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THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

Bill to raise marriage age of women seeks to override laws across faith, sent to panel

WCD Minister Irani says women of all faiths should get equal rights to marry

ESHA ROY & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE PROHIBITION of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to raise the age of legal marriage for women from 18 to 21, will apply to all communities in the country and, once enacted, will supersede existing marriage and personal laws.

Introduced in Lok Sabha Tuesday by Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, the Bill which proposes amendments to the 2006 law was sent to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further discussion.

Irani said the proposed legislation was secular. "All women from all faiths, under Hindu Marriage Act or the Muslim

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EXPLAINED **E.** Set for debate

RAISING THE marriage age, the Government says, is key to gender equity and justice. There are concerns over how the law plays out among the poor and marginalised groups. Applying it across faiths sets the stage for a debate on the limits of personal law.

Move for daughters' sake, their studies: PM in UP

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

WITH THE UP polls around the corner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday highlighted the Government's decision to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years and targeted the Opposition for criticising this move.

Addressing a large gathering in Prayagraj while launching a slew of women-centric initiatives, Modi said: "Earlier, the legal age of marriage for sons was 21 years, but for daughters it was only 18 years. The daughters too wanted time to pursue their studies and get access to equal opportunities...The country is taking this decision for the sake

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

MLAs & Mayor; relatives of Commissioner, SDM, DIG, officials buy land in Ayodhya after SC cleared Ram temple

SHYAMLAL YADAV & SANDEEP SINGH
AYODHYA, DECEMBER 21

LAND IN Ayodhya, after the November 9, 2019 Supreme Court verdict cleared construction of the Ram temple, is prime real estate.

While the official Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust — set up in February 2020 — has so far acquired nearly 70 acres, private buyers are also rushing in anticipating hefty gains as the project gathers momentum. Even officialdom is hoping to cash in.

The buyers include local MLAs, close relatives of bureaucrats who have or are serving in Ayodhya, and local revenue officials whose job is to authenticate land transactions, an investigation by *The Indian Express* has found.

From an MLA, Mayor, and a member of the state OBC Commission who bought land in their own name to relatives of the Divisional Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Circle Officer of Police, State Information Commissioner — in 14 cases, records investigated by *The Indian Express* show, families of these officials bought land after the apex court verdict, all within a 5-km radius of the Ram temple site.

One set of these transactions raises questions of conflict of interest given that the seller, in five cases, the Maharshi Ramayan Vidyapeeth Trust (MRVT), is under scrutiny — for alleged irregularities in purchase of land from Dalit villagers — by the very same officials whose relatives bought the land. (See adjacent story).

The Indian Express investigated land records, visited plot sites, spoke to officials and buyers in Ayodhya to piece together the following list:

1. M P AGRAWAL, Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya (since November 2019)

His father-in-law Keshav Prasad Agrawal bought 2,530 sq m in Barhata Manjha on December 10, 2020 for Rs 31 lakh from MRVT; his brother-in-law Anand Vardhan bought 1,260 sq m in the same village the same day for Rs 15.50 lakh from MRVT. Significantly, company records show that the Commissioner's wife is a partner in her father's firm, Helmand Contractors and Builders LLP.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Ronghai's wife Ghabrain and daughter-in-law Kachhrahi at their village near Prayagraj. A trust, under probe now, used Ronghai, a Dalit, to buy land from other Dalits. *Shyamlal Yadav*

Kin of officials bought land from trust under probe for illegal transfer of Dalit land

SHYAMLAL YADAV & SANDEEP SINGH
AYODHYA, DECEMBER 21

IN THE FLURRY of land deals in Ayodhya, one set of transactions raises critical questions of propriety and conflict of interest. At least four buyers are closely related to officials probing the seller for alleged irregularities in land transfer from Dalit residents.

At the heart of this network of transactions is Mahesh Yogi-founded Maharshi Ramayan Vidyapeeth Trust (MRVT) that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

DAY AFTER LS PASSAGE, GETS RS NOD

Aadhaar-voter ID link: Opp didn't object last yr as part of House panel

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after it was pushed through Lok Sabha, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which enables the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem, cleared Rajya Sabha Tuesday amid acrimonious scenes which ended with the suspension of TMC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN PARLIAMENT

OPP PROTESTS, WALKS OUT, DEREK O'BRIEN SUSPENDED

PAGE 5

Centre warns states on Omicron: Activate war rooms, curfew if needed

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

WARNING THAT the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is "at least three times more transmissible" than the Delta variant, the Centre on Tuesday directed states to impose strict restrictions in districts reporting high positivity rate, including imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings and containment measures.

The Centre also told the states to "activate" war rooms and keep analysing trends and surges, directing that specific measures need to be taken in view of "initial signs of a surge in cases of Covid-19 as well as increased detection of the variant of concern (VOC), Omicron, in different parts of the country".

The direction by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan came on a day when India's cumulative tally of Omicron cases touched

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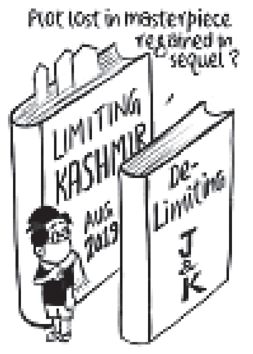
BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



EXPRESS NETWORK

THREE KILLED IN FIRE AT IOC REFINERY IN HALDIA

PAGE 7

RNG Awards 2019: stories that broke many a silence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE YEAR 2019 saw some of the starkest exposes in the news media, stories that exposed systemic oversight and political bias, those that unmasked a real India beyond the headlines — on child trafficking, on the plight of those in detention camps after being left out of the National Register for Citizens, on the lived reality of ghettoisation and otherisation, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on the underprivileged.

These are among the standout works from journalists across the country that have been recognised by the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2019. Instituted in 2006, it is the most prestigious annual event in the Indian media calendar that rewards print/digital and broadcast journalists who maintain the highest standards of professional integrity.

Administered by the Ramnath Goenka Memorial

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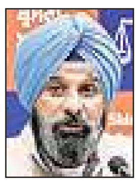
SAD's Majithia booked in drugs case; CM says first step in justice



Majithia booked under sections of NDPS Act

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 21

WEEKS AHEAD of the Assembly polls, the Punjab Police's Bureau of Investigation (BOI) on Monday evening booked Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia in a drugs case.

Majithia was booked under Sections 25 (allowing premises, etc, to be used for commission of an offence), 27 A (financing illicit traffic and harbouring offenders) and 29 (abetment and criminal conspiracy) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The brother-in-law of SAD president Sukhbir Badal, Majithia is a powerful figure in the party and wielded considerable clout in the previous Akali government. The Congress and other parties have long accused Majithia of links with the state drug racket, an allegation that both Majithia and SAD have denied.

The FIR was registered at the Punjab State Crime Police Station in Mohali, on the basis of a Special Task Force (STF) report in the drugs racket, submitted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2018 and since kept under wraps. The STF had taken into account the money laundering

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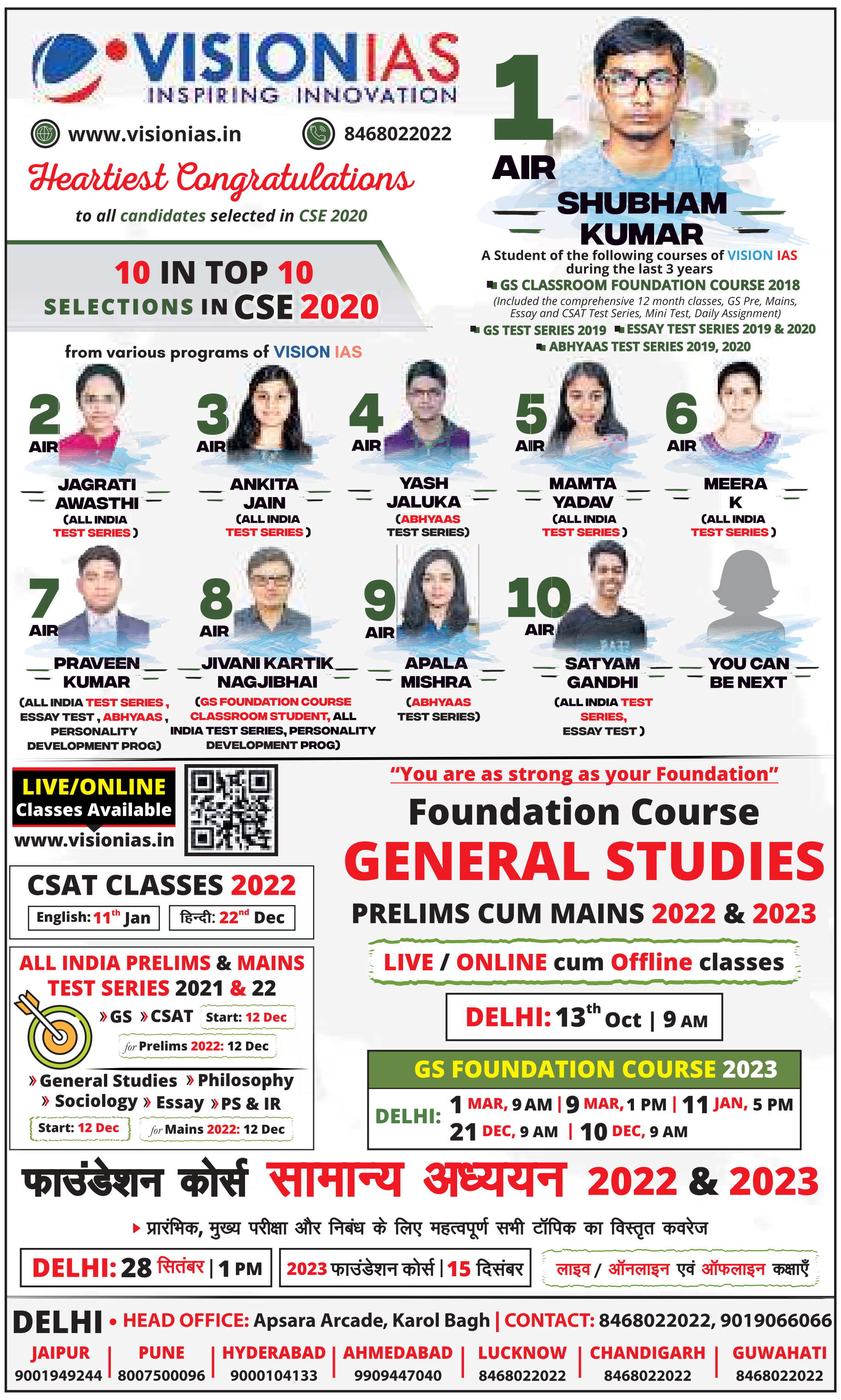

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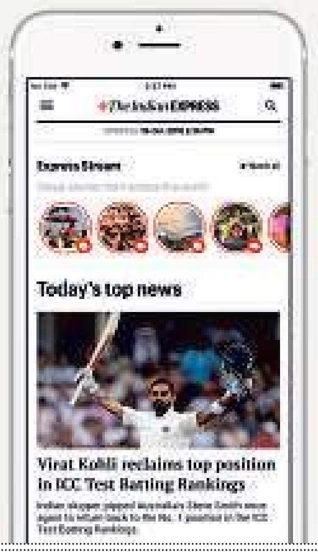

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

SHUBHRA GUPTA'S LIST OF THE BEST (AND WORST) FILMS OF 2021, AND WHY NO BOLLYWOOD BIGGIE MADE THE CUT
The struggle for Bollywood to stay relevant has never been more real. Almost every film that made it to the best films list is non-Bollywood.

LIFESTYLE

DIGITALISING DIABETES CARE
Emerging technologies gaining momentum across India

TECH

2021 WAS THE YEAR OF BITCOIN
Here's what made Bitcoin most popular cryptocurrency in 2021

EXPRESS AUDIO
Omicron, Srikanth's silver and Amazon's Future Group deal
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
How Omicron is surging, the significance of K Srikanth winning a silver medal at the WBC, and why CCI withdrew its nod from the Amazon deal.

FROM PAGE ONE

Aadhaar-voter ID

member Derek O'Brien for the remainder of the winter session after he allegedly threw a rule book.

As in Lok Sabha, the Opposition raised strong objections to the Bill in Rajya Sabha as well. Yet in March 2020, when the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice asked the government to undertake "appropriate actions" for "linking unique Aadhaar Card number with Voter ID Card", Opposition members in the panel did not raise any red flag.

The committee, in its 101st report on Demands for Grants (2020-2021) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, had said: "The Committee understands that free and fair elections is the bedrock of democracy and the latter is a Basic Feature of the Constitution. An error-free Electoral Roll is sine qua non of free and fair election. The Committee has been advocating linkage of unique Aadhaar ID Card number with voter I-card which would streamline alterations in EPIC during change of ordinary residence by the electors."

"The incidence of multiple entry could also be eliminated which is required in participative democracy. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government may undertake appropriate actions for the purpose of linking unique Aadhaar Card number with Voter ID Card to purify the electoral roll which is in larger interest of democratic polity," it said.

The committee, then headed by BJP's Bhupender Yadav, adopted the report at its sitting on March 4, 2020. And among the 25 Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs who attended that meeting were Rajya Sabha members Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (TMC), Vivek Tankha (Congress), Majeed Memon (NCP) and P Wilson (DMK). The report was tabled on March 6.

Reached for comment, Ray said: "I had asked for time to submit my note of dissent which was not allowed and that is why I could not submit my note of dissent."

Tankha said: "I don't recollect this part being discussed in my presence before the standing committee. Because if nothing else I would have at least said one thing. In most cases... like in my case.... My name in the electoral roll is in Jabalpur, my hometown. I also live in Delhi. My Aadhaar card would be Delhi... So how are you able to match... I would have asked this question. I really don't remember it being passed... At least I don't remember noticing this part."

Memon said the main issue of electoral reforms which had come up for discussion in the standing committee was on the holding of one election -- Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. "It was discussed for months. Not these reforms. According to me, I have not at least discussed this. I have never opined. I was never asked. I never voted for it." Wilson could not be contacted.

Asked about this report, Manickam Tagore, Congress member in Lok Sabha, said he did not attend the meeting of the committee on the day the report was adopted.

Incidentally, the Election Commission, after a meeting on August 27, 2018 with all recognised national and state parties on electoral reforms, had issued a press release stating: "Political parties urged the Commission to link Aadhaar numbers with electors' detail for better electoral management." Asked about this, Congress member Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who had attended that meeting, said: "It was nothing but a general statement. Nothing concrete was agreed. No legislation format was disclosed. In fact, no minutes were sent to us contemporaneously. Otherwise, we all would have talked of safeguards."

The issue of linkage of the unique Aadhaar ID card number with the voter I-card also came up for mention in at least three action taken reports of the standing committee later.

The 105th report on action taken on the 101st report of the committee was adopted on September 8 and tabled on September 11 last year. The report stated that the government had informed the committee that the Election Commission had "already sent its proposals on linking of Aadhaar Card Number with the voter Id to purify electoral rolls to the Ministry of Law and Justice" on August 13, 2019. The government informed the committee that the proposal is yet to be approved.

In its 107th report on action taken on the Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the committee said it "reiterates its recommendation that the Government may undertake appropriate action for the purpose of linking unique Aadhar Card number with Voter I-Card to purify the electoral roll." This report was adopted on March 15 earlier this year and tabled in Parliament a day later.

The 109th report on action taken on 107th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice was tabled in this session itself. It was adopted on December 8 and tabled on December 10.

The report said the government had informed the committee that the Election Commission proposal to link the electoral roll with the Aadhaar ecosystem to curb "the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person at different places" would require amendments in elections laws. "The matter is under consideration of the Government," it said.

Bill to raise marriage age sent to panel

Personal Law, should get equal rights to marry," she said.

Members of the Congress and other Opposition parties opposed the Bill and questioned the "haste" with which it had been brought to the House.

The Bill states: "In section 1 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (2), after the words "citizens of India without and beyond India", the words, figures and brackets "notwithstanding anything contrary or inconsistent therewith contained in the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; the Special Marriage Act, 1954; the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; and the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, or any other custom or usage or practice in relation to marriage, under any other law for the time being in force" shall be inserted."

The amendment proposed to define a child states: '(a) "child" means a male or female who has not completed twenty-one years of age'.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons in the Bill states: "In order to address the issues of women in a holistic manner, as a measure for empowerment of women, gender equality, increasing the female labour force participation, make them self-reliant and to enable them to take decisions themselves, the Bill, inter alia, proposes to -- (i) amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to reinforce its application overriding all other existing laws, including any custom, usage or practice governing the parties in relation to marriage; (ii) bring women at par with men in terms of marriageable age; (iii) prohibit child marriage irrespective of any law, custom, usage or practice governing the parties; (iv) declare that provisions of the Act shall have overriding effect over every other law, custom, usage or practice governing the parties; (v) make consequential amendments to the other laws relating to marriage; and (vi) make the amendments effective, in relation to marriageable age, two years from the date the Bill receives in assent of the President, so as to provide sufficient opportunity to one and all in our collective efforts and inclusive growth, and to make effective other provisions immediately."

Irani told the House: "I understand the social, cultural, familial and sentimental issues associated with this decision. I wish to myself propose, on behalf of the government, that this be discussed in detail in the Standing Committee. On behalf of the government, I would request that this Bill be sent to the Standing Committee."

Earlier, Opposition members, while criticising the government for the "haste" in introducing the Bill, said it was a violation of fundamental rights and would impact personal laws.

Replying to the criticism, Irani said, "We are 75 years late in providing equal rights to men and women to enter into matrimony. In the 19th century, the marriageable age for women was 10 years. By 1940, it was increased to 12-14 years. In 1978, women who reached the age of 15 were married. For the first time, through this Bill, men and women, keeping in mind the right to equality, can decide on their marriage."

She took exception to suggestions that uneducated women would not be able to understand or exercise their rights, saying it was "an insult to rural women".

Between 2015 and 2020, she said, as many as 20 lakh cases of child marriage were stopped. The NFHS data shows that between age 15 and 18, 7% girls have been found to be pregnant. As many as 23% girls were married before age 18 even though the law does not allow it, she said.

Opposing the Bill, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "We want to suggest to the government that if you do anything in haste, you are likely to commit mistakes. Across India, this issue has generated a lot of debate. And this government has neither consulted states nor spoken to stakeholders... We demand that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee right away."

AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi said it was in violation of fundamental rights under Article 19. ET Mohammed Basheer of IUML said the Bill was unconstitutional and was violative of Article 25 of the Constitution. "This is an attack on personal law and fundamental rights in this country," he said. The NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena and TMC too demanded that the Bill be sent to the Standing Committee.

The legal age of marriage for women is being raised by the Centre on the recommendations of the Jaya Jaitly Committee that was constituted by the WCD Ministry in June 2020.

"What we have said is that even when the age of marriage was first set at 16 years, and then raised to 18 years in 1978, it's not that the Muslim Personal Law was changed, rather they kept quiet. However, our understanding is that Muslims automatically followed the new law, even if there were no changes made. The Muslim age of marriage is not low. There is also a Supreme Court judgement that has said that when there is a contention between a constitutional law and a personal law, the constitutional law will prevail. Our intention is not to harm the Muslims, but just like the triple talaq, if any law contradicts the Constitution, the Constitution of the country has to prevail," Jaitly told *The Indian Express*.

RNG Awards

Foundation, the awardees are honoured at a physical event every year but the uncertainty of the pandemic has meant that the 2019 award winners will be celebrated in print and online over the next 15 days.

Amid the many uncertainties of the pandemic, what is certain is this celebration of good journalism. Over the next few days, The Indian Express will bring stories of each of the winners as they talk about their stories that forced an agenda for urgent discussion, debate and resolution.

The year under review factored in coverage in print, digital and broadcast media and categorised them under business and economy, politics, environment, science and technology, Invisible India, investigation, civic awareness, arts and culture, sports, photo journalism and reportage in Hindi and regional languages. The awards, with a prize money of Rs 1 lakh in each of the categories, will also honour writers whose non-fiction work may have had a transformative impact and prodded deep-dive thinking.

The winners were chosen by an eminent jury of Justice B N Srikrishna, former judge of the Supreme Court; Tom Goldstein, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Journalism & Communication, O P Jindal Global University; Dr S Y Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner; and K G Suresh, Vice Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communication.

The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards trophy has a nib and flame, representative of the journalism of courage and integrity, the values advocated by Ramnath Goenka, founder of *The Indian Express* Group.

Majithia booked

investigations carried out by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into eight drug cases in Punjab from the end of 2013 to 2016.

The FIR includes the STF report, in which STF chief Harpreet Sidhu notes, "As per the findings, prima facie there is sufficient evidence on record to further investigate the role of Bikram Singh Majithia as regards the allegations made in application under enquiry." The FIR also says the court had not barred further investigations into the case, and includes legal opinion by Punjab Advocate General Deepinder Singh Patwalia.

Majithia is alleged to have an association with, and hosted, several accused in the drug racket. Of the 54 accused in the racket, 23 were convicted by a trial court in February 2019. One of them, Jagdish Singh Bhola, an Arjuna awardee, was sentenced to 12 years and dismissed as DSP. Majithia has denied the allegations.

Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi tweeted about the FIR, saying, "Those mothers who lost their son to drugs, those young boys and girls whose life got ruined due to drugs... Today the first step has been taken to give justice to all of them by registering an FIR against Majithia."

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been attacking own government over the issue, including Channi, wrote in a series of tweets: "After 5.5 Years of fight against Corrupt System run by Badal Family & Captain and delay of 4 years without action taken on ED & STF Report against Majithia. Finally now, after pushing for credible officers in positions of power and influence first step has been taken !!"

Amarinder Singh, who had to step down as chief minister amidst accusations of favouring the Akalis and not investigating the racket properly, slammed the Channi government over the Majithia case, calling it "wrong parcha". "I know this matter, this FIR is in violation of the law, it's sheer vendetta," Amarinder, who has floated a separate party and announced an alliance with the BJP, said.

SAD, which has been holding protests claiming the Channi government was trying to "frame" Majithia, slammed the FIR. Akali patron and former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal called it "vendetta politics", and asked why the Channi government had changed the state DGP twice in the past few days. The FIR was lodged on the directions of Siddharth Chattopadhyaya, who is currently officiating DGP.

Sukhbir accused the Congress government of doing "politics on issues of sacrilege and drug", and said Chattopadhyaya had been "used by Captain Amarinder Singh in cases against the Badal family".

Senior Akali leaders Prem Singh Chandumajra, Maheshinder Singh Grewal and Daljit Singh Cheema asked how the Congress government had reproduced in the FIR against Majithia "a report which is lying in a sealed envelope in the high court".

Grewal asked the state government to disclose the contents of another report by a panel including the DGP "which superseded the report of the STF and was also lying in a sealed envelope in the high court".

The Aam Aadmi Party repeated its allegation of "collusion" between the Channi government and SAD, claiming a weak case had been registered against Majithia so that he could get bail "the next day". AAP leader Raghav Chadha described Channi as a "stuntman", questioning the timing of the FIR ahead of the elections.

In a related matter, on Monday, the Punjab Police registered a case over the "leak" of a note purportedly written by Bureau of Investigation Director S K Asthana to then officiating Punjab DGP Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota, expressing his inability to register a case against Majithia as the STF report was with the High Court and the case was sub-judice. Since he sent the note, Asthana has been on medical leave.

Sidhu said Tuesday that justice will not be served "until main culprits behind Drug Mafia are given exemplary punishment". "This is merely a first step."

He added that he had been asking about the STF report for four years. "It is a slap on the face of all those powerful who slept for years on issues at the heart of Punjab's soul."

Omicron

the 200 mark. According to official data, seven states in the country are now reporting Omicron cases in double digits — Maharashtra (54), Delhi (54), Telangana (20), Karnataka (19), Rajasthan (18), Kerala (15) and Gujarat (14).

"At the district level, there should be a constant review of emerging data regarding the population affected by Covid-19, geographical spread, hospital infrastructure and its utilisation, manpower, notifying containment zones, enforcement of perimeter of containment zones. This evidence should be the basis for effective decision making at the district level itself. Such a strategy ensures that infection is contained at the local level itself before it spreads to other parts of the state," Bhushan wrote.

The Centre has advised district-level containment measures and restrictions if a district reports positivity of 10% or more in the last one week, or bed occupancy of 40% or more on oxygen-supported or ICU beds. However, "based on the local situation" and "population characteristics such as density, and keeping in mind the higher transmissibility of Omicron", states can enforce restrictions even before they report these numbers.

The containment measures listed include "imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings, curtailing numbers in marriages and funerals, restricting numbers in offices, industries and public transport". "In case of all new clusters of Covid positive cases, prompt notification of containment zones, buffer zones should be done, strict perimeter control of containment zone as per extant guidelines must be ensured. All cluster samples must be sent to INSACOG labs for genome sequencing without delay," Bhushan wrote.

Pointing out that based on "current scientific evidence", the Omicron variant is at least three times more transmissible than the Delta variant, the Centre has said that decision-making at the district level "must be very prompt and focussed". "Besides, the Delta VOC is still present in different parts of the country. Hence, even greater foresight, data analysis, dynamic decision-making, and strict and prompt containment action is required at the local and district level," it said.

On testing and surveillance, districts have been told to conduct door-to-door case search, test all Severe Acute Respiratory Infections/ influenza-like-illness and vulnerable/ co-morbid people, ensure right proportion of RT-PCR tests in total tests being conducted daily, and contact tracing of all Covid-positive persons.

The Health Ministry has also urged states to ensure strict enforcement of home isolation. "This will be a very critical activity in the days to come, specially to ensure that persons under home isolation do not spread the virus to others in view of its higher transmissibility," Bhushan wrote.

The states have also been asked to ensure 100% vaccination coverage. "Special focus to be given to those districts where the first and second dose coverage is less than the national average. The door-to-door vaccination campaign needs to be strengthened," the Health Ministry said.

PM in UP

of daughters. But everyone is seeing who is having problems with this."

Modi's remarks came on the day his Government told Lok Sabha that it proposes to send the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further discussion.

The Bill was introduced by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani amid opposition from Congress and other parties for the haste in which it was being brought in. The Opposition also said the Bill was a violation of fundamental rights and would impact personal laws.

Referring to UP in his speech, Modi said the country is witnessing the work being done for women's empowerment in the state.

Hitting out at the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led SP government, Modi said: "Five years back, there was mafia rule on UP roads. Goons had influence in the government. Who were the biggest sufferers? My sisters and daughters in UP. It was difficult for them to move on roads, going to schools and colleges. You could not raise your voice. Because if you had gone to the police station, phone calls used to come there in favour of criminals and rapists."

He said: "Today, there is security as well as rights in UP. Today, UP has possibilities as well as business. I have full faith that with the blessings of our mothers and sisters, no one can push this new UP back into the darkness." Modi was addressing the gathering after transferring Rs 1,000 crore to the bank account of Self Help Groups (SHGs) to benefit around 16 lakh women members.

The event also saw the PM encouraging "Business Correspondent-Sakhis" by transferring Rs 4,000 each as the first month's stipend to the accounts of 20,000 "Bank Sakhis". He transferred over Rs 20 crore to beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme and laid the foundation stone of 202 take-home ration manufacturing plants. "The stream of UP's growth is unstoppable now. Mothers, sisters and daughters of UP have decided that they will not allow the return of circumstances under past governments," he said.

Listing the steps taken by his Government to empower women, he said that for decades, houses and properties like farms were considered as the sole right of men. His Government's schemes are aimed at removing this inequality, he said, citing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as a key example as the houses being given were registered in the name of women. Giving the example of UP, Modi said that out of over 30 lakh houses built in the state under the scheme, the registry of nearly 25 lakh was in the name of women. "This is real empowerment of women," he said.

Referring to Mudra Yojana, Modi said nearly 70 per cent of loans under the scheme have been given to women so far. "I consider the sisters of women Self Help Groups to be the champions of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat campaign. These groups are actually National Help Groups," he said.

The PM said his Government has opened the doors of Sainik schools for girls and set up over 700 fast track courts for speedy trial of heinous crimes like rape. He also said a law has been enacted against instant triple talaq to protect Muslim women.

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Traffic Police red flags most accident-prone spots in capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI Traffic Police has flagged the Ring Road and Outer Ring Road as having the most 'black spot' zones. These roads witnessed the highest number of accidents last year with 287 accidents reported on the Ring Road, in which more than 88 persons were killed, and 256 accidents on the Outer Ring Road that killed more than 100 persons.

Officials said black spots are accident-prone zones that record the highest casualties. A list of 25 accident-prone roads has been released with 10 black spots in Delhi. The Ring Road, Outer and Inner, Rohtak Road and GTK Road saw 801 accidents in which 275 people were killed.

The data shows that Azadpur Chowk and Punjabi Bagh Chowk are the most unsafe for drivers since they are the top two black spots in Delhi with 23 accidents reported at each junction. At Azadpur Chowk, 22 people were injured while nine persons died last year. This was the highest in Delhi, followed by Punjabi Bagh Chowk, where six persons died and 22 people were injured in accidents. Other junctions on the list include Bhalswa Chowk, Mukarba Chowk, Burari Chowk and Majnu Ka Tila.

A traffic police officer said black spots are identified based on the concentration of accidents at a specific place where some measures can be introduced to reduce accidents.

In terms of the range-wise classification of accidents last year, the Outer Range and Western Range had the most fatal accidents with 350 and 276 incidents reported respectively.

Meanwhile, police said there was a dip in accidents and casualties as compared to 2019. A total of 4,178 accidents were reported across all ranges in Delhi last year with 1,196 fatalities, compared to 2019 when 5,610 accidents were recorded with 1,463 fatalities.

"Most accidents take place because of drunk driving at night. We have increased deployment to ensure more people are fined and such accidents are prevented. Night patrolling teams are also active to help people," said the officer.

256 accidents were reported on the Outer Ring Road. *Archive*

Sisodia to AUD students: Become social justice brand ambassadors

New Delhi: Deputy CM Manish Sisodia Tuesday told graduating students of Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) that it was their responsibility to use their knowledge to fight for equality and social justice. He was speaking at the 10th convocation of AUD.

"Wherever Babasaheb's name is mentioned across India, equality and social justice permeate the atmosphere. It becomes the responsibility of every student graduating from AUD to use their knowledge and skills, acquired from the university, towards bringing equality and social justice in society. They should also become brand ambassadors of social justice and equality across the world," he said.

He also called on them to join the 'Desh Ke Mentors' program. He said the government would soon add two new campuses to the university. The fourth campus is being developed in Dhirpur.

Former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K Kasturirangan, who addressed the convocation virtually, said universities played a key role in the progress of a nation. **ENS**

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (HQ)
18th Floor, SPM Civic Centre JL Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002
Ph No.23226858

PUBLIC NOTICE

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from NGO's Self Help Groups or other similar Organization registered under the Societies Registration Act and operating in Delhi for Adoption, Development and Maintenance of Cremation Grounds / CNG Crematorium falling in the area under jurisdiction of SDMC.

Copy of Terms and Conditions and supporting documents can be obtained from the office of the Addl.MHO (PH) / SDMC, 18th Floor, Civic Centre New Delhi-110002 or they may visit SDMC web site i.e. www.mcdonline.gov.in and www.mcdonline.nic.in for downloading the same.

Interested NGO's may submit EOI in the office of Addl.MHO (PH), 18th Floor, Civic Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002, on any working day from 9.00 am to 4 pm.

The last date for submission of EOI along with documents: **4 PM, 28th December 2021**

For further Details please visit SDMC web site i.e. www.mcdonline.gov.in and www.mcdonline.nic.in

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Applications are invited from the aspiring eligible candidates for admission against vacant seats (as per the CET norms), after CAP rounds in the following U.G. Courses:

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(www.haryanarera.gov.in)

Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, ie. tcpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	SignatureGlobal (India) Private Limited
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 89 of 2019 dated 02.08.2019. Building Plan Approved on 22.11.2019 Memo No. ZP-1351/AD(RA)/2019/28677,
3. Location	Sector 89, Gurugram, Haryana
4. Provisions Project Area	37 no. of apartments available out of total 720 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.

5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms

Apartment details

Category (Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area		Balcony Area		Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking amount 5%**	on allotment 20%
		sqft (approx)	sqm (approx)	sqft (approx)	sqm (approx)			
2BHK TYPE -01	11	581.396	54.013	83.873	7.792	2,525,736	1,22,093	5,09,341
2BHK TYPE -02	10	588.586	54.681	85.176	7.913	2,557,237	1,23,603	5,15,706
2BHK TYPE -03	13	598.22	55.576	86.801	8.064	2,599,325	1,25,626	5,24,205
2BHK TYPE -04	3	590.169	54.828	84.906	7.888	2,563,616	1,23,935	5,16,968

**Registration Fees extra

Balance amount payable shall be equivalent to the amount payable as per the construction link payment plan of the project as applicable in terms of construction stage at relevant point of time

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles, • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Apply Online at TCP website (https://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 15.12.2021. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 29.12.2021.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.
4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment.

Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcpharyana.gov.in).

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Disclaimer: Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon or to be influenced by any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and, therefore, requests to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. Unless otherwise stated, all the images, visuals, materials and information contained herein are purely creative/artistic and may not be actual representations of the product and/or any amenities. Further, the actual design may vary in the fit and finished form, from the one displayed above . Project details / specifications can also be accessed at the office of Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website https://haryanarera.gov.in/. Journey time shown, if any, is based upon Google Maps which may vary as per the traffic at a relevant point of time. *Rate mentioned above does not include GST and other statutory charges, if applicable. T & C Apply. 1 sq. mt. = 10.7639 sq. ft.

7053-121-121

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS **1,31,180**

TOTAL CASES **14,42,390**

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	13,574	13,353
ICU BEDS	2,791	2,755

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Dec 20	91	100	0	46,193
Dec 21	102	75	1	51,544
Total	557*	14,16,731	25,102	3,21,01,668

*Total active cases

Drive through, camps, home visits — how Gurgaon achieved 100% Covid vaccination

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, DECEMBER 21

GURGAON TUESDAY became the first district in Haryana to inoculate 100 percent of its eligible population with both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. The district health department officials said that against an eligible population of 18,03,655, the district had administered a total of 41,28,596 doses – 23, 19, 720 for first dose (a coverage of 128.6 percent, also including people who came from outside the district) and 18,08,876 for the second dose (100.3 percent).

According to data from the district health department, till December 20, a total of 88,815 health care workers and 95,416 frontline workers had been vaccinated.

In the age bracket 18-44 years, a total of 28,54,294 doses – 16,40,210 first and 12,14,084 second – have been administered. For people between 45-59 years of age, 6,90,642 doses have been administered, and a total of 3,99,429 doses have been administered for people above the age of 60.

Virender Yadav, chief medical officer, Gurgaon district, said, "Gurgaon is the first district in the state to have achieved 100 percent vaccination of all eligible population. This is a milestone… an achievement. But, the vaccination drive will continue, especially for people whose second dose is due."

Yadav credited the success to several campaigns undertaken by the health department, including drive-through vaccination camps at malls; mega vaccination drives; and special camps for senior citizens, transgender persons, specially-abled people, autorickshaw drivers and widows.

Health officials said Gurgaon was among the first districts to have started drive-through vaccinations in May 2021. Since January 16, when vaccinations began, as many as 40,441 vaccination sessions have been conducted. On November 3, the district started 'Har Ghar dastak' – a door-to-door campaign in which health workers visited 6,97,672 houses and vaccinated 2,53,357 people.

Special sessions for pregnant women on the 9th of every month were set up in which 8,431 women were inoculated. Officials said camps were set up in industrial areas for workers who couldn't travel to far off vaccination sites.

"Since inoculations began on January 16, the department had been working on a war footing to achieve this target. We tied up with societies, condominiums, workplaces, RWAs, NGOs and set up vaccination camps at malls, marketplaces, industrial areas, religious places, among other places. Another key facet was setting up vaccination camps on the 9th of every month for pregnant women. All these initiatives helped in achieving this feat in 11 months," said Yadav.

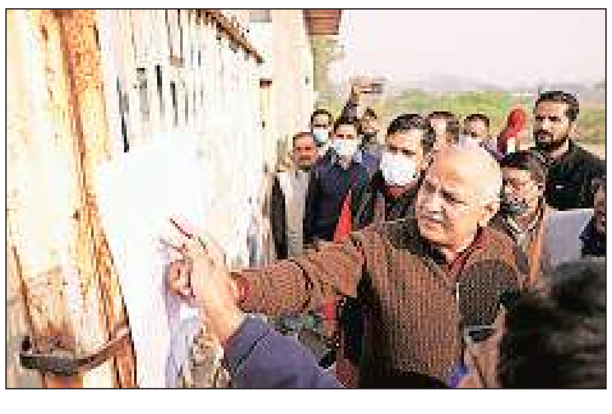
"The door-to-door vaccination campaign was the last step, which helped us in achieving success. I want to thank residents of Gurgaon and all stakeholders for their cooperation and contribution in this endeavour," added Yadav.

The CMO said that in the next phase, officials have been directed to conduct random surveys of 1,000 people, in which people who are found unvaccinated shall be administered doses. "The survey will be conducted in different areas and accordingly the pace and target of vaccinations shall be set," he said.

On the possibility of booster shots and vaccination for children being initiated soon, Yadav said, "We are yet to receive guidelines from the Centre and State government in this regard. We have collected data for children in the 6-18 age bracket from schools and for children below the age of 6, data is already available from the polio programme campaign. We are prepared when the instructions come."

He added that with the new Omicron variant of Covid, it was important that people continue to maintain Covid appropriate behaviour. "Though hospitalisations and mortality is relatively low in Omicron cases so far, it is still important to be cautious."

In October, the third serological survey had found antibodies among 78.3 percent of the population in Gurgaon district.



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday took stock of the progress of the school hub

Delhi govt plans to develop 'school hub' spread over 11 acres

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE GOVERNMENT Tuesday said it is developing the country's "most advanced government school hub" in the capital which is spread over 11.63 acres.

"To provide holistic education to students, the school would advance sports along with learning. This school hub, designed keeping in mind the specialisation of STEM and Humanities, will have separate building blocks for both the specialisations. A magnificent Olympic-size swimming pool complex will also be built in the school hub," the government said in a statement.

"Along with this, along with 240 classrooms, 13 labs equipped with all modern technologies and resources will be set up in which eight labs will be for STEM specialised and five labs for Humanities specialised school. Along with this, four libraries will also be prepared here for primary and senior secondary classes," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday took stock of the progress. "This school will be prepared keeping in mind the overall development of the children. This school building will be different from the normal schools and the entire school premises would be involved in the learning process of the children," he said.

At the hub, four multipurpose sports courts along with 12 badminton courts will be developed. A common gymnastics area will also be prepared for both schools. "A grand auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,000 people will also be constructed in the school hub. This auditorium will be equipped with all modern facilities and it can be used for various cultural activities in the school as well as for large conferences. Along with this, a multipurpose hall with a capacity of 250 people will also be prepared here," the government said.

"The school will have a magnificent world-class Olympic size swimming pool complex, in which heating and cooling facilities will be present. The length of the swimming pool will be 50 meters and width will be 25 meters to allow maximum children to practice swimming at the same time," it added.

Sisodia said after completion of the school, "children will bring laurels to India from all over the world after receiving quality education from here. It is our responsibility to provide all the facilities to schools, but a good school is not marked by only a magnificent building but by the hard work of its students and teachers," he said.

Cough syrup deaths: Officials probe if dosage or bad batch led to 16 kids falling ill, three dying

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE PROBE into the death of three children in September-October, allegedly after taking a cough syrup prescribed at mohalla clinics in Delhi, is focusing on two possible causes — a higher dose being given or contamination in a specific batch of the medicine, doctors and health department officials have told *The Indian Express*. At least 16 children aged between one and six were hospitalised, allegedly after taking a cough suppressant containing dextromethorphan. The deaths were flagged by the Director General of Health Services, Union Ministry, Dr Sunil Kumar in a letter to the Delhi government on December 7.

The three who died were younger than five years of age. A senior doctor from Kalawati Saran, involved in the care of some of these children after they were hospitalised, said they appeared to have taken an adult dose of the cough syrup. "The paediatric dose has about 5 mg active ingredient per 5 ml of syrup whereas the adult dose has 30 mg per 5 ml. The mistake might have been compounded by parents — we don't know yet — who might have given it thrice instead of once a day; everyone thinks cough syrups are harmless. Dextromethorphan poisoning like this is reported every once in a while," the doctor said.

The children came in with respiratory suppression, and eventually most of their organs were affected due to lack of oxygen, said another doctor from Kalawati Saran. The cases were reported from three mohalla clinics — in Burari in Central district and Sheesh Mahal and Prem Nagar in North West district.

Dextromethorphan is considered a safe cough syrup that can be bought without a doctor's prescription. Dr K C Tamaria, consultant from the department of paediatrics at Safdarjung hospital, said, "The medicine is not recommended for use in children below the age of four. It is used for dry cough but has a very narrow use even in general. Cough is the body's mechanism of ejecting harmful things from the respiratory tract; it is not a good idea to suppress it. So, if a medicine not recommended for children is given and in a high dose, there can be poisoning and death."

A senior paediatrician from AIIMS, who did not want to be identified, said, "Given in a high dose to children in whom it is not recommended might lead to respiratory suppression. If there is a delay in seeking help or it happens in sleep, there is a possibility of death. But, contaminated medicine may also lead to death."

A senior official from Delhi's health department said, "There could be three possible reasons for the deaths — they were given a higher dose than needed; the family members used the prescription for other members of the family for a child; or the medicine itself had some contamination. As the DGHS has also said, the drugs from a particular company caused the problem."

All 16 children received the same batch of the medicine, two Delhi health department officials confirmed. Whether the particular batch was contaminated is still being investigated.

Issues with the medicine were first pointed out in the first week of September, when a joint team from the central and Delhi drug control office picked up samples of the syrup. Soon after, a recall of the particular batch of the medicine was ordered.

A sample was sent to two labs, as per officials involved with the investigation. Even though the syrup cleared all tests in one laboratory, it was found to be "not up to the mark" at the other.

"There are several tests prescribed for every medicine. One lab gave an all clear to the medicine, however the other lab found it not up to the mark. The issues are being probed. The batch was recalled so that no one else consumes it and we haven't had any reports since," the official said.

The Delhi government has set up a four-member committee that will submit its report in seven days. The matter has also been referred to the Delhi Medical Council, a statutory body that governs the practice of modern medicine in Delhi. "We will have to see what really happened — was there a problem with the dosing or with the medicine itself? Dextromethorphan is a safe cough syrup that is widely used," said a senior official from Delhi Medical Council.

