



## BJP to start sports league named after Article 370 in Amit Shah seat

**PARIMAL DABHI**  
GANDHINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29

THE BJP in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, the Lok Sabha constituency represented by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is planning to host tournaments in cricket and kabaddi under the label Gandhinagar Loksabha Premier League 370, or GLPL 370, to "draw maximum number of youth to the party", local leaders said.

According to Ahmedabad city BJP unit general secretary Jitubhai Patel, the league is named after Article 370, "which was abrogated in 2019 under Amit Shah's leadership", and there are plans to start tournaments in the middle of December.

Harshad Patel, who is the BJP in-charge of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, told *The Indian Express*: "The events have been organised to make the (young) voters, whose names are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ajaz Patel, who batted till end of day Monday, survives an appeal. PTI

REPORTS, PAGE 20

## India vs India-origin Rachin, Ajaz as Kiwis save Test in last-day epic

**SANDIP G**  
KANPUR, NOVEMBER 29

UNDER THE smoggy, flood-lit skies of the historic Green Park Stadium, a draw for the ages, where sweat and emotion flowed in equal measure, was played out between India and New Zealand. The fortunes of the game fluctuated, as the day toggled between smog and sunshine. The tourists needed 284

runs to win the Test, which was a lost pursuit even before New Zealand's fourth innings began, but they batted stoutly and stonically to deny India by a lone wicket in the opening Test of the series.

At the heart of the rearguard were a debutant all-rounder and a left-arm spinner of Indian heritage, Rachin Ravindra (18 off 91 balls) and Ajaz Patel (2 off 23), who blunted 52 balls to deny India.

Rachin's father was a software system architect from Bengaluru who emigrated to Wellington at the turn of the century, but continued his love for cricket. He soon began organising cricket for schoolchildren and started the Hutts Hawks Club, which organised cricket tours to different outposts of the game across the world. Naturally, Rachin, his name a portmanteau of his father's favourite cricketers,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Omicron news from S Africa: high fatigue, low hospitalisation

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

SOUTH AFRICAN health authorities have conveyed to top medical experts in India that they are witnessing "very low hospitalisation" directly linked to Omicron, although the new Covid variant of concern is "highly transmissible" and patients are experiencing extreme fatigue even with mild disease, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The latest update came even as the World Health Organisation (WHO) assessed global risk from the newly discovered variant as "very high", and India extended support to countries dealing with Omicron

in Africa, and promised supplies of Made-in-India vaccines.

Top Government sources told *The Indian Express* that experts from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) held a detailed exchange with South African authorities on Omicron, including the transmissibility and severity of infection.

Sources said South African experts conveyed that Omicron has been found to be highly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**COVID VICTIM BODIES FOUND AFTER A YEAR, KIN DISTRAUGHT**

PAGE 9

## Question Govt skipped: Were NRIs asked to stop aiding farmers?

**ANISHA DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A QUESTION by Congress Rajya Sabha member K C Venugopal to the Minister of External Affairs on whether NRIs living abroad were harassed at airports and sent back, and some even asked by authorities to stop helping the farmers' agitation, was provisionally admitted and scheduled to be answered on December 2, but dropped from the final list of questions for the day.

The question (Provisionally Admitted Question Starred/Unstarred diary number U455) read: "Will the Minister of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



INSIDE

**PEGASUS: PANEL BY SC SEEKS DEVICES OF PETITIONERS****RBI SUPERSEDES BOARD OF RELIANCE CAPITAL**  
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The IIT-alumnus is currently Chief Technology Officer

## Dorsey steps down, Parag Agrawal is new CEO of Twitter

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

TWITTER'S CHIEF Technology Officer Parag Agrawal, who is an alumnus of IIT-Bombay, will replace outgoing CEO Jack Dorsey, the microblogging site announced Monday. Agrawal has been with Twitter since 2011 and has served as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) since October 2017.

In a statement, Twitter said that while Dorsey is stepping down and Agrawal's appointment in the executive role will be effective immediately, the outgoing CEO will continue to be on the company's board till the end of his term next year.

"I've decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep. His work over the past 10 years has been transformational. I'm deeply grateful for his skill, heart, and soul. It's his time to lead," Dorsey said.

As CTO, Agrawal has been responsible for the company's technical strategy, while

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## STORMY START TO WINTER SESSION

# House clears farm laws repeal Bill, Govt rejects Opp call for a debate

Adhir, Kharge target Govt over lack of discussion, repeal delay; Tomar says debate to have no tangible results

**LIZ MATHEW & KRISHN KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE WINTER session of Parliament began on a stormy note Monday when the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, cleared the two Houses via voice votes without any discussion. The Bill sailed through amid Opposition demand for a debate on issues raised by farmers protesting against the three new agriculture laws being withdrawn by the government.

The Lok Sabha passed the Bill in the first half of the proceedings amid vociferous demands for a discussion. And in the Rajya Sabha, it was passed minutes after resumption of the post-lunch session.

Claiming that the Bill had been brought in with consensus, that it did not have any clause to discuss and that a debate would have no tangible results, the treasury benches rejected demands of the Opposition, which was keen to target the government over the delay in withdrawal of the laws given that farmer protests began more than a year ago and some demands, including legal guarantee for MSP, are still being raised.

In Lok Sabha, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar introduced and tabled the Bill for consideration and passing. Members of the TMC and DMK came to the Well, seeking a discussion while Congress MPs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Modi, Union MoS Arjun Ram Meghwal and Jitendra Singh at Parliament at start of winter session Monday. Anil Sharma

## Boycott session or take fight to the Govt? Opp will take a call today

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

WITH THE suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs deepening the political divide and threatening a washout of the entire winter session, backchannel talks were held between the government and the Opposition Monday to find an amicable resolution, but there was no immediate headway.

Minutes after the suspension of the MPs, Opposition floor leaders met in the chamber of Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

The RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha, it is learnt, said Kharge should

speak to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on behalf of the entire Opposition and demand revocation of the suspension. He suggested that if the government is not amenable, then the Opposition should think about boycotting the entire session. Leaders of the Left parties are learnt to have supported him.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**PM SPEECH VS LAST SESSION'S 15 BILLS IN 10 MINUTES P 6****DIMINISHING HOUSE**  
THE EDITORIAL PAGE, P 10**EXPLAINED**  
Rarely used rule

RULE 256 from Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in RS was invoked against the MPs. The Opposition said the rule is for ongoing session, not to be used in an earlier one. In 6 decades, it has been used 13 times.

EXPLAINED, PAGE 15

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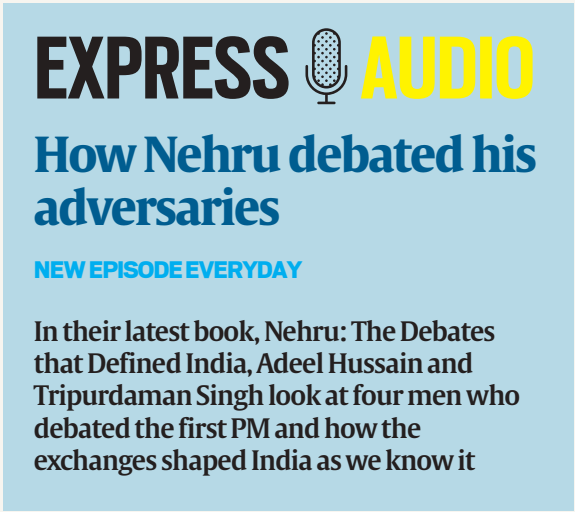
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► प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

**DELHI: 28 सितंबर | 1 PM** **2023 फाउंडेशन कोर्स | 15 दिसंबर** लाइव / ऑनलाइन एव ऑफलाइन कक्षाएँ

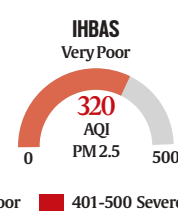
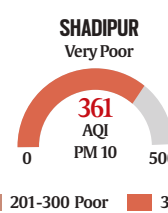
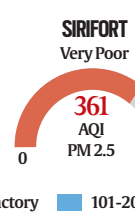
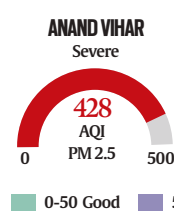
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## Gamers take first step to being professional eSports player

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0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

**FORECAST: Nov 30**  
Partly cloudy sky.  
Shallow fog in the morning.

**MAX: 25**  
0.6°C below normal

**MIN: 10**  
0.1°C above normal

## Politics has taken over public interest: Delhi govt in HC on ration scheme

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

DEFENDING ITS home delivery of ration scheme, the Delhi government argued before the High Court that "politics has taken over public interest" and termed objections against it "egotistic".

Terming it a progressive scheme, the government said there was no explicit prohibition against it under the National Food Security Act. "It would require a very very strange legislation to suggest that in this time... of doorstep delivery of almost anything and everything, be it Amazon or non-Amazon, be it food articles like Swiggy or other deliveries, your lordship is told that ration delivery to the deserving and the entitled should not be done by this methodology," argued senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represents the government, during the hearing of a petition challenging the scheme.

Terming the petition filed by Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh a proxy litigation, the government contended that while NFSA is a central Act, the same is premised upon the operational work being handled by the state government and not the union.

"Your lordships have to see through this. Ultimately politics has taken over public interest. 'Don't call it mukhya mantri' is the objection. You (those objecting) don't want a scheme which is both benefi-

cial and will get support from the public," submitted Singhvi, referring to the initial objection of the central government against the scheme's name. He also said "an overwhelming percent of people" in Delhi had opted for the scheme through the 'call system'.

However, the division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh observed that the question was not of it being a better scheme but whether it was covered under the NFSA. It recalled that the central government in its arguments had principally opposed the ouster of fair price shops (FPS) from the system.

"Even ASG did not say that doorstep delivery cannot be there, but what is being said is there is an architecture... What are you proposing to do? If you are proposing to take grain from central government, give it to tendered contractors for cleaning and conversion, and they will deliver it to the beneficiaries, which means the FPS are nowhere," said the court.

Singhvi submitted that one FPS would be in every circle. "It is from these circles that home delivery person picks up... not bypasses," he said. The arguments will continue in the case on December 3.

On November 22, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati had termed fair price shops integral to the architecture of the NFSA. On Monday, Bhati submitted they were concerned with a "complete compliance of the mandate of NFSA" and not interested in any other thing.

## 3 men arrested for hacking exam centre computers

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police Cyber Cell arrested three men who run coaching centres in Delhi and Ahmedabad for allegedly helping hundreds of students cheat in competitive exams.

Police said the trio used the dark web to advertise their services, and would hack systems and

change answers during online exams. To ensure no one from the test centre suspected them, they used software to detect movement of all people inside using a computer there, police said.

Senior police officers said the accused charged Rs 1-2 lakh from each candidate to help them clear

exams such as GMAT, GATE, CAT.

KPS Malhotra, DCP (Cyber Cell), said, "Our team was surfing the dark web when we came across the gang. Two accused work from Ahmedabad. The third is a technical expert who works from Shaheen Bagh. They helped students appearing for college ad-

missions and jobs in the IT sector."

They had students register on their platform. One person would be assigned to check the surroundings of the candidate using a software and webcam during the test. The other accused would solve the paper and upload answers, police said. **ENS**

दिल्ली का वोट 30 नवंबर 2021

1 नवंबर से 30 नवंबर 2021

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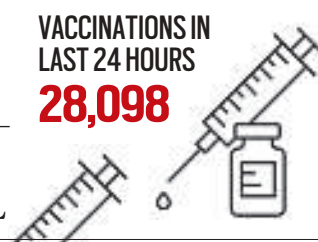
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## 4 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS  
**28,098**



			Total	Vacant
TOTAL CASES			<b>13,507</b>	<b>13,350</b>
HOSPITAL BEDS			<b>2,791</b>	<b>2,765</b>
ICU BEDS				
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Nov 28	32	33	1	53,515
Nov 29	34	36	1	43,399
Total	285*	14,15,517	25,098	3,08,68,725

\*Total active cases

## BJP's poster showing slum dwellers has curious addition: Tamil author Perumal Murugan

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A PHOTOGRAPH of Tamil author Perumal Murugan has inadvertently made it to the posters of a campaign being run by the Delhi BJP for the capital's slum dwellers. Part of a campaign called the Jhuggi Samman Yatra, the poster — shared by the Delhi BJP on its Twitter handle and also put up in parts of the city — shows Murugan among a group of people, ostensibly meant to represent residents of slums.

When contacted about the faux pas, BJP Delhi vice-president Rajan Tiwari said, "We will check with the design team about what happened."

Murugan, when contacted, told *The Indian Express*: "I myself belong to slums, so I am delighted. I am happy to have featured along with them."

The posters even made it to a Delhi BJP event held in Patel



The poster (left) showing Murugan among a group of people, ostensibly meant to represent residents of slums, also made it to a Delhi BJP event held in Patel Nagar on Monday. (Right) The poster in the background as BJP president JP Nadra addresses the audience. *Express*

Nagar on Monday, addressed by party president JP Nadra and Delhi unit chief Adesh Gupta.

Murugan has authored 10 novels and several collections of short stories and poems.



A BJP leader said that usually, the design work for such posters is either outsourced to a private agency or is handled by the party's IT team, but it first has to be approved by the party's top

functionaries. "As per procedure, an original photograph from a previous BJP programme or rally should have been used, instead of such a photograph whose source is not known," said the leader.

BJP Delhi president Gupta and vice-president Ashok Goel, who were coordinating the programme, did not respond to repeated attempts seeking a comment.

The Jhuggi Samman Yatra is a month-and-a-half-long outreach programme to be held in slums of Delhi ahead of the MCD polls.

Nadra, while addressing Monday's event as part of the initiative, said, "Only false propaganda was done in the name of development in Delhi; blaming others has become a habit of Delhi government. If work was not done, it was said that the central government did not do it. Whatever work Modi ji did, they (the AAP government) campaigned by pasting their picture on that work."

"The Centre fought the fight against corona all over the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi fought this fight against corona by taking the government as well as the society along," he said.

### BRIEFLY

#### No idea where circus animals are: High Court raps Animal Welfare Board

*New Delhi:* The Delhi High Court Monday summoned Animal Welfare Board of India's Secretary and pulled up the statutory body for not complying with court directions pertaining to the condition of captive animals, which were in circuses that shut down during the pandemic. It directed the AWBI to disclose whereabouts of all performing animals kept with such circuses, and listed the case for hearing on February 9. The division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said it will not hesitate to initiate contempt action against the officer for not complying with the order. "There is utter non-compliance of our directions," it said. **ENS**

#### Kejriwal gives Rs 1 cr to kin of sanitation worker who died of Covid

*New Delhi:* CM Arvind Kejriwal Monday handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore to the husband of a sanitation worker who died of Covid in May. "Sunita ji was a frontline warrior working as a swachhata karamchari with East MCD... She was a courageous woman who served the people of Delhi during the toughest times. She put her life on stake to protect us," Kejriwal said, after he met her family and handed her the cheque. The Delhi government has so far extended an amount of Rs 1 crore to 18 "corona warriors". **PTI**



### BACK TO SCHOOL

Delhi schools, which were shut briefly because of a rise in pollution levels, reopened on Monday. *Gajendra Yadav*

## Schools reopen after pollution break, construction ban still on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE BAN on entry of trucks carrying non-essentials into Delhi, except electric trucks and those that run on CNG, will continue till December 7, while the ban on construction and demolition will continue till further orders, as per Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

The Supreme Court order issued last week had re-imposed the ban on construction activities in the NCR until further orders.

Rai was speaking after a meeting held with officials of various departments Monday. Schools, which were shut briefly because of a rise in pollution levels, re-opened, and employees of government offices who had been working from home, returned to working from offices Monday.

After three consecutive days of AQI in the 'severe' category, the air quality was in the 'very poor' category Monday, with an



The ban on construction and demolition will continue till further orders. *Gajendra Yadav*

AQI of 389, as per the Central Pollution Control Board bulletin. The SAFAR forecast attributes the marginal improvement to local winds that are possibly increasing dispersion of pollutants on Monday and Tuesday. Wind speed is likely to fall again on December 1, and AQI could deteriorate slightly, the forecast indicates.

#### SC mulls independent task force on pollution

The Supreme Court Monday asked states in the NCR and Punjab to appraise it about the implementation of various directions given by it and the Commission for Air Quality Management for curbing air pollution and said that it might set up an independent task force to ensure the implementation of the directions.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said that while the intentions of the central authorities in issuing various directions to the states may be good, their implementation has been "zero".

"We will ask states what they have done to implement... If they don't (implement), we will create an independent task force ourselves", the CJ said as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta took the court through the directions issued by the Commission from time to time.

#### Delhi govt releases EV charging norms for corporates

*New Delhi:* The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) launched a guidebook for EV Charging in workplaces for corporates, Monday.

DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah said research suggested that 90% of EVs are charged at home or workplace.

"This guidebook details the processes involved for effective decision-making to install workplace charging and is aimed at making corporates an integral part of the EV movement," he said. Delhi at present has 380 public EV charging points and this will be increased to 500 points in the next six months.

"To build charging infrastructure at mass scale, we are also subsidising private installation of chargers. The private sector showed great interest and we heard their concerns regarding planning and implementation of EV charging stations at workplaces...", Shah said. **ENS**

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

FORMER JNU student Umar Khalid, through his lawyer, asked a Delhi court Monday why police allowed the Northeast Delhi riots to take place when a protected witness was supposedly in touch with the local SHO, informing him about the planning.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais was arguing for bail on behalf of Umar before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat. However, his arguments could not be concluded and will continue on December 9.

During Monday's hearing, Pais submitted that a witnesses in the UAPA case had made improved statements to the Magistrate and that they were "cherry picked" by police around Umar's arrest.

Referring to the statement of a protected witness, who claimed he was in touch with the local SHO, Pais told the court, "He says he is regularly in touch with SHO (Seelampur) who asks him to keep him updated. If you are in touch with SHO, then why did you not ensure that nothing went on? What happened? They are such *adarsh* citizens... they



Umar Khalid

say such noble thoughts and are in touch with the police... isn't it apparent that these witnesses were procured?"

Pais said this witness met the SHO sometime in January 2020 and that the officer knew everything beforehand. "Sometime in January, I (witness) met him, then he called me and asked me to tell him everything. So Seelampur SHO knew everything. How did we have riots in the city? This brilliant intelligence that he had about this and he did not register an FIR," Pais submitted.

Pais apprised the court about the protected witnesses' statements which talk about a 'secret meeting' attended by the riot accused, in which the planning for the riots allegedly took place.

Referring to one such statement, he told the court that the witness, after making his statement to the police, "miraculously remembered the meeting after seven days" in his statement to the Magistrate.

On allegations that women and children were roped in by the accused as a cover for their protests, Pais told the court, "Advocacy against a law is not a crime. It is not in doubt that when the CAA kicks in and NRC starts, a person without documents is put in detention... Is there a single woman and child who comes forth and says we were cannon fodder?" Pais submitted.

He then read out the statement of a witness who told a Magistrate that Umar gave a speech where words like *chakka jam* and "blood must be spilled" were used.

"He doesn't claim to be present at the meeting but gives granular details of the meeting. He doesn't call it a secret meeting, but chargesheet calls it a secret meeting. Videos and photos are out on Facebook. How can a secret meeting have selfies posted on Facebook? Certainly, it is not a secret. This must mean the protesters are dumb or the police does not know them," Pais submitted.

### PART OF REFURBISHMENT PLAN

## Charging sockets, CCTVs, LCD maps — 70 old Metro trains to get upgrade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

CHARGING SOCKETS, CCTV cameras, fire detection systems, and dynamic route maps on LCD screens are part of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's 'refurbishment' of the first of 70 trains that were inducted as part of Phase I of the Delhi Metro from 2002 onwards. These trains have been showing signs of wear and tear.

While the newer trains came with these facilities, the older ones had to be retrofitted to include these in a 'mid-life' refurbishment exercise, according to DMRC officials. The first such re-

furbished train, one from the Blue Line that connects Dwarka Sector 21 with Noida Electronic City and Vaishali, was unveiled at the Yamuna Bank Depot on Monday and is likely to be rolled out soon.

In addition to mobile and laptop charging sockets, CCTVs and a fire detection system, work done on the first train includes repairing the floors that had developed cracks and undulations, a fresh coat of paint to fix scratches and dents, and upgraded electrical panels. The older trains had route maps on stickers, and half of these are being converted to LCD screens with dynamic maps.

The average lifespan of the trains is around 30 years, accord-



The first such refurbished train, one from the Blue Line, was unveiled at the Yamuna Bank Depot on Monday and is likely to be rolled out soon. *Praveen Khanna*



ing to DMRC officials, and those that were pressed into service between 2002 and 2007, under Phase I, have completed over 14 years on the tracks.

A contract has been awarded for refurbishment of 10 trains, at a cost of around Rs 40 to 45 crore, and work on these is likely to be completed by September next year. Work on seven of these trains will be done at the Yamuna Bank Metro Depot, which is the depot for the Blue Line, while the remaining three trains will be refurbished at the Shastrri Park Metro Depot that functions as the depot for the Red Line.

A tender has been floated for the remaining 60 trains that are

to be spruced up. These are the trains that operate on the Red, Blue and Yellow Lines.

Although inspections and cleaning of the interiors and equipment are carried out periodically, this is the first such 'refurbishment', DMRC officials said. The first train took around two months to refurbish, and the remaining trains are likely to take around a month of work per train.

DMRC has a fleet of 355 trains. They cover around 400-600 km per day, in around 16 to 18 hours of service. The refurbishment is meant to bring to the older trains the look and systems that are in newer coaches introduced in DMRC's more recent expansions.



New Delhi



# LET'S TAKE 3 SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE DELHI'S POLLUTION

1



## Bring Down Delhi's pollution, one trip less is the solution

Once a week, avoid taking your own vehicle and switch to public transports like bus, metro or adopt carpooling.

2



## Let's reduce pollution by reporting on the Green Delhi App

To download the Green Delhi App scan the QR code



3



## Red Light: ON Gaadi: OFF

When you're waiting at the red light, switch your vehicle's engine off.

"I have full faith that all of us will come together and defeat pollution again."

– Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi



# 6 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

## FROM THE GALLERY

### FROM THE CHAIR

#### RAJYA SABHA

“On my part, I was expecting and waiting for the leading lights of this august House to take lead in expressing their outrage over what had happened during the last session... But unfortunately, it was not to be.”

**M VENKAIAH NAIDU**, Chairman in his opening remarks

#### LOK SABHA

“Today is the first day. Everyone has high expectations from this session... Please do not come to the well of the House...”

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL**, in the Chair, to Opposition members before he adjourned the House till Tuesday



### 5 QUESTIONS

**KODIKUNNIL SURESH**, CONGRESS CHIEF WHIP IN LOK SABHA, TELLS **LIZ MATHEW** WHY HIS PARTY DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE WELL OF THE HOUSE WHEN THE FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL WAS TAKEN UP

**Congress MPs returned to their seats when the Farm Laws Repeal Bill was taken up while some other opposition members were still in the well.**

Yes. It was the party's decision not to disrupt during the passage of the Bill. But we wanted to discuss a number of issues related to the farm Bills... We had decided to raise the Lakhimpur Kheri incident also. But we did not want to be in the well of the House when the Bill was tabled, otherwise BJP would have accused the Congress of disrupting the repealing process.

**Did the party make the demand for a debate earlier?**

The Congress, TMC and DMK together demanded a discussion after the Bill was introduced. We made our case in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.

**But the government rejected your demand...**

The government knew that it would be exposed if we discussed the issues. We were all prepared for the discussions. But last evening they said they would not allow a debate. It would have been on defensive if the debate took place.

**The Opposition was not together and TMC MPs were still protesting...** But the TMC also made the same demand in the BAC. TMC's Kalyan Banerjee stood for it very aggressively in the Speaker's meeting.

**Do you think there will be unity among the Opposition in the Winter Session?**

The Congress is trying to talk to other party leaders also to put up a united opposition against the government.... There are many issues... we can be on the same board in the coming days.

# In speeches, PM called for ‘quality debates’; in House, Govt pushed 15 Bills in under 10 mins last session

### MANOJ C G

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

NINE MINUTES in Rajya Sabha and three minutes in Lok Sabha: that's how long the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, took to be passed Monday — without any discussion.

Just a few hours before the Bill was passed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the government was willing to discuss all issues with an “open mind” and ready to answer all questions — a statement he has often repeated, advocating debate and discussions in Parliament.

“Victory teaches us many things and we should learn also. Victory teaches us to be humble. I give my trust to this Parliament, I believe that the seniors here, from whatever group they may be, with their blessings, we will get that strength which will save us from arrogance. It will teach us every moment to be humble. Whatever be the number here, but I will not move forward without you. We should not move on the basis of numbers. We should move on the basis of the power of collective approach (samoohikta). We want to move forward with the feeling of collective approach,” Modi said in his maiden speech in Lok Sabha on June 11, 2014.

Just a few days ago, addressing the inaugural session of the 82nd All India Presiding Officers' Conference on November 17, Modi said “meaningful discussions in the House are very important”. “How to add value to debates and how to set new standards for quality debates? Can we think of setting aside time for quality debate? Such a debate in which there is dignity and seriousness and there is no political slander. In a way, it should be the healthiest time of the legislature. I'm not asking for everyday. It can be two hours, half-a-day or a day sometimes. Can we try something like this? It should be a healthy day, healthy debate and quality debate, a debate that does value addition and which is absolutely free from everyday politics,” he had said.



Opposition leaders stage a protest in Rajya Sabha on Monday. RSTV/PTI

On September 15, speaking at the launch of *Sansad TV*, he said his experience was that “content is connect”. “When you have better content, people automatically engage with you. As much as this applies to the media, it is equally applicable to our parliamentary system. Because there is not only politics in Parliament, there is also policymaking. When Parliament is in session, debates are held on diverse subjects, and there is so much for the youth to learn. When our honorable members also know that the country is watching them, they also get inspiration for better conduct, better debates inside the Parliament. This also increases the productivity of Parliament, and public interest works also become popular,” he said.

In 2019, speaking in Rajya Sabha, Modi had asked members to draw a distinction between “checking and clogging” legislation. “In a way, many of our dignitaries say this again and again, that the House should be for discussion, dialogue and debate. There can be debates in loud voices; there is no harm in it. However, it is necessary that we choose the path of dia-

logue instead of interruptions,” he said.

On Monday, he said: “This session should be rich in ideas and positive debates, should have far-reaching impact... Parliament should be judged on how it functions and its significant contributions, rather than who disrupted Parliament forcefully. This cannot be the benchmark. The benchmark would be how many hours Parliament worked and how much positive work was done. The government is willing to discuss every issue with an open mind. The government is ready to answer every question. And we would like that there should be questions in Parliament and peace should also prevail.”

The passage of the farm laws in the Monsoon Session of 2020 was marred by disruptions, with the Opposition in Rajya Sabha alleging their demand for a division of votes was ignored. But there was a debate then. Lok Sabha discussed the farm Bills on September 17, 2020, for two hours and 48 minutes; three days later, the Rajya Sabha discussed the Bills for two hours and eight minutes. While 44 members participated in the discussion in Lok

Sabha, 32 members took part in Rajya Sabha.

The BJP government has often faced criticism for rushing Bills. The last session saw 15 Bills — 14 in Lok Sabha and one in Rajya Sabha — being passed in less than 10 minutes, and 26 Bills in less than half-an-hour. In its second term, over six Parliament sessions, the Modi government has passed 42 Bills in less than half-an-hour, and 19 in less than 10 minutes, according to PRS Legislative Research data. While many of the Bills were ordinary in nature, some deserved serious discussion.

For instance, the 14 Bills passed in less than 10 minutes in Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session included the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill (discussed for 8 minutes), The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill (5 minutes), The Tribunals Reforms Bill (9 minutes), and The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill (6 minutes). The Opposition wanted the general insurance Bill to be referred to a standing committee; in Rajya Sabha, the Bill was passed in 22 minutes.

According to the PRS data, the Monsoon Session perhaps holds the worst record when it comes to Bills being rushed through in Parliament. The other Bills passed in under 10 minutes were: The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, The Inland Vessels Bill, The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, The National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill and The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Amendment) Bill.

In Rajya Sabha, the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill was passed in less than 10 minutes.

