



Uttar Pradesh soars high on India's Aviation Map World's Fourth Largest International Airport in Jewar, Noida



Historic step in line with Prime Minister's vision to create a future-ready aviation sector

For the first time, construction of an airport in India is being conceptualised with integrated multi-modal cargo hub, reduction in total cost and time for logistics

Local products and produce will become more competitive in international markets

The airport will serve crores of people in cities including Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra and Faridabad

Capacity to serve around 1.25 crore passengers a year

The only state in India to have five international airports

Uttar Pradesh to emerge as 'logistics gateway of northern India' on global logistics map

Foundation Stone Laying

of

Noida International Airport

by

Narendra Modi Prime Minister

In august presence of

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
Minister, Civil Aviation
Govt. of India

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
Minister, Civil Aviation, Political Pension,
Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj,
Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mahesh Sharma
MP
Gautam Buddha Nagar

Surendra Singh Nagar
MP
Rajya Sabha

Dhirendra Singh
MLA
Jewar

Date : 25 November, 2021**Time : 12:00 PM**

**Venue : Noida International
Airport Site, Jewar,
Gautam Buddha Nagar**

Watch the
live telecast at
DD News
<https://pmevents.ncog.gov.in>
DD National/Uttar Pradesh

UPGovtOfficial
CMOUttarpradesh
CMOfficeUP

Investment of more than ₹ 5730 crores, construction on 3300 acres of land in the first phase

Creation of more than 1 lakh employment opportunities for youth

Film City, Medical Device Park, Apparel Park and Construction of Aligarh Node of Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor will boost investment prospects and provide special benefits to western Uttar Pradesh

Plan to construct aerocity along with airport

Boost to hospitality and tourism sector

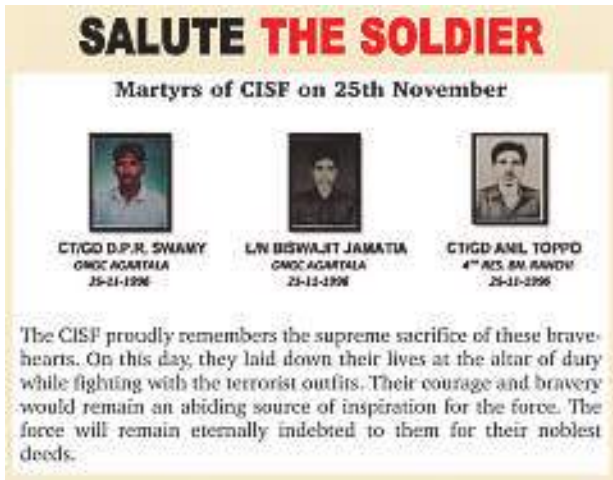
Operations with net-zero emission

Digital technology-based operations

Development of airport along with surface transport centre for seamless connectivity integrated with road, rail and metro

Target to complete the project by 2024

Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar



DELHI JAL BOARD
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR-III
Kanhaiya Nagar Delhi-110035
Phone : 011-27394876 Email: eecd3@gmail.com
“STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene”

PRESS NIT NO-08 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Consultancy services for the work of construction of DSTP in Bajipur Thakran Village including providing and laying sewer lines in Pooth Khurd & Bajipur GOC (Part) at Bawana AC.	Lump Sum	4,00,400/-	1500/-	23.11.2021/ 2021_DJB_211455_1	24.12.2021 upto 03.00 PM
2.	Consultancy services for construction of DSTP at Salahpur Majra Village including providing and laying sewer lines in Pooth Khurd & Salahpur GOC (Part) at Bawana AC.	Lump Sum	3,46,250/-	1000/-	23.11.2021/ 2021_DJB_211455_1	24.12.2021 upto 03.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 648/2021-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer(C) DR-III

**Office of Superintending Engineer,
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad**
E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No./Nivida-Moradabad/21-22 Date:

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors from 03-12-2021 at 10:00 am to 15-12-2021 at 05:00 p.m. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 16-12-2021 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders' who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Sl. No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (with Bitumen) Rs.in Lacs	Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Amroha	Special Repair on Kaneta to Tarara via Sumather Road	61.00	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
2	Amroha	Special Repair on Bahadpur ro Bhoobra Road	36.50	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
3	Amroha	Special Repair on Talawra to Bijhalpur Subra via Bhoobra Road	38.00	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
4	Amroha	Special Repair on Lalapur to Niryalvi Bhoor Road	46.00	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
5	Amroha	Special Repair on NH-24 to Sultanther Road	40.00	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A, B & C" Road category
6	Amroha	Hasanpur Rehra Gawon Road Chandanpur Abadi in Km 19, CC work, drain work and Patri work.	130.00	0.00	3 Months	2354.00	"A & B" Road category

3. As per Go No 480 /हेतु-7-2021 दिनांक 12.04.2021 एवं प्रमुख अभियन्ता, लोकोपनिधि, लखनऊ के पत्रांक 3851/एफटी0/सामान्य रंग/60एफटी0/2020 दिनांक 23-04-2021 L-1 Contractor shall be upload an undertaking regarding to deposit earnest money as per earlier after opening of financial bid in case undertaking not uploaded with the bid documents then tender will not be consider.

4. Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

(K.V.Singh)
Executive Engineer
Construction Division, P.W.D
Amroha

(Gyan Gupta)
Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D.
Moradabad
Ph. -0591-2414619

UPID NO-170087

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
मध्य गंगा नहर निर्माण खण्ड-12, अलीगढ़
ई-प्रोक्चोरमेन्ट निविदा सूचना संख्या:-06/अ0अ0/2021-22

महा महिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन/टैनीकल बिड, एवं फाइनल बिड (http://www.idup.gov.in) के माध्यम से सिवाई निगम में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 03.12.2021 की शाम 05.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। यह निविदा दिनांक 29.11.2021 को 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 03.12.2021 के शाम 05.00 बजे तक उपरोक्त वेब साइट पर अपलोड की जा सकती है, प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन बिड/टैनीकल बिड दिनांक 04.12.2021 की पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे विधिवत समिति द्वारा इस कार्यालय में ऑन लाइन खोली जायेगी। कार्यालय बन्द होने या अवकाश होने की स्थिति में यह बिड अगले कार्यालय दिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी। प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन बिड में कालीफाई घोषित ठेकेदारों की फाइनल बिड दिनांक 08.12.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। कार्यालय बन्द होने या अवकाश होने की स्थिति में यह बिड अगले कार्य-दिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी।

उपरोक्त शासन के आदेशों के अनुक्रम में धरोहर धनराशि एवं अन्य शुल्क आनलाइन जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा निविदा स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अधोराक्षस/नामित टेंडर समिति को होगा।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लक्षों में)	बतौर राशि (लक्षों में)	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (लक्षों में)	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 0.500 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.6.5	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
2	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 0.892 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.7.2	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
3	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 1.332 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.1.7.5	0.24	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
4	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 1.880 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.9.6	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
5	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 2.270 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.8.3	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
6	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 2.432 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.8.2	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
7	शिला समल में तलवार माइनर के फिटिंग 0.000 पर हेड रंगुलेटर का निर्माण कार्य	1.6.8.1	0.34	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
8	शिला समल में दुगावर माइनर के फिटिंग 0.000 पर हेड रंगुलेटर का निर्माण कार्य	1.6.7.2	0.34	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
9	शिला समल में बारीपुर माइनर के फिटिंग 0.000 पर हेड रंगुलेटर का निर्माण कार्य	1.6.7.5	0.34	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
10	शिला समल में कृष्णा माइनर के फिटिंग 0.000 पर हेड रंगुलेटर का निर्माण कार्य	1.6.7.8	0.34	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
11	शिला समल में नारायण माइनर के फिटिंग 0.000 पर हेड रंगुलेटर का निर्माण कार्य	1.6.8.0	0.34	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
12	शिला समल में दुगावर माइनर के फिटिंग 2.880 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.7.2	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
13	शिला समल में दुगावर माइनर के फिटिंग 3.150 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.5.2	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
14	शिला समल में दुगावर माइनर के फिटिंग 3.380 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.1.6.5	0.24	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
15	शिला समल में तलवार माइनर के फिटिंग 1.980 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.3.7.0	0.28	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
16	शिला समल में तलवार माइनर के फिटिंग 2.210 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.4.6	0.25	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
17	शिला समल में तलवार माइनर के फिटिंग 2.500 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.5.5	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
18	शिला समल में तलवार माइनर के फिटिंग 2.712 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.7.4	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
19	शिला समल में धर्मपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 12.300 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.2.6.0	0.26	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
20	शिला समल में धर्मपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 15.950 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	31.2.0	0.63	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
21	शिला समल में धर्मपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 18.450 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.1.4.0	0.23	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
22	जनापुर समल में बिनयाखंड राजवाहा के फिटिंग 0.000 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.1.6.8	0.24	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
23	जनापुर समल में मोहनपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 2.040 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	2.2.3.2	0.45	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
24	जनापुर अमरौला में डीनपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 1.142 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	2.7.0.4	0.55	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
25	जनापुर मुनगावर में नरौली माइनर के फिटिंग 1.024 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	1.1.8.9	0.24	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
26	जनापुर समल में डीनपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 1.627 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	2.7.2.2	0.55	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर
27	जनापुर समल में डीनपुर राजवाहा के फिटिंग 4.045 पर शीआरबी का निर्माण कार्य	3.0.7.8	0.62	3 माह	300+18%GST किमानमूल्य + 20.000 रु.अंशमती मांस	"सी" एवं उच्चतर

यह निविदा/बिड व शर्तें आदि सूचना उपरोक्त सरकार की वेब साइट (www.idup.gov.in) एवं टेंडर बुक में अपलोड रहेगी। वेब साइट से ड्राईंग उपलब्ध न होने की स्थिति में इस कार्यालय में देख सकते तथा निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ भी संलग्न रहेगी ताकि शासन की मंशा के अनुसार मितव्ययिता बनी रहे।

(मनोज राय)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
मध्य गंगा नहर निर्माण खण्ड-12, अलीगढ़
(मो. नं. 9458079980)

UPID NO. 170060
www.upgovt.nic.in

MAGH MELA 2021-22
Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmelamp@gmail.com

Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Selection of Agency to Provide Analog Centralized and Standalone Public Address Systems, Selection of Agency for Parking Facility Management and Selection of Agency for Installation of Advertising Infrastructure and Management of Advertisement Rights at Magh Mela 2022 by Prayagraj Mela Authority

The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Bids for **Tender No. 09/MM-2021-22** for "Selection of Agency to Provide Analog Centralized and Standalone Public Address Systems for Magh Mela 2022", **Tender No. 10/MM-2021-22** for "Selection of Agency for Parking Facility Management for Magh Mela 2022" and **Tender No. 11/MM 2021-22** for "Selection of Agency for Installation of Advertising Infrastructure and Management of Advertising Rights at Magh Mela 2022". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available from the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 25.11.2021 for Tender No. 09/MM 2021-22, Tender No. 10/MM 2021-22 and Tender No. 11/MM 2021-22. Interested parties may download/ upload their proposal from 1600 hrs 25.11.2021 till 1200 hrs 09.12.2021 for Tender No. 09/MM 2021-22, Tender No. 10/MM 2021-22 and Tender No. 11/MM 2021-22 via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received by interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders at 1500 Hrs on 09.12.2021 for Tender No. 09/MM 2021-22, Tender No. 10/MM 2021-22 and Tender No. 11/MM 2021-22. Details regarding the tender shall be made available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

**Officer In-charge,
Prayagraj Mela Authority,
Prayagraj.**

Section 1
Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Division
Room 226, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Budaun
Letter NO: 1184 /RED/Tender/File No-02/ Bond Clerk/2021-22 dated: 11.11.2021
e-Procurement Notice

1. The Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Division Budaun on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, and D as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids the works

2. Name of work as per table.

S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid document including GST (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Turrit Arthik Vikas Yagna VidhanSahba-Sadar Budaun					
1.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Sahadullapur Bhatara From Haridurai Lal Mouriya House to Ram lila Ground	21.55	0.43	854	90 Day
2.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Mohanpur Main Road To Pansukhi House	10.17	0.20	767	90 Day
3.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Raipura Adhesh Kashyap House Street.	18.25	0.37	854	90 Day
4.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Narkheda Narendra Choupal To Pitam Mouriya House	17.31	0.35	854	90 Day
5.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Naushena Netrapal House To Veerpal Dhovi House.	12.07	0.24	767	90 Day
6.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Baratedar Bantui Ki Shope To Primary School	13.87	0.28	767	90 Day
7.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Nagariya Main Road Anil Kumar House	9.32	0.19	767	90 Day
8.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Bhagwatpur Majara Bhajipura Malkhan House To	19.68	0.39	854	90 Day
9.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Bhagwatpur Majara Mathia Jahaveer Baba Mandir To Toti Prajapati House.	20.56	0.41	854	90 Day
10.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Bangama Satyawan House To Govt. School To Chattrpal S/o Bhavani House.	30.78	0.62	854	90 Day
11.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Dhamera Kehri House To Omprakash House.	16.76	0.34	854	90 Day
12.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Daheni Neklpal House To Subhash House.	18.23	0.36	854	90 Day
13.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Chandan Nagar Khari Gopal House To Shaker House.	16.96	0.34	854	90 Day
14.	Budaun	Turrit Arthik Vikas Yagna VidhanSahba-Dataganj.				
14.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Balinganj Main Road To RamNath House.	20.88	0.42	854	90 Day
15.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Chandokha Bhaskar House To Gangra Singh House.	14.01	0.28	767	90 Day
16.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Kalyanpur Harikesh House To Ramsaran .	21.85	0.44	854	90 Day
17.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Gudiya Main Road Baby House To.	23.01	0.46	854	90 Day
18.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Ramsi Nagla Anil House To BhannPratap House	16.96	0.34	854	90 Day
19.	Budaun	Construction of CC and Nali Nirman Work In Village Liwa In Udhali Shakhya House To Suresh Singh Pradhan Bangla.	10.34	0.21	767	90 Day
20.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Hafiz Nagla in Main Road To Ramveer House.	14.59	0.29	767	90 Day
21.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village SimbhaNagla in Govt. School To Sukhlal House.	13.72	0.27	767	90 Day
22.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Navganj in UdayRaj Singh House To Collage.	12.26	0.25	767	90 Day
23.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village AsharMai In Kailash Kashyap House To Reshvari House.	12.29	0.25	767	90 Day
24.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Chitri in Agrapal Singh House To Pappu Singh House.	9.67	0.19	767	90 Day
25.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Gangola Jabshere House To Palva Sampark Marga.	11.42	0.23	767	90 Day
26.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Vela Main Road Omveer House.	12.48	0.25	767	90 Day
27.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Urena Pukhta Main Road To Primary School To Barat Ghar.	14.52	0.29	767	90 Day
28.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Muga Kadraab Sanjeev House To Dev shtan.	16.32	0.33	854	90 Day
29.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village KalyaMay Main Road Jograj House.	15.10	0.30	854	90 Day
30.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Maushampur Suresh Dhovi House To Manoj Ki Choupal.	9.64	0.19	767	90 Day
31.	Budaun	Construction of CC and nali Nirman Work In Village Bakkena Bheekam Singh House To GajRaj Rathore House.	14.81	0.30	767	90 Day

Note :- All the tenders are being invited in anticipation of the budget.

3. Date of availability of Bid documents on website:- 06.12.2021

4. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 16.12.2021 at 04.00 pm.

5. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement: 16.12.2021 at 04.30 pm.

6. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-9 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.

For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and down load the bid document.

(Rajendra Singh) Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Department Division Budaun
On behalf of Governor of UP

UPID No. 170035

Himachal Pradesh
Public Works Department
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (ITB)

1 The Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of contractors	Time Limit
1	C/O 12 Nos type-II qtr of HPPWD at Jail road Mandi HP (SH:- C/O one block of six No qtrs i/c building building portion with WS & SI)	Rs.1,16,54,713/-	Rs.2,33,100/-	Rs.5000/-	B&C	One year

Starting date for downloading bid:-1.12.2021 at 5.00 PM
Deadline for Submission of Bid:-9.12.2021 up to 10.00 AM
Date of opening of Bid:-9.12.2021 at 11.30 AM

The rates beyond the limit of -30% and over + 5%, will be rejected, besides this the Additional Performance security will have to borne @ 20% & 30 % for unbalanced bid in case the rates is lower than 10% but upto 20% & lower than 20% upto 30% respectively.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No.II,
HP.PWD Mandi

5141/HP HIM SUCHANA AVAM JANSAMPARK

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING
7th Circle PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT
GOPESHWAR
E-mail :- sepwdgope@rediffmail.com

No- 6856/ 54 Yatayat-7/2021 Date: 24/11/2021

E-tender Notice (Short Term)

Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, P.W.D. Gopeshwar invites bid on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand by e-tendering under two bid system for the following work. Information regarding bid will be available from 30.11.2021 on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest
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**FARM LAWS REPEAL**

Cabinet begins process, clears Bill, to take up on 'priority' in House

Govt extends free foodgrain scheme launched post-Covid till March 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE UNION Cabinet Wednesday began the process of repealing the three contentious farm laws against which farmers have been protesting for a year, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the same. The Farm Laws Repeal Bill was cleared by the Cabinet and will be taken up on "priority" basis in the Winter Session of Parliament, beginning next week, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said.

Announcing the decision, Thakur said the government had completed expeditiously the for-

malities at the very first Cabinet meeting held after the PM promised to repeal the three laws — Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

"Today, when the Cabinet met under the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we completed the formalities," Thakur said. "In the coming session, it will be our priority to repeal the three farm laws."

He did not answer questions on if the government will bring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tikait warns, MoS Mishra skips Lakhimpur events

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

TWO DAYS after Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait threatened an agitation if Union MoS (Home) Ajay Mishra took part in the inauguration of two cooperative sugar mills in Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday, the minister skipped the event.

Invitation cards had been sent out with Mishra as the chief guest at both the sugar mills — in Belrayan and Sampurna Nagar

in the district — which held events on Wednesday to mark the beginning of crushing season for 2021-22.

Mishra had also skipped the final day of the annual conference of DGPs and IGs in Lucknow on Sunday.

Mishra's son Ashish is accused of murder in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident of October 3, when a convoy of vehicles, including one owned by the minister, ploughed into a group of protesting farmers, killing four of them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Crypto on Govt table, top global investors put in \$500 mn this yr

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

INCREASED LIQUIDITY in global financial markets and the Supreme Court order early last year allowing use of banking infrastructure by cryptocurrency platforms has led to top investment firms, such as Tiger Global, Sequoia Capital, B Capital and Andreessen Horowitz, pumping in over half-a-billion dollars in India's cryptocurrency and blockchain technology space in 2021 so far.

This is nearly eight times the investment raised by companies in this segment cumulatively in the preceding four years. The trend assumes added significance in the wake of the Government signalling Tuesday its intent to bring a Bill prohibiting "all private cryptocurrencies in India", with "certain exceptions".

The single biggest chunk of fund-raising by a cryptocurrency platform in India was announced on October 6 when CoinSwitch Kuber raised \$260 million in a round led by Andreessen Horowitz and Coinbase Ventures, with existing investors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



Devendra Fadnavis faces downsizing as his rivals get a leg-up in Maharashtra BJP unit

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & LIZ MATHEW
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A SERIES of decisions by the Bharatiya Janata Party central leadership in recent days has left former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis looking isolated and weakened in a party that once projected him as Maharashtra's fresh-face, savvy, Gen Next Hindutva leader, with potential for elevation to the national stage.

Over the last three days, the promotion of Vinod Tawde as

URBAN TFR 1.6%, RURAL 2.1%: NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

Fertility rate falls to below replacement level, signals population is stabilising

TFR at 2.0, replacement fertility is 2.1; significant rise in use of contraception

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

COMING ON the back of a sustained family planning programme spanning decades, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), or the average number of children per woman, has declined further from 2.2 reported in 2015-16 to 2.0 at the all-India level, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) released by the Union Health Ministry Wednesday.

According to the United Nations' population division, countries experiencing below-replacement fertility — lower than 2.1 children per woman — indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.

The data in NFHS 2019-21, the fifth in the survey series, shows the fertility rate at 1.6 per cent in urban areas and 2.1 in rural India.

Dr K S James, director at International Institute for Population Sciences, which is the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**TOTAL FERTILITY RATE****NFHS 5 vs NFHS 4****LOWEST**

Punjab	1.6	1.6
West Bengal	1.6	1.8
Maharashtra	1.7	1.9
Karnataka	1.7	1.8
Andhra	1.7	1.8

HIGHEST

Bihar	3.0	3.4
Meghalaya	2.9	3.0
UP	2.4	2.7
Jharkhand	2.3	2.6
Manipur	2.2	2.6



CM Mamata Banerjee met PM Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday. PMO

REPORT PAGE 8

Ex-CM Sangma among 12 of 17 Cong MLAs set to join TMC in Meghalaya

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE CONGRESS is headed for a major setback in Meghalaya on Wednesday claiming that 12 of the 17 MLAs of the principal Opposition party are set to join its camp.

This comes less than a week after former Meghalaya chief

minister Mukul Sangma met the AICC leadership in Delhi.

The development will come as a boost for the TMC in the Northeast. When contacted, Sangma told *The Indian Express* that he will share some "happy developments and news" on Thursday.

In the 2018 polls, Congress had emerged as the single largest party with 21 seats in the 60-member state Assembly. The

National People's Party (NPP), led by Conrad Sangma, had bagged 19 seats and the BJP won two. But the NPP managed to cobble together a ruling alliance as part of the BJP-backed North East Democratic Alliance.

Meghalaya is set to hold Assembly polls in 2023.

The Congress's Meghalaya unit has been in turmoil since Vincent H Pala was appointed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Fadnavis and wife Amruta called on MNS chief Raj Thackeray and his wife at their new residence Wednesday. Express

BJP general secretary from the position of national secretary, and the nomination of Chandrashekhar Bawankule for the Maharashtra Legislative Council polls, both bete noire of Fadnavis, are being seen as sure signs that the central leadership is clipping the wings of its former poster boy, making his future as the face of the party going into the 2024 elections uncertain.

Through his term in office, Fadnavis had sidelined Tawde, former education minister, changing and trimming his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Anaemia rises in women, children; obesity seen in nearly quarter of adults

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, NOVEMBER 24

ANAEMIA AMONG children and women is a cause of concern, according to the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (2019-20). Data indicates that 57 per cent of all women of reproductive age are anaemic — up from 53.1 per cent in 2015-16.

Obesity, on the other hand, too has risen among men and women. The percentage of women who are obese, according to NFHS-5 data, increased to 24 per cent from 20.6 per cent. Among men, obesity has risen to 22.9 per cent from 18.9 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**ANAEMIA A CONCERN**
PAGE 10

Regional skew: DU sets up panel to study Board-wise intake

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

AMIDST A debate on regional skew in the university's intake, Delhi University (DU) has set up a nine-member committee to examine the Board-wise distribution of students admitted this year and excess admissions against the sanctioned intake of programmes.

The panel, headed by Dean (Examinations) D S Rawat, was constituted last month after the new Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh took charge. It has been tasked with suggesting "alternative strategy for optimal admissions in undergraduate courses". According to a senior university officer, the committee's report will be placed before a meeting of the Academic Council next month.

"We want to take a call on next year's admission process by the end of December," the officer said on the condition of anonymity.

EXPLAINED

Comes after the Kerala numbers

DURING ADMISSIONS in the first cut-off list, *The Indian Express* had reported that a majority of seats in courses with a 100% cut-off had been filled by students from the Kerala state Board, with several sought-after courses seeing over-admission in unre-served seats.

The question of a regional skew in the university's admissions had become the focal point during admissions in the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Judge's death: CBI claims 'thief' & accomplice hit him, does not detail 'plan'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 24

PROBING THE death of Dhanbad Additional Sessions Judge Uttam Anand, the CBI has sought the prosecution of two men who it claims knocked him down with an autorickshaw while he was on a morning walk in July this year.

The CBI, which filed a chargesheet in a Dhanbad court on October 20, claimed that one of the two accused, "Rahul Kumar Verma is a professional thief who keeps looking for vulnerable targets", that he and his alleged accomplice Lakhan Verma had been "looking for a chance to execute the plan". But it is silent on "the plan". Nor does it spell out any motive for the crime.

The CBI — cognizance has been taken after the filing of the chargesheet — stated that "deliberate" and "intentional" "ramming" caused "severe bodily injuries" which were "sufficient" in the "ordinary course of nature" to cause the death of the ASJ.

"...after stealing the autorickshaw, both accused drove the auto towards Baliyapur where the number plate of the stolen autorickshaw was removed from rear and the number written on the front side was rubbed to hide the identity of the autorickshaw... Both continued to roam in the isolated area for quite some time and then they left," the CBI said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**INSIDE**

HC SAYS NO TO MAKING JAYA'S HOUSE A MEMORIAL

MILITANT BEHIND J-K CIVILIAN KILLINGS AMONG THREE SHOT

PAGE 8, 9

Fighting parents, police and party, woman gets her son back after 13 months in Kerala

PAGE 1 ANCHOR**SHAJU PHILIP**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 24

JUST OVER 13 months after she gave birth to him, Anupama S Chandran on Wednesday walked out of a family court here holding her son close, draped in a shawl, and protected by an umbrella against the rain. A family court earlier handed over the in-



Anupama Chandran and Ajith Kumar with their son. Express

fant, given up for adoption against the will of the former leader of the CPM students' wing SFI and her partner, Ajith Kumar.

A DNA test confirmed that the baby was the child of Chandran and Kumar, thus ending the 23-year-old mother's long search for him — against resistance put up by her own parents, police and the ruling CPM.

Chandran's parents, both CPM leaders, are alleged to have given up the baby for adoption soon after he was born, keeping her in the dark. They were opposed to her relationship with Kumar, a

former member of the CPM youth wing DYFI, who was at the time married to someone else.

On Wednesday, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) told the family court that a DNA test had confirmed that the couple were the biological parents of the boy. An Andhra Pradesh couple had adopted him three months ago.

Chandran and Kumar went to a friend's house from court, before heading to his home, where they were welcomed by his parents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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7 AIR PRAVEEN KUMAR (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROG)	8 AIR JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI (GS FOUNDATION COURSE, CLASSROOM STUDENT, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROG)	9 AIR APALA MISHRA (ABHYAAS TEST SERIES)	10 AIR SATYAM GANDHI (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST)	YOU CAN BE NEXT

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

WHAT ARE FLASH DROUGHTS, WILL IT AFFECT INDIA?

By the end of the 21st century, the frequency of concurrent hot and dry extremes in India will rise by about five-fold

ENTERTAINMENT

AMOL PALEKAR'S 77TH BIRTHDAY

Here's revisiting his relatable boy-next-door era in Hindi movies

TECH

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EXPRESS AUDIO

All you need to know about The Personal Data Protection Bill

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode, Indian Express' Ravish Tiwari and Aashish Aryan join host Snigdha Sharma to discuss at length the draft Personal Data Protection Bill and its origin

FROM PAGE ONE

Farm laws Bill

a law to guarantee the Minimum Support Price, which has been another major demand of the protesting farmers.

The Cabinet also approved the extension till March 2022 of the Prime Minister Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme — under which over 80 crore people are entitled to free 5 kg food-grains each per month, wheat or rice, since March 2020.

The scheme provides food-grains above what beneficiaries who fall under the ambit of the National Food Security Act, 2013, and Antyodaya Anna Yojana are entitled to. It was initially meant for only three months.

Pointing out that the government's focus was to ensure that no family remained hungry during the Covid-19 pandemic, Thakur said: "India is the only country in the world which has provided foodgrains to 80 crore people for months. Till now, 600 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated and 541 lakh metric tonnes foodgrains have been distributed."

The Food Ministry has issued directions to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the supply of the foodgrains needed for the PMGKAY, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said.

Pandey added that around 160 lakh metric tonnes of food-grains would be required in the next four months — 55% of that rice, and the remaining wheat.

In a separate decision, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Wednesday decided to privatise electricity distribution in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, covering 1.45 lakh consumers. A company (Special Purpose Vehicle) will be created, and its shares will go to the highest bidder, and trusts will be formed for the liabilities of the serving employees, the government said.

Judge's death

In the morning, "while both the accused were in the autorickshaw and going toward Giridih via Randhir Verma Chowk, the auto hit the deceased judge at

5.08.30 am. Rahul Kumar Verma is a professional thief who keeps looking for vulnerable targets and takes money to steal...for his friends," the CBI said.

ASJ Anand was taking a walk shortly after 5 am on July 28 when an autorickshaw knocked him down. The Dhanbad police arrested two accused. Police later handed over the probe to the CBI.

"Judge Uttam Anand was casually jogging which implied he was not fearful of anyone. The autorickshaw driver has closely followed Uttam Anand which indicates that the driver along with another person were... looking for a chance to execute the plan... The driver did not slow down nor stopped the autorickshaw to see the physical condition of the victim, which is otherwise a normal human reflex action... Therefore, it appears the driver had targeted Uttam Anand," the CBI said.

"After hitting, the autorickshaw goes straight wherein the cyclist comes in between, the autorickshaw driver slightly moves the rickshaw and overtakes the cyclist without hitting him. Thus, it appears that the autorickshaw driver was in a good psychological state... wherein he was able to control his vehicle with reference to speed, alignment, brakes etc... Thus, this incident seems to be planned and intentional. It does not appear to be an accident," the CBI said.

