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Faruqui show in Bengaluru cancelled; he says: hate has won, I'm done



KIRAN PARASHAR & IRAM SIDDIQUI BENGALURU, BHOPAL,

NOVEMBER 28

ANOTHER OF stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui's shows was cancelled, this time in Bengaluru, with the city police citing law and order and calling Faruqui a "controversial figure".

Faruqui, who earlier this year spent a month in Indore jail on charges of allegedly "insulting Hindu gods and goddesses" during one of his comedy shows, has been constantly targeted by rightwing groups, with his scheduled shows in Surat, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Mumbai and Raipur being cancelled.

Faruqui, who was scheduled to perform in Bengaluru on Sunday as part of a show titled 'Dongri to Nowhere', said in a CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the victims' home in Prayagraj on Sunday. Ritesh Shukla

UP Dalit family killing: Police now arrest youth from same community Kin not convinced: 'In Hathras case, police changed version many times'

ASAD REHMAN

PRAYAGRAJ, NOVEMBER 28 A DAY after UP Police named 11 people from an upper-caste family in its FIR on the murder of a Dalit family in Prayagraj, and said that eight had been arrested, they issued a new statement Sunday stating that they have now arrested a vouth "who belongs to the same community as the deceased" for the killings. The police also said that the

rape of the girl, who was among those killed, has been confirmed. In the statement issued Sunday evening, ADG (Prayagraj zone) Prem Prakash said: "The 23-year-old accused belongs to the same community as the deceased. He was harassing the girl by sending her messages on her mobile phone repeatedly. The girl was refusing (his advances). On the basis of the last message and circumstantial evidence, he

> was arrested. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Five players in Jr World Cup, this India hockey story has a UP twist

MIHIR VASAVDA BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 28

MOST OF Sharda Nand Tiwari's school summer breaks were spent working at grocery stores in Lucknow. Not wanting to impose the burden of his hobby on his father, a security guard, Tiwari saved every paisa of the Rs 700 or so he earned to buy hockey equipment.

A few hundred kilometres away, in Karampur, Uttam Singh was living his father Krishnakant Singh's dream. Krishnakant, an aspiring player, was forced to leave hockey and support the family after the untimely demise of his father. So the small-time



Uttam Singh, a speedy forward with an unerring eye for goal, hails from Karampur village in UP. Pic: Hockey India

farmer invested most of his meagre resources in making his son, Uttam, a player.

Not too far in Atagaon, Vishnukant Singh was just six

when he followed his sister Preeti, a national-level player, to the village ground. From that day, there's been no looking back. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

WINTER SESSION BEGINS TODAY **Govt to push for farm** laws repeal today, Opp demands MSP statute

PM skips all-party meet, Rajnath urges healthy debates

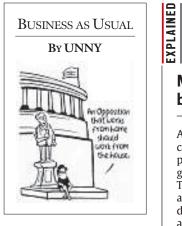


At the all-party meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

LIZ MATHEW & SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

WITH THE UNION government listing the introduction of a Bill to repeal the farm laws in the Lok Sabha for consideration and passage on Monday - the first day of the Winter session of Parliament - many Opposition parties as well as some of those friendly to the Bharatiya Janata Party, have demanded a statutory backing to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops for farmers at an all-party meeting Sunday.

Joining the Congress in seeking legal guarantees on the MSP were Trinamool Congress, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



EXPLAINED: MSP DEMAND, COST TO GOVT PAGE 11



as much about withit entails a fiscal cost.

Eye on Omicron: Testing at airport for arrivals from 'at risk' countries

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

WITH AN eye on reports from across the world about Omicron, the new Covid "variant of concern", the Central Government Sunday issued revised guidelines for international travellers arriving from Europe, including the UK, and 11 other "at risk countries, mandating testing on arrival, home quarantine for

seven days on a negative result, and a retest on the eighth day. The Health Ministry directed all states to ensure that for international travellers from countries other than those labelled "at risk", five per cent of a flight's total number of passengers will have to undergo random-testing on arrival at airports.

Sanitisation at Kanyakumari SP office on Sunday PTI

The Centre has also decided to review the date of resumption of scheduled international commercial flights "as per the evolving global scenario". On Friday, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had announced the resumption of these flights from December 15, after a 21-month gap. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Passenger from S Africa lands in Mumbai via Delhi, tests positive

RUPSA CHAKRABORTHY & VISHWAS WAGHMODE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

A 32-YEAR-OLD resident of Dombivli in Mumbai, who arrived from South Africa via Delhi on November 24, tested positive upon arrival, though health officials are yet to ascertain if he is infected with the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

from Cape Town to Delhi via Dubai. He gave a sample in Delhi and was allowed to board the connecting flight to Mumbai. On arrival in Mumbai, he was found to be positive. He is asymptomatic and had home quarantined himself. Later, the corporation guarantined him in an institution," said Pratibha Panpatil, Chief Medical Officer of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

"The passenger travelled



PAGE 10

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance Premium stops.

MSP is possible, but entails a cost

> cannot by right ask to be paid the MSP set by the government on crops. Their agitation has been drawal of the farm laws as about a legal guarantee for MSP. The MSP entitlement can be met, but



40% fatal crashes due to rear-end collisions: highway audit

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR NEW DELHI. NOVEMBER 28

REAR-END COLLISIONS account for around 40 per cent of fatal accidents on highway stretches, with driver "sleepiness and fatigue" behind many of these crashes, according to an audit initiated by the government to bring down fatalities on national highways.

The study -- a pilot audit of data on four highway stretches in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra totalling 557 km one way -- also found several engineering defects such as gaps in medians, missing crash barriers, concrete structures kept along the road etc, all of which added to accidents and resultant fatalities. In the Agra-Etawah stretch, for instance, 7,500 such engineering faults were identified. The other three corridors that were audited are Etawah-Chakeri in UP, and Pune-Satara and Satara-Kagal in Maharashtra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Repeal bill

velopment".

House.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, YSR Congress Party, Biju Janata Dal, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, Aam Admi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, and the Left parties. A chorus in the Lok Sabha on legal backing for MSP and pushing for a discussion by these political parties may make things difficult for the Union government. The Bill, according to sources.

was circulated to Rajya Sabha members on Friday for consideration as passed by Lok Sabha. The government, they said, was likely to move it in the Raiya Sabha too on Monday itself after it was passed by Lok Sabha. Explaining the withdrawal of the farm laws in the repeal Bill, the government said the need of the hour was "to take everyone together on the path of inclusive growth and deand walked out."

Both the BJP and the Congress have issued a whip asking their members to be present in the

Mallikarjun Kharge of Congress, who is the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, pointed out that the farmers' issues needed detailed discussion as they were very important. Demanding that the repeal of the farm laws be taken up for discussion first, Trinamool Congress warned that not doing so may spark a confrontation between the treasury benches and the Opposition. While Prime Minister

Narendra Modi did not attend the all-party meeting on Sunday, Defence Minister Rainath Singh urged party leaders to ensure the smooth functioning of the House so that members can have healthy debates in both the Houses. Besides Rajnath Singh, Leader of the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, Parliamentary Affairs Ministers Pralhad Joshi, V Muraleedharn and Arjun Ram Meghwal were

present from the government's side Opposition leaders including Kharge and Binoy Vishwam of CPI questioned the Prime Minister's absence. RJDleader Manoj Jha, a Rajya Sabha member, said his

party had consistently maintained that MSP should be guaranteed for farm produce. "The government must realise the collective power of the farmers, now that they have experienced it firsthand," Jha told The Indian Express. He was, however, not present in the meeting Sunday.

Revolutionary Socialist Party's N K Premachandran who attended the meeting said MSP, as of now, was an executive decision. "It has to be given a statutory backing so that farmers can approach the court for getting the MSP as envisaged in the Act," he said.

During the farmers' agitation against the farm laws since mid-

2020, one of their key demands had been a legal guarantee for MSP. While The Union government has all along maintained it would continue procurement at MSP but did not agree on a legal guarantee for MSP even during the negotiations. Bills introduced by Congress in states ruled by it such as Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Punjab dealt with the MSP issue differently; none offered a guarantee on MSP.

Aam Aadmi Party leader in the Rajya Sabha Sanjay Singh, who was present in the meeting said, "I pointed out that in 2010, a government committee, which had Narendra Modi as one of the members in his capacity as CM of Gujarat, had recommended a law on MSP. That appears to have irked the minister who made constant interruptions. I made my point

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh too pointed to this Report of the Working Group on Consumer Affairs chaired by Narendra Modi in 2011 as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Recommending reduction in farmers' marketing risk to help improve income and agricultural production, the committee's action plan was to make "advance" declaration of MSP" and "enforce MSP" since intermediaries played a vital role in the functioning of the market and at times had advance contracts with farmers. "In respect of all commodities, we should protect farmer's interests by mandating through statutory provisions that no farmer-trader trans-

actions should be below MSP, wherever prescribed," the committee's action plan said. Besides MSP guarantee, several parties led by Trinamool

Congress renewed their demands for the early passage of the women's reservation Bill.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said 31 parties participated in the all-party meeting. "Forty-two leaders from various parties participated in a constructive discussion. The government is ready for any discussions permitted by the Chairman and the Speaker, without disruptions,"

Joshi told reporters. Responding to a question whether the government gave any indication on the possibility of a debate on the repeal, Derek O'Brien said, "This is how they create confrontation. Of course, there should be a debate before the bills are repealed and opposition MPs should be allotted time to speak. But then you never know what mockery of Parliament this gov-

ernment will make.' Asked about the implications of Trinamool's frosty ties with the Congress on Opposition unity, he said "common issues" will bring the parties together on the floor of the House. "Yes, there will be Opposition unity in Parliament. I

also must point out that there is a distinction between the RID, DMK and the CPI(M)- they are all electoral allies of the Congress. The NCP-Shiv Sena runs a government with the Congress. The Congress is not our electoral ally, nor are we running a government with them. That's the difference," he said.

CPI-M's John Brittas, a Rajya Sabha member, wanted the "centrality" of Parliament to be regained.

Eve on Omicron

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on testing and surveillance of incoming international passengers, especially for those countries in the "at risk" category, will also be reviewed.

The Health Ministry has laid out five steps for international travellers from countries "at risk":

They will have to submit a sample for a Covid test at the point of arrival, and wait for the result before leaving or taking a connecting flight.

■ If they test negative, they will have to follow home quarantine for seven days. This will be followed by a retest on the eighth day of arrival. They will have to self-monitor their health for the next seven days.

■ If travellers test positive, their samples will be sent for genomic testing at the INSACOG laboratory network.

Those testing positive shall be sent to a separate isolation facility and treated as per standard protocol, including contact tracing

The contacts of positive cases will be kept under institutional or home quarantine and monitored strictly by the state government concerned as per protocol.

Apart from all countries in Europe, including the UK, there are 11 other nations listed as "atrisk" by the Health Ministry: South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

On Sunday, the WHO said in a statement that there is no conclusive evidence as of now to suggest that the newly-discovered variant was more transmissible or could cause more severe diseases compared to other variants.

The Centre's new guidelines, meanwhile, state that travellers from countries other than those "at risk" will be allowed to leave the airport but should self-monitor their health for 14 days' postarrival, excluding the five per cent to be random-tested.

If the travellers under home guarantine, or self-health monitoring, develop signs and symptoms suggestive of Covid or test positive on re-testing, they will have to immediately self-isolate and report to the nearest health facility, the guidelines state.

Separately, the Health Ministry Sunday directed all states to review past travel details of passengers arriving on interna-

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posted in Jharkhand.

and DNA profiling."

family.

No evidence has come out till now

to show that they murdered the

messages were found" when the

police checked the girl's mobile.

"When the 23-year-old was held,

he denied sending any messages

and denied knowing the girl. But

when his mobile was found, the

messages were there," he said.

"Rape has been confirmed on

the girl...But we have sought med-

ical opinion about how many peo-

ple committed the rape. The panel

of doctors who did the post

mortem has said that there was

symmetry in the injuries on the

body parts of thegirl, which sug-

gest that one person has killed

Referring to the accused, the

ADG said: "When his body was

checked, some injury marks were

found on his body and shirt. He

says that they were paan stains,

but they seem to be blood stains.

We are sending his clothes and

other evidence for DNA profiling."

contradicts the contents of the FIR

The latest police statement

will be removed".

her," the ADG said.

ADG Prakash said that "some

sampling" for genome sequencing of positive cases. The Health Ministry asked the

states for continued monitoring of hotspots "where a recent cluster of positive cases have emerged".

"In all such hotspots, saturation testing and sending of positive samples quickly for genome sequencing to designated IN-SACOG labs must be ensured in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC),' Bhushan's letter stated.

The Health Ministry has directed the states to implement a four-pronged approach: intensive containment; active surveillance; increased coverage of vaccination; and enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour "in a very proactive manner".

Following the high-level review by Modi, an urgent meeting was chaired by Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla. The meeting was attended by Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog; Dr VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister; and senior officials from various ministries, including Health and Civil Aviation.

(WITHENSINPUTS)

SA passenger

the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC). KDMC health officials said they have alerted the airport authorities and efforts are on to locate the man's co-passengers.

Dr Pradeep Vyas, Additional ChiefSecretary(Health)said, "We have sent his samples for genome sequencing to find out if he is carrying the Omicron varint."

According to the Centre's November 11 guidelines for international passengers, samples for RT-PCR tests are to be submitted on landing, after which passengers are allowed to leave the airport. Passengers are to follow home quarantine for seven days.

we know it today more details are revealed. We all beat up other family members,"

saw the Hathras case where pohe said. lice changed their version so many

According to police, an FIR was times," said the 50-year-old viclodged on September 7, 2019, untim's younger brother, who is der IPC sections for assault, rioting and criminal intimidation, and In the latest police statement, under the SC/ST Act. The com-ADG Prakash said: "It has been esplaint, based on which it was tablished that (the 23-year-old) lodged. stated: "The accused familv leave their cattle on our farm to with some others, killed the family members. He has named some graze. When we raised this issue people, but keeps changing them. with the family, they came to our The investigation about the othhouse and beat us up. They also ers involved is ongoing. We are used caste slurs against us and

taking action based on call details threatened to kill us.' However, the younger brother Referring to the 11 initially said, no action was taken "even afnamed in the FIR, the ADG said: ter my brother's medical test "The people who were named in showed serious injuries on his the FIR so far, it was found that head and body". "He needed six stitches after the assault with there was some small dispute with the deceased man's brother. lathis," he said.

After the FIR was filed, the upper-caste family put pressure on the victims to compromise and withdraw the complaint, the brother said. "On September 21 this year, they again beat up my brother, the one who was assaulted earlier. We lodged a complaint, and an FIR was lodged eight days later," said the brother.

This second FIR was lodged Referring to the "deceased girl's under similar IPC sections as in the date of birth" as "June 1996", the first -- rioting, assault, criminal in-ADG said that "POCSO sections timidation -- and provisions under SC/ST Act. This time, the complaint stated: "We fear that something may happen to us."

Faruqui show

social media post, "Nafrat jeet gavi, artist haar gaya (hate has won, artist has lost). I'm done, goodbye. Injustice.'

Siddharth Dash, one of the organisers of the programme, said the show was cancelled after they received threats and police withdrew permission to hold the event. "We were planning to hold the show... We wanted to give a portion of the proceeds from the show to Shakthidhama, a women's rehabilitation centre that the late Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar was involved

ing religious sentiments though police admitted that they had no evidence of Faruqui cracking such jokes at the event. He was lodged at Indore jail along with four oth-

Faruqui's bail plea was rejected twice by the Indore sessions court, followed by the MP High Court. On February 7, 36 days after he was arrested, the Supreme Court finally granted him interim bail. Despite the order, Indore jail authorities had refused to release Farugui saving they haven't received the order. Farooqui was, in fact, being prepared to be handed over to the Prayagraj police, which had issued a production warrant against him in a case registered

last April. After Farooqui's advocate, Ashar Warsi, called the actions a contempt of the Supreme Court order, around midnight on February6-7, Faruqui was released from a backdoor of the Indore jail.

On Sunday, speaking to The Indian Express, Warsi pointed out, "Even today, almost a year after his arrest, police haven't filed a chargesheet in the case. The case was nothing more than a misuse

of power.' Following Faruqui's release from Indore jail, three of his shows scheduled in Surat. Ahmedabad and Vadodara were cancelled in September after threats from Bajrang Dal. This was followed by his shows getting cancelled in October in Mumbai, after the Bajrang Dal threatened to burn the venue down if the show was not

stopped. In November, two of his shows in Raipur were cancelled after the Bajrang Dal wrote to the police threatening to stop the show if the police didn't.

Accident causes

The four audited stretches had witnessed over 6,500 accidents over the past three years, of which over 1,600 were serious and fatal ones.

The auditors, NGO SaveLife with. We had also held talks with Foundation, went through medical records of trauma care and data by highway concessionaires and found that fatigue, especially among drivers of commercial vehicles, led to them ramming into stationary vehicles or slow-moving vehicles from the rear. "There were no tyre marks which means brakes were not applied. The drivers most likely fell asleep and drove into another vehicle," said Piyush Tiwary, SaveLife founder.



loan to Mr. Naveen & Mrs Nirmala for purchase of Plot No. B2-3, area measuring 250 sq. yds., Block-B, Sector-85 Faridabad, Haryana from Mr Deepak Bagadia, who has represented that he is the sole & absolute owner of the said Property having inherited the same from Mrs. Savitri Devi Bagadia & Mr. Jagdish Chandra Bagadia. If anybody, person body corporate has any right lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property or objection to its Sale & mortgage, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication o this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have beer waived off. No claim shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said propertv

Prachi Narang, Advocate **GNA & Associates** D-28, Jangpura Extension New Delhi-110014.

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Prachi Narang, Advocate **GNA & Associates** D-28, Jangpura Extension New Delhi-110014 tional flights -- and to strictly ensure testing on travellers coming from "at-risk countries", and send the positive samples for genome sequencing promptly.

Several states, meanwhile, reacted with concern to the new variant. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal wrote to the Prime Minister, requesting him to stop international flights from regions witnessing a rise in Covid cases.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said his government has decided to ramp up its genome sequencing efforts. The state will trace, test and, if need be, isolate international passengers who have arrived in the past one month. Chouhan said.

The key decision to review the resumption of normal international flights came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed officials to review the lifting of travel restrictions in the backdrop of growing concerns about Omicron.

"Overall, the global situation in the wake of the Omicron virus was comprehensively reviewed. Various preventive measures in place and to be further strengthened were discussed. Government to review Standard Operating Procedure on testing & surveillance of incoming international passengers, especially for those countries identified 'at risk' category," the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.

Union Health Secretary Raiesh Bhushan, meanwhile, reminded the states that there is "already a reporting mechanism for obtaining past travel details of passengers coming through international flights".

"...this should be reviewed at your level and the protocol provided by this Ministry should be strictly ensured, including testing on disembarkation of international travelers coming from 'At Risk' countries and sending all positive samples for genome sequencing to INSACOG labs in a prompt manner," Bhushan told the states in a letter.

The Health Secretary urged states to "significantly increase with a mandatory retest on the eight day

Amid rising worries over the Omicron variant, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun contacting 466 passengers who arrived in the city over the last 15 days from the "countries of concern", including South Africa, and will take swab samples from them for RT-PCR tests. Officials said that 97 of the 466 passengers who arrived in Mumbai are residents of the city. The civic body is individually contacting all passen-

gers for their health updates. "The passengers who live in Mumbai don't have any symptoms. All are quarantined at home. We will run RT-PCR tests on them on Monday," said BMC Additional Commissioner Suresh

Kakani. The Indian Express has learnt that the state government is likely to make seven-day institutional quarantine mandatory for passengers flying into the city from --or transiting through -- countries

UP family killing

of concern.

It was on Thursday that the bodies of the father (50), who was a daily wager, the mother (45), and their daughter and son, were found inside their house. On Saturday, the police suspended two of its personnel for allegedly pressuring the Dalit family over the past two years to compromise with the upper-caste family in a dispute linked to grazing land. Members of the Dalit family had filed two police complaints but no action

was taken. On Sunday, a close relative of the Dalit family, who is with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), questioned the new police version -and compared this case to the gangrape and death of a 19-yearold Dalit girl in Hathras last year.

"I got a call from a policeman who named the person who, the police claim, killed them. I don't know him. I was told that he lives 5 km from our house... I will believe this new statement only after the other accused are caught and

and Pravagrai DIG Sarvashresht Tripathi's comments on the case Saturday.

Tripathi had said: "Eight people out of the 11 named have been arrested. The remaining two are in Mumbai, and teams have been deployed to trace and arrest them. One accused is admitted in a hospital and is not able to walk. We will question him as well. We will probe the case from all possible angles." Tripathi could not be reached for comment Sunday.

Earlier Sunday morning, The Indian Express visited the house of the victims, and came across several items scattered on the floor: a jar of pickles, a pair of sports shoes, a pair of slippers. clothes, utensils -- and marks of dried blood.

"I broke the door open, and saw my brother lying in a pool of blood. I panicked and left. I called the police helpline number and entered the house again only after the police arrived. I saw that my sister-in-law and their two children were also lying dead. There was blood everywhere," said the 50-year-old victim's younger brother.

"I saw that my niece's body did not have clothes. She was gangraped," he said.

According to the brother, FIRs were lodged in September 2019 and September 29, 2021, based on their complaints against the upper-caste family over the land dispute -- but in vain.

The four brothers of the 50year-old live together less than a kilometre away.

"The issue started on September 2, 2019, when members of a Thakur family took objection to my mother's complaint that their cattle were grazing on our pulses farm. A few days later, they came with some others and beat up another brother of mine, his wife and my mother, who is now deceased," the younger brother said.

According to him, the family lodged a complaint, and after "much reluctance", an FIR was lodged against six persons from the upper-caste family. "They cracked open my brother's head,

the actor's team," he said, adding, "We are disappointed that the show was stopped abruptly by the police at the last minute.'

The Deputy Commissioner of Police for the central Bengaluru region, M N Anucheth, refused to comment He said a communication had been sent in writing to the organisers. A letter was sent by the Ashok Nagar police station in central Bengaluru on Saturday to Curtain Call, the organisers of the show, asking for the show to

be cancelled. "It is learnt that cases have been registered against him (Munawar Faruqui) in several states. There is credible information that several organisations oppose this standup comedy show and this could create chaos and disturb public peace and harmony

which may further lead to law and order problems," said the letter. A police officer in the know of the situation said a message had come from higher officials not to permit the event. Karnataka Home Minister and senior BJP leader Araga Jnanendra was not

available for comment. "Munawar Faruqui is a controversial figure and many states have banned his shows. He has been banned for making controversial statements against a specific religion. The organisers gave a letter on 15 November seeking police protection (for the show) and we have cancelled it," said a senior police officer on the condi-

tion of anonymity. Vinay Srinivas, a civil rights activist and advocate, said forcing the organisers to cancel the show was a violation of the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Faruqui was arrested on January 1 from a cafe in Indore on a complaint made by BJP MLA Malini Singh Gaud's son Eklavya Singh Gaud, who runs an outfit called Hindu Rakshak Sanghatan. In his complaint, Gaud alleged that Faruqui had cracked jokes against Hindu gods and goddesses and even made fun of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Police had booked Farooqui under Section 295 of the IPC for allegedly hurt-

According to the audit, apart from usual deficiencies such as drink driving, riding without helmets, lack of proper illumination in some stretches, lack of enforcement by state governments etc. what has also contributed to accidents are local factors related to the weather.

Stretches in Uttar Pradesh had a lot of accidents occurring due to lack of visibility in the winter months. In the Agra-Etawah section, for instance, around 39 per cent of the fatalities and 32 per cent of the crashes took place in misty/foggy conditions.

Maharashtra had the problem of "hydroplaning" in the monsoon months leading to vehicles going out of control.

Between 50 and 60 per cent of the accidents on the audited stretches took place in davlight. with collision of motorised twowheelers and trucks accounting for a majority of those.

The audit also assessed local trauma care set-up and found that instead of placing ambulances closer to accident prone zones, they were stationed at equidistant locations.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set aside 12 more stretches totaling around 4,000 km across 15 states -- which contribute to 85 per cent of all accidents and fatalities in a year on Indian roads -- to be audited by SaveLife Foundation. This, after the ministry noted that the NGO had carried out a similar audit on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and, following the implementation of the recommendations, fatalities reduced by 52 per cent between 2016 and 2020.



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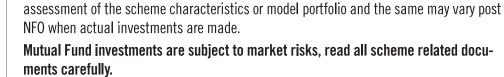


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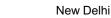
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Vacant

13,340

2,762

Tests

59.651

53,515

3,08,25,326

Total

13,507

2,791

1

25,097

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 4 THE CITY



Schools reopen, but most say full bus services are not feasible

HARDLOOK In new liquor policy, some hiccups

As the Delhi government's move to completely privatise the alcohol vends business begins to take shape, suppliers are running into some teething troubles. But officials are confident these are blips in a long-overdue process

MALLICA JOSHI NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

HALF-EMPTY SHELVES, shortage of several brands, and small protests - teething troubles seen in the first few days of implementation of the Delhi government's new excise policy persist at the

private liquor shops that have opened across the city.

ing allowed to function as bidding for new private vends was under-

"Wholesalers are not being

able to fulfil the demand at pres-

ent. Stock is low. Part of this is be-

Ten days ago, the new policy. which saw the government pulling out of retail trade entirely, came into force. This was preceded by a month and a half of only government liquor shops be-

Despite schools returning to the offline mode, bus services have been much slower to restart. Archive

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

WITH SCHOOLS reopening for all classes today, after being shut due to pollution, a handful of schools will also be resuming their bus services for students who wish to avail of it.

Schools had reopened for classes IX to XII on September 1 and for up to class VIII on November 1, only to close after two weeks due to the rising air pollution in the city. Despite schools returning to the offline mode, bus services were much slower to restart. While a few schools will resume their transport services with limited services from Monday, a majority of schools are yet to do so.

"It is a logistical challenge. Financially it can be a source of loss as expenses are incurred only for a few students who will use it. But we know many students can only come if bus services are available because dropping them is difficult for working parents. Between 60 and 70% of students have given their consent to come to school, of whom 15 per cent have asked for bus services. Depending on the location of these students, we have redrawn our bus routes and the buses will operate at a 50% capacity," said Kavita Soni, principal Venkateshwar Global School, Rohini.

Students are attending the he said

school on alternate days. According to Soni, while the school has not increased its transport fees, parents will be asked to remit the fees for the entire month even if the students only use it for half the working days. November 17.

only 10 per cent of the original bus users have opted to avail of

cause people who have opened "The overall numbers are small but we have been receiving requests from parents since pick-up and drop are difficult for them. We are not starting the entire fleet of buses; just six buses on rationalised routes. We are still waiting to see what the actual turnout will be, but at some point in time we will move towards normalcy," said principal

Meneka Singh. According to Bharat Arora, General Secretary of Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools, an umbrella

in the city, less than 10 per cent of the schools are offering transport services. "Some schools have little

At the new liquor shop in New Friends Colony, half the shelves lie empty. On Sunday evening, a

At St. Thomas School Dwarka, bus services

shops now are trying to order as much as they can. If, for example, they needed 50 cartons, they are ordering 200 because there is panic. Many feel they will not get enough stock in the coming days and are over ordering. This means many others are not able to procure anything," said Sonu Kumar, the shop in-charge

are empty at present. body of over 400 private schools able in the market. Smaller brands of beer, for example, are available, but Kingfisher and Budweiser, for example, are not being supplied at all. We are hop-

clarity due to a lack of SOPs regarding school buses. Conducting fitness tests of buses since they have been inactive for a year and a half is also a slow process. The cost involved is huge. However, the truth is schools can't wholly operate without restarting bus facilities,"

supply truck reached the store, but with only a few cartons of steeped in corruption. In March, Deputy Chief liquor. Only a few brands of beer and wine were available at the store, which opened on

change the trade and that the government will exit the business of selling liquor. The new policy was aimed at increasing government revenue,

improving consumer experience at liquor shops, and reducing corruption. Another aim was to redistribute liquor shops in an equitable way. Earlier, there were several municipal wards, where there were no authorised liquor vends and there were reports of

The swanky shop has a welcoming ambience with a wide glass door, multicoloured walls, and back-lit shelves, though most "Only a few brands are availing that things will improve in the Last year, the Delhi government had set up a committee to make suggestions for a new liquor policy. The trade, which brought in revenue of about Rs 6,000 crore for the governexpected to collect Rs 10,000 as



ment, was suspected to be

Minister Manish Sisodia had announced that a new framework will be brought into place to

bootlegging and illegal vends.

As per the new policy, only private liquor shops now run in the city and each municipal ward has 2-3 liquor vends. The government hopes this will sto p illicit practices. Another big change was that a majority of the excise fee has been subsumed in the licence fee now. An estimated amount, based on the approximate bottles that are expected to be sold, has been charged at the time of giving licences. A small percentage will be collected based on the number of bottles sold. Sisodia had earlier told The Indian Express that since most of the money has been paid up front, there would be no incentive for corruption. After bidding, the government is

IN FIGURES	Total Total	NEW RULES
Each zone has	zones liquor vends	Minimum area of one vend: 500 SQ FT
approximately 9 wards Liquor vend per zone:	32 849	No counter can open on to the street
approximately 3	All vends are now	Safety and security is the
Redistribution of	privately owned	responsibility of the shop
vends has taken place	Total number of vends	owner
across the city	has remained the same	CCTVs will have to be put up
	ISTRIBUTED UNEQUALLY	Licence fee has been increased manifold and has been collected at the time of bidding
	nds each in 14 wards	Expected revenue in a year:

20% were over-served

revenue in 12 months.

Supply challenges

After reopening on November

Cantonment areas)

now. If we look at beer, 60% of the market is held by Kingfisher and 20% by Budweiser. None of these are available. Some smaller brands are available, but even among those, there is no light beer in the market. The position is the same for wines," said a liquor trader who has been in the

₹10,000 crore

through have placed large orders

anticipating a shortage in future

so there is not enough left for

those who cannot place orders on

time. Customers are back, but va-

riety is missing in shops," he said.

challenges in supply should be re-

solved in the coming two weeks.

lems with the backend, but things

are smoothening out slowly. The

entire system is new and there

have been a few initial hiccups.