The three doctors from the three mohalla clinics have meanwhile been removed from their posts. "They were dis-empanelled following the news in order to ensure that there is no tampering with medical records," said the health department official.

An announcement in this regard was made by Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday. When contacted about details of the three deaths, Jain's office said on Tuesday: "We will come to know all the details once the committee submits its report in 10 to 12 days."

A parent speaks: It was my prescription, daughter had it while I was out getting water

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THREE-YEAR-OLD ANANYA, one of the three children who died after consuming cough syrup, had taken medicine prescribed to her mother by mistake, her family told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday.

It was on October 10, her birthday, that the incident took place. The family had ordered a cake, bought a princess frock and hair band, and decorated the house. She died three days later.

The family stays in West Delhi's Jawahar Camp and her mother, Laxmi, was out fetching water from the neighbourhood tank at the time.

"I usually don't leave my daughter alone but the pump was not working and the water we had was dirty. It was her birthday and some people were invited. I went to bring three buckets of water. She drank the cough syrup while I was gone. She was playing when I returned, but 30 minutes later, she fell asleep and did not wake up. Initially, we all thought she was tired," said Laxmi (32). "I had a cough and the mohalla clinic had prescribed the syrup 4-5 days earlier."

When Ananya did not wake up, the family took her to the nearby clinic, from where doctor referred her to Kalawati Saran Children Hospital.

Ananya's mother, Laxmi, at her residence. *Abhinav Saha*

"Later, we noticed the cough syrup bottle was empty," said Laxmi. "The doctors asked us if she ate or drank something and we showed them the bottle."

Her older daughter is differently-abled, and the family moved to Kirti Nagar 10 months ago to get her treated. She has a four-year-old son as well.

Her husband Shiv Kumar, 35, works as a daily wage labourer in a tobacco factory and earns 6,000-7,000 per month.

The family said they do not have a single photo of Ananya.

"We do not have money to celebrate a lavish birthday but I bought a new dress and ordered cake. I wanted to dress her up as a doll. We don't even have a photo to remember her," said Laxmi.

The family said all they want now is for adequate treatment for their elder daughter.

"I lost one daughter; I don't want to lose another. She cannot walk but if she gets treatment, perhaps there is a possibility she will. I request the government to help us," she said.

IAS aspirant, who tutored schoolkids, stabbed to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THREE MEN, including a teenager, were arrested over the last few days for allegedly stabbing to death a 20-year-old IAS aspirant and injuring his friend in an alleged case of road rage that took place at Mangolpuri on December 14.

"We have arrested Raunak Kumar (19), Rohit Kumar (22) and Mukesh Kumar (22) for stabbing the victim to take revenge for a minor incident of road rage," DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said.

He added: "The victims, who were stabbed in N Block of Mangolpuri, were taken to hospital and one of them, identified as Amardeep Paswan, was declared brought dead with stab injuries, while the other, Sagar Kumar (20), is recuperating. Amardeep was an IAS aspirant and used to offer tuition classes to schoolchildren."

"We recorded Sagar's statement and came to know the duo were going on foot to meet a friend but on their way they entered into a heated argument with three unknown persons over issue of right of way. The argument turned into a scuffle and the two were stabbed with a sharp-edged weapon," Singh said. Based on his statement, an FIR of murder and attempt to murder was registered. "After scanning over 100 CCTV cameras and questioning several suspects, we identified the three attackers and managed to arrest Rohit, but his friends escaped," Singh said.

He added, "Rohit, who works at a factory, told police he returned from work when he got a call from Mukesh, who asked him to come and meet him in the market. The duo then met Raunak and the three headed to meet another friend. On their way, they collided with Amardeep and Sagar, who were coming from the opposite side, and a minor scuffle ensued." Police said victims called their friends and a scuffle broke out when Raunak and Mukesh stabbed them. "The absconding accused were hiding in a vacant shanty near railway lines. We arrested them Monday," Singh said.

BRIEFLY

Govt receives bids to set up EV charging stations

New Delhi: The Delhi Transport Department has received 12 bids from some top companies for the installation of 100 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations with 500 points across the city, said an official.

Govt told to frame rules on school admissions

New Delhi: To ensure that private schools comply with requirement of admitting 25% EWS category students and the institutes' applications for exemption from same are dealt with reasonably, the HC has directed the government to frame guidelines for admission of general category students from next year. **ENS**

Financier fined Rs 40,000 for EMI push during Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

NOTING THAT it "cannot shut its eyes to the fact that Covid has triggered one of the worst job crises we have seen", a court has ordered Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd to pay Rs 40,000 for causing "immense hardship and mental harassment" to a driver, whose car was taken over by the company after he failed to pay EMIs during the second wave.

The plaintiff, Pradeep Kumar Pal, drove a Swift Dzire car he had bought for Rs 7,05,000, the court noted.

Pal had paid Rs 1,70,000 in cash as down payment, and the remaining amount was financed by Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd.

He paid 19 EMIs but due to the pandemic, he was unable to pay EMIs regularly, following which the company took possession of the vehicle.

Pal had "approached the defendant company a number of times and requested to take the default EMIs and to regularise the loan, but the defendant declined and asked the plaintiff to make the full and final payment of the loan," the court further noted.

Civil Judge Bharti Beniwal said she was "deprecating the practice of the defendant company".

"The act of the defendant company has caused immense hardship and mental harassment to the plaintiff. The court cannot shut its eyes to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has triggered one of the worst job crises we have seen. Further, the pandemic has brought a halt to the economy of India over the past one and a half years," the judge said.

Observing that it "cannot shut its eyes to the injustice caused to the plaintiff", the court directed the company to release the vehicle.

"Since the said vehicle was seized from the plaintiff in the month of August and he could not earn during this time, the defendant company is burdened with the cost of Rs 40,000 for the hardship and mental harassment caused to the plaintiff," the court said.

SECOND PROTEST IN THREE MONTHS

Amid protests, Urban Company sends legal notice to gig workers

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, DECEMBER 21

HOME SERVICES provider Urban Company has filed a lawsuit against women 'partners' working with the platform, seeking directions to the workers, their family members and other associates to cease their 'illegal' protest and vacate the company's office, main entrance and parking lot.

The company has sought an injunction from the court directing police to make arrangements and disburse the protesters.

Since Monday morning, over 50 women 'partners' from the company's spa and salon verticals, have been camping outside its office protesting against proposed policy changes in the app, claiming it would impact their earnings. They arranged quilts and slept on mattresses outside the company gate on Monday night, alleging that the company shut its main gate and did not allow access to washrooms.

Urban Company did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment. In the suit, the plaintiff, UrbanClap Technologies, has sought a permanent prohibitory injunction restraining these people from holding any "demonstration, dharna, rally, gherao, peace march, shouting slogans, entering or assembling on or near the office premises…"

In October, 100 'partners' associated with the company had staged a protest demanding better pay, safer working conditions, and social security benefits.

A beautician, who has been named in the suit, said, "The company is implementing a new subscription system where workers have to pay an upfront fee of Rs 3,000 (for prime) and Rs 2,000 (for classic) per month under a 'minimum guarantee plan'. The plan requires us to plan our monthly work calendar and take a minimum number of jobs. So, if I don't do 40 jobs, I will lose Rs 3,000. This takes away our flexibility. On one hand, the company doesn't call us its employees, we are 'partners' who are freelancing. We do not have benefits like in other jobs. On the other hand, they are mandating a specific number of jobs in a month and a fee to secure that."

Over 50 'partners' have been protesting outside the office

They said the company had introduced a new category, Flexi, which seeks to penalise workers for refusal to participate in the subscription system or for low response rates. "Under this category, we can only work three days a week (Friday to Sunday)," said a beautician, who had come from Noida. The third demand, they said, relates to 'partners' being asked to provide customers with a discount of 10 per cent from their earnings.

The women said no one from the company's management had reached out to them. In October, the company had slashed its commission cap and announced initiatives for worker safety.

In a statement, the All India Gig Workers' Union said, "There is an immediate need to classify gig workers as employees so they may benefit from any legal infrastructure that would otherwise fully protect them as a result of their employment."

IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"When a member has asked for division, you must allow it. Once you announced division, people will go back to their seats in order to vote."

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, Leader of the Opposition, after Deputy Chairperson Harivansh said division demanded by CPI(M)'s John Brittas would be allowed only if the Opposition members took their seats.

LOK SABHA

"Minister, please keep your answers short. Are you listening? Or else, I will have to interrupt again."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, to MoS Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The way the Opposition has lowered the dignity of the House... These are people who outside of the Parliament swear on democracy, but inside lower its dignity."

GIRIRAJ SINGH, Rural Development Minister in Lok Sabha

5 QUESTIONS

RSP MP **N K PREMACHANDRAN** SPOKE TO **LIZ MATHEW** ABOUT WHY HE OPPOSED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 IN LOK SABHA

Today, Opposition MPs objected to the introduction of the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill. Why?

This has become a usual practice of the government to bring Bills without prior notice as supplementary business and get it passed. Yesterday, the election laws amendment Bill was also put as a supplementary for consideration and passing... Three stages of a Bill — introduction, consideration and passing — on the same day is not a good practice at all. Members of Parliament are even denied their right to propose amendments

You had objections only to the way it was introduced?

For a legislation, the most important factor is its enforceability. Here, it is doubtful that the uneducated and unemployed girls would wait till 21 in remote rural India.

The cabinet cleared the Bill last week. Why do you think the government has brought it in a hurry without putting it in the list of businesses earlier?

If the government has bona fide intentions to bring the Bill, they could have very well put it in the list. The cabinet has cleared it earlier. The intent is lacking as the Bill has been hurriedly brought in at the fag-end of the session.

But the Opposition's demand for sending the Bill to the Standing Committee has been accepted.

We are happy that it is sent to the Standing Committee. But it has become a supplementary agenda despite having sufficient opportunities. Also, members have the right to oppose it at the time of introduction. By doing it in a hurry, you have denied that right too because one member should give a prior notice to oppose it at the introductory stage.

In the past too, the Opposition has raised objections to the way the government brought in Bills. Is there any way to address this?

As per the rule, after the introduction of a Bill, there is a second reading which has two stages — discussion on the general principles of the Bill, and the House deciding whether the Bill be referred to a select, standing or joint committee. After getting the report, there are threadbare discussions on the Bill. Unfortunately, this procedure is also flouted.

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

RS clears Bill linking Aadhaar to voter roll, Opp walks out

O'Brien suspended for 'throwing rule book', says 'BJP making mockery of House'

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha amid protests and a walkout by the Opposition during a tumultuous afternoon that also led to the suspension of TMC MP Derek O'Brien for the rest of the winter session for alleged unruly behaviour.

O'Brien's suspension Tuesday came on a motion, moved by Union MoS for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan, accusing him of "unruly and contemptuous behaviour, unbecoming (of) a member of the Rajya Sabha by brazenly throwing the Rajya Sabha Rule Book towards the Chair... thereby bringing disrepute and shame to the august House".

Taking to Twitter later, O'Brien wrote: "The last time I got suspended from Rajya Sabha was when Govt. was BULLDOZING #FarmLaws. We all know what happened after that. Today, suspended while protesting against BJP making a mockery of Parliament and BULLDOZING Election Laws Bill 2021. Hope this Bill too will be repealed soon."

O'Brien is the 13th Opposition MP to be suspended in this session after 12 others were suspended on the first day of the winter session for alleged unruly conduct towards the end of the monsoon session in August.

The amendment Bill, which was introduced by Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju, seeks to link Aadhaar to voter IDs to enable electoral registration officers to establish the identity of voters.

While the Government has said that the intention is to eliminate bogus voting and duplication on electoral rolls, the Opposition has described the proposed law as a move to manipulate the rolls.

The proceedings in the Rajya Sabha became heated after the Opposition's motion to send the Bill to a select committee was rejected by voice vote.

The walkout came after Deputy Speaker Harivansh responded to a demand by CPI(M)'s John Brittas for division of votes by saying that he would allow it after the House was brought to order. The Deputy Speaker also did not agree with Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's assertion that the House would be in order if a division was called for.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. *PTI*

Following the walkout and referring to O'Brien, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said: "We saw how members behaved in the last session. We felt that in this session, things had improved, but this is not so seeing the way the Opposition members have behaved today. Apart from the rules of the Rajya Sabha, there are also rules of decency that the members have broken. Flinging the Rule Book is an insult to the Secretary General, to the Chair and not just to the House but to the entire nation. Everyone has the right to protest, but not to mislead or bring politics into the House."

Earlier, amid Opposition protests, Rijiju said that "concerns of the linking of the Aadhaar card to voter ID cards...has no foundation" and that electoral data will remain with the Government and not be placed in the public domain.

He said the proposed law allows four separate opportunities through a year for registration of individuals attaining the age of 18 years instead of only on January 1 every year earlier. He added that the Bill also ensures gender neutrality for service personnel as earlier "husbands of women officers didn't have voting rights", which is now ensured.

Earlier, after the morning session was adjourned, the afternoon began with O'Brien calling for point of order under Rule 69, saying that no motion to introduce the Bill can be made unless copies are made available to all members two days ahead.

"This is just like the farm Bills, when seven resolutions were brought by the Opposition and none of them were allowed...this Bill can't be listed today. Your intention may also be to manipulate the majority in the House by keeping 12 members out," he said.

O'Brien said that under Rule 123, members were also not given time to submit resolutions for the Bill to be sent to a Select Committee. Congress MP Anand Sharma also raised a point of order under Rule 33 (1), saying that proper notice or allocation of time had not been provided.

Then, amid slogans of "we want justice" by the Opposition, BJP MP Sushil Modi pointed out that Vivek Tankha of Congress and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray of TMC, who were part of the protests in the House, were members of the Parliamentary Committee that had scrutinised the Bill.

In response, TMC's Ray said Sushil Modi had not been a member of the Committee and had therefore based his statement on hearsay. Ray said he had given a "note of dissent" against the Bill, which had "not been allowed".

While TDP's K Raveendra Kumar accused the Government of following double standards while promising that no voter's name would be struck off the rolls, Congress MP Dr Amee Yajnik called the Bill a "violation of the rights to privacy".

Sujeet Kumar of the BJD meanwhile, supported the Bill but raised concerns over the linking. "We understand that the intention of the government is good, but is there a chance of the biometric data being misused," he said, warning that marginalised sections could be affected if this happened.

The Bill moved by the BJP-led Government was also supported by JD(U), YSRCP and AIADMK. The Opposition parties that were part of the walkout included Congress, TMC, the Left, DMK and NCP.

Aadhaar linking done, common electoral roll next

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE CENTRAL government is planning to hold a meeting with state election commissioners soon to try and persuade them to adopt a common electoral roll for Parliament, Assembly and local body elections, it is learnt.

On a day the Rajya Sabha passed The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which enables the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem amid opposition protests, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice held a scheduled meeting on the 'Status of Common Electoral Roll for conducting elections in the country'.

The Committee is headed by BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi.

It is learnt that opposition members in the committee – TMC's Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Congress's Deepender Hooda and DMK's P Wilson – opposed the proposal, arguing that it was an encroachment into the rights of the states. Some of the opposition members, it is learnt, argued that the Centre has no powers or authority to tinker with the powers given to the State Election Commission under the Constitution.

The Committee was given a presentation on the status of common electoral roll by Secretary, Legislative Department Reeta Vasishta and representatives of Election Commission. It is learnt that the government informed the Committee that it plans to hold a meeting with state election commissioners soon to try and convince them to adopt a common electoral roll.

The government, as of now, is not in favour of amending the law but wants to persuade the state to adopt a common electoral roll.

Incidentally, *The Indian Express* on December 17 reported that Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey joined an online "interaction" called by the Prime Minister's Office on November 16 despite reservations. The interaction was on the issue of a common electoral roll.

The interaction took place a day after the Election Commission received an unusually worded letter from an official of the Law Ministry – the administrative Ministry of the poll panel – that Principal Secretary to PM P K Mishra will "chair a meeting" on a common electoral roll and "expects CEC" to be present.

The issue of common electoral roll had been on the discussion table since 2002 when Justice M N Venkatachaliah headed the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommended a common electoral roll for elections to panchayati raj institutions, state assembly and Parliament.

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission in its sixth report on local governance in 2007 took a view that local government laws should provide for adoption of assembly electoral rolls for local government without any revision of names by the State Election Commissions. The Law Commission of India in its 255th Report on Electoral Reform in 2015 also favoured introduction of common electoral roll for Parliament, assembly and local body elections.

Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice is headed by BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi

EXPLAINED

E. What the rule says

ARTICLE 243 K of the Constitution says, "Elections to the Panchayats: The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor."

TAKING PROTEST BEYOND THE HOUSE

Opposition leaders on Tuesday took out a protest march from the Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex to Vijay Chowk, demanding action against MoS Ajay Mishra in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "The Prime Minister on the one hand apologises to farmers, but on the other hand he keeps in his cabinet a minister who is involved in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident....So the entire opposition has joined hands... to give a message that we will not accept what is being done against the farmers and the common people of this country." *Praveen Khanna*

PESTICIDE BILL

House panel rejects demand for data protection provision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee has rejected the pesticide industry's demand for the inclusion of a data protection provision in the Pesticide Management Bill, 2020.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing, headed by BJP member P C Gaddigoudar, in its report said the non-inclusion of the data protection provision in the Bill will not only "protect" the domestic industry but also farmers.

The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020, was referred to the committee in June this year. Its report was presented in Lok Sabha Tuesday.

"The Committee have deliberated over the arguments raised by both the sides. The Committee appreciate the fact that 'No Provision' of Data Protection for the introduction of New Molecules/ Products has been consciously incorporated in the Pesticide Management Bill, 2020 by the Government as it will not only protect the domestic industry which primarily relies on production of the 'Generic Pesticides' but also the farmers, who will be benefitted by the availability of cheaper pesticides," the report said.

"The Committee also believe that India has a very large and growing market of Agrochemicals and with huge arable land, it will be able to attract introduction of New Molecules from Foreign as well as Domestic Companies even without provision for any Data Protection," it said.

"The Committee feel totally convinced by the arguments advanced by the Government that the Patent period of 20 years is sufficient for inventors to gain benefits for the investments made in discovery/introduction of New Molecules provided that New Molecules are introduced within the Patent Period in the Country," it added.

The committee has also recommended minimum qualification for "Sellers/ Dealers/Stockiests, etc. of Pesticides".

Rlys' 98% operating ratio not a reflection of its true financial performance: CAG

ANISHA DUTTA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General of India in its report on Railways' finances tabled in Parliament on Tuesday noted that the Indian Railways' operating ratio of 98.36% in 2019-2020 does not reflect its true financial performance and if the actual expenditure on pension payments is taken into account, the ratio will be 114.35%.

The CAG also noted that the national carrier needs to revisit the passenger and other coaching tariffs so as to recover the cost of operations in a phased manner and reduce losses in its core activities.

This comes at a time when the national transporter has targeted to reduce its operating ratio to 95%.

In 2019, CAG's report said Indian Railways has the worst operating ratio in the past 10 years at 98.44% and its revenue surplus has decreased by more than 66% — from Rs 4,913 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 1,665.61 crore in 2017-18.

Last year, the Indian Railways was able to lower its expenditure and make up for the shortfall in traffic through revenue generated by freight operations. A fall in pension liabilities also helped; Indian Railways' massive pension bill of more than Rs 51,000 crore in the current financial year has been converted into a loan by the Finance Ministry.

The Railway Ministry has been seeking Finance Ministry's help ever since the merger of the rail budget with the Union budget to take care of its pension liability, a demand which has not been met by the Finance Ministry so far.

The CAG report noted that against a target of 95% in the budget estimates, the operating ratio of the Indian Railways was 98.36% in 2019-20.

"The OR deteriorated from 97.29 per cent in 2018-19 to 98.36 per cent in 2019-20. Further, the OR of the Railways would have been 114.35 per cent instead of 98.36 per cent, if the actual expenditure on pension payments was taken into account," the report stated. Thus, the operating ratio of 98.36% shown by the Railways does not reflect its true financial performance, it stated.

During 2019-20, the Indian Railways generated total receipts of Rs 1,74,694 crore against budget estimates of Rs 2,16,935 crore, the report stated. It could not achieve even the revised estimate target of Rs 2,06,269 crore, the report said. The total receipts decreased by 8.30% during 2019-20 as compared to the previous year, it said.

CAG: 78% drinking water units did not have NOC from ground water board

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General has found that 2,475 of 3,189 packaged drinking water units granted licenses by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) were operating without no-objection certificates from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

The findings are part of a CAG report that contains the observations from the performance audit of ground water management and regulation for 2013-18. The report was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

"Audit observed that in 15 States for which data was made available to audit, BIS licenses were issued to 3,189 packaged drinking water units since 2013. Of these, only 642 proponents obtained NOC from CGWA/State authorities for ground water extraction," the report said.

"Thus, in 2,475 of 3,189 cases i.e. in 78 per cent of the licenses granted by BIS, the project proponents were operating without obtaining NOCs from CGWA," it said. "In the absence of a mandatory linkage between licenses granted by BIS and the obtaining of NOC from CGWA, the instances of project proponents not obtaining NOC may persist.

"The Department accepted (October 2019) that there was a gap in the number of NOCs obtained by Packaged Drinking Water units and the licenses granted by BIS. DoWR,RD&GR [Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation] further stated (September 2020) that CGWA had held meetings with FSSAI, wherein it was agreed that FSSAI would not issue license to industries that do not have NOC for ground water extraction," it said.

The report highlighted that there is no provision in the Rules and Regulations of BIS for imposing the condition of obtaining NOC from CGWA before grant of license to Packaged Drinking Water units.

The CAG also found that out of 328 cases across 18 states, only 75 projects were functioning with requisite NOCs from the state pollution control boards or committees.

"Audit examined a sample of 328 cases in 18 States where the CTO granted to a project proponent included a condition which required NOC for ground water extraction, and found that only 75 projects in 13 States/ UTs had obtained the requisite NOCs. Thus, 253 projects (77 per cent) were operating without NOCs," says the report.

The report also highlighted the lack of facilities to monitor the ground water level in the country. "Against the proposed number of 50,000 observation wells (by the end of the XII Plan period i.e. 2012-17) to measure ground water level, a network of only 15,851 observation wells were being monitored as of 31 March 2019," the report said.

"There was (a) shortage of human resources in Scientific and Engineering categories in CGWB and its regional and divisional offices... In spite of shortage of technical workforce, some of the Regional Offices had also deputed their technical staff (Scientific and Engineering) for administrative work," it said.

Ground water use up

New Delhi: The percentage of utilisation of ground water with respect to recharge, known as the 'stage of extraction', was 63 per cent in the country. A 'stage of extraction' above 100 per cent indicates that extraction has surpassed recharge.

"In 13 States/UTs, the stage of extraction was higher than the national stage of extraction. Four States/UTs (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan) had a stage of extraction of more than 100 per cent.... At the district level, in 24 States/UTs, 267 districts had stage of extraction more than 63 per cent ranging from 64 per cent to 385 per cent," the report said. "During the period 2004 to 2017, the stage of extraction of ground water has increased from 58 to 63 per cent," the report said. **ENS**

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

SHORT SUSPENSION

WITH ITS heavy legislative agenda more or less sailing through in both Houses of Parliament, the government may propose sine die adjournment on Wednesday, a day ahead of schedule, sources said. Members are also sensing the early adjournment. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, for instance, is traveling to Kerala on Wednesday. Incidentally, if the House adjourns sine die in the morning session on Wednesday, the suspension of Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien could be one of the shortest ones. He was suspended on Tuesday for the remaining part of the session.

TELANGANA FOCUS

AFTER SETTING the ball rolling for the party's election preparations in five poll-bound states, Home Minister Amit Shah appears to have started paying attention to the BJP's next target state in the south — Telangana. On Tuesday, Shah held a meeting with BJP state unit chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union minister G Kishan Reddy, MPs from the state, BJP parliamentary secretary Balasubrahmanyam Kamarasu and other state leaders in his office in Parliament House. According to sources, Shah asked them to work hard to see to it that BJP comes to power in the state in the next election. Kumar, who has completed a 438-km padayatra, will take out its second phase soon.

BIKE RALLY

THE INDIAN embassy in Bahrain celebrated the National Day of Bahrain in style. Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava flagged off a bike rally by Pleasure Riders, a bikers' team in Bahrain. More than 50 Indian bikers participated in the rally, from Sanabis to Zallaq, marking the 50th National Day of Kingdom of Bahrain.

Gupkar alliance says delimitation panel proposal 'divisive', plans Jan 1 protest

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 21

THE PEOPLE'S Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) Tuesday described the draft paper of the Delimitation Commission proposing six additional constituencies in Jammu division and one in Kashmir as "divisive" and "not in favour of the people of J&K".

The PAGD comprises four parties: Farooq Abdullah-led National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti-led People's Democratic Party, CPI(M) and Muzaffar Ahmad Shah-led Awami National Conference. While the BJP, Congress and Altaf Bukhari-led J&K Apni Party are not part of the alliance, Sajjad Lone-chaired J&K People's Conference walked out of it in January this year.

Representatives of the PAGD, who met under the leadership of Abdullah at his residence on Tuesday, announced they will hold a peaceful demonstration in Srinagar on January 1 to protest the draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission. The draft paper proposes 43 constituencies in the Jammu division and 47 in the Kashmir valley; nine seats are proposed to be reserved for STs and seven for SCs.

In a statement, the PAGD said, "In our views, this will further divide the ranks of people of Jammu and Kashmir, deepen their alienation, and create a much bigger void between communities and the regions." The PAGD is of the view Assembly

PAGD members Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, M Y Tarigami and others in Jammu on Tuesday. *PTI*

constituencies should have been carved out based on population as per the 2011 Census.

Observing that the new proposal is detrimental to the interests of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, and that of the country as well, PAGD spokesperson and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said, "All of us here have decided that while we want peace and do not want confrontation with any institution and the government under any circumstances, we will continue to raise our voice in a peaceful manner in every forum in defence of the legitimate rights of the people."

Pointing out that the Central government should have waited in the matter as many of the PAGD constituents have challenged the J&K Reorganisation Act and the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court, Tarigami said taking hasty decisions was neither in the interest of the nation nor the people of J&K.

The CPI(M) leader regretted that while the BJP government was advocating a uniform system in the country, it was dealing with J&K in isolation. "We wanted the government to have a census and thereafter delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir along with the rest of the country," he said, questioning if constitutional and legal provisions were not applicable in J&K.

He said that the National Conference MPs, Farooq Abdullah and Hasnain Masoodi had told the Delimitation Commission on Monday that the draft proposals were not in accordance with the wishes of the people and only served to drive a wedge at the regional and sub-regional level, besides fuelling existing anxieties between communities. "It furthers the BJP agenda to divide people," he said.

Among Jammu parties, too, a sense of disquiet

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 21

WHILE POLITICAL parties in Kashmir have openly opposed the Delimitation Commission's draft paper that has proposed six new Assembly constituencies for Jammu and only one for the Valley, it has brought no jubilation in Jammu either.

Reason: Many in Jammu feel that though their division will now have 43 seats (up from 37) and Kashmir 47 (up from 46), a difference of merely four seats, the draft proposal is still titled towards Kashmir despite Jammu having a larger area (26,293 sq km vs 15,948 sq km in Kashmir) and, as is commonly believed here, nearequal population as Kashmir.

While according to the 2011 Census, Kashmir's population is 15,09,937 more than that of Jammu's, many, including the BJP, maintain that the 2011 Census allegedly downplayed Jammu's numbers to the advantage of mainstream political parties in Kashmir. In support of their claim, Jammu-based parties and organisations point out that in 2002, the division had 2 lakh more voters than Kashmir Valley.

A day after the Commission released its statement on the proposed delimitation that will take the total Assembly constituencies in J&K to 90, the mood appeared sombre even in the BJP headquarters, whose government at the Centre had set up the Delimitation Commission.

"There is nothing in the proposal to cheer. But our stand is that the Commission has conducted the exercise keeping in view all the fixed parameters and the 2011 Census," said a party leader.

"Jammu always wanted delimitation to be done on the basis of the 2021 Census. After extrapolating the 2011 Census, as per our calculation, there should have been 49 Assembly seats in Jammu and 41 in Kashmir had other parameters like area, accessibility etc. been given due weightage," said Ankur Sharma, chairman of IkkJutt Jammu, a Jammu-based organisation.

By proposing to reserve seats for STs, the Commission has created a new block of "Gujjars and Bakarwals" among the majority Muslims of Kashmir. Gujjars and Bakarwals, who are Muslims, are the third major ethnic group after Kashmiris and Dogras in J&K.

"The Delimitation Commission proposal is irking Kashmiri politicians as they will now have to take seriously a large section existing within the majority community whom they had been ignoring till now," said a prominent Gujjar leader who wished not to be named.

Karnataka govt tables Bill against conversion, Oppn says no prior intimation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BELAGAVI, DECEMBER 21

THE STATE government Tuesday tabled the controversial Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill 2021, commonly known as the anti-conversion bill, at its ongoing winter session in Belagavi. However, the Opposition Congress attacked the government for keeping them in the dark regarding its introduction.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra tabled the Bill on Tuesday. The Cabinet had cleared the Bill on Monday, but no official information was shared about introducing it in the House.

As soon as the Assembly session began in the afternoon, Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri allowed Jnanendra to table the Bill. Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah objected to it and sought to know from the Speaker why the House had not been informed. "It was not part of the agenda and the manner in which it has been tabled is unconstitutional. What was the hurry? They could have brought it on Wednesday," he said.

The Speaker said the Bill could be discussed on Wednesday or on another day during the session. Congress leaders, meanwhile, staged a walk out.

The Speaker's office said that the matter is likely to be discussed on Wednesday.

KERALA GOVERNOR-GOVT TUSSLE

Row political, higher education is casualty, says Kannur Univ V-C

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

Gopinath Ravindran

INSISTING THAT there is "no infirmity" in his reappointment, which has set off a tussle between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and the CPI(M)-led state government, Kannur University vice-chancellor Gopinath Ravindran said higher education is the "casualty" in this controversy driven by "politics".

On November 24, the Governor, in his capacity as Chancellor of the university, reappointed Ravindran to the post. However, in a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Khan made his displeasure known, saying he passed the order against his conscience. He also threatened to quit as chancellor. Later, letters written by Kerala Higher Education Minister R Bindu had emerged, indicating that the Governor may have been under pressure from the government on Ravindran's appointment.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ravindran said, "I cannot comment on the Chancellor's opinion. But the controversy is purely political. It is politics that's playing out... It is certainly not going to advance the interest of higher education. The casualty in all this is the higher education sector, which is lagging behind in north Kerala. When I took over as VC, Kannur University had a NAAC rating of B. Now it has improved two notches to B++. Perhaps that is the reason I was retained. Otherwise I had even booked my return tickets to Delhi."

An eminent historian, Ravindran was first appointed to the post in November 2017, two years after he quit as member-secretary of the Indian Council of Historical Research halfway through his term over differences with chairman Y S Rao. The dispute was mainly over Rao's move to dissolve an advisory committee to the council that had Romila Thapar as one of the members.

The Governor's stand on Ravindran's reappointment had led to protests by the Opposition, which alleged that he was retained in contravention of the Kannur University Act, which says no person above the age of 60 shall be appointed as VC. Ravindran is now over 60.

"The Act says the VC should not be aged above 60 during the appointment. I was below 60 when I was appointed. It also says the VC can be reappointed for a period of four years, but cannot be reappointed more than once. I think there is no infirmity here," Ravindran said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

KOLKATA CIVIC BODY POLLS

TMC supporters celebrate in Kolkata on Tuesday. *Partha Paul*

TMC wins by a landslide, Left bags higher vote share than BJP

SANTANU CHOWDHURY & ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

THE TRINAMOOL Congress Tuesday registered a landslide victory in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections, winning 134 of 144 wards.

The BJP, the main Opposition party, won three wards. The Left Front and the Congress bagged two each. The Left's vote share, however, eclipsed the BJP's. Independents won three seats. All three of them expressed a desire to join the ruling party.

Congratulating TMC workers, Chief Minister and party chairperson Mamata Banerjee said it would boost the party's national ambitions since other national parties had lost. "The BJP has been bowled out while the CPI(M) has no presence. The Congress has been sandwiched between the BJP and the CPI(M)," she told reporters.

In 2015, when the KMC elections were last held (they were put off last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic), the TMC had won 124 wards, the Left 13, the BJP five, and the Congress two.

In terms of vote share, the ruling party secured nearly three-fourths of the votes cast (72.16 per cent), increasing its share from the last civic polls. The Left secured 11.87 per cent of the votes as against BJP's 9.19 per cent.

Banerjee said TMC councillors would select the mayor and deputy mayor at a meeting on December 23.

BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said: "We are surprised. The TMC should have won all the seats given the violence and booth-rigging."

Both BJP and the CPI(M) have moved the Calcutta High Court, seeking fresh elections. The Opposition has alleged that their polling agents were driven out of booths and candidates were assaulted during voting on Sunday.

"Had there been no violence during the election, the Congress would have won more than 10 wards," claimed state Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Left Front chairperson Biman Bose said, "The TMC was expected to sweep the polls after the way they looted votes and stopped our polling agents from discharging their duties."

Cong alleges its candidate stripped, assaulted by TMC workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

THE CONGRESS on Monday alleged that one of its candidates for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) election was stripped and beaten up by Trinamool Congress supporters.

A purported video clip of the assault, which reportedly took place on Sunday night, has been shared widely on social media.

In the video, Congress candidate for KMC ward 16, Ravi Saha, is seen lying on the road while a group of people, suspected to be TMC workers, abuse him. In his complaint to police, Saha said when he protested against those abusing him, he was stripped to his underwear and severely assaulted. He was admitted to a hospital. The police are investigating the matter.

Condemning the incident, state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury tweeted, "'Didicracy' in Bengal manifests its uncouth face where a Congress candidate is being stripped off and beaten black and blue in the full glare of public as he dared to contest the #KMCElection2021."

Local TMC leader Anirban Dutta, however, alleged that Saha was drunk and was stripped and beaten by local people for indecent behaviour. According to Dutta, the incident took place near Saha's house Sunday night. "...There is nothing political. Our workers were not involved at all."

Jharkhand passes Bill to prevent mob violence, lynching

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, DECEMBER 21

THE JHARKHAND Assembly on Tuesday passed Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021, which aims at providing "effective protection" of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.

After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur.

The Bill defines lynching as "any act or series of acts of violence or death or aiding, abetting or attempting an act of violence or death, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other ground".

The original Bill introduced in the House by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Alamgir Alam started with the wording: "Jharkhand rajya ke durbal vyakti ke samvaidhanvik adhikaron ki prabhavi suraksha pradan karne aur bheed dwara bheed hinsa aur lynching ko rokne... (To provide effective protection of the constitutional rights of weak persons and to prevent the mob violence and lynching...)"

During the discussion, BJP's Godda MLA Amit Kumar Mandal said, "I just want to ask what is the definition of the word 'durbal (weak)'... Constable Ratan Lal Meena died during the anti-CAA protest (in Delhi). Will his death not come under lynching?... Please replace this word 'durbal' with 'citizen'."

To this, Alam said the government will accept the proposal and later amended the Bill to replace 'durbal' with 'aam naagrik (common citizen)'.

BJP legislator Amar Bauri said the Bill is an attempt at appeasement politics and is not pro-tribal. He said, "There is a tradition in the tribal community to resolve various issues arising out of their villages etc... Tomorrow if there is any problem and the tribals want to resolve a certain issue, then a person may be booked for abetting the accused. This Bill is anti-Jharkhand."

CPI(M-L) MLA Vinod Singh said the Bill was 'very important' for the state, but as per the rules, it should be tabled at least five days in advance, and under special circumstances, three days in advance. He added that the Bill has been made in detail, but "remains silent on compensation".

However, all amendments, barring that of Mandal, were rejected, and the Bill was passed.

Unexplained investment, undisclosed income: I-T dept after UP searches

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

TWO DAYS after it conducted search and seizure operations across 30 locations in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, the Income Tax Department Tuesday said it had detected undisclosed incomes, bogus loans, and investments in benami properties – all amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees.

The statement did not name any person or company in the statement, but sources confirmed the details are related to the latest searches at the premises of aides of opposition leaders in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

On Saturday, the tax department conducted searches at the houses of a Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and three others considered close to SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

The tax department said several entities engaged in civil construction were found to be involved in claiming bogus expenditure running into crores of rupees. "In the case of one company, undisclosed income of over Rs 86 crore of the directors of the company has been detected..." it said.

Pointing out that shell companies were allegedly used for routing funds, the department said it detected unexplained income and investments of around Rs 12 crore along with another case of identification of unexplained investment of Rs 11 crore in a shell company.

In BJP vs Cong contest, Goa health minister may face ex-CM father

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after the Congress was reduced to two MLAs in the 40-member Goa assembly, former chief minister and the party's 11-time MLA Pratap Singh Rane (83) Tuesday announced that he will contest the upcoming legislative assembly election once again from the Congress. Rane said that he would contest the polls slated for February, 2022 from his bastion of Poriem from where he remains undefeated.

However, his declaration may lead to an unexpected electoral duel between father and son as Vishwajit Rane, health minister and Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from the neighbouring assembly constituency of Valpoi, said on Tuesday that he would contest from Poriem as a BJP candidate against his father and was confident of a win.

Nirmal Harindran/File

Pratap Singh Rane (right) and his son Vishwajit Rane (left).

"I have nurtured that seat for the last 20 years and the youth and women from the constituency have a connect with me. I will contest from Poriem and I will win by a margin of more than 10,000 votes," he said.

Soon after Rane's announcement, Vishwajit said that his octogenarian father was "under pressure from the Congress's central leadership". "Eighty-three is not the age to promote yourself. It is the age to retire gracefully," Vishwajit said.

The Goa Congress has been beleaguered by a series of exits including the most recent by its MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, who quit the party after being named its election candidate.

Rane's declaration to contest the next election may give the Congress the confidence to retain the seat that Rane has won consecutively in 11 elections. Rane and former chief minister Digambar Kamat are the only two remaining MLAs in the state assembly since the 2017 polls in which the party had won 17 seats.

"...I hope better sense prevails and I don't have to face him in election because I don't want to be the person to retire him through an electoral battle," Vishwajit told the Indian Express.

He tweeted on Tuesday: "Pratapsingh Raoji Rane is my father and we shall sort this issue amicably. Although I have decided to contest from Poriem constituency, we will resolve this internally within the family."

The senior Rane, however, said, "I am the MLA from Poriem and he (Vishwajit) is from Valpoi... I don't know if my son is standing (for polls) from Poriem or Valpoi. It is for his party to decide."

Vishwajit had resigned from the Congress after the party failed to form the government in 2017 despite winning the elections.

The senior Rane has been a legislator for 50 years, of which he has spent 45 in the Congress. He was appointed Chief Minister in 1980, followed by five other stints as CM.

5 SDPI activists in custody in Kerala BJP leader's killing

Thiruvananthapuram: Police on Tuesday took into custody five activists of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in connection with the murder of BJP's OBC Morcha state secretary Ranjith Sreenivas in Alappuzha district.

Ranjith was killed early Sunday morning, hours after SDPI state secretary K S Shan was hacked to death. Two local RSS workers of Mannancherry in Alappuzha have been arrested in connection with Shan's murder.

The SDPI workers who were taken into custody on Tuesday belong to Mannancherry, the native village of Shan.

On Tuesday, the Alappuzha district administration convened an all-party peace meeting at the behest of Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. State minister Saji Cheriyan, who attended the meeting, said steps will be taken to unravel the conspiracy behind the killings. **SHAJU PHILIP**

UP GOVT HACKING INTO KIDS' INSTA ACCOUNT, SAYS PRIYANKA

Lucknow: Days after Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government was tapping his and other party leaders' phones, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday accused the state government of hacking into her children's Instagram accounts.

Priyanka made the statement when she was asked about the allegations of phone tapping by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. She said, "Leave aside phone tapping, they are hacking my children's Instagram accounts. Does the government have no work?" **ENS**

3 killed, 44 injured in fire at Haldia refinery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

'Flash fire' broke out after a drill at IOC refinery, say officials. *PTI*

AT LEAST three persons were killed and 44 injured after a massive fire broke out on the premises of an Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) refinery at Haldia in Purba Medinipur district on Tuesday, police said.

The cause of the blaze, which sources termed as a "flash fire" that broke out after a drill, is yet to be ascertained. It was extinguished by a fire team and the situation is now under control, the sources said. The refinery has been under shutdown since the first week of this month as maintenance work is underway at many major units, they added.

"In the motor spirit quality (MSQ) unit, during shutdown-related work, at around 14:50 hours, today an incident occurred. The primary cause seems to be a flash fire leading to burn injuries to 44 persons and 3 persons have unfortunately succumbed to their injuries," read a statement issued by Haldia Refinery authorities.

The identities of the three deceased were yet to be ascertained, sources said. Preliminary first-aid was administered to the injured, who were later shifted to Haldia Refinery Hospital for treatment. Three of them succumbed at the hospital. With the help of a team of district administration officials, people on the premises were evacuated. A green corridor was operationalised for shifting the injured to other medical institutes as required, sources said. They added that around 25 of the injured were shifted to Kolkata later in the day and more may be shifted.

Many of the injured have been identified as contract workers, including several migrants from Punjab and Rajasthan. "The fire was exacerbated by the presence of highly flammable substances in the area," said a local police officer.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed grief over the incident. "Deeply anguished by the fire in IOC, Haldia. Three precious lives were lost and my thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Those injured are being brought to Kolkata through a green corridor. Government of West Bengal will extend all assistance to ensure their speedy recovery," Banerjee tweeted on Tuesday.

"A probe should be done to find out whether any negligence has caused this tragedy," said S K Ajgar Ali, Chairman-In-Council, Haldia Municipality.

Punjab Cong leader Sodhi joins BJP: 'Deeply hurt by infighting'

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 21

FORMER PUNJAB Cabinet minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi on Tuesday resigned from Congress and joined the BJP in the presence of BJP chief JP Nadda in Delhi.

He accused the Congress of putting the state's "security and communal harmony at stake". There is a grave danger to peace and communal harmony in the state, he said, adding that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP can save Punjab.

Rana Sodhi has been a confidant of former chief minister Amarinder Singh. A sitting MLA from Gur Harsahai, Sodhi was dropped from the Cabinet after Amarinder's ouster.

BJP welcomes Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi (centre) to the party on Tuesday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

He is likely to contest from Ferozepore, which is considered a Hindu-dominated constituency.

He joined the BJP on a day Amarinder held a rally in Patiala to launch his campaign. Sources said Sodhi had quit Congress to join BJP in consultation with Amarinder. The BJP has announced a tie-up with Amarinder's party, the Punjab Lok Congress.