Dr Harish Pathak, Professor and Head, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, KEM Hospital, Mumbai, and his team, according to the CBI, said: "...the injury in the left skull has probably been caused by yellow dented edge of the autorickshaw... and the same (singularly or collectively) is sufficient to cause death... Injury on the right-side skull has probably been caused by the impact of hitting the ground after being hit by the autorickshaw... and the same (singularly or collective) is sufficient to cause death."

Dr Pathak and his team, the CBI said, were of the opinion that the hit-and-run incident was not accidental, but intentional.

The two accused, the agency said, were subjected to Forensic

Fertility rate falls, sign of population stabilising

designated nodal agency to conduct NFHS-5, told The Indian Express that a TFR of 2 is a "definite indicator" of stability of population in the long term in the country.

"The number means two parents are replacing two children. In the long run, we will have a potential growth rate of zero... A TFR of 2.1 is something a country wants to achieve. That way it is a very huge development because of maternal and child health improvement," James, the principal investigator of the study, said.

Professor K Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India, highlighted three key pointers from the TFR falling to 2: a diminished challenge to development, the importance of investing in public health and education with skills, and the need for environmental protection.

"A fall to 2 means we have achieved our goal of population stabilisation. This means we will possibly still become the most populous country — it was expected somewhere

between 2024-2028 — but it will now be delayed," Reddy told *The Indian Express*.

"The younger population profile for the next 2-3 decades will provide an opportunity for accelerated economic growth. But continuing to have a young population for 2-3 decades, along with population stabilisation, should give us a great opportunity for accelerated development — provided we invest in public health and education with skills," he said.

There are five states with TFR above 2: Bihar (3), Meghalaya (2.9), Uttar Pradesh (2.4), Jharkhand (2.3) and Manipur (2.2).

Two states reported TFR at the same level as the national average: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Two states have a TFR of 1.6: West Bengal and Maharashtra.

Six states have a TFR of 1.7: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura. Six more states have a TFR of 1.8: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh,

Chhattisgarh and Odisha. And five states have a TFR of 1.9: Haryana, Assam, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Mizoram.

The last round of NFHS-4 was conducted in 2015-16, and the Health Ministry's fact sheet released Wednesday covers 14 states and Union Territories clubbed under phase-II of NFHS-5. The phase-1 findings of 22 states and Union Territories were released in December last year. The all-India findings cover both phases.

The latest data also show significant progress on several indicators related to fertility, family planning, age at marriage and women's empowerment — all of which have contributed to the decrease in TFR.

NFHS-5 finds that there has been a significant increase in use of any modern contraceptive method, at 56.5% in 2019-21 against 47.8% in 2015-16. The share of condoms is 9.5% against 5.6% in 2015-16.

However, the uptake of female sterilisation has gone up to 38 per cent against 36 per

cent in 2015-16. The uptake of injectable contraceptives, introduced in 2017, remains abysmally low at 0.6 per cent.

The increase in female sterilisation shows that the onus of family planning remains with women, according to Poonam Muttreja, executive director, Population Foundation of India.

But the increased use of modern contraception also means that the total unmet need for family planning, which has been a major issue in the past, has come down to 9.4% in 2019-21 against 12.9% in 2015-16.

The quality of care in family planning has shown significant improvement with 62% of current users reporting that they received information on side effects from service providers. This has increased from 46% in the last survey.

The number of women who have a bank account they operate themselves has increased significantly from 53 per cent in 2015-16 to 79 per cent, the data show.

Anaemia among children and women on the rise

The number of anaemic children under five, data shows, has risen to 67.1 per cent from 58.6 per cent in the last survey. The percentage of anaemic teenage girls (15-19) rose from 54.1 per cent to 59.1 per cent. There has also been a rise in the number of anaemic men — from 22.7 per cent to 25 per cent.

The percentage of women who are overweight with a body mass index more than 25 kg/m2 stood at 33.2 per cent in urban areas while it was 19.7 per cent in rural areas. The percentage of obese or overweight men in urban areas was

29.8 per cent while it was 19.3 per cent in rural areas.

Data shows that at least 7.7 per cent children under five are severely wasted as against the previous 7.5 per cent. While the percentage of malnourished children increased from 2.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent, another cause of alarm has been the rise in obesity among women and men.

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Mumbai was the nodal agency for the survey.

On rising prevalence of overweight and obesity, Dr

Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India, told The Indian Express that the increase is especially marked among urban women.

"The rise in prevalence of overweight and obesity in the 15-45 group, especially among urban women, is indicative of a nutrition transition resulting from unhealthy diets and reduced physical activity. Apart from general obesity, there is an alarmingly high prevalence of abdominal (central) obesity in over half of the women and nearly half of the men. This signals a high risk of inflammatory

disorders, diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

According to NFHS-5 data, 24 per cent of men have elevated blood pressure — (systolic =140 mm of Hg and/or diastolic =90 mm of Hg) and have to take medicine to control it while it is 21 per cent among women. The percentage of high blood sugar levels (>140 mg/dl) is 15.6 among men and 13.5 in women and they have to take medication. This indicator on hypertension and blood sugar levels has been assessed during the fifth round.

the party has been seen — nationally and in Maharashtra — ducking a caste count for the enumeration of OBCs. It is also seen as strengthening the hands of Gadkari.

Another leader sidelined by Fadnavis, the former state president of the BJP, Raosaheb Danve, is now Minister of State in the Ministries of Railways, Coal and Mines, at the Centre.

"Patience pays. This is a loud message to every *karyakarta* in the party," Tawde told *The Indian Express*. Bawankule said: "The party has appointed me state general secretary. Now it has nominated me for council polls. Why should I sulk about what happened in the past?" he said.

But Eknath Khadse, who left the BJP to join the NCP after being sidelined by Fadnavis, was not so diplomatic. "It was just a matter of time. Fadnavis played dirty politics. He finished all his political competitors. This happened because he enjoyed the confidence of the central leadership. I left the BJP only and only because of Fadnavis," he said.

"I am happy Vinodji Tawde has become national general secretary. It is an important role," was the only reaction from Fadnavis.

But a close aide said it was "unfair" to target Fadnavis in matters of ticket distribution or Cabinet berths as these are approved by the central leadership.

Within the BJP, the view is that after a successful five years as Chief Minister of Maharashtra during which he pushed "good governance", Fadnavis failed to evolve as an organisational man and a team leader.

When he was brought in as Maharashtra BJP president in April 2013, he was seen as unifying the traditional rival factions led by Nitin Gadkari and Gopinath Munde. Eight years later, party insiders blame him for the break up of the 25-year-old alliance with Shiv Sena while his hostility towards those he viewed as in-house rivals has given rise to more factionalism in the party. His open battle with Munde's daughter Pankaja led to many red faces in the party.

that for them, their boy was a "newborn". "I got separated from him three days after delivery. I can't express my happiness, and my gratitude to all those who stood with me."

They were not very rich and couldn't give the baby a "luxurious life", Chandran added, but "we will rear him as a good human being". "We are obliged to the Andhra Pradesh couple who looked after him for the last three months," she said.

An official who had gone to fetch the baby from the Andhra couple told Malayam daily Mathrubhumi that the foster parents were inconsolable. "They started crying when they saw the Kerala officials. The mother said the baby had filled their life with happiness and they had shifted to a city just to ensure he got the best of care and facilities," the official said, adding that the mother was broken as she handed over the boy with his toys, dress and medical records, and bid him goodbye with a kiss on his forehead.

Recalling her ordeal that began in August last year when her parents came to know of her pregnancy, Chandran said: "They tried to convince me my baby was illicit, that I could not rear him. They tried to force me to terminate my pregnancy twice, took me to a hospital in faraway Malappuram... At one time, they told me the baby was only a mass of flesh."

She gave birth on October 19 last year, and three days later, as she was returning from hospital, the baby was taken by her parents, she said. Soon after, Chandran was sacked from the SFI and Kumar from the DYFI.

Despite a police complaint filed by Chandran pending since April 19, the baby was given up for adoption on August 7, with the process allegedly expedited. This happened three days after Chandran approached the CWC looking for her child.

The administration got into action only last month after Chandran went public with her allegations. Since November 11, Chandran and Kumar have been sitting in protest in front of the office of the Kerala State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW), whose president is Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

On November 18, the CWC directed the KSCCW to bring the child back to Kerala. A team led by KSCCW officials received the child from the adoptive parents on November 20 and brought him to the state.

Kumar said they were all set to receive their son. "Months back, we fixed a name for him. We have done shopping for what he will need."

Meghalaya

state unit president in August, with Sangma claiming the appointment was carried out without his consent. In September, Sangma had stayed away from a function to felicitate Pala.

In October, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi met Sangma in Delhi in a bid to placate him.

Subsequently, in the October 30 bypolls, Sangma campaigned for a Congress candidate in one of the three constituencies where elections were held. As recently as November 18, Sangma and Pala attended a meeting with Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and AICC Meghalaya in-charge Manish Chatrath.

Chatrath expressed surprise. Sources said the AICC is making a last-ditch attempt to prevent the split. But one leader said there is little chance of a reconciliation now.

Sangma is the seventh former Congress CM to leave the party since 2014.

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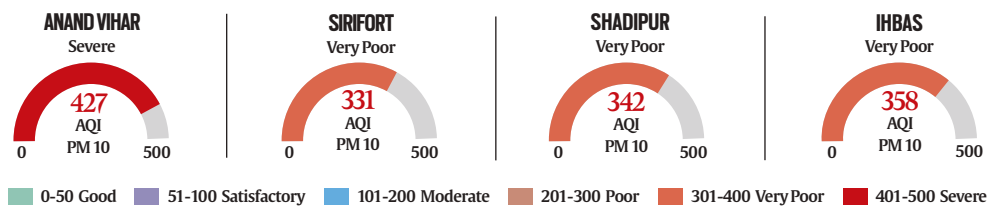
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48% HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN 'VERY DEPRIVED' CONDITIONS

Survey in East Delhi slums finds 27% of respondents unemployed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

AROUND 27% of the population residing in slum clusters in East Delhi is unemployed but available for work, with people citing fears and risks because of the pandemic as the cause for their unemployment in a Skill Mapping Survey carried out in 10 JJ clusters in the area.

The survey was commissioned by the Delhi government to an NGO and was carried out in the months of August and September this year. It included over 20,000 respondents and over 4,000 households.

The unemployment rate — percentage of people unemployed among the persons in the labour force — was around 36%. It was 60.61% in women and 21.02% in men.

SKILL MAPPING SURVEY

Survey was carried out in 10 JJ Clusters in East Delhi

53% Unemployed | **26% Unemployed and unavailable for work** | **27% Unemployed but available for work**

REASONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

■ Corona fear/risks	24%	■ Households responsibilities and personal obligations	8%
■ Lack of skill	22%	■ Health	3%
■ Slacking work/business conditions	19%	■ Awaiting results	2%
■ Child care/attending school, college, training	9%	■ Not specified	3%

MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME IN HOUSEHOLDS

■ Regular wage salaried	34%	■ Self employed	27%
■ Casual/contractual labourer	34%	■ Others	5%

20,414 Population covered

For women who were unemployed but available for work, the main reason for joblessness was the lack of required skill (23%) followed by fears and risks because of Covid (21%). A slump in work and business conditions was the third biggest reason at 17%.

Meanwhile, among unemployed men available for work, the main reason, at 30%, was Covid, followed by a slump in work and business conditions (23%) and the lack of required skill (21%).

According to the survey report, 48% of the households in the surveyed area were living in "very deprived" conditions, with the average monthly consumer expenditure at less than Rs 10,000. The average household size was 4.7.

The survey also looked at the skills that persons in the age group of 15-45, which has been

defined as the most economically active age group, want to acquire. Out of all the respondents, over 12,000 or almost 60%, were from this age group.

Opinion was sought under two broad categories — skills required for self development and other for the sake of employment. In the first category, the one skill that the highest number of people (8,831) wanted to learn was to read and write in Hindi. This was followed by reading and writing in English (4,763); computer usage (4,077); Internet usage (3,002) and simple numerical calculations (2,091).

In the second category, the highest number of respondents wanted to gain skills in beauty and wellness, followed by information technology and IT enabled services and textiles, handlooms and apparel.

Court directs FIR against Patra over 'doctored' video on CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A DELHI court has directed police to register an FIR against BJP leader Sambit Patra for allegedly posting a doctored video of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal supporting the farm laws, saying it may have resulted in a riot-like situation across the nation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rishabh Kapoor directed Delhi Police to register the FIR under relevant sections of the IPC and conduct a thorough investigation against the BJP spokesperson, while allowing the application of Aam Aadmi Party MLA Atishi.

Atishi had moved the court seeking registration of an FIR against Patra, claiming that the video contained statements that were diametrically opposite to the stand taken by the Delhi CM and the Aam Aadmi Party on the farm laws, and caused discontent and dissatisfaction in the minds of farmers.

The court said that the video was published and circulated



BJP leader Sambit Patra

"with no intention but to cause the farmers to believe that Kejriwal is supporting the farm laws, which may have perpetuated the state of outrage with the protesting farmers and may have resulted in rioting-like situation across the nation". As per the court, the fact that during the course of preliminary inquiry, the police proceeded to obtain expert opinion from the FSL regarding the impugned video is sufficient to believe that the evidence is not within the control and reach of the complainant, and that a scientific investigation is required. It also noted that the action taken report filed by the police

clearly says that the impugned clip was within the category of manipulated media marked by Twitter. "If the impugned video clip was manipulated media, the circumstances under which the proposed accused has published the same on his Twitter handle has not been probed into by the police. Besides, the police has not conducted any probe to find out whether the impugned video clip was already available in public domain by associating Twitter during the inquiry, so as to rule out the fabrication/alteration of the same at the behest of the proposed accused," the court said.

Patra, through his counsel, denied addition or deletion in the video or mimicking or dubbing, and stated that the video was already available in public domain as it had already been tweeted by many people.

Advocate Mohd Irshad, appearing for Atishi, said that the publication of the video caused discontent and dissatisfaction in the minds of farmers across the country, who were protesting against the farm laws.

First train to Ayodhya for senior citizens leaves Dec 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said the first train to Ayodhya under the Delhi government's free pilgrimage scheme will leave on December 3.

He also said that Tamil Nadu's Velankanni Church — an important pilgrimage for Catholics — will be added to the list of pilgrimage sites under the scheme.

"Last month, I went to Ayodhya and visited the Ram Lalla idol at the temple... When I left, I got a feeling... I prayed for strength and capability to enable everyone to visit Ayodhya," Kejriwal said at a digital press conference. "The Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana has 12 places where people can go for pilgrimage... In that list of pilgrim spots, we have added Ayodhya as well. Any

senior citizen in Delhi can take benefit of this scheme, and take one young person per elderly person as an attendant... I am very happy to announce that the first train from Delhi to Ayodhya will leave on December 3. Registration for the same has already begun on e-district portal of the Delhi government," he said.

Kejriwal said that under the scheme, the journey will be by an AC train, and pilgrims will be put up in AC hotels. He said the cost of food and travel will be borne by the government, and as of now, more than 36,000 people have benefitted from the scheme.

"Don't worry even if there are too many registrations, you will not be left behind. I will make sure that every person gets the chance to do darshan. If there are too many people, we will send another train or a third train after a week," he said.

Gambhir alleges death threat from ISIS, files police complaint

New Delhi: Delhi BJP MP Gautam Gambhir has filed a complaint with the Central district police, alleging that he received a threat by mail from 'ISIS Kashmir'. The cyber cell of the district along with the special cell has started a probe. DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said, "Security has been increased outside his residence at Rajendra Nagar."

In a letter to DCP Chauhan, Gambhir's PS, Gaurav Arora, said, "We have received an email from ISIS Kashmir on the official email of MP (Gambhir) sir today at 9.32 pm. The mail states death threats to the MP and

his family. I request you to kindly look into the matter and lodge an FIR. I also request you to make adequate security arrangements."

An officer told *The Indian Express*, "Gambhir received two emails — one in the morning and the other in the evening. In the second mail, the accused sent death threats along with a video, which shows Gambhir's house. We found that it's an old video shot outside his house. We have written to Google to get the IP address and other information of the system being used to send the emails." **ENS**

Officers coming late, leaving early, police chief issues order

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

OBSERVING THAT officers are not reporting to office on time, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has ordered that attendance registers be maintained meticulously, personnel come in by 9.30 am, and mark their departure attendance not before 6 pm.

An order, issued on November 23 by DCP (police headquarter-II) R P Meena states, "In today's tea meeting, Commissioner of Police has observed that officers down the line do not come to office on time and also leave very early ahead of normal working hours. All heads of branches in Police Headquarters should ensure that attendance register is maintained as per guidelines of the government. Staff will report in the office by 9.30 am and will append his/her initials with time of arrival."

When contacted, Delhi Police spokesperson Chinmoy Biswal refused to comment on the order.

The order further states, "All the staff should adhere to

Covid-appropriate behaviour and follow instructions about wearing of uniform. Maintaining cleanliness in the office/branch as well as common areas is the area responsibility of one and all. Discipline and decorum is expected from everyone on duty."

"Similarly, staff will also mark their departure attendance not before 6 pm. If a person is permitted to attend late or to leave early, an entry to this effect will be made by the branch incharge in the 'remarks' column. Any such permission for any consecutive period will require permission of the DCP concerned. At the end of each fortnight, ACP concerned will bring to the notice of the DCP concerned the names of persons who had been frequently or habitually late during the particular fortnight. The DCP will submit a report to the Additional CP, Joint CP once a month on the attendance status," Meena further states in the order.

The decision to issue the order is learnt to have been taken after inputs were received of some officers coming in as late as 11.30 am and leaving as early as 4 pm.

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Contact No : 011-20862447 (Monday to Friday from 0900h to 1730h)
(KSB Website : www.ksb.gov.in)

davp 10405/11/0004/2122

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.
 O.A.No. 406/2017 HDFC Bank Limited (Applicant) Versus Mr. Sunil Gupta (Defendants)
 To, 1. Mr. Sunil Gupta Proprietor of M/s. Pradeep Radio & TV Centre, D-18, Mohan Singh Market, Sector 6, RK Puram, New Delhi-110043, B-118043, 1st Floor, Kirti Kunj, New Delhi-110017. 2. Mr. Pradeep Gupta, D-18, Mohan Singh Market, Sector 6, RK Puram, New Delhi-110043, 1st Floor, Kirti Kunj, New Delhi-110017.

Whereas the above-named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 19,12,724.79/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four & Paise Seventy Nine Only) against you; and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 23.12.2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.drtindia.gov.in Phone Number: 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose :- (i) All the Advocates/Agents shall download the "Criso Webex" application / Software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing and cases to be taken up by Registrar/Recovery Officer-II and Recovery Officer-I shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head. (iii) In any emergency qua this, the Advocates/Agents can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473. Government may hand and seal of the Tribunal on the 12th October of 2021. Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry. Mr. Anil K. Das, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Ph. No: 011-23748473, Email: sdrt1delhi@drtindia.gov.in

By order of this Tribunal, For Assistant Registrar

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CONCEPT

6 THE CITY

DIRECTS CENTRE, STATES TO CONTINUE WITH MEASURES

‘Look at signal we are sending to world’: SC seeks statistical model on pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and NCR states to continue with measures already suggested to tackle air pollution in the national capital and mooted a scientific approach based on a statistical model to alleviate the situation in the long run.

"All these are ad hoc measures... Response has to be based on a statistical model for Delhi... The Commission (for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas) has to set up a scientific study... There has to be a statistical model which says if these are the steps we take in the next seven days given the wind directions, these are the advantages we can get," Justice D Y

Chandrachud, sharing a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, said.

Referring to the submissions that restrictions directed by the Commission will kick in as soon as the conditions turn severe, Justice Chandrachud said: "This is the national capital. Look at the signal we are sending to the world. The response has to be based on a statistical model for Delhi... You don't have to wait till air quality becomes severe. You anticipate it's likely to happen with this wind pattern... You will have to define what are the acceptable levels of pollution in Delhi... So you have to make models for different seasons... A scientific model based on seasons and wind direction has to be made... The Indian Meteorological Department has data of past years. Based on what it was for the last five years, a



SC said that a scientific model based on seasons and wind direction has to be made. *Praveen Khanna*

model can be prepared, how it will be in the next 15 days," said Justice Chandrachud, adding that a graded response will be required.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench also comprising Justice Surya Kant, that what is

being followed is a graded response and that there is a long-term plan.

He took the court through measures put in place and said that after the last hearing, only the ban on construction activities, which was put in place till November 21, has not continued.

The rest of the measures directed by the commission -- ban on entry of trucks into Delhi, ensuring that no petrol vehicles older than 15 years or diesel vehicles older than 10 years ply on NCR roads, increasing CNG buses, deployment of anti-smog guns, more water sprinklers and application of dust suppressants in all vulnerable hotspots, and a ban on diesel gensets except for emergency services -- continue to be in place.

The SG pointed out that the AQI on Wednesday morning was 290 as compared to 403 last week. As a result, the construction ban was not extended, he said, adding that the air quality will improve due to wind flow.

The CJ, after cross checking, however said: "You are saying 290. We checked, it's 318 at the moment... I think there is no substantial change in these two

days. It was less. It is going back to serious or appears to. So take the measures for 2-3 days. Monday (November 29) morning we will hear it again. If pollution level comes down drastically, say to 200, you are free to withdraw the restrictions."

The CJ also sought to know how much money is available under the labour welfare fund with states.

"Each state has thousands of crores. Let them pay these workers for these three-four days," he added.

He also asked whether any study has been undertaken by the states on how much stubble has been taken out or how many machines given?

"What is the bureaucracy doing on all these issues... Let the state and central secretaries sit and discuss what can be done," the CJ said.

Schools, colleges to reopen on Monday, 700 CNG buses added to city's fleet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, institutes and libraries that were closed due to poor air quality will reopen from November 29, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday.

Amid the rising pollution levels in the capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 13 had announced that schools would remain closed for in-person classes, while online classes will continue.

Government offices, which were on work-from-home mode, will also open up from November 29, Rai said. Government employees have been advised to use public transport as much as possible.

Entry of trucks, apart from those carrying essentials, has been banned. Only CNG and electric trucks carrying non-essential services will be allowed entry into Delhi from November 27 to December 3, Rai said.

Rai was speaking after a meeting with government officials Wednesday.

Some of the private CNG buses that have been hired to augment public transport will be deployed in areas where the Delhi government employees live, like Timarpur and Gulabi Bagh, he said.

Shuttle buses will be deployed from metro stations close to the Delhi Secretariat to facilitate the transport of employees.

A senior official of the Transport Department said that nearly 700 hired CNG buses have been issued permits and are plying.

Meanwhile, the air quality index in Delhi Wednesday was 361 -- in the 'very poor' category -- according to the Central Pollution Control Board bulletin. The AQI has deteriorated from 290 on Tuesday.

A forecast from the SAFAR system said that local surface winds have been low, resulting in the deterioration in air quality. Winds are likely to be low for the next three days as well, making the dispersion of pollutants difficult. For the next two days, the air quality is likely to remain in the upper end of the 'very poor' category, said the forecast issued Wednesday.

The fire count from stubble burning was 432, according to the SAFAR system, and its contribution to PM2.5 levels in Delhi was 2% Wednesday. "With the onset of winter, local weather is likely to be dominating in determining air quality," the forecast read.

At some monitoring stations, the AQI as a 24-hour average returned to the 'severe' category. At the Anand Vihar monitoring station, for instance, the AQI as a 24-hour average at 7 pm was 432, in the 'severe' category.

AQI between 401 and 500 is categorised as 'severe.' At the same time,

Jahangirpuri recorded an AQI of 457, Mundka recorded 401, Wazirpur registered an AQI of 422, and Sonia Vihar 420.

BRIEFLY

Trial court summons against BJP MLA stayed

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Wednesday stayed a trial court order summoning Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Vijender Gupta in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot for allegedly making defamatory statements against him in connection with alleged irregularities in procurement of buses by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

12 people of Jamtara-based gang arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Cyber Cell arrested 12 persons of a Jamtara-based gang for allegedly cheating people by creating fake websites and stealing bank details. The police on Wednesday claimed that the accused were involved in more than 1000 fraud cases. They were stealing information from the phones of the victims, getting their banking details to steal money.

Man booked for hoax bomb threat

Gurgaon: A man was booked for allegedly making a hoax call about an explosive material on a train on Tuesday night. Police said the incident was reported at 9.45 pm when the Rewari police control room received a call from a person regarding the presence of a bomb in the Delhi-bound Shatabdi Express. **ENS**



WATCH YOUR STEP

A foot over bridge in a state of disrepair, near Anand Vihar, Wednesday. *Praveen Khanna*

Snatching cases continue unabated, police chief keen on new law to tackle menace

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI POLICE Commissioner Rakesh Asthana Wednesday said the force would like to introduce a new law to tackle cases of snatching in the capital. While interacting with the media at the Indian Women's Press Corps, Asthana spoke about women safety, rise in cyber crime and street crimes.

He said officers have approached government officials and "hope" to bring in a separate section in the law so that offenders get maximum punishment. At present, the accused caught snatching are booked under IPC sections 379 (theft) and 356 (use of criminal force) or section 390 (robbery).

The new law, which has already been implemented by the



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana

Haryana government, will increase jail term for offenders up to 14 years and make the offence non-bailable. The Haryana government's anti-snatching law had new clauses added to IPC section 379. The Delhi police are also planning to replicate amendments to give stringent punishment to offenders.

According to data released by police, there's a 30% rise in snatching and robbery incidents this year, with over 7,504 cases lodged till October 31.

In March this year, 25-year-old Simran Kaur was stabbed to death outside her house at Adarsh Nagar in a snatching bid. She was walking with her mother and newborn when the accused tried snatching her chain and phone. When she resisted, the accused killed her.

Talking about women's safety in the city, Asthana said that all police stations will now have a separate investigating team of inspector-rank officers to help victims lodge complaints.

"We have already reduced the response time of the police to SOS calls from 7-8 minutes to only 3 minutes and 8 seconds (on an average)," said Asthana.

Police data showed that over 1,725 rape cases were registered this year till October 31. This is an 18% increase as compared to last year.

However, Asthana told the media that out of the total rape cases, only 1% cases are those where the accused are unknown to the victim. In 46% of the cases, the accused are family members or friends of the victim. He said 11% of the cases include neighbours, 28% are known persons and 14% are extended family.

The police will also set up 'shadow police booths' in areas with lower connectivity for women. "These booths will work in compliance with traffic staff, beat police staff and locals. We are also giving soft-skill training to staff to ensure that victims and cases are dealt with sensitivity," said Asthana.

Want to extend same facilities to people that ministers get: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday that all facilities provided to ministers from the government will also be provided to the common man under his government. He was speaking at an Advocates' Conference organized by the AAP Legal Cell.

"I have resolved to make available every facility that is available for the ministers, to the common people of this country. They often ask us: where will the money come from? In this country, as soon as one becomes an MLA, immediately their bank balance shoots up, they have 2-3 bungalows, they open a bank account in the Swiss Bank... All the money is stolen from the Indian government. Instead of this, we gave medical insurance and made electricity free. Money is coming from the same funds which all these ministers and officers used to loot. We stopped the loot of that money," Kejriwal said.

"I ask all my opponents, who pays for the treatment of ministers? No one bats an eye at their free treatment, but as soon as lawyers are given a mere insurance scheme, they raise the freebie' slogans. Every single minister gets 4000 units of free electricity--why is that not termed as 'freebie' but my 200 units for common people of Delhi is?" he added.

The cabinet had passed a scheme to provide life and medical insurance to all lawyers in 2019. Under this scheme, Kejriwal said, Rs 12.25 crores were given to the families of 122 lawyers who lost their lives during the pandemic.

Several parties have criticised Kejriwal and the government for announcing "freebies" to win elections.

DU proposes to start 3 depts that will offer B.Tech programmes

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI UNIVERSITY (DU) has submitted a proposal to the University Grants Commission (UGC) to start three departments under its Faculty of Technology that is Computer Science, Electronics and Communications, and Electrical Engineering.

All three will offer B Tech programmes.

"DU wants to start with 120 seats for each programme and has sought the UGC's permission to sanction about 70 faculty positions for the three departments. Students will be admitted to these programmes through JEE (Main). The proposal will be brought to the Academic Council meeting next month. DU has decided to do this since DCE and NSIT are no longer associated with the university and hence it no longer offers engineering programmes," said a senior DU official.

"DU has also set up a committee to draft course content and structure. This committee headed by D S Chauhan, former V-C of Uttar Pradesh Technical Committee, has held one meeting and suggested that the university start the above three programmes. Final report of the committee is not in yet. It is based on the initial suggestion of

the committee that DU has submitted the proposal to the UGC," the official said.

DU released a notification dated November 5 signed by Registrar Vikas Gupta announcing the constitution of the committee.

"To encourage holistic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach in education in line with the central theme of the National Education Policy 2020, the University of Delhi has constituted a Committee... to deliberate upon the establishment of departments under the Faculty of Technology in the emerging ideas of Engineering & Technology," the notification said.