## NO DEBATE ON FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL, 2021

# ‘Shameless’: Opp mounts attack on Govt



Congress president Sonia Gandhi, senior party leader Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders protest at Parliament House on Monday; (right) Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar. Anil Sharma



## Govt-Opp consensus on repeal: Tomar

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

WITH THE Opposition accusing the government of not allowing a discussion on the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Monday that there was “consensus” on the issue. He also said a discussion on the Bill could have started in Lok Sabha but protests by Opposition parties ruled it out.

Tomar said the government had enacted the three farm laws for the benefit of farmers. “The government had held discussions with the protesting farm unions, but we are sorry that we could not succeed in explaining the benefits of the farm laws,” he said.

Tomar said the Opposition wanted the laws repealed, and when the government agreed to it, there was consensus.

In Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla repeatedly requested Opposition members to return to their seats so that a discussion could take place, said Tomar. If there was a discussion, the government would certainly have responded, he said.

Tomar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had kept his word as the Bill was passed on the first day of the Winter Session. He said the Centre had tried to take forward the agriculture sector through several schemes over the last seven years.

He said the government has implemented the MSP as per the Swaminathan Committee's recommendations, and MSP-based procurement has almost doubled as compared to 2014.

## Govt ready to discuss all issues, answer all questions: PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

MINUTES BEFORE the start of the Winter Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the government was ready to discuss all issues and answer all questions in the House.

Calling on lawmakers to maintain the dignity of the House, Modi told reporters outside Parliament in Delhi that the benchmark for success should be based on discussions, and not disruptions. “Our government is ready to answer all questions during the Winter Session of the Parliament. It is also ready to answer all questions... We should debate in the Parliament, and maintain the decorum of the proceedings,” he said.

Modi also reminded the MPs that they are in Parliament to fulfill the dreams of the crores of people in the country.

Pointing out that Parliament has renewed its pledge to protect the spirit of the Constitution last week, Modi said: “Everyone in the country would hope that the spirit of the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav will be maintained. And that the House should debate on the issues of national interest, explore new ways for development and make constructive decisions that would have far-reaching impact.”

The Prime Minister also urged people to be alert about Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19 that has triggered fears over another potential wave of infections across the world.



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur border after the Bill to repeal the three farm laws was passed. PTI

## Repeal of farm laws: Punjab unions hail ‘historic day’

**RAAKHI JAGGA**  
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 29

AS PARLIAMENT approved the repeal of the three farm laws on Monday, the 32 farmer unions of Punjab called it “a historic day” and declared “victory of the most peaceful struggle”, but added that the Centre has time till Tuesday to reply on its other demands, including legal guarantee for MSP. They also said an emergency meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on December 1 will decide their future course of action.

“This is a victory for us and a historic day. We want withdrawal of cases against the farmers. We want a committee to be formed on the legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops. The Centre has time till tomorrow (Tuesday) to reply to our demands. We have called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss the future course of action,” the SKM said in a statement.

The SKM said important demands are still pending. “History was made when the anti-farmer laws got repealed. However, the development was marred by the fact that there was no debate allowed on the Bill tabled to repeal the three laws,” it said.

Buta Singh Burjigill, president BKU (Dakaunda), said, “We have won this agitation. It is time to celebrate now. People used to say that *Modi hai toh mumkin hai*, but no one is above people's power.”

Sources hinted that if the government expressed its intention or gave guarantee to consider the farmers' remaining demands, the agitation at Delhi's borders might be called off.

Harmeet Singh Kadian, president BKU (Kadian), talking to *The Indian Express*, termed the year-long agitation as “the biggest *andolan* (movement)” after Independence. “It is our victory, but a decisive announcement will be made at the SKM meeting,” he said. “Our other demands — repeal of Electricity Amendment Bill 2020, cancellation of FIRs against protesters, and suspension of Ajay Mishra from Union Cabinet — are pending. The most important demand is MSP...”

# MPs’ suspension: Opp didn’t present its side, believes govt

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

JUSTIFYING THE suspension of 12 Opposition members from Rajya Sabha on the first day of the Winter Session, government sources said the Opposition leaders could have presented their side of the story had they agreed to be part of a committee to look into the events of August 11.

They also argued that since the events happened on the last day of the previous session, Monday was the first opportunity for the government to bring in a motion to suspend them. Sources also said should the suspended members apologise for their actions, the government might reconsider its stand.

Government sources pointed out that soon after the end of the previous session, Union minister Piyush Goyal had written to Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu complaining against the con-

duct of 20 MPs in the House, and seeking a special disciplinary committee to decide “exemplary disciplinary action” against them and formulate a code of conduct. However, a senior government source said, “many Opposition parties refused to be a part of it” even after the Chairman requested them. “If such a committee would have been formed, each party could have had a chance to explain their position and raise their concerns.”

The source admitted that there was “no precedent of such action (of suspension) after a session”, but added, “there is also no precedent to such unruly and obnoxious behaviour”.

The source also called what happened in the Monsoon Session “a planned attack” to ensure that the House did not run, and said the MPs concerned had not just obstructed Prime Minister Narendra Modi but also others from speaking.

Referring to Naidu “breaking down” on August 11 morning, the source mentioned that “the Chairman's trauma was literally the

last straw and action had to be initiated at the first available opportunity, which was the opening day of the Winter Session.”

Claims that disruptions happened when Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj led the Opposition were lies, the source said. “The BJP never used force or resorted to violence or impinged on the privileges of other MPs.”

On Monday morning, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi wrote a three-page letter to Naidu to be allowed to bring the motion to suspend the 12 Opposition MPs, highlighting several instances of alleged unruly behaviour on part of several members.

Mentioning the events of August 11, he alleged that the CPM's Elamaram Kareem “physically assaulted and tried to asphyxiate a marshal on Duty” and the Congress's Phulo Devi Netam and Chhaya Verma “pulled, dragged and assaulted a female marshal”. He called these instances “unfathomable and nothing short of sacrilege”, and said these “demand exemplary remedy”.

## Monsoon Session: Govt push to pass Bill led to chaos in Rajya Sabha

*New Delhi:* On August 11 — which was not supposed to be the last day of the Monsoon Session — the government's push to pass the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 at around 6pm led to chaotic scenes in Rajya Sabha. The House was adjourned sine die later that day.

The government intended to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, allowing it to reduce its stake in insurance companies — a Bill passed by Lok Sabha on August 2.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Bill without making any re-

marks. There were four amendments listed — by CPI's Binoy Viswam, CPI(M)'s Elamaram Kareem, TMC's Derek O'Brien and DMK's Tiruchi Siva — to refer the Bill to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha. Only Siva was able to move his amendment.

The Bill was passed by a voice vote, and the proposed amendment to send it to a select committee was negated. As Opposition members stormed into the well, additional marshals were called in. When the protesters tried to make their way to the Table of House, there was some jostling between them and the marshals.

**ENS**

**EXPLAINED**

# Omar: Detentions after Aug 5 a conspiracy to wipe out NC

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NC) vice-president and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that senior leaders of his party, including president Farooq Abdullah and himself, were detained after August 5, 2019, "as part of a conspiracy to wipe out the NC".

Addressing a public rally in Kishtwar, he added that the government had invoked the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against him while he was in detention "on the charge that he persuaded people to cast their votes and defeat Pakistan's poll boycott conspiracy".

In February 2020, after Omar had spent six months in preventive detention, he was booked under the provisions of PSA along with former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. The PSA dossier prepared by the police on Abdullah said: “the capacity of the subject to influence people for any



**Omar Abdullah at a rally in Kishtwar, Jammu. PTI**

cause can be gauged from the fact that he was able to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts." "Despite the fact that the subject has been a mainstream politician, he has been planning his activities against the Union of India under the guise of politics. And while enjoying the support of gullible masses, he has been successful in execution of such activities," it added.

He said that the purpose of de-

taining NC leaders was not only to stop them from meeting people, but “they wanted to finish our organisation during the period we remain under detention”.

He slammed the Congress for not supporting the demand to restore statehood and special status. Referring to Ghulam Nabi Azad's statement limiting his demand to restoration of statehood and not the special status, he said "even parties whom we expected to speak out in support of our demand have been silent".

# Azamgarh: Govt official, wife found dead with their throats slit

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 29

A 55-YEAR-OLD Dalit government official and his wife were found dead with their throats slit in their house at Tithaupur village in Azamgarh district on Monday morning, police said.

Azamgarh Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said some unidentified miscreants had barged into the couple's home late Sunday night and killed them by slashing their throats with a sharp-edged weapon and left, Arya said. The police came to know of the double murder after being informed by the victims' neighbours, he said.

Reacting over the murder of the Dalit couple, BSP president Mayawati said the government must check the recurrence of such incidents and "stop such atrocities on Dalits". She was referring to the murder of four members of a Scheduled Caste family in Prayagraj.

# PRAYAGRAJ KILLINGS

# Dalit youth sent to custody as upper caste members released

**ASAD REHMAN**  
PRAYAGRAJ, NOVEMBER 29

WHILE THE eight upper caste members held for the murder of four of a Dalit family in Prayagraj district were released Monday, police have detained three Dalit youths. While one of them was sent to judicial custody on Monday, police sources said that the two others would be released soon.

Police officers did not confirm the evidence they had against the Dalit youth whom they now suspect of the crime, including rape, or any proof regarding alleged accomplices. The bodies of the four, including a couple and their chil-

dren, had been found on Thursday at their home. Their relatives had accused 11 people of threatening the family, and police of helping

them. An FIR naming the 11 was registered on Thursday, and po-

lice held eight upper caste members. Two police personnel were suspended after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the family and the Yogi Adityanath government faced heat, with the Opposition accusing it of being "anti-Dalit".

The Dalit youth's family said he had been detained by police on Saturday evening. On Monday, the 19-year-old, who works as a labourer, was presented in court and sent to judicial custody. Two other youths from the 19-year-old's village, located around 2 km from the murdered Dalit family's, were picked up along with him. On Monday, their family members gathered outside the local police station asking when the two would be released.

An officer told *The Indian Express* that the two, 17 and 20, would be released soon as they had not found any evidence.

In a statement Sunday, ADG, Prayagraj zone, Prem Prakash had

claimed that the 19-year-old was stalking the girl who was raped and killed. "He was harassing the girl... On the basis of the last message and circumstantial evidence, he was arrested."

However, on Monday, a senior officer who is part of the probe told *The Indian Express*: "We have not had enough time with the accused as we have to oversee law and order too... We are awaiting forensic and DNA reports." Pressed on the evidence so far, the officer said, "It is part of the investigation, I can't reveal anything."

On Monday, neither Prakash nor Prayagraj DIG Sarvashreshtha Tripathi could be reached for a comment. Tripathi was "on leave".

The relatives of the murdered Dalit family said police were trying to protect the upper caste accused. "How can one boy (the 19-year-old) kill four people on his own? And if others were involved, where are they, who are they?..."

And if the boy had an issue with my niece, he would have killed her, why the other three?" said the brother of the man who was killed. While his niece who was raped and killed was earlier said to be a minor, police say they had found proof she was 23.

The elder sister of the 19-year-old held by police said he was being targeted "because he is Dalit and poor". Contesting police

claims of him stalking the woman, she said: "He was at home the day the murders took place... He is being made a scapegoat as police want to save the upper caste men," she said.

The mother of the 17-year-old Dalit youth detained by police said: "My son cannot do something like this."

The relatives of the murdered Dalit family said they are worried for their safety after the release of the upper caste members. "They will come back for revenge."

[illegible]

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Credit: Twitter/@ShashiTharoor

### SELF-IE GOAL

UNDER FIRE for a selfie (above) with six women MPs, which he posted with the caption “who says the Lok Sabha isn’t an attractive place to work?”, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor received support from TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Monday. While many, including Supreme Court advocate Karuna Nundy, pointed out that Tharoor’s caption attempts to “reduce elected political leader to their looks”, Moitra tweeted that the criticism seeks to “detract attention from this non-attractive government’s decision to not allow a discussion on the farm Act repeal.” Tharoor thanked Moitra for showing “solidarity”, in a rare show of camaraderie at a time when ties between their parties are strained.

### ACTION, REACTION

IT IS a race for the Opposition space. On Monday, minutes after Congress MPs including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi staged a protest in the Parliament complex, a senior TMC leader received a call, reportedly from Kolkata, asking him why TMC MPs were not holding a demonstration. The TMC had made it clear last week that it was not interested in joining hands with the Congress in Parliament. The TMC leader immediately called some of the party’s MPs and staged a demonstration at the same venue.

### TWO-IN-ONE

WITH THE government trying to find new ways to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 years of independence, the onset of winter has presented a new opportunity. The Department of Personnel and Training has sent out communications asking government employees to donate warm clothes for the poor. Collection centres have been organised at multiple places including North Block. In fact, the government has clubbed two of its campaigns in this drive, linking it to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as well its Swachhta (cleanliness) mission.

### WARNING NOTE

WITH THE adoption of FASTag and electronic toll collection growing exponentially over the last few months, a new problem has surfaced. Fake FASTags are reported to have entered the market, especially the online space. The National Highways Authority of India has issued warnings that fraudsters are selling counterfeit tags online, and asked the public to avoid ordering online.

## Bengal govt seeks to rope in consultants via lateral entry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 29

THE STATE government on Monday put out advertisements calling for applications from serving and retired professionals as senior consultants and consultants for 50 posts in various departments through lateral entry. The age limit is 35-70 years and the successful candidates would be absorbed in the government on contractual basis with remuneration of Rs 1.5 lakh-2 lakh a month, official sources said.

A decision in this regard was taken just after Durga Puja earlier this year after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee agreed.

According to officials, in the initial stage, the government has decided to recruit such professionals for 30 major departments of the state administration.

They will be given the status of special secretary in each department. They will be absorbed in the posts of consultant and senior consultant, government sources said.

A source in the state government said, “This is not a new concept. The Central government also recruited such professionals in key departments. However, the absorption of these professionals will help the government to solve many complex problems raised in different day-to-day government work. They will also help to make new policy guidelines.”

However, another senior official said, “This will create confusion and hierarchical problems because, in many cases, these consultants will have more power and remuneration than the Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and special secretaries.”

## UP Assembly polls: BJP fields OBC, Dalit leaders for outreach programme

LALMANI VERMA  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 29

THE RULING BJP in Uttar Pradesh has deployed more than 175 MLAs, MPs, former state legislators and other leaders from Other Backward Class (OBC) and Dalit communities as part of its ‘samajik sampark’ (social outreach) campaign. These leaders have been instructed to interact with small groups of people from their communities in one to 10 Assembly constituencies, excluding their own seats.

A BJP leader told *The Indian Express* on Monday that such a campaign could help the party bag the Assembly seats that it narrowly lost in the 2017 elections be-

cause of the dominance of Yadavs, Jatav Dalits and Muslims. “If we can consolidate the support of various castes scattered in such constituencies, we can even defeat the SP and BSP in constituencies dominated by Yadavs, Jatav Dalits and Muslims,” he added.

Among the constituencies that BJP lost by less than 4,000 votes in 2017 are Matera, Mahmoodabad, Najibabad, Lalganj, Kannauj, Dholana and Chhaprauli.

A senior BJP leader said 25-30 events were being held every day as part of the programme. Before this campaign, the party also organised 27 samajik pratinidhi sammelans with OBC and Dalit groups. “Localities in urban areas and pockets in rural

areas have been identified according to the presence of particular castes there. The focus is on OBCs and SC/ST-populated areas. Each of those over 175 MLAs, MPs, and other senior leaders who have been assigned 1-10 Assembly constituencies outside their constituencies to visit and address samajik sammelans of a group of people of their caste,” said a BJP leader associated with the campaign.

BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, “Such programmes also create enthusiasm among party workers.” Apart from MLAs and MPs, current and former, the ruling party has also roped in chairmen of boards, corporations, district panchayat chairpersons and block chiefs.

## Among poll-bound states, UP trails on poverty index, Goa best

SUNNY VERMA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

OF THE seven states headed into Assembly elections next year, Uttar Pradesh has the highest proportion of people who are multidimensionally poor, at 37.79 per cent of its population, while Goa has lowest ratio at 3.76 per cent.

There is wide variation between rural and urban poverty in five of the seven states — Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. There is also wide divergence in performance on the 12 indicators used to calculate the first ever Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by the NITI Aayog. The national MPI, as per the 2015-16 NFHS, is 25.01 per cent.

Of UP’s 71 districts, as many as 64 have MPI higher than the na-

tional average. In Gujarat, 9 of 26 districts fall in this category; in Manipur, 4 of 9; and in Uttarakhand, 1 of 13. On the other hand, all districts of Punjab (20), Himachal (12) and Goa (2) have lower MPI than national average. The MPI is an indicator of deprivation across multiple dimen-

sions and complements poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure. It has three equally weighted dimensions — health, education, and standard of living — based on 12 indicators such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanita-

BY THE NUMBERS			
Election bound states	Multidimensional Poverty ratio (%)	Rural poverty %	Urban poverty %
Goa	3.76	4.44	3.34
Punjab	5.59	6.4	4.32
HP	7.62	8.24	1.46
Uttarakhand	17.72	21.94	9.89
Manipur	17.89	22.95	9.9
Gujarat	18.60	27.4	6.59
Uttar Pradesh	37.79	44.32	18.07

Source: NITI Aayog National MPI Report

### PEGASUS

## SC-appointed panel seeks devices of petitioners for technical checks

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A THREE-MEMBER panel constituted by the Supreme Court to look into allegations of unauthorised phone surveillance using Pegasus, the spyware from Israeli company NSO, has asked the petitioners to submit the targeted devices for “technical evaluation”, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to sources, the panel asked the petitioners in an email to submit the devices “within the week”, which will then be tested. The sources said the email informed the petitioners that they would be given the option of “making submissions

under oath” before the panel supervised by retired Supreme Court judge, Justice R V Raveendran.

The members of the panel are Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dean of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Dr Prabaharan P, Professor at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala; and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor at IIT, Bombay.

The sources said the email mentions that the devices will be collected in New Delhi but does not specify the exact address, adding that “it could be communicated later”.

Earlier this year, following reports that Pegasus had been

used to snoop on journalists, activists, officials and even Union Ministers, some of the activists and journalists moved the Supreme Court seeking the formation of a committee to look into the issue.

On October 27, a three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, ordered the formation of a three-member technical committee to be overseen by Justice Raveendran.

The apex court had then listed a six-point term of reference for the committee, asking it to determine, among other things, whether Pegasus was used on phones or other devices of citizens to access stored data, eavesdrop on conversations, in-

tercept information and for any other purposes.

The court had also asked the committee to determine whether the software was acquired by a state or the Central Government, and that if a state, Centre, or any of its agencies had used the software, what laws and procedures were followed.

In its order on October 27, the Supreme Court observed that selection of the three-member committee was “an extremely uphill” task since they had to “find and select experts who are free from prejudices, are independent and competent” — and that “some of the candidates politely declined this assignment, while others had some conflict of interest”.



Punjab ex-CM Amarinder Singh with Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday. Express

### ‘Will form next govt in Punjab with BJP’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 29

FORMER PUNJAB chief minister Amarinder Singh Monday said his Punjab Lok Congress will form the government state in 2022 in alliance with the BJP and a break-away Akali faction. He made the remarks after paying a visit to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, which he described as “a courtesy call”.

“God willing, we and with our

seat adjustment with the BJP and with Mr (Sukhdev Singh) Dhindsa’s party (SAD Sanyukt), we will form the government,” he said, replying to media queries.

His meeting with Khattar came on a day when a Bill to repeal the three contentious agri laws, against which farmers have been protesting for over a year, was passed by Parliament.

Amarinder, however, said there was no political development. “I had a very nice cup of coffee with the chief minister. It is not

that whenever you meet anybody, it is a political meeting. It was just a courtesy call”.

Asked if he will meet BJP leaders for a seat sharing arrangement, the former Congress leader said he will go to Delhi and certainly call on Union ministers.

To a question on the registration of his party, he said they should be getting information regarding it any time. “We are also expecting the party symbol in a couple of days. The process was started 10 days ago”.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday issued notice to the Centre and the Tripura government on a plea seeking an independent probe into alleged communal violence in the state, and sought their responses within two weeks.

A bench Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna issued the notice on a plea by Advocate Ehtesham Hashmi, who, along with two other advocates, claims to have gone on a “fact-finding exercise” to the state in the aftermath of the alleged communal flare-up.

According to reports, a mosque and some shops were vandalised in North Tripura at a

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## BJP herds off Nagpur corporators to other states; Opp calls it panic

VIVEK DESHPANDE  
NAGPUR, NOVEMBER 29

WITH LEGISLATIVE Council elections to two seats less than two weeks away, Nagpur BJP has sent off most of its corporators along with councillors from municipal councils in the district as well as Zila Parishad members to BJP-ruled states, in an apparent attempt to prevent possible splitting of votes.

Overall, 350 persons affiliated with the BJP have gone outside Maharashtra, say party sources.

Election to Legislative Council seats of Buldana-Akola and Nagpur are scheduled to be held on December 10.

“Many of the corporators have been sent to Goa while some oth-

## House IT panel questions FB, will seek Speaker nod to call whistleblower

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE IT parliamentary committee is learnt to have unanimously decided Monday to record the statement of Facebook whistleblower Sophie Zhang even as panel members questioned Facebook India officials over its safeguards to prevent hate mongering, polarisation and tweaking of the democratic process.

The committee will approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for permission to invite Zhang for recording her statements — the Speaker’s permission is required to allow persons from overseas to appear before the panels. Zhang, the first former Facebook employee who had made public the company’s alleged unethical working, had shared dossiers with the House panel led by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.

On Monday, representatives of Facebook India including Shivnath Thakral, its head of policy, were questioned by MPs for almost two hours. They were summoned following allegations by whistleblowers and numerous studies on how social media platforms whip up sentiments to enhance activities on their platforms to promote business interests.

Panel members, it is believed,

were said to be dissatisfied with the response, and Facebook was asked to provide more details in writing on the safeguards.

The social media giant has been criticised by political leaders for not taking into account the plurality of the nation while dealing with such issues. Leaders have said it did not have linguistic or ethnic diversity among those who flagged such issues — it has content reviewers only in Hindi, Tamil, Urdu and Bangla.

Recently, in a written response to *The Indian Express*, Facebook said it has, in the last two years, hired more people with language, country and topic expertise. “Adding more language expertise has been a key focus area for us. They are part of the over 40,000 people we have working on safety and security including global content review teams in over 70 languages, including 20 Indian languages,” a Meta spokesperson had told *The Indian Express*.

The IT panel had earlier summoned Facebook for seeking explanation on a report in *The Wall Street Journal*, which said the social media company had deliberately turned a blind eye towards hate speeches by a BJP leader from Telangana and did not take them down from its platform, fearing that it may hurt the firm’s business interests in India, its biggest market.

### Badal family loyalist Harjinder Singh Dhani is new SGPC president

Amritsar: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) honorary chief secretary Harjinder Singh Dhani was on Monday elected as its president.

Dhani is the 44th president of the SGPC and succeeds Bibi Jagir Kaur who was named the Shiromani Akali Dal candidate from the Bholath Assembly seat in Kapurthala district for next year’s Assembly polls.

Dhani, a Badal family loyalist, is a member of the SGPC from



Harjinder Singh Dhani

Sham Chaurasi segment of Hoshiarpur district.

Speaking to reporters, Dhani said that besides expediting the ongoing religious preaching campaign, health and education services would also be given a new direction.

### TRIPURA CIVIC POLLS CPM hits out at TMC, claims 2nd largest vote share

Agartala: A day after Tripura civic poll results were announced, CPI(M) state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury said on Monday that his party retained the second-largest vote share after the BJP and is the main Opposition in the state, contrary to claims made by the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

“Where did they (TMC) get this data from? EC statistics say CPI(M) is the second-largest party,” Chaudhury said.

When contacted, Tripura Trinamool Youth Congress convener Baptu Chakraborty said his party contested 120 seats across different civic bodies and secured “24 percent votes”. “TMC didn’t contest in all the seats. We contested in 120 seats and secured 24 percent votes. Had we contested from all seats, we would have got 100 percent votes,” Chakraborty said. **ENS**

Covid variant in SA traveller not Delta: Karnataka Health Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 29

THE KARNATAKA government has sought clarity from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Union Health Ministry regarding a Covid-19 variant detected in a foreign traveller from South Africa, state Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said here on Monday.

The 63-year-old man, who was among the two persons who tested positive after returning from South Africa mid-November, was earlier reported by state officials as being infected by the Delta variant. However, Sudhakar said it was not the Delta variant and that clarifications had been sought from ICMR.

"I will not comment on the detection of the Omicron variant in a traveller from South Africa. We are holding discussions with ICMR and the Ministry of Health at the Centre. One person...has been infected by a variant different from the Delta variant," Sudhakar said.

"We will be getting a report by December 1 on the new variant and its characteristics and patterns," he said.

COVID DEATH COMPENSATION

Fewer claims, SC tells UTs, states to send details to Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Monday expressed concern over the low number of claims being filed for compensation for Covid-19 deaths and said this could be due to lack of enough publicity about the scheme or lack of knowledge about where to apply.

A bench headed by Justice M R Shah asked states and Union Territories to furnish details, including on the number of deaths recorded and claims received and processed, what publicity has been given to the compensation scheme and about where and whom to approach, whether they have set up portals for re-

Covid victim bodies found after 16 months, 'identified by tag'

KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 29

FOR NEARLY a year-and-a-half, Durga's daughters thought their mother who died at the height of Bengaluru's first Covid wave had been given a proper cremation. Their only surviving parent, Durga died last year. On Saturday, her body was among two discovered from an old mortuary building in a government-run hospital in the city, after about 500 days of their death.

The housekeeping staff went in to clean the abandoned mortuary at Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Model Hospital, which falls under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, after complaints of a foul smell. While Durga, 42, a garment worker who lived in K P Aghara, was declared dead due to Covid on July 5 last year, the other person whose body was found was Muniraju, 68, of Chamarajpet, a father of three girls, who died on July 2.

"Durga's daughters (15 and 10 now) lost both their parents



Durga, Muniraju died in July last year amidst a surge

within two years. After 500 days, police say her body was abandoned at a hospital. What do I tell them?" Durga's sister Sujatha G B said Monday. A police officer said when ESIC Hospital's old mortuary was pulled down and replaced by a new building, officials failed to check the freezer where the bodies were kept.

At the time, Bengaluru was struggling to cope with the Covid spread. The bodies of those who died due to the virus were not handed over to families by the government, amidst fears that this might further transmit the disease, with the last rites either carried out by the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) itself, or in the presence of fam-

ily members. BBMP Chief Health Officer Dr Balasundar A S said it seemed the hospital had been negligent. "I have sought a report from the field officers and action will be taken if there was negligence on the BBMP staff's part," he told The Indian Express.

Medical Superintendent Dr Imtiham Hussain's phone was switched off. He did not respond to messages. Durga and Muniraju's families battled shock and anger, as their cremations were carried out Monday.

Sujatha, also a garment worker, said: "Durga lost her husband, an alcoholic, in 2019. She had only started hoping to give a better life to her daughters when she died due to Covid."

She said the municipal authorities sent her a notice regarding the cremation at the time, adding that she could join. "At the time we all feared the virus and I did not want to put the children's lives at risk. We asked them to cremate the body. Later, we performed all the rituals."

Describing her shock on receiving the call that Durga's body

After passenger from South Africa tests positive, taxi driver yet to be traced

RUPSACHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

DAYS AFTER a 32-year-old Dombivli resident with international travel history from South Africa tested Covid-19 positive upon arrival in Mumbai via Delhi on November 24, the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) is unable to track the taxi driver who drove the man from Mumbai airport to Dombivli.

"I tried contacting him but he is not answering calls...As the person doesn't reside in KDMC jurisdiction, the department might ask Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to trace the driver," said Pratibha Panpatil, Chief Medical Officer of KDMC. The patient tested negative in

an RT-PCR test conducted 72 hours prior to his Cape Town flight to Mumbai. "Upon landing in Delhi, when another RT-PCR test was conducted, he was found positive. There is a possibility that his previous report was false negative," said Panpatil. KDMC has tested eight of the Dombivli resident's close contacts. Their reports were negative. "We have sent his samples for genome sequencing...We are hoping to get the report within a week," said Panpatil. Health officials are yet to ascertain if he is infected with the Omicron variant.

