have, in my opinion, been

misguided by some leaders who do not seem to appreciate how a minimally regulated free market can allocate national resources to their most productive use," he said.

"I hope, therefore, that you will consider releasing the Report as soon as practicable, or authorise the Committee or me to do so," he said.

In the letter, Ghanwat said: "These laws were accepted in principle by our farmers' movement, but were not accepted entirely by the farmers because the policy process of the Indian government is not consultative."

"I request the Hon'ble Supreme Court to consider directing the Government to develop and implement an exemplary, robust policy process of the sort that is followed in developed nations. That will ensure that a fiasco of this sort is not repeated and that the valuable time of the Court not wasted in the Government's fruitless, unproductive endeavours which also end up causing angst and frustration in the community. For instance, with the repeal of these laws, a large number of farmers are now even further frustrated with India's lack of attention to their needs," he said.

"A robust policy process for making new farm laws would involve establishing a Committee with representation of all views. The Committee would prepare a White Paper that considers costs and benefits of options, consults widely and recommends a way forward. The legislation resulting from such a process would be acceptable to India's long-suffering farmers," he said.

"I am also writing to apprise you that organisations that lodged submissions to the Farm Laws Committee have asked me about the contents of the Report," he said.

Ghanwat also addressed a press conference and said the country should have policy in the interest of farmers. He criticised farm union leaders, who led the protest against the farm laws, for raising the MSP guarantee demand. He said the demand for guarantee of the minimum support price is not feasible.

"We should have a policy that is in the interest of farmers and does not distort the market."

To a question on MSP, Ghanwat said: "We should look at the side

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EXPRESS AUDIO

To what extent can guaranteed MSP help farmers?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

We talk about the farmer unions' demand for guaranteed MSP, Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan and the updates from Tripura

WRITEBACK

In response to the report '1,000 cases of snatching in a month, East District on top', Chinmoy Biswal, PRO, Delhi Police writes:

"The headline gives a misleading portrayal of the crime and law & order situation of the city without appreciation of the fact that it indicates freer registration of FIRs and effective conversion of PCR calls into FIRs.

The CP, Delhi has emphasised on truthful registration in every law & order meeting and as a result, the rate of conversion of PCR calls has also gone up. A misleading

heading as mentioned above only serves to create panic among general public, besides hiding the police efforts to bring crimes on record and criminals to book.

It is also pertinent to mention that no view or clarification was sought by your correspondent from us before giving it a slant as aforementioned in the story. Moreover, the story quotes some officer (not named) stating some purported proceedings of worthy CP's crime review meeting while its veracity has not been ascertained from the official spokesperson in

Delhi Police."

The Indian Express responds:

The report quotes Delhi Police data to show that cases of snatching, motor vehicle theft, robbery and attempt to murder have gone up in the one-month period between October 8 and November 11 this year as compared to the same period last year. The headline reflects this fact.

Details of the crime review meeting quoted in the report are based on conversations with officers who were part of that meeting.

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Department for Welfare of SC/ST/OBC
Government of NCT of Delhi

effects of the MSP. The farmers of Punjab are only growing wheat and paddy, and the water table of Punjab has decreased... They have to diversify. Besides, there is another question, why only 23 crops? On that logic, every farmer should get MSP. Even farmers growing potatoes and onions should also get MSP"

Ghanwat is one of the three members of the Supreme Court-appointed committee constituted on January 12 to deliberate on the farm laws.

The committee submitted its report on March 19, but it has not yet been made public.

Vaishnaw

for the technology to be completed by the third quarter of next year. The auctions for 5G spectrum is also likely to happen in the second quarter of calendar year 2022, he said.

"A reference has been made to TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) for 5G spectrum auctions. They have already started the consultation process. The process should end somewhere in the February-March time frame in the coming year. Then the auction process will be in Q2 of calendar year 2022," he said.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet had approved a set of nine structural and procedural reforms to address the short-term liquidity needs as well as long-term issues of telecom companies.

As part of these reforms, the government had given the telcos an option to go for a four-year moratorium on payment of deferred spectrum and adjusted gross revenue dues. Of the three telcos, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have opted for the four-year moratorium.

While announcing the reforms in September, Vaishnaw had said that there would be another set of reforms for the telecom sector to sort out long pending legacy issues.

"The reforms that the government approved in September have been very well received. The industry is now adjusting to those reforms. A lot of stress that was there in the industry is now mitigated due to those reforms. Much more needs to be done. We are already working on another set of reforms which should come in 3-4 months," he said.

As part of the reforms announced in September, apart from the 4-year moratorium, the government had also announced changes such as streamlining of the auction calendar and removal of the spectrum usage charges (SUC) from auctions, which had been a long pending demand of the private telcos.

The telecom sector will also be able to receive 100 per cent foreign direct investment through the automatic route, up from the 49 per cent permitted earlier.

Credit flow

2018 and 2019 when it amounted to Rs 118,050 crore and Rs 70,799 crore respectively.

During the Diwali fortnight ending November 5, 2021, credit offtake jumped by Rs 118,951 crore to Rs 111.63 lakh crore. Diwali credit demand boosted the overall credit growth by 7.1 per cent. When compared to this, the Diwali fortnight ended November 20, 2020, witnessed just Rs 15,279 crore credit demand. In 2018 and 2019, in the Diwali fortnight, that stood at Rs 77,350 crore and Rs 49,154 crore respectively.

What has fuelled this growth is the decline in Covid cases from September this year. With the anticipated third wave remaining muted, businesses opened, and lockdown curbs were lifted across the country. Simultaneously, pent-up demand also rose sharply, leading to more footfalls in malls and markets.

According to digital payment firm PayU, payment through credit cards saw a 66 per cent increase in spends and 30 per cent increase in number of transactions. However, payment through debit cards saw a decline as both spends and number of transactions decreased by 13 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. UPI was the next most popular mode of payment and witnessed 104 per cent increase in total spends and 72 per cent increase in total number of transactions.

Experts say the jump in credit this festive season is a result of both low-interest rate scenario and rise in consumer sentiment.

Festive season 2021 was unique in several ways. After conservative sentiments following the brutal second wave, businesses and consumers showed a more robust and optimistic consumption environment. "Online shopping

Yadav

said while speaking at an online event organised by *The Indian Express* and the *Financial Times*.

"The term phase-out of coal would mean putting a complete stop on coal, while phase-down would mean the proportion of coal in total energy would reduce... India being a developing country, phase-down can also be relative in the sense that the percentage of coal in the overall mix will go down but the absolute use of coal in terms of power generation and

other industrial activity may rise," he said.

While the amendment initiated by India received a lot of support from developing countries, it came under criticism from the developed world and civil society organisations.

Reiterating that India was "committed to clean energy", Yadav said it believed in fulfilling all its promises, and it would achieve the new targets announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow as well. But he once again reminded the developed world of their commitments on finance and technology transfer.

"India's announcements at Glasgow are considerably ambitious. But we do not believe in making empty pronouncements. These are carefully considered. They are within the realm of visibility but they will require substantial efforts (to achieve). The goals that we have set and declared in Glasgow will require international financial and technological support. We are prepared to be more ambitious. It is up to the developed countries to support our ambition through finance and technology transfer," he said.

Asked specifically whether India would not be in a position to fulfil its targets in the absence of international climate finance, Yadav said, "What India is doing shows India is committed towards a solution. But what is the responsibility of the others? They should also say whether they are ready to fulfil their commitments or not."

festivals organized by leading e-retailers, positive recovery in markets, and relaxed guidelines on travel and public events spurred digital payments across key sectors. Also, what we are seeing across categories is greater confidence in spending large amounts which is a great sign for the economy and takes us closer to becoming Digital India," said Hemang Dattani, Head, Data Intelligence, PayU.

In festive season 2021, average spends have increased by 52 per cent. Travel and hospitality saw an increase of 105 per cent in the number of users transacting in festive season 2021 compared to last year. This could be attributed to relaxation of travel norms and positive impact of mass vaccination. This festive season, total spends and total number of transactions in travel grew by 61 per cent and 67 per cent respectively, compared to festive season 2020. For airlines, total spends increased by 109 per cent, Dattani said.

With the economy on the comeback trail and the home-buying market expected to stage a growth in the forthcoming festival season, banks started the race to woo home loan customers with interest rate cuts in September ahead of the festival season.

Covaxin

with a novel adjuvant, and administered in a two-dose regimen 28 days apart.

The vaccine, which was approved for emergency use in adults in India in January, was granted emergency use listing by the World Health Organisation (WHO) earlier this month.

"Our study offers a more complete picture of how Covaxin vaccine performs in the field and should be considered in the context of Covid-19 surge conditions in India, combined with the possible immune evasive potential of the Delta variant. Our findings add to the growing body of evidence that rapid vaccine rollout programmes remain the most promising path to pandemic control while public health policies must continue to include additional protective measures, such as mask-wearing and social distancing," Dr Manish Soneja, additional professor of medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, said.

From January 16, when India started vaccinating healthcare and frontline workers, AIIMS exclusively offered Covaxin to its 23,000 employees. Of the 2,714 employees in the study population, 1,617 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection. Positive cases were matched to negative RT-PCR tests (controls) using a 1:1 ratio based on age and gender. The odds of vaccination with BBV152 were compared between cases and controls, and adjusted for occupational exposure to Covid-19, previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, and infection dates.

The adjusted vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic Covid-19 after full vaccination with Covaxin, with the second dose administered 14 days or more before undergoing RT-PCR testing, was found to be 50 per cent. The effectiveness of two vaccine doses remained stable over the seven-week follow-up period.

The majority of eligible participants were tested during the first 20 days of the 30-day study when the test positivity rate for Covid-19 was at its peak in India. Requests

for testing declined towards the end of the study period (from May 6 to May 15).

Another study conducted across 11 hospitals between May and July this year had found that both Covishield and Covaxin significantly reduced the risk of severe Covid-19 and against the Delta variant among those aged 45 years and older. The overall effectiveness against severe Covid was 69 per cent with both doses of Covaxin and 80 per cent with two doses of Covishield.

This multi-centre study, which included researchers from ICMR, was posted as a preprint online, and is not yet peer-reviewed.

The real-world performance of a vaccine often differs from trial conditions. The authors of the AIIMS study acknowledged that the effectiveness estimated in their study was lower than the 77.8 per cent protection against symptomatic Covid reported by a phase 3 randomised control trial study published in *The Lancet* earlier this month.

Among the factors possibly responsible for the lower vaccine effectiveness could be the facts that the study was conducted only among hospital employees who have a higher risk of exposure to infection than the general population, and that it was conducted at the peak of the second wave when test positivity rates were generally high in Delhi. Also, the prevalence of circulating variants of concern, especially delta, may have contributed to the lower effectiveness, the study said.

The authors acknowledged that the study did not estimate vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation, severe disease, and death, which they said required further assessment.

Crude oil reserve

People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea," the Government said Tuesday.

Oil supply was "being artificially adjusted below demand levels by oil producing countries, leading to rising prices and negative attendant consequences", it said.

A release of 5 million barrels of crude oil would equate to about 12.8 per cent of India's strategic oil reserves of 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil, which is estimated to be equivalent to 9.5 days of its crude oil requirement.

Government officials said the coordinated action from major oil consumers, particularly the US, would help reduce international oil prices. "Global crude oil prices have risen due to the efforts of Russia and Saudi Arabia. Now that the US has announced the release of oil from reserves, we are cooperating in this step to ensure that crude oil prices remain under control," an official said.

Sources indicated that similar steps could be taken to temper steel and basic raw material prices at the international level. They are being taken to ensure that the "transient inflationary impact of rising commodities prices do not turn structural", the official said.

In an official statement, the White house said that American consumers and businesses were "feeling the impact of elevated gas prices at the pump and in their home heating bills...because oil supply has not kept up with demand as the global economy emerges from the pandemic".

The White house announced that the US Department of Energy would release 50 million barrels of oil from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve to "address the mismatch between demand exiting the pandemic and supply".

A nearly 60 per cent rise in the price of crude oil in the past year has contributed to fuel rates reaching record highs in India this year.

Despite a cut in central excise of Rs 5 per litre on petrol and Rs 10 on diesel, fuel prices in major metros are still significantly higher than record highs prior to 2021. In Delhi, petrol is retailing at Rs 104.0 per litre and diesel at Rs 86.7 per litre — up 28 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, from a year ago.

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| 02 | Replacement of deep and damaged 600mm dia RCC sewer line by 600mm dia NP3 RCC pipe HDPE lining from Pili Kothi to 1478 Rang Mahal, Chandni Chowk Constituency AC-20 under EE(Central)-I. | ₹ 38,08,105.00 | 22/11/2021 05:00 PM onwards Tender ID: 2021_DJB_211349_3 | 06/12/2021 upto 03:00 PM |

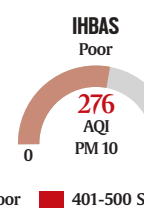
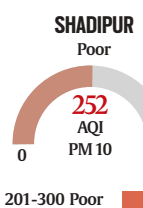
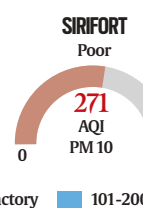
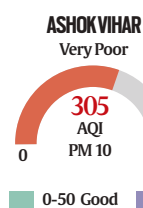
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SKYWATCH

FORECAST: Nov 24
Mainly clear sky.
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MIN: 10
1.3°C Below normal

Cyber criminals used Google to dupe people, Delhi court asks police to investigate tech giant

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

OBSERVING THAT citizens have been rendered vulnerable by "insouciant indifference of the Google authorities", a Delhi judge has ordered police to investigate Google authorities for criminal conspiracy in a cyber-fraud case, after the police argued that Google was a "partner in crime" for allegedly receiving Rs 30 lakh from cybercriminals to feature their fake website on its top searches.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana ordered DCP Cyber Cell to investigate the role of Google authorities for conspiracy and abetment. The judge gave the order while rejecting bail applications of two men accused of being part of a cyber fraud racket that made fake websites to target people who were trying to register cyber fraud complaints.

ASJ Rana said, "Google search has become an indispensable part of one's daily life" and added: "If you are not paying for the product, you are the product. The citizens have been rendered vulnerable and exposed by in-

souciant indifference of the Google authorities."

The judge said that he was conscious of his limited role during hearing of bail applications, but was "equally conscious of the onerous duty of monitoring the investigations and the sacrosanct duty of all public institutions owed to its masters, the common citizens of the country."

The case is being investigated by the Special Cell of Delhi Police, which registered an FIR on October 21 under IPC sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 120B IPC (punishment of criminal conspiracy).

The complainant is an advisor, who was first scammed by a fake website that duped him Rs 62,500 when he tried to purchase a mobile phone. He then tried to register a complaint and found a website named 'Jan Suraksha Kendra'. The complainant gave Rs 2,800 to agents on this website, thinking they would help investigate his cyber complaint. However, they soon blocked his number.

State prosecutor Irfan Ahmed opposed the bail application of

Omendra Shrivastav and Sourabh Pandey, who worked as telecallers in the alleged racket. They allegedly took anywhere between Rs 500 and Rs 30,000 in the name of a 'registration amount'.

ASJ Rana said that incidents of cybercrime using fake and fraudulent websites has reached "alarming proportions" and that every day, lakhs of "gullible citizens are cheated with impunity".

The court said it was unfortunate that such fraudulent websites show up on top when an innocent citizen searches online. "Apparently, the police is not taking any concrete action against the platforms, which facilitates the commission of such offences," the court said.

Ahmad told the court, "Google is in fact charging its clients to reflect their websites on the top in Google search... in the instant case also, Google received Rs 30 lakh from the accused and that is how the website of the accused surfaced on the top in Google search... by intentionally aiding the main culprits, Google is in fact partners in crime and their role needs to be investigated."

DISMISSES PETITION ON SITE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE

Everything can be criticised but criticism should be constructive: SC

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE SUPREME COURT Tuesday dismissed a petition that challenged the change in use of a plot on the Central Vista project site from recreational to residential so it could house the Vice President's official residence, saying it's a matter of policy and the court can interfere only if some mala fide is shown in the decision.

"In light of the challenge, a detailed affidavit has been filed. It is not the case of the petitioner that the authorities have no

power to introduce such change. It is the argument of the petitioner that since in the past it was a recreational area, it should have been retained like that. This cannot be the scope of judicial review," said a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, said it is the prerogative of the authority concerned and a matter of policy.

The court pointed out that it is not the case of the petitioner that the change was made in a mala fide manner. "We find no reason to examine the matter further...The petition is summar-

ily dismissed," it added.

Appearing for petitioner Rajeev Suri, advocate Shikhil Suri said the changes were not in the public interest. He contended that six acres of green area is being taken over for the same.

"They say that the area is proposed to be made into residential area for Vice President... it is a policy decision. How is it illegal? What are the mala fides," asked Justice Khanwilkar.

"Assuming the plot was used for recreational area in the past, is it not open for the authorities to change for the holistic development of the area?" he asked.

The petitioner's counsel said

the authorities should explore if any alternative site can be allotted.

The court wondered if suggestions have to be taken from the public before deciding where the Vice President's house is to be located. It also pointed out that the Centre, in an affidavit filed in response to the petition, had said that the green area will be expanded overall.

To a specific query from the court on what principles were he relying on if not mala fide, Suri replied that he is invoking the public trust doctrine. "Show us one judgment that says that a plot once described as recre-

ational area cannot be changed at all. It is a matter of policy. Where else can the residence of the Vice President be located?" the court said, adding that "everything can be criticised but the criticism should be constructive".

The court then went on to dismiss the petition.

Work for Vice President's enclave is expected to start by next month as the Rs 214 crore project has been awarded to Jharkhand-based infrastructure firm Kamladitya Construction Pvt Ltd, which had emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction of the enclave.

Accused in 100 snatching cases held

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly being involved in more than 100 snatching cases since October, said police on Tuesday. The man was released from jail in October and has since committed offences including robbery and snatching.

The accused, identified as Adil Malik, was arrested from Shahdara on Monday. He has been booked in 30 cases at present. He was last

arrested in a robbery and Arms Act case.

Police said Malik hails from Uttar Pradesh and would use a stolen Yamaha bike to target people in Trans Yamuna and other areas of Delhi.

"He used to set a monthly target of stealing at least 30-40 phones on the streets to earn Rs 1 lakh," said R Sathiyasundaram, DCP (Shahdara). Malik came under police radar

when district staff from Shahdara, Northeast and East started getting calls about a man on a red Yamaha snatching phones and chains.

Police said Malik has been caught on CCTV footage several times. His bike was identified and his movements were traced. On Monday, police found that Malik was at Chintamani Chowk and sent a team to nab him. **ENS**

Uttar Pradesh Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura (U.P.) -281001.

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LAST 24 HOURS
1,09,548



| TOTAL CASES | HOSPITAL BEDS ICU BEDS | Total | | Vacant |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| | | 13,580 | 2,802 | |
| 14,40,719 | | | | 2,766 |
| Cases | Recoveries | Deaths | Tests | |
| Nov 22 | 26 | 38 | 0 | 40,532 |
| Nov 23 | 27 | 28 | 0 | 49,590 |
| Total | 296* | 14,15,328 | 25,095 | 3,05,43,347 |

*Total active cases

SAYS PROJECT COULDN'T MATERIALISE EARLIER DUE TO LACK OF POLITICAL WILL

Ahead of PM visit, Yogi inspects Jewar airport site: 'Monumental for Western UP'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
JEWAR, NOVEMBER 23

AT THE Jewar toll plaza exit, an LED screen atop a truck plays government advertisements about the upcoming airport. The highway stretches till Rohi village, where the foundation stone for the airport will be laid Thursday. Posters of party workers and leaders thanking the government can be seen every hundred feet. A muddy path cuts from the road, and huge tents and hundreds of labourers can be seen preparing for the ceremony.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath came to the Jewar site to review preparations, ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the airport. As per officials, a crowd of nearly 2 lakh is expected.

"For many years, there have been discussions on the possibility of an airport in this region. But due to lack of political will, it could not materialise. I am thankful for the vision of the Prime Minister because of which the airport is being built. The government focused on development activities and this will be a monumental project for the public in West UP," said Adityanath at the inauguration site.

The CM said the state is working on airports in areas where people could not have "imagined" earlier. He said the airport will bring 1 lakh jobs, and that many other projects like Film City, Electronic Park are coming up in the region.

Taking a jibe at the opposition, the CM said, "This will be a memorable occasion. There are some akal se paidal log. These are the people who say that they wanted to carry out inaugurations. We need to tell them how the inauguration took place, and in such a timely manner projects were implemented."

A stage of nearly 130 feet has been built, which has a 90x16



At the Jewar airport site, where PM Modi will lay the foundation stone. Two lakh people are expected at the event. *Gajendra Yadav*

An agreement was signed in October last year with the concessionaire Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), an SPV of the bid winner Zurich International Airport AG. As per the agreement, the first phase of the project, costing Rs 5,730 crore as per the development plan, will have to be completed by September 29, 2024. Currently, the development plan given by the concessionaire is under examination and formalities will be completed in the coming weeks, officials said.

Phase I of the airport will have a capacity to serve 12 million passengers a year and is scheduled to be completed in

feet LED screen. Approximately 40,000 chairs are being laid out, but the total area, including the main tent, can include more than 2 lakh people, said officials. Two smaller tents have also been erected for official purposes.

"This is a dream come true for all of us. We need to ensure

that the event is huge. The airport will soon be under construction and the promised employment will also come. People will begin arriving at the venue on Thursday from early morning since there is eagerness to welcome the PM," said Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh.

The Noida International Airport (NIA) will be India's largest airport after its completion, said officials.

It is at a distance of about 72 km from the existing IGI airport in New Delhi, 40 km from Noida, and about 40 km from the multi-modal logistics hub at Dadri.

Man looking to build hotel in Lucknow cheated of Rs 10 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 22

THE DELHI Police has arrested three men from Lucknow for allegedly cheating a Dehradun-based construction and resort business owner of Rs 10 crore. Police said the accused run Shri Colonisers and Developers Pvt Ltd, an infrastructure company.

Police said they sold property that was already mortgaged by a bank and cheated him of Rs 10 crore. The complainant wanted

to build a hotel and house in Lucknow on the property. The accused have been identified as Umesh Azad (55), Rishi Arora (46) and Manoj Dwivedi (55). Dwivedi is the chairman of the company and others are employees.

Rajeev Ranjan, DCP (EOW), said, "We found the accused gave the land as security to the Syndicate bank for a bank loan of Rs 15 crore. The land was already mortgaged but accused lied to the victim and hid these facts. After some time, due to non-payment, bank took possession of land."

'Tactical urbanism' trials to improve road safety in capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

TRANSPORT MINISTER Kailash Gahlot Tuesday inaugurated the Tactical Urbanism (TU) trials at Rajghat to improve road safety in Delhi.

"Tactical Urbanism (TU) trials are temporary, quick and relatively low-cost interventions, which test out urban design, transportation planning and infrastructural changes for improving road safety for all road users, especially the most vulnerable, like pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised transport users," the government said in a statement.

For these trials which will be conducted for two months, the Delhi government has collaborated with SaveLIFE Foundation,



Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot at the inauguration

as well as the Delhi Traffic Police, Public Works Department (PWD) and SWAYAM charitable trust.

"As part of the Zero Fatality Corridor (ZFC) Project with the Transport Department of Government of NCT of Delhi, SaveLIFE Foundation will be testing temporary urban design interventions to improve safety for

pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users, starting this week. The trials will see road space being redistributed to ensure modal equity, road geometry being modified, traffic being channelized, vehicular speeds being reduced, and pedestrian and cyclist safety infrastructure being added," the government said in a statement.

Construction of IKEA shopping centre in Gurgaon begins in 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 23

INGKA CENTRES, part of the Ingka Group that includes IKEA Retail and Ingka Investments, Tuesday said that IKEA's first mixed-use development (shopping centre) project in India would come up in Gurgaon.

In a statement, Ingka Centres said, "Reflecting the local community's need for more than shopping, the new meeting place will set the standard for the next generation of sustainable mixed-use destinations, acting as a lively gathering place for leisure, entertainment and retail in one of the world's fastest-growing markets. The development will complement the company's plans announced for Noida earlier this year."

"The estimated investment for the project is around €400 million (Rs 3,500 crore). While construction will start in early 2022, the new meeting place is expected to generate more than 2,500 jobs and will contribute to further growth of organised retail in India," the statement added.

Peter Betzel, CEO and CSO, IKEA India, said, "We are happy to announce our IKEA store in Gurgaon together with Ingka Centres. India is an exciting country for IKEA, and we have a long-term commitment to reach people with our omnichannel approach. Delhi-NCR will be one of our biggest and most important markets in India and we can't wait to meet and inspire the people with our beautiful, affordable, well designed and sustainable home furnishing products and solutions."

IKEA India opened its first retail store in Hyderabad in August 2018.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "We welcome IKEA and Ingka Centres to Haryana. We look forward to this partnership with IKEA and Ingka Centres to build organised retail and meet the growing needs of consumers in the state and the region. The government is committed to providing the best support to facilitate a smooth investment flow into the state. This project will not only establish Gurgaon as one of the newest shopping destinations but also provide employment in the region. We strongly believe in heart to heart approach, over just having business relations with the investors. This step is yet another validation of our development plans for the region."

'How do they expect salaries if they don't work?': Court slams MCDs on dengue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

WARNING THE municipal bodies and their employees that the court will not exercise its discretionary jurisdiction in their favour if the civic conditions in the national capital do not improve, the Delhi High Court Tuesday ordered the local bodies to hold a meeting regarding the rising number of dengue cases.

The division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh ordered the chairpersons of the South, North and East Delhi municipal corporations, the North Delhi Municipal Council as well as the chief executive officer of the Delhi Cantonment Board to conduct a meeting and apprise the court about the steps being taken to control mosquito breeding. The court will hear the matter on December 1.

The court also said that it had earlier raised the issue of geotagging and marking of biometric attendance of employees. "We direct the petitioner to place on record what steps have been taken in this regard. This information should be provided in the affidavit to be filed," it said in a direction issued to the SDMC while hearing the latter's petition regarding funds being received from the government by municipal bodies.

Expressing concern over the

dengue situation in Delhi, the court said that it has been dealing with non-payment of salaries of municipal employees for months and, in October, had noted that while the employees were clamouring for payment of their dues, the city was suffering due to their inefficient functioning. However, it said that its concern fell on deaf ears as the situation has only worsened. "This year we are only witnessing a big surge in the number of cases of dengue. There have been several fatalities on account of the said disease," said the court, while blaming the municipalities.

The court said that the employees were only demanding salaries but nothing was happening on the ground. "How can it be that every year dengue is increasing? Is it not a municipal function? Is it some rocket science that after the monsoon there will be mosquitos. After the monsoon, there will be dengue. It has been a pattern for the last 15 to 20 years. Is there some rocket science involved? Is there no planning? Is there no thought process?" it asked.