We are expecting the supply

chain to improve in two weeks.

There are just teething troubles,'

an excise department official said.

residents and political parties

have protested against the open-

Meanwhile, in some places,

The government believes the

"There have been some prob-

For many traders, ordering alcohol from wholesalers is proving to be a challenge. At Star City Mall in Mayur Vihar, trader Amit Bhadana has a long line of customers at his store, but shelves in his shop are only half full.

"The website through which we have to place orders has been slow for a long time. Several people are struggling to place orders. Those who have managed to get ing of new vends.



A shop in New Friends Colony (left) and a protest in Jangpura. Gajendra Yadav

While the number of liquor vends has remained the same as earlier, because of redistribution and retendering, liquor shops have now opened in new areas. In Jangpura A, residents have gone to court demanding that

the new vend not be allowed to function. On Sunday, 7-8 residents sat outside the shop holding placards and demanding that it be shut down and shifted to another area.

"There is a temple, a gurdwara, a church and a masjid close to where the shop is coming up. There is even a school and an ashram nearby. The road is narrow and there will be regular traffic jams here. How can a liquor shop be opened here? We filed a PIL in court that will be heard on December 3," said the group of residents sitting outside the shop.

In the shop inside, the manager says they had to send back the stock that they had bought because of the protests. "We will get a final answer only on December 3 now," he said.

Delhi government officials said that the protests were politically motivated. "Both BJP and Congress want to bring this issue up to get some support in the MCD polls. We made it clear that the number of vends has not increased, only redistribution has taken place. Things should smoothen out in the coming few weeks," said a senior official.

27, private vends have faced a shortage in supply. The biggest hit seems to have been in the beer and wine selection, vendors say. "The problem is at the supply end. Many vends are open but waiting for supply from wholesalers. Liquor shop owners usually hold a 15-day inventory. This means that if I sell alcohol worth Rs 1 lakh each day, I will have

stock worth Rs 15 lakh in my inventory. Wholesalers and manufacturers usually hold on to a 10day inventory. When the new policy came into being, this stock went empty for several days. Refilling it is the big challenge

business for decades.

BRIEFLY ____

Airquality severe for 3rd day in a row

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality remained in the 'severe' category for the third consecutive day on Sunday, with the AQI at 405. According to the SA-FAR forecasting system, local wind speed is likely to increase on Monday and Tuesday, leading to a slight improvement in air quality, though the AQI is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category.

Gautam Gambhir receives third death threat

New Delhi: BJP MP Gautam Gambhir allegedly received an e-mail Sunday from Karachi in Pakistan with death threats against him and his family, days after getting two similar messages. Sunday's message came from an email id called "ISIS Kashmir".

Sisodia takes up Punjab minister's challenge

New Delhi: Deputy CM Sisodia released a list of 250 government schools Sunday, and asked that Punjab Education Minister Pargat Singh also do the same to compare education models in both states. ENS

Site of proposed church vandalised in Dwarka, 1 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

A WAREHOUSE where a proposed church is supposed to have been built at Dwarka was allegedly vandalised by a group of men, who have been accused of damaging the board outside and threatening people. Police said one person has been arrested.

Those present at the warewhere they had put a board with house, where a signboard that read 'church' was put up over the weekend, alleged that members of a right-wing outfit interrupted the Sunday mass and indulged in vandalism. Police said cases have been registered against both sides, including under the DDMA Act, which prohibits large gatherings. Around 15-20 people associated with the church, Ankur Narula Ministries, were praying

when some men gathered outside, police said. A purported

video of the incident shows some men sloganeering and damaging a board outside.

coming week," he said.

The new policy

Shankar Choudhary, DCP (Dwarka), said in a statement: "A call regarding the confrontation between two groups was reported at Matiala road police station at Bindapur. Some people had gathered at a warehouse

word 'CHURCH' to which locals had objected as they claim it to have been done clandestinely. In this guarrel, some local miscreants tried to vitiate atmosphere by vandalising the said board. The miscreants ran away by the time police reached the spot. Cases have been registered against both groups under relevant IPC sections. No one was injured. One of them has been arrested....

After years, free water supply to Seven POCSO cases be extended to 3 NDMC areas reported last week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE 20 KILOLITRES free water supply scheme of the Delhi government will be extended to houses in the B K Dutt Colony, East Kidwai Nagar and New Moti Bagh areas of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), where residents have not been able to avail the scheme so far.

In the B K Dutt colony area, new pipelines were laid but connections were not given. Tilak Chhabra, general secretary of the B K Dutt Colony RWA said that free supply of water had eluded the residents. "Pipes were laid, but connections have not been given yet...there were some objections, and the connections and setting up of meters never worked out. There are about 1,036 quarters in the colony," he said. According to a communication from the government, the

connection charges of Rs 7,500 had kept residents from taking connections

At an NDMC meeting Sunday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal proposed that the connection charges be waived off in the area, and free connections and the free water supply scheme can be extended to residents in the colony. Kejriwal also said that residents will not be required to submit affidavits for water connection, and will only have to submit their ID proof and

electricity bill. Residents of multi-storey complexes in East Kidwai Nagar and New Moti Bagh who also could not avail of free water supply scheme due to bulk connections at these buildings, will now get personal water meters. Meters will now be installed at the outlet to provide 20 kilolitres for free. Kejriwal said that "residents suffered because the issue was not brought to the council."

Free water supply of up to 20 kilolitres per month is a scheme launched for all areas in Delhi with effect from January 2014. The Delhi Jal Board notification issued in January 2014 states that benefit of free water will be available only to consumers with functional meters.

Consumers who have used over 20 kilolitres per month will be billed according to tariff for the full quantity consumed.

Senior DJB officials said there is no clarity yet on whether the scheme to extend the benefit of free 20 kilolitres of water per household will be extended to housing colonies in other parts of city that have bulk connections. NDMC employees' unions

had written to the CM asking for a discussion on pay scale arrears. The CM said a meeting would be held to sort out grievances. Kejriwal also approved a proposal for mechanical sweeping at Connaught Place and Janpath.

sexually harassing a minor. He **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** was booked under the POCSO Act and for stalking. NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28 A 14-year-old girl alleged that

IN THE last week, at least seven she was raped by her stepfather. incidents of molestation and Benita Mary Jaiker, DCP (South), sexual assault against minors said, "The victim lives in Dehradun and came to meet her have been reported in Delhi. A 17-year-old was allegedly mother and stepfather in June

sexually assaulted by a man who posed as a police officer. Police said she was walking inside a park with a friend when the accused approached and scolded them. He threatened to call their parents and arrest them. The girl told police she was molested, sexually assaulted, thrashed and robbed of her phone. Pranav Tayal, DCP (Rohini) said, "We traced the accused with the help of the stolen

molestation against him. Further, three incidents of kidphone. He has been arrested. He napping, sexual assault and rape might be involved in other POCSO took place in Southeast Delhi and Rohini last week. As per police data, over 1,000 cases have been

this year. She has alleged that he

raped her on many occasions. The

27-year-old electrician who al-

legedly kidnapped and sexually

assaulted an 11-year-old girl. He

was arrested Wednesday.

Sources said there are eight

POCSO cases, sexual assault and

Four days ago, police caught a

accused has been arrested."

dents took place in South Delhi. A 42-year-old security guard was arrested for allegedly stalking and

and sexual assault cases.'

On Saturday, two similar inciregistered under the POCSO Act in 2021 as opposed to 850 cases last year.

46 SPEAKERS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 14 Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival returns to new venue

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI NEW DELHI. NOVEMBER 28

UNTIL THE pandemic and the Central Vista Redevelopment Project reshaped the city and our relationship with it, for many children of Delhi, listening to some of their favourite storytellers bring alive tales of wonder and joy at Bookaroo Children's the

Literature Festival, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts(IGNCA) at Janpath, had been a winter staple. The return of the festival after nearly two years, this

Chanakyapuri, since the old IGNCA complex has been razed, marks a return to a semblance of pre-pandemic lives. The two-day festival, which took off on November 27, will see 46 speakers-children's writers, illustrators, storytellers and publishershold sessions for children aged between 4 and 14 years

time at National Rail Museum at

On Saturday afternoon, the weekend buzz at the museum seemed to have gained further momentum, as long queues of parents and children snaked their way to the venue. At six different



At Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath. Paromita Chakrabarti

venues, storytelling and art and craft sessions were in progress with veteran writers such as Raniit Lal, Paro Anand, Deepa Agarwal and artists such as Savio Mascarenhas and Mistunee Chowdhury.

Even though this year's festival is at a smaller scale - 48 sessions as opposed to the 90 to 100 sessions over the weekend and an additional 25-30 on the preceding Friday - festival director and co-organiser Swati Roy said their efforts have gone into ensuring there is something for everyone at the festival. "As always, we have

a lot of new speakers. We have an ongoing activity called the Wall of Healing, based on the book, Somnath Hore: Wounds (by Likhla, Shambhavi Thakur and Kripa Bhatia, published by Art1st). Here, children and adults can come and express their pain and angst, guided by artists who have created the book." she said. As children streamed in, por-

ing over programme brochures to decide where to head to or made their way to the bookstore to pick up a book by an author they had just discovered, writers said they were delighted to be back. "It was great to see kids' animated faces and chat with some who are going to make it good in spite of our education system which aims to garrot them," said Ranjit Lal, who had one of the opening sessions.

"Bookaroo showed children how to pack a punch in reading for pleasure. Its contribution to Indian kid-lit can't be measured, so intricately has it been linked to the rise of this glorious phase, in terms of getting more children interested in reading, and of providing a platform to celebrate books, creators and stories," said author Richa Jha, publisher of Pickle Yolk Books.





CM demands ban on flights from regions with new variant

revised its guidelines for passen-

self-monitor their health for 14

days post arrival. 5 per cent of the

total flight passengers will un-

dergo post-arrival testing at ran-

dom at the airport on arrival.

Delhi

Management Authority, which

has been reviewing the Covid sit-

uation in the city since 2020, is

also scheduled to meet on

Monday to discuss steps to make

sure the spread of the new vari-

Disaster

The

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday, requesting him to stop international flights from regions seeing a rise in Covid-19 cases.

"Our country has fought a tough fight against corona for the last one and a half years. With great difficulty and due to selfless service of millions of our Covid warriors, our country has recovered. We should do everything possible to prevent the new variant of concern, recently recognised by WHO, from entering India. A number of countries, including the European Union,



Has written to PM

India," he wrote. The Ministry of Health and

gers arriving in the country. Upon arrival, passengers from

have suspended travel to the affected regions. I urge you to stop flights from these regions with immediate effect. Any delay in this regard may prove harmful, if any affected person enters

Family Welfare, meanwhile, has

is a discussion on quarantining countries under the category 'at passengers who enter Delhi risk' will be sent to 7-day from countries where the varimandatory home quarantine afant has been detected. ter RT-PCR test at the point of ar-Mandatory testing on arrival will rival. Passengers from other also be discussed. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that all decountries will be allowed to leave the airport and asked to

ant is curbed

THECITY

partments of the government are on high alert. "I appeal to people to not unnecessarily mingle and to take all necessary precautions... A DDMA meeting has been called on this. If even a single person carrying the new variant comes to Delhi, it will spread fast, so please do not mingle unnecessarily," he told reporters on the sidelines of a press conference Sunday.

On the agenda, officials said,

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Ashok Gehlot Chief Minister, Rajasthan

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AAP gets into MCD poll campaign mode

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE AAM Aadmi Party will launch its MCD campaign Thursday, with an emphasis on recruiting members ahead of the municipal polls. Municipal elections in the

capital are expected to be held in April next year. The 'MCD Badlaav Campaign' will see a special app to upload all campaign details. An in-charge will be appointed in each division, responsible for carrying out campaign activities, said AAP Delhi head Gopal Rai.

"In view of the MCD elections, we are going to launch a big membership drive soon. In this MCD Badlaav Campaign, we will upload the data through a special app for streamlining and efficient working. The district teams of the Party's State Organisation, observers, the

speaker and organisation ministers from each assembly were trained at the party office on how to carry the MCD Badlaav

Campaign forward," he said. Meetings will be held till December 1 at the Vidhan Sabha level where area in-charges and MLAs will be present. The agenda is to select mandal incharges who will work alongside mandal presidents.

Party desks will be set up in each mandal in a week, Rai said. Outdoor campaigns, with party posters highlighting issues, will be put up through the week. New members will also be

added. "We have at least 8-10 people in every street for the campaign. These people will further our campaign and its awareness in their respective streets, to ensure good connectivity. New members will be identified to strengthen the organisation," Rai added.

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library **Public Lecture**

Ministry of Culture

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Side of the Line of Control By

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Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 3:00pm

Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Google Meet Link: https://meet.google.com/dkj-pecf-nwf All are Welcome davp 09142/11/0015/2122





यही है हमारा प्रयास

उत्तर प्रदेश में पीएम आवास योजना के तहत 42 लाख से अधिक आवासों का हुआ निर्माण

स्रोत्त ईमानद्वर, टाम द्विद्रि









The crops

under the

MSP system

THE MSP system was in-

troduced in 1965 to en-

courage farmers to grow

foodgrains. It was initially

declared for paddy and

wheat, but later extended

to 23 crops, including 7

cereals (paddy, wheat,

maize, sorghum, pearl

millet, barley and ragi); 5

pulses (gram, tur, moong,

urad, lentil); 7 oilseeds

(groundnut, rapeseed-

seasmum, sunflower, saf-

flower, nigerseed); and 4

commercial crops (copra,

sugarcane, cotton and raw

jute). However, the government mainly procures

paddy and wheat, and

less quantity of some

a permanent national commission

on agricultural development and

planning... The commission will

subsume the existing Commission

for Agricultural Costs and Prices

and recommend appropriate min-

Asked about the Congress's

position, the party's communi-

cation department head

Randeep Surjewala said farmers

procuring paddy. "There is a de-

demolish the architecture of MSP

on the part of the Modi govern-

ment. This is a revenge seeking ex-

supported the demand for legal

backing for MSP, he said: "The

Congress believes there has to be a

guaranteed architecture for grant

of MSP... The guaranteed architec-

ture comes with the intent of the

government, capacity creation by

the government for procurement

as also deciding the MSP and dates

Asked whether the Congress

ercise against the farmers...'

imum support prices."

soyabean,

mustard.

other crops.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 6 GOVT & POLITICS



BJP sweeps Tripura local polls, wins 217 of 222 seats contested



FRIENDS, INDEED

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandopadhyay shared a light moment after Sunday's all-party meeting, which saw some heated discussions between Union ministers and Opposition members. But in a far cry from the usual acrimony between leaders from the two sides, as Singh left Parliament premises after the meeting, he jovially tapped Bandopadhyay on his shoulders, leaving the TMC leader with a wide grin. Realising that he had interrupted Bandopadhyay's interaction with a reporter, Singh requested him to carry on as he left.

HISTORY ON HISTORY

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING Committee on Education created history last week when it invited a class IX student to depose before it. Tanish Venkatesh, a student of HDFC School in Gurgaon, gave his views to the panel on November 26 on how history textbooks should be changed, and the kind of reforms students would like in textbooks. Venkatesh had approached panel chairman Vinay Sahasrabuddhe seeking an opportunity to give his views, and the chairman allowed him. Venkatesh, who designed a monogram on Maratha empire, expressed his views about content and design of history textbooks.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

WITH DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh present in Sunday's all-party meeting, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas, who was a journalist in Delhi in the 1990s and early-2000s, reminded him how leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani, and Singh himself, used to treat Parliament sessions. But now, Brittas rued, Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not come to Parliament regularly. He also spoke on how Vajpayee used to refer to the way Jawaharlal Nehru respected and sat through sessions. Although Singh sat quietly listening to him, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi tried to interrupt. Brittas then told him, "Pralhad-ji, Rajnath-ji is patiently listening...", much to Joshi's embarrassment.

CJI: Need India-specific studies for diabetes care

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana on Sunday stressedon he need for India-specific stud

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 28

THE BJP on Sunday swept the Tripura civic body elections, winning 217 of the 222 seats and all 14 urban bodies that went to polls. The cherry on the top for the saffron party in its landslide victory was its complete dominance in the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC), which is without an Opposition for the first time since its inception.

The BJP had earlier won 112 out of the total 324 municipal seats across seven urban bodies uncontested. The elections for the remaining 222 seats across 14 urban bodies were held on November 25.

The CPI(M), which had won 18 out of 20 urban bodies in the last civic body polls, won only three seats across three urban bodies. The TMC emerged as the party with second highest vote share after the BIP, though the party could win only a single seat across the state - at the Ambassa Municipal Council. The remaining seat went to Tripura royal scion Pradyot Kishore-led TIPRA Motha at the Ambassa Municipal Council.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the sweeping victory has sent a message that the people of Tripura want "good governance". He tweeted, "The people of Tripura have given a clear message - that they prefer politics of good governance. I would like to thank them for the unequivocal support



BJP supporters celebrate in Agartala. Abhisek Saha

TMC LEADER ATTACKED IN TELIAMURA: POLICE

Agartala: The administration in Teliamura municipal area has imposed restrictions on public movement under CrPC Section 144 after unidentified miscreants attacked a TMC candidate at Ompi Chowmuhani on Sunday. A Tripura Police officer said a team of TMC candidates and polling agents were being escorted to their homes by a police team when the miscreants attacked them. ENS

@BJP4Tripura. These blessings urban bodies. TMC received the give us greater strength to work second highest number of votes." for the welfare of each and every person in Tripura." Narayan Kar said the civic polls

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said this was a "historic" victory and the people of Tripura have given a "sothik jobaab" (apt answer) to its critics by casting votes which ensured that BJP

TMC leader Rajib Bhattacharjee accused the BJP of rigging the elections and said his party has emerged as the "main opposition". "BJP did scientific rigging during the polls. Despite that, Trinamool got 24 per cent of the votes on an average across all the

Those giving patronage to mafia will be destroyed: Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DEORIA, GORAKHPUR, NOVEMBER 28

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday accused opposition parties of patronising criminals, saying those backing them are paving the way for their own destruction.

He also compared the mafia to Bhasmasur, a demon who could reduce anybody to ashes after touching on their head but ended up burning himself.

"All mafia are Bhasmasur.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

stead of the 26/11 attacks,

Congress leader Manish Tewari

on Sunday hit back at

Chowdhury, sharing screenshots

of his tweets directed at Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh in which

he raised the China issue.

was part of the government.

the vaccines. The public is requested to take the vaccine and do not fall prey to any rumours.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, 'babua-bua [nephew and aunt]', 'chacha-bhatija [uncle and nephew]', 'bhai-bahan [brother and sister]' were in home isolation. The governments at the Centre and in the state, and BJP workers worked during the pandemic and I was travelling all over the state to help the people," he claimed.

Later, addressing an event in Bansgaon, Adityanath said those who gain success by cheating, treachery and devi

MSP: Amid farm protests, Govt moved from 'no' to 'written assurance'

HARIKISHAN SHARMA, LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG NEW DELHL NOVEMBER 28

WHILE THE Centre is yet to respond to the farmers' demand on making MSP(minimum support price) based on the comprehensive cost of production (C2+50%) a "legal entitlement of all farmers for all agricultural produce", records show that over the last two years, the government's stand on legal guarantee for MSP moved from a "no" to an offer of a "written assurance" on continuing the existing system.

Parliament records show that when DMK MP D Ravikumar sought to know whether the government was considering bringing a legislation on farmers' "right to sell at MSP", Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told Lok Sabha on July 16, 2019: "No".

But last year, following protests against the three farm laws, with farm unions also demanding legal guarantee for MSP. the government offered a written assurance on continuance of MSP.

First, Tomar clarified in the ok Sabha, during the monsoon session last year, that the MSP will continue: he reiterated this on several occasions later.

The demand for legal guarantee gained voice during the agitation against the farm laws. And it increased after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. on November 19. were not getting the MSP as the announced the government's ingovernment had stopped tention to repeal the laws. liberate design to puncture and

Two days later, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha wrote to Modi: "MSP based on the comprehensive cost of production ($\overline{C2+50\%}$) should be made a legal entitlement of all farmers for all agricultural produce, so that every farmer of the country can be guaranteed at least the MSP announced by the

government for their entire crop.' The Congress, while extending support to the farmers' agitation, stopped short of echoing their demand on MSP. The party said what the farmers need is a "guaranteed architecture" for grant of MSP.

and duration of procurement." In its 2019 poll manifesto, the FULL REPORT ON party had promised "to establish www.indianexpress.com

protect the interests of indigenous communities Advisers won't enjoy ministerial

status: Gehlot

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said the MLAs appointed as his advisers or those who will be made parliamentary secretaries won't get any ministerial status or perks. Last week, Gehlot had appointed six advisers, which included three Congress MLAs, and the BJP had objected to the appointments. "I am only taking advice... If they are not given [ministerial status], then what is wrong,' PTI Gehlot asked.

Tripura Left Front convener

were reduced to a "mockery",

and alleged the state election

commission and police had "con-

sciously failed" to conduct free

and fair elections.

Kisan mahapanchayat calls for BJP's defeat in elections

tion. People are giving patronage to the Bhasmasurs and Mahabhasmasurs and hence it

is needed to remain alert and careful from them." he said. Attacking the rival political parties, Adityanath said the bulldozer is being run on properties of the mafia but some people are feeling bad. "People from the SP, BSP and the Congress are strongly opposing it," he said.

Without taking the name of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, he said, "Do not be deceived by the dual character and colour changing nature of a chameleon. These opt thems

Meanwhile, BJP's ally in Tripura, the IPFT, is set to hold a won 98.50 per cent of the seats. joint dharna with the TIPRA Motha at Jantar Mantar from November 30. Timed with the winter session of the Parliament. the tribal outfits will raise the demand for a separate state of Greater Tipraland to

ies targeting the local population for developing appropriate protocols for treatment of diabetes and called for standardising permissible blood sugar levels.

Delivering the inaugural address at the Ahuja Bajaj Symposium on Diabetes, the CJI said that though diabetes has been around for ages, it took the Covid-19 pandemic to show its deadly impact, as it was one of the main comorbidities that can affect the severity of illness when infected with the virus.

The CII said the impact of diabetes over the Indian must be looked at and added "though abundant literature is available on this issue, unfortunately, most of it is based on western studies. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct India specific studies targeting the Indian population which shall help in development of ap-

propriate treatment protocols". CJI Ramana said it is a myth

that the disease only affects the rich. "In the last two decades, a paradigm shift has been seen, with respect to the number of affected

persons -- from urban to rural areas. Due to lack of access to affordable health care and awareness, most of the cases go undetected for the longest amount of time. But, the reality is that this disease affects people across all classes and

CJINV

Ramana

age groups," he said. He added that it is unfortunate that we are still unable to standardise permissible blood sugar levels. "There is a lot of confusion due to different standards applied in different countries during different times. We must at least try to standardise the parameters

within our country," the CJI said. Justice Ramana also underlined the need for State support

for those with diabetes, given the financial drain it can cause to the poor in their lifetime apart from the immense human cost and economic cost to the nation. "Therefore, it is essential that

the State provides support and subsidy for diabetic care. The government also needs to train and introduce more health care professionals to deal with this problem," he said.

to these Bhasmasurs will pave nated without making much noise and say they have not taken the way for their own destruc-

Tewari hits back at party colleague Adhir, shares tweets raising China issue

Hitting back at Chowdhury, Tewari tweeted, "Dear @adhirrcinc Dada, The screen shots of the tweets addressed to DAYS AFTER Adhir Ranjan Hon'ble Defense Minister @raj-Chowdhury criticised him and nathsingh ji below hope address asked him to focus on China inyour concern and criticism also.

"The continued incursions by China and the response of NDA/BJP government to them do form a substantial part of my book," he tweeted along with screenshots of his tweets in which he addressed Rajnath.

Chowdhury last week had hit Tewari, in his book 10 Flashpoints: 20 years criticised the out at Tewari over his criticism of the UPA for its response to the UPA government for its response 26/11 attacks, saying the ex-Union to the 26/11 attacks, saying India minister didn't raise it when he should have taken concrete action following the attacks.

are never able to achieve a high position in life.

Khattar: Call on farmer FIRs once matters reach final stage

Chandigarh: With farmer unions demanding withdrawal of cases lodged against them during the agitation against the three farm laws, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said that the issue will be taken up once the matter reaches the final state.

Soon after the announcement for repealing the laws, the farmers had demanded withdrawal of all cases registered against them during the agitation. Khattar said, "This matter

will be taken up when the entire issue will reach the final stage and after we see what the Centre has to say.' ENS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

A KISAN mahapanchavat, held at Mumbai's Azad Maidan on the death anniversary of Jotirao Phule, called for the defeat of the BJP in all upcoming Assembly elections and the local body polls in Maharashtra.

The mahapanchayat, held under the banner of Samyukta Shetkari Kamgar Morcha (SSKM), celebrated the "historic victory" of the year-long farmers' protest to get the central farm laws repealed, and declared its determination to fight for the remaining demands.

These include a law to guarantee a 'just' MSP and procurement, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill, removal from the Cabinet and arrest of Union minister Ajay Mishra over the



Farmer leaders Tejinder Singh, Darshan Pal, Rakesh Tikait and activist Medha Patkar at the mahapanchayat. Ganesh Shirsekar

Lakhimpur Kheri deaths. Samyukta Kisan Morcha

leader Rakesh Tikait accused the central government of running away from a debate on MSP and other issues. "Several issues related to farming and labour sectors need attention, and we will and farmers all are there.'

travel all over the country to highlight them," he said.

Speaking to the media, Tikait said the Centre should bring a law to guarantee MSP. "Otherwise, January 26 (Republic Day) is not far, and 4 lakh tractors

IN MANN KI BAAT PROGRAMME, ALSO SPEAKS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES, CONSERVATION OF NATURE Indians not only dreaming of being job seekers but also job creators: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday said that if someone wants to start their own company, people are not sceptical but are excited, and this is a turning point in India's growth story

Addressing the nation through his radio programme Mann ki Baat, Modi said Indians were not just dreaming of becoming job seekers, but also job creators and that this would strengthen India's stature on the global stage.

"A few years back, if someone used to say that he wants to do business or wants to start a new

company, then the elders of the family used to say 'Why don't you want to do a job... There is security in the job, there is salary'... But, if

someone wants to start their own company today, then all the people around him are very excited and also supportive," Modi said. "This is the turning point of

India's growth story, where people are now not only dreaming of becoming job seekers but also becoming job creators. This will further strengthen India's stature on the global stage.'

The Prime Minister emphasised that in a country with a large youth population, three aspects matter -- ideas and innovation, the spirit of taking risks, and the 'can do' spirit. "...When these

three things combine, phenomenal results are produced, miracles happen," he said.

Modi said that till 2015, there were nine or 10 unicorns (startups with a valuation of over \$1 billion) in the country, but in the last 10 months, a unicorn was being raised in India every 10 days. "This is also a big thing because our youth have achieved this success in the midst of the pandemic. Today there are more than 70 unicorns in India," he said.

The Prime Minister spoke to a college student named Mayur Patil, who through his start-up, was working on improving mileage of vehicles and reducing their carbon emissions. ΒR

Remembering Dr



BJP president J P Nadda listens to the Mann Ki Baat programme in Delhi's Vasant Vihar zone with senior party leaders and workers. Nadda said the BJP's target is to organise programmes for people to listen to Mann Ki Baat at every booth across the country by May 2022. Gajendra Yadav

Ambedkar ahead of his death anniversary on December 6, the PM underlined that the Constitution teaches us to remember our duties. "Baba Saheb had devoted his entire life in rendering his duties for the country and society. We the countrymen should never forget the basic spirit of our Constitution, that our Constitution expects all of us to discharge our duties. So let us also take a pledge that in the [Azadi ka]Amrit Mahotsav, we will try to fulfil our duties with full devotion," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also spoke about Uttar Pradesh in multiple contexts. "All of us know of the huge contribution of Jhansi and Bundelkhand in our Fight for Freedom. Veeranganas, brave

hearts such as Rani Laxmibai and Jhalkaribai hailed from here... This region has given to the country legendary sports persons like Major Dhvanchand too." Modi said.

The Prime Minister, however, underlined that bravery was not displayed only on the battlefield, narrating the story of the people from Jalaun, who rejuvenated a river in the region. "...This example of bravery shows the determination of our countrymen, and it also tells that if we take a resolve, nothing is impossible and that is why I say 'Sabka Prayas' ... everyone's effort," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also laid stress on conservation of nature. "When we conserve nature, in return nature also gives us protection and security. We experience this in our personal life as well..." he said, narrating the story of Thoothukudi residents who prevented soil erosion by planting palmyra trees.

Modi also spoke about the viral picture of a boat which appears to be flying, but actually is on a Meghalaya river. "There are many areas where people have preserved the colours of their natural heritage. These people have kept the lifestyle of living in harmony with nature alive. This is an inspiration to all of us too. Whatever natural resources are around us. we should save them, bring them back to their actual form. In this lies the interests of all of us, interests of the world," Modi said.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA **DRI seizes** iPhones worth Rs42 crore

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized a stockpile of allegedly smuggled iPhones worth Rs 42.86 crore on November 26 from two consignments imported from Hong Kong. The DRI in a statement said that it has seized 2245 units of iPhone 13 Pro, 1401 of iPhone 13 pro max, 12 Google Pixel 6 pro and one Apple smart watch from two consignments from Hong Kong that were allegedly mis-declared as "memory cards". ENS

GUJARAT

13 students detained over 'liquor party'

Ahmedabad: Police detained 13 first year students of a private medical institute for allegedly attending a "liquor party" at in Sargasan area of Gandhinagar on Saturday. "All have been booked under the sections of the Prohibition Act, and IPC sections 188 and 269... as well as relevant sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act," police said.

RAJASTHAN Six held for ruckus at Dalit weddina

Udaipur: Six people have been arrested for allegedly creating a ruckus to stop the wedding procession of a Dalit groom here, police said on Sunday. The accused also attempted to manhandle the groom and his relatives. The procession was later taken out under police protection on Saturday night, they said. The six people have been arrested under sections of Indian Penal Code and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. PTI

BIHAR

Framework Agreement turns out key hurdle in way of Naga Peace Accord

LIZ MATHEW & **DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE 2015 Framework Agreement between the Centre and National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) to finalise the Naga Peace Accord is now turning out to be the key stumbling block in reaching an agreement between the two sides and finding a permanent solution to the issue. Sources in the government

said while all other issues have been ironed out, interpretation of the Framework Agreement (FA) by NSCN(IM), the key Naga group negotiating with the government, on the issue of sovereignty has held up the process.