Less than .01% show adverse effect: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

SEEKING TO put to rest apprehensions about Covid-19 vaccines, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that the percentage of Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) having serious or severe consequences, including deaths, in the case of both Covaxin and Covishield is less than 0.01% and sought dismissal of a PIL that sought release of segregated trial data for each of the phases of

clinical trials of these vaccines saying that entertaining it will not be in public interest as any misgivings can lead to vaccine hesitancy. In an affidavit, the Health Ministry said AEFI "is being monitored and reviewed. The percentage of such effect having serious / severe [including deaths] in case of both Covaxin and Covishield is less than 0.01%. This is in the caveat that any such serious effect cannot be attributed to vaccination."

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

TARUN TEJPAL PLEA

Expect dignity while reading evidence in rape cases, says HC

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PVRORIM, NOVEMBER 29



Tarun Tejpal

DIGNITY AND sensitivity are expected from all parties, specifically while reading evidence related to rape cases, the Bombay High Court observed last week while rejecting plea by former Telhela editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal seeking in-camera proceedings.

Tejpal had sought in-camera hearings by the high court after the Goa government filed an appeal against his acquittal in the 2013 rape case against him.

He was accused of sexually assaulting his junior colleague at a hotel in Goa in 2013. He was acquitted by a sessions court on May 21 this year, with the judge saying that there wasn't "enough evidence to warrant a conviction".

"In proceedings such as these i.e. rape cases in general, it is expected that all parties conduct themselves with dignity, sobriety and some sensitivity that is required, particularly, whilst reading evidence pertaining to intimate details," the High Court said in a 23-page order of November 24. The detailed order was made available on Monday.

"...Maintaining decorum in the courtroom is not merely a superficial means of protecting the image of lawyers and judges - but it is absolutely essential to the administration of justice," the court said.

Turning down the application, a division bench of Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Justice M S Jawalkar said that Tejpal's application for in-camera proceedings was "devoid of merits".

Tejpal's counsel Amit Desai had argued that keeping the proceedings open to the public and the media will restrict him from making certain submissions over fears that those may be published. The judges, however, said the argument was not justified. "There is no embargo or restriction on the applicant to argue his case freely nor his right to argue his case can be curtailed," the court said.

Chandigarh man who was in SA tests positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 29

A 39-YEAR-OLD male resident of Chandigarh's Sector 36 has tested positive. On his return from South Africa on November 21, his RT-PCR report was negative on arrival.

He was quarantined at home on his arrival in Chandigarh and as per protocol, was tested again on Monday. The Health Department has confirmed he is Covid-19 posi-

tive. One of his family members and a domestic help also tested positive. While two family members have tested negative, the report of another family member is awaited.

As per the protocol, the man is currently kept in isolation in GMCH-32. According to Dr. Suman Singh, Director of Health Services, samples of the positive cases have been sent for genome sequencing to National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi, to ascertain the variant and if it is one of concern.

EXPRESS Careers

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FACULTY RECRUITMENT

IIM Kozhikode invites online applications from eligible candidates for various faculty positions in all fields of management.

Notification No. A-05/2021: Assistant Professor (Grade I) on regular basis

Notification No. A-04/2021: Faculty Fellow on contract basis

Notification No. A-03/2021: Assistant Professor (Grade II) on contract basis

Minimum Qualification : Ph.D. or equivalent degree in appropriate subjects, with first class or equivalent at the preceding degree, and with excellent academic record throughout. People having publications in reputed peer reviewed journals are preferred. Candidates who have submitted thesis for award of Ph.D. are also eligible to apply for Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor (Grade II) positions.

Experience : No prior experience is required for Assistant Professor (Grade II) and Faculty Fellow. For the post of Assistant Professor (Grade I), a minimum 3 years of teaching/research / industrial experience excluding the experience gained while pursuing Ph.D. is required.

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NOTICE OF 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting:

Notice is hereby given that the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Corporation will be held on **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 at 03.00 p.m. (IST)** through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with the applicable MCA Circulars and provisions of the Companies Act and SEBI to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM. The proceeding of the AGM shall be deemed to be conducted at the Registered Office of the Corporation.

Notice of AGM and Annual Report:

The Notice convening the AGM and the Annual Report of the Corporation for the financial year 2020-21 have been emailed on **Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021** to Members whose registered email IDs are available with Depository Participants (DP)/Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTA). The aforesaid documents can also be accessed on the websites of the Corporation **www.gicofindia.com**, Stock Exchanges (**www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com**) and e-voting agency M/s. National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at **www.evoting.nsdl.com**.

E-voting through Electronic means:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with other applicable statutory provisions, the Corporation has engaged the services of M/s. National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") for provision of remote e-voting facility as under:

Particulars	Prior to AGM	During AGM
Commencement of remote e-voting	<b>Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. (IST)</b>	<b>Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021</b>
End of remote e-voting	<b>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 05.00 P.M. (IST)</b>	<b>Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 (15 minutes post end of AGM)</b>
Cut-off date (for eligibility to vote)	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	
Weblink to access	https://www.evoting.nsdl.com	
E-voting Event Number	EVEN-118865	

Notes:

- A person whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date i.e. **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021** only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the Annual General Meeting.
- The Voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the Equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Corporation, as on **14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.
- Members who have not registered their email addresses or any person who becomes a Member of the Corporation after dispatch of the Notice of the AGM but before the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. **14<sup>th</sup> December 2021** can email the request to the Corporation at [investors.gic@gicofindia.com](mailto:investors.gic@gicofindia.com) by quoting the Folio No./DP-ID Client ID for obtaining copy of the Notice and Annual Report. Such Members are requested to follow the instructions given under the notes in the Notice of AGM to obtain Login id & Password for remote e-voting.
- The Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.
- The Members who shall be present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and have not cast their votes through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote during the AGM.
- Members who are desirous of inspecting the Statutory Registers/Documents forming part of Annual Reports can write to the Corporation on email id: [cs.gic@gicofindia.com](mailto:cs.gic@gicofindia.com) stating their DP-ID & Client ID or Folio No. upto the date of AGM.
- Members who would like to ask questions during the AGM need to register themselves as a speaker by sending a request from their registered e-mail address mentioning their names, DP ID and Client ID/Folio number, PAN and mobile number at [gicagm.speakers@gicofindia.com](mailto:gicagm.speakers@gicofindia.com) between **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (09:00 a.m. IST)** and **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (05:00 p.m. IST)**. Only those Members who have pre-registered themselves as a speaker will be allowed to express their views/ask questions during the AGM. The Corporation reserves the right to restrict the number of speakers depending on the availability of time for the AGM.
- In case of queries, Members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and the E-Voting User Manual for Shareholders available at the download section of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com). Members may also contact the following:  
Toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or 1800-22-44-30 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal / Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, NSDL at the designated email IDs at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in).

This public notice is also available on the Corporation's website ([www.gicofindia.com](http://www.gicofindia.com)).

For General Insurance Corporation of India

Place: Mumbai  
Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Sd/-  
(Satheesh Kumar)  
Company Secretary

EXPRESS explained.Live



CLIMATE CHANGE:  
IS THE WORLD  
DOING ENOUGH?



Mr. RR Rashmi

Distinguished Fellow and  
Programme Director, Earth Science  
and Climate Change, TERI



Amitabh Sinha

Resident, Editor, Pune  
The Indian Express

The recently-concluded climate change conference in Glasgow, COP26, was supposed to put the world on the 1.5 degree Celsius pathway. But has it? The Glasgow COP delivered some important successes, but overall the final outcome was far short of expectations, and nowhere near the ambition that, science says, is required to keep global temperatures within 1.5 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times. In that manner, COP26 was not very different from the earlier such meetings.

One of the highlights of COP26 was India's new climate pledges, including a promise to attain net-zero emission status by 2070. To discuss the COP26 outcomes, and India's new climate plans, Amitabh Sinha, Resident Editor of The Indian Express in Pune, will talk to Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, who was India's chief negotiator at these conferences for several years.

03 Dec 2021

06:00PM

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# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE  
COMEDY IS AN ESCAPE, NOT FROM TRUTH BUT FROM  
DESPAIR; A NARROW ESCAPE INTO FAITH.  
— CHRISTOPHER FRY

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## DIMINISHING HOUSE

A TV address to nation, unctuous tweets do not a debate make.  
The way the farm laws have been repealed dents Parliament

IT JUST TOOK four minutes for the Lok Sabha on Monday to pass a bill that sought to repeal the three controversial farm legislations which saw farmers mobilise at the Delhi borders for over a year. It is shocking — but hardly a surprise — that the government refused to heed the Opposition’s demand for a discussion in the House on the subject that had been debated extensively on different platforms across the nation. This is reminiscent of the manner in which the controversial laws were rammed through in Parliament in September 2020 without due consideration, as demanded by the Opposition, leading to deep distrust about the reforms itself in the society, particularly among a section of the farmer community. In fact, the obstinacy of the government was a major reason why it failed to convince the protestors despite 11 rounds of talks and the intervention of the Supreme Court about crucial reforms.

The decision to repeal the Acts was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Guru Purab. But a televised address to the nation is no substitute for a detailed statement and discussion in Parliament since these Acts had been passed by the House. Union ministers had taken to social media and hailed the PM’s climbdown as a great gesture in the national interest — what was against the national interest was never explained. So, what were the imperatives? Was the government’s failure merely a case of miscommunication? What has been the outcome of similar “reform” measures in the states? Should the Centre henceforth let the states decide their own agriculture reform paths as per the demands of local political economy rather than push centralised solutions on a sector rich in diverse cultivation practices and markets? Then, there is the continuing demand among farmers for making the minimum support price a legal right, which raises several fraught issues. It also seems even those who had opposed the farm laws agree that Indian agriculture is in a crisis and needs radical solutions. So what is the way forward? All these and much more — the tragedy in Lakhimpur Kheri where a central minister’s son was arrested on allegations that a SUV owned by him ran over a march killing five persons — needs vigorous debate in Parliament. By now the government should know that agriculture is a deeply contested territory and policy-making in the sector calls for conversations across fences. In fact, the farming community itself, including those in the forefront of protests, have, by their own admission, gone through a period of education and deep introspection about farm practices.

Prime Minister Modi is wont to call the Constitution a holy book and Parliament a temple. But his government has been found wanting in living up to the letter and spirit of that holy book and has frequently used its electoral majority to impose its will on Parliament by stomping out dissenting voices and ignoring custom and procedure. Debates are the lifeline of Parliament; their absence will diminish the institution, put a question mark on the next set of laws and deepen already hardening fault lines.

## TRAGEDY OF ERRORS

Bengaluru police disgraces itself by shutting down Munawar Faruqui’s show. State must not succumb to mob’s veto

BENGALURU POLICE COMMISSIONER Kamal Pant must answer: Why did the police force of one of India’s most cosmopolitan cities, where the future is daily reimagined and innovated on, disgrace itself by submitting to and enforcing a heckler’s veto? How else does one describe the act of the Bengaluru police writing to the organisers of a ticketed comedy show by Munawar Faruqui and “suggesting” that they cancel it because “organisations opposed to” Faruqui’s comedy “could create chaos ... and lead to law and order problems”? Faced with threats from right-wing organisations, Faruqui and the show’s organisers found they could not depend on what is taken for granted in functional democracies — that the state would defend their right to stage a show against a mob. Instead, the police were found upholding the right to be offended of those who have repeatedly used the threat of violence to force a majoritarian consensus.

The police is, indeed, responsible for keeping peace but that does not empower it to impose a prior restraint on an act of speech. The Supreme Court has several times spoken against the use of such pre-censorship — most recently, in a case last year involving a provocative show by Sudarshan TV. In the 1989 *S Rangarajan* case, when a Tamil film was sought to be denied clearance on the grounds that it would lead to violent protests, the SC had asked: “What good is the protection of freedom of expression if the state does not take care to protect it? ... it cannot be suppressed on account of threats of demonstration and processions or threats of violence. That would be tantamount to ... a surrender to blackmail and intimidation.” Unfortunately, the hounding of Munawar Faruqui, which began last year in Indore over a joke he might not have even cracked, illustrates precisely a surrender to this politics of “blackmail and intimidation”. An organised campaign of harassment has brought the young comic to the brink of quitting his career.

In the last several months, Faruqui’s shows have been cancelled in several cities, from Mumbai to Raipur to Surat, after threats of violence by Hindu right-wing organisations. The political class, irrespective of the party in office, has silently allowed this campaign to grow louder, even while making lofty declamations on Constitution Day. The Constitution promises Faruqui — and all citizens — the freedom of speech and liberty. The state and its police must go back to its job of defending those rights.

## KIM DEAN

For years, Kim Jong-un forced North Koreans to emulate his style. Now that he has a cool jacket, he wants no copycats

KIM JONG-UN, SUPREME Leader of North Korea, just can’t seem to figure out what kind of fashion icon he wants to be. For years, there have been reports coming out of the mysterious, tragicomical totalitarian state of the lack of choice for the people. A great symbol of that unfreedom was the fact that people could only get their hair cut in state-approved styles and many men and boys were encouraged to emulate Kim’s hairdo — a sort of bowl cut with an odd middle parting. It’s a hairstyle only a dictator can pull off: Most regular people will be teased out of it. Now, it seems that North Korean authorities have decided that imitation is no longer a form of flattery.

Since December 2019, Kim has been seen sporting a leather trench coat. Unlike the haircuts, this fashion choice reportedly has more takers and many North Koreans have been spending relatively exorbitant amounts — the country has an abysmal per capita income — to rock a leather jacket. But, it seems Kim now wants to be unique in his look and the police have been cracking down on the trench coat. Copying his look, it appears, is now an insult to Kim’s sacred personality.

At first glance, it appears that Kim is confused — it seems that he can’t decide between wanting to be the leader of the fashion pack or just a cool, leather-jacket-wearing, James-Dean-like lone wolf. After all, if a leather jacket becomes a uniform, is it even a leather jacket anymore? But perhaps there is more of a method to the sartorial diktats. When all people spoke about was a dated, somewhat unflattering bowl cut, he wanted everyone to be like him. Now that he’s cool, he wants to go it alone. Misery, Kim knows, loves company. And when you finally get a look right, you don’t want any copycats.



FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, three troubling reports came in. Approximately 5.46 million Indians lost their jobs in October as per CMIE data. In particular, our youth unemployment rate was 28.26 per cent in 2020-21, compared to 15.66 per cent in 2016-17. By August 2021, around 33 per cent of all employable youth were estimated to be unemployed. With 20 million Indians entering the job market annually, there are few jobs being created. All this, in a period when the informal sector, which was a natural back-up, is roiled by a push for formalisation, driven by demonetisation, GST and the lockdown.

Ideally, India could have capitalised on an opportunity to create millions of jobs by developing a competitive ready-made garment industry (similar to Bangladesh). This could have been done by providing incentives to the informal sector and MSMEs to acquire scale, while pursuing trade deals with Europe, Canada and the US that unlocked access to such markets.

Instead, India’s textile exports were virtually flat between 2015 and 2019; the unit labour cost of producing a shirt in India is \$0.5 compared to \$0.22 in Bangladesh — much of this is due to an unproductive workforce and poor logistics. The consequence of policy inaction is stark: As per a World Bank estimate in 2017, 12 million jobs shifted from China to Bangladesh in the past decade. Much of this could have refurbished a textile ecosystem in India.

Meanwhile, for Indians with jobs, the daily commute is pinching hard. Petrol prices were above Rs 100/litre in most cities in November, driven by high taxes. India is likely to have Electric Vehicle (EV) sales rising optimistically to just 8 per cent of all new car sales by 2030 — a clear case of lack of policy incentives leading to high-cost EVs. This is an opportunity lost. Countries like China, which seek to solve such structural issues (like dependence on foreign oil), have spent the past decade focused on building an EV industry, incentivising production and pursuing a rapid growth in charging stations. China is now on track to have EVs comprise 40 per cent of all car sales by 2030.

The average India’s kitchen budget has been hit by rising retail inflation. LPG prices have risen sharply (almost 30 per cent between January and Oct 2021). With almost 300 million registered domestic LPG consumers, the

From jobs to household budgets, slump in MSMEs to gathering debt, distress looms. Need is to course correct

Over the past decade, our policymakers have grandly announced hundreds of ineffectual policies to promote manufacturing in India, create jobs and raise farmer income; meanwhile, Bangladesh simply made clothes. They are richer than us now. A simple example highlights how policy inaction, apathy and mistakes have brought us to this moment. MSMEs have had a rough decade, being dislocated by the impact of demonetisation and being hit by a complex GST system. Meanwhile, a slowing economy, with little to no demand-side policy measures, has meant poor revenue growth for such firms tipped over into steep decline

impact on personal and fiscal finances has been significant. Some of this is also due to policy missteps — the state has pushed for greater adoption of LPG cook-stoves; instead, a push for electric cook-stoves could have helped reduce import demand and shielded the ordinary consumer from price hikes. Meanwhile, edible oil has seen significant hikes: Almost 30 per cent for packed mustard oil and vanaspati in Delhi between June 2020 and June 2021; almost 40 per cent for sunflower.

This is partly due to a dependence on imports for palm oil. A push for biodiesel production is also having a concomitant impact. In an ideal world, policymakers would have sought to increase the average yield of an oil-seeds farm in India and cut duties on imports. Campaigns to shift edible oil demand to locally produced edible oil types, such as mustard and sunflower, could have broken the linkage with international prices. We are now actively promoting deforestation in the Northeast by a push for palm oil plantations. Additionally, even ordinary vegetables are now pricier; daily essentials, from key FMCG players, have become dearer over the past few years.

Put together, such factors have made Indians poorer. An average farmer’s net worth declined by 33.8 per cent between 2013 and 2019; an average entrepreneur’s declined by 30.5 per cent, on a real-value basis.

To cope, Indians have taken to personal debt, en masse. Between 2012 and 2018, prior to Covid-19, the number of Indian households with debt rose significantly, with an incidence of indebtedness (percentage of households with any outstanding debt in 2018) in rural households of 35 per cent, and in urban households of 22.4 per cent (All India Debt and Investment Survey, NSS 77th Round, 2019). The average rural household in India had an outstanding debt of approximately Rs 59,728; the average urban household was twice as much. Increasingly, the poorest Indians are given the worst conditions for new loans — 44.8 per cent of all new borrowers in April-June 2019 were from the sub-prime/ near-prime category (having higher credit risk). Such citizens are charged loans at 25-40 per cent annual percentage rate and then chased by recovery agents. As a consequence, many Indians have had to flog off their family gold — gold loans

outstanding have risen by 77.4 per cent between August 2020 and July 2021.

All this, in a vicious cycle, has led to a return to mass poverty. The number of Indians who are poor (with a daily income less than or equal to \$2 per day) rose to 134 million in 2021 from 59 million in 2020. The middle class is shrinking, from 99 million in 2020 to 66 million in 2021 (Pew Research, March 2021). All this has happened in an era of extreme inequality with India’s top 1 per cent holding 73 per cent of the national wealth in 2017.

There seems to be a palpable loss of hope. Going forward, we should chart out a new journey for India, one where policymakers skew away from supply-side measures (for example cutting taxes for corporates, monetising state assets, burdening MSMEs) and pursue demand-side measures, seeking to help the common man.

Over the past decade, our policymakers have grandly announced hundreds of ineffectual policies to promote manufacturing in India, create jobs and raise farmer income; meanwhile, Bangladesh simply made clothes. They are richer than us now. A simple example highlights how policy inaction, apathy and mistakes have brought us to this moment. MSMEs have had a rough decade, being dislocated by demonetisation and being hit by a complex GST system. Meanwhile, a slowing economy, with little to no demand-side policy measures, has meant poor revenue growth for such firms tipped over into steep decline. Across sectors, a whiff of oligopoly is emerging, where MSMEs have no place and where the state is comfortable with large corporates dominating the value chain.

In select sectors, the share of the top five firms in total revenues of the sector can be quite stark — for FMCG, it is 64 per cent; for cement 65 per cent, for infrastructure 73 per cent, for power 81 per cent, for electricals 75 per cent. Amidst all this, India’s policymakers could have intervened to conduct antitrust actions, enhance competition, open up greater financing towards MSMEs and offer a simplified taxation system. There is still time, only just, to course correct.

Gandhi is BJP MP from Pilibhit, UP, and the author of A Rural Manifesto



PRATIK DATTA

THE CENTRAL government has recently clarified that IBC proceedings could be triggered against state government-owned electricity distribution companies (discoms). This could have major implications for the electricity sector. Successful resolution of discoms would, however, require further policy thinking.

Electricity is a concurrent subject under the Constitution. Yet, state governments have played a critical role in this sector since pre-independence times. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 established State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for the development and operation of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. In 1991, electricity generation was opened-up to the private sector. However, state government control over electricity distribution continued. Push came to shove in 2001 when SEBs had to be bailed out due to their mounting arrears towards central public sector generation companies. This paved the way for the Electricity Act, 2003. It mandated all SEBs to be unbundled into separate generation, transmission and distribution companies.

Since then, most states have unbundled their electricity utilities with varying market structures. While around 47 per cent of electricity is now being generated privately, most discoms are still state government owned.

States have strong incentives to favour important political constituencies by charging lower tariffs, selectively enforcing against unauthorised use etc. Discoms have, therefore, been used as a tool of redistribution. Despite

## POWERLESS TO PAY

Use of bankruptcy code to recover discom arrears will require careful thinking

Privatising discoms could potentially solve problems. Some states have opposed this idea. The central government is, therefore, considering delicensing of electricity distribution itself. This idea has also been met with opposition. Against this backdrop, enabling creditors to trigger IBC proceedings against state discoms assumes significance. Threat of IBC would compel states to either reform their financially distressed discoms or yield to privatisation efforts through insolvency resolution.

four bailouts in the last two decades, they continue to suffer from precarious financial health.

Privatising discoms could potentially solve problems. Some states have opposed this idea. The central government is, therefore, considering delicensing electricity distribution itself. This idea has also been met with opposition. Against this backdrop, enabling creditors to trigger IBC proceedings against discoms assumes significance. Threat of IBC would compel states to either reform their financially distressed discoms or yield to privatisation efforts through insolvency resolution.

Successful privatisation of discoms through IBC would depend on multiple factors. The consumer mix and geography are important determinants of a discom’s commercial viability. A recent Niti Aayog report argues that privatisation would be difficult when a discom’s service area is more rural. Given the tariff differential and difficulty of billing, collection, and in some cases, metering, the cost of servicing rural and agricultural consumers becomes commercially challenging. Additionally, state regulators, which issue distribution licenses and set tariffs, have not turned out to be as independent of state government control as needed. This remains a major risk for investors. Given such sectoral factors, a going concern sale of some discom assets through IBC may be challenging.

Policymakers need to also think through the interplay between the electricity regulators and the insolvency tribunal. For instance,

the US bankruptcy code explicitly preserves the regulatory agencies’ rate-setting authority under a plan of reorganisation. There is no similar provision in the IBC. Therefore, clarity is needed on the NCLT’s power to approve a discom resolution plan that proposes a tariff change. If the NCLT could do so, tariff changes through resolution plans would be binding on the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC). The policy on this issue may have significant implications for discom resolution.

Insolvency of such utility service providers may need special treatment to ensure continuity of supply. Wide-scale disruption of such services could have disastrous consequences for an economy. For this reason, the UK restricts the rights of energy suppliers and their creditors to initiate insolvency proceedings. They must first notify the financial distress to the Secretary of State and Ofgem, the energy regulator. Ofgem assesses whether a supplier of last resort could be appointed to take over the responsibility of the failed supplier. If that is not feasible, Ofgem or the Secretary of State may apply to the court to initiate a special administration regime that ensures continuity of supply. Comparable institutional safeguards may be required in India, while being mindful of state capacity constraints. The policy solutions that emerge should be informed by foreign precedents but rooted in Indian realities.

The writer is senior research fellow, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, New Delhi



## NOVEMBER 30, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

### GURDWARA EXPLOSION

THREE PERSONS WERE killed on Sunday in an explosion in Gurdwara Gurdarshan Prakash at Mehta Chowk, headquarters of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. At the time of the explosion, the Sant was away in Barer village in Gurdaspur district. He returned to his headquarters, about 40 km from Amritsar, on hearing about the incident. The explosion brought down a major part of the gurdwara complex. The three dead were disciples of Sant Bhindranwale. A case under section 302 IPC and section 4 of the Indian Explosives Act was registered on a complaint lodged by Dhara Singh, a confidant of the Sant and establishment-in-charge at the gurdwara. The explo-

sion, which occurred at 12.30 pm, killed Jaswant Singh (20), Sukhmandhir Singh (13) and Gajjan Singh (27). It destroyed the community kitchen in the gurdwara.

### ASSAM TENSE

THE ARMY STOOD by to help the civil administration and CRPF units were deployed at sensitive points in Assam on Sunday, on the eve of the 13-hour “Rasta roko” programme beginning at 5 am on Monday. This is the first time since the suspension of the stir last year that the agitation leadership has asked the people to agitate actively in the face of heavy police arrangement and the possibility of violence. The Governor of

Assam and Meghalaya, Prakash Mehrotra, has already announced that all highways will be kept open.

### MEETING DISRUPTED

CONGRESS (I) WORKERS indulged in fist-fighting and snatched the microphone from the dais at the meeting of the Hindu Raksha Sammelan in Jalandhar on Sunday when Sankaracharya Niranjandev Tirath of Puri was speaking. The provocation for the Congress (I) workers to disturb the meeting was the Sankaracharya’s criticism of the Congress (I) for “downgrading Hinduism” in the country. The Sankaracharya held Mrs Gandhi responsible for the present plight of Hinduism.



## THE IDEAS PAGE

## Beijing's blunder

Xi Jinping's aggressive regional policies are driving many countries that were hopeful of deeper ties with China towards the US



RAJA MANDALA

By C. RAJA MOHAN

ONE OF THE many consequences of China's assertive posture in Asia has been the emergence of geopolitical coalitions to limit the prospects for Beijing's regional dominance. Two new coalitions that have got a lot of political attention are the Quadrilateral framework involving Australia, India, Japan and the US, and the AUKUS, which brings together Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

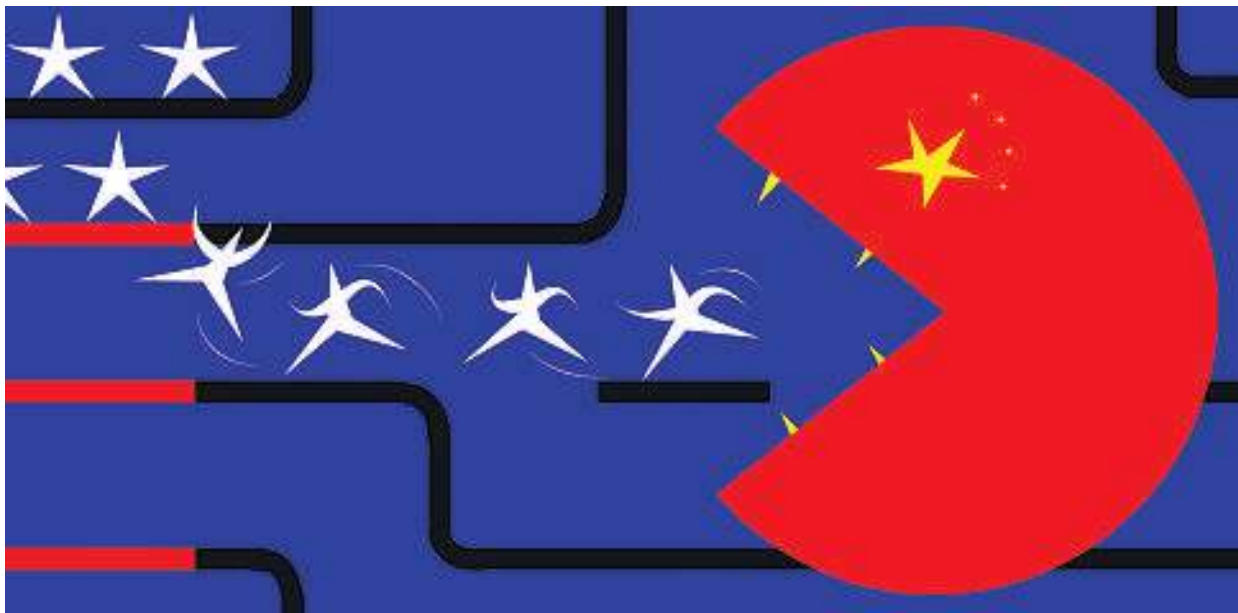
Until recently, China was quite contemptuous of the new political formations. It had compared the Quad to "seafoam" that is here now but gone in a second. China's dismissive attitude has now yielded place to denunciation. In Beijing's diplomatic lexicon, Quad and AUKUS are "small cliques". "Small cliques" are not new to international politics; nor is China unfamiliar with them. You could argue that forums such as RIC and BRICS — the former brings together Russia, India and China and the latter has, in addition, Brazil and South Africa — are "small cliques". Hypocrisy is endemic in international life. "My cliques are great — they are about promoting a 'multipolar world' — but your cliques are dangerous because they threaten regional security". Where you stand depends on where you sit.