It further noted that the municipal bodies may be over-staffed. "Is it that the municipality has given up everything and it's only to collect taxes and disburse salaries? We will not entertain this petition. How do they expect salaries if they don't do work?" the court told the SDMC.



A worker fumigating premises of a residential area as dengue cases in Delhi cross 7,000 mark. *Archive*

Delhi govt pulled up for not appointing new IHBAS director, HC says 'contempt'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday pulled up the Delhi government for cancelling the selection process, initiated in February 2021, for the post of Director of the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), and questioned the decision to instead extend incumbent Dr Nimesh G Desai's tenure till he attains the age of 67 years.

The division bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said that the government action was a "contempt of the court" as the state in September had assured the court that the entire process of new selection will be completed by November 30, 2021.

"We hereby issue notice on the respondents and they shall file a reply that why, and will show a cause that why the new recruitment process which was assured by respondent 1 [Delhi government] was stopped," said the court, while listing the matter for next hearing on December 23.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Tej Bahadur Singh, an ex-employee of IHBAS, who has contended that Desai should have demitted office in October 2020, on attaining the age of 65. Singh has challenged the extension granted to Desai.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the petitioner, while arguing an application in the case, told the court that the government, despite an assurance to the court, has cancelled the recruitment process. He contended that the Chief Secretary needs to be called to the court.

The court, while addressing the counsel representing the government and IHBAS, observed, "What all of you people

are doing for one man. What is this going on in your institution, unnecessarily."

It also said that the government made a categorical statement which has been made part of a court order, in which it has been assured that the process will be completed.

"But what you now do to just adjust this one man, you scrap that advertisement process and continue with a tenure appointment and a superannuation extension. Under what law? I think it is a complete contempt. You want to overreach a court order is quite bad," observed Justice Singh.

The government in September told the court that ten applications have been received and a Screening Committee was duly constituted for screening the applications for placing before the Selection Committee.

However, the state also had told the court that it has been decided to reconstitute the Screening Committee. The entire process, including the appointment to the post, will be completed by November 2021, the government had told the court.

"We are sanguine that the entire exercise of selection of the Director of Respondent No. 6 [IHBAS] shall be completed without any unnecessary delay, as assured by Respondents No. 1 to 3. While the affidavit alludes to a maximum time frame upto 30.11.2021 for completion of the process, however, this is the outer limit and we expect that all efforts and endeavours shall be made by the official Respondents to complete the exercise, well before 30.11.2021, considering the fact that the process was initiated way-back in February 2021," the court had said in the order passed on September 23.

| कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून | | | | | | | |
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| निविदा क्र. | कार्य विवरण | ई-निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय | ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की तिथि व समय | ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रश्न विभाग में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय | तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय | निविदा की वैधता | बि-बिड-निविदा से सम्बंधित सुझाव/संशोधन ई-मेल eecs-ujks@nic.in पर send करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय |
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TAKING THE LEAD

AT A time when his home state Bihar is placed below the national average in vaccination rate, BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal, a doctor by profession, is working hard to make his Lok Sabha constituency West Champaran look different. Apart from running a campaign against vaccine hesitancy, Jaiswal has been playing an active role in ensuring adequate availability of vaccine shots. And the efforts are showing. Banatwa block in his constituency has more than 1 lakh people who are fully vaccinated. In July itself, it became the first block to achieve 100 per cent first dose coverage. While India's first dose coverage is 82 per cent, Bihar's rate is 73 per cent. National leaders have suggested that other MPs could take tips from Jaiswal.

PLAYING HOST

THE OFFICIAL residence of Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was the site of intense political action on Tuesday, with the party making new inductions in the presence of party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. In the afternoon, when Mamata stepped out briefly to see off lyricist Javed Akhtar and political commentator Sudheendra Kulkarni, who had come to meet her, she enquired whether reporters assembled outside have been served tea. After some time, packets of puffed rice and onion pakodas – a regular fixture at informal adda sessions hosted by her – were brought in and served.

GUATEMALA POSTING

MANOJ KUMAR Mohapatra, an IFS officer of 2000 batch, currently Minister in the Indian embassy at Washington DC, has been appointed as the next Indian ambassador to Guatemala. Mohapatra was looking after trade and commerce relations between India and the US. He will be replacing BS Mubarak, an IFS officer from 2001 batch, who will be moving to Sudan as India's envoy.

Probe did not record Army officer's statement: Zakia counsel to top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

ZAKIA JAFRI, wife of Congress MP Ahsan Jafri who was killed in the 2002 post-Godhra riots in Gujarat, on Tuesday told Supreme Court that investigators did not record the statement of Lieutenant General Zameer Uddin Shah, who led the Army contingent that restored peace in the state, to ascertain whether the forces were given quick access or not.

Appearing for Jafri, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, "His statement was not recorded. Were they given quick access or not? If they were not given quick access, then why not?"

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CTRavikumar, is hearing Jafri's appeal against Gujarat High Court's order upholding the decision of the Ahmedabad Metropolitan Magistrate court to accept the closure report filed by the SC-appointed SIT, which gave a clean chit



Zakia Jafri

"they (Army) remained stranded at the airfield" due to lack of transport. "I am not using this as substantive evidence... Had they taken his statement, all these would have come on record," he said.

The bench sought to know when the book was published. After Sibal said 2018, the court responded: "So this was not before Special Investigation Team".

Sibal said the former Army officer had said "the initial reaction of civil administration was tardy" and that he "could not even contact the public servants." "This was a part of the official record, they could have investigated it," he said.

The arguments will continue on Wednesday. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

BHARAT GAURAV SCHEME

Pvt operators can lease, run trains on tour circuit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

PRIVATE TOUR operators can lease trains from the Railways and run them on any circuit of their choice, with the freedom to decide routes, fares and quality of services under a new scheme called Bharat Gaurav.

Launching the scheme on Tuesday, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it will be a new segment for Indian Railways, and 3,033 Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches or traditional passenger coaches – roughly 150 trains – will be earmarked for this.

Anyone – societies, trusts, consortia and even state governments – can apply for these trains and run them on theme-based special tourism circuits, it was announced. The operator is free to decide the tariff.

"We have had freight and pas-

senger segments. Bharat Gaurav will be a new segment in train services," Vaishnaw told reporters. "Our country has such a rich cultural heritage. These trains are meant to take tourists to experience the cultural heritage places."

Vaishnaw said Railways has done stakeholder consultation and there was a demand for ICF coaches but in future, Vande Bharat, Vistadome and LHB coaches can also be included. He said several state governments have shown interest in operating these trains.

Conventional AC classes have been earmarked, along with non-AC sleeper coaches, AC chair cars and pantry cars. The operator has the freedom to create a train with any mix, depending on the type of clientele. The coaches earmarked are in two age brackets: more than 15 and up to 20 years old, and more than 20 and up to 25 years old. Charges for them vary based on their age.

Adityanath uses 'abbajaan' phrase again, calls AIMIM chief 'SP agent'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 23

CALLING AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi "an agent of Samajwadi Party", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday threatened to take "strict action" against those "who want to once again incite passion" over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The CAA was enacted by the BJP government at the Centre to provide Indian citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered the country on or before December 31, 2014.

Addressing a booth workers' meet of the BJP in Kanpur, the chief minister said: "Aaj main chetavni dunga us vyakti ko jo yahan par CAA ke naam par phir se bhavnaon ko bhadkaane ka karya kar raha hai. Aur chachajaan aur abbajaan ke anuyayion se kahunga ki wo saavdhan ho kar



UP DGP Mukul Goel presents a flag to CM Adityanath on the occasion of 'Jhanda Divas' in Lucknow on Tuesday. Express

sun lein, agar pradesh ki bhavnaon ko bhadkaake mahaul kharab karoge to sakhti ke sath sarkar nipatna bhi janti hai (Today, I am warning the person who is once again inciting the sentiments in the name of CAA. I will like to tell the followers of chachajaan and abbajaan to listen carefully that if attempts are made to vitiate the

atmosphere of the state by inciting feelings, the state government will deal with it strictly)."

The chief minister had sparked a row in September by using "abbajaan" – the Urdu term for father – saying that rations distributed by the previous state government went to those who say "abbajaan".

Constitution Day to be celebrated in Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

AS PART of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Constitution Day will be celebrated in the Central Hall of Parliament on November 26 and President Ram Nath Kovind will preside over the event.

At a press conference, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said the main event will be attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others. The event is being organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Speaker, the parliamentary affairs minister said.

"Celebration of Constitution Day was started in 2015 by PM @narendramodi. This time, the main function in the central hall will be organised by @loksabhaspeaker & @LokSabhaSectt. #PresidentKovind, VP @MVenkaiahNaidu & PM @narendramodi will participate: Union Minister @JoshiPralhad," the Press Information Bureau tweeted.

On the bill to repeal the three farm laws, Joshi said the PM has made an announcement and the agriculture ministry is deliberating on it.

Maya strategy to win reserved seats: Dalit-Brahmin 'bhaichara'

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 23

TARGETING THE 86 reserved constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati Tuesday told party leaders to develop bhaichara (brotherhood) between Brahmins and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in those seats.

She also reviewed the functioning of polling and sector booth committees of each reserved constituency and the progress of the party's efforts to reach out to Brahmins in them.

In a press note released after the meeting, the BSP said that SC candidates would be fielded on some general (non-reserved) seats as well.

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow, Mayawati said the meeting was called to chalk out "a solid strategy" to win the 86 reserved constituencies – 84 reserved for SCs and two for STs.

Mayawati said she has given the responsibility of connecting with the upper castes, especially the Brahmins, in these reserved constituencies to party national general secretary Satish Chandra Misra and his team.

Between July and August,



BSP chief Mayawati in Lucknow on Tuesday.

when Misra addressed BSP's special meetings involving Brahmins he would say that 13 per cent Brahmin votes with 23 per cent Dalit votes added up to 36 per cent vote share, which is enough to win an election in UP.

The BSP chief accused SP and BJP of taking credit for projects conceptualised by her governments. Though she did not elaborate on the work done during her terms, she has in the past claimed the framework of the Purvanchal Expressway and Jewar Airport were prepared during BSP rule.

EXPLAINED Why reserved seats matter

THE PARTY that won most of the reserved seats in the last two polls has formed government. In 2017, when the BJP swept the elections, it had won the most SC reserved seats – 67. In 2012, the winning SP had bagged 58 SC reserved seats, followed by BSP (15), Congress (four), and RLD and BJP (three).



Jayant Chaudhary with Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow, Tuesday. Express

SP, RLD discuss seat sharing, deal likely soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 23

AHEAD OF the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav met Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) national president Jayant Chaudhary in Lucknow on Tuesday afternoon to discuss a possible seat-sharing formula. Sources said a formal announcement would be made soon.

While the two parties fought the 2017 elections separately, for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the RLD was part of the Grand Alliance with the SP and BSP. The RLD lost all the three seats it contested then – Baghat, Mathura and Muzaffarnagar.

Sources said that for the upcoming elections, the SP is likely to leave the western UP districts of Muzaffarnagar, Baghat, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Mathura to the RLD.

After his meeting with Akhilesh, Jayant tweeted a picture of the two of them captioned, "Badhte kadam (Step forward)."

Akhilesh too tweeted a photograph with Jayant captioned, "Shri Jayant Chaudhary ji ke saath badlaav ki aur (With Jayant Chaudhary, towards change)." SP spokesperson Rajendra

Choudhary said a formal announcement on the seat-sharing formula would be made soon.

In the 2017 state elections, when the two parties failed to reach an understanding, the RLD had contested 277 seats, winning just one – Chhaprauli (Baghat) – with a vote share of 2.59 per cent in the seats it contested. The SP, which allied with the Congress, contested 311 of the 403 seats, winning 47 of those with a vote share of 28.32 per cent.

The latest seat-sharing talks are part of the SP's plan to bring together smaller parties for the upcoming elections. The SP has already sealed an alliance with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) – a BJP ally in the 2017 polls. Along with SBSP, the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, a grouping of smaller parties headed by Rajbhar, will be part of the SP-led alliance.

With farmers from the sugarcane bowl of western UP agitated over the three farm laws, Jayant, who was appointed national president of the RLD after his father and former Union minister Ajit Singh died in May, had led a series of mahapanchayats in the region. "The talks are still on, but the RLD should get around 30-35 seats in western UP," said a senior SP leader.

'Kerala turning into Syria': BJP seeks probe into workers' killings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE BJP Tuesday said it has sought Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention for a probe into the recent killings of RSS and party workers in Kerala. It blamed the Popular Front of India (PFI) for the two killings and claimed that the outfit is turning the state "into Syria".

State President K Surendran and Union Minister V Muraliedharan, at a press conference, alleged that both the Congress and the Left were supporting "Muslim terror outfits" in the state. "The PFI is trying to divide the people in the name of food and dress code.. Slowly, Kerala is turning into Syria," Surendran said. He said the Kerala unit has apprised Shah about the

operations of a "fundamentalist group" and how the state government has "failed to take action".

A 27-year-old was stabbed to death allegedly by members of the Social Democratic Front of India (SDFI), the political wing of the PFI, in Palakkad district this month. The state BJP has sought a National Investigation Agency probe into his death as well as that of a BJP worker in Thrissur in October.

The BJP leaders did not clarify if the Home Ministry had any plan to ban PFI.

Asked why the party has not sought a ban on the outfit, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who was present at the press conference, said: "Law is a state subject... we are demanding free and fair investigation and prosecution of the guilty. Otherwise, criminal activities will flourish."

26/11 response should have been stronger: Tewari book

As Cong maintains silence, Adhir targets colleague over his views; BJP says forces were ready to strike but UPA govt froze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

DAYS AFTER a controversy erupted over Salman Khurshid's observation in his book equating political Hindutva with "jihadist" Islam of groups like Islamic State and Boko Haram of Nigeria, his party colleague and Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari's criticism of the UPA government's response in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in his forthcoming book on Tuesday put the party in a spot of bother.

In his book 10 Flashpoints: 20 Years, Tewari observes that India should have acted strongly against Pakistan after the terror attacks as restraint against Islamabad is perceived as a symbol of weakness.

"For a state that has no compunctions in brutally slaughtering hundreds of innocent people, restraint is not a sign of strength; it is perceived as a symbol of weakness. There comes a time when actions must speak louder than words. 26/11 was one such time when it just should have been done. It, therefore, is my considered opinion that India should have actioned a kinetic response in the days following India's 9/11," he has written.

While the Congress officially refused to react, the party's leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury hit out at Tewari, saying the book will "sell like hot cakes and the salesman will be the BJP". The BJP cited Tewari's obser-



Cong leader Manish Tewari

vations to target Congress. It alleged that the UPA government had put national security at stake by not responding strongly after the terror attacks. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "The book confirms that the Congress-led UPA government was insensitive, useless and was not concerned about national security."

"Congress president Sonia Gandhiji, Rahul Gandhiji, will you

break your silence today?... Our Army was asking for permission from former Prime Minister Manmohan Singhji to teach Pakistan a lesson. But Sonia Gandhiji, why was the Army not given this permission?"

In-charge of BJP's National Information and Technology Department Amit Malviya tweeted: "After Salman Khurshid, another Congress leader throws UPA under the bus to sell his book. Manish Tewari in his new book slams the UPA for weakness in the name of restraint post 26/11. Air Chief Marshal Fali Major is already on record saying IAF was ready to strike but UPA froze."

When asked about the BJP's reaction, Tewari told The Indian Express, "I am rather amused by

the childish response of the BJP to one excerpt out of a 304-page book. I wonder if they would react similarly to some of the hard analysis that the book might have with regard to their handling of the national security remit."

The Congress refused to join the controversy. "I have not read the book. Neither is it released. So I don't think it is appropriate to comment beforehand. Let the book come out first... Then we will see whether we need to discuss it or not," Congress spokesperson Pavan Khara said at an AICC press briefing. He said the BJP "wants us to deviate from" issues that "we are raising" but "we will not fall in that trap".

Chowdhury said it would have been better had Tewari written a

book on the Congress's contribution in building a modern India.

"The terror attack happened in 2008. And in 2021, he is saying that the then government's response was not adequate. But today, the challenge India is facing is from China. It is building infrastructure in Doklam, targeting Siliguri chicken's neck, constructing a village in Arunachal and encroaching into our territory in Ladakh. I don't know what Tewari's views are on this," he said.

"One thing I can say is that the book will sell like hot cakes and the salesman will be the BJP".

Tewari, in his book, has also targeted the BJP government. For instance, he has criticised it for shelving plans of raising a mountain strike corps against China.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

CONG, JD-U LEADERS FROM BIHAR, HARYANA JOIN TRINAMOOL

3 more join TMC, Didi seeks to widen footprint

MANOJ CG & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

MAMATA BANERJEE inducted Kirti Azad of the Congress, expelled JD-U leader Pavan Varma, and former Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar into the TMC on Tuesday as part of a plan to register the presence of her party in states other than West Bengal, and to make a bid for a handful of seats outside her home state in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.

The TMC hopes that by winning most of the 42 seats in Bengal and picking up at least a few in some other states, it can put itself in a position to disrupt the conventional national political scene. "We can even dislodge the Congress as the main opposition party," a TMC leader said. The West Bengal chief minister, who is on a four-day visit to

Delhi -- her second trip here in four months -- is keen to be part of the national political narrative, and the TMC is currently making a determined attempt to carve out space for itself in Tripura and Goa. As of now, no party other than the BJP and Congress holds power in more than one state.

By going full-throttle in Goa before the Assembly elections, and inducting leaders of all kinds -- young and old, prominent and inconsequential -- Banerjee is sending an aggressive political signal. Relations with the Congress and opposition unity at the national level could become casualties of her ambition, but TMC leaders said it was unavoidable.

"You have to start somewhere. If you start building leaders...it will take 10 years to build a leader in Bihar or Haryana. How else do you spread? She believes that you can't keep



Mamata with former JD(U) MP Pavan Varma. Anil Sharma

waiting for the Congress to get its act together to take on the BJP. You may think that those who are joining the Trinamool are inconsequential. But that is how it starts. Many senior leaders of the Congress are not happy...and in 10 years she will become an alternative," a senior TMC leader said.

To the criticism that the TMC may end up dividing the anti-BJP vote in Goa, another leader said: "At this stage, wherever she goes people will say she is dividing the [anti-BJP] vote. But you have to take somebody else's vote bank to build your base. Elections are happening in five states and she has to be part of

that narrative. Otherwise, all the talk will be just about (Narendra) Modi, Priyanka (Gandhi Vadera), Akhilesh (Yadav) or (Arvind) Kejriwal. We also aspire to become a national party."

Varma, a former adviser to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and a Rajya Sabha MP until July 2016, was expelled from the JD-U -- of which he was national general secretary and spokesperson -- in 2020.

Tanwar quit the Congress in October 2019 and recently launched his own party, Azad, a three-time BJP MP from Darbhanga in Bihar, joined the Congress in 2018.

On Azad's exit, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said on Tuesday: "All those who want power and who do not have the passion (jazba) to struggle can leave." Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury lashed out at Banerjee and the

"political opportunists".

"Banerjee is dangling Rajya Sabha seats before these people. She is indulging in political entrepreneurship, and these sold-out souls are selling themselves. This is nothing but political *meena bazaar*," he told *The Indian Express*.

Banerjee, Chowdhury alleged, "does not want opposition unity, otherwise she would not be doing such things". And the "luckiest person" as a result was Prime Minister Modi. "Banerjee wants a Congress-mukt opposition, and Modi wants a Congress-mukt India. Banerjee *Congress-mukt opposition ke liye gaana shuru kar diye hain aur Modiji Congress-mukt Bharat ke liye bansuri bajaa rahe hain. Gaana-bajana chalu hai*," he said.

Besides the three politicians, lyricist Javed Akhtar and political commentator Sudheendra Kulkarni also met Banerjee during the day.

Ahead of Putin visit, DAC nod to jointly make rifles in India

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE DEFENCE Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared the long-pending proposal for a deal with Russia to manufacture 6 lakh AK203 assault rifles for the Army, sources confirmed on Tuesday. The deal had been struck over several points for nearly two years, including negotiations over technology transfer.

The DAC also cleared a proposal to acquire two satellites for the IAF to help them communicate beyond the line of sight.

The deal for the assault rifles, to be manufactured by Amethi-based Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, is expected to be worth around Rs 5,000 crore, and the final approval comes ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in the first week of December. It is likely to be signed in Putin's presence.

The deal is part of the Inter-Government Agreement with Russia, under which the first 70,000 rifles will be off-the-shelf, after which transfer of technology for the guns to be made in India will begin. Russia had earlier demanded royalty over each gun to be manufactured in India but later waived off the clause. There were a few other issues that had been stuck in negotiations, which have largely been sorted out, the sources said.

Production will begin next year, and the first indigenously made rifles are likely to be delivered within 32 months. The new assault rifles will replace the in-

EXPLAINED
Replacement for INSAS rifles

THE CLEARANCE of the long-stuck rifles deal bodes well for the armed forces, who have not been happy with the domestically-manufactured INSAS rifles. With issues in transfer of technology details and pricing ironed out, the gun is expected to become the mainstay assault rifle for the armed forces in the years to come.

digenously manufactured Indian Short Arms System (INSAS) rifles. Over the past two years, the government had to place an order for nearly 1.5 lakh American Sig Sauer rifles to meet the shortfall of guns available with the armed forces.

A statement issued by the Defence Ministry after Tuesday's DAC meeting, however, was quiet on the rifles deal. It stated that the DAC chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accorded Acceptance of Necessity for a capital acquisition proposal of IAF for its modernisation and operational needs, amounting to Rs 2,236 crore, for procurement of GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs for real-time connectivity of software defined radios (SDRs).

"The project envisages complete design, development and launching of satellites in India," the statement said.

Apex court directs Tripura's top cops to ensure peaceful elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE SUPREME COURT Tuesday rejected a plea by All India Trinamool Congress to postpone the local body polls in Tripura but issued additional guidelines to the state's top police officers to ensure that the conduct of elections remains peaceful.

"The DGP and IGP shall take all steps to ensure the election is conducted without disruptions, especially on the day of polling and counting," said the court.

The ruling came on a contempt plea by TMC alleging that its cadre was being targeted in the state and false cases foisted on them in the run-up to the elections despite earlier orders of the court. The ongoing municipal poll process in Tripura will see voting on November 25 and counting of votes on November 28.

"Postponing elections is a matter of last and extreme recourse. It is our considerate view that, short of postponing elections, the apprehensions expressed by the petitioners can be redressed by issuing directions to Tripura to ensure that remaining phases of municipal elections take place in a safe and secure manner and the reports of law and order, which have



Poll officials check election material in Agartala. PTI

been drawn to the attention of enforcement agencies, are dealt with in accordance with law," a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said.

The bench said, "it is the duty of DGP, IGP & Home Secretary to assuage any misgiving about the fairness of the law enforcement machinery in supporting the electoral process". "The law enforcement agencies must discharge duty in an even-handed...manner to obviate the grievance that candidates and supporters of All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) are unfairly targeted..." it said.

The court asked the Tripura DGP and IG to hold a joint meeting with SEC by Wednesday for assessing the availability of central paramilitary forces.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BJP, TMC role reversal: Mamata may raise Tripura violence issue at PM meet

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

DURING HER meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to raise the issue of attacks on TMC leaders and workers in Tripura in the run-up to the municipal polls on November 25.

A little over five months ago, another leader from West Bengal had approached the PM with a similar complaint of political violence. Except, the party in the dock was the TMC, and the complainant was Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari.

While Tripura and West Bengal are no strangers to political violence, the rivalry between the BJP and TMC have deepened the crisis in recent years.

On Monday, before leaving Kolkata, Mamata told reporters that apart from raising the issue of BSF's territorial jurisdiction, she will flag the recent "atrocities" in Tripura. "Where have all the hu-

man rights organisations gone now?" she said, in an apparent reference to the NHRC committee that was set up on June 21 based on an order of Calcutta High Court. Several families hit by post-poll violence had approached the High Court in this regard.

While the NHRC committee had severely criticised the state government in its report and recommended CBI probe, the government hit back, alleging "bias".

Incidentally, the allegation of partisan state action also found mention in the memorandum TMC MPs submitted to Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday. "We are aware that law and order is a state subject, but if a party or government in any state violates SC orders and takes away the constitutional rights of opposition party to campaign in a local election, the Centre should look into the matter. The violence against TMC leaders and workers in Tripura by BJP workers and partisan action by Tripura Police must stop," it said.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com



Family members of Col B S Babu (left) and Major Anuj Sood receive gallantry awards from the President. PTI

Gallantry awards for Col Babu, Major Sood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

COLONEL BIKUMALLA Santosh Babu was on Tuesday awarded the Maha Vir Chakra -- the country's second-highest military gallantry honour -- posthumously for leading the fight against Chinese soldiers in Galwan Valley of Ladakh on June 15, 2020.

Major Anuj Sood was awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously for an anti-militancy operation in Kupwara region of J&K in April-May 2020.

Colonel Babu's mother and wife received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan during the Defence Investiture Ceremony for awards announced on Republic Day this year.

Major Sood's wife, Akriti Sood, received the award.

Five other soldiers, four of whom were killed in the Galwan clash, were awarded Vir Chakras.

The President also awarded six Kirti Chakras (five posthumous), five Vir Chakras (four posthumous), 15 Shaurya Chakras (nine posthumous), 28 Param Vishisth Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, and 49 Ati Vishisth Seva Medals during the ceremony.

Col Babu was Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar Regiment, deployed in Galwan Valley for



'Operation Snow Leopard'. His citation mentioned that as CO of his unit, he was tasked with establishing an 'Observation Post' in the face of the enemy, which he successfully did.

Company Commander in 21 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Sood launched an operation to intercept two militants in Wastar Forest. A day later, in an "act of conspicuous bravery, he along with CO and three others moved inside the target house to evacuate civilian hostages. Unmindful of his personal safety the officer relentlessly fired upon and pinned down hardcore terrorists resulting in evacuation of three civilian hostages," according to a release. Major Sood died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Five other soldiers involved in the Galwan clash were awarded Vir Chakra, of whom four were killed in combat: Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren, Havildar (Gunner) K Palani, Naik Deepak Singh of Battalion Nursing Assistant, and Sepoy Late Gurtej Singh. The fifth award was conferred upon Havildar Tejinder Singh of 3 Medium Regiment, who was injured in combat and survived. "Undeterred by the numerical superiority of the enemy, the Non Commissioned Officer took on the enemy in a hand to hand fight and resisted them gallantly," the release stated.

Guleria: No need for booster dose for now, huge third wave unlikely

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

BOOSTER DOSES of the Covid-19 vaccine are not needed in India right now, focus needs to be on vaccine coverage, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said on Tuesday evening. He also said the possibility of a "huge third wave" is "declining each passing day".