"There are some clauses on 'sharing sovereign power', which according to the Naga group means that 'we are different'; they insist that difference has to be maintained," a source in the gov-

ernment said. "NSCN now argues EXPLAINED that according to the FA, its sovereignty has to be retained and any final agreement should be for peaceful coexistence of the two

sovereign powers." Another source pointed out that the FA had been drafted poorly."It was vague, leaving both sides to interpret the deal according to convenience. Had there been no FA, we would probably have had a deal by now," a senior government official said.

Following a public spat in August last year with former Naga interlocutor R N Ravi, who was then also the state's Governor, NSCN(IM) had released the Framework Agreement in public. The Agreement stated, "Both

sides...are cognizant of the universal principle that in a democracy sovereignty lies with the people. Accordingly, the government of India and NSCN, respecting people's wishes for sharing sovereign power as defined in the compe-

STEPS TO TACKLE NEW COVID-19 VARIANT



THE VAGUE wordings of the Framework Agreement and the Centre's belligerent stand on issues of separate constitution and flag for any region in the country after August 5, 2019 decisions on J&K has pushed the Naga Peace process into a stalemate. Even an apparent effort to mollify NSCN(IM) by removing former Naga interlocutor RNRavi – he was moved to Tamil Nadu as Governor does not seem to have worked for the Centre.

tencies, reached an agreement on the 3rd August, 2015 as an honourable solution. ...It will provide

for an enduring inclusive new rethere were verbal assurances," the source said. "The current dispenlationship of peaceful co-existence of the two entities.' sation, or any government in fu-NSCN(IM) contends that the

idea of "sharing sovereign power" and "co-existence of the two entiagreeable. We need more time. ties" means Naga people will be entitled to their own national flag and constitution. accord uncertain: "Various proposals are being discussed. This is

"The FA was signed in 2015, when special status of Jammu and Kashmir existed – a state with a separate constitution, a state flag and autonomy over internal administration was there," the source said. "But the situation has changed after August 5, 2019. Now the Centre cannot agree to such a demand." For the ruling BJP also, accepting a region with a separate flag and a constitution is ideologically impossible, the source added. Sources said earlier govern-

ments at the Centre, including both NDA and UPA, had not expressed objection to demands of Nagas for autonomy with separate constitution and flag. "In fact,

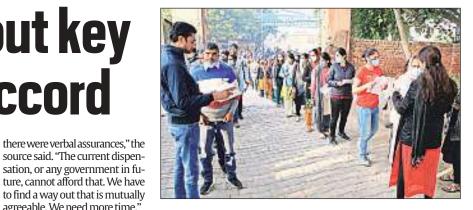
Interim stay on removal of mined ore from South Goa lease

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PANAJI, NOVEMBER 28

THE HIGH Court of Bombay at Goa on Saturday granted an interim stay on the removal of 25 lakh tonnes of minerals extracted from a former mining lease in Cuddegal, Santona in South Goa.

The order came on a petition filed by the Goa Foundation – an environment action group - challenging permission granted to former mining lease holder Mineira Nacional Limitada (MNL) for transporting the ore on February 1. In an application filed on lanuary 11, MNL had sought permission from the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG) to remove ore mined prior to 2007.

Goa Foundation argued in court that MNL was being granted a permit to transport ore with a value of Rs 230 crore, all of which had to go to the state of Goa. Instead, the state government settled for a royalty of Rs 20 crore, willingly giving public money to MNI



Aspirants wait to enter an examination centre for UPTET in Mathura on Sunday. PT

UP teachers' exam cancelled over paper leak, 26 held

CM says those involved will be booked under NSA; Opp slams govt

strumental in sourcing solvers

from Bihar, the statement said.

from Lucknow district and one

each from Kaushambi, Ayodhya,

and Ambedkarnagar district.

Four persons were arrested

Meanwhile, assuring strict

action against those involved in

the paper leak. Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath said at a public

rally in Deoria that police would

invoke the stringent National

Security Act (NSA) and Gangster

that the properties of those in-

volved in the leak would be

seized by the government. "The

state government is standing

with the candidates of UPTET,

and a re-exam will be held in a

transparent manner within one

month... Those who have played

with the future of our young

brothers and sisters will not be

dates gathered at the exam cen-

tres across the state, confusion and

minor chaos prevailed after the

government announced the can-

cellation of the examination. The

government announced that can-

didates who reached their centres

can return free on UP State Road

Transport Corporation buses by

chief Akhilesh Yadav blamed the

BJP government for the leak, say-

Meanwhile. Samaiwadi Party

showing their admit cards.

On Sunday morning as candi-

Later in a tweet, the CM said

Act against them.

spared," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 28

SHORTLY BEFORE the recruitment exam for government teachers in Uttar Pradesh - Uttar Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test or UPTET, 2021 - was set to commence on Sunday morning, the state government announced its decision to cancel it over an alleged leak of the question paper. The examination is now likely to be held next month.

UP Police said they arrested 26 people since Saturday night using technical and other intelligence from different cities in the state.

"Thirteen people were arrested from Prayagraj and four from Lucknow. Arrested persons also include residents of neighbouring Bihar... The Special Task Force (STF) of the UP Police will conduct the investigation and take action against people and organisations responsible for the paper leak," Additional Director General (Law & Order) Prashant

Kumar said. Those arrested in Prayagraj include Satya Prakash Singh, an assistant teacher at a primary school in the city, police said.

When searched, he was found to have the solved question paper in his WhatsApp. Rajendra Patel – the alleged

mastermind of the whole opering such incidents have become ation — and Chaturbhuj Singh, a norm under its rule Congress general secretary one of the key players, were also Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too alamong those arrested from ccording to the state ed that corruption in eq ment. Police also arrested other members of the gang, including one Sunny Singh, who was in-



tries of concern including South

Africa over the last 15 days. Officials said 95 of these passengers are residents of Mumbai. Rajesh Bhushan, state health secretary Dr Pradeep Vyas said the government would ramp up the Test-Track-Treat-Vaccine' principle. He said daily testing would be increased to over 11akh daily from the daily state-wide average of 65,000 tests at present.

KARNATAKA: With new clusters of infections reported from different districts in the last few days, the government has requested the Centre to impose a travel ban from high-risk countries, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said. He added that all passengers arriving from these undergoing ountries

Passengers get tested at a bus stand in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

years of age are at risk as they are not vaccinated. Looking at this, although we are opening schools tomorrow (Monday), they will only run upto 50 per cent of their capacity while online classes will arted to give narents an option..." the CM said. UTTAR PRADESH: The Lucknow administration issued separate protocols the international and domestic arrivals. As per the guidelines for the international terminal, thermal screening of all the passengers is mandatory and passengers would have to undergo an RT-PCR test on arrival. All passengers will also have to undergo 8 days of home quarentine and would have to get an RT-PCR test conducted after the last day. For the domestic terminal, while thermal screening is a must for all travellers, RT-PCR would be conducted for those travellers, who present some symptoms.

GUIARAT: State Health Department Manoj Aggarwal told The Indian Express they had recently issued directives similar to the ones issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Further adding

HARYANA: Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said the state's 'Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana' is already in place, under which relaxations are either given or curtailed de-

of NSCN(IM). "Dividing the groups was a strategy but it provoked the main groups and they stayed away from the talks," a source said. "But that is sorted out now and we are on the discussion table again. although there is still no clarity on when we will be able to finalise the agreement." FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

The source said the situation

makes the time-frame for a final

the only point for which a solution

was that smaller groups such as

Naga National Political Group

(NNPGs)got strengthened during

Ravi's period, much to the chagrin

Another obstacle in the talks

is not yet visible."

Rival functions held on LJP's foundation day

Patna: Rival factions of the Lok Janshakti Party on Sunday held separate functions in Patna to celebrate the 21st foundation day of the party, which split less than a year after the death of its founder Ram Vilas Paswan. Paswan's son Chirag held one of the functions at the Bapu Sabhagar auditorium. A few kilometres away, Chirag's uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras was at a different event. **ENS**

mandatory testing at airports.

Further, the state government also decided to place travellers who have tested positive for the infection under "institutional isolation" for ten days apart from their samples mandatorily sent for whole-genome sequencing (WGS) "on a fast-track basis."

MADHYA PRADESH: The state government will trace, test and if need be, isolate international passengers who have arrived in the state in the past month, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. The state has also decided to ramp up genome sequencing. Instructions have also been issued to ensure availability of medicines. "Children below 18

he said, "We will be further strengthening screening from risk countries. Similar is with the genome sequencing which we have been already doing - we will further strengthen it."

TELANGANA: The government said on Sunday that it has strengthened the surveillance system and alerted teams.Fully vaccinated passengers arriving from 'at risk' countries will be quarantined at home and be monitored, state Director of Public Health, G Srinivasa Rao said. Tests will be carried out on those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and samples sent for genome sequencing if anyone tests positive, he said.

19 situation. "We have issued a Mahamari alert... We received several suggestions on relaxations, but we haven't because of the new variant," Khattar said.

J&K: Passengers travelling to J&K by air, rail or road will not be required to undergo RT-PCR or RAT on arrival if they are carrying a valid final Covid-19 vaccination certificate and an RT-PCR negative report of a test conducted within 72 hours of their arrival. The decision was taken after a detailed review of the current situation in J&K by the UT's Chief Secretary at a meeting with additional chief secretaries of finance and health.

ENS&PTI

TN: 2 dead as rain continues to wreak havoc

related incidents.

modities, to over 300 people.

Chengelpet, Cuddalore. Thanjavur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Ranipettai, Tiruchirappali, Tirupattur, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore. PTI

Goa Foundation's counsel, Norma Alvares, argued that MNL had misrepresented to the authorities that sub-grade mineral generated for the period 1991-onwards was from their lease property. The division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and MS Jawalkar observed that according to a January 25 report of the assistant geologist from the DMG, the total area covered by the ore is 28.2 hectares. Further, only ore spread on 5.2 hectares fell within MNL's lease area while the remaining 23 hectares were outside

 – on western side of boundary. Stating that dump mining in the state was not permitted in the state, Alvares further said, "The site inspection report of the DMG clearly indicated that the permit was to remove the 2.5 million tonnes from Dump No 3."

Advocate General Devidas Pangam opposed the interim stay and argued that the SC order was with respect to the dump outside the leased area. He said that the Cabinet decision of February 23, as well as an opinion given by him on October 29, 2020, were in consonance with the SC's decision.

The court has adjourned the case till December 17.

tion and recruitment has become common under the BIP. - WITH PTUNPUTS

Bengal: 18 killed as hearse rams into truck

ENS&PTI KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 28

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and five injured when a minitruck carrying a group of people to a funeral site collided with a parked truck in West Bengal's Nadia early Sunday.

Shah and Chief Minister Mamata

Baneriee condoled the deaths. The

announced ex-gratia to the vic-

The mini-truck was also car-

rying the bier of a woman and was

heading to Nabadwip cremation

ground from Chakdah in

Hanskhali around 3 am, police

said. The stationary truck was

laden with stones on a state high-

way. According to police, the pick-

Old Goa construction: Protesters

press on with demolition demand

tims' families.

Prime Minister Narendra A family member of one of Modi, Union Home Minister Amit

the deceased. PTI

state and Central governments up truck was being driven at a high speed in dense fog.

Twelve people died on the spot, police said. Six others succumbed to injuries on way to the hospital or during treatment.

The Centre and state government separately announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia to each family of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 each of the injured.

Ir World Cup

With different motivations and fascinating backstories, the trio's paths first crossed at the Sports Authority of India's academv in Lucknow. Now, they are among the 18 representing India at the Junior World Cup where they will face Belgium in the quarterfinals at Odisha's capital Wednesday.

Five players from this team are from UP, signalling a hockey revival in the state that was once the game's cradle in the country.

"It's heartening," says administrator and former player R P Singh. "People had forgotten about UP's hockey history. For almost two decades, we haven't had a decent player who has been selected to play for India. This, I hope, will be the beginning of a new chapter.

RPSingh belongs to a generation when UP produced some of the most stylish players the game has seen, such as Mohammed Shahid, MPSingh, Mukesh Kumar and Zafar Igbal. Through the 1970s and 1980s. Indian teams were virtually made up of players from the most populous state.

For instance, during a tour to

FROM PAGE ONE

Europe in 1982, 11 out of the 16 squad members came from the Meerut sports hostel. At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, six players were from the Lucknow hostel. Overall, between 1976 and 1996, the state competed at the Olympics.

region started to dry up.

UP government's sports director.

the way to training camps.

had produced about 60 internationals, including a dozen who So much so that even a cricket stadium in Lucknow is named af-

ter a hockey legend, K D Singh Babu. However, former players say, the heady days also led to an overbearing attitude among some players, fostering indiscipline. This, combined with the failure to evolve coaching techniques at academies, meant talent from the

And then, there was the ageold problem of "sifarish (recommendation)" in selection for national-level tournaments. "We are now trying to do away with that practice. Only those players who deserve to be in the squad are selected," says R P Singh, who is the

The recent improvement in performances of teams from UP at national championships has led to their players getting identified by national team scouts, paving

Districts like Ghazipur, where barren lands have been converted into training fields, have become the new catchment areas.

Three players in the Junior World Cup team - Uttam, Vishnukant and Rahul Rajbhar --have honed their art at Karampur in Ghazipur, in an academy set up by the late Tej Bahadur Singh, a hockey aficionado who turned a nondescript village into the sport's nursery. Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lalit Upadhyay, the first from the state to get selected for the Games since Pawan Kumar at Atlanta 1996, spent some early years at this academy.

Upadhyay now guides players from this region. "He speaks to us before and after matches, telling us what we have done right and areas we can improve," Uttam, who has scored four goals in three matches in this World Cup, says. "Lalit has had a journey very similar to ours, so he understands us well." Uttam adds: "My father could not continue playing because of family pressure. He was the sole breadwinner and hence couldn't focus on the game. It wasn't easy for him to take care of my expenses as well. But Tej Bahadur Singh, who passed away this year,

and his brother Radhe Mohan Singh took care of my needs even after I moved to SAI Lucknow.

Goalkeeper Prashant Chauhan, who hails from Varanasi, completes the UP quintet. In the group matches at the World Cup, their first international games in two years, these players displayed the qualities that have always been associated with players from UP. Chauhan displayed dexterity between the posts, Uttam showed an unerring eye for goal, and Vishnu Kant showcased remarkably fast wrists and exceptional stick skills.

All of them have played a key role in the tournament. where India, the defending champions. recovered after a shock defeat to France to qualify for the quarterfinals. R P Singh acknowledges that there's no guarantee that success at a junior level will transition to the senior arena. But he is hopeful that this tournament will open the doors for other younger players. "Representation in the national team is crucial to inspire the next generation. For years, we did not have that. But now, when the younger batches watch these players, it's bound to motivate them," he says.

Chennai: Moderate to heavy showers continued to hit parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on Sunday, submerging several regions in knee-deep waters and killing at least two people in rain-

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inspected several flooded suburban areas such as Tiruverkadu in Tiruvallur district and gave away flood relief assistance, including essential com-

On Sunday, northern regions - including Chennai, Cuddalore – and neighbouring Puducherry witnessed moderate to heavy rainfall while light to moderate showers were reported in other areas of the state, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre. According to the government, 15,016 people have been evacuated to 188 camps in Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin,

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PANAJI. NOVEMBER 28

A DAY after Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant said that his government will act against the allegedly illegal construction in Old Goa, protesters refused to budge and demanded that authorities must issue a demolition order and not just revoke permissions.

Members of the Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) also said about the CM's statement that there was no official correspondence over the issue although they had submitted a memorandum to his office on September 29 and sought an appointment with him.

Fredy Dias, a member of SO-GAC, said: "We are deeply upset hearing such statements from the CM of our state. It evidently means that his office is completely incompetent as they are not conveying the letters and representations of the people of

Goa to him.' "This memorandum in particular should have got his attention as it was titled 'Fraudulent Permissions/Licenses granted by the State Departments for an Illegal Construction at Old Goa'

and signed by around 30 citizens.' Dias added that before submitting the memorandum, SOGAC had also sought a meeting with the CM but e-mails and reminders seeking an appointment received no response.

On Saturday, Sawant had said: "In my whole tenure, I have never allowed anyone to erect an illegal structure. Secondly, whoever has built the illegal structure and whoever wants it razed needs to correspond officially. They should not just speak through (news) papers. If it is illegal then let it be demolished. I have no objection."

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

WORDLY WISE IF AGRICULTURE GOES WRONG, NOTHING ELSE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO RIGHT. — M S Swaminathan

The Indian **EXPRESS**

SFOUNDED BY S RAMNATH GOENKA ■ BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NEW MENU

A new public stocking policy centred on pulses, edible oils and vegetables is needed to manage unseasonal price hikes

INTER IS USUALLY when tomatoes, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, capsicum, radish, peas, spinach and other greens become relatively affordable. It has to do with their plantings mostly happening during August-October. In tomatoes, these begin even earlier — from mid-June, with the monsoon rains, and up to late-September. Given that they are all 50 to 100 day crops — tomatoes take 110-120 days, but start yielding fruits from 70-80 days over 8-10 "flushes" at 4-5 day intervals — their arrivals peak over the winter, contributing to the familiar pattern of low prices at this time. Even the kharif onions planted in June-July are ready for harvesting during October-December. The same goes for the early-rabi potato that comes from the low hills of Himachal Pradesh, followed by Punjab, in November-December.

The current winter that has just set in is, however, turning out quite different. Tomatoes are retailing at upwards of Rs 60 per kg and onions at Rs 40, compared to their corresponding all-India levels of Rs 40 and Rs 30 three months ago. There's a simple reason for this: Erratic rains. Rainfall was overall deficient during the main kharif sowing season from mid-June through August, although less so in the major vegetable-growing hubs of Maharashtra and southern India. But Maharashtra recorded excess rains in September and October, hitting production of both kharif onions and tomatoes, cultivated especially in the Nashik belt. November turned out worse, more so in the South, with the standing kharif tomato crop — be it at Madanapalle and Ramasamudram in Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region, Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Doddaballapur in Karnataka or Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu — suffering extensive damage.

The above unseasonal price spike raises concerns on two counts. The first is the impact on inflation and, more important, inflation expectations among the public. At a time when the latter already stands elevated — thanks to the sharp increases in petrol, diesel, LPG and edible oil prices over the last one year — costlier tomatoes and onions would only add to the pain points. Incidentally, consumer price inflation for vegetables was minus 19.43 per cent in October. That rate rebounding in the opposite direction, most unusually in winter, makes it all the more difficult for the Reserve Bank of India to continue with its accommodative monetary policy stance. The second concern is more long-term, relating to climate change. This is a second successive year when the peninsula has had heavy unseasonal rains in September-October, destroying the harvest-ready kharif crops. It calls for a new public stocking policy — away from rice and wheat to pulses, edible oils and vegetables that are more vulnerable to climate and global price risks. Vegetable storage can even be in dehydrated/processed form such as potato flakes, onion paste and tomato puree.

NEW HORIZONS

The development turnaround in Nepal and Bangladesh is an inspiring story for South Asia

HE INCLUSION OF two more South Asian countries, Nepal and Bangladesh, for graduation into the category of "developing countries" marks a significant milestone for these two countries. The UN General Assembly resolution accepting the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development that these two countries (and Laos), categorised until now as Least Developed Countries meet the criteria to be called "developing" countries is a measure of the success of their policies towards achieving some development goals. This year, as laid down by the CDP, the criteria were per capita Gross National Income of \$1.018 and above: a high score of 60 on the Human Assets Index, which includes a health index and education index; and a low score of 36 on the Economic & Environmental Vulnerability Index. Countries must meet at least two of the criteria in order to qualify for inclusion in the developing countries category. The markers for the "graduation" itself are higher. However, the change in category is a double-edged sword. It could give rise to disruption in a country's development as the very enablers that have helped it come this far are no longer available to it. As an LDC, a country gets trade related concessions including market access, and development assistance, technical assistance and special pathways to participate in international processes. It is in recognition of the reality that withdrawing such benefits suddenly could plunge the country back into LDC conditions, that graduating countries are given a transition period during which most of the benefits available to LDCs remain available to graduating countries. Usually, the transition period is three years, but this time, in view of the economic, social and other disruptions caused by Covid-9, the UN General Assembly has taken the right step by giving five years. The LDC category, created and formally endorsed at the 26th session of the UN in 1971, recognises that some countries suffer from structural impediments to growth, and that it is the responsibility of the international community to ensure that these countries do not get left behind. It is not acknowledged as often as it should be that the improvement in the economic and social prospects of the people of a country can only benefit other nations, particularly those in its neighbourhood. For a region that has received two big shocks this year, in Afghanistan, and Myanmar — both are LDCs — the stabilisation of India's population growth, the inclusion of Nepal and Bangladesh for graduation as developing countries, plus the scheduled graduation of Bhutan in 2023, are all positive developments.

When a government with a comfortable majority does not reach out, Opposition must step in

Making the House work

SUHAS PALSHIKAR

IT IS BECOMING more or less customary to assess Parliament's "performance" at the end of a session, typically in terms of bills discussed and passed. It is equally necessary to take stock of the issues facing the country and set expectations about what Parliament should be doing when the session is to commence. Such an exercise for the current session would surely be set against the backdrop of the hasty manner in which bills have been rammed through Parliament, and then sought to be repealed. In the current session, three Acts will probably be presented for repeal. They were passed earlier amidst demands to refer them to a select committee. It is not clear whether these laws will be mechanically and summarily repealed as the largesse of the majority party or if there will be a robust discussion delving into circumstances that led to their imminent repeal. To be sure, Parliament will now have an opportunity to wonder why its time - often erroneously counted in terms of rupees per minute - was wasted in the first place.

There has been enough media attention on the government's decision to repeal the three farm laws. It is also necessary to analyse the farm law episode from the standpoint of the parliamentary system and the functioning of Parliament in general. The announcement to withdraw these laws brings into sharp focus the rift between Parliament and protesters who have doggedly resisted the laws for over one year. As a result, these laws will have the distinction of having been passed but never implemented. Though not withdrawn, a similar fate hangs over the head of the CAA and the decision to prepare a national register of citizens. In fact, during the past two years, Parliament has passed quite a few bills whose constitutionality is in serious doubt and which are challenged by social sections affected by them. How can we understand this continuing disconnect?

This Lok Sabha — increasingly the Rajya Sabha as well — poses a riddle for the theory of representative democracy. The ruling majority has a handsome majority — a 300 plus representation in the Lok Sabha — and by the standards of the FPTP system, a reasonable vote share of over 37 per cent. In addition, if one considers the folklore generated around We would not be raising these matters about a gap between Parliament and society if resilient protests had not taken place in the first place. Protests have played, and will continue to play, a critical role in forcing us to confront the issue of representation. In times, when it is becoming intellectually fashion to villianise the civil society, it must be reiterated that no democracy can exist without a robust civil society. Its tension-ridden relationship with party politics must be recognised. In that sense, the rising antinomy between Parliament and protests is more because of the unrepresentativeness of Parliament than due to the rebellious ways of civil society. All democracies have learnt this the hard way.

the PM's appeal, this should be considered a fairly popular government in recent history. Yet, this is also a government that has drawn severe criticism from multiple quarters. The current moment is marked by a slide in India's status in international rankings on democracy, human rights and press freedom, an ever-increasing number of sedition cases and spiralling UAPA cases.

To complicate matters, laws passed by Parliament are increasingly being seen as unacceptable. This non-acceptance is, perhaps, restricted to a small section. But the arguments put forward by them remain persuasive. The sustained anti-CAA agitation, a couple of years ago, did strike a chord with a section of people while the agitation against the farm laws actually forced the government to backtrack—something it is not known for. The "majority" government seems less representative than many minority governments of the past. The government may have the majority in numbers, but does not have the capacity to take the majority along. It seems

to take its majority for granted. At this juncture, an important responsibility lies with the Opposition. In Parliament, it will need to ensure coordination on common issues, strategise on parliamentary procedures and above all, endeavour to represent voices that have been suppressed by the current regime. In other words, the responsibility of representation now shifts to the Opposition. Acrimony might be unavoidable given that the current regime doesn't give adequate respect to differences of opinion. But it is incumbent on the Opposition to avoid creating pandemonium merely as a tactic. Noise and sloganeering cannot replace the responsibility to represent. Pandemonium is only a cover up for bad coordination and lack of homework.

While party politics implies that the Opposition needs to take up the responsibility to challenge and probe the government, the idea of representation requires that all MPs are sensitive to public opinion as well as to protests outside Parliament. The role of ruling party MPs is not merely to ram through the House whatever the government wishes but to also probe the executive delicately. In allowing the government to sidestep all opposition, the MPs from the ruling party create an atmosphere wherein they lose any semblance of authenticity in their role as representatives. If the likes of Varun Gandhi keep doing in Parliament what they are doing or saying outside, that would certainly make Parliament a much more representative forum. Such independence of ruling party members is connected both to intra-party democracy and to intra-party factionalism. When parties have factions, they become democratic in their internal functioning. Whether Varun Gandhi is disgruntled is not the point. The issue is whether they have the courage to express their dissatisfaction. It is also important that they have an intellectual position of their own. Do MPs from the ruling party take their role and their constituents seriously for re-election or are they entirely dependent on party bosses for getting reelected? The litmus test to their independence will be in how they express themselves in Parliament. In any case, for Parliament to regain its representative character, ruling party members need to be more sincere about the parliamentary system, and unafraid of executive power.

Finally, we would not be raising these matters about a gap between Parliament and society if resilient protests had not taken place in the first place. Protests have played, and will continue to play, a critical role in forcing us to confront the issue of representation. In times, when it is becoming intellectually fashion to villianise the civil society, it must be reiterated that no democracy can exist without a robust civil society. Its tension-ridden relationship with party politics must be recognised. In that sense, the rising antinomy between Parliament and protests is more because of the unrepresentativeness of Parliament than due to the rebellious ways of civil society. All democracies have learnt this the hard way. Such contestations alone constitute the core of democracy. Contrary to a typical policeperson's wisdom, masquerading as security theory, civil society does not cause civil war - its suppression causes civil war.

The writer, based at Pune, taught political science and is currently chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics



GET TO BUSINESS

Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan should be first step to normalising links

FREEZE FRAME

E P Unny



PRABHASH RANJAN

THE RECENT PARTIAL opening of land borders between India and Pakistan signals a thaw in the troubled relations between the two South Asian neighbours. The two sides should capitalise on the moment and try normalising their imperilled trade relations. After the Pulwama terror attack, bilateral trade between the two countries plummeted from around \$2 billion in 2017-18 to a paltry \$280 million in 2020-21 (April to February). From the Indian standpoint, as a Centre for Policy Research report argues, a continuing freeze in relations with Pakistan will "enhance India's external vulnerability to other actors, in particular, China". "Since India-Pakistan relations will remain adversarial for the foreseeable future, its effective management should be the main objective", which in turn requires, among other things, fostering economic and trade relations. India is not averse to having normal trade relations with Pakistan, as stated by Hardeep Puri, the then minister of state for commerce and industry, in Parliament in March 2021.

However, the normalisation of trade relations would require the following steps. First, Pakistan needs to revoke the unilateral suspension of trade with India undertaken in August 2019 due to India's decision to dilute Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This trade suspension by Pakistan is inconsistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement – the two international law instru-

INDIAN EXPRESS

New Delhi should appreciate that the rise of China, not Pakistan poses the gravest threat. Having a working relationship with Pakistan will release scarce resources that can be deployed against China. Strengthening bilateral trade can be an important lever towards establishing a working relationship with Pakistan.

ments that regulate trade between India and Pakistan. GATT, as part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), allows countries to adopt trade-restraining measures on certain grounds such as public health and conservation of exhaustible natural resources (Article XX) and for national security purposes (Article XXI). Likewise, Article 14 of SAFTA permits trade-restrictive measures for national security and other purposes such as public health. Neither the WTO nor SAFTA permits a country to suspend trade with another member country on grounds that it disapproves a domestic law enacted by the latter unless the law can be demonstrably linked to the general or security exceptions given in these treaties. The dilution of Article 370 is India's internal matter. Notwithstanding how vehemently Pakistan feels about downgrading J&K's special status under the Indian Constitution, it is unjustifiable to use this as the pretext to suspend bilateral trade relations.

Second, Pakistan also needs to reverse its practice of not according the most favoured nation (MFN) status to India. MFN is a principle of non-discrimination in trade given in Article I of GATT. Pakistan is in breach of Article I of GATT towards India since the formation of the WTO in 1995.

Third, India should restore Pakistan's MFN status that it revoked after the Pulwama terror attack by hiking the tariff rates on all Pakistani imports to an unfeasible rate of 200 per cent. Such a move by India will put the ball in Pakistan's court. If Pakistan fails to reciprocate, India should exert pressure on Islamabad by mounting a legal challenge showcasing how Pakistan's actions violate international law obligations.

Fourth, both countries should dust off the GATT rule book and read Article XXIV.11 carefully. This Article allows India and Pakistan to enter into any special trading arrangement without fully complying with GATT conditions that typically apply to countries signing free trade agreements. The only requirement is that these special trade arrangements, in general, should be consistent with GATT's objectives. This merciful rule that only India and Pakistan enjoy, out of 160 odd WTO members, was incorporated in GATT to enable the two sides to overcome the economic hardships caused by Partition. Umpteen imaginative trade deals can be struck under this rule such as creating a trade corridor from Chandigarh to Lahore or signing a trade agreement on agri-

cultural products like sugar and cotton. Delhi should appreciate that the rise of China, not Pakistan, poses the graver threat. A working relationship with Pakistan will release scarce resources that can be deployed against China. Strengthening bilateral trade can be an important lever towards establishing a working relationship with Pakistan.

> Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, O P Jindal Global University. Views are personal

NOVEMBER 29, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

NEPAL'S WORRY

THE QUESTION OF Nepal being declared a zone of peace was raised again on Saturday by Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa during his talks with External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao on Saturday in Kathmandu. Rao assured Nepal that it had nothing to fear from India, which was deeply interested in its security and stability. The exchange of views on this subject and the strategic situation in the region took place at an unscheduled dinner that PM Thapa hosted at his residence. Nepal wants India to endorse its peace proposal as other countries like China, Bangladesh and Pakistan have done. Rao opined that the Treaty of Peace and

Friendship between the two countries en- Kera sured the security of Nepal.