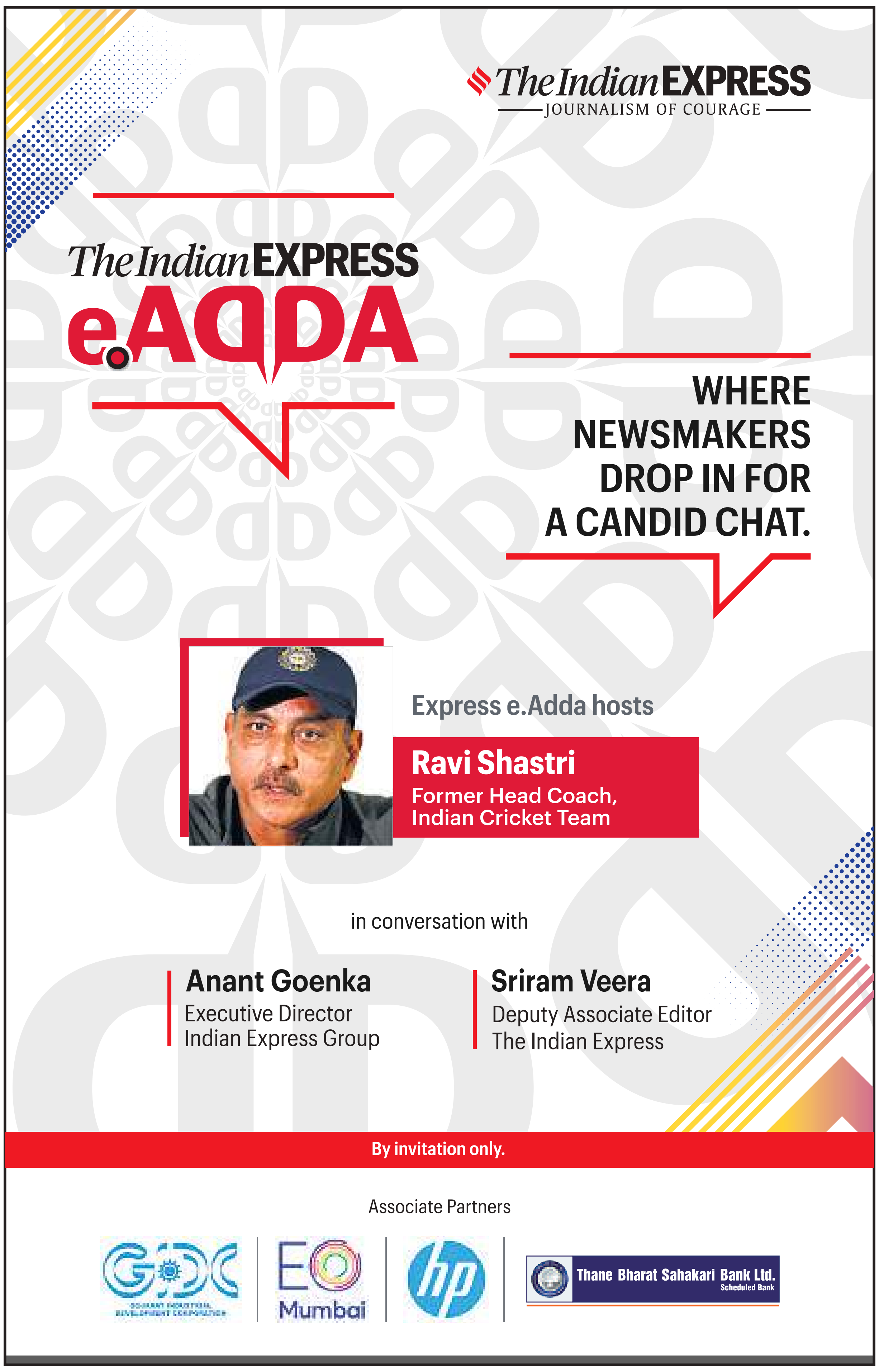
In his resignation letter to AICC chief Sonia Gandhi, he said he has been in Congress for over four decades. "I have all through been a hardcore worker of the party with unflinching loyalty through thick and thin. I have contested and won Punjab Assembly Elections from Guruharsahai constituency consecutively four times from 2002 till date. But I am deeply hurt by the bickering and infighting within the Punjab Congress. This is harming tne party and causing serious problems for the state and the government," Sodhi added.

Govt committed to fight cyber crimes: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government is committed to combating cyber crimes but public representatives must pitch in by creating awareness in their constituencies.

"The government is committed to deal with every facet of this new threat and as public representatives, it is our duty to create awareness about cyber crimes in our constituencies," Shah was quoted by the Ministry of Home Affairs as having said while chairing a meeting of the Consultative Committee on 'Cyber Crime: Threats, Challenges and Response'.



8-year political narrative against Majithia ends in FIR

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 21

Bikram Singh Majithia

THE REGISTRATION of a case against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MLA and former revenue minister Bikram Singh Majithia by Punjab Police on Monday has brought back into focus the eight-year-old issue of drugs that has been part of the political narrative in Punjab.

The narrative that Punjab's youth was in the grip of drugs had started in the last decade. It was on January 6, 2014, that the alleged kingpin of Rs 1,000-crore drug racket, Jagdish Singh Bhola, told reporters at a Mohali court during his trial that Majithia was also involved in the case.

Everything appeared to be going right for Majithia till then. He was a young leader at 37, a Cabinet minister in the then chief minister Parkash Singh Badal's Cabinet and brother-in-law of the then deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal. He was considered an emerging tall leader of Majha region, when the allegations of drugs surfaced. The Congress, then in Opposition with 44 MLAs in a House of 117, took up the issue. The then PPCC chief Partap Singh Bajwa raised it vociferously by staging dharnas across the state and even moving the High Court seeking justice in drugs case. The Enforcement Directorate also questioned Majithia in December 2014, leaving the situation ripe for Opposition parties to take it up.

The AAP, which was a fledging political outfit in Punjab at that time, also raised the issue aggressively before the 2017 Assembly elections. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal would ask the electorate in his rallies as to who the drugs smuggler was. Amarinder Singh swore by a Gutka Sahib at a rally and said he would break the backbone of drug trade in four weeks and put the big fish behind bars. Both the Congress and AAP promised that voted to power, they would put Majithia behind bars.

After the Congress came to power in 2017, former CM Amarinder Singh constituted a Special Task Force on drugs in March 2017 and ordered an investigation into the alleged racket. The then STF chief Harpreet Sidhu submitted his report to the High Court in February 2018. The report was, however, never made public. No action followed on the report.

This led to bickering in the party. Several leaders, including incumbent Deputy CM Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, raised it several times publicly. Navjot Singh Sidhu also raised it several times. Randhawa often said he should be made the Home Minister so that he could act against Majithia.

The bickering became so strong that it led to a revolt against Amarinder in the party. A feeling gained ground among the partymen that Amarinder was "soft" on Majithia. "Amarinder delayed action in the case. His government never tried to take up the issue with the HC then. We have taken it up and they have asked us to investigate. Had he not delayed it, justice would have been delivered then," Randhawa, who also holds the Home portfolio, told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Two girls, friend held for Chennai youth's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 21

THREE PEOPLE, including two girls, have been arrested for the murder of a 21-year-old man, the city police said Tuesday, two days after the victim's bloodied remains were found on a deserted farmland in the city's outskirts.

An officer at said the girls, both students of Class 10, were not known to each other but knew the victim, identified as Premkumar.

The officer said Premkumar had allegedly befriended them on Instagram last year, met them privately, and clicked photographs. He subsequently started demanding money from them and allegedly threatened to upload the images online, the officer added.

The officer said the girls had allegedly paid Premkumar Rs 50,000 each last year, but sought help from another "Instagram friend" Ashok, the third person arrested in the case, when Premkumar asked for more money. The girls told Ashok to retrieve Premkumar's phone and delete all photographs and videos on it, the officer added.

Majithia: Riding on power, fighting against perception

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 21

THE POLITICS of Majithia family is much older than the Shiromani Akali Dal. Bikram Singh Majithia's great grandfather Sunder Singh Majithia worked for the interests of Sikh community in undivided British Punjab and his grandfather Surjit Singh was deputy defence minister in the first elected cabinet of prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. More than 101 years after Sunder Singh Majithia became the first president of the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandak Committee (SGPC), his great grandson Bikram Majithia is facing the biggest crisis in family's political history, which can be traced to Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Two years before SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal's wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal joined politics, her brother Bikram Singh Majithia was the youngest leader of Majha to get elected from Majitha in 2007 as an MLA. Majithia didn't remain limited to his constituency and soon earned the title of 'Majhe Da Jarnail' in the ranks and files of SAD. As Youth Akali Dal president, Majithia learnt the art of getting work done from IAS, PCS, IPS and PCS officers quickly. This ability to make things move quickly in bureaucratic circles was one of the perceptions that played against former Congress leader Captain Amarinder Singh, who stepped down as the chief minister.

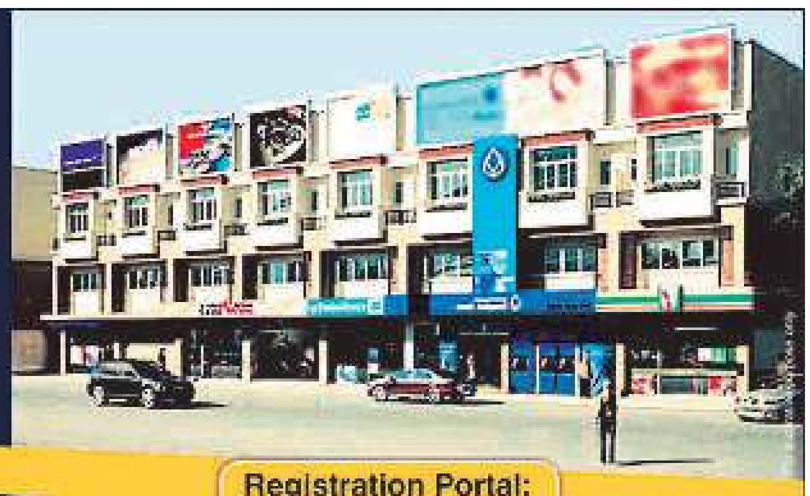
Majithia's rise in no time had not only bothered the senior SAD leaders like Ranjit Singh Brahmpura and Rattan Singh Ajnala who quit the party in 2018, but he was also, at one time, seen as potential candidate to become chief minister in a region which was represented by no chief minister since Partap Singh Kairon. It was Majithia who could win his seat handsomely when party lost the all the seats except two in Majha in 2017.

Majithia family has remained part of Punjab politics since Maharaja Ranjit Singh's kingdom. Sunder Singh Majithia was among the Sikh leaders who preferred to align with the British to serve the Sikh interests. Riding on Singh Sabha Movement wave, Sunder Singh Majithia played a very important role in formation of Khalsa college in Amritsar and of SGPC. Bikram's grandfather of Surjit Singh Majithia was elected to the Parliament in 1952 and 1957. Majithia family joined Shiromani Akali Dal after the Operation Blue Star in 1984.

Despite the political legacy of his family, Bikram never tried to use it for his own political interests. Riding on agenda of 'development', Majithia got the biggest political setback when a drug lord, Bhola named him in front of media on January 6, 2014. Opposition parties ran a long campaign against Majithia on such allegations. He even scored an apology from Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party boss Arvind Kejriwal in 2018 after a defamation suit over similar accusations. Such allegations didn't affect him electorally but it surely hurt his image despite all his efforts to deny such allegations and now a NDPS case is registered against him bringing him back at the center of Punjab politics.

HSIIDC
Announces e-Auction of
Commercial Sites
(SCOs/Booths/Shops/Dhaba Sites)

Estate	Site Description	Area (in sq. mtr.)	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
Bawal, Sector-2	Double Storey Booth	75.625	47,79,500/-	2,38,975/-
	Dhaba site (Double Story)	343.75	2,17,25,000/-	10,86,250/-
Manesar, Sector-1	Booth	48	58,03,200/-	2,90,160/-
	Double Storey Shop	108	1,41,26,400/-	7,06,320/-
	SCO (Triple Storey)	144	1,65,60,000/-	8,28,000/-
Karnal, Sector-3A	Double Storey Booth	75.625	44,08,938/-	2,20,447/-
	Dhaba site (Double Story)	199.37	63,39,966/-	3,16,998/-
Bahadurgarh	SCO (Triple Storey)	144	1,10,16,000/-	5,50,800/-
Kundli	Conv. Shop	22.7	14,48,260/-	72,413/-
	Double Storey Booth	75.625	52,18,125/-	2,60,906/-
Narnaul	Conv. Shop	40.5	13,93,200/-	69,660/-
	Triple Storey Shop	144	56,16,000/-	2,80,800/-
Faridabad, Sector-68	Dhaba site (Single Story)	150	1,18,20,000/-	5,91,000/-
Faridabad, Sector-59	Kiosk	16	9,37,600/-	46,880/-
	Booth	48	14,35,200/-	71,760/-
	Double Storey Booth	75.625	30,62,813/-	1,53,141/-
Rohtak, Old IDC	SCO (Triple Storey)	144	53,56,800/-	2,67,840/-



Registration Portal: http://hsiidc.bidx.in

Registration Start Date	Registration/ EMD Date	Start of e-Auction:
22.12.2021	17.01.2022 (upto 23:59 hrs)	27.01.2022 (07:00 Hrs to 11:00 Hrs)

Scan to Download Brochure

All details including extension in schedule of e-auction, clarification, amendments, addenda, corrigenda etc. will be uploaded on the website of the HSIIDC and will not be published in newspapers. Hence, applicants to regularly visit website of HSIIDC to keep themselves updated about such developments.
The Corporation may without assigning any reason withdraw any site or all sites from the e-auction at any stage and is not bound to accept even the highest bid or any or all the bids even if they are above the reserve price. HSIIDC reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the bids or cancel/postpone the e-auction without assigning any reasons thereof.

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Website: hsiidc.org.in | /mdhsiidc

KASHMIRI PANDIT LEADER QUITS NC OVER FAROOQ ABDULLAH'S REMARK

Jammu: In a setback to the NC, Kashmiri Pandit leader Anil Dhar on Tuesday quit the party in protest against statement of its president Farooq Abdullah that former J&K governor Jagmohan was responsible for migration of Pandits from Kashmir. Dhar said by holding Jagmohan responsible, Abdullah was trying to absolve Pakistan of involvement in terror activities in Kashmir. **ENS**

☛ IMPORTANT NOTICE ☚

Due to Kisan Agitation at different locations in Firozpur Division of Northern Railway i.e. Jandiala on Jalandhar - Amritsar section, at Tanda on Jalandhar - Pathankot section, at Tarantaran on Amritsar - Khemkaran section & at Firozpur Yard on Firzopur - Bhatinda section, several trains have been affected. In view of this, some trains have been Temporary Cancelled / Partially Cancelled / Short Terminated / Short Originated & Diverted. Rail passengers traveling to/from the Northern Region are requested to check the status of their respective trains before the commencement of their journey from RailMadad Helpline No. 139, NTES App or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | Please join us on | NORTHERN RAILWAY | visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

☛ IMPORTANT NOTICE ☚

This is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to run following trains with revised compositions as under:-

REVISED COMPOSITIONS OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Existing Composition	Revised Composition	Effective From
Two Conventional rakes of 18237/38 Korba-Amritsar Jn. Chhattisgarh Express (Tri-Weekly)	Luggage-2, General-2, Sleeper-11, AC 3 Tier-4, AC 2 Tier-1, First AC-1, Pantry Car-1, Total=22 Coaches	Power Car-1, Luggage-1 General-2, Sleeper-7, AC 3 Tier-6, AC 2 Tier-2 First AC-1 Pantry Car-1 Total =21 Coaches	Ex- Korba from 31.12.2021
One LHB rake of 18237/38 Korba-Amritsar Jn. Chhattisgarh Express (Tri-Weekly)	Power-Car-1, Luggage-1, General-2, Sleeper-10, AC 3 Tier-4, AC 2 Tier-1, First AC-1, Pantry Car-1 Total=21 Coaches		Ex-Amritsar Jn. from 02.01.2022
12715/12716 H. Saheb Nanded-Amritsar Jn.- H. Saheb Nanded Sachkand Express	Power-Car-2, Sleeper-9 AC 3 Tier-5, AC 2 Tier-1 First AC-1, Pantry Car-1 General-2, Luggage-1 Total = 22 Coaches	Power Car-1, Luggage-2 Sleeper-9, AC 3 Tier-5 AC 2 Tier-1, First AC-1 Pantry Car-1, General-2 Total= 22 Coaches	Ex- H.Saheb Nanded from 22.12.2021 Ex-Amritsar Jn. from 24.12.2021
18609/18610 Ranchi Jn.-Lokmanya Tilak T.-Ranchi Jn. Superfast Express	Power-Car-2, Sleeper-13, AC 3 Tier-3, AC 2 Tier-1 General-3 Total = 22 Coaches	Power-Car-2, Sleeper-13, AC 3 Tier-3, AC 2 Tier-1 First AC-1, General-2 Total = 22 Coaches	Ex- Ranchi Jn. from 29.12.2021 Ex-Lokmanya Tilak T. from 31.12.2021

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 | Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in | Download Railmadad App | Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | Follow us on :- | NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2997/2021

No. CE/PMGSY/02/2020-21/21

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana III, 2020-21, Batch-I, **for 1 (One) number package estimated cost totaling to Rs. 290.11 Lakhs (Approx.)** including their maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/ Central Government Departments.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids may be seen through e-procurement.

For further details please log on to **http://pmgsytendersasm.gov.in/**

Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

No. CE/PMGSY/02/2020-21/22

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

(PMGSY-III, 2020-21, Batch-1)
E-Procurement Notice

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 2020-21, Batch-I, in the districts of Sonitpur for 1 (One) number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 290.11 Lakhs (approx) (excluding GST) including their maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/Central Government Departments. Non- registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with the department before signing the contract.

Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 23.12.2021: 10:00 hours.

Sonitpur (1) no. package.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in https://pmgystendersasm.gov.in/. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The online payment of bid security and cost of bid document is to be done on e-tendering website along with submission of bid. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati - 3, on the same day of submission of Bid, either by registered post or by hand falling which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement 29.12.2021, 14:00 hours.

For further details please log on to https://pmgystendersasm.gov.in/

Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads), Assam
Chandmari, Guwahati - 781003.
Janasanyog /CF / 2480/21

Protests intensify as Odisha government demarcates new village near steel plant

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, DEC 21

PROTESTS CONTINUED in Dhinkia village for the second day Tuesday over demarcation of Mahala, a newly created revenue village, amidst concerns the government was pushing a steel plant despite opposition by locals.

JSW Utkal Steel Limited, led by industrialist Sajjan Jindal, has proposed to set up a 13.2 mtpa (million tonnes per annum) steel plant at Dhinkia. Locals have opposed the plan, saying the company was "after our land and resources". They also see the demarcation of new villages in the area as an attempt to scuttle protests. "The decision has been made to scatter the villagers. This way they can easily push forward such projects which do not benefit the villagers," said sarpanch Murlidhar Sahoo.

The government has already demarcated a new village, Patana, in the district.

On Monday, as the demarcation exercise was being carried out for Mahala, protesters shouted slogans and pelted the police with stones. The police later arrested the father and sister of Debendra Swain, a leader of the JPSS), a group spearheading the opposition to the plant.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF [illegible] INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCKS IN FRONT OF HOUSE NO. [illegible], SECTOR 6, WARD NO-3, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA + 11 OTHER WORKS	22.12.2021 03.01.2022	228.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996629555 eemcpkl@gmail.com
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF BADMINTON COURT IN GREEN VIEW PARK (P.B. SOCIETY NO [illegible]) NEAR HOUSE NO [illegible] IN SECTOR 12 - A, WARD NO 13, PANCHKULA [illegible] + 7 OTHER WORKS	20.11.2021 04.01.2022	97.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996629555 eemcpkl@gmail.com

6349/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

HARYANA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

(Established by Act (Haryana Act No. 4 of 2018) of Haryana Government)
Office: Bays No: 7-12, Sector-4, Panchkula – 134112

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Last date to apply: 10/01/2022 (upto 05.00 pm)
Advt.No. Adv/HSHEC/2021/01 Dated: 22/12/ 2021

Haryana State Higher Education Council invites applications from the prospective and eligible candidates for the following posts:-

Name of the Post	No. of posts	Nature of Appointment
1. Senior Academic Analyst and Planner (Equivalent to Professor)	01	on Deputation
2. Academic Analyst and Planner (Equivalent to Associate Professor)	01	on Deputation
3. Junior Academic Analyst and Planner (Equivalent to Assistant Professor)	02 (UR)	Direct Recruitment

For details visit: https//hshec.org

Advisor
Haryana State Higher Education Council

6363/HRY

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL
Water Works Department

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Third Call

Ref No.32 /store/W.W.D./BMC/2021-22 **Bhopal Date: 17.12.2021**

Online digitally sealed tenders in 2 envelope system (A & C) are hereby invited from **Manufacturer** on behalf of Municipal Corporation Bhopal for the following works on **Form 'B'** Item rate tender and same will be received online at https://www.mptenders.gov.in as per key dates.

Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website. Detailed NIT and other information can be seen on the website https://www.mptenders.gov.in

S. No.	System NIT No.	Details of Work	Estimated Cost In Rupees
1.	2021_UAD_174052_1	Supply of 2200 MT ISI Mark Ferric Alum Grade-4 in loose slabs as per IS 299/2012 with up to date amendment Including all duties and Taxes, loading, unloading, stacking and transportation up to different filter plants of Water Works, Municipal Corporation Bhopal	Rs. 1,53,20,800.00

Sd/-
City Engineer (H)
T.N. 953/021/022 Municipal Corporation Bhopal

ODISHA ADARSHA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

N-1/9, NAYAPALLI, PO.- SAINIK SCHOOL, BHUBANESWAR-751005

N-77

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT NO 01 / 2021

Recruitment to the posts of Principal and Teaching posts in the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan in the State of Odisha.

Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS), under the School & Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha invites Online Applications from the prospective candidates for filling up 1749 posts of Principals, other Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff of different disciplines in OAVs and Iconic OAV, Andharua by direct recruitment. Interested candidates are required to apply online through website **www.oav.edu.in** at the link available on this website, The candidates should ensure that they fulfill the eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions stipulated in the advertisement before applying online for the posts. No other means / modes of submission of applications will be accepted. Interested applicants are advised to visit the website regularly for further instructions/ notice / updates in this regard.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Detailed modalities for invitation of applications will be available on the website **www.oav.edu.in** on: **28/12/2021**

Opening Date for online registration of applications: **06/01/2022**

Last Date for Completion of Online Registration: **05/02/2022 17:00 Hrs**

Last Date of submission of Online Fee as applicable through Debit/Credit Card/Net Banking **07/02/2022 23:45 Hrs**

Sd/-
State Project Director, OAVS
OIPR-27029/11/0009/2122

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151
(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE (CHANGE IN TIME OF EXAM)

Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission Notice dated 03.11.2021 & 06.12.2021which were published in various newspapers and also available on HSSC website i.e. www.hssc.gov.in for conducting the Written Examination (OMR Based) for the post of Patwari against Advt. No. 07/2019, Cat. No. 01 of Land Record Department, Haryana, Canal Patwari against Advt. No. 08/2019, Cat. No. 01 of Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt., Haryana and Gram Sachiv, against Advt. No. 09/2019, Cat. No. 01 of Development & Panchayat Department, Haryana. It is hereby informed that there is change in time of examination of Morning Session as follows. Date of examination will remain same as per notice dated 06.12.2021.

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Advt. No.	Cat. No.	Date & Time of Written Examination	Place
1.	PATWARI, CANAL PATWARI & GRAM SACHIV	07/2019, 08/2019 & 09/2019	01 01 01	**07.01.2022 (Friday)** **(Morning Session)** from 10:00 A.M to 11:30 A.M. Reporting/Entry Time 08:15 A.M. **(No Entry after 09:15 A.M) &** **(Evening Session)** from 03:00 P.M. to 04:30 P.M. Reporting/Entry time 01:15 P.M. **(No Entry after 02:15 P.M.)** **08.01.2022 (Saturday)** **(Morning Session)** from 10:00 A.M to 11:30 A.M. Reporting/Entry Time 08:15 A.M. **(No Entry after 09:15 A.M) &** **(Evening Session)** from 03:00 P.M. to 04:30 P.M. Reporting/Entry time 01:15 P.M. **(No Entry after 02:15 P.M.)** **09.01.2022 (Sunday)** **(Morning Session)** from 10:00 A.M to 11:30 A.M. Reporting/Entry Time 08:15 A.M. **(No Entry after 09:15 A.M) &** **(Evening Session)** from 03:00 P.M. to 04:30 P.M. Reporting/Entry time 01:15 P.M. **(No Entry after 02:15 P.M.)**	As per Admit Card

Note I: It is also intimated that while evaluating OMR answer sheets the Commission on the advice of Indian Statistical Institute shall adopt percentile method of normalization as the examination will be held in multiple shifts. Therefore result shall be prepared on basis of percentile of marks obtained by candidates as per normalization process suggested by Indian Statistical Institute.

Note II: All Candidates shall note that there is change only in time of Exam for the Morning Session. No Change in Schedule of Exam Dates.

Note III: No candidate will be allowed to leave the examination hall till biometric/ facial/photography of all candidates is done after completion of exam. If there are any mismatch or the candidate does not give biometric/ facial/ photography at both times, his candidature shall be cancelled on ground of attempt to impersonation and action shall be taken against him for impersonation.

Note IV: The other terms & conditions of Notice dated 03.11.2021 & 06.12.2021 will remain same and may be read as part of this notice.

Note V: Candidates can download their Admit Card from 01.01.2022 onwards from the Commission Web-site i.e. www.hssc.gov.in

Place: Panchkula,
Dated: 18.12.2021
6364/HRY

Sd/-
Secretary,
Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Panchkula.

Decrypting crypto, today on Explained Live

EXPRESS explained.Live
Associate Partners
Yojna IAS | SPJIMR

DATE: December 22, 2021
TIME: 6 pm
TO REGISTER:
SMS – IEEXP <space> "IE" <space> "Your name and email ID" to 56161. Confirmation SMS will be your registration

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE MUCH anticipated Bill to regulate cryptocurrencies has not been introduced in Parliament's Winter Session, even as investments in these digital assets have continued to soar. According to some estimates, the year 2021 has seen crypto adoption in semi-urban and rural India skyrocket eight times.

As the liquidity measures announced by several developed economies begin to taper off, asset classes including cryptocurrencies are beginning to see a softening of prices, putting at risk retail investors who have put money in an unregulated market -- one which is vulnerable not only to macroeconomic factors such as liquidity, but also to tweets by maverick billionaires such as Elon Musk.

However, behind the gleam and glimmer of currencies like Bitcoin, Ether, Dogecoin, Tether, and Solano lies a technology that some believe will shape the next phase of Internet.

The blockchain technology that powers cryptocurrencies is also what products such as non-fungible tokens are built on. While globally, governments continue to work on arriving at a conclusion on how to regulate cryptocurrencies, they have not shied away from adopting blockchain technology even in governance systems.

Should you invest in crypto? Is it the currency of the future, as some evangelists claim? Or is it fool's gold, a get-rich dream that can never become reality in global financial transactions? The Reserve Bank of India favours an official digital currency, but isn't 'official crypto' a contradiction in terms?

The Indian Express has invited researcher and advisor Tanvi Ratna, founder & CEO of Policy 4.0, a think-tank focused on the future of money and emerging technology issues for India, to answer some of these questions at the next edition of Explained.Live, a unique series of online explanatory conversations hosted by *The Indian Express.*

Ratna will be in conversation with Pranav Mukul and Aashish Aryan of *The Indian Express*.

No Friday holiday now for schools in Lakshadweep

VISHNU VARMA
KOCHI, DECEMBER 21

Muslims, who form 96 per cent of the island's population, observed the holiday on religious grounds

THE EDUCATION department of the Lakshadweep administration has decided to mark Sundays instead of Fridays as weekly holidays for school students as part of a new calendar for the 2021-22 academic year amid resistance.

In Lakshadweep, where Muslims form 96 percent of the population as per the 2011 census, Fridays have been observed as a weekly holiday in schools on religious grounds. The new order is a departure from that system.

The order of the education department dated December 17 said it was modifying school timings and regular activities to 'ensure optimum utilisation of resources' and to ensure 'proper engagement of learners and necessary planning of teaching learning process.' The department published detailed subject-wise allotment of class periods for both English-medium and Malayalam-medium schools.

There is already resistance to the new directive of the UT administration. A panchayat samiti member, who did not want to be identified, said local dweep panchayats and school PTAs were not consulted before passing the order. Even if classes were to be held on Fridays, the timings could have been adjusted to allow for Friday prayers for students and teachers, this person said.

Lakshadweep Nationalist Congress Party MP Mohammed Faizal PP termed the decision 'unilateral' and 'unpopular.'

"This is a totally one-sided decision. Only if he (administrator) has discussions with elected representatives, can he understand the local issues. Here, he decides and the education department director has no choice but to release an order. Already, there is a prevailing madrassa system on the Islands on Friday mornings. The new timings will (clash with it)," he said.

"Since the inception of the education system in Lakshadweep, this (Friday being a weekly holiday) has been going on. Suddenly, the current administrator, the 36th on the Island, decided that Friday will be a working day. There was no demand from the people (to change existing system). The new decision is totally needless," Faizal said.

He said the public can't even hold protests against such unilateral decisions as the administration resorts to taking disciplinary action which end up affecting the students' academics. Faizal added that he would shoot letters to the Home Minister and the Prime Minister to appraise them of his opposition to the decision.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

E-TENDER

No.: KR-KW-EL-TRD-AMC-T-1-2021-RT Date: 22/12/2021

Regional Electrical Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Shirwad, Karwar, invites Sealed Bids from experienced contractors for **Outsourcing of Manpower for Maintenance Work of 25kV AC Over Head Equipments (OHE) and Power Supply Installations (PSI) of Thokur to Karwar Section on Konkan Railway Route under Karwar Region in the State of Karnataka. Cost of Work:** ₹115.86 Lakh (excluding GST). **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid: 13/01/2022 up to 15:00 hrs.** For further details please visit : **www.ireps.gov.in**

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र./1246/2021 दिनांक 17.12.2021

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैः-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण (निगम मद)	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
1	Management Contract for Operation, maintenance and repairs of Existing Korba Water supply scheme consisting of three WTP of capacity 6.81,32 and 12 MLD from head works to distribution network for maintenance of all the components of the water supply scheme part-1 including cost of labour for maintaining and supplying regular water supply for One year (प्रथम निविदा)	294.98	14.01.2022 (T.No. 89105)

उपरोक्त कार्यो की निविदा की जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाऊनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साईट www.korbamunicipal.in एवं www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपाल अभियंता
नगर पालिक निगम
कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

39015

BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA

MDL pays tribute to heroes of Goa liberation

New Delhi: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) paid tribute to the heroes of the Goa Liberation War as Mormugao, the second of the Visakhapatnam Class Destroyers under construction at MDL, commenced her sea trial on December 19 — the diamond jubilee of Goa Liberation Day on December 19, 1961. Vice Adm Narayan Prasad (retd), the CMD of MDL, said that although the trial phase of the ship had been scheduled commence early next year, the shipyard completed all necessary work to enable the ship to sail on December 19. **ENS**

KERALA

Papers explore how India can be leader in management

New Delhi: IIM Kozhikode, in its silver jubilee year, organised a three-day conference, as a part of which 400 research papers presented ways in which India could be a thought leader in global management practices, drawing representatives from the 20 IIMs in the country as well as 15 countries. Prof Dipak Jain, former dean of Kellogg School of Management (US) and INSEAD (France), emphasised on a DIET (Digital Learning, Innovative Mindset, Entrepreneurial Spirit and Talent development) mantra as the fulcrum for creating a better world. **ENS**

Shringla visits Myanmar today in first outreach after coup

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

IN WHAT is India's first official outreach to Myanmar's military-ruled regime, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will pay a two-day working visit to Myanmar on December 22 and 23. This will be his first visit to Myanmar since the coup in February this year.

Announcing the visit, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "During the visit, Foreign Secretary will hold discussions with the State Administration Council, political parties and members of civil society."

It said that "issues relating to humanitarian support to Myanmar, security and India-Myanmar border concerns, and the political situation in Myanmar will be discussed".

This comes exactly two weeks after India said on December 7 that it is "disturbed" by the verdicts relating to Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and others. Underlining that the rule of law and the democratic process must be upheld, New Delhi had said any development that "undermines these processes and accentuates differences is a matter of deep concern".

Suu Kyi was sentenced to a four-year jail term by a Myanmar court which held her guilty of inciting dissent in the first of a series of verdicts. Her sentence was later reduced to two years in jail.

New Delhi's statement came ahead of the Summit for Democracy, convened by US President Joe Biden on December 9 and 10, which was attended through virtual mode by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The MEA statement was significant, more direct than its past statements. Myanmar was rocked by massive protests after the military seized power in a coup on February 1 this year. Hundreds of people, including children, were killed in the crackdown against the protesters. Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, was among those detained by the military following the coup. Hours after the coup, the MEA had said it had "noted the developments in Myanmar with deep concern".

New Delhi had steered clear of criticising the Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, as it has been wary of Beijing's growing influence and the high stakes involved to maintain peace and security along the India-Myanmar border.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED — The China factor

WITH WASHINGTON leaning on Delhi, India finds itself in a tight spot on Myanmar. Aware of Beijing's growing political, military and economic footprint in Myanmar, it does not want to isolate the Nay Pyi Taw regime. Delhi believes it can, with partner countries, engage the junta. Shringla's visit is a step in that direction.

Duty to respect PM: HC rejects plea on vaccine certificate photo

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 21

SAYING IT is the "duty of the citizens to respect the Prime Minister of India", the Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea challenging the use of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph on Covid-19 vaccination certificates and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the litigant.

"It is the duty of the citizens to respect the Prime Minister of India, and of course, they can differ on the policies of the Government and even the political stand of the Prime Minister. They can address the citizens saying that what the Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister is doing is not for the welfare of the citizens. But the citizens need not be ashamed to carry a vaccination certificate with the photograph of the Prime Minister with a morale-boosting message, especially in this pandemic situation. There is no infringement of a fundamental right or any other right like compelled viewing, etc in such a situation as alleged by the petitioner," said the single-judge bench of Justice P V Kunhikrishnan, while dismissing the plea as a "frivolous petition", and adding, "I have a strong doubt that there is a political agenda also to the petitioner."

The petitioner, Peter Myaliparambil, an RTI activist and one of the State Coordinators of the National Campaign for the People's Right to Information, had argued that carrying the photograph of the PM in the vaccination certificate is an intrusion of his privacy.

Karnataka minister in Assembly: Shoot those who vandalised Rayanna statue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 21

AMID MOUNTING tensions between Kannada and Maharashtra activists in Karnataka, state Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, K S Eshwarappa, said those who defaced the statue of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna and set the Karnataka flag ablaze must be shot dead.

Eshwarappa made the remark during the ongoing winter session of the state Assembly Monday.

"The act of vandalising the statue of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna and burning the Kannada flag is highly condemnable and the miscreants should be tracked and shot dead," he said. The statement, however, did not elicit any reaction from other members of the House.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai informed the House that those responsible for vandalising the statues of freedom fighters will be booked for sedition as they are "anti-national". They will also be charged under the state's Goonda Act, he said.

Last week, pro-Kannada activists smeared ink on the face of MES leader Deepak Dalavi. Following this, Karnataka's flag was burnt in Maharashtra and a Shivaji statue in Bengaluru and a Rayanna statue in Belagavi district were vandalised. Soon, protests erupted among farmers and Kannada activists, and an image of social reformer Basavanna was smeared with ink in Bagalkot district. Police said about 30 persons have been arrested in these cases.

Protest at Gujarat BJP office: 65 AAP leaders sent to judicial custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, GANDHINAGAR, DECEMBER 21

AS MANY as 65 AAP members, including its entire top leadership in Gujarat, were sent to judicial custody Tuesday for protesting at the Gujarat BJP headquarters the previous day over the alleged paper leak of head clerk recruitment exam, after the Gandhinagar metro court refused them bail.

AAP state president Gopal Italia, state women cell president Gauri Desai, senior leader Isudan Gadhvi, youth wing leader Nikhil Savani and Delhi-based leaders Pravin Ram and Shiv Kumar were among those sent to the Sabarmati jail in Ahmedabad.

On Tuesday, the state announced cancellation of the exam, accepting the paper was leaked.

According to police, the AAP workers were arrested for allegedly trespassing the private property of a political party and then clashing with their workers and police force.

"The process of sending the accused to judicial custody is still going on. Till now, 65 persons, including Italia, Gadhvi, Desai and Savani, have been sent to Sabarmati Central Jail," said Gandhinagar Deputy Superintendent of Police M K Rana.

Gujarat BJP chief C R Paatil said Tuesday, "When there is such a scandal (paper leak), it is natural for political parties to react. However I condemn the incident that happened yesterday..."

The AAP has accused the BJP and police of intimidating their legal counsel. "Yesterday night, Gandhinagar police produced 28 women leaders of the AAP and they were denied bail. Today, they have produced other male leaders. The local counsel who represented the women leaders were detained by police in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. This is an undeclared emergency," said Mohammad Aarif, AAP legal counsel.

Maharashtra records 11 new Omicron cases

Mumbai: Eleven new cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 were reported in Maharashtra on Tuesday, of which eight are from Mumbai and one each from Navi Mumbai, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Osmanabad. With this, the tally has reached 65 in the state.

The list also includes an 11-month-old infant, the youngest Omicron patient in Mumbai.

As per the data shared by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), all eight infected patients were detected during screening at the airport upon arrival. They were admitted to Seven Hills hospital. **ENS**

'ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA'

Govt blocks 20 YouTube channels, two websites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday said it has ordered the blocking of 20 YouTube channels and two websites spreading "anti-India propaganda" and fake news.

"The channels and websites belong to a coordinated disinformation network operating from Pakistan and spreading fake news about various sensitive subjects related to India," a statement by the I&B Ministry said.

The ministry said the channels mostly carried content on topics such as Kashmir, the Indian Army, Ram Mandir, late Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat, protests against the farm laws that have now been repealed and the CAA, and tried to incite minorities against the Government of India.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur, in a video tweeted by the PIB, said, "We have taken action against cross border activities aimed to spread unrest in India by way of spreading fake news and propaganda."

The government said it felt that the YouTube channels would be used to "undermine democratic process of the upcoming elections in five states."

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

On list of 14, relatives of district revenue officials who clear land transactions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COMMENT: M P Agrawal said he does "not remember anything" and did not respond to a questionnaire. His father-in-law Keshav Prasad Agrawal said, "Yes, I purchased this land since I plan to stay in Ayodhya post-retirement. Mr M P Agrawal has no role in this."

2. PURUSHOTTAM DAS GUPTA, Chief Revenue Officer of Ayodhya between July 20, 2018, and September 10, 2021. Now he is Additional District Magistrate (Executive) in Gorakhpur

His brother-in-law Atul Gupta's wife Tripti Gupta, in partnership with one Amar Jeet Yadav, bought 1,130 sq m in Barhata Manjha on October 12, 2021, for Rs 21.88 lakh from MRVT.

COMMENT: Purushottam Das Gupta said he had no role in the inquiry against MRVT and he had not purchased any land in his name. Said Atul Gupta: "I bought the land because it was available at a cheaper rate. I did not take (Purushottam's) help."

3. INDRA PRATAP TIWARI, MLA, Gosaiganj, Ayodhya District

He bought 2,593 sq m in Barhata Manjha on November 18, 2019, for Rs 30 lakh from MRVT.

On March 16, 2021, his brother-in-law Rajesh Kumar Mishra, along with one Raghavacharya, bought 6320 sq m in Barhata Majha for Rs 47.40 lakh from Sooraj Das.

COMMENT: Said Rajesh Mishra: "I purchased these plots from my savings. I have nothing to do with (MLA) Tiwari ji." On November 18, 2019, a trust linked to the MLA, Maan Sharda Sewa Trust, bought 9,860 sq m in Barhata Manjha from MRVT for Rs 73.95 lakh.

4. DEEPAK KUMAR, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) between July 26, 2020, and March 30, 2021. Now DIG, Aligarh

His wife's sister Mahima Thakur bought 1,020 sq m in Barhata Manjha on September 1, 2021, for Rs 19.75 lakh from MRVT.

COMMENT: Deepak Kumar said: "No land was purchased by any of my relatives during my posting in Ayodhya. No money was paid by me, my wife or my father for any land there. My co-brother (Mahima Thakur's husband) is from Kushinagar and now lives in Bengaluru. He told me they have bought land in Ayodhya after selling their land in Kushinagar. I have no role and relation with this purchase."

A land parcel measuring 5,174 sq m in Barhata Manjha village bought for Rs 1.15 crore in November 2019 by nephew of Ayodhya city MLA Ved Prakash Gupta. *Shyamlal Yadav*

5. UMADHAR DWIVEDI, Retired IAS officer of UP cadre, lives in Lucknow

He bought 1,680 sq m in Barhata Manjha on October 23, 2021, for Rs 39.04 lakh from MRVT.

COMMENT: "I am not aware if any case against them is pending. I have not taken any help from the district administration in this deal."

6. VED PRAKASH GUPTA, MLA (Ayodhya)

His nephew Tarun Mittal bought 5,174 sq m in Barhata Manjha on November 21, 2019, for Rs 1.15 crore from Renu Singh and Seema Soni. On December 29, 2020, he bought 14,860 sq m in next-door Maheshpur (Gonda) across the river Saryu, nearly 5 km from the temple site, for Rs 4 crore from Jagdamba Singh and Jadunandan Singh.

COMMENT: Said MLA Gupta: "I have not purchased even a small piece of land in Ayodhya in the last over four years of my tenure as MLA. But as MLA of Ayodhya, I keep inviting people from across the country to come and visit and purchase land in Ayodhya."

Said father of Tarun Mittal, his brother Chandra Prakash Gupta: "We have a cowshed on the plot, there are nearly 20 cows for now. In Maheshpur, four-five people have bought land jointly."

7. RISHIKESH UPADHYAY, Mayor, Ayodhya

He bought 1,480 sq m on September 18, 2019, two months before the verdict, for Rs 30 lakh from one Harish Kumar.