"The vaccines are holding up, we are not seeing breakthrough infections causing a surge in our admissions, our sero-positivity

rate is very high. All of these suggest that as of now, we really don't need a booster dose. We may need it in the future, that is definitely there. But as of now we don't need a booster dose," he said. "We are well protected and I think we should focus on getting more and more people to get the first and second dose because if we have that number in a sufficiently large amount, we will be well protected as a country."

Dr Guleria was speaking at the launch of 'Going Viral', a book on the making of Bharat Biotech's



(L-R) Dr Randeep Guleria; Dr Balram Bhargava



Covaxin, by ICMR director general Dr Balram Bhargava.

On a third wave, Dr Guleria said: "As our vaccination programme is moving forward, as we

are seeing low vaccine hesitancy and as we are seeing the vaccines are holding out -- in terms of preventing severe disease and preventing hospitalisation and death

-- the chance of any huge wave is declining with each passing day. It is very unlikely that we will see a huge third wave."

"But the disease will become endemic and we will continue to have cases... we will have some patients who will be sick but it will not be of the magnitude that we saw in the first and second waves."

NTTI Aayog Member Dr V K Paul said further research needs to be done into the question of booster doses. "When you take a decision on an additional dose, it has to be based on sound information

and there are many aspects. It has to be different for different vaccines... We are looking at the data systematically..."

Speaking on the journey of the creation and approval of Covaxin, Dr Bhargava referred to a number of milestones -- becoming the fifth country to isolate a strain of the coronavirus, tracing the contacts of the first case, sprucing up testing and becoming the first to use antigen tests, beginning testing on demand in September and going on to send testing kits to other parts of the world.

Day-long fast to be held over 'illegal construction' in Goa's heritage area

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 23

TWO DAYS after at least 3,000 people attended a protest against the allegedly illegal construction of a bungalow in a protected heritage area, activists and the Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) have announced a day-long fast on Wednesday over the issue. Old Goa is home to a UNESCO world heritage precinct that includes several heritage monuments, including seven churches.

Lawyer Andrea Mascarenhas, one of the activists opposing the construction, said on Tuesday that the turnout at Sunday's protest had shown that Goans care about their heritage. "A national leader of the ruling party has committed fraud by constructing an illegal structure. The ruling party has connived with her to get all the fraudulent permissions," said Mascarenhas.



A protest had taken place on Sunday. Express file

The bungalow is being constructed in Ella village under Tiswadi taluka and a part of the land was sold to Mumbai-based developer Manish Munot, husband of BJP spokesperson Shaina NC, in 2015. SOGAC, in its letter to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in September, had said, "This is a case of gross misuse of power by the state government to favour a powerful and influential party."

"From 8am to 6pm on Wednesday, we will be sitting on a fast and will pray that the government realises the first-degree

fraud it has done in connivance with the political party in giving fraudulent permissions to national leader Shaina NC," said Mascarenhas.

When contacted on Tuesday, Shaina said, "I have nothing to say...there has to be some legitimacy." Munot said he did not want to comment on the matter. It is learnt that Munot has pulled out of the construction.

Earlier, Goa BJP president Sadanand Tanavade had told *The Indian Express* that the issue was a local one and had nothing to do with the party.

SOGAC has also moved the Supreme Court over the permissions granted for the bungalow's construction. In its petition, SOGAC has stated that the bungalow was being constructed on land divided into two parts -- 2,400 sq mt of it was sold to Suvarna Lotlikar, wife of Suraj Lotlikar, former treasurer of the Goa Forward Party, and 9,500 sq mt was sold to Munot.

Kannur varsity V-C reappointed; move sparks row

Thiruvananthapuram: Kannur University vice-chancellor Prof Gopinath Ravindran was on Tuesday reappointed for another four years even after a notification was issued for fresh appointment.

On Twitter, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan announced his reappointment.

The move comes amid protests by Save University Campaign Committee (SUCC), which complained to the Governor. Calling Ravindran's reappointment illegal, SUCC secretary M Shajir Khan said Kannur University Act says no person above 60 can be appointed to the post and pointed out that Ravindran is past the cut-off age.

Last week, SUCC had complained against selection of Dr Priya Varghese as associate professor in the Malayalam Department, stating she did not have qualifications. She is wife of former CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member K K Ragesh, who is at present private secretary to the CM. **ENS**

JHARKHAND

Control room for migrant workers becomes lifeline for their families too

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 23

IT STARTED as a call centre to help workers in other states with food and money as the first Covid-19 curbs came into force early last year. Today, the Jharkhand Migrant Control Room has become a lifeline for their families, too -- bringing back stranded workers, helping them get outstanding salaries, and coordinating the return of bodies of those who lost their lives in other states.

"Last year, close to 200 bodies of labourers were brought back to Jharkhand but there were multiple agencies involved. This year, we have on our own helped the families of 68 labourers, who died at work sites in 16 states, get their bodies back," said Shikha Pankaj, the team lead at the control room. Shikha is a part of PHIA

Foundation, a Delhi-based NGO that was picked by the state government to run the control room with a work force of 30 from various backgrounds.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said: "When the pandemic struck and the lockdown was announced, we were looking for an organisation which could understand the plight of the state's migrants and act as a bridge between the government and them. That is where PHIA Foundation pitched in... In the last one-and-a-half years, the control room has been the backbone of our entire campaign to help our state's workers across country."

"We have been mobilising resources to support this initiative since the beginning," said Johnson Topno, state head of PHIA Foundation.

The control room also plays a key role in rescuing stranded

workers. In June this year, control room staff said, they secured the return of 32 members of a tribal community who were stranded at a brick kiln in UP's Deoria after not being paid for six months. In October, a group of labourers were "rescued" from Himachal Pradesh after some of them called to complain of assault.

According to data from the control room, 9,66,393 migrant workers returned to Jharkhand between March 27, 2020, and October 31, 2021. "Another major challenge is to get the wages and remuneration of labourers," said Shikha, a team lead. Yet, it's the control room's intervention in cases of deaths that has made a big difference, such as in the case of Ramdev Turi from Bokaro.

According to Turi's family, he climbed the pole of a 11 KV line in Goa for repair work when he sustained an electric shock. "...he suc-

cumbed to his injuries on November 4," Turi's 20-year-old nephew Karma said.

Amid the distress, staff at the control room came across a video appeal posted by Karma on social media. "We got in touch with the authorities in Goa and mobilised resources to bring back the body within a few days," said Shikha.

However, the families of migrant labourers want the state government to take a more proactive role. Turi's family continue to struggle every day since the "only help" they received was Rs 2,000 given by the village chief. And the labourers rescued from the brick kiln complain that they got only "Rs 15,000 per couple" as wages for six months. "This is pure exploitation, and we want government to intervene," said Somnath, one of them.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Kerala woman’s DNA matches with baby given in adoption, govt to alert court

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NOVEMBER 23

THE DNA test conducted on former Kerala SFI leader Anupama S Chandran on Tuesday matched with that of the one-year-old baby, proving that Chandran and her partner, Ajith Kumar, are parents of the infant.

The DNA test on all three was conducted to confirm biological parents of the baby who was given in adoption, allegedly without Chandran’s consent in Andhra Pradesh in August this year.

Soon after the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology here re-

vealed the results of the tests, the district Child Welfare Committee allowed the couple to visit the child, now lodged at a care home.

Chandran, 23, had got separated from her baby three days after delivery in October 2020, allegedly since her parents, who were also local CPI(M) cadres, were against their daughter bringing up the baby with Kumar, as he was not legally divorced from his first wife.

After meeting their baby, Chandran told the media, “It is a big relief for me. For the last year, I have been waiting for this moment. I am pleading with officials to take steps to hand over (our) baby to me at the earliest.”

Although their DNA results matched, a hurdle left before Chandran is the decision of the family court in Thiruvananthapuram, which had last month stayed the adoption process.

State Health and Family Welfare Minister Veena George said the court will be informed about the outcome of the test. “The government has always stood with Chandran’s demand.”

George said the state government has asked the Central Adoption Resources Authority to give priority to the Andhra couple who have returned Chandran’s son the next possible opportunity to adopt a child.

Rights bodies slam arrest of J&K activist; NIA says ‘terror links’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, NOV 23

A DAY after human rights activist Khurram Parvez was arrested in Srinagar, a spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) alleged on Tuesday that he “was in touch with overground workers of a Pakistan-based banned terror outfit”. Sources said Parvez would be brought to Delhi on a transit remand.

Parvez was arrested on Monday in connection with a case filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including terror funding.

According to sources, besides Kashmir, searches were also carried out in Himachal Pradesh. NIA sources said that in Himachal Pradesh, searches were carried out at premises associated with a former NIA official. The agency, however, did not officially confirm or deny that its former official, who reportedly worked with the NIA for about a decade, was under probe.



Human rights activist Khurram Parvez. AP file

“Verification of certain facts revealed from the arrested accused is being done from him (former NIA official),” a senior NIA official said.

Parvez is the programme coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a federation of human rights groups and individuals working in J&K. His arrest drew sharp reactions from the human rights community.

“I’m hearing disturbing reports that Khurram Parvez was arrested today in Kashmir & is at risk of being charged by authorities in #India with terrorism-related crimes. He’s not a terrorist,

he’s a human rights defender,” Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, said in a tweet.

Amnesty International said Parvez’s arrest “is yet another example of how anti-terror laws are being misused to criminalise human rights work & stifle dissent in India... Instead of targeting HRDs (human rights defenders), authorities should focus on bringing accountability for human rights violations.”

While Parvez was initially detained for questioning, the NIA formally arrested him on Monday evening. The arrest memo said he was arrested in the case, FIR RC-30/2021/NIA/DLI filed on November 6, under IPC Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging, attempting to wage, abetting waging of war against the government), and 121A (conspiracy to commit offences punishable by Section 121); and Sections 17 (raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy), 18B (recruiting of any person or persons for terrorist act) and 40 (raising funds for a terrorist organisation) of the UAPA.

HC: Oral sex not ‘aggravated sexual assault’ in POCSO

Cuts man’s jail term from 10 yrs to 7 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 23

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has reduced the jail sentence of a man convicted of sexual assault on a 10-year-old boy from 10 years to seven years, saying that oral sex does not fall in the category of “aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault” as per the provisions of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act.

While hearing a criminal appeal filed by the convicted man, Justice Anil Kumar Ojha of the Allahabad High Court in his order observed: “From the perusal of the provisions of the POCSO Act, it is clear that the offence committed by the appellant neither falls under Section 5(6) of the POCSO Act nor under Section 9(M) of the POCSO Act because there is penetrative sexual assault in the present case as the appellant has put his penis into the mouth of the victim.

2018 had convicted the man under section 6 of the POCSO Act and other sections of the IPC, and sentenced him to 10 years of imprisonment.

The incident dates back to March 22, 2016, when the father of a 10-year-old boy alleged that the accused came to his house in Jhansi and took his son to a nearby temple. The accused gave his son Rs 20 and asked him to do oral sex on him, the father complained.

In their chargesheet, police had charged the man under IPC sections 377 (unnatural offences), 506 (criminal conspiracy), and 3/4 of the POCSO Act.

The Additional Sessions court judge, however, charged the appellant under IPC sections 377 and 506, and sections 5/6 of the POCSO Act.

Challenging the conviction by the lower court, the man, through his lawyer, told the High Court that the offence under section 6 of the POCSO Act was not made out against him, and that he has been wrongly convicted under the said POCSO provision.

After going through the records and provisions of the POCSO Act, the High Court judge in his order said: “I am of the considered opinion that the appellant should be punished under section 4 of the POCSO Act because the act done by appellant falls in the category of penetrative sexual assault.”

A lower court in Jhansi in

After going through the records and provisions of the POCSO Act, the High Court judge in his order said: “I am of the considered opinion that the appellant should be punished under section 4 of the POCSO Act because the act done by appellant falls in the category of penetrative sexual assault.”

TENDER NOTICE

No. CIID/SLR/Tender/2021-22
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager /Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contracts of leasing of SLR parcel space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division:-

| Tender Opening Date : 16.12.2021 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|--|
| S. No. | Train No. | From | To | CC | Comptt. | Freq. | Reserve Price per day (In Rs.) | EMD (In Rs.) | Tender Cost (Including GST @ 18% in Rs.) | Tender No. | |
| 1 | 12463 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | JU (Jodhpur Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday | 10444 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12463-Nov21 | |
| 2 | 22482 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | JU (Jodhpur Jn) | 04 | F-I | Daily | 10888 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FI-22482-Nov21 | |
| 3 | 22482 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | JU (Jodhpur Jn) | 04 | F-II | Daily | 10888 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FII-22482-Nov21 | |
| 4 | 22482 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | JU (Jodhpur Jn) | 04 | R-I | Daily | 10888 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-RI-22482-Nov21 | |
| 5 | 22463 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | BKN (Bikaner Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Friday & Sunday | 11495 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22463-Nov21 | |
| 6 | 20938 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | PBR (Porbandar) | 04 | FI | Monday & Thursday | 14665 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FI-20938-Nov21 | |
| 7 | 20938 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | PBR (Porbandar) | 04 | RI | Monday & Thursday | 14665 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-RI-20938-Nov21 | |
| 8 | 22401 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | UHP (Udhampur) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday, Wednesday & Saturday | 10776 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22401-Nov21 | |
| 9 | 19338 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | INDB (Indore Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday | 15334 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-19338-Nov21 | |
| 10 | 12986 | DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla) | JP (Jaipur) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 6445 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12986-Nov21 | |
| 11 | 12916 | DLI (Delhi Jn) | ADI (Ahmedabad Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 15334 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12916-Nov21 | |
| 12 | 12226 | DLI (Delhi Jn) | AMH (Azamgarh) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 13506 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12226-Nov21 | |
| 13 | 22429 | DLI (Delhi Jn) | PTK (Pathankot) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday | 9598 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22429-Nov21 | |
| 14 | 14010 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | BMKI (Bapudham Motihari) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday & Saturday | 15689 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-14010-Nov21 | |
| 15 | 14014 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | SLN (Sultanpur) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday & Saturday | 10776 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-14014-Nov21 | |
| 16 | 22806 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | BBS (Bhubaneswar) | 3.9 | FI | Monday | 26554 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FI-22806-Nov21 | |
| 17 | 22806 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | BBS (Bhubaneswar) | 3.9 | FII | Monday | 26554 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FII-22806-Nov21 | |
| 18 | 22806 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | BBS (Bhubaneswar) | 3.9 | RI | Monday | 26554 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-RI-22806-Nov21 | |
| 19 | 15026 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | MAU (Mau Jn.) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday & Friday | 13861 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-15026-Nov21 | |
| 20 | 15058 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | GKP (Gorakhpur Jn.) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday | 12399 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-15058-Nov21 | |
| 21 | 14152 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | CNB (Kanpur Central) | 3.9 | FSLR | Sunday | 8593 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-14152-Nov21 | |
| 22 | 12826 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | RNC (Ranchi) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday & Saturday | 20145 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12826-Nov21 | |
| 23 | 12506 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | KYQ (Kamakhya) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 26315 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12506-Nov21 | |
| 24 | 22540 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | MAU (Mau Jn.) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday & Saturday | 14204 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22540-Nov21 | |
| 25 | 15280 | ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal) | SHC (Saharsa Jn.) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday | 18751 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-15280-Nov21 | |
| 26 | 12274 | NDLS (New Delhi) | HWH (Howrah Jn.) | 3.9 | FSLR | Tuesday & Saturday | 28980 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12274-Nov21 | |
| 27 | 12628 | NDLS (New Delhi) | SGC (KSR Bengaluru) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 31799 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12628-Nov21 | |
| 28 | 12452 | NDLS (New Delhi) | CNB (Kanpur Central) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 8205 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12452-Nov21 | |
| 29 | 12276 | NDLS (New Delhi) | PRYJ (Prayagraj Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday | 13683 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12276-Nov21 | |
| 30 | 12562 | NDLS (New Delhi) | JYG (Jaynagar) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 19448 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12562-Nov21 | |
| 31 | 12616 | NDLS (New Delhi) | MAS (MGR Chennai Central) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 29456 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12616-Nov21 | |
| 32 | 12626 | NDLS (New Delhi) | TVC (Tiruvandrum Central) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 36358 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12626-Nov21 | |
| 33 | 12282 | NDLS (New Delhi) | BBS (Bhubaneswar) | 3.9 | FI | Thursday | 31393 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FI-12282-Nov21 | |
| 34 | 12017 | NDLS (New Delhi) | DDN (Dehradun) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 8199 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12017-Nov21 | |
| 35 | 22210 | NDLS (New Delhi) | MMCT (Mumbai Central) | 3.9 | FSLR | Tuesday & Saturday | 26809 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22210-Nov21 | |
| 36 | 14316 | NDLS (New Delhi) | BE (Bareilly) | 04 | FI | Daily | 5907 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FI-14316-Nov21 | |
| 37 | 14316 | NDLS (New Delhi) | BE (Bareilly) | 04 | FII | Daily | 5907 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FII-14316-Nov21 | |
| 38 | 14316 | NDLS (New Delhi) | BE (Bareilly) | 04 | RI | Daily | 5907 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-RI-14316-Nov21 | |
| 39 | 12497 | NDLS (New Delhi) | ASR (Amritsar Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 8205 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12497-Nov21 | |
| 40 | 22404 | NDLS (New Delhi) | PDY (Puducherry) | 3.9 | FSLR | Sunday | 31376 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22404-Nov21 | |
| 41 | 12459 | NDLS (New Delhi) | ASR (Amritsar Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 8205 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12459-Nov21 | |
| 42 | 14038 | NDLS (New Delhi) | SCL (Silchar) | 3.9 | FSLR | Thursday | 30885 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-14038-Nov21 | |
| 43 | 22450 | NDLS (New Delhi) | GHY (Guwahati) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday & Sunday | 27286 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-22450-Nov21 | |
| 44 | 12398 | NDLS (New Delhi) | GAYA (Gaya Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 16055 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12398-Nov21 | |
| 45 | 14681 | NDLS (New Delhi) | JUC (Jalandhar City) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 8079 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-14681-Nov21 | |
| 46 | 12156 | NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin) | RKMP (Rani Kamalapati) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 11656 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12156-Nov21 | |
| 47 | 12286 | NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin) | SC (Secunderabad Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Monday & Friday | 30780 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12286-Nov21 | |
| 48 | 12630 | NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin) | YPR (Yesvantpur Jn) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday & Friday | 33364 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12630-Nov21 | |
| 49 | 12722 | NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin) | HYB (Hyderabad Decan) | 3.9 | FSLR | Daily | 24624 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12722-Nov21 | |
| 50 | 12708 | NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin) | TPTY (Tirupati) | 3.9 | FSLR | Wednesday, Friday & Sunday | 30885 | 100000 | 1180 | SLR-FSLR-12708-Nov21 | |

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender.

Important note:-

- Bidders, who wish to participate in the E-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid digital security certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in
- Bidders, who want to participate in this E-tender will be required to register on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in through a valid class-3 Digital Security Certificate (DSC), if not registered earlier. All information related to bidder registration and participation in this E-tender is available on the official website of Indian Railways www.ireps.gov.in
- Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these tenders/contracts at any point of time (or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these tenders/contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions) depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains.
- Kindly carefully read and follow the General Instructions, Instructions to tenderers and "Terms and Conditions" (including certain new modified instructions/conditions) given in the Tender Document before submitting the **ONLINE BID**.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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2713/21

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 24th November

HSG BHARDUL SINGH
IOC BARAUNI 24-11-1979

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with criminals. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.

कार्यालय नगर पंचायत, खुँटी

झापांक दिनांक

निविदा संबंधी सूचना

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1508 दिनांक 22.11.2021 द्वारा प्रकाशित शुद्धि पत्र पुर्न ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या KNP/10/2021-22 जिसका PR No. 257471 है, को रद्द समझा जाय, एवं निविदा संबंधित कागजात ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना अनिवार्य रहेगा।

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे।

ह0 / -
कार्यपालक पदाधिकरी,
नगर पंचायत, खुँटी

PR257525 (Urban Development)21-22*D

ई-निविदा सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय रक्षा सम्पदा अधिकारी, आगरा मण्डल आगरा छावनी द्वारा खर्च संख्या 321-ई, ग्वालियर रोड, बिजलीघर के पास आगरा छावनी स्थित रक्षा भूमि जिसका क्षेत्रफल लगभग 9000.0 वर्गफुट है, पर एक वर्ष के लिए कार, बस, स्कूटर इत्यादि पार्किंग के लिए इच्छुक व्यक्तियों/फर्म आदि द्वारा भारत सरकार, रक्षा मंत्रालय के Defence e-procurement site <https://defproc.gov.in> के माध्यम से ई-निविदा (E-Tender) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा को सर्वे उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर अपलोड कर दी गई है। दस्तावेज डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ करने का दिनांक 24.11.2021 समय 09:30 बजे से तथा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 15.12.2021 समय 15:30 बजे तक रहेगी।

(राजीव कुमार)
रक्षा सम्पदा अधिकारी
आगरा मण्डल, आगरा छावनी

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Ex. Engineer (E&M)
Technical Laboratory Campus Ghazipur Delhi-96

NIT No:-EE-E&M/EDMC/ENGG/2021-22/12 Dated: 18.11.2021

PRESS NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (E&M) on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tenders in e-tendering in two stage system i.e. Stage-1 Documents related to eligibility criteria and Stage-2 Financial bid for **Name of Work:-** (1) Operation and comprehensive maintenance of Multi-function jetting machine for two years in EDMC. **Head of Account:** XL-III-D-IV, **Tender Amount:** Item Rate, **Earnest Money:** Rs.8,63,000/-, **Tender Cost:** Rs.2,000/-, **Time of Completion:** 02 Years, **Rate shall hold good for:** 120 days, **Tender ID** 2021-EDMC-95282, (2) Bio-mining and Bio-remediation of legacy waste at SLF Ghazipur **Sub Head:** Disposal of inert waste at designated low lying area at tughlakabad Delhi/NHAI Meethapur/Maharani Bagh DND or any other designated location in Delhi. **Head of Account:** DPCC EDMC SWM ESCROW, **Tender Amount:** Item Rate, **Earnest Money:** Rs.14,75,400/-, **Tender Cost:** Rs.2,000/- **Time of Completion:** 3 Months, **Rate shall hold good for:** 120 days, **Tender ID** 2021-EDMC-95284, The last date of Bid Submission is 06/12/2021 up to 01:00 PM, Bidders may download of bid document from EDMC official website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

Sd/-
Ex. Engineer (E&M)
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 123 to 127 OF 2021-22
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W/A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works.

| Sr. No. | Tender No. & Name of Work | Approximate Cost of work (in ₹) |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|
| 01 | DRM BRC 123 of 2021-22. NAIR - Provision of Furniture etc. Enhancement of telecom facilities and improvement of facilities in Pahune Hostel in NAIR/Vadodara. | 29,78,799.61 |
| 02 | DRM BRC 124 of 2021-22. Pratapnagar (PRTN) - Maintenance of swimming pool including providing life guard services as per prescribed schedule for 24 months. | 6,09,517.20 |
| 03 | DRM BRC 125 of 2021-22. In situ reconditioning of CMS crossing by using Robotic welding or any other suitable similar welding technology as approved by RDSO under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (North) Vadodara. | 27,33,878.07 |
| 04 | DRM BRC 126 of 2021-22. Vadodara Division: Cleaning and Disinfection of overhead storage tank for 24 months (Every 06 months per tank), i.e. 02 times in a year per tank) under jurisdiction of SSE (Works) Nadiad. | 3,38,981.89 |
| 05 | DRM BRC 127 of 2021-22. Providing new Service Building on 05 Nos of LCs (LC No.3, 4, 17, 24 & 32 ANND-CBY) including associate electrical work in connection with the replacement of Mechanical Lifting Barrier to Electric lifting barrier. | 1,12,52,334.58 |

Earnest money to be deposited (in Rs.): As per bid Security declaration. **Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Tender is to be submitted on 17-12-2021 before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. **Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:** Web site @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4

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The authorities came with demolition squad to raze 55 hutments in Ahmedabad, Tuesday. Nirmal Harindran

Eviction drive for Sabarmati Ashram project postponed

Ahmedabad: An eviction drive of nearly 55 hutments and slum dwellings from a land parcel part of the Gandhi Ashram Precinct Development Project by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) along with officials from the Ahmedabad district collectorate had to be postponed on Tuesday following protests from residents. Police personnel along with officials of

the AMC and the district collectorate retreated after the residents sat outside their hutments in protest, aided by civil society organisations. Deputy collector JB Desai assured the residents they will be given a week's time to make arrangements. The plot of land will be used for one of the internal roads that will be part of the Ashram Precinct Development Project, **ENS**

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender No. 2021WPKRNT-IlMechWT-22OPEN e-Tender (open) are invited on behalf of the President of India with following details.

1. Name of the work with its location : "Composite Works-II (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical) involving construction of Industrial sheds, other ancillary buildings, Scrap Yard, Track works, Drainage system, Landscaping, Electrification and illumination works, Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant in connection with setting up of CMLR Workshop at Kurnool".

2. Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 724234568.24

3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 3771200.00

4. Date & Time for closing of e-Tender : 21.12.2021 at 14.30 hrs..

5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be downloaded and Bidded from IREPS website:

ED searches IREO premises, 3 other firms in PMLA case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

IN CONNECTION with its money laundering probe against the IREO group, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday carried out searches at several premises of the company, including the residence of vice-chairman and MD Lalit Goyal, and premises of three other companies, the agency said Tuesday.

An ED statement identified the other three companies as IDM Realty, Madeira Conbuild and Global Estate.

“Enforcement Directorate has carried out search operation at the business premises of M/s. IREO Pvt. Ltd; M/s. IDM Realty Pvt. Ltd; M/s. Madeira Conbuild Pvt. Ltd; M/s. Global Estate and Others and residential premises of their directors and associates, namely Lalit Goyal, Jai Bharat Aggarwal, Anupam Nagalia, Madhukar Tulsii, CA Anil Kumar Goel at Gurugram and Delhi,” said the statement.

The searches resulted in seizure of documents related to property and foreign invest-



IREO MD Lalit Goyal being taken to Panchkula court on Tuesday. Jaipal Singh

ment, mobile phones, laptops and and Indian and foreign currency worth Rs 14 lakh.

Last week, the ED had arrested Goyal after four days of questioning in connection with a case of money laundering registered by the agency on the basis of allegations that IREO swindled funds of home buyers and its investors.

In its state-

ment after the arrest, the ED had also made a mention of The Indian Express investigations into the Pandora Papers, which revealed that Goyal had moved an estimated \$77 million in the form of investments, shareholding and real estate, even as home buyers and investors ran from pillar to post for their money.