CONG-S IN KERALA

THE CONGRESS-S WORKING committee may not endorse the decision of the Kerala Pradesh Congress-S committee to join hands with the Congress-I to form the government in the state, judging by the trend of the speeches made by the CWC-S meeting in New Delhi. After about seven hours of discussion in two sittings, the meetings adjourned without taking any decision on the matter. It will be taken up again today. Most leaders who did speak did not endorse the

New Delhi

- Kerala unit's decision.

TIN BIGHA CORRIDOR

INDIA AND BANGLADESH achieved substantial progress in finalising the terms on the lease of a corridor to the Bangladesh enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota at the secretarylevel talks in Dhaka. A joint press release issued at the end of the two-day talks said the question of India giving on lease the Tin Bigha corridor would be finalised a t the next secretary-level meeting to be held in Delhi in January. The release said the two sides held an "in-depth" discussion on the lease of the Tin Bigha Corridor.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 THE IDEAS PAGE

Giving Henrietta Lacks her due

Undoing ethically wrong scientific research isn't possible but conditions that foster such impropriety must be addressed. Not doing so will demoralise honest scientists



Partha Majumdar

WE CELEBRATED HER birth centenary on August 1, 2020. A few days later, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched its global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer. She was only 31 years old when she died of cervical cancer. Last month, on October 4 – her 70th death anniversary - a bronze statue of her was installed in University of Bristol, the WHO gave her a posthumous award and her family sued a multinational pharmaceutical giant, Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Who was she? Her name was Henrietta Lacks, a Black tobacco farmer who lived in the US. Most scientists know her by the name of her cells, HeLa. But, of course, she is "more than a cell," as the inscription on her statue states

HeLa cells have been critical for many biomedical breakthroughs. Jonas Salk used the cells to develop the polio vaccine, identify the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and develop the cervical cancer vaccine. HeLa cells have been used to understand how the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infects humans. This has helped in the Covid-19 vaccine discovery. HeLa cells were sent on space missions to understand biological impacts of environmental stress

Attempts by researchers to grow human cells in a petri dish that would keep dividing for a long time were miserable failures. The cells of Henrietta Lacks – a 30-year old mother of five diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1951 – had a remarkable property. Her cells not only grew outside of her body, but also divided rapidly. The number of her cells nearly doubled every day. Cells that grew indefinitely outside of the human body – an "immortal" cell line - enabled scientists conduct experiments that would have been impossible on a living person. Lacks passed away 70 years ago. But over 50,000 metric tonnes of her cells grown outside of her body have been distributed and continue to grow in many laboratories throughout the world. HeLa cells have been used in over 80,000 published biomedical research studies. Henrietta Lacks' cells have helped save "countless lives ... bringing us closer to eliminating cervical cancer," said Senait Fisseha, co-Chair of the WHO Director-General's expert advisory group on cervical cancer elimination.

Therefore, she deserves high respect from the present and future generations. Her lifestory, based on 11 years of painstaking research, has been published: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot in 2010, is a New York Times bestseller. The book was



family is asking the court to order the company to "disgorge the full amount of its net profits obtained by commercialising the HeLa cell line to the estate of Henrietta Lacks".

Past wrongdoings cannot be undone. Wrongdoings continue. But as Martin Luther King, Jr., has said "the time is always right to do what's right". Biomedical research on humans is guided by ethical codes that have evolved over a long period of time. Their roots can be traced back to the use of racial hygiene in Nazi Germany to promote the Aryan race. In 1929, the National Socialist Physicians' League was formed. Murderous and torturous human experiments were carried out in the concentration camps. In August 1947, the so-called "Doctors' Trial" was conducted in Nuremberg in which 20 physicians - accused of human experimentation - were tried. This trial resulted in the formulation of a code of ethics – the Nuremberg Code – the most fundamental of which is that obtaining voluntary consent is essential for enrolling a person into a research study and for collecting biospecimens.

Last year, the editor-in-chief, Dave Curtis, of the oldest human genetics journal -Annals of Human Genetics – resigned stating that "I think that there is ample evidence that doctors and scientists in China are involved in human rights abuses and I feel uncomfort-

Retractions have become a hallmark of scientific misconduct, which is growing at an alarming pace even in India. About 1,000 reports published by scientists from India have been retracted since 2010 as listed in the online database Retraction Watch. The growth of scientific misconduct is strongly associated with some modalities of professional recognition (such as, election to science academies, awards, medals, etc.) and promotion of scientists that are linked to the number of publications, especially in the so-called 'high-impact' journals. Some professional recognition is a precondition to being selected as directors of institutions, vice-chancellors of universities, secretaries of agencies, etc.

C R Sasikuman

umented evidence of having obtained consent. Recently, two papers reporting results of blood analysis published in the International Journal of Legal Medicine were retracted. The Chinese authors had not obtained consent to collect blood samples from persons belonging to Tibetan, Uyghur (mostly Muslim) and Hui minority populations. These retractions are a scar on the scientific integrity of the authors and on the system.

Retractions have become a hallmark of scientific misconduct, which is growing at an alarming pace even in India. About 1,000 reports published by scientists from India have been retracted since 2010 as listed in the online database Retraction Watch. The growth of scientific misconduct is strongly associated with some modalities of professional recognition (such as, election to science academies, awards, medals, etc.) and promotion of scientists that are linked to the number of publications, especially in the so-called "highimpact" journals. Some professional recognition is a precondition to being selected as directors of institutions, vice-chancellors of universities, secretaries of agencies, etc. Thus, there is pressure to publish more and rapidly. This pressure and unrealistic aspirations are eroding the integrity of scientists. Plagiarism, data-doctoring or image-manipulation to support our favourite scientific hypotheses are now common. Technological advances have eased scientific misconduct. Offending scientists, especially repeat offenders, should be stripped of the accolades and promotions that they have gotten. To the extent possible, a background check for indulgence in fraudulent practices should be carried out before one is appointed as the head of an institution or given an award. Inaction against scientific misconduct, demoralises honest scientists. More importantly, science in the public eye is tarnished.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The Taliban need to live up to their word to provide protection to the population they now rule as well as form an inclusive government to give representation to all - DAWN, PAKISTAN including the Hazaras."

The T-20 investment path

The young today are restless, want instant gratification. New avenues like crypto illustrate this aggressive, risk-taking appetite



MADAN SABNAVIS

FOR THE LAST four months or so, we have all been glued to the Star Sports channel with the IPL being followed by the World Cup. Quite clearly, the 20-20 format has caught on. As a viewer, one would have also seen a lady in a track-and-field race suddenly sit down to get on to the mobile for some stock updates. The message is that we should not miss out on such opportunities and the race comes only second. In between, we saw another star smiling and telling you to make money on cryptos. Yes, this is the latest buzz in the market and there is money to be made. And then there are some cricketers, who may not have a graduate degree, but are smart enough to advise you that mutual funds are right, and you should invest carefully. Welcome to the new world of savings and investments, which mimics the changing interest or popularity of

cricket formats. Today, we do not have the patience to watch five-day matches. Those who swear by Test cricket are from the older generation. Much like the same generation which still goes in for savings in inferior bank deposits where returns are 2.75 per cent in a savings account or 5 per cent in a fixed deposit. The younger population sees the futility of these instruments as the economics does not gel. Everyone wants instant gratification, and why not, because even if you manage 5 per cent on the deposit, you could lose a third as taxes, which makes a mockery of such savings. Quite clearly, banks don't give us anything significant as a return. The alternatives are more tempting.

The cult of savers has changed into investors. They are looking for a good return and willing to take the risk. This is a major change we see today. Crypto exchanges assure you that they are safe. But it is the exchange that is safe, not the value of the coin, which will be driven by the market. The equity boom is on, and all the unicorns have delivered excellent results. Newspapers are full of founders of startups with beaming smiles as they enter the big league of billionaires. Today, no one is talking about investing in the Nifty companies. It is the new age start-ups that

numbers anywhere in the world as the format of the game becomes shorter.

There is a new wave of savings and investments in the country that is evolving quite fast. Bitcoins have given amazing returns; the Sensex at 60,000 is what we like to be a part of. We don't want prodders like Dravid on the field but Kohli, Jadeja and Pandya are delights to watch. That's why bank deposits are no longer on our plates. Interestingly, banks today are discouraging deposits with low rates as this is the only way they can manage their balance sheets. There are few deployment avenues and paying 5 per cent interest to savers and investing the deposits at 3.35 per cent in the reverse repo auction is a sub-optimal game.

One would have also noticed that there are no advertisements by banks on deposits. They do not want them. Instead, there are several pullouts on home loans at 6.5 per cent or auto loans at 7 per cent. One could never have dreamt of getting loans at such low rates. It sounds unbelievable but is true. You are not told to save for tomorrow but to borrow more for satiating your immediate needs.

From equities, there has been a swift shift to cryptos, which is still a grey area. The regulators/government are wondering what to do. The issue will be discussed in the winter session of Parliament. But investments have been made and there is no stopping this global wave. Making money on a currency that has no underlying asset like a metal or other currency and is traded on faith is unique; especially Bitcoin, whose originator is not known by face but by just a name. But people have ascribed a value to the currency and finally, in a market, if there are thousands who believe in the value, it gets subsumed.

If this has not been quite intoxicating (the World Cup matches also had relentless doses of surrogate advertising for liquor and tobacco, which came as innocuous water and fresheners), there is another door to a new kind of gaming where you make money by making teams and following the matches. You pay to enter this game and the spoils are partly kept, the rest are distributed to the gamers after paying taxes. The law was first silent, and then confused. But it finally accepted gaming as a skill. Logically, soon we should be able to bet on matches too, if all this is in order.

Cricket formats have engendered passion, and not just from the point of view of the game. But have they also fostered a change in the format of holding onto money, where savings get transformed to investment and risk appetite changes from conservative to aggressive? Will this change? Probably not, in the near future, as long as conventional deposits continue to give inferior returns.

turned into a movie by George C Wolfe in 2017. "The biotech industry was born on the use of Henrietta Lacks' cells," Wolfe has said. "HeLa is this incredible medical phenomenon. And then a few blocks away, there was a family that knew nothing about it."

That the "family knew nothing about it," is a serious problem. A portion of Henrietta's tumour was given away by her cancer surgeon to a researcher without her knowledge or consent. Even though this was legal at that time, the action was unethical and unjust. The HeLa cell line was established in 1951, and has been commercially grown and sold by Thermo Fisher Scientific company. Total profits run into several million dollars. The Lacks

able with having to consider submissions from China." As a part of surveillance and criminal control, the Chinese authorities primarily law enforcement officials - have been collecting blood samples from residents of Xinjiang province without obtaining their consent and storing their genetic profiles with identifiable information. These profiles can later be used to violate the rights of an individual.

Eight of the 25 members of the editorial board of the journal Molecular Genetics & Genomic Medicine resigned because the journal had published a set of papers in 2019 on forensic genetics based on data generated from blood samples of persons without doc-

The writer is distinguished professor, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani



Silencing the 55 per cent

Government has not allowed Opposition its rightful space in Parliament

Ritesh Pandey

WHEN I FIRST entered Parliament, they thought I was the driver. As I drove past the barricades of the Vijay Chowk entrance, the pompously-clad security detail ushered my car to the parking lot. As a first-time MP representing Ambedkar Nagar, a mainly agrarian and rural constituency in the heart of eastern Uttar Pradesh, I didn't know what to expect from the next five years. I didn't know if what I said in Delhi held any weight in Ambedkar Nagar, or if all they wanted was a sadak-kharanja-makaan - things that an MP cannot guarantee. Then there was the unfamiliarity of it all - the grandeur of the halls, the complexity of the rules, the nuances of MP culture — that would make any eastern UP chap feel out of place.

Much has changed since. We have had eight parliamentary sessions, and I have become the leader of my party in the Lok Sabha. And in this time, I have realised the sheer power of Parliament, the nation's largest Panchayat. To the armchair elite sitting in Delhi or Bombay, the relevance of Parliament is easily cast aside: Politicians are self-interested, MPs are busy all day playing petty politics on public funds, and shrill accusations seldom replace quality policy discourse.

But when I raised a Private Member's Resolution on the demands of anganwadi and

ASHA workers, I witnessed how advocating for their cause in Parliament strengthens the resolve of communities fighting for their rights. Anganwadi and ASHA workers form the backbone of health. nutrition. and education in rural India, but they are paid a paltry stipend of a few thousand rupees per month (when they are paid at all), and most of their centres don't even have adequate toilets. After I raised their demands in Parliament, about 500 members of the Anganwadi and ASHA Workers' Organisation visited my house, invigorated with the resolve to rally other MPs to support their fight. Additionally, proceedings of Parliament make the local news cycles - a vital avenue of intellectual engagement for rural youth who have little else available for such stimulation.

Parliament's extensive framework presents many opportunities for robust debate. discussion, and dissent. During the Question Hour, key data on the operations of the government is up for public scrutiny. Adjournment Motions allow members to propose urgent topics of national interest which, if admitted by the Speaker, are discussed and debated in lieu of any other agenda of the House. The process of passing a bill, on paper, is a powerful tool for MPs to represent diverse interests.

But all of these instruments of government accountability that are afforded to MPs have been weakened, eroded, and destroyed by the current ruling dispensation. For Parliament to have an impact, it must function normally. Mainstream media reported on the perceived lack of productivity during the monsoon session due to disruptions by the Opposition, and the government's subsequent appeals for order. But they failed to mention that Opposition parties were disrupting parliamentary proceedings because they were not given their rightful space to dissent within due parliamentary processes. A Calling Attention Motion on the government's Covid mishandling? Denied. A discussion on repealing the three farms laws? Forget it. Adjournment Motion on Pegasus? No – but we did get a defensive monologue by the very minister who was one of the software's targets.

Laws were passed, or in the words of my colleague MP Manish Tewari, they were "shamelessly and brazenly railroaded" by the NDA government without any opportunity for representation of the interests of the 55 per cent of the voters who did not vote for it. The laws that did pass through regular deliberations in previous sessions were bereft of inputs from the Opposition due to petty partisan politics - the BJP's brute majority and

yes-manism ensure that even amendments worthy of discussion are overlooked. When parliamentarians aren't given space to do what they are elected to do - represent the will of the people - bad laws are passed. Nowhere is this truer than the three farm laws that the Modi government was ultimately forced to repeal.

As climate change worsens rural distress and existing inequalities, we need leaders with the political will, and perhaps more importantly, the political ability to represent and advocate for the real growth and development of their constituents. Although disruption as a protest tactic has also been favoured by the ruling party in its time in the opposition, the status quo must change. In the upcoming session of Parliament, I hope that lessons have been learnt and a new page can be turned. I hope that grandiose idols will turn into regular people, and listen for a change. I hope that the parliamentary vehicle runs on both its wheels, the government and the opposition. On my part, I will be behind the wheel.

The writer is a Member of Parliament representing Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, and Lok Sabha Floor Leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

have seen the market nod in appreciation even if the ventures are loss-making. It is just like cricket. We remember who won the World Cup or the IPL or the Challengers Cup but may not recollect when India played West Indies or Bangladesh in a Test series. The stadia say it all, with audiences entering in larger

The writer is an independent economist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIGITAL MONEY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Cryptopolitics' (IE, November 27). The lure of cryptocurrencies appears to be, strangely enough, their volatility, which brings with it a promise of high returns. When interest rates are low, or where economies are poorly managed, as in Venezuela and Zimbabwe, cryptocurrencies offer a way out for savers and investors. Central banks see their control over the monetary system threatened with the growing popularity of these currencies. In response, many are introducing their own digital currencies, which will have many features of cryptocurrencies, though they will be centralised and should, over time, draw away investors from cryptos, with their many drawbacks. If you can't beat them, join them seems to be the name of the game for central banks.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

BOYCOTT BACKFIRE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'What use a boycott' (IE, November 27). The "staying away" by the opposition from the function in Parliament to mark Constitution Day is certainly not a wise step. The ill-timed move aimed at drawing attention towards the unconstitutional ways adopted by the ruling regime (and these are aplenty) does not serve the purpose. On the contrary, it paints the Opposition in poor light and gives credence to the BJP's propaganda of a frustrated Opposition "ganging up" against it. This myopic approach, propagated by the Congress, also shows that the grand old party is bereft of ideas, will and leadership to take on the BJP. Vijai Pant, Hempur

VACCINE DEFENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Safety first' (IE, November 27). Although the new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529 is in its initial stage, it's already shaking up the world. Indians, with the experience of getting caught unaware by April's second wave, should understand better how a steep rise in infections can flatten the society and economy. So, we must take seriously the advice of South African scientists that this variant will dominate all earlier variants. Vaccination continues to be the best bet. Covid-19 is an agile enemy and we must fight it proactively rather than risking another devastating lockdown. Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

POOR GOVERNANCE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Over 50% Bihar poor in new index based on health, education, standard of living' (IE, November 27). The result is based on the Niti-Aayog's Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI). After being assessed on these parameters Aayog has declared Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh as worst performers. Kerala, Goa, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu are the best. Recently, when Global Hunger Report 2021, lowered the Global Hunger Index (GHI) rank of India to 101st out of 116 countries, the Union ministry of women and child development rebuked and rejected it, calling it "devoid of ground reality and facts". Now the government's own report endorses that Bihar has the highest number of malnourished people followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

LR Murmu, Delhi



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 10 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

LOK SABHA SPEAKER OM BIRLA If any shortcomings in govt decisions, Opp should suggest changes. Govt should also consider these suggestions

The first-time Speaker talks about the role of Standing Committees and Opposition, addresses the absence of a deputy Speaker, reiterates the freedom of MPs to speak in House without fear of labels such as anti-national, and defends not telecasting protests inside Parliament

LIZ MATHEW: You have spoken about the lack of debate and discourse in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. How do you think the coming Winter Session will turn out to be?

I hope there is enough discussion and debate in Parliament during the Winter Session. I urge all parties to participate in an orderly manner. I also hope Parliament sees more productivity this time.

LIZ MATHEW: The repeal of the farm laws is going to be a major highlight of the Winter Session. The **Opposition's complaint is that not** just these laws but several major Bills have been rushed by the Modi government through Parliament without due discussion or reference to Standing Committees. What are your views on this?

It is up to the government to propose that a particular Bill be sent to a Standing Committee. When it does not want to send an issue to the Standing Committee, I try my best to ensure that there are exhaustive and long discussions on the issue. I ensure that the ministers and at least one member of each political party get to speak on the issue. If you take the farm laws, I let the discussions go on past the allotted time. While the time given was four hours, the discussions went on for five-and-a-half hours... whoever wanted to speak was allowed to do so. But it is for the government to decide which Bill goes to a Standing Committee and which one should be discussed in Parliament.

LIZ MATHEW: However, what is your own opinion regarding Bills being sent to Standing Committees, especially those that have a direct impact on day-to-day lives of people?

Every government, previous or present, irrespective of which party it belongs to, brings in Bills and laws for the benefit of people. No government elected for a five-year term wants to bring in a law that will not help people. The ideologies or perspectives might be different, but in my opinion, every government is driven by this motive. Therefore, governments decide to speed up the law-making process by putting up Bills for discussion in the public domain and Parliament, so that the common man benefits from these laws quickly.

LIZ MATHEW: What do you think is the role of the Opposition? The Opposition plays a significant role

DEA **CXCHANGE**

WHY **OM BIRLA**

three-term Rajasthan MLA and two-time Lok Sabha MP, Om Birla was a surprise choice for the post of Speaker in 2019 given his relative lack of seniority. Since then, he has earned the Opposition's appreciation several times for his efforts to give them a voice despite the BJP's overwhelming majority. However, the Monsoon Session, which was washed out amidst Opposition protests, had seen Birla lamenting the lack of discipline in the House. With the Opposition already indicating that the coming Winter Session will be stormy, Birla has his task cut out

the proceedings are removed, that too with the knowledge of the member. Otherwise, members have the right to speak.

RAVISH TIWARI: But this has come up often, where ruling party members have labelled Opposition counterparts anti-national.

A Speaker has to work within certain boundaries... I don't give suggestions to the government; I only make unbiased decisions regarding what happens in Parliament... The rules don't allow the Speaker to direct that a Bill be sent to a Standing Committee

Every person who comes to the House is an elected member who represents lakhs of people. To me, he or she is a mananiya sadasya (respected member). It's my responsibility to protect them. But what they say outside the House, I can't stop them, condemn them or protect them

ABHISHEK ANGAD: In 2014, a few MLAs of **Babulal Marandi's** Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) had joined the BJP. Marandi had raised the issue with the

Speaker, saying this was defection. The Speaker took five years to decide, by which time the government's term was nearly over. Now the current government is delaying the defection matter due to which Babulal Marandi is not getting Leader of Opposition status. Shouldn't these decisions be taken in a time-bound manner?

At the Presiding Officers' conference, we said there are questions being raised on our fairness, on the delay in taking decisions, and courts have made several observations. This is not good for our presiding officers. We set up a committee that submitted its report but there was no consensus among presiding officers on the report. So now, we will take it up again and hold discussions. We all believe, the entire nation believes, that in the antidefection law, cases should be disposed of in a timely manner. The process is on. I am hopeful that the result will be positive. We will also appeal to the government that there be a timeline fixed in the anti-defection law... The law was made in line with the demands of those times, but today's circumstances are different and there should be more clarity. This is my view. There will be efforts to build a consensus and we will sug-

in the country's politics. The stronger it is, the more accountable a government is. (But) The Opposition's objections should be factual for it to be an open debate, it should not object just for the sake of it. If there are any shortcomings in the government's decisions, the Opposition should suggest changes. Similarly, the government should also consider these suggestions to rectify the shortcomings of a law. A strong Opposition is a must for a strong democracy.

LIZ MATHEW: We haven't seen such a majority for a ruling party in Parliament in a long time. How difficult is the Speaker's role in such a House?

All the Speakers of our Parliament have been aware of the importance of their role. The Speaker's directions also become a part of the law-making process because it is understood that the Speaker has acted in an unbiased manner, for the

benefit of the process. The House rules dictate the role of a Speaker so I will not comment on them in a personal capacity, but I try my best to uphold the dignity of the office and the House by upholding everyone's rights and ensuring a fair debate.

RAVISH TIWARI: The Supreme **Court's suspension** of farm laws without getting

into the question of their constitutionality reinforced the impression that there wasn't enough discussion on them in Parliament. How do you respond to the charge that as Speaker, you have been intimidated by the government's brute majority and not been able to push back and ensure Bills are sent to Standing Committees?

A Speaker has to work within certain boundaries. The office has a certain dignity. I don't give suggestions to the government; I only make unbiased decisions regarding what happens in Parliament, As far as the (farm) Bills are concerned, the government introduced them and the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of

the House allocated four hours for discussions on them. I let the discussions go on longer. Members from all parties and even the Independents weighed in. But it's not my job to suggest to the government (to do something). My job is to conduct the proceedings on the issues brought up in Parliament.

RAVISH TIWARI: But when there is a conflict of opinion between the ruling party and the Opposition over a Bill being sent to a Standing Committee, vour role becomes

that of an adjudicator. Given If a House has more than the differences 100 or 200 members, it over the farm Bills, should you not should function for X have sent them to a Standing number of days. But I am **Committee for** pained that Houses see very more scrutiny? The rules don't allow the Speaker to

few sittings. All parties should debate this... There should be a constitutional amendment on this

the Speaker to do so.

KRISHN KAUSHIK: You said you allowed more than the allocated time to debate the farm Bills. But the smaller parties get only two to three minutes to make their point. A bulk of the time allocated goes to the government. What according to you should the yardstick be to measure the time given to a Bill in Parliament? Should Parliament pass as many Bills as possible, or should the goal be to hold as many discussions as possible?

This is a good question, which must be raised. I had given every party close to 15 minutes to make their point on the farm Bills, despite the BAC's total allotted time of four hours. I have that right and I have used it in the past, including for discussion over the Bill regarding Article 370. No MPs, even from Punjab (which has seen the maximum protests over the farm laws), felt that I did not give them enough time to speak.

RAVISH TIWARI: There is no deputy Speaker in the current House. Do you think it's ethically wrong to not have a deputy Speaker, who is chosen from among the Opposition ranks, and do you think one is needed? Doesn't not having one increase your load?

The government needs to propose a date for holding elections for the post of deputy Speaker. If they propose a date, I will definitely speed up the process.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: The Prime Minister announced the repeal of the three farm laws after nearly a year of farmer protests. The farmer unions have claimed many farmers died during the agitation, while in Lakhimpur Kheri, we saw several being crushed to death for which a Union minister of state's son is facing charges. Could this have been avoided had the government considered the **Opposition's views during discussions** in the House?

This country is a democracy. In a democracy, there is a constitutional process in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies... Even in Standing Committees, there are differences, not every decision is taken by them unanimously, which is why there is a provision for dissent notes. After a Bill is brought to Parliament, there are discussions and then it gets passed... If the ruling party has a majority, it gets passed despite the dissent. The government that is elected frames the laws. This is a right granted by the Constitution.

LIZ MATHEW: As an occupant of a constitutional post in a House where

the ruling party has a huge majority, what is the legacy you would like to leave behind?

My attempt would be to... ensure there is healthy debate and discussion in the House. It's not our country's tradition to disrupt Parliament proceedings, shout slogans in the House... There are several ways to protest, but the honour of Parliament has to be maintained. Decency and discipline should be maintained. My effort will be to talk to everyone - to the government, Opposition - and my request to them would

be to rise up to what is expected of them We will also appeal to the as people's representatives, to take up the issues and expectations of people in their constituencies. Each of them is not just an individual but an institution that represents lakhs of people. So they should bring their issues to Parliament and the government must hear them in all seriousness.

LEENA MISRA: Should there be a rule fixing minimum sittings for a Vidhan Sabha? I am from Guiarat and the Assembly sees very few sittings.

It's an issue that we need to think about seriously. We brought it up at the Presiding Officers' Conference (held in Shimla on November 17-18) and expressed our concern. It was suggested there should be a code of conduct based on the strength of the House. For instance, if a House has more than 100 or 200 members, it should function for an X number of days. But I am pained that the Houses see very few sittings. That is a matter of concern. All political parties should contemplate, debate this, and ensure

there are discussions on ensuring a minimum number of sittings. I think there should be a constitutional amendment on this. I have personally brought it up with all parties and told Speakers of state Assemblies that they should talk to the

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

shrinks. You are a

national. It's my re-

sponsibility to ensure

that nothing spoken

in the House is 'anti-national'. But, we

have to maintain our dignity, that when

we discuss, our discussion should not

harm the nation. It has never happened

that discussions in the House have been

tagged as anti-national. This was debated

during the time of the British and finally,

when the Constitution was prepared,

Article 105 was inserted to make it clear

that members have a right to speak and

express themselves. No Member of

Parliament can be held liable in any pro-

ceedings before any court for anything

said or any vote given by them in

Only those words that are expunged from

New Delhi

In the House, it is my responsibility.

Parliament.

VANDITA MISHRA: This government has been quick to label people antinational if they disagree with it. When that happens, the space for dialogue shrinks, the House shrinks, your dignity

ruling and Opposition parties.

protector of the House and its government that there be a debates. What do you have to say to that? timeline fixed in the anti-In no debate or defection law... The law was discussion in the made in line with the House is anyone tagged anti-national. demands of those times, This is our privilege. Article 105 makes it but today's circumstances clear that no debate are different, and there or discussion that takes place in should be more clarity Parliament is anti-

gest to the government that they bring in a law.

KRISHN KAUSHIK: Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV show the proceedings in the Houses live so that citizens know what is happening in Parliament. But of late, there have been claims that the telecasts leave out the Opposition protests in the House.

Several of our presiding officers had decided that it wouldn't be in the nation's interest to show unruly scenes and sloganeering in the House - which is why some of my predecessors issued directions to this effect. I have also had members telling me, 'Show us protesting, shouting slogans, throwing papers'. But I don't think it's a good tradition. I am sure our earlier presiding officers took the decision after a lot of thought, with a lot of foresight, so that people's respect, faith for constitutional bodies is maintained.

I have not brought in any changes. I have not done anything to show (these incidents), but I haven't done anything to block(their coverage) either.

LIZ MATHEW: Coming back to the question, as Speaker, does the ruling party's overwhelming majority put you under pressure when it comes to discharging your duties?

I don't work under pressure from anvone. I do what feels just and right in the House, based on decisions taken by my predecessors and keeping in mind the honour of the House. My attempt always has been to give a chance to members to speak, give them enough time and opportunity, especially debutant members, women. If I hadn't tried from the start, several respected members probably would not have got to speak in the House. I made a list of those members who didn't get an opportunity to speak and urged them to talk about the issues of their constituencies or whatever else they want to talk about. I am happy that MPs from remote tribal constituencies got the chance to speak. I can give many such examples. So my attempt is to give everyone enough opportunities and time in the House, even if we have to work till late. It's rare that I wind up the House at 6 pm. If you look at the proceedings, only in 10% instances would I have wrapped up at 6 pm. I have always extended the sitting beyond our working hours.



ter concerned with

the Bill can request

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 **EXPLAINE**

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

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

What meeting MSP demand would cost govt

HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

UNION AGRICULTURE Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said the Centre would table the Bill to repeal its three contentious farm laws "on the very first day" of the Parliament's Winter Session, which starts Monday. This follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's November 19 announcement on rolling back the agriculture reform laws, against which farmers – mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh - have been protesting on Delhi's borders for over a year.

Now that the three laws are set to be withdrawn, pressure is mounting on the government to implement the other, no less vociferous, demand by the farm unions: Providing legal guarantee for the minimum support prices (MSP) of crops.

Why are the unions seeking legal guarantee for MSP?