Two big factors are behind China's rethinking. One was the surprising emergence of American domestic political consensus on challenging China. Beijing was convinced that President Joe Biden would reverse his predecessor's confrontation with China. Beijing believed that Donald Trump was an exception to the longstanding US policy of deeper economic integration with China and sustained political engagement. But Biden has simply reinforced Trump's strategy. China is perhaps the only issue that cuts across the deepening political divide in the US. That brings us to the second big factor.

Trump thought that alliances are a burden on US taxpayers and relentlessly trashed long-standing allies in Europe and Asia. Biden, in contrast, has made alliances a critical element of his China strategy. The idea was to create "situations of strength" vis-à-vis China by rebuilding US alliances and developing new coalitions.

In Asia, the Biden administration moved quickly to strengthen the traditional security ties with its allies in northeast Asia — Japan and South Korea. It also elevated the Quad to the leaders-level within weeks after Biden took charge and had a physical summit in Washington six months later. It also announced the AUKUS. Not only has Washington backed the British aspirations to regain a security role in Asia, but also encouraged the Europeans to focus on the China question and contribute to Indo-Pacific security. Biden travelled to Europe in June this year to revitalise the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Biden also decided on an early summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin that took place in Geneva at the end of his European tour. While the idea of America separating Russia from China continues to look fanciful, Washington now recognises the importance of keeping channels open to



C.R. Sasikumar

Moscow. It was only after getting his ducks in a row that Biden had his first summit with Xi Jinping earlier this month.

Biden's team believed that the greatest strength of the US was its wide network of allies and partners. And that mobilising them was the key to rebalancing relations with China. What about China's own alliances and partnerships?

While China's economic reach is now global and deep, political and military alliances have not been part of Beijing's tradition. To be sure, Beijing's ties with Moscow have never been as close as they are. China also has strong alliance-like relations with North Korea and Pakistan. But there can be little comparison though between the kind of strengths that American allies bring to the table with those of China's partners.

Although the US has more allies and partners, Beijing was betting on the proposition that the Asian geopolitical structure was turning, irretrievably, in China's favour. This is based on a number of propositions.

One, America, located far from Asia, will have trouble overcoming the tyranny of geography in a conflict with China. Two, China's hard power — both economic and military — relative to the US is growing rapidly and shifting the local balance of power in its favour. Three, the proximity of China and Asian regional integration have made Beijing the most important economic partner for the whole region. Beijing believed that few Asian nations would want to spoil their commercial relations with China and align with Washington. If someone did make the mistake of embracing the US, Beijing was confident economic punishment would bring them back to their senses.

Four, the vast imbalance in military power between Beijing and its neighbours it presumed would dissuade most Asian states from considering armed confrontations with China.

Five, China counted on the fact that it is easier to break up coalitions than build them. The country trying to construct a coalition will need to maintain unity of purpose among a diverse set of countries. That is not easy to do in a sustained manner even in the most favourable circumstances. A capable disruptor can offer valuable bilateral deals to individual members of the opposing coalition.

China has been confident, at least until now, that it can tempt the US into a bilateral deal in the name of shared great power interests and joint management of the world. But

Chinese policies have driven the US towards an unanticipated internal consensus on containing Beijing.

Making a friendly America into an enemy prematurely could go down as one of Xi Jinping's egregious strategic errors. For all claims about America's decline, history points to the dangers of underestimating US capacity for self-renewal and the will to retain its primacy.

China's aggressive regional policies are driving many countries like Australia, India, Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam, towards the US. All these countries who were hopeful of deeper ties with China are now under pressure to find external support to cope with Beijing's threats.

While the military balance of power in Asia has certainly turned in China's favour, it has not cowed down its neighbours. Many are pursuing stronger national military capabilities to limit some of the threats from China. The US, in turn, has begun to strengthen the defence capabilities of Asian nations at the receiving end of Chinese military power. China's expansionism has led to the inevitable militarisation of its periphery.

China's aggressive policies have not brought the political acquiescence that Beijing expected from all its neighbours. In fact, it has had the opposite effect with key neighbours. China, which never stops to emphasise its own nationalism, appears to have underestimated the depth of similar sentiment in other Asian states. In the past, Asian nationalism was easily mobilised against the US and the West. Today, it is driving many of China's neighbours into the US camp. It is America and not China that today talks about the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Asian nations.

Meanwhile, Chinese diplomacy, once hailed as wise and far-seeing, has now become the textbook case of how not to conduct business with other states and societies, thanks to its crude "wolf warriors".

It has been quite fashionable in the West as well as in the East, to proclaim that China's hegemony is inevitable, American decline is terminal, and Asian coalitions are unsustainable. Those conclusions are premature at best. For Xi Jinping has squandered many of China's natural geopolitical advantages.

*The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express*

## Prejudice in the schoolyard

Our schools and textbooks cannot pretend that the inequalities of society do not permeate them



DISHA NAWANI

THERE IS NO reason to believe that there is a connection between "what children learn in schools" and recent events such as the lynching of a Dalit youth to death in Punjab, social media tweets against actor Shah Rukh Khan for the arrest of his son, Aryan Khan and uproar over Fabindia advertising Diwali as Jashn-e-Riwaz. Underlying these events are deep-rooted prejudices, stereotypes, expressions of self-righteousness, mistrust and hatred for those "different" from us — in terms of gender, religion, caste and class. A more appropriate question to ask perhaps would then be, "what is the role of schools" in the formation of prejudices/stereotypes.

We must begin by acknowledging that schools are a microcosm of the larger society. If there are cleavages in society, they will get reflected in schools. For example, a Dalit girl's experience will be different from a Brahmin boy, even if they go to the same school. This is because, for each child, the social reality outside of school will also impact what he experiences inside schools because of messages, either manifest or hidden, transmitted in schools.

Now let us examine how schools treat their students. On the one hand, they have homogenising rituals such as mandating a school uniform, common assembly and common modes of teaching, evaluating and disciplining imposing the same code of conduct/expectations from everyone. On the other hand, there are rituals that are meant to mark/grade and separate students from each other. This is most evident in the way high achievers are rewarded, made to wear marks of distinction, sometimes even physically separating them from the so-called weaker sections.

This would lead us to believe that schools give little weightage to different forms of capital — economic, social and cultural resources that students may or may not possess depending on where they come from and how that influences their performance in school. Instead of acknowledging diversity, stratification and associated inequality and discrimination schools pretend that all is well in the world outside and shut themselves off from divergent experiences that different children may have. There are safeguards in the form of syllabi, prescribed textbooks and focused examinations that ensure the child's world — knowledge, language, culture, experiences — is not allowed entry into the school. While this is made explicit in all formal and informal communication to students and their parents, there is another way in which most students' experiences are distorted in the classroom. Textbooks, the central pivot around which teaching-learning revolves, are responsible for perpetuating symbolic violence against certain social groups living on the margins of society by either ignoring or

misrepresenting them.

For instance, women, and other social groups on the gender spectrum, people with disabilities, hardly find any presence in textbooks. If they do, they are caricatured or presented in a poor light. There are examples galore of women shown as being dumb, people with disabilities as helpless or even wicked, people from lower classes as being dirty and lazy, Dalits as being inferior and deserving of hardships and tribals as being steeped in orthodoxy and superstition. Minorities, either linguistic or religious, also meet the same fate. Loose, irresponsible statements are made in textbooks, which are then reinforced by teachers in the classroom. Social inequalities present in the real world are thus replicated inside schools.

Another serious limitation with our textbooks is the tendency to keep them sanitised, with no mention of any social evil or conflicts. This is done to keep young minds away from the ill effects of all that is bad in society. Ironically, a child experiencing discrimination day in and day out in his real life is transported to a make-believe world where all is well. A child wearing a skull cap being teased outside the class and accused of being a terrorist on entering the classroom reads a textbook, which says, "Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai *apas mein bhai bhai*". Nazia Erum, in her book *Mothering a Muslim*, based on systematic research in schools across several cities in India shows how Muslim children are teased by being called "terrorist" and "Pakistani". Similarly, a Dalit child living a life on the fringes of his village is given to believe that all is well with school and society. Sociologists, Murali Krishna and Govardhan Wankhede, in their autobiographies, poignantly present experiences of discrimination and humiliation they faced in their childhood both inside and outside school.

Added to this is the pedagogical necessity to passively accept whatever is taught in schools. Prejudices become our lens, shaping the way we look at the world and others around us. As adults, we cling to them as they help us justify our misdeeds against others.

The National Curriculum Framework 2005 radically tried to shift the nature of schooling in India. Social science textbooks, particularly Social and Political Life, were outstanding in several ways. Instead of adopting an attitude of an ostrich they acknowledged inequity in society, brought in subaltern literature and voices, and accorded legitimacy to multiple world views. Contrary to the spirit in which NCF was written, one finds it difficult to understand why sacrifice is espoused and valued in the National Education Policy, 2020. Eklavya's sacrifice of his thumb as *gurudakshina* to Dronacharya is celebrated in our textbooks rather than being condemned. In a grossly unequal society, it is not difficult to imagine that who will be expected to sacrifice and to whom, and the "we" in school and society will continue to engage in acts of violence. While we take pride in inflicting violence on those weaker than us, with each such act, we become more dehumanised.

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M P NATHANAEL

THE RECENT KILLING of four personnel of the 50th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by one of their colleagues, Constable Reetesh Ranjan, at their camp in Maraiguda Lingalappali village of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh has once again highlighted the need for an overhaul of the grievances redressal mechanism in the force. The constable, who was to take the post at 4 am on November 8, got ready and began firing at his sleeping colleagues around 3.30 am, seriously injuring seven of them. After he had emptied the magazine, he was overpowered by other personnel in the barrack.

Of the seven injured, four succumbed to their injuries while the remaining have been admitted to a hospital. Preliminary reports and a video recording indicate that the constable was irked by certain jokes targeting him and his wife. Two personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) were killed at Khagrachari post in Gomati district of Tripura on September 24 when a constable turned his gun on a head constable, killing him on the spot. The constable was then shot by another constable, when he trained his gun on a sub-inspector.

As many as 18 deaths due to incidents of fratricide in CRPF alone have been reported in the last four years. Coupled with a growing number of suicides, the conclusion drawn is that the personnel are on a short fuse that only needs a trigger. As many as 29 CRPF personnel committed suicide in 2016. The figure rose to 38

## Broken bonds

CAPFs must address structural issues to overcome stress among personnel

during the following two years. In 2019, 43 personnel committed suicide with the figure touching 60 last year.

Brainstorming sessions held by senior officers in the past have resulted in decisions that have, to some extent, helped ameliorate the situation. While yoga was introduced in almost all the battalions over a decade back, it has had little effect. Mobile numbers of senior officers are prominently displayed in recreation rooms and messes of the men, allowing them access for airing their grievances directly to senior officers. Personnel are even allowed to seek personal interviews with senior officers to explain their problems and seek redressal.

There can be no denying that stress has contributed to the escalation of fratricide and suicide cases in Central Armed Police Forces. While CRPF officials attribute the recent incident in Sukma to "emotional stress" leading to "sudden psychological imbalance", the reasons for such stress call for a thorough study and remedial action. Large number of vacancies in the forces make it difficult for supervisory officers to send men on leave even twice a year. Any effort to increase leave entitlement of the CAPFs is turned down on the plea that they are civilian forces and are to be governed by the relevant rules. Defence personnel are entitled to 60 days of annual leave, apart from 30 days casual leave, while CAPF personnel are entitled to only 15 days casual leave, apart from 60 days earned leave. Before the strike

by CAPF personnel in 1979, they were entitled to just 34 days of earned leave.

Frequent changes of company commanders and even company second in command (inspector) have adverse impacts on cohesiveness, which is essential for maintaining high morale. Though it is ideal to have both in every company, one of them always has to be necessarily present. Incidents of fraggings were very rare until a few decades back because of the bond that existed between the supervisory officers and the men. Vacancies then were minimal.

The vacancies in CAPFs were nearly a lakh as of January 1, 2019, which shot up to 1,27,120 on January 1, 2020, with CRPF alone having nearly 25,000 vacant posts, including 550 for gazetted officers (GOs). BSF had 27,423 vacancies including 487 for GOs. Such large-scale vacancies also affect the smooth functioning of the organisations.

The post of one subedar major (SM) is sanctioned in all battalions and institutions. This is a very important post which, in recent years, has not been fully used. The SM keeps the battalion commanders in touch with the pulse of the men on various issues, the most important being the morale of men of the unit. This post needs to be activated to avert such incidents. Though the CRPF rules provide for the granting of the honorary company commander (now assistant commandant) posts to exceptionally deserving subedars/SMs, this perhaps has never been implemented. Conferment of

such honorary ranks who do not make it to the posts of regular assistant commandants will boost their morale.

Over a decade ago, the battalions moved as one cohesive unit from one place to another. These days, a third of the personnel of a battalion is transferred out, adversely impacting the bonding. The personnel are expected to adjust themselves frequently in a new environment and cultivate a new set of friends to share their woes and joy. Restoration of the system of posting personnel in a battalion until they attain the rank of sub-inspectors would instil a sense of belonging. In their wisdom, senior officers of yore decided to end the moving of battalions in the pursuit of economy. But economising cannot be at the cost of morale.

The CRPF has introduced the concept of holding "*chaupals*" where the personnel will be free to air their grievances in informal settings with senior officers. This is a creditable step. However, not many may open up in the presence of their colleagues, who may later use those disclosures to mock them. Complete privacy should be ensured when personnel meet their senior officers, so that they can come out with their domestic problems candidly.

Losing lives in incidents of fratricide is deplorable and all steps should be taken to arrest repeat of such incidents.

*The writer is a former inspector general of police, CRPF*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## UNDERMINED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Making the House work' (IE, November 29). The government's backtracking on the farm laws has cast the spotlight on the functioning of Parliament yet again. In recent times, a number of laws have been passed with little discussion, purely on the strength of the ruling party's majority. The Opposition and civil society have been painted, more often than not, as a nuisance and their protests suppressed. The regular defection of MPs and MLAs to rival parties, lack of critical debate on proposed laws, and the interference of the executive pose a threat to the independence of the Parliament. The repeal of the farm laws should prompt the government to take cognizance of this fact.

**Ila Railkar, Mumbai**

## COMEDY DENIED

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Faruqui show in Bengaluru cancelled; he says: hate has won, I'm done' (IE, November 29). It seems like comedy has no place in Indian society. Stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui has announced he will hang up his boots after several shows across the country were cancelled. Vir Das is facing the heat for his "two Indias" comment. Where are we heading? Some of these comedians may have stepped on certain sensitive issues but do we need to keep targeting them to such an extent that they are forced to give up? It's time we broaden our perspective. It's time we accept the little "comedy of errors" committed by our stand-up comedians. Life is one big

comedy, let's live it!

**Melville X D'Souza, Mumbai**

## CATEGORY CLARITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New horizons' (IE, November 29). It is no doubt a matter of satisfaction to see the status of our two neighbouring countries being upgraded from LDC to developing countries. It is also time to have a look at the multiplicity of classifications for countries by different agencies such as the UN, WTO and World Bank and the different methods and different terminology used by them. Some developed countries also classify others, using their own criteria. The case of the Trump administration deeming India to be a developed country and not a developing one is an example. The status of a country has important trade, resource allocation and other implications and it is, therefore, important to have a consistent approach to country classification. All countries should take this matter up in earnest.

**Hemant Contractor, Pune**

## TMC HYPOCRISY

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'In TMC candidate list, family ties run deep' (IE, November 28). Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee always accuses the Congress of dynastic rule while the list of her party's candidates for the KMC elections shows that wards, relatives of the ministers, leaders close to her were nominated, including her sister-in-law. This proves that she doesn't practice what she preaches.

**SS Paul, Nadia**

### J&K POLICE BOOK MINOR TEEN WHO CROSSED OVER FROM PoK

*Jammu:* A teenager from PoK, who had crossed over to Poonch district from across the LoC last week, was on Monday booked by the J&K Police under provisions of the Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance. Sources said he was initially questioned by the Army.

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**उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना** अनुभवी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/फर्मों से इस कार्यालय के नियन्त्रणाधीन विभिन्न परेषण खण्डों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों/क्रय हेतु ई-निविदाएँ ई-पोर्टल [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अयोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉग आन करें। विवरण निम्न प्रकार है- ई-निविदा संख्या, कार्य का विवरण, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, खुलने की दिनांक, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य के क्रम में पढ़ा जाये। 1. **ETC/MU/T-117/2021-22:- (अति-अल्पकालिक)** विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर के अन्तर्गत 400 के.वी. विष्णुप्रयाग-मुजफ्फरनगर द्विपथ परेषण लाईन का वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण का कार्य। रु. 97.54 लाख। दिनांक 06.12.2021, (तकनीकी भाग पार्ट-1 खोलने हेतु) रु. 97,600/-, रु. 5,900/- (कर संचित)। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परेषण **मण्डल उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि. भोपा रोड, मुजफ्फरनगर फोन नं.:- 0131-2608038** **पत्रांक/No. 2931/ वि.पा.म.(ETC)/ सु.नगर(MZN)/ दिनांक/DATED 29.11.2021**

# Police to investigate ‘secret meeting’ between Param Bir, Sachin Waze

**SAGAR RAJPUT & VALLABH OZARKAR**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

HOURS AFTER the state-appointed Chandival Commission cancelled the bailable warrant issued against former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh, an inquiry was initiated into alleged “secret meeting” between Singh and dismissed policeman Sachin Waze.

Singh and Waze -- an undertrial prisoner who is the main accused in the Antilia security scare case and is being investigated by the NIA -- allegedly met in a separate room in the premises where the Chandival Commission holds its hearings, without seeking the judge’s permission. The



Param Bir Singh (left) and Sachin Waze appeared before the Chandival Commission on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Mumbai Police will conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit its report to the Navi Mumbai Police, who shall take action against the four policemen -- including one who allowed the alleged meeting to take place. Earlier in the day, the former Mumbai Police commissioner presented himself before the commission.

The Chandival Commission was appointed by the



government to probe Singh’s allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh. It had issued a bailable warrant against him on September 7 after he failed to appear before it. After Singh resurfaced last week, his lawyers filed an application before the commission seeking cancellation of the bailable warrant, which the commission granted on Monday.

“It is informed that ill health

and other ailments precluded him from remaining physically present before this commission. Based on protection extended by Hon’ble Supreme Court by order dated 22nd November 2021, Singh has cause to ensure his presence before the commission,” read the order. The bailable warrant was cancelled and Singh was fined Rs 15,000.

Singh reached the Old Secretariat Building Annex in Fort at 10.30 am. The commission sits on the second floor. The office of the Homeguards is situated on the first floor of the same building. Singh first went to his office and spent about half an hour there. He then appeared before the commission at about 11.05 am.

Meanwhile, Waze had also been brought to the building and marked his presence before the commission, but he was not scheduled to depose on Monday. The meeting between him and Singh is alleged

to have taken place in the room next door to where the commission holds its hearings. Their meeting allegedly went on as Waze’s four police escorts stood outside. Following the alleged meeting, at around 12:05 pm, Singh and his lawyers returned to the commission and filed an affidavit in which Singh reiterated that he had nothing more to add or depose before it.

When Deshmukh’s lawyer flagged the “secret meeting” between Singh and Waze, the judge instructed Waze to henceforth sit in the same room as the commission.

The public prosecutor, Shishir Hiray, said, “There was no permission granted by the judge for any meeting with a jail inmate.” Singh’s lawyer did not reply to calls and messages.

Mumbai Zone 1 DCP Hari Balaji said they decided to transfer the inquiry to the Navi Mumbai Police as the four policemen are posted in that jurisdiction.

## Alwar: Man dies day after detention

**EXPRESSNEWSERVICE**  
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 29

A 26-YEAR-OLD man from Madhya Pradesh, who was brought to a police station in Rajasthan’s Alwar district along with a group of people for identity verification and was later released, died a day after, said officials.

Police said the man, identified as Amar Singh who was living in Alwar as a garbage collector, was brought to the NEB police station on the night of November 27 along with 42 others. They were released within an hour, police said. ASP Sarita Singh said initially some people held the police responsible but his family members later said that they didn’t want any action against the police.

**‘CITIZENSHIP IMPORTANT’**

# Gauhati HC sets aside tribunal order declaring five of a family as foreigners

**TORA AGARWALA**  
AIZAWL, NOVEMBER 29

THE GAUHATI High Court last week set aside an ex-parte order by a Foreigners’ Tribunal (FT) declaring a Cachar district resident and his family members as “foreigners” and said that the petitioners should be given another opportunity to prove they are Indians. The court also said such opinions declaring people as “foreigners” should be made on the basis of analysis and not as a “default”.

In 2018, a tribunal in Cachar declared Rajendra Das and four of his family members as “foreigners” after they failed to appear before it following summons the previous year.

Hearing a writ petition, a bench of Justices N Kotiswar Singh and Malasi Nandi said that the petitioners should be offered another opportunity to “prove that they are Indians and not foreigners”. The judges said that if the petitioners were able to prove the authenticity of the documents presented before the court, they “may have a legitimate claim that they are Indians and not foreigners”.

The petitioner had submitted to the court voters’ lists of 1965 and 1970, in which the names of Das’ parents were mentioned, and a marriage certificate of Das and his wife issued by the Mahadevpur gaon panchayat in Cachar. The HC asked the five people to reappear before the same tribunal on or before December 24.

Das, his wife Renubala and three minor children were declared foreigners by ex-parte order (in the absence of these persons) in April 2018 by the FT-4th of Cachar. At the time, the tribunal said that Das did not appear for the proceedings nor did he file a written statement after seeking time. Das’s counsel previously said he could not attend the hearing because of ill health.

In its judgment on November

24, the HC said it was “conscious of the fact that ex-parte orders cannot be interfered in a routine manner” but the case pertained to a very important right of a person: citizenship.

It said that despite an FT being “merely quasi-judicial in nature”, an opinion that a person is a foreigner “almost seals the fate of the proceedee as far as the issue of citizenship is concerned”. For this reason, Foreigners’ Tribunals should pass an opinion only after “analysing the evidence” and “not by way of default”, as it had in Das’ case, the judges said.

Last week’s order emphasised on the importance of citizenship in today’s world and said: “It is through citizenship that a person can enjoy and enforce fundamental rights and other legal rights conferred by the Constitution and other statutes, without which a person cannot lead a meaningful life with dignity... A person stripped of citizenship would be rendered a stateless person...”

Human rights lawyer Aman Wadud said the verdict was “exactly how a constitutional court should protect the most important right of a citizen”. “Assam is staring at a major statelessness crisis, I am glad that the High Court has acknowledged the risk of statelessness of the petitioners in the case,” he said, adding that he hoped that FTs across Assam would follow the observations of the court.

Wadud said the order was significant because many people were declared foreigners by ex-parte because of non-delivery of notices or they fail to appear before the tribunal due to ill health and financial problems. “This is a major obstacle,” he said.

In 2019, Minister of State for Home G K Reddy told Parliament that between 1985 and February 28, 2019, FTs in Assam have declared 63,959 people as foreigners in ex-parte proceedings.

## Bihar teachers’ body protests over delay in appointments

**EXPRESSNEWSERVICE**  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 29

AN ASSOCIATION of candidates selected as teachers on Monday went on an indefinite strike in Patna to protest against an alleged delay in appointments of around 38,000 school teachers.

These teachers were selected after counselling five months ago. Another round of counselling is due.

Around 500 members of the Bihar State Teachers Eligibility Test (BTET)/ Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET) Uttirn Abhayarshi Sangh began their protest at Gardainbagh in the state capital.

State president of the teachers’ body Rajendra Singh said the Bihar government had assured appointment letters by August 15.

“We cannot understand reason for the delay. We need to intensify the stir,” he said.

Government officials said the process will be completed soon. Bihar Additional Secretary (education) Sanjay Kumar, told *The Indian Express*: “The process of counselling has to be completed. About 1200 niyojan units are yet to conclude counselling. Once it is done, we will begin the process of appointments.”

TENDER NOTICE										
No. CLID/SLR/Tender/2021-22										
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contracts of leasing of SLR Parcel space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division.										
Tender Opening Date : 23.12.2021										
S. N.	Train No.	From	To	CC	Comptt	Frequency	Reserve Price Per day (in Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Tender Cost (including GST @18% in Rs.)	Tender No.
1	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	FI	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22472-Nov 21
2	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	FII	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22472-Nov 21
3	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	RI	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22472-Nov 21
4	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	FI	Daily	11649	100000	1180	SLR-FI-20473-Nov 21
5	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	RI	Daily	11649	100000	1180	SLR-RI-20473-Nov 21
6	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	FI	Tue, Thu & Sat	7899	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14021-Nov 21
7	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	RI	Tue, Thu & Sat	7899	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14021-Nov 21
8	14206	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	AYC (Ayodhya Cantt.)	04	RI	Daily	10711	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14206-Nov 21
9	14208	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	PBH (Parthargarh Jn.)	04	FI	Daily	11368	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14208-Nov 21
10	15035	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	FI	Daily	6188	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15035-Nov 21
11	15035	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	RI	Daily	6188	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15035-Nov 21
12	15116	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	CPR (Chhapra)	04	FII	Sun	16466	100000	1180	SLR-FII-15116-Nov 21
13	15116	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	CPR (Chhapra)	04	RI	Sun	16466	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15116-Nov 21
14	15274	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	RXL (Raxaul)	04	FI	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15274-Nov 21
15	12330	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	SDAH (Sealdah)	3.9	FSLR	Wed	22076	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12330-Nov 21
16	22460	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	MDP (Madhupur Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Mon	19448	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22460-Nov 21
17	12488	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	JBN (Jogbani)	04	FI	Daily	21997	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12488-Nov 21
18	12040	NDLS (New Delhi)	KGM (Kathgodam)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	7728	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12040-Nov 21
19	12029	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun	10256	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12029-Nov 21
20	12005	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12005-Nov 21
21	12011	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12011-Nov 21
22	12445	NDLS (New Delhi)	SVDK (Shrimata VD Katra)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11084	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12445-Nov 21
23	12034	NDLS (New Delhi)	CNB (Kanpur Central)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri & Sat	10256	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12034-Nov 21
24	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	FI	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15128-Nov 21
25	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	FII	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-FII-15128-Nov 21
26	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	RI	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15128-Nov 21
27	20806	NDLS (New Delhi)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	28966	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-20806-Nov 21
28	12618	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FI	Daily	37665	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12618-Nov 21
29	12618	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FII	Daily	37665	100000	1180	SLR-FII-12618-Nov 21
30	12918	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ADI (Ahmedabad Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sat	17299	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12918-Nov 21
31	12284	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sat	44491	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12284-Nov 21
32	12963	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	12399	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12963-Nov 21
33	12191	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	JBP (Jabalpur)	04	FI	Daily	17134	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12191-Nov 21
34	12494	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	PUNE (Pune Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Fri	22944	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12494-Nov 21
35	12642	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	CAPE (Kanyakumari)	3.9	FSLR	Mon & Sat	35593	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12642-Nov 21
36	22692	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SBC (KSR Bengaluru)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	39220	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22692-Nov 21
37	12652	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	MDU (Madurai Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Tue & Thu	33729	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12652-Nov 21
38	12438	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SC (Secunderabad Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sun	30780	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12438-Nov 21
39	12754	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	NED (H. Sahib Nanded)	3.9	FSLR	Wed	24155	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12754-Nov 21
40	12782	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	MYS (Mysuru)	3.9	FSLR	Mon	33364	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12782-Nov 21
41	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FI	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22168-Nov 21
42	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FII	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22168-Nov 21
43	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	RI	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22168-Nov 21
44	22868	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	DURG (Durg)	3.9	FSLR	Wed & Sat	20145	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22868-Nov 21
45	12410	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	RIG (Raigarh)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	24155	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12410-Nov 21
46	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FI	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12646-Nov 21
47	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FII	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-FII-12646-Nov 21
48	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	RI	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-RI-12646-Nov 21
49	12804	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	FI	Wed & Sun	29227	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12804-Nov 21
50	12804	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	RI	Wed & Sun	29227	100000	1180	SLR-RI-12804-Nov 21

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-tendering i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for further details and submitting tender.