"The Committee shall consider the following issues and formulate a roadmap for implementation of its recommendations... Scope and feasibility of establishment of departments under the Faculty of Technology; Structure of the departments; Areas of academic endeavour the departments are required to accomplish; Structure and nomenclature of the courses of study the departments would envisage to run; Requirement and qualification of the faculty members necessary to smoothly conduct teaching, learning and research in the departments. This is issued with the approval of the competent authority," it said.

HISTORIANS RAISE RED FLAGS

Attempt to repair Jama Masjid dome after rains leaves cement patches

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

REPAIRS ON the northern dome of the Jama Masjid have left little patches of cement at its base. After cracks developed during heavy rains, the mosque's administration employed workers to use cement -- but only after they wrote to the Centre requesting that the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) conduct restoration work.

"We have been writing to the ASI but did not get a proper re-

sponse. We had to take temporary measures only in order to save the monument," said Syed Ahmed Bukhari, the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid, adding that the cracks had developed due to seepage issues and needed urgent repair.

An ASI official said that since Jama Masjid is not a protected monument, the restoration does not come under their purview. They can do so only in special cases upon request and no such official request has been received by them, the official said. But the masjid management claims that

previously, the ASI used to restore parts of the Jama Masjid as and when required.

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, dated June 6, 2021, the Imam wrote, "The structure of the internationally renowned Jama Masjid Delhi is in dire need of repairs. As a special case, its repairs had been carried out, from time to time, by the ASI, since 1956." The letter stated that stones of the structure keep falling off. He requested the ASI to inspect the monument and commence repairs.



The administration also said the ASI had conducted a survey after this letter and a budget was made. But despite several telephonic conversations, things did not move forward.

Historian Dr Swapna Liddle said, "It is imperative that limestone mortar be used for a building that originally used limestone mortar... It could be fixed by removing the cement."

The Jama Masjid administration ordered the repairs

However, she added that long-term solutions need to be devised such as coming up with a detailed programme to conserve the monument. She said that even the red sandstone slabs are flaking and need to be replaced.

Heritage activist and historian Sohail Hashmi also threw light on the need to use limestone mortar for such monuments: "Historically, particularly in the medieval times, a mix of hydrated limestone and crushed bricks was used as a binding material. While it used to take longer to dry than cement, it be-

comes bone dry hence, after rain, it will dry up completely while cement will not."

He said that since the cement and limestone mortar react differently, it might cause more destruction in the long run. The Sher Shah Gate is an instance of this, he added. Before Independence, ASI used cement to restore the monument and it was later almost on the verge of collapse. He said the only way to fix it is to scrape off the cement and use limestone mortar instead.

(Inputs from Divya A)



सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन में अग्रसर मध्यप्रदेश

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

आगर, शाजापुर और नीमच में 1500 मेगावॉट के सोलर पार्कों का शिलान्यास एवं ऊर्जा साक्षरता अभियान (ऊषा) का शुभारंभ

25 नवम्बर 2021, दोपहर 12.00 बजे
स्थान : आई.टी.आई. परिसर, ए.बी. रोड, शाजापुर

मुख्य अतिथि

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री आर.के. सिंह

मंत्री, विद्युत, नवीन एवं नवकरणीय ऊर्जा, भारत सरकार

श्री प्रद्युम्न सिंह तोमर

मंत्री, ऊर्जा विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश

श्री हरदीप सिंह डंग

मंत्री, नवीन एवं नवकरणीय ऊर्जा विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश

की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में संपन्न होगा।

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।



योजना के लाभ



- 1500 मेगावॉट आगर-शाजापुर-नीमच सोलर पार्क से राज्य को सस्ती ग्रीन ऊर्जा तथा सोलर परियोजना से राज्य में रोजगार के अवसर सृजित होंगे।
- सोलर परियोजना से लगभग 30 लाख MT कार्बन डाईऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन में बचाव होगा जो 25 साल में 5 करोड़ पेड़ों के बराबर होता है।
- ऊर्जा साक्षरता अभियान (USHA) द्वारा जन-भागीदारी से विश्व की सबसे बड़ी ऊर्जा चेतना जनजागरण की पहल।
- कुसुम-अ योजना के अंतर्गत किसान अपनी भूमि पर सोलर परियोजना स्थापित कर सकेंगे या विकासकर्ताओं को पट्टे पर भूमि दे सकेंगे।
- यह किसानों की आय का एक अतिरिक्त स्रोत बन सकेगा एवं किसानों को अतिरिक्त बिजली की आपूर्ति संभव होगी।
- कुसुम-स योजना में मार्च 2023 तक 1050 कृषि फीडरों पर 2,10,000 पम्प सौर ऊर्जाकृत होंगे।

भविष्य की ऊर्जा से समृद्ध - मध्यप्रदेश

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8 GOVT & POLITICS



HARD LINES

WHEN KERALA Assembly Speaker M B Rajesh recently posted on social media a photograph of him with a Union Minister, who was a fellow MP during his previous terms in Lok Sabha, little did he anticipate that it could make him a target of trolls. During his visit to Shimla for the All India Presiding Officers' meeting, Rajesh was photographed with Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur, who addressed the conference on the last day. After returning to Kerala, the CPI(M) leader posted the photograph, with a note on friendship beyond party lines on his Facebook page. This immediately provoked trolls as well as a section of CPI(M) cadre, who criticised the Speaker. With many of them referring to Thakur's controversial speech during the Delhi election campaign, Rajesh broke his silence, saying the criticism against the BJP leader's stance was "justified and relevant". However, some backed Rajesh's argument that personal friendship should not have political boundaries.

TRENDING NOW

A NUMBER of BJP leaders, including senior leaders, have started posting pictures with their spouses on their wedding anniversaries. Earlier this week, Union minister Bhupender Yadav, who otherwise uses his social media platform only for official announcements, posted a collage of pictures with his wife on their 25th wedding anniversary. Two days later, BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, who was away in the US, posted a picture with his wife on their 37th wedding anniversary, saying it was the first time they were not together on their anniversary. On Wednesday, Delhi BJP general secretary Kuljeet Singh Chahal posted a video with his wife Dimple, announcing their 24th wedding anniversary.

SINGLE PLATFORM

NATIONAL MISSION for Clean Ganga (NMCG), along with National Urban Affairs of India (NIUA), will jointly launch the government's River Cities Alliance in Delhi on Thursday. The two organisations have already collaborated on guidance frameworks for development of "river-sensitive cities", in line with directions from the Prime Minister. Officials now say that during implementation of such development by several cities, they realised a need for a platform for exchange of knowledge, thus, conceptualising the Alliance.

Assam, Mizoram CMs to meet in Delhi today over boundary issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

OVER THREE months after Assam and Mizoram police clashed at the inter-state boundary leading to six deaths, the chief ministers of both the states are scheduled to hold a meeting in Delhi on Thursday to iron out differences and resolve the issue.

Sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Mizoram CM Zoramthanga and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma will be holding the meeting at a venue of their choice. "The meeting has been arranged at the prodding of the Home Minister. The Centre wants the two states resolve the boundary issue through talks. The home minister will not be present in the meeting, nor will it take place at North Block," an MHA official said.

The 165 km Assam-Mizoram border has many stretches of dispute which have time and again led to clashes between civilians and police forces. This July it precipitated into a major crisis when police forces of the two states clashed at the Kolasi-Bhairongte border leading to six Assam policemen dying and sev-



Zoramthanga; Himanta Biswa Sarma

eral, including the district SP, sustaining injuries.

An alarmed Centre tried to mediate by sending central forces and nudging the two states to talk but a standoff continued for days. It was in August that two states officially engaged through top officials in Aizawl.

Following the first government-level talks between the states since the July 26 border incident, representatives of the two states resolved to not have any "fresh deployment" in the disputed areas and a joint statement was released.

"Both the state governments agree to maintain peace in the inter-state border areas and welcomed the deployment of (a) neutral force by the Government of India in this regard," the statement, released on August 5, said.

Four-lane Jammu-Srinagar highway by 2023: Gadkari

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24

UNION MINISTER for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said that construction of the four-lane national highway (NH-44) from Jammu to Srinagar will be completed by December 2023.

Addressing a rally in Doda after laying the foundation stone of over two dozen highway projects worth Rs 11,721 crore in J&K, he said: "I assure you this work will be completed in two years and you will be able to reach



Union minister Nitin Gadkari

Srinagar from Jammu in four hours," he said.

About 85 per cent work on the 95-km-long road between Jammu, Udhapur and Nashri on NH44 has been completed the minister said. Gadkari said work on the 60-km-road between Nashri and Banihal, in Ramban district, will be completed by December 7, 2023.

Will campaign for regional parties against BJP if asked to: Mamata

Bengal CM raises BSF jurisdiction, Tripura issues during meeting with PM

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

ANNOUNCING THAT she plans to visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi to "light diyas", West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said her party does not want to weaken the fight of regional parties against the BJP by contesting polls in every state, but is ready to campaign if required.

Briefing reporters after meeting the Prime Minister on the third day of her Delhi visit, Banerjee said she will campaign if any regional party invites her to do so. "A decision will be taken when the time comes. In Goa, Haryana and Tripura, we have started [party units]. In Uttar Pradesh, we have a small unit. But I feel there are some areas where let them fight, the regional parties, strongly, if necessary we can campaign for them, it depends," she said.

To a related question, she said, "I want to visit Varanasi. There I will light diyas, there are plans to visit Shiv Mandir."



Mamata Banerjee with BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in New Delhi on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

"The TMC wants the BJP defeated. But we will not fight polls everywhere. We will fight where we are needed. If Akhilesh wants our help, we are ready," she said, when asked if the TMC will field candidates in the 2022 UP polls.

On her meeting with the Prime Minister, Banerjee said she raised issues from the decision to expand the territorial jurisdiction of the BSF in Bengal, "which will disturb the federal structure", to clearance of pending dues, and "atrocities in Tripura".

The Chief Minister said the Prime Minister has accepted her invite to inaugurate a global business meet in West Bengal in April.

"On the BSF issue, I said we need to strengthen the federal structure... Law and order is a state subject and it may lead to confrontations," she said, demanding that the Home Ministry order extending the BSF's jurisdiction up to 50 km inside the international borders be revoked.

Asked if she plans to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi

and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during her stay here, she said, "I did not seek time from anyone apart from the PM. I know there are polls in Punjab and they are busy, let them work for their party." Banerjee said she will meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar during her visit to Mumbai from November 30.

Rejecting suggestions that TMC's expansion attempts are coming at the cost of the Congress, Banerjee said, "If someone joins our party, it is their choice. We are not building or breaking any party."

On her meeting with BJP leader Subramanian Swamy earlier in the day, she said: "You can meet anybody if a person is interested to meet you. There may be political differences but what is the harm?"

Swamy, dropped from the BJP's national executive committee last month, told reporters they discussed matters on West Bengal. Asked if he plans to join TMC, Swamy said: "I was already with her (Mamata Banerjee). There is no need for me to join."

Cong gives show cause notice to Preneet for supporting Capt

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 24

TWO DAYS after Congress MP from Patiala Preneet Kaur praised her husband and former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and said she was with her family, the party issued her a show cause notice.

The notice was issued Wednesday by AICC in-charge Harish Chaudhary. It asked her to explain her support for Amarinder, who had floated his own party.

The notice reads, "From the past many days, we are continuously receiving reports... about your anti-party activities. We are also made aware of your open announcements in the media about siding with your husband's party. Kindly explain your stand on the issue within a period of seven days otherwise the party will be forced to take disciplinary action."

Senior party leader told *The Indian Express*: "She will have to make a choice. We will wait to see the impact of the show cause notice and take a call," the leader said. The party hopes she will resign from Congress on her own.

Baghel, too, seeks Rs 4 lakh payout

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the Centre give a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of people who have died due to Covid-19, officials said.

Baghel said the Centre is providing tax concessions to corporates, but was not ready to give adequate relief to the common citizens. The CM said its duty of the government of the day to take care of its citizens. **PTI**

AAP in talks with SP; Akhilesh says 'meeting for change'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE AAM Aadmi Party Wednesday said it has begun talks with the Samajwadi Party ahead of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh polls, indicating that the two may be looking at an alliance in the state.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh made the announcement after meeting SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Wednesday.

The SP appeared to hint at the same. "A meeting for change," Yadav tweeted, posting an image featuring him, Sanjay Singh and AAP leader Dilip Pandey, who also attended the meeting.

There have been meetings between leaders of the two parties in the past but talk of an alliance was largely kept under wraps.

"We started the talks today. Our primary goal is to defeat the BJP in UP. Akhilesh Yadav is in talks with many parties and our meeting is a step in that direction," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said: "During the meeting, it was agreed in principle to remove BJP from power in Uttar Pradesh. The strategy to remove BJP from



AAP MP Sanjay Singh with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Wednesday.

power in UP was also discussed," Chaudhary said.

The development comes a day after the SP and RLD indicated that a seat-sharing deal could be announced soon. The SP has already sealed an alliance with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party — a BJP ally in the 2017 polls. The Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, a grouping of smaller parties headed by Rajbhar, will be part of the alliance.

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EXPLAINED SP gaining traction

WITH BSP and Congress seen as lagging in being in a position to take on ruling BJP electorally in UP, Samajwadi Party is gaining the first-mover's advantage in getting traction of smaller parties. After bagging alliance deals with SBSP and Bhagidari Morcha, talks with RLD and AAP are the latest for Akhilesh's party.

Gehlot writes to PM, urges relief of Rs 4 lakh for families of Covid victims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 24

IN A letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday sought an increase in the compensation paid to families who have lost members to Covid-19 — from Rs 50,000 to Rs 4 lakh.

Saying several families lost their earning members to Covid and that the expenses incurred



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot

on treatment pushed them into huge debts, Gehlot wrote, "At such difficult times, the modest amount of Rs 50,000 as ex-gratia compensation is insufficient. The Government in its response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court has argued that giving Rs 4 lakh

compensation would leave the state with insufficient funds to deal with COVID-19. As a welfare state, it is our shared responsibility to look after our citizens during times of need."

Gehlot said the Centre had told Supreme Court that Rs 50,000 would be paid as ex-gratia. "We feel... special consideration should be made by the Central Government to fulfill its earlier commitment of ex-gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh," he said.

HC quashes TN govt's acquisition of Jaya residence as memorial, directs it to hand keys to niece, nephew

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 24

MADRAS HIGH Court Wednesday set aside the acquisition of late J Jayalalithaa's residence, Veda Nilayam, by the previous AIADMK government to convert it into a state-run memorial.

Allowing pleas moved by Jayalalithaa's legal heirs J Deepa and J Deepak, Justice N Seshasayee directed the state to hand over the property to them in three weeks. He also questioned the necessity of establishing a second memorial for the late chief minister when there is already one in Marina beach.

In September 2020, the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a Bill to establish a foundation to con-



The late CM's residence in Chennai's Poes Garden. File

vert Veda Nilayam, in Poes Garden area of Chennai, into a memorial dedicated to the AIADMK supremo. This came months after a hurried decision by the then AIADMK govern-

ment ahead of the release of Jayalalithaa's close aide V K Sasikala from a Bengaluru prison. The reason for the government passing a law to acquire the private property was pre-

venting it from going into the hands of Sasikala, whose family was rumoured to be planning to buy it if legal heirs Deepa and Deepak, children of Jayalalithaa's late brother, got its ownership.

The Bill sought to replace a May 2020 Ordinance that allowed the government to acquire the property, despite the court declaring Deepak and Deepa as legal heirs. In July 2020, Deepak moved a petition in the Madras High Court, seeking the keys to Veda Nilayam.

Despite objections from the heirs, the AIADMK decided to go ahead with the acquisition.

In its order on Wednesday, the High Court said respect for the statute — its spirit and the soul — and concern for the rights of the citizens are inalienable

Pak to India: Will allow Afghanistan aid through Wagah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

PAKISTAN ON Wednesday said it has formally informed India about its decision to allow the transportation of an Indian humanitarian shipment of 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and life saving drugs to neighbouring Afghanistan through its territory on an "exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes".

Last month, India announced humanitarian assistance and requested Pakistan to ship the food grain via the Wagah border.

The chaotic withdrawal of western troops from Afghanistan plunged the country into a Taliban rule and prompted international agencies to halt humanitarian support and financial assistance to the war-torn nation. The United Nations has warned that the country is staring at a humanitarian crisis in food security apart from other basic amenities.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced on Monday that his government will allow India to send humanitarian shipment of wheat to Afghanistan through its territory after finalisation of the transit modalities.

"The decision of the government of Pakistan to this effect was formally conveyed to the Charge d' Affaires of India at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It said as a goodwill gesture towards the Afghan people, Pakistan decided to allow the transportation of 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and life-saving medicines from India.

Germany announces €1.2 bn to help India fight climate change

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

GERMANY ON Wednesday announced new commitments worth more than €1.2 billion, or Rs 10,025 crore, to India to support its fight against climate change.

A statement released by Germany said the focus of the financial commitment to India will be to tackle climate change and assist in the country's ongoing energy transition.

"Every fifth person on this planet is Indian. Without Indians you cannot solve any big world problems, and one of the biggest is climate change. We try to work together with India and help with climate change, renewable energy and similar projects, which also helps in working towards our own goals we promised at COP26 in Glasgow," said German Ambassador Walter Lindner.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released earlier this year found that both India and Germany will suffer more extreme events due to climate change. Both countries together account for

currently, Pakistan only allows Afghanistan to export goods to India but doesn't allow any other two-way trade through the border crossing.

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry said that wheat and medicines to Afghanistan will be allowed to enter through "Wagah Border on an exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes".

Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi had also requested Prime Minister Khan to allow India to transport wheat via Pakistan, suggesting that the Taliban government was willing to accept the humanitarian assistance from India.

India has contributed to the humanitarian requirements of the Afghan people. This included providing more than 1 million metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan over the past decade.

Last year too India assisted Afghanistan with 75,000 metric tonnes of wheat, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on the Humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in September.

However, Pakistan had blocked India's efforts to provide wheat to the Afghan people, amidst the chill in relations between New Delhi and Islamabad over the Kashmir issue.

Khan announced his decision to allow India to send the humanitarian shipment of wheat to Afghanistan through Pakistan's territory while chairing the first Apex Committee meeting of the newly established Afghanistan Inter-ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC) in Islamabad on Monday.

nearly 9 per cent of global greenhouse gas.

"At COP26, India and Germany agreed to phase down unabated coal power. Germany will exit coal by 2038, possibly much earlier. And India has just joined a multilateral Coal Transition Programme funded by the Climate Investments Funds and supported by Germany. Very concretely, India has already identified 50 gigawatts of coal plants for retirement by 2027," said a statement issued by the German Embassy.

Germany is already working with India in the focal areas of Energy (€5.08 bn), Sustainable Urban Development (€3.16 bn), Management of

Natural Resources and Agriculture (€435 mn) and other activities, particularly vocational training, health and social protection (€568 mn).

In its new commitments, Germany has allotted €713 million for energy, €409 million for urban development and €90 million for agroecology and natural resources. These projects will include supporting India's targets to expand solar power generation.

UP: Two rebel MLAs from BSP, Cong join BJP

Lucknow: Rebel Congress MLA from Rae Bareilly, Aditi Singh, who had dissociated from the party some time ago, Wednesday joined the BJP along with rebel BSP MLA from Sigri in Azamgarh, Vandana Singh.

Welcoming them to the party, UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh said the "two strong woman leaders" would counter Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his wife Dimple Yadav in Azamgarh, and Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Gandhi in Rae Bareilly.

"Both have made a place for themselves and work for the deprived. They will strengthen the BJP to attain an absolute majority in the 2022 Assembly polls in the state," said the UP BJP chief. **ENS**

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Rajendra Singh Gudha

RAJASTHAN

Roads should be like 'Katrina's cheeks': Minister

Jaipur: Days after being inducted as a minister in Rajasthan, Rajendra Singh Gudha has shot his mouth off comparing roads to the cheeks of actors Hema Malini and Katrina Kaif. The remark was allegedly made by the minister on Tuesday at a government camp held in a village in Jhunjhunu district. In the purported video, Gudha is heard saying in local dialect that roads should be like the cheeks of Hema Malini, adding she had become "too old". The minister made the comparison after he was told about the bad condition of roads in the district. He then went on to say roads should be like "Katrina Kaif's cheeks". "Katrina Kaif Ka Gaalan Jaayan ki Sadak Banni Chayey," he said on mic sitting in the camp. An officer of the PWD was also present in the camp. The minister could not be contacted for comments. **PTI**

ODISHA

3 detained for hurling eggs at CM's convoy

Bhubaneswar: The Puri district police on Wednesday detained three members of the Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha, including the district BJYM president Jayant Das for allegedly hurling eggs at the convoy of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Patnaik was in Puri to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of a Rs 331 crore Heritage Corridor project. The BJP members also showed black flags as Patnaik's cavalcade passed by. Eggs were also hurled at the vehicle of Minister Bikram Arukh near Malatipatapur while he was on his way to Puri to attend the event. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Hathras case accused taken to hospital

Lucknow: Campus Front of India (CFI) member Atiqur Rehman, who is one of the four accused along with journalist Siddique Kappan in the case of alleged Hathras conspiracy, was transferred to the AIIMS in New Delhi on Wednesday morning. Rehman, who needs surgical intervention for a fatal aortic regurgitation condition, was shifted to the hospital a day after the Allahabad High Court heard his plea seeking adequate medical care. His family had petitioned the court. **ENS**

Activists begin week-long protest over construction at Old Goa heritage site

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 24

ACTIVISTS AND residents began a satyagraha on Wednesday over the construction of a bungalow in a heritage precinct of Old Goa. What was expected to be a one-day fast is expected to last a week, said activists and members of the Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC).

About seven to eight people went without food from 8 am to 6 pm on Wednesday to oppose the allegedly illegal construction. They sat outside the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa's most popular monument, holding placards.

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



Protesters outside Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa's most popular monument, on Wednesday. *Express*

Supreme Court. Shaina had said on Tuesday: "I have nothing to say... there has to be some legitimacy." Munot said Tuesday that he did not wish to comment on the matter. It is learnt that Munot has pulled out of the construction. Both he and Shaina have maintained that they have nothing to do with the allegedly illegal construction.

On the first day of the Novena Mass, ahead of the feast of St Francis Xavier that falls on December 3, protestors sat outside the gate of the Basilica of Bom Jesus. Activist Anna Gracias, who recently joined the Trinamool Congress, was among those fasting: "Satyagraha is war without weapons. We just pray that this government gets wisdom,"

Gracias told reporters.

More are expected to join the fast in protest Thursday onwards, said Glen Cabral, an Old Goa resident. Architect Tahir Noronha said: "We will continue our fast for at least another seven days to see what kind of support we can garner." Activists said that a number of people visited the Bom Jesus Basilica on the first day of the Novenas, including Hindus. This helped them create awareness among many residents of Goa who arrived at the Basilica to pay their respect to the patron saint.

Asked about the construction on Wednesday, CM Pramod Sawant told reporters: "I will have to look into what is illegal and what is not."

On Wednesday, Goa Ports minister Micheal Lobo said that he felt confident that the state government would take action against the alleged illegal structure. "I am 100 percent sure that the CM will stop this work. Whatever permissions were granted - town and country planning, coastal regulation zone - will be revoked and that bungalow will be brought down. We all need to stay together."

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Need hospitalisation, says Pragya; NIA court tells her to follow its summons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

BJP MP Pragya Thakur, accused in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case and out on bail on health grounds, made a brief appearance at the special NIA court on Wednesday. Thakur said she was going to get hospitalised for three to four days at Kokilaben hospital in the city for examination related to veins-related ailment.

The court said Thakur will have to appear before it whenever she is summoned.

Thakur appeared before special judge P R Sitre, who was told by her lawyer that while the court had not summoned the MP, she appeared on her own volition as she was in the city for treatment. The BJP leader had last appeared before the special NIA court in January.

When judge asked Thakur if she was unwell, she responded,



Pragya Thakur appeared before special NIA court in Mumbai on Wednesday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

"I have to get admitted to Kokilaben hospital for veins-related issues and have started treatment." Her lawyer said she has come to the court from the airport and will directly go to the hospital.

The judge then asked her to remain present in the court whenever required and get de-

ENCOUNTER IN RAMBAGH

3 shot in Srinagar, police say militants

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24

TEN DAYS after a controversial "gunfight" at Hyderpora in Srinagar in which at least two civilians were killed, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have killed three alleged militants following a brief shootout in the city.

The police said one of the militants killed was involved in the killing of civilians in Srinagar recently. While police said the three were killed in a "gunfight" at Rambagh in Srinagar, witnesses said they were dragged out of a car and shot. The killings sparked protests in Srinagar, with agitated residents shouting slogans and the youth throwing stones.

"Acting on our own specific inputs regarding movement of terrorists in Rambagh area of Srinagar, a small team from Srinagar police signalled a suspected Santro vehicle to stop," police said in an official release. "However, the terrorists started firing indiscriminately on the po-



Security personnel on a patrol after an encounter with suspected militants near Rambagh, Srinagar. *PTI*

lice party from inside the car while trying to flee from the spot under the cover of fire."

Police said they retaliated, leading to a gunfight. "Police have identified the militants killed as Mehran Yaseen Shalla of Srinagar and Manzoor Ahmad Mir and Arfat Ahmad Sheikh of Pulwama.

They said the militants were affiliated to The Resistance Front (TRF), which police say is a shadow group of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Police said Mehran was involved in the killing of school principal and her colleague in Srinagar on October 7.

Zakia appeal: Did not shield anyone in 2002 riots cases, SIT tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) set up by Supreme Court to inquire into cases of communal violence during 2002 post-Godhra riots on Wednesday told the top court that it had not shielded anyone and rued that "uncharitable" remarks were being made against it.

"We were not shielding anybody," senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the SIT, told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar. Rohatgi was responding to charges by Zakia Jafri, wife of former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, who was killed during the riots, accusing the SIT of bias and overlooking evidence.

Rohatgi pointed out that SC, while setting up the SIT on March 26, 2008, had said it will record the statement of any person who wanted to give it, and invited statements by issuing newspaper advertisements. Yet, he said, "uncharitable remarks (are being made) against SIT".

His reference was to allegations by Jafri's counsel, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, that the SIT had not recorded the testimony of several witnesses. "SIT examined 275 witnesses, did not leave any stone unturned," Rohatgi said, and referred to the arrest and conviction of former Gujarat minister Mayaben Kodnani. "She was arrested and convicted and was in jail for a number of years. If the SIT was partisan, I dare say it would not have arrested a sitting cabinet minister." The bench, also com-



Zakia Jafri

prising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, is hearing Jafri's appeal challenging the October 5, 2017 Gujarat HC order upholding the Ahmedabad Metropolitan Magistrate Court's decision to accept the SIT's closure report, which gave a clean chit to then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in riots-related cases. Rohatgi also denied charges that there was any delay in calling the Army. "It's completely baseless..."

On Sibal's argument that SIT had not seized any phones, Rohatgi said, "(the contention is that) a mobile phone used in 2002, SIT should take it from them in 2010, 2011, 2012. Phones of that era were nascent - (they had) no WhatsApp, no camera."

He also responded to claims that the SIT did not seize call records or Police Control Room records: "No company keeps CDR for nine years."

Jafri had contended that bodies of those killed in the train tragedy were handed over to a private person, Jaydeep Patel of VHP. Rohatgi said the bodies were to be handed over to relatives, and those not identified were to be sent to Sola hospital in Ahmedabad. He said Jaydeep Patel was only to accompany them.

Centre writes to 13 states, UTs, expresses concerns over Covid testing rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

CITING MULTIPLE surges in coronavirus cases in several countries, the Union Health Ministry has written to 13 states and Union territories - including West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra and Punjab - expressing concerns over declining weekly testing rates and spiking positivity rates in some districts.

In a letter to Nagaland, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Ladakh, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan stressed on maintaining high testing rates given the recent increase in travelling due to events like marriages, festivals and vacations that have recently concluded or are underway.

"A decrease in testing would undermine the actual infection spread within the community,"

Bhushan said in the letter.

Also, with the onset of winter and increased pollution in some states, prevalence of ILI/SARI and respiratory distress symptoms should be closely monitored, with tests being conducted regularly for timely monitoring and clustering of cases for early hotspot identification, the official underlined.

"In the absence of sustained levels of sufficient testing, it is very difficult to determine the true level of infection spread in a geography. With a majority of countries seeing multiple surges in Covid cases in recent times and a few developed countries facing even fourth and fifth waves despite high levels of Covid vaccination, there is a need for continued vigil given the unpredictable and contagious nature of the disease.

"Hence, all efforts must be implemented to preserve the gains made so far and to prevent deterioration of Covid-19 scenario across the country," the secretary said.

CM: Goa to auction 6-8 mining blocks by Dec 15

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 24

THE GOA government will auction six to eight mining blocks by mid-December through the state-run mining corporation, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced on Wednesday.

In July, the Goa Assembly had passed the Goa Mineral Development Corporation Bill for the formation of a state-run corporation "to carry out mining operations in an orderly, scientific and ecological (ly) sustainable manner".

"It is almost finalised. By December 15, we should be able to complete the auction procedure for about six to eight (mining) blocks. It will be done through the corporation but State Bank of India has been taken on board for the auction," Sawant said after a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday.