On July 9, 2018, as Manager, Paramhans Shikshan Prashikshan Mahavidyalay, he acquired 2,530 sq m in Kazipur Chitavan in Ayodhya from one Ramesh as "donation". The value of land in official records is Rs 1.01 crore.

COMMENT: Upadhyay said: "I had earlier sold my own land, later bought it again (from Harish Kumar). In Kazipur Chitavan, the land purchase is for my college which is being run there since 2006."

8. AYUSH CHAUDHARY, Former Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ayodhya, now in Kanpur

On May 28, 2020, Chaudhary's cousin Shobhita Rani bought 5,350 sq m in Birauli in Ayodhya for Rs 17.66 lakh from Asharam. On November 28, 2019, Aarav Disha Kamla Foundation, run by Shobhita Rani, bought 1,130 sq m in Malikpur in Ayodhya for Rs 7.24 lakh from Dinesh Kumar.

COMMENT: While Ayush Chaudhary said he has no links to Rani or the foundation, Rani's husband Ram Janm Verma said: "Ayush is my wife's cousin, we have established the foundation."

9. ARVIND CHAURASIA, Circle Officer, Provincial Police Service officer, now in Meerut

On June 21, 2021, his father-in-law Santosh Kumar Chaurasia bought 126.48 sq m for Rs 4 lakh in Rampur Halwara Uparhar village in Ayodhya from Bhupesh Kumar. On September 21, 2021, his mother-in-law Ranjana Chaurasia bought 279.73 sq m in Karkhana for Rs 20 lakh from one Bhagirathi.

COMMENT: Said Arvind Chaurasia: "My father-in-law is associated with religious activities. They want to establish an Ashram in Ayodhya. They want to settle there after retirement of my mother-in-law who is a teacher."

10. HARSHVARDHAN SHAHI, State Information Commissioner

On November 18, 2021, his wife Sangeeta Shahi and their son Saharsh Kumar Shahi bought 929.85 sq m in Sarairasi Manjha in Ayodhya, for Rs 15.82 lakh from one Indra Prakash Singh.

COMMENT: When contacted, Harshvardhan Shahi said: "I want to live in Ayodhya. I have bought this land for residential purposes. I will build a home there for my family."

11. BALRAM MAURYA, Member, State OBC Commission

He bought 9,375 sq m on February 28, 2020, in Maheshpur, Gonda, for Rs 50 lakh from Jagdamba and Triveni Singh.

COMMENT: Said Maurya: "I want to build a hotel there on this land after other buyers around build. I have to arrange money from banks."

12. BADRI UPADHYAY, Lekhpal of Ganja village (recently transferred).

On March 8, 2021, his father Vashisth Narain Upadhyay bought 116 sq m for Rs 3.50 lakh in Ganja from one Shyam Sundar. A lekhpal is a revenue official who authenticates land transactions.

COMMENT: Said Badri Upadhyay: "There is no conflict of interest. I have money and I can buy land anywhere."

13. SUDHANSHU RANJAN, Kanoongo of Ganja village. Kanoongo is a revenue official who supervises the work of lekhpals

On March 8, 2021, Ranjan's wife Aditi Sriwastav bought 270 sq meter in Ganja for Rs 7.50 lakh.

COMMENT: Sudhanshu Ranjan denied any purchase. His wife said: "Sudhanshu is my husband. You can talk to him about this land deal."

14. DINESH OJHA (*peshkar*) of Bhan Singh, Assistant Record Officer hearing cases against MRVT.

On March 15, 2021, his daughter Shweta Ojha bought 2542 sq m in Tihura Manjha – this village also falls under Bhan Singh's purview — for Rs 5 lakh from Mahrajdeen.

COMMENT: Dinesh Ojha said: "This land is not disputed and is not in my name."

Trust named as accused and yet officials' kin bought land from it

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had, in the early 1990s, acquired large tracts of land in the village of Barhata Manjha, less than 5 km away from the Ram temple site, and some other surrounding villages in Ayodhya. Of this land, nearly 21 bighas (about 52,000 sq m) was bought from Dalits in apparent violation of norms.

With the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code Rules (since 2016, and Zamindari Abolition Act prior to that), barring acquisition of agricultural land (if owned less than 3.5 bigha) belonging to Dalit persons by a non-Dalit – unless cleared by the District Magistrate — MRVT bought land parcels from about a dozen Dalit villagers in 1992, using Ronghai, a Dalit employee of MRVT, as a conduit.

Records show sale deeds were registered in the name of Ronghai. Subsequently, Ronghai signed an unregistered donation deed (*daan-patra*) in June 1996 and "donated" it all to MRVT – this was listed in *khatauni* (land records), as per records verified by *The Indian Express*, in the name of MRVT on September 3, 1996.

Records of each purchase investigated by *The Indian Express* show that, together, this entire land was bought by MRVT — via Ronghai — for approximately Rs 6.38 lakh. As per current circle rate in the area (applicable since August 2017), this is worth Rs 3.90 crore to Rs 8.50 crore.

One of the Dalit residents whose land was bought by Ronghai and "donated" to MRVT was Mahadev – he got Rs 1.02 lakh for his 3 bighas, as per records. In September 2019, when MRVT started selling parcels from land bought via Ronghai, Mahadev complained to Board of Revenue that his land had been "illegally transferred".

On his complaint, a committee comprising Additional Commissioner Shiv Pujan and then Additional District Magistrate Gorelal Shukla was set up to probe the transfer.

Records show that on October 1, 2020, the then District Magistrate, Anuj Kumar Jha, approved this committee's report recommending action against MRVT and certain government officials for "illegally transferring land (of a Scheduled Caste person) through an unregistered donation deed".

This was approved by Ayodhya Divisional Commissioner MP Agrawal on March 18, 2021 and a case was finally filed on August 6 this year in the court of the Assistant Record Officer (ARO) Bhan Singh in Ayodhya for "correction" of the order of August 22, 1996, and to "return the land in question to the state government."

Even as Agrawal, the appellate authority for applications filed for revision/review of revenue orders, forwarded the inquiry report to the Board of Revenue for action, his relatives bought land from MRVT.

In fact, while the case against the trust is pending, Agarwal's father-in-law and brother-in-law had bought 2,530 sq m and 1,260 sq m land, respectively, on December 10, 2020 from MVRT in the Barhata Manjha village.

Close relatives of two other government officers – then Chief Revenue Officer (CRO) Purushottam Das Gupta and Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Deepak Kumar – also bought 1,130 sq m on October 12, 2021, and 1,020 sq m on September 1, 2021, respectively, from MRVT.

Gupta was Chief Revenue Officer in Ayodhya for almost three years till September 2021. As CRO (an officer of Additional District Magistrate rank), he was responsible for all land matters delegated to him by the District Magistrate in Ayodhya.

Amongst others, who bought land from MRVT in Barhata Manjha village are Indra Pratap Tiwari (alias Khabbu Tiwari), the MLA from Gosaiganj in Ayodhya district (2,593 sq m on November 18, 2019); and Umadhar Dwivedi, an IAS officer of UP cadre who retired as Commissioner, Allahabad (now Prayagraj) nine years ago, and now lives in Lucknow (1,680 sq m on October 23, 2021).

The plots purchased by relatives of these officials don't fall in the 21 bighas under dispute but local officials say that the fact that the seller in all these cases is MRVT, named as an accused, raises questions of propriety.

Ronghai and his family, meanwhile, continue to live far away from Ayodhya in Sahavpur village, about 25 km from Prayagraj.

While Ronghai was not available in his residence, his wife Ghabrain and daughter-in-law Kachhrahi said they possessed less than 2 bigha in their village. "I don't know about any land in Ayodhya. He (Ronghai) never told us about such a deal. He has not visited Ayodhya for several years," said Ghabrain.

When contacted, Mahadev, the original complainant, said, "We had sold a part of land and MRVT did not take its possession for several years. We came to know only when property dealers told us they have bought the land. They wanted to occupy even the adjoining land that belongs to me which I did not sell."

When asked about Ronghai's daan patra, Salikram Mishra, a trustee in MRVT, told *The Indian Express*, "Ronghai worked with us for few years. People are raising this issue after 28 years as they are aware of increasing land prices. We had hired many retired officials of revenue department so I am sure all required legal formalities must have been fulfilled when deals were made."

When contacted, Anuj Jha, who is now Director, Panchayati Raj, said: "I ordered the probe. The case is currently in the ARO (assistant records officer) court."

25 YEARS ON, A CASE IS REGISTERED

1990s: Maharishi Ramayan Vidyapeeth Trust acquires large tracts of land in villages in Ayodhya. It got a Dalit employee, Ronghai, to buy nearly 21 bighas from their Dalit landowners.

JUNE 3, 1996: Ronghai signed an unregistered donation deed (daan-patra) and donated the entire 21 bighas to MRVT.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1996: The said land is listed in the name of MRVT in records.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019: Mahadev, a Dalit villager in Barhata Manjha village, files a complaint with the Board of Revenue that land belonging to Dalit families has been "illegally transferred" to a non-Dalit.

OCTOBER 30, 2019: On the order of Board of Revenue, Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya sets up a committee comprising Additional Commissioner Shiv Pujan and then Additional District Magistrate Gorelal Shukla.

FEBRUARY 1, 2020: The two-member committee submits the inquiry report to MP Agrawal, Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya.

OCTOBER 1, 2020: Then District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha approves the inquiry report and recommends action against MRVT and certain government officials for "illegally transferring land (of a Scheduled Caste person) through an unregistered donation deed".

MARCH 18, 2021: Divisional Commissioner Agrawal approves the inquiry report and forwards it to the Board of Revenue for further action.

AUGUST 6, 2021: A case is filed in the court of the Assistant Record Officer (ARO) Bhan Singh in Ayodhya for correction of the order of August 22, 1996, and "return the land in question to the state government."

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT FILMS MAKE PEOPLE LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN.

— SPIKE LEE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LINES OF INTEREST

For its own credibility, and in larger interest, J&K Delimitation Commission must set out rationale behind its proposals

THE ACT OF redrawing electoral boundaries is disruptive by definition and politicians are always wary of being short-changed by the process. In Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir, where the demand for delimitation has emanated from Jammu and is seen as reflecting the communal polarisation along regional lines in the erstwhile state, the redrawing of constituencies was always going to be a fraught exercise. The draft proposals of the J&K Delimitation Commission, set up in March 2020, seem to have confirmed the fears of the regional parties that the exercise was aimed solely at increasing the number of seats in Hindu-majority Jammu, to benefit the BJP. The five associate members — three parliamentarians from the National Conference and two from the BJP — have been told that its findings support an increase of six seats for the Jammu region, and one in the Muslim-majority Valley. This takes the seats in Jammu from 37 to 43, and in Kashmir, from 46 to 47. In the last Assembly election held in 2014, the BJP's 25 seats were all won in Jammu. Delimitation is thought to have one criterion — population. On the basis of the last census conducted in 2011, according to which the population of Kashmir is 6,888,475 and that of Jammu 5,350,811, the proposal presents an anomaly — a population of 1,46,563 in Kashmir per constituency, and 1,24,437 in Jammu. But the Commission seems to have taken other factors into consideration, including voters' lists, geographical and communication contiguity, and a margin of plus or minus 10 per cent population in each constituency. It has also proposed the first-time reservation of nine seats for Scheduled Tribes, in addition to seven seats for Scheduled Castes.

All the regional parties, including NC, PDP, and People's Conference, have criticised the proposal as a move to disempower Kashmir further after the 2019 reorganisation of the state that bifurcated it into two Union Territories, and stripped it of its special status. Indeed, the plan to increase the number of Assembly seats is contained in the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019. But in Kashmir, where the Centre has sought to curtail free speech and the freedom of association and attempted to silence dissent for more than two years through imprisonment of politicians and political workers, journalists and others, and tried other experiments to restrict electoral democracy, it was inevitable that the motives behind this delimitation exercise would be questioned, especially as it has been postponed in other parts of the country until the new census enumeration. The aspirations for a Hindu chief minister of the BJP, which for the first time became part of a ruling coalition in the state in 2014 with the PDP, and a change in the rules of domicile and land ownership, have created a situation in which the people of the Valley view the Centre's moves to be deepening the crisis. The delimitation exercise could add to those anxieties.

All parties must keep in mind, however, that these are draft proposals. The Commission has invited the views of the public and political parties until December 31. For its own credibility, and in the larger interest, it must set out in detail the rationale behind its proposals.

KNOTTY ANSWER

Raising legal age of marriage for women is well intentioned. But it will take more to address complex social challenge

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 is well intentioned. The Cabinet cleared the move after a task force set up to examine matters of "motherhood, maternal mortality rate and improvement of nutrition" suggested that a change in the minimum age of marriage would help "empower women". But meeting that goal will require much more. It will mean addressing a complex social challenge made of poverty, devalued status of women in society, suspicion of women's sexual choices and lack of girls' access to education and income opportunities.

The sharpest dip in the percentage of girls marrying before they turn 18 was seen in the decade between the NFHS-3 (2005-6) and NFHS-4 surveys (2015-16), when it came down from 47.4 per cent to 26.8 per cent, coinciding with an expansion in education opportunities across the board. It has shown a slight improvement in the NFHS-5 survey (2019-21). Nearly a quarter of Indian girls (23 per cent) continue to be married before they turn 18, despite existing legal barriers. Several estimates suggest that over half of Indian women get married before the age of 21; in the poorest communities, that number is much higher. Raising the age of marriage would, therefore, criminalise a large number of marriages, with a disproportionate effect on the most underprivileged groups. There is a clear link between education and delayed marriage. Data shows that women with 12 or more years of schooling marry much later than other women. Think of a 15-year-old girl from an underserved community in rural India. The chances of her staying in school, and going on to study further, go up only if there are more high schools and colleges near her home, if she can access a reliable transport service or stay in hostels; and, finally, if education opens up paths to livelihoods and incomes. Forbidding marriage to 18-year-olds, adults in the eyes of law, could have a special bearing on young people's sexual lives. The policing of young women's sexual choices by natal families is only likely to grow.

While legal reform is essential, care must be taken to ensure that it does not fall into a policy approach that sees women as passive recipients or conceives of their well-being only in terms of marriage and motherhood. The soaring aspirations of women in India often run into harsh, limiting realities. They need governments to commit to expanding their opportunities far more urgently than for them to decide when they can marry.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, UAE

By ending film censorship, the country opens itself up to transformative possibilities of cinema

WINDS OF CHANGE are blowing through the United Arab Emirates. After announcing the implementation of the four-and-a-half-day work week earlier this month, the UAE has said that it will end the censorship of films. Instead, a new age category of +21 will be introduced within its existing rating system, allowing the screening of "international" versions of films, which leave intact scenes depicting kissing, nudity, homosexuality.

This is just the latest development in what is being widely seen as a softening of the UAE's conservatism. From liberalising its personal laws — such as allowing unmarried couples to co-habit — to making it easier for the holders of the new long-term "golden visa" to have 100 per cent ownership of their business in the country, the UAE is taking decisive steps to attract both individuals and investors. While the country has said that it wants to stay in step with the rest of the world, including on individual rights, the pragmatic need for its economy to diversify beyond oil is also a factor. A 10-year national strategy unveiled in November aims to increase the GDP contribution of the creative and cultural industries to 5 per cent.

The UAE's announcement will give greater impetus to the liberalisation of entertainment that already seems underway in the region. Saudi Arabia, for example, held its first international film festival in Jeddah this year, four years after it removed its over-three-decade-old ban on cinema while at the Cairo Film Festival, a coming-out film *Fiasco*, won two awards (Egypt, where queer people are often the target of violence, also allowed the screening of *The Eternals*, which featured the first MCU gay superhero). At a time when attitudes elsewhere are hardening in favour of greater state control over creative content, the opening up of the UAE to the transformative power of cinema is enormously welcome.

A larger circle of diplomacy

R-Day invitation to leaders of five Central Asian republics is recognition of region's new geopolitical significance

MK BHADRAKUMAR

THE GOVERNMENT IS inviting the leaders of the five Central Asian countries — Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — as guests for Republic Day on January 26. This is a timely move. The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has catapulted the Central Asian region as a geopolitical arena where great contestations for influence are unfolding.

Gladiators from faraway lands are appearing in the region with increased frequency, raising anxieties and causing disquiet. It is exciting and worrying when the Great Game, lingering in the shade for long, begins to creep up to the centre stage. There is a growing awareness that for leveraging influence in Kabul and harvesting that influence in the form of material gains, a firm footing in Central Asia is a prerequisite. Given the vast untapped mineral wealth of the region encompassing the five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan — estimated to be worth a few trillion dollars — there is a significant economic dimension to the unfolding saga.

There is geopolitical rivalry too, as the locus of global power is inexorably shifting to Asia. For centuries, prosperity was to be found in the West, but that is no longer so. That lures nefarious elements to the Silk Route from the killing fields of Syria and Iraq to Afghanistan, with eyes cast on the steppes and the Pamirs, and deep into China and the Indian Subcontinent. And, all this when things are at an inflection point in Eurasia with confrontation brewing between Russia and NATO. Washington hopes to create in Central Asia a vector of its Indo-Pacific strategy to contain China and Russia. At the same time, governments in Moscow and Beijing are circling the wagons.

India needs to work on an intricate network of relationships with the regional states while remaining mindful of the "big picture". Delhi's moribund non-aligned mindset needs to be turned into a strategic asset to navigate its long-term interests. India's membership of the BRICS and SCO will help. So indeed will the prospect of the resumption of India-China strategic communication at the highest level, with Moscow's helping hand.

> The third meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in Delhi on Sunday served a purpose to sensitise the Central Asian interlocutors that it attaches primacy to geoeconomics. But India will have a challenge on its hands to flesh out the '4Cs' concept that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presented at the event — commerce, capacity enhancement, connectivity, and contact being the four pillars of a new geoeconomic partnership. There is hardly a month left to flesh out this concept before the five Central Asian leaders arrive to attend the Republic Day parade on January 26 as chief guests.

Delhi's decision to invite the Central Asian leaders into the first circle of Indian diplomacy cannot be a "stand-alone" event. There were fleeting glimpses of a new line of thinking during President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to Delhi. Putin's one-on-one talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the ambience of their warm personal equations and the presence of Nikolai Patrushev, Russia's "security tsar", at the dialogue of national security advisers in Delhi on November 10, hosted by NSA Ajit Doval, have breathed life into the new thinking on regional security.

The deepening of the traditional Indo-Russian mutual understanding has injected dynamism into Delhi's regional strategy on the whole. It is bound to have a calming effect on India's tensions with China. Central Asia and Afghanistan form a vast landlocked region where Russia and China are big-time players for whom the region's stability falls within the First Circle of their respective national security agenda.

India has no direct access to the region but has vital stakes. Delhi cannot have an effective Central Asia strategy without the cooperation of these two big powers. India can use the card of regional connectivity to stimulate partnerships. The time may have come to reopen the files on the TAPI and IPI gas pipeline projects. Both involve Pakistan.

Russia is well-placed to act as guarantor and help build both these pipelines, while China too will see advantages in the normalisation of India-Pakistan ties. Similarly, it will be a "win-win" for India if it chooses to undertake the completion of the 600-km railway line from Ghurian (near Herat) eastward across northern Afghanistan. Apart from job creation in Afghanistan, the rail link will facilitate cargo being carried from the Chabahar Port to the Central Asian region and well beyond, including Russia and China.

Recent reports suggest that the new leadership in Bishkek is all set to approve the construction of the railroad segment across Kyrgyz territory that can connect China with the Uzbek rail grid to the Afghan border town. The point is, Delhi must do everything possible to convince the Central Asian states that its newfound interest in that region is anything but a by-product of geopolitical considerations or a mere offshoot of tensions with Pakistan.

From such a perspective, the third meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in Delhi on Sunday served a purpose to sensitise the Central Asian interlocutors that it attaches primacy to geoeconomics. But India will have a challenge on its hands to flesh out the "4Cs" concept that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presented at the event — commerce, capacity enhancement, connectivity, and contact being the four pillars of a new geoeconomic partnership. There is hardly a month left to flesh out this concept before the five Central Asian leaders arrive to attend the Republic Day parade on January 26 as chief guests.

The signal from the December 19 conclave is that Jaishankar has kindled hopes. Now, ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme) is a hackneyed tool — Central Asians are learning English even without India's tutoring. The key areas are transit and transport, logistics network, regional and international transport corridors, free trade agreements, manufacturing industry and job creation. They ought to be front-loaded into India's Central Asian strategy. Certainly, the EAEU integration processes must be speeded up.

A host of new possibilities open up if India's initiative on Central Asia runs on a parallel track with an improvement in relations with China. India kept away from the recent G7 ministerial in Liverpool that berated China and Russia — and was the only Quad member to do so. Jaishankar's call for coordination between Russia, India and China over Afghan issues is a call to energise the RIC format. India's regional strategies must be anchored on a non-aligned, independent foreign policy.

The writer is a former diplomat who worked on the Iran-Pakistan-Afghanistan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs

ANATOMY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Killings in Kerala point to the need for a new civic consciousness

KRISHNAN UNNI P

TWO GRUESOME POLITICAL murders took place in Alappuzha district, Kerala, on December 18 and 19. Both incidents cast a shadow on the state government. The murdered were prominent workers of two political parties, the BJP and SDPI. Political murders are not new to Kerala. In the past two decades, more than 40 political murders have been reported. The aftermath of the murders is also frightening. Section 144 has been imposed in Alappuzha. The public sphere in Kerala is lying low out of fear.

Among the questions that plague one's mind, two stand out: What are the reasons for singling out some people as victims? What are the gains and losses of such atrocious acts? Both questions take us back to the notorious murder of T P Chandrasekharan, a CPM worker who later left the party. Chandrasekharan was murdered by an organised group, some of whom had links with organised Marxist structures. Though widely criticised and condemned, Chandrasekharan's murder is still a deep wound on Kerala's political psyche. The murder showed the acumen of the powerful: They can justify almost any act within a set of beliefs and then direct party henchmen according to their wishes.

The recent murders in Alappuzha are, undeniably, motivated to ignite communalism. The communal forces that work within most political parties in India are a dangerous virus that disturbs social harmony. However, what can one do to prevent communalism? From Gandhi to Medha Patkar, we have been seriously debating this question. The sheer emphasis of communalism as the bedrock of our political system implies the non-democratic and autocratic nature of our democracy. The masses can be driven by promises. Ideological texts can be misread and misrepresented by the powerful and the crooked. Once the organised cadre of a major political party slips into action, they can't be held back by any appeal to ideology.

> The recent murders in Alappuzha are, undeniably, motivated to ignite communalism. The communal forces that work within most political parties in India are a dangerous virus that disturbs social harmony. However, what can one do to prevent communalism? From Gandhi to Medha Patkar, we have been seriously debating this question. The sheer emphasis of communalism as the bedrock of our political system implies the non-democratic and autocratic nature of our democracy.

Political violence is based, fundamentally, on ideas of singularity and extermination. Violence — in the form of arson, looting or murder — produces deep cleavages in the public. It questions even the basic notions of existence. This is the realm in which the idea of extermination operates. Political violence ultimately aims to exterminate the opponent and the dissident. Fear of the Self is the main reason for this. To have faith in a political party is to have your identity constituted in and by a set of practices in which understanding, believing and commitment emerge together. In other words, political parties are not free from threats that are looming large in our society.

The recent murders have sparked a lot of empathy. What is the source of empathy? Do we really empathise with the families of the murdered? Here, we are forced to offer a critique of ideology. When a set of ideas that prompts people to have faith in a party or a system collapses, it is the individual who is shattered. A disillusioned individual, thus, can either become an outcast or a rebel. Yet another possibility is she/he can become a tool for other dangerous factions. Given these possibilities, the coming together of many faiths can be a distorting process. One may be forced to embrace several faiths as one loses faith in ideology. This does not mean the death of ideology; or the emergence of a new system of beliefs. Our surroundings never question the root cause of violence. Petition after petition is dismissed by our courts. The so-called empathy stems from what we see in the media. Tears of the deceased and gloomy faces that surround the murdered generate empathy. Empathy generated in this manner never translates into a plan of action to stop political violence in our society.

Solely blaming the current government in Kerala will not stop the seamless continuity of political murders. There is an underbelly in public life that aims to spread communal violence. The need of our time is not a revision of political parties or ideologies. It is a thorough civic consciousness that will make those who are on the verge of committing the murder rethink. Political murder is inevitably the conclusion of a tapestry of actions. We need to ask what makes some actions a spectacle. The issue is not whether the "majority" or "minority" are involved in murders, but that they are happening more often. Next to civic consciousness, we need an urgent platform of democratic and liberal assembly. The idea of "secular" requires a more sensible understanding. Notions of secularism should not sink into impatience. As Henry James said, "the whole of anything is never told".

The writer is associate professor of English at Deshbandhu College, Delhi University

INDIAN EXPRESS

DGPC chief shot dead

DISCOUNT

DECEMBER 22, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

JATHEDAR SHOT DEAD

JATHEDAR SANTOKH SINGH, 52, president of the Delhi Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee was shot dead by a DGPC member Sohan Singh Sandhi from the Singh Sabha Gurudwara in Delhi's Vishnu Garden. Immediately after Sohan Singh was shot dead by the Jathedar's bodyguard. Though police and eyewitness accounts were nebulous regarding the incident which took place a few seconds, preliminary investigations reveal that the Jathedar who was travelling in a white Ambassador car was shot thrice by Sandhu, a few yards from the gurudwara. He had come to attend a function at the gurudwara. Santokh Singh and Sohan Singh Sandhu were declared dead upon arrival at the hospital. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has expressed shock at the Jathedar's murder.

ASSAM TALKS TO RESUME

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE Assam agitators and the Central Government are likely to begin soon in New Delhi. The Centre has reportedly asked the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad to decide the date and January 3 is being considered, according to various indications. A final decision will be taken at the AASU and the AAGSP executive meeting on December 22. The talks will be tripartite this time. A committee of the national opposition parties will also participate.

MESSAGE TO PAK

INDIA IS LIKELY to seek clarification from Pakistan on its no-war pact offer. A formal communication has been sent to Pakistan. According to sources, Indian envoy in Pakistan, K Natwar Singh, will carry the Indian communication. Singh has already had discussions with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and senior officials of the external affairs ministry.

THE IDEAS PAGE

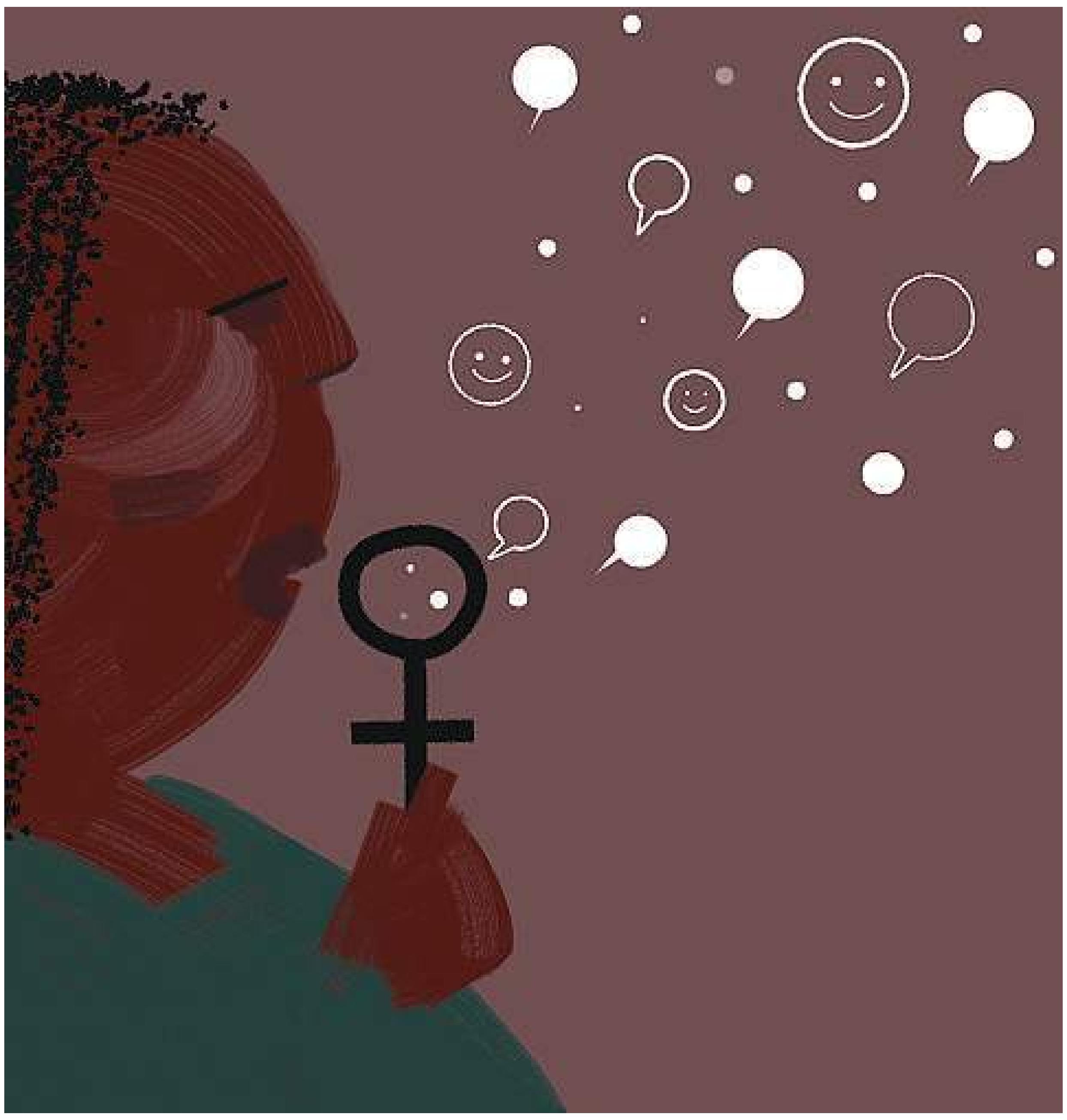
WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is unfortunate that the people of Afghanistan would have to brave the worst winter months on their own and wait till at least March to see the OIC doing anything substantive." —DAWN

The woman she was

bell hooks critiqued white feminism, presaged intersectionality. She lit the path for future generations of feminists

URVASHI BUTALIA



C R Sasikumar

YEARS AGO, ON a visit to England, and long before I became aware of black feminism, I bought bell hooks's first book, *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Written, at least partially, when she was 19 and published 10 years later, the book became one of the most read works on feminism in many parts of the world.

In choosing the title of her book, hooks proudly claimed her feminist heritage and drew on a speech, given in 1851, by another black woman activist, Sojourner Truth at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention. In later years, this title, like that of another profoundly important book for black feminism, *This Bridge Called My Back*, would go on to become like talismans for black feminists.

hooks was to go on to write many more books on a range of subjects and to lead a full, rich, feminist life that ended with her untimely death last week at the age of 69.

Although we never met, but for me, as someone who came to feminism in the Seventies in India, bell hooks became a distant but close fellow traveller and it was through her work, as much as it was through the work of writers like Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Toni Cade Bambara, Ellen Kuzwayo and others that I became aware of black feminism and its differences with white feminism.

At the time, in what has come to be called the global north, black women's groups mobilised to challenge and critique what they saw as the hegemony of white feminists.

bell hooks was vocal in her critique of white feminism which, she felt, had wilfully ignored the plight of black women.

The connections she drew between race, class, gender presaged what another black feminist, Kimberle Crenshaw, would later name as the intersectionality of feminism. At the same time, hooks cautioned that a critique of white feminism did not mean a rejection of feminism — which she called a "movement to end sexism and sexual exploitation".

Sexism, she would go on to say in speeches and writings, was something women had so internalised that often they did not even realise its presence, but racism was something you felt on the skin, in the body, the heart. In many ways, the raising of the subject of race and gender resonates with the debates that Indian feminism is confronted with today on the subject of caste and gender.

As bell hooks went from being a student to teacher, thinker, theorist, black activist, educator, and so much more, her interests expanded. She wrote movingly, passionately and simply, to communicate about all the issues that concerned her: Love, freedom, pedagogy, the classroom as a space for revolutionary thought and transgression, patriarchy, masculinity, children, poetry and so much more.

In a speech some years ago, she said that there was "no more important historical moment to talk about men and patriarchy" than the present, pointing to a State (this was in the Trump era) that was committed to re-institutionalising patriarchy at a deep level while paying lip-service to its removal publicly. Her words have an uncanny resonance with so many of our realities.

Thinkers and activists like bell hooks are rare, and for that, they are also precious. One of hooks's strengths were her methods of communication — simple, unthreatening, funny, personal and filled with stories that, in a wonderful sleight of hand, connected to the larger questions that trouble all of us: What did it mean to love? How could one transcend anger? Why was there such strong resistance to patriarchy? What did it mean to talk of family values? What should education be? What was it like to be a black man, a black boy, in America and why were we not talking about men, to men?

Like other black feminist thinkers, hooks was also deeply connected to her community. Her life journeys through the halls of so many elite academic institutions led her back eventually to her home in Berera in Kentucky where she continued to read, write, educate and spread her words and her wisdom.

> Thinkers and activists like bell hooks are rare, and for that, they are also precious. One of hooks's strengths were her methods of communication — simple, unthreatening, funny, personal and filled with stories that, in a wonderful sleight of hand, connected to the larger questions that trouble all of us: What did it mean to love? How could one transcend anger? Why was there such strong resistance to patriarchy?

The Sixties and Seventies were moments of great political turmoil and student movements across the world. For feminists who came to feminism in those years, the presence of such movements offered a ready space to step into, a model of resistance that they could adapt and transform into their own. With their commitment and their passion, they created movements rich in theoretical and practical questions, in stringent critiques and deep, emotional bonds, in friendships and solidarity across borders.

In the death of bell hooks, we have lost yet another of these precious thinkers and actors. But even as we mourn her death (for she had so much more to give) we need to celebrate the plenty she left us with — as food for both thought and action.

As her hero, Sojourner Truth said in her speech: "If the first woman God made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back and get it right side up. And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them."

The writer is publisher, Zubaan

The Kashi echo

Prime Minister making a public show of religion is a matter of concern. Of greater concern is the more difficult battle which lies ahead

YASHWANT SINHA

THE RECENT INAUGURATION of a municipal road in Kashi, the Lok Sabha constituency of the prime minister, was converted by him into a grand show of devotion to the Hindu religion — like the inauguration or foundation-laying functions of earlier projects at Ayodhya, Badrinath, Kedarnath and other Hindu religious places, all at a considerable cost to the government exchequer. These events have raised many questions of propriety in a secular democracy. In an earlier article, I had talked about the crossing of the "*Lakshman rekha*" by the PM, when I noticed that he was freely using government functions organised at government cost to lambast his political opponents, especially in Uttar Pradesh. That is a fine line of democratic behaviour that many of our worthies in politics have often violated but I was shocked when it came from no less a person than the PM. But that is nothing compared to the recent show at Kashi, all dedicated to the glory of the Hindu religion, spread over two days and covered live by all media channels and comprehensively by the entire print media. "Is India a secular democracy anymore?" is a question on many people's lips, while the majority celebrate it as the final revenge of history taken by the present prime minister for all the wrongs done by the Muslim invaders in the past.

As I understand it, India is still a secular state, which means that the state has no religion and is bound by the Constitution to treat all religions as equal and make no distinction between the followers of one as compared to the other. I have been in positions of power and authority myself, first in administration and later in politics, almost all my life. Nobody taught me to be secular but I was secular naturally and, therefore, had no difficulty in treating the followers of all faiths equally. I was and continue to be a devout Hindu. Apart from doing my prayers on a daily basis, going to temples and the places of pilgrimage, I have walked barefoot a hundred kilometres from Sultanganj in Bihar to Baba Dham (Deoghar) now in Jharkhand, carrying a 'Kanwar' with the holy Ganga water to be offered to Lord Shiva for five years running. But it was always a personal pursuit, as it should be. I even persuaded the great socialist leader Karpoori Thakur, who was chief minister of Bihar then, to create adequate facilities for the pilgrims on the 100 km route, like clean dharamshalas, drinking water facilities, toilets, etc. at government cost. I still remember the lively debate we had in the largely socialist Bihar cabinet then about whether the government should spend money on a purpose like this. The issue was settled in favour of doing so on the grounds that it served a larger public purpose. But neither Karpoori Thakur nor any of his cabinet colleagues, who included representatives of the then Jan Sangh, made a song and dance about it. There were no grand foundation-laying or inaugural functions. I shudder to imagine what would have happened if such a project had been undertaken today.

Milking religion, caste, language, region or any other identity for personal and political gain is not unknown in electoral politics in our country, as indeed the world over. But it has been muted and not done as openly and shamelessly as it is being done today. The present prime minister is not the first BJP prime minister of India. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had preceded him in that post and while I shall not judge Narendra Modi by the standards of Jawaharlal Nehru, I am well within my rights to judge him by the standards set by Vajpayee. And knowing him as I do, I have no hesitation in saying that Vajpayee would never have done any of those hundreds of things Modi has done to violate the spirit of the Constitution, including the grand show in Kashi the other day. "Raj Dharma" can be consigned to the dustbin.

For the prime minister in our democracy, as indeed for all the other functionaries, religion should be a strictly private affair. Then, why is Modi making such a show of it? The simple and obvious answer is that UP elections are approaching and Yogi Adityanath's performance has been so poor that the only hope the BJP has of coming anywhere near the majority mark is through a well-executed communal divide. So, that is the game in UP and the same formula will again be tried in the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

After all, Modi became the darling of fundamentalist Hindus after the horrible Gujarat riots and kept winning subsequent elections by exploiting Hindu sentiments and, if that was not sufficient, bringing "Mian Musharraf" in the picture. I only hope that the communal virus thus generated does not get out of hand. The Opposition parties should not fall into the BJP's trap by starting to respond to its agenda. There are a host of secular issues like unemployment, price rise, misgovernance and mismanagement, especially of Covid, safety of women and collapsing law and order generally on which it must concentrate and force the BJP and its government to respond. Half the battle in politics is won if you succeed in setting the agenda. You have lost the battle already if you start responding to the other's agenda. Will the Opposition allow the UP elections to be fought on the issue of Jinnah, Pakistan, Abba Jan, Aurangzeb, etc. or the real issues on the ground?

But the UP elections are only a semi-colon, important but not the ultimate. The main battle will be fought in 2024. The elections then will decide whether the idea of India, as we have known it, will survive in this country or not. Will India remain a secular democracy or become a Hindu Pakistan? Will the corporate, militaristic, fundamentalist and pseudo-nationalist interests take over the country and drive it to perdition? What happened in Kashi is a matter of great concern. But of greater concern is the more difficult battle which lies ahead.

In the meanwhile, a very important question is: Does Prime Minister Modi go anywhere without a photographer?

The writer is a former Union minister and currently, vice-president, All-India Trinamool Congress

Wrong on rights

Women's empowerment requires removing structural inequalities, not a law

SHIREEN JEJEEBHOY

THE NEWS THAT the Union Cabinet has cleared the move to raise the legal minimum age at marriage for women to 21, and will introduce an amendment to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act comes as a blow to women's rights. The move is neither feasible, nor grounded in evidence, nor respectful of women's rights.

Why isn't it feasible? The law prohibiting marriage below the age of 18 has been in effect in some form since the 1900s, yet child marriage has persisted virtually undeterred until 2005 when almost half of all women aged 20-24 had married below the legal minimum age. By 2015-16, this proportion declined significantly to 27 per cent and more modestly to 23 per cent by 2019-20 (NFHS4, NFHS5) — an impressive shift that is largely attributable to social changes such as greater access to education and expanding aspirations. Even though more than one in five marriages took place below age 18, hardly any violations of the Act appear in our criminal records. Moreover, the magnitude of the population of women of marriageable age who will be affected is immense, with over 60 per cent (more than three in five women) marrying before 21. So while we have failed to even enforce a law against marriage before age 18, it is hardly feasible that we can succeed in enforcing a law that expands the age range, and affects such a vast canvas of India's population.

The move is, moreover, not justified by evidence. Notably, the stated rationale for raising the age of marriage, which incidentally had stemmed in 2020 from an apparent concern for "the imperatives of lowering maternal mortality, improving nutritional levels and related issues" has now been modified as necessary for "the empowerment of women". Of course, it is true that those marrying at the age of 21 and later are healthier, better nourished, better educated, and have better career opportunities than those experiencing child marriage. But are they so advantaged because they delayed their marriages, or because they come from better-off households, did not have to discontinue their education prematurely, have at least one better-educated parent, and do not come from socially excluded castes and tribes? The evidence suggests the latter. The two groups — early and late marrying — are not comparable. As Mary John notes, while almost half (45 per cent) of those belonging to the poorest households married in childhood (before 18), just one in 10 (10 per cent) of women from the wealthiest households did so. Moreover, evidence gathered by demographer Ann Blanc and others, suggests it is giving birth in adolescence (the ages at which those who marry below 18 may experience pregnancy) that is unsafe, and maternal mortality after 18 is by far the lowest.

Growing evidence shows, disturbingly, that the number of child marriages (under 18) may have increased in many states during the pandemic and lockdown periods, calling again for concerted government efforts to ensure adherence to the present law, rather than expending efforts to further raise the marriage age.

Most of all, as in the case of the love jihad laws, this move is one more attempt to deny young women their reproductive rights. Surveys in several states have observed that most women wish to marry only after they attain 18 (the legal minimum age at marriage in most countries globally). At the same time, romantic relations are increasingly taking place in adolescence (as in the world over) and some young women will certainly make an informed decision to marry before they are 21. Should they be denied this right as long as it is consensual? The comment of Jaya Jaitley, that the task force's decision was enthusiastically supported by students of 16 universities and 15 NGOs, across all religions and by those most disadvantaged is simplistic, misleading and once again, generalising from a biased sample. Students of 16 universities and representatives of 15 NGOs are certainly not representative of young people or NGOs at large. University students are advantaged simply by virtue of having reached this milestone and hence are a select group. Moreover, relying on their view about an ideal age to marry quite likely neglects their perceptions about a woman's right to make informed marriage decisions, including whether or not to marry between the ages of 18 and 20. Likewise, the 15 privileged NGOs cannot be said to represent NGOs at large, and certainly it appears that the NGO voices that were raised against this proposal in 2020 have remained unheard.

What is required to empower disadvantaged women and respect their reproductive rights is, therefore, not a simple waving of the legislative wand to raise the marriage age beyond 18. We require investments in reversing the fundamental structural disadvantages that women who marry early face. To truly empower them while respecting their reproductive rights, the government must invest far more in addressing issues of equity — measures that will enable the disadvantaged to complete their education, provide career counselling and encourage skilling and job placement, address safety issues of women in public places including public transportation, and change the perceptions of parents who are ultimately those who make marriage related decisions for a majority of women. Delays in the timing of marriage will then occur without the need for legislation.