Goyal was detained at the IGI Airport on November 11, based on a look out circular opened against him while he was preparing to board an aircraft to go abroad.

Woman falls unconscious in coffee shop, dies

Surat: A 22-year-old B.Ed student died after falling unconscious at a coffee shop in Surat, Gujarat, on Monday and her kin has alleged that a youth who had accompanied her was responsible for the death. An accidental death case was registered. A relative alleged the youth was harassing her for a while and may have poisoned her. **PTI**

**SBI**
IT-UAT&PM Department, State Bank of India,
Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

CORRIGENDUM
Please refer RFP No SBI/GITC/IT-UAT&PM/2021/2022/796 DATED: 20/10/2021 Request for Proposal 'Providing Manpower Resources for User Experience Designing of Digital Applications of SBI on Time and Material (T&M) Basis.
Corrigendum 1 Dated 23.11.2021 can be accessed under <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/SBI>
Place: Navi Mumbai
Date: 23.11.2021
Deputy General Manager (IT-UAT&PM Dept.)

**SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT**
Amma Maligai, Ripon Building Complex,
Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai - 600 003

S.P.D.C.No. BI/008/2018
Date : 22 - 11 - 2021
Greater Chennai Corporation Special Projects Department invites applications for the 'Gender & Policy Lab' as a part of Chennai City Partnership between Government of Tamil Nadu and World Bank funded by 'Nirbhaya Fund' from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the following posts

| Name of the Post | No.of Posts |
|---|-------------|
| Gender and M&E Subject Matter Expert | 1 |
| Policy Subject Mater Expert | 1 |
| Communication / Consultation / Training Subject Matter Expert | 1 |
| The last date and time of receipt of application is | 10-12-2021 |

For qualification, eligibility, and other relevant details/information, please visit our websites: <https://chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc> and www.cscl.co.in/careers
DIPR/1069/Display/2021
சேனாநகர வடகூறு சந்தர்ப்பம் கவனப்படுத்தும் சாதனமை புரிந்து சமீபத்தியம் பண்படுத்தும்
Superintending Engineer
Special Project/Bridges

**Government of India**
Ministry of Education
National Institutional Ranking Framework
INDIA RANKINGS 2022



The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in the higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2022, the Seventh edition of this annual exercise.

Registration window opned on 25th October 2021 and will close on 30th November 2021.

In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at helpdesk@nirfindia.org or call at 011-40159583/87/89.

davp 21315/11/0003/2122 **Member Secretary**

EMPLOYMENT SANKALP SCHOOL (FOR DIFFRENTLY ABLED CHILDREN)
CHANAKYABAGH, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021
1. Applications are invited for the post of Teacher (Special Educator) purely on contractual basis:-
Essential -
(a) Graduate/ diploma in special Education registered with RCI.
(b) Minimum one year teaching experience in special education.
(c) Working knowledge of computer.
(d) Age limit 40 years, relaxable in case of an eminently suitable person.
Desirable. Additional qualification like regular Montessori/Nursery teacher training certificate (recognized) of one year duration with diploma in early childhood education is desirable.
2. Interested Candidates may apply by sending their **application (Mandatory)** alongwith Bio-data one photograph and Xerox copies of Educational Qualification in sealed envelope mentioning Sankalp on top of envelope to **The Commanding Officer (for Senior Education Officer), INS India, Dara Shukoh Road, New Delhi- 110011 by 29 Nov 21 (Tuesday)**, for further details please contact on 011-23011308 Mon to Fri (0900-1600).
davp 10702/11/0057/2122


IMPORTANT NOTICE
It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to provide additional stoppage to Train No. 12615/12616 MGR Chennai Central - New Delhi - MGR Chennai Central Grand Trunk Express (Daily) at Hinganghat station on experimental basis for the period of six months with immediate effect, as per the following time-table :-

| Train No. 12615 | STATIONS | Train No. 12616 |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| ARR. DEP. | | ARR. DEP. |
| 10:18 10:20 | Sewagram | 11:16 11:18 |
| 09:32 09:33 | Hinganghat | 11:44 11:45 |
| 08:33 08:35 | Chandrapur | 13:08 13:10 |


Effective date :- 12615 Ex. MGR Chennai Central & 12616 Ex. New Delhi from immediate effect.


For any kind of information, passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19, may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

**75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**सीडीएफडी**
CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(An autonomous Institute of the Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039, Telangana, India; Ph:+ 91-40-27216015/6088 Website: <http://www.cdfd.org.in>

ADMISSION FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM-I-2022 (RSP-I-2022)

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its Research Scholars Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as Research Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph.D. program of Manipal Academy of Higher Education or Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:
To be eligible a candidate must have:

- A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture from a recognized University / Institute OR MBBS.
- Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / BINC / JEST / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.

Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - B category list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are **NOT** eligible to apply.
(Please see CDFD website for details).

Selection Procedure:
Admission to the CDFD - Research Scholars program will be based on an **interview via video conference scheduled to be held** in February 2022 (RSP - I - 2022). The candidates should be available for more than one round of interviews, spread over five days, if needed.
(Please see CDFD website for details).

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for **RSP - I - 2022** by applying in the prescribed application form **online**. The link for the application form is available at <http://www.cdfd.org.in/rf>.

The Online facility of application will be closed on **December 10, 2021**. Director, CDFD reserves the right to accept / reject any or all applications.

Visit the CDFD website <http://www.cdfd.org.in> for detailed advertisement/ General terms and conditions.

**YES BANK**

Registered & Corporate Office:
YES BANK Limited : YES BANK House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055, India.
Tel: +91 (22) 3366 9000 **Fax:**+91 (22) 2421 4521 **Website:** www.yesbank.in **Email:** amandeep.bajaj@yesbank.in **CIN:** L65190MH2003PLC143249

[Rule – 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of YES BANK Limited under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (**“the said Act”**) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (**“the said Rules”**), issued five (5) Demand Notice(s) each dated February 12, 2020, through Vistra ITCL (India) Limited (security trustee), calling upon, the following entities:

- Mothers Pride Education Personna Private Limited, a company having registered office at 11/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026 (hereinafter referred to as **“Borrower 1”**) and North-Ex Delhi Educational Society, a society having registered office at CS/OCF PKT, Sector-5, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 (hereinafter referred to as **“Mortgagor/Owner”**) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR 214,532,788.30 (Rupees Two Hundred Fourteen Million, Five Hundred Thirty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Eighty Eight and Thirty Paise Only)** as on February 07, 2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice together with further interest and charges thereon till realization with effect from February 08, 2020;
- Mothers Pride Education Institution Private Limited, a company having registered office at 11/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026 (hereinafter referred to as **“Borrower 2”**) and the **Mortgagor** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR 91,735,229.57 (Rupees Ninety One Million, Seven Hundred Thirty Five Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty Nine and Fifty Seven Paise Only)** as on February 07, 2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice together with further interest and charges thereon till realization with effect from February 08, 2020;
- Presidium Educational Institution Private Limited, a company having registered office at 11/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026 (hereinafter referred to as **“Borrower 3”**) and the **Mortgagor** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR 252,296,367.48 (Rupees Two Hundred Fifty Two Million, Two Hundred Ninety Six Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty Seven and Forty Eight Paise Only)** as on February 07, 2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice together with further interest and charges thereon till realization with effect from February 08, 2020;
- Presidium Educational & Charitable Trust, a trust having registered office at 11/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026 (hereinafter referred to as **“Borrower 4”**) and the **Mortgagor** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR 150,518,819.31 (Rupees One Hundred Fifty Million, Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Nineteen and Thirty One Paise Only)** as on February 07, 2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice together with further interest and charges thereon till realization with effect from February 08, 2020; **and**
- Scholartube Education and Learning Solutions Private Limited having registered office at 1509, 15th Floor, R.G. Tower, Netaji Subash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 (hereinafter referred to as **“Borrower 5”**) and the **Mortgagor** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR 233,736,522.54 (Rupees Two Hundred Thirty Three Million, Seven Hundred Thirty Six Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Two and Fifty Four Paise Only)** as on February 07, 2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice together with further interest and charges thereon till realization with effect from February 08, 2020 (hereinafter Borrower 1, Borrower 2, Borrower 3, Borrower 4 and Borrower 5 are collectively referred to as **“Borrowers”**)

Further, other secured creditor (Aditya Birla Finance Limited) has also issued notice under section 13(2) of the Act individually demanding the money payable under its notice within 60 days of the date of such notice and has now given its consent under section 13(9) which collectively with dues payable to Yes Bank represents not less than sixty percent in value of the amounts outstanding and total amount aggregating to **INR 1,943,975,594.20**. Details of the secured creditors and their demand notices are as under:

| Secured Creditor | Date of Notice u/s 13(2) | Amount demanded as per Notice u/s 13(2) (INR) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Yes Bank Limited | February 12, 2020 | 942,819,727.20 |
| Aditya Birla Finance Limited | June 09, 2020 | 1,001,155,867.00 |
| TOTAL | | 1,943,975,594.20 |

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount as detailed in the respective Demand Notice(s), notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, the Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below on an **“AS IS WHERE IS” “AS IS WHAT IS”** and **“WHATEVER THERE IS”** BASIS, in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the **18th day of November, 2021**.

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of YES BANK Limited and Aditya Birla Finance Limited for an aggregate amount of **INR 1,943,975,594.20/- (Rupees One Billion, Nine Hundred Forty Three Million, Nine Hundred Seventy Five Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety Four and Twenty Paise only)** due from the Borrowers together with further interest and other charges, costs thereon as per the sanction terms till the date of payment.

The Borrowers' and Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

| Area | Situated in |
|--------------|--|
| 784 sq. mtrs | Property being Nursery School Site measuring 784 sq. mtrs. Situated at CS/OCF Pkt. Sector-5, Rohini, New Delhi |

Bounded as under:

| North: | Road 20 ft. | South: | Road 40 ft. | East: | Road 40 ft. | West: | Vacant Plot |
|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|

Date: November 18, 2021
Place: New Delhi

Amandeep Singh Bajaj
Senior Vice President
(Authorized Officer)
YES BANK Limited

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

SO WHAT IF I CAN'T SPELL ARMAGEDDON, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.

— STEWART FRANCIS

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

TERMS OF PRIVACY

Parliament must examine recommendations on personal data protection bill, address concerns of government overreach

ON MONDAY, AFTER almost two years of deliberation and scrutiny, the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 has finalised its recommendations, likely to be tabled in the upcoming winter session of Parliament. The Bill seeks to usher in a data governance architecture in India that fills an existing void in the institutional framework. It seeks to put in place safeguards to protect personal data, ensure privacy, and bring about transparency and accountability in data management. However, several members of Parliament from political parties such as the Congress, Trinamool Congress and the BJD have submitted dissent notes, objecting to specific provisions. These concerns, as well as the recommendations by the committee, need to be thoroughly examined.

Of particular concern are Sections 35 and 12 of the draft legislation. Under Section 35, the Centre can exempt from the application of all provisions of the Act any agency of the government when it is deemed to be in national and public interest. Equally concerning is Section 12(a)(i) which creates the space to exempt the government from provisions of consent, allowing it to collect personal data without individual approval. The Opposition members have argued, rightly so, against the provision of blanket exemptions, more so without the creation of an oversight mechanism. As some have suggested, seeking parliamentary approval may be a more prudent approach. At the very least, considering the far-reaching ramifications of such sweeping exemptions, these provisions need to be scrutinised in greater detail. Adequate safeguards must be put in place to protect the right to privacy, and prevent the misuse of personal information.

In its recommendations, the committee has favoured widening the ambit of the personal data protection bill, bringing in non-personal data under its scope. While privacy concerns revolve around personal data, if data is non-personal, and anonymised, then should a similar regulatory architecture be adopted for non-personal data as well? Further, while the committee also favours bringing in data collection by electronic hardware under this law, why should a specific distinction be drawn between hardware and software? Then there are suggestions for bringing all social media intermediaries under the ambit by redesignating them as social media platforms. While the committee has suggested all social media platforms (which do not act as intermediaries) be treated as publishers, what about provisions under the IT Rules? According to reports, there also seems to be a concerted push towards data localisation, though whether or not it will be implemented in a graded manner, depending on the sensitivity of data, is unclear. Parliament must scrutinise these matters in greater detail, tighten the framework, and move quickly to usher in a data protection architecture in India.

PRINCE AT IIT

Supreme Court does well to recognise and address injustice in his story. Larger questions of inequality in education remain

A PAYMENT GLITCH, an electronic snag — that's all it took to nearly shut the doors of IIT-Bombay on Prince, a 17-year-old Dalit student. That it didn't is because the young man refused to accept the bureaucratic response and surrender his hard-earned engineering seat; he believed the wrong done to him was a matter for the judiciary's intervention. The Bombay High Court dismissed his plea, but the Supreme Court recognised in the ordeal of this one student a larger injustice. "This is not some case where the student has been negligent or at fault... Everyone does not have multiple credit cards. There has to be some modality, else only students from metropolitan cities will join IITs," the court told the IIT authorities. The bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna invoked Article 142, which empowers it to pass orders to ensure "complete justice", to instruct IIT-Bombay to carve out an additional seat for the Ghaziabad resident.

The journey of Prince to IIT-Bombay, of course, is not his story alone. Common to Dalit aspiration across the country — following the example and exhortation of BR Ambedkar — is a belief in education as a way out of a life of indignity and caste discrimination. The decision to stake their resources and hard work on education helped Prince, and his father before him — both descendants of landless tillers in Uttar Pradesh — to move out from the village and into the city. The first person in his family to study engineering, Prince's ambitions are an index of the silent changes in Indian social life. It tells the story of the loosening hold of privilege at educational institutions — the aim of India's affirmative action programme — one which is often complicated by the widely reported persistence of casteist bias and lack of support for SC/ST students in the bastions of "merit". But what does it say about the structural inequalities in education that it took the Supreme Court's intervention to restore Prince's IIT seat? The pandemic has thrown up far too many stories of students shut out of classrooms and labs, ideas and opportunities, because of the lack of a laptop or the flickering internet connection. The IITs and other educational institutions cannot afford to let digital inequality become another entry barrier — in addition to caste, class and gender. Instead of throwing the rulebook at Prince, why couldn't the IIT admission process allow him to make a delayed payment, with a fine, perhaps? Was cash payment even an option, given the diversity of applicants?

As Prince takes his deserved place at IIT-Bombay, thanks to the wisdom of the Supreme Court, these questions deserve a thoughtful answer from the education system.

NO ARMAGEDDON

NASA is launching a test mission to alter path of an asteroid. Doomsday movies of '90s underestimated scientists

LONG BEFORE THE impending AI apocalypse, a la *Black Mirror*, there was *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact* (1998). In the late 1990s, with the prospect of a nuclear holocaust receding after the Cold War, the greatest challenge to life as we know it was to come from outer space. Along with evil imperialist aliens, an asteroid — like the one which knocked out the dinosaurs — was the amoral villain in multiple movies. And astronauts, nuclear weapons and even a rough-and-ready oil-drilling team were employed to take out the threat. Now, it turns out, there was a bit of fact in all that fiction.

NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission will take 10 months to fly an unmanned spacecraft — about the size of a golf cart — and crash it into an asteroid the size of a pyramid. The destructive ride serves a purpose: It is a test to see whether the impact can alter the course of the celestial wanderer, even if slightly. If successful, the mission will confirm the ability to protect earth from asteroids that could level the planet, or on a smaller scale, large cities and regions.

Compared to the complexity and drama of doomsday movies, the DART mission is almost too simplistic. Blame Occam's Razor. It turns out that it is very unlikely that world governments can be "surprised" by a large asteroid — they have been watching the skies and tracking them for a while now. And there is no need for nuclear weapons or Bruce Willis to stop a large rock — a glorified, space-faring drone will do. The simplest explanations and solutions are clearly the ones scientists go for. That might not make for a blockbuster hit, but given how much there is to worry about on terra firma, the lack of drama is welcome.

A different classroom

Schools need to change as children return after Covid shutdown. ASER 2021 offers insights for the shift



RUKMINI BANERJI

THE ANNUAL STATUS of Education Report ASER 2021 was released a few days ago. Given the pandemic conditions, it is not the usual face-to-face ASER household survey focussed on reading and arithmetic. This ASER and the one in 2020 have been phone-based surveys exploring underlying trends and learning opportunities during a time of prolonged school closure.

ASER is an assessment of education status in rural areas. ASER 2021 probed the following types of questions: What decisions were taken within families about their children's education? What opportunities were available to households in different parts of the country? What was the relationship between home and school during this period of crisis? Such questions are important at any time but even more critical today. Whether as a family or as a school system or as a country, we are looking at the next steps. Data that is systematically collected from a nationwide sample in a timely fashion is very valuable for planning the path forward.

A major finding from ASER 2021 has to do with a shift in school enrolment patterns. Whether by age or grade or state, across the board, there is a clear and substantial increase in enrolment in government schools. On the one hand, a downturn in private school enrolment can be directly linked to economic troubles in the family. Discontinuities and disruptions make families curtail or postpone expenditures. If schools are closed, why pay fees for children's education? On the other hand, low-cost private schools in rural areas have struggled to stay afloat. At the same time, many state governments have made concerted efforts to reach out to children with learning materials and also rations instead of midday meals. Direct cash transfers from schools to families have also increased in this time. Time will tell whether this is a transitory phase or a more permanent shift. Over time, as the economy recovers and as schools settle into a continuous working cycle, we will know if government schools are actually able to hold on to and increase the proportion of children directly in their charge.

ASER 2021 enables us to get a glimpse into a period of education transition. Will schools return to their old ways? Will new methods of engaging with children and parents emerge? Will appropriate teaching-learning goals and activities be adopted for the rest of the school year?

In this context, how the system helps children return to school will be critical. Unlike densely crowded urban areas where opinions can be divided, rural parents want their children to go back to school and children are eager and willing. This enthusiasm is essential fuel for "building back better". Children in today's Class 1 and Class 2 have never been to school. They have to be helped to get ready for schooling and learning. Today's Class 5 was in school almost two years ago in Class 3. They are now returning to school older, perhaps more worldly-wise. But they will need help to settle in and reconnect. Will government schools demonstrate new ways to welcome children in? Will the interaction between parents and teachers help to build trust and faith? If so, the shift to government schools can be long-lasting.

As the country navigates through this stage of the pandemic, there are academic strategies to be developed and modified to face current teaching-learning challenges. The use of grade-level curriculum may not be useful immediately. Instead, meeting children at the level where they are and using the "teaching at the right level" approach is the need of the hour. Even the National Education Policy 2020 recommends that acquiring strong foundational skills needs to be the top priority. Available research from other countries shows that while school closures can lead to learning losses, what school systems do once schools reopen is even more critical. Making children deal with grade-level curriculum after almost a two-year gap or hurrying them through the syllabus are not appropriate responses. In fact, investing time and effort now in rebuilding and strengthening children's ability to read with understanding, improving their capacity to apply problem-solving skills and enabling them to help each other in the classroom may provide the big boost needed to bring the education system to where it was in pre-Covid times and move further ahead. Will schools respond quickly to children's current needs? Or will they return to the age-grade linear curriculum that even in pre-Covid days had left many children behind?

ASER 2021 asked households about smartphones at home. Data indicate that the availability of smartphones in households has almost doubled since 2018. This is true of families where children are enrolled in government schools and in private schools. From ASER 2020 figures, it was clear that a smartphone had been bought since the lockdown began in one out of 10 households to help children with studies. When asked the same question in ASER 2021, we found that the proportion had increased to 27.9 per cent. In 2018, 27.9 per cent families with children enrolled in government schools had smartphones. This number increased to 56.4 per cent in 2020 and to 63.7 per cent in 2021. For families with children enrolled in government schools, the equivalent figure climbed from 49.9 per cent in 2018 to 74.2 per cent in 2020 and to 79 per cent in 2021. Overall, approximately 67.6 per cent households with school-age children had smartphones in 2021.

ASER also shows that access does not automatically mean use. While there are wide variations across states, a little over one-fourth of all children with at least one smartphone can access the phone easily and another one-fourth is not able to access the phone at all.

The digital divide has been talked about widely. Assuming connectivity will continue to increase and level the playing field, having device libraries at the school or village level may be one solution. Individuals and families can borrow devices on a priority basis. Will government schools lead in this regard?

ASER 2021 enables us to get a glimpse into a period of education transition. Will schools return to their old ways? Will new methods of engaging with children and parents emerge? Will appropriate teaching-learning goals and activities be adopted for the rest of the school year? Ground-level action will indicate which way our education system will go in the near future.

The writer is CEO, Pratham Education Foundation

QUALITY OF DEATH

The need for palliative care has never been greater. But it isn't well understood



HARMALA GUPTA

AN INDIAN doctor in the US wrote to me a few years ago about the treatment meted out to his 81-year-old mother in a private hospital in New Delhi. His mother had been admitted with a stroke and a fracture of the spine. What followed during the three weeks she was hospitalised was sheer torture. She was seen and followed by two internists, a spine surgeon, a general surgeon, a cardiologist, a neurologist, a dermatologist and a gastroenterologist, in addition to an intensive care specialist and an anaesthesiologist. Though the family had requested no life support, their wishes were ignored.

Not much has changed. In India, those with family members who are hospitalised with serious health-related suffering continue to agonise over how they can ensure a dignified end for them. In 1997, when CanSupport began its free-of-charge home-based service for the underserved, hardly anyone in the medical community recognised the term "palliative care". The concept of delivering care at home was also new. In 1990, the WHO had defined palliative care as "the active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment. Control of pain, other symptoms, and psychological, social and spiritual problems is paramount. The goal of palliative care is the achievement of the best possible quality of life for patients and their families."

Palliative care is almost non-existent at the grassroots in India. There is a lack of trained personnel, restricted access to opioids for pain control, and a refusal to accept

Palliative care is almost non-existent at the grassroots in India. There is a lack of trained personnel, restricted access to opioids for pain control, and a refusal to accept that there comes a time when you need to work with the process of dying rather than against it.

that there comes a time when you need to work with the process of dying rather than against it. Moreover, it requires an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals who are sensitive and good listeners as well as excellent communicators and team players.

The need for palliative care has never been greater. Non-communicable diseases like cancer are on the rise. At present, in India, we have 30 lakh (3 million) people with cancer at any given time. Of these, 75-80 per cent come with advanced disease and half of them die within a year, and yet no more than 2 per cent receive palliative care because of the paucity of services. Thanks to the reluctance of people to get timely check-ups during the pandemic, the number of people presenting with advanced cancers in the coming days is likely to swell. They will need palliative support.

Palliative care respects patient autonomy. It requires end-of-life conversations to ascertain the wishes of the person who is dying and those of the family. Training professionals and working in a collaborative manner with those in the field of palliative care is the way forward. Difficult choices often have to be made. This is why people must make a living will and designate a surrogate who will take decisions on their behalf should they be incapacitated.

We must also move from a death-denying society to one that accepts death. I once heard a physician say, "We should rename palliative care and call it symptomatic care so as to make it more acceptable." The intention was to give hope to patients and their

families. To me, it sounds more like avoiding reality. Everyone needs to know what they are up against. However, what is said, how it is said and when it is said is key. The practice of medicine is as much a science as an art.

There is also a need for the treating specialist to continue to be involved. There is a tendency to cut off relations once treatments fail. This is terribly unfair for patients and families who would like to receive the benefit of their advice and expertise.

In the Indian situation, not only should patients be referred to the palliative care team early to ensure a better quality of life, but the continued survival and safety of members of the family left behind is also a concern. Their rehabilitation is consequently also a part of palliative care. It will bring peace to a dying patient, who seeks assurance that his or her family will be safe and able to cope.

CanSupport's programmes have grown in response to users' needs. Besides the home-care service, we have a telephone helpline, day cares and out-patient clinics as well as a rehabilitation and social support unit. We also do research, educate and teach. What began 25 years ago as a voluntary effort by a few well-intentioned people is now an established organisation that runs the largest home-based palliative care programme in the country. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who contributed their talent, time and resources. But most of all to families who put their trust in us.

The writer is founder-president, CanSupport



NOVEMBER 24, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

RUCKUS IN PARLIAMENT

THE WINTER SESSION of Parliament began on a tumultuous note when an angry Opposition staged a walkout in both houses in protest against the "sell-out" to the IMF and pilloried the government for the massacre of people from SC communities at Deoli. Both these issues, as anticipated, provided enough grist to the Opposition mill. While slogan-shouting Opposition members blocked the question hour in the Lok Sabha, their counterparts in the Rajya Sabha staged a walkout. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was conspicuous by her absence in both the houses during this commotion.

CHAVAN IN CONG (I)

AFTER SIX MONTHS of waiting, Y B Chavan has been admitted to the Congress (I). Bhishma Narain Singh, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, wrote to the Speaker Balram Jakhar to allot a seat to Chavan in the Congress (I) bloc in the Lok Sabha. Chavan had resigned from the Congress (S) in May. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision seems to have come as a surprise to many senior party leaders.

IMF LOAN

FINANCE MINISTER R Venkataraman has justified the conditions imposed by the IMF for \$5 billion loan and said these in no way devi-

ated from our "commitment to self-reliance". The adjustment programme enumerated in the loan facility reflected the "strategies, programme and investment priorities of the Sixth Plan," he said.

WORKERS' PROTEST

WORKERS GATHERED OUTSIDE the Boat Club in Delhi to protest against the anti-worker policies of the government. Hundreds of trade union representatives raised clenched fists and painted the skyline red, raising slogans against the "lati goli ki sarkar" and "kala kanoon". Their rally covered Rajpath from Boat Club to India gate.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Maximum Support Policy

Not just MSP, rural India needs reforms that revive health of its soil and water resources, provide people employment and enhance quality of farmers' life



A R VASAVI

IN THE HISTORIC withdrawal of the three farm Acts, in the success of the resilience, commitment and sincerity of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, is our own “David and Goliath” moment. How this initial and significant victory will pan out and what impact it will have, not only on agricultural policies but on how democracy and capital are entangled, will depend on the direction the farmers’ movement takes.

The issue of “minimum support price” (MSP) for key agricultural commodities has been a persistent sticking point in the negotiations between the government and the farmers. The movement’s leaders have demanded the legalisation of MSP, increasing this support price and extending it to all crops while the government has stonewalled such demands. While the issue of MSP relates primarily to cost-effective pricing and is understandably the fulcrum on which agriculture should be assessed as an enterprise, business, or means of livelihood, it may be important to go beyond it.

Much of rural India has largely been neglected economically while also being manipulated for votes. It may, therefore, be time to seek a package of “maximum support policies”. This must emanate from the recognition that mere pricing, marketing and distribution of agricultural products cannot be the panacea for the ailments inflicted on rural India by the larger political economy of the country. Only holistic policies that address the structural inequities, institutional and administrative deficits and political distortions of rural India will provide it a new lease of life.