**Important Note:**

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



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### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

**Sr. No. (1) E-Tender No. 87-ST-TENDER-2021, Date: 24.11.2021**

**Work:** Provision of Ring Earth for telecom installation over BSP Division and Provision of SPD for track circuits at lightening prone area over BSP Division. **Tender Value : ₹ 79,32,870/-** (Rupees Seventy-Nine Lakhs Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only.). **EMD: 00/-**. **Submission of Tender:** up to 15:00 hrs on **20.12.2021**.

The complete information of above e-tender notice is available over website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

**Divl. Sig. & Tele. Engineer**  
**CPR/10/256 S.E.C.Railway/Bilaspur**

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**निविदा सूचना**  
**ई-निविदा सूचना 278-281/2021/वाणिज्य/बीकानेर दिनांक 29.11.2021**  
मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक (वाणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से अनुभवी विज्ञान एजेंसियों से बीकानेर मण्डल के 04 रेलवे स्टेशनों पर स्टेशन एरिया में रेलवे द्वारा स्वीकृत आकार एवं स्थानों पर ग्लोसाइन बोर्ड एवं साईन बोर्ड के लिए वाणिज्य प्रचार प्रतिकार में ठेके पर देने की तिथि से तीन वर्ष की अवधि हेतु ई- निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी



# 14 THE WORLD

## TOPOF THE WORLD



Virgil Abloh

### USA

#### Fashion designer Virgil Abloh dies of cancer at 41

VIRGIL ABLÖH, a leading designer whose ground-breaking fusions of streetwear and high couture made him one of the most celebrated tastemakers in fashion and beyond, has died of cancer. He was 41. Abloh's death was announced Sunday by the luxury group LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) and Abloh's own Off-White label, which he founded in 2013. Abloh was the artistic director for Louis Vuitton's menswear, but his ubiquitous, consumer-friendly presence in culture was wide-ranging and dynamic. In 2018, Abloh became the first Black artistic director of men's wear at Louis Vuitton in the French design house's storied history. **AP**

### AUSTRALIA

#### Govt urges FB to back anti-troll defamation law

FACEBOOK WILL show it has no interest in making the online world safe if it quits Australia over laws holding it liable for defamation on its platform, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday. In the latest of several attempts to hold global internet companies to greater account for content on their platforms, Australia plans to make them share the identities of people with anonymous accounts if another person accuses them of defamation. If the social media company fails to give that information, it must assume legal liability. **REUTERS**

### UAE

#### No more jail for those bringing THC into country

THE UNITED Arab Emirates has eased some of its harsh drug laws, relaxing penalties for travellers who arrive in the country with products containing THC, the main intoxicating chemical in cannabis. The new law, published Sunday in the UAE's official gazette, says people caught carrying food, drinks and other items with cannabis into the country will no longer land in prison if it's their first time. Instead, authorities will confiscate and destroy the products. **AP**

## JAPAN BANS ALL FOREIGN TRAVELLERS; AUSTRALIA DELAYS REOPENING

# More travel bans, curbs as Omicron cases found in Portugal, Scotland

NYT & AP  
NOVEMBER 29

JAPAN ON Monday joined Israel and Morocco in barring all foreign travellers, and Australia delayed reopening its borders for two weeks, as more countries sealed themselves off in response to the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus. The variant continued to spread around the world, with Scotland, Portugal and Spain identifying new cases.

The Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said that Japan would reverse a move earlier this month to reopen its borders to short-term business travellers and international students.

The emergence of the Omicron variant in southern Africa has left countries around the world scrambling to respond, with some instituting or considering sweeping travel bans, while others have put in place more focused, but also more discriminatory, border prohibitions.

Some countries proceeded with their plans to reopen on Monday, like Singapore and Malaysia, which opened their land border. South Korea, on the other hand, announced that it was delaying any loosening of social distancing restrictions.

The moves by Japan, Israel



Travellers being tested for Covid at Sydney Airport. Reuters

and Morocco to close off to all foreigners stood in contrast to those in places like the United States, Britain, Canada and the European Union, which have all announced bans on travellers only from southern Africa.

Meanwhile, Indonesia on Monday joined a small but growing list of countries to bar travel with Hong Kong as well as the southern African region.

### New cases

Cases had already been reported in EU nations Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands be-

fore Portuguese authorities identified 13 omicron infections among members of the Belenenses professional soccer team. Authorities reported one member had recently travelled to South Africa. A game over the weekend had been abandoned at halftime for lack of players.

Spain also reported its first confirmed case of the variant. It was detected in a traveller who returned Sunday from South Africa after making a stopover in Amsterdam, one of Madrid's major public hospitals tweeted.

And after Scotland reported its

first six cases, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon warned that "there might already be some community transmission of this variant."

### UK to give boosters to all adults

Britain expanded its Covid-19 booster programme to everyone 18 and older, making millions more people eligible.

Up until now, booster shots were available only to those 40 and over and people particularly vulnerable to the virus. The UK has reported about a dozen omicron cases.

American people safe."

The president said he would outline "a strategy for how we are going to fight Covid this winter, not with shutdowns or with lockdowns, but with more widespread vaccinations, boosters, testing and more." The variant has yet to be detected in the US.

Biden has already restricted travel from eight nations, includ-

### MEANWHILE

## RARE WHALES NEAR NYC: SHIPS TOLD TO SLOW DOWN

Scientists have detected a rare species of whale southeast of New York City, and the US government is using a voluntary protected zone to try to keep them safe. There are fewer than 350 North Atlantic right whales left, according to scientists. An acoustic array detected the presence of the whales in the area on Nov 20.

# Taliban, 9/11 families fight for billions in frozen Afghan funds

CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 29

NEARLY 20 years ago, about 150 family members of September 11 victims sought a measure of justice for their losses by suing a list of targets like Al Qaeda and the Taliban. A decade later, a court found the defendants liable by default and ordered them to pay damages now worth about \$7 billion.

But with no way to collect it, the judgment seemed symbolic.

Today, however, the Taliban is back in control of Afghanistan. The group's leaders say their country's central bank account at the Federal Reserve in New York, in which the former government accumulated about \$7 billion from foreign aid and other sources, is rightfully theirs. And that in turn has raised a question: If the money is the Taliban's, shouldn't the plaintiffs in the Sept 11 lawsuit be entitled to seize it?

High-level officials in the Biden administration are now debating the answer to that question, which presents a complex knot of national security, legal, diplomatic and political problems — the latest example of how thorny issues stemming from the terrorist attacks remain unresolved more than two decades later.

Among the specifics to be worked out is whether and how the United States can sidestep any legal requirement to recognise the Taliban as the legitimate Afghan government in order to use the money in the central bank account to help resolve the claim by the Sept 11 families.

The administration is scheduled to tell a court by Friday what outcome would be in the national interest, even as the US grapples with broader issues arising from the end of the American military presence in Afghanistan. In addition to recognition, they include how to provide humanitarian aid that might forestall a mass exodus of migrants. **NYT**



Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid at a press conference in Kabul earlier this year. NYT

The US Justice Department has been negotiating with lawyers for the Sept 11 plaintiffs about a potential deal to divide up the money if the government supports their attempt to seize it, and the White House's National Security Council has been working with agencies across the government to weigh the proposal, according to people who described the deliberations on condition of anonymity.

In a statement, two of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit — Fiona Havlish, whose husband worked in the South Tower, and Ellen Saracini, whose husband was a pilot of one of the hijacked planes that flew into the World Trade Center — said the administration should help their cause.

"After our husbands were killed in the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we have spent many years fighting to achieve justice on their behalf," they said. "Together with the others in our case, we obtained an enforceable money judgment against the Taliban and now call on President Biden to ensure the funds we have attached go to us and not the terrorists who played a role in taking the lives of our loved ones."

Any transfer of the Afghan central bank reserves is sure to infuriate the Taliban at a moment when the West is trying to pressure and coax the organization into behaving differently than it did when it last ran that country. **NYT**

# Biden says Omicron variant a cause for concern, not panic

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

NOVEMBER 29

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden sought to reassure the nation on Monday about the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus as crucial questions about it remain, telling Americans that the variant is "a cause for concern, not a

cause for panic," and that his administration was working with vaccine manufacturers to modify vaccines and booster shots should that prove necessary.

"We're throwing everything we have at this virus, tracking it from every angle," Biden said at the White House, adding, "I'm sparing no effort, removing all roadblocks to keep the



US President Joe Biden

# Mob attacks Pak police, fails to grab blasphemy suspect

RIAZ KHAN

PESHAWAR, NOVEMBER 29

A MOB burned a police station and four police posts overnight in northwest Pakistan after officers refused to hand over a mentally unstable man accused of desecrating the Quran, authorities said Monday.

No officers were hurt in the attacks, which forced the police to summon troops to restore order in Charsadda, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local officer Asif Khan said.

A video posted on social media showed the police station burning.

Khan said officers foiled an attempt by the mob to lynch the detainee and the police moved him to another district. He did not disclose the name of the man, saying officers were still investigating and the suspect was arrested a day ago.

Khan said officers initially resisted but fled after thousands of demonstrators attacked the po-

lice buildings. He said police avoided the use of force to prevent casualties among demonstrators. The situation in Charsadda was normal Monday, he said, and law enforcement was seeking to arrest people linked to the attacks.

Blasphemy carries the death penalty in Pakistan, where mere allegations of the offence are often enough to provoke mob violence. International and domestic rights groups say that accusations of blasphemy have often been used to intimidate religious minorities and settle personal scores.

In 2017, a group of students at the Abdul Wali Khan University in the northwestern city of Mardan attacked and killed another student, Mohammad Mashal, after accusing him of sharing blasphemous content on Facebook.

A Punjab governor in Islamabad was also shot and killed by his own guard in 2011, after he defended a Christian woman, Aasia Bibi, who was accused of blasphemy. **AP**

# Xi woos African leaders with debt waiver, vaccines, jobs amid US push into continent

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 29

OFFERING A slew of incentives, including one billion Covid-19 vaccines, waiver of debt and creation of eight lakh jobs in Africa in the face of the US's push into the continent to challenge Beijing's influence, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday told a meeting of African leaders that China joins them in opposing racism and external interference in domestic affairs.

"We both oppose intervention in domestic affairs, racial dis-



Xi speaks via video link at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Monday. Reuters

crimination and unilateral sanctions," he said addressing the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa

# Dozens stuck in England's highest pub after storm

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, NOVEMBER 29

DOZENS OF customers who stopped for a drink at Britain's highest altitude pub got a longer stay than they bargained for, after it was cut off by a blizzard.

Sixty-one people woke up Monday after their third night at the Tan Hill Inn in the Yorkshire



The Tan Hill Inn, in Yorkshire Dales, England. AP file

Dales, 435 km north of London. They have been unable to leave since Friday, when a storm brought snow and heavy wind that blocked roads.

The pub sits 1,732 feet above sea level. Manager Nicola Townsend said staff had organised movies, a quiz night and karaoke for the stranded guests. They have also been entertained by an Oasis cover band, Noasis,

who have also been stuck at the pub since their gig on Friday night.

Townsend said the guests were "in really good spirits".

"They've formed quite a friendship... like a big family is the best way I can describe it," she said. "One lady actually said 'I don't want to leave.'"

Townsend said she hoped people would be able to head home later Monday. **PTI**

## PRESIDENT-ELECT SANDRA MASON TO REPLACE QUEEN ELIZABETH AS HEAD OF STATE

# ‘Tonight’s the night’: Barbados prepares to become a republic

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE & BRIAN ELLSWORTH  
BRIDGETOWN, NOVEMBER 29

BARBADOS ON Monday prepared to remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and become a republic, as it severs imperial ties some 400 years after English ships first reached the Caribbean island.

Britain's Prince Charles arrived on Sunday night to join the inauguration of President-elect Sandra Mason in replacement of Queen Elizabeth, a move by Barbados to shed the final vestiges of a colonial system that

once spanned the globe.

"Tonight's the night!" read the front-page headline of Barbados' *Daily Nation* newspaper.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the leader of Barbados' republican movement, will help lead the ceremony. Mottley has won global attention by denouncing the effects of climate change on small Caribbean islands.

"I am happy. We are on our own now with no king or queen from England," said Nigel Mayers, 60, who sells oranges at a stall in central Bridgetown. "This is the full drop after independence."

A celebration including Barbadian music and dance will begin at 8 pm local time, with Mason to be inaugurated just after midnight — coinciding with Barbados Independence Day.

Prince Charles will give a speech highlighting the continuing friendship of the two nations despite the change in constitutional status.

Barbados will remain a republic within the Commonwealth, a grouping of 54 countries across Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe.

British colonialists shipped over captured African slaves to work the island's sugar cane



Britain's Prince Charles with Barbados's President-elect Sandra Mason after he arrives in Bridgetown, Barbados, to take part in events to mark the island's transition to a republic. Reuters

fields and Barbados became a focus of the brutal transatlantic slave trade. Today's population of under 300,000 is overwhelmingly of African descent.

Monday's elegant celebration comes at a time when Barbados is struggling with inflation due to supply-chain disruptions driving up prices in a country that must import most goods. Its tourism industry, a crucial part of the economy, is still recovering from earlier coronavirus travel restrictions.

Some residents acknowledged they are uncertain what the transition to a republic even means or why it matters. Others would

have preferred not to change.

"They should leave Queen Elizabeth be — leave her as the boss. I don't understand why we need to be a republic," said Sean Williams, 45, standing in the shadow of an independence monument.

The last time the queen was removed as head of state was in 1992 when Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean, proclaimed itself a republic.

The shift may spur discussion of similar proposals in other former British colonies that have Queen Elizabeth as their sovereign, which include Jamaica, Australia and Canada. **REUTERS**

## EXPLAINED Other countries may follow

THE DECISION by Barbados, which was one of Britain's earliest colonies, to become a republic is likely to revive the debate regarding other countries' links to British royalty. Experts say other countries in the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica, could be heading towards becoming republics given the smooth nature of Barbados's transition and the apparent endorsement by the royal family of the country's decision.



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# Can an RT-PCR test detect infection with Omicron?

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 29

THE OMICRON variant of SARS-CoV2 is being seen as a big threat, with the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday assessing the global risk as “very high”. Preliminary data has indicated that Omicron could have higher transmissibility, and also a greater ability to evade the immune response generated either through prior infection or through vaccines.

Timely detection of this variant is, therefore, key to containing its spread. The WHO has said one positive thing about this variant is that it could be detected in some of the RT-PCR diagnostic tests being used across the world, unlike other variants whose presence can be determined only after genetic sequencing. This can speed up detection and help in controlling the spread.

But as scientists told The Indian Express, this is not straightforward; most RT-PCR tests in India might not be able to distinguish between Omicron and other variants.

## How a ‘miss’ by RT-PCR helps

RT-PCR tests can only confirm whether the person has an infection or not. They are not designed to determine which particular variant has infected the person. For that, a genome sequencing study has to be done.

Not all infected samples are sent for genome sequencing, because it is a slow, complicated and costly process. Normally, only a very small subset of all positive samples — about 2 to 5 per cent — is sent for gene analysis.

RT-PCR tests look for the presence of some specific identifiers in the genetic material (not the entire gene sequence) of the virus in the human body. Usually, two or more identifiers are searched to increase the probability of finding a match. If one of the identifiers has mutated, the other one can still return a positive result.

Many of the RT-PCR tests look for an identifier in the coronavirus spike protein, the protruded area that allows the virus to enter the human body. If there are mutations in the spike protein, as is the case with the



**A flier to Uganda has his swab taken at Johannesburg airport. Reuters**

Omicron variant, then there is a possibility that such RT-PCR tests, looking for identifiers in this region, would not recognise the mutation as the identifier it is looking for, and would thus give a negative result.

But as mentioned above, RT-PCR tests look for more than one identifier. So, if the test finds the identifier in the other region (which would mean the person has coronavirus infection) but does not find the identifier in the spike protein, then it could be an indication that the infection is with the Omicron variant.

The problem is that Omicron is not the only variant that has mutations in the spike protein. A few others, notably the Alpha variant, also have mutations in this region, and therefore could show similar behaviour in RT-PCR tests.

Nonetheless, such a result can be seen as

a screening mechanism for the Omicron variant, especially since the prevalence of the Alpha variant in the Indian population has gone down significantly. Such screening at the diagnostic test stage can be vital in identifying and isolating the potential infections with the Omicron variant.

## Gene sequencing for certainty

As Anurag Agarwal, director of Delhi based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) explained, such a result would only be indicative of the presence of Omicron variant, and would need to be confirmed through gene sequencing. But it is still an important head start.

The WHO said one of the widely-used RT-PCR kits, developed by Thermo Fisher Scientific, can detect the presence of Omicron variant. Some of the kits being used in India can also potentially detect the variant. As Vinod Scaria, a scientist at IGIB, said, the ability of kit to detect the variant depended on the primers (chemicals that will pick up the identifiers) being used.

“Unfortunately, the primer details for a

majority of kits used in India are not publicly available. So, one cannot say whether a particular kit being used will be able to detect this variant or not,” Scaria said.

If the diagnostic tests do not offer any indication, the detection of Omicron, or any other variant, would have to await the result of gene sequencing exercise that takes anywhere between 24 and 96 hours, depending on the technology being used. But since all samples are not sent for sequencing, it is possible that the Omicron variant will have started circulating but not been picked up. One way to counter this is by increasing the number of samples sent for sequencing.

R R Gangakhedkar, former head of epidemiology at ICMR, said a smart strategy needed to be worked out since it was not possible to send all samples for gene sequencing. He said that in India, it was still the Delta variant that was most prevalent and, therefore, wherever applicable, the diagnostic test laboratories should look out for the missing identifier in the spike protein region, and immediately mark these for gene sequencing.

# Holding social media platforms accountable for trolls: what a draft Bill in Australia proposes

**MEHRGILL**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

ON MONDAY, the Australian government released the draft of a Bill aimed at holding social media companies accountable for the content posted on their platforms, and protecting users from trolls.

In a statement on the Social Media (Basic Expectations and Defamation) Bill 2021 issued on Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison's office said: “The reforms will ensure social media companies are considered publishers and can be held liable for defamatory comments posted on their platforms. They can avoid this liability if they provide information that ensures a victim can identify and commence defamation proceedings against the troll.”

Morrison said, “Social media can too often be a coward's palace, where the anonymous can bully, harass and ruin lives without consequence. We would not accept these faceless attacks in a school, at home, in the office, or on the street. And we must not stand for it online, on our devices and in our homes.”

## What it proposes

■ Australians and Australian organisations with a social media page will not be legally considered publishers of content posted there

■ Australians will be able to file a complaint if they have reason to believe that they are being defamed by material posted online on a particular social media service.

■ Individuals will also be able to give the provider of the service a defamation notice, provided they are able to give evidence that the material in question was the subject of a complaint.

■ Social media platforms will be required to establish a standardised complaints system whose purpose will be to ensure that defamatory remarks can be removed and trolls can be identified with their consent.

■ Social media companies will also be

required to disclose identifying details of trolls to victims without consent, which will enable a defamation case to be lodged.

## The trigger

The Bill comes in response to a Australian High Court judgment that media companies could be held liable for comments that were left by third parties on their social media pages.

Dylan Voller, who was the subject of various news stories about youth detention, had brought defamation proceedings against media companies including *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Rupert Murdoch's *The Australian*. He alleged that after the media companies published posts about the news stories that referred to him on their Facebook pages, various third-party users made defamatory comments against him. Lawyers for the media outlets, for their part, argued that they could not be held liable for third-party comments since they were not the publishers of those comments.

On September 8, the High Court of Australia ruled in favour of Voller. It dismissed an appeal by the three media outlets against a decision by the Court of Appeal of the New South Wales Supreme Court, which had said that, “by posting content relating to news stories about Mr Voller, the respondent, on their respective Facebook pages, the appellants were liable for the publication of allegedly defamatory ‘comments’ that were posted by third-party Facebook users in response to the content.”

The statement from the PM's office quoted Attorney-General Michaelia Cash as saying: “Since the High Court's decision in the Voller case, it is clear that ordinary Australians are at risk of being held legally responsible for defamatory material posted by anonymous online trolls... The reforms will make clear that, in defamation law, Australians who operate or maintain a social media page are not ‘publishers’ of comments made by others.”

**CHAKSHUROY**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE WINTER Session of Parliament began on a stormy note on Monday. Both Houses saw disruptions as Lok Sabha passed the Bill repealing the three farm laws without any discussion, and Rajya Sabha passed it after a brief intervention by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

After that, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi sought the approval of the House for suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs (six of the Congress, two each of the Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena, and one each of CPI and CPI-M) for the remainder of the session. The reason for their suspension was “their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel” on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

## So, what had happened in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session?

Parliament has seen continuous disruptions since the passage of the farm laws in the 2020 Monsoon Session too. When the Bills came up for discussion in Rajya Sabha, Opposition MPs demanded their scrutiny by a Select Committee. Amid slogan-shouting, MPs hurled papers at Deputy Chairman Harivansh. This led to the suspension of six Opposition MPs. Parliament passed the Bills without scrutiny by a committee.

Then, in this year's Monsoon Session, Opposition parties were asking for a discussion on the alleged Pegasus hacking and farm laws issues. When Electronics & Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav was making a statement on Pegasus in Rajya Sabha, Trinamool Congress MP Shantanu Sen snatched the papers from him. This was followed by a heated exchange between Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Sen, who alleged that the minister threatened and verbally abused him. Rajya Sabha suspended Sen for the rest of the Monsoon Session.

Disruptions marred both Houses throughout the session, which ended with a melee in Rajya Sabha. Opposition MPs accused security staff of manhandling them, and in turn, Leader of the House Piyush Goel accused Opposition MPs of attacking the security staff and demanding a special committee to investigate the incident. The session then ended two days ahead of schedule.

**What powers do presiding officers have to deal with MPs disrupting proceedings?**  
MPs are required to adhere to certain rules



(From left) Shanta Chhetri and Dola Sen of Trinamool Congress during a protest in Parliament on Monday, and Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena speaking after her suspension. Photos: Anil Sharma & ANI



of parliamentary etiquette. For example the Lok Sabha rulebook specifies that MPs are not to interrupt the speech of others, maintain silence and not obstruct proceedings by hissing or making running commentaries during debates. Newer forms of protest led to these rules being updated in 1989. Now, members should not shout slogans, display placards, tear up documents in protest, and play a cassette or a tape recorder in the House. Rajya Sabha has similar rules. To conduct the proceedings smoothly, the rulebook also gives certain, similar powers to the presiding officers of both Houses.

The presiding officer of each House can direct an MP to withdraw from the legislative chamber for grossly disorderly conduct. The MP then has to remain absent from the proceedings of the House for the remainder of the day. The presiding officers can also “name” an MP for “persistently and wilfully obstructing the business” of the House. In such a case, usually, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister moves a motion for suspending the offending MP from the service of the House. The suspension can last until the end of the session.

In 2001, the Lok Sabha rule was amended to give the Speaker one additional power. A new rule, 374A, empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House. In 2015, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan used

this rule for suspending 25 Congress MPs.

## How often have disruptions led to suspension of MPs?

The first instance occurred in 1963. A few Lok Sabha MPs first interrupted President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and then walked out while he was delivering the joint address to both Houses. Lok Sabha ended in reprimanding these MPs. In 1989, 63 MPs were suspended from Lok Sabha on the discussion of the Thakar Commission report. More recently in 2010, 7 MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for snatching the women's reservation bill from the minister. Since then, MPs have raised slogans, used pepper spray in the House and displayed placards.

## How difficult has it been to solve the problem of disruptions?

Presiding officers have grappled with it. Over numerous conferences, they have deliberated on ways of addressing the issue.

Former President K R Narayanan, who also chaired Rajya Sabha from 1992-97, explained the difficulty involved: “In most cases, disorders in the House arise out of a sense of frustration felt by members due to lack of opportunities to make his point, or clear his chest of grievances of the people that move him or out of the heat of the moment. They are perhaps easier to deal with. What is more

difficult to tackle is planned parliamentary offences and deliberate disturbances for publicity or for political motives.”

In 2001, during a national conference in the Central Hall of Parliament organised on the issue of disruptions, different political leaders summed up their positions. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said the majority party is responsible for governing and should take other parties into confidence. He said the Opposition should play a constructive role in Parliament and be allowed to put forward its views and express itself in a dignified manner.

Sonia Gandhi, the then leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, emphasised that debate is central to democracy, and therefore there should be more debate and fewer disruptions. She identified “the reluctance and procrastination” of the treasury benches to face discussions as a cause for disorder in Parliament. She sought the support of the presiding officers to help the Opposition in raising issues uncomfortable to the government.

Mamata Banerjee, leader of the Trinamool Congress, said that in a democracy, power is transient and that a party ruling at the Centre may not be in control in the states. She stressed the need for cordial and respectful relations between the Opposition and ruling parties.

*Chakhsu Roy is Head of Outreach at PRS Legislative Research*

# Division of assets between UP, Uttarakhand : old dispute, new agreement

**AVANEESH MISHRA**  
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 29

MONTHS AHEAD of Assembly elections in their states, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami recently reached an agreement on the division of assets and liabilities, a subject the two states have discussed and debated ever since Uttarakhand was carved out of UP 21 years ago.

## History of the dispute

Uttarakhand was formed on November 9, 2000 following the Uttarakhand movement in undivided UP. This was soon followed by disputes over assets and liabilities, mainly of the irrigation, transport, housing, forest, food & civil supplies and tourism departments.

Uttarakhand leaders would cite the

Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2000, under which any property should be owned by the state where it is situated, and would allege that UP had not handed over control of even 41 canals which flowed from and back into Uttarakhand. They cited the examples of Tehri Dam, Nanak Sagar Dam, Baigul Dam, Tumaria Dam (out of six dams located in Uttarakhand and controlled by UP) and Haridwar's Alaknanda Guest House (controlled by UP Tourism, and now being handed over to Uttarakhand).

Successive governments in both states have made attempts to resolve these issues over meetings between their chief ministers, other ministers, and bureaucrats. On some occasions, disputes related to irrigation, transport and sharing of employees and liabilities have reached the courts. While the case on sharing of employees has since been resolved, the other matters are pending.

In 2018, when Trivendra Singh Rawat was Uttarakhand CM, a formula was proposed that irrigation department assets will be divided in the ratio 75:25, with Uttarakhand getting the larger chunk.

## The newest agreement

Under the agreement signed between Dhami and Adityanath on Thursday, the irrigation Department officials of the two states would meet within 15 days to conduct a joint survey of 5,700 hectares of land and 1,700 buildings in Uttarakhand that are under the control of the UP Irrigation Department. The study would identify the properties that will be useful for UP, and the rest would go to Uttarakhand.

UP has granted permission to Uttarakhand conduct tourism and water sports activities in the Dhaura, Baigul and Nanak Sagar water bodies in Udham Singh Nagar district and the Upper Ganga canal at

Roorkee. The UP irrigation Department will soon release an order on this.

Following the division of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, UP had paid around Rs 77.31 crore to Uttarakhand; another Rs 13 crore will be deposited in a joint escrow account. The meeting also decided that the UP Transport Department's dues will be decided as per the circle rate in 2003, along with interest; this comes to Rs 205.42 crore. As Uttarakhand owes Rs 105.43 crore to the UP Food and Civil Supplies Department, the amount will be adjusted. The states also resolved that the UP Irrigation Department's bus stand land in Kichcha in Udham Singh Nagar district would be handed over to Uttarakhand within 15 days.

The two governments also decided to equally share the incomes and liabilities generated by the assets and properties of

the Uttar Pradesh Awasth Vikas Parishad located in Uttarakhand. The Alaknanda Guest House will be transferred to Uttarakhand, and inaugurated next month.

The Chief Ministers agreed to withdraw cases pending in courts and resolve them through mutual consent. It was also decided that the UP Irrigation Department would reconstruct barrages at Banbasa on the India-Nepal border and Kichcha that were damaged in natural calamities.

## Issues raised by Opposition

After the two state governments claimed to have resolved their disputes, former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat of the Congress alleged that Dhami had “surrendered” to the UP counterpart over the agreement on the division of assets and liabilities.

He alleged that not only have the present rights of Uttarakhand been sold out to

UP, but the future rights related to water, too, have been handed over. In 2018, when the BJP governments in both state governments had agreed on dividing the Irrigation Department assets in a 75:25 ratio with Uttarakhand getting the larger chunk, the Congress had opposed in then too, he said.