The announcement comes at a time when the resumption of mining has become a key prom-

ise in poll-bound Goa.

Mining, an important source of livelihood in the state along with tourism, came to a complete halt after a Supreme Court order in 2018. The activity, in fact, had virtually stopped in 2012 itself when the issue was under litigation.

The Goa government had earlier signed a MoU with Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), a public sector undertaking, to inspect and identify the mining leases that the government could auction through the state-run Goa Mineral Development Corporation.

"They (MECL) will complete their exploration and decide how to do it (auction). After that the auction will be carried out through the State Bank of India. They have started the work and it will be finalised soon," the Chief Minister said.

He said that the payment of fees to the MECL will be made through the Directorate of Mining and Geology.

Three accused created situations that led to Mahant Giri's suicide: CBI chargesheet

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is investigating the suicide of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chairman Mahant Narendra Giri, in its chargesheet to the court has said that Giri used his political clout and sent a "huge amount" of money to Australia to get his disciple Anand Giri released in 2019 after he was arrested there in a molestation case.

Anand Giri and two others - Adhya Tiwari, the priest of the Bade Hanuman temple in Prayagraj, and his son Sandeep Tiwari - are the accused in the suicide case and have been charged with abetment to suicide and criminal conspiracy.

On September 20, Mahant Giri was found hanging from the ceil-



Mahant Narendra Giri

ing at the Baghambari Math in Prayagraj. Police found a "suicide note" in which Giri had allegedly accused Anand, Adhya, and Sandeep of mentally harassing him. A two-minute video in Mahant Giri's cellphone purportedly showed him levelling similar allegations. All the three accused are currently in jail.

The CBI said that the three accused hatched a criminal conspiracy to create circumstances that would compel Narendra Giri to

kill himself. It said Narendra Giri, who took over head of Baghambari Gaddi in 2004, executed a will on August 29, 2011 and nominated Anand Giri, his disciple since 2005, his successor. "In May 2019, Anand Giri visited Australia and was arrested there in a molestation case... For his release, Mahant Narendra Giri sent a huge amount of money and used his political connections. As a result of which, Anand Giri was released from custody and he returned to India safely," the chargesheet said.

The CBI said that on June 4 last year, Narendra Giri executed a fresh will in which he removed Anand Giri's name and nominated his other disciple, Swami Balbir Giri, as his successor. In the revised will, Narendra Giri said that Anand Giri, who used to frequently visit foreign countries, had got involved in anti-religious

activities, the CBI said.

The agency found that in May this year, Narendra Giri wrote a letter to Panch Parmeshwar of Niranjani Akhara requesting them to expel Anand Giri and cited his "ill deeds". "After his expulsion... (Anand Giri) He also started pressuring Narendra Giri, threatening him that he was in possession of many objectionable audios and videos of the mahant... A meeting was called in which it was decided that Anand Giri's expulsion would be revoked within 10 days," it said.

The CBI said that in May this year, Adhya Prasad Tiwari had an argument with Narendra Giri following which the Mahant took away the phool-maala of the temple from the Tiwari, who used to run the shop.

The three accused created circumstances that compelled Narendra Giri to commit suicide, the agency said.

Quddus stated that earlier the university used to buy answersheets, each costing Rs 7. With Singh as the acting vice-chancellor, "the price per answersheet was doubled mysteriously", he alleged. According to Quddus, 16 lakh answersheets were bought during Singh's tenure.

Singh, however, told *The Indian Express*: "The allegation against me seems politically motivated. Tenders for purchase of answersheets were surely made during my tenure as the acting V-C of MMHAPU and it was awarded to the lowest bidder by the tender committee. But the purchase and

payment were made by the present V-C. The present V-C had option of floating fresh tenders."

In a separate move, former deputy chief minister and Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Magadh University Vice-Chancellor Rajendra Prasad, whose premises were recently raided in connection with alleged financial irregularities in tender allotments.

"Raj Bhavan also needs to remove Magadh University V-C Rajendra Prasad, who faced raids by Special Vigilance Unit. The matter looks serious," he told *The Indian Express*.

Bihar Minister demands probe against V-C, skips Raj Bhavan function

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 24

DAYS AFTER a corruption complaint against the Vice-Chancellor of a Darbhanga-based university reached Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, state Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary has demanded a probe into the allegations.

Mounting pressure on the Governor to initiate action against IN Mithila University Vice-Chancellor Surendra Pratap Singh, the minister also skipped a Raj Bhavan awards function on

Tuesday where the former received the "best V-C award".

Choudhary, who did not explain why he skipped the function, told reporters: "Chancellor award was instituted by Raj Bhavan. Since there is complaint against LNMU V-C, it should be probed."

He was referring to the complaint against Singh on November 20 by Mohammed Quddus, the Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University (MMHAPU), Patna. Although the complaint was made to the Chief Minister, it is the Raj Bhavan that has to order the probe.

As Governor is ex-officio



Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Sushil Modi

Chancellor of state universities, his office alone is competent to order probes against Vice-Chancellor.

Raj Bhavan officials, including its spokesperson, were not available for comments.

The complaint against Singh is



related to the time when he held additional charge of MMHAPU as acting Vice-Chancellor.

Quddus alleged that Singh was involved in financial irregularities in purchase of answersheets for examinations. In his complaint letter,



8-year-old gang-raped, murdered by four men in Mangaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 24

KARNATAKA POLICE on Wednesday arrested four people for allegedly gang-raping and killing an eight-year-old girl in the coastal district of Mangaluru last week, police said.

The arrested have been identified as Jayban (21), Mukesh Singh (20), Muneem Singh (20) – all from Madhya Pradesh – and Manish Turki (33), a native of Jharkhand.

Mukesh, Jayban and Manish worked at a factory in Vamanjoor, Mangaluru rural police limits. Muneem worked in Puttur – around 50km from Mangaluru – as a labourer and was visiting Manish on the day of the incident.

The victim’s parents also worked at the same factory as labourers, and belong to Jharkhand.

On Sunday, the girl was playing with her brother inside the compound of the factory when she was allegedly abducted by Jayban and taken to his room. The accused then gang raped the girl, police sources said.

Jayban allegedly strangled the girl to death, and the accused later tried to dispose of the body.

The girl’s parents started searching for her around 3pm on Sunday, and found her body in a nearby drain around 6 pm. They then approached the Mangaluru rural police.

Mangaluru city police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said, “We have registered a case under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and 376 (rape) and 302 (punishment for murder) under Indian Penal Code (IPC).”

“The factory was given out on lease. There were 41 people, which included six children and 21 persons from other states, largely from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand working as labourers. On the day of the incident, 19 people were working and we had detained many of them for questioning on the day of incident. We managed to get some CCTV footage, Call Details Record (CDR) analysis and information from witnesses related to the incident. When these four suspects were questioned, they confessed,” the Mangaluru police commissioner said.

Venkaiah to lead Indian delegation at ASEM summit

New Delhi: Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu will lead the Indian delegation at the two-day ASEM summit to be held virtually from Thursday.

The ASEM or Asia-Europe Meeting is a platform for the countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen co-operation in a wide range of areas.

The grouping comprises 51 member countries and two regional organisations – the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

PTI

Plea on quota in IIT recruitment: Top court issues notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre and IITs on a plea seeking directions to the education institutes to follow reservation guidelines in matters of admission in research degree programmes and recruitment of

faculty members.

A bench headed by Justice I. Nageswara Rao, and also comprising Justices B R Gavaia and B V Nagarathna, issued the notices on a plea by Sachchida Nand Pandey, a researcher.

Pandey contended that the IITs were not following the reservation policy, which prescribes reservation to socially marginalised communities belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC categories, and that the Institutes were following a “completely unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary” process.

He said that the “IITs are not following the transparent process of recruiting the faculty members”, and that this “opens up the window for non-deserving and candidates to enter IITs

through connections”, which in turn “increases chances of corruption, favouritism and discrimination, affecting internal ranking and technological growth of the country”.

The plea said the Central government had in June 2008 written to the IIT directors to implement the reservation for SC, ST, and OBC categories in the requirement to a teaching post

at assistant professor level in Science and Technology, and at all levels (assistant, associate and professor) in Humanities and Management Department.




In November 2019, the government had also extended reservation to all posts (associate professors and professors) in all streams, including technical for faculty positions, he said on Wednesday.

CRPF ENHANCES EX-GRATIA FOR FAMILIES OF PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION OR ON DUTY

New Delhi: The CRPF has enhanced ex-gratia payment provided to families of personnel killed in action, or who die on duty due to other causes, officials said on Wednesday. As per the new rules, families of troops killed in combat will be provided ex-gratia of Rs 35 lakh, up from Rs 21.5 lakh being given till now.

Similarly, families of troops who die due to any other causes such as accident, suicide or illness while in service will be provided Rs 25 lakh, up from Rs 16.5 lakh, they said. The decision was taken during the annual governing body meeting of the paramilitary force held in September, a senior officer said.

PTI



Retail Assest Hub, Patna
POSSESSION NOTICE [Section 13(4)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **18.05.2021** calling upon the borrower (1) **Sri Binod Kumar , S/o Ragu Nandan Singh, & (2) Smt. Pusplata Prabha Sinha, W/o Binod Kumar** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 24,91,637.17 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Seventeen Only)** as on 30.04.2021 plus interest due and other cost within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **19th day of November of the year 2021.**

The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank Saristabad Branch/Retail Assest Hub, Patna** for an Amount of **Rs. 24,91,637.17 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Seventeen Only)** as on **30.04.2021** and and interest and other cost thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.


Description of the Immovable Property

All the part & parcel of the property Mauza-Brahampur, Sekhpura, P.S-Phulwari now Gaurichak, Tauzi No-28, Thana No-111, Khata No-38, S. Plot No 714 (Part), Society Plot No-49, Registry- Danapur, Sadar Registry & Dist.-Patna, (Area-1322 Sq Ft) **Boundary :-**North- S.Plot No-48, South-S.Plot No-50, East-20 Ft Road, West-Society Himself

Date : 19.11.2021

Place - Patna

Authorised Officer
CANARA BANK



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

ROSARB: PATNA
1st floor, Saryug Complex,
Nehru Nagar, Patliputra,
Patna-800013, Ph: 0612-2260078
E-mail: sarptn@bankofbaroda.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Bank of Baroda** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower /Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice with future interest and incidental charges.

The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgageor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgago(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the Said Act with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

The borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda** for an amount stated herein below plus interest and incidental expenses incurred by bank

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision 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/ies charged to Bank of Baroda		
Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantors/ Demand Notice/ Date of Possession/ Amount Outstanding	Description of the Immovable Property/ies
1.	Borrower: M/s Govinda Mini Rice Mill Prop: Sri Laxman Singh S/o Late Gaya Singh, At- Takiya Bazar, PO+PS- Sasaram, Distt-Rohtas, Bihar-821113 Demand Notice: 21.09.2020 Possession Notice: 22.11.2021 Amount: Rs.32,15,594.00 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Four only as on 20.09.2020)+ Interest+Other Charges w.e.f 21.09.2020 Branch: Sasaram A/c No: 12060500000319	All the part and parcel of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Moradabad Kala, PO-Sasaram, PS-Sasaram, Distt- Rohtas bearing Thana No. 192, Plot No.1113, Khata No. 95, Area-4.00 decimal Vide regd. Sale Deed No. 3511 dated 20.05.1997 in the name of Sri Laxman Singh S/o Late. Gaya Singh Bounded as under : North: Aditya Singh South: Urmila Devi East: Laxman Singh West: Harihar Singh
2.	Borrower: M/s Yasoda Mini Rice Mill Prop. Sri Dinanath Thakur S/o Uday Narayan Thakur, R/o- Beda Moresarai, PO+PS- Sasaram, Rohias-821115 Demand Notice: 17.09.2020 Possession Notice: 22.11.2021 Amount: Rs.47,44,101.00 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred One only as on 16.09.2020)+ Interest+Other Charges w.e.f 17.09.2020 Branch: Sasaram	1. Equitable Mortgages of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Beda, PO- Moresarai, PS- Sasaram, Thana No. 129, Plot No. 569, Khata No. 11, Vide Registered Deed No. 11724 dated 14.12.1992, Area- 2.25 Decimal in the name of Sri Dinanath Thakur S/o Uday Narayan Thakur. Bounded as under : North: Lalmoni Devi South: Shanti Devi East: Jamuna Mahto West: Bihar Sarkar 2. Equitable Mortgages of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Balathuan, PO- Moresarai, PS- Sasaram, Thana No. 105, Plot No. 217 & 219/92, Khata No. 71/71 Thana No. 105 via Registered Deed No. 12759 dated 18.12.2006, Area- 4.00 Decimal in the name of Sri Dinanath Thakur S/o Uday Narayan Thakur Bounded as under: North: Nahar South: Suresh Sah East: Mukhlal Thakur West: Rambachan Singh 3. Equitable Mortgages of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Balathuan, PO- Moresarai, PS- Sasaram, Thana No. 129, Plot No. 632, Khata No. 135 via Registered Deed No. 12759 dated 18.12.2006, Area- 2.00 Decimal in the name of Sri Dinanath Thakur S/o Uday Narayan Thakur Bounded as under: North: Vijay Nal Singh South: Panchayat Bhawan East: Jai Narayan Thakur West: Road 4. Equitable Mortgages of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Beda, PO- Moresarai, PS- Sasaram, Thana No. 129, Plot No. 866/136, Khata No. 147 via Registered Deed No. 11287 dated 27.09.2007, Area- 6.50 Decimal in the name of Sri Umesh Kumar S/o Lallan Singh Bounded as under : North: Thakuiji Sipahi West: Awadhesh mahato & Rajkumar Mahato East: Keshnath mahato & Rajkumar and others Mahato: Vishwanath Mahato & Basawan Mahato
3.	Borrower: M/s Sri Shankar Jee Mini Rice Mill Prop: Sri Harendra Kumar (Borrower) S/o Radha Krishna Shah & Smt Radhika Devi (Guarantor) W/o Radha Krishan Sah Demand Notice: 11.01.2021 Possession Notice: 24.11.2021 Amount: Rs.41,57,285.00 (Rupees Forty One Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five only) +Interest+Other Charges Branch: Bikramganj	Equitable Mortgage of Land situated at Mauza- Natwar Kalan, PS- Natwar, Anchal- Dinara, Thana No.130, Khata No. 66, Khesra No.102/808, Admeasuring area 17 Decimal in the name of Smt Radhika Devi W/o Sri Radha Krishna Sah vide sale deed no. 8676 dated 29.12.1999 Bounded as under : North: Plot No. 101 South: Radha Krishna Sah East: Sri Ram Chaubey West: Radha Krishna Sah

Place : Patna
Date : 24.11.2021

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
AMBALA CANTT

INDIAN RAILWAYS PROFORMA 10-01
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

No. RE/ELECT/UMB/EI/Group-237/6583/PN Dated: 23.11.2021

Notification is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the under noted section of the North Western Railway that the overhead traction wires has been energized on 25000 Volt 50 Hz AC on date specified against the section given below: On and from the same date the overhead traction lines shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

S.N.	Section	Division	Date on which energized
1.	Nohar (Excl.) KM 73/326.00 (Loc 73/ 06) to Hanumangarh (Excl) KM 01/303.50 (Loc 01/07)	Bikaner	08.10.2021
2.	Churu (Excl.) Loc. 282/22 (Ch. KM 282/977.00) to Ratangarh (Incl.) (i) Loc. 326/06 (Ch.KM 326/363.50) BKN side (ii) Loc. RTGH 1050 (Ch.KM 326/165.50) JU side	Bikaner	13.11.2021

No. PR/193/21
R.D. Adv

Chief Project Director,
Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt.

"Serving Customers with a Smle"



SBI State Bank of India
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800 001
Phone No.:- 0612-2200968, Email:- sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA** for an amount and interests thereon.

The borrower'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.

Name of Account/ Borrower & Address	Name of Proprietor/ Partners/ Guarantors/ Owner of property etc.	Description of the property mortgaged/charged	Date of Demand Notice & Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s Anuj Timber, Prop.-Sri Rama Shankar Singh, Vill.- Suhai Sahpur, PS-Baniyapur, Dist.-Saran, State-Bihar, Pin-841403	1. Mr. Rama Shankar Singh S/o Late Raghunath Singh 2. Sri Shyam Sunder Singh S/o Late Raghunath Singh and 3. Sri Arbind Kumar Singh S/o Sri Shyam Sunder Singh	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building bearing Khata No.38, Plot No.1281 & 1282, Thana No.58, Tauzi No.905, Area-02 Katha 03 Dhur, Vill.-Suhai Sahpur, P.S Baniapur, Dist.-Saran, Dist.-Sub-Registrar Chapra Registry Office, in the state of Bihar, vide Registered Exchange Deed No.6954 dated 06/07/2011. The Property is mortgaged by the Proprietor Mr. Rama Shankar Singh S/o Late Raghunath Singh and the Mortgageor/Guarantor Sri Shyam Sunder Singh S/o Late Raghunath Singh and Sri Arbind Kumar Singh S/o Sri Shyam Sunder Singh. Boundaries of this plot of land (As per Notorised Affidavit of Seller) are:- North-Road, South-Sri Uday Kumar Singh, East-Present Vendee Mt. Manbhawati Devi, West-Binda Sah.	24/05/2021 & 23/11/2021	₹24,02,328.00 as on 30/04/2021 plus accrued interest, charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.

Date : 23.11.2021
Place : Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA



इंडियन बैंक
Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

INDIAN BANK
Zonal Office,
Budh Marg, Patna

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below:

The attention of borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of The Borrower/ Guarantor (owner of the property)	Description of the charged/ Mortgaged property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice Date of possession Notice Amount outstanding as on the date of demand Notice
1.	SIMRI	M/S Pooja Enterprises (Pro- Sri Umesh Rai) S/O Late Dharamdeo Rai	M/S Pooja Enterprises (Pro- Sri Umesh Rai & Sri Umakant Rai	All that part & parcel of land & building vide Registered mortgage Deed No-2443 dated 20.03.2017 (Acquired through Sale Deed No-6595 dated 12.06.2000) by Sri Umesh Rai S/O Late Dharmdeo Rai & Sri Umakant Rai S/O Late Dharamdeo Rai in favour of Allahabad Bank Simri branch register with District Registry Office, Buxar in Book No-1, Volume No-34 on pages from 62 to 71 CD No-6/Year 2017 to at Mauza-Dubauli, Anchal- Simri, Thana No-16, Khata No-175, Plot No- Ch 320, S 317 having area of 3.125 Decimals (01 katha), Boundary (as per deed): North: Nij, South: Road, East: Banshi Yadav, West: Road.	17.12.2019 19.11.2021 Rs.2382771.00 (Twenty three lakhs Eighty two thousand seven hundred seventy one only) as on 17.12.2019 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization
2.	MATHILA	Sheo Shankar Sharma	Sheo Shankar Sharma, Sri Baban Sharma, Smt Kalawati Devi & Sri Motilal Sharma	All that part & parcel of land & building belonging to Sri Moti Lal Sharma S/O Late Mahesh Sharma situated at Mauza- Koransarai, P.S- Dumraon. P.S No-344, District- Buxar, Bihar , Khata No-48, Plot No- 1228 , Title deed No-2895 dated 30.03.2000 area admeasuring 10 dhur (1.55 decimal). Boundary (as per Deed) North: Nij, South: Mokir alaih, East: Hariyandan Singh, West: Nij & area admeasuring ¼ Katha (1.55 decimal) , at Mauza- Koransarai, P.S- Dumraon. P.S No- 344, District- Buxar, Bihar Khata no-48, Plot No-1228, Title deed No- 2896 dated 30.03.2000 in the name of Moti Lal Sharma S/O Late Mahesh Sharma . Boundary (as per deed): North: Ramashray singh, South: Mokir alaih, East: Triyogi Tiwari, West: Road.	12.05.2020 19.11.2021 Rs.574195.68 (Five Lakhs seventy four thousand one hundred ninety five & sixty five only) as on 12.05.2020 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization
3.	ITARHI	Shri Shankar Pd Keshri & Shri Daya Shankar Prasad	Shri Shankar Pd. Keshri & Shri Daya Shankar Prasad	All that part & parcel of land & building situated at mauza- Itarhi, Thana- Itarhi, Thana No-428, Survey Khata no- 110, Survey Plot No- 101, area admeasuring 02 11/20 decimals & 01 7/10 decimals (Total- 4.25 Decimals) vide Registered sale deed No-8849 dated 04/08/1998 & sale deed No-8850 dated 04/08/1998 registered with sub & Sadr registry Office, Buxar. Boundary (as per Deed): North: Vindhychal Keshri, South: Road, East: Vindhychal Keshri, West: Bihar State.	15.09.2021 19.11.2021 Rs.1338083.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs thirty eight thousand eighty three Only) as on 15.09.2021 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization
4.	PURANA BHOJPUR	M/S Anup Enterprises (Pro- Sri Chandra Bhushan Sah)	M/S Anup Enterprises (Pro- Sri Chandra Bhushan Sah), Sri Chandra Bhushan Sah & Sri Ashok Kumar Gupta	Equitable Mortgage of All that part & parcel of landed property in the name of Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta S/O Shri Laxman Prasad Gupta sale deed No-573 dated 18.01.2016, Book No-01, Volume no-08, pages 263- 270 registered with District Registry Office-Buxar at Mouza- Dumroon, Khata No-10, Plot No-291/1755(N), 295, P.S No-168, old ward no-11, New ward no-02, P.S- Dumraon, District- Buxar, Bihar area admeasuring 20 dhur (10 dhur+ 10 dhur) equivalent to 01 katha Boundary (as per Deed): North: Rasta, South: Sri kant Rakesh, East: Arun singh, West: Munna Chaudhary.	05.03.2020 22.11.2021 Rs.7381721.00 (Rupees seventy three lakhs eighty one thousand seven hundred twenty one Only) as on 05.03.2020 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization.
5.	ITARHI	Shri Upendra Singh	Shri Upendra Singh S/O Sri Deo chand Singh & Poonam Devi	Equitable Mortgage of land in the name of Smt Poonam Devi W/O Sri Upendra Singh area admeasuring 3.125 Decimals, sale Deed No-119 dated 06.01.2010, Mauza- Mishrawaliya, District- Buxar, Bihar, Book No-01, Zild No-02, page No-169-175 Khata no-18, Plot No-213, Thana no-325, Anchal- Buxar. Boundary (as per deed): North: Ajay ray, South: Baban Singh East: S.N. Singh, West: Baha (Canal).	06.12.2019 22.11.2021 Rs. 809401.00 (Rupees Eight lakhs nine thousand four hundred one Only) as on 06.12.2019 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization,

Date : 23.11.2021
Place : Patna

(Authorized Officer)
Indian Bank



बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India

ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE
1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001
(Tel.2220640-643, Fax: 0612-2223178)

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical/symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India , Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to bank of India from the below mentioned borrower(s) & guarantor(s). The reserve price and the Earnest money deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Details of Borrower/Plant & Machinery/Mortgaged Property/Inspection Date/ Date E-auction/Reserve Price & EMD.

Date, Time of E-auction:- 27.12.2021 at 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Followed by three extensions of 10 minutes

Inspection Date & Time of the Property: Till 21.12.2021 from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM in consultation with the Authorized Officer of Patna Zone (Bihar)
Last Date of acceptance of bids: 24.12.2021

Sl. No.	Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Asset/Property	1.Reserve Price & 2.Earnest Money Deposit(EMD)
01.	M/s Vidyadaan (Mr. Surya Kumar Singh, Mr. Arun Kumar Verma, Mr. Indrajeet & Mr. Anshumali Bhushan) Branch: Patna Recovery. Total Due: ₹ 5,79,08,885/- (Rupees Five Crore, Seventy nine lacs, Eight thousand Eight hundred Eighty Five) plus interest as mentioned in notice issued dated 28.02.2014 under rule 13(2) & interest accrued there on along with 'cost & Charges'.	(i) Owner of property: All the part and parcel of Property in the name of Arun Kumar Verma , Situated at Flat No.- G-303, 3 rd Floor, jaipuria Sunrise Greens, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Gaziabad bearing Plot No. 12A Admeasuring-111.30 Sq.mt. (ii) Owner of property: All the part and parcel of Property in the name of Arun Kumar Verma Situated at Vill-Kanwali, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun bearing Khasra No. 284 Admeasuring-250.83 Sq.mt. (iii) Owner of property: All the part and parcel of Property in the name of Surya Kumar Singh Situated at Vill-Kanwali, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun bearing Khasra No. 284 Admeasuring-195.00 Sq.mt.	₹ 52.96 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 5.30 Lakhs ₹ 91.16 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 9.12 Lakhs ₹ 49.73 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 4.98 Lakhs

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of India, Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://ibapi.in>

Place : Patna
Date : 24.11.2021

Authorised Officer
BANK OF INDIA

New Delhi

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

TREAD WITH CAUTION

The cryptocurrency bill calls for extensive discussions and consultations. Parliament should take the lead

AMONG THE 26 pieces of legislation listed for consideration in the winter session of Parliament beginning Monday, is the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021. The Bill lays the ground for ushering in a framework for the introduction of the digital currency that is to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). But, at the same time, it also seeks to “prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India”, though, allowing for “certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses”. While the granular details are awaited, doing so would be a mistake. To be sure, there are legitimate concerns over cryptocurrencies. But an outright ban, even though there are questions over its enforceability, would not be the prudent way forward. In its haste to bring about clarity on the issue, the government should not make the mistake of ramming this legislation through without a detailed discussion on the implications of its action. If the government should draw any lesson from the farm law saga, it is that passing contentious legislations in Parliament without proper debate and discussion is best avoided.

Across the world, the response to cryptocurrencies has varied. In September, China imposed a complete ban on crypto transactions. Countries including Japan and the UK have created space for their operation. The regulatory architecture, the rules of governance, the ambit of taxation depends on how the country views cryptocurrency — as a currency, an asset, or a commodity. While concerns over money laundering and financing of terrorism have been repeatedly flagged, from a monetary and fiscal policy point of view too there are valid concerns. Central banks have concerns over their monetary dominion, especially through stablecoins backed by a reserve asset. If their acceptance as a medium of exchange gains traction, the efficacy of their policies to respond to business cycles will be under question. Then there is also the loss of seigniorage revenue to contend with. Moreover, an outright ban may simply push these activities beyond the realm of enforcement, complicating matters.

The issue is contentious to say the least. Strong differences of opinion exist even among the policymakers. For instance, RBI governor, Shaktikanta Das, has repeatedly cautioned against cryptocurrencies, arguing that “there are serious concerns on macroeconomic and financial stability”. But an earlier meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was in favour of “progressive and forward looking” steps in the field of cryptocurrency. Similarly, members of the standing committee on finance, chaired by BJP member Jayant Sinha, are reportedly more in favour of regulating, not banning cryptocurrencies. Considering that not everyone is on the same page, the government should tread cautiously. The way forward should be dictated by discussions and consultations with all stakeholders.

CAPITAL COST

Andhra Pradesh should abandon the three-capital plan and focus on building Amaravati

TWO YEARS AGO, weeks after winning the Andhra Pradesh assembly elections, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy announced a rollback of the greenfield capital city, Amaravati, that his predecessor Chandrababu Naidu had launched in 2015, soon after the state lost its capital, Hyderabad, to Telangana after bifurcation. Instead, Reddy mooted a plan to develop three capital cities — a legislative headquarters in Amaravati, a centre for the bureaucracy in Visakhapatnam, and the high court in Kurnool. The move disrupted investment plans running into millions and involving agencies such as the World Bank and triggered protests by farmers who had given land for the capital as per a pooling arrangement with the government. On Monday, the Andhra Pradesh State Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Repeal Bill, 2021, which aims to repeal the earlier laws made by the state legislature to facilitate the three-capitals plan. The Reddy government has declared it will bring in a new bill though it has not yet clarified whether it will stay with the three-capital plan or revert to Amaravati as the sole capital. This is an opportunity for the government to abandon the three-capital plan and focus on building Amaravati.

The Reddy government has offered mainly two arguments to support its three-capital plan. One, the Naidu government flouted laws and procedures while acquiring land for the capital city and planning its development. Two, a decentralised model of government alone can address the regional disparities plaguing the new state. In the first case, the administration can surely investigate deficiencies in contracts if there are any, rectify them and move forward. As for the laudable goal of having a decentralised government, it does not call for three capitals, an idea that could lead to wastage of resources and turn into a logistical nightmare. A compact, well-planned capital city with modern infrastructure can help different arms of the state to share resources and maximise use. Prudent disbursement of capital and human resources and decentralised planning with the involvement of local population is sufficient to avoid the perils of over centralisation of government.

The government’s present decision presumably has been influenced by two parallel developments: One, the progress of legal cases against the three-capital plan in Andhra Pradesh High Court, and two, an ongoing mobilisation by farmers, who had contributed land for the building of Amaravati. The government must strive for an early closure in the matter so that further cost overruns can be avoided and the state can have a new capital.

JUST HIT PLAY

Can the music album survive our attention-deficient times?