To begin with, a substantial and phased withdrawal from the Green Revolution model of promoting subsidised agriculture that’s based on the use of industrial chemicals must be initiated. However, the claim that such a shift to “sustainable” agriculture will be via what Prime Minister Narendra Modi (in his speech on November 19) cited as “zero-budget natural farming” is an issue that must be assessed with caution. It will not be apt to have a single model of “natural farming” for India’s diverse agro-climatic cultural zones. Instead, a combination of regionally evolved and established sustainable agro-cultures, that can be tweaked to rid them of their social inequities (such as bonded labour and tenancies) and made amenable to the new climatic trends, is required.

If the PM’s concern for the small and marginal farmers is genuine, then policies to ensure equitable distribution of resources — land as well as water — and access to a range of alternative economic practices and support structures must also be framed. Instead of subsidies (that largely go to non-rural beneficiaries), moratoria on loans and populist pay-outs just before elections, it is imperative that payments be made to promote the spread of “restorative agriculture” — one that regenerates our soil and water resources and promotes seed and agro-biodiversity. A comprehensive programme on these lines will enable not only a transition to sustainable agriculture but also enable people to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.



CR Sasikumar

to alleviate a range of problems caused by structural inequities and disadvantages, we need policies to address caste, ethnic, gender and class inequities.

Since the current political dispensation celebrates and invokes culture and heritage as its legitimising narratives, it would not be out of place for it, and us, to recognise that our myriad and rich agri-cultures were — and can continue to — be the basis of our civilisational identity. Instead of subscribing to alien models of corporatised and industrialised agriculture, whose devastating impacts are manifesting in widespread tragedies across the world, let us reclaim the knowledge heritage — while also eschewing the caste-based social system — of our diverse agri-cultures.

The poet Shiv Sundar has written that tractors have won over the tanks in this year-long stand-off between farmers and the state. Such a victory via non-violent means must enthruse us to intensify our solidarity towards a range of “maximum support policies” for rural and agrarian India. Our first effort should be to petition our respective MPs so that the forthcoming parliamentary session does not see just a recall of the three farm Acts but also paves the way for projects to realise the best for rural India.

Vasavi, a social anthropologist, is with the Punarchith Collective



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

THE DECISION TO recognise November 15 — the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda — as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas will be marked with golden words in the pages of history. The nation is celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the occasion of 75 years of Independence and determining its commitments for the year 2047. This step is the most significant milestone towards recognising the contribution of the tribal fraternity. As part of the week-long celebration, various events and activities have been conducted to highlight the rightful role of the tribal community in the national development journey.

History has been unfair in recognising tribals’ role and potential in every sphere of national development. Across India, these communities challenged the British, whose actions to line their pockets by destroying abundant natural resources were directly affecting the economic and social framework of tribal communities. The fight against the British-imposed system by the Paharia, Chuar, Kol, Bhill, Ho, Munda, Santhal, Khond, Koya, Koli, Ramosi, Kuki, Khasi, Singpho — among other movements — was led by people of indomitable spirit, who encouraged the masses to revolt.

As part of Janjatiya Gaurav week, it is apt to recollect the tribal legacy of the 1913 Mangarh hill massacre. The incident is known as the “Jallianwala Bagh massacre of the Vagad region” and was led by Bhil social reformer and spiritual leader, Govind Guru. When the free-

No longer overlooked

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrates tribal contributions to freedom struggle

dom struggle all over India was taking shape in various forms, the tribal region along the present-day Gujarat-Rajasthan border radiated the same zeal. Over 1,500 Bhils sacrificed their lives fighting against British forces.

Govind Guru started working with the Bhil community during the great famine of 1899-1900, and saw the effects of oppressive British measures. He advocated systematically fighting social problems such as liquor consumption and inter-generational debt. He united the community, spread awareness about their identity, established schools, and addressed the spiritual hunger of the masses. He initiated the Bhagat Sampradaya (sect) in 1908 to socially and morally uplift the Bhil community. These measures didn’t sit well with the imperial regime. The state harassed the followers of Govind Guru. On November 17, 1913, on the hillcock at Mangarh, a congregation was called by Govind Guru. British forces surrounded the gathering from three sides and fired indiscriminately. The sacrifice of the Bhils became a beacon of strength for others, inspiring them to achieve freedom.

There is much to learn from tribal communities. Since time immemorial, their love for nature has inspired the rest of society. Their integrity in protecting and preserving indigenous art, culture, environment and forests is worth appreciating at a time when the world is struggling to build a consensus around climate change. Tribal communities also have a

better sex ratio (990) than the national average (940). There is relatively less dowry in tribal communities. A sense of togetherness ensures that the girl child is welcomed. The government has identified and felicitated the shining stars of the tribal community, including luminaries such as Tulasi Gowda (Karnataka), Rahibai Soma Popere (Maharashtra) and Lakshmiikutty (Kerala); and Dutee Chand, Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Deepika Kumari, Thonakal Gopi and Lalremsiami from the sports fraternity.

The founding fathers of the Constitution laid down special provisions in the Fifth and Sixth schedules for the upliftment of tribal society. The representation of these communities has been ensured at the parliamentary, assembly and panchayat levels. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government set up a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs in October 1999 to expedite the pace of tribal welfare-related work. Since 2014, the Narendra Modi government has started to bring change in the lives of disadvantaged sections and they have become significant stakeholders in mainstream development programmes, adhering to the vision of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas”.

The effective implementation of the Aspirational Districts Programme, provisions for scholarships, increasing the scholarship budget and reducing its release time, and a five-fold increase in the num-

ber of Eklavya Schools are helping the tribal communities. The New Education Policy has emphasised local language as the medium of instruction, which will undoubtedly benefit the tribal youth. The Mangarh Dham will also be developed in line with 10 other museums to commemorate the tribal communities’ contribution to the freedom struggle. The Bodo agreement, Bru-Reang agreement, Karbi-Anglong peace accord and the strengthening of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act are among the measures that are easing the lives of the tribal communities.

In addition, there has been a seven-fold increase in the minor forest produce covered under MSP, a 62-fold jump in the value of procurement of minor forest produce. Over Rs 1,000 crore worth of loans for tribal entrepreneurs have been sanctioned under the Stand Up India scheme.

As the first Janjatiya Gaurav week ends, we as citizens of India, must pay tribute to these unsung heroes. It is our duty to highlight the stories of tribal heroes and heroines from the freedom struggle and introduce them to the new generation. Let’s take this opportunity to pledge to preserve their distinguished art, culture and customs in the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

The writer is Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Agriculture in India does need reform, but not of the kind Mr Modi envisaged — which many farmers reasonably believed would leave them at the mercy of a government in hock to big business.”
—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Panopticon city

Surveillance policing in Hyderabad offers disturbing vision of how facial recognition technology could be used to violate right to privacy



ANUSHKA JAIN, LIKHITA AND MATT MAHMOUDI

IT’S 2020, THE Covid-19 pandemic is peaking, and you desperately need to get to the pharmacy to stock up on essentials. As you walk there, almost every street you pass has cameras installed, watching closely as they attempt to identify your face and track your movements. You cross the street, only to be intercepted by police officers who demand that you remove your face mask. You ask why, but no one responds. Then, without explanation, you’re lined up and an officer captures your face on a tablet.

This might sound like a scene from a film set in a dystopian world. In fact, this is an emerging reality for the people of Hyderabad, which stands on the brink of becoming a total surveillance city. According to police officials, more than six lakh CCTV cameras have already been deployed in the city, with the very real possibility that this number will continue to increase. These all-pervasive cameras will soon be connected in a real-time network managed by Hyderabad’s Command and Control Centre. They can be used in combination with the police’s existing facial recognition cameras — meaning that in Hyderabad today, it is virtually impossible to walk down the street without exposure to this invasive technology.

Numerous disturbing news reports have already emerged from Hyderabad about illegal cordon-and-search operations and random frisking of civilians, as well as reports about the police stopping and taking photographs of people on the road without any reason.

The construction of the Integrated Police Command Control Centre, in Banjara Hills in Hyderabad, at a cost of Rs 800 crore, is another worrying development. This centre will allow the police to access real-time surveillance footage from the network of cameras that monitor the city. Surveillance practices that further entrench and automate discriminatory and problematic policing practices — such as data analytics, social media analysis capabilities and facial recognition — will also be carried out at this centre. It’s a chilling attempt to control citizens’ lives through technology.

Facial recognition technology identifies the distinct features of a person’s face to create a biometric map, which an algorithm then matches to possible individuals. The system searches across databases of millions of images, scraped without knowledge or consent, and often fails.

The use of facial recognition technology is already under severe scrutiny around the world, with some jurisdictions, including Belgium and Luxembourg, having already banned its use. The European Union is in the process of finalising and passing one of the most comprehensive bans on facial recognition technology yet, while in the United States, multiple city- and state-level bans and moratoria have been imposed. More than 200 organisations have called for a global ban on the use of biometric surveillance technologies that enable mass and discriminatory surveillance, while even Facebook announced that it would be shutting down its facial recognition programme.

Yet, many police units in India — including Hyderabad Police — today continue to acquire and deploy this dangerous and invasive technology.

In India, these technological infringements on our human rights are particularly dire. The right to privacy was recognised as a fundamental right, included under the right to life and liberty by the Supreme Court of India in 2017. However, without a law in place to regulate data collection and to act as an oversight mechanism, valid concerns about privacy and other rights violations continue to arise.

The absence of any legal framework to govern data protection, especially in the context of personal biometric data, means that we are blindly turning our public spaces into sites of technological experimentation, where human rights are sidelined for profit and control.

The proposed Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 has been stuck for years in Parliament. Despite this, police forces and intelligence agencies have accelerated their unchecked personal data collection activities.

Under the guise of the protection of women and children, huge amounts of public money are being spent on these technologies with no evidence of their effectiveness, further squandering precious public funds.

Government programmes such as Safe City, Smart City and the Nirbhaya Fund have been utilised to bankroll these projects — yet the human rights violations that occur as a result of their use far outweigh any purported benefit that these technologies claim to provide.

The model of surveillance policing in Hyderabad not only raises significant human rights concerns, but it could also further motivate other state police departments and intelligence agencies to adopt similar measures throughout the country. The Telangana state authorities have a duty to uphold human rights by banning the use of dangerous facial recognition technologies.

Jain is associate counsel at Internet Freedom Foundation; Likhita is a researcher and adviser at Amnesty International; Mahmoudi is an AI and big data researcher at Amnesty International.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA’S COLONIALISM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The secret spread’ (IE, November 23). The Chinese “string of pearls” is expanding, not just around India but also around the globe. The debt-trap diplomacy offered by Beijing under the Belt and Road Initiative is a strategic stranglehold. The military presence of a foreign power is akin to challenging the sovereignty of the host nation. Djibouti, Cambodia and now the UAE have fallen prey to China’s neocolonial tactics. The world nations, QUAD, and AUKUS need to keep vigil on this development and act to check the dragon’s strategic play.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A base away from home’ (IE, November 23). China’s special interest in the western Indian ocean is significant from the fact that it has made deeper economic inroads into Africa through its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. Barring a few countries, almost every African country has received benevolent Chinese investments in the last few years. China’s deepening ties with Iran and its overarching presence in Pakistan entails it to have a base close by the ports of Gwadar and Chabahar in the Gulf of Oman. It has also chosen the port of Khalifa in the UAE that overlooks the Strait of Hormuz, a significant choke point that has witnessed a military escalation in the recent past.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

COUNTING WORKERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Identifying & including’ (IE, November 23). India has a large number of unorganised workers who work in far-flung places. The two waves of the pandemic, which led to nationwide lockdowns, have hurt this section of the population the most. In June, the Supreme Court rightly rebuked the labour ministry for its failure to complete the National Database for Unorganised

Workers. It must be remembered that while migrant labourers contribute immensely to developmental activities, they are mostly deprived of the benefits of various welfare schemes.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Identifying & including’ (IE, November 23). The government initiative to launch the e-Shram portal, after nudges from the Supreme Court, is welcome, as it will help cover unorganised workers in state social security schemes, besides making labour and employment data comprehensive. However, the exclusion of people 60 years and older is a gap, as there is no retirement age in the informal sector and people continue to work well beyond 60. Further, wide publicity is needed as very few people are aware of the portal and the benefits of registration.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

WORKERS IGNORED

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A question of dignity’ (IE, November 23). The Swachh Bharat Mission has led to an increase in the construction of toilets. Since this is not matched by the development of infrastructure for sewerage networks, and faecal sludge treatment plants for safe disposal of waste, the gap has compounded the sanitation problems. The World Bank, ILO, WaterAid, and WHO 1999 publication “Health, Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Workers: An Initial Assessment” stated: “In Mumbai alone, the reported figures collected under the Right to Information Act (2006) showed an average of 25 sanitation worker deaths per month between 2002 and 2005.” It is an irony that despite PM Narendra Modi washing the feet of sanitation workers, the rights to health, safety and dignity still elude this section of our citizens because of their lower caste status.

L R Murmu, Delhi

12 THE WORLD



BIG BEN TO RING IN NEW YEAR WITH FRESH FACE

Big Ben's dials will emerge from a shroud of scaffolding in time for the world famous clock to perform its most important annual role — ringing in the New Year for thousands on the streets of London. The clock tower of Britain's Houses of Parliament has been hidden for three-and-a-half years while hundreds of craftspeople repaired masonry, replaced metalwork and repainted and regilded in the biggest restoration since it was built in 1859.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Tony Chung

HONG KONG

Independence group ex-leader gets 43 months

Hong Kong: The former leader of Hong Kong pro-independence group Studentlocalism was sentenced on Tuesday to a total of 43 months in prison for trying to separate the city from China, and for money laundering. Tony Chung, 20, was charged with secession, under a sweeping national security law, and money laundering in October 2020 and was denied bail. Local media reported at the time that he detained along with two others at a coffee shop close to the U.S. consulate by unidentified men and was believed to be preparing for an asylum application. **REUTERS**

IRAN

UN nuclear watchdog chief for more access

Tehran: The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog met Tuesday with Iranian officials to press for greater access in the Islamic Republic ahead of diplomatic talks restarting over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency yet again faces tightrope-style talks with Iranian officials as his inspectors remain unable to access surveillance footage and face greater challenges in trying to monitor Tehran's rapidly growing uranium stockpile. **AP**

ITALY

Competition watchdog fines Apple, Amazon

Rome: Italy's antitrust watchdog has fined Apple and Amazon a total of more than 200 million euros for cooperating to restrict competition in the sale of Apple and Beats branded products in violation of European Union rules. An investigation found that provisions in a 2018 agreement between the US tech giants limited access to Italy's Amazon marketplace to selected resellers, the Italian Competition Authority said Tuesday. The watchdog slapped Apple with a 134.5 million euro fine and Amazon with a 68.7 million euro penalty. It also ordered them to end the restrictions and give resellers access in a "non-discriminatory manner." **AP**

Germany considers more Covid curbs and compulsory vaccines as cases soar

REUTERS

BERLIN, NOVEMBER 23

HEALTH MINISTER Jens Spahn called on Tuesday for further restrictions as Germany's rate of coronavirus infections hit a record high and more politicians backed compulsory vaccinations.

The seven-day incidence rate jumped to 399.8 per 100,000 people on Tuesday, data from the Robert Koch Institute for infectious diseases showed, the 16th straight day it has hit a record level.

As the number of Covid-19 deaths in Germany nears 100,000, the United States advised on Monday against travel there.

Spahn said more public spaces should be restricted to those who were vaccinated or recently recovered from Covid-19 and also had a negative test.

"We are having to move patients around as intensive care units are full and that doesn't just affect Covid patients," he told Germany's *Deutschlandfunk* radio.

On Monday, Spahn said that by the end of the winter almost everyone in Germany would be "vaccinated, recovered or dead".

Neighbouring Austria has

People wait in line outside a mobile vaccination station in Berlin, Germany, on Tuesday. *dpa via AP*

reimposed a full lockdown due to surging caseloads. Spahn has not ruled out similar steps in Germany, although he said on Tuesday that would be decided region by region.

Many Christmas markets have been cancelled, especially in the hard-hit regions of Bavaria and Saxony. The eastern state of Brandenburg decided that children no longer have to go to school and is starting its Christmas holidays three days early.

The force of the pandemic's fourth wave has prompted more

politicians to back compulsory vaccinations, a divisive topic that is likely to face Germany's new government.

Only 68 per cent of the population are fully vaccinated.

Some 7.3 per cent of citizens have had a booster and while long queues have formed in many places for a third shot, Spahn has tried to allay concerns about supply.

"Compulsory vaccination is not a violation of civil liberties, but the prerequisite for us to regain our freedom," wrote the premiers of the southern states

EXPLAINED

Europe epicentre of Covid cases

EUROPE IS once again the epicenter of the pandemic, accounting for more than half the world's reported Covid-19 deaths this month, according to the WHO.

Germany is pressing for citizens to get booster shots but faces a dwindling supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. About 68 per cent of Germans have been fully vaccinated, and hospitals are mostly filled with those who have not been vaccinated at all.

of Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily.

The ALM association of medical laboratories said capacity for PCR testing was reaching its limits with nationwide utilisation at 86 per cent, up from 75 per cent in the previous week, while the number of positive PCR tests had jumped by 31 per cent.

Imran Khan says rising foreign debt a 'national security' issue

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday that the rising foreign debts coupled with low tax recovery had become a "national security" issue because government did not have enough resources to spend on people's welfare.

"Our biggest problem is that we don't have enough money to run our country due to which we have to borrow loans," Khan said, adding due to lack of resources the government had little to spend on the welfare of the masses.

He said the rising foreign debts and low tax revenue had become an issue of "national security". He lamented that the prevailing culture of not paying taxes was a legacy of the colonial period when people disliked to pay taxes as their money was not spent on them.

Economic Affairs showed that the borrowing was higher by \$580 million, or 18 per cent, as compared to the loans obtained in the same period last year. **PTI**

Lanka begins trial of 25 accused of plotting 2019 Easter bombings

UDITHA JAYASINGHE

COLOMBO, NOVEMBER 23

A SRI Lankan court on Tuesday began the trial of 25 men accused of plotting the Easter Sunday bombings that killed nearly 270 people in 2019, as lawyers warned of a protracted and complicated legal battle ahead.

The suspects were brought under heavy guard in batches from different prisons by police to the Colombo High Court during the morning hours.

Police have filed over 23,000 charges against the suspects, including conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting the attacks, and collecting arms and ammunition. Lawyers representing the suspects said the charges were too numerous in number and the case could take as long as a decade to conclude.

"As things are now it is impossible to identify which specific charges match with which suspect. We are hoping there will be more clarity on this. We

Suspects arrive at the Colombo High Court. *Reuters*

are concerned that this case will drag on and it will be a futile exercise," Attorney Noordeen M. Shaheed, who represents six of the suspects, told *Reuters*.

The group includes Mohammad Naufer, who officials say masterminded the attack and is linked to Islamic State.

Another key suspect is Y M Ibrahim, the father of two of the suicide bombers, Inshaf and Illham Ibrahim, who targeted

two hotels in Colombo.

The string of attacks carried out on April 21 2019, Easter Sunday, targeted three churches and three hotels, killing 267 people, including at least 45 foreign nationals. At least 40 children also died.

The attacks, the worst in Sri Lanka's turbulent history, also injured about 500 people, mostly belonging to the island's minority Catholic community. **REUTERS**

VICE AND VIRTUE MINISTRY SETS OUT 9 RULES

Taliban ban TV shows with female actors

Curbs on media include hijab for women news presenters

REUTERS

KABUL, NOVEMBER 23

THE TALIBAN administration has released a set of restrictions on Afghan media, including banning television dramas that included female actors and ordering women news presenters to wear "Islamic hijab".

Afghanistan's Ministry of Vice and Virtue set out nine rules this week, a Taliban administration spokesman said on Tuesday, largely centred on banning any media that contravened "Islamic or Afghan values".

Some edicts were targeted specifically at women, a move likely to raise concerns among the international community.

"Those dramas...or programmes in which women have acted, should not be aired," the rules said, adding that female journalists on air should wear "Islamic hijab" without defining what that meant.

Though most women in Afghanistan wear headscarves in public, the Taliban's statements that women should wear "Islamic hijab" have often in the past worried women's rights activists who say the term is vague and could be interpreted conservatively.

The rules drew criticism from international rights watchdog Human Rights Watch (HRW),

Members of the Taliban ride a bike on a Kabul street. *File*

which said media freedom was deteriorating in the country.

"The disappearance of any space for dissent and worsening restrictions for women in the media and arts is devastating," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at HRW.

Though Taliban officials have sought to sought to publicly assure women and the international community that women's rights will be protected since they took over Afghanistan on August 15, many advocates and women have remained skeptical.

During the Taliban's previous rule, strict curbs were placed on women's ability to leave the house, unless accompanied by a male relative, or to receive education.

TALIBAN TO PURGE 'BAD CHARACTERS' FROM ITS RANKS

Kabul: The Taliban have formed a commission to purge "people of bad character" from their ranks, the group said on Tuesday. Announcing the same, Taliban deputy chief Sirajuddin Haqqani said its formation was urgently needed.

The commission — called the commission for the purification of the ranks — has been formed under the Ministry of Defence, headed by Mullah Yaqoob. **REUTERS**

China calls on 'certain people' to stop 'politisation' of Peng situation

GABRIEL CROSSLEY

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 23

CHINA'S FOREIGN ministry said on Tuesday that "certain people" should stop the "malicious hyping" and "politicisation" of the issue of tennis star Peng Shuai, as foreign governments and organisations continue to raise questions around her wellbeing.

The whereabouts of Peng, a former doubles world number one, became a matter of international concern for nearly three weeks after she posted a message on social media alleging China's former Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli had sexually assaulted her.

She re-appeared over the weekend in Beijing and held a video call with International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach on Sunday.



Peng Shuai

Amnesty International's China researcher Alkan Akad told *Reuters* the video call did little to ease fears over Peng's wellbeing.

"This is not a diplomatic matter," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, adding that Amnesty held "anti-China" views. "I hope certain people will cease malicious hyping, let alone politicization." **REUTERS**

Qatar used ex-CIA officer to spy on FIFA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 23

A FORMER CIA officer has spied on top soccer officials for years while working for Qatar, the Arab country hosting next year's World Cup tournament, an investigation by *The Associated Press* has found.

Qatar sought an edge in securing hosting rights from rivals like the United States and Australia by hiring former CIA officer turned private contractor Kevin Chalker to spy on other bid teams and key soccer officials who picked the winner in 2010, the AP's investigation found.

Chalker also worked for Qatar in the years that followed

After the announcement that Qatar will host the 2022 Football World Cup. *File*

to keep tabs on Qatar's critics in the soccer world, according to interviews with Chalker's former associates as well as contracts, invoices, emails, and a review of business documents.

The surveillance work included having someone pose as a photojournalist to keep tabs on a rival nation's bid and deploying a Facebook honeypot, in which someone posed online as an attractive woman, to get close to a target, a review of the records show. Operatives working for Chalker and the Persian Gulf sheikdom also sought cell phone call logs of at least one top FIFA official ahead of the 2010 vote, the records show.

"The greatest achievement to date of Project MERCILESS ... have come from successful penetration operations targeting vocal critics inside the FIFA organization," Chalker's company, Global Risk Advisors, said in one

2014 document.

The full scope of Chalker's work for Qatar is unclear but the AP reviewed a variety of projects Global Risk Advisors proposed between 2014 and 2017 show proposals not just directly related to the World Cup.

They included "Pickaxe", which promised to capture "personal information and biometrics" of migrants working in Qatar. Another project, "Viper" promised on-site or remote "mobile device exploitation," which Global Risk Advisors said would deliver "critical intelligence" and enhance national security.

Qatari officials did not respond to requests for comment. FIFA also declined to comment.

AMID US DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT PLANS

Xi's 'good friend' Putin to attend Winter Olympics

K J MVARMA

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 23

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has accepted the invitation from his Chinese counterpart and "good friend" Xi Jinping to attend the Winter Olympics in Beijing, days after US President Joe Biden said he is considering a diplomatic boycott of the event to highlight China's human rights violations.

Putin's visit to Beijing to take part in the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in February next year will make him the first state leader to meet face to face with Xi since the outbreak of Covid in Wuhan in 2019.



Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin

"China and Russia have a fine tradition of celebrating major events together. In 2014 Xi attended the Winter Olympics ceremony in Sochi in Russia," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Tuesday. "Now President Xi Jinping is inviting his good friend President Putin to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics. President Putin has accepted the invitation happily." **PTI**

Lahore becomes world's 3rd most polluted city

Lahore: Lahore on Tuesday became the world's third most polluted city as increasing smog has engulfed Pakistan's cultural capital, an air quality monitoring company said.

Lahore ranked third behind Bangladesh capital Dhaka and Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar on the pollution index, according to Switzerland-based air quality information platform IQAir.

Increasing air pollution and smog have forced authorities to order a partial closure of schools in Lahore, once known as the city of gardens. Authorities said they had closed some factories and some had been fined for not using technology that helps in controlling pollution. **AP**

Chun Doo-hwan, S Korea ex-military dictator, dies at 90

CHOE SANG-HUN

SEOUL, NOVEMBER 23

CHUN DOO-HWAN, South Korea's most vilified former military dictator, who seized power in a coup and ruled his country with an iron fist for most of the 1980s, dispatching paratroopers and armored vehicles to mow down hundreds of pro-democracy protesters, died Tuesday at his home in Seoul. He was 90.

In 1996, eight years after he left office, Chun was sentenced to death on sedition and mutiny charges stemming from his role in the 1979 coup that brought him to power and the massacre of demonstrators in Gwangju the following year. But he was pardoned in 1997 in a gesture of reconciliation.

Chun, who ruled his country

from 1979 until early 1988, was also convicted of collecting hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes from wealthy, politically connected families whose businesses expanded into conglomerates with the help of tax cuts and other government favors.

Unapologetic to the end, Chun was the last to die among South Korea's three military general-turned presidents.

As an army captain, Chun took part in Maj Gen Park Chung-hee's coup in 1961. When Park's 18-year dictatorship abruptly ended with his assassination in 1979, Chun, by then a major general himself, staged his own coup to usurp control. He later hand-picked his friend Roh Tae-woo, also a former general, as successor. Roh, president from 1988 to 1993, died in October.

While Chun was in office,

Chun Doo-hwan (right) during a trial in 1996. *AP file*

South Korea tamed its chronic inflation, and its economy was among the world's fastest growing, expanding an average 10 per cent a year. His government also overcame huge odds against Japan, its historical enemy, to host the 1988 Olympics.

But Chun is mostly remembered as a dictator. "Among

South Koreans, his name is synonymous with a tyrannical military dictator," said Choi Jin, director of the Institute for Presidential Leadership in Seoul.