The Centre currently announces the MSPs of 23 crops: 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi, barley); 5 pulses (chana, tur/arhar, moong, urad, masur), 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, nigerseed); and 4 commercial crops (sugarcane, cotton, copra, raw jute). While the MSPs technically ensure a minimum 50% return on all cultivation costs, these are largely on paper. In most crops grown across much of India, the prices farmers get, especially during harvest time, are well below the officially-declared MSPs. And since MSPs have no statutory backing, they cannot de-

mand these as a matter of right. The unions want the government to enact legislation con-**PROCUREMENT AT MSP** ferring mandatory status to MSP, rather than it

(In lakh tonnes, except for cotton, figures for which are in lakh bales)

Crop	Procure	ement	Produc	tion	% Procu	rement
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
Sugarcane*	2503.67	2984.24	3705	3992.53	67.58	74.75
Rice	518.26	600.78	1188.7	1222.7	43.6	49.14
Wheat	389.92	433.44	1078.6	1095.2	36.15	39.58
Cotton	105.15	91.89	365	353.84	28.81	25.97
Chana	21.43	6.3	110.8	119.9	19.34	5.25
Tur	5.36	0.11	38.9	42.8	13.78	0.26
Mustard	8.04	0	91.24	101.12	8.81	0
Groundnut	7.21	2.84	99.52	102.1	7.24	2.78
Moong	1.47	0.2	25.1	30.9	5.86	0.65
Sunflower	0.05	0.04	2.13	2.3	2.47	1.69
Soyabean	0.11	Neg.	112.26	128.97	0.09	0
Masur	0.01	Neg.	11	14.5	0.13	0

Procurement by sugar mills Note: Figures are for agriculture year (July-June), and Oct-Sept for sug* arcane. Source: FCI, Nafed, CCI, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Procurement of these crops, however, fell in 2020-21. In the case of mustard, tur, moong, masur (yellow lentil) and soyabean, the need for procurement wasn't really felt, as open market prices largely ruled above MSPs.

Generally speaking, MSP implementation has been effective only for four crops (sugarcane, paddy, wheat and cotton); partly so in five (chana, mustard, groundnut, tur and moong) and weak/non-existent in the remain-

ing 14 notified crops. In livestock and horticultural produce - be it milk, eggs, onions, potatoes or apples - there is no MSP even on paper. The 23 MSP crops together, in turn, account for hardly a third of the total value of India's agricultural output, excluding forestry and fishing.

The third route for guaranteeing MSP is via price deficiency payments. Under this, the government allows all sales by farmers to take place at the prevailing market prices. Farmers are then paid the difference between the government's MSP and the average market price for the particular crop during the harvesting season.

What would be the fiscal cost of making the MSP legally binding?

The MSP value of the total output of all the 23 notified crops worked out to about Rs 11.9 lakh crore in 2020-21. But this entire produce wouldn't have got marketed. The marketed surplus ratio - what remains after retention by farmers for self-consumption, seed and feeding of animals - is estimated to range from below 50% for ragi and 65-70% for baira (pearl-millet) and jowar (sorghum), to 75-85% for wheat, paddy and sugarcane, 90%-plus for most pulses, and 95-100% for cotton, soyabean, sunflower and jute. Taking an average of 75% yields a figure - the MSP value of production actually sold by farmers - just under Rs 9 lakh crore.

The government is further, as it is, procuring many crops. The MSP value of the 89.42 mt of paddy and 43.34 mt of wheat alone bought during 2020-21 was around Rs 253,275 crore. To this, one must add the MSP value of pulses and oilseeds purchased by Nafed (Rs 21,901 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 4,948 crore in 2020-21) and kapas or raw un-ginned cotton by CCI (Rs 28,420 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 26,245 crore in 2020-21). Besides, the MSP value of the sugarcane crushed by mills (Rs 92,000 crore in 2020-21) has to be considered

All in all, then, the MSP is already being enforced, directly or through fiat, on roughly Rs 3.8 lakh crore worth of produce. Providing le-

gal guarantee for the entire marketable surplus of the 23 MSP crops would mean covering another Rs 5 lakh crore or so. It would be even lower, given two things. The crop that is bought by the government also gets sold, with the revenues from that partly offsetting the expenditures from MSP procurement. Second, government agencies needn't buy every single grain coming in to the mandis. Mopping up even a quarter of market arrivals is often enough to lift prices above MSPs in most crops.

Is there be a catch to all these calculations?

Yes. FCI's grain mountain is evidence of how cumbersome public procurement and stocking operations can be. This is not to mention the huge scope for corruption and recycling/leakage of wheat and rice. Also, while cereals and pulses can be sold through the public distribution system, disposal becomes complicated in the case of nigerseed, sesamum or safflower. Even when it comes to sugarcane, mills' huge payment arrears to growers are proof of the practical limitations of "legal MSP".

That leaves deficiency payments, which may be a more workable and fiscally feasible option in the long run. There is, in addition, a growing consensus among economists for guaranteeing minimum "incomes", as against "prices". That would essentially entail making more direct cash transfers either on a flat peracre (as in the Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu scheme) or per-farm household (the Centre's PM-Kisan) basis.

(The writer is National Rural Affairs & Agriculture Editor of The Indian Express and currently on sabbatical with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi)

TELLING NUMBERS

being just indicative.

How can that be implemented?

There are basically three ways.

The first is by forcing private traders or

processors to pay MSP. This is already applica-

ble in sugarcane. Sugar mills are required, by

law, to pay farmers the Centre's "fair and re-

munerative price" for cane, with some state

governments fixing even higher so-called "ad-

vised prices". The Sugarcane (Control) Order,

1966 issued under the Essential Commodities

Act, moreover, obliges payment of this legally-

guaranteed price within 14 days of purchase.

During the 2020-21 sugar year (October-

September), mills crushed some 298 million

tonnes(mt)of cane, which was close to three-

fourths of the country's estimated total pro-

taking procurement at MSP through its agen-

cies such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI),

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

Federation of India (Nafed) and Cotton

Corporation of India (CCI). Such purchases ac-

counted for nearly 50% of India's rice/paddy

production last year, while amounting to 40%

Government agencies also bought signif-

icant quantities – upwards of 0.1 mt – of

chana (chickpea), mustard, groundnut, tur

(pigeon-pea) and moong (green gram) dur-

ing 2019-20. Much of that was post the lock-

down in April-June 2020, when rabi crops

were being marketed by farmers.

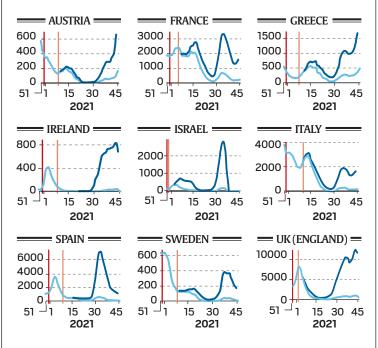
for wheat and over 25% in cotton.

The second is by the government under-

duction of 399 mt (see table).

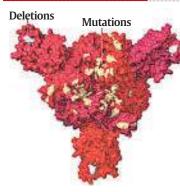
Covid vaccination saved 4.7 lakh lives of over-60s in Europe: study

A study by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and European CDC, in Eurosurveillance, estimates 470,000 lives as saved among those aged 60 and over after Covid vaccination began in 33 countries in the WHO European Region. It calculates the difference between estimated deaths that would have happened without vaccination, and the actual reported deaths.



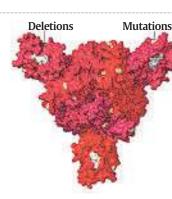
Coronavirus variants & their mutations

KEY VARIANTS



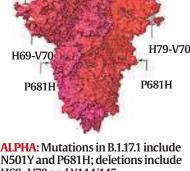
OMICRON: Has a range of mutations not seen in combination before, including D614G, N501Y, K417N, E484A

OVER THE course of the pandemic, many variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus have arisen, the latest being Omicron in



the two most prominent being L452R and E484Q (same location as E484K)

KEY MUTATIONS



N501Y

Y144/145

H69-V70 and Y144/145

ORF 1b



Why it has been named Omicron and not Nu or Xi

AMITABH SINHA PUNE, NOVEMBER 28

IN PICKING a name for the newest variant of SARS-CoV-2, Omicron, the World Health Organization (WHO) has skipped two letters of the Greek alphabet, one of which also happens to be a popular surname in China, shared even by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The WHO has been using Greek letters to refer to the most widely prevalent coronavirus variants, which otherwise carry long scientific names. It had already used 12 letters of the Greek alphabet before the newest variant emerged in South Africa this week. After Mu, the 12th named after a Greek letter, WHO selected the name Omicron, instead of Nu or Xi. the two letters between Mu and Omicron.

Y144/145

DELTA: Has among a dozen mutations,

Observed and expected mortality in 60+ population and older, from week 51 of 2020 (Dec) to week 45 of 2021 (Nov) Source: eurosurveillance.org Mortality without vaccination (complete series) Observed mortality Start Vaccination First 10% doses administered (first doses only)



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South Africa.

WHAT IT MEANS: As an infected cell builds new coronaviruses, it occasionally makes tiny copying errors. These called mutations. Mutations are passed down through a lineage, a branch of the viral family tree. A group of coronaviruses that share the same inherited set of distinctive mutations is called a variant.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN: The WHO currently lists 5 variants of concern:

Omicron (B.1.1.529), identified in southern Africa in November 2021

Delta (B.1.617.2), which emerged in India in late 2020 and spread around the world

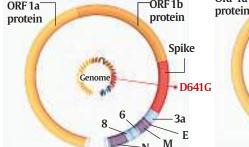
Gamma (P.1), which emerged in Brazil in late 2020

Beta (B.1.351), which emerged in South Africa in early 2020

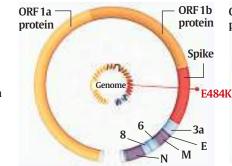
Alpha (B.1.1.7), which merged in Britain in late 2020

VARIANTS OF INTEREST: There are currently two:

- Mu (B.1.621), which emerged in Colombia in early 2021
- Lambda (C.37), which emerged in Peru in late 2020
- Illustrations and text: The New York Times



D614G: Emerged in China early in the pandemic and then spread; thought to make the coronavirus more infectious

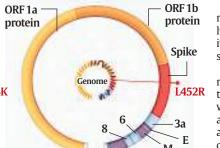


E484K: This mutation arose independently in multiple lineages, including Beta and Gamma

protein Spike N501Y Μ

– ORF 1b

N501Y: Arose independently in several variants of concern, including Alpha, **Beta and Gamma**



L452R: Appears in several lineages; it may give the virus an advantage over other variants in spreading

The WHO said Nu could have been confused with the word 'new' while Xi was not picked up following a convention.

"Two letters were skipped -- Nu and Xi -because Nu is too easily confounded with 'new' and XI was not used because it is a common surname and WHO best practices for naming new diseases (developed in conjunction with FAO and OIE back in 2015) suggest avoiding 'causing offence to any cultural, social, national, regional, professional or ethnic groups'," the WHO said in a statement.

All variants are given scientific names that represent their parentage and the chain of evolution. Omicron, for example, is also known by its more scientific designation B.1.1.529, which shows that it has evolved from the B.1 lineage.

Since the scientific names are not easy to remember, the more prevalent variants started to be named after the country from where they were first reported: 'UK variant', 'Indian variant', 'South African variant', or 'Brazilian variant'. To remove the connection with specific countries, which was triggering name-calling and blame game, the WHO decided on a new naming system using Greek letters. The variant that earlier used to be referred as the 'Indian' thus got the name Delta, while the one being associated with the UK was named Alpha.

Vaccines should work, spread a concern: South African expert weighs in

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, NOVEMBER 28

A LEADING virologist in South Africa, where the Omicron variant has emerged, expects current vaccines will continue to protect those vaccinated against severe disease and death from Covid-19. Jeffrey Dorfman, Associate Professor in Medical Virology at Stellenbosch University, discussed the variant and its implications:

On optimism about vaccines

"This is because the protection [from vaccines] seems to be mediated by T cells, which can recognise any part of the virus, as opposed to neutralising antibody, which

is focused upon the receptor binding domain, a part of the spike protein. We do not know a lot about the variant yet. There is no ₹direct' evidence of immune escape – but that should come over the next few weeks," said Dorfman, who has been researching HIV and other infectious diseases

Too few people have been infected with Omicron and identified as such, he noted. "However, our previous experience suggests that the vaccines will still prevent hospitalisation and death from Covid – but we don't know exactly how well. Also, case numbers will go up faster and higher if previous infection with other variants does not prevent infection with this new variant very well – and having more virus around is more dangerous. We just don't know yet,"



Jeffrey Dorfman

Dorfman said

On breakthrough infections

Breakthrough infections in vaccinated

individuals tend to be mild, but will not always be so, especially in older people, he said. "We also see what seems like a younger average age of people getting severely ill from Covid. A lot of that is a result of targeting vaccination to older people... As variants get more contagious, more people get infected, and the ones who get sick are the ones who were not infected recently and not vaccinated (generally, not 100%). We also get more children getting sick as they return to school... I am not aware of any evidence to suggest that what we see is more than these effects," he said

On mutations in combination

Dorfman referred to the range of muta-

tions in Omicron, many (but not all) of

all together in the same variant. "We are concerned that protection, particularly protection from infection may be reduced. Also, it seems to be able to spread quickly, but the evidence for that is currently thin – there are about 70 or 80 cases detected in Gauteng province here in South Africa as of Wednesday last week," he said.

On travel restrictions

Asked travel advisories issued by countries, he said: "Restrictions will curtail spread, perhaps for a short while. But it is probably already too late."

which have been seen before – and never

"Estimates based upon the sequences we now hold suggest that Omicron came to be sometime between mid-September to mid-October, enough time to spread where there is little surveillance. There is also a worrying case of a woman who returned home to Belgium from Egypt with the variant. The other reports that I have seen are all linked to southern Africa... If it is common enough in Egypt that a short-term traveller got it, then we should be worried," he said.

He said there is limited benefit to the delay that travel restrictions will give. "In the case of Delta, some countries were starting to vaccinate, and keeping Delta out for a couple of months while vaccination rates went up might be counted as an important benefit. Now, few countries are in that position, and the public health benefit to a delay is more limited," he said.







Lt Col Harsh Uday Singh Gaur, Ashok Chakra (Posthumous),

29 November 1994 We pay homage to Lt Col Harsh Uday Singh Gaur, AC, Commanding Officer, 10 BIHAR, who on this day in 1994 led his Quick Reaction Team against terrorists in Baramula, J&K. Leading his troops from the front, he personally killed four terrorists. During the daring

operation, he was critically injured, but refused to be evacuated till success was achieved. His courageous actions inspired his troops, who eliminated the remaining terrorists. We, the fraternity of the Bihar Regiment, salute vou

The Bihar Regiment Association

206 COBRA BN, 29thNov 2020 SH. NITIN PURUSHOTTAM BHALERAO,



ASSISTANT COMMANDANT. In the densest of the jungles of Sukma, Chhattisgarh, Sh. Nitin laid down his life on 29th November 2020, in an effort to annihilate the naxal threat. He was the embodiment of courage and unwavering devotion to the duty, protected

his troops through the selfless sacrifice. His act of bravery instills us with the fire of passion, commitment, service and loyalty. This day is a stark reminder of his journey of strength and triumphs, solidifying his place as a nation's history-maker. ' The brave dies never though they sleep in dust, their courage drives a thousand living men".

PROUDLY REMEMBERED BY COMMANDANT AND ALL RANKS 206 COBRA BN., CRPF.



Nation while fighting against terrorists in Kashmir during a fidayeen attack. You made the supreme sacrifice in the finest traditions of the Indian Army and made the 'Triumphant Third' proud May your soul rest in peace.

10 Jul 1989 - 29 Nov 2016

On this day we salute and pay homage to the

gallant soldier who laid down his life for the

RAGHVENDRA **Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3** SINGH GRENADIERS

OSBI

Core Banking Technical Operations Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614 **CORRIGENDUM - 3**

Please refer the RFP no. SBI/GITC/Core Banking-Tec Operation/2021/2022/799 dated 20.10.2021. Corrigendum - 3 "fc extension of bid submission date" is available under 'Procuremer news' at Bank's Website, <u>https://www.sbi.co.in</u> and e-Procuremer agencyportal<u>https://etender.sbi/SBI/</u>

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 26.11.2021

CB - Tech Operations Departmen



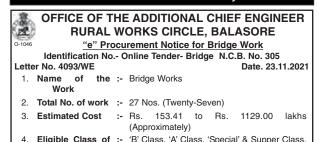
पत्रांक सं. 903 दिनांक 27.11.2021 e-Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara, Uttarkashi invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is aiven below

Tender No: 15/EE(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/2021-22 & 16/EE(C&M) /MB-II/ Joshiyara/2021-22

Name of work:- 1- Providing and Fixing of Interlocking Paver Blocks, Fencing and other associated works in Joshiyara Rehabilated Nigam Colony at Maneri Bhali Stage-IInd Project, Joshiyara, Uttarkashi. 2- Development of Parks, Landscaping and other associated work in upstream of Joshiyara Motor bridge and Joshiyara Nigam Colony at Maneri Bhali stage-II Project, Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi Estimated Cost : Rs 51,76,816.00 (Excluding GST)

Rs. 53,41,936.00 (Excluding GST) Date of availability of bid document on website : 29.11.2021 Last Date for submission of bids on website : 20.12.2021 For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in.

> Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara Avoid wasteful use of Electricity





Dated 27/11/2021

E-tender Notice (Short Term)

Superintending Engineer, 7 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.

S. N.	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest Money (Rs. Lakhs)	Cost of e-tender document	Validity of tender	Completion Period (in months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Under State Sector Foot Trek, surface repair & Railing Reconstruction. work of Ghanghriya to Shri Hemkund Sahib trek in Joshimath Block of Badrinath Constituency of Chamoli District.	3.60	5000+ 18% GST	60 Days	18 month	Registered in any State Govt./ Dept. Category B and above for Road works.

Before opening of Bid upto 3:00 P.M., following documents must be submitted physically to this office or Office of Executive Engineer, PD, PWD, Gopeshwar along with On-Line submission of the same:

F.D.R. of Earnest money which must be pledge in the name of Executive Engineer, PD, PWD, Gopeshwar and must be of financial Year 2021-22.

E-challan of tender cost and GST Seperately.

No - 2393/54Yatayat-7/2021

3- Rs. 100.00 Non-Judicial Stamp paper duly signed and affixed Rs. 1.00 Revenue ticket for Bid Validity.
4- Required Category Registration Copy of contractor.

Note - Bids will be evaluated under the provisions of notice no. 47/XXVII(7) 32/2007 Date 02-04-2018 of Govt. of Uttarakhand

Superintending Engineer

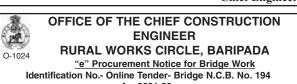
	(E-TE	NDER	TENDER NOTICE Cum REVERSE AUCTION MODE ONLY)
	Online "Professional Ser	vices of Cargo)	Handling of Containers, Cargo, Internal Transportation of Containers, at MMLP/PLIL, Ludhiana, Punjab" only through e-tender cum reverse
	Tender No.	PLIL/I	1&T/2021 dated 24.11.21
	Name of Work		ing of Containers, Cargo, Internal Transportation of Containers, akes (Break Bulk Cargo) at MMLP/PLIL, Ludhiana, Punjab.
	Estimated Cost	Rs. 11	,34,30,000(excluding GST) for 4+1 years.
	Period of Contract	4+1 ye	pars.
	Earnest Money Deposit	Exem	pted for all bidders.
	Cost of Document	Rs.1,0	000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment.
	Tender Processing Fee	Rs. 4,7	20/-Inclusive of all taxes & duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
	Date of Sale (On Line)		From. 29/11/2021 at 15:00 hrs. (up to 13/12/2021 16:00 hrs.)
Ĺ	Last Date & Time of subm	ission	On 14/12/2021 up to 15:00 hrs.
	Date & Time of Opening		On 15/12/2021 at 15:30 Hrs.
	downloading, visit only	the we	com., www.plil.co.in, www.pswc.in. For complete details and ebsite (www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL). Requested to visit the site preject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

📷 🖬 AGRA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AGRA **GENERAL INFORMATION** Warning before charging of Extra High Voltage Electricity Line

This is to bring to kind notice of all concerned person and general public in particular that the modification work of previously charged 400 KV Single Circuit Agra-Bassi Line, or Power Grid Corporation of India Limited between Tower No. 10 to 13 has been completed.

It is hereby requested to all person and general public in particular, not to touch the transmission towers of this line neither they themselves climb on the tower or touch the current carrying conductors or wires nor allow any other person to do so, so as to avoid any unpleasant incident/accidents. If after intimation of this notice, if any person tries to violate these instructions, and due to which, any mis-happening/accident take place resulting in loss of property of life of any person then that person shall be solely responsible for that accident and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited shall, in no way, be responsible for that accident. Electric current can be started in this 400 KV Single Circuit Agra-Bassi Line on 28/11/2021 or any day or time after this date.

This newly constructed modified section from Tower no. 10 to 13 of 400 KV Single Circuit Agra-Bassi Line in passing nearby Village Deori and Gangraua of District-Agra of State Uttar Pradesh **Chief Engineer**



WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

क्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०

निविदा सूचना

नेविदा सूचना (ई—निविदा) सं0—द0वि0वि

नि0लि0—प्रशासन / 06 / 2021—22 के

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY MECHANICAL BRANCH

Single Tender NIT Dale: 25.11.2021 E-Tendering

The Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Diesel), West Central Railway, New Kalni Junction for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following work - NIT No.: No. NKJ-D-SPART-AMC-SAN+T-21dated 25.11.2021, Name of work with location: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of HS SPART (Power Pack) & 02 Nos. ELGI TRC 1000 ACM Compressor for a period of three years through OEM Approx Cost of the work: ₹ 81,17,925,57/-, Completion Period (In months): 3 Years, Last date & time for submission tender (Up to 15:00): 22.12.2021, The Complete information of the above E-tender are available in website https://www.ireps.gov.in. Tenders other than in the form of e-bid shall not be accepted against above lenders. Sr. DME (Diesel)

West Central Railway, NKJ कोरोना को भगाना है, पारक ब वेबमीन लगाना है



acting on an advertisement in

Call: 0120-6651214



PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, अक्तूबर 22, 2021/आश्विन 30, 1943

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021/ ASVINA 30, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 22nd October, 2021

S.O. 4420(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,) maintenance, management and operation of "Access Control Provisions in Section from Saharanpur bypass to Ganeshpur Section of Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor" in respect of the stretch of land from Km. 3.000 to Km. 10.500 [Section of National Highway No. 307 (Old National Highway no. 72A)] in the district of HARIDWAR in the state of UTTARAKHAND, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Competent Authority/Special Land Acquisition Officer, Haridwar n writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling "Access Control Provisions in Section from Saharanpur bypass to Ganeshpur Section of Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor" in respect of the stretch of land from Km. 3.000 to Km. 10.500 ection of National Highway no. 307 (Old National Highway no. 72A)] in the district of HARIDWAR in the state of UTTARAKHAND.

-Sd

Seventh Circle, P. W.D. Gopeshwar

र्स. 4066

No. 40661

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	tender O	oility of n-line for ding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender	Date & T opening of O/O C.C.E.R Balas	Tender in .W. Circle,
		From	То	Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No 305	30.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M	15.12.2021 Up to 5.00 P.M	14.12.2021 Up to 5.00 P.M	16.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M	Will be intimated later.

NOTICE APPLICATION INVITED FOR SELECTION OF SOCIAL WORKER MEMBERS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS AND CHAIRPERSONS & MEMBERS OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES

As per provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016, Social Welfare & Social Education Department, Government of Tripura, applications are invited from the eligible candidates for selection of Social Worker Members of Juvenile Justice Board for Gomati District, Unakoti District & North Tripura District and Chairperson & Members of Child Welfare Committee for Gomati District, Unakoti District, North Tripura District & Dhalai District of Tripura.

Applications should be submitted directly in this directorate in person or by post or through e-mail at dswe_agt@yahoo.com, addressed to the Member-Secretary, Selection Committee (Director, Social Welfare and Social Education Department), Directorate of Social Welfare & Social Education, Ujan Abhoynagar, Agartala, Tripura, Pin - 799005 in the prescribed proforma which is available in the website of the Social Welfare and Social Education Department www.socialwelfare.tripura.gov.in The detailed eligibility criteria and terms & conditions of service for the above positions are also given in the cited website.

Application will be received from 30-11-2021 to 14-12-2021, during office hours of all working days. Incomplete & defective application and without passport size color photograph, self-attested copies of relevant necessary documents shall not be accepted for selection. Applicant may be called for personal interaction, if necessary.

Interested persons may visit <u>www.wcd.nic.in</u> or <u>www.socialwelfare.tripura.gov.in</u> for details about the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Childlien) Act, 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016.

Sd/-Member Secretary, Selection Committee (Director, Social Welfare & Social Education Department) Tripura

65415

			2021-22			
1. Name of t		ter No. 35		: 23.11.202 of H.L. Brid		or Concent-
1. Name of t	ne work	0	n PWD Ro	oad to Bhadr	asia under	BSY for the
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5. Period of	Completio			ss of other lic n) Calendar n	-	
6. Other deta	-			,		
Procurement	Bid	Availability	of tender	Last Date &	Date & Time	e of Opening
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		From	То	Tender Clarification	Bari Technical	pada Financial
1	2	3	4	5	Bid	Bid 7
Chief I	Bridge On-	Dt.	Dt.	Dt.	Dt.	Dt.
	line N.C.B. No.	29.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	15.12.2021 up to 5.00	14.12.2021 up to 5.00	16.12.2021 at 11.00	21.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
Rural Works Circle, Baripada	194		P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	
				OIP		le, Baripada /00015/2122
कार्यालय				ख्य अर	_{R- 25130/11} पताल 3	/00015/2122
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Mail ID-csbi क्रमांक/सिससमु कार्यालय सिविल लिए औषघी f औषघियों/मशीन वर्ष 2021-22 मशीन उपकरण सामग्रियों का नि	जिला चि jjapur20@ अअ(निविदा/) अ सर्जन सह नेर्माताओं ा त तथा उपक के लिये प्र 1 व फर्नीच विदा पृथक प्रपत्र) अधोश यीन समय	कित्सालय ⁹ gmail.com क्रय/2021-2: <u>- निर्दि</u> इ. मुख्य अस्पत एवं विभिन्न रण व फर्नीचर दान करने हेत् र/पैथालाजी, -पृथक से शुर इस्ताक्षरी कार में रु. 200	, जिला - 2/669 दिन आमं र (पैथालाजी, J मुहरबंद f एक्स-रे गि क्व देय होग् र्यालय से 3 0.00 (दो	रख्य अर -बीजापुर (Ph बीज <u>PU</u> क, जिला चिवि अथवा उनके एक्स-रे फिल नेविदाएं आमं केल्म, चिकित् II । गवेदन प्रस्तुत हजार रुपये	R- 25130/11 UCTICP 3 छ.ग.) DODE NO07 THY , दिनांक जत्सालय जित अधिकृत 1 त्य, विकित्सर तेत की जातं सकीय उपव कर (आयव मात्र) नगद	/00015/2122 मधीक्षक 7853220047 18/11/2021 मा बीजापुर के विक्रेताओं से वेक्रेताओं से वेक्रेताओं से वेक्रेताओं से वेक्रेताओं से करण व अन्य भुगतान कर

।।वदा का ।वस्तृत जानकारा <u>www.bijapur.gov.in</u> म दखा जा सकता ह १. निविदा प्रपत्र बिक्री की अंतिम तिथिः– दिनांक १३.१२.२०२१ समय दोपहर ०५.०० बजे २ . निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथिः– दिनांक १७ .१२ .२०२१ समय दोपहर ०३ .०० बजे निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- दिनांक १७.१२.२०२१ समय दोपहर ०४.०० बजे स्थानः- कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक, जिला चिकित्सालय जिला बिजापुर।

> हस्ता/-सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिला चिकित्सालय बीजापुर जिला– बीजापुर (छ.ग.)

SI. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hecta
	Bhagwanpur	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		, (<u>_</u> ,,	
	Alawalpur				
1	124	Private	Agriculture	0.0447000(Hectare)	0.0447000
2	36	Private	Agriculture	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
3	414	Private	Agriculture	0.0627000(Hectare)	0.0627000
	Auarangjebpur				
1	114	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
2	115	Government(Chakmaarg)	Non Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
3	121	Private	Agriculture	0.0190000(Hectare)	0.0190000
4	122	Government(Bandhaa)	Non Agriculture	0.0120000(Hectare)	0.0120000
5	201	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
6	202	Private	Agriculture	0.0050000(Hectare)	0.0050000
7	204	Private	Agriculture	0.0230000(Hectare)	0.0230000
8	205	Private	Agriculture	0.0530000(Hectare)	0.0530000
9	206	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
10	211	Private	Agriculture	0.1630000(Hectare)	0.1630000
11	212	Private	Agriculture	0.0100000(Hectare)	0.0100000
12	503	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
13	504	Government(Chakmaarg)	Non Agriculture	0.0010000(Hectare)	0.0010000
14	505	Government(Naali)	Non Agriculture	0.0010000(Hectare)	0.0010000
15	507	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
16	508	Private	Agriculture	0.0070000(Hectare)	0.0070000
17	509	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
18	510	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
19	511	Private	Agriculture	0.0470000(Hectare)	0.0470000
20	519	Private	Agriculture	0.0630000(Hectare)	0.0630000
21	520	Government(Sector Road)	Non Agriculture	0.0030000(Hectare)	0.0030000
22	521	Government(Naali)	Non Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
23	522	Private	Agriculture	0.0960000(Hectare)	0.0960000
/illage:	Lodiwala	<u> </u>	-	. ,	1
1	29	Private	Agriculture	0.0490000(Hectare)	0.0490000
2	37	Government(Naali)	Non Agriculture	0.0010000(Hectare)	0.0010000
3	38	Government(Chakmarg)	Non Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
4	39	Private	Agriculture	0.0120000(Hectare)	0.0120000
5	45	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
6	46	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
/illage:	ı Mukarampur urf Kalewala	. <u> </u>			
1	278	Private	Agriculture	0.0068000(Hectare)	0.0068000
2	279	Private	Agriculture	0.0317000(Hectare)	0.0317000
			Total	0.7969	0.7969



ICA/D/1331/21





Moscow says

27 Russian

diplomats

REUTERS

on January 30.

due to leave

MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 28

RUSSIA'S AMBASSADOR to the

United States said that 27 more

Russian diplomats and their

families were expelled from the

United States and would leave

pelled...A large group of my com-

rades, 27 people with families,

will leave us on January 30 ... We

are facing a serious staff short-

age." Ambassador Anatoly

Antonov said in a video interview

for the Soloviev Live Youtube

Russia

has previ-

ously said

that over 100

of its diplo-

mats with

families had

been forced

to leave the

States since

2016 when

the relation-

United

As of October 29, nearly 200

Russian diplomats were still in

their jobs in the United States, in-

cluded the staff of the Russian

mission to the United Nations,

according to Foreign Ministry

spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

istration said last month that the

staff of the US mission in Russia

had shrunk to 120 from 1,200 in

early 2017 after a series of expul-

sions and restrictions, and it was

difficult to continue with any-

thing other than a caretaker

stopped processing non-diplo-

matic visas this year and added

Russians to a list of "homeless

nationals" who can apply for

The US embassy in Moscow

presence at the embassy.

visas in third countries.