Congress organisation general secretary Mathura Dutt Joshi said the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act clearly states that a property will be owned by the state where it is situated, and the Uttarakhand government need not have given in to Uttar Pradesh. He also questioned why the dues of the UP Transport Department were decided as per the circle rate in 2003 and not as per the current, higher rate.

The Congress has said it will protest against the agreement in the Assembly, call on Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh, and explore legal ways to oppose the agreement.

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विजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नंबर 1800 180 6045

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION KOTA-SOUTH, RAJASTHAN**  
Rajeev Gandhi Building, Dushera Ground, CAD Circle, Kota  
email: [nkksouth@gmail.com](mailto:nkksouth@gmail.com), websites: [www.kotamc.org](http://www.kotamc.org), Ph: 0744-2502142  
S./NNK-S/CIVIL/2021/565-579 Date: 29.11.2021

**Corrigendum**

E-Tender No. 25/2021-22, NNK/CIVIL/2021/488-502 dated 08.11.2021 issued by this office is partially modified which can be kindly seen for reference on [www.kotamc.org](http://www.kotamc.org) and [www.sppp.rajasathan.gov.in](http://sppp.rajasathan.gov.in)

S. No.	Description	Before Date	After Date
1	Date & time of downloading of Bid	10.11.2021 to 28.11.2021 (06:00 PM)	10.11.2021 to 04.12.2021 (06:00 PM)
2	Date & time of online submission of Bid	10.11.2021 to 28.11.2021 (06:00 PM)	10.11.2021 to 04.12.2021 (06:00 PM)
3	Last date of submission of DD in office of Nagar Nigam Kota-South	29.11.2021 (04:00 PM)	06.12.2021 (05:00 PM)
4	Date, time and opening of Technical Bid	01.12.2021 (11:00 AM)	07.12.2021 (11:00 AM)
5	Financial Bid Opening Date	After technical bid test	After technical bid test

The rest will remain the same. Sd/- Superintendent Engineer Municipal Corporation Kota-South

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely** : Unknown **S/o** Unknown **R/o** Unknown **Age** : about 25-30 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face** : Round, **Built** : Strong, **Injury** : Head is separated from body, chest is crushed, Both hands & legs are broken and scratch marks on body, **Wearing** : Green colour T-shirt and Green colour lower & bare footed has been found dead at between K.M. Pole No. 15/01 to 15/03 Up line, Badli Railway Station, Delhi on 23.11.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 18A dated 23.11.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO :**  
**P.S. Subzi Mandi**  
**Railway Station, Delhi**  
**DP/396/RLY/2021 Tel. No. 011-23692455, 8010277394**

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल गुमला

### शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के ई निविदा संख्या 10 / 21-22 पी0 आर0 संख्या -257329 द्वारा विभिन्न दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित सिसई प्रखण्ड ग्रामीण पाईप जलपूर्ति योजना के ई0 निविदा में निम्न प्रकार से शुद्धि पत्र प्रकाशित की जाती है-

1	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :-	03-12-2021, 04.00 बजे अपराहन से
2	प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि :-	06-12-2021, 12.30 अपराहन में अभियंता प्रमुख, का कार्यालय, नेपाल हाउस रॉबी।
3	बीड प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय :-	14-12-2021, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक।
4	बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि, समय	15-12-2021, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक,
5	निविदा के तकनीकी बीडों के खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :-	16-12-2021, 12.30 बजे अपराहन से

निविदा की अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल गुमला  
**PR 258047 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)#D**

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल गुमला

### शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के ई निविदा संख्या 11 / 21-22 पी0 आर0 संख्या -257324 द्वारा विभिन्न दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित बसिया प्रखण्ड ग्रामीण पाईप जलपूर्ति योजना के ई0 निविदा में निम्न प्रकार से शुद्धि पत्र प्रकाशित की जाती है-

1	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :-	03-12-2021, 04.00 बजे अपराहन से
2	प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि :-	06-12-2021, 12.30 अपराहन में अभियंता प्रमुख, का कार्यालय, नेपाल हाउस रॉबी।
3	बीड प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय :-	14-12-2021, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक।
4	बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि, समय	15-12-2021, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक,
5	निविदा के तकनीकी बीडों के खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :-	16-12-2021, 12.30 बजे अपराहन से

निविदा की अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल गुमला  
**PR 258048 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22).D**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION No.-8,JAMSHEDPUR. (Email ID : eemdd8.chandil@gmail.com)

### Short E-Procurement Tender Notice (e-Tender Notice)

E-Tender Ref. No. :WRD/MDD-8/JSR/F2-01/2021-22  
Date: 29.11.2021

1.	Name of Work	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AT SUBERNREKHA RESIDENTIAL COLONY, DIMNA.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 21405947.81 ( Rupees Two Crore Fourteen lakh and five thousand nine hundred forty seven and eighty one paise only )
3.	Earnest Money	Rs. 430000/- (Rupees Four lakh and thirty thousand only )
4.	Time of Completion	270 (Two Hundred Seventy) Days
5.	Date of Publication of Notice inviting tender on website	30.11.2021 (5:00 P.M.)
6.	Last Date of Downloading tender Documents	15.12.2021 (5:00 P.M.)
7.	Date and Time for Receiving hard copy of EMD in Division	16.12.2021 (2:30 P.M.)
8.	Date of Opening tender	17.12.2021 (11:30 A.M.) (Technical Bid.)
9.	Contact Number of Procurement Officer	8709790887
10.	Help Line No. of e-Procurement officer	8709790887

**NOTE**  
1) Only e-Tender will be accepted.  
2) More information are available on Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer  
MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION No.-8, JAMSHEDPUR.  
**PR 258065 Water Resource(21-22).D**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Ph. No. 01907-266245 E-mail: [ee-sun-hp@nic.in](mailto:ee-sun-hp@nic.in)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Starting Date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid.
1.	Construction of Govt. Sen. Sec. School building at Taleli, Tehsil Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP)(SH: C/o building portion, W&SS, Septic tank & RWHS).	Rs. 4,14,81,383/- only	02.12.2021	Rs 8,30,000/-	10.12.2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [WWW.hptenders.gov.in](http://WWW.hptenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer,  
Sunder Nagar Division,  
HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175018  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

## PUNJAB STATE SPORTS COUNCIL (Punjab Govt. Undertaking)

SCO NO. 116-117, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH, TELEPHONE NO. 0172-2606400, 2668794,  
E-mail ID: [directorsportspunjab2018@gmail.com](mailto:directorsportspunjab2018@gmail.com) / [sportsxsn@gmail.com](mailto:sportsxsn@gmail.com)  
Date: 29.11.2021

### Secure Online Submission of Tenders

Online tenders on item rate basis as per the DNIT are invited on two bid system (Technical bid & Financial Bid) for the following work:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Last Date of Online Submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Bidding Documents
1.	Providing & Laying of 400 Mtr 8 Lane Synthetic Athletic Track (Full PUR Type) and allied works complete in all respects at Guru Nanak Dev Stadium, Amritsar.	20.12.2021 at 2.00 P.M.	20.12.2021 at 03.00 P.M. To be Intimated later on

For detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents, the bidders can log in to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the Bidders shall have to get themselves registered with <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password. Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and other terms & conditions are available on website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>, in all payments regarding purchase of bid document i.e., Tender form fee, processing fee & earnest money shall be strictly through Online mode (e-payment only). Bidders are advised to open Bank Account with Core Banking Solution Branches (with NEFT/RTGS facility).

**Note:** Any Corrigendum/Addendum to the DNIT shall be uploaded to website only.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (C),  
Punjab State Sports Council,  
Chandigarh.

10515/Pb

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- [xenmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)-----

### (Short-term) e-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22 /209/e-tendering Dated:-27.11.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from Authorized dealers of Suggested makes of Split ACs or Registered/ Reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Dops (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (in days)	AAA	TS No.	Position of Funds	EMD Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Supply, Installation, Testing Commissioning of Hot cold (reversible acs) at UPHC NishatLabour Room of SDH Hazratbal	7.66	500	10	68 MCS of 201 Dt. 16.11.2021	146 of 11/21	Available	15500

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **27.11.2021 (18.00 hrs)**.
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **27.11.2021 (18:00hrs) to 04.12.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover**.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **04.12.2021(17:00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar.

## e-Procurement Cell JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI

### Short Term e-Procurement Notice Date : 29/11/2021

Sl. No	Tender Reference No.	Work Name	Amount in (Rs)	Completion Time	Call No.	Advt. PR. No.
1	JSBCCL/18/ 2021-22	Construction of Pavilion Building, Gallery and Campus in New International Astroturf Hockey Stadium at Simdega District	5,83,70,789/-	12 Months	2nd	255885
2	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	06.12.2021 at 11:00 AM				
3	Start Date of Submission of Bids	06.12.2021 at 11:00 AM				
4	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	20.12.2021 at 05:00 PM				
5	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	22.12.2021 upto 11:30 AM				
6	Date/Time of opening of Bid	22.12.2021 at 12:00 PM				
7	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	e-Procurement Cell, Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.				
8	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2446259				
9	e-mail ID	jsbcccjharkhand@gmail.com				

Any change can be seen on Website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Sd/-  
Any other information can be seen on <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Nodal Officer e-Procurement Cell

Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.  
PR.NO.258055 Jharkhand State Building Construction Corp. Ltd.(21-22):D

## e-Procurement Cell URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT NAGAR PARISHAD CHATRA, JHARKHAND

### Very Short e-procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference No.- UDD/CH/NPC/05/2021-22 Dated:-27.11.2021

1	Name of Work	Development of Shahid Binay Bharti Mega Park with Sports Corridor under Nagar Parishad Chatra. (Part-1)			
		Estimate Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (Rs.)	Time of Completion
		4,72,51,000/-	4,72,600/-	10,000/-	18 Months
2	Date of Tender Uploading in Website- <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>	01.12.2021 at 11:00 AM			
3	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	01.12.2021 at 11:30 AM			
4	Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bid	09.12.2021 upto 5:00 PM			
5	Last Date for Received of EMD/Cost of BOQ. (in the form of DD/BC)	10.12.2021 upto 5:00 PM, in the office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)			
6	Date & Address for Opening of Technical Bid.	11.12.2021 upto 11:00 AM, in the office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)			
7	Name & Address of Office inviting Tender	Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)			
8	Contact No. of Procurement Office	+91-8340343116			
9	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	0651-2480345			

Any change can be seen on Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Any other information can be seen on <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Officer  
Nagar Parishad Chatra  
PR 258025 Urban Development (21-22)\_D

**अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, शेख मिखारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, हजारीबाग**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, SHEIKH BHIKHARI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, HAZARIBAG**  
E-mail ID [superintendenthbtag@gmail.com](mailto:superintendenthbtag@gmail.com) Mobile No.- 9431174412

### अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण विज्ञापन संख्या 02 / 2021-22

पत्रांक 2554 / दिनांक-29.11.2021

स्वास्थ्य विभागीय अधिसूचना संख्या ABPMJAY-01/2020-357 दिनांक 05.10.2021 के आलोक में आयुमान भारत योजना अन्तर्गत विभिन्न प्रकार के पैथोलॉजी जाँच (जिसकी सुविधा इस संस्थान में उपलब्ध नहीं है) की सूची दर सहित बन्द लिफाफे में आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कार्यालय अवधि में अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में सम्पर्क करें। अति अल्पकालीन निविदा निम्नलिखित शर्तों के अधीन ली जायेगी।

- शर्तें:-**
- संबंधित निविदा दिनांक 13.12.2021 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक आमंत्रित किया जाता है।
  - एजेंसी को जी0एस0टी0 के अधीन पंजीकृत होना अपेक्षित होगा।
  - पैथोलॉजी लैब का निबंधन क्लिनिकल एस्टेब्लिशमेंट एक्ट के तहत होना अनिवार्य है।
  - लैब में पैथोलॉजिस्ट/एम0डी0/डिप्लोमा डिग्रीधारी होना अनिवार्य है।
  - निर्धारित तिथि के अंदर निविदा पत्र समर्पित किया जाना है।
  - इस कार्य के लिए कोई अग्रिम नहीं दिया जायेगा।
  - इस आमंत्रण का संशोधन एवं रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित है।
  - इस सील बंद समर्पित निविदा को नियमानुसार माध्यम से बंद लिफाफे में निबंधित डाक द्वारा अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में भेजना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
  - दर प्रति इकाई अंकित करेंगे, कर नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त देय होगा।
  - इस दर को क्रय समिति के सम्मक्ष दिनांक 16.12.2021 को 01:00 बजे अपराह्न को खोला एवं अनुमोदन किया जायेगा।
  - लैब को NABL Accreditation प्राप्त होना चाहिए।
  - लैब के बायो मेडिकल वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट का सर्टिफिकेट
  - आमंत्रित निविदाकर्ता में जिसका 50% test L1 होगा उन्हें निविदा इस शर्त के साथ दी जाएगी कि वे बाकी के जाँच भी दूसरे लैब के जाँच के न्यूनतम दर पर ही करना होगा।

विश्वासमाजन, अधीक्षक,  
PR.NO.258094 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(21-22):D शेख मिखारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, हजारीबाग

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**  
**COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED**  
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 005.  
Roc.No.9141 /A&A/2021 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 29.11.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited from 30.11.2021 from reputed manufacturers/distributors for the supply of the Tricycle, Wheel chair, Motorised Sewing Machine, Behind the ear Hearing aid and Battery Operated Wheel chair as part of Distribution of devices on the proposed choice based system for arriving rate contract for the different models and agency as detailed in the department website in [www.scd.tn.gov.in](http://www.scd.tn.gov.in)

Under 'e-tender' system, the tenderers may download the tender documents in the "www.tenders.tn.gov.in" website.

The participating Tenderers should submit a sample along with tender application.

Director for welfare of the Differently Abled, Chennai - 600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

The rates finalized through this tender is also applicable to the supplies under Government and other schemes.

DIPR/ 3694 /TENDER/2021  
"சேர்தண்டை கட்டுத்து கத்தகிரம் அடைந்தோரும், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

**No. 4770 dated. 23.11.2021**  
**Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SNPR- 12 OF 2021-22**

1. Name of the work : Road Work as per DTCN available in the website. [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

2. Total No. of Work : 01 (one) Nos

3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs 17.68 lakhs

4. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar months

5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal : 01.12.2021 at 11.00AM to 09.12.2021 up to 5.00 PM for bidding

6. Date and time of opening of Tender : 10.12.2021 at 11.00AM

7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid : S.E.R.W.Divn. Sonepur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website [www.tendersodishagov.in](http://www.tendersodishagov.in)

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
Rural Works Division, Sonepur.  
OIPR - 25054/11/0014/2122

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TENDERING) M-3 DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089**  
E-mail Id:- [eetenderingm3.djb@gmail.com](mailto:eetenderingm3.djb@gmail.com)  
**"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"**  
**PRESS NIT No. 34 (2021-22)**  
**Press Notice Tender**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender / Estimated cost	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution/D. No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	P.L 400/350/300/250/200 / 150/100 mm dia DI water line in Rajiv Nagar Extn. Begampur (1307/1639) in AC-07 Bawana under EE(NW)-II (Presently ACE (M)-3).	Rs. 7,28,14,395/-	Rs. 1500/-	27.11.2021 2021_DJB_211716_1	13.12.2021 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.  
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V.676/2021-22

Sd/- (O.P. Gupta)  
Executive Engineer (T) M-3

**DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-10**  
**H-BLOCK UDYOG NAGAR INDL. AREA, PEERA GARHI CHOWK, NEW DELHI-41**  
**NIT No.446/ EE(M)-10/ACE(M)7/2021-22**  
**Press Notice Tender**

S. N.	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender (Rs.)	EMD	Dt. of release of tender procurement solution/D. No.	Last dt./ time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1.	Engaging 20 no. beldars (unskilled labour) for repair and maintenance of water lines in Kirari Constituency (AC-09) under AEE(M)9	Item Rate	Exempted vide office memorandum no. F.9/4/2020- PPD, 12.11.2020 and DJB endorsement No: DJB/ 2020-21/ Misc-II(PT)/971 Dated: 23.12.2020	26.11.2021/ 2021_DJB_211609_1	17-12-2021 at 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 681/2021-22

Sd/-  
(Himanshu Agarwal)  
EX. ENGINEER(M)-10



GOLD

₹47,242



RUPEE

₹75.07



OIL

₹76.45



SILVER

₹62,248

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 26

SENSEX: 57,260.58 ▲ 153.43 (0.27%) NIFTY: 17,053.95 ▲ 27.50 (0.16%) NIKKEI: 28,283.92 ▼ 467.70 HANG SENG: 23,852.24 ▼ 228.28 FTSE: 7,128.70 ▲ 84.67 DAX: 15,365.63 ▲ 108.59

International market data till 1900 IST

EMPLOYMENT WATCH  
ALL-INDIA SURVEY2020 lockdown:  
Most job losses in  
blue-collar sectors;  
finserv, IT stem fall

SECTORS	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (IN LAKH)			
	Prior to lockdown (before March 25, 2020)		As on July 1, 2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Manufacturing	98.7	26.7	87.9	23.3
Construction	5.8	1.8	5.1	1.5
Trade	16.1	4.5	14.8	4
Transport	11.3	1.9	11.1	1.9
Education	38.2	29.5	36.8	28.1
Health	15	10.6	14.8	10.1
Accommodation & restaurants	7	1.9	6.2	1.7
IT/BPOs	13.6	6.3	12.8	6.1
Financial services	11.5	5.9	11.3	5.7
Total*	217.8	90.0	201.5	83.3

\*Total also includes 66 establishments in survey belonging to other than nine sectors, source: Ministry of Labour and Employment

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

ABOUT 7.5 PER CENT job losses were seen during the nationwide lockdown to spread the Covid pandemic last year, with the manufacturing, construction, education and trade sectors bearing the brunt more than white-collared employment in IT/BPOs, financial services and health sectors, government data presented in Parliament on Monday showed.

Among the nine key sectors covered for the All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES), the manufacturing sector recorded job losses of 14.2 lakh between the pre-lockdown (March 25, 2020) and post-lockdown period (July 1, 2020). Construction sector recorded a loss of 1 lakh while trade and education sectors registered job losses of 1.8 lakh and 2.8 lakh, respectively.

On the other hand, job losses in the financial services sector, considered white-collared, were recorded at 0.4 lakh and at 1 lakh for the IT/BPOs sector during the same period.

Female workers registered a job loss of 7.44 per cent among the nine key sectors while the figure for male workers between the pre-lockdown and post-lockdown periods (July 1, 2020) stood at 7.48 per cent, the data showed.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha said that female employment in the manufacturing sector reduced to 23.3 lakh (as on July 1, 2020) from 26.7 lakh (as on March 25, 2020). Male workers in manufacturing during the same period dropped to 87.9 lakh from 98.7 lakh. Female workers in the construction sector re-

duced to 1.5 lakh from 1.8 lakh, and male workers fell to 5.1 lakh from 5.8 lakh during the lockdown. Female employment in the trade sector reduced to 4 lakh (as on July 1, 2020) from 4.5 lakh (as on March 25, 2020), while male employment was down to 14.8 lakh (as on July 1, 2020) from 16.1 lakh (as on March 25, 2020).

The findings are part of AQEES. The revamped Quarterly Employment Survey was conducted during the first quarter (April-June 2021) to collect the information on the impact of the pandemic on the operational and employment status of the establishments in the nine sectors — manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation & restaurants, IT/BPOs, and financial services.

The new quarterly employment survey, released in September, had shown employment in key nine sectors rising to 3.08 crore in April-June this year from 2.37 crore in 2013-14, the base year chosen based on the sixth economic census. Assessing the impact of the pandemic on employment in the organised non-farm segment, the report had said employment decreased in 27 per cent of the establishments.

As much as 81 per cent of the workers received full wages during the lockdown period (March 25-June 30, 2020), 16 per cent received reduced wages and only 3 per cent were denied any wages, it said. The earlier version of QES was suspended in 2018, citing a gap in numbers with the payroll data.

There are two components under AQEES, QES and Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES), which covers the unorganised segment (with less than 10 workers).

BRIEFLY  
ADB loan

New Delhi: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of \$125 million for water supply and sanitation projects in Uttarakhand.

## RIL, BT Group

New Delhi: Reliance Industries on Monday denied any intent to bid for the UK telecom group, BT, dismissing a report as “completely speculative and baseless”.

## Penalty on UBI

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Union Bank of India (UBI) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

## PNB stake buy

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) will invest as a promoter in Open Network for Digital Commerce by picking up over 9 per cent stake in the company. PTI

## NO PROPOSAL TO RECOGNISE BITCOIN AS CURRENCY: FM

## RBI for widening scope of ‘bank note’ to include digital currency

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has proposed amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which would enable it to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The move comes amid the government's plans to introduce a Bill on cryptocurrencies in the current Parliament session that seeks to prohibit “all private cryptocurrencies in India” with “certain exceptions”.

“Government has received a proposal from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October, 2021 for amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to enhance the scope of the definition of ‘bank note’ to include currency in digital

EXPLAINED  
What is CBDC?

THE CENTRAL Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a digital form of fiat currency which can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain and is regulated by the central bank.

form. RBI has been examining use cases and working out a phased implementation strategy for introduction of CBDC with little or no disruption,” Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in reply to a query in Lok Sabha.

The CBDC is a digital form of

fiat currency which can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain and is regulated by the central bank. Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state and lack the ‘legal tender’ status. CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross border transactions which do not require a third party or a bank. “Introduction of CBDC has the potential to provide significant benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, higher seigniorage due to lower transaction costs, reduced settlement risk. Introduction of CBDC would also possibly lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted, regulated and legal tender-based payments op-

tion. There are also associated risks which need to be carefully evaluated against the potential benefits,” Chaudhary said.

Meanwhile, in response to a separate query in Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government does not collect data on Bitcoin transactions and on trading in cryptocurrencies. She added the government has no proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency.

“A CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only its form is different,” as per the RBI. CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies that came up globally over the last decade.

## ‘Over 5L cos shut down, 7L new ones registered in six yrs’

More than 5 lakh companies went out of business while over 7 lakh new companies were set up in the last nearly six years, as per data from Corporate Affairs Ministry on Monday

## IN A REPLY to the Lok Sabha, MoS for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit

Singh said the ministry does not “maintain data on event base”



Data for the period starting from April 1, 2016, till date showed:

5,00,506 companies were shut down

7,17,049 new companies were registered under Companies Act, 2013

Source: Government data/PTI

The term ‘closed company’ is not defined under the Act and companies would be struck off after following due process of law

The response was to a query on state-wise companies closed down after demonetisation, GST and Covid-19 pandemic

## SECOND STRATEGIC STAKE SALE THIS FISCAL

## Panel clears ₹210-crore bid by Nandal Finance for Central Electronics

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A MINISTERS’ panel on disinvestment on Monday cleared a winning bid of Rs 210 crore for selling 100 per cent government equity in Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) to Nandal Finance and Leasing Pvt Ltd. The Alternative Mechanism — comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and Minister of State (Independent charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh — approved “the highest price bid” for strategic sale of government stake in CEL.

“The next step will be to issue the Letter of Intent (LoI) and then sign the Share Purchase Agreement following which, the conditions precedent would need to be satisfied by the successful bidder, the company and Government. It is expected that the transaction will be completed during current FY 2021-22,” the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

CEL recorded sales of Rs 245.99 crore in 2019-20, as compared to Rs 232.55 crore in 2018-19, as per latest available data in the company’s annual reports. It recorded net profit after tax of Rs 3.13 crore in 2019-20, up from Rs

CEL FINANCIALS (in ₹ cr)		
Year	2019-2020	2018-2019
Production	249.09	229.73
Sales	245.99	232.55
Gross Margin	14.01	11.69
Gross Profit	9.06	7.21
Profit before Tax	6.36	4.07
Net Profit after Tax	3.13	1.69

Source: Annual reports

1.69 crore in 2018-19. The company has a total debt of Rs 42.96 crore at March-end 2020, as per the annual report. The company is also carrying unpaid wage revision arrears for the year 2007 amounting to around Rs 19 crore.

Set up in 1974, CEL operates in four key areas — railway safety & signalling systems, defence (strategic) electronics, solar photovoltaics, and security surveillance solutions. Its paid up capital at March-end 2020 was Rs. 70.87 crore. This is the second strategic stake sale by the government after Air India this fiscal. After receipt of sealed financial bids, a reserve price of Rs 194 crore was fixed based on valuations by the transaction adviser and the asset valuer, the government said.

## RBI clears LIC stake hike in Kotak Mahindra Bank

To raise holding in lender to nearly 10%

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

LIC WILL increase its stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank to nearly 10 per cent, having received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the private bank said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

Kotak said it has received an intimation from LIC for the same. “Kotak Mahindra Bank has received an intimation from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) stating that the Reserve Bank

of India had granted its approval to LIC, for increasing its holding in the bank up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of the bank,” it added.

The stake hike is subject to RBI’s master directions on prior approval for acquisition of shares or voting rights in private sector banks and on ownership in private banks. It is also subject to Sebi’s Foreign Exchange Management Act norms. Kotak Bank shares traded at Rs 2,020 on BSE, up 2.91 per cent from the previous close. WITHPTI

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
P.B. No. 8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru-560 080  
Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, E-mail: purchase@cpri.in  
Website: http://www.cpri.res.in

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRI/BLR21NIT15 Date: 30-11-2021

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers / service providers for the following in conformation to National/ International standards wherever applicable: -

- (1) Measuring and Recording System for 40000 A Temperature Rise Test Facility At High Power Laboratory, CPRI, Bengaluru.
- (2) Clamps & Connectors as per drawings. (3) Procurement of Protocol Analyser stand-alone tool for offline analysis of DLMS traffic as per IS 15959 series with two years warranty period. During the warranty period, the software support including interpretation of traffic analysed to be provided through email/phone as & when required. (4) Supply of Copper Finger Contacts For Center brake Series parallel dis-connectors for Short circuit bus bar system (SCBBS) As mentioned below.

- a. Copper Finger Contact 5mm (Drawing number 001).
- b. Copper Finger Contact Support 2mm (Drawing number 002).

Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website: <http://www.cpri.res.in> and CPRI e-procurement portal: [www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI) from 30-11-2021 onwards.

CPRI/ADVT/34 /2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer  
(Project)  
PHED Bharatpur (Rajasthan)  
E-Notice Inviting Bid No. 01/2021-22

No.-: PHED/ACE (P)/JMM/Tender/2021-22/1270-78 Dated:- 18.11.2021

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, NIT no. 01/2021-22 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for work of “Retrofitting of Dang area Water Supply Project of District Dholpur to provide FHTC including 10-year O&M, after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turnkey contract, under JMM” as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document: available on website: <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic form on website <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> as per prescribed schedule

NIT No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lakh)	UBN no.	Date & time for online downloading / submission of bid
01/2021-22	Retrofitting of Dang area Water Supply Project of District Dholpur to provide FHTC including 10-year O&M, after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turnkey contract, under JMM	7948.36	PHE212WL OBO9652	From 24.11.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021 (6.00PM)

SAVE WATER- SAVE LIFE  
UBN NO.-: PHE212WLOBO9652

Sd/-  
(Hemant Kumar)  
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)  
PHED Bharatpur

DIPR/C/11903/2021

## OWES ₹21,781 CR TO LENDERS AS OF OCT 31

## RBI supersedes board of default-hit Reliance Capital

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Monday superseded the board of directors of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL), belonging to the Anil Ambani group, in view of the defaults by RCL in meeting the various payment obligations to its creditors and serious governance concerns which the board has not been able to address effectively.

The central bank has appointed Nageswar Rao Y, former Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra, as the Administrator of the company under Section 45-IE (2) of the RBI Act. “The Reserve Bank will shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019,” it said.

The RBI will also apply to the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution professional. On October 5, the RBI superseded the boards of Kolkata-based NBFCs Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. Earlier, it had superseded the board of Dewan Housing Finance (DHLF).

RCL owes Rs 21,781.01 crore, including interest, as on October 31 to lenders. It has also defaulted on repayment of inter-corporate deposits taken from various parties aggregating to Rs 562 crore and interest Rs 120 crore for which maximum days of default ranges from 510 days to 567 days.