Chun was serving as head of the military's intelligence command in late 1979 when Park was assassinated by the director of KCIA, his spy agency. Chun and his army friends arrested their boss, army chief of staff Gen. Jeong Seung-hwa, and moved their troops into Seoul to complete his largely bloodless coup.

Chun placed the country under a martial law, closing Parliament and universities and detaining prominent dissidents, including the two main opposition leaders, Kim Young-sam and Kim Dae-jung.

In May 1980, people in Gwangju, rose up in protest, chanting, "Down with Chun

Doo-hwan!" Troops moved in, wielding batons and bayonets and opening fire. The crackdown cost at least 191 lives by official count. Victims' families said the death toll was much higher.

Chun's military junta later sentenced Kim Dae-jung to death on a false charge of instigating the Gwangju uprising at the behest of North Korea.

In a rare interview published in the South Korean monthly magazine *Shindonga* in 2016, Chun denied giving a shoot-to-kill order in Gwangju. He called himself a victim of political "revenge."

North Korea tried to assassinate Chun while he was visiting Myanmar in 1983. Bombs planted by its agents killed 21 people, including several South Korean Cabinet ministers. Chun escaped the attack because his arrival there had been delayed. **NYT**



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

The legacy of Rani Gaidinliu, tribal freedom fighter being honoured with a museum

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, NOVEMBER 23

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Monday virtually laid the foundation stone for the 'Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum' in Manipur's Tamenglong district. "Rani Gaidinliu was the epitome of valour & courage. PM @narendramodi govt is resolved to give our tribal freedom fighters their due respect and rights," Shah tweeted.

Daughter of the Hills

A spiritual and political leader, Rani Gaidinliu, of the Rongmei tribe, was born on January 26, 1915 at Luangkao village, now in Tamenglong district. At 13, she became associated with freedom fighter and religious leader Haipou Jadonang, was also a Rongmei, who led the 'Heraka movement' based on the ancestral Naga religion, and envisioned an independent Naga kingdom (or Naga-Raja).

After Jadonang was executed, Rani Gandiliu took up the leadership of the movement — which turned more and more political. She was imprisoned for life, and released after 14 years, in 1947.

Acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British, former PM Jawaharlal Nehru called her the "Daughter of the Hills" and gave her the title "Rani". She was awarded the Tamrapatra in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1982, Vivekananda Sewa Summan in 1983, and Stree Shakti Puraskar in 1991. Following her death on February 17, 1993 at Luangkao, she was posthumously awarded the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Puraskar in 1996. The Government of India issued a commemorative stamp in her honour in the same year.

The Coast Guard commissioned a Fast



The museum will be set up in Rani Gaidinliu's home village, Luangkao.
Twitter/Amit Shah

Patrol Vessel, ICGS Rani Gaidinliu, in 2016. In 2015, the Centre issued commemorative coins of Rs 100 and a circulation coin of Rs 5 in her honour.

The museum

The project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore. While details are yet to be finalised, official sources said the museum would exhibit artefacts related to tribal freedom fighters and their contributions to the Anglo-Manipuri War, Kuki-Rebellion, and Naga-Raj movement. The proposed museum will be set up at Luangkao village.

Her legacy

Imphal-based historian Professor N Joykumar Singh said Rani Gaidiliu was a rare woman political leader who showed exemplary courage during the colonial period. He said that In 1938, the Nikhil Manipur Maha Sabha, the first political party of Manipur during the British colonial rule, adopted a resolution to free Rani Gaidinliu from prison.

White dwarf with fastest spin: one rotation every 25 seconds

A WHITE dwarf star that completes a full rotation once every 25 seconds is the fastest spinning confirmed white dwarf, according to a team of astronomers. They have shown that it as an extremely rare example of a magnetic propeller system: The white dwarf is pulling gaseous plasma from a nearby companion star and flinging it into space at around 3,000 kilometres per second. It is only the second magnetic propeller white dwarf to have been identified in over 70 years, thanks to a combination of powerful and sensitive instruments.

Put into context, one rotation of the planet Earth takes 24 hours, while the equivalent on J0240+1952 is a mere 25 seconds. That's almost 20% faster than the confirmed white dwarf with the most comparable spin rate, which completes a rotation in just over 29 seconds.

The study was led by the University of Warwick with the University of Sheffield. It has been published in the journal



Artist's impression of LAMOST J024048.51+195226.9, University of Warwick/Mark Garlick

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society: Letters.

A white dwarf is a star that has burnt up all of its fuel and shed its outer layers, now undergoing a process of shrinking and cooling over millions of years. This particular star, named LAMOST J024048.51+195226.9 — or J0240+1952 — is the size of the Earth but is thought to be at least 200,000 times more massive. It is part of a binary star system; its immense gravity is pulling material from its larger companion star in the form of plasma.

Source: University of Warwick

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Why Assam is radio-collaring elephants, and the challenges ahead

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 23

LAST WEEK, a wild elephant was radio-collared for the first time in Assam's Sonitpur district. A joint initiative of the state Forest Department and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India, it is being described as a step to study and mitigate human-elephant conflict. The department plans to collar at least five elephants in high-conflict habitats in the coming months. Experts say the exercise is challenging, and runs the risk of low success.

What it means

Radio collars are GPS-enabled and can relay information about an elephant's whereabouts. They weigh roughly 8 kg and are fitted around the elephant's neck. According to a WWF blog, collaring includes identifying a suitable candidate (generally an adult elephant), darting it with a sedative, and fitting the collar around its neck before it is revived.

Additionally, the team also attaches an accelerometer to the collar to "understand what

exactly an elephant is doing at any given time (running, walking, eating, drinking, etc)".

Why it's done

The objectives are twofold, said M K Yadava, Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam. "Information from the GPS would help us track and study the movement patterns of the herd, across regions and habitats," he said. Added Hiten Baishya of the WWF: "We will know where they are moving, which corridors they frequent, if the habitat is sufficient, if it needs protection, etc." This would help in understanding what is driving the conflict.

The second objective is incidental: The collars would serve as an early warning system to people if elephants are moving in their direction. "And this would help mitigate conflict incidents," said veterinarian and elephant expert Kushal Konwar Sarma, who is involved in the exercise.

The plan in Assam

In March 2020, the Ministry of Environment of Forest & Climate Change gave approval to collaring of five elephants in



A mother elephant and her calf in Kaziranga.
Express Archive

Assam's Sonitpur and Biswanath districts. It set a number of conditions, including "minimum trauma" to the elephants and submission of periodic reports.

Yadava said the department aimed at collaring 11 elephants in the future. "We have 11 elephant herds to be tracked in high human elephant-conflict areas. These include areas in Sonitpur, Golaghat, Nagaon, Goalpara, Udalguri, among others," he said.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

The Joint Committee of Parliament that studied the proposed Personal Data Protection Bill is believed to have adopted a final set of recommendations. The draft Bill is set to be tabled in Parliament's Winter Session.

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

ON MONDAY, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Personal Data Protection Bill of 2019 is said to have adopted the final draft. The Bill is slated to be tabled in the Winter Session.

Why does India need a data protection law?

Amid the proliferation of computers and the Internet, consumers have been generating a lot of data, which has allowed companies to show them personalised advertisements based on their browsing patterns and other online behaviour. Companies began to store a lot of these datasets without taking the consent of the users, and did not take responsibility when the data leaked. To hold such companies accountable, the government in 2019 tabled the Personal Data Protection Bill for the first time.

What is said to be in the final draft?

One of the major changes that the final draft of the PDP Bill is believed to have pushed for is to include non-personal data within its ambit, which changes the nature of the Bill from personal data protection to just data protection.

The final draft is also said to have sought additional compliance for companies that deal exclusively with children's data, by asking them to register with the Data Protection Authority — a regulatory body that will have powers to decide on implementing the law's various provisions.

A third key aspect that the committee is said to have pushed for is to consider all social media companies as publishers, and to hold them accountable for the content on their platform if they are not acting as intermediaries. It is said to have recommended that no social media company be allowed to operate in India unless the parent company handling the technology sets up an office in India.

Other aspects such as setting up of an indigenous architecture, which can be an alternative to the internationally accepted SWIFT payment system, are also said to have been suggested.

A key suggestion said to be made by the JPC, which also received the most dissent from members, is wide-ranging powers for the government such as exempting any agency from application of the law.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

KEY TERMS IN DATA PROTECTION

- DATA PRINCIPAL:** The person to whom the data in consideration belong
- DATA PROCESSOR:** A person, state, company or any other entity which processes data on behalf of someone else
- DATA FIDUCIARY:** A person, state, company or any other judicial entity which control the various aspects related to data storage and defines how it can be processed
- PERSONAL DATA:** Any data set that may contain information that can reveal personal traits of a human

When will it be tabled?

Since the final draft has been adopted by all members of the JPC, it is likely to be tabled during the Winter Session. However, some of the JCP members have dissented to certain aspects, so some changes are possible before the Bill is tabled in Parliament.

How long has it taken to complete the draft?

First proposed by the government in 2018, the Bill has been pending for close to three years now. It has seen several changes to the original draft drawn by retired Supreme Court Justice B N Srikrishna, who has said that the revised Bill was "a blank

being, and can be used to single out the person

NON-PERSONAL DATA: Data sets which do not contain any personal information and instead have information detailing the larger trends such as the income group of a town, the average age, the male-to-female-population ratio, etc

DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY: A regulatory body for the Act which can have adjudicating powers and pass executive instructions in cases of conflict between two parties under the Data Protection Act

cheque to the state".

The Bill, which is said to contain 98 clauses, was referred to the JPC headed by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi in December 2019. Lekhi was replaced as chairperson with another BJP MP, PP Chaudhary, earlier this year. The 30-member panel got extensions in March and September 2020 as well as a final extension in February 2021.

Officials from the Ministries of IT, Law and Home Affairs, the Unique Identification Authority of India, National Investigation Agency, Narcotics Control Bureau and the Reserve Bank of India, among others, have deposited before the panel.

From the private sector, executives from

TELLING NUMBERS

What AAP's 'Rs 1,000 to all women' will cost Punjab

NAVJEEVANGOPAL
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 23

ON MONDAY, launching the Aam Aadmi Party's 'Mission Punjab' for the 2022 Assembly polls, national convener Arvind Kejriwal announced that if voted to power, AAP will transfer Rs 1,000 per month to the account of every woman in Punjab aged 18 or above. Kejriwal's announcement in Moga, freebies promised by other parties, and subsidies and populist schemes from successive governments come in a state that is reeling under debt.

What it will cost

As per the Election Commission of India, there were 96.19 lakh women voters in Punjab during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The voters list for 2022 is not yet out; AAP has estimated that the scheme could benefit 1 crore women. If AAP does form the government and implements the promise, then paying Rs 1,000 crore

per month to an estimated 1 crore women would translate into Rs 12,000 crore per year.

Kejriwal noted that his opponents would ask where the money to fund the programme would come from. He said "there is no dearth of money with any government, all that's required is intention to work for people".

Punjab's debt situation

When the Congress government took over in March 2017, it inherited a debt of Rs 1.82 lakh crore from the SAD-BJP government that had ruled for 10 years. The budget estimates for 2021-22 project the outstanding debt to rise to nearly Rs 2.82 lakh crore. This effectively becomes Rs 2.73 lakh crore after accounting for Rs 8,359 crore received as back-to-back loans in lieu of GST compensation during 2020-21.

In 2019-20, the outstanding had reached Rs 2.29 lakh crore. In the 2020-21 budget estimates, it was projected to reach Rs 2.48 lakh crore, which rose to Rs 2.61 lakh crore in the revised estimates (effective Rs 2.52 lakh crore).

The effective outstanding debt in 2019-20 was 39.90 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Rs 5.74 lakh crore. For 2021-22, it is 45% of the projected GSDP of Rs 6.07 lakh crore.

Punjab's total receipts are estimated at Rs 1.62 lakh crore in the current fiscal, from Rs 1.32 lakh crore in 2019-20. The total expenditure is estimated at Rs 1.68 lakh crore by the end of this fiscal, from Rs 1.34 lakh crore in 2019-20. An amount of Rs 38,000 crore, which includes Rs 20,000 crore as interest payment and Rs 18,000 crore as repayment of debt excluding Ways and Means Advances, is estimated to be spent on total debt servicing in the budget estimates of the current fiscal. The corresponding figure was Rs 30,000 crore in 2019-20.

Subsidies, populist schemes

In the budget estimates for 2021-22, owing to power subsidy given to the farmers, various categories of industries and members of the Dalit community, the government's dues to

the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) was projected to reach Rs 10,621 crore, up from Rs 9,394 crore in 2019-20.

With Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi having announced a slash in power rates for domestic consumers earlier this month by Rs 3 across three slabs with loads up to 7 KW, there is going to be an additional burden of more than Rs 3,300 crore on the exchequer.

Earlier this month, Channi also announced VAT reduction of Rs 10 on petrol and Rs 5 on diesel, which is likely to cost the exchequer nearly Rs 3,300 crore per year, in addition to the annual cost of Rs 850 crore due to reduction of excise duty by the Centre.

Also, some of the "major new initiatives" in "Punjab budget at a glance 2021-22" include free power to farmers at a cost of Rs 7,140 crore, doubling the monthly social security pension from Rs 750 per month to Rs 1,500 per month with effect from July 1 at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore, and the 'Har Ghar Paani, Har Ghar Safai' scheme with an outlay of Rs 2,148 crore.

So, is it worth it?

Yadava said while there were risks and the success rate was low, there has been no better mechanism than collaring to study conflict long-term.

Lahkar said that in Africa, such exercises had worked well. "Of course, the terrain is different here and may prove to be more difficult, but it is worth doing it," he said. If it works well, and if even six out of ten elephants are collared, it would yield "lots of information".

Collaring has been tried in Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu too.

Conflict checklist

From 2010-19, 761 people and 249 elephants were killed in Assam as a direct consequence of human-elephant conflict, the WWF says in a blog. "More than 65% of the habitat north of the river has been lost in the past few decades to agriculture and settlements, and conflict between humans and elephants has been steadily increasing ever since," it said.

Yadava said there were about 6,000 wild elephants in Assam currently.

New Delhi

15 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹46,896



RUPEE

₹74.42



OIL

\$79.16



SILVER

₹62,720

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 22

SENSEX: 58,664.33 ▲ 198.44 (0.34%) NIFTY: 17,503.35 ▲ 86.80 (0.50%) NIKKEI: 29,774.11 ▲ 28.24 HANG SENG: 24,651.58 ▼ 299.76 FTSE: 7,259.06 ▲ 3.60 DAX: 15,993.03 ▼ 122.66

International market data till 1900 IST

NITI RANKINGS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALSSDG urban index:
Shimla, Coimbatore
Chandigarh on topENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE GOALS

■ No poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, good jobs and economic growth are among the goals on which urban areas have been ranked

SHIMLA, COIMBATORE, Chandigarh and Thiruvananthapuram are among the top 10 performing urban areas in the NITI Aayog's first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban India Index, while Dhanbad, Meerut, Faridabad and Patna are among the bottom 10 performers, according to the findings of a report released by the NITI Aayog on Tuesday.

Ranking 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets, the index is focussed on driving SDG localisation in urban areas. Of 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with population of above 1 million, 12 are state capitals with a population of less than a million. No poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, good jobs and economic growth are among the goals on which urban areas have been ranked. "The index and dashboard will further strengthen SDG localisation and institute robust SDG monitoring at the city level. It highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB (urban local body) level data, monitoring, and reporting systems..." as per the statement.

"Cities are fast becoming engines of growth. The SDG Urban Index and dashboard, a product of innovative partnership between the NITI Aayog and GIZ, will go a long way in instituting a robust SDG monitoring system in our cities, and is a milestone step in our SDG localisation journey," NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv

Kumar said.

Top 10 urban areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirappalli, Ahmedabad and Nagpur. The bottom 10 urban areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Dhanbad, Meerut, Itanagar, Guwahati, Patna, Jodhpur, Kohima, Agra, Kolkata and Faridabad.

NITI Aayog has developed the SDG Urban index and a dashboard 2021-22, in collaboration with GIZ and BMZ under the Indo-German Development Cooperation.

While for some indicators, 'urban area' implies urban local bodies, in other cases, it refers to all urban areas within a district collectively. The data on these indicators have been sourced from official data sources of government departments and ministries.

For each SDG, the urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 implies that the urban area has achieved the targets set for 2030; a score of 0 implies that it is the farthest from achieving the targets among the selected urban areas.

CONCERNS OVER INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF ANY MAJOR HIKE

GST GoM meet on Nov 27: Rate tweak plan worries some states

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE GROUP of Ministers (GoM) constituted to review the current rate slab structure under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime will meet on November 27 to discuss various proposals for rate rationalisation and measures to shore up revenues. While an officer-level fitment committee is learnt to have recommended raising of tax rates from 5 per cent to 7 per cent and 18 per cent to 20 per cent, some state finance ministers have flagged potential concerns over the impact of such major rate changes and indications are that all of the recommendations made the officer-level panel are unlikely to be accepted by the GoM.

This also comes in the backdrop of states citing concerns about the inflationary impact of any such major rate hikes, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic. "There will be discussions on November 27, which will be the third meeting of the GoM. Some proposals about inverted duty and other measures have already been discussed. One has to be careful about any such major rate change,

Centre releases ₹95K cr to states

New Delhi: The Centre has released two instalments of tax deviation to the states amounting to Rs 95,082 crore in November, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

After a meeting with all chief ministers and state fi-

nance ministers recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the Centre will double the amount of November tax deviation by including one advance instalment to help states push their capital expenditure. PTI

government official said.

After the previous GST Council meeting in September, two ministerial panels were constituted for spelling out a blueprint for GST reforms. The panels' brief incorporates an overarching mandate: an evaluation of "special rates" within the tax structure, rationalisation measures that include "a merger of tax rate slabs for simplifying the rate structure", alongside a review of instances of inverted duty structure and an identification of potential sources of evasion to shore up revenues.

The Finance Ministry has constituted a seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) under Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai for "rate rationalisation" and another eight-member GoM

'Investment opportunity of ₹45L cr in affordable housing'

The affordable housing segment offers investment opportunities of around ₹45 lakh crore, according to a report by Knight Frank India



35% of urban population in India is living in substandard housing, which translates to a need gap of 35 million houses

3.5 crore quality homes need to be developed in urban cities for those in substandard housing

>57% (4.5 billion) of world's population (7.9 billion) is living in urban areas as of 2021, Knight Frank said citing United Nations data

Source: Knight Frank India/PTI

FIRST GOVERNMENT-APPROVED ELV SCRAPPING & RECYCLING UNIT LAUNCHED BY MARUTI SUZUKI TOYOTSU INDIA

Looking at more scrappage concessions: Gadkari

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

THE GOVERNMENT is considering providing more tax-related concessions for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles under the National Automobile Scrappage Policy, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

He noted that the scrappage policy would reduce pollution, boost automobile sales and contribute to employment generation. Gadkari was speaking at the

launch of Maruti Suzuki Toyota India's (MSTI) first government approved ELV (end-of-life-vehicle) scrapping and recycling unit in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. MSTI is a joint venture between Maruti Suzuki and Toyota Tsusho Group.

When asked if the government was considering offering more incentives to consumers for scrapping their old vehicles, Gadkari said, "We are about to sit with the Finance Ministry to facilitate scrapping, to look at whether we can give more concessions."

He added that a rise in GST collections due to higher automobile



Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari at the Maruti Suzuki Toyota India vehicle scrapping and recycling unit, Noida. Gajendra Yadav

sales would lead to both the Centre and states benefiting from

an increase in GST mopup of Rs 30-40,000 crore. Gadkari said the

scrappage policy would contribute to solving the issue of air pollution as old vehicles pollute much more than newer vehicles.

The Transport Ministry announced the scrappage policy in March, aiming to incentivise scrapping vehicles older than 15 years to reduce pollution and encourage purchase of new vehicles.

Gadkari said that besides lowering pollution, scrapping of older vehicles would also help lower raw materials cost for automobile manufacturers through the recycling of materials from vehicles being scrapped.

BRIEFLY

JPMorgan

London: The Financial Stability Board's latest table of world's 30 most systemic banks named JPMorgan Chase as the most important bank to health of wider financial system. REUTERS

TN investors

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin chaired Investors Conclave in Coimbatore, Friday. He also launched 'Tamil Nadu Fintech Policy 2021' & a single window app for investors. ENS

TN project MoUs

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu government signed 59 MoUs for projects worth Rs 35,208 crore in various sectors, aiming to create over 76,000 job opportunities. PTI

Lira falls 15%

Istanbul: Turkey's lira fell 15% on Tuesday after President Recep Erdogan defended sharp rate cuts. REUTERS

MALA award

New Delhi: Gujarat Maritime Board won the Port Facilitator of the Year award at Maritime and Logistics Award (MALA) 2021. ENS

Latent View lists
at 169% premium

Mumbai: Latent View Analytics on Tuesday started off its first day of trade with a 169 per cent premium at Rs 530 per share.

The stock later eased marginally and closed at Rs 488.60 on the BSE, with a gain of 148 per cent against the issue price of Rs 197 per share. The company's market capitalisation was Rs 9,665 crore

at the closing level.

Meanwhile, One97 Communications (Paytm parent) rose 9.9 per cent to Rs 1,494.95 on the BSE after falling in the last two sessions. Meanwhile, NoBroker.com raised \$210 million from investors, including General Atlantic and Tiger Global, co-founder Akhil Gupta told PTI in an interview. ENS

Global oil jumps 2% as US, India, others tap emergency reserves

REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 23

OIL PRICES rose to a one-week high on Tuesday after a move by the United States, India and other consumer nations to release tens of millions of barrels of oil from reserves to try to cool the market fell short of some expectations.

Brent futures rose \$2.65, or 3.3 per cent, to \$82.35 a barrel by 12:52 p.m. EST (1752 GMT), while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.91 m, or 2.5 per cent, to \$78.66.

The US said on Tuesday it would release millions of barrels of oil from strategic reserves in coordination with China, India, South Korea, Japan and Britain, to



Petroleum reserve in Texas, US. Reuters file

try to cool prices.

OPEC and allies have so far rebuffed repeated requests from Washington to pump more oil. UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei said he saw "no logic" in increasing its own contributions

Money taken away from banks
will all be brought back: FMARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked banks to continue actively pursuing people who have turned their loan accounts into non-performing assets (NPAs).

Addressing an event at Jammu University's General Zorawar Singh Stadium here, she assured all budgetary support needed for development in Jammu and Kashmir, adding, "Any wrong doing which has happened in the bank, any loans which have been taken and not repaid till now, I am sure our system will work in such

a way that the wrong doers and the money which has been taken away will all be brought back."

"Not only they (NPAs) are coming down so that banks need not to do provisioning for bad accounts, but those who took the loans and let (it) become NPA... we have actively pursued them," Sitharaman said.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. NIT/2021-22/15267/76 ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 225/2021-22 Date: 23.11.2021

निविदाओं को केवल केन्द्रिय कार्यालय के अधिकारियों के निर्देशों द्वारा चलाया जाएगा अन्यथा कोर्टों के से निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-ओपेनर के निर्देशों के अनुसार निर्देशों के अनुसार ही चलाया जाएगा

आंतरिक विभाग के द्वारा निर्देशित करने के लिए निर्देश संख्या 22.11.2021 प्रा. 09.00 घंटे से 13.12.2021 प्रा. 06.00 घंटे तक

Internal Electrical and Sub-Station works in Construction of Pharmacy Building at University of Kota, Kota. UBN: RRC/2122WS0800415 अनुमानित प्रारण (₹.)

285.00 Lakh

निविदा एवं समीक्षा कराने के लिए निर्देश संख्या 22.11.2021 प्रा. 09.00 घंटे से 13.12.2021 प्रा. 06.00 घंटे तक

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TRADE POLICY FORUM: FOCUS ON MKT ACCESS

Goyal-Tai meet:
US to 'consider' GSP
benefits restorationKARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

INDIA AND the United States have committed to mutually improving market access for certain agricultural products, and the latter has agreed to look at restoring India's GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) status, according to a joint statement issued by the two countries on Tuesday.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai co-chaired a meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) to discuss key issues in trade between the two nations, marking the first TPF between the two since 2017. "The ministers welcomed the agreement to finalise work on market access facilitation for mangoes and pomegranates, pomegranate arils from India, and cherries and alfalfa hay for animal feed from the US," the joint statement said.

A government official said both nations are set to draw up timelines to resolve 35-40 trade related issues in 3-12 months.

India's mango exports to the US came to a halt due to the Covid-19 pandemic as sanitary check requirements, including the arrival of a US phytosanitary inspector to monitor sanitization processes, could not be completed. India is also set to facilitate the sale of US cherries and alfalfa hay for animal feed through a phytosanitary cer-



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and USTR Katherine Tai at the 12th Trade Policy Forum meeting, via Twitter @PiyushGoyal

tification process. The US has also agreed to work to complete India's request for table grapes exports while New Delhi agreed to work to facilitate the imports of American pork and pork products.

"On GSP, they have agreed to look at restoring GSP," said the official, noting that such a proposal would have to be approved by the Congress. India exported \$6.3 billion of goods to the US under the GSP program in 2018. The joint statement said that India's request for restoration of GSP status "could be considered, as warranted in relation to the eligibility criteria determined by the US Congress."

Goyal recently indicted India's interest in starting negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the US and called for the two to "engage in a much bigger way".

Full report on
www.indianexpress.comAfter Airtel, Vi hikes
prepaid tariffs: How
will it help revenuesAASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

A DAY after Bharti Airtel announced it would hike the tariff of its prepaid plans by up to 25 per cent, Vi also announced a similar move, with an aim to boost its average revenue per user. While Bharti Airtel's plans will be effective from November 26, Vi's plan would be effective from November 25.

Why have the two companies decided to hike tariffs for prepaid consumers?

With the entry of Reliance Jio Infocomm, telecom service providers have been in an intense competition to offer the lowest rates in order to ensure that they retain customers. They have since been undercutting each other by first slashing the calling rates, and then data usage rates as well. Among the telcos, Bharti Airtel has been the most vocal about the need to take average revenue per user (ARPU) level back to Rs 300, as against the Rs 100-150 mark that it is oscillating in currently. In a statement, the telco said that the tariff hike would allow it to mark the start of returning to Rs 200 ARPU. Vi too said the hike would allow it to "start the process of ARPU improvement..."

Why is Vi and Bharti Airtel raising prepaid tariff important for the industry?

Of the three private telecom players, two, namely Vi and Bharti Airtel are burdened with a Supreme Court judgment, which asks them to pay more than Rs 58,250 crore and Rs 43,890 crore as adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, respectively. Though both the companies have opted for the four year moratorium on spectrum and AGR dues, they will have to come up with the funds for the payment once the moratorium ends.