HOW WOULD WE listen to *The Dark Side of the Moon* or *Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* had these albums been released today? Much like how video was believed to have killed the radio star when the MTV era began in 1980s, the age of music streaming is said to have killed off the very idea of the album that takes the listener on a thematic, sonic or narrative journey. If this sounds too esoteric an issue to be bothered about, consider a recent Twitter exchange on the subject of the shuffle feature and what it says about our attention-deficient times.

British singer-songwriter Adele, who recently released her fourth studio album *30*, responded to news about Spotify removing the shuffle button as the default option on albums, by thanking the music streaming giant for “listening”. She tweeted: “We don’t create albums with so much care and thought into our track listing for no reason. Our art tells a story and our stories should be listened to as we intended.” Whether or not Spotify made this move at Adele’s explicit request — the company responded to her tweet with, “only for you” — is besides the point. What this exchange highlights is that, despite having every kind of music, from all over the world, at our literal fingertips, we’ve forgotten how to really listen to — and engage with — music. What we do instead is skip from song to song, seeking the dopamine hit that comes with every fresh track. The fact that Spotify counts 30 seconds of playtime of every song as a single stream is itself a damning indicator of our flighty listening habits.

Requiem for the music album — one of the 20th century’s greatest art concepts — had begun to be written back in the early aughts when the iPod, with a shuffle feature that prioritised singles over albums, upended the industry. With Adele’s pushback and Spotify’s acquiescence, here’s hoping that those requiems would not need to be played anytime soon.



AMARTYA LAHIRI

THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT by Prime Minister Narendra Modi withdrawing the farm bills has, predictably, generated a lot of press. Undoubtedly, there have been political winners and losers. Much more consequentially, lives have been lost in this sordid saga. Sadly, the part that has been lost in the din is the fact that the entire episode was a complete distraction from the primary goal of lifting Indian farmers out of a low-income existence. The farm bills, whether they are passed or not, were unlikely to have made any sustained difference to the life of the farmer. Let me explain.

Agriculture today employs 45 per cent of India’s workers while only producing around 10 per cent of its output. Clearly, Indian agriculture is woefully unproductive. That is the fundamental reason why the Indian farmer is poor. The problem is that there are just too many workers still trying to eke out a living from the farm. The land, despite many improvements in irrigation, seeds, fertilisers and mechanisation, just doesn’t have enough in it to sustain the sheer number of people dependent on it.

In this backdrop of vast expanses of unproductive farms, marginal changes in prices of agricultural products through tinkering with agricultural marketing laws are not going to make any appreciable long-term difference to the life of the Indian farmer and his children. Of course, small improvements in prices received would help at the margin. But they will not materially change either the low productivity of Indian agriculture or the low returns to most of its practitioners. In that sense, the farm bills were much ado about nothing.

The problem of low agricultural productivity is not unique to India. It is an endemic feature in developing countries. Two international facts illustrate this. First, while overall labour productivity in the richest countries is almost 40-fold greater than in the poorest economies, the gap in agricultural labour productivity between these countries is 80-fold. By contrast, the gap between the labour productivity of developed and developing countries in non-agricultural sectors is just five-fold. Second, despite the abysmally low labour productivity, the poorest economies continue

Failure of manufacturing to absorb surplus agricultural labour has tied farmers to land

Our approach to agriculture has mostly taken a peculiar form of welfarism, with measures such as minimum support prices, subsidies to cultivators and interest rate subventions on crop loans effectively acting like an ineffective balm for stressed farmers. These measures hardly do anything for long-term changes in the fortunes of farmers. Instead, it traps farmers by giving them marginally stronger incentives to remain in agriculture even though it is an activity without a future for most of them.

to allocate a huge part of their labour force to agriculture. India fits very well with these two international facts.

An implication of these facts is that in the poorest countries, labour productivity in non-agricultural sectors is massively greater than productivity in agriculture. Some of this measured sectoral productivity gap is doubtless due to factors like lower mechanisation, price differentials between rural and urban areas, worker quality and unmeasured agricultural output due to home production. However, even after adjusting for these factors, the average productivity gap between non-agriculture and agriculture remains very high.

These international patterns suggest a puzzling over-allocation of labour to agriculture in poorer countries. Why doesn’t labour in these economies just move from the relatively low-income agricultural sector to non-agricultural occupations? That, in a nutshell, is the key challenge of development.

How did the currently industrialised countries deal with this when they were at similar income levels a century ago? For one, the difference between labour productivities in the non-agricultural and agricultural sectors was much smaller, partly due to relatively few policy controls on prices and quantities. Hence, the initial misallocation of labour was smaller. Moreover, a deterioration in the agricultural terms of trade in the currently industrialised countries generated a push factor that induced labour to shift out of agriculture. Key to this was the expansion of large scale, low-tech industrial employment, which could absorb the surplus agricultural labour.

The problem in India is that the patchwork of policy measures taken over many years now lies like a smothering blanket over the entire economy. Our approach to agriculture has mostly taken a peculiar form of welfarism with measures such as minimum support prices, subsidies to cultivators and interest rate subventions on crop loans effectively acting like an ineffective balm for stressed farmers. These measures hardly do anything for long-term changes in the fortunes of farmers. Instead, it traps farmers by giving them marginally stronger incentives to remain in agri-

culture even though it is an activity without a future for most of them.

The need of the hour is for the non-agricultural sectors to step up and provide a viable alternative to low productivity agriculture. In India, the majority of the non-agricultural employment growth has happened in the service sector. Unfortunately, 80 per cent of this service sector employment is in very low productivity own-account enterprises that employ three or fewer people. These enterprises are mostly a refuge for people without any options.

The sector that has frustrated India’s development is the large-scale, low-tech manufacturing sector. This is the sector that typically absorbs surplus agricultural labour in bulk while also providing them with significant improvements in incomes. This sector has completely failed to grow in India.

Most Indian manufacturing units employ fewer than 50 workers, thereby failing to reap the productivity benefits of scale. At their low productivity levels, these units neither provide a good wage nor do they employ many. Even larger firms prefer to operate with many small units than a few large units. The reasons are many, but existing labour and land acquisition laws are probably up there in importance.

The need of the hour is to focus on incentivising entrepreneurs to invest in large-scale manufacturing. This will probably require the government to expend significant political capital in legislating labour reforms above all. Given the experience with the farm bills, there is unlikely to be much appetite for it though. And that is probably the biggest cost of this entire episode.

Without action, however, the costs will get larger. If India is unable to employ 10 million new workers a year over the next decade at wages that reflect aspirations, the country’s much-touted demographic dividend runs the risk of turning into a demographic curse. It is time to sound the manufacturing employment bugle. Incrementalism and ad-hoc welfarism have run their course.

The writer is Royal Bank Research Professor of Economics at University of British Columbia

SAVE HER CHILDHOOD

Legislation, education and government action can help stop child marriage



UMA MAHADEVAN DASGUPTA

AT A CHILDREN’S gram sabha two years ago, a schoolgirl stood up to say her mother was forcing her into marriage. Her face was taut with pain as she spoke. Her classmates did not take their eyes off her face; they recognised their friend’s reality. That girl’s child marriage was prevented, and she is continuing her studies — but we need to talk about child marriage. Teenage girls should be in school and achieving — not married off before they attain adulthood.

Reports suggest that more child marriages have been noticed during the Covid pandemic. However, data from the fourth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS4) in 2015–16 shows that even before Covid, one in four girls in India was being married before 18. Around 8 per cent of women aged 15–19 years were mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey. The first phase findings of NFHS5 (2019–20) show that the needle has not moved substantially on ending child marriage.

Conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have been the main policy instrument introduced by most states in the last two decades to end child marriage. However, with one-size-fits-all conditions, that may not always be responsive to the lived realities of teenage girls. CCTs alone cannot change social norms. We need a comprehensive approach.

Child marriages happen within a social and economic context, embedded in a set of beliefs about the status of women and girls, and their role as wives and mothers. Associated with these are the reality of domestic labour and care work performed by

women; a belief that girls need to marry early for safety and protection; and apprehensions about the risk to family honour or economic burden. High levels of child marriage reflect discrimination and lack of opportunities for women and girls in society.

Child marriage violates girls’ human rights. It makes them almost invisible to policy. It cuts short their education, harms their health, and limits their ability to fulfil themselves as productive individuals participating fully in society. The low domestic status of teenage wives typically condemns them to long hours of domestic labour; poor nutrition and anaemia; social isolation; domestic violence; early child-bearing; and few decision-making powers within the home. Poor education, malnutrition, and early pregnancy lead to low birth weight of babies, perpetuating the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. The costs of child marriage include teenage pregnancy, population growth, child stunting, poor learning outcomes for children and the loss of women’s participation in the workforce.

What, then, should be the policy interventions to end child marriage? Legislation is one part of the approach. Karnataka amended the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2017, declaring every child marriage void ab initio, making it a cognisable offence, and introducing a minimum period of rigorous imprisonment for all who enable a child marriage.

Other drivers of social change must play a fundamental role. These include expansion of secondary education, access to safe and affordable public transport, and support for

young women to apply their education to earn a livelihood. Expansion of education goes beyond access. Girls must be able to attend school regularly, remain there, and achieve. States can leverage their network of residential schools, girls’ hostels, and public transport, especially in underserved areas, to ensure that teenage girls do not get pushed out of education. Girls’ clubs should be systematically formed in high school to provide informal social networks for group study, solidarity, and resilience. Teachers should hold regular gender equality conversations with high school girls and boys to shape progressive attitudes that will sustain into adulthood.

Empowerment measures, too, are required to end child marriage, such as community engagement through programmes like Mahila Samakhya. Children’s village assemblies in the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across India can provide a platform for children to voice their concerns.

Governmental action can drive social change. Field bureaucrats across multiple departments, including teachers, anganwadi supervisors, panchayat and revenue staff, all of whom interact with rural communities, should be notified as child marriage prohibition officers. Finally, and most important of all, decentralising birth and marriage registration to gram panchayats will protect women and girls with essential age and marriage documents, thus better enabling them to claim their rights.

The writer is in the IAS. Views are personal

NOVEMBER 25, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB IN TURMOIL

PUNJAB SEEMS TO be in for President’s rule. This indication was available from the report of Home Secretary T N Chaturvedi to the Centre after his three-day visit to the state. The suggestion of President’s rule was also made by the state governor, Amin-ud-din Khan, to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Both Chaturvedi and Khan think that normalcy can be restored only if there’s a change in political leadership. Khan alleged that he had been never taken into confidence by the state government and received routine reports about the declining situation. He suggested a complete overhaul of the state administration.

NO-WAR PACT

INDIA IS PREPARED to discuss Pakistan’s proposal for initiating a dialogue on a no-war pact between the two countries provided Pakistan is serious about it. An indication to this was reportedly given by the PM in her address to the National Defence College. The Prime Minister did not think that the offer, made on September 15, was a serious one.

UP’S DEADLINE

THE UP GOVERNMENT has set a one-month target to improve the law and order situation in the state. While Chief Minister Vishwanath

Pratap Singh said that he would quit by December 24, if there’s no improvement in the situation, Home Minister Swaroop Kumari Bakshi said that the state government was thinking of arming itself with an ordinance to deal with the menace of dacoits. She said the ordinance would have a provision for keeping dacoits in jail for six months before they can apply for bail.

FERREIRA CHAMPION

INDIA’S MICHAEL FERREIRA has regained the World Amateur Billiards Championship. He defeated Normal Dagley of England 2725–2631 to claim the coveted title.



New Delhi



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Don't wait for a distress call

Telecom and digital services can be harbingers of growth and inclusion if policy isn't erratic, and crisis-driven



RAJAT KATHURIA AND MANSI KEDIA

SHORTLY AFTER THE Cabinet announced nine structural and procedural reforms in September to address the deep financial woes of telcos, Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel hiked their tariff by 25 per cent, with effect from November 25. This was widely expected since the Cabinet-announced package was, by itself, unlikely to liberate the beleaguered telcos from their accumulated debt. The reaction of Reliance Jio, the “disrupter-in-chief” in the telecom space, will be eagerly anticipated, and the expectation is that it will accommodate the tariff hike — that is, follow suit. It may not be immediately obvious, but this might be a good thing even for the consumer, as India looks to move beyond 2G, to renew and expand 4G and create world class 5G networks afresh.

“By stealth” or “crisis-driven” are phrases used to characterise Indian reform, of which perhaps the 1991 reform stands out as being the most charismatic. In July this year, we celebrated three decades of India’s “big-bang” economic reforms, one that catapulted India from being a socialist economy with a heart but no trickle-down, to a market-oriented economy with a mind but also very little trickle-down. Inequality has been a feature of both models. The 2018 Oxfam report showed that 10 per cent of the richest Indians took home 77.4 per cent of wealth (compared to 73 per cent the year before). Moreover, 58 per cent of India’s wealth was in the hands of 1 per cent of the country’s population. In the pre-1991 period, the principal modes of redistribution were taxation and public sector operations. In the post-1991 period, it has been a combination of taxation, technology, smartphones and the associated direct benefit transfers.

Undoubtedly, someday researchers will have a considered view on the question whether the digital model post-1991, and especially the one since the 2000s, delivered us from the widespread inequality that has cast a dark shadow on India’s impressive growth since 1991 — give or take a few years. In other words, would inequality have been worse absent the digital spread?

For the moment, however, we argue that growth in itself is good (necessary but not sufficient, in the language of economists) for increasing average income. While the sources of growth in an economy are aplenty, there are very few that can potentially address the twin objectives of growth and inclusion. Every 10 per cent increase in investment in telecom, for example, leads to a 3.2 per cent increase in GDP growth for India. Not only is the growth dividend positive, it is large. At the same time, the mobile phone has become a means for sophisticated financial integration, as shown by the expanding usage of pre-paid payment instruments and mobile banking. The Jan-Dhan Yojana (JDY) attempts to include the marginalised and unbanked through technology. As of October 2021, a total of 440 million bank accounts have been opened and more than 310 million RuPay cards have been issued under the latter, indicating the large unmet demand for banking services. The Aadhaar identity card is envis-



C R Sasikumar

aged as the sole KYC proof, besides serving as the backbone for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) when linked to bank accounts. The Jan-Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity ties the Aadhaar number to an active bank account, making income transfers predictable and targeted. There is already evidence that payments through Aadhaar-linked bank accounts have increased efficiency and reduced leakages.

While digital investments have had a salutary effect on inclusion and growth, they have done so in intermittent bursts, simulating a wave-like motion. We argue that the benefits of digitalisation could have been much larger and more widespread had telecom policy been more predictable and less erratic. Several academics and practitioners have written extensively about the sector’s hits and misses and it is not our intention to repeat the inimical details. The well-known 2G scam, the misallocation of licences in the early days of liberalisation, the inflated definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), the conversion of fixed to mobile licences, the avoidable Vodafone retrospective tax demand, the dissolution of the first regulator in 1999, among many others, make the dubious list quite lengthy. The intention, however, is not to grumble about the past, but to learn from it.

That Indian reforms more often than not happen on the back of a crisis is true for the telecom sector. The principal motive of the New Telecom Policy of 1999 was to rescue the deeply indebted sector of its own reckless bidding by replacing the fixed licence fee system with a revenue-sharing regime. In hindsight, it was the right thing to do since it threatened business continuity. The move to auction spectrum “for all times to come” in 2008 was necessitated by the administrative

The telecom relief package announced by the government in September supports proposals that have been repeatedly presented to the government by the regulator, industry associations and think-tanks. With the risk of a duopoly looming large, the government was pushed to take up these long-pending decisions.

bungling in spectrum assignment.

In the last few years, the government has been struggling to bail out a heavily indebted industry, the proximate reasons for which are an intense and debilitating price war, an unreasonable definition of AGR, an extractive spectrum auction regime and, of course, the march of technology that destroyed comfortable revenue streams of operators. The telecom relief package announced by the government in September supports proposals that have been repeatedly presented to the government by the regulator, industry associations and think tanks, including us. With the risk of a duopoly looming large, the government was pushed to take up these long-pending decisions that included nine key changes. Besides providing immediate relief on payment of licence fee and penalties due to the government, the package increased FDI limits, extended licence tenure to 30 years from 20, removed charges on spectrum-sharing and proposed timelines for spectrum auctions. The package will undoubtedly have a positive short-term impact and perhaps safeguard competition in the future.

A question we pose is why did it take a crisis — a grave one at that — to push the needle on policy change? Is it not a reasonable expectation of policy to adapt quickly and not wait for a crisis to emerge? The seemingly naïve question may not be as credulous for the intensely dynamic digital markets. For there is no point shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

Kathuria is dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), Shiv Nadar University; and Kedia is fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“It is difficult to take the Taliban at their word given their past history of enforcing their hard-line interpretation of the Sharia, and literally banishing women from the public space.” — DAWN

A waiver for humanity

Upcoming WTO meet must grant TRIPs waiver for vaccines, Covid-related medical supplies



SACHIN CHATURVEDI

IN THE run-up to the 12th ministerial conference (MC-12) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), access to vaccines has emerged as the most contentious issue. The role of associated intellectual property, in the context of the pandemic, is being discussed since India and South Africa placed their joint proposal at the WTO in October 2020 and a revised proposal in May 2021. Though the TRIPs limitation for latecomers to the technology race was always described by developing countries as a historical injustice, the recent Covid-19 pandemic is being seen as the final wake-up call for doing away with the historical wrongs in global norm-setting multilateral institutions.

With the support of more than 100 low-income countries, India’s leadership of the South is well-established. With the further enrichment of the R&D eco-system and the prime minister’s direct engagement, India’s efforts towards excellence in the domestic production of vaccines with its own R&D have further given a boost to New Delhi’s negotiating position at the WTO.

In the next couple of days is the final round of debates on whether a temporary TRIPs waiver is a step in the right direction. Ambassador Dagfinn Sørli of Norway, Chair, Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) is expected to come out with a text for further negotiations at the Ministerial Conference. During the recent visit of WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to Delhi, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal emphatically raised the issue of equity and suggested an early outcome of the ongoing text-based negotiations at the WTO on Covid-19-related medical products, including vaccines. Unfortunately, even after a year, it seems that WTO members’ positions remain divergent on the appropriate and most effective way to address issues related to access, equity and inclusion (AEI) for Covid-19 vaccines and other medical products.

As is fairly clear, left to big pharma, the vaccines would not have reached many countries. India led from the front — the Vaccine Maitri programme worked on the premise that “no one is safe until everyone is safe”. Through this initiative, India could supply more than 65 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to about 100 countries. Besides, India also provided critical medicines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to more than 150 countries. Due to New Delhi’s pressure, global supply lines have remained open throughout for key components of vaccines being produced in India and elsewhere. India has significantly con-

tributed to the COVAX facility (which is co-led by CEPI, Gavi and WHO, alongside key delivery partner UNICEF) as well. India has also gifted 2,00,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines for UN peacekeepers across all UN missions. After the major disruption with the second wave within India, now it seems the decision to resume exports is being implemented.

The MC-12 should go a step further and acknowledge the willingness of the South in creating global public good. As may be recalled, India was also one of the initiators of the “Political Declaration on Equitable Global Access to Covid-19 Vaccines” in March 2021. This Declaration has garnered the support of more than 180 UN member states. It pledged to treat Covid-19 vaccination as a global public good (GPG) by ensuring affordable, equitable and fair access to vaccines for all. It called for rapid scaling up and expansion of vaccine production globally, including in developing countries, through appropriate dissemination of technology and know-how, for example, through using WTO TRIPs flexibilities. But it’s very much clear that without having the TRIPs waiver on Covid-19 vaccines and other medical products, such scaling up and enhancement of production capacity is not feasible.

India is a vaccine supplier, not a recipient in waiting. It has remained steadfastly committed to this idea despite pressure from the European Union, United Kingdom and Switzerland. These countries are preventing access to vaccines for poor countries, making them suffer and leading to loss of life. India has clearly stated in the UN General Assembly meeting that vaccine inequity will defeat the collective global resolve to contain the coronavirus as the disparity in the accessibility of vaccines will affect the poorest nations the most. At the same time, it is utterly frustrating to read the recent news about the wastage of 6,00,000 vaccine doses in the UK, which is a great loss to poorer countries struggling to access Covid-19 vaccines.

Though it remains to be seen whether WTO members will reach an agreement on these issues before or at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, planned for 30 November 30- December 3 at Geneva (co-hosted by Kazakhstan), it’s high time for the global community to act collectively and urgently to address one of the most pressing global health challenges impacting humanity. It must do so to avoid plunging into a catastrophic moral failure as a result of its indifferent approach and unequal sharing of products and technical know-how. India is committed to continuing its efforts and to lead from the front to ensure the meaningful completion and implementation of the TRIPs waiver in favour of developing and least developed countries. In this regard, all eyes are looking for a positive outcome of the MC-12 as far as the TRIPs waiver is concerned. This can ensure AEI for developing countries.

The writer is director general, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). Views are personal



RAJIV MEHRISHI

UNFORTUNATELY, but as usual, it seems it took a voice from without — an article published in *National Geographic* on August 9 — for us and our media, to acknowledge that the camel population in India is in mortal decline.

This decline was, and is, inevitable with the replacement of the nomadic-pastoral way of life by agriculture. Grazing grounds shrank, and individually owned, often fenced, farmlands restricted the free movement of grazing animals and their keepers. This change was sharp and rapid in Rajasthan because of the Rajasthan/Indira Gandhi Canal. Between 1957 and 1987, net sown area in Rajasthan grew by almost 25 per cent. For centuries, Raikas (also called the Rebari, especially when rearing sheep) moved freely across the huge tracts of the desert districts of Rajasthan and adjoining districts of Gujarat. However, by the 1970s, Raika-farmer conflicts, almost always violent, had become common. Managing this conflict was our routine duty as young sub-divisional and district magistrates in the early 1980s.

What added to the shortage of fodder was our inexplicable “afforestation” with *prosopis juliflora* (disparagingly called *vilayati babool* by desert district dwellers), a nearly impossible desert to remove, rather than the *khejri* (*prosopis cineraria*), which is a great source of fodder, reportedly a favourite of camels. The trees grow tall, and above a certain height,

The camel in the room

Camel-rearing is in crisis. Communities that depend on it need help

there is no competition for their green leaves and tasty pods. It is while protecting this tree that Amrita Devi and 363 Bishnoi women died on September 11, 1730 (now celebrated as the National Forest Martyrs Day). It is also the tree that provides the *sangri* in Rajasthan’s signature dish *kair-sangri*.

The economic benefits of rearing a camel have all but disappeared. Rarely used for ploughing, as a draught animal, the camel was largely a means of transportation for goods and people. The road network in Rajasthan has grown by almost 30 times since 1951, slowly but surely eliminating the need for the “ship of the desert”. Camels, or camel carts carrying people or goods — so common even a few decades ago — can rarely be seen now. Till the 1960s, IAS/IPS officers routinely toured their districts on camels; today, not one is likely to be able to ride a camel even across a parade ground. Raikas do not eat camel meat (they believe they were born of Lord Siva’s skin to protect camels), and do not sell dead animals for their skin or bones — dead camels are simply left at a lonely spot, a few miles from the village. Thus, there is no economic case for owning a camel now.

Just as vehicles and roads ended the age of horses and horse carts in the rest of the world, they will surely end the age of camels and camel carts in the deserts. It is the inevitable

obverse side of “progress” as we know it. Camels will meet the same fate as horses: They will be kept for sport (including camel safaris), or as a hobby or source of milk of the uber rich, or for ceremonial occasions.

This reality needs, and has, to be accepted. Crying hoarse about the declining camel population and expecting that any government can turn the clock back is sheer pretentiousness or simple-mindedness. In fact, the effort made by the Government of Rajasthan — enacting The Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 2015 — has had just the opposite effect. Forced by economic reality, the Raika sold their camels to any buyer, including those who they suspected of buying it for meat, in great demand in the Middle East. The ban on camel slaughter, or sale of camels for slaughter, did what such bans usually do: They simply drove the sale-purchase to the grey market, driving down camel prices. Camels that should normally command a price of Rs 40,000 plus, reportedly sell in this grey market for less than Rs 5,000. The ban has benefitted only the meat traders and corrupt officials.

Camels are unlikely to survive as just milch animals either, despite the many demonstrated benefits of camel milk, for several reasons: Long gestation period (15 months); limited saleable yield (less than 5 kg a day), high cost of mainte-

nance (at least Rs 500 a day, assuming part free fodder and no labour cost); the subsequent high cost of milk, and the rather strong flavour of camel milk, anathema to our processed milk palate. Neither production nor demand could possibly sustain an economically successful dairy model. Similarly misconceived is the suggestion that the government open “*oonthshalas*”. Even the richest nations on earth did not resort to “horse sanctuaries” as cars replaced horses and horse carts.

What calls for greater attention is the plight of the half-million Raikas. Often illiterate because of their nomadism, and unskilled otherwise, they are being reduced to manual labour: A cruel and undesired fate for a proud and fiercely self-reliant people. The state needs to worry about their education, their skilling in different trades, and protecting both their self-worth and their unique music and culture. The Raika and their camels talk to each other; this language/conversation is called *akal-dhakaal*. The *akal-dhakaal* that this country needs to have is on the future of the Raika, and of not disturbing activities where camel-rearing still makes economic sense. We need to keep hearing the Bhopas sing stories of the camel and the revered Pabuji.

The writer is a former civil servant, Rajasthan cadre

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BE COMPASSIONATE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Quality of death’ (IE, November 24). Palliative care services must ideally be a part of every secondary and tertiary health-care facility, aiding patients to better understand their health conditions and empowering them to choose the course of their treatment regime. Patients in the advanced stages of their health conditions feel an emotional and spiritual void, their families feel devastated that their role as immediate support system becomes ineffective. Palliative care mustn’t be a restrictive medical specialisation, the community must step in to play its part as well. A compassionate society is needed to accommodate such patients into the social mainstream.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

BRAVE NEW WORLD

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Panopticon city’ (IE, November 24). The widespread use of facial recognition technology in Hyderabad is a nightmarish instrument of state control. Far from protecting citizens, allegations that large-scale violations of human rights and profiling of citizens occur are rife. Fears that such technology may be used against “trouble makers” and dissidents are not unfounded in light of the recent Pegasus scandal. Enthusiastic deployment of facial recognition in the absence of a data protection law adds fuel to the fire. The judiciary must strike down surveillance technology and safeguard rights.

Ila Raikkar, Mumbai

GUARANTEE PRICE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Maximum support policy’ (IE, November 24). The architecture of the MSPs proposed also has to be underpinned by a core trade issue — the price paid to the farmer must be at least 50 per cent of the street price paid by a housewife in the district town (a la Verghese Kurien and milk) for all agri-outputs. Secondly, the administration and regulation of all measures must shift to District Councils (selected and elected members), since we have 128 climatic zones.

Vinod Dhall, Gurgaon

AGAINST PRIVACY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Terms of privacy’ (IE, November 24). A joint committee of Parliament has finalised its report on the Personal Data Protection Bill, draft legislation that promises — for the first time — data privacy rights for Indian citizens. With 900 million Indians expected to have internet access by 2025, a law that safeguards data privacy is the need of the hour. In a nation still awaiting answers to revelations that Israeli spyware was used to snoop on the government’s critics, Sections 35 and 12(a) (i) will only amplify fears of abuse by the state. If the Bill is passed in its current form, it would undermine a landmark 2017 SC judgement that described privacy from the government as a fundamental constitutional right. That would be unfortunate.

SS Paul, Nadi



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

TELLING NUMBERS

Europe's Covid death toll could cross 2 million by next spring, says the WHO



Salzburg in Austria, birthplace of Mozart, under lockdown this week. As a fourth wave of Covid-19 sweeps through Europe, the health minister of Germany has said that by the end of this winter, everyone in Germany will be either "vaccinated, recovered, or dead". *The NYT*

OVER 2.2 MILLION people are projected to die from Covid-19 in Europe by the spring of 2022 based on current trends, the WHO said this week. The WHO identifies the European Region to include the countries of the European Union, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, and several countries in the Balkans and Central Asia.

ALMOST 4,200 DEATHS were being reported daily across the region last week, double of the 2,100 daily deaths on average at the end of September. Cumulative reported deaths from the virus passed the 1.5 million mark for the 53 countries in this region last week. Covid-19 is now the number one cause of death across Europe and Central Asia, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which carries out modelling for the WHO Regional Office for Europe, has said.

25 OF THE 53 countries are expected to see high or extreme stress on hospital beds between now and March 1, 2022, the WHO estimates. High or extreme stress is expected on intensive care units in 49 out of 53 countries during this period.

THREE FACTORS are driving the increasing transmission, the WHO has said.

■ The European Region is "Delta dominant", the highly transmissible strain of the novel coronavirus. No country in the region is reporting

more than 1% of any other variant of the SARS-CoV-2.

■ In recent months, many countries have signalled to their populations that Covid-19 no longer represents an emergency threat. They have eased measures such as mask-wearing and physical distancing in crowded or confined spaces. As the weather has turned colder, people are gathering indoors.

■ A large number of people are still not vaccinated — and among many of those who are, there is evidence that vaccine-induced protection against infection and mild disease is reducing. This has left many people vulnerable, and booster doses are needed to protect the most vulnerable, including the immunocompromised, as a priority, the WHO said.

OVER 1 BILLION doses of vaccine have been given in the WHO European Region, and 53.5% of people are fully vaccinated. However, there are wide differences between countries — and the range in completed vaccine dose series spans from under 10% to over 80% of the total population, the WHO said.