The writer is Director, Aksha Centre for Equity and Wellbeing, Mumbai

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO QUICK FIX

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A legal fix, hard to implement' (IE, December 21). The government's decision to raise the legal age at marriage for women aims at a temporary solution to the complex problems of maternal mortality and socioeconomic status of women. Improving standards of education and access to healthcare would address many issues, however, successive years have seen a reduction in the allocation of resources for these sectors. The new limit also raises the possibility of criminalising consensual relations by women between 18 and 21 years of age. Nuance is necessary to solve such complex issues.

Ila Railkar, *Mumbai*

EC'S AUTONOMY

THIS REFERS TO THE article, 'Such ado about nothing' (IE, December 20). Rhetoric cannot negate the fact that the autonomy of the Election Commission was undermined. The ECI is an autonomous constitutional body, not an "instrument of the executive". Furthermore, according to article 327 of the Constitution, it is Parliament that is empowered to make provisions with regards to election to the legislatures and by extension electoral reforms, not the executive. No amount of allusions and insouciant questions can subvert the constitutional provisions.

Shreya Singh, *Mumbai*

PETTINESS RULES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Praising a political foe' (IE, December 21). While the BJP should have given full credit to Indira Gandhi for Bangladesh's independence, the Congress should not have shied from reciprocating this sentiment by acknowledging that Atal Bihari Vajpayee called her the goddess Durga for her going out of the way to help this country in getting independence. Unfortunately, now leaders have become petty-minded and hit their rivals where it hurts most.

Tarsem Singh, *Mahilpur*

FIX ACCOUNTABILITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A bigger step forward' (IE, December 21). There is no doubt that a mega plan such as Gati Shakti will bring in greater transparency and coordination among the various infrastructure programme-implementing agencies. However, for it to be truly effective, the knotty problem of fixing accountability for delays and lapses will have to be addressed, no small task considering the number of ministries, institutions and state governments involved. Further, the other hurdles faced by the infrastructure sector, namely, a tepid response from the private sector and inadequate financial support, will also have to be overcome. However, Gati Shakti is a commendable initiative to bring infrastructure projects under close scrutiny and to help bring about solutions that have been evasive so far.

Hemant Contractor, *Pune*

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Nirmal alias Nirmal Kumari D/o Sh.Gulzar Singh W/o Sh.Balvir Chand R/o 232, C4E, Janakpuri B-1 S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Nirmal Kumari for all purposes. 0040596455-4

I Kuldeep Kumar S/O, Roshan Lal Thanoch R/o B-20, Parijat Apartment, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Kuldeep Thanoch for all purposes. 0040596462-1

I Daljit KAUR CHEEMA W/O HARMINDER PAL SINGH R/O 200 HARGOBIND ENCLAVE, VIKAS MARG, DELHI-110092 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Daljit KAUR FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040596436-1

I,YOGESH KUMAR AGGARWAL S/O SAJJAN KUMAR AGGARWAL R/O A-8,SANGAM-APARTMENT, PLOTNO.23,SECTOR-9,ROHINI, DELHI-110085.CHANGED MY NAME TO YOGESH AGGARWAL. 0040596533-2

I,SHEHJAD ALAM, S/O MD JANE ALAM, ADD-A-563, PREM NAGAR NABI KARIM PAHAR GANJ CENTRAL DELHI-110055, changed my name to SAHJAD ALAM, permanently. 0040596497-8

I,RAJINDER GARG,S/O VEER BHAN GARG R/O HNO.13, ROADNO.28,Ist-FLOOR,EAST PUNJABI-BAGH,DELHI-110026. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJENDER GARG. 40596533-4

I,hitherto known as Shyam Devi alias Nirmala Devi,W/o Ram Chandra,R/o.D-3, New Hira-Park,Dichon-Road Najaf-Garh, South-West-Delhi-110043,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shyam Devi. 0040596549-10

I,anmol s/o,sh Leela singh, r/o D-16/286, sector-3,rohini delhi, have changed my name to anmol singh for all purposes. 0040596505-3

I,Vipin Chauhan,S/o-Sh.Jai Prakash,R/o-D-2,Shaman vihar apartment, Plot.no.9,Sector-23,Dwarka,New Delhi-77,have changed my name vipin to vipin Chauhan for all purpose. 0040596545-4

I,Vinod Chadha S/O-Late Shri.Chander Bhan Chadha R/O-H.No.347, First-Floor, Sector-5, Gurugram, Haryana-122001,have changed my,name to Vinod Chadha for all,future purpose. 0040596505-8

I,VIRENDER KUMAR/VIRENDER KUMAR MITTAL,S/O SATYA NARAYAN R/O 7/61,BLOCK-7,SOUTH PATEL-NAGAR,DELHI-110008.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDER MITTAL. 0040596533-1

It is general information that I,CHETAN SHARMA MOULEKHI, son of,RAVINDER SHARMA, resident of-999 Admin Flats, Gulabi-Bagh,Sadar-Bazar, Malkaganj,Delhi-110007,India, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as CHETAN MOULEKHI in Class–X & XII Marksheets and-Certificates.The Actual-name of mine is CHETAN SHARMA MOULEKHI respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040596549-9

It is for general information that I,SANJEET SINGH,S/o-RAM CHANDER,R/o-3499,1st-Floor, Street Lal Mann,Netaji Subhash Marg,Daryaganj,New Delhi-110002,declare that name of my,father has been wrongly-written as SURENDER SINGH,in my,Pan Card.No. JINPS4514K.The actual name of my,father is RAM CHANDER respectively,which may be amended accordingly. 0040596549-6

It is for general information that I, Vidit Sinha, S/O Mr. Vinay Kumar Sinha R/O K-102, Jaipuria Sunrise Greens, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Vinay Sinha in my 10th and 12th educational Certificates. The actual name of my father is Vinay Kumar Sinha, which may be amended accordingly. 0040596440-1

I,NAVNEET CHAUDHARY,s/o Late Shri.PRAN NATH CHAUDHARY,R/o Flat.No.401, The Royal-Residency CGHS Ltd.,GH-07,Sector-45,Gurgaon-122003 and,previously,residing at,Flat.No.1074, Sector-D, Pocket-1,Vasant Kunj,New Delhi-110070,have changed my name,from NAVNEET CHAUDHARY to NAVNEETH NATH CHAUDHRY,for all future purposes, vide-affidavit dated-18.12.2021,sworn before Notary Renu Verma,New Delhi.This is for the information to all concerned. 0040596533-7

I, Pratyaksh Parthroop Ranga, S/o Dinesh Kumar Ranga, R/o D-148, Sector-61, Opp. Flex Industries, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Pratyaksh Parthroop in my Marks statement cum Certificate No- U120/59248/ 0017 and Migration Certificate-1957870. The actual name of Mine is Pratyaksh Parthroop Ranga, which may be amended accordingly. 0070766036-1

I, Priti Sharma R/O E51 Type3, South Motibagh, Delhi have changed my name to Mysha Pandit for all purposes. 0040596422-1

I,Sushma Rani W/o Raman Kumar Kaher R/o-H.No.5, Road No-28,Punjabi Bagh Extn. Delhi,have changed my name to Sushma Rani Kehar. 0040596505-1

I,Sunil Kumar Yadav, S/o Braham Prakash,R/o-A-102, Gali.No.5,Shiv Mandir Road-Swaroop Nagar Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Sunil Kumar. 0040596497-9

I,Sumeet Gopal S/o Madan Gopal R/o 41, Bank Vihar, Saraswati Vihar,Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sumeet Gopal Davit. 0040596505-2

I,Sruriti Biswas,W/o Sh.Biswajit Biswas,R/o-E-213, Resettlement-Colony, Khyala, New Delhi-110018,have changed my name,from Sruriti Biswas to Smiriti Biswas,for all legal purposes,in future. 0040596505-6

I,Simarjeet Virk W/o Baljinder Singh R/o Duplex HD-182 Sector-135,Noida-201304,Have Changed My Name To Simarjit Kaur For Future. 0040596545-1

I,Shivam Gupta S/o-Vikas Gupta R/o.D-1/C, Mahendru-Enclave Model-Town Delhi-110009, Changed my name to Shivam Gupta Singhania. 0040596505-10

I,Sher Singh and Sachin S/o Sadhu Ram R/o B-1/203, Sultanpuri,New Delhi-86, both names belong to same person i.e.myself. 0040596497-1

I,Sania Yadav D/o-Ajay Singh R/o-VPO-jaisinghpura jhunjhunu,Rajasthan pin-333502,have changed my,name Sania Yadav to Saniya Yadav for all,future purposes. 0040596545-8

I,Reena W/o-Rahul Kumar R/o Flat.No.C-1, S.F, Friends-Apartment Sant,Nagar Burari Delhi-110084,changed my name to Monika,for future purposes. 0040596505-9

I,RAJINDER S/O INDER JEET BHATIA R/O 405,GROUND-FLOOR,OMAXE-CITY,ROHTAK-124001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJINDER BHATIA. 0040596545-6

I,Parmod Kumar S/o-Dev Raj R/o-GH-13/1065, Paschim-Vihar, Sunder-Vihar, Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Pramod Kumar. 0040596497-5

I,PREMA,W/O ASHOK KUMAR VISHWAKARMA,R/O SMQ-371-B1 CAMERO-COMPLEX SUBROTO-PARK NEW-DELHI 110010,have changed my name,from PREMA TO PREMA VISHWAKARMA VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-21/12/2021, BEFORE-NCT-DELHI. 0040596549-7

I,Mahesh Mudgil S/o-Sh.Late. OM Prakash and Sulaksna Mudgil,W/O-Mahesh Mudgil R/O-H.No.5,12,Biswa,Near-Sunaro Ka Mandir,ward.No-2 Gurgaon(Haryana),declare that Mahesh Mudgil& Mahesh & Sulaksna Mudgil and Sonia Mudgil,are one and the same person. 0040596545-9

I,Deepti D/o Lalit Kumar Singh,R/o H.NO. - 590,Type-III, Krishi Kunj, I. A. R. I. Pusa, New Delhi-110012, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Lalit Kumar in My OBC Caste-Certificate No.OBC/09/91/4769/20/11/200 8/49809 and NCL Certificate. The actual name of my father is Lalit Kumar Singh. 40596549-8

I, Triyugi Narayan Mishra, S/o Ram Palat Mishra, R/o Ghuraha, Tikri, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh-227406, that name of mine has been wrongly written as Trijogi Narain Mishra in my Office Record of CISF. The actual name of mine is Triyugi Narayan Mishra. 0070766044-1

I, DEEPIKA SETHI D/O Sushil Kumar Gulati R/O L-19, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 have changed my name back to DIPIKA GULATI (as per School and Government records) for all purposes since my Ex-husband - Chandan Sethi expired on 09.09.2008. 0040596470-1

I VANDANA CHAWLA W/O SHRI RAHUL CHAWLA R/O 1014/7, WARD NO.7, NEAR RADHEY SHYAM MANDIR, MEHRAULI NEW DELHI-110030, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SAKSHI CHAWLA in my minor son's and daughter's AARUSH CHAWLA/JIANA CHAWLA aged 14 / aged 9 years in his/her School Records and Birth Certificates. The actual name of mine is VANDANA CHAWLA, which may be amended accordingly. 0040596455-2

I Satender Choudhari alias a.a.a.Satender Awana alias Satender Awana S/o Sh. Rishipal Awana R/o Village Harola, Near Ajab Cable Network, Sector-5, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Satender Awana for all purposes. 0040596455-5

I,OM PRAKASH KUMAR S/O PURAN CHAND,R/O RZ-56/284, GEETANJALI-PARK,WEST-SAGARPUR,DELHI-110046,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO OM PRAKASH. 0040596533-3

I, Mohammad Sajid S/o-Basheer Ahmad R/o-B-21, Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar,New Delhi-110025, have the same name Md. Sajid also 0040596490-5

I, Saeeda Khatoon, D/o Hafiz Mohd Yunus, R/o A - 6/3 Puri Gali Maujpur Delhi 110053 have changed my name to Sayyada. 0050189071-1

I,Nisha Vinay Singh,W/o Vinay Kumar Singh R/o-E-57A Vishwakarma Colony, Pul-Prahladpur Delhi-110044,Have Changed My Name To Nisha Singh. 0040596545-3

I,Nisha Shravan Singh W/o Vinay Kumar Singh R/o-E-57A Vishwakarma-Colony, Pul-Prahladpur Delhi-110044,Have Changed My Name To Nisha Singh. 0040596545-2

I,Neetu singh,S/o-Deep Chand Singh,R/o-Village-Yakubpur, Post-Dhaturi,Distt-Bulanshahr, U.P-203001,have Changed my Name from Neetu singh to Ravindra Choudhary for all future purposes. 40596545-5

I,Amit Kumar S/o-Fateh Chand Lakhina R/o-Kailash Hills,East OF Kailash Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Amit Lakhina. 0040596497-3

I,Neelam Chandra Bose Bhardwaj,W/o Chandra Bose Bhardwaj,R/o.H.No-G-009 Tower-II,Royal-Park Ramprastha-Greens Sector-9, Vaishali-Ghaziabad,U.P-201010,have changed my name to Neelam Bhardwaj. 0040596497-6

I,Lovely W/o,No.15111709K NK(OPR) SAJi. P.J R/o G-35,G-Block,Dilshad Colony,Delhi-95 have changed my name to Lovely Saji. 0040596533-6

I,Kulwant Singh,S/O Jaggar Singh R/O728,Sector-2, R.K. Puram,New Delhi-110022,Have Changed My Daughter's Name Sahaj Preet To Sahajpreet Kaur 0040596533-5

I,Himansu Bhalla S/O.Yog kumar R/O.WZ-37, SF, Mukhram-park, Tilak-Nagar,New DELHI-110018, have changed my name to Himanshu Bhalla,for all purposes. 0040596497-4

I,Dider Singh Garang,S/o Surjan Singh R/o WZ/283/271, Madi Wali Gali no.9, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018,changed my name to Didar Singh. 0040596505-5

I,Dhiraj Bhatia S/o Ashok Kumar Bhatia R/o H.No-2951 Street No-2 Block-A SGM Nagar NIT Faridabad have changed my name to Dheeraj Bhatia for all purposes. 0040596476-1

I,Dharmender Singh and Sonu S/o Om Prakash R/o-H.no.465, Village Jaatikala, Sonipat, Haryana both names belong to same person i.e.myself. 0040596497-2

I,BHAVNA W/O RAJINDER BHATIA R/O 405,GROUND-FLOOR,OMAXE-CITY,ROHTAK-124001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHAVNA BHATIA. 0040596545-7

I,Akila Bano,W/o Mohd.Yamin R/o-H.No.12-A/107-C,Main Gali Jamalu ka Bagh,Maujpur Shahdara,Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Akila Begum,for all purposes 0040596497-7

I, AMRITA KOHLI W/o Karanjot Singh Bhasin R/o C-12, Sharda Puri, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name to AMRITA KAUR BHASIN, for all purposes. 0040596505-7

I, Virender Verma,S/o-Pyare Lal residing-ED-127, Third-Floor, Tagore Garden, Delhi,have changed my name to Virender Kumar Verma,for all purposes. 0040596490-2

I, Verma Sakshi Pawankumar, D/o-Pawan Kumar Verma,R/o-H.No-57, South Ganesh Nagar, Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Sakshi Verma. 0040596490-1

I,Nasib Kaur Garang,W/o Didar Singh,R/o WZ/283/271, Maddi-Wali Gali no.9, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, changed my name to Nasib Kaur. 0040596505-4

I, Ratika Gupta, W/O Late Sh. Amar Kumar Agarwal, R/O C4/58, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016 hereby change the name of my minor daughter from Deepta Agrawal to Deepta Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040596455-3

I, Pooja Vij W/o Shri Archit Batra R/o House No 406, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name as Pooja Vij Batra for all purposes 0040596452-1

I, P D Agarwal, S/o Mool Chand Agarwal, R/o Flat No-1, 4/276 B, Shrishti Duplex, Vasant Enclave, Parwati Bagla Road, Kanpur, Kanpur Nagar, Swarup Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208002, have changed my name to Purshottam Das. 70766027-1

I, Nishat Fatma,W/o Mohammad Imtiyaz,R/o-Nawadih Near Nawadih Bigha P.O. Aurangabad-824101 Bihar,have changed my name to Nishat Fatima 0040596490-4

I, Neha Soni W/o Anurag Soni R/o IN4 604, Eldeco Aamantran, Sec-119, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301 have changed my name from NEHA to NEHA SONI for all future purposes. 0070766063-1

I, Mujjmee Ahmed, S/o Mustkeem Ahmed, R/o 314, Chhoti Masjid Ke Pas, Muzaffarabad, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247129, have changed my name to Muzammil Ali. 0070766028-1

I, Chhote Lal Prasad, S/o Dular Chand Prasad, R/o J-2B, Arpan Vihar, Jait Pur Ext., Badarpur, Delhi-110044, have changed my name to C L Prasad. 0070766040-1

I, Mohammad Imteyaz,S/o-Mohammad Ramzan Ali,R/o-Nawadih Near Nawadih Bigha P.O. Aurangabad-824101,Bihar have changed my name to Mohammad Imtiyaz 0040596490-3

I, Brij Mohan Trikha, S/o Shri R.N.Trikha R/O Flat No.001, Plot No.980, Shakti Khand-IV, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, U.P.,have changed my name to Brij Mohan Kumar Trikha for all purposes. 0040596451-1

I, Baby A., S/o Abraham Unnitan, R/o A-7 F-2, Dilsad Colony, East Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Baby Abraham. 0070766043-1

I, Archana W/o. Shri. Sushil Kumar Awasthi R/o. 68/1, Nirman Nigam Colony,Tikona Park,Jamia Nagar,Okhla, New Delhi-110025. have changed my name from ARCHANA AWASTHI to ARCHANA for all future purposes. 0040596410-1

I, Abhishek Mitra, S/o Adhir Ranjan Mistry, R/o A-418, Pragati Vihar Hostel, New Delhi-110003, has changed my name to Abhishek Mistry for all purposes. 0070766002-1

I Sohan Lal S/O, Narendra Prasad R/o E-2/24, Street No-1, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Sohan Bhargawa for all purposes. 0040596466-1

I Rajendra Tuteja S/O, Budh Singh R/o B9/6, Upper Ground Floor, Mianwali Nagar, Near Gate No.7, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Rajender Tuteja for all purposes. 0040596469-1

I Raisur Rehman Khan S/O, Mohammad Farooq R/o 1803 Kucha Faulad Khan Darya Ganj Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Rais Ur Rehman for all purposes. 0040596435-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original property documents,(Builder Buyer Agreement),I have only photo copy property,Address of vide,unit No.GI-1404,Block-GI.in Amprapali Awas yojna,(A unit of Amrapali Leisure Valley PVT LTD).finder contact:Sanju Kumari,S/W/O-Harender Singh,B-28/29, Flat.No.106, GF,Vishwakarma Colony,Pul Prahladpur,New Delhi-110044, 9873253923 0040596545-10

I S Kedarnath S/o Shri Subramanian Vaidyanathan Nagar R/o A-214, Mangal Apartment,Plot No-16, Vasundhara Enclave , Delhi-110096 have lost Mangal Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd's Original Share Certificate Membership No-415 in my name. Finder Please contact 9674374345. 0040596431-1

Lost Original-Property Documents, Last page of conveyance deed of property No.B-21,Surajmal-Vihar,Delhi-110092 founder may inform-Rajiv Sharma,S/o Late.Om Prakash Sharma #9818152920. 0040596497-10

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client SMT. SHASHI RANI W/O SH. KULDEEP SINGH R/O B-53, CHANDER VIHAR, UDAY VIHAR, NEW DELHI, has severed all her relations from her son SH. SUNNY SINGH, his wife SMT. SIMRAN KOHLI, their son KUMAR PARTH SINGH (aged 03 years) and their associates, disowned and debarred all of them from all her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client.

Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for ther same.

Sd/-
A.K. VERMA (Advocate)
Office:3.19, S.R. II, District Centre Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public Notice is issued by me on behalf of my clients (1) Shri Abhishek Khanna son of Shri Vijay Khanna & (2) Shri Pankaj Mehra son of Shri Prem Narain Mehra. They became the owner of Upper Ground Floor and First floor alongwith Half Share of Stilt Parking of Property No. 228, measuring 250 sq. yds., situated at State Bank Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi through WILL dated 15.03.2020 executed by Smt. Vandana Khanna. She had expired on 27.04.2020 and after her death my clients became the owner of said property as per WILL.

General Public is hereby inform that if any person have any right/ claim on the said property he can contact me within 7 days of issuance of this Notice.

Sd/- **VIKAS JAIN** (Advocate)
12, RU-Market, Pitampura, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed on behalf of my client namely Sh. Deepak Rai Jain, S/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Jain, R/o A-7, Old Gupta Colony, Near Vijay Nagar, Delhi-110009, that Unit No.123A D.T. City Centre, M.G. Road, Gurgaon, Haryana was registered in the name of Mrs. Mona Jain, W/o Deepak Rai Jain, R/o A-7, Old Gupta Colony near Vijay Nagar, Delhi-110009, who has expired on 29.04.2021, intestate leaving behind three legal heir Deepak Rai Jain, Aman Jain and Radhika Jain. Aman Jain and Radhika Jain relinquished their share, right and title in favour of Mr. Deepak Rai Jainin respect of the captioned plot through registered RDand accordingly the name of Mr. Deepak Rai Jain is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s. DLF Ltd. or my above named client within 21 days of publication of this notice.

SANDEEP MISHRA (Advocate)
Ch. No.75A, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Nishipal Singh Bhatia acquired Duplex Portion marked as No. UG-4, on Upper Ground Floor with basement and Front Lawn with servant room on roof of top floor built on Plot of land bearing No. 2, on Road No. 75, measuring 1322.22 Sq. Yards, Class-B, Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi. vide Sale Deed dt. 22.03.2018 executed by Mrs. Neelam Nanda nee Neelam Chopra and now Mr. Nishipal Singh Bhatia is the undisputed owner of the above said property. Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri, Advocate
"H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024"

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Mr. Purushotam Kumar Sharma son of Late Shri Rajaram Sharma & Mrs. Kusum Sharma residence of 14C, BG5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63 have disown and disinherit their son namely Akshya Sharma and Daughter in law Anjali Goswami Sharma from their movable and immovable properties. If anyone deal with my client's son and his family, then he will do so of his own son responsibility. My clients will not be responsible for any act done by above said son and family.

Sd/-
Jai Prakash Sharma
Advocate
E. No. D/9807/2019
Chamber No. 661, Dwarka Court Sec-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

"My clients Sh. Narayan Dass S/o Sh. Roshan Lai and Smt. Laxmi Devi W/o Sh. Narayan Dass, both R/o House No. 2052, Mukeempura, Tilak Chowk, Subzi Mandi, Malkaganj, Delhi-110007, hereby disown and disinherit their both the sons namely Rishabh (Unmarred) S/o Sh. Narayan Dass and Manish (Married) S/o Sh. Narayan and his wife Smt. Urvashi W/o Sh. Manish from all the moveable and immoveable properties of my clients and also severe all their relations from their both the sons and their family members for all intends and purposes because of their acts, deeds and disobedient behavior towards my clients. Any person, dealing with the above named children of my clients, shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost and consequences, for which my clients shall not be responsible in any manner"

VIKAS TANDON (Advocate)
228 Western Wing
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Smt. Nagina Begum w/o. Sh. Mohd. Yaqoob and Sh. Mohd. Yaqoob s/o Anwar Ahmed both R/o. 15-D, D.D.A. Flats, Mata Sundri Road, New Delhi-110002, have severed all relations with their son sh. Mohammed Farhan and his wife Smt. Zafiya Khan. My clients have disowned them from all their movable & immovable properties. Any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk cost & consequences. My client will not be responsible for their any act or omissions.

VINOD KUMAR SINGH, Advocate
CH. 726, FIRST FLOOR, W.W, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054
Mob: 9999271055

"IMPORTANT"

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

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender notice for e-tendering is invited by **Dy. CSTE/M, Metro Railway, Kolkata** for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work due to open on 19.01.2022 at 12:30 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Annual Repair Contract for cards, tuning units & power supply unit of Siemens make AFTC installed in Metro Railway, Kolkata for 3 years. **Tender Value:** Rs. 50,20,435/-. **Completion Period :** 36 months. For full details visit **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. **Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work_20-2021, dtd. 20.12.2021**

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran

Offers e-Auction of
Residential and Commercial Properties in Panchkula Zone
On 28th December, 2021

Commercial Properties

S. No	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	2, Panchkula	6
2	5, Panchkula	10
3	6, Panchkula	2
4	8, Panchkula	5
5	9, Panchkula	2
6	10, Panchkula	2
7	12A, Panchkula	4
8	14, Panchkula	8
9	15, Panchkula	4
10	16, Panchkula	4
11	21, Panchkula	7
12	23, Panchkula	15
13	26, Panchkula	17
14	27, Panchkula	2
15	28, Panchkula	4
16	4 MDC, Panchkula	7
17	4 MDC, Panchkula (near Mansa Devi Temple)	4
18	5 MDC-PKT-1, Panchkula	3
19	5 MDC-PKT-2, Panchkula	4
20	6 MDC, Panchkula	7
21	7, Karnal	4
22	8, Karnal	7
23	9, Karnal	4
24	12, Karnal	4
25	14, Karnal	2
26	Old Tehsil Complex, Karnal	4

Note: The e-Auction of Nursing Home, Clinics, Dispensary, Creche and School sites scheduled for 18th December will also be held on 28.12.2021

Residential Properties

S. No	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	21, Panchkula	32
2	25, Panchkula	9
3	26, Panchkula	18
4	31, Panchkula	9
5	30, Pinjore	16
6	4, Karnal	1
7	5, Karnal	4
8	6, Karnal	8
9	9, Karnal	8
10	14 P2, Karnal	4
11	16, Karnal	8
12	32P, Karnal	4
13	33 P, Karnal	32
14	1, Tarori	5

Registrations will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 pm. | e-Auction Portal https://hsvphry.org.in e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM

Loan Facility From Leading Banks
For any queries email us at eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com
Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9 AM to 5 PM), 1800-180-3030 (8AM TO 8 PM)

Chief Administrator, Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on https://hsvphry.org.in.

JHARKHAND EDUCATION PROJECT COUNCIL
DoSE&L, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Old HEC High School, JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone No.- 0651-2444501, 2444502, Fax-0651-2444506, email: jepcranchi1@gmail.com

e-Procurement (3rd Call) Notice

JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested bidders for design, creation, 5-year Maintenance & Up gradation of State e-Content Repository including Development of Multimedia Contents, Web and Mobile based Content Management, Learning Management Applications with e-learning platform for the students and schools of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 11.01.2022 at 03.00 PM. A Pre-bid Meeting is scheduled on 30.12.2021 at 03:00 PM at above mentioned office at Ranchi.

The details of tender document can be seen and applied through website **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** only.

BID No. MIS/06/2021/167/1876(3rd Call), Date :21/12/2021 **(Kiran Kumari Pasi)**
PR259905 (Human Resource Developement)21-22*D **State Project Director**

JHARKHAND STATE SPORTS PROMOTION SOCIETY

(A CCL- State Govt. of Jharkhand Joint Initiative)
C/o Mega Sports Complex, Khelgaon, Hotwar, Ranchi- 835217
Registration under Society Act No.519 Registration under GST No. 20AACAJC1Z9
OUR MISSION- OLYMPIC GOLD
Contact no.:7992375053

Ref .No. JSSPS/CEO/Civil/e-tender/ 2021-22/ NIT05/ 319 Dated :-14.12.2021

Notice Inviting Tender NIT No: 05 of 21-22

1. Tenders are invited on-line under two part system on the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in from the eligible bidders having Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issued from any agency authorized by Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Govt. of India and which can be traced up to the chain of trust to the Root Certificate of CCA, for the following work::

Description of work	Location	Estimated Cost of Work (Including GST) (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Days)
AMC for housekeeping works for a period of 24 months at Khelgaon Mega Sports complex, Hotwar, Ranchi under JSSPS.	Mega Sports, Khelgaon, Ranchi	4,75,54,526.94	Nil	730 days

Note:-*The bid documents will be available on the website(s)* www.centralcoalfields.in/www. jharkhand JSSPSsports.in *and can be downloaded by the bidder up to the bid submission end date.*
(I) For Site visit of location of work, the prospective bidder(s) may contact Shri Gaurav Tiwary Dy.Manager(C)/JSSPS,Mobile no.-8114571273

Tender inviting authority	Contact Person(s)/Tender Dealing Officer(s)
CEO/LMC,JSSPS	Member (Civil)/JSSPS, M No:-9431392787

2. Time Schedule of Tender:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date	Time
a.	Tender e-Publication date	21.12.2021	18.00 Hours
b.	Document download start date	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
c.	Document download end date	08.01.2022	11.00 Hours
d.	Bid Submission start date	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
e.	Bid submission end date	08.01.2022	11.00 Hours
f.	Start date for seeking Clarification on-line	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
g.	Last date for seeking Clarification on-line	28.12.2021	17.00 Hours
h.	Date of Pre-bid meeting (if any)	NA	NA
i.	Technical Bid (Cover I) opening date	07.01.2022	11.30 Hours
j.	Price Bid (Cover II) opening date	07.02.2022	11:30 Hours

PR.NO.259892 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(21-22):D **Sd/- C.E.O,LMC, JSSPS**

JHARKHAND STATE SPORTS PROMOTION SOCIETY

(A CCL- State Govt. of Jharkhand Joint Initiative)
C/o Mega Sports Complex, Khelgaon, Hotwar, Ranchi- 835217
Registration under Society Act No.519, Registration under GST No. 20AACAJC1Z9
OUR MISSION- OLYMPIC GOLD, Contact no.:7992375053

Ref .No. JSSPS/CEO/Ele/e-tender/2021-22/330 Dated. 15.12.2021

Notice Inviting Tender , NIT No: 06 of 21-22

1. Tenders are invited on-line under two part system on the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in from the eligible bidders having Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issued from any agency authorized by Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Govt. of India and which can be traced up to the chain of trust to the Root Certificate of CCA, for the following work::

Description of work	Location	Estimated Cost of Work (Including GST) (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Days)
ARC for day to day electrical maintenance work at Mega Sports Complex, khelgaon, Ranchi. (For two Years)	Mega Sports Complex, Khelgaon, Ranchi	1,05,95,250.67	Nil	730 days

Note: *The bid documents will be available on the website(s)* www.centralcoalfields.in/www. jharkhandJSSPSsports.in *and can be downloaded by the bidder up to the bid submission end date.*
(I) For Site visit of location of work, the prospective bidder(s) may contact Shri B.K. Manjhi, SOE(E&M)/JSSPS, Mobile no.-8987784234

Tender inviting authority	Contact Person(s)/Tender Dealing Officer(s)
CEO/LMC,JSSPS	Member (E&M)/JSSPS, M No:-8987784234

2. Time Schedule of Tender:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date	Time
a.	Tender e-Publication date	21.12.2021	18.00 Hours
b.	Document download start date	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
c.	Document download end date	05.01.2022	11.00 Hours
d.	Bid Submission start date	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
e.	Bid submission end date	05.01.2022	11.00 Hours
f.	Start date for seeking Clarification on-line	22.12.2021	10.00 Hours
g.	Last date for seeking Clarification on-line	28.12.2021	17.00 Hours
h.	Date of Pre-bid meeting (if any)	NA	NA
i.	Technical Bid (Cover I) opening date	06.01.2022	11.30 Hours
j.	Price Bid (Cover II) opening date	06.02.2022	11:30 Hours

PR 259896 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(21-22)#D **Sd/- C.E.O,LMC,JSSPS**

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR

Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019

AIIMS/BBSR/ENGG/ELE-2021/Glow Sign BD/128 Dated: 21st Dec 2021

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for **"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Glow Sign Board of AIIMS Satellite Centre Balasore, Burn Unit and College of Nursing Building of AIIMS Bhubaneswar."** Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender along with last date of submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender portal of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar website **www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Haryana Public Service Commission

Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector-4, Panchkula

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates who had applied for the 01 post of Assistant Director (Biology) of Group-A, in FSL, Haryana, Madhuban, Karnal in response to the Advertisement No. 4(2)/2017 dated 30.01.2018 published in various newspapers and also displayed on the Commission's website, that the Government has decided to withdraw the said 01 post of Assistant Director (Biology) of Group-A, in FSL Haryana, Madhuban, Karnal.

Sd/- Secretary
Haryana Public Service Commission
Panchkula

Dated: 21.12.2021
6363/HRY

ODISHA ADARSHA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

N-1/9, Nayapalli, PO: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar -751005
Email: oavsbbsr.od@gov.in

N-76

No. 4393 **Date 21.12.2021**

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS), under School and Mass Education Department, Govt. of Odisha invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from empanelled authorized vendors of NCERT, New Delhi, to supply NCERT Text Books to the students of class-VI, VII & VIII and ST & SC students of class- IX & X of 314 OAVs at Vidyalaya point. The details of Terms Of Reference (TOR) can be downloaded from (**www.oay.edu.in**) w.e.f 24.12.2021.

Sealed proposals are invited from the interested and eligible authorized vendors of NCERT, New Delhi. The proposals shall be submitted through speed post/ registered post only, addressed to the "State Project Director, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, N-1/9, Nayapalli, PO: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar- 751005". Last date for receipt of proposals is 10.01.2022 5.00 PM.

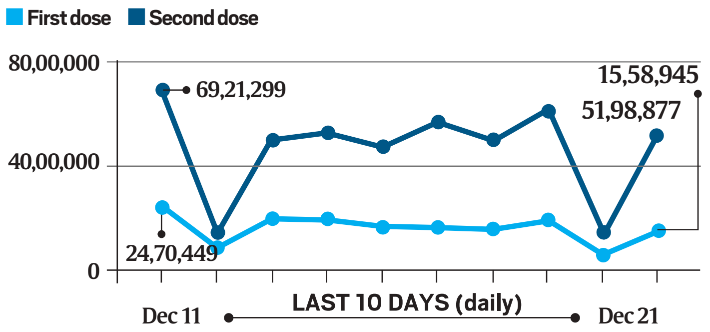
The Authority reserves the right to cancel any or the entire Tender process without assigning any reason thereof. .

Sd/-
State Project Director , OAVS
OIPR-27029/11/0008/2122

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

Coronavirus Dashboard

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 138,34,78,181
(1st DOSE: 82,85,19,766; 2nd: 55,49,58,415)



DOSES ON DECEMBER 20: 67,57,822
DEC 19: 21,07,107 (1st DOSE: 6,41,639; 2nd: 14,65,468)

DOSES ON DECEMBER 19, BY STATE

TOP 5		BOTTOM 5*	
Uttar Pradesh	13,50,965	Punjab	63,700
Maharashtra	6,38,534	Chhattisgarh	120,303
West Bengal	5,60,026	Delhi	1,31,067
Madhya Pradesh	5,20,003	Assam	1,59,298
Bihar	4,23,963	Jharkhand	1,90,126

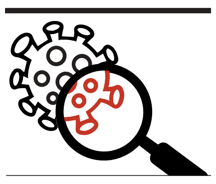
*Excluding states smaller than Delhi by population (Census 2011)

ACTIVE CASES 79,097 | ↓ 3,170 from Dec 19

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Dec 20 figures updated on Dec 21

Guidelines to states in India, series of measures in US

THE HEALTH Ministry on Tuesday issued guidelines to the states in the event of increased detection of cases with Omicron. For example, if a test positivity rate of 10% or more is reported in the last one week, or if a district reports bed occupancy of 40% or more on oxygen supported or ICU beds, the guidelines say district-level containment measures and restrictions may be put in place. States can take containment measures and restrictions even before these thresholds are reached.



US surge

The United States was preparing to deploy 1,000 medical personnel from the military to help in the management of surging Covid-19 cases, *The New York Times* reported. The country is also ordering 500 million rapid diagnostic tests that can be used at home. These tests would be distributed free to anyone who requests them, the newspaper reported.

These are among the measures that are expected to be announced by President Joe Biden when he addresses the country later on Tuesday.

Although less than 1,500 cases of infection with Omicron have been confirmed in the US so far, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that over 70% of all cases detected in the last one week could be because of this new variant. The US has been reporting over one lakh new cases a day. According to the *Washington Post*, the seven-day average of new cases touched 1.31 lakh on Monday. That would mean that the US already has over six lakh infections with Omicron.

UK numbers

So far, the United Kingdom has reported the highest number of confirmed cases of infection with Omicron – over 45,000. But that too is believed to be a small proportion of the actual number since the confirmations come only through genome sequencing, which takes time. Also, not all positive cases are detected , and not all detected cases are sent for genome sequencing.

AMITABH SINHA & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Linking voter rolls to Aadhaar

The newly passed Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 enables this linkage, which the government says will help check multiple registrations of the same voter. What are Opposition parties objecting to this?

ANISHA DUTTA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

ON TUESDAY, Rajya Sabha passed by voice vote The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, enabling "the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem" as the Opposition walked out in protest. The Bill had been passed by Lok Sabha on Monday.

What is the government's argument for bringing the Bill?

The government says the Bill incorporates various electoral reforms that have been discussed for a long time.

The government says linking Aadhaar with electoral rolls will solve the problem of multiple enrolments of the same person at different places. "Once Aadhaar linkage is achieved, the electoral roll data system will instantly alert the existence of previous registration(s) whenever a person applies for new registration. This will help in cleaning the electoral roll to a great extent and facilitate elector registration in the location at which they are 'ordinarily resident', a government official said.

A Parliamentary Standing Committee report on demands of grants of the Law Ministry, presented in Rajya Sabha on March 6 this year, had said: "The Committee has been advocating linkage of unique Aadhaar ID Card number with voter I-card which would streamline alterations in EPIC during change of ordinary residence by the electors. The incidence of multiple entry could also be eliminated which is required in participative democracy..."

In Parliament, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said linking Aadhaar with the voter ID card "is voluntary. It is not compulsory or mandatory". He said the government held "many meetings" with the Election Commission before the Bill was brought.

What were these discussions?

In March 2015, the Election Commission had started a National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme that sought to link Aadhaar to voter IDs, in a bid to delete duplicated names. The EC said in a release in May 2015: "Under this programme, beside some other activities, linking and authentication of EPIC data of electors with Aadhaar data is also being done…" However, the EC had "issued necessary instructions to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOS) of the States/UTs specifying that furnishing of Aadhaar number by electors is not mandatory and it is only optional, as directed by the Supreme Court..."

That year, the Supreme Court made it clear that "the Aadhaar card Scheme is purely voluntary and it cannot be made mandatory till the matter is finally decided by this Court one way or the other".

The headquarters of UIDAI, the authority for Aadhaar, in New Delhi. *Express Archive*

In April this year, the EC wrote to the Law Ministry seeking "expeditious consideration" of pending electoral reforms including the linkage of Aadhar and voter ID cards. Earlier this week, the Law Ministry issued a statement that on November 16, the Election Commission attended an informal interaction sought by the PMO to finalise the Cabinet note on some long-pending reforms.

What are the Opposition's objections?

Manish Tewari of the Congress said: "The linking of voter IDs and Aadhaar violates the fundamental right to privacy as defined by the Supreme Court in the judgment."

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi said if the Bill becomes an Act, the government would be able to use voter identity details for "disenfranchising some people and profile the citizens". "This Bill is outside the legislative competence of this House... The linking of voter ID with Aadhaar violates the fundamental right to privacy defined in Puttaswamy (case)," Owaisi said.

Rijiju said, "The present legal provisions have some disparity and some shortcomings, and to remove the same, the government, in consultation with the Election Commission and incorporating recommendations made by the Election Commission, we have brought these amendments." He detailed the proposed amendments to various sections of The Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Rijiju quoted from the 105th report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personal, Public Grievances and Law and Justice, which expressed the view that linking Aadhaar with electoral rolls will purify electoral rolls and will consequently reduce electoral malpractices.

Why should there be a problem with identifying names that appear in multiple rolls?

One of the concerns is whether the Bill's implementation will be successful if the linkage is not compulsory. The Bill amends the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to implement certain electoral reforms.

The 1950 Act provides that a person may apply to the electoral registration officer for inclusion of their name. The Bill says the electoral registration officer may require a person to furnish their Aadhaar number for establishing their identity. If their name is already in the electoral roll, then the Aadhaar number may be required for authentication of entries in the roll, but people will not be denied inclusion in the electoral roll or have their names deleted, if they are unable to show their Aadhaar cards.

Arghya Sengupta, founder and research director at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, said: "The first justification provided is that bogus voting where one person is voting more than once is taking place… If you're saying you have to provide it along with your voter ID whenever you go to vote... this will only work if providing Aadhaar is mandatory. However, this section in the law is a bit complicated because it does seem voluntary but the reasons on the basis of which I can choose not to link my Aadhaar will be prescribed by the government for 'sufficient cause'. Now what that sufficient cause could be is not mentioned in the Bill?...This should be made clear."

Are there other concerns?

The Opposition has claimed Aadhaar linkage will enable non-citizens to vote. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said in Lok Sabha, "If you are in a position asking for Aadhaar for voters, all you are getting is a document that reflects residence, not citizenship. You're potentially giving the vote to non-citizens."

Sengupta said, "This has also been mentioned in the House, that Nepalis and Bangladeshis will not be allowed to vote and this will ensure that doesn't happen. Now here there is a conceptual confusion... Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship and it is said so very clearly in the Aadhaar Act. We know that voting can only be done by citizens. I'm unable to understand how this will prevent non-citizens from voting because non-citizens can have an Aadhar card... The goal of preventing non-citizens from voting will not be solved with Aadhaar."

Another concern, raised by the CPI(M) in a statement, is the view that the Bill could violate secrecy of the vote undermining the principle of secret ballots, and the fundamental right to privacy of the voter.

Can individual votes be tracked that way?

"While individual identification of voting choices may not be possible with the linkage of Aadhaar with voter IDs, it will lead to profiling," said Apar Gupta, Executive Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation. "Verification of a person's identity is separate from the capturing of the identity which is already happening in booths when a person goes to vote. But it may help the government link it to other services where larger schemes may be designed based on the data..." He added: "The other concern is that there is a documented case that Aadhaar data was being leaked. It could lay the foundation of targeted political propaganda which is against the model code of conduct as well."