Who will the tariff hikes impact the most?

Since Airtel has decided to hike by up to 25 per cent the tariffs in entry-level segments, analysts said there could be a consolidation in this segment of users of the company. Vi has also announced the changes in entry-level segments, hiking the minimum plan to Rs 99 from Rs 79 right now. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 41/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM. KIIFB-Replacement of pipe lines in Varkala Maithanam-Punnamoodu-Kannamba- Nadayara - Ayiroor-Villikkadavu-Palayamkundu-Asanmukku in connection with road widening. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Tender fee : Rs. 10,000/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 20-12-2021 03:00:pm. Phone : 0471-2322303. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

KWA-JB-GL-6-563-2021-22

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

e-Tender Notice

Tender No: T No.42/2021-22/SE/Q. Providing FHTCs, Extension of pipe line, construction of tube well, supply and erection of pump sets with allied works, supply and installation of bulk water meters with meter chambers etc in Panmana Grama Panchayath. EMD : Rs. 200000. Tender fee : Rs. 10000+1800 (18% GST). It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns). Last Date for submitting Tender : 20-12-2021 02:00:pm. Phone : 04742745293. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Kollam

KWA-JB-GL-6-567-2021-22

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL
TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
SECTOR-26, CHANDIGARH-160 010 www.nitttrchd.ac.in
Phone Nos.: 0172-2753505, 2759525, E-mail: director@nitttrchd.ac.in

e-TENDER NOTICE- 201

Institute invites e-tenders (Two bid system) for purchase of equipment for various departments.

Downloading of e-Tender document(s) Start Date: 26.11.2021 at 1700 Hrs.

End Date: 27.12.2021 at 1100 Hrs.

Date of submission of e-tender Start Date: 26.11.2021 at 1700 Hrs.

End Date: 27.12.2021 at 1300 Hrs.

The e-tenders are to be submitted online at eProcurement System Chandigarh UT Administration, <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>

Details of the items proposed to be purchased are also available on the Institute website www.nitttrchd.ac.in

Director

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, DEEPIKA ARYA D/o SHIV DAYAL ARYA, W/o PRASHANT KUMAR R/o M-84/A, SECOND FLOOR, MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110017, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ARYA DEEPIKA SHIVDAYAL and DEEPIKA SHIVDAYAL ARYA in my educational documents. The actual name of mine is DEEPIKA ARYA, which may be amended accordingly.

0040593047-7

I,Mayank Desai S/o-Nitin Manmohan Desai R/o-Jal Vayu-Vihar Powai,Powai Lit, S.O-Mumbai, Maharashtra-400076, have changed my name to Mayank Nitin Desai, permanently.

0040593116-6

I,Sundera Devi W/o,No.9211140 Lt. Sep Jai Dev Singh R/o VPO, Naya Bass,Rohtak (HR) 124001, have changed my name to Sundra Devi.

0040593116-4

I,Sudhanshu kumar singh,S/o-Late Pancha Singh,R/o-OMQ,34 Air-force-station Arjangarh, new delhi-47,have changed my daughter, name SMRITI SINGH to YASHASHVI SINGH vide-Affidavit dated-10-06-2021

0040593091-8

I,Sonam PhuntsokS/o Tsechu Norbu,R/o-161,Majnu Ka Tila, New Aruna-Nagar,Old-Camp, Delhi-110054,have changed my name,from Sonam Phuntsok to Phuntsok Tpgpyal, for all purposes.

0040593105-6

I,Shrutl Shrivastava,W/o Atul Srivastava R/o-Flat.no.0005, Tower-J, Logix-Blossom Country, Sector-137,Noida-201304,have changed my name to Shruti Srivastava.

0040593105-8

I,Santosh W/o No.14316707 GUNNER, Mohinder Singh R/o, 159/1,I-E-Block,Shyam Vihar,Phase-1, Dindarpur, Delhi-43, have changed my name to Santosh Devi.

0040593116-3

I,Sandeep Bansal,R/o-G-1204, Bestech Park View Spa Next, Sector-67,Badshahpur, Gurgaon-122101(HR),have changed my minor,daughter's name,from Diya Sandeep Bansal,to Diya Bansal,for all purposes.

0040593091-10

I,Roshni Kushwaha W/o Army No.14641246F, Baldev Prasad, R/o VIII,+Post-Artara, Maudaha, District-Hamirpur, UP-210507,inform that in my husband's service records my name is wrongly written as Roshni. But my correct name is Roshni Kushwaha.

0040592909-1

I,Ram kishan thagela,S/o Soni ram thagela,R/o G-835, Shakurpur Anand was North-West,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Ram kishan,for all purposes.

0040593097-1

I,Ram Pal S/o-Jai Kishan Sharma R/o:Village-Brahmna,Tikkar-Rajpattan (32/16),Hamirpur, Himachal Pardesh-177119 Have Changed My Name to Ram Pal Sharma

0070762513-1

I,Rakesh Choudhry S/o Mahesh Kumar Choudhry R/o-2/5 (TF) Ashok-Nagar Tikkar-Nagar New-Delhi have changed my name to Rakesh Chaudhary.

0040593105-4

I,Pushpender Mohan Kaushal, S/o-Ram Kumar Kaushal,R/o-84/2,G-BLOCK,S4, Aggarwal-Residency, 2nd-Avenue, Bandh Road, CHANDANHOLA, ND-74,have changed my name to Pushpendra Mohan Kaushal, for all purposes.

0040593116-7

I,Neha Chopra W/o Rishabh Wadhwa R/O D-185, Sector-27 Noida(U.P) Have Changed my Name from Neha Chopra to Neha Chopra for all future purposes

0040593071-1

I,Rati Tandan W/o-Rajit Tandan R/O A-436,Sector-47 Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301,Have Changed My Name To Rati Chopra For Future.

0040593097-7

I,Namrata Bindal,D/o Bijender Kumar R/o-A-2/243, UGF, Janak Puri New Delhi-58, have changed my name to Namrata Bansal, permanently.

0040593105-9

I,NEELAKSHI MADAN,D/o Ashok madaan,Address,Flat.no.GFB, tower-3,puri anand-villas, sector-81, amarnagar Faridabad, Haryana-121003, Have changed my name to NEELAKSHI MADAN.

0040593091-3

I,Mohd Gufran,S/o Mohd Usman,R/o R-258/3,Gali.No.11, Ramesh-Park, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092,Have change my minor daughter's name,from MAIRA to MAIRA NAZ,for all purpose.

0040593097-3

I,Manisha Choudhry,W/o Rakesh Chaudhary R/o-2/5 (TF) Ashok-Nagar Tikkar-Nagar New Delhi have changed my name to Manisha Chaudhary.

0040593105-5

I,ARSHAD S/O ISLAM KHAN R/O-KHASRA, No.725, FIRNI-ROAD, ALIPUR, DELHI-36,have changed/added my SURNAME, from ARSHAD to ARSHAD KHAN.

0040593091-4

I,Ridima W/O-Nishant Dang R/o,7/118 Prem-Nagar Janakpuri-B, have changed my name to Ridima Kaushik Dang for all purposes.

0040593097-6

I Maithali Sharan Gupta S/o Shri Ram Nivas Gupta R/o-Plot.No.-6, DGF, Kh.No.783, Mahipalpur Extn, Gali.No.60, Left Side Block-K, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi,New Delhi-110037,have changed my name to Maithili Sharan Gupta for all future purposes.

0040592886-1

I, NAND KISHOR SHARMA S/O DAYA KRISHAN, R/o-F-54 TYPE-3, ROAD,NO-2 ANDREWSGANJ SOUTH/DELHI, DELHI-110049, changed my name to NAND KISHORE.

0040592905-5

I,Madhu Bala,W/o Jeewan Lal,R/o A- 802,Shram Deep- Apartment, Plot.No.B-9/1B, Sector-62,Noida, Dist.G.B. Nagar,U.P.-201301,have changed my name to Madhu Bala Pipil W/o Shri Jeewan Lal Pipil,for all purposes.

0040593097-11

I,MOHAMMAD SHARIF S/O HAFIZ,MOHAMMAD, UMAR, R/O H-62 MURADI-ROAD BATLA HOUSE OKHLA DELHI-25,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHARIF AHMAD.

0040593097-9

I,Kumari Asha Devi,W/o Samundar Singh R/o-H.No.206, Gali.no.20, Mangolpur Kalan, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Asha Singh,for all future purpose.

0040593105-10

I,Kishan Singh,S/o Haiyat Singh,R/o-A-122,Street.No.3, Prem-Vihar,Shiv-Vihar Karawal-Nagar,Delhi-110094, have changed my Name,from Kishanlal to Kishan Singh,for All Legal,Purpose in future. Kishan Singh and Kishanlal both,are same person.

0040593112-11

I,Jiby George Eapen S/O T.K. Eapen,R/O Flat.No.106, E.I.L. Appt., Plot.No.13, Pocket-6, Nasirpur, Dwarka, Delhi-110045, Have Changed my Name to Jiby George.

0040593091-7

I,Jeewan Lal,S/o Shri Jalma Ram,R/o Flat.No.A-802, Shram-Deep Apartment, Plot.No.B-9/1B,Sector-62,Noida,Dist. G.B.Nagar,J.P.-201301,have changed my name to Jeewan Lal Pipil S/o Shri Jalma Ram Pipil, for all purposes.

0040593097-10

I,Jatinder Singh Arora,S/O Mohinder Singh,R/O G-213 Sarita-Vihar,New Delhi-110076, have changed my name to Jatinder Singh,for all purposes.

0040593097-5

I,Gita Devi Khandelwal,w/o-Suresh Chand Khandelwal,r/o-B/6,Radhey puri,Krishna nagar, delhi-110051,declare that Gita Devi Khandelwal, and Seema Devi Khandelwal, are one, and the same,person.

0040593091-9

I,Geeta Rani W/o-Raj Kumar R/o G-9-10,Shakur pur,Delhi-110034,inform that Geeta and Geeta Rani are the names of same and one person.

0040593105-7

I,Chaube Priyanka Kamlesh legally wedded spouse of, Shailesh Ramapati Mishra, R/o,G-48, BK Dutt-Colony, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-03,have changed my name,from Chaube Priyanka Kamlesh to Priyanka Mishra,vide-Affidavit dated.23-Nov-2021.

0040593112-10

I,Anjana Kumari Pathania w/o-Ajay Singh Pathania R/o-21/23, second-floor, Near Aggarwal-Bhawan shakti-nagar, MalkaGanj, North-Delhi Delhi-110007,Have changed my name to Anjana Singh.

0040593097-2

I, Yashraj Ashok Rege S/o Shri Ashok Rajaram Rege R/o H.No. 712-A, Plot No.9-30, Mahagan Manor, Sector-50, Noida. U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Yashhraj Regge for all purposes.

0050187612-1

I, Varun S/o Surender Sharma R/o Plot No.-220, Second Floor, Saraswati Lane, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name to Varun Sharma for all future purposes.

0070762490-1

I, Surender Sharma R/o Plot No.-220, Second Floor, Saraswati Lane, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my minor daughter's name from Vishakha to Vishakha Sharma for all future purposes

0070762492-1

I, Shruti D/o Sh.Bam Bhadur R/o-WZ-104A, Gali.No-7, Krishna Puri New-Delhi-110018, have changed my name from Goycha to Shruti, for all future purpose

0040593024-1

I, Setu Gupta S/O Rajesh Gupta, R/o A-21 1 Floor, Hauz Khas, S.O, South West Delhi- 110016, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Seytu Gupta

0070762499-1

I, Ravindra S/O Rajendra Singh R/O, C-27, Rana Park Siraspur Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Ravindra Kumar.

0040593116-1

I, Rajeev Bhola S/o,Subhash Bhola,R/o-1, Flat-No.1168, DDA-Flats,A-1, Paschim-Vihar, N.Delhi-110063,have changed my minor daughter's name Sana Bhola to Sana.D.O.B.-06.02.2008.

0040593105-3

I,SUBHASH CHAND S/O TELU RAM GARG R/O C-43,MUP ENCLAVE,PITAMPURA,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUBHASH GARG.

0040593091-2

I,PURSHOTAM GOYAL/PURSHOTAM GOEL S/O SAT NARAIN GOYAL R/O 47,SHAKTI-VIHAR, PITAMPURA,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PURSHOTAM GOYAL.

0040593091-1

I, Mohammad Nafees Ali S/o Ummad Ali, R/o Village Tanda P.S. Chhaprauli, Tehsil Baraut, Distt. Baghpat, UP. have changed my name from Mohammad Nafis Ali to Mohammad Nafees Ali for all future purposes.

0040593030-1

I, Kameshwar Singh Nirwan S/O Davendra Pal Nirwan,R/o H.No.- 1742 Romano Mahagan Moderne, Sector- 78, Noida- Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301, I have changed the name of my minor Son Tanush Singh Nirwan aged about 13 and He shall hereafter be known as Tanush Nirwan

0070762498-1

I Sreelakshmi is legally wedded spouse of No.14584735L. Havildhar,Kesavanakutty S Wexco Oliveyard E1puthenangady Kottayam have changed my name from Sreelakshmi to Sreelakshmi K date of birth 30/01/1972 to 27/04/1970 vide affidavit dated 16/11/2021 Kottayam

0050187660-1

I, Kiran Vishwakarma D/O Late Shitla Din Vishwakarma, R/o Krishna Nagar, Railway Side, PO: Murai Ka Bagh, VTC: Dalmau, District: Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh- 229207, Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Km Kiran Vishwakarma and Shitala Din Viswakarma in my 12th Class Certificate No- 3003656, that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Km Kiran Vishwakarma and Shitala Din Viswakarma in my 12th Class Certificate No- M03438

M/45/006/00247, that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Km. Kiran Vishwakarma and S.D. Vishwakarma in my University Documents, that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kiran Devi in my Father Service record No- 461100199-6271, 0877 The actual name of Mine and My Father are Kiran Vishwakarma and Shitla Din Vishwakarma, which may be amended accordingly.

0070762502-1

I, Vidhi Pathak D/o Ravindra Kumar Pathak R/o 676, Vivekanand Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201001 declare that in my documents my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Ravindra Pathak instead of Ravindra Kumar Pathak my father's correct name is RAVINDRA KUMAR PATHAK for all future purposes.

0070762511-1

I,Amit Kumar S/o-Shri.Kishan Dev Sah R/O-B-3/203,Arawali Apartment,Sector-34, Noida, U.P.,have changed my,name from Amit Kumar Sah to Amit Kumar, for all,future purpose.

0040593097-4

I,Amrit kumar Aggarwal S/O-Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal R/O-229A,Gali No.9,Bholanath Nagar,Shahdara Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name To Amrit Aggarwal.

0040593097-8

I, KANWALJEET SINGH KUKREJA S/O,S.S. KUKREJA, R/o 605, Villa Rica, Hiranandani Estate, Near The Walk, Thane, Maharashtra-400607 have changed my minor son's name from JASRAJ SINGH KUKREJA to KABIR SINGH KUKREJA.

0040593084-1

I, Jatinder Singh S/o,Late Jagdish Singh Kalsi R/o-175, Tilak-Nagar, Mukherjee Park, N.Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Jatinder Singh Kalsi.

0040593105-2

I, Jai Bhagwan Sharma S/o Nanak Chand Sharma R/o D-105, Kashiram Shahri Awash Colony, Sector-45, Noida, G.B.Nagar,UP-201301,have changed my minor son's name from Vansh to Vansh Bhardwaj,for all purposes.

0040593040-1

I, DIVYA KISHORE W/O TUSHAR AGARWAL R/O A-359, SECTOR-31, NOIDA, U.P. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AFTER MARRIAGE TO DIVYA AGARWAL FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0070762489-1

I, Bhupendra S/o Lok Prakash R/O Z-175, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Bhupendra Gusaín, for all purposes.

0040592976-1

I, Amit Kumar S/o Subhash Chandra R/O A-228, Block-A, Transita-Camp, Govindpuri, South-Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Amit Agarwal,for all purposes.

0040593105-1

I, AWDHESH CHAUHAN, S/O,LAL BACHCHAN CHAUHAN, ADD-81-A KALLU MOHALLA GARHI EAST-OF-KAILASH, SOUTH/DELHI 110065.Changed my name to AVADHESH CHAUHAN. Permanently.

0040593091-5

I, AMIT ARORA, ADD.C-9-9320, VASANT KUNJ, New Delhi-110070,changed my Minor daughter name KYRA SAHNI to KYRA ARORA.

0040593116-8

I have Changed my name From Kavita Tomar to Km Kavita Tomar W/o Munendra Singh Tomar R/o 508, Takrarpur Ladpur, Bulandshahr, U.P.-254502

0070762509-1

ISONALI SAINI W/O CHARANJEET SINGH R/O 1325/8, GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI NEW DELHI-110019 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SONALI ARORA TO SONALI SAINI FOR FUTURE PURPOSE.

0040593010-1

I,Yash Desai S/o-Nitin Manmohan Desai R/o-Jal Vayu-Vihar Powai,Powai Lit.S.O-Mumbai, Maharashtra-400076,have changed my name to Yash Nitin Desai, permanently.

0040593116-5

I Ruby Madaan S/o Shri.Parkash Lal Madaan R/o-737, Second-Floor,Rishi-Nagar,Rani-Bagh,Delhi-110034,inform that in my son Passport my name mention Rubi Madaan instead of Ruby Madaan.Rubi Madaan and Ruby Madaan both are one and same person.

0040593116-2

I Rajesh Chawla alias Rajesh Malik S/o Late Sh. Lal Chand R/O C-1/4, Phase-1, Budh Vihar, Sultanpur C Block, North West Delhi,Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Rajesh Malik for all purposes.

0040593047-5

I Jasvinder Sandhu D/o Nachhatter Singh Sandhu R/O House No-279, Third Floor, Indira Vihar, Near Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Jini Sandhu

0070762507-1

I Ajay Kumar S/O Sh. Chandler Prakash R/O RZF-1/1, 1st Floor,Gali No.3,Mahavir Enclave, Near Lotus Apartment, New Delhi-110045 have changed the name of my minor son from Harsh Kumar to Harsh Kumar Naveen for all purposes.

0040593047-6

I,VJENDRA KUMAR,S/O... HARNARAYAN SHARMA H.NO.E-5,GALI.NO.5,DAYALPUR EXTN DAYALPUR NORTH EAST DELHI-110094,changed my name to VIJENDER KUMAR SHARMA, permanently.

0040593091-6

LOST & FOUND

I,have lost my original-property papers of my property A-13,Sham-Nagar,New Delhi-110018,registered on.15.01.1955 and 16.02.1960.FIR vide-LR.No. 915091/2021.If found return to Surinder Singh,S/o Rangoo Singh,R/o WZ-III-B/70,Vishnu Garden,New Delhi-110018 Mob:9315648802.

0040593105-11

HDFC FDR NO.CP/1258220 in the name of Daljit Kaur (deceased) has been misplaced/lost Nominee Satinder Kaur. If found inform HDFC Limited 2nd floor Regal building New Delhi-110001.

0040593105-12

Dilipj Kumar S/o late S. K. Sharma, have lost 48 Society Share Certificates & Property paper of Flat.56 Vidya Apartment Indor Enclave Delhi-87 Finder Cont-9560348798

0040593026-1

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

I, Kamla Gupta, Residing At B-405 Unesco Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, New Delhi – 110092, shareholder of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) hereby give notice that the Original Share Certificate No. 4158 bearing distinctive nos. 4144396 to 4145395 for 1000 equity shares of F.V. Rs. 2 under folio no. 00206605 issued to me by HDFC, has been lost by me and I am giving an application to HDFC for issuance of duplicate share certificate in lieu thereof.

Any person, who is in possession of said share certificate and/or has any objection to the issue of the duplicate share certificate as aforesaid, is requested to contact HDFC Limited, Investor Services Department, Ramon House, 5th Floor, H.T. Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020, within SEVEN (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which HDFC will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate in accordance with the Companies (Issuance of Share Certificate) Rules, 1960.

Place: New Delhi

Date: 22.11.2021

Kamla Gupta

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

We, SHALINI GUPTA (now SHALINI AGGARWAL) and ALKA GUPTA (now ALKA GOEL), residing at B-405 Unesco Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, New Delhi – 110092 and Near Rawal Pindi Jeweler, 2299, Ghanta Ghar, Subzi Mandi, North Delhi, Delhi – 110007, shareholder of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) hereby give notice that the Original Share Certificate No. 1384 bearing distinctive nos. 895601 to 896600 for 1000 equity shares of F.V. Rs. 2 under folio no. 00060828 issued to us by HDFC, has been lost by us and we are giving an application to HDFC for issuance of duplicate share certificate in lieu thereof.

Place: New Delhi

Date: 22.11.2021

Kamla Gupta

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

We, SHALINI GUPTA (now SHALINI AGGARWAL) and ALKA GUPTA (now ALKA GOEL), residing at B-405 Unesco Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, New Delhi – 110092 and Near Rawal Pindi Jeweler, 2299, Ghanta Ghar, Subzi Mandi, North Delhi, Delhi – 110007, shareholder of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) hereby give notice that the Original Share Certificate No. 1384 bearing distinctive nos. 895601 to 896600 for 1000 equity shares of F.V. Rs. 2 under folio no. 00060828 issued to us by HDFC, has been lost by us and we are giving an application to HDFC for issuance of duplicate share certificate in lieu thereof.

Any person, who is in possession of said share certificate and/or has any objection to the issue of the duplicate share certificate as aforesaid, is requested to contact HDFC Limited, Investor Services Department, Ramon House, 5th Floor, H.T. Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020, within SEVEN (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which HDFC will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate, in accordance with the Companies (Issuance of Share Certificate) Rules, 1960.

Sd/-

Place: New Delhi

Date: 22.11.2021

Shalini Aggarwal and Alka Goel

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (TESTAMENTARY INTESTATE JURISDICTION) Citation UTS 283, Indian Succession Act, 1925 In the matter of TEST CASE No. 91/2021

RAMAN GUPTA.....PETITIONER STATE & ORS.....RESPONDENTS

In the matter of estate of Late Mr. Vinod Kumar Geol alias Vinod Geol late Jashti Ram Geol, R/o D-28, Sector-47, Noida.

Whereas Mr. Raman Gupta S/o Sh. Satya Pal, A-151, Sector-40, Near, Khaitan Public School, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 has filed a petition under Sector 276 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for the grant of Probate of Will/Estate of Sh. Vinod Kiumr Geol alias Vinod Geol, Deceased.

And whereas the aforesaid case is fixed for hearing on 20.01.2022 at 11:00 A.M. before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) of this Hon'ble Court. This citation is issued, in terms of Section 283 of the said Act to all persons claiming to have any interest in the properties of the said deceased to come to this Court, file objections, if any and take part in the proceedings on the date specified above for the grant of Probate.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, in terms of the order dated 22.10.2021.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar for REGISTRAR GENERAL

JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Hit into the unknown

Lack of action means teams enter the Junior WC with clean slate, but India have advantage of familiarity

MIHIR VASAVIDA
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 23

AFTER A near two-year pandemic-forced hiatus, the ever-changing world of hockey returns to its only constant: Bhubaneswar. This time, however, with an unmistakable difference.

The cavernous Kalinga Stadium, which is normally buzzing on match eves, is stripped off its usual fanfare. There's no queue outside the stadium for tickets, no vendors selling flags, and no face-painters setting up makeshift shops. There's just a smattering of guards ensuring only those required enter this sprawling facility.

Blame the pandemic for the Junior World Cup turning into a watered-down, low-key affair. The 16-nation tournament will begin on Wednesday behind closed doors and in a tight bio-secure environment. All this has taken some sheen away but hasn't made the World Cup any less relevant.

Shane McLeod, world hockey's most successful coach in the last five years, puts it in perspective. "It's a really good way to know what countries are going to do well in the next eight years," the New Zealander, who was the coach of the Belgian team that won the Rio Olympics silver, 2018 World Cup and Tokyo gold, told *The Indian Express*. "It's no coincidence that the teams that played in the final of the last Junior World Cup finished one and three in the Olympic Games."

McLeod was referring to India and Belgium, who were the champions and runners-up respectively of the 2016 Junior World Cup. Seven Indian and five Belgian players, including reserves, from that World Cup final played a critical role for their teams in the Tokyo Olympics.

So, in that context, the Junior World Cup assumes a lot of significance – the next two weeks will provide some insight into whether the supply chain of players will carry on as India look to continue their revival and hope to build on the Tokyo bronze. But it won't be so straightforward.

The defending champions and hosts begin their campaign against France, a team that has been punching above its weight in the last few years. That, though, isn't the only reason why the match could be a potential banana skin.

Like many other teams, India enter the tournament blindfolded.

First match after 776 days

On Wednesday, the match against France will be India under-21's first com-



The defending champions and hosts begin their campaign against France, a team that has been punching above its weight in the last few years. Hockey India

INDIA'S SCHEDULE (POOL B)

| | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|--------|
| November 24 | vs | France | 8pm |
| November 25 | vs | Canada | 7.30pm |
| November 27 | vs | Poland | 7.30pm |

KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Quarterfinals | December 1 |
| Semifinals | December 3 |
| Finals | December 5 |

Group stage matches live on: <https://watch.hockey/>

KNOCKOUT MATCHES LIVE ON STAR SPORTS NETWORK

petitive fixture after 776 days. In the last few days, they played the Netherlands, the USA and Germany to warm up for the Junior World Cup. Those were, however, nowhere close to replicating real-match scenarios. The pandemic ravaged the hockey calendar but it had an even more devastating impact

silver at the 2018 Youth Olympics although that was played in a five-a-side format.

Most of their time, however, has been spent within the confines of the Sports Authority of India's Southern Centre in Bangalore, where the players were kept in the bio bubble through the pandemic.

Cut off from the rest of the hockey world, India's junior team spent time at the training camp learning English, getting motivation lessons and psychology sessions. The only time they got to play matches were either intra-squad, or against the senior India team. "They actually beat us in one of the games we played," India captain Manpreet Singh said.

Seniors' influence

The influence of the senior team on the under-21 players has been immense.

The junior team's playing style is very similar to the senior side's, given that both sets of players have been training together under the same philosophy. The juniors were coached by BJ Kariappa before Reid was given a temporary charge immediately after the Olympics. Coaches, though, aren't the only ones grooming the players.

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, one of the heroes of India's bronze medal match against Germany in Tokyo, has been involved closely with Prashant Chauhan and Pawan, the two custodians of the junior team.

Drag-flicker Sanjay, who is the vice-captain, has been getting advice from senior team stalwarts Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinderpal Singh. "They spent a day or two every week with us, teaching us how to beat the first runner, how to take the first few steps while taking a flick and how to release the ball..." Sanjay said.

Prasad, the only player in the junior team who was also a part of the Olympics side, has been looking up to Manpreet for inspiration. Prasad plays as a centre-half, the same position as Manpreet, but it's the leadership skills that impress the 21-year-old.