ONLY 48% of people in the region currently wear a mask when leaving home, according to self-reported data. If from today universal mask coverage of 95% was achieved, it is estimated that over 160,000 deaths could be prevented by 1 March 2022, the WHO said. It called on people to remain vigilant as gatherings move indoors during the winter.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Regulating cryptocurrency

There is no apparent coordination among countries on the evolution of policy and regulatory response to virtual currencies. Responses range from a total ban to full acceptance — with a wide band in the middle

PRANAV MUKUL, GEORGE MATHEW & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE CRYPTOCURRENCY and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, listed for introduction in Parliament's Winter Session starting November 29, seeks to "create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India".

The Bill "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses".

Prices of cryptocurrencies on local exchanges crashed overnight after the news broke, even though they remained largely unchanged in global markets.

Industry sources said there was panic-selling by crypto holders fearing an impending ban or restriction. There is currently no regulation or ban on cryptocurrencies in India; however, national responses to defining and regulating virtual currencies vary widely in jurisdictions around the world.

How are cryptocurrencies regulated in countries around the world?

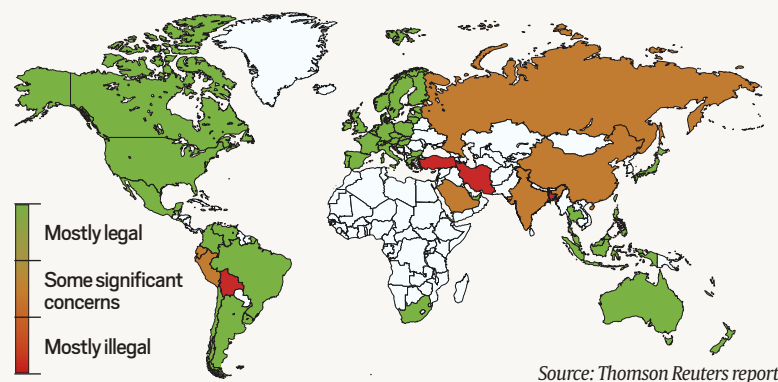
The stance of countries and regulators has ranged from a total ban on these financial assets, to allowing them to operate with some regulations, to the other extreme of allowing virtual currency trading in the absence of any guidelines.

Governments and regulators remain divided on how to categorise it as a currency or asset — and how to control it from an operational point of view. The evolution of the policy and regulatory response has been uncharacteristically discordant, with no apparent coordination in the responses of countries.

As stated above, the regulatory and policy response can vary from complete openness of the kind seen in countries like El Salvador, which has approved bitcoin as legal tender, to a total clampdown like in China, which has imposed stringent regulations on both cryptocurrencies and service providers.

Countries such as India are somewhere

WHO ACCEPTS, WHO REJECTS, WHO HAS CONCERNS



Source: Thomson Reuters report

in between — still in the process of figuring out the best way to regulate cryptos after some policy and regulatory experimentation. The United States and European Union have been proactive in trying to pin down the regulatory mandate, while discussions continue.

Among the countries that haven't issued detailed regulations, there are those that have recognised and defined these currencies.

CANADA for example, through its Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Regulations, defines virtual currency as:

(a) a digital representation of value that can be used for payment or investment purposes that is not a fiat currency and that can be readily exchanged for funds or for another virtual currency that can be readily exchanged for funds; or

(b) a private key of a cryptographic system that enables a person or entity to have access to a digital representation of value referred to in paragraph (a).

A report by the Thomson Reuters Institute in June this year noted that Canada has been among the early adopters of crypto, and the Canada Revenue Authority (CRA) generally treats cryptocurrency like a commodity for purposes of the country's Income Tax Act.

ISRAEL, in its Supervision of Financial Services Law, includes virtual currencies in the definition of financial assets. The Israeli securities regulator has ruled that cryptocurrency is a security subject, while the Israel Tax Authority defines cryptocurrency as an asset and demands 25% on capital gains.

INGERMANY, the Financial Supervisory Authority qualifies virtual currencies as "units of account" and therefore, "financial instruments". The Bundesbank considers Bitcoin to be a crypto token given that it does not fulfil typical functions of a currency. However, citizens and legal entities can buy or trade cryptoassets as long as they do it through exchanges and custodians licensed with the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, while not considering crypto assets to be currency or money, notes that cryptocurrencies have a unique identity and cannot, therefore, be directly compared to any other form of investment activity or payment mechanism.

IN THE UNITED STATES, different states have different definitions and regulations for cryptocurrencies. While the federal government does not recognise cryptocurrencies as legal tender, definitions issued by the states

recognise the decentralised nature of virtual currencies.

IN THAILAND, digital asset businesses are required to apply for a licence, monitor for unfair trading practices, and are considered "financial institutions" for anti-money laundering purposes among others, according to the Thomson Reuters Institute report. Earlier this month, Thailand's oldest lender, Siam Commercial Bank, announced a move to purchase 51% stake in local cryptocurrency exchange Bitkub Online.

While most of these countries do not recognise cryptocurrencies as legal tender, they do recognise the value these digital units represent — and indicate their functions as either a medium of exchange, unit of account, or a store of value (any asset that would normally retain purchasing power into the future).

Like India, several other countries have moved to launch a digital currency backed by their central bank.

How would a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) work?

The Reserve Bank of India plans to launch its CBDC, a digital form of fiat currency that can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain, and which is regulated by the central bank. Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state, and lack the 'legal tender' status declared by the government.

CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions that do not require a third party or bank. Since several countries are running pilot projects in this space, it is important for India to launch its own CBDC, making the rupee competitive in international financial markets.

While CBDC too is a digital or virtual currency, it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies that have mushroomed over the last decade. The private virtual currencies sit at odds with the historical concept of money — and they are certainly not currency as the word has come to be understood historically.

Skin-colour bias in pulse oximeter readings

ASWATHI PACHA
KOCHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE UK GOVERNMENT has announced an independent review to determine possible systemic racism and bias in medical items such as pulse oximeters, which may impact health outcomes in people of colour.

Asked if some Covid-19 deaths may have occurred because the devices to measure blood oxygen level did not work as well on darker skin, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid told the BBC, "I think possibly yes, yes. I don't have the full facts."

How pulse oximeters work

A pulse oximeter is a small clip-like device which, attached to a fingertip, earlobe, or toe, calculates the amount of oxygen in blood. It is among the most common tools in medicine, and it became a household device around the world during the pandemic. The oximeter has a small electronic processor and a pair of LEDs, one of which



Research suggests a white bias in the calibration of the machines could be responsible for faulty readings. *The NYT*

emits red light; the other infra red. The lights pass through the finger, and the device senses what comes through the other side. Oxygenated haemoglobin absorbs more infrared light and allows more red light to pass through than deoxygenated hemoglobin. The amount of light that is transmitted is measured by the processor, and the oximeter displays the oxygen saturation, or

percentage of oxygenated hemoglobin, in the blood. A blood oxygen saturation rate 95 per cent and higher is considered normal.

The source of concerns

Dr Philip Bickler, director of the hypoxia research lab at the University of California, San Francisco, which tests the performance of oximeters, told *The New York Times* that a way to explain inaccuracies in patients with darker skin is that the pigment "scatters the light around, so the signal is reduced".

"It's like adding static to your radio signal. You get more noise, less signal," he said. Findings published as a Letter to the Editor in *The New England Journal of Medicine* last December showed pulse oximeters can provide misleading results in black people. ("Racial Bias in Pulse Oximetry Measurement")

The researchers studied 10,789 pairs of measures of oxygen saturation obtained using pulse oximetry and arterial blood gas test methods. The study was carried out on 1,333 white and 276 black patients.

They found that pulse oximetry overestimated oxygen levels 3.6% of the time in the white patients, while in black patients, overestimation occurred nearly 12% of the time.

They carried out a second study on 37,308 pairs obtained from 7,342 white patients and 1,050 black patients, and saw similar results.

Concern over racial bias in the working of pulse oximeters was raised more than 15 years ago. Researchers found the device overestimated arterial oxygen saturation by around 3% in darkly pigmented patients, compared with 0.37% in those who were lightly pigmented. ("Effects of Skin Pigmentation on Pulse Oximeter Accuracy at Low Saturation": Philip E Bickler and others, *Anesthesiology* April 2005)

"In our 18 years of testing pulse oximeter accuracy...the majority of subjects have been light-skinned. Most pulse oximeters have probably been calibrated using light-skinned individuals, with the assumption that skin pigment does not matter," the study said.

Ramming into an asteroid to save the planet — if needed

A NASA spacecraft is chasing a small rock, to smash into it and knock it off-course. It's a test of tech for a possible future crisis

AT 121 AM EST Wednesday (11.51 am India), a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from California, carrying a spacecraft on an unusual mission: to smash into an asteroid at more than 21,000 km per hour.

If the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is successful, NASA and other space agencies could in the future have the option of using spacecraft to deflect an asteroid off-course — averting a potentially catastrophic collision with Earth.

After the launch, on the way

DART separated from the second stage of the rocket just under an hour after liftoff and, minutes later, mission operators received the first spacecraft telemetry data. About two hours later, the spacecraft successfully unfurled its two 28-foot roll-out solar arrays that will power its journey, NASA said in a release.

Spacecraft's suicide mission

NASA is crashing DART into an asteroid to test, for the first time, a method of planetary defence that could one day save a city, or maybe the planet, from being obliterated

by an asteroid. DART "is something of a re-play of Bruce Willis's movie, *Armageddon*, although that was totally fictional," Bill Nelson, NASA's administrator, said.

DART is headed to what is called a binary asteroid system, comprising a pair of asteroids, one of which is a moonlet to the other. Its target is Dimorphos, which is approximately 160 metres in diameter and orbits Didymos, which is about 780 m across, every 11 hours and 55 minutes. Together, the two asteroids orbit the Sun every two years.

After making almost a full orbit around the Sun, the spacecraft will intercept the Didymos system between September 26 and October 1, 2022, when the binary asteroids are at their closest point to Earth, less than 11 million km away.

Four hours before impact, the spacecraft, technically referred to as a 'kinetic impactor', will autonomously steer itself on course for a head-on collision with Dimorphos at a speed of about 6 km per second, or 21,600 km/hour.

An onboard camera will capture and send back photos in real time until 20 seconds before impact. A tiny satellite from the Italian Space Agency, deployed 10 days before the

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF DEATH BY ASTEROID HIT?



An artist's impression (above) of the DART spacecraft about to collide with Dimorphos. The mission lifted off on Wednesday. *NASA/Johns Hopkins APL via The NYT*

CLOSE PASSES of asteroids are fairly routine. But NASA says the Earth should be safe from a hit for at least the next 100 years.

ON THURSDAY, a small space rock 15-30 m wide, will zip past Earth at a distance of 822,000 km — more than twice the distance to the Moon.

NASA TRACKS about 27,000 near-Earth objects that come within about 45 million km of Earth. It also maintains the Sentry Risk Table, a separate list of asteroids that have a

higher chance of impacting Earth (which is still extremely low).

ON THIS LIST is Benu, a gravelly, acorn-shaped asteroid about the size of a skyscraper, which has a 0.057% chance of impacting Earth sometime between 2178 and 2290. NASA dispatched the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft to Benu last year to scoop up a suitcase's worth of rock samples and bring them back to Earth in September 2023.

The New York Times

impact, will come as close as 55 km from the asteroid to take pictures every six seconds in the moments before and after DART's impact.

Measuring the impact of crash

Dimorphos poses no threat to Earth. DART's mission is essentially target practice, but its success will mean NASA will have a confirmed weapon in its planetary defence arsenal — and should an asteroid ever wind up on a collision course with Earth, the world's space agencies would have confidence that an asteroid missile like DART would be able to shoo the space rock away.

NASA said that DART's kinetic impact is estimated to shorten Dimorphos's orbit around Didymos by several minutes. Researchers will precisely measure that change — and their results will validate and improve scientific computer models that will be critical to predicting the effectiveness of the kinetic impact as a reliable method for asteroid deflection.

Thus, as DART zeroes in on its target, telescopes on Earth will fix their lenses on the crash site. The two asteroids will show up as tiny dots of reflected sunlight. To measure whether DART's impact changed Dimorphos' orbit around Didymos, astronomers will track the time between one flicker of light — which will indicate that Dimorphos has passed in front of Didymos — and another, indicating that Dimorphos has orbited behind Didymos.

If Dimorphos' orbit around Didymos is

extended by at least 73 seconds, scientists will conclude that DART has successfully performed its mission.

What about the nuke option?

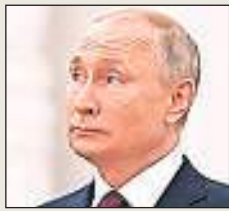
Blowing up asteroids that threaten Earth — instead of trying to push them off-course — carries its risks. Nuking space rocks *Armageddon*-style could create a field of more hazardous space rocks, multiplying the dangers to Earth, rather than eliminating them.

So while a nuclear device, if used the right way, conceptually remains a part of NASA's planetary defence toolbox, for any small and distant asteroids that could threaten Earth in the next few decades, a mission like DART "has a pretty good probability of getting the job done", said Brent Barbee, an aerospace engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

If the asteroid is bigger, however, or if the warning time is shorter, "then that's where you transition from looking at kinetic impactors to nuclear devices", Barbee said.

As things stand now, the Outer Space Treaty, the cornerstone set of international space laws signed in the 1960s, prohibits the placement or use of nuclear weapons in space. The use of a nuclear-tipped spacecraft against a killer asteroid would, therefore, amount to a treaty violation. But should such a contingency arise, the UN Security Council can be expected to find a way around it.

THE NEW YORK TIMES & NASA

TOPOF THE
WORLD

Vladimir Putin

RUSSIA

Putin participates
in trials of nasal
form of vaccine

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday he has taken an experimental nasal vaccine against the coronavirus, three days after he received his booster shot, as Russia faces its worst surge of infections and deaths since the pandemic began. Putin was vaccinated with Sputnik V, Russia's domestically developed vaccine, in the spring. On Sunday, he said he received a booster shot of Sputnik Light, the one-dose version of the jab, and said he wanted to take part in testing the nasal version of Sputnik V. **AP**

FRANCE

27 migrants die
crossing English
Channel: official

Paris: At least 27 migrants died after their dinghy capsized on Wednesday while trying to cross the Channel from France to Britain, a local mayor said. According to fishermen, more migrants left France's northern shores than usual to take advantage of calm sea conditions, although the water was bitterly cold. One fisherman called the rescue services after seeing an empty dinghy and people floating motionless nearby. Calais mayor Natacha Bouchart told BFM television the death toll now stood at 27, minutes after another mayor put the tally at 24. The local coast guard said they could not yet confirm the number of deaths. **AP**

UNITED KINGDOM

House reviews
ban on babies in
chamber

London: The Speaker of the House of Commons on Wednesday announced a review of the rules around babies being allowed into the Parliament chamber after a parliamentarian complained she was banned from carrying her three-month-old into the House. Opposition Labour Party's Stella Creasy was informed it was against the rules to bring a child to a debate at Westminster Hall within the Parliament complex after doing so on Tuesday. Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle asked the Commons Procedure Committee to look into the matter. **PTI**

UAE in talks with Taliban to run
Kabul airport, say diplomatsALEXANDER CORNWELL
DUBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE UNITED Arab Emirates has held talks with the Taliban to run Kabul airport, going up against Gulf rival Qatar in a diplomatic tussle for influence with Afghanistan's new rulers, according to four sources with knowledge of the matter.

UAE officials have held a series of discussions with the group in recent weeks to discuss operating the airport that serves as landlocked Afghanistan's main air link to the world, the foreign diplomats based in the Gulf region told *Reuters*.

The talks demonstrate how countries are seeking to assert their influence in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan even as the hardline Islamist group largely remains an international pariah and its government not formally recognised by any country.

The Emiratis are keen to counter diplomatic clout enjoyed there by Qatar, according to the sources.

The Qataris have been helping run the Hamid Karzai International Airport along with Turkey after playing a major role in evacuation efforts following the chaotic US withdrawal in August, and have said they are willing to take over the operations.

Yet the Taliban has not yet formalised an arrangement with Qatar, the four diplomats said.

A senior Emirati foreign ministry official said the UAE, which

Taliban forces patrol a runway at the Kabul airport after the withdrawal by US troops in August. *Reuters file*EXPLAINED
Source of
intelligence

WHILE THERE is little commercial benefit for any operator, the Kabul airport would provide a much-needed source of intelligence on movements in and out of the country, diplomats said, adding that since the US withdrawal, many countries have lacked real-time information.

previously ran Kabul airport during the US-backed Afghan republic, "remains committed to continuing to assist in operating" it to ensure humanitarian access and safe passage.

The Taliban and Qatari authorities did not respond to requests for comment.

Two of the diplomats said that the Taliban has also sought financial assistance from the UAE, though they added it was not clear if this was related to a question on whether the UAE was considering providing financial help to the Taliban.

The Emirati foreign ministry official, Salem Al Zaabi, director of international security cooperation, did not respond to a question on whether the UAE was considering providing financial help to the Taliban.

One issue still to be resolved between the Taliban and potential airport operators is who would provide security at the site, the four diplomats said. Qatari special forces presently provide security within the airport's perimeter, while Taliban special forces patrol areas outside. **REUTERS**

Chinese firms
make beeline for
mineral-rich
Afghan minesK J M VARMA
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 24

AS CHINA warms up to the Taliban regime by stepping up humanitarian aid and diplomatic support for its global recognition, Chinese firms are busy exploring contracts to exploit resource-rich Afghanistan's mineral deposits, official media here reported on Wednesday.

Representatives of several Chinese companies have arrived in Afghanistan on special visas and are conducting on-site inspections of potential lithium projects, while others have made contacts about such projects, Yu Minghui, director of the committee helping Chinese companies explore business opportunities in Afghanistan, told state-run *Global Times*.

China, has been eyeing the extension of its \$60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan besides exploiting the mineral-rich mines there.

The Taliban earlier said China has a big role to play in Afghanistan. "China is a big country with a huge economy and capacity. They can play a big role in rebuilding, reconstruction of Afghanistan," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen had said. **PTI**

EU says vaccine boosters should
be considered for all adultsFRANCESCO GUARASCIO
BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 24

THE HEAD of the European Union's public health agency Andrea Ammon said on Wednesday that Covid-19 vaccine boosters should be considered for all adults, with priority for those above 40 years, in a major change to the agency's guidance.

Recommendations issued by the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) are not binding on EU governments but are used to make health policy decisions.

"Booster doses should be considered for all adult individuals prioritising persons above 40 years of age," Ammon said in a statement, noting that boosters should be administered at least six months after completing the primary vaccine schedule.

In its previous guidance issued in September, the ECDC said there was no urgent need for the administration of booster doses to fully vaccinated individuals in

People wait in a line to get the vaccine at a railway station in Prague, Czech Republic. *Reuters*

the general population, but suggested that additional doses should be considered for people with weakened immune systems and could be used as a precaution for older frail individuals.

"Available evidence emerging from Israel and the UK shows a significant increase in protection against infection and severe disease following a booster dose in all age groups in the short

term," the ECDC said in a report published on Wednesday.

It advised giving boosters to all adults with priority "for those aged 40 years and over".

Ammon said boosters will increase protection against infections caused by waning immunity and "could potentially reduce transmission in the population and prevent additional hospitalisations and deaths". **REUTERS**

New Zealand to
start reopening
borders to world
from January

Wellington: New Zealand will reopen its borders to the world over the coming months, the government announced Wednesday, allowing for the return of displaced residents from January and tourists from April.

The nation imposed harsh border restrictions when the pandemic began, effectively banning tourists and requiring returning residents to spend two weeks in a quarantine hotel run by the military.

Under the government's plan, all incoming travelers will still be required to isolate themselves for seven days. New Zealand is also removing a very-high-risk designation from certain countries including Indonesia, India and Brazil, allowing people from those countries to return or visit.

About 69% of New Zealanders are fully vaccinated, including 84% of those aged 12 and over. New Zealand has reported just 40 coronavirus deaths since the pandemic began. **AP**

Waukesha crash: Toll rises to 6, suspect charged

Washington: An 8-year-old boy became the sixth person to die Tuesday as a result of a man driving his SUV into a suburban Milwaukee Christmas parade, with a criminal complaint alleging that the suspect in the case steered side-to-side with the intent of striking marchers and spectators.

Darrell Brooks Jr, 39, was charged with five counts of first-degree intentional homicide, a

A memorial for the victims in Waukesha. *Reuters*

charge that carries a mandatory life sentence if convicted. His bail was set at \$5 million, and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for January 14.

"The nature of this offense is shocking," said Waukesha Court Commissioner Kevin Costello.

Additional charges related to the sixth death and the more than 60 people injured will be coming later this week or next, said Waukesha County District

Attorney Susan Opper. The criminal complaint said 62 people were injured, up from the 48 previously announced by police.

Five people ranging in age from 52 to 81 were pronounced dead within hours.

Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson said Brooks was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier when he drove into the parade route. **AP**

AGREEMENT SPELLS END OF MERKEL ERA

German parties reach
deal to form new govtANDREAS RINKE &
SARAH MARSH
BERLIN, NOVEMBER 24

GERMAN SOCIAL Democrat Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday he had reached a coalition deal to form a new government that will try to modernise Europe's largest economy and bring the curtain down on the Angela Merkel era.

Scholz's centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), the ecologist Greens and the libertarian Free Democrats (FDP) want to accelerate the transition to a green economy and digitalisation while maintaining fiscal discipline, according to a 177-page agreement.

The alliance — named a traffic light coalition after the three parties' respective colours — has a majority in the lower house of parliament and hopes the government will be sworn in early next month after the parties ratify the coalition pact.

The first alliance at a federal level between the ideologically disparate parties will end 16 years of Merkel-led conservative government, marking a new era for relations with Europe and the rest of the world.

At a news conference in Berlin, flanked by the FDP and Greens leaders, Scholz recalled that when the first traffic light was erected at the city's Potsdamer Platz in 1924, many questioned whether it could work. "Today, the traffic light is indispensable..." he said. "My ambition as chancellor is that this traffic light alliance will play a similarly groundbreaking role for Germany."

Merkel leaves big shoes to fill. She has navigated Germany and Europe through multiple crises and been a champion of liberal democracy in the face of rising

Angela Merkel receives a bouquet from Olaf Scholz, who is set to succeed her as Germany's Chancellor. *AP*Incoming govt faces
immediate challenges,
with Europe grappling
with Brexit fallout, a
crisis on EU's border
with Belarus and
surging Covid cases

authoritarianism worldwide.

Her critics say she has managed rather than solved problems and leaves her successor tough decisions on many fronts.

Scholz's incoming government faces immediate challenges, with Europe grappling with the fallout from Brexit, a crisis on the European Union's border with Belarus and surging Covid cases.

While Germany's electoral campaign was largely focused on domestic issues, the coalition pact shed light on the next government's foreign policy priorities.

The parties agreed to strengthen the EU's economic and monetary union and signalled an openness to reform the bloc's fiscal rules.

They also agreed Germany would remain part of NATO's nuclear sharing agreement, a move that will prevent a rift in the Western military alliance at a time of rising tensions with Russia.

Greens co-leader Annalena Baerbock, 40, is expected to become the country's first female foreign minister. While the parties have yet to announce the cabinet line-up, Scholz has said he wants a gender-equal government.

FDP leader Christian Lindner, 42, is set to take over at the finance ministry and Greens co-leader Robert Habeck, 52, is widely expected to take on a newly expanded economy and climate change ministry.

Presiding over what could be her final cabinet meeting, Merkel bade her colleagues farewell earlier in the day.

She did not seek re-election after four terms as chancellor.

Her personal popularity ratings remain high, but her party is in disarray and facing a leadership contest after achieving its worst results in a federal vote following a gaffe-prone campaign by its candidate for chancellor. **REUTERS**

US invites Taiwan to
its democracy summit,
move angers ChinaHUMEYRA PAMUK
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 23

The Biden administration has invited Taiwan to its "Summit for Democracy" next month, according to a list of participants published on Tuesday, a move that infuriated China, which views the democratically governed island as its territory.

The first-of-its-kind gathering is a test of President Joe Biden's assertion, announced in his first foreign policy address in office in February, that he would return the United States to global leadership to face down authoritarian forces led by China and Russia.

There are 110 participants on the State Department's invitation list for the virtual event on December 9 and 10, which aims to help stop democratic backsliding and the erosion of rights and freedoms worldwide. The list does not include China or Russia.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said the government would be represented by Digital Minister Audrey Tang and Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's de facto ambassador in Washington. "Our country's invitation to participate in the 'Summit for Democracy' is an af-



US President Joe Biden

firmation of Taiwan's efforts to promote the values of democracy and human rights over the years," the ministry added.

China's Foreign Ministry said it was "firmly opposed" to the invite. "US actions only go to show democracy is just a cover and a tool for it to advance its geopolitical objectives, oppress other countries, divide the world and serve its own interests," ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing.

The invite for Taiwan comes as China has stepped up pressure on countries to downgrade or sever relations with the island, considered by Beijing to have no right to the trappings of a state.

Self-governed Taiwan says Beijing has no right to speak for it. **REUTERS**

Hours after Sweden gets
1st woman PM, she quitsREUTERS
STOCKHOLM, NOVEMBER 24

SOCIAL DEMOCRAT leader Magdalena Andersson quit as prime minister on Wednesday less than 12 hours after being appointed when her coalition collapsed, plunging the country into political uncertainty.

Andersson said a decision by the Green Party, the junior party in the coalition, to quit had forced her to resign, but added that she had told the speaker of parliament she hoped to be appointed prime minister again as the head of a single-party government. The Green Party said it would leave government after the coalition's budget bill was rejected by parliament. "I have asked the speaker to



Magdalena Andersson

be relieved of my duties as prime minister," Andersson told a news conference. "I am ready to be prime minister in a single-party, Social Democrat government."

Andersson was appointed Sweden's first female prime minister earlier in the day, but her tenure proved the shortest of any of her predecessors. **REUTERS**

OLYMPIANS JOIN MILITARY; IRISH DIPLOMATS EXPELLED

Ethiopian PM, a Nobel Peace laureate, directs war from frontline

REUTERS
ABABA, NOVEMBER 24

ETHIOPIA'S PRIME Minister Abiy Ahmed has gone to direct the war from the front lines, state-affiliated media reported on Wednesday, as two Olympic athletes announced they were enlisting in the military.

Gold medalist Haile Gebrselassie, who set 27 long distance running records, told *Reuters* he was joining up. So is Olympic silver medalist runner Feyisa Lelisa, local media reported.

While Abiy is away, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen Hassen would take charge of routine government

business in his absence, government spokesman Legesse Tulu told a news conference, according to a report from *Fana* news outlet.

Abiy announced late on Monday he was planning to personally direct the fight against Tigrayan forces and their allies.

"Let's meet at the war front," he wrote. "The time has come to lead the country with sacrifice."

Last month Tigrayan forces and their allies threatened to march on the capital Addis Ababa. They have also been fighting fiercely to try to cut a transport corridor linking landlocked Ethiopia with the region's main port Djibouti.

On Tuesday, US Special Envoy Jeffrey Feltman said the

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed being sworn in for a second five-year term in October. *Reuters file*

Ethiopian military and regional militias had been able to hold

back Tigrayan attempts to cut the corridor, but Tigrayan forces

had been able to move south towards the capital.

Ethiopia's military spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

Ethiopian police have trained around 147,000 civilians in the capital to form neighbourhood defence groups and help detect possible infiltrators, police told *Reuters*. Feltman, along with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, has been trying to broker a ceasefire between the two sides.

On Tuesday, Feltman said that nascent progress risked being overshadowed by military developments.

On Wednesday, Ethiopia expelled four of six Irish diplomats

from the country because of Ireland's stance on the conflict, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said.

Ireland has been at the forefront of calling for meetings of the UN Security Council on Ethiopia and pushing for council statements on the conflict since it joined the 15-member body in January.

Dina Mufti, spokesperson for the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Also on Wednesday, Switzerland and Britain advised their citizens to leave Ethiopia, citing the worsening security situation. France and the US have already called on citizens to leave.

SECTOR WATCH CRYPTOCURRENCY

Local, global crypto prices diverge as talks of India ban weigh on sentiment

SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

WHILE BITCOIN and other cryptos were trading with a marginal fall of around 1 per cent, prices in rupees on Indian exchanges crashed by over 10 per cent on Wednesday. The price of Bitcoin in US dollar was down 0.3 per cent at around 7 PM IST on Wednesday. However the price in rupee was down 8.9 per cent. In rupee terms, the price of etherium was down 6.5 per cent and that of WRX (a token created by WazirX) and Shiba Inu Coin was down 13 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

Why the variation in prices between Indian and foreign exchanges?

The sharp drop in price on Indian exchanges is driven by domestic news around a Bill to be brought in the winter session of Parliament, which aims to bar private cryptocurrency with a few 'exceptions'. Market experts say the sharp fall in prices in rupee terms on Indian exchanges is on account of large number of sellers and very few buyers.

"Many crypto investors are rushing to sell their holdings for various factors. While some fear that it may get banned, there are many others who feel that their undisclosed investments may get tracked if it comes under regulation and so they want to exit before the regulation comes in," said a leading market expert.