In April 2019, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) complained to police about a Hyderabad-based software company, IT Grids (India) Private Limited, accusing it of illegally procuring details of 7,82,21,397 Aadhaar holders in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and storing these in its databases. Concerns were raised on account of the alleged security vulnerabilities of UIDAI servers, which the authority denied at the time. The case was transferred to a special investigation team, but the investigation has not made any significant progress.

THIS WORD MEANS: HUBBLE AND WEBB

NASA's flagship telescope, and its successor

NASA HAS announced the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) at 7.20 am EST (5.50 pm India time) on December 24. Webb, the world's premier space science observatory, will succeed the Hubble Space Telescope, NASA's flagship telescope that has been in service for more than three decades now.

NASA says Webb is not Hubble's replacement — rather, its successor whose science goals were motivated by the results from Hubble. Webb will primarily study the universe in the infrared, while Hubble looks at it mainly at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths. Webb's mirror is much larger than Hubble's; it can, therefore, look farther back into time than Hubble. Also, Hubble is in a much closer orbit around Earth than Webb will be.

WAVELENGTH: Webb's four instruments to capture images and spectra of astronomical objects will provide wavelength coverage from 0.6 to 28 microns (the infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum is from about 0.75 microns to a few hundred microns); the instruments on Hubble can observe mainly in the ultraviolet and visible parts of the spectrum from 0.1 to 0.8 microns. Infrared observations are important because light at this wavelength can penetrate the dust that shrouds newly formed stars and planets, and make them visible.

Carina Nebula in visible light (*left*) and infrared (right), both Hubble images. Webb is an infrared telescope. *NASA/ESA/M*

SIZE: Webb's primary mirror is approximately 6.5 metres in diameter, giving it a significantly larger collecting area than the mirrors of the current generation of space telescopes. Hubble's mirror has a diameter of 2.4 metres, which means Webb's collecting area is around 6.25 times that of Hubble's. Webb will cover more than ~15 times the field of view covered by Hubble's NICMOS camera. Webb's sunshield is about 22 m by 12 m, a little less than the size of a tennis court.

ORBIT: Hubble orbits the Earth at an altitude of ~570 km. Webb will not orbit the Earth, instead it will sit at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point, 1.5 million km away. This means that Webb will orbit the Sun along with the Earth, but will stay fixed at the same spot in relation to the Earth and the Sun. At the L2 point, Webb's solar shield will block the light from the Sun, Earth, and Moon, which will help it stay cool -- important for an infrared telescope.

HOW FAR: Because light takes time to travel, the farther away an object is, the farther back in time we are looking. Thus, while Hubble can see the equivalent of "toddler galaxies", Webb will be able to see "baby galaxies". This is also because Webb is an infrared telescope, and can see distant objects which are very dim at visible wavelengths of light.

All information: NASA

100 yrs of SAD: movements, political power, and where it stands today

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 21

THE SHIROMANI Akali Dal (SAD), conceived a year after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, is celebrating 100 years of its foundation. Prof Ashutosh Kumar, a political scientist, says it is the only party in India that claims to safeguard the interests of the Sikhs, be it at home in India or abroad. "Also, SAD believes that Sikh nationalism and Indian nationalism are co-terminus.'

A look at its tumultuous journey, which has been as much Punjab's as the party's:

The early years

The SAD was formed as a volunteer group on December 14, 1920 to free gurdwaras from the control of mahants (priests) appointed by the British government, a month after the formation of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on November 15. It launched a four-year-long peaceful struggle during which 4,000 protesters were killed. It culminated in the Sikh Gurdwaras Act 1925, which brought gurdwaras under the SGPC's control. This pitched the SAD against the colonial government, paving the way for its alliance with Congress in the 1930s and 1940s.

Punjabi Suba movement

After the Centre appointed the States Reorganisation Commission in December 1953, the Akali Dal, led by Sant Fateh Singh, launched a movement for a Punjabi Suba in 1956. Chief Minister Bhim Sen Sachar's decision to make both Hindi and Punjabi the official languages of the state in 1957 gave momentum to the protests, as did the States Reorganisation Commission's decision to reject the demand for a Suba based on the Punjabi language, on the plea that it wasn't distinct enough from Hindi. Sant Fateh Singh (22 days) and Master Tara Singh (48 days) sat on long fasts in 1960 and 1961, but PM Jawaharlal Nehru remained unmoved.

Around 57,000 Akalis were jailed during the agitation. The movement for a Punjabi-speaking state also had supporters among other religions, most notably Seth Ram Nath, a Congress minister. The Akalis suspended the movement during the 1962 and 1965 wars, and took part in the war effort by supplying both men and material.

Eventually, the Centre relented and Lok Sabha passed the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, and Punjab in its present form came into being on November 1, 1966.

Historian J S Grewal said the Centre's decision gave a "*langra* Punjab" (a Punjab whose demands had not been met). Issues relating to the capital and number of Punjabi-speaking areas remained, "which continued over the years and led to Dharam Yudh Morcha in the 1980s".

Dharam Yudh Morcha

A year after the Congress's landslide victory in the 1972 Assembly elections, the Akali Dal, which had now fallen into the hands of orthodox leaders, passed the Anandpur Sahib resolution, seeking an independent political status for the community. In 1978, the resolution was revised, shifting the focus from the panthic agenda to autonomy for the state.

When negotiations with the Centre failed, the party headed by Sant Harcharan Singh Longowal launched the Dharam Yudh Morcha on August 4, 1982, in alliance with Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the head of the Sikh seminary Damdami Taksal, who gradually turned into a polarising figure.

Soon, militancy supported by Pakistan swept Punjab, with hardliners calling for a sovereign Sikh state. The Akali Dal was splintered into many factions as moderates were pushed to the fringes.

Operation Bluestar took place in June 1984, followed by the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards, and the anti-Sikh pogrom in October.

A year later, moderate Akali leaders led by Longowal resumed talks with the Rajiv Gandhi-led government which resulted in the Rajiv-Longowal Accord on July 24, 1985. An Akali government led by S S Barnala was elected, but didn't last very long. With radical elements taking over, Punjab was put under President's rule for five years from 1987.

But by the mid-90s, the Akali Dal led by Parkash Singh Badal managed to pull most moderate factions into its fold, and hardliners were gradually marginalised.

In 1996, the Akali Dal announced its ideological transformation into a party of all Punjabis, regardless of religion or geography, in its Moga declaration. Badal declared that SAD stood for 'Punjab, Punjabi and *Punjabiyat*'. The party now has a large number of Hindus members, and in the 2012 Assembly polls, 10 of its 11 Hindu candidates won.

Relations with SGPC, BJP

The Akali Dal has always held a sway over the SGPC. The SGPC with its huge material resources has lent its support to all Akali agitations. Also, there is an easy fluidity between the two organisations with SGPC members and heads moving on to join Akali Dal.

SAD has also been very flexible in its alliances, preferring win ability over ideology. In 1967 and 1969, the Akali Dal came to power after tying up with the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), backed by the RSS and Arya Samaj. Later, after the militancy years, the Akalis tied up with the BJP and were the first to support the BJP-led NDA at the Centre in 1998. Ever since 1997, the Akali Dal has fought all the elections in the state in alliance with the BJP, winning three Assembly elections.

Their relations soured in 2020 over the three contentious farm laws (now withdrawn). The SAD, which had initially supported these laws, quit the government and severed its ties with the BJP after these were passed in September.

Akali Dal today

Once known for its strong cadre and inner-party democracy, the Akali Dal now faces the charge of being a fiefdom of the Badals. In 2004, Parkash Singh Badal anointed his son Sukhbir the party president — the first sitting president to do so. Although Sukhbir has been widely credited with strengthening the secular credentials of the party, this has come alongside misgovernance coupled with concentration of power in the hands of the family. Dogged by instances of sacrilege and drug trafficking during its 10-year tenure, the party registered its worst ever performance in 2017, winning only 15 of the 117 seats.

With inputs from Navjeevan Gopal

Longer version in: *Indianexpress.com*

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	NIT NO. 37/SE PROJECTS/AMR	APPOINTMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY FOR ESTABLISHING AMR SYSTEM FOR 11 KV FEEDERS AND THEIR O&M FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN R-APDRP & IPDS AREAS OF UHBVN & DHBVN. EXTENSION OF DATE DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID 30.12.2021 UP TO 13:00 HRS. OPENING OF PART-I 31.12.2021 AT 15:00 HRS.	www.uhbvn.org.in	9356063249 seprojects@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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1	HPGCL	[illegible]	THE DUE DATE OF BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	HPGCL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	TENDER FOR REFILLING OF EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION DEVICES IN VARIOUS BUILDINGS I.E. TEACHING BLOCKS GUEST HOUSES, ELECTRIC SUB STATION, CAMPUS SCHOOL, HOSTELS AND PROVIDING OF FIRE PROTECTION DEVICES IN ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK OF BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	20.12.2021 10.01.2022	17 LACS	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	TENDER FOR REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE HIGH MAST FLOOD LIGHTS & CONVENTIONAL STREET LIGHTS (BALANCE WORK) WITH LED LIGHTING ETC. IN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	20.12.2021 10.01.2022	12.30 LACS	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS ELECTRICAL MATERIALS FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSE (STORE MATERIALS) IN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	20.12.2021 10.01.2022	9 LACS	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University) Bilaspur (C.G.)

e-mail: deanetggv@gmail.com **Contact:** +917999923520, 7587195566

Advt. Ref. No. 335/Academic/2021 **Date: 21.12.2021**

Spot / local level counseling for B.Tech. Admission against vacant seats for Academic Session 2021-22

The School of Studies of Engineering & Technology, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur(CG) is going to conduct **Spot/local Counseling process for B.Tech. Admission from 21st December 2021** for session 2021-22 against a few vacant seats in the seven branches of Engineering i.e. Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Information Technology, Industrial & Production Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Interested candidates shall apply online during 21.12.2021 to 03.01.2022. The detailed information about seats availability and procedure of admission is available on the website www.ggu.ac.in.

Registrar (Acting)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
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System Tender No. 88912/NIT No.:-11/SAC//2021-22, **Kawardha, Dated: 17.12.2021**

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.01.2022 at 17.30 Hour

Name of Work:- C.C. LINING OF R.B.C. & L.B.C. CANAL, CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NOS. VRB AND FIXING OF COLABA PIPES OF MOHPAR TANK SCHEME IN PANDARIYA BLOCK OF KABIRDHAM DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract:- Rs. 286.76 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (**https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in**) **from Date 24.12.2021, at 17.31 Hours (IST) onwards.**

NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-Procurement portal (**https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in**) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

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Water Resources Division, Kawardha, Distt. Kabirdham (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin, Raipur (C.G.)

65992

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1	163/14.12.2021/ 88766	ग्राम बनगांव बी, सरईटोला, सुखरापारा, चन्दागढ़, जामझोर, शेखरपुर एवं करमिटिकरा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 851 नग	359.05	180000/-
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3	165/14.12.2021/ 88933	ग्राम कुमेकेला एवं लुडेग के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 473 नग	250.71	150000/-
4	166/14.12.2021/ 88935	ग्राम लुडेग के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 722 नग	368.04	184100/-
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7	169/14.12.2021/ 88939	ग्राम किलकिला एवं गोढ़ीकला के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 590 नग	359.140	180000/-
8	170/14.12.2021/ 88940	ग्राम तमता एवं पतरापाली के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 613 नग	306.35	154000/-

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66008

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

PUBLIC WORKS (North) DIVISION, PUNE

New Administrative Building, First Floor, Pune-411001
e-Mail: northpune.ee@mahapwd.com.
Ph. No. 020-26123305. **Fax No.** 020-26123305

e-TENDER NOTICE No. 59 for 2021-2022 (Online)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (North) Division, Pune-411001 (Telephone No. 020-26123305) invites Tender in "B-1" Tenders for following work through e-Tendering process from contractors who fulfills terms and condition mentioned in Bid document.

Bid document can be download from website **htpps://mahatenders.gov.in.** Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved by competent authority. Conditional tender will not be accepted.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.
1.	**Construction of Bhimashankar Manchar Cement Concrete Road NH-112 (Balance Length) Km 1/700 to 3/000, Taluka Ambegaon, Dist. Pune.**	Rs. 654.14 Lakh

e-TENDER TIME TABLE

1.	**e-Tender Document Sale Start & End Date and Time**	Dt. 27/12/2021 from 10.00 Hrs.	20/01/2021 upto 18.15 Hrs.
2.	**Place, Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting**	In the Office of the Chief Engineer, P. W. Region, Central Building, Pune on or before Dt. 04/01/2022 at 12.00 Hrs.	
3.	**Bid Submission Start & End Date Time**	Dt. 27/12/2021 from 10.00 Hrs.	20/01/2021 upto 18.15 Hrs.
4.	**Place, Date & Time of Bid Opening of Technical & Financial Bid**	Dt. 24/01/2022 at 11.00 hrs in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P. W. Circle, Pune (if possible)	

All information about e-Tender is available in the following websites:
1) **www.mahapwd.com** (only Tender Notice), 2) **htpps://mahatenders.gov.in** (Any Change in Tender Notice will be informed on the website), 3) Notice Board of Executive Engineer, P. W. North Division, Pune. **NOTE:** Tenders Bidding Capacity shall be ascertained as per Post Qualification Criteria.

Sd/-
R. Y. PATIL, Executive Engineer,
Public Work (North) Division, PUNE-411001

(dgipr/2021-2022/3286)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE

Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com

O-1453

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
Identification No. 49 Dt. 18.12.2021

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P1 contract with design and execution of the following Piped Water Supply Projects.

1.	**Nos. of Work**	:	57 Nos RPWS schemes in Balasore district (Clubbed-up)
2.	**Estimated cost**	:	Rs. 275.66 lakhs to Rs. 394.38 lakhs
3.	**Period of completion**	:	330 days
4.	**Availability of bid document in Portal**	:	Dt. 29.12.2021 at 16.00 hours to 12.01.2022 up to 17.00 hours through online.
5.	**Seeking of Clarification**	:	Dt. 29.12.2021 at 10.00 hours to Dt. 07.01.2022 up to 15.00 hours
6.	**Date of opening of Bid**	:	Dt. 13.01.2022 at 11.00 hours in the O/O EE, RWSS Division, Balasore.
7.	**Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender**	:	Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore

Bid Cost & Bid Security will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT/RTGS. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**
RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE.
OIPR/25013/11/0016/2122

RUN OF RESERVED EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN JALANDHAR CANTT AND BANDRA TERMINUS

For the convenience of passengers, Northern Railway will run following Reserved Special Express Train as per the schedule given below :-

02472/02471 Jalandhar Cantt. - Bandra Terminus - Jalandhar Cantt. Fully Reserved Special Express

Train No. 02472 ARR.	Train No. 02472 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 02471 ARR.	Train No. 02471 DEP.
-	15:30	JALANDHAR CANT	11:10	-
15:42	15:44	PHAGWARA JN	10:49	10:51
16:22	16:40	LUDHIANA JN	10:13	10:20
18:30	18:35	AMBALA CANTT	08:47	8:52
19:39	19:41	PANIPAT JN	07:11	07:13
20:46	20:48	SUBZI MANDI	-	-
21:25	21:40	NEW DELHI	05:30	05:45
-	-	HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN JN.	05:05	05:07
23:20	23:25	MATHURA JN.	03:15	03:20
01:33	01:35	SAWAI MADHOPUR	00:33	00:35
02:45	02:55	KOTA JN	23:20	23:30
04:00	04:02	BHAWANI MANDI	22:00	22:02
05:50	05:55	NAGDA JN	20:43	20:48
06:30	06:40	RATLAM JN	19:45	19:55
07:42	07:44	MEGHNAGAR	18:18	18:20
08:08	08:10	DAHOD	17:52	17:54
09:30	09:32	GODHRA JN	17:02	17:04
10:27	10:37	VADODARA JN	15:55	16:00
11:28	11:30	BHARUCH JN	14:59	15:01
12:25	12:30	SURAT	14:18	14:23
13:38	13:40	VAPI	12:59	13:01
15:14	15:17	BORIVALI	11:23	11:26
16:10	-	BANDRA TERMINUS	-	11:00

Days of run:- 02472 Ex. **Jalandhar Cantt** on 22.12.2021 (Wednesday) and **02471** Ex. **Bandra Terminus** on 24.12.2021 (Friday)
Accommodation: 2nd Seating, Sleeper, 3 Tier AC & 2 Tier AC.

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. **139** — **Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & Download Railmadad app.**

Please join us on

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

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

3003/21

Public Relations-Northern Railway

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Highways Department,
Chennai Construction and Maintenance Circle

Tender Notice No.23/2021-2022/HDO **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 21.12.2021

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. **Percentage tender through online only** will be received up to **28/01/2022** 12.15 P.M by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under CRIDP 2021-22 (4 works) pertaining to Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram (H), C&M Division and Permanent Flood Restoration works 2020 (1 work) pertaining to Chengalpattu (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from **27/12/2021** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** if any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Chennai Circle

DIPR/4198/Tender/2021

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

Office of The Executive Engineer
Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Ghaziabad

No.: 3346/4A **Date: 08.12.2021**

Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

1- On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites online bids through e-tendering from the registered firm for Building/Road Category A,B,C and D. The bid document may be uploaded from dated 24.12.2021 to 31.12.2021 up to 12:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on date 31.12.2021 at 02.00 AM by the Committee in the office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, PWD, Ghaziabad. Date of financial bid will be informed separately to the technically qualified contractors. In case of holiday or office closed the technical bid/financial bids will be opened on next working day in the same manners.

2-

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs.)	Cost of Tender	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	GHAZIABAD	Repair work of type-4 residential building located in Lohianagar block C in district Ghaziabad (04 nos.) Building No. 1 to 4	12.75	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	4 Months
2		Repair work of type-4 residential building located in Lohianagar block C in district Ghaziabad (04 nos.) Building No. 5 to 8	13.25	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	4 Months
3		Repair work of type-4 residential building located in Lohianagar block C in district Ghaziabad (04 nos.) Building No. 17 to 20	13.50	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	4 Months
4		Repair work of type-2 residential buildings located in Tehsil Compound, Gandhinagar in district Ghaziabad. (06 nos. building)	13.25	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	4 Months
5		Special repair work of Sikrod via Bhowapur Ator road from Km. 22 of NH-58.	22.00	--	2000+ 300+ GST 18%	3 Months
6		Special repair work of Hapur Ghaziabad road to Chipiyana road	21.00	--	2000+ 300+ GST 18%	3 Months
7		Special repair work of pipeline route from NH-58 Km. 22 to Hum Tum Restaurant Shahpur via Ataur Nangla Sikrod road	20.00	--	2000+ 300+ GST 18%	3 Months
8		Special repair work of Morti to Ataur road.	27.00	--	2000+ 300+ GST 18%	3 Months
9		Special repair work of road from Morti to Bhikkanpur Khadanje	11.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
10		Special repair work of NH-58 to Shahpur link road.	8.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
11		Special repair work of NH-58 to Sikrod Marg (Varadan Multispecialty Hospital) road	8.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
12		Special repair work of Sikrod road from Sanchar Residency.	12.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
13		Special repair work of Bandipur to Firozpur road.	11.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
14		Special repair work of road from Shahzadpur to Ganganahar (Sonia Vihar Regulator).	14.00	--	500+ 225+ GST 18%	3 Months
15		Special repair work of Ravali Surana Gate to Surana Mandir road.	24.00	--	2000+ 300+ GST 18%	3 Months

3- Terms / conditions and details related to the tender can be seen in the office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2 PWD, Ghaziabad, Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahar Circle, PWD, Bulandshahar and Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, PWD Meerut

4- The terms / conditions and details related to the tender are available on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in**

5- In PWD technical evaluationof tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is **http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/**

Assistant Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD, Gzb.

UPID-172223 Date 20.12.2021
www.upgov.nic.in

Executive Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD, Gzb.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	INDIRA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, MEERPUR (REWARI)	PURCHASE OF TWO B.O.D IN CUBATORS (NSW 152)	14.12.2021 17.01.2022	4.50 LACS	www.igu.ac.in	9013344576

6353/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA GURUGRAM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	GMDA GURUGRAM	PROVIDING AND FIXING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON GMDA ROADS AND OTHER ROADS CONTINGENT THERETO.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 56/2021-22

C-1657

1.	**Name of the work**	:	4 No. of work of Khandapada ULB
2.	**Estimated cost**	:	199.22 lakhs to 437.13 lakh
3.	**Period of completion**	:	11 (Eleven) Months
4.	**Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal**	:	From 11.00 AM. of 24.12.2021 to 5.00 PM of 15.01.2022
5.	**Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal**	:	5.00 PM of 15.01.2022
6.	**Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid**	:	Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal in the Website (**http://tendersorissa.gov.in**)

Superintending Engineer,
P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-13021/11/0023/2122

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, RUSHIKULYA, BAHUDA, VANSADHARA, NAGAVALI BASIN, BERHAMPUR, (GANJAM) E-Mail: ce_rvn@yahoo.co.in

A-716

Tender Reference No- CEBM, RBVN-07/2021-22 (Bid Id No. KSIP-NGR-01 of 2021-22)

Online tenders are invited from Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders on EPC Contract

DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work	Class/ EMD/ Tender Fee/ Period of completion
Construction of Kusumi Smart irrigation project over river Kusumi at Sunalati- Krushnaprasad in Nayagarh block of Nayagarh distruct through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation System (Pressure Flow) of Kusumi Irrigation Project in Nayagarh district of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis.	(1) **Class of Contractor** - Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders (2) **EMD**: Only the Bid Declaration to be furnished instead of EMD / Bid Security. (3) **Tender Fee** : **Rs. 10,000.00** to be transferred online (non Refundable). (4) **Period of completion** : 18 (eighteen) calendar months including rainy seasons.

A. **Period of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal** : From 24.12.2021- 10.00 AM to 07.02.2022 up to 5.00 PM
B. **Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference** : 10.01.2022 at 11.00 AM
C. **Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bid** : 07.02.2022 up to 5.00 PM.
D. **Place of Sale & Receipt of Bid** : On-Line through e-Procurement.
E. **Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid** : 08.02.2022 at 11.00 AM.
F. **Place of Opening of Bid** : Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, R.B.V.N. Basin, Berhampur, Ganjam
G. Further details can be seen from E-Procurement Portal "**https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
RBVN, Basin, Berhampur, Ganjam
32072/11/0016/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
INVITATION FOR BIDS

O-1439

E-mail- eerwss_rai@nic.in, eerwss.rai@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDENTIFICATION No. 53 RWSS/RRPUR-2021-2022/ Dated 18.12.2021

The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites **percentage rate** bids to be received in online mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & contractor of equivalent Grade/ class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.

1. **Nature of work** :- a) Execution of clubbed up PWS schemes to different villages of **Bahalda, Bijatala, Bisoi** and **Jamda** Block under RWS&S Division Rairangpur in the District of Mayurbhanj.
2. **No. of packages** :- 7 (Seven) nos.
3. **Period of Completion** :- 11 (Eleven) months
4. **Cost of tender** :- ₹ 10000.00
5. **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 324.64 Lakhs to - ₹ 446.34
6. **Class of Contractor** :- (As mentioned in Tender Call Notice)
7. **Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal** :- From 10 hours of 24.12.2021 to 17.00 to hours of 10.01.2022
8. **Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents** :- Online only
9. **Date & time of opening of technical bid** :- Dt. 11.01.2022 at 16.00 hours onwards.
10. **Other Documents** :- (As mentioned in DTCN)
11. The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
12. **Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.**

Sd/- **18.12.21**
Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Rairangpur
OIPR - 25010/11/0028/2122

Aligarh Smart City Limited (ASCL)
Manasi Ganga Building, Baraula By-Pass, Aligarh, U.P. 202001, India

Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT) - National Competitive Bidding - RFP No: 48/ASCL/2021-22

Chief Executive Officer on behalf of ASCL invites Bids on two bid system through e-procurement for the following work:-

Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Period of completion	Publication Date & Time	Pre-Bid Meeting date	Last Date & Time for submission of Bid	Date of Technical Bid Opening
Integrated waste management Project in Aligarh with Operation & Maintenance for 03 Years.	Rs. 63 Crs	Rs. 130 Lakhs	06 Month	21/12/21 3 PM onwards	29.12.21 at 3 PM	06.01.22 up to 4 PM	06.01.22 at 4.30 PM

The time and date for opening of financial bid to qualified bidders shall be intimated separately. A non refundable amount of Rs. 45,000/- (Rupees Forty-five thousand only) to be paid as Tender Fee. The detailed RFP is available at the website **https://etender.up.nic.in**. Apart from the other conditions mentioned in the RFP, Bidder must also fulfill the criteria mentioned in GOI Office Memorandum Number F. No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23rd July, 2020 issued by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. Public Procurement division. Bid would be summarily rejected in case of non-fulfillment of aforesaid Office Memorandum dated 23rd July, 2020 and EMD shall be forfeited for those bidders. For more details, contact through email: **aligarhsmartcityltd@gmail.com**

Note: If any holiday occurs in scheduled date, the events shall be considered for next working day.

Sd/-
CEO-ASCL

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, मुरादाबाद वृत, लो0नि0वि0, मुरादाबाद
अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्रांकः– 5168 / निविदा–मु0वृत्त / 21–22 दिनांक :– 13.12.2021

महामहिम, राज्यपाल उ0प्र0 की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, मुरादाबाद वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0 मुरादाबाद द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से कॉलम–8 के अनुसार अर्ह एवं पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से दिनांक 22.12.2021 प्रातः 10 बजे से 27.12.2021 सायं 5.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। कॉलम–5 एवं 7 में दर्शायी गयी धनराशि E-Tender Portal पर Net Banking के माध्यम से जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। निविदा की प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन / टैक्नीकल बिड दिनांक 28.12.2021 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय कक्ष मे उपस्थित / अधिकृत रजिस्टर्ड फर्म के प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष गठित समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगी। टेक्निकल बिड में क्वालिफाई पाये गये ठेकेदारों की फाईनेंशियल बिड खोले जाने के दिनांक व समय हेतु पृथक से सूचना इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की जायेगी। कार्यालय बन्द होने अथवा छुट्टी होने की दशा में प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन / टैक्नीकल बिड उसी क्रम एवं समयानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। कार्यो का विवरण निम्नवत है–

क्रसं	जिला	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रू लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रू0 लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि(वर्षा काल सहित)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य स्टेशनरी व जी0एस0टी सहित(रू) में	ठेकेदार के पंजीयन की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	मुरादाबाद	जनपद मुरादाबाद में ग्राम धर्मपुर से मजरा चकझीम के मध्य स्थित बहाल्ला नदी पर लघु सेतु, पहुँच मार्ग, अतिरिक्त पहुँच मार्ग एंव सुरक्षात्मक कार्य के निर्माण का कार्य।	340.00	धरोहर राशि घोषणा पत्र	12 माह	2000+300+54 =2354	ए, (सेतु श्रेणी)

निविदा के नियम/शर्तें और विवरण वेबसाइट http://etender-up-nic.पद पर उपलब्ध हैं। शासनादेश सं–879(1) / 23–7–2020 दिनांक 25–08–2020 एंव प्रमुख अभियन्ता (विकास) एंव विभागाध्यक्ष के पत्रांक–4650 / 4एन–एल0सी0 / 2020 दिनांक 27.08.2020 के अनुरूप निविदादाता को प्रहरी यू0आर0एल0 http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/prahari/ पर लॉग इन कर आवश्यक अभिलेख अपलोड करने होगें।

आर.ओ. संख्या–172245
दिनांक–20/12/2021
www.upgov.nic.in

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0
मुरादाबाद

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
मुरादाबाद वृत, लो0नि0वि0,
मुरादाबाद।
(महामहिम राज्यपाल की ओर से)

DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)/A.C.E.(M)-4
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUR, DELHI - 110054

Short NIT. No.52 (Item no.1,2,3,4) (2021-22) E.E.(T)/A.C.E(M)-4

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of Peripheral sewerage system in Malka Ganj and Timarpur ward in AC-03 under ACE(M) 04. (Re-invite). I.D 2021_DJB_213103_1	35,13,280/-	20.12.2021 04 P.M. onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No: F.9/4/2020-PPD and DJB endorsement No. DJB/ 2020- 21/ Misc- II (PT) /971 Dated: 23.12..2020	Rs. 500/-	Technical bid will be received 27.12.2021, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
2.	Improvement of Peripheral sewerage system in Mukherjee Nagar and GTB Nagar ward in AC-03 under ACE(M) 04.(Re-invite). I.D 2021_DJB_213103_2	40,46,687/-			Rs. 500/-	Technical bid will be received 27.12.2021, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
3.	Improvement of 450 mm dia and 500 mm dia Peripheral sewer lines of Adarsh Nagar Constituency under ACE(M) 04.(Re-invite). I.D 2021_DJB_213103_3	47,26,598/-			Rs. 500/-	Technical bid will be received 27.12.2021, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
4.	Improvement of 600 mm dia and 700 mm dia Peripheral sewer lines of Adarsh Nagar Constituency AC-04 under ACE(M) 04.(Re-invite). I.D 2021_DJB_213103_4	37,94,528/-			Rs. 500/-	Technical bid will be received 27.12.2021, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 860(2021-22)

Sd/- **(S.K. SINGH)**
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-T(M)-4

STOP CORONA "Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2021-22 **Dated 21.12.2021**

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. January/22

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Including Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Auction programme is as under :-

S. No.	Depot/Divi.	TIME	Auction Dates for January / 22							
1	Dy. CMM/AMV 0522-2451257	11:00	4	8	12	17	20	24	28	31
2	Dy. CMM/SSB 011-27015387	11:00	5	10	13	17	21	25	29	31
3	Dy. CMM/JUDW 01732-252388	11:00	3	7	11	15	19	24	27	31
4	Sr. DMM/MB 0591-2413141	12:00	6	10	14	18	21	25	28	31
5	Sr. DMM/FZR 01632-244154	12:00	6	10	14	18	21	25	28	31
6	Sr. DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	3	7	11	14	19	24	27	31
7	Sr. DMM/DLI 011-23365311	12:30	4	7	12	17	20	24	28	31
8	Sr. DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	10:00	5	10	13	17	21	25	28	31

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at **www.ireps.gov.in.**
2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website '**www.ireps.gov.in**'.
4. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at **www.railnet.gov.in**.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

(D.S. Ramu) Dy. CMM/S & P

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2995/2021

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश
(लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन)
लिंक रोड नंबर 3, माधवराव सप्रे मार्ग, भोपाल – 462003

–विज्ञापनः–

विज्ञा.क्र/रा.स्वा.मि./मा संसा./सेल–1/2021/2496 भोपाल, दिनांकः 17.12.2021

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म. प्र0 के अंतर्गत म.प्र. पब्लिक हेल्थ कार्पोरेशन (एम.पी.पी.एच.सी.एल.) हेतु संविदा रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2022 तक के लिए होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा।

1 पद का विवरणः

क्र	पदनाम	रिक्त पद संख्या	मासिक मानदेय	अनिवार्य शैक्षणिक योग्यता/वांछनीय शैक्षणिक योग्यता	आयु सीमा
1	Software Developer	1	70000/-	Essential Educational Qualification: B.E. /B.Tech in CS/IT or MCA and equivalent, Note: with at least 55% marks from a recognized university/institute (only regular full time course) Desirable Educational Qualification: M. Tech/ Computer Science Degree or equivalent Essential Work Experience: 4 Years in the software development out of which 1 years of experience of software development in PSU/government Organization.	21–40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग निशक्तजन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)
2	Implementation Engineer	1	45000/-	Essential Educational Qualification: B.E. /B.Tech in Biomedical Engineering/Electronics Eng/Instrumental Eng. **Note:** with at least 55% marks from a recognized university/institute (only regular full time course) For above all criteria's) Desirable Educational Qualification: Post graduate Engineering degree in relevant subject. Desirable Educational Qualification: Post graduate Engineering degree in relevant subject. Note: with at least 55% marks from a recognized university/ institute (only regular full time course) (For above all criteria's) Desirable Qualification: proficiency in computer knowledge Work Experience: Candidate should have more than 3 years experience in helath sector field out of which 1 year experience in implemnetaiotn of projects related to health care / Public Health	21–40 वर्ष अधिकतमआयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग निशक्तजन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)
3	Consultant Procurement	1	45000/-	Essential Educational Qualification: B. Pharma with at least 55% Marks from a recognzied university/ Institution (Only Full time Course) Desirable Educational Qualification: PG in Pharma with at least 55% marks from a recognized university/institute (only Full time course) Desirable Qualification: proficiency in computer knowledge Work Experience: 5 years experience in health sector field out of which 2 year experience in procurement of medicines/ medical kits/drugs/medical equipment.	21–40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग निशक्तजन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)
4	Consultant Procurement Quality	1	45000/-	Essential Educational Qualification: B. Pharma with at least 55% Marks from a recognized university/ Instituion. (Only Full time course) Desirable Educational Qualification: M/Pharma/PG Diploma/MBA in Materials Management/Logistic Management/Operational Management/Supply chain Management with at least 50% Marks from a recognized university/Institution. (Only Full time Course) Desirable Qualification: PG in computer knowledge Work Experience: 5 years experience in Public procurement/supply chain management/Goods Logistic Management and 2 Year Working experience should be in Govt./PSU for experience should be in Govt./PSU For Quality/ project Logistics in healthcare.	21–40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग निशक्तजन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)
5	Assistant Programme Manager Procurement	1	30000/-	Essential Educational Qualification: B. Pharma with at least 55% Marks from a recognized university/ Institution. (Only Full time Course) Desirable Educational Qualification: PG in Pharma/ MBA in pharma mgmt. / MBA or PGDM in material Management with at least 55% Marks from a recognized university/ Institution (Only Full Time Course) Desirable Qualification: PG in computer knowledge Work Experience: Candidate Should have more than 3 years/ experience in health sector filed out of which 1 year experience in procurement of medicine/kits / drugs/ equipment tendering/ bills processing and Vendor Management and who is well versed in contract Law and Contract Management.	21–40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग निशक्तजन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)

आवेदन सेम्स लिमिटेड के बेब पोर्टल **www.sams.co.in** के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है। आवेदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 22.12.2021 से उपलब्ध की जायेगी। ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.01.2022 है। ऑफ लाईन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य / स्वीकार नहीं किये जावेगें
2. निर्धारित प्रारूप में नही किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन स्वयमेंव निरस्त माने जायेंगे।
3. अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
4. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म. प्र. किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत / निरस्त करने अथवा प्रक्रिया को निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।

हस्ता./–
मिशन संचालक
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्यप्रदेश

G- 20468/21 Dated 20.12.2021

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी ।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CONST. DIVISION PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GAUCHAR

S.No. 2328/15A.C Dated : 20/12/2021

Very-Short Term-E-Tendering

Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Public Works Department, Gauchar on behalf of "Governor of Uttrakhand" invites tender by E-tendering for the following work. Information regarding bid will be available from 24-12-2021 on http://www.uktenders.gov.in.

S. N.	Name of Work	Mode of E-Tendering	Amount of Bid Security (Rs. Lakhs)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Cost of tender document	Completion Period (In Months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1.	Under State sector construction of Sonla-Kandara motor road to Kanchula - Gain motor road Km. 3.00 (Ch. 2.000 to 2.500)	Single Bid System	0.77	120 Days	2500 + GST 18%	12 Month	Registered in Uttarakhand PWD Category "D" and above for Road Work

Bid will be submitted online at website www.uktenders gov.in

Before opening of bid upto 3:00 PM following documents to be submitted physically to this office of **Executive Engineer, C.D. P.W.D. Gauchar** along with online submission-

1- FDR of earnest money pledged in the Designation of **Executive Engineer, C.D P.W.D, Gauchar.**
2- DD of tender cost to **Executive Engineer, CD PWD, Gauchar.**
3. Rs. 100.00 non-judical stamp with Rs. 1.00 signed Revenue ticket for bid validity.
4- Hard Copy of F.D.R. in original.
5- Required category Registration-copy.

Note- (1) Earnest Money of Year 2021-22 will be considered valid only.
(2) Disposal of tender will be done as per the provisions of Uttrakhand Government Latest G.O.

-Sd.
Executive Engineer

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय
102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या:- **139/2021-22/RWD/DALTONGANJ** दिनांक :- **20.12.2021**

मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1.	RWD/ DALTONGANJ/ 14/2021-22	चढ़नवा पहाड़ी बाबा मोड़ आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से विश्वकर्मा टोला होते हुए भुईया टोला तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं– 3.300 कि0मी0)	2,49,41,000.00	दो करोड़ उनचास लाख एकतालीस हजार रू0 मात्र	12 माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथिः– **30.12.2021**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः– **11.01.2022** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. **(क)** मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी, राँची अथवा **(ख)** जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, **राँची** अथवा **(ग)** जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, **डालटनगंज** में से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथिः– **12.01.2022** पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः– **17.01.2022** पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन– 834001
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0651–2207818
8. निविदा शुल्क झारखण्ड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक/अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम/अकाउंट से ही निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, **डालटनगंज** के पक्ष में एवं **डालटनगंज** में भुगतेय होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

नोडल पदाधिकारी
ई–प्रोक्युर्मन्ट सेल

PR 259826 Rural Work Department(21-22)#D

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **(1) Roop Kishor Madan, Managing Director of AIMS Sanya Developers (P) Ltd., R/o A-9/4, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, also A-8/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, (2) Sh. B.S. Awana Principal Officer, AIMS Sanya Developers (P) Ltd., R/o D-13, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024, (3) Ms Chhavi Sharma Principal Officer, AIMS Sanya Developers (P) Ltd., R/o D-13, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 947/2018, u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **(1) Roop Kishor Madan, (2) Sh. B.S. Awana, (3) Ms Chhavi Sharma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **(1) Roop Kishor Madan, (2) Sh. B.S. Awana, (3) Ms Chhavi Sharma** have absconded (or are concealing themself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **(1) Roop Kishor Madan, (2) Sh. B.S. Awana, (3) Ms Chhavi Sharma of CC No. 947/2018, u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.02.2022.**

By Order
Ms. Isha Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Central District, Room No. 202,
Second Floor, Annexe-II Building,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1806/N/21(Court Matter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No. 6020212022 **Dated : 20.12-2021**

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 13:30 hrs. on 12.01.2022. **The details of the Tender are as under :-**

S N	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work (Rs.)	Completion Period	Eligibility Criteria for similar work
1	159	Miscellaneous civil work related to protection and stability of cess in Aligarh-Ghaziabad section under ADEN/Aligarh.	24802381.7	10 months	Any Civil Engineering Work
2	160	Pre & Post BCM work between Tundla-Ghaziabad Section under Sr. DEN/5/PRYJ	15057366.23	12 months	P-way Work

Earnest Money : NIL, Date of Opening of tender : 12.01.2022

Note : Railway Board vide letter no.2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dt. 30.12.2020 has advised that Ministry of Finance vide OM No. F.9/4/2020-PPD, dated 12.11.2020 titled "Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit" has advised to take from bidders Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit. The above instructions shall be followed for all works & services tender on Indian Railways, published on or after 18:00 hrs. of 16.01.2021 and shall be valid for all the tenders issued till 31.12.2021 (including 31.12.2021).

1. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. **2.** The complete information along with tender document of above E-TENDER is available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** upto 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 12.01.2022. **3.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **4.** The tenderers shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. **5.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **6.** The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July2020 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as Incomplete offer and accordingly shall not be considered. **1324/21 (SP)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.

(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN : [illegible]
[illegible]

पत्र सं0: 551/पी0सी0एल0/म0प्र0/जोन-5/Tender-26 दिनांक: 18.12.2021

ई–निविदा सूचना

जनपद झाँसी स्थित ऐतिहासिक परीक्षा बाँध परिसर का सौन्दर्यीकरण एवं पर्यटन विकास कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई–निविदा सूचना सं0 26/GM-5/UPPCL/2021-22 दिनांक 18.12.2021 द्वारा ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा http:// etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 21.12.2021 से दिनांक 30.12.2021 के अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई–निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 21.12.2021 से देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक जोन–5

UJVN Limited

H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone:0135-2763808, Fax No.:0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O.No. 1012 **Tender Notice** Dt. 21-12-2021

Office of the EE (Solar), "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S Road, UJVN Ltd, Dehradun, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. : 02/EE(SOLAR)/2021-22

Name of the Work : Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Net metering work of proposed 32kW Grid connected roof top Solar Power Plant at Ganga Bhawan Building, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 1841340 (GST exclusive)

Date for availability of tender on website : 21-12-2021.

Last date for submission of Tender : 12-01-2022 till 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

Executive Engineer (Solar)

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
Phone: 0522-4918510, Fax 0522-4918506 Website: www.drrmlims.ac.in

Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2021-22/3662 Dated: 21.12.2021

INVITATION FOR PRE-BID OFFER (EXPRESSION OF INTEREST) FOR PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF CANCER DETECTION MOBILE VAN WITH ALL MEDICAL & OTHER EQUIPMENT INCLUDING FURNITURE etc.

Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow invites objections/observation/comments from Manufacturers/Authorized distributors/Dealers/Agents/Authorized Fabricators for the specification of equipment and scope of work of the Cancer Detection Mobile Van.

For detailed information of Pre-Bid meeting etc., please visit our website www.drrmlims.ac.in.

The Manufacturers/Authorized distributors/Dealers/Agents/ Authorized Fabricators are requested to send the objections/observation/ comments with product brochure of related cancer detection mobile van with all medical & other equipments including furniture etc. till date 03.01.2022 up to 4:00 PM in the JDMM Camp Room No-17, Administrative Block, Ground Floor of the Institute through speed post/by hand/courier etc. in the hard copy.

Director

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82/83 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Harpreet Kaur, W/o Satender Pal Singh, R/o: H. No. 108, Sector-22, NIT Faridabad, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 23/10 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Harpreet Kaur** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Harpreet Kaur** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Harpreet Kaur** accused of **FIR No. 23/10 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.02.2022.**

By Order
Ms. Mahima Rai Singh
Ld Metropolitan Magistrate-02
Room No. 273, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1828/N/2021

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA

O-040

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. C.C.E (RANDB) RGDA- 06/2021-22 (Online)

No. 1865 **Date 16.12.2021**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.	The Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate** bids in **double cover mode** to be received in **online mode** only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:	
2.	Name of work	: Building work
3.	No. of work	: 01 (One) nos. of work
4.	Estimated Cost (Approximately)	: Rs. 256.73 lakh.
5.	Bid Cost	: Rs. 10,000/- (each)
6.	Class of Contractor	: "B" and "A" Class as per Financial Eligibility
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: 11.00 Hrs of Dt. 23.12.2021 to 16.00 Hrs of Dt. 07.01.2022
8.	Date of opening of Bid	: 11.00 Hrs of Dt. 10.01.2022
9.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-32412/11/0007/2122

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE NO. 10 MONTH JANUARY-2022

No. S/Sale/611/E-AP/21-22 **Date:** 20.12.2021

It is intimated that scrap materials available in all Divisions and Depots of North Central Railway will be sold through e-auction and all organizers will conduct the auction of their area.