He's been closely observing Manpreet, who captained India at the 2013 Junior World Cup before becoming one of the star players of the senior side. "I have seen how Manpreet handles the team, carries everyone together. I wish to replicate that in a tournament as important as this one," Prasad said.

Prasad is seen by many as future captaincy material. And the Junior World Cup will give a peek into his abilities as a leader. Just like it will provide a glimpse into the stars of the future. To them, the empty stadium and the lack of buzz won't matter much.

Hard hitter, tall forward and a poacher: the make-up of junior team

Key players of India's 18-member team for Junior WC



Prasad, the creative outlet

VIVEK SAGAR Prasad made his senior team debut at an age when most others fight for a place in the juniors squad. In 2018, aged 17, he became the second-youngest player to represent India. Now, he will cap-

tain the junior team. The crafty centre-half is the team's creative outlet. He is constantly on the move, creating space and making himself available to receive passes. He'll be the key man for India in this tournament.

Hardest hitter, a drag-flicker

India have three or four options from penalty corners but **Sanjay**, the team's vice-captain, is among the best drag-flickers in this team. He is considered one of the hardest hitters of the ball in the country, including the senior players. His flicks are power-packed and he's routinely able to find the corners, making it difficult to stop. Shardanand Tiwari is another good option for India on set-pieces.

The maestro in midfield

India are spoilt for options in midfield but 19-year-old **Vishnu Kant Singh** will be one to watch out for. He is known for his exceptional stick skills, has fast hands and has impressed coaches with his decision-making skills. The midfielder from Uttar Pradesh has been with the team for three years and can also play as a centre-half.

Hundal, the tall forward

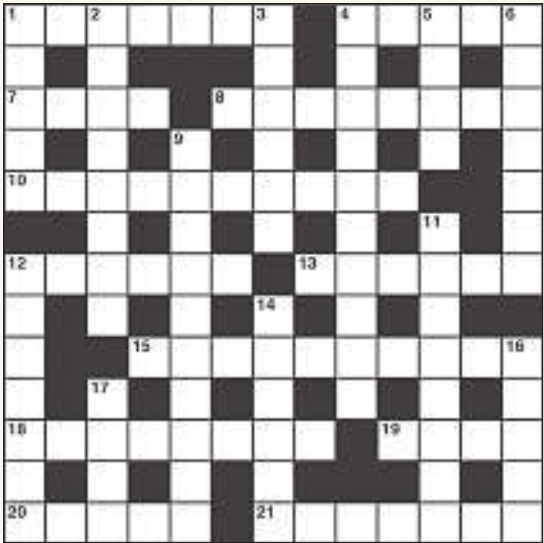
At roughly 6-foot-3-inches, **Arajieet Singh Hundal** is the tallest player in the forward line, and one of the tallest strikers to play for India. He has a powerful shot both on his forehand and backhand, and his height gives him a big advantage in terms of reach. India hasn't had a tall forward and Hundal can potentially be that player for the team.

The poacher

Partnering Hundal, the towering forward, is one of the tiniest players on the field, **Sudeep Chirmako**. The striker from Sundergarh proved his worth during the Youth Olympics, displaying outstanding goal-scoring skills and a very good hockey brain, with the knack of getting into the right positions at the right time.

MIHIR VASAVIDA

CROSSWORD 4594



ACROSS

- 1 A noted story; not true but kindly (7)
- 4 Some singers grow up out west (5)
- 7 Make sound of a large vessel (4)
- 8 Went and made good (8)
- 10 Very poor description of how one fell unconscious (4,3,3)
- 12 Striker appears satisfied about everything (6)
- 13 Rush with indecent haste? (6)
- 15 Prime conifers doomed (5,2,3)
- 18 Used by a boxer without a ring? (8)
- 19 They go the rounds in it however square (4)
- 20 Make newer somehow (5)
- 21 Children often assume them in play (7)

DOWN

- 1 In front by a small margin (5)
- 2 I'm off food and water (8)
- 3 Makes it correct for me to be in tails (6)
- 4 Marking a successful examination result (10)
- 5 They take one over water or round a point (4)
- 6 A hanger-on in the security business (7)
- 9 A violinist may do this before and after playing (4,3,3)
- 11 Adjourn - with scores level? (3,5)
- 12 Wander, heading Middle East not west (7)
- 14 Good man in a new role looking after horses (6)
- 16 Falls behind having gathered nothing in for capital (5)
- 17 The last word in article about me (4)

Solutions Crossword 4593: Across: 1 Congressman, 9 Nudists, 10 Horse, 11 Earn, 12 Untoward, 14 Trip up, 16 Demean, 18 Infantry, 19 Swap, 22 Elder, 23 Outdoor, 24 Slip of a girl. Down: 2 Order, 3 Gust, 4 Easing, 5 Schooner, 6 Acreage, 7 Entertainer, 8 Leading part, 13 Runner-up, 15 Infidel, 17 Cry off, 20 Wooser, 21 Stag.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

All nature is but _____ to thee. - Alexander Pope (3,7)

CKAOR



EGGTNU



HINNT



DEESKW

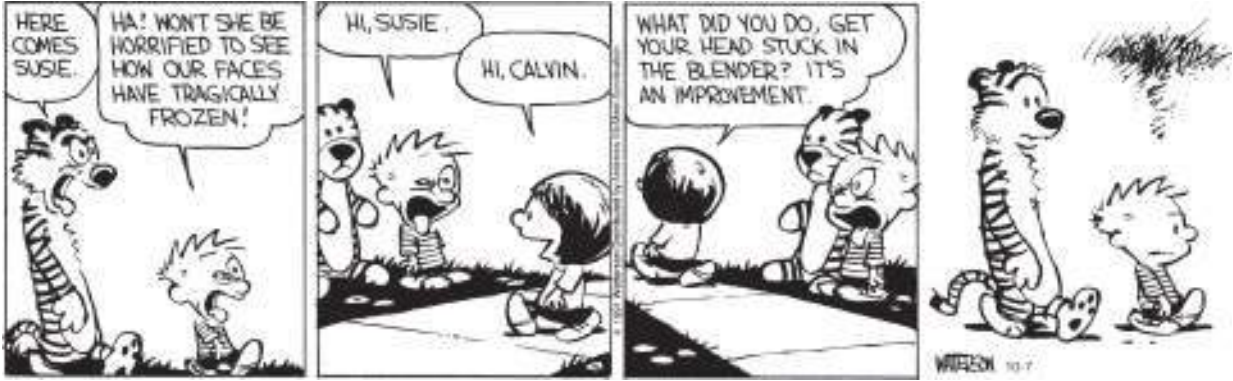


SOLUTION: CKAOR: NIKCHET, SKEWED
Answer: All nature is but art unknown

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



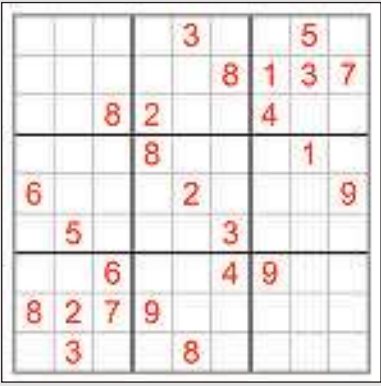
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4664

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 4663



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The moment has come to lead other people a merry dance by taking off and making fame and fortune your ultimate goal. Just to follow another tack for a change, your creative powers are as strong as ever, and you may look to your own individual skills and talents.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It doesn't matter whether your current problems are intensely personal, or strictly public and professional. All that matters is that you adopt an open-hearted approach and welcome other people into your confidence. You'll be unhappy with any actions which require deception, however small.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Fortunately consultation with others comes naturally to you, but if I may make a gentle observation, you are not always that good at listening to other people's responses. Today you must take all advice to heart, even if it feels as if you've heard it all before.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's said that you can't jump in the same river twice. This ancient riddle is an astrological truth which makes enormous sense at the moment: the same conditions will never return, so you must plan for the future, not live in the past. In other words, life is not a rehearsal.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It may be in your best interests to wait a while longer before taking too much on trust or finalising personal arrangements. Also, you should now accord partners more respect than has sometimes been the case. It's the least that they deserve, but it will also reflect well on you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It is not like you to do things on the spur of the moment, but you are now entering a period of maximum impatience in your relationships and at work. Be sure that if you disturb a professional partnership, the results are as desired. Remember the old saying: act in haste, repent at leisure.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

If you have raised your sights to the higher questions, those involving ethics and morality, even schemes which recently appeared to be fraught with obstacles could become a great deal easier. You should take some of the credit, but so should someone who has given you good, if uncomfortable, advice.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Mercury, planet of deep thought, is now intriguingly aligned with your sign. You must now therefore develop original ideas. More than that, you may benefit from the absolute determination to reject anything that no longer suits your mood.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You're a complex person, but then you don't need me to tell you that. If you wish, you may continue the rules and habits of a lifetime and maintain a sense of imaginative chaos at home. If anyone tries to make you follow their ideas, just smile sweetly and ignore them.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Strong financial indications continue but with a distinctly problematic set of circumstances. Either you'll make an enormous profit or you'll be ripped off, there is no middle way. However, play your cards with great care and you'll undoubtedly pick up a nice bargain.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If you have your wits about you at present, you can soon finally agree a deal or transaction which has been uppermost in your mind for a very long time. You may, though, have to fill in the details at a later date. Next week should do it, so make your plans immediately.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You must now be prepared to take snap decisions, much as this may go against the grain. If you're in need of expert advice or assistance you may wait until tomorrow. Also, happy to say, hard effort is likely to bring the desired monetary remuneration.

18 SPORT

BRIEFLY

Chennaiyin beat Hyderabad 1-0

Bambolim: Chennaiyin FC pulled off a hard fought 1-0 win over Hyderabad FC in their opening match of the Indian Super League here. Vlagyimir Koman (66th minute) scored from the spot to give Chennaiyin a crucial lead, eventually sealing all three points as Hyderabad were left to rue their wastefulness in front of goal, especially in the first half. Hyderabad, whose average age of the Indian players in the lineup was just 24, was dealt a major blow early on with Halicharan Narzary limping off in under 10 minutes. That did not deter their resolve to stamp their impression as former ATK Mohun Bagan man Edu Garcia's shot was cleared away in a hurry but Bartholomew Ogbeche could not follow through. **PTI**

Sen, Kashyap lose in Round 1

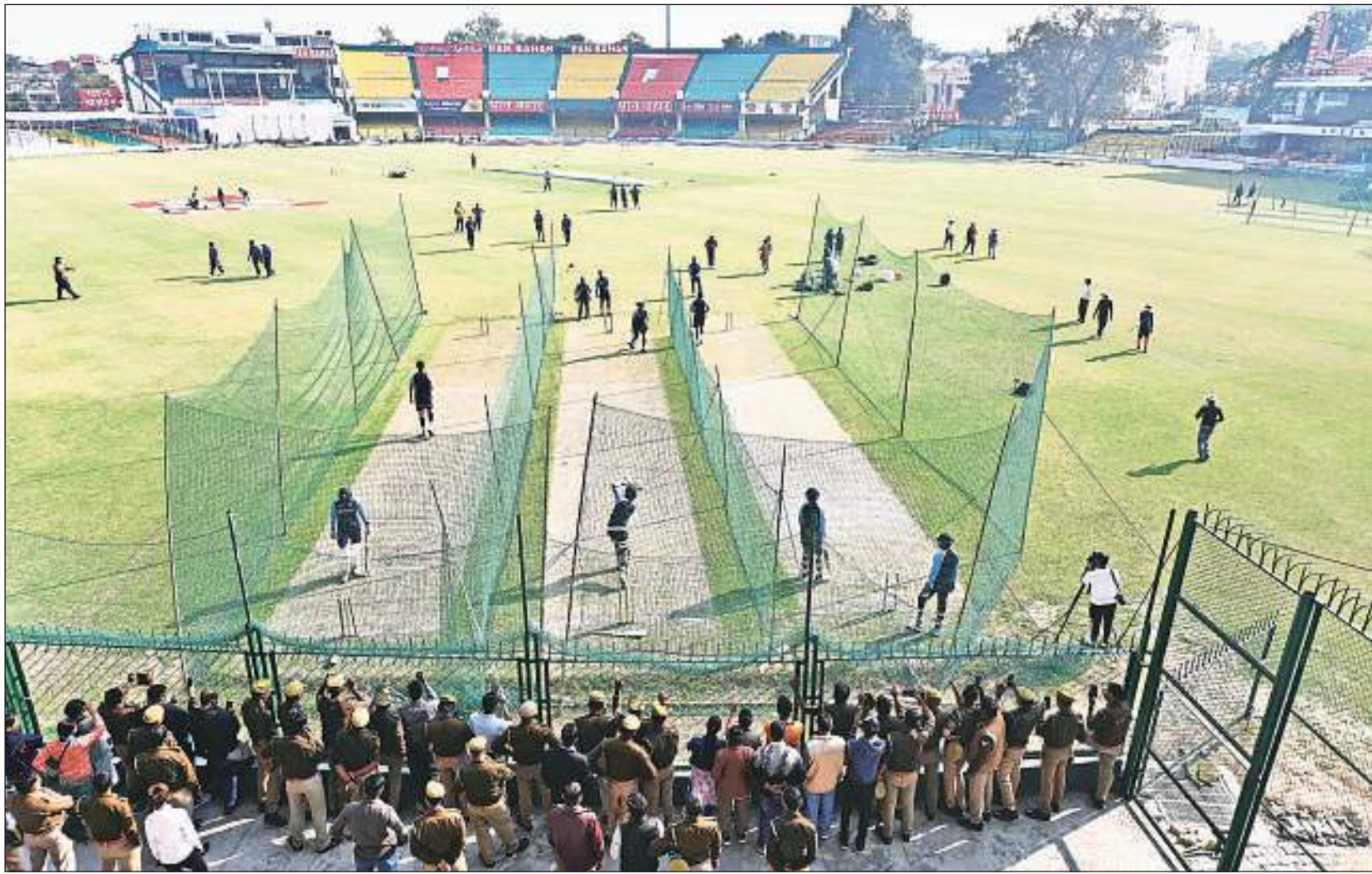
Ba'i: India's Lakshya Sen fought hard before going down in straight games to top seed Kento Momota of Japan in the opening round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event here on Tuesday. The 21-year-old from Almora, who had lost in straight games to Momota in the round of 16 last week, lost 21-23 15-21 to the two-time world champion from Japan in 53 minutes. In another men's singles match, Parupalli Kashyap went down 11-21 14-21 to Loh Kean Yew of Singapore to bow out of the competition. **PTI**

West Indies avoid follow-on

Colombo: The West Indies were 224-9, trailing Sri Lanka by 162 runs, when the third day of the first test was cut short by persistent drizzle on Tuesday. Only 38 overs were played, and the better part of two sessions lost. The West Indies resumed on 113-6 in reply to Sri Lanka's 386 and rallied in the morning through overnight batsmen Kyle Mayers and Jason Holder, who added 50 to their partnership. They combined for 63 before Mayers was caught on 45 by Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne off spinner Dhanajaya de Silva. **AP**
BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 1st innings 386 vs West Indies 224/9 (K Brathwaite 41, K Mayers 45; P Jayawickrama 3/38, R Mendis 3/75)

Messi, Ronaldo Salah make shortlist

Zurich: Paris St Germain forward Lionel Messi, Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Mohamed Salah are among the 11 players shortlisted for The Best FIFA Men's Player award, the world governing body said. They are joined by last year's winner Robert Lewandowski of Bayern Munich, Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne and Chelsea duo N'Golo Kante and Jorginho. Women's Super League players dominate the women's award with Arsenal's Vivianne Miedema, City duo Lucy Bronze and Ellen White and Chelsea quartet Sam Kerr, Magdalena Eriksson, Pernille Harder and Ji So-yun all in contention. The winners will be announced on January 17. **REUTERS**



I hid beside the wall and listened to him. He was talking to himself, 'I am not a boundary hitter, I am a poor batsman who runs a lot of singles. Please run singles for me.' It went on for a few minutes before he cleared his mind and joined the others outside."

SUNIL CHATURVEDI,
FORMER CRICKETER AND MATCH
REFEREE ON A GAVASKAR DISMISSAL

From the outside, it doesn't seem that the people are mad about cricket, but the moment a match starts, the stadium is filled. People literally jump from everywhere to watch."

CHATURVEDI,
ON CRICKET CULTURE IN KANPUR

A landscape view of the Green Park Stadium during a training session of the Indian Test team on Tuesday. **PTI**

INDIA VERSUS NEW ZEALAND TEST SERIES

Green Park: A bridge between eras

Unlike modern behemoths, the venue of the first Test match is frozen somewhere between the past and present

SANDIP G
KANPUR, NOVEMBER 23

A STROLL around the Green Park Stadium is an assault on your senses. It hits the ears first. The incessant squeal of tyres, the screech of rubber horns, songs belting from loudspeakers in e-rickshaws. Then it strikes the eyes, the riot of colours — the crisp white shades of elaborately-decorated hawels, the crumbling plaster of houses revealing brown bricks, the near-dilapidated red-bricked mills long shut, the brown rust of shutters. The stench from the garbage disposal unit across the road, the odour of paan melting with the fragrance from the flower stalls.

The vicinity is frozen somewhere between the past and present. Like the stadium itself, neither too old-world nor too modern-day. The paradox is as pronounced inside the stadium. One half is roofed, stands decked with plastic seats, the other is uncovered and without seats, and when the breeze hits, you could watch the poplar trees swaying, as though in anger.

Some fear modernity would destroy the soul of the stadium, like it did to Chhapuk when the large pillars were demolished, and its proud heritage would be lost forever. The Green Park looks the age, but it makes no pretensions of bluish youth. But it still likes basking in the glorious tales of its youth.

Some others feel the soul needs a different body and often strike a comparison with the crumbled Lal Imli building and the Elgin Mills, from where derives the name of the Mills End. It's the paradox of Green Park, in a sense it's the paradox of the city too.

The rest of the state has been busy wiping out colonial and Mughal-era names, but not Kanpur. At least, a lot of old names are intact.



Like the Carmac Street, or the Harcourt Butler Technical University, built after one of the town's British Governors, Spencer Harcourt Butler. Even the Green Park stadium owes its name to Madam Green, who used to practice horse riding at the venue. A few metres away from the stadium is the Bob Woolmer Park, after the English cricketer who was born here. There is a ward in the hospital he was born named after him too.

It's this paradox that makes Green Park unique too. And the stories and storytellers. It might not be the grandest of venues, or the most post-modern one around, or even the most relevant one, but it's chaotic charm is unmatched. What the locals call the "rooh."

The old dressing room was a small two-room construction demarcated by a half-wall, where the sports hostel students spent their non-cricketing, non-cinema hours playing table tennis. Dragging the creaky

table to a room in the basement was their first chore before a big game, before they would tidy the room and make it look gleaming fresh. Match-days were a hazy blur of star-struck days. "No selfies, no cameras, but the memories we have are as clear and beautiful as the highest resolution pictures," says former cricketer and match referee Sunil Chaturvedi.

Tales of Sunny and Imran

It's just like yesterday that he remembers a hot Kanpur afternoon and an irate Sunil Gavaskar. He and friend Shashikant Khandekar, also a local legend, were the 13th and 14th men, watching the game from an awning beside the boundary, when Gavaskar was run out after a mix-up with Gundappa Viswanath for a 180-ball 52.

"Gavaskar tapped the ball to mid-on and took off, but Vishy took a couple of steps and



Workers put up queue stands; people line up to buy tickets for the first Test in Kanpur. **Sandip G**

then ran back. Ian Botham rifled in a throw and he was caught short of the ground. He was furious from the moment Vishy turned him down," recalls Chaturvedi.

Young Chaturvedi stealthily followed him to the dressing room, where he sat in a corner brooding and slipped into a soliloquy. "I hid beside the wall and listened to him. He was talking to himself, 'I am not a boundary hitter, I am a poor batsman who runs a lot of singles. Please run singles for me.' It went on for a few minutes before he cleared his mind and joined the others outside," he says.

A few years later, with the burning ambition to open with Gavaskar, he boarded the train to Mumbai, and they ended up as colleagues in the same company, apart from batting together in a few Duleep Trophy matches. He later settled in Mumbai, but every time there is a match at the Green Park stadium, his memory rummages through a

pile of recollections. One such had the whole of those assembled in a trance. "There was nothing like the sight of Imran Khan preparing for the nets. He first runs 13-14 rounds around the stadium, then does his warm-ups and slowly, gracefully, puts his gear, one by one," he says.

Not only Chaturvedi, who was a cricketer and is cricket tragic, but even the common man, unstained by pretensions and nuanced perceptions of the game, could rattle out stories. Some of them are young enough to not have watched Malcolm Marshall's scorching spell, or Mohammed Azharuddin's Test hundred, or further back Jasu Patel's nine-wicket haul in India's first-ever victory over Australia, but describe as though they have seen it, stories passed on by their fathers and grandfathers, often with a hyperbolic spin.

It's how cricket stories perpetuate in Kanpur, not as photographs or literature, but as memories passed on through generations. Lend your ears, and you could spend the whole day listening to their memories, sipping chai and nibbling *kaju masoor namkeen* and *vaho pakodi*. It's something that continues to surprise Chaturvedi.

"From the outside, it doesn't seem that the people are mad about cricket, but the moment a match starts, the stadium is filled. People literally jump from everywhere to watch," he says.

So much so that the outer walls kept getting higher. Besides, there is a heavily guarded perimeter road to ensure that no one sneaks in, though stories are rife of many giving the policemen a slip. "In Kanpur, everything is possible," says Chaturvedi, chuckling.

It's a city that can be at the same time pragmatic and romantic. Like the Green Park itself.

New Zealand may field three spinners: Stead

Kanpur: New Zealand coach Gary Stead has hinted that if the conditions demand, the visiting side may field three specialist spinners against India in the first Test, starting here on Thursday. Stead also feels that their two-Test series against India won't feature the kind of tracks that England got in at Ahmedabad during their series against Virat Kohli's men.

"You have to look and realise how teams come here often and don't win. That's the enormity of obvious challenge," Stead said during a media conference outlining what playing Test matches in India mean.

"The traditional way of playing four seamers and one part-time spinner can't be the way to go over here. You may see three spinners playing in this game and that will be decided once we have a look at the surface," Stead said while making it clear that Mumbai-born left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel looks like a sure-shot starter. Stead said while basic tenets of Test cricket is the same, the approach has to change.

"From our perspective, we have to change the way we play but also sticking to some of the key principles of Test cricket."

Asked if he would speak to the grounds-men considering what happened during the last home Tests that India played against England, the coach replied: "I don't think I really get to have a say in that." **PTI**

PRACTICE NOTES

Coach Dravid starts to get a feel of the spotlight again

SANDIP G
KANPUR, NOVEMBER 23

AS THE morning nip gave way to midday sun, the stadium slipped into a siesta. The tired policemen stumbled onto their chairs, the groundsman sprawled onto the grass beside the fence, and scattered officials broke for lunch. Outside the stadium, the ceaseless procession of traffic faded out. Then, as if woken by a sudden alarm, they scrambled onto their feet, gave up what they were doing, and rushed to the nearest vantage point.

That was just the time Rahul Dravid walked out onto the ground for India's practice session, and everybody wanted to have an eyeful of Dravid. Flicking out their smartphone, they photographed him in a mad tizzy. Some craned their neck and body to manufacture an ambitious selfie, all the while chorusing "Dravid, Dravid..." so loud that their echoes filled the stadium.

In his return to the national team in the coach avatar, the adulation of him seems to have only magnified. For the next half an hour or so, they seldom took their eyes off him. An urgency marking his brisk strides, he sprinted to the practice turf, pressed the surface with his shoes, and proceeded to the batting end and shadow-batted a forward defensive, as though he could read the mind



India coach Rahul Dravid had a bowl during practice in Kanpur. **PTI**

of the assembled audience.

He repeated the same routine in each of the three nets, before rushing to the centre square, where the pitch to be used for the game was neatly wrapped in green tarpau-

lin. Carefully, the groundsman unwrapped the pitch. Dravid crouched for a closer glance or two and then quickly returned to the batting nets, where again he was greeted vociferously by the rapturous gathering. Even the grisly middle-aged policemen with twirly moustaches had turned fan-boys.

Some time later, their fervent wish seemed answered. Dravid picked up the bat and put on a pair of gloves. Only that he was not going to bat in the conventional sense, but give the slips-men catching practice. Even then he struggled to locate the edge, some internalised habits never die, and the intended edges flew more like late-cuts, too fast for some of them.

He found a solution to produce more genuine edges. He asked the thrower to bowl wider and he moved a yard away from his original perch. The intention being playing as much as away from the body. Again, he would be drawn to play the ball as close to the body as possible. Old habits, as they say, die hard. Or in his case not die at all.

Slips session over, he relocated his perch to the business end, the main nets, closer to the fanboys, whose smartphone cameras again flickered in a mad tizzy. He stood like a rock—well, a wall—monkishly observing the players, his hands on hips and occasionally walking up to them for, seemingly, an input or perhaps a casual observation.

With Rahul injured, opportunity knocks for Suryakumar, Iyer

Kanpur: Nets sessions are often, though not always, precursors to a team's strategies. It could throw a hint on who is likely to play and who is not. The first ones to bat are often the likeliest to be in the first eleven as well. The first three to bat for India were Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara and Mayank Agarwal, the likeliest top three, as regulars KL Rahul is injured (muscle strain) and Rohit Sharma has opted to rest for the series.

Gill, who missed the England series due to a stress injury on his leg, first faced a left-arm seamer, to get himself accustomed to the angles for Neil Wagner, though the bowler was of much inferior quality to the Kiwi enforcer. Gill, though, was restrained, inclined to leave as many balls as possible and resisting the urge to play on the rise, as it could be a tricky stroke to play on the ground with a history of invariable bounce. Soon, Ishant Sharma replaced him and struck a lovely rhythm and tested his discretion outside the

off-stump with a barrage of balls in the corridor, some that jaggged into him and some others that held the line.

In a separate enclosure of nets were Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer, Mumbai teammates.

At least one of them would likely make their debut the day after. It was hard to tell who. Iyer was mostly facing spinners, without a cap, his flowing mane girdled by a hair bow.

Yadav was batting with a bat that resembled a large plank of wood with wafer-thin edges. A little later, Yadav joined Ajinkya Rahane and Wriddhiman Saha at the main nets, while Iyer unstrapped his pads, did a bit of catching practice and began bowling his leg-breaks.

Yadav batted deep into the evening, suggesting that he, who was not in the original squad, has a heads-up over Iyer, who was in the original squad for the series. Then again, net sessions are not definitive indicators of a playing eleven. **ENS**



One of either Suryakumar or Shreyas Iyer is likely to be given a middle order slot.