However, that is not the case in crypto exchanges in other countries, hence the prices are stable there.

"Only investors who have a digital wallet in foreign jurisdiction and have a bank account in that country will be able to sell their holdings at the global price level. Those in India holding the crypto in rupee terms will have to deal with current volatility in the Indian markets on account of the news around crypto Bill," said Srinath Sridharan, an independent market expert.

In India, it is not yet clear whether there will be a complete ban on trading, mining and holding of cryptocurrencies. The government intends

Handful to survive: Rajan

New Delhi: Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan on Wednesday told CNBC-TV18 only a "handful" of the 6,000-odd cryptocurrencies in existence today might survive. **PTI**

to bring a Bill to prohibit "all private cryptocurrencies in India" with "certain exceptions". The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 is listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha in the winter session, starting November 29. However, the exceptions will be known once the Bill is tabled in Parliament.

"Right now it's complete panic selling on Indian exchanges," said a Delhi-based crypto trader. "I have an account with CoinDCX. My crypto holdings on etherium and polygon are down nearly 30 per cent in just 1 day since the news of ban became public. Recently, on another crypto, Loopring, I could book nearly 155 per cent profit in a matter of just four days, as it went up from Rs 100 to Rs 255 and then Rs 300 in four days. But this has also fallen to around Rs 200 now," he said. In a note to its clients Wednesday, CoinDCX said "cryptocurrency is a global phenomenon. An asset held by all and built for all. Hence, your investments are completely safe and secure." "Tradable assets go through volatility and sentiments dictate prices at time, it said.

The government said that the Bill seeks to "create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the RBI".

As the contents of the Bill are not yet known, its exceptions and use-cases are also under speculation. Prices of cryptos on Indian exchanges fell, alongside an over 80-100 per cent jump in daily trading volumes, market sources said.

As per industry estimates, there are around 15 million active subscribers on their exchanges in India, with the outstanding value pegged around \$6 billion.

SETS STAGE FOR MINIMUM CORPORATE TAX RATE

Equalisation levy: India, US go for 'transitional approach'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

SIGNING A pact for the transition from equalisation levy, India and the US on Wednesday agreed for a transitional approach on equalisation levy or digital tax on e-commerce supplies beginning April 1, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday.

"India and the United States have agreed to the same terms ... shall apply between the United States and India with respect to India's charge of 2 per cent equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of services and the United States' trade action regarding the said Equalisation Levy. However, the interim period that will be applicable will be from April 1, 2022, till implementation of Pillar One or March 31, 2024, whichever is earlier," the Ministry said.

"This compromise represents a pragmatic solution that helps ensure that countries can focus their collective efforts on the successful implementation of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework's historic agreement on a new multilateral tax regime and allows for the termination of trade measures adopted in response to the Indian

EXPLAINED Part of agreement

INDIA IS among the 136 countries to have agreed to enforce a minimum corporate tax rate. The deal requires countries to remove all digital services tax and other similar unilateral measures.

equalization levy," the US government said in its statement.

On October 8 this year, 136 countries, including India, agreed to enforce a minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent, as well as an equitable system of taxing profits of big companies in markets where they are earned. The deal requires countries to remove all digital services tax and other similar unilateral measures.

The proposed two-pillar solution of the global tax deal consists of two components — Pillar One, which is about reallocation of an additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and Pillar Two, consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.

USTR: Moving to cancel trade retaliation case

Washington: The US Trade Representative's Office said it is moving to terminate its trade retaliation case against India after Washington and New Delhi agreed on a global tax deal transition arrangement. **REUTERS**

On October 21, the United States, Austria, France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom agreed on a transitional approach to existing unilateral measures while implementing Pillar one.

The final terms of the agreement between India and the US shall be finalised by February 1, 2022, the Ministry added.

The US had earlier conducted a year-long investigation beginning in June 2020 into digital services taxes, stating that they are against tech companies like Apple, Amazon, Google and Facebook. It had said that the digital services taxes adopted by Austria, India, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom discriminated against

US digital companies and were inconsistent with principles of international taxation and burdened US companies. Tax experts said it will put to rest the trade conflict between India-US because of digital service taxes and will certainly facilitate ongoing trade negotiations between the countries.

Nangia Andersen India chairman Rakesh Nangia said to the extent that taxes that accrue to India with respect to Equalisation Levy starting April 1, 2022, till March 31, 2024, or when Pillar One takes effect, whichever is earlier, exceed an amount equivalent to the tax due under Pillar One in the first full year of implementation (prorated to achieve proportionality with the length of the interim period), such excess will be creditable against the portion of the corporate income tax liability associated with Amount A as computed under Pillar One in these countries, respectively.

"...interestingly, 6% EL on online ad revenue does not form a part of this deal. While the fine print is awaited, one can take guidance from the deal that the US entered into with the UK, Austria, France, Italy and Spain in October, 2021," Gouri Puri, partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co said.

RIL to transfer gasification unit into subsidiary

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd (RIL) has decided to implement a scheme of arrangement to transfer the gasification undertaking into a wholly owned subsidiary.

"The board has accordingly approved a scheme to transfer the gasification undertaking as a going concern on slump sale basis for a lump sum consideration equal to the carrying value as on the appointed date," RIL said.

The scheme will also enable RIL to evaluate unlocking the value of syngas, with a collaborative and asset-light approach involving induction of investors in the gasifier subsidiary and capturing value of upgradation in RIL through partnerships in different chemical streams, it said.

"The appointed date of the scheme would be March 31, 2022 or such other date as may be determined by the board. The scheme will require approval of stock exchanges, creditors, shareholders,

TRANSFER SCHEME

■ "The board has accordingly approved a scheme to transfer the gasification undertaking as a going concern on slump sale basis for a lump sum consideration equal to the carrying value as on the appointed date," RIL said

NCLT and other regulatory authorities," RIL said. The gasification project at Jamnagar was set up to produce syngas to meet the energy requirements as refinery off-gases, which earlier served as fuel, were repurposed into feedstock for the refinery off-gas cracker.

"RIL targets to have a portfolio which is fully re-cyclable, sustainable and net carbon zero. This will be achieved by transitioning to high value materials and chemicals with renewables as the source of meeting its energy requirements," RIL said.

NEW WAGE RATE INDEX

Base revised to 2016, new industries added

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE GOVERNMENT has revised the base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI) to 2016 which will replace the old series with base of 1963-65. The revised base will be more representative and play a critical role in determining the minimum wages and national floor wages along with other parameters.

Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said, "The new series on WRI has been compiled on half-year basis as against the annual in the existing series. The new WRI series would be point-to-point, half-yearly, with reference date as

January 1 and July 1 of every year."

The New WRI basket (2016=100) has enhanced the scope and coverage in terms of occupations and industries as compared to old WRI series (1963-65=100). Of the 37 industries covered in the new series, 16 new ones — including textile garments, footwear and petroleum — have been added to the new basket, said DPS Negi, Principal Advisor, Labour & Employment Ministry.

Manufacturing, mining and plantation sectors have weights (estimated total wage bill) of 82.57 per cent, 11.23 per cent and 6.20 per cent, respectively. Field work for current wage data collection took place in January-June. **FE**

GST rate: IT Min to meet mobile makers, seek Budget inputs

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology is likely to meet mobile phone and allied component makers again this week to discuss possible steps on rationalisation of levies such as Goods and Services Tax (GST). The meeting will be held before the scheduled meeting of GST Group of Ministers (GoM) meeting on November 27, sources in know of the development said.

"There are some concerns we are aware of. We had some meetings in the past and we understand what we need to do. We will have a couple of more meetings to figure out how to best rationalise these levies," a senior ministry official said. In its meetings with the industry associations, the IT Ministry is also likely to ask them to prepare a report on their demands for the Budget for the upcoming fiscal, the sources said.

'HIGH COSTS'

■ In meetings over the last few weeks, mobile phone and allied component makers have told the IT Ministry that 18 per cent GST on mobile phones had "led to very high costs"

In meetings over the last few weeks, mobile phone and allied component makers have in their submissions told the Ministry that 18 per cent GST on mobiles had "led to very high costs", and should be brought down to 12 per cent. The companies have submitted that the GST on allied components be brought down to 5 per cent.

Last week, the India Cellular and Electronics Association had written to the IT Ministry and various Chief Ministers, calling for a cut in the indirect tax rates. **Full report on www.indianexpress.com**

'Airport infra sector likely to see ₹3,250-cr operating profit'

After reporting operating loss last year, India's airport infrastructure sector could turn around this year with an operating profit of ₹3,250 crore, an Icra report said

82-84% growth year-on-year in air passenger traffic this fiscal likely to drive profits

Factors supporting growth in domestic passenger traffic:

- Vaccination ramp-up
- Decline in Covid-19 cases
- Pick-up in 'revenge leisure travel'



Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

CYBER FIRM SAYS ITS TOOLS SAVED 'THOUSANDS OF LIVES'

Apple sues NSO for 'surveillance'

STEPHEN NELLIS
SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 24

APPLE INC said it has filed a lawsuit against Israeli cyber firm NSO Group and its parent company OSY Technologies for alleged surveillance and targeting of US Apple users with its Pegasus spyware. The company said it is also seeking to ban NSO Group from using any



NSO Group logo on a building in Sapir, Israel. Reuters file

Apple software, services or devices to prevent further abuse.

Apple is the latest to come after NSO, the maker of the Pegasus that watchdog groups say targeted human rights workers and journalists. NSO, which says it sells its tools only to governments and law enforcement agencies and has safeguards, said "thousands of lives" have been saved through use of its tools. **REUTERS**

Notice Inviting Offer

Sale of CBM Gas

ONGC Ltd. invites offers from interested buyers for purchase of **0.02 MMSCMD** CBM gas from North Karanpura (NK) Block (Jharkhand).

Interested parties are requested to download Request for Proposal (RFP) and Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) from: <https://eps.buyjunction.in/gasbidding>

Contact: ongcgsabidding@mjunction.in
e-Bidding Partner - mjunction services ltd.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा
उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
श्रीनगर (पदवाल) कार्यालय : 01346-252354 E-Mail: cdsrinagar@gmail.com

पत्रांक-3565 / जी-3 / 668 दिनांक:- 22.11.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, श्रीनगर के द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन के अन्तर्गत जनपद पौड़ी के विकास खण्ड पौड़ी की गगवाड़ा पेयोगो, पालसैण सोलर पंपपेयोगो, कड़ाकोट सोलर पंपपेयोगो तथा विकास खण्ड थलीसैण की बड़ेथ (बिरसोड़ा) पेयोगो एवं टीला पेयोगो के निर्माण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://www.ukntenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से दिनांक 26.11.2021 से 11.12.2021 तक ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जा रही है. निविदाओं की नियम एवं शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd.
CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909
Regd. & Corp. Office: 'Urja Sadan',
N.V. Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT
DGVCIL Toll Free No. 19123 (Or 1800 233 3003)

Tender Notice

Details for the tenders mentioned hereunder are available on www.dgvcil.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.dgvcil.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.
1	DGVCL/SP/2203/2C & 4C LT PVC Cable
2	DGVCL/Corp. office/Civil/2021/FF Sys. CAMC

Note : Bidders may visit the Company website/s for regular updates till opening of the tenders. **CE (P), DGVCIL, Surat.**

Install MCB/ELCB/RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/Electrical Accidents

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl. Tender Inviting No.	Specification No. and Description of work / Material	Due date & time for Submission of tender
1	CE / MECHANICAL/ COAL COAL - 92 / 2021-22, dt. 15.11.2021 Movement and handling of coal by rail-cum-sea route from the various collieries of Mahanadi coalfields Ltd through the load port of Paradip for the Thermal Stations of TANGEDCO	2.00 PM on 18.01.2022

The Tender Specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.in.gov.in, www.intenders.gov.in/integateapp at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the NIC portal.

தேர்தல் விபரத்தைத் தனது கணினி மூலமாக, எங்கள் பதிவு செய்திருக்கும் இணையத்திலிருந்து பெறப்படும். DIPR354/TENDER2021

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited from experienced, resourceful, reputed and bonafide Suppliers/Service Providers/Agencies/Contractors (as applicable) for the following:-

- SUPPLY OF TRIAL PRINTING PAPER (TPPAT) BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 037/SAL/PUR/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 62.30 LAKHS]
- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION OF PCB DIAGNOSTIC AND TEST EQUIPMENT WITH STANDARD ACCESSORIES AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 038/SAL/PUR/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 30.00 LAKHS]
- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF WALK BEHIND AND RIDE-ON SCRUBBER CUM FLOOR CLEANING DRIER MACHINES AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 039/SAL/PUR/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 30.51 LAKHS]
- MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT PLANT HOSPITAL, BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 040/SAL/PUR/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 194.86 LAKHS]
- REPAIR AND REPAINTING OF OVER-HEAD TANKS OF TOWNSHIP AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 015/SAL/IMD-CIVIL/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 42.64 LAKHS]
- SUPPLY OF LOCAL WOOD FOR PACKING BOX (BATTEN) AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 042/SAL/PUR/2021-22, [ESTIMATED COST - ₹ 45.00 LAKHS]

Last date of submission of all the above tenders is 28.12.2021 by 11:30 Hrs. For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our website only.

General Manager

BRIEFLY

ADB loan

New Delhi: The government and the Asian Development Bank inked a \$300-million loan pact to boost access to comprehensive primary urban healthcare in 13 states.

NITI on banks

New Delhi: NITI Aayog proposed setting up full-stack 'digital banks', that will rely on internet for services. **PTI**

US GDP

Washington: The US Q3 GDP grew at 2.1% annualised rate, as per second estimate by the Commerce Department. Meanwhile, jobless claims for week ended November 20 fell by 71,000 to a 52-year low of 199,000. **REUTERS**

Star Health to float IPO

Mumbai: Star Health & Allied Insurance Co Ltd said Wednesday it is planning to raise Rs 7,249 crore via an initial public offering (IPO).

The health insurer's IPO consists of an offer for sale by existing promoters and shareholders of Rs 5,249 crore and fresh issue of Rs 2,000 crore. The IPO will open on November 30 and conclude on

December 2. The price band has been set at Rs 870-900 per share.

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who holds 14.98 per cent stake, is likely to see his investment grow nearly six times. Star Health is India's largest private health insurer, with 15.70 per cent market share and a premium income of around Rs 5,000 crore in FY21. **ENS**

'Privatisation' plan: IOB, Central Bank shares rise

Mumbai: Shares of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and Central Bank of India on Wednesday shot up on reports that the government has proposed legislative changes on bank privatisation in the Banking Regulation Act in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament.

Shares of IOB rose by 13.10 per cent to Rs 22.45 and those of

Central Bank by 10.46 per cent to Rs 22.70 on the BSE. The Centre will table the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 in the Winter session to make changes in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980 and incidental amendments to Banking Regulation Act, 1949. **ENS**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TECHNICAL EDUCATION CIRCLE, CHENNAI 600 025.

TENDER FORM: LUMPSUM CONTRACT - TWO COVER SYSTEM - ITEM WISE RATE
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No.29 CE/O2/27EC/2021-22 Dated: 19.11.2021
For and on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tender documents: 25.11.2021 to 13.12.2021 in CE office before 5.45 pm. The cost of tender Schedule Rs.15000 + GST 1800/- and other details are download in www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost. Any other details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer, PWD, Technical Education Circle, Chennai 25 during working hours. EMD in favour of Executive Engineer, Technical Education Division, Vellore. If the date of receipt of tenders happens to be a holiday, the tender will be received on the next working day.

DIPR3532/Tender2021

Chief Engineer, PWD, Technical Education Circle, Chennai 25.

தேர்தல் விபரத்தைத் தனது கணினி மூலமாக, எங்கள் பதிவு செய்திருக்கும் இணையத்திலிருந்து பெறப்படும்.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
VELLORE CORPORATION - Corporation Office, Vellore
Roc.No. 6209/2021/S1 Open Tender Notice Date : 22.11.2021

The Commissioner, Vellore Corporation invites tenders in two cover system for the following works as per the conditions laid down in the tender notice published in website <http://tntenders.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of the work (Smart City)	Estimate Cost Rs. In Cr.	EMD Cost Rs.	Period for Completion
1.	Additional work in New Bus Stand (1 Work) and Channel Work (4 Works) in Vellore City Municipal Corporation.	Rs.26.08 Cr (5 Works range from Rs.3.00 Cr. to Rs.7.15 Cr)	1% of the Estimate Cost	6 Months for Bus Stand work 12 Months for Channel works
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	07.12.2021 at 11.00 am		
3.	Date of Tender	28.12.2021 Tuesday 3.00 pm		
4.	Date, Time and Venue of opening	28.12.2021 Tuesday 3.30 pm at Vellore Corporation Office		
5.	Tender document availability and other details	Other Details can be obtained from the tender notice published in website http://tntenders.gov.in or from Vellore Corporation Office, Engineering section during working hours on all working days.		

For Contact : 0416 - 2220578 DIPR/3571/TENDER/2021 Commissioner, Vellore Corporation

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUILDING ORGANISATION, BLDGS (C&M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-5

TENDER NOTICE No.11 BCM / 2021 - 22 FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM / Two Cover System. DATED: 22.11.2021.

For and on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tender are invited from eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Bldgs (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5 for the following work:-

Sl. No	Name of work and EMD	Approximate value of work	Period	EMD In favour of
1.	Two Cover System Carrying out modification works (Civil) in the fifth floor of New Additional Law Chamber building for shifting the Tamil Nadu Mediation and conciliation Centre, Madras High Court, Chennai-600 104.	Rs.501.28 Lakhs	6 Months	Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5.
2.	Carrying out modification works (Electrical) in the fifth floor of New Additional Law Chamber building for shifting the Tamil Nadu Mediation and conciliation Centre, Madras High Court, Chennai-600 104.	Rs.110.40 Lakhs	6 Months	Electrical Engineer, PWD., Electrical Division - I, Chennai - 5.

Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> (or) <http://www.tntenders.gov.in> and also available in the o/o the undersigned at a cost of Rs.15000/- + Rs.1800 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available from 25.11.2021 to 27.12.2021 Last date of receipt of tender is 28.12.2021 upto 03.00 P.M., and opened on the same day at 04.00 P.M. by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website

DIPR/3552/Tender/2021

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5.

தேர்தல் விபரத்தைத் தனது கணினி மூலமாக, எங்கள் பதிவு செய்திருக்கும் இணையத்திலிருந்து பெறப்படும்.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Azad mishra S/o Shesh mani mishra R/o -5553, 36yard, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad,Haryana have Changed my name to Azad Kumar Mishra 0040593199-1

I Roohi Pervaiz W/O, Khurshid Hassan Pervaiz R/o 106 Vishal Apartment Patna 800006 Bihar have changed my name to Ruhi Maliha for all purposes. 0040593206-1

I Rishabh S/O, Dinesh Babu Kulshreshtha R/o House No.105,Type-II, Govt Flats, Gulabi Bagh Delhi have changed my name to Rishabh Kulshreshtha for all purposes 0040593207-1

I Narender (No 15434326H), Rank SEP, S/o Sh. Daya Ram R/o Village Lokri The. Pataudi, Gurugram inform that in my Army service record my wife name is wrongly mentioned as Neeta Nara but her correct name is Neeta Singh 0040593203-1

I Kiran Deep Singh Son of Varinder Pal Singh holder of Indian Passport No.K2324227 issued at Delhi on 14.02.2012 permanent resident of 13/7 Ist floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-8 and presently residing at 14591, 62 Avenue. Surrey V358K7, BC, Canada do hereby change my name from Kiran Deep Singh to Karandeep Singh Virk with immediate effect. 0040593201-1

I Kartar Singh S/O Hari Kishan R/O,B-2/43-D, Lawrence-Road Keshav Puram Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Kartar Singh Ahlawat. 0040593265-3

I ANANT DEO TIWARI S/O-BALKRISHNA TIWARI R/O-SUNWORLD VANALIKA FLAT NO-702 TOWER NO-2 SECTOR-107 NOIDA GAUTAM BUDHA NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH-201301 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANANT DEO FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0070762635-1

I,BASANT KAUR/BASAN DEVI W/O HARISH KUMAR RATRA R/O H-185,FIRST-FLOOR,VIKASPURI,DELHI-110018.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BASANT KAUR RATRA. 0040593275-7

It is for general information that I, SHAILESH KUMAR,S/O TRILOK KUMAR, R/o. Flat. No.7, C2C, Pocket-12, Near -Super SPl. Hospital, JanakPuri, New Delhi-110058,declare that name of my wife has been wrongly-written as AASHI in my Service Records.The actual-name of my wife is ANJU, which may be amended accordingly. 0040593214-11

I,raaj kumar jangra,s/o sh.Sohan lal R/o-2/44a, south extn,part-1,Shukkar-bazar uttam-nagar, new-delhi-110059 have changed my name to raj kumar,for all purposes. 0040593264-10

I,pyush Lohia,s/o-Vineet kumar gupta,Address-1-A, Oak-drive dlw-farms house chatterpur, new-delhi-110074,Changed my minor child name Yuvaan Lohia to yuvan Lohia. 0040593214-10

I,pyush Lohia,s/o-Vineet kumar gupta,Address-1-A Oak-drive dlw-farms, house chatterpur new-delhi-110074,Changedmy minor child name Vivaan Lohia to vivan Lohia. 0040593214-9

I,VINOD KUMAR S/O GANGA SHARAN SHARMA R/o K-113,E-Block,Free-Hold, Sangam-Vihar, Nand Gram, Noornagar, Ghaziabad(UP)have changed my name to VINOD SHARMA. 0040593265-8

I,Shehzad Hussain Siddiqui S/o-Ahsan Ilahi R/o-12J, Street. No.9, J,Extension, Laxmi-Nagar, East-Delhi,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Shehzad Hussain. 0040593264-8

I,Soma Sharma W/o Babu Ram Sharma R/o-E-2/10, Vasant-Vihar, New Delhi-110057,have changed my name to Sumitra Sharma. 0040593264-9

I,Shafali Maggu W/o Davinder Singh,R/o Amolik Hights, Tower-7/4, Flat.no-306, sector-85, Faridabad,Haryana -121002, have changed my name to Shafali Maggo. 0040593214-4

I,Satyawati W/o-Rajendra Prasad Sharma R/o G-22/192, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my,name Satyawati Sharma after marriage,both name are same person. 0040593221-6

I,Sarita Kumari Alias Sarita Gupta,D/o Lal Babu Prasad,W/o Umesh Prasad,R/o H-106, Harkesh-Nagar,New-Delhi-110020,have changed my name,from Sarita Kumari Alias Sarita Gupta,for all,future purposes. 0040593275-3

I,Sanskriti Gupta D/o Shobha Gupta,R/o Flat. no.9722,1st& 2nd-Floor, Sector-C,Pocket-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, have changed my name to Sanskriti Shakuntala Gupta all purposes. 0040593221-2

I,SANDHYA,W/O SH,PARVEEN KUMAR,R/o-76G,SECTOR-4, GOLE-MARKET NEW-DELHI, CENTRAL-DELHI,DELHI-110001, Inform That SHANDHYA and SANDHYA are one and same person,That my husband PRAVEEN KUMAR and PARVEEN KUMAR are one and same person. 0040593265-5

I Ridima W/O Nishat Dang R/O, 71/18 Prem Nagar Janakpuri B-1 have changed my name to Ridima Kaushik Dang for all purposes. 0040593097-6

I,Sangeeta Puri D/O-Lal Bhadur Mukhia, House.No-10,First-Floor,39A RajPur Khurd, South-Delhi-110068,Have Changed my Name to Sangeeta Mukhia. 0040593267-3

I,Ravinder Kaur W/o-Jaswinder Singh R/o-WZ283/14,Gali.No.2, Maddi Wali Gali,Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018,inform that my ,husband passport vide.no. F7946374,my name Rajpal Kaur wrongly,mentioned instead of correct name Ravinder Kaur. 0040593221-4

I,Ratnesh Kumar Shukla, S/o Rajesh Kumar Shukla R/o-183, Chingahi Khand-2,066(VIII-Pure Bhinda)Diwan Amethi, (U.P.) Have Changed My Name To Ratnesh Shukla. 0040593264-2

I,RENU D/O-RAGHUBIR SINGH RAWAT,R/o-B-53 SHAHEED RAJIV GANDHI-COLONY GOVIND PURI DELHI-110019, have changed my name to REYHANA, permanently. DOB-04/04/1989. 0040593265-9

I,Premjal Yadav,S/o-Sh. Ram Avtar Singh,R/o-H.No.B-29, Baljeet-Vihar,Nithari Extension,North West,Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Prempal Singh,for all future purposes. 0040593275-1

I,Pramod kumar JC 698787L Rank Ec Sub,House.No.145,B-Block,Kaushik-Enclave, Burari Delhi-110084,have changed my minor daughter name,from kumkum to kritika,for all purposes. 0040593214-1

I,Pradeep Garg S/o Chandrer Prakash R/o F-4 187/188 Rohini Sector-16 have changed my name to Pardeep Garg for all purposes. 0040593210-1

I,Pardeep Kumar,S/o-Bishambar Dayal,R/o-193 3rd-Floor,Ram Nagar Extn.,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Pardeep Kumar Singhal,for all purposes. 0040593275-9

I,Pardeep Kumar,S/o-Bishambar Dayal,R/o-193 3rd-Floor,Ram Nagar Extn.,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Pardeep Kumar Singhal,for all purposes. 0040593221-7

I,POOJA W/ AMIT KUMAR R/O FLATNO. 8/6,2nd-FLOOR,TYPE-2,PHASE-3,DJB-FLATS,MCD-COLONY, MODEL-TOWN-3, DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA DEVI. 0040593265-6

I,RINKLE W/O KARAN RAHEJA R/O-FLAT NO.7-V052 DLF CAPITAL GREEN, KARAM PURA DELHI-110015,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RINKI RAHEJA. 0040593214-3

I,No.13894186M NK/MT Ex Awdhesh Kumar Jha R/O-A-36, Laxmi Park, Nangloi,Delhi-110041, have changed my minor Son's Name from Roshan to Roshan Jha all purposes. 0040593221-3

I,Nigar S Siddqui W/o-Shehzad Hussain R/o.12J, Street.No 9, J-Extension, Laxmi-Nagar,East-Delhi, Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Nigar Sultana 0040593264-7

I,NELOFAR W/O-MOHD ABRAR, R/O-7827, Nai-Basti, Bara-Hindu-Rao, Delhi-110006,have changed my name,from NELOFAR ROOQSHANA to NELOFAR,for all purpose. 0040593214-7

I,NARESH KUMAR, S/o BALA RAM, ADD.P.O. LAKHANI, LAKHANI, BAGESHWAR, UTTARAKHAND-263642. Changed my name to NARESH PRASAD 0040593214-5

I,Muskan Narang,D/o-Suresh Narang House.no-1050,sector-14 gurgaon haryana-122001. Changed my name to muskaan Narang. 0040593214-8

I,Mohan Lal S/o Shri Shera Ram R/o RZ-412,Gali.no.7, East Sagarpur,New Delhi-110046,I want to change my daughter's DOB from 02/06/2007 to 02/07/2007. 0040593221-1

I,Manpreet Kour W/o Taranjeet Singh R/o WZ-50/3, Sant Garh, Street.No.25, New Delhi-18 have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur for all Purposes. 0070762618-1

I,Manimegalai Gopalsamy,W/o Vellaiyan Subramani, R/o,A-12A-SF Amber-Block,(Emaar-Emerald Hills),Sector-65 Gurgaon-122001,Have Changed My Name To Manimegalai Subramani. 0040593264-1

I,Manikantan S/o Gopalan Kollara Valappil, Add-1055G, Flat.no-F.1,Mehta-Chowk, ward.No.7, Mehrauli,New Delhi-110030, changed my name to Manikantan Kollara Valappil. 0040593214-6

I,MEHAR TABASSUM SHEIKH, W/O ABHISHEK KUMAR, R/O,FLAT.NO.2308B, TOWER-2,PANCHSHEEL-WELLINGTON, CROSSING-REPUBLIK, GHAZIABAD, U.P.201016, changed my name to MEHER TABASSUM SHEIKH. 0040593267-2

I,JAIMEET KOUR CHAWLA D/O-MAHINDER PAL SINGH CHAWLA,R/o-4/19B JANGPURA-B,DELHI-110014 have changed my name to JAIMEET CHAWLA. 0040593265-7

I,Leena W/O-Avneesh kumar R/O D-14/161,Pocket-14, Sector 8,Rohini,Delhi-110085,Have changed my name from Leena Juneja to Leena after-marriage. 0040593275-8

I,Jasvinder Singh S/o-Harbhajan Singh R/o-WZ283/14,Gali.No.2, Maddi Wali Gali,Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, inform that in my,passport vide.no.F7946374,my name Jaswinder Singh wrongly, mentioned instead of correct name Jasvinder Singh. 0040593221-5

I,HARISH KUMAR/HARISH RATRA S/O RAM LAL R/O H-185, FIRST-FLOOR, VIKASPURI, DELHI-110018.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH KUMAR RATRA. 0040593275-6

I,HARI OM PARASAR/HARI OM PARASHAR,S/O-RAM DAYAL SHARMA,R/O NEW-GOPAL PURI,KOIL, ALIGARH,U.P.-202001, changed my name to HARI OM SHARMA. 0040593267-1