Scrap Items: P.Way Scrap, Scrap Rail, Cast Iron Scrap, Condemned rolling Stock, Non ferrous and Non metallic Scrap, Turning & Boring, Condemned Oil/Paints Drums, Condemned Machinery & plants, Condemned Vehicles, Condemned office equipments, Foundry Slag, Released overhead MS/GI tanks, Released ferrous scrap of train lighting fans, Released MS/GI pipe line, foundry skull, Workshop MS scrap and other MS scrap.

S.N.	e-auction Date & Day		Depot/Division	Organizer of Auction	Through
1	06.01.2022	Thursday	GSD/JHS	Dy. CMM/SYS/JHS	website "www.ireps.gov.in"
2	13.01.2022	Thursday			
3	20.01.2022	Thursday			
4	27.01.2022	Thursday			
5	13.01.2022	Thursday	GSD/CNB	Dy. CMM/GSD/CNB	
6	27.01.2022	Thursday			
7	07.01.2022	Friday	PRYJ DIV.	Sr. DMM/NCR/PRYJ	
8	18.01.2022	Tuesday			
9	28.01.2022	Friday			
10	05.01.2022	Wednesday	JHS DIV.	Sr. DMM/NCR/JHS	
11	12.01.2022	Wednesday			
12	19.01.2022	Wednesday			
13	31.01.2022	Monday			
14	11.01.2022	Tuesday	AGC DIV.	Sr. DMM/NCR/AGC	
15	19.01.2022	Wednesday			
16	28.01.2022	Friday			

Special Conditions: 1. All type of scraps will be through e-auction mode **www.ireps.gov.in** website. In the event of auction not being completed on the same day, auction may be continued on the next days also (Applicable only for Dy. CMM/SYS/JHS). **2.** The unsold lots of e-auction will also be included in next e-auction of respective depot. **3.** The Intending purchaser may inspect the lot of scrap material before the auctions during working hours. **4.** To purchase material above Rs.5 Lacs, the purchaser must be registered with Sale Tax department. **5.** For further details on auctions (like catalogues, last sold rates in auctions & other details). Please visit North Central Railway's website **"www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in". 6.** For further detail regarding e-auction Please visit **"www.ireps.gov.in"** website. **1325/21(D)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely **Riyazuddin @ Raju S/o Shabbir** R/o H. No. E-1/520-B, Kh. No. 322, Gali No. 12, Nehru Vihar, Mustafabad, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offense under case **FIR.No. 369/20 U/s 392/397/34 IPC.,** has been registered at **P.S. Vijay Vihar** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Riyazuddin @ Raju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Riyazuddin @ Raju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused,, **Riyazuddin @ Raju of FIR.No. 369/20 U/s 392/397/34 IPC., registered at PS. Vijay Vihar,** required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.01.2022

By Order,
Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta
Room No. 401, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/1210/RD/2021 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ajay Goswami, S/o Ishwar Pal Goswami, R/o A-156, 2nd Floor, Phase-1 Vivek Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 10678/17 u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ajay Goswami** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ajay Goswami** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ajay Goswami** of **FIR No. 10678/17 u/s 138 IN Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.02.2022.**

By Order,
Mr. Visvesh
Metropolitan Magistrate
Central Room No. 01, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1808/N/2021

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD

E-TENDER NOTICE :TANGEDCO/MEDIUM TERM/ 5 YEARS

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of 1500 MW RTC power for a period of five years by floating medium term tender through the Aggregator M/s.PTC India Ltd under FOO (Finance, Own, Operate) Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated **29.01.2019,** through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com,** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power **(www.powermin.nic.in)** and PFC Consulting Ltd **(www.pfcclindia.com).** Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.

DIPR / 4174 / TENDER / 2021 **Chief Engineer/PPP/TANGEDCO**

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

NAGAR PARISHAD CHATRA

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to the Tender Reference No.- UDD/CH/NPC/06/2021-22, Dated- 01.12.2021 vide PR No.- 258288 (Urban Development) 21-22)D. Invited for Development of Shahid Binay Bharti Mega Park with Sports Corridor under Nagar Parishad Chatra. (Part-2). Due to unavoidable reason postponed to the till next order.

Executive Officer,
Nagar Parishad, Chatra

PR 259899 Urban Development(21-22)D

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. **230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-11**. The details are as under:

1	**Name of the work**	'Disconnection, removal and fitment of auxiliary motors in 3-phase locomotives of ELS/GZB'.
2	**Approx. cost of work:**	₹ 19,96,931.35
3	**Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender:**	12.01.2022 (11:00 hrs.)
4	**Date & Time of opening of tender document:**	12.01.2022 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
5	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:**	**www.ireps.gov.in**

Note :

(i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system.

(ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

(iii) No manual offers are acceptable.

(iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-11 Date: 20.12.2021 **2994/2021**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702

Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004. E-mail ID : internalauditjbvnl@gmail.com

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, EOI (Extension of time limit for 15 days of **NIT-156/PR/JBVNL/21-22** for Appointment of consultant Firms for conducting Internal Audit of Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project from F.Y's 2017-18 to 2021-22 is hereby cancelled.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 256612

Sd/-
General Manager (F&A)
Internal Audit & Taxation

PR.NO.259906 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22):D

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused namely **Abid@Mota, S/o Safat, R/o H.No. B-429, Gali No. 4/5, Babu Nagar, Mustafabad, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the **offence of FIR No. 549/18 u/s 392/395/411/120B IPC at , P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Abid@Mota** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Abid@Mota** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Process U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Abid@Mota, FIR No. 549/18 u/s 392/395/411/120B IPC at , P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi** is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.01.2022**

By Order
Ms. Richa Parihar,
M.M., Karkardooma,Courts, Delhi

DP/1227/NE/2021-(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Pravesh

General public is here by informed that this boy (depicted in the photo) namely: **Pravesh** S/o **Sh. Ram Gopal Shah** R/o **Vill. Lavheta/ Lohini, Distt. Fatehpur, UP** has been missing/kidnapped since May, 2017 from Vakeel Building near Gol Baithak, Old Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. **245/17 U/s 363 IPC** dated **04.07.2017** has been lodged at **PS Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Boy but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 8 years, **Height:** 3' ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** White Greenish Half Sleeve T-shirt and Blue colour Jeans Pant.

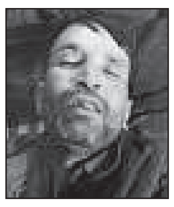
Any person is having information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following telephones nos.:-

SHO
P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22072761
Mob. No: 7065036024, 8800110304

Website:http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639

DP/653/SHD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Arvind Kumar, S/o Puran Singh,** R/o Rainbasera Near Metro Station Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi, Age 42 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Shallow, Face Round, Wearing Green colour jacket and blue colour lower was found dead at above mention adress on 30.11.2021. In this regard a DD No. 24-A date 30.11.2021 has been lodged at PS Dwarka North, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO
PS: Dwarka North, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-28031878, 9868919970

DP/637/DW/2021

BRUHATH BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, Bengaluru

No: EE/GNR/Tend/E-Procu/007/2021-22 **Date: 20.12.2021**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Gandhinagara), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/National Highways or any State Government Orgaizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Approx. value of work (₹ in lakhs)
Development of Mahadevamma Nagaraju Park at 1st Cross in **Ward No.121**	**100.00**
EMD (in ₹.)	Instead of EMD the tenderer must submit the declaration as per the Government order No.AE/675 Cost-12/2020 Benglauru Date: 22.12.2021

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from **28.12.2021. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **01.01.2022** upto **4:00** pm. **(3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is **01.01.2022** upto **4:00** pm. **(4)** Opening of Technical Bid Document is **04.01.2022** at **12:30** pm. **(5)** Pre Bid Meeting Document on **28.12.2021** at **4:00** pm. **(6)** Opening of Financial bid Document: After approval of Technical Bid. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer -
Gandhinagara Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shakir S/o Shakil** R/o Mahalla Gher, Najju Khan, Near Sheesha Wali Masjid, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 129/16 U/S 356/379/120B/174A/34 IPC** PS Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shakir** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shakir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shakir** of **FIR No. 129/16 U/S 356/379/120B/174A/34 IPC** PS Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.01.2022.

By Order
Shri Harun Pratap
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 296A, 2nd Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1823/N/2021

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture

Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-ddl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Dec 22, 2021

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	**Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)**	**Availability of Bid Document**	**Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids**
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001359/21-22 Rate Contract for SITC of UPS Batteries for 1 year	37 Lacs/ 92,500	22.12.2021	13.01.2022;1700 Hrs/ 13.01.2022;1730 Hrs

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	**Previously Published Date**	**Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids**
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001356/21-22 Rate Contract for supply of MVLC - 38 For Goat Conductor	27.11.2021	27.12.2021 at 1600 Hrs/ 27.12.2021 at 1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website **www.tatapower-ddl.com**→Vendor Zone →Tender / Corrigendum Documents

Contracts - 011-66112222

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sh. Rajeev Vasudev, Proprietor of M/s Raja Home Makers, R/o:** C-125, Ground Floor, Jawahar Park, Devli Road, Khanpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 539870/16 U/s 138 NI Act,** registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Sh. Rajeev Vasudev** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sh. Rajeev Vasudev** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sh. Rajeev Vasudev** accused of **CC No. 539870/16 U/s 138 NI Act,** P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.03.2022.**

By Order
Ms Tishra Shah
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act-06) (Central),
Room No. 1, Court Building Annex-II,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1805/N/2021

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. SB PHQ/SEC-24/Store / 473/2021 Bhopal, **Dated: 16.12.2020**

1-E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (G) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal forthe Finanical Year 2020-21 for rate contract for purchase of following Items on website **https://www.mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-**

S. No.	Name of Item	Specification	Qty. Approximate	Tender Fees	EMD Rs.
				Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	
1	Photo Copy Paper, A-4 Size	Size-A4, 75 GSM Or Better, Weight - 2 KG or better Color - Super White of reputed brand	7000 Packet	1000/-	35000/-
2	Photo Copy Paper, A-3 Size	Size-A3, 75 GSM Or Better, Weight - 4.5 KG or better Color - Super White of reputed brand	200 Packet		
3	File Pad	Size - 35 x 25 CM Minimum or better. Material - Good Quality Card Board, Cloth Winding in All Corner with 2 No's Cloth Strip In Centre of File Pad and thick fitta/thread in centre of file pad.	6000 Nos		
4	Top Secret File Pad	Size - 35 x 25 CM Minimum or better. Material - Good Quality Card Board, Cloth Winding in All Corner with 2 Nos Cloth /Suitable Material Strip and thick fitta/thread in centre of file pad. Suitable Cloth Cover to Bind/Cover the document.	2000 Nos		
5	L-Shape Folder (Transparent)	Size- 30 x 21 CM Minimum or better. Material - Good Quality Plastic, Color - Both Sides Should be Transparent.	8000 Nos		
6	L-Shape Folder (Colored)	Size - 33 x 23 CM Minimum or better. Material - Good Quality Plastic. Color -Front Sides Transparent & Other Side is Colored.	2000 Nos		
7	Box File	Size - Each Flap Size Should be 34 x 26 CM Minimum or better Width - 8 Cm Minimum or better. Material - Good Quality Card Board, Clamp - Heavy Duty Paper Binder Made of Steel. Edge Binding - on Outer & Folding Edge.	1500 Nos		
8	Ring Binder File (Medium)	Material - Colorful Fiber/Good Quality Plastic. Size - 30 x 24 CM Minimum or better Width:- 2.5 CM Minimum or better. Clamp - Good Quality Stainless Steel Ring Winder. Pocket One Pocket in Inner Side of File.	1500 Nos Packet		
9	Ring Binder File (Student / Small)	Material - Colorful Fiber/ Good Quality Plastic Size - 30 x 24 CM Minimum or better. Width - 3.5 CM Minimum or better. Clamp - Good Quality Stainless Steel Ring Winder. Pocket - One Pocket in Inner Side of File	1000 Nos		
10	Ring Binder File (Big)	Material - Colorful Fiber/ Good Quality Plastic Size - 30 x 24 CM Minimum or better. Width - 6.5 CM Minimum or better. Clamp - Heavy Duty Good Quality Stainless Steel Ring Winder. Pocket - One Pocket in Inner Side of File.	1000 Nos		

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://www.mptenders.gov.in/ nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tender website: **https://www.mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
4. Tender Schedule:

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
1	Last date of purchase e-Tender document	10.01.2022 up to 1200 hrs.
2	Last date of online e-Tender submission	10.01.2022 up to 1700 hrs.
3	Bid will be opened on	12.01.2022 up to 1200 hrs.
4	Demonstration from (नमूनों का मिलान)	10.01.2022 up to 1200 hrs.

Sd/-
A.I.G. (G) SB
For: Director General of Police,
M.P. Bhopal
Dated 20.12.2021

G- 20477/21

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू

<u>अल्पकालिन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना</u>

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – EE/RDSD/PALAMAU-10/2021-22

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	पलामू जिला के विश्रामपुर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत ग्राम भलुही तथा लोहरदगा के बीच खुंटीसोत नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	32835155.00	657000.00	10000.00	18 माह।

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 22.12.2021
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय – 05.01.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू/मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 06.01. 2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची
6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –07.01.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू।
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9304798195 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू।

PR.NO.259857 Rural Development(21-22):D

WESTERN RAILWAY

<u>COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE</u>

Tender Notice No. & Date: WR-MMCT0ECOAECEO32020-ESC dtd. 20/12/2021 Name of work: "Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of power cars provided with M/S CUMMINS diesel engine including schedule maintenance diesel engine & alternators with their operation to extend power supply during maintenance of EOG/LHB primary trains including new train/holiday special trains at BDTS coaching depot & escorting with power cars of these trains" for one year. (Schedule A - Enroute Operation on Escorting Duty) **Approx. cost of work Rs.: Rs 26245837.28/- Location: Bandra Terminus Depot - Mumbai Division. Date & Time of submission: Not later than 15.00 Hrs. of 17/01/2022 Date & Time of opening: 17/01/2022 at 15.30 Hrs. NOTE:** Please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. **608**

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN STATE LEVEL PURCHASE COMMITTEE, SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT, J&K, SRINAGAR
(DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, LALMANDI, SRINAGAR)

e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/2021-22/13463-73 **Dated: 20 .12.2021**

Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Sheep pox vaccine.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, e-Tenders in two bid system (Technical-1 and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Original manufacturers/companies of repute and firms in line possessing valid authorization of principals, for fixing the rate contract for supply of sheep pox vaccine.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20.12.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.12.2021
3	Bid submission start date	21.12.2021
4	Bid submission end date	09.01.2022
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	10.01.2022 (2.00 PM)

1. Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

i. Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.

ii. To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.

iii. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.

v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

2. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

(Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)

Sd/-
Chairman
State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department
Jammu & Kashmir

No:DSHK/ACCTTS/2021-22/13463-73
Date: 20.12.2021

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

<u>E-Tender Tender Notice</u>

Dy. CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, North Eastern Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur-for and on behalf of President of India invites open tenders through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

S.No.-01 E-Tender Notice No: IREPS Tender No. 30-GKP-MWS-2021-22, Name of the work: Overhauling of Transformer of MEMU Motor Coach POH & D.C Motors of MEMU Main Compressor & Auxilary Compressor for 36 MEMU Motor Coaches as per Scope of Work, Estimated Cost: ₹34,70,616/- Earnest Money: ₹0.00/-, Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0.00/-, Last date of Tender sub-mission: upto 11:00 hrs., Date 28-01-2022, Period of Contract 24 moths.

The details of above tender are available on Indian Railway website ***www.ireps.gov.in.***

CWM, Mechanical Workshop,
CPRO/Yantrik-52 **Gorakhpur**

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹47,246	₹75.59	$69.83	₹60,508

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of December 20

SENSEX: 56,319.01 ▲ 497.00 (0.89%) **NIFTY:** 16,770.85 ▲ 156.65 (0.94%) **NIKKEI:** 28,517.59 ▲ 579.78 **HANG SENG:** 22,971.33 ▲ 226.47 **FTSE:** 7,268.60 ▲ 70.57 **DAX:** 15,408.69 ▲ 169.02

International market data till 1900 IST

CIC TO GDP RATIO REMAINS HIGH AT 14.5% FOR FY21

Currency-in-circulation growth falls

SUNNY VERMA & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI, DEC 21

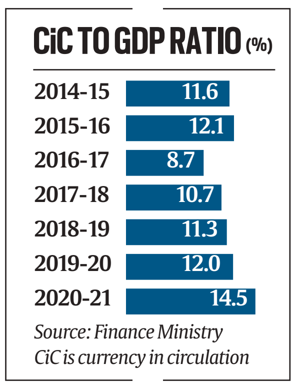
A YEAR after the Covid-19 pandemic led to a surge in demand for cash, the growth in currency in circulation (CiC) has declined as of November this year if the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry is any indication.

The growth in CiC has fallen to 7.9 per cent (Rs 2.14 lakh crore) in November 2021 as against 22.2 per cent (over Rs 5 lakh crore) growth in the same month a year ago. However, more than five years after demonetisation, CiC has risen steadily every year, with the CiC to GDP ratio having now surged to 14.5 per cent in 2020-21 from 8.7 per cent in 2016-17, as per data presented by the Finance Ministry in Parliament. CiC to GDP ratio is now ever higher than that in the pre-demonetisation period.

Precautionary demand for currency during the pandemic times has been a key reason for rising currency with public, according to the Finance Ministry.

Cash in the system has been steadily rising, even though the government and the RBI have pushed for a "less cash society", digitisation of payments and imposed restrictions on the use of cash in various transactions. CiC rose to Rs 29.56 lakh crore as December 3, 2021 from Rs 27.58 lakh crore a year ago. The government had argued that demonetisation would lead to lesser cash with public, however, cash usage has only risen since then.

"Demand for currency depends upon several macro-economic factors including economic growth and level of interest rate. Precautionary demand generated by public during financial year 2020-21 due to Covid-19 pandemic induced uncertainties is also an important factor in currency demand," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in reply to a query on Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, "Combination of greater public demand for cash and a contraction in GDP has led to an increase in CiC as a percentage of GDP to 12 per cent and 14.5 per cent in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, respectively," he added.



Source: Finance Ministry
CiC is currency in circulation

However, year on year growth in CiC has decelerated sharply to 7.9 per cent as on November 2021 from pandemic influenced surge to 22.2 per cent a year ago, he said.

As per the RBI's definition, currency with public is arrived at after deducting cash with banks from total CiC. CIC refers to cash or currency within a country that is physically used to conduct transactions between consumers and businesses. After Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were withdrawn in November 2016, currency with the public — which stood at Rs 17.97 lakh crore on November 4, 2016 — declined to Rs 7.8 lakh crore in January 2017.

The jump in currency with public last year was primarily driven by a rush for cash by the public, as the Centre announced stringent lockdown to tackle the spread of the Covid pandemic. The sudden withdrawal of notes in November 2016 had roiled the economy, with demand falling, businesses facing a crisis and gross domestic product growth declining nearly 1.5 per cent. Many small units were hit hard and shut shutters after the note ban. It also created a liquidity shortage.

Although digital payments have been growing, both in value and volume terms across countries, data suggests that during the same time CiC to GDP ratio has increased in consonance with the overall economic growth, as per an RBI study on digital payments.

Experts said cash continues to be the dominant medium of transactions in India, across regions and income groups. During the festival season, cash demand remains high as a large number of merchants still depend on cash payments for end-to-end transactions. Cash remains a major mode of transaction with about 15 crore people not having a bank account. Moreover, 90 per cent of e-commerce transactions use cash as payment mode in tier 4 cities compared to 50 per cent in tier 1 cities.

INTERVIEW WITH FICCI PRESIDENT AND HINDUSTAN UNILEVER CMD

'Unprecedented inflation in several commodities ... may see tapering by mid-2022'

SANJIV MEHTA, FICCI President and CMD of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), said the government has to create enablers to prop up demand that in turn would lead to virtuous cycle of investment and growth. In an interview with SUNNY VERMA, he said MSMEs need support in terms of financing and technology.

Sanjiv Mehta

Inflation is posing concerns. Is it transitory or entrenched?

Inflation is not just in India, it's a global phenomenon. I believe part of the inflation is not that the demand has been so high, that it is a demand-led inflation. I believe it will be more because of supply constraints. And part of it could also be speculative. My assessment is by mid-2022, we should start to see some tapering of inflation.

In FMCG segment, we've seen a lot of price rises over the last year. Has it impacted demand and are manufacturers able to pass it on?

This is a bit unprecedented inflation because it's happened in several commodities all together. And we must also accept that per capita consumption of FMCG is only about $40-45, and the rural will be half of that. So when you have commodity prices increase, it would impact some level of consumption, because many rural households which are on the marginal side will allocate a certain sum of money for certain categories. And if the price goes up, then to that extent volume goes down. And also we have many price point packs. On price point packs, you don't change the price but you adjust the quantity inside. And when you do that, then also your volume goes down.

Now, ability of companies to pass the price: it depends on various factors. First is, a company like HUL, we don't have a one-to-one correlation between commodity price and end price. We look at all levers, how do we drive our cost saving agenda much harder. How do we play the portfolio. Then, we look at it that we maintain the price value equation. Consumers don't look at this price. They look at price values. So we look at that now. Also importantly, capacity to take a price increase also depends on the strength of your brand. If your brands are stronger, you can take more price increase because the consumers will still stick to you. If your brands are not strong and fragile, then the consumers will switch if the other player has not changed the price or taken a lesser price. So brand power becomes a really important indicator of your capacity to take price.

High raw material prices have hit MSMEs. What can be done to alleviate their pain?

This is one area where FICCI has been focusing a lot because MSMEs ... are more fragile and the pandemic has impacted them. So MSMEs need support in terms of financing, technology and talent. And if we have to create a very robust ecosystem of MSMEs, we have to strengthen them. There are some who are part of large companies' ecosystem. Like our MSMEs, who are attached to us (HUL), we will protect, but standalone MSMEs need much more support. That's where government intervention could help.

What is your diagnosis of private corporate investment remaining lackadaisical, despite sharp cuts in corporate tax rates?

I'm glad you raised this question. First, I think corporate tax rates, we should look at it from country's long-term competitiveness. Our corporate tax rates were much higher and now they have become competitive. And many times when you do the reforms, the impact you see is a bit later. Now, coming to private capital spending, there was a period when a lot of capacity got created. And then we went into this twin balance sheet problem.

Now, if you look at it, the banks are in a much better space. They have to a large extent sorted the NPAs or provisioned them. They've also brought in additional capital, and the corporates have also been able to deleverage. They've been able to deleverage, have raised capital and their profitability has improved. So we used to keep hearing this twin balance sheet problem. Now that lexicon more or less faded away. And today, the capital investment is about 60-70 per cent. Once the demand moves up, I'm sure there is no businessman in the country who would like to lose sales. So then the capital investment cycle will again come back.

One key thing from what you said is that 'once demand comes back'. Now will it come back on its own or is there is a need to support it?

Now what will be required, of course, the government has to create enablers to prop up the demand and, you know, the virtuous cycle of growth happens when you get into demand, which could be whether it is self propelled or whether it is being facilitated by the government, which requires more capacity, which will result in more livelihood, which will result in more money in the hands of consumers, more spending and then the virtuous cycle starts.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

TECH WATCH
CONSUMER INTERNET

Zepto gets $100 mn: Eye on expansion for q-commerce startup

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

MUMBAI-BASED QUICK commerce startup Zepto, which was founded by two Stanford University dropouts, has raised $100 million in Series C funding led by Y Combinator's Continuity fund, valuing the 10-minute grocery delivery firm at $570 million.

Who has invested in Zepto and where will the funds be utilised?

EXPLAINED E.

Y Combinator's Continuity Fund led the funding round, with participation from new and existing investors, including Glade Brook, Nexus, Breyer Capital, Lachy Groom, Global Founders Capital and Contrary Capital. This Series C round came just 45 days after the company announced its $60 million fundraise in November.

"The company's leadership includes senior executives and operators from Flipkart, Uber, Dream11, Pharmeasy, PepperFry, and Amazon to name a few. With this injection of capital, Zepto plans to expand coverage across multiple cities in India and scale its team rapidly and is currently hiring across all functions, including operations, supply chain, marketing, finance, product, engineering, and human resources," Zepto said.

What are some other recent announcements in the q-commerce space?

Zomato-backed online grocer Grofers, which has rebranded itself as Blinkit, announced "temporary closing down" of its service in areas where it couldn't deliver under 10 minutes. Earlier this month, Swiggy announced a $700-million investment into its q-commerce vertical Instamart.

Who are some other players in this segment?

Fraazo, a direct-to-consumer brand in fresh fruits and vegetables sector, announced tripling of its dark stores to 750 by June-July 2022. Others like Big Basket's BBNow — that will be extended to Tata Neu superapp — and Dunzo are either planning or have launched full-scale q-commerce operations.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Real estate institutional investment may fall 20%'

Institutional investments in real estate may fall 20% to $4 billion this calendar year amid higher inflow of funds in 2020, JLL India said

During January-September, institutional investment rose to $2,977 million from $1,534 million in the year-ago period

Annual investments are expected to be in the $3.8-4 billion range in 2021

Large portfolio deals worth $3.2 billion during the last quarter of 2020 helped institutional investments cross the $5-billion mark last year

Source: JLL India/PTI

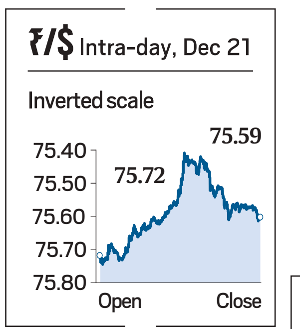
RBI intervention prevents Re slide

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

DOLLAR SALES of close to $5 billion by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prevented the rupee from crashing further in the last couple of days, analysts said. The domestic currency, which plunged to 76.23 last Friday, gained 31 paise to 75.59 on Tuesday.

On Monday, despite the Sensex plunging 1,190 points, the rupee gained 16 paise to settle at 75.90 against the US dollar on dollar sales by banks on behalf of the Reserve Bank.

Market sources estimate that the RBI would have sold $1 billion on Monday. Moreover, when the dollar closed the 76-mark, exporters trimmed their dollar holdings. "Had the RBI not intervened, the rupee would have fallen below 77 against the dollar," said an analyst.



"This persistent dollar selling led to the Indian currency breaching the key technical level of 75.60 which triggered stop-losses and exaggerated dollar sales by traders," IFA Global Research said.

Foreign investor selling in stock markets is the main reason for the rupee's decline. FPIs pulled out Rs 3,565 crore on Monday and Rs 1,209 crore on Tuesday from India, taking the total outflows to Rs 31,462 crore in December.

NSE Prime for corporate governance

New Delhi: NSE on Tuesday launched a new corporate governance initiative NSE Prime that companies listed on the bourse can adopt voluntarily. It will raise the bar for corporate governance standards in India, enable investors to identify companies which have voluntarily signed up for higher standards of corporate governance, the exchange said in a statement. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

Ola drivers

New Delhi: Ola said its driver partners will now see an approximate drop location and payment mode before accepting a ride, a move aimed at reducing cancellations by them and enhancing customer experience. **PTI**

Foxconn plant

Chennai: Apple supplier Foxconn's plant near Chennai will be shut this week after protests over a food poisoning incident, three government sources said. Foxconn and Apple did not comment. **REUTERS**

Snapdeal IPO

New Delhi: Snapdeal filed papers with Sebi to float an IPO, with fresh issuance of ₹1,250 crore of shares and OFS of 3.07 crore shares.

MapmyIndia scrip

New Delhi: Shares of CE Info Systems, MapmyIndia's parent, listed with a 53% premium, ending 35% up. **PTI**

Central Bank

New Delhi: Central Bank of India on Tuesday marked its 111th foundation day. **ENS**

Renewable PPAs in Andhra, Punjab: Power cos write to Centre

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

RENEWABLE POWER producers have raised the issue of states like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab reneging on power purchase agreements (PPAs) and asked that the Punjab Governor veto a Bill that would allow renegotiation of existing PPAs in the state.

The Andhra Pradesh government is currently in a legal battle with renewable energy producers with the aim of renegotiating contracted power tariffs and the Punjab Assembly has passed a Bill to renegotiate tariffs under existing PPAs. Solar power tariffs have fallen drastically over the past 5 years leading to power purchased under earlier solar PPAs being significantly more expensive than prices under more recent PPAs.

In a letter to the Union Power Minister, the Association of Power Producers (APP) said the move by the Punjab government could put Rs 27,000 crore of investment in jeopardy and lead to a rise in non-performing assets in banks. "We have recommended that the Punjab Bill (Punjab Energy Security, Termination of PPAs and Redetermination of Power Tariff Bill), not be given approval by the Governor since it overrides the Electricity Act," said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, managing director, Apraava Energy.

Industry representatives noted that technological breakthroughs had led to a sharp decline in prices but investments made earlier were based on a price discovery mechanism and the technology at the time.

"Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have gone back on a majority of renewable PPAs. If you accept cancellation of PPAs because of a technological breakthrough bringing down tariffs, then you have to accept all cancellations as and when a breakthrough results in price reduction. For investments to continue and if we have to meet our target of 500 GW of renewable power capacity, we need to ensure that earlier contracts are honoured, " said Ashok Khurana, DG, APP.

The Power Ministry did not respond to emailed requests for comment by *The Indian Express*.

Experts noted that besides moves by the two states to renegotiate contracts, renewable energy producers have faced of large dues from state discoms.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Telangana State Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation,
Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad-95, Telangana State

Short Tender Notice No.5/TSMSIDC/Medicines wing/2021-22, Dt.20.12.2021

Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement and supply of Medicine Kit Bags. Managing Director, TSMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Website: **https://tender.telangana.gov.in from 22.12.2021** onwards.

Sd/- Managing Director

DIPR RO.No: 2473-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF E TENDER (NIT) - YEAR 2021-22

Vivekanand Medical Foundation & Research Centre, Latur, Maharashtra invites Tenders for purchasing Medical Equipments as mentioned in the below table for Vivekanand Cancer Hospital. The tender Would be publish on **27th December, 2021 at 10 AM IST.**

Sr. No.	Name of the Equipment	Required Quantity
1.	PET CT Scanner	01
2.	Gamma Camera	01
3.	Fully Automated Immunoassay Analyzer	01

To view further details of the tender, interested bidders should visit **https://mahatenders.gov.in.**

Tender Submission would be online on **https://mahatenders.gov.in** and deadline to submit the Proposal is **17th January, 2022 at 2 PM IST.**

Administrator
Vivekanand Medical Foundation & Research Centre

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
O-1434
Bid Identification No 27 of 2021-22

1. **Name of the Work :-** Laying of pipe lines, construction of R.C.C E.S.R, construction of valve chambers, pumping unit installation and providing 100% FHTC in connection with piped water supply to different villages in the district of Kandhamal. (Refer DTCN available in the website:- tendersorissa.gov.in)
2. **Total No of work** : 5 Nos.
3. **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 314.80 lakh to Rs. 367.75 lakh
4. **Eligible Bidder** : A & Special class Contractor
5. **Period of Completion** : 11 (Eleven) months (Refer DTCN available in the web site tendersorissa.gov.in)
6. **Other Details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date and time for opening of Technical Bid
		From	To	
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Phulbani	27 of 2021-22	Dt. 31.12.2021 At. 10.00 Hrs	Dt. 14.01.2022 Up to. 17.00 Hrs	Dt. 17.01.2022 at 11 00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only.

Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division, Phulbani
OIPR- 25006/11/0014/2122

KALABURAGI CITY CORPORATION
Ph. : 08472-278675, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_Gulbarga@yahoo.com
No:KMP/EE/ELE/CCMS/139/2020-21 Date: 20-12-2021

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work : SELECTION OF CONCESSIONAIRE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LED STREET LIGHTS/LIGHTING SYSTEM AND CENTRALIZED CONTROL & MONITORING SYSTEM THROUGH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) IN KALABURAGI CITY CORPORATION ,KALABURAGI, 2) Head of account : SFC Global fund, 3) Class of contractor : Company registration certificate, 4) Pre-bid meeting date and time : 29.12.2021 at 11:30 AM in Commissioner chamber, CCK, 5) Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 24.01.2022 at 4.30 PM, 6) Tender form fee and EMD value in Rs.: Tender form fee as per E-portal, EMD Value Rs.5,00,000/- (The bidder must also upload a soft copy/scan copy of bank guarantee for Rs.63,72,000/-), 7) Date and Time for opening of Technical bid: 25.01.2022 at 5.00 PM, 8) Date and Time for opening of Financial bid : 31.01.2022 at 11.00 AM, 9) Contact information : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi, Room.No.49, Electrical section, 10) Refer E-procurement website for further queries : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Commissioner
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike
DIP/Kalaburagi/831/MC&A/2021-22

Government of Karnataka
District Surveillance Unit, NCD Cell, Mandya
District Health and Family Welfare Office Premises, Mandya
E-mail : ncdmandya@gmail.com
Phone :- 08232-220417

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharath Health and Wellness Center Programme
Procurement of Medical equipments and Consumables as per KTTP-1999 Act-2000
(1) Tender Notification Date No: **DSO/HWC/Mandya/338/2021-22 Date : 25.11.2021.** (2) Starting date to upload Tender Form Date: **17.12.2021.** (3) Last date to upload Tender Form Date:**01.01.2022 05:00 PM.** (4) Technical Bid Opening Date, time and Place District HFW Office, Mandya.Date : **03.01.2022, 11:00 AM.** (5) Financial Bid Opening Date, time and Place. District HFW Office, Mandya Dist Date : **05.01.2022 11:00 AM.** (6) Tender Total Amount : **Rs. 1,26,94,514/-.** (7) EMD Amount : **Rs. 3,00,000/-.** (8) Corresponding Officer and Adress : **08232-220737** District Surveillance Officer, Mandya District Health and Family Welfare Office Premises, Mandya.Contact us Office Hours. (9) Web Site Address **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-District Surveillance Officer,
District Surveillance Unit Mandya District, Mandya
DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/458/2021-22

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
O-1429
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:- 0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/30-2021-22/BPR & Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 31-2021-22/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender/30-2021-22/BPR	Road works under Improvement of Newly Taken P.R. Roads by R.D. Deptt.	05 Nos.	From Rs. 363.69 lakhs to Rs. 623.15 Lakhs	"A" Class "Special" Class & "Super" Class as applicable	09 (Nine) & 11 (Eleven) Calendar Month as provided
Online Tender/31-2021-22/ BPR	Road Works under PERIODICAL MAINTENANCE	01 Nos.	Rs. 100.56 lakhs	"B" Class "A" Class & "Special" Class as applicable	04 (Four) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/ 30-2021-22/BPR Online Tender/ 31-2021-22/BPR	22.12.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	05.01.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) No EMD is required as per O.M.No. 8943 Dt. 18.03.2021 of Finance Department, Govt of Odisha. But Bid Security declaration should be furnished by the bidders as mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information / documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & corrigendum if any can be seen from the website:- **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Constructon Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25071/11/0030/2122

THE WORLD

MEANWHILE,

TRUMP BOOED FOR GETTING BOOSTER SHOT

Former US President Donald Trump revealed he received a booster shot of the Covid vaccine, drawing boos from a crowd in Dallas. He had told the *Wall Street Journal* in a September that he "probably" wouldn't get a booster shot.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Alaa Abdel Fattah

EGYPT

Leading activist sentenced to 5 years in prison

Cairo: Prominent Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah was sentenced to five years in prison on Monday, a judicial source said, after being tried on charges of spreading fake news. Blogger Mohamed Ibrahim and lawyer Mohamed El-Baqer, who faced the same charges, were sentenced to four years. The three have been detained since September 2019. Abdel Fattah, a leading activist in the 2011 uprising that toppled president Hosni Mubarak after three decades in power, had previously been imprisoned for five years in 2014 and released in 2019. REUTERS

UNITED STATES

Indian-origin diplomat named Tibet issue envoy

Washington: The US has designated Indian-origin diplomat Uzra Zeya as its Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues. She has been tasked with promoting "substantive dialogue" between China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in support of a negotiated agreement on Tibet. Zeya, who was once posted in Delhi, had quit the foreign service in 2018 in protest against the policies of then president Donald Trump. As the US Special Coordinator, Zeya will coordinate the US government policies concerning Tibetan issues, consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, as amended by the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020. PTI

SOUTH AFRICA

Zuma can appeal return to jail, says judge

Johannesburg: Former South African President Jacob Zuma will be allowed to appeal a court ruling that ordered him back to jail to serve the remainder of his sentence, a judge ruled Tuesday. Zuma, 80, had been released on medical parole earlier this year, but the Gauteng High Court in the capital, Pretoria, ruled last week that his parole had been illegal. On Tuesday, Judge Elias Matojane said the ex-president can now appeal that finding. "Because of his illness and advanced age, he needs compassion, empathy and humaneness," Matojane said. AP

As Omicron variant sweeps globe, Europe considers tighter restrictions

REUTERS
LONDON, DECEMBER 21

COUNTRIES ACROSS Europe were considering new curbs on movement on Tuesday as the fast-moving Omicron variant swept the world days before Christmas, throwing travel plans into chaos and unnerving financial markets.

Omicron infections are multiplying across countries in Europe, North America and Asia, including Japan, where a single cluster at a military base has grown to at least 180 cases.

New Zealand Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins said his country, which imposed some of the world's toughest Covid measures, was delaying the start of a staggered reopening of its border until the end of February. Omicron now accounts for 73% of all new cases in the US, up from less than 1 per cent at the beginning of the month.

South Korea, the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland are among countries to reimpose partial or full lockdowns, or other social distancing measures, in recent days.

Thailand will reinstate mandatory quarantine for foreign visitors from Tuesday.

Britain, Germany and Portugal were considering further measures. British finance minister Rishi Sunak will talk soon about his discussions with representatives of the hard-hit hospitality industry who are demanding more government support, a government minister said. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday he was looking at all kinds of measures to keep Omicron under control.

"We reserve the possibility of further action but it's a question of looking at that data and weighing that against the other consequences of further restrictions" Cabinet Office Minister Steve Barclay told *BBC* radio on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the European Commission on Tuesday also adopted rules that will make the European Union Covid-19 certificate valid for travel nine months after the completion of the primary vaccination schedule.

Riot police officers scuffle with people protesting Covid restrictions in Bucharest. *AP*

EXPLAINED: Why does Omicron spread so fast?

SCIENTISTS ARE trying to decode the dozens of mutations that Omicron carries to figure out what else is going on. Researchers in Hong Kong recently reported hints that Omicron may multiply more quickly in the airway than delta did, although not as efficiently deep in the lungs.

Biden to pledge 500 mn free tests for Omicron

JOSH BOAK & RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 21

WITH THE Omicron variant on the march, President Joe Biden plans to announce 500 million free rapid tests for Americans, increased support for hospitals under strain and a redoubling of vaccination and boosting efforts.

In a speech on Tuesday, Biden is announcing major changes to his Covid-19 winter plan, his hand forced by the arrival of the fast-spreading Omicron variant. The White House provided details on the proposals Biden will announce in his speech.

A cornerstone of the plan is Biden's decision for the government to purchase 500 million Covid rapid tests and ship them free to Americans starting in January.

People will use a new website to order their tests, which will then be sent to them by US mail at no charge. It marks a major shift for Biden, whose earlier plan had called for many to purchase the tests on their own and then seek reimbursement from their health insurance.

Public health experts had criticised Biden's initial approach as unwieldy and warned that the US would face another round of problems with testing at a critical time.

They pointed to other advanced countries, such as the United Kingdom, where the government ensures access to testing. In the US, rapid tests for at-home use are much more expensive than in Europe, and they have proved to be frustratingly hard to find in stores. AP

US REPORTS FIRST OMICRON DEATH

Houston: The US reported its first death due to the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus, with an unvaccinated man in his 50s succumbing to the disease in Texas, according to health officials. The man, who was not identified, was unvaccinated and had previously been infected with Covid-19, according to a release from Harris County Public Health. "The individual was at higher risk of severe complications from Covid-19," a release said. County Judge Lina Hidalgosaid the patient was not vaccinated and had an underlying health condition. PTI

AUSTRALIA PM RULES OUT LOCKDOWNS

Sydney: Australia must move past "the heavy hand of government" and authorities must stop shutting down people's lives with lockdowns, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Tuesday, as daily Covid infections in the country shot up to a new pandemic high. Covid cases have been breaking records over the last several days, fuelled by the Omicron variant, but Morrison insisted that limiting the spread of the virus comes down to "personal responsibility". "We have got to get past the heavy hand of government and we have got to treat Australians like adults," Morrison said, urging authorities to shift from "a culture of mandates" when it comes to masks and social distancing rules. REUTERS

UK court orders Dubai ruler to pay £554 mn to ex-wife

MICHAEL HOLDEN & ANDREW MACASKILL
LONDON, DECEMBER 21

DUBAI'S RULER, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, has been ordered by the High Court in London to provide a British record of more than 554 million pounds to settle a custody battle with his ex-wife over their two children.

The bulk of the massive award to Princess Haya bint al-Hussein, half-sister of Jordan's King Abdullah, and the couple's two children, is to ensure their lifetime security, not least to address the "grave risk" posed to them by the sheikh himself, said the judge, Philip Moor.

The judge said: "She is not asking for an award for herself other than for security" and to compensate her for the possessions she lost as a result of the marital breakdown.

He directed Mohammed to make a one-off payment of 251.5 million pounds within three months to Haya for the upkeep of her British mansions, to cover the money she said she was owed for jewellery and racehorses, and for her future security costs.

The sheikh, who is vice-president and Prime Minister of the UAE, was also told to provide 3 million pounds towards the education of Jalila, 14, and Zayed, 9, and 9.6 million pounds in arrears. He was also asked to pay 11.2 million pounds a year for the children's maintenance, and for their security when they become adults.

These payments will be guaranteed via a 290 million pound security held by HSBC bank. The final sum, despite being believed by some London lawyers to be the largest public award ever ordered by an English family court, is less than half of the 1.4 billion pounds that Haya had originally sought.

During almost seven hours of testimony, Haya, 47, said a large one-off payment would allow for a clean break and remove the sheikh's hold over her and their children. "I really want to be free," she told the court. REUTERS

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum. *Reuters*

Putin blames West for tensions, seeks security guarantees

DASHA LITVINOVA
MOSCOW, DECEMBER 21

THE RUSSIAN president on Tuesday reiterated his demand for guarantees from the US and its allies that NATO will not expand eastwards, blaming the West for "tensions that are building up in Europe."