President Joe Biden's admin-

channel aired late on Saturday.

"Our diplomats are being ex-

US in January

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 13 'I'HE WORLD



MEANWHILE THOUSANDS RALLY IN SERBIA OVER POLLUTION

Thousands of people rallied in Belgrade on Sunday to demand an end to Serbia's alarming levels of air pollution. The rally came a day after another environmental protest in which demonstrators blocked bridges and roads in different parts of the country. The protesters, carried banners reading "The Air Is Dangerous" and "You Are Suffocating Us"

TOPOFTHE WORLD



All 13 were passengers on flight from South Africa, say Dutch authorities; Israel says barring foreigners for two weeks

REUTERS&NYT LONDON, AMSTERDAM, NOV 28

Kevin Strickland

USA

Over \$1.4 mn raised for man freed from jail after 43 years

MORE THAN \$1.4 million had been raised as of Saturday for a man who spent 43 years behind bars before a judge overturned his conviction in a triple killing. The Midwest Innocence Project set up the GoFundMe fundraiser as they fought for Kevin Strickland's release, noting that he wouldn't receive compensation from Missouri and would need help paying for basic living expenses. The state only allows wrongful imprisonment payments to people who were exonerated through DNA evidence, so the 62-year-old Strickland wouldn't qualify. Judge James Welsh ordered his release on Tuesday, finding that evidence used to convict Strickland had since been recanted or dis-AP proven.

SOUTH AMERICA 7.5-magnitude quake strikes northern Peru

THE US Geological Survey says a strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.5 has struck in northern Peru. The earthquake took place at 5.52 am Sunday local time (1052 GMT). While it was extremely strong, it was relatively deep, - measured at 112 kilometres which usually reduces damage and casualties. The epicenter was 42 kilometres north northwest of the coastal city of Barranca. A 14-metre tower in a protected fourcentury-old church collapsed shortly after the quake, according to media and witnesses accounts.

THE OMICRON coronavirus variant kept spreading around the world on Sunday, with 13 cases found in the Netherlands and two each in Denmark and Australia even as more countries imposed travel restriction to try to seal themselves off. British health officials said a third case of the new variant was discovered in the country, a day after it annouced two confirmed cases on Saturday. Dutch health authorities said the 13 cases of the variant were

found among people on two flights that arrived in Amsterdam from South Africa on Friday. Authorities had tested all of the more than 600 passengers on those two flights and had found 61 coronavirus cases, going on to test those for the new variant. The discovery of Omicron,

dubbed a "variant of concern" last week by the World Health Organization, has caused worry around the world that it could resist vaccinations and prolong the nearly two-year Covid pandemic.

First discovered in South Africa, it has now been detected in Britain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Botswana, Israel, Australia and Hong Kong. Omicron is potentially more

contagious than previous variants, although it is unclear whether it causes more or less severe Covid-19 compared to other strains.

Many countries have imposed travel bans or curbs on southern Africa to try to stem the spread. Financial markets dived on Friday as investors worried that the variant could stall a global recovery. Oil prices tumbled by about \$10 a barrel.

In the most far-reaching effort to keep the variant at bay, Israel announced late on Saturday it would ban the entry of all foreigners and reintroduce

SAFRICAN DOCTOR: OMICRON PATIENTS HAVE MILD SYMPTOMS

Johannesburg: A South African doctor who was one of the first to suspect a different coronavirus strain among patients said on Sunday that symptoms of the Omicron variant were so far mild and could be treated at home. Dr Angelique Coetzee, a private practitioner and chair of South African Medical Association, said that on Nov 18 she noticed seven patients at her clinic who had symptoms different from the dominant Delta variant, albeit "very mild". Coetzee said that unlike with Delta, so far patients with Omicron have not reported loss of smell or taste and there has been no major drop in oxygen levels with the REUTERS new variant.

counter-terrorism phone-tracking technology to contain the spread of the variant.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the ban would last 14 days. Officials hope that within that period there will be more information on how effective vaccines are against Omicron.

The top US infectious disease official, Anthony Fauci, said Americans should be prepared to fight the spread of the new variant, but that it was not yet clear what measure such as mandates or lockdowns would be needed. He has said the variant is likely already in the country, although no

cases have been confirmed. In Britain, officials said the third case of the new variant was found in an individual who had spent time in central London, but was no longer in the country. Contact tracing was being per-

Taiwan scrambles to see off China

formed, UK's health agency said, adding that the case was linked to travel in southern Africa.

27 CHINESE AIRCRAFT ENTER TAIWAN'S AIR DEFENCE ZONE

air force as Xi meets top brass



Travellers at an airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday. Israel approved barring entry to foreign nationals as part of its efforts to clamp down on the new variant. AP

China study warns of 'colossal' Covid outbreak if it opens up like US, France real possibility of a colossal out-

REUTERS **BEIJING, NOVEMBER 28**

CHINA COULD face more than 630,000 Covid-19 infections a day if it dropped its zero-tolerance policies by lifting travel curbs, according to a study by Peking University mathematicians.

In the report published in China CDC Weekly by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention the mathematicians said China could not afford to lift travel restrictions without more efficient vaccinations or specific treatments.

Using data for August from the United States, Britain, Spain, France and Israel, the mathematicians assessed the potential results if China adopted the same pandemic control tactics as those countries.



A guard directs people to scan a QR code to track their health status at a railway station in Shanghai. Reuters

China's daily new cases would reach at least 637,155 if it adopted the United States's pan-

demic strategy, the report said. And daily cases would hit 275,793 if China took the same approach as Britain and 454.198

JOHN IRISH,

FRANCOIS MURPHY

& PARISA HAFEZI

PARIS. NOVEMBER 28

if it imitated France, it said. "The estimates revealed the

break which would almost certainly induce an unaffordable burden on the medical system," the report said. "Our findings have raised a clear warning that, for the time being, we are not ready to embrace 'open-up'

strategies resting solely on the hypothesis of herd immunity induced by vaccination advocated by certain western countries." The mathematicians cau-

tioned that their estimates were based on basic arithmetic calculations and that more sophisticated models were needed to study the evolution of the pandemic if travel restrictions were lifted.

China has maintained a zerotolerance policy towards Covid-19, saying the importance of containing local cases outweighs the disruptions it caused.

Merck says its **Russian envoy** Anatoly antiviral pill less Antonov effective than ship between |the two couninitially reported tries worsened.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL company Merck said on Friday that in a final analysis of a clinical trial, its antiviral pill reduced the risk of hospitalisation and death among high-risk Covid patients by 30 per cent, down from an earlier estimate of 50 per cent.

The lower efficacy is a disappointment for the drug, known as molnupiravir, which health officials around the world are counting on as a critical tool to save lives and reduce the burden on hospitals. It increases the importance of a similar, apparently more effective, offering from Pfizer that is also under review by the US Food and

Drug Administration.

Low expectations as Iran nuclear talks resume ter a hiatus triggered by the election of a new Iranian president,

> Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric. Tehran's new negotiators

western powers to not lift sanctions until all of Iran's

Hope, worry in bid to clinch key deal and has been pressing

NYT

have set out demands that US and European diplomats consider unrealistic. They are insisting that all



CAMBODIA

Former premier Prince Norodom **Ranariddh dies**

CAMBODIAN FORMER prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the current king's halfbrother who spent his later years in the political shadow of his one-time rival Prime Minister Hun Sen, has died in France. He was 77. The prince, whose royalist political party won elections in 1993, was ousted in a 1997 coup by coalition partner Hun Sen, who remains Cambodia's leader today. **REUTERS**

REUTERS TAIPEI, NOVEMBER 28

TAIWAN'S AIR force scrambled again on Sunday to warn away 27 Chinese aircraft that entered its air defence zone, Taiwan's defence ministry said, the latest increase in tensions across the Taiwan Strait as China's President met his top generals.

Chinese-claimed Taiwan has complained for a year or more of repeated missions by China's air force near the democratically governed island, often in the southwestern part of its air defence identification zone, or ADIZ. close to the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands. Taiwan calls China's repeated

nearby military activities "grey zone" warfare, designed to both wear out Taiwan's forces by making them repeatedly scramble, and also to test Taiwan's responses.

Over a four-day period beginning on October 1, when China marked its national day, Taiwan said that nearly 150 PLA military aircraft entered its ADIZ The latest Chinese mission



Officers pose in front of a F-16V fighter jet in Chiayi, Taiwan. President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan earlier this month commissioned the first combat wing of F-16 fighters upgraded with US help to bolster the island's defences during rising tensions between Taipei and Beijing, Reuters

included 18 fighters jets plus five nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, as well as, unusually, a Y-20 aerial refuelling aircraft, the Taiwan ministry said.

Taiwan sent combat aircraft to warn away the Chinese aircraft, while missile systems were deployed to monitor them, the ministry said. There was no immediate com-

ment from China. However, Chinese media reported that President Xi Jinping had held a three-day meeting which ended on Sunday with the country's top officers to discuss how further to strengthen the armed forces. While the read out of his remarks made no direct mention of Taiwan. Xi did stress the need to modernise the military.

to Vienna on Monday for a last ditch effort to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal, but few expect a breakthrough as Tehran's atomic activities rumble on in an apparent bid to gain leverage against the West. Diplomats say time is running

WORLD POWERS and Iran return

low to resurrect the pact, which then-US President Donald Trump abandoned in 2018, angering Iran and dismaying the other world powers involved - Britain, China,

France, Germany and Russia. Six rounds of indirect talks

ficials appear more scepmany stakeholders and very tical, according to reports, and they are weighing their ophigh stakes, the result of these tions, including military action, talks are most likely to have in case the talks fail. Israel has wide-ranging consequences not only for the region, but also been particularly worried by the rest of the world. Iran's latest nuclear advances,

EUROPEAN NEGOTIA-

TORS are hopeful and op-

timistic that a deal will be

reached with Iran. US of-

were held between April and June. The new round begins af-

progress in this field has

been reversed. With so

sanctions imposed since 2017, including those unrelated to its nuclear programme, be dropped.

In parallel, Tehran's conflicts with the UN atomic watchdog have festered. Iran has pressed ahead with uranium enrichment and the IAEA says its inspectors have been refused access to reinstall monitoring cameras at a site it deems essential to reviving the deal. REUTERS

France: Won't be held hostage by UK migration politics

Josephine Baker is 1st Black woman

to be honoured in French Pantheon

New Delhi

JULIETTE JABKHIRO & NOEMIE OLIVE CALAIS. NOVEMBER 28

FRANCE IS ready for a serious discussion with Britain on issues relating to illegal migration, but will not be held hostage to London's domestic politics, the country's Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

The two countries are already at loggerheads over post-



A makeshift camp in Calais, on Saturday. AP

Brexit trading rules and fishing rights and last week relations soured further after 27 people died trying to cross the Channel. British Prime Minister Boris

Johnson wrote to President lished the letter on Twitter. Emmanuel Macron setting out "Britain left Europe, but not the five steps the two countries could take to deter migrants from making the perilous journey. One of those - sending illegal migrants back to France particularly angered Paris. France responded by can-

celling an invitation to British Interior Minister Priti Patel to at-

world. We need to work seriously on these questions... without being held hostage by domestic British politics," Darmanin told reporters in Calais. France had been handling the issue of illegal migration to Britain for 25 years and it was now time London woke up, Darmanin said REUTERS

tend a meeting on Sunday with

European counterparts to dis-

cuss the issue after Johnson pub-

New Zealand politician cycles to hospital while in labour, gives birth

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 28

NEW ZEALAND Member of Parliament Iulie Anne Genter got on her bicycle early on Sunday and headed to the hospital. She was already in labour and she gave birth an hour later.

"Big news!" the Greens politician posted on her Facebook page a few hours later. "At 3.04am this morning we welcomed the newest member of our family. I genuinely wasn't planning to cycle in labour, but it did end up happening."

The island nation of 5 million already has a reputation for down-to-earth politicians. Prime



Julie Anne Genter rides a bicyle to the hospital while in labour, in Wellington, New Zealand, on Sunday. Reuters

Minister Jacinda Ardern famously took maternity leave while in office and brought her

three-month old to a United Nations meeting as she was still breastfeeding.

"My contractions weren't that bad when we left at 2 am to go to the hospital - though they were 2-3 min apart and picking up in intensity by the time we arrived 10 minutes later," Genter wrote.

"Amazingly now we have a healthy, happy little one sleeping, as is her dad," said Genter, a dual New Zealand-US citizen who was born in Minnesota and moved to the Pacific country in 2006.

Genter - her party's spokesperson for transport issues and whose Facebook profile includes "I love my bicycle" - also biked to the hospital in 2018 to give birth to her firstborn, local media said

ARNO PEDRAM & SYLVIE CORBET PARIS, NOVEMBER 28

FRANCE IS inducting Josephine Baker — Missouri-born cabaret dancer, French World War II spy and civil rights activist - into its Pantheon, the first Black woman honored in the final resting place of France's most revered luminaries.

On Tuesday, a coffin carrying soils from the US, France and Monaco – places where Baker made her mark - will be deposited inside the domed Pantheon monument overlooking the Left Bank of Paris. Her body will stay in Monaco, at the request of her family.



Charlie Chaplin congratulates Josephine Baker after a performance in 1953.AP

French President Emmanuel Macron decided on her entry into the Pantheon, responding to a petition. In addition to honoring an exceptional figure in French history, the move is meant to send a message against racism and celebrate US-French connections.

"She embodies, before anything, women's freedom," Laurent Kupferman, the author of the petition for the move, told AP.

Baker was born in 1906, in St. Louis, Missouri. At 19, having already divorced twice, had relationships with men and women, and started a performing career, she moved to France following a job opportunity. "She arrives in France in 1925, she's an emancipated woman, taking her life in her hands, in a country of which she

doesn't even speak the language," Kupferman said. She met immediate success on the Theatre des Champs-Elysees stage, where she appeared topless

African women, caused both condemnation and celebration. Baker's career took a more serious turn after that, as she learned to speak five languages and toured internationally. She became a French citizen after her marriage in 1937 to industrialist Jean Lion, a Jewish man who later suffered

and wearing a famed banana belt.

Hershow, embodying the colonial

time's racist stereotypes about

laborationist Vichy regime. In 1939, as France and Britain declared war against Germany, Baker started working as an informant for the French intelligence, getting close to officials and sharing information hidden on her music sheets.

from anti-Semitic laws of the col-

have been trying to raise funds

but nothing has materialised

so far. As an association, does

that worry you that investor

confidence is still not there?

You have to go into the psyche

of the investor as well as the tim-

ing of the reform. The reforms

have just come. They are being

studied and analysed. Coupled

with this, the promoters have also

announced that they will be put-

ting in their own money. This

gives a lot of confidence to exter-

nal investors to put in their money.

We will have to wait for some

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021 14 ECONOMY

NEW COVID VARIANT KEY GOING FORWARD FPIs net buyers in Nov so far despite market correction; invest ₹5,319 cr

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) have pumped in a net sum of Rs 5,319 crore in the domestic capital markets despite a massive correction seen in equities over the last fortnight. In October, they were net sell-

ers to the tune of Rs 12,437 crore. As per depositories data, overseas investors put in a net Rs 1,400 crore into equities and Rs 3,919

crore into the debt segment between November 1-26 This translated into total net

investment of Rs 5,319 crore. "Since FPIs have been holding large quantity of banking stocks, they have been major sellers in this segment. Sustained selling

BANKING WATCH

IWG PROPOSALS

Big biz in banking

connected lending:

What is the issue?

sparks fears of



The BSE, Mumbai. In October, FPIs were net sellers to the tune of Rs 12,437 crore. File

has made banking stocks attracnoted that sharp correction in the market on 26th November has tive from the valuation perspective," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief been mainly triggered by con-Investment Strategist at Geojit cerns arising out of the new strain Financial Services.He further of the virus spotted in South

Africa, Botswana and Hong Kong. "Despite recent correction, the markets continue to be at elevated levels and hence FPIs would have booked profits," said Himanshu Srivastava, associate directormanager research, Morningstar India. Trend reversal on a weekly basis has become a norm with respect to FPI flows in the Indian debt markets, he added.

FPIs would be closely watching the spread of the new coronavirus variant and its possible impact on the growth globally.

Higher valuation is also a concern which may continue to trigger profit booking at regular intervals, he said.

"Future of FPI flows is expected to remain volatile given key events such as upcoming state elections, expectation of rise in interest rates

and concerns a new Covid variant will prompt fresh mobility restrictions, hindering economic recovery," said Shrikant Chouhan, head-equity research (retail), Kotak Securities.

During the last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex plunged by 2,528.86 points or 4.24 per cent. Reliance Industries (RIL) saw

its market worth tank by Rs 38,440.66 crore to Rs 15,30,109.51 crore. The valuation of Infosys took a hit of Rs 37,950.03 crore to reach Rs 7,10,925.34 crore and that of HDFC plummeted by Rs 33,067.68 crore to Rs 4,96,168.98 crore. In the ranking of top 10 firms, RIL remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, HDFC, State Bank

of India, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel. WITHPTI

FOR 837 PROJECTS **NEITHER THE YEAR OF IING NOR** THE TENTATIVE **GESTATION PERIOD HAS BEEN REPORTED**

crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 26,08,330.02 crore, which reflects overall cost

overruns of Rs 4,34,147.16 crore (19.97 per cent of original cost)

Expenditure incurred on these projects till October 2021 is Rs 12,64,545.31 crore, which is 48.48 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects

Source:

MoSPI/PTI

Delay in tie-up for project financing, delay in finalisation of detailed engineering, change in scope, delay in tendering, ordering and equipment supply, and law and order problems are among the other reasons

Johri appointed Jio hikes prepaid CBIC chairman tariffs by up to New Delhi: Senior bureaucrat Vivek Johri has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board

21% from Dec 1

DIRECTOR GENERAL. CELLULAR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA 'Spectrum prices at high levels, airwaves should be offered as a bundle'

Industries took the biggest hit. PTI

M-CAP OF 9 OF TOP 10 VALUED COS FALLS

New Delhi: The market valuation of nine of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by Rs 2,62,146.32 crore last week in tandem with an overall weak broader market, where Bajaj Finance and Reliance

MARKET WATCH

THE INDIAN telecom industry's gone through a significant churn: from a period of more than a dozen different companies competing with each other to a threeplayer market. While the new telecom reforms announced by the government will help the companies improve their health as well as boost investor confidence in the sector, the government also needs to rethink about the "high pricing of the spectrum", director general of Cellular Operators Association of India Dr S P KOCHHAR told AASHISH ARYAN. Edited excerpts:

What is the industry's reaction to the recent telecom reforms?

The industry had been bleeding and there were financial problems in varying degrees for all the three players and not just the two. We had been engaged with the government for a very long time that this needed to be looked into fast. Because with 5G approaching fast, the earlier it was resolved, the better it would for the entire ecosystem. In that context, these reforms have come very timely. They have far reaching effects. Yes, they are aimed at improving our liquidity but it also helps us to form business plans. Investments have to be made

The four-year moratorium is a long period and, obviously, in these four years, if we have sound business plans, revenue should start shoring up. It is not a free lunch so to say. The government has recognised that there is an acute need of helping out the industry's revenues not as a grant but as postponement without removing the financial imperatives. This also shows the willingness of the government and industry to work shoulder to shoulder. It had always been adversarial so far.

Another set of telecom reforms are likely to be announced in the next 3-4 months. What more do you think can be done?

We believe that whatever could have been done standalone by the telecom department has been done. The next reforms could touch on things like spectrum pricing and GST (goods and services tax). Let us keep in mind that there will never be a situation that there will be no demands from the in-



logue with the government. Having said that, the biggest help that the government can provide us right now is reducing the spectrum prices. They are at absurdly high levels right now and that can be looked into. We would like to see that the spectrum is seen as a bundle, which means that access and back-haul is given to us as one. Spectrum identification and harmonisation is essential. There have been talks between the empowered groups of secretaries and immediate plans have been announced about which bands are going to be used for 5G. That is in line with the inter-ministerial group recommen-

All the three companies have announced tariff hikes. What else do the companies need to do to tide over the current crisis?

dations.

They have been following a business plan. If you leave the stress and payable aside, all companies look internally and see how their revenues can be increased or how it can become profitable. This is an ongoing exercise. So changing environments bring changing dynamics and plans. Those who are in a little more stress may have to look at it more focused than others. But all of them have to look at it. This coupled with the help in increase in ÂRPU (average revenue per user) will certainly help them tide over the situation. They have been given a four-year moratorium and in these four years, if they do make changes, that should help.

Vodafone Idea is the most stressed among the three

more time. Given the environment that has now been created and that all of the other players as well as government wanted a three-player market, things are looking up. The cards that are being played are in favour of Vodafone (Vi) rather than

to come

its exit. The investor will weighs pros and cons before putting in money. What they are seeing is that the first lot of reforms have been announced and there could be another on the way. So you are an investor, logically you would wait for the second set of reforms

Do you think that things are going as per plan when it comes to 5G or is there a delay?

There have been numerous cases that a good product has lost market share just six months after being launched. And not just in telecom. That is the case with 5G. If you jump into 5G when it is being formulated and tried elsewhere, you will pumping in a lot of money and you may end up with the technology but no use case

Personally, I would say that it is better to be at second rung than to implement any technology than be at cutting edge. While you get a feeling with cutting edge that we are at the front, but is there a use case? Is there an industry which is waiting for 5G? Even now the use cases are being developed. The return on investment will come only after the use case is there. Things would have been worse had 5G been here 3-4 years earlier. Trials will bring some use cases, which may not be adequate for the return on investment, but there will be something. The demand and supply on 5G is slowly merging and it

promoted by them

04 and 2013-14 – culminating

with the on-tap licensing

regime of universal banks

since 2016. However, business

houses were not considered

though prominent corporates

houses including Aditya Birla

Group, Anil Ambani's Reliance

Capital and Bajaj group

showed interest in 2013-14.

Can industrial groups hold

The central bank says indi-

viduals and companies, di-

rectly or indirectly connected

with large industrial houses.

are permitted to participate in

the equity of a new private sec-

tor bank up to 10 per cent and

should not have controlling in-

www.indianexpress.com

Full report on

terest in the bank.

bank stake?

Former Governors opposition to the move When the IWG released its

THE RESERVE Bank of India mer RBI Governor Raghuram (RBI) has kept in limbo the pro-Rajan and Deputy Governor posal of its Internal Working Viral Acharya opposed the en-Group (IWG) for granting banking licence to big corporate houses amid fears over connected lending and selfdealing if they are allowed in

What's the big worry? While the main argument

in favour of allowing corporate presence in banking is that they can bring in





try of business houses in banking, saying if industrial houses need financing, they can get it easily if they have an in-house bank. In August 2011, the then RBI Governor D Subbarao said

in one of his speeches, "By far the biggest apprehension is about self-dealing?

The story so far

Corporate houses were active in the banking sector till five decades of Indirect Taxes and Customs ago when the banks (CBIC), an order issued on Sunday by the personnel ministry said.

a Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report

overrun of ₹4.34 lakh cr



438 infra projects show cost

As many as 438 infra projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more,

have been hit by overruns totalling over ₹4.34 lakh crore, as per

Of the 1,680 such projects, Total original cost of implementation of the 1,680 438 reported cost overruns and 539 were delayed projects was Rs 21,74,182.86

easy for supervisors to prevent or detect

GEORGE MATHEW

the banking space.

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

self-dealing or connected lending as banks could hide connected party or related party lending behind complex company structures and subsidiaries or through lending to suppliers of promoters and their group companies. These loans can subsequently become bad assets of the bank.

What's connected lending?

Connected lending involves the controlling owner of a bank giving loans to himself or his related parties and group companies at favourable terms and conditions. Business groups need financing, and they can get it easily with no questions asked if they have an in-house bank. In short, companies can use the bank as a 'private pool of readily available funds". Big business groups already account for a major chunk non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system even without becoming promoters of a bank.

were nationalised in the late sixties. The

Johri, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs and sector was opened up again Indirect Taxes) officer, is currently post liberalisation, with the working as the member in the first round of licensing of priboard. He succeeds M Ajit Kumar who completes his tenure this vate banks that was done in 1993. Since then, there were month end. PTI two more rounds – in 2003-

> BMW bats for lower **EV** duties

New Delhi: BMW believes that reduction in import duties on electric vehicles (EV) for a limited time or for a limited number of units will help create demand in order to help manufacturing of such vehicles in India and bring new technologies quicker to the country, according to a senior company official.

BMW Group India president and CEO Vikram Pawah told PTI: "... what we are seeking from the government is very simple thing, that yes, let us have some reduction in import duties, but only for limited time or limited quantities." PTI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

AFTER BHARTI Airtel and Vodafone Idea, Reliance Jio on Sunday announced up to 21 per cent hike in its prepaid tariffs from the next month.

Despite the increase in rates, Jio has kept the price of plans lower than Airtel and Vodafone Idea's which is expected to continue pricing competition in the industry

The company still has kept its lowest rate for 28 days validity plan at Rs 91 for Jiophone users which is the lowest among private telecom operators. Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have increased the entry level plan with 28 days validity to Rs 99. The tariff hikes entail JioPhone Plan, Unlimited Plans, and data add on, and range between 19.6 per cent and 21.3 per cent.

"In line with its commitment to further strengthen a sustainable telecom industry, where every Indian is empowered with

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have also increased rates

a true digital life, Jio today announced its new unlimited plans. These plans will provide the best value in the industry," Reliance Jio said in a statement. The statement further said:

"Upholding the Jio promise of providing the best-quality service at the lowest price globally, Jio customers will continue to be the biggest beneficiaries".

The new unlimited plans will go-live on December 1, 2021, and can be opted from existing touchpoints and channels. The company announced tariff hikes across 15 plans which

include one for JioPhone users, 11 in unlimited category and three in data top up category. In the unlimited plan cate-

gory, Jio has increased the price of its cheapest plan with 28 days validity to Rs 155 from Rs 129. WITHPTI

IBC STATUS KARUNJIT SINGH

dustry. There will always be dia- private telecom players. They

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE MINISTRY of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has published a draft framework for cross border insolvency proceedings based on the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) model under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Cross border insolvency proceedings

Cross border insolvency proceedings are relevant for the resolution of distressed companies with assets and liabilities across multiple jurisdictions. A framework for cross border insolvency proceedings allows for the location of such a company's foreign assets, the identification of creditors and their claims and establishing payment towards claims as well as a process for coordination between courts in different countries.

Current status of foreign stakeholders and courts in other jurisdictions under IBC

While foreign creditors can make claims against a domestic company, the IBC currently does not allow for automatic recognition of any insolvency proceedings in other countries. In the case of let Airways, when one of the company's aircraft was grounded in Amsterdam over non-payment of dues to a European cargo firm, the National Company Law Tribunal had declined to "take on record" any orders of a foreign court regarding domestic insolvency proceedings in the absence of en-

The COMI for a company is determined based on where the company conducts its business on a regular basis and the location of its registered office.

The framework for cross border insolvency adopted in India may like in the case of some other countries require reciprocity from any country which seeks to have its insolvency proceedings recognised by Indian courts. This would allow Indian proceedings for foreign corporate debtors to be recognised in foreign jurisdictions.

Indian framework's difference with the model law

Many countries that adopt the UNCITRAL model law do make certain changes to suit their domestic requirements. A report by the MCA has recommended that the Indian cross border insolvency framework exclude financial service providers from being subjected to cross border insolvency proceedings, noting that many countries " exempt businesses providing critical financial services, such as banks and insurance companies, from the provisions of crossborder insolvency frameworks."

The report has also recommended that companies undergoing Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process be exempted from cross border insolvency proceedings as the provisions for PIRP have been introduced recently, and the "jurisprudence and practice under the pre-pack mecha-

nism are at a nascent stage". The PIRP was introduced earlier this year under the IBC to permit speedy resolution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

BRIEFLY —

Depositor money

New Delhi: Customers of 16 stressed cooperative banks will get up to Rs 5 lakh deposit insurance cover on Monday by Reserve Bank of India's subsidiarv Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation as part of its mandate under a new law. PTI

Xiaomi car plant

Shanghai: Chinese smartphone firm Xiaomi will build a plant that can produce 300.000 vehicles annually in Beijing for its electric vehicle unit, authorities in the capital has said. **REUTERS**

'Visa raises concerns 'Reliance-Future of level playing field deal: Amazon asks in India with US' CCI to revoke nod'

prepared for Tai.

quests for comment.

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28 pany executives, including CEO Alfred Kelly.

VISA INC has complained to the US government that India's "informal and formal" promotion of domestic payments rival RuPay hurts the US giant in a key market, memos seen by Reuters show. In public Visa has downplayed concerns about the rise

of RuPay. But US government memos

show Visa raised concerns about a "level playing field" in India during an August 9 meeting be-

tween U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai and com-REUTERS NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

"Visa remains concerned AMAZON HAS asked the antitrust about India's informal and forregulator to revoke its approval for Future Retail's \$3.4 billion sale of mal policies that appear to favour the business of National retail assets to Reliance, saying it Payments Corporation of India" was "illegally obtained", violating (NPCI), the non-profit that runs an order suspending the deal, a let-RuPay, "over other domestic and ter seen by Reuters shows.

The approval was a "nullity in foreign electronic payments the eyes of law" as an arbitrator's companies," said a USTR memo order was still in force, according Visa, USTR, Modi's office and to the letter sent by Amazon to the the NPCI did not respond to re-Competition Commission of India (CCI) last week. The CCI, Amazon,

Amazon showed disregard: Future

New Delhi: Amazon has shown "utter disregard" to the fair trade regulator CCI by "walking out of the proceedings" and such act is a "display of outright contempt for an Indian statutory authority", Future group has alleged. PTI

respond to requests for comment.