I,Asha Rani, W/o- Bhupinder Singh, R/o-H.No.T-562/A1, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008. In future my name will be used in paper work Asha Virdi as above as per Documents. 0040593221-8

I,Brij Mohan S/o Manwar Singh Rawat R/o-B-1129 Gharoli Dairy Farm Delhi-110096,Have Changed My Name To Brij Mohan Rawat. 0040593265-10

I,Akhil Kumar,S/O-Harinder Kumar,R/O-F-1508,Ace City, Sector-1, Greater Noida, West,Gautam Budh-Nagar,UP 201306,have changed my name,from Akhil Kumar to Akhil Kumar Tewatia,for all future purposes. 0040593275-4

I,Akash S/o Shri Narender Singh R/O House.No.115,Chilla Saroda,Mayur-Vihar Phase-1,Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Akash Dedha,for all future purposes. 0040593265-4

I,AMIT RAI MALHOTRA S/O PREM NATH MALHOTRA R/O-B-14/257,HIMGIRI APARTMENT, SECTOR-34, NOIDA U.P.-201301, have changed my name to AMIT MALHOTRA. 0040593264-3

I,Vandana D/o Ashok Kumar, R/O 160 Dayal Singh colony old Ishwar Nagar New Delhi-110065 have changed my name Vandna to Vandana for all future purpose. 0040593251-1

I,Sunil Kumar Singh S/O Parashuram Singh R/O House No.-1, 2nd Floor, Pocket-5, Sector-C, Vasant kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my minor daughter's name from Sakshi Singh aged 15 years to Trishith Singh forever 0070762634-1

I,Snehal Dharmendramani Sath W/O Udit Sath R/o of Flat No.1701, Tower-2, Orange County, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201010 have changed my name to Snehal Sath for all purposes. 0040593237-1

I,Shirish,W/o Aseem Mohammed,R/o-1717/18 Kucha Dakhni Rai Daryga Ganj Delhi-110002,have changed my name to Sherrish Mohammed. 0040593275-2

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Chaman Lal R/o 1/62, W.H.S.,Timber-Market, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Sanjiv Kumar. 0040593264-4

I, Saniya Parveen D/o, Umarshad Khan R/o, Flat No.78 B, Block U-3, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida, Distt.-G.B. Nagar (U.P.). In future I will be known as Saniya Parveen for all purpose. 0040593251-2

I, Ritu sharma W/o Lalit Kumar sharma R/o Flat No- 304/16, Orange County Ahinsha khand-1 indirapuram, Ghaziabad- have changed my name to Reetu Sharma for all purposes. 0040593204-2

I, Ramandeep Singh S/o Satwant Singh,R/o NW-153B, Vishnu-Garden, New Delhi-110018,have Changed my name to Ramandeep Singh Gabbi, for all future purposes. 0040593199-2

I, Ram Kumari Tamang W/o Lal Bahadur Aged 43 Years R/O B-23, Geetanjali enclave, South Delhi-110017. I confirm that Ram Kumari Tamang & Vishnu Kumari Tamang is the name of one and the same person. Hereafter I shall be Known as Vishnu Kumari Tamang. 0040593219-1

I, Radhika W/o Naresh Garg R/o,C-7, E-101, Akansha-Apartment, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011,have changed my name to Radhika Gupta for all purposes. 0040593264-6

I, Pooja Singh D/o Bharat Prasad Singh R/o H.No.37, First-Floor, Block K1 Extension, Gurudwara Road, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, N.Delhi-110059 have changed my name Puja Singh. 0040593264-5

I, Pankaj Singla S/O-Surinder Kumar Singla R/O, A-462/463, Block-A, Pocket-00, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Pankaj Singhal. 0040593265-2

I, Manju Ahuja W/o, Rakesh Poptani R/o D-72 Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Bhavya Poptani, all purposes 0040593248-1

I, Dabbal Singh, S/O Late Ranjeet Singh Rawat, residing 1208, Sector-2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, have changed my minor son name Krish Rawat, D.O.B. 06-03-2006 and self hereafter be known as Vishal Rawat. 0040593197-2

I, Lalit Kumar sharma R/o Flat No-304/16 Orange County Ahinsha khand-1 Indirapuram Ghaziabad in my some documents my name wrongly mentioned Lalit Kumar & Lalit sharma but my actual name is Lalit Kumar sharma for all purposes. 0040593204-1

I, Krishan Kumar S/O Dashrath Prasad Sharma R/O,D-8/3, Model-Town Delhi-110009,have changed my name to Krishna Kumar. 0040593265-1

I, Kirti W/O Bhadresh,R/O D-620, J.J.Colony, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 Have Changed my Name to Kirti Gohil. 0040593267-4

I, Jitendra Kumar S/o Gandharv Singh, R/O E-136, Gali No-3, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jitender Singh in my minor son Arjun Singh aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Jitendra Kumar 0070762632-1

I, Ishleen Kaur Bedi W/o-Lav Sood R/o-Flat.No.C-601, Badhwar Apartments, Plot.No-3, Sector-6,Dwarka Delhi-110075,have changed my name to Ishleen Bedi Sood. 0040593214-2

I, Gurnoor Kaur W/o. Jaskaran Singh Kohli, R/o-A-87,Tagore Garden-Extn, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name after marriage Gurnoor Kaur to Gurnoor Kaur Kohli, for all future purposes. 40593199-3

I, Deepika Sahi D/o Ravinder Singh Rawat R/o Flat No.1236, Sector-A, Pocket-A, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070 have changed my name to Deepika Rawat. 0040593197-1

LOST & FOUND

I,have lost my property papers file(Sub-Lease Deed, Allotment letter, Possession letter, Parking Allotment letter etc) of unit no-301, Tower-05, Nirala Estate, Phase-1, Techzone-04, Greater Noida, Distt-G.B.Nagar. S.N.Agarwal, Prateek Edifice H-1217, Sector-107, Noida, Mobile No.8860234209 70762620-1

I,DARSHAN KAPOOR S/O H.S. MADAN LAL KAPOOR R/O B-12, GALI NO.22, OLD GOBIND PURA, DELHI-110051, HAVE LOST MY ORIGINAL PROPERTY DOCUMENTS OF PROPERTY NO. B-12, OLD GOBIND PURA, DELHI-110051. I, TWO SALE DEEDS (1) EXECUTED ON 15.01.1968 IN THE NAME OF MADAN LAL KAPOOR & (2) EXECUTED ON 17.01.1958 IN THE NAME OF HANS RAJ. FINDERS MAY CONTACT : 9312248766. 40593171-4

I,Edgar Morrison original-allottee of FG No.C-3 St. Columbus CGHS Ltd.Plot.No.15 Sector-7,Dwarka New Delhi-110075,have lost original-Allotment cum possession-letter and original share-certificate no.128.If anyone found please do inform me-9811149397. 40593275-10

I,Mukesh Kumar S/o Bhola Ram,have Lost my National Institute of Open School-Certificate passing year-1994 Roll no-050702018 finder Contact-8930148492. 0040593275-11

To, be known to all that my client, M/S SHREE VEERA WOOLLEN MILLS PVT LTD., at PLOT NO.5, BLOCK-D, SNA CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LTD., G.T. KARNAL ROAD, DELHI, through its Authorized Signatory SH. TUSHAR AHUJA S/O SH. HUKAM CHAUD R/O 341, ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-I, DELHI-110027, is the allottee-owner of INDUSTRIAL PLOT NO.5, BLOCK-D AREA MEASURING 1214.6 SQ. YD.RS. SITUATED AT SNA CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LTD., G.T. KARNAL ROAD, DELHI, have applied for Substitution and Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property to DDA. The original documents i.e. Original ALLOTMENT CUM DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER and SITE POSSESSION SLIP of the above said property have been lost or misplaceed by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An E.I.R,NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LD No.507753/2021 dated 04.11.2021. Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or bound in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9811087975 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (SB (Industrial) or Director (Industrial), Vikas Sector, New Delhi - Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate) Chamber no. M-7, Near SBI Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

Public Notice
Plot/ Flat No. BPA - 116, admeasuring 166.56 sq. mtrs., situated in DLF City, Gurgaon (Haryana) was registered in the name of Late Smt. Kamal Kumari Kaul, wife of Late Shri Hari Kaul and Late Shri Harsh Kaul, Son of Late Shri Hari Kaul, both of who were residing at 434 Faculty Houses, IIM Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380015 and expired on 20th July, 2018 and 23rd July, 2019 respectively without a Will. Their legal heirs being Sunanda Mittal, Anand Krishna Kaul and Rohini Kaul have executed a Relinquishment Deed relinquishing their rights in favour of Mrs. Asha Harsh Kaul and accordingly the name of Mrs. Asha Harsh Kaul is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms/DLF Ltd or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice, failing which all claims shall be considered waived. Date: 20/11/2021 Ajinash Shah, Advocate Advocate

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Vaughan dropped by BBC for Ashes commentary

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SALFORD, NOVEMBER 24

FORMER ENGLAND cricket captain Michael Vaughan was dropped by the BBC on Wednesday because of his involvement in the racism controversy enveloping county club Yorkshire.

Vaughan has been accused of using racially insensitive comments toward a group of players of Asian ethnicity in 2009 while they were at Yorkshire.

Vaughan has denied the allegations and said his reputation has been "trashed unfairly," calling it "the worst thing I have ever experienced."

The BBC, which uses Vaughan as a pundit, said it wasn't currently appropriate for him to have a role in coverage of the upcoming Ashes series against Australia and for wider elements of the sport "while he is involved in a significant story in cricket."

"We require our contributors to talk about relevant topics," the broadcaster said in a statement, "and his involvement in the Yorkshire story represents a conflict of interest."

Azeem Rafiq, the whistleblower whose revelations about the racism and bullying he suffered at Yorkshire has sparked a crisis in the English game, was the first to make the allegation that Vaughan said in 2009 of the four players of Asian heritage: "There are too many of you lot; we need to do something about it."

Rafiq was one of the four players in question. Two more - Adil Rashid and Pakistan international Rana Naved-ul-Hasan - have also said they overheard Vaughan's alleged remarks. Vaughan might still be heard in Britain during the Ashes through his scheduled work for Australian rights-holder Fox Sports, which will provide the audio for BT Sport's coverage of the series.

Sponsor cuts ties after third player accuses Essex of racism

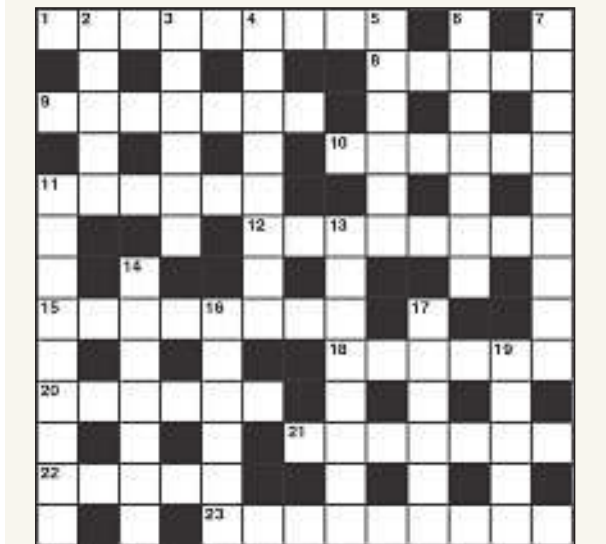
London: Former Essex pacer Jahid Khan has accused the county cricket club of racist abuse while playing for the team a few years back, according to a report. Jahid is the third player from Essex to accuse the club of racism.

The 35-year-old follows Zoheb Sharif and Maurice Chambers who have also accused the club of racial discrimination.

Jahid, who represented Essex in seven first-class matches between 2005 and 2009, described the club to The Cricketer as "a white man's world where brown people were outsiders" after allegedly being asked by a teammate if he was "going to bomb" the club.

Consequently, Seetec, a key sponsor has pulled out of its association with the club. **PTI**

CROSSWORD 4595



- ACROSS**
1 I grasp one form of capital (9)
8 Went one by one out of the field (5)
9 Possibly a bit past it might describe John (7)
10 Dr Flower is sullen (6)
11 Desert fault (6)
12 Writes one's first letters (8)
15 Do without work in the pharmacy (8)
18 Science that puts healthy colour in a lad (6)
20 A wave that makes a wave (6)
21 One who hears and sums up all the accounts (7)
22 Inert form of chemical (5)
23 Not altogether how an undergraduate is working? (2,1,6)
- DOWN**
2 Angry as a rodent that is trapped (5)
3 Get together and tuck in (6)
4 The place for a job (8)
5 It's a struggle for an amphibian to get around (6)
6 There's no place for him (4-3)
7 Very sad, it may turn into misfortune (9)
11 Do not dare to produce such a cosmetic (9)
13 Heading for the frozen wastes - or stuck in them (8)
14 Cut off and also tie off (7)
16 Peephole for viewer to lease (6)
17 The way to loop cord (6)
19 Ring in the nose as a halter (5)

Solutions Crossword 4594: Across: 1 Affable, 4 Group, 7 Earn, 8 Repaired, 10 Down and out, 12 Mallet, 13 Streak, 15 First of all, 18 Dumbbell, 19 Ring, 20 Renew, 21 Rompers. Down: 1 Ahead, 2 Farewell, 3 Emends, 4 Graduation, 5 Oars, 6 Padlock, 9 Take his bow, 11 Set aside, 12 Meander, 14 Ostler, 16 Lagos, 17 Amen.

JUMBLD 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.

With me a change of trouble is as good as a ____.

- William Lloyd George (8)

ILVAA
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BENZEMA GUILTY IN SEX TAPE BLACKMAIL CASE

France and Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema was given a one-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of 75,000 euros Wednesday in a sex-tape case that rocked French soccer and put the talented striker's international career on hold for more than five years. Benzema was found guilty of being involved in an attempt in 2015 to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

REUTERS

CSK likely to retain Dhoni for three seasons, Pant set to lead Capitals

DEVENDRA PANDEY
NOVEMBER 24

CHENNAI SUPER Kings are likely to retain their longstanding captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni for the next three Indian Premier League seasons.

Apart from Dhoni, the franchise is set to retain all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and opener Rituraj Gaikwad, who played crucial roles as CSK won the 2021 IPL title.

As per BCCI rules, each team is allowed to retain a maximum of four players. CSK is also in talks with England all-rounder Moeen Ali to come on board. As BCCI secretary Jay Shah had stated that the next season of IPL will be played in India, CSK feel Ali could be a handy player on the slow, turning Chennai wicket.

If Ali doesn't agree to stay, CSK will have left-arm medium pacer Sam Curran as their fourth retained player.

The franchises have to submit their lists of retained players by November 30 and the IPL will have its mega auction next month.

CSK retaining Dhoni wouldn't come as a

surprise, especially with the brand value he brings to the team. At a recent CSK event, Dhoni had confirmed that his last T20 game will be in Chennai, putting his IPL retirement speculations to bed.

"I have always planned my cricket. My last ODI in India was in Ranchi. Hopefully, my last T20 will be in Chennai. Whether it's next year or in five years' time, I don't know," Dhoni had said.

CSK are also likely to not retain Suresh Raina for the first time. The former India batsman has been out of touch and didn't play crucial knockout IPL games.

Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals are set to retain wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, all-rounder Axar Patel, Prithvi Shaw and pacer Anrich Nortje.

The Indian Express understands the reason Shreyas Iyer was released is that he wanted to lead DC but the franchise was keen to have Pant as their leader going ahead.

However, most franchises will be following the tactic of not retaining four players as this could lead to stress on their purse during the auction.

It is understood that Mumbai Indians will retain Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah. While negotiations with their West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard are still on, the franchise wants to buy Suryakumar Yadav from the auction pool and chances of Ishan Kishan being retained are also bright.

Two new teams Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG group and CVC Capitals (though they haven't been given the green signal yet from the board) have begun approaching a few top Indian players.

India opener KL Rahul is likely to lead Goenka's new Lucknow team. It is learnt Rahul has parted ways with Punjab Kings and has accepted Goenka's offer. It is also learnt that Yadav was approached by the new franchise but the batsman hasn't responded yet.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders are likely to retain their two all-rounders Sunil Narine and Andre Russell while they want to keep Varun Chakravarty too. It is learnt that KKR is still deciding on whether to retain Shubman Gill or Venkatesh Iyer.

PLAYERS SET TO BE RETAINED



CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Rituraj Gaikwad, Moeen Ali/Sam Curran



DELHI CAPITALS
Rishabh Pant, Prithvi Shaw, Axar Patel, Anrich Nortje



MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kieron Pollard (talks on), Ishan Kishan (likely)



KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Sunil Narine, Andre Russell



At a recent CSK event, MS Dhoni had confirmed that his last T20 game will be in Chennai, putting his IPL retirement speculations to bed. BCCI

BRIEFLY

Harmanpreet first Indian to be named player of the WBBL

Sydney: Melbourne Renegades star Harmanpreet Kaur became the first



Indian to be named Women Big Bash League (WBBL) Player of the Tournament. Harmanpreet

Kaur enjoyed a dominant season in red, ending the regular season as her side's leading batter with 399 runs and bowler with 15 wickets. Kaur was voted as the competition's top player by the standing umpires at each match, polling 31 votes to finish three clear of Perth Scorchers pair Beth Mooney and Sophie Devine on 28 votes each. ANI

India 'A' reach 125/1 on Day 2 vs SA 'A'

Bloemfontein: India A made a cautious reply to South Africa A's 509 for seven declared as they ended day 2 of the opening unofficial Test at 125 for one on Wednesday. Captain Priyank Panchal and Abhimanyu Easwaran were batting on 45 and 27 respectively at the draw of stumps. Opener Prithvi Shaw (48 off 45 balls) was out in the 14th over of India A's first innings. India, who faced 33 overs, trail by 384 runs in the four-day match. **BRIEF SCORES:** India 'A': 125 for 1 in 33 overs (P Shaw 48, P Panchal 45 batting) trail SA 'A': 509 for 7 dec in 135.3 overs (P Malan 163, T de Zorzi 117) by 384 runs PTI

Spinners put Lanka close to victory

Galle: West Indies collapsed to 18-6 in their second innings before ending the fourth day on 52-6 as Sri Lanka took control of the first Test. Spinners Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya moved Sri Lanka close to victory Wednesday after the hosts declared their second innings at 191-4 and set West Indies a 348 runs to win. **BRIEF SCORES:** SL 191 for 4 dec (Karunaratne 83, Mathews 69*, Wanmaran 2-42, Comwall 2-60) and 386 lead WI 230 and 52 for 6 (Mendis 4-17, Embuldeniya 2-18) by 296 runs AP

SANDIP G

KANPUR, NOVEMBER 24

THREE BRISK strides, the last longer than the first two, Rahul Dravid broke into his delivery stride with an effortless whirl of his shoulder, floated an off-break into Cheteshwar Pujara at the nets. The ball landed just outside the off-stump to encounter the visage of Pujara's stretched and dead-straight bat. The ball dropped dead beside his feet, and as Pujara threw the ball back at Dravid, the latter gestured to him with a flick of his wrists that he could not cajole the flight he had wanted.

Watching all these, not far from the nets, was Ajinkya Rahane. He walked towards Dravid and whispered something into his ears. Dravid vigorously nodded his head, before rushing back to bowl the next. This one was more flight, had more revs, dropped suddenly into Pujara and spun back sharply into his legs. Pujara swiftly went deep into his crease and defended the ball to safety, though uncomfortably. Dravid flicked a thumbs' up at Rahane. Whatever his inputs were, it seemed to work.

Later, as Pujara shifted to the centre nets, Rahane sped in, yelling "Rahul bhai, Rahul bhai," as if imploring him to bowl a few off-breaks at him. Dravid obliged—and eventually he ended up bowling to most of the batters and some bowlers, including Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav. It was not the last time the trio of Rahane, Pujara and Dravid were spotted together, so much so they seemed to share an invisible magnetic field. Pujara after executing a brace of sweep shots, a tool that he rarely pulls out, looked approvingly at Dravid, who nudged his head in approval. Later, the three intensely watched Jayant Yadav and Iyer.

The warmth the trio shared, more fraternal than professional, was obvious, and it could be that in Dravid's reign, the pair of Rahane and Pujara could emerge more into the foreground, as pillars of leadership. The upgrading of roles comes at the ripest time too, when they are entering probably the last stage of their career.

In focus

Both are 33, and are part of the team's fulcrum. Pujara had said the other day that he was helping out youngsters even before he was made the vice-captain, and would continue to, but his efforts were perceptible during the nets in the last two years.

Not that they were less prominent members during Ravi Shastri's tenure, but they were largely men in the background, quietly going about their chores, unless when Rahane was



the stand-in captain. Maybe, the personas of Shastri and Kohli were so overpowering that the eyes and ears were largely trained on them, even as Rahane and Pujara, slipped into a cloak of anonymity, as is their nature.

Dravid's is a more mellowed, even un-ubiquitous presence. He is like a restless kid at the park, everywhere and nowhere. The moment your eyes slip off him, he would be in a different corner of the ground. Whereas Shastri infused a contagious intensity into net sessions, Dravid brings an infectious wave of calm. Not just Rahane and Pujara, there seemed to be a bunch of leaders on the ground. Like Umesh Yadav taking Prasidh Krishna under his wings, or Ravindra Jadeja and Ravi Ashwin talking extensively with Jayant Yadav.

But here, you could see a more involved Pujara and Rahane, not only mindful of their own net sessions, but also those of others. Like Pujara, who frequently sidled up Shreyas Iyer, who would make his Test debut on Thursday. Rahane was overseeing the fielding practises too on Tuesday. They were more visible, vibrant presences than ever before, rather than being content with oneself.

Maybe, it's just the excitement of having Dravid in the side. Someone, who Rahane and

Pujara had idolised all their lives. Dravid's Adelaide double hundred had Pujara searching sports shops for Dravid's "dazzler" gloves. Rahane has gulped up his Rawalpindi double ton more than any of his favourite movies. Someone who had mentored them in the past, as well someone who they had speed-dialled in times of crisis.

Before his career-reviving century against Sri Lanka in 2015, Pujara took a break to turn up for India 'A' against the touring Australia 'A' side, the early days of Dravid's coaching journey. Pujara emerged from the series not only with runs, but also his morale resurrected, and he eventually carried the bat on a tacky wicket at SSC in the deciding Test of the series. "I was not in a great space of mind, I was questioning my own technique, but Rahul bhai assured me that my technique was fine and I just needed to get the negativity out of my mind," he once recounted to this paper.

Rekindled touch

So did Rahane, two years ago, when he was riding a confidence crisis himself. He hit the NCA—it's an invitation Dravid had extended to both in their first encounter—and rekindled his touch. Even during India's comeback—from-

36-all-out to a series win - they were in constant touch. "If a guy like Rahul Dravid is there, you learn something every day... We talk over the phone, exchange messages. He messaged me after the Melbourne match and immediately after the Brisbane match, saying how proud he was of the team," Rahane had once told this paper in an Express Adda.

He still swears by Dravid's advice to not practice too hard in the nets. "He once told me that it was the biggest mistake he had made in his playing days, and that I shouldn't." Dravid sounded out Pujara to be not hyper-fixated with his technique. Possibly speaking from his own experience.

He was also the person who thrust leadership roles on Rahane, back in their Rajasthan Royals days. "We were both playing for Rajasthan Royals when he came and told me that he was going through a rough time with the bat and I needed to take more leadership duties to guide the batting unit. Rahul bhai always did that, he always shared leadership duties," Rahane detailed in a Delhi Capitals video.

From a batting perspective too, Dravid's taking charge has come at the right time. Both Rahane and Pujara have been short of runs. The latter has not scored a century in nearly three



Largely men in the background during Ravi Shastri's tenure, Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara could emerge as leaders under Rahul Dravid. Sportspics

years, though his defiant half-centuries have corner-stoned some of India's finest moments in England and Australia. Apart from the Melbourne hundred at the start of the year, Rahane has been woefully short of runs. Both were probed multiple times, in the last few days, about their shortage of runs and Dravid's advice to them. "Rahul bhai just told us to back ourselves and not think too much about it. Pujara and I know our game plan, it is about keeping it simple and backing our plans. If we get in, try to convert it into a big one," Rahane said in the press conference.

Not just them, everyone seemed to share a spontaneous comfort quotient with Dravid. Not just because he's imminently likeable, but all of them have either played with him or been coached by him. They were Dravid's boys, even before Dravid took charge.

Coaches often need time to blend in with the players and adapt to the culture. Less so with Dravid. It is as if he has always been there, as an invisible guiding force. His induction as India's coach must be the smoothest taking over of the national team by a coach in the history of Indian cricket. And the clearest takeaway would be the emergence of Rahane and Pujara as leaders.

Quintessential Kanpur pitch expected to help spin, but not unplayable

SANDIP G

KANPUR, NOVEMBER 24

Beside the sightsscreen, a wiry young groundsman asked his colleague, "Tarpal abhi lagana ya nahin? (should we put up the cover?)" The mildly-irritated fellow groundsman, probably his immediate senior, snapped: "Abhi kapda nahin chahiye, nanga rahne do, thoda roshni aur hawa ko aana do. (Not now, leave it exposed, let in some light and air)"

The 22-yard strip, always the focal point on match eve and an object of scrutiny, had slept wrapped in a green blanket of tarpaulin on Tuesday. But the next day, it lay naked, its light-brown crust basking in the sunlight. Only when the sun sets and the smog settles in would it be reclothed.

It's a practice in this neck of the woods to expose the ground to sunshine on the eve of a match to suck moisture out of it. As Kanpur has been cooler than it usually is in November, the probability of the pitch retaining some moisture is high, and it would take more time to deteriorate. They don't want the pitch to throw up cracks prematurely either, by exposing it to too much sun either. So, they cover the pitch in the days leading up to the match once they

have prepared it.

Curious passers-by would stop and casually ask the groundsmen, "Pitch kaisa hai bhai (what's the pitch like?)" "Kanpur jaisa (like it is in Kanpur)," they would shoot back. Kanpur jaisa means, the pitch would take slow turn as the game progresses, and depending on the sun and smog, it would crack up, off-shooting in variable bounce.

The image of Kanpur as a diabolical dust-bowl is a misnomer though. Apart from the stinker against South Africa in 2008—the story goes that after the match, captain Anil Kumble took the curator's panama cap as a souvenir—most of the other decks it had subsequently produced were not rank turners. In the next Test, India piled on 642 runs against a Sri Lanka side that featured the triumvirate of Muttiah Muralitharan, Rangana Herath and Ajantha Mendis. Even the man of the match was not a spinner but a seamer, S Sreesanth. In the next Test here, against New Zealand, the match lasted four and a half days. At some point in the game, the pitch would indeed take turn, but not unplayably, by any means.

But, some reputations stick, exaggerated no less by the turners that greeted England at the start of this year. The reputation that precedes Kanpur seemed to have spooked the



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and coach Gary Stead examine the pitch. Sportspics

New Zealanders too. Whenever they stared at the pitch, their faces seemed to turn red, as if they foresaw their spin-induced doom. Captain Kane Williamson would tilt his head dismayingly whenever he's asked something

about the pitch. Coach Gary Stead would of-ten snigger, and admitted that they are deliberating on playing three spinners, in a high-risk tit-for-tat move. "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.

Out of comfort zone

The despondency that his face wore after he saw the pitch suggested that he is risk-averse to embrace a gamble that few other coaches of non-subcontinental teams had the courage to. More so in New Zealand's case, as seam bowling is their biggest strength, and three spinners would mean choosing between their well-drilled three-man pace strike-force of Neil Wagner, Tim Southee and Kyle Jamieson.

Should they resort to the extreme step, it would be off-spinner Will Somerville and left-arm spinners Ajaz Patel and Mitchell Santner, who is a canny batsman too. Santner could be redundant in a sense, as both Somerville and Patel are extremely resourceful. Somerville, with his six-foot-four frame, is unlike any other spinner India has encountered in recent times. His height, and reliance on over-spin, would be a handful if variable bounce kicks in, as it's expected.

Ajaz is a different proposition, a left-arm spinner relying on orthodox tools, with a neat arm-ball. He has prospered in Asia, with

five-fors in Galle and Abu Dhabi. So, he is not someone to be scoffed at. Santner, at his best, is a tie-an-end-up bowler. But the Kiwis' biggest dilemma would be: which of their seamers to bench. Southee, with his experience and virtuosity, is undroppable. So too is Wagner, whose tirelessness and perseverance, beside the angles he could conjure, would be priceless. But Jamieson has been prolific in his three Test outings against India.

Reducing a batsman would be grossly unwise too, as it would make their batting, already weakened by the absence of Devon Conway, thinner.

Moreover, New Zealand's success in the tour would depend as much as on their spinners' ability to harness spin as their batsmen's dint in negotiating it. They seem much more proficient and equipped in dealing with spinners than the Englishmen who stood stupefied once the pitch began to take turn, Joe Root apart. The nucleus of their batting—Williamson, Ross Taylor, Tom Latham and Henry Nicholls—has adequately experienced Asian conditions as well. So either way, unless the pitch possesses a devilish streak, the contest would not be as lopsided as the England one.

LIVE: India vs New Zealand 1st Test from 9:30am on Star Sports and Hotstar