Vladimir Putin's speech at a meeting with Russia's top military brass came just days after Moscow submitted draft security documents demanding that NATO deny membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet countries and roll back the alliance's military deployments in Central and Eastern Europe — bold ultimatums that are almost certain to be rejected.

Putin charged Tuesday that if US and NATO missile systems appear in Ukraine, it will take those missiles only minutes to reach Moscow. "For us, it is the most serious challenge — a challenge to our security," he said, adding that this is why the Kremlin needs "long-term, legally binding guarantees" from the West, as opposed to "verbal assurances, words and promises" that Moscow can't trust.

"For us, it is the most serious challenge — a challenge to our security," he said, adding that this is why the Kremlin needs "long-term, legally binding guarantees" from the West, as opposed to "verbal assurances, words and promises" that Moscow can't trust.

He said Moscow hopes "constructive, meaningful talks with a visible end result — and within a certain time frame — that would ensure equal security for all."

"Armed conflicts, bloodshed is not our choice, and we don't want such developments. We want to resolve issues by political and diplomatic means," Putin said. AP

A Kalibr cruise missile is launched from a submarine. *Reuters*

RUSSIA FIRES TEST CRUISE MISSILE FROM SEA OF JAPAN

Moscow: A submerged Russian submarine has successfully launched a Kalibr cruise missile from the Sea of Japan at a target more than 1,000 km away, located at a Russian training ground onshore, the *RIA* news agency said Tuesday.

The drill also involved covert movement and support from military ships, aircraft and drones, it quoted Russia's Pacific Navy as saying.

Japan lays claim to the Russian-held southern Kuril islands in the nearby Sea of Okhotsk, which Tokyo refers to as the Northern Territories. REUTERS

Man arrested for vandalising statues at Karachi temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, DECEMBER 21

THE STATUES of deities at a Hindu temple in Karachi have been destroyed, police said on Tuesday, the latest incident of vandalism against the places of worship of the minority community in Pakistan.

The incident took place at the Narayan Mandir in Karachi's old city of Narainpura on Monday evening, they said.

A man, Muhammad Waleed Shabbir, was arrested for damaging the statues of the deities, police said. "He was arrested on the complaint of a Hindu man, Mukesh Kumar, who with his wife was at the Narayan Mandir when they saw this man damaging the statues with a hammer," he said. An eyewitness said angry Hindus, who were at the temple, caught hold of the miscreant and handed him over to police.

Later, the Hindu residents of the area staged a protest outside the police station, demanding the government to provide security to Hindus. They also raised slogans and protested that they were feeling insecure after the incident.

Sindh's Minister for Minority Affairs Gyanchand Israni said a case should be registered.

AIR STRIKES HIT SANAA AIRPORT

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said it has carried out air strikes on what it called military targets at the Sanaa international airport. The airport has been closed to civilian flights since 2015 although UN planes have been permitted to land there. *Reuters*

Lankan lynching: Pak religious body says taking law into hands is against Quran

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 21

PAKISTAN'S TOP religious body has said taking the law into one's hands was against the teachings of Quran, Sharia and the Constitution as it demanded those responsible for the Sri Lankan national's lynching in the country's Punjab province be brought to justice, a media report said on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, supporters of the radical Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked a garment factory in Sialkot and lynched its 49-year-old general manager — Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana — before setting his body on fire over allegations of blasphemy.

An FIR was registered against 900 people. Of the total over 160 suspects detained in this case, Punjab police conducted the forensic tests of 54 suspects so far.

The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Monday observed that a serious issue facing the country was implementation of laws and that the judicial system needed improvements to stop a recurrence of the Sialkot-like incident.

It said that if a person took the law into his own hands, the state should take action.

According to a report in the *Dawn*, the CII held a brainstorming session over the Sialkot lynching. It was briefed by District Police Officer Omar Saeed Malik on the action taken. PTI

Pak joining US's 'war on terror' a 'self-inflicted wound': Imran

BY SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 21

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday regretted Pakistan's decision to join America's 20-year-long 'war on terror' in Afghanistan by calling it "self-inflicted wound" and a decision made for the sake of money and not for public interest.

Khan, who had long been critical of Pakistan's participation in the about two-decades long war, claimed that he was close to the decision-makers in 2001 when the then military ruler, Gen Pervez Musharraf, decided to become part of the 'war on terror'.

"And so, I am well-aware of what considerations there were behind the decision. Unfortunately, the people of Pakistan were not a consideration," Khan said.

"The considerations, instead, were the same as in the 1980s, when we participated in the Afghan jihad," he said, referring to the Soviet-Afghan war, which was then dubbed as "holy war".

Khan in the past had often cited that Pakistan suffered more than 80,000 deaths as a result of the 20 years of war PTI

BIGGEST SPACE TELESCOPE IN HISTORY AIMS TO ANSWER HOW WE GOT FROM BIG BANG TO HERE

Webb telescope prepares to ascend, with eye toward our origins

DENNIS OVERBYE
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 21

THERE ARE only a few times in the history of a species when it gains the know-how, the audacity and the tools to greatly advance the interrogation of its origins. Humanity is at such a moment, astronomers say.

According to the tale that they have been telling themselves (and the rest of us) for the last few decades, the first stars flickered on when the universe was about 100 million years old.

They burned hard and died fast in spectacular supernova explosions, dispelling the gloomy fog of gas left over from the primordial fireworks known as the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago. From those sparks came all that we care about in the universe.

But is that story right?

The tools to address that question and more are at hand. Sitting in a spaceport in French Guiana is the biggest, most powerful and, at $10 billion, most expensive telescope ever to be launched into space: the James Webb Space Telescope. Its job is to look boldly back in time at the first stars and galaxies.

"We're looking for the first things to come out of the Big Bang," said John Mather of the Goddard Space Flight Center, the chief scientist for the telescope. Or, as he likes to ask: "How did we get here from the Big Bang?"

If all goes well, the telescope will be loaded onto an Ariane 5 rocket and, on December 24, blast off on a million-mile journey to a spot beyond the moon where gravitational forces commingle to create a stable orbit around the sun.

Over the next 29 days on its way up, a chrysalis will unfold into a telescope in a series of movements more complicated than anything ever attempted in space, with 344 "single points of failure," in NASA lingo, and far from the help of any astronaut or robot. "Six months of high anxiety," engineers and astronomers call it.

Astronomers will then spend six months tweaking, testing and calibrating their new eye on the cosmos.

The James Webb Space Telescope at a facility in California last year. *Courtesy: NASA*

The official mission of the telescope is to explore a realm of cosmic history that was inaccessible to Hubble and every telescope before it. "We are all here because of these stars and galaxies," said Alan Dressler of the Carnegie Observatories.

That mission requires the Webb to be tuned to a different kind of light than our eyes or the Hubble can see. What began as blue light from an infant galaxy 13 billion years ago has been stretched to invisible infrared wavelengths — heat radiation — by the time it reaches us today.

To detect those faint emanations, the telescope must be very cold — less than 45 degrees Celsius above absolute zero — so that its own heat does not wash out the heat being detected. Hence a sun shield, which will shade the telescope in permanent, frigid darkness.

So far, the earliest and most distant known galaxy, discovered by the Hubble, dates to a time only 400 million years after the Big Bang. The telescope will be able to see back farther, to a mere 100 million years after the Big Bang.

In that foggy realm, Marcia Rieke of the University of Arizona expects to find dozens more infant galaxies, she said. Astronomers believe these were the building blocks for the clusters of galaxies visible today, agglomerations of trillions of stars. NYT

Over 160 migrants drown in shipwrecks off Libya, says UN

Cairo: More than 160 migrants drowned in two separate shipwrecks off Libya over past week, a United Nations migration official said Tuesday. The fatalities were the latest disasters in the Mediterranean Sea involving migrants.

Safa Msehli, a spokeswoman for the International Organization for Migration, said 102 migrants were reported dead after their wooden boat capsised off Libya on Friday. At least eight others were rescued and returned to shore, she said.

Three days later, Libyan coast guard retrieved at least 62 bodies of migrants in another shipwreck. Msehli said. Another boat carrying at least 210 migrants was intercepted and returned to Libya, she said. AP

Absurd to play: Ljinders

REUTERS
DECEMBER 21

LIVERPOOL assistant manager Pepijn Lijnders said on Tuesday that it was "absurd" that Liverpool have to play two games in four days given the number of COVID-19 cases and injuries at the club. The Anfield side drew 2-2 with Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday in the league and will face Leicester City at home on Wednesday in the quarter-finals of the League Cup.

Both the Premier League and English Football League announced on Monday that fixtures during the busy festive period will go ahead as planned despite the surge in COVID-19 cases. "We always make our recommendations and give our honest opinion to improve the quality of the game. This is what we did in (Monday's) meeting. We love the intensity but we all have to respect recovery," Lijnders told reporters.

"We think it is absurd we have to play after 48 hours. It's a much higher risk of injury... You'll have to ask the teams why they want to play. With the COVID cases being this fresh, it'd make sense to have more time before the next game," Lijnders added that the Premier League should seek the advice of scientists and doctors on fixture postponements instead of discussing it with club executives.

"For me the experts are not the managers. For me the experts are the scientists and the doctors. And we should follow their guidelines... The Premier League should ask them -- not the CEOs, not the managers," he said.

Liverpool will be without centre back Virgil van Dijk plus midfielders Thiago Alcantara, Fabinho and Curtis Jones against Leicester after they returned positive tests last week, while striker Divock Origi will miss out through injury.

"It's still the same. They aren't in the building and are at home. We will not rush them back, we will take our time," said Lijnders, adding that it was an opportunity for youngsters in the squad to make their mark.

Liverpool will be without centre back Virgil van Dijk against Leicester after they returned positive tests last week.

Tuchel looking for solutions

Chelsea must "find solutions" on the pitch despite not having a full-strength squad, manager Thomas Tuchel said, as the London side face the busy year-end fixture period short of several players due to injury or COVID-19. Chelsea had only four outfield players on the bench for the goalless draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League on Sunday after seven members of their squad tested positive for coronavirus.

Premier League clubs agreed on Monday to continue playing games scheduled over the festive period despite several fixtures having been postponed at the weekend due to a surge in COVID-19 cases. Tuchel said he was not disappointed by that decision. "I don't have a solution for the whole league, the schedule," said Tuchel before Wednesday's League Cup quarter-final at Brentford.

"I don't know. Maybe it (a break) would have just delayed the problem. But we are just disappointed that we don't have the players to fulfil our goals and play at the highest level of competitive football."

Jorginho is back in training after a negative test for COVID-19, but N'Golo Kante will not play against Brentford as he tries to return to full fitness after a knee injury. Andreas Christensen and Trevoh Chlobah are doubtful due to injuries.

"N'Golo Kante played 90 minutes against Wolves which was close to irresponsible," said Tuchel.

"Will he be in the squad tomorrow? No."

"We will now give him time to recover and prepare for Aston Villa (in the Premier League this Sunday)."Tuchel said Under-23 players trained with the squad as Chelsea prepare to play three matches in eight days during the festive period."It is nothing new to play three matches in a week but without nine or 10 players it is challenging, so we struggle a little bit. But we'll find solutions," he added.

Covid positive Bencic has "severe symptoms"

London: Olympic tennis champion Belinda Bencic has tested positive for COVID-19 after her trip to Abu Dhabi and has "severe symptoms", she said on Tuesday, a day after Rafa Nadal announced he had also tested positive. Both players had travelled to Abu Dhabi to play in the Mubadala World Tennis Championship exhibition event last week. Nadal also said he was having some "unpleasant moments" upon his return to Spain. "Unfortunately and even though I am fully vaccinated, I recently tested positive for COVID-19," Bencic said on Twitter. "I am currently isolating and taking all precautionary (measures) to get through this as best as possible as I am experiencing quite severe symptoms (fever, aches, chills). " REUTERS

Off-pace Indians crushed 5-3 by Japan perfection in semifinal

5 PCs, 1 penalty stroke, 2 goals in 95 seconds help Asian Games champs make finals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 21

THE TONE was set in the opening 100 seconds.

It took India only five seconds to steal the ball from the push-back and surge towards the Japanese goal, carrying on from where they left off a couple of days ago when they hammered six goals past the same opponents.

However, it turned out that those were the only five seconds India showed any kind of intent in the semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy on Tuesday. The moment Japan intercepted the ball, the match slipped out of India's hands. In the 95 seconds that followed, Japan earned five penalty corners, a penalty stroke and scored two goals.

For the rest of the match, Japan didn't let the early momentum slip. They played with the same speed and intensity on turnovers, passed with clinical precision and were as ruthless inside the 'D' as they were in the opening minute and 40 seconds as the Asian Games gold medallists pulled off a stunning 5-3 win over the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists to qualify for Wednesday's final, where they will meet South Korea.

India, who have now lost in the semifinals of a continental competition for the second time in the last three years after losing to Malaysia at the 2018 Asian Games, will take on Pakistan in the third-place playoff. Despite a heroic effort, Pakistan lost to South Korea 6-5. Compared to that thriller, the India-Japan match was pretty much one-way traffic for large parts.

Captain Manpreet Singh called his team's performance, at the start at least, 'lazy' and coach Graham Reid, at half time, urged his players to 'wake up'. But more than India's surprising levels of naivety and complacency, this was about Japan and their near-flawless performance - mainly in the first half - which really sealed the result.

India, the most dominant side of the round-robin stage, didn't have any answers to the speed and aggression shown by Japan, especially on turnovers. As Reid – who was unusually animated during his quarter-time talk after the first period – pointed out, Japan were getting first to the ball and winning most of the 50-50 battles in midfield.

Most of Japan's potent moves came from the right, from where the attacking trio of Kenta Tanaka, Takuma Niwa and Kazuma Murata tormented the Indian defence, which was totally bereft of composure and surety. Half of the six penalty corners Japan earned in the first five minutes of the match originated from their right and on most occasions, they were avoidable as the Indian defenders weren't able to trap the ball cleanly.

Captain Manpreet Singh called India's performance at the start 'lazy'. *Hockey India*

ON WEDNESDAY

Third-place match, 3pm
India vs Pakistan

FINAL, 5.30pm
South Korea vs Japan

Live on Star Sports Network

Old failings resurface

It's worth reminding that half of the Indian side is playing a competitive international tournament after more than two years. That, though, is true for other teams as well and this wasn't the first time India have succumbed to aggression.

The team has a tendency of making mistakes and poor decisions when put under pressure by their opponents. For instance, with seconds remaining before the half-time break, Jaskaran Singh had the ball inside the Japanese half with plenty of passing options in front of him. But instead of passing the ball forward and creating an attacking move, he played it back to a defender, thus relieving the pressure built on the Japanese defence.

Moments earlier, Dilpreet Singh made his displeasure known to Nilam Xess for staying stationary off the ball, thus being unable to reach a pass made in his direction. And late in the match, when India needed quality, Hardik Singh's injection for a penalty corner missed his intended target by at least a couple of yards. The lack of intent, poor off-the-ball running, and unforced errors meant India could not create even one goal-scoring chance in the first quarter.

However, much against the run of play, India pulled one back 12 seconds into the second period, with Dilpreet scoring from a goal-mouth melee. The goal brought some calmness into the Indian game and Manpreet, along with his deputy Harmanpreet Singh, controlled the pace better. But any hopes of an Indian comeback were diffused after another defensive mistake allowed Japan to restore the two-goal cushion. Goalkeeper Krishan Pathak tackled Tanaka from behind, preventing a goal-scoring opportunity, and after Japan asked for a referral, they were awarded their second penalty stroke of the match. Yoshiki Kirishita scored from the spot, slotting the ball to the goalkeeper's right; just like Raiki Fujishima in the second minute.

Japan used their blistering pace to score two in quick succession in the third quarter and go 5-1 up, thus putting the result of the match beyond doubt. India scored a couple of goals late in the fourth quarter but they proved to be consolations. They had already been blown away by the Japanese blitz.

SCORELINE: Japan 5 (Shota Yamada 1', Raiki Fujishima 2', Yoshiki Kirishita 29', Kosei Kawabe 35', Ryoma Ooka 41') bt India 3 (Dilpreet Singh 17', Harmanpreet Singh 53', Hardik Singh 59').

India with 152 cases is top three amongst world's doping offenders

ENS / PTI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

AN INCREASE in the number of offenders has taken India into the top-three of the world's biggest doping violators in a WADA report highlighting the transgressions for the year 2019 with bodybuilding, weightlifting and athletics leading to the country's embarrassing record.

In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency and quoted by PTI, 152 (17 per cent of the world total) Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) were reported in India in 2019, leaving it third in the list with the maximum dope offenders coming from bodybuilding (57).

Among Olympic sports, weightlifting leads the way with 25 ADRVs, followed by athletics (20) and wrestling (10). Boxing and judo reported four ADRVs each. Four cricketers were also found to have committed ADRVs in 2019.

A lightweight in global sport, India is only behind Russia (167) and Italy (157), while Brazil (78) is at fourth and Iran (70) fifth.

An ADRV is reported after a final decision has been rendered and a sanction (a reprimand or period of ineligibility) imposed against the athlete following the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings.

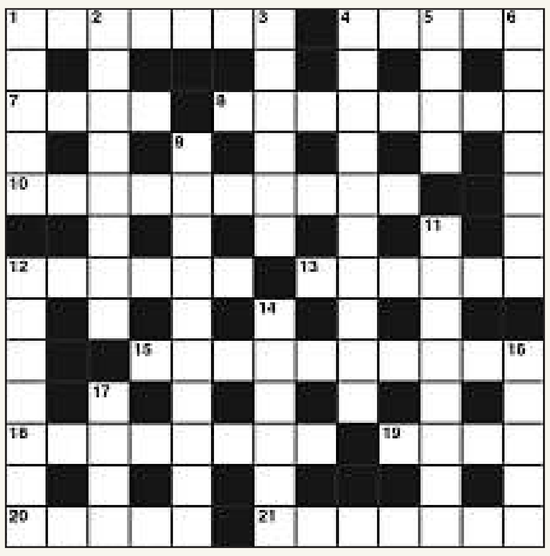
Russia was banned from fielding its national team in Tokyo Olympics for not complying with international anti-doping rules.

The country now tops the violators' list, reporting more cases than from the previous report of 2018. It had gone down to seventh in the 2017, with 57 ADRVs.

In the previous WADA report meant for anti-doping violations in 2018, India was placed fourth with 107 ADRVs, behind Russia (144), Italy (132) and France (114). Weightlifting (22) had produced the highest number of dope offenders in that report also, followed by athletics (16). A total of 278,047 samples were collected by Anti-Doping Organisations worldwide in 2019, and subsequently, analysed by WADA-accredited laboratories. Of these samples, 2,701 (1 per cent) were reported as Adverse Analytical Findings. Among Olympic sports worldwide, athletics leads the number of dope offenders with 227 (18 percent), followed by weightlifting with 160. Bodybuilding leads overall with 272.

Russia (167) and Italy (157) lead the notorious tally, while Brazil (79) and Iran (70) follow the Indian figures at third

CROSSWORD 4618



ACROSS
1 Tabby is prepared to look after another's young (4-3)
4 Yet she may be someone's date (5)
7 Have a look around the South as well (4)
8 Holding an avaricious attitude (8)
10 A source of light at the seance? (6,4)
12 Insect may be bee let free (6)
13 Doesn't break open the port (6)
15 Improve his disposition with an opposite result (10)
18 Eats when the sun comes out (8)
19 Branch member (4)
20 Saddle and take horse about midnight (5)
21 Clothing is torn without intention (7)

DOWN
1 They may be strung up by the neck (5)
2 A dog is put outside in a baby carriage (8)
3 Sea creature puts number in utter confusion (6)
4 History teacher who is a real expert? (4,6)
5 Surrounded by many in support (4)
6 She helped in a novel way to get a title for him (7)
9 It may naturally run out at harvest time (10)
11 What dictionaries do about it is quite clear (8)
12 One who puts out a dud cheque (7)
14 He's not the only one to succeed (6)
16 Custom-built garment? (5)
17 Take a meal up for the girl (4)

Solutions Crossword 4617: Across: 1 Open the case, 9 Auditor, 10 Pater, 11 Even, 12 Pilchard, 14 Indoor, 16 Stoker, 18 Lamppost, 19 Tabu, 22 Issue, 23 Episode, 24 Reverse side. **Down:** 2 Padre, 3 Note, 4 Heroin, 5 Capacity, 6 Setback, 7 Material aid, 8 Trade routes, 13 Complete, 15 Demesne, 17 Osiers, 20 Avoid, 21 Kiss.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The love we ______ is the only love we keep. - Elbert Hubbard (4,4)

ZAMAE

HHILGY

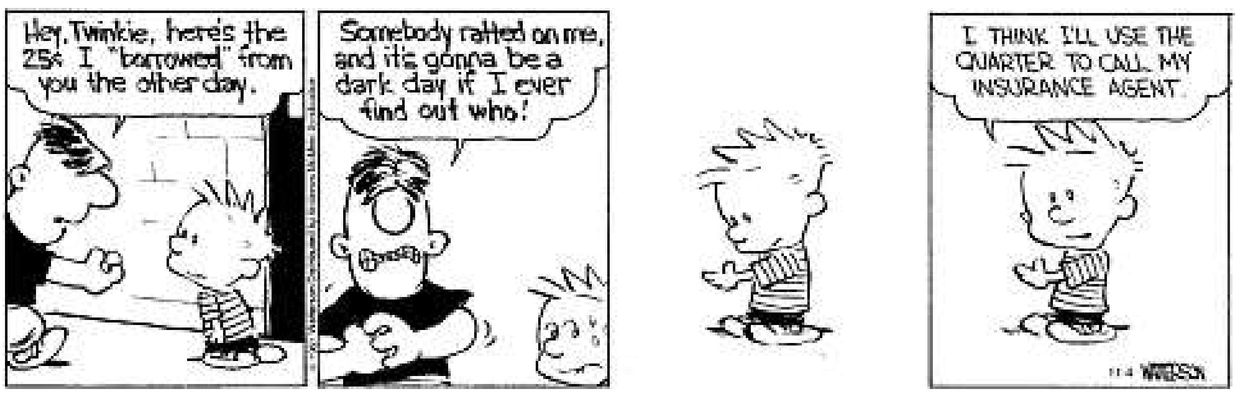
STVAI

ADEOVW

Answer: The love we **give away** is the only love we keep. - Elbert Hubbard
SOLUTION: AMAZE, VISTA, HIGHLY, AVOWED

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

SUDOKU 4692

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

		9				2		
	5			8			6	
			7		4			
6			8		3			5
4	1						8	2
3			4		7			1
			5		6			
	4			9			2	
		6				8		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4691

3	9	8	2	6	5	7	4	1
4	2	7	3	8	1	5	9	6
5	1	6	9	4	7	2	8	3
8	5	4	1	3	9	6	7	2
7	3	2	8	5	6	9	1	4
1	6	9	4	7	2	8	3	5
2	4	5	7	1	8	3	6	9
9	8	3	6	2	4	1	5	7
6	7	1	5	9	3	4	2	8

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Make the most of friendly business planets, and cash in on current goodwill. You must believe that new opportunities are on the way and should act now to broaden your social contacts and encourage new connections. Only when partners are in agreement will you be free to act.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
As long as Venus is well-placed, you may expect plenty of action and enjoyable group activities. However, your social life will tend to focus on work. Perhaps there'll be a new colleague appearing on the scene. At the very least, friendly contacts could soon ease the way into a new job.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Some happy surprises could affect money matters or home affairs. This looks like the time to stabilise and formalise domestic arrangements which until now may have been left up in the air. You might have to step back from an emotional encounter if the heat is just too much to bear.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The whole mood of the day encourages formal settings, traditional behaviour and conservative values, so do try to fit in. It may even be fun to enter into the fantasy of living in a past age. Over the next few months, you'll be growing ever more nostalgic for the past

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your home and working life are well starred, but you must be aware of an approaching financial crisis. Get your affairs in order and act now if there are any outstanding bills to pay or loans to call in. And if partners object, make them see that there's no choice.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
The tension is now building up, as it does once or twice a month when the planets form certain intriguing patterns. You are now reaching a moment of decision and will at last be forced to get off the fence. And that, I should think, is no bad thing at all.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You may feel reasonably justified in expecting a response to a recent interview or at the very least an answer to an important question. However, planetary activity over the coming days is due to muddy the waters even further. Plus, you should be able to start dealing with real, underlying problems.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Any changes that you are anxious to put into effect may involve more people than you at first thought. This is why you must grit your teeth and discuss even your personal plans with friends and acquaintances. On the other hand, when partners are so reluctant, do you really need their support?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
It is at the most trivial level that your grand plans are capable of coming unstuck. So, issues of principle are all very well, but you would be advised to focus on routine and mundane details. Plus, there'll be time enough for flights of fancy next month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Restless conditions may make it difficult to settle down, so it may be better to get around and explore fresh possibilities. Is there a legal complication to resolve? If so, get on to it without delay. Even though you have strong opinions, by the way, that doesn't mean that you're right.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Long-standing money problems may be coming home to roost. Yet rather than feel sorry for yourself, or dwell on what might have been, adopt an attitude of business as usual and compensate for any losses. You are well on the way to a surprise success.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Whether your concerns are professional or strictly private do not expect life to run smoothly today. Even if you do your best, someone else is bound to come along and stir things up, defeating all your efforts to restore peace and harmony, but only until you recover your composure.

INJURY WORRIES FOR THIEM

Austria's Dominic Thiem will decide by the end of December whether to play at the Australian Open after withdrawing from the upcoming ATP Cup and Sydney ATP 250 events on Sunday due to a long-standing wrist injury. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

India Test captain Virat Kohli after a training session ahead of first Test against South Africa, in Centurion. *Reuters*

South Africa suffer setback as Nortje ruled out of series

Johannesburg: South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje was on Tuesday ruled out of the upcoming three Test series against India due to a "persistent" injury. Cricket South Africa (CSA) did not specify the nature of injury and also did not name a replacement for Nortje who has taken 47 wickets in 12 Tests, including three five-wicket hauls. The first Test is slated to begin in Centurion from December 26. "Proteas bowler, Anrich Nortje, has been ruled out of the three-match, Betway Test series against India, due to a persistent injury," CSA said in a statement. "He has unfortunately not recovered adequately for the expected Test match bowling loads and is currently consulting with specialists to manage and advise on his recovery. No replacement will be brought in," it added. Nortje is well known for his exploits in the Indian Premier League where he plays for Delhi Capitals. **PTI**

HP, TN advance in Hazare Trophy

Jaipur:, Himachal Pradesh rode on a stroke-filed 99 by Prashant Chopra as they stunned Uttar Pradesh by five wickets to storm into the semi-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Despite a 76 by Rinku Singh, UP could only manage 207/9 as the Himachal bowlers, led by pacer Vinay Galetiya (3/19), ripped apart the opposition line-up. Tamil Nadu came up with a superb all-round performance to crush Karnataka by 151 runs to progress too. Tamil Nadu amassed 354 for eight in 50 overs and then dismissed the opposition for 203 inside 40 overs with medium-pacer R Silambarasan picking up four wickets. Opening batter N Jagadeesan hammered 102 and left-arm spinner R Sai Kishre, pushed up the order to go after the bowling, smacked 61 before the burly M Shahrukh Khan hit an unbeaten 39-ball 79. **PTI**

Brief Scores: Uttar Pradesh 207/9 (Rinku Singh 76; Vinay Galetiya 3/19, Siddharth Sharma 2/27) lost to **Himachal Pradesh** 208/5 (Prashant Chopra 99, Nikhil Gangta 58; Shivam Mavi 3/34); **Tamil Nadu** 354 for 8 in 50 overs (N Jagadeesan 102, M Shahrukh Khan 79 not out; Praveen Dubey 3/67) beat **Karnataka** 203 all out in 39 overs (S Sharath 43 K V Siddharth 29; R Silambarasan 4/36, Washington Sundar 3/43) by 151 runs

A leading man facing unprecedented pressure extending beyond the field, a coach looking to kickstart the stint by shedding his good boy image, and a buoyant pacer primed to breathe fire into the attack against an opposition led by a dogged man ready for tough contests and tougher conversations at home. ***India's tour of South Africa*** *is set to be the stage for overarching narratives*

Trapped in an image

Rahul Dravid has forever been considered the good boy of Indian cricket, but his stint as head coach can finally help him grow out of the persona

SANDIP G
DECEMBER 21

IF RAHUL Dravid were to trade his bat for a pair of boxing gloves, brandish a drooping moustache and grow long sideburns, he would still not acquire the meanness or ruggedness of a pugilist. Or for all his perfectionism, would struggle to slip into his favourite movie character, Gabbar Singh from *Sholay*. For, there is a deeply entrenched un-erasable image of Dravid as mellowed and measured, dignified and graceful, with the bat as well as words. A good-boy image, as Dravid himself describes.

There have been times when he felt imprisoned in this image. He tells Gaurav Kapoor in an episode of *Breakfast with Champions*, in half-jest and half-seriousness: "I am trying to create that image that I am not a good guy." He pauses before abruptly putting on a stern, dour face, only for the mask to peel off. He giggles, self-mockingly to imply that anger doesn't come naturally for him, and tells why he wants to burn the good-boy image that adorns the heads and hearts of a generation of cricket watchers. "If you get labelled as a good boy, as someone who does everything correctly, when you make one mistake, that gets highlighted even more. 'Oh, he threw his cap!'"

The cap-flinging incident, which when it happened was compared to the sighting of Haley's Comet, came after Rajasthan Royals, the Indian Premier League team he was coaching in 2014, lost a humdinger against Mumbai Indians, thereby losing their play-off chance. "That's the image I want, that I am human," Dravid says. The incident inspired the cult Indiranagar ka gunda advertisement. The ad worked because it was Dravid, because he has rarely lost his temper on the field, because he scarcely got dragged into scandals, or merely because you could not imagine him losing his temper, on the field or on the road.

Undoubtedly, in his one-and-a-half-decade international career, Dravid has lost his cool several times, demonstrated his anger and dislike, argued and antagonised, perhaps irked and shouted too. Yet, when one thinks of Dravid, those images barely stick out. Maybe, it's how he wants the world to see him too. He reflects on the cap incident as "not the proudest moment of my career," and that he felt "so terrible when the cap was going out of my hand." The good-boy image is as natural as it is nurtured.

Yet, this garb has concealed both his strengths as well as flaws. Like an impenetrable armoury, it has obscured the true legacy of his captaincy, just as it has shrouded his fallibilities. As an extension, it could continue to influence, if not dictate, how one judges his coaching, irrespective of how his stint turns out to be.

Not given his due

It was the gift and curse of his captaincy. His greatest achievement as captain — the series wins in West Indies and England, the first-ever Test triumph in South Africa, or the Multan victory as a stand-in — is often attributed to the comeuppance of India's seamers.

Rahul Dravid the coach has worked his way up by shepherding junior Indian teams and being incharge of the National Cricket Academy. *File*

Johannesburg win is credited to S Sreesanth; Trent Bridge to Zaheer Khan, Multan to Virender Sehwag, and Kingston to Dravid the masterful batsman. Other accomplishments like the nine-game unbeaten streak in ODIs, India's best at that time, and the 17 successful run-chases at a time when India were poor batting second, have been consigned as academic footnotes.

Conversely, his darkest hour — India crashing out of the 2007 World Cup in the group stage — is considered entirely the pinnacle of India's mess under coach Greg Chappell. His captaincy is neither praised, as say that of Sourav Ganguly or MS Dhoni or Virat Kohli, nor criticised as that of Sachin Tendulkar. Worse, he enters discussions on neither India's best captains nor its worst.

So much is made of Ganguly guiding India through the dark days of the match-fixing scandal to the brave new dawn of victories, of moulding an identity of indefatigability, and of nurturing a crop of youngsters - from Zaheer to Yuvraj Singh, and Sehwag to Harbhajan Singh. Dravid, too, took over the team at a difficult time, just after the Chappell-Ganguly soap opera had played out, when apparently a lot of senior players were disgruntled, and wanted to get the script they wanted for the final chapter of their careers, when there were more aggressive small-town youngsters with an in-your-face attitude cropping up.

Under Dravid blossomed a fine group of young seamers. Under him Zaheer made his comeback from the brink; Sreesanth, RP Singh and Irfan Pathan blossomed. And larger than them, Dhoni emerged.

Sehwag once recollected an incident that changed Dhoni's career. "When we were in Pakistan and MS Dhoni was a newcomer, he played a shot and got caught at point. Dravid was very angry with MS Dhoni. 'That's the way you play? You should finish the game.' I was myself taken aback by the storm of English from Dravid, I didn't understand half of it," Sehwag recalled in a Cricbuzz video.

"But when MS Dhoni next came in to bat, I could see he was not hitting shots much. I went and asked him what was wrong. He said he did not want to be scolded by Dravid again. 'I will finish quietly and go back,' Dhoni said," Sehwag added.

Dhoni and Yuvraj were to don lead roles in several of India's heady chases during that time as well as in the coming years. Add Gautam Gambhir and Suresh Raina to the group, and India's 2011-World Cup winning core was assembled during Dravid's tenure. Riding the wave of youngsters and the experience of veterans, he winkled out a better win percentage (53) than both Ganguly (52) and Tendulkar (31) in ODIs. Under him, India experimented, played aggressive cricket and, at the best of times, it was genuine fun watching the team, until it all burst in the Caribbean in 2007.

It was the nadir of Dravid's captaincy, yet he showed stoic grace in duress. He stood behind his players, and even took some out for a movie to defuse the tension. "He came up to me and Mahendra Singh Dhoni and said, 'look, I know we all are upset, let's go for a movie.' We went for the movie and then we had half an hour to ask him things. He said, 'yes, we lost this World Cup, we wanted to make a difference, but this is not the end of it; life is much bigger; we will come back tomorrow,'" Pathan recalled to Star Sports.

Undoubtedly, in his one-and-a-half-decade international career, Dravid has lost his cool several times, demonstrated his anger and dislike, argued and antagonised, perhaps irked and shouted too. Yet, when one thinks of Dravid, those images barely stick out.

Instances to regret

But the World Cup defeat would, undoubtedly, be a blot on his captaincy. Though Chappell was painted the villain, Dravid's ineptness, seldom discussed or dissected, too shines through. That the team had too many discordant notes was a fault of both the coach and captain. Slotting Tendulkar at No. 4 might have been primarily Chappell's decision, but Dravid could have interfered and briefed him about how the public would have viewed it, in case the move backfired. It did.

As an Australian, Chappell would have been averse to hero-worshipping, but Dravid could have, perhaps, helped him understand the Indian culture better.

More so, as Dravid has always asserted in press conferences that he was the one who called the shots. "At the end of the day, I take the call. Whether to decide to bat first or bowl first, or who plays in the XI, is finally my call. It always starts and ends with me," he once said in Johannesburg, defending his decision to bat first on a spicy wicket, as opposed to popular bowl-first wisdom in South Africa.

It was not the first time his decisions after winning the toss had been scrutinised. Whereas the decision in Johannesburg worked gloriously, his ploy to insert England in Mumbai in 2006, floored miserably as India lost the match, to spoil the 100th Test of his career. Dravid owned the mistake in the press conference, but still it reeked of tactical naivety.

There were also instances when Dravid presumed that his methods would work for his colleagues too. Like when a batsman was struggling for runs, he gave him a book to read when a pat on the back or a chat of encouragement would have sufficed. But Dravid's rationale, as he explained later, was, "that was the way I grew up and played my cricket and there's no reason why others can't cope." He grew up in the upper strata of the middle class in a metro, but there were those from Ranchi and Rae Bareilly, Kochi and Bharuch, whose understanding of life and sport were different. Later, in his last tour as captain, Dravid took his teammates to an opera, which had some of them apparently disenchanted.

During that tour, he emphasised on changing the country's cricketing culture. "Our cricketing culture has to change, to some extent. It is an athletic game now and we have to instill these processes into our young cricketers. Our (National Cricket) Academy has got to become more professionally-run and we must manage our own contracted players much better," he told The Times. Years later, the NCA became a breeding ground of India's finest next-generation players. Dravid was a visionary, who not only thought deeply about the game, but also visualised how it would change. His five-bowler ploy didn't win many believers, but it became Kohli's default mode.

By the end of the tour, captaincy was a crown of thrones, though India won a Test series in England after 21 years. With the clarity of thought that had emblazoned his batting, Dravid relinquished his position. "I enjoyed the captaincy, I loved it, but it can get tough after a while and some of the enjoyment can go away," Dravid told BBC. "So I thought it was the right time to step aside." The frankness was appreciable, though it's unclear what was gnawing at him.

Quietly ended his roller-coaster captaincy ride, with neither adulation nor recrimination, both swept under the good-boy garb, or lost in the larger role as an exemplary batsman he had donned for his country.

Behind the veneer, there was a streak of ruthlessness too. The ruthless appetite for perfection, to blunt the fiercest of attacks, to win games and take bold decisions (like declaring with Tendulkar six runs short of a double hundred in Multan). A trait that endeared him to Steve Waugh, whose ears he picked during a dinner in 1998. "Rahul wanted the extra edge that would elevate his game to the next level," Waugh later said. Their relationship blossomed to friendship, and later Waugh chose him to pen the foreword of his autobiography.

He would take all of these virtues that defined him — dignity of nature, devotion to the game, composure of demeanour and ruthlessness in decision-making — into his coaching. Dravid would take that slice of good-boy image too.

It's hard to think of a more unanimous choice for a coach in cricket history, but it's also where his image would face the sternest test, where he will be judged on series wins and trophy counts.

Times have changed too —- there's the impatient and unflinching gaze of social media, suspicious of history, 280 words that speak louder than a thousand. The demands of the nation too have changed — solitary Test wins would not suffice, a hundred or a five-wicket haul barely lights up their days, but India wants to be invincible, home and abroad. Dravid would not be able to survive on goodwill and fond memories alone.

And as with his good-boy image, when he makes one mistake, it would get highlighted even more. Maybe, in the end, the coaching stint would liberate him off the perception-prison.

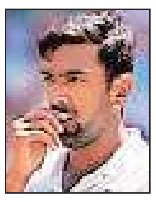
Shastri ranking Kuldeep No.1 crushed Ashwin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN rued the lack of "empathy" for his injuries, hinting that he was judged differently to his team-mates. He spoke about his hurt after falling down in the pecking order, through a Ravi Shastri comment. The 35-year-old off-spinner also revealed that he contemplated retirement.

As Ashwin said, between 2017 and 2019, he had suffered two injuries, patellar tendonitis and pubalgia, affecting his knees and groin respectively. He played through pain, bereft of an arm around the shoulder.

"Empathy is being able to put yourself in others' shoes, and feel, 'Hey what if it happens to me?' I feel as a cricketing community, we lack that. These injuries left a lot of scars on me. In the cricketing community (in India), the understanding towards injuries is pathetic, Ashwin told *ESPNcricinfo*.



"You can brand me anything, you can kick me out, all that is fine, but to doubt my intent or my fight is something that deeply hurt me. I contemplated retirement for a lot of reasons. I felt like people were not sensitive enough to my injuries."

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

"A lot of team-mates get injured, but when I got injured, it seemed more than what it was. There was insensitivity towards injury. It scarred me deeply. I would go to county cricket thinking, 'I should just get through the day'. That I should bowl 25 overs without injuring myself. Because if I injure myself in county cricket, I would end up raising eyebrows," he added.

The Southampton Test in 2018 was a low point, England's Moeen Ali out-bowling him on a wearing surface, while Ashwin facing the flak for being ineffective. A few months hence, then India head coach Ravi Shastri called Kuldeep Yadav "India's No. 1 overseas spinner" after his five-for against Australia in Sydney. Ashwin, nursing an abdominal muscle tear, felt the punch in the gut.

"I hold Ravi bhai in high esteem. We all do. And I understand we all can say things and then retract them. In that moment, though, I felt crushed. Absolutely crushed. We all talk about how important it is to enjoy your team-mates' success. And I was happy for Kuldeep," said the offie, adding: "But if I have to come and partake in his happiness, and the success of the team, I must feel like I belong there. If I feel like I am being thrown under the bus, how am I supposed to get up and come for a party to enjoy the team's or team-mate's success?"

The period between 2018 and 2020 was worse, when Ashwin had contemplated retirement."Between 2018 and 2020, I contemplated giving up the sport at various points. I thought, 'I have put in a lot of effort, but it is not coming through'. The harder I tried, the farther it felt. Especially with athletic pubalgia and the patellar tendonitis – I used to bowl six balls and then I used to be gasping for breath. And there would be pain all over the place. So you needed to make adjustments," he said.

He went on: "You can brand me anything, you can kick me out, all that is fine, but to doubt my intent or my fight is something that deeply hurt me. I contemplated retirement for a lot of reasons. I felt like people were not sensitive enough to my injuries. I felt like a lot of people were backed, why not me?"

As regards to physical fitness, going back to his personal trainer AT Rajamani Prabhu worked wonders.

Mumbai wants Vengsarkar as mentor after Hazare debacle

Mumbai: Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar may don the role of mentor for the Mumbai Ranji team. The Mumbai Cricket Association is keen to have him as a guide after a disastrous outing in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The Indian Express also understands that the Apex Council has asked for the disbanding of the Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC) – comprising former Mumbai players Vinod Kambli, Jatin Paranjpe and Nilesh Kulkarni. The three are also deemed responsible for the poor performance and the Apex Council wants to appoint a new CIC.

Mumbai finished last in Elite Group B of the Hazare Trophy, winning just one game out of four despite having players like Shivam Dube and Yashasvi Jaiswal in the side.

"All issues were discussed and MCA took feedback from coach Amol Muzumdar on Mumbai's bad performance. The MCA felt it was the right time to dial Vengsarkar and seek his help. At the same time, MCA felt a few tough decisions need to be taken going ahead," an association official said.

It's learnt that the Apex Council, which met on Tuesday to discuss the Hazare Trophy fiasco, has requested MCA president Vijay Patil to speak to Vengsarkar and try to convince the stalwart to take the role of mentor for a brief period.

Also, Muzumdar has asked for a psychologist for the Mumbai team before it departs for Ranji Trophy games to be held in Bengal next month. The coach has also requested MCA to have more practice games before the start of the red-ball season.

"The MCA will look into Muzumdar's requests. Life can be tough while playing in a bubble. At the same time, the coach blamed players for lack of execution and there was hardly any preparation before the Vijay Hazare tournament," an MCA official added.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

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