South Korea and Singapore. recognition of foreign proceedings and rulings given by courts in cases where the foreign jurisdiction is adjudged as the COMI for the distressed company. Recognition of foreign proceedings and reliefs is left to the discretion of domestic courts when foreign proceedings are non-main proceedings.

will match in due course of time.

Cross border insolvency: UN model allows automatic recognition of foreign rulings

While foreign

claims against a

creditors can make

domestic company, the

IBC currently does not

insolvency proceedings

The National Company Law

Appellate Tribunal, however, per-

mitted the recognition of Dutch

proceedings as "non-main insol-

vency proceedings" recognising

India as the Centre Of Main

Interests(COMI) for the company.

under the IBC do not allow Indian

courts to address the issue of for-

eign assets of a company being

subjected to parallel insolvency

proceedings in other jurisdictions.

most widely accepted legal frame-

work to deal with cross-border in-

solvency issues. It has been

adopted by 49 countries, includ-

ing the UK, the US, South Africa,

The law allows automatic

The UNCITRAL model is the

The UNCITRAL model

However, current provisions

allow for automatic

recognition of any

in other countries

abling provision in the IBC.

Future Group and Reliance did not

Carlsen, Nepo in third successive draw at World Championship

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE NOVEMBER 28

DID A second of either Magnus Carlsen or Ian Nepomniachtchi go on a chess engine cloud and analyse a game, unintentionally leaving it out there for the world to see? Woman Grandmaster Jovanka Houska, part of the commentary team on chess24.com, found that a couple of unusual moves till the 20th in Game 3 between Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi, which ended in a draw, were first studied in late October and then again two days ago on a chess cloud.

Nepomniachtchi – the challenger in the World Championship match at the Dubai Exhibition Centre - used the anti-Marshall, a variation of the Ruy Lopez opening, and till the first 20 moves it was a slow-burn kind of game before it exploded into a series of quick exchanges, including a queen trade and rook challenging rook.

It was when Carlsen moved his knight back to a previous position in the 15th move, not common, that Jovanka said, "I can tell you it has been studied (in October).'

Grandmaster Dawid Howell added that "clearly these are some of the top computer moves".

Shortly, Jovanka added that similar moves were analysed two days ago, on the opening day of the world championships.

In the post-game press conference, after the third consecutive draw was sealed in 41 moves, both players were amused when asked about the similarities.

As they approached move 40, the earliest point at which a draw can be offered, it was clear that players were ready to split points.

Would someone in their respective teams be pulled up if they had not been careful enough on a chess cloud?

"I don't think any of us can reasonably comment on that," Carlsen said.

Nepomniachtchi responded: "I can only say that normally you try to switch off the online cloud option so no one uses the fruitful analysis. But it could probably be a coincidence as well." When queried about why the third game was one of the most accurate in world championship matches, Carlsen said: "Thank you very much and it fills me with pride but unfortunately only half a point."

Though both players have shared points so far, Carlsen has played strongly with black pieces in two of the three games.

"As the match goes along, with each draw you get a bit more tense. But I would say so far, it's three games. I've been black in two of them, I'm fairly satisfied. There's a lot of time to create something, although obviously it's not ever going to be easy against a very strong opponent," Carlsen said.

CROSSWORD 4598

Pak hockey now a pale shadow of its past, with financial constraints making the road to revival long and arduous

MIHIR VASAVDA

BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 28

IN THE days leading up to the Tokyo Olympics, a statue of hockey legend Samiullah Khan was unveiled in the posh neighbourhood of Model Town, in Pakistan's Bahawalpur.

Pakistan weren't there in Tokyo, but the sculpture was a reminder of everything that was once adored about the country's hockey, and the electric left-winger himself: the famous dark green shirt, the ever-smiling face of Samiullah, his inimitable grip - loose bottom hand and the flexible left wrist - and the giant stride of the man nicknamed 'the Flying Horse' for his speed.

Days later, the ball - which even the world's best defenders couldn't steal from Samiullah's stick - went missing. And then, they stole the stick. All that was left was a man in a green shirt standing in an awkward position at a crossing in the city centre.

"You want to know what has gone wrong with Pakistan hockey, that incident explains everything," says a member of Pakistan's contingent that is in Bhubaneswar for the Junior Hockey World Cup.

It does, in a way.

International hockey has thrown up some remarkable storylines in the last decade: the emergence of Belgium, the resurgence of India, Argentina's golden run in Rio, fast-rising France and Ireland. On the other side of the spectrum are Pakistan. whose decline – from fifth in the world in 2013 to 18th now – has been shocking.

The Tokyo Olympics was the second successive Games the Green Shirts missed. They failed to make the cut for the 2014 World Cup and had a forgettable outing in 2018. Their performance in the Junior World Cup doesn't paint a rosy picture for the future either. Pakistan could not make it beyond the group stage, losing two out of their three games, with their only win coming against a lowly Egypt.

"I won't say hockey in Pakistan is dead, else we wouldn't have a team here," says the official. "But well, it's on life-support."

To breathe them into life, they've turned to a Dutch coach with Indian-Surinamese roots, Siegfried Aikman. Aikman, who is set to become Pakistan's foreign coach, is credited with turning around Japanese hockey,



JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Pakistan has barely been able to raise funds to compete in important international tournaments.

taking a bunch of unknown players and making them Asian Games champions.

Despite some performances that offer hope – most famously the 4-4 draw against the Netherlands in the Olympic gualifiers that kind of overnight success is tough to achieve with Pakistan, where the problems lie deeper. And Aikman has some idea of what he's getting into.

Archaic methods

are in charge and they do things they did years ago. They are from another era. They need to get the knowledge, understand the modern way of coaching," Aikman says.

the country started to rely on foreign coaches, who contributed to the team finishing on the Olympic podium after 41 years. Pakistan has had a couple of foreign coaches before. But they haven't had the resources to keep them on a long-term basis while their former players did not have the wherewithal to learn new coaching techniques.

So, even as the hockey world zoomed ahead on fitness and tactical fronts, Pakistan remains stuck in an era gone by. As the opposition coach - it was Japan that eliminated Pakistan at the 2018 Asian Games - Aikman

used Pakistan's archaic training methods to his team's advantage.

Hockey India

"Their players are skillful but physically not fit enough to play modern hockey. Technically, they were unable to use their skills to play modern hockey. They make many unforced errors, get tired and the decision-making is not up to the mark. Their tactical concepts are a little bit old-fashioned, too," he says. "They have potential. But like India, they will need time to change. I hope I

The inability to invest in developing coaches is understandable, given that Pakistan has barely been able to raise funds to compete in important international tour-

Pakistan's first assignment under their the trophy after the final got washed out.

not even have enough money to foot their hotel bill in Muscat. They risked being thrown out of the hotel in the middle of the competition and were able to stay only because their Embassy stepped in and cleared the pending bills.

Weeks later, they were in a position to

RESULTS

Korea **0 9** Spain Netherlands 14 0 USA Pakistan 3 4 Argentina Germany 11 0 Egypt **OUARTER-FINAL LINE-UP**

- India vs Belgium France vs Malaysia
- Netherlands vs Argentina
- Germany vs Spain

QF's to take place on Wednesday

send the team to Bhubaneswar for the World Cup only because a private company was prepared to fund them after the government refused to bear the cost. The funding freeze continued into 2019 when Pakistan were forced to pull out of the FIH Pro League, a home-and-away tournament involving the world's top hockey nations.

Pakistan were to play their home games in Scotland but did not have \$650,000, which was the approximate amount needed to fund their participation in the six-month-long league. Eventually, they had to pull out and, ironically, were punished with a hefty fine by the international federation

The lack of financial support, especially from the government, comes on the back of a series of corruption allegations on former players and federation officials, forcing the government to order an audit on past payments, as per the Dawn newspaper.

The monetary condition seems to have improved. But the overall situation hasn't. So dire it is, in fact, that some of the game's legends are starting to turn their back on Pakistan hockey.

Hassan Sardar, who was the team's manager at the 2018 World Cup, had said at the time: "There is no hockey culture in the country (Pakistan) now. People are into cricket more, people follow cricket more. I think that if I was a kid now with talent in hockey, I would prefer playing cricket than hockey.

Shakeel Abbasi, Pakistan's three-time Olympian, had told Al Jazeera: "I made a mistake by picking hockey over cricket."

The incident with Samiullah's statue is, thus, emblematic of the situation Pakistan hockey finds itself in. The stick and ball stolen were re-installed, and the thief was arrested.

The hunt, meanwhile, for Pakistan's glory days is still on.

Frank Williams, founder of F1 team, dies at 79

ASSOCIATED PRESS NOVEMBER 28

SIR FRANK Williams, the founder and former team principal of Williams Racing, has died. He was 79.

Williams took his motor racing team from an empty carpet warehouse to the summit of Formula One, overseeing 114 victories, a combined 16 drivers' and constructors' world championships, while becoming the longestserving team boss in the sport's history.

"After being admitted into hospital on Friday, Sir Frank passed away peacefully this morning surrounded by his family," Williams Racing said in a statement on Sunday.

Williams driver George Russell remembered Williams as a "genuinely wonderful human being."

Williams' life is all the more extraordinary by the horrific car crash he suffered in France that left him with injuries so devastating doctors considered turning off his life-support machine

But his wife Virginia ordered that her husband be kept alive and his sheer determination and courage, characteristics that personified his career, enabled him to continue with the love of his life, albeit from the confines of a vheelchair

He would remain in his role as Williams team principal for a further 34 years before F1's greatest family team was sold to an American investment group in August.

Francis Owen Garbett Williams was born in South Shields on April 16, 1942 to an RAF officer and a headmistress. He was educated at St Ioseph's College, a private boarding school in Dumfries where he became obsessed with cars following a ride in a Jaguar XK150.

A travelling salesman by day, Williams fulfilled his racing ambitions at the weekend and, aged just 24, he launched his own team, Frank Williams Racing Cars. Four years later, they were competing in Formula Two, and with flatmate and closest friend Piers Courage behind the wheel, Williams graduated to F1 in 1969 using a second-hand Brabham.But tragedy struck at the 1970 Dutch Grand Prix.

Courage ran off the track, one of his front wheels hit his helmet, and his car burst into flames. Courage's grizzly death in a car bearing his name left Williams devastated. Broke and with spiralling debts, he reluctantly sold 60 per cent of his team to Walter Wolf in 1975.

But Williams was not made to be a backseat driver and, desperate for independence, he severed ties with the Canadian businessman.He set up shop at an old carpet warehouse in Didcot, Oxfordshire and signed a promising young engineer named Patrick Head. The doule act would go on to make grand prix history. With Saudi Arabian funding and the hiring

of Australian driver Alan Jones, Williams Grand Prix Engineering became a force.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

It's a useful day for short journeys, discussions and interviews, but what seems to be more important is

other people. That is, you

understand exactly how they

feel. Then you might even be able to make decisions on

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

horizon. However, even such

eventually leads to completely

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

though, that with every stroke of good fortune comes a duty to

others. The most useful thing

change your emotional

attitudes, looking at the

you can do for yourself now is to

The ball is in your

court today, so you

may well have the

upper hand. Realise,

trivial developments could start a train of events that

unexpected results. Even a

minor choice could have

epic consequences.

It's not a bad day for

shopping, and there could be the odd

bargain on the

should try to genuinely





their behalf.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis





naments. Financial crisis, corruption

new coach will be the Asian Champions Trophy in Dhaka in December. In the last edition, held in 2018, India and Pakistan shared

But during that tournament, they did

"The old internationals, the Olympians,

It's the same problem India faced until

can help them."



terrible reputation(4)

3 A sign that your car's not

7 After getting bail somehow I

find an excuse (5) 8 Specified an intention on the

9 Refreshing article in French

16 Has something in mind (8)

18 Order a beer in it - he's likely to

21 Throw out a proposed scheme

23 A hanging symbol may disturb

25 We hold her - but in what

26 A superficially damaging

Staff of police (9)

working?(2,3) Enamelled cutter(7)

5 Do some analytical

piecework?(7)

wrong date (10)

newspaper(8)

20 Hold tight! (7)

one so(5)

location?(5)

impression(4)

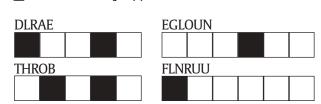
14 50 per cent off? (4-6)

- 1 Doubly uncertain about what to do?(2,3,5) 6 Being deceived outright is tough (4) 10 Infantile converse (5) 11 They are prepared to improve
- appearances (9) 12 Cite ways to develop Arctic
- wilderness (3,5) 13 It's due to love taking wing (5)15 A row about the Spanish drawing room(7)17 Female Russian artisan in trouble(7) 19 An enthusiast to get on and
- flourish (7) 21 Go to the front (7) 22 Deserted area is in a bad way (5) 24 Boring character in the literary world(8) 27 Free of charge (9)28 Shun fallen woman bearing a daughter(5)
- 29 Outstanding coastal feature (4)30 Community adjustment (10)

Solutions Crossword 4597: Across: 1 Prayers, 5 About, 8 Racing car, 9 Fed, 10 Side, 12 Prospero, 14 Malice, 15 Little, 17 Regional, 18 Leda, 21 Own, 22 Asteroids, 24 Irene, 25 Melanie. Down: 1 Parts, 2 Arc, 3 Erne, 4 Secure, 5 Acrostic, 6 Off-centre, 7 Tadpole, 11 Diligence, 13 Accolade, 14 Marconi, 16 Bantam, 19 Aisle, 20 Oral, 23 Ian

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. ____is the art of God. - Dante Alighieri (6)



Answer: Nature is the art of God. - Dante Alighieri Solution: Alder, Broth, Lounge, Unfurl

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4

IDOKI

SC

Genius







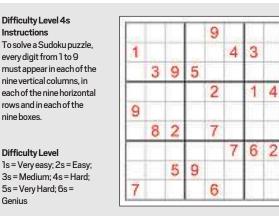
CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







SOLUTION SUDOKU 4668

4

3

7

2	6	7	4	3	1	8	5	9
5	9	4	7	2	8	6	3	1
3	8	1	5	9	6	4	2	7
1	4	9	2	6	3	7	8	5
8	2	5	9	1	7	3	6	4
7	3	6	8	5	4	9	1	2
4	1	8	3	7	5	2	9	6
6	7	2	1	8	9	5	4	3
9	5	3	6	4	2	1	7	8

relaxed manner possible. On a down-to-earth note, make sure that you're completely aware of your rights in all respects.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Life could be slightly expensive, but there's unlikely to be anything you can't handle. It's also a suitable moment for arranging social excursions, especially to the far corners of the globe. Perhaps, though, it's a voyage of the imagination which catches your fancy.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

A curious and lively period brings few direct planetary alignments, but plenty which make their presence felt in discreet, subtle avenues. As it happens, there will be myriad ways for vou to dodge routine commitments and seek out fresh interests.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You should spare a

little extra time for health matters and resolve to improve your physical well-being. Although there are indications that you'll have plenty on your plate today, you make a point of considering your diet and exercise regime afresh.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may be struggling to keep private matters from becoming public. You might also have difficulty adjusting to normal daily life - and changing circumstances. The way out of this trap is to change your

Partners or close companions still imagine that you will run true to form, an extraordinarily powerful week for you to defy all such

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

It can be done.

If other people are taking the lead, then this is a development most earnestly to be encouraged. You'll open up new vistas for the future if you follow where they tread, soaking up new experiences. One word of advice, though, don't believe everything that other people say about each other.

demands you've been making of others. Perhaps you've not always been fair. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) There is everything to gain from spending some time alone, so don't feel bad about being secretive or keeping your feelings to yourself. In all discussions

and debates express yourself forcefully, but without tipping over

into aggression AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

but how wrong they are. This is misplaced expectations. Sooner or later a partner will realise

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Take command. As a Piscean you are not normally considered a natural leader, yet one of your deeper skills is your ability to lead from behind. Your talents in this respect are extremely subtle, and in the right situation you need only click your fingers for others to do what you want.









attitude to your duties, and infuse everything you do with personal creative enthusiasm.

that you were right.

16 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

For me if zero tolerance means we cut people off, we don't give second chances, we don't give people a chance to rehabilitate then I think we've got a problem. We all do make mistakes and we will again, but we have to be able to tolerate and educate and rehabilitate, otherwise people aren't going to open up, they're not going to share their experiences"

ASHLEY GILES, ENGLAND MANAGING DIRECTOR ON THE RACISM ROW

BRIEFLY

Bangladesh lead Pakistan by 83 runs

Chattogram: Pakistan's pacers reduced Bangladesh to 39-4 in its second innings at the end of day three on Sunday to leave the first Test evenly poised. Bangladesh had secured a 44-run lead after bowling out Pakistan for 286, thanks to left-arm spinner Taijul Islam's 7-116. The hosts ended the day by extending their lead to 83 runs but has six wickets remaining. Mushfiqur Rahim, who made 91 in the first innings, was batting on 12. BRIEF SCORES: B'desh 39 for 4 (Mushfiqur 12*, Yasir 8*, Afridi 3-6) and 330 lead Pak 286 (Abid 133, Shafique 52, Taijul 7-116) by 83 runs at Day 3 stumps

Benfica game against nine men abandoned

Madrid: A COVID outbreak at the Portuguese side Belenenses that ruled out 17 players had a predictable impact when their nine-man team was forced to face mighty Benfica. The Portuguese League and the country's Directorate-General for Health could have postponed the game, according to Benfica president Rui Costa - but chose not to. So those nine men - including a goalkeeper forced into an outfield positionfound themselves seven goals down by the interval on Saturday night. **AP**

Bengaluru, Blasters play out stalemate

Bambolim: Ashique Kuruniyan turned from a hero to a villain in a matter of four minutes when he found the opposition net but then scored an own goal as Bengaluru FC played out a 1-1 draw against Kerala Blasters in an ISL match on Sunday. Kuruniyan put Bengaluru ahead in the 84th minute only to do Kerala Blasters a favour four minutes later by scoring an own goal in nightmare of a match for him. Bengaluru have four points from three games while the Blasters still remain winless. **PTI**

Shooting nationals: Shekhawat claims gold, Vijay fourth

New Delhi: Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhawat sealed his first title by winning the men's 25m rapid fire pistol gold at the 64th Shooting Nationals, even as Olympic silver-medallist comebackman Vijay Kumar finished fourth. Bhavesh registered three clean series scores of 5 in the eight-series final, to finish with 33 hits out of 40. The next best, Gurpreet Singh of the Army, had one 5hits series to claim the silver with 29, while Haryana's Anish Bhanwala won bronze with 22. Vijay, returning to competition after a gap of five years, bowed

Maturity beyond Tests

After first-innings ton, debutant Iyer steers hosts out of crisis and into ascendancy as Kiwis lose strong position

SANDIPG KANPUR, NOVEMBER 28

SHREYAS IYER is batting, even when he is not batting. Between deliveries, he takes a stroll to square leg, his bat subconsciously twirling in his left-hand, like he is flicking an imaginary ball. He stops and shadow-bats a forward defensive shot. He walks back, the bat again tracing arcs in the air. When he's at the nonstriker's end, he is rehearsing the pull shot. When he is engaged in a mid-pitch chat with his partner, when he is gulping water during the drinks break, when he is fielding at midon, he is batting in his mind, his hands drawing batting patterns in the air. A cover-drive there, a flick here, a leave there, a pull there in his mind, Iyer is living an innings in his mind, as if his sole purpose in life is to bat, and bat.

He has taken ravenously to Test cricket; after compiling a purposeful century on debut, he appended the knock with an even more valuable 65, that handed India the ascendancy in the game. Iyer joined Mayank Agarwal at the departure of Ajinkya Rahane, in the middle of a mini-crisis, before it ballooned into a fullblown strife, when Agarwal and Ravindra Jadeja retreated to the dressing room in the space of three balls. How he pieced together the broken shards of India's second innings and assembled the broad canvas for a possible Indian victory, with the stoic support of Ravichandran Ashwin and Wriddhiman Saha, formed the crux of the Sunday resistance.

From 51/5, Iyer and his lower-order accomplices navigated India to 234/7, whereupon they declared and set a steep target of 284. In pursuit, New Zealand have already lost Will Young, ending the day at 4/1.

The challenges lyer encountered were discernibly different, and to an extent tougher too. In the first innings, the strip was at its most conducive to bat; there was his elder-brotherly Mumbai teammate Rahane guiding him at every step and mis-step, smoothening his integration in Test cricket. Here, he was a man of his own, thrust to weather the storm, guide the lower order, and set a competitive fourth-innings target for the visitors. The first innings was a test of his mettle and about adjusting; the second was about his maturity and about asserting, and all are prerequisites for a prosperous dig in Test cricket. Iyer passed the second, just as emphatically as the first.

Made for Test cricket

The situation didn't faze him. In an interview with broadcasters, he said he has been in these situations before in Ranji games. But here, he was facing an international team with two of the finest fast bowlers around. "The idea was to play session by session. Rahul Sir said that I need to stay out in the middle for as much as possible and build on the score," he said.

There were several instances when those various attributes that make him special stood out. Like his communication with Saha and Ashwin. In the early phase of his association with Ashwin, playing his 80th Test and with

the early blows, they pushed New Zealand onto the back-foot, from where they could not claw back.

With each passing ball, lyer's maturity seemed to swell, as if he was growing older with each ball. Caution was the predominant tone of his batting, but he did not sequester into a shell, punishing even the semi-loose balls, ticking a single or brace whenever he could with nudges, clips and deflections, demonstrating that he considers accumulation just as vital as stroke-making.

He resisted temptation, but didn't slip into abstinence. And when he played his strokes, there was a cadence about it, an un-hurriedness that's the hallmark of good batsmen. His judgement and clarity were such that he didn't have to change his shots at the last minute. An example: One of Kyle Jamieson's back-oflength balls scuttled along the brown carpet, but he didn't crouch too low, as surprised batsmen often tend too. He was going to play that ball on the back-foot, but readjusted and defended on the front-foot.

Key partnership

Once Saha strode out for their 64-run stand, Iyer ensured that he soaked most of the fast bowling. Not because Saha was incompetent, but because he was nursing a stiff neck and New Zealand's fast bowlers were barraging him with short balls. The visitors embraced bottle-neck tactics like packing the off-side side with fielders inside the circle and feeding him with balls on the sixth-stump line, asking him to slash and swipe, which he prefers. But Iyer wasn't sucked into youthful intemperance.

Saha endured a difficult start, but Iyer stood by him, like an elder brother to someone who is 11 years and 28 Tests older than him. Sometimes, he would speak at length between overs, perceivably about the field positions, plans of bowlers and the condition of the pitch. Gradually, Saha regained confidence, and produced one of his trademark scraps, a resolute 61 not out.

It was a day New Zealand's bowlers lost both their physical and psychological battles against Iyer. Absent was a persistence of plan. First, they tried to lure him into the drive, which almost paid off as he edged a Southee outswinger, only for the ball to burst through the slip cordon. Rather than probing the same method, they tried to hook him with the nipbacker. They tried to entice him with Rachin Ravindra, the left-arm spinner whom Iyer had punished in the first innings. But this time, he intentionally exercised caution, though Ajaz Data lura pat avtanded the margu

Patel was not extended the mercy. He cuffed him over the sight-screen, the crack of his willow crackling wild celebrations in the stands. And as their plans failed, one after the other, the Kiwis gave up their physical intensity. A day that began with hopes of a first Test win in India after 33 years ended with the tedious proposition of saving a game in India on the fifth day, and beaten by a debutant, who kept on batting even when he was not actually batting.



Shreyas Iyer became the first Indian to score a century and a fifty on Test debut. AP

Agarwal, Gill, Rahane, Pujara or Iyer, who will make way for Kohli?

Which Indian batsman will have to make way for returning skipper Virat Kohli in the second and final Test in Mumbai? As the Indian batting line-up stumbled initially on the fourth morning in Kanpur, this question became more pertinent and also more complicated.

India are unlikely to sacrifice a bowler to accommodate Kohli, who has consistently advocated the five-bowler policy. More so after New Zealand resisted India's three spinners and two fast bowlers for 142.3 overs in their first innings at Green Park. So one from Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Shreyas Iyer will have to be lefty out.

RAHANE'S RUN DROUGHT

The stand-in captain for the Kanpur Test has had a woeful year with the bat; in 12 Tests in 2021, Rahane averages 19.57. His home record has never been much to talk about, and his struggles against spin are familiar. Among specialist Indian batsmen who have played at least 32 home Tests the same that Rahane has — only Mansur Ali Khan 'Tiger' Pataudi and Mohinder Amarnath have a home average worse than Rahane's 35.73.

Convention does not dictate that the stand-in skipper, and also regular vicecaptain, sits out the next match, but convention has been broken before by Kohli, when Rahane was left out for the first two Tests on the South Africa tour in 2017-18. However, the new team management under head coach Rahul Dravid might not take such a drastic step for the Wankhede Test.



Ajinkya Rahane averages 19.57 in 12 Tests in 2021. PTI

subcontinent — he averages an incredible 116 and has been dismissed only three times. The last time he opened was back in 2015 though. If Pujara is made to open at the Wankhede Stadium, it will also mean Kohli has another couple of decisions to make: who to send in at No. 3, and which incumbent opener to drop. bowled him in both innings. Meanwhile, Agarwal nicked off outside the off-stump twice. Agarwal is more experienced overall as well as in international cricket than Gill. But if India take the big decision of playing Pujara as makeshift opener in Mumbai, which of the two incumbents sits out is only one of the several calls the think tank will have to make.

Assuming Kohli slots in at his No. 4 slot, it leaves either Rahane or Iyer to move up to No. 3. Both are used to batting at the position for Mumbai in first-class cricket.

DROP IYER AFTER DEBUT HUNDRED?

Iver got his Test cap after 54 white-ball games for India and 54 first-class matches, and grabbed it with a debut century. If anything, his second innings 65, guiding India out of a crisis, was even more valuable. It will be gutting for him to be left out after this, but probably not as much as it was for Karun Nair to find himself on the outside after a triple ton against England in 2016-17. Nair had made way for the returning Rahane against Bangladesh following his 303 in Chennai. He came back only after India played an extra batter following the defeat to Australia on a Pune turner.

out in fourth position at 17. **PTI**

Ramkumar wins maiden singles title

Manama (Bahrain): Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan won his maiden Challenger level singles title on Sunday, 12 years after turning a Pro, when he outplayed Evgeny Karlovskiy in the final of the ATP80 Manama event. The 27-year-old Ramkumar, who had lost six Challenger finals in his career before, beat his Russian rival 6-1, 6-4. The 80 ranking points earned will push Ramkumar back into top-200. **PTI** more centuries than him, the off-spinner would often come up to and pass on an observation or piece of advice. But shortly, lyer looked like the more assertive, composed partner, shielding him from a particularly hostile spell from Tim Southee and walking up to him whenever he was beaten or the ball misbehaved, often extending a pat of assurance or words of comfort.

The pair ran exceptionally well at the start of their match-changing 53-run partnership, dishevelling New Zealand's plans to target Ashwin. Their first 21 runs changed the game's momentum, as they struck four boundaries and ran stealthily, as though it were the middle overs of a one-day game. New Zealand were rattled, their energy dissipated, and suddenly India seemed the more ascendant side. Trading

SCOREBOARD: India 1st Innings: 345 New Zealand 1st Innings: 296

India 2nd Innings: 234/7dec (o/n 14/1) M Agarwal c Latham b Southee 17, S Gill b Jamieson 1, C Pujara c Blundell b Jamieson 22, A Rahane Ibw b Patel 4, S Iyer c Blundell b Southee 65, RJadeja Ibw b Southee 0, RAshwin b Jamieson 32, W Saha 61, A Patel not out 28 Extras: 4 (b 3, Ib 1)

FoW: 1-2, 2-32, 3-41, 4-51, 5-51, 6-103, 7-167 Bowling: TSouthee 22-2-75-3, KJamieson 17-6-40-3, A Patel 17-3-60-1, R Ravindra 9-3-17-0, W Somerville 16-2-38-0 New Zealand 2nd Innings: 4/1 T Latham batting 2, W Young Ibw b Ashwin 2, W Somerville batting 0

FoW: 1-3 **Bowling:** R Ashwin 2-0-3-1, A Patel 2-1-1-0

SHOULD PUJARA OPEN?

Pujara has had a couple of lean years with the bat, with averages of 20.37 and 30.42 in 2020 and 2021. However, unlike Rahane, he averages a commanding 55.33 in India across his career. One option is for Pujara to move up a spot to open the innings in Mumbai. Like the current head coach, Pujara has done it a few times in Test cricket. In six innings as opener – all in the

AGARWAL OR GILL?

Both Agarwal and Gill are not exactly first-choice openers at the moment, and are playing because Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul are not. Kanpur was Agarwal's first Test in nearly a year since Brisbane in January and Gill has also just made a comeback after the World Test Championship final in June.

The latter got a fifty in the first innings at Green Park but had issues against the incoming ball from Kyle Jamieson, who

BHARAT AS DEBUTANT OPENER?

A left-field call will be to hand Srikar Bharat a Test debut in Mumbai after his excellent glovework as a substitute in Kanpur, and also ask him to open. It is not an unfamiliar slot for Bharat, as 77 of his 123 first-class innings have come at the top of the order. The only decision left then will be which of Agarwal or Gill to drop, but it will possibly also mean the end of the road for the 37-year old Wriddhiman Saha, whose unbeaten 61 on Sunday put India in a strong position. ABHISHEK PUROHIT

Young LBW Ashwin, timed out by DRS Green Park pitch sheds dustbowl tag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOVEMBER 28

WILL YOUNG, was involved in a bizarre dismissal towards the end of Day 4 when he was late to go for a Decision Review System (DRS) call. The timer runs for 15 seconds within which a batsman or the fielding captain has to make the request to the umpire for assistance from the TV umpire. On this occasion, though, Young was late to review an LBW decision off the bowling of Ravichandran Ashwin. Replays showed that the ball was comfortably missing the leg-stump. Before one comes to what took him so long, here is the relevant section from the ICC's playing conditions:

"The total time elapsed between the ball becoming dead and the review request being made shall be no more than 15 seconds," and "If the on-field umpires believe that a request has not been made within the 15-second time limit, they shall decline the request for a Player Review."