RCL made a loss of Rs 10,971 crore on a revenue of Rs 563 crore during the fiscal ended March 2021. Its shares fell 5 per cent at Rs 19.05 on the BSE on Monday.

The company reported continuous delay in servicing of debt obligations on account of stretched liquidity. “The liquidity pro-

## DELAY IN SERVICING DEBT



File

■ The company, belonging to the Anil Ambani group, reported continuous delay in servicing of debt obligations on account of stretched liquidity

file of the group continues to be under stress on account of delay in raising funds from the asset monetization plan and impending debt payments,” Care Ratings said while giving default rating – D – to the company.

Lenders had put several assets of RCL, including its insurance ventures, asset reconstruction firm, and securities arm on sale. SBI Caps and JM Financial had received over 90 expressions of interest for the company’s nine key assets, but the deal could not be finalised due to the ongoing litigation. RCL was among the leading NBFCs at one time, but came under pressure when the financial sector faced a crisis two years ago.

RCL’s consolidated debt is Rs 40,000 crore and the resolution of the two lending businesses — RCF and RHF — will have an impact on the consolidated debt of the company, its chairman Anil Ambani had said. “Between these two companies, there is a debt of over Rs 20,000 crore, and this will be deconsolidated from Reliance Capital’s balance sheet,” he said at RCL’s AGM in September.

## Bureau of Investment Promotion

Date :- 24/11/2021  
BIP/MP/1019  
**Notice Inviting Bid**  
Bids for Procurement of MOU Folder with Ashok Stambh and Government of Rajasthan in Golden metal pasted on the front are invited from interested bidders upto 2:00 PM of 03/12/2021. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.  
UBN No. :- BIP2122GLOB00007  
Raj.Samwad/C/21/8858  
Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RMRS, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR  
[Sawai Man Singh Road Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001]  
[Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2556647, Email-ms.smsmhospital@gmail.com]  
No. 3922/Store/SMS/MH/2021 Jaipur dated, the 25.11.2021

**Notice Inviting Bid**  
Bids for rate contract for procurement of Neuro Spine Navigation system for Neurosurgery department are invited from interested bidders up to 30.12.2021 at 5.00 pm. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.  
UBN No. MCJ 2122GLOB00178

Sd/-  
Member Secretary RMRS,  
S.M.S. Hospital Jaipur  
DIPR/C/12052/2021

**KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.**  
(A Govt. Of Kerala Undertaking)  
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)  
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691583, Kollam, Kerala, India  
+91-476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: +91-0476-2680101, 2686721  
Email: [contact@kmml.com](mailto:contact@kmml.com), URL [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)  
Competitive Tender are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2021_KMML_456267_1	For supply of 20,402 MT of Calcined Petroleum Coke
2	2021_KMML_456443_1	For fabrication and Supply of Tickle Condenser (Methanol Chiller)

Chavara 29.11.2021 Sd/- DGM(MTs)  
For The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.  
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

भारतीय कंटेनर लिमिटेड  
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.  
(A Navratna Company)  
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi – 110 020

**PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE**  
DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and uncleared/unclaimed imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4 those containers arrived on or before 31.03.2021 through e-auction on 15.12.2021 & 30.12.2021 on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS”. All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.msstcecommerce.com](http://www.msstcecommerce.com) w.e.f. 01.12.2021 & 20.12.2021. All importers including Government Undertakings/Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/unloaded and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/ others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaires, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven) Days of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS” without any further notice. For full details please log on to [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.msstcecommerce.com](http://www.msstcecommerce.com)

**MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)  
**PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT**  
101, The Orion, Opposite Don Bosco Youth Centre, Koregaon Park, Pune - 411001. Telephone: 020-26051072  
E-mail: [tenders.pmp@mahametro.org](mailto:tenders.pmp@mahametro.org) | [www.punemetrorail.org](http://www.punemetrorail.org)

**Tender Notice No. P1S-03/2021 Dated: 29.11.2021**

**Name of the Work:** Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Platform Screen Doors System of Pune Metro Rail Project.  
**Cost of Documents:** INR 47,200/- (INR Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only) ind. GST.

Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website [www.punemetrorail.org](http://www.punemetrorail.org) or download the bidding documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from our e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.tenders.in> from 16:00 Hrs. on 29/11/2021.

**Executive Director (Procurement & Contracts) MAHA-METRO**

Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

**I**Dinesh Satya dev Bhardwaj  
S/O Satya Dev Sharma R/O Flat no. 1806, Tower B3, Panchsheel Greens, Greater Noida west - 201318 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Dinesh Bhardwaj

0070763194-1

**I**Mumtaz Begum alias Mumtaz Fareed D/o Mohammad Ilyas W/o Fareed Ahmed R/o House No.1201, Gali Mazar Wali, Kalan Mahal, Darya Ganj, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mumtaz Fareed for all purposes.

0040593745-2

**I**SEEMA AGARWAL W/O PRAMOD KUMAR AGARWAL R/O 202, ARIHANT ALTURA INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SEEMA AGRAWAL W/O PRAMOD KUMAR AGRAWAL

0070763196-1

**I**Sanjay Kumar Bhardwaj alias Sanjay Bhardwaj S/o Sh. Ram Dhan Bhardwaj R/O Flat No.006, Shri Keshav Kunj Apartment, Sector-17, Preet-2, Phase-2, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Sanjay Bhardwaj for all purposes.

0040593745-1

**I**Vedanti Garg D/o-Rajesh Garg R/o-M-98, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Vedhanti Garg for all purposes.

0040593747-1

**I**Vinay Kumar,S/O-LT. Shri Katar Singh, Resident Of 39-A,-J-EXTN.,Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have change my son name from Dharayya Panwar to Dhairya Panwar for all future purposes.

0040593815-6

**I**VINAY SHANKAR UPADHYAY, FATHER OF ABHISHEK KUMAR UPADHYAY,R/O VILL- BABHANGAWAN PO-GUNDI DIST-BHOJPUR-802313, BIHAR, have changed my name, from VINAY SHANKAR UPADHYAY TO BINAY SHANKAR UPADHYAY/VIDE-AFFIDAVIT,DATED-29/11/2021,BEFORE NCT-DELHI

0040593817-9

**I**Sonia Gupta W/o Siddharth Goel R/o BE-62 First Floor Shalimar-Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Sonia Goel.

0040593809-1

**I**Shrishti Yadav,D/O-Late Shri Anil Kumar Yadav, R/O- H.No.2917, Gali.no-7, Libaspur, Delhi-110042, inform that Khushboo and Shrishti Yadav both are name of one & the same person she will be known as Shrishti Yadav in future.Her date of Birth is 21.01.1998.

0040593815-1

**I**Service.No.15618923X Rank HAV/CLK(SD)Name Pradeep Chahar, S/o Baljeet-Chahar Unit-15 GUARDS C/o-56 APO & resident of Village-Khorra, Tehsil-Matanhail, District-Jhajjar (Haryana) -124142, declare that in my service-record daughter name has been wrongly-mentioned as Versha Instead of Varsha vide-Affidavit. No. 49AA 877768 dated-25/11/21, Haryana.

0040593809-7

**I**Saruli Devi W/o,Lt.Balbir Singh,No.4041376, ExpPNR, R/o H.No.8/11,Block-C, Gali No.-2,Rama Vihar, Mohammadpur Majra, Delhi-81 have changed my to Sharda Devi all purposes.

0040593817-1

**I**Irshad S/O Nisharul Haque R/O-B-10/75, DDA-Flate Inder-Lok Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Mohd Irshad.

0040593809-2

**I**SANJEEV AGRAWAL S/o Brp Agarwal R/o plot.no.322,F-4,Gyan Khand-1 Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010,have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar AGRAWAL for,all Purposes.

0040593817-2

**I**Ramesh Chander Jiyaaram Gupta S/o Jiyaaram Rajaram Gupta R/o-BLD-253 The Belaire DLF-City, Phase-5, Gurgaon-122009 Haryana, have changed my name to Ramesh Gupta Permanently.

0040593796-1

**I**Pankaj Kumar alias Pankaj Yadav S/o Rohtash Singh, R/o-1728/1-27, Feet-Road West Side-Dabua Colony, NIT Faridabad-121001, Haryana have changed my name to Pankaj Rao Permanently.

0040593796-2

**I**Omkar Singh Lodhi,S/o-Kishan Lal Lodhi,R/o-A-221,Gaur Green Avenue, Abhay Khand-2, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad UP-201014,have changed my son's name from Dhruv Singh to Dhruv Lodhi for all future purposes.

0040593815-4

**I**No- 9106550F, Hav- Jameed Ahmad Lone, S/o- Noor Mohd Lone, R/O- Shahpora Bala(Chorwan) Tehsil- Gurez, District- Bandipora. In my service records the D o B of my son namely Rayees Ahmad Lone is wrongly mentioned as 11.05.2006 instead of 11.05.2007. It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities within seven days.

0020430154-1

**I**Kumari Archana,D/o late Sri.Naresh Kumar Sinha,R/o Quater.No-1 CPWD Enquiry Office, Sec-1,Pushp Vihar, Malviya-Nagar, Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Archana Singh,for all future purposes.

0040593817-8

**I**Kanwar Hargobind Mehta,S/o-Sant Ram Mehta,R/o-11263, Dooriwalan Ram Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005,inform that Hargobind & Kanwar Hargobind Mehta both name belongs to same person. That in Future,I would be known with the name of "Kanwar Hargobind Mehta" for all future legal purposes.

0040593815-3

**I**KAUSILYA DEVI,MOTHER OF, ABHISHEK KUMAR UPADHYAY R/OVILL-BABHANGAWAN PO-GUNDI DIST-BHOJPUR-802313, BIHAR have changed my name, from KAUSILYA DEVI TO KAUSHALYA DEVI,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-29/11/2021,BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040593817-10

**I**Isha Khanna,S/o Mahendra Pal Arora, W/o-Rahul Khanna,R/o-B-604, 6th-Floor, Bestech-Parkview Ananda,Sector-81, Gurugram(Haryana)-122004, have changed my name to Isha Arora.

0040593809-6

**I**HIMANSHU S/O-MOHINDER ASIJA,HOUSE.No.-277 GROUND-FLOOR TARUN ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-110034,changed my name to HIMANSHU ASIJA.

0040593809-5

**I**Dharmvir S/O-Dariyav Singh R/O,H.No-945, Gali.No-20, Village-Libaspur Delhi-110042, have changed my nameto Dharmvir Singh,for all, future purpose

0040593809-4

**I**Chandra Singh,R/o-H.No.244/B,Gali.no.1,Near Swaraj Mandir,baba Colony,Burari,North Delhi-110084, have changed the name of my minor son's from Harish Negi to Aditya Negi for all purposes.

0040593815-5

**I**Anil Kumar,S/o Bhai Kishan R/O-H.No.206, Pana Bichli Gali,Gali.no.20, Mangolpur-Kalan,Delhi-110085, have changed my son's name, from Krishna to Devain Kumar,for all purposes.

0040593809-8

**I**ANIL VERMA SON OF SHRI RANJIT SINGH VERMA,R/O-A3/36, GROUND FLOOR,ALOK KUNJ,SECTOR-15, ROHINI,Delhi-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR VERMA.

0040593815-2

**I**, Ved Prakash Juneja S/o Des Raj Juneja R/o 230, First-Floor, Pocket-4, Sector-24, Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Vishal Juneja.

0040593809-10

**I**,Surinder Mohan Malik S/o Ram Ditta Mal Malik R/o 1657, Sector-29, Noida(U.P) have changed my name from Surinder Mohan Malik to Surinder Mohan Malik for all future purposes.

0040593761-2

**I**, Siddharth Tewari, S/o Ashwani Tewari, R/o 88/3, Prem Nagar, Kanpur Uttar Pradesh - 208001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Siddhartha Shankar Tewari.

0070763204-1

**I**, Shubham Jain S/O Anil Jain born on 14/1/93 R/o Pocket-D Flat No-450, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Prakhar Jain vide affidavit dated 27/11/21 at Haryana.

0050187992-1

**I**,SWETA W/O S.H. ROHAN LAKHAIYAR, R/o Flat-No-20, JDM Apartment, Sector-05 Dwarka Delhi have changed my name to SWETA LAKHAIYAR permanently

0040593792-1

**I**,SWEETY W/O SANJEEV KUMAR AGRAWAL R/o plot.no.322,F-4,Gyan Khand-1 Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010,have changed my name to SWEETY AGRAWAL for all Purposes.

0040593817-3

**I**,SALEEM KUMAR PILLAI S/O PARACKANAL MADHAVAN KUNJUPILLAI r/o A-4/324, DDA Flats, Paschim Vihar, ND-63 have changed my minor, aged 14 years, son's name from ABHINAV S KUMAR to ABHINAV KUMAR.

0040593771-1

**I**,Rajni Kandwal W/o Sunil Kandwal R/O C-1425, Gaur Global Village,Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016,have changed my name from RajaniNaithani to Rajni Kandwal.

0040593749-1

**I**,Rajesh Kumar Singathia S/o, Attar Singh R/o-Flat-No.8523 C8 Near Gate-No.8, Vasantkunj, South-West Delhi-110070, have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Singathia To Rajesh Kumar.

0040593809-9

**I**,Pradeep Kumar Pandey S/o Shri Diwakar Pandey R/o Plot No-143, F-1, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010. have changed my name from Pradeep Kumar Pandey to Pradeep Pandey for All future purposes.

0040593773-1

**I**,Poonam Sawilani W/o Lalit Gurnani, R/O-39-A, Nehru Nagar Near-Sai Baba Mandir, Ajay Nagar,Ajmer- 305001, Rajasthan have changed my name to Mansi Gurnani Permanently.

0040593796-3

**I**,Pooja Rathore w/o Bahadur Singh Rathore r/o E1-1102, Skytech Matrot, Sector-76, NOIDA, UP-201301 have changed my name to POOJA CHAUHAN.

0040593770-1

**I**, Pallavi Parth, Ex. W/o Prakash Parth, R/o F-48, 2nd Floor, Tulip Garden, Sushant Lok-2, Sector-57, Gurgaon, Sector-56, Haryana - 122011, declare that I got divorced from my husband vide Court Decree No. â€” HMA 103 of 2007 Dated 1st March 2007. Further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anita Israni.

0070763199-1

**I**, Mamta Sharma D/o, Nathu Lal Sharma R/o-18/13-B, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, inform that Mamta Sharma and Shristi both names are belong to one and same person.

0040593817-5

**I**,Gujral Rashmeet Narendersingh W/o Kundan Katre R/o-1F-102, Meera Omaxe-Eternity, Chatikara Road, Vrindavan Bangar,Mathura, UP-281121, have changed my name to Rashmeet Katre.

0040593817-4

**I**,Aditya Sharma S/o Ravin Sharma R/O C-3/72, Sector-31, Noida(U.P) have changed my name from Aditya to Aditya Sharma for all future purposes.

0040593761-1

**I**, KM RACHNA GAUTAM, W/O ASHOK GAUTAM, R/O- F-244, Hari Nagar Extension, Badar Pur, Jait Pur, South Delhi-110044 inform that KM RACHNA GAUTAM and RACHNA GAUTAM both are same and one person.

0070763195-1

**I**,Ajeet Ahuja S/O Brij Lal R/O, A-13, First-Floor Chander-Nagar Ghaziabad-Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed my name to Ajit Ahuja.

0040593809-3

## LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original mark sheet of semester 2, Examination year 2012-2013 IMU Roll no 12060611013 issued by INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY for Nautical science has been lost. Name: Gaurav Dhoundiyal ( Gaurav Dhoundiyal ) S/O Chandamrani Dhoundiyal Add: E-67, Satguru Kripa Niwas, Pipal wala road, Mohan garden, Uttamnagar, New Delhi, Pin: 110059 if found contact :9654460742

0040593769-2

**I** Ruchi Arora W/o Nikhil Arora R/O E-50, Second Floor, Sector-1, Avantika, Rohini, Delhi have lost my all Original documents i. e Allotment Letter, Demand Letter, Possession Letter etc.of LG Flat No.101, Block-A,G.F., Pocket-3, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address.

0040593745-3

**I** Gaurav Khosla have lost my Original marksheet for Graduation, Roll no. G-1155100543, SHUATS University. If Found Please Contact: 9891967818 0050187994-1

**I** Charan Kaur W/o Late Bakhshish Singh R/o C-28, Pusppanjali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi have lost my Original Builder Buyer Agreement to Sell, Possession Letter & Receipt of Unit No.301, Adarsh Complex, Plot No.3, Community Centre, Wazirpur Indl. Area, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address.

0040593745-4

**I**, Vivek Khanna S/o Late Smt.Kamini Khanna R/o Silver Oaks Apartments, 104/95, DLF City Phase-I, Gurgaon, Haryana have lost the all Original Documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Buyer Agreement, Possession Letter, Payment Receipts and Sale Deeds bearing serial Nos. 16362 dt. 17.2.1997, 1054 dt. 21.4.1997 & 4793 dt. 29.5.2006 pertaining to my above said residential property. Finder please kindly inform the same to me on the address mentioned in above.

0040593816-1

**I**,Madan Kumar Sharma, s/o-Inder Dutt Sharma,R/o-B-121,Gazipur-Village, Delhi-96,have lost my original-Ownership papers GDA Sale deed,Registered GPA,Allotment,& possession-Letter of Plot.no.3rd F-379,Vaishali-Ghaziabad,UP along with some other documents.Misuse of lost-documents will be illegal.Finder Call-9313696262.

0040593817-11

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0050187882-1

## PUBLIC NOTICE

"Public at large is hereby informed that my client Manveen Singh S/o Lt. Sh. Hamrander Singh Chowdhary, presently living in Australia, is one of the legal heirs of Lt. Sh. Hamrander Singh Chowdhary. Now Any body dealing with them in any manner whatsoever with regard to the movable, immovable properties, assets, shares, debentures, bank accounts etc., of the said Sh. Hamrander Singh Chowdhary shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility."

Sd/-

HARBANS SINGH

Advocate

Ch. No. 572, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client SH. ASHOK AGARWAL S/O NADH BHARU AGGARWAL R/O BLOCK-BG-565-BASCHOM VIHAR NEW DELHI-43 AGE -73 have severed all his relations and disowned debared SH. NEERAJ AGARWAL S/O SH. ASHOK AGARWAL MRS. CHANDNI AGARWAL W/O SH. NEERAJ AGARWAL and his Grand Sons PRASHANT AND PANKAJ AGARWAL, both S/O SH. NEERAJ AGARWAL from all his movable and immovable assets due to- their bad habits and conduct. Anybody dealing with NEERAJ AGARWAL's family will do his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for any act, deed, or dealing done by them.

SURRENDER SHARMA, Advocate  
Ch.No. X-16 A CIVIL SIDE LAWYERS CHAMBER NEW DELHI-54

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Jagdish Prashad Sh Muktiyar Singh and his wife Smt. Lila Wati W/o Jagdish Prashad, both resident of H.No. A-262, Gali No. 9, A-Block, Mahalaxmi Enclave, Karawal Nagar, North-East Dist. Delhi-110084 have disowned and disbarred their both sons and their wives namely (1) Anil Kumar and his wife Sweeta, and (2) Kapil Kumar and his wife Manjima from their all movable and immovable properties. My clients have severed all their personal relations with them due to their misconduct and misbehavior. Anybody dealing with them in any manner either oral or criminal matter shall do at their own risk, cost and responsibilities and my clients shall not be responsible for any act of Sh. Ajay Agarwal in any manner.

Sd/- AHMAD PARVEZ  
CH. No. 171, Block-II, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that my client Mrs. Prabha Aggarwal D/o Sh. Tara Chand Aggarwal R/o 120, New Rajdhani Enclave, Shakar Puri, Baramand, Shakarpet, East Delhi, Delhi-110082 have cut off his family relations and have disowned his son namely Sh. Ajay Aggarwal S/o Sh. Ramnath Aggarwal from all his movable / immovable properties due to their disobedient and quarrelsome nature and my client was notis notwill not be responsible for any act of Sh. Ajay Aggarwal in any manner.

Sd/- Renu yadav & Shubham Bagrodia  
Advocate  
Ch. No. 771-772, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Babu Lal Gupta S/o Sh. Nayaran Lal Gupta R/o H.No.G-9/72, Sangam Vihar, Pusp Vihar, New Delhi-110082 has disowned his son Sh. Vikas Gupta and his wife Smt. Pooja & Pooja Sharma from his all movable and immovable properties and severed all relations with them due to their disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for their acts.

Sd/- Sandeep Kumar (Advocate)  
Ch. No.486, Saket Courts New Delhi-17

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients On Prakash (aged about 75 years) and late Sh. Arun Singh and his wife Sita Devi (aged about 70 years) both residents of H. No. B-53, Madipur, Condoy, Delhi, have disowned their son namely Manoj and his wife namely Sapna and their children all resident of E-368, Madipur Colony, Delhi from their all movable and immovable properties because they are not in the possession of my clients and hence, my clients sever all their relation with their son. If anybody deals with them, he/she will himself be responsible for the same and my clients will not be responsible in any manner.

Sd/- Deepak Ghai (Advocate)  
Ch. No. 440, W. Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Tara Devi W/o Late Sh. Ram Bai Singh R/o R2/19/8, Gali No.6, Durga Park, Naspur Road, Vihar, Sector-1A, Delhi-110045 have severed all her relation with her son Sh. Brijesh and his wife Smt. Priyanka due to their ill treatment and bad habits and hereby disown them from all his movable and immovable properties. Hence, they shall have no right or claim qua the same and anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed and dealing done by them. My client is also having the apprehension that the above named persons may imitate their act for family members in any wrong and false legal case like dowry sexual harassment domestic violence etc.

Sd/- RANJAN KUMAR S/O LATE STATE P-14/B LGF, Jangpura Extn. N.Delhi-14

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that Mr. Sham Sunder Arora, S/O Mr. Ram Prakash Arora, R/O E-123, Prashanti Vihar, Delhi-110085, has Lost the original Conveyance Deed No.4758 issued on 26.05.2005 against Property No-E-23, Prashanti Vihar, Delhi-110085. In this regard, a police complaint has also been lodged, with LR No. 991047/2021 date 29/11/2021 at Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person (s) found these papers and claiming any rights, interest, having any objection, may contact with the below given address and contact no. Within 7 days and no claim will be entertained thereafter. Sham Sunder Arora, Puneet Arora, Ph. No-9419194950, 9877854496, at E-23, Prashanti Vihar, Delhi-110085

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my Clientless Mrs. Reena Kumar W/o Late Mr. Ashok Mishra has nothing to do with Mr. Anil Mishra S/O Dr. Omprakash Mishra both Resident of V-38, Anand Nagar, Ghonda, Delhi-110053, both sons of Late Mr. Ashok Mishra from his previous marriage to Mrs. Anita. My clientless has no relations with them nor they have any interest or connections in my clients movable or immovable properties.

SUNIL JACOB (Advocate)  
144 Lawyers Chamber Block, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Neeta Khanna W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Khanna (S/o) Late Mr. Dewan Chand Khanna) R/O C5A/291, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58 declare that name of my husband has been written as Ashok Kumar and/or Ashok Khanna in various documents. Whereas Late Sh. Ashok Kumar, Late Sh. Ashok Khanna & Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Khanna (S/o) Late Mr. Dewan Chand Khanna) are one and the same person.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Aditya Birla Finance Ltd., 1st Floor, Vijaya Bank Building Barakhamba Road, New Delhi is in the process of advancing a loan to Mr. Anurag Bansal, against mortgage of Entire Ground Floor and Rear Side of First Floor of Property No. A-111, Block - A, Lohianagar, Ghaziabad, U.P., who has represented that he is the sole & absolute owner of the said property on the basis of Will dated 23.09.2019 (Doc. No. 1655) of his Grandfather Mr. Rameshwar Dayal. If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property or objection to its mortgage, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 7 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property.

**Vishal Chopra, Advocate**  
Narang & Associates  
D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to public at large that my clients (1) Ms. Bashirun w/o Late Noor Mohammad (2) Ms. Roshma & Ms. Shubnam both D/o Late Noor Mohammad (3) Mr. Fahis, Mr. Saleem & Mr. Aslam all S/o Late Noor Mohammad all residing at T-41, Moolchand Colony, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110053 have severed their relationships with Mr. Mohd. Chand S/o Late Noor Mohammad R/o T-41, Moolchand Colony, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110053 (son & brother respectively) and completely debar and disown him from all their movable and immovable properties and other things of benefits because of his bad treatment meted out to his aforesaid clients by him. If anybody deals with him they will do so at their own risk, cost and consequences for which my above clients shall not be responsible in any manner.

Sd/- Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal  
Advocate  
Ch. No. 345, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

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Sd/- Chief Engineer, Zone/KADAPA.  
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# If Magnus takes the lead in crucial fourth game, it could get one-sided



SURYA SEKHAR GANGULY

I THINK the first three games followed the pattern of a typical World Championship match. The two players were testing each other on different lines, without any obvious weakness on either side in terms of opening or strategy. But Magnus (Carlsen) should definitely be happy, especially about the third game, where he had a relatively easy draw despite playing with the black pieces. Delving into the technical side of things, Nepo's (Ian Nepomniachtchi) first move was e4 (King's pawn opening) in both games where he played with the white pieces. Magnus responded to that with e5 in both games. Against e5, Nepo adopted Ruy Lopez. Magnus countered that with the Morphy defence, employing the Marshall variation. Nepo didn't want to allow that and resorted to the Anti-Marshall counter.

It's a step by step process. Nepo's next game with the white pieces would be Game No.5. If he plays e4 again, not necessarily that Magnus would repeat e5. He might do it, he might not. He could well turn to c5, the Sicilian defence. But I think in the fifth game, Nepo would most likely play d4 – the Queen's pawn opening – to try and figure out how Magnus's team has prepared against that. He has played e4 in his first two games with white, and maybe he can think that it's time to change.

After two games with the white pieces, Nepo has enough information about how Magnus's team has prepared against e4. Now Nepo's team is expected to work on cracking the existing line – Magnus's e5 – while trying to get information about the latter's preparation against d4. Different teams have different match strategies. When we were at the World Championship, especially during (Viswanathan) Anand's match against (Boris) Gelfand, our strategy was that we would play both e4 and d4, and with the black pieces, we would start with e5 against e4 in the first couple of games. And when the opponent would start spending time on that, we would shift to some other opening. So it's very much possible that Magnus would now turn to the Sicilian, but this is something you can't predict. He might well stick to the existing line.

As a player, I am not speculating any-



World champion Magnus Carlsen will aim to claim a win with white pieces in the fourth game of the world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi on his 31st birthday on Tuesday.

"I had earlier mentioned that if Nepo could take the match deep with the scores level, his chances would increase. Whether that would happen, it's too early to say. In general, when draws pile up, the challenger's confidence level goes up, while the world champion tends to get a tad nervy. For example, if there's a stalemate even after the Game No. 13, then Carlsen no longer remains the favourite"

SURYA SEKHAR GANGULY  
GRANDMASTER

thing. I am excited about the World Championship but as regards to openings and/or moves, I don't speculate. Of course, when Anand was playing, it was completely different, for I was directly involved. Here, I am looking forward to a great match and that's what I am seeing. The second game

was very entertaining and at the post-game press conference Magnus spoke about committing a "blunder". But I don't read too much into that. Comments at press conferences are usually very generic and I don't take them seriously. There will be mistakes in every game. If I run every game through the computer and put it under the microscope, some mistakes can be found. Very rarely do we see an absolutely flawless game – one out of 10, that's the ratio and even there also, it could be a case that the second-best move was played somewhere instead of the best one. Mistakes will happen.

I had earlier mentioned that if Nepo could take the match deep with the scores level, his chances would increase. Whether that would happen, it's too early to say. In general, when draws pile up, the challenger's confidence level goes up, while the world champion tends to get a tad nervy. For example, if there's a stalemate even after the Game No. 13, then Carlsen no longer remains the favourite. From that point of view, Nepo should be happy to take the match deep. Then again, Magnus has got more en-

ergy in general. He will not get tired.

In the only game that Magnus has played with the white pieces so far, he went for the Catalan opening. But I don't expect him to repeat it in the next game. In fact, based on my experience, I would be surprised if he does it. Nepo has played two games with the white pieces so far and he cannot be thrilled with what happened, but he shouldn't be disappointed also with the outcome. The match hasn't taken a departure from the normal as yet. With the black pieces in the second game, Nepo was under serious pressure at one point. But other than that, it's still about the two players testing each other.