Did the umpire alert the batsmen after 10 seconds?

"The bowler's end umpire shall provide the relevant player with a prompt after 10 seconds if the request has not been made at that time and the player shall request the review immediately thereafter," read the playing conditions.



New Zealand opener Will Young was late to go for a DRS call. PTI

If umpire Virender Sharma called it out after 10 seconds, the batsmen certainly didn't hear it. Young stood shocked that he couldn't take the DRS, before trudging away. Now, to the delay on the part of the batsmen. Young first consulted his partner Tom Latham and wasted precious seconds there. Just as the clock ticked out, Young signalled for the DRS. Too late.

Has it happened before? Yes. In 2019, in a Test in South Africa,

Hashim Amla was ruled not out in an LBW appeal by umpire Aleem Dar. Two errors of the DRS timer followed.

First, according to the SuperSport broadcast, only 13 seconds had elapsed when the Sri Lankans asked for DRS to be taken but Dar refused, saying time was over.

Secondly, the cameras also revealed that Dar had made no visible prompt after 10 seconds had elapsed to the bowler Vishwa Fernando or the other Sri Lankan players.

Why was the DRS timer included?

Controversy had broken out after Rahul Dravid was adjudged LBW by DRS in a Test at Galle in 2008.

DRS was being trialled by ICC in that series and things heated up in that game. Dravid was ruled not out by umpire Billy Doctrove off Muttiah Muralitharan. A lengthy wait ensued as there was no time limit then and Mahela Jayawardene, the Lankan captain, discussed with his teammates.

He then walked to umpire Doctrove and asked him the reason for his decision. Doctrove told him that he thought the impact was outside off-stump with the batsman playing a shot. As he knew that the impact was in line, Jayawardene went for DRS and got the decision overturned. Back then, rules didn't state that players can't ask umpires the rationale for their decision.

SANDIPG KANPUR NOVEMBE

KANPUR, NOVEMBER 28

AFTER THEY had diligently piled layer after layer of multicoloured, wedding shamianalike covers on the pitch after the fourth day's play, a groundsman was overheard telling another in a depressing tone: "Aurek din bhai (one more day, brother)." As if he had planned an off day on Monday. The other one replied, brusquely: "To kya, achcha match hain na? Poora paanch din chalega, Bhaarat jeetega bhi! (So what, isn't it a good match? Going full five days, India will win too)"

In a sense, the Green Park pitch had exceeded its anticipated longevity, despite whispers that the match would not last five days and the track would deteriorate fiendishly, as some of the recent decks for Tests in the country. But then Green Park pitches rarely crack up dangerously, rather they break up insidiously, progressively getting slower and lower.

But as is often the case, it has been a case of stereotyping. One made-to-order turner 13 years ago — the instant reaction to a galling defeat — sufficed for notoriety. In three Test matches since, it has reverted to type — slow, low turners, a litmus test of patience, for batsmen, bowlers, fielders and the audience. Games here slow-burn, like the Awadhi cui-

The conditions undoubtedly favoured the hosts, but were not menacingly hostile to the visitors. Even at the fag end of the fourth day, it was not a difficult wicket to bat on.

sine that relies on stewing in slow fire.

The talk of a turner was conjecture. The Indian team management hadn't demanded one from the weightlifter-turned-electricianturned-curator Shiv Kumar. The curator was not inclined to dish out one to please the management either. Maybe, it was New Zealand coach Gary Stead's early (mis)judgement of the pitch that sparked the whispers.

Moreover, a turner here, in early winter, is near impossible, even if one had tried. Dig into Mohammad Kaif's local knowhow. Kaif, who has spent most of his cricketing life playing for Uttar Pradesh, wrote on Twitter: "Having spent so many years at Green Park, I can say it's difficult to prepare a rank turner here in winters. And with Ganga flowing not too far and temperature low, the pitch doesn't crumble." The match that gave Green Park the stigma was hosted in mid-April, when temperatures hover in the mid-to-late 30s.

Something for each one

In this game, there has been some assistance for everyone, or not too much lopsided advantage for one particular breed. The seamers nibbled the ball around in the first hour, using the moisture content left over by the overnight dew. The spinners bargained some turn as the game progressed, and batsmen realised that once they entrench in the wicket, it gets easier. The pitch called for archaic Test match values of grit and graft, wait and watch. It was a challenging pitch, not a vicious one.

The conditions undoubtedly favoured the hosts, but were not menacingly hostile to the visitors. Even at the fag end of the fourth day, it was not a difficult wicket to bat on. The ball didn't kick or kink off the surface, it scarcely bounced differently from the same spot. When it landed on certain spots, it did keep low, but the lack of pace meant batsmen had time to adjust. At the same time, it was difficult playing through the line.

The spinners also had to toil for their rewards. Ravichandran Ashwin probably never had to rely so much on all his smarts, tricks and wisdom. That Ravindra Jadeja toiled for 33 overs for one wicket will capture the nature of the pitch. A few balls did misbehave, but one expects that on most fourth-day wickets. And Day Five would begin with all four outcomes possible.

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Expo 2020 Dubai is the 35th world fair over the past 170 years, designed to showcase ideas, inventions, and innovations that address the world's most pressing questions. Pandemic or not, Dubai is successfully demonstrating by example how connected thinking is the perfect answer, says lvor Vaz

UXURIOUS DUBAI now has much more to exult about.



Grab Your Pass Now!

SEASON PASS

Six months to experience 192 countries and the best of art, music, architecture, sports and wellness, science, culture, and more. Validity: From 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022 Price (Only for Adults 18-59 years): INR: 10,652.85 / AED: 495 Senior Citizens (60+ years): FREE Children (6-17 years): FREE People of Determination: FREE

ULTI-DAY PASS

Nearly a year after it was originally planned, the city finally opened its doors to Expo, the biggest exhibition/fair in the world, which had been delayed by a year due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The United Arab Emirates, one of the richest countries in the world, which coincidentally also celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, has poured more than USD 7 billion into the event, hoping to attract tourism and investments.

For the record, it's the first Expo ever to be held in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region, with many reasons to be counted as one of the most important in exposition history. Dubai, the region's tourism, trade, and business hub, is hoping to boost its economy by attracting 25 million business and tourist visits to the world fair which has been built from scratch on 4.3 sq km (1.7 sq m) of desert. Many countries and companies are also looking to Expo 2020, the first major global event open to visitors since the outbreak of the pandemic, to boost trade and investment.

Over a total period of 182 days, estimated 25 million visitors from around the world. An unprecedented 192 countries are participating in the Expo, during which the UAE is hoping to impress visitors with its economic and technological achievements. Also, for the first time in World Expo history, every participating country will have its own pavilion. Participants and visitors can thus enjoy immersive cultural experiences and discover what makes each country unique as they explore hundreds of pavilions.

Dubai hopes that the Expo, an and architecture, under its theme of 'Connecting Minds, Creating the we seek to build a better future for



global challenges such as climate change, conflict, and economic growth can be addressed under a common roof.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai aptly summarised the vision behind Expo 2020. "Connected thinking is the best hope for progress, and for a successful and peaceful existence in the generations to come and ring true in all of the partnerships we have exhibition of culture, technology, forged. By collaborating with our partners and all of our participants,

Dubai is expected to host an Future' will serve as a demonstration everyone while creating real impact of inventiveness, and a place where that transforms our dreams into realities.

> The Expo was all set to roll last year when all humanity came to a standstill. It felt like the plot of a sci-fi story – an invisible enemy that brought the entire world to its knees. Like the rest of the world, Dubai went through denial; felt panic, and experienced loss. But Covid-19 also taught everyone the beauty of humanity, that there will always be kindness and light amid the chaos. Despite the one-year delay, the emirate's vision of 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' resonates even more strongly as the world rebuilds.

In its 50th year, Dubai has a oncein-a-lifetime experience to bring the world together again. In a safe environment, Expo will provide a launchpadfortheglobalcollaboration the world needs most right now – a chance for humanity to convene in a spirit of optimism, hope and shared purpose to exchange inspiring new ideas and new perspectives, with an emphasis on its three subthemes - Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability. Hopefully, the event will spark innovations that will kick-start another 50 years of purposeful progress, contributing to the nation's continued prosperity and enabling growth in the region

and beyond.

Visitors can purchase tickets for Expo 2020 Dubai on Dubai's official website, https://www.expo2020dubai.com/en/support/~/link. aspx? id=EDCB6A2EA506481B83379667FB9219BA& z=z, or at the Expo 2020 entrance gates during the event. Tickets can also be bought from Expo 2020 Dubai's Authorised Ticket Resellers in each country. The Authorised Ticket Reseller in India is Akbar Travels.

No day at Expo 2020 is the same! Enjoy multiple visits to be entertained, eat your way around the world and make the most of all experiences.

Validity: Unlimited entries for 30 consecutive days from the first day of use, between 1st October 2021 and 31st March 2022 Price (Only for Adults 18-59 years): INR: 4,198.58 / AED: 195 Senior Citizens (60+ years): FREE Children (6-17 years): FREE People of Determination: FREE

FAMILY PACKAGE

Experience everything Expo 2020 has to offer with your whole family at the biggest cultural gathering in the world, with food and beverage discounts and entertainment for young and old alike. (Includes Season Pass for 2 Adults, 1 Nanny, 1 Photography Voucher, Discounts on Food & Beverage at Select Outlets, and 25% discount on 5 Multi-Day Passes)

Validity: From 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022

Price (Only for Adults 18-59 years): INR: 20,390 / AED: 1,650

Senior Citizens (60+ years): FREE

Children (6-17 years): FREE

People of Determination: FREE

JUBILEE EXPERIENCE SEASON PASS

Celebrate the UAE's Golden Jubilee at Expo 2020. Get exclusive benefits, seamless access, and a lifetime of memories with the Jubilee Experience.

Validity: From 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022

Price: INR: 215,209 / AED: 22,000

Inclusions:

- Season Pass for 4 Adults
- 30 Multi-Day Passes
- 10 1-Day Tickets
- 2 24-Carat Gold-Plated Expo Pins & 2 Expo Passports
- · 6 Vouchers for Exclusive Access to Jubilee Lounge by Emaar
- 5 Vouchers for Garden in the Sky, the Rotating Observation Tower
- 6 Photography Vouchers
- 10 Guided Tours Vouchers
- Fast Track Entrance for Member and 5 Guests on Every Visit
- · Priority Access to Events, Discounts on Food & Beverage at **Premium Outlets**
- Dedicated VIP Parking & 10 Valet Parking Vouchers



Luxurious Dubai

THE GRANDDADDY OF

Ever wondered why the world's longest-running and largest mega-event is a bigger draw than the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games? Here's the answer...

Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion



unrivalled cultural experiences the greatest global gathering, meet innovators and entertainers, and taste flavours from around the ALIF - THE MOBILITY globe, every day for six months. From the world's most renowned architects and creative teams behind ninth-century Baghdad and meet blockbuster movies, the Thematic nine-metre-tall historical giants seen before.

MISSION POSSIBLE – THE OPPORTUNITY PAVILION

make a big impact and be inspired to be a force of change. Join a global mission, and follow in the footsteps of mentors who are just like you, and and human-centric living, filled with pledge to make a better future for all.

TERRA – THE SUSTAINABILITY PAVILION

Creating its own electricity and water, Terra demonstrates the damage being done to our planet THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHOW showcased, including brilliant latest information and advice from and how we can create new paths The

XPO 2020 is already the most for sustainability. Visitors explore entertainment and events include global Expo ever, offering underneath a dense forest, as the concerts, brought together during a six-month roots communicate with one another, spectacle. Experience the world's from more than 190 countries. and dive into the depths of the ocean Visitors in Dubai can join to meet a giant fish disturbed by best entertainment from local and international artists, every day for pollution of the ocean. six months.

PAVILION

Visit the House of Wisdom in PERFORMANCES EVERYDAY to get excited about, with a Pavilions bring to life the Expo sub- of mobility. Marvel at memorable jam-packed programme of and themes through experiences never moments designed by storytellers live behind some of the top productions world-famous stars, in the world such as 'The Lord Of greats, local talent, and touring The Rings' and 'The Hobbit'.

See how even your small actions can THE WORLD'S MOST INSPIRING ARCHITECTURE

Explore the city of the future, designed for better, more sustainable, five continents that'll excite your architectural and operational ideas on how we will exist. Visitors can ENTERTAINMENT FROM experience the world's most visually striking and emotionally inspiring

most



theatre, and sports

performances including

attractions. From roaming dance

entertainment, acrobats, and

street performers to poetry slams

and theatrical performances,

enjoy cultural experiences from

Enter a world of magic and discovery

senses and touch your heart.

AROUND THE WORLD

comedy

DIVERSE LIVE EVENTS &

music, conferences, and much more. Over the course of the event's 182 days, there will be no shortage of excitement.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Enjoy projection, light, and sound shows on the largest 360-degree projection surface in the world There'll always be something and immerse yourself in dining inspired by space, microbiology, artificial intelligence. With Immersive Experiences, Projection Showcase, and Live Theatrical Shows, the Expo site is a playground for the senses, pulling us in multiple directions, creating worlds that are deep, unpredictable, and, of course, entertaining.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES AT EXPO 2020

The health and well-being of visitors and everyone living in and visiting the UAE is a top priority. Expo 2020 Dubai follows guidance from the UAE architecture, every day for six months. as the incredible and exciting work Ministry of Health and Prevention of International Participants is and Dubai Health Authority and the breathtaking cultural performances, theatre, art, the World Health Organisation.

Grand Opening For Israel Pavilion Dubai Expo 2020



Jewish and Arab attendees celebrate the opening of the Israeli pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai

its gleaming pavilion at the world's fair in Dubai, over a year after normalising ties with the United Arab Emirates and amid a pandemic that has disrupted much of tourist and cultural exchanges for nearly two vears now.

profile Emirati as well Israeli officials in attendance. The inauguration was hosted by Israel's Minister of Tourism today. So, I'm delighted to invite each Yoel Razvozov and Elazar Cohen, and every visitor, participant, and Commissioner General of the Israel Pavilion. The pavilion's arch - chock- country. Come and see for yourself full of flashy videos promoting Israel's windmills, high-tech advances, and historic sights - came to life as night accommodate each other. Tourism fell. Zany Hebrew music played and patriotic balloons floated.

Razvozov said in his opening standing here as a representative government at the opening of Israel's months as travel restrictions ease. National Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. in an Arab country. It is also the first for around 250 guests.

SRAEL CEREMONIALLY OPENED time there is an Israeli pavilion in a major fair on Arab soil. It is one of the most sound and robust steps towards cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Israel in history."

"Peace allows us to forge a new reality in the Middle East that will bring prosperity, security, and The glittering ceremony saw high- stability to all. We believe that in order to reach a better tomorrow, one should choose practical and positive actions host at this Expo to come and visit our what Israel is really about. Tourism allows us to explore, learn from and will build a human bridge to peace," he added.

Amir Halevi, Israel's Tourism remarks: "I'm truly delighted to be Ministry's Director-General, said that he expects an influx of Israeli tourists of the Israeli people and the Israeli to visit Expo 2020 in the coming

The event concluded with a Many things are happening here for performance by Hamalgezot, an the first time. For the first time in Israeli band playing traditional Israeli history, the Expo fair is being held music, and Israeli DJ Abass playing

EXPERIENCE THE NEW ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS OF DUBA

While you're in the emirate for the Expo, it would be worth your while to check out some of the eye-popping, space-age structures that represent the very best in world architecture.

THE MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE Sheikh Zayed Road, Trade Centre 2, Dubai, UAE



With an expected opening date in 2021 (delayed due to the pandemic), The Museum of the Future is rapidly taking shape in Downtown Dubai. Already dubbed one of the world's most advanced buildings, this curvaceous structure by Killa Designs has taken inspiration from the construction techniques of the aviation industry, using joint-free stainless steel and fibreglass panels to create a smooth elliptical shape. Once complete, the eyecatching oval will be inscribed with Arabic calligraphy, and will act as an incubator for innovation.

THE OPUS BY OMNIYAT Al A'amal Street, Business Bay, Dubai, UAE



Zaha Hadid for Omnivat is an architectural wonder. The first and only foray into Dubai for the legendary late architect Zaha Hadid, The Opus balances the sharp lines of a glass cube with a curvaceous void at its heart. This futuristic fantasy near the Burj Khalifa will house luxe residential properties, commercial zones, and a 93room hotel from Spanish brand ME by Meliá, including 15 bars and restaurants. This daring design is a fitting legacy for Hadid, who was known as the 'Queen of the Curve' and was the first female architect to win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize.

DUBAI FRAME

Zabeel Park Jogging Track, Za'abeel, Al Kifaf, Dubai, UAE



The UAE's latest cultural landmark, Dubai Frame is an iconic structure that 'frames' impressive views of Old and New Dubai, while serving as a metaphorical bridge connecting the emirate's rich past with its magnificent present. Dubai Frame celebrates the story of Dubai from its early establishment to its ambitious plans for future development. Launched in January 2018, the project comprises a 150-metre-high, 95-meterwide structure being built to resemble a huge picture frame, through which landmarks representing modern Dubai such as Emirates Towers and Burj Khalifa can be seen on one side, while from the other side, visitors can

Located in Dubai's Business Bay district, The Opus by view older parts of the city such as Deira and Karama. It is recognised as the world's largest picture frame by Guinness World Records.

THE GREEN PLANET City Walk, Al Wasl, Dubai, UAE



The Green Planet is the region's first bio-dome that recreates the enchanting world of a tropical forest with its rich biodiversity of over 3,000 plants and animals. The enclosed ecosystem offers visitors an immersive expedition into the tropics. The unique venue has four levels of interaction with fascinating animal and plant species to see from Sloths, Tucans, and Tree porcupines to South American plants, vines, reptiles, fish, and insects. The middle of the desert is one of the last places you'd expect to stroll through an Equatorial Rainforest, and yet architect Grout McTavish has achieved the impossible with this cutting-edge structure. It's a great destination for families and guests of all ages!

CAYAN TOWER Marina Promenade, Dubai, UAE

The world's tallest twisting tower - the 75-storey, 1,010-foot-tall Cayan Tower in Dubai, which rotates a full 90 degrees from base to top – is a monument to rational thought in the service of art and commerce. Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, this majestic and unprecedented feat was achieved by rotating each floor 1.2 degrees clockwise so that the tower twists a full 90 degrees. When it was completed in 2013, it became the world's tallest residential tower, a feat that has since



been superseded. Today, it remains one of the most eyecatching structures in Dubai Marina, offering views over docked superyachts and Jumeirah Beach from its 495 apartments

GEVORA HOTEL 101 Sheikh Zayed Rd, Trade Centre – DIFC, Dubai, UAE

Gevora Hotel is a 1,168 ft (356 m) tall hotel along Sheikh Zayed Road in the financial and trade district. That height has given the skyscraper the title of tallest hotel building according to Guinness World Records. The four-star hotel opened in February 2018 after a construction period of twelve years. With a flashy gold façade and pyramid at its summit, the 1,168-foot tower is home to 528 guest rooms spread over 75 floors and a number of facilities including five dining options, and an alfresco pool deck on top of its parking garage building overlooking the city.



COLM MCLOUGHLIN RECEIVES GULF BUSINESS LIFETIME FVF AI:H **UBAI DUTY FREE Executive**

Vice Chairman & CEO, Colm McLoughlin was honoured with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2021 edition of Gulf Business Awards held on 23rd November at the Central Park Towers in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Organised by Motivate Publishing, the annual Gulf Business Awards recognise the most successful companies and industry leaders across different sectors in the GCC. The special recognition acknowledged McLoughlin for his outstanding contribution to the travel retail industry and his strong leadership of Dubai Duty Free since 1983.

Commenting on the award McLoughlin said, "I am thrilled and delighted that I have been selected to receive this special award. I attribute it absolutely and totally to our team of staff and the effort they make in making our business successful and, of course, to our Chairman H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin



Dubai Duty Free

Saeed Al Maktoum, who was also honoured with the same award in 2017."

McLoughlin now follows the footsteps of other UAE luminaries including H.E. Mohamed Alabbar. H.E. Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, H.E. Easa Saleh Al Gurg, and Sir Tim Clark, among others.

Salah Tahlak, Executive Vice President - Corporate Services of Dubai Duty Free accepted the award on behalf of Mr. McLoughlin. He was joined by other Dubai Duty Free officials including Sinead El Sibai, SVP - Marketing, Bernard Creed, SVP – Finance, Mona Al Ali, SVP - Human Resources, and Zayed Al Shebli, SVP - Loss Prevention & Corporate Security.

Special awards recognising the Sustainability Company of the Year, SME of the Year, Disruptor, and Businesswoman of the Year were also presented during the night.

The awards were adjudged by the Gulf Business team and a special independent judging panel that included well-known industry and business leaders.

Dubai Duty Free Marks Its Tenth 'Airport Retailer of the Year' Award

UBAI DUTY FREE was named 'Airport Retailer of the Year' for a record tenth time at the Frontier Awards held on 27th October at the Hôtel Barrière Le Majestic in Cannes, France.

Held to coincide with the annual Tax Free World Association (TFWA) conference and exhibition, the Frontier Awards, which are often referred to as 'the Oscars of travel retail industry', celebrate the innovation, creativity, and excellence within the travel retail industry.

Commenting on the award, Dubai Duty Free Executive Vice Chairman and CEO, Colm McLoughlin said, "We are thrilled to receive our record tenth Frontier Airport Retailer of the Year Award. This award will always be treasured as it is a testament to our hard work and commitment despite the challenging year. I would like to thank the organisers and the judges for their support and I join our pandemic, were some of the key points noted by the judges before Saeed Al Maktoum in dedicating this Frontier award to each and every member of our staff."

panel of judges, which comprised of seven top executives from the industry who collectively boast a Contribution' to recognised wealth of experience across a wide frontline staff in the duty-free and geographical area, chose from a travel retail industry. large number of entries from all over the world.



H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Chairman of Dubai Duty Free and Colm McLoughlin, Executive Vice Chairman & CEO of Dubai Duty Free with the Frontier 'Airport Retailer of the Year' award.

its sales as well as strengthening 2004, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2018. its position as an innovative The operation has also won in other and expanding retail operation categories over the years including despite the impact of the Covid-19 awarding the 'Airport Retailer of the Year' to the operation..

In addition, Dubai Duty Free Hosted by DFNI Frontier along with other duty-free magazine, this year's distinguished and travel retailers was also presented with a special collective award for 'Outstanding

'Airport Retailer of the Year' award Free's Emiratisation Officer, Muna Dubai Duty Free's continuing in 1985 – at the first Frontier Awards achievement both in terms of ceremony - and again in 2000, 2001, the 'Talent of Tomorrow' Award.

'Best Marketing Campaign' in 1986, 1990, 2009, and 2015. In 1986, Colm McLoughlin was presented with the 'Duty Free Person of the Year' award and in 2004 a special 'Lifetime Achievement Award' was presented in recognition of his significant role within the duty-free industry. While former Dubai Duty Free President, George Horan was also presented with the same award in 2016 following his retirement in June. after 33 years of working in Dubai Duty Free won its first the company. In 2019, Dubai Duty Hassan was named as a recipient of

THE IRISH VILLAGE @ EXPO 2020: **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AWARD-**WINNING HOSPITALITY

HE WORLD HAS BEEN WAITING for Expo 2020 Dubai and The Irish Village is proud to be part of it, having opened its doors to Expo visitors on 1st October 2021. The Irish Village is conveniently located in Jubilee Park, which will be the main hub for entertainment for six months. The look and feel of The Irish Village Garhoud have been recreated down to the weathervane on top of the clock and the Ballinasloe Post Office. Guests can enjoy sitting outdoors on the terrace listening to 'Graham Mills', a traditional Irish musician who has been flown in especially for the event – you can raise your glass to the world.

Recently, The Irish Village in Garhoud celebrated 25years of award-winning hospitality, since opening



The Irish Village in Jubilee Park at Expo 2020 Dubai, outside terraces (on the ground) and the lovely rooftop terrace which is perfect for sundowners



Pat Hennessy, Commissioner General of Ireland Pavilion (Expo 2020) joined Dubai Duty Free officials headed by Colm McLoughlin, Executive Vice Chairman & CEO of Dubai Duty Free and Dave Cattanach, General Manager -The Irish Village complex at



Dubai Duty Free executive team headed by Ramesh Cidambi, COO along with Sinead El Sibai, SVP - Marketing and Sharon Beecham, SVP - Purchasing accepted the award on behalf of Dubai Duty Free Cannes F

DUBAI DUTY FREE WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS AT THE **2ND VIRTUAL TRAVEL R** pandemic response and the 'Best safe, engaged, productive, and

T THE SECOND EDITION of the Virtual Travel Retail Expo, Dubai Duty Free (DDF) won multiple awards in two different awards ceremonies that took place online on the final day of the virtual expo on 15th October.

Organised by The Moodie Davitt Report Dubai Duty Free received four awards in the Middle East & Africa category for the inaugural Travel Retail Superstars Awards, while it received two awards

in the eighth edition of The Moodies Travel Digital Journey Awards.

Travel The Retail Superstars which Awards, shone a spotlight on the frontline and behind-the-scenes heroes and heroines

who have helped keep the industry going during the through social media platforms. Covid-19 pandemic, Dubai Duty

Team – Shopfloor' for DDF Brand Ambassadors for Pernod Ricard, 'Star Team - Back Office' for Operations and HR Team, 'Star Individual – Shop Floor' for Sales Assistant, Ali Attia Ali Elsayed and 'Innovation - Back Office' for IT Team for Home Delivery Specials service.

Meanwhile, at The Moodies Travel Journey Digital Awards, which highlight campaigns and best social and digital media practices during the global pandemic, the retailer was awarded with the 'Best Use of Social Platforms' for DDF

Creativity and Innovation during resilient. Meanwhile, Covid-19' for DDF Home Delivery Specials service.

Commenting on these awards, Dubai Duty Free Executive Vice Chairman & CEO, Colm McLoughlin said, "We are thrilled that our efforts have been recognised through these two awards programmes held during the Virtual Travel Retail Expo. It's a testament of our commitment to our employees, customers,

and retail partners in adapting our business **Travel Retail** on by the pandemic, SUPERSTARS WINNER and Delivery and our continues effort to engage and serve our customers be it in-store, online or

I would like to thank the panel Free was awarded the 'Star of judges who voted for Dubai Duty Free in these two award categories.'

The group of dedicated DDF brand ambassadors for Pernod Ricard was awarded for demonstrating an incredible level of discipline and grit, wresting control of the unprecedented situation of the Pandemic and transforming it into an opportunity for self-improvement. The DDF Operations and Human Resources Team was recognised for being at the centre of DDF's rapid response to the COVID-19 the next level with an even bigger crisis by keeping the workforce

DDF Sales Assistant, Ali Attia Ali Elsayed was awarded for his extraordinary customer service skill and exemplary records making him as one of DDF's finest employees while the DDF Home Delivery Specials service was awarded for giving the experience and confidence needed to set up and operate a totally new revenue stream as an airport retailer.

The 'Best Use of Social Platforms' was awarded to Dubai Duty Free for its social despite the enormous media messaging which focused challenges brought on nurturing the community as opposed to any hard sell which included the through its Travel from Home launch of our Home series which helped foster Service engagement and stronger association with customers and travellers in general. Lastly, the 'Best Creativity and Innovation during Covid-19' was awarded to DDF Home Delivery Specials service which formed a part of the retailer's commitment to its customers to ensure they can enjoy its great range of products while staying safe at home.

The Virtual Travel Retail Expo, which took place from 11th-15th October is a pioneering virtual trade show and symposium designed to both mirror and enhance a real conference and exhibition which was launched last year, has already established itself as the largest virtual event in the global travel retail calendar, and the 2021 edition has set it to and better offering.

Dubai Duty Free Sailing League Regatta Gets Underway

UBAI DUTY FREE returned to the high seas with its sponsorship of the Dubai Duty Free Sailing League Regatta to be held at Dubai Offshore Sailing Club (DOSC) from 1st-4th December, to coincide with the UAE National Day.

Hosted by DOSC, the event will follow a Sailing League format with a series of short 15-20 minutes races. A total of 24 teams, which includes 12 locals and 12 internationals will compete on SB20 keelboats in a tournament spread across four days and culminating in a four-boat final on Saturday, 4th December to determine the winners.

Commenting on this latest sports sponsorship, Dubai Duty Free Executive Vice Chairman & CEO, Colm McLoughlin said, "We are delighted to be on board as the title sponsor of the Dubai Duty Free Sailing League Regatta. Water sports have a very strong following in the region and the UAE sailing scene is very active with the DOSC at its core. We are looking forward to this event and I am confident that it will be a success.'

Dubai Offshore Sailing Club Commodore, Simon Reeves added, The Commodore of Dubai Offshore Sailing Club, Simon Reeves added: "We are proud to have the support of Dubai Duty Free as the title sponsor of this inaugural event, which is designed to showcase the fantastic sailing conditions that the UAE has to offer. I am sure that Dubai Duty Free will bring a lot of prestige to the event and its support will provide a world-class experience for all the participants."

Set against the backdrop of Dubai's golden coastline, the event is sure to





deliver action and excitement with the races of the two short laps to be held directly in front of Nessnass Beach providing a great view of the competition from the shoreline.

The inaugural event will set the standard as the DOSC is set to bid to host the SB20 World Championships in 2024.

Over the past three decades, Dubai Duty Free has developed strong links to several sporting events both in the UAE and abroad. By supporting so many events at the highest level and all around the globe, Dubai Duty Free is effectively promoting Dubai's sporting, leisure, and business facilities, which are second to none.

DUBAI DUTY FREE

Since its opening on 20th December 1983, Dubai Duty Free (DDF) has grown into one of the largest travel retail operators in the world with a turnover of US\$2.029 billion in 2019. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, DDF continues to achieve highlights both in terms of its sales as well as strengthening its position as an innovative and expanding retail operation.

Currently operating at Dubai International Airport, the operation has consistently raised the benchmark for airport retailing and it continues to grow. To date, DDF has received over 700 awards including the Frontier Awards for 'Airport Retailer of the Year' which was won by the operation for a record tenth time in 2021.

For more information on Dubai Duty Free please visit www.dubaidutyfree.com.

Dubai Duty Free



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