I think the fourth game is going to be very crucial, Magnus's second attempt with the white pieces. If he takes the lead here, it could easily get one-sided.

**Grandmaster Surya Sekhar Ganguly was one of Viswanathan Anand's seconds and assisted him in winning the World Championship matches against Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov. He spoke to Shamik Chakrabarty.**

## Despite SA's covid cloud, India A team to play four-day game

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 29

CONFINED IN a bio-bubble, with the Omicron cloud hanging over the tour, the India A team will play their second four-day unofficial Test against South Africa A in Bloemfontein from Tuesday. International teams and players have rushed to fly out of South Africa following the spread of the new variant of the virus. On Monday, Olympic javelin gold medalist Neeraj Chopra cancelled his trip to the country, where he was supposed to go for a training-and-competition stint.

The BCCI, though, hasn't pulled the plug on the A team's tour and as of now, the senior team's upcoming visit to South Africa is on schedule as well. "The India A games will be played as per schedule at the moment. The players are in a bio-bubble and we have been constantly monitoring the situation, while maintaining regular contact with Cricket South Africa (CSA). The matches will be played behind closed doors, but as of now, they will be held as per the itinerary. Even the Indian government hasn't sent any advisory (to us), so the India A tour is on at the moment," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal told *The Indian Express*.

Confirmation also came via a CSA press release that said: "The South African A side are eager for an improved performance with ball in hand when they take on their counterparts India A in the second four-day match at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein on Tuesday." The India A team is touring South Africa for three unofficial Tests, three one-dayers and four T20s. The senior team will leave for the country, after their ongoing home series against New Zealand, to play three Tests, three ODIs and four T20Is. Back in September, the Indian team had refused to play the fifth Test against England in Manchester following a Covid outbreak in the camp. Dhimal, however, told this paper last week that the BCCI would follow the Indian government's directive as regards to the cricket tours in South Africa. "Health Ministry's directive is supreme. If we get any advisory in this regard, we will certainly follow that." In an advisory to all the states last week, the Health Ministry identified the new variant of the virus, B.1.1.529, to potentially have "serious public health implications". This has also led to a rethink on the resumption of scheduled international flights from December 15. Several countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and European Union have slapped a travel ban on South Africa. As for cricket, South Africa's three-match ODI series against the Netherlands saw a Covid-forced postponement, while the International Cricket Council abandoned the women's World Cup qualifier in South Africa's neighbouring country Zimbabwe.

The new variant of the Covid-19 virus,

## Neeraj Chopra's SA trip cancelled

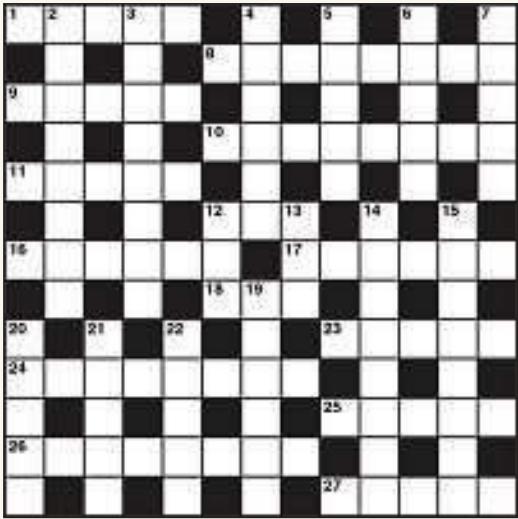
**New Delhi:** Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra won't be travelling to South Africa as planned for a training-and-competition stint because of the spread of the Omicron variant in the country, an Athletics Federation of India official said. "Neeraj's travel plans to South Africa have been cancelled and we will have to look for a new training base for him," the official said. In early 2020, Chopra had trained in Potchefstroom and this time he was scheduled to fly out of India in the first week of December and be based in South Africa till March. Neeraj is aiming to participate in the Diamond League in Doha in May followed by the Golden Spikes in Ostrava. The World Championships, the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games are the big events for the Tokyo Olympics champion.

ENS

## The India A team is touring South Africa for three unofficial Tests, three one-dayers and four T20s. The senior team will leave for the country, after their ongoing home series against New Zealand, to play three Tests, three ODIs and four T20Is.

designated as Omicron by the World Health Organization, has caused panic in several countries including South Africa, where the scientists first identified the variant at a lab in Durban. As per the South African government data, issued by their health department on Sunday, 2,858 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours, although it didn't reveal the number of infections by the Omicron variant. Reports from ground zero, however, don't present a grim picture. "A lot of people here don't even know (about the new variant). It's all in the media. I'm right next to the second biggest hospital in South Africa - Unitas Hospital in Pretoria - and there's no alarm from their side as yet," former South Africa fast bowler Fanie de Villiers told *The Indian Express*. "We are still watching cricket at the fields, we are still watching cricket at the grounds, school grounds, everywhere. If it were that serious, they would have stopped it long ago," he added.

## CROSSWORD 4599



### ACROSS

- 1 He is wrong about the doctor (5)
- 8 One keeps it in reserve (8)
- 9 Checks part of the rigging (5)
- 10 See 18 Across
- 11 The speed with which notes are produced (5)
- 12 Make a getaway by air? (3)
- 16 Its lead decreases and it often draws (6)
- 17 It's enough to make one sick (6)
- 18 and 10 Across: Vicissitudes rarely encountered in Holland (3,3,5)
- 23 So tightly packed it's stupid (5)
- 24 The building was due to be consecrated (8)
- 25 Transport ordered at six (5)
- 26 Charge too much? (8)
- 27 The head enquires about pieces of work (5)

### DOWN

- 2 On the wrong side where banks are concerned (2,3,3)
- 3 Small company simply involved in producing games (8)
- 4 Remarkable piece of railway equipment (6)
- 5 Room for mental improvement perhaps (5)
- 6 Is acquainted with some military work now secret (5)
- 7 Drawn - from the past for example? (5)
- 12 Fever starts to fluctuate (3)
- 13 Certainly a feature of every estate (3)
- 14 Made rare concoction of sugar (8)
- 15 Female colour bar (8)
- 19 Advance to secure the property (6)
- 20 Kill off new growth (5)
- 21 Strange story told in article (5)
- 22 Work of monumental stupidity (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4598:** Across: 1 In two minds, 6 Hard, 10 Adult, 11 Cosmetics, 12 low waste, 13 Owing, 15 Atelier, 17 Tsarina, 19 Fanfare, 21 Precede, 22 Sinai, 24 Bookworm, 27 Exonerate, 28 Evade, 29 Pier, 30 Settlement. Down: 1 Ivan, 2 Truncheon, 3 On tow, 4 Incisor, 5 Dissect, 7 Alibi, 8 Designated, 9 Lemonade, 14 Half-asleep, 16 Imagines, 18 Inebriate, 20 Embrace, 21 Project, 23 Noose, 25 Where, 26 Dent.

## JUMBLD WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I believe things cannot make themselves \_\_\_\_ - Stephen Hawking (10)

### VOILE



### RUMBLE



### HUISS



### AETUBP

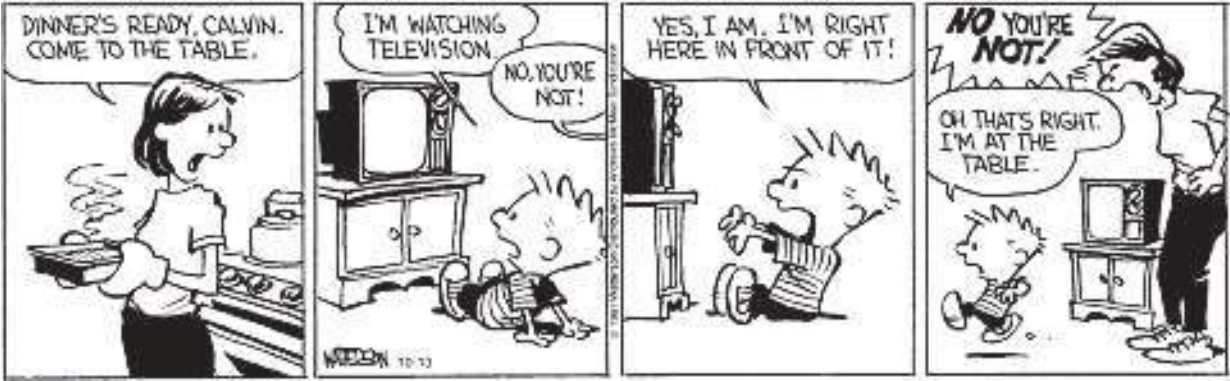


SOLUTION: OLIVE, SUSHI, LUMBER, UPPREAR  
Answer: I believe things cannot make themselves impossible - Stephen Hawking

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4670

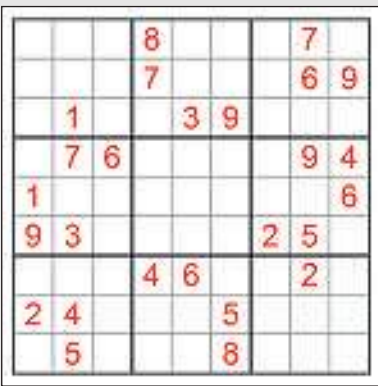
### Difficulty Level 5s

#### Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

### Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4669



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're one to set the rules, rather than obey them. Consider the course of action that is correct for you, rather than just going along with the crowd. Distant places may beckon, and on the most mundane level this is a useful day for fixing travel plans.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Social connections could involve legal complications. Just how or why this should be so is not clear, but you can help matters along by making sure that you know exactly what is your responsibility - and what is a partner's. Mind you, they might not agree with you.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your very personal business could appear to be someone else's problem, but you shouldn't believe everything you hear. At work there are ways to boost your income, but only if you approach the issues from a radically different direction. You may have to drag colleagues into the present, though.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

As soon as one relationship is ended another will begin, which must be good news. Yet, it may be your own attitudes which need attention, rather than the people you mix with. You can, if you wish, completely transform your feelings and behaviour within one special intimate partnership.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Sometimes the right words come out in the wrong way. Too much has been said in haste or in anger recently, and you should now find ways to recharge your emotional batteries. Try to find imaginative means of increasing your earning power, but remember to consult others at every step.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

One particular emotional involvement is now passing through a curious phase. What once seemed so true may now seem like a waste of time. You may feel free to speak your mind and put your foot down, and shouldn't be intimidated by others' ability to confuse the issues.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're coming up to a critical moment for home and family relationships, and any and all positive changes ought now to be encouraged. There should soon be good news for those planning a move, and while financial matters look uncertain, you may need to reach the best agreement you can.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may still have to consider long-term investments, but it's immediate cash concerns which need sorting out first. You're at your most persuasive, so you may try presenting proposals which have already been rejected, giving them an entirely different gloss.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The climate is still much too volatile to settle on long-term plans. The current feeling that everything is up for grabs should suit your temperament, so you'll be tempted to put aside any lingering fears for your security. Keep partners informed as and when you feel it's necessary.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is intense pressure for constructive change across the board. You may be primed to benefit most if you are pursuing a creative line, or committed to any activity which is designed for self-improvement. Only the highest standards will do.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

What you do with your private life is up to you. However, others may disagree! It's especially important to keep a dialogue going at home, all the more so if you want to keep parents or children on your side. If you try to do it alone then you'll almost certainly come unstuck.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You will be tempted into rash decisions and impulsive actions, a tendency which although strong today, may continue all week. The final decision must always be yours, but do be aware of the likely consequences: there is no substitute for careful planning.

BRIEFLY

Chinese team reports racial abuse at TT World Championship

*Houston:* Chinese officials' formal complaint of racist abuse toward one of their players at the table tennis world championships in Texas was taken "very, very seriously," the sport's governing body said. A racial slur seemed to be directed by an unidentified spectator at Liang Jingkun during his match on Friday at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. The sixth-seeded Liang went on to beat Liam Pitchford of England. "We got a complaint from the Chinese Table Tennis Association and we noticed something on one night ourselves," said Steve Dainton, chief executive of the International Table Tennis Federation. "And as soon as we got that complaint, together with the local organizers, we took it very, very serious, and we started to take action," Dainton told Chinese broadcaster CGTN America. **AP**

Pakistan inch closer to win vs Bangladesh

*Chattogram:* Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed 5-32 as Pakistan closed in on victory in the first cricket test against Bangladesh on Monday. Afridi's fourth five-wicket haul in tests wrapped up Bangladesh's second innings for 157 on Day 4, setting Pakistan a 202-run target to win. Openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique then helped Pakistan reach 109-0 at stumps, leaving the team needing 93 more runs on the final day. Ali, who scored 133 in the first innings, was on 56 and debutant Shafique was unbeaten on 53 when bad light ended play early for the fourth consecutive day. Bangladesh had a 44-run first-innings lead after posting 330 and then bowling Pakistan out for 286. **AP**  
**BRIEF SCORES:** *Stumps Pakistan 286 and 109 for 0 (Abid 56\*, Shafique 53\*) trail Bangladesh 330 and 157 (Liton 59, Yasir 36, Afridi 5-32) by 93 runs*

Root reiterates he saw no racist behaviour towards Azeem

*Brisbane:* England's Test captain Joe Root on Monday reiterated he did not witness racism at Yorkshire but said he is in touch with Azeem Rafiq since his former teammate testified at a recent parliamentary hearing about the discrimination that he had faced at the club. During the hearing, Rafiq has told MPs he felt "isolated, humiliated at times" due to the racism he suffered and the "constant uses of the word p\*\*\*\*r" during his time at Yorkshire. Root said he has reached out to Rafiq since he spoke through tears in Parliament on November 16. "We have exchanged a couple of messages since, quite recently actually, and hopefully when we finish this tour we will get the opportunity to sit down and talk about this whole situation. About how we can move the game forward," Root said. However, at the same time, Root stood by his earlier claim that he had never witnessed any racist behaviour towards Rafiq. "No, I stand by what I said," he said. **PTI**

SANDIP G

KANPUR, NOVEMBER 29

JUST BEFORE the onslaught of the pandemic, four-day Tests matches were suddenly the rage. The often-jetted reason was that Test matches, these days, seldom last five days. Four-day skirmishes flew thick and fast, and in the game's gluttonous urge to compress the length of a contest, the theory gained currency.

But every now and again, just when one starts buying the four-day Test theory, comes along a match that argues that there is no spectacle in cricket as enthralling as a Test match that lasts the full course. They arrive, like messiahs and avatars, few and far between, but are worth the wait. And for that rare Test alone should five-day Tests be preserved.

Like the one that played out between India and New Zealand in Kanpur, a contest that was alive till the last ball of the game, which the visitors saved by a lone wicket. When Ravindra Jadeja sauntered into bowl the last ball of the 98th over of the Kiwi second innings in bleary darkness, the match was still pregnant with two possibilities — he could nick a wicket and be India's hero, while Ajaz Patel could hold fort and be New Zealand's saviour. The Kiwi No. 11 eventually blocked the ball to produce a famous last-ball draw, one that posterity would remember and recount.

A Test match lasting five days doesn't necessarily become a grandee. Just like some of the football games that roll into extra-time, more due to defensive dourness than attacking vigour. But the Kanpur one was a grandee, a glorious celebration of Test cricket, purely because of the spread of variegated skills the players exhibited.

A flashy batsman embracing restraint on his Test debut, a pair of versatile seamers chiselling tools to be penetrative in hostile conditions, spinners making do with the lack of bounce and pace on the strip, overseas batsmen digging the depth of their skill-sets and will-power, and wicketkeepers stretching to the outer limits of their physical and mental flexibility.

Challenging the best

Nothing came cheap on this wicket, neither runs nor wickets nor catches. It was perhaps the much-maligned Green Park deck's way of acting piecey after all the flaky-wicket criticism it had copped. It's in a way a reflection of the city. Nothing comes easy here. One has to earn. And as it ideally should be in Test cricket. Even Jadeja, the classic fifth-day hangman of batsmen in his backyard, had to drudge for wickets. He is accustomed to running through sides, but here he had to plan, re-plan, review and then revise again.

The Williamson set-up was a classic case. It was the result of an elaborate tease. Jadeja kept mixing the ones that turned away a fraction with the ones that held the line on the angle. A straighter one with the angle beat Williamson's forward-defensive stride and gripped the surface. It suddenly sowed doubts in the Kiwi skipper's mind, and thereafter he was hesitant to venture forward. Jadeja wanted exactly that, for Williamson to doubt his impenetrable defence. Thereafter, it was the case of slithering in the arm-ball.

Jadeja, though, was not finished with his web of deception, setting the stage assiduously like a dramatist. With a few deliveries outside the off-stump, he pushed Williamson across, and then flung the arm-ball, a bit wider from the crease than usual for an illusion of drift. Williamson came out of his sagely shell of focus and hung back

fatally to manoeuvre the ball through the leg-side, only to helplessly watch the ball missile into his pad. It was a tribute to Jadeja's genius that even though it was not his idea of a fifth-day wicket, he could still weave his magic.

But the ball that exploded the match into life came just before the tea interval, when he beat Ross Taylor on the front-foot with nothing more than the angle. Maybe, Taylor was playing for the break and pre-empted the front-foot defence, whereas all this while, he was comfortably playing Jadeja on the back-foot. But the left-arm spinner kept pushing his length up, and eventually induced the stroke of misjudgement.

Later, even against the lower order, he had to keep altering and re-altering his plans. As opposed to the middle order, the arm-ball became the set-up ball, while the away-spinner became the strike ball. Jadeja is not much of an experimentalist, but tucked deep into his bag of variations to bring India back into the game. He fiddled around with his grips, released some balls with a higher arm action, so that he could purchase more bounce; some were more round-arm than usual.

Master at work

His ally, Ravichandran Ashwin, was nothing less than a spin bowling alchemist, attempting everything a spin bowler possibly could. All he didn't try was bowling left-handed.

Yet, he nipped Tom Latham with a routine ball, a short-of-length wide ball that he inside-edged onto the stumps. Latham was devastated, as he was in the first innings when he was stumped on 95.

The left-hander enhanced his reputation as one of the most stable all-condition openers in the world, soaking 428 balls in the Test. No opener since England's Alastair Cook has faced as many balls in a single Test. His judgment shone brightly, undoubtedly more skilled than many non-Asian batsmen at negating spin and decoding the plans of India's well-versed spin artists.

Most of New Zealand's batsmen demonstrated an iron will to not throw their wickets away, be it Will Young in the first innings or Rachin Ravindra in the second, the latter a debutant and the former just playing his fourth Test. Unlike several other tourists who left these shores cribbing and cussing about pitches, dust, and what not, New Zealand went about finding solutions to the riddles around them.

Not every Test match will last till the 94th over of the fifth day, but it's worth the wait. And on days like these, the future of Test cricket looks brighter than ever before.

SCORECARD:

**India 1st Innings:** 345  
**New Zealand 1st Innings:** 296  
**India 2nd Innings:** 234-7 declared  
**New Zealand 2nd Innings:** (Overnight 4-1 in 4 overs)

*Tom Latham b Ashwin 52, Will Young lbw b Ashwin 2, William Somerville c Shubman Gill b Umesh 36, Kane Williamson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 24, Ross Taylor lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 2, Henry Nicholls lbw b Axar 1, Tom Blundell b Ashwin 2, Rachin Ravindra not out 18, Kyle Jamieson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 5, Tim Southee lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 4, Ajaz Patel not out 2*

**Extras:** (B-12, LB-1, NB-4) 17  
**Total:** (For 9 wicket, 98 overs) 165

**Fall of wicket:** 3-1, 79-2, 118-3, 125-4, 126-5, 128-6, 138-7, 147-8, 155-9.  
**Bowling:** Ravichandran Ashwin 30-12-35-3, Axar Patel 21-12-23-1, Umesh Yadav 12-2-34-1, Ishant Sharma 7-1-20-0, Ravindra Jadeja 28-10-40-4.



The Germans were spread all over the country and trained in smaller groups depending on each other's proximity. **PTI**

In one way or another, every country in the Junior World Cup has suffered because of the pandemic. The Indian players didn't compete internationally for almost two years. Germany didn't even practice as a group, their



Most of New Zealand's batsmen demonstrated an iron will to not throw their wickets away and deny India a win. **AP**

Respect the titan: Ashwin's 4th-innings prowess at home is second to none

ABHISHEK PUROHIT

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

IF ONE is an Indian spinner bowling in the fourth innings of a Test match in Asia, and particularly so at home, one is criticised after doing well, and even more so if one doesn't. If the former happens, the pitch often takes more credit and if the latter happens, the spinner is often deemed to have let down the pitch itself, in addition to the team and the fans.

If even one of the few close shaves the New Zealand last pair had in Kanpur been just a bit closer, it would have been a fitting way for Ravichandran Ashwin to go past Harbhajan Singh as India's third-highest Test wicket-taker. That Rachin Ravindra and Ajaz Patel held on for a draw in fading light should take nothing away from the fact that since he debuted exactly a decade ago, nobody has taken more Test wickets than Ashwin.

And contrary to the perception that all he has to do is turn up at home grounds to feast on clueless visiting batsmen, Ashwin, like any other bowler in Test cricket, has had to work pretty hard for his 419 wickets.

Since he made his debut in Delhi in November 2011, it has taken 51.4 deliveries on average for a wicket to fall in the fourth innings of a Test match in India. And contrary to India's perception as a fourth-innings graveyard for batsmen, wickets in the last innings have fallen quicker in as many as four other countries — Bangladesh, Pakistan (albeit with a tiny sample size of three Tests), West Indies and counter-intuitively, England.

Even when India themselves have bowled in the fourth innings at home over the last decade, they have needed 49 balls



Ravichandran Ashwin had to rely on all his smarts, tricks and wisdom to earn his rewards. **AP**

per wicket, only marginally less than the overall figure of 51.4 for the country. It is then another indication of Ashwin's quality that he strikes every 40 balls in the final innings of home Test matches.

At times, though, no matter how great a bowler one is and how monumental his body of work, he will be checked by conditions. The Green Park surface played low enough to serve up the odd grubber, yes, but more than that, it was its sheer slowness that blunted the spinners.

One needs the ball to rush batsmen off the pitch at least to some extent in order to force mistakes, especially when they are in no mood to take risks to score runs. But in Kanpur, even Ravindra Jadeja

and Axar Patel, who usually bowl quicker than Ashwin in Tests, found it hard to hurry the determined Kiwis.

Unhelpful surface

As head coach Rahul Dravid said after the match, one felt that only bowled and LBW were the dismissals the fielding side had to go for (eight of the nine New Zealand wickets in the second innings came in that fashion). Both edges of the bat were hardly in play, and on the rare occasion they were, the ball wouldn't carry even to close-in fielders who were kneeling to try and make up for the lack of bounce.

One recalls a 2017-18 Ranji Trophy match between Mumbai and Tamil Nadu at the Bandra-Kurla Complex ground on a pitch so unresponsive even on the final afternoon that no matter what Ashwin tried, it didn't work. At one stage, he was even bowling flighted leg-breaks from round the wicket to right-handers. No impact. But he kept trying.

There was more assistance available in Kanpur, of course, but again, considerably offset by the lack of pace. Ashwin didn't quite resort to leg-spin at Green Park. There was little else he did not try though, including a carrom-ball with the second new cherry that hit the rough from round the wicket and spun like a leg-break but somehow eluded Ravindra's off-stump.

At times, then, one has to look at marathon match figures of 72.3-22-117-6 and acknowledge the effort, regardless of that one decisive strike that didn't come. And also acknowledge all the effort over the past decade that has gone into earning 419 Test wickets that have come while enduring several days like the final one against New Zealand in Kanpur. Harbhajan Singh, with 417 scalps, would know.

How Covid has widened gulf in class between hockey's haves & have-nots

MIHIR VASAVDA

BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 29

THE USA dodged past a maze of pandemic-forced travel restrictions, battled long lay-overs at the airports and spent more than 30 hours travelling, to reach Bhubaneswar for the Junior World Cup. Only to get spanked: 3 matches, 3 defeats, 36 goals conceded and only one scored.

Their neighbours Canada were marginally better ... or were they? The Canadian players paid \$6,500 each from their own pockets to get here. Their group stage, however, ended winless; allowing 25 goals and scoring just two.

The two North American sides weren't an exception. Their plight, in fact, was symptomatic of the gulf existing between the haves and have-nots of world hockey, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. "Any kind of world event like this always broadens the gap between people who have resources and don't have resources," Canada coach Indy Sehmbi says. "At the best of times of times, Canada already has a gap." Now, it's further widened.

SAMPLE THIS:

■ In the last three men's Junior World Cups – 2009, 2013 and 2016 – there was only one

match – India vs Singapore, 2009 – where a team ended with a 10-goal winning margin. In the first phase of the ongoing Junior World Cup alone, there have already been six such instances, not including the one-sided score lines of 12-5 (Netherlands-South Korea) or 9-0 (Spain-South Korea) or 8-2 (India-Poland).

■ The bottom four teams of each group – Chile, Canada, the USA and Egypt – have conceded 99 goals, unprecedented even by the high-scoring nature of hockey.

■ Before the tournament began, the highest victory margin for a team in the Junior World Cup was 13-0, when India beat Singapore in 1982. That marked has been crossed twice already in this edition, with USA on the receiving end on both occasions: 17-0 loss to Spain and 14-0 to the Netherlands.

Consider the plight of Egypt. In the 2016 Junior World Cup, the African nation let in 13 goals in total. This time, they allowed 14 in just one game, against Argentina. "We did very little back home, in the last year we had very few training sessions," says Egypt coach Abu-Talib Maggid. "There are no sponsors because of Covid but the federation is doing their best. However, it's not an easy job."

players were spread all over the country and trained in smaller groups depending on each other's proximity. But they at least got to train unhindered, even the Indians.

For many countries, this luxury was not possible. Egypt had less than 20 training sessions in the whole of last year. In Canada, they weren't even allowed to step onto the training field because of the pandemic.

In fact, the last time Canada's players – half of them of Indian origin – played a match was in 2019. In that sense, they are in the same boat as India. The difference, however, is the depth in player pool. While Graham Reid and BJ Kariappa had a group big enough to play intra-squad matches or even make them play with the senior side, there was a high dropout rate in Canada because of the pandemic.

"Certain countries have had choices to make: health or sport," Sehmbi says. "I'm always proud of a country that chooses health over sport... we weren't even allowed to do physiology. No on-field training also. We had a really robust programme from 2017 to 2019. (But) after Covid hit, we lost probably say 15-20 players from the programme."

The pandemic had affected the World Cup even before it began. Australia, New Zealand and England had all pulled out due to different Covid-related reasons.

Consequently, Canada, US and Poland were drafted as late replacements to make sure the balance of the groups wasn't disturbed. It was widely expected that these teams would end up being the whipping boys of their group. But it wasn't anticipated that the competition would get this skewed.

Europeans dominant

Other than France's upset win over India on the opening day, most other matches followed the script. Former Japan and the new Pakistan coach Siegfried Aikman says it's not a coincidence that European nations – who have topped all four groups – have been dominant in the first phase.

"The European teams have many opportunities to play practice matches because they are very near to each other. They have European Championships, European qualification matches... we don't have that in Asia," Aikman says. "Actually, Asian hockey was out of running for two years, at least with the juniors."

Aikman knows. As Japan coach, he struggled to get any match time for his players in the build up to the Olympics due to strict Covid-19 regulations and distances between the hockey-playing countries. It was the same with India as well. As senior programmes suffered, the juniors were hit even more. In Pakistan, the only preparation they

had was a short training camp weeks before leaving for India. Malaysia, Aikman says, went to Britain 'with a bit of luck, but still it was very difficult to compete.'

"India lost to France only because it was their first match and they hadn't played internationally in a long time. France played Belgium, Holland, Germany... they played many matches. They came here with a lot of experience," Aikman says. "You need matches, because you learn when you play. If you are not challenged, you won't learn."

In case of the teams from North America and Africa, the problems caused by the lack of matches are glaring. Canada hasn't really been a threat to any of hockey's major sides but they had a reputation of having a strong defence – India will vouch for this, after they were held to a frustrating draw at the Rio Olympics that changed the dimension of their campaign.

Post-pandemic, however, that's been one big change. Their nifty footwork has gone missing, the grit non-existent. Not just them, teams like South Korea and Pakistan, who were anyway on the decline, have fallen further behind because of the lack of matches in the last two years.

"Some people say these teams shouldn't be here", Sehmbi says. "But how else do you get better? We don't want to sit and cry (over this). We have to learn